

Secondary Progressions: The Clock of Life Ticking Away

by Robert P. Blaschke

As the earth turns daily on its polar axis, our satellite, the Moon, is continually orbiting around us, while simultaneously both are orbiting annually around the Sun. The contemplative individual may ask if this apparent linkage between one day, one month and one year means anything. What do these three concurrent celestial motions have to do with each other? Is there a metaphysical equivalency to them? Is time itself real, symbolic or a combination of the two?

The astrological calculation techniques of directions and progressions, which take the fixed karmic imprint of the natal or event chart, and move it forward or backward through time, both real and symbolic, have been used by astrologers for centuries to either predict the future, understand the past, or gain perspective about the present. These calculation techniques; including transits, solar arcs, primary/secondary/tertiary/minor directions/progressions and the like, are the opportunity for the astrologer to witness and observe the hands of the clock of life tick away the karma of the life path between the birth and the death of a human being, a nation, an event or any other earthly phenomena infused with a life force moving through time. In this article we shall look at the calculation technique called secondary progressions, which moves the birth chart forward one day for each year of life lived. Thus, the first day of your life is equivalent to the first year of your life, the second day the second year and so on. This calculation allows the consulting astrologer to jump in at any time during your life, compute the progressed positions of your natal planets, compare them by house and by angularity to the birth horoscope, and then provide helpful cyclical analysis or comforting perspective about any chapter of life one is passing through.

To understand the relative importance of secondary progressed natal planets or angles, it is critical to keep two things in mind: 1) The secondary progressed chart is not a stand-alone chart, but draws its relevance from its comparison to the natal chart, and 2) The length of progressed planetary influence varies widely because of the daily motion of the planets being either faster or slower than their mean (average) motion at any given time, as they approach or pull away from stations (reversing of motion from retrograde to direct or vice-versa). The following table will help to show the daily, and thus yearly by secondary progression, mean motion of the planets:

Table 1: Planetary Travel

<u>Planet</u>	<u>Average Daily Motion</u>	<u>Retrograde Motion</u>
Sun	0° 59' 08"	none
Moon	13° 10' 35"	none
Mercury	1° 23'	20-24 days three times a year
Venus	1° 12"	40-43 days every 1 1/2 years
Mars	0° 31' 27"	58-81 days every 2 years
Jupiter	0° 04' 59"	4 months yearly
Saturn	0° 02' 01"	4 1/2 months yearly
Uranus	0° 00' 42"	155 days yearly
Neptune	0° 00' 24"	158 days yearly
Pluto	0° 00' 15"	160 days yearly

If, within the system of secondary progressions, one day's planetary travel is equivalent to one year of life, we can see that the Moon progresses most rapidly (12°-14° per year), the Sun, Mercury and Venus progress much more slowly (1°-2° per year), Mars progresses even slower (0.5°-0.75° per year), Jupiter even slower still (up to 0.2° per year), and the outer planets of Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto progress so slowly as to have no consequential effects whatsoever during the lifetime, except to tighten or spread the orbs of natal aspects. Because the planetary orbits are elliptical, not circular, planetary motion will accelerate or retard, causing faster or slower travel through the various degrees of the Zodiac.

In this system, the natal midheaven can also be progressed 0° 59' 08" per year, using the Naibod arc technique (360° Zodiac ÷ 365.25 days per year). Retaining the latitude of birth (not using the current home latitude as in Solar Return calculations), once the midheaven is progressed, the progressed ascendant can be ascertained. These progressed birth chart angles are not used to create progressed horoscope houses with different cusp degrees, but rather to find the progressed natal angles forming conjunctions, squares, trines or oppositions to the natal planets.

The calculation of the secondary progressed planets can be accomplished using a computer or an ephemeris; the latter provided you have knowledge of the ACD technique (adjusted calculation date) - the ACD shows you which day of the year in a given person's life equals the ephemeris position of the planets. For client consultations, I recommend using a computer, calculating the Naibod secondary progressed position of the natal planets, midheaven and ascendant for the progressed date you want, and then printing a natal/progressed bi-wheel chart with the secondary progressed planets put into the natal houses in the outer wheel of the chart. This is for the client's visual benefit, so they can see the progressed Moon, for example, moving through the natal houses and applying to, or separating from, aspects to the natal planets or angles.

When consulting with a client about their secondary progressions, it is best to present them with the planetary influences described by windows of time, rather than degrees and orbs. Prior to the consultation, the astrologer can prepare for the appointment by listing all progressed planets or angles within a $2\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ total orb of aspecting the natal planets or angles by conjunction, square, trine or opposition. I have not found progressed semisextiles, semisquares, sextiles, quintiles, sesquiquadrates or quincunxes to have much conscious relevance to the life experience of the client. Use a $1\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ applying orb, and a 1° separating orb, to keep your window of time descriptions to the client as accurate as possible. For the progressed Moon aspects to the natal chart, for example, convert orb degrees into months, as the progressed Moon is moving approximately 1° per month. Find the $2\frac{1}{2}$ month range of time the progressed Moon aspect will be occurring ($1\frac{1}{2}$ months before exact - 1 month after exact), and present these dates to your client. For the progressed Sun aspects to the natal chart, for example, convert orb degrees into years, as the progressed Sun is moving approximately 1° per year. Find the $2\frac{1}{2}$ year range of time the progressed Sun aspect will be occurring ($1\frac{1}{2}$ years before exact - 1 year after exact), and present these dates to your client.

For thorough astrological synthesis during a consultation with a client, their transits must be reviewed along with the secondary progressions. There is especially a synchronous relationship between the transit cycle of Saturn and the progressed Sun/Moon (synodic lunation) phases (both $29\frac{1}{2}$ years in length). Also, simultaneous angles being formed by transit and progression to the same natal planet are very life-changing.

You will find these calculation and interpretation tips to be useful in working with secondary progressions:

- 1) Progressed Moon changing signs or natal houses • shifts in emotional focus
- 2) Progressed Sun/Moon phase • relationship between the subconscious and the conscious
- 3) Sabian Symbol for the exact degree of progressed New or Full Moons • a 14-15 year subtle energy pattern operating within the individual
- 4) Natal house containing the progressed Moon • where memories from $27\frac{1}{3}$ years ago (sidereal progressed lunation) will surface
- 5) Current progressed Moon sign • compare to natal Moon sign for reevaluation of habits
- 6) Progressed ascendant-descendant aspecting natal planet (♁ □ △ ♃) • relationship changes
- 7) Progressed midheaven-nadir aspecting natal planet (♁ □ △ ♃) • home/career changes
- 8) Progressed Moon aspecting natal planet • $2\frac{1}{2}$ month emotional episode
- 9) Progressed Sun-Mercury-Venus aspecting natal planet • 1-3 year episode
- 10) Natal planets reversing direction by progression (especially Mercury, Venus or Mars) • internalization or emergence of function of consciousness
- 11) Progressed Sun aspecting natal lunar nodes • life purpose wake-up call

From my client files, I will share some areas of life experience activated by secondary progressions

(aspects = ♁ □ △ ♃):

1) Physical

- a) increased vitality and energy • progressed Sun, Mars, ascendant or ascendant ruler aspecting natal Sun, Mars, Jupiter or Uranus and/or progressed Moon in natal 1st/5th/9th houses
- b) decreased vitality and energy • progressed Sun, Mars, ascendant or ascendant ruler aspecting natal Saturn or Neptune and/or progressed Moon in natal 4th/8th/12th houses
- c) increased sexual desire • progressed Venus, Mars or 5th/8th house ruler aspecting natal Mars, Jupiter, Uranus or Pluto and/or progressed Moon in natal 5th/8th houses
- d) decreased sexual desire • progressed Venus, Mars or 5th/8th house ruler aspecting natal Saturn or Neptune and/or progressed Moon in natal 3rd/7th/11th houses

2) Emotional

- a) feelings of vulnerability • progressed Moon, Venus or IC ruler aspecting natal Moon, Saturn, Neptune or Pluto and/or progressed Moon in natal 4th/8th/12th houses
- b) feelings of strength and confidence • progressed Moon, Venus or IC ruler aspecting natal Sun or Jupiter and/or progressed Moon in natal 1st/5th/9th houses
- c) memories of childhood • progressed Moon or IC ruler aspecting natal Saturn or Pluto and/or progressed Moon in natal 4th/10th houses

3) Intellectual

- a) good mental discipline • progressed Mercury or 3rd/6th house ruler aspecting natal Saturn or Pluto
- b) increased thought activity • progressed Mercury or 3rd/6th house ruler aspecting natal Jupiter or Uranus and/or progressed Moon in natal 3rd/6th/9th/12th houses
- c) poor concentration/scattered mind • progressed Mercury or 3rd/6th house ruler aspecting natal Moon, Jupiter or Neptune
- d) returning to college for additional education • progressed Sun aspecting natal 9th house ruler and/or progressed Moon in natal 3rd/9th houses
- e) writing a book • progressed Mercury or 3rd/6th house ruler aspecting Jupiter or Saturn and/or progressed Moon in natal 3rd/9th houses

4) Spiritual

- a) increased longing or spiritual loneliness • progressed Sun aspecting natal Jupiter, Neptune or Pluto and/or progressed Moon in natal 8th/9th/12th houses
- b) decreased spiritual awareness • progressed Sun aspecting Venus or Saturn and/or progressed Moon in natal 2nd/6th/10th houses
- c) strange symbolic or archetypal dream activity • progressed Sun, Mercury or 3rd/6th house ruler aspecting natal Uranus or Neptune and/or progressed Moon in natal 12th house
- d) thoughts of death • progressed Sun, Mercury or 3rd/6th house ruler aspecting natal Pluto and/or progressed Moon in natal 8th house

5) Marriage/Family/Children/Social

- a) new love relationship • progressed Sun, Venus or 5th/7th house ruler aspecting natal Jupiter, Uranus or Neptune and/or progressed Moon in natal 5th/7th/11th houses
- b) separation and divorce • progressed Venus or 7th house ruler aspecting natal Saturn, Uranus, Neptune or Pluto
- c) challenges with females • progressed Moon or Venus aspecting natal Saturn or Pluto
- d) challenges with males • progressed Sun or Mars aspecting natal Saturn or Pluto
- e) harmonious family times • progressed Moon or IC ruler aspecting natal Venus or Jupiter
- f) challenges with children • progressed Moon or 5th house ruler aspecting natal Saturn, Uranus, Neptune or Pluto
- g) difficult labor/birth • progressed Moon aspecting natal Mars or Saturn

6) Career

- a) change in career • progressed midheaven or 10th house ruler aspecting natal Uranus or Pluto and/or progressed Moon in natal 4th house
- b) success in career • progressed Sun, midheaven or 10th house ruler aspecting natal Jupiter or Saturn and/or progressed Moon in natal 10th house
- c) loss of interest in career • progressed Sun, midheaven or 10th house ruler aspecting natal Neptune or Pluto

Because of direct and retrograde stations, secondary progressed planets can remain within allowable orb while forming aspects to natal planets for years at a time. Progressed Mercury, for example, can remain within a 1° orb aspect to a natal planet for up to 8-10 years (8-10 days actual time). Progressed station Mercury aspecting natal Saturn for 8-10 years running is common with individuals suffering from chronic depression for many years, and then as progressed Mercury moves out of orb, the mental positivity returns again.

If you are using a computer in your astrology practice, calculating secondary progressions using the "NOW" button in your software program, try and form the habit of checking your ephemeris prior to the consultation to

see if the client has had any natal planets reverse direction by progression, or any progressed planets forming prolonged aspects to natal planets because of progressed stations. From the line item entry in the ephemeris of the client's birthday, scan forward 60-90 days, as this will approximate an entire lifetime of secondary progressions, and show you where any stations and/or direction reversals will occur. Most clients, but not all, will experience progressed Mercury reversing direction at some time in their life.

The causal relationship between transits and secondary progressions has been debated by astrologers for centuries. In my astrology practice, I offer a combined consultation looking at both. Too many times I have seen transit Saturn in the opposite natal house as secondary progressed Moon to ignore the synchronicity involved. I have also seen many times, during separations or divorces for example, progressed Venus aspecting natal Pluto while transit Jupiter, Saturn or Uranus was in the natal 7th house. Whether the transits refer to external circumstances, and the secondary progressions to internal shifts of consciousness, or the reverse, or some of each, is immaterial as long as the professional astrologer is thorough enough in his consultation preparation to calculate and review both prior to the appointment. With only a partial understanding of a client's planetary influences, one can only give the client a partial perspective on their current life experiences. The ease of astrological calculations made possible by personal computers leaves us no excuse for going into a client consultation with only partial preparedness. Current cycles analysis is the most commonly requested consultation in my professional practice, surpassing natal interpretations, relationship analysis and electional work. A working knowledge of secondary progressions, in addition to expertise in transit analysis, is necessary for the consulting astrologer in these modern times of rapid personal change.

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