

# How to Use Your Honeycomb Almanac

Feb 19, 2022 Workshop Transcript

Madeline: All right, so the recording has begun. So again, I'm Madeline. I'm one of the co-founders of the Honeycomb Collective. I'm joined by my partner Colin, who is the other cofounder.

Colin: Hi everyone.

Madeline: I'll just start by saying my big four, I'm a Capricorn rising ruled by Saturn in Capricorn, I'm an Aries sun and a Leo moon. And I'm really nervous, this is the first time we've done a workshop like this, so I really appreciate you guys being here and yeah, I hope it's worth your time. That's the Saturn in me, I really hope it's worth your time. And I use she and they pronouns. And I'll hand it over to Colin to introduce himself.

Colin: Hi everyone, I'm Colin, my big four are Pisces rising with Jupiter in Aquarius in the 12th, I'm a Cancer moon and a Pisces sun. Yeah, kind of a Jupiterian view of things, I think it will be great. It's good to have everyone here and looking forward to it. And I'll hand it over to Dave.

Dave: Hi I'm Dave, he/they, and my big four I have sun and moon both in Gemini and then Libra rising with Venus in Taurus. So the Venus in Taurus is the only dignity in my chart so it's my favorite part. And I'm very excited, I think it's going to be great.

Madeline: Awesome, I just want to remind everyone, you can have fun interacting with each other in the chat and if you have any questions that you want us to cover during the Q and A section at the end, please use the Q and A feature in Zoom. There's a button at the bottom of your screen, you can click Q and A, and then you can just enter a question in there. You have the choice whether to share your name or to enter the question anonymously, and then we'll get to those questions at the end. So I'm going to go ahead and share my screen. Not that screen. This screen. All right.

So the title of our workshop today is how to use your Honeycomb almanac. I just want to start by acknowledging that this meeting is being initiated from the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, and we pay our respects to elders past, present, and future. So the outline for today, it's going to be pretty straightforward, we just want to help you understand what our products are. What are the almanacs and calendars, why did we create them, what do they do, what do you need to know in order to utilize them, and a lot of the questions that we received from the workshop registration involved setting up routines for working with your almanac, how to use it on a daily basis, so I'm going to spend some time covering that. And then as I mentioned we're hoping to have a good portion of this meeting just be an open Q and

A so we make sure that we talk about what is most pressing to you. I'll hand it over to Colin now to go over a few up front points to remember.

Colin: Yeah, hi everyone. So throughout the webinar content, we've tried to answer many of the questions that we received. If you have a question, as Madeline said, use the Zoom webinar Q and A. Just a quick note that we'll be using the tropical zodiac with whole sign houses just to keep everything simple, and just a quick note that astrology is a life long learning process. The almanac is a tool to help you with that and so our goal is not to be prescriptive and say this is the astrology, or this method in astrology is what you should be using. We just want to give you the data and the tools to be able to apply astrology and to learn astrology as you see fit.

So I think the next thing before we sort of dive into the features, it's important to highlight that there are a lot of ways of using the almanac. It's a great general reference to support your astronomical and astrological journey. It's based on NASA data, so all of the information is astronomically correct as well as astrologically. As part of a regular journaling practice, the almanac provides astrological context to your thoughts and perspectives. It's super useful for planning events or for understanding the astrological weather of events that have been planned. For example, if Mars is your malefic contrary-to-sect, where it's involved you might remind yourself to be a little less impulsive. On the other hand, if Jupiter is your benefic of sect and is indicated, you might choose to more go with the flow and trust your intuition. So using your almanac to just get a feel for what's coming up when you're interacting with the world at large is really useful. It can certainly be used to deepen your self-understanding or to process specific personal experiences or events that occur in your life. They might be small or large. For example, if you're going through a difficult time, identifying transits involved can help you work out when you might expect things to improve. Similarly, you could also look for upcoming transits that might help you remediate the situation and use them to help reset things.

The calendar is great for casually perusing the state of play while making your coffee in the morning. That's actually how I use it, I just keep looking at the calendar and saying "oh this event is coming up, this is happening, these transits are coming," and I tend to use the calendar much more than the almanac because it's just there and readily available and I know where it is. So yeah the almanac is a reference tool that can be used in some or all of these ways. It's useful as a casual reference or to support a daily practice. So yeah, as we look at all the various features of the almanac, don't feel like you're supposed to be using all of them or putting them all into practice. It's however works for you and it will evolve over time as you go through your astrological journey. So just going to let Madeline go through, we sent through a pdf document just before the meeting and Madeline is going to walk through that and let you know what's in that.

Madeline: Yeah, so everyone can see my pdf screen here? Colin give me a thumbs up? Great. We put together just sort of a quick overview of how to get started with interpreting some of the content that's in the almanac, basically. Because I think as, sometimes people buy an almanac and then they might not realize that it doesn't contain interpretations, it's very much like a technical document. So we've taken a moment to start to incorporate some resources here that

we will probably eventually actually piece together in the almanac itself, so you can have a quick reference to building your own interpretations. When the moon enters a certain sign you'll have a reference for what does that mean for yourself.

This document also includes some of our suggestions for further study, like books that we recommend for just getting into the basics of astrology, free web articles, some recommended podcasts and lectures. It also includes resources specific to interpreting transits and to learning Hellenistic astrology. This was sent out like whenever that was, a day or two ago along with the link to this course, and we'll also include it—sorry, I got distracted because the cat is scratching at my office door so I'm going to let her in real quick. She's a Leo and she cannot be ignored! Alright, back from the cat intermission. So yeah that's just a quick overview of what this resources document is all about. This is version one, we'll probably be updating it as time goes on. So I'll hand it back to Colin to continue with the presentation.

Colin: Okay. That should say the ephemeris and beyond, does that look right? Cool. Okay so, what is a Honeycomb almanac and how do I use it? The simplest answer to that question is that it's a fancy ephemeris. Honeycomb almanacs are NASA data visualized for astrologers. So let's take a quick look at some of the features of the almanac, starting with the ephemeris. Here's an interesting section of the February 2022 ephemeris. Taking a step back, an ephemeris gives us the position of the planets and the luminaries, usually at the start of each day in a particular time zone. You can set the time zone of your almanac, and the included 12 months of ephemeris tables will use that, so that's pretty neat. This ephemeris is for Melbourne, Australia, where we're at.

An ephemeris is one of the most fundamental tools in an astrologers' toolkit, it tells you where the planets are and where they're going to be. Traditionally astrologers would use ephemeris tables like this to draw charts by hand. Let's take a look. There are a few things to see here, especially on the fifth of February. It's showing sun conjunct Saturn in Aquarius marked in blue, and it's also showing Mars in Capricorn sextile Jupiter in Pisces marked in purple. Now we can see here that Mars is very close to Jupiter, it only has one minute to move, so we'd expect that to happen pretty soon after the day starts. We can see the sun's got a little way to go to catch Saturn, it's got about 14 minutes. And now the sun moves an hour a day, so 14 minutes is about a quarter of a day, so we'd expect this conjunction to occur at around 6am. There are a couple of other pieces of useful information here, we can see that Mercury is stationing direct and we can see that the moon is entering Aries. This is all useful information, but it's a bit tedious and it takes a keen eye to make sure you don't miss anything. And if you want to get more accurate you have to start thinking about how fast this planet is moving and do some math, and if you want to get exact you're going to need a calculator. It's a lot of information and the pieces you want are just hiding in there and you have to kind of extract them out.

Before we created the almanac, Madeline was copying this information by hand into her journal so that she could more easily reference this on a day to day basis. And that's actually why we created the almanac, to make pulling this information out of the ephemeris and making it available so that you can use it much better.

So let's go to the first thing that we built in the almanac which was the calendar view. We can see here that for the 4th and 5th of February we've pulled out all of the useful information and placed it there. We can see that Mars does in fact perfect its sextile with Jupiter just after midnight, we can see that the sun does conjunct Saturn about 6am, we can see the moon entering Aries, we can see Mercury stationing retrograde, and we've also got additional information that you don't get in the ephemeris, or that's difficult to determine. We've got the exact time of all the events, we've also got the transits of the moon which can be difficult to get from the ephemeris because the moon moves so fast, so each day of the ephemeris is really too granular to see what the moon's doing. We've also got some natal transits here and certainly you can't get that directly out of an ephemeris, but if you have the natal chart, you'd be looking at the ephemeris and looking at the natal chart and trying to identify which angle is matching which angles of the natal chart and what are the aspects. So it really just simplifies that whole process of using an ephemeris and looking at it in the context of mundane events like stations and ingresses. And also getting your natal aspects happening. So just another thing that's in here, just a quick note on reading that void of course moon. It says that at 8:40 PM on the 4th, the moon in Pisces makes its last planetary aspect to Pluto before going void for 5 hours and 16 minutes until it enters Aries at 1:56 AM the following day. And that's the definition of a modern void of course and that's how you read it. And all the modern void of course markings in the almanac work the same way. It starts at the aspect right before it and ends when it ingresses into the next sign.

So let's take a look at some of the other parts of the almanac. There's more than one way to view an ephemeris. A chart wheel is simply a visual representation of a point in time and a position on the surface of the earth. This is a line in an ephemeris. And a chart wheel is able to represent not only the precise time, but also the precise place of your birth by showing the ascendant and the midheaven. Another way of looking at it is that we convert a time on a clock, and a latitude and longitude, to a set of planetary phenomena that's unique to that time and location. That's what we can see here in the chart wheel. And a chart can be drawn for any time or place, it doesn't have to be a natal chart. You can draw it for your solar return or a full moon or an important meeting. Madeline will be spending some time later in the presentation talking about the natal chart and how you can read it and understand it.

So now below that chart image we've got another view that we call a chord diagram. It lays the planets and luminaries and points in the chart above in degree order, starting with the earliest degree and going through the latest. So in this chart, the chord diagram quickly tells us that Venus is the earliest degree followed by Mars, and that Jupiter is in the latest degree just after Mercury. And that ordered information can actually be quite difficult to pull out of the chart quickly, if you were to look at the round chart and then say which order is everything in you might say, "oh okay Pluto is at 6, no wait Mars is at 3," it's quite difficult to see. So the chord diagram makes understanding the degree order of all the planets in your chart much easier to consume. And so let's see how that's useful.

Here's that chord diagram again. Now the first useful thing is that it shows us the order in which natal planets may be aspected as a transiting planet moves through a sign. So when a transiting planet reaches 2°23' of any sign, we can check if it makes an aspect to Venus, the first planet in this natal chart by degree. And shortly after it may aspect Mars, and as that planet moves, as that transiting planet moves through a sign, you know which order, if there is going to be an aspect, these planets will be aspected in. We're going to actually take a deeper look at the last four planets in this chart. And that's Uranus at 27°20' in Libra, Saturn at 27°48' in Gemini, Mercury and then Jupiter at 29°09', both of those in Aquarius.

The almanac also includes a transit overview diagram which gives a view of transits over time. This is in contrast to the calendar view, which only shows the exact times of aspects. This view shows you the approaching aspect and the trailing aspect with an incoming orb of two degrees, and an outgoing orb, a separating orb of one degree. And this gives you a chance to understand when is it close and when should I be thinking about this aspect. This view can be a bit overwhelming at first, it contains a lot of information, but once you get used to it, it can be a really good starting place to get an overall feel for the year.

We've taken a little snapshot of Saturn here, just before it ingresses into Pisces, right at the end of Aquarius, which those late degrees are where those four planets that we saw in that timeline above, in that chord diagram above, are. So what we can see here marked in red is that we've got Saturn on the left and it will be making, in time order, a trine to Uranus, a trine to Saturn, it will be conjuncting Mercury and then conjuncting Jupiter, and it will do that in the space of about two weeks. Which is pretty quick for a slow moving planet like Saturn to be going through aspects like that on your natal chart. And towards the middle of the diagram you can see the two degrees as it comes into Uranus, makes its aspect, quickly makes an aspect to Saturn, and you can look in the timeline, the second half of February, that's when all those get made. And so the reason we call it a chord diagram is it's easy to see what order these things are and how clustered they are, and we're looking here at Saturn's transit of this area, it's like strumming a musical chord on a guitar. And what we're seeing is that these four planets in different signs are tightly connected by their close degree. And it's really important to know that this native will experience this sequence in quick succession with every planet that transits this degree throughout their lifetime. The moon will play this chord every month over just a few hours. And so that flavor of experiencing a Uranian transit, a Saturnian transit, a Mercurial transit, a Jupiterian transit, like that is repeated throughout this person's life with every planet that transits this part of the chart. And it's not that easy on the circle diagram to exactly see what's transited when and what comes next.

Another way of thinking about it is that this entire chord diagram could be seen as a series of notes, and as a planet moves through a sign, this native experiences the planets in this order with their aspects. One thing to note is that not every planet is aspected on every transit. So we can see an example of a dropped transit. With Saturn there, after Jupiter, the next one it makes is actually Mars, a square to Mars, just below that red box. Now Venus comes before Mars, where's Venus? And the reason is that Saturn in Pisces is inconjunct Aquarius, which is where Venus is. So it doesn't form an aspect when it's in Pisces and it will move straight to the square

with Mars. But in general this is the order in which you would expect transits to be impacting your natal chart.

So that section was pretty heavy, but we saw how the almanac really just takes ephemeris data and visualizes it, makes things easier to see things over time and in time, and understand the motion of the planets in relation to each other, and in relation to our natal chart. So let's look at a couple of other features before we hand over to Madeline who will talk some more about how to approach all this information in useful ways.

The planetary movement diagram shows the path of the planets through the zodiac in a particular period of time. So at a glance you can see where each planet will transit over the period. It gives you a good visual feel for the relative speeds of the planets too. We can see Pluto out on the outer edge, over the course of an entire year, it does a little retrograde, a little direct, and moves slightly forward. It's a slow planet. But then we can see Mars transits half the zodiac, and Venus and Mercury transit the entire zodiac. The speed of the planets is really, really obvious here. This diagram is oriented towards your natal chart, so this diagram is included in the almanac of a Pisces rising, because we've got Pisces on the first house. This orientation makes it much easier to see how the transits might affect you personally. For example, Jupiter, the ruler of Pisces, spends the majority of its time in the native's first house of Pisces. And that sounds important. Having the ruler transit its house of domicile and it's the ruler of the chart and it's the first house. It's easy to see what's going on in each of the houses of your natal chart. As another example, we can see that towards the end of the period, Mars will station retrograde in the native's fourth house in Gemini, and spend a lot longer period than normal highlighting fourth house topics.

Another useful table is the summary list of new and full moons of the year. It shows both the mundane and the natal aspects that the moon makes at that moment. Mundane aspects are shown in gray and natal aspects are shown in blue. Let's take a look at that total eclipse in May at the bottom right there. We can see that the moon makes a square to Saturn and a trine to Mars and to Neptune. We can also see that it is trine the natal moon and sextile the natal Pluto. Now if you choose the lunations charts plugin, then your almanac will also include the chart for every one of these lunations, showing all of the mundane aspects.

So let's look at that lunar eclipse in more detail. Here is that lunar eclipse for a particular location. We can see that square to Saturn, which is pretty tight given the thickness of these lines. On our chart diagrams, the heaviness of the lines indicates how tight the orb is and here we've got Saturn just coming up to 25 degrees and the moon at 25°18, so they're only 22 minutes apart. That's a really tight square. And we can also see that the trine is also a conjunction of Mars and Neptune here over in Pisces. This is a really interesting eclipse chart. One other thing while we're looking at this chart, a chart like this helps us understand the actual sky from that position on earth. In this Sagittarius rising chart, all of the planets except the moon are below the horizon and would not be visible from this location. The ascendant and the descendent mark the horizon. And the eclipsed full moon over here in Scorpio is just starting to rise right after sunset and would be visible from this location rising over here. Lunation charts

can be a really excellent way to develop a deeper understanding of the mundane astrological environment.

Just wanted to quickly mention the monthly overview page. Most of the things on this page should be familiar. It's got a monthly transit diagram similar to the yearly one we've just seen, it's oriented to your chart. We've got the lunations of the month, the stations that occur this month, showing mundane and natal aspects, all the key mundane transits for the month, ingresses, and outer planet natal transits. And if you have the digital PDF then this can be a great page to print out once a month, just have everything at a glance right there.

Okay, I'm going to hand over to Madeline now to start talking a little bit about creating routines with your almanac. Madeline, you're muted.

Madeline: I was muted, I was basically just rambling, saying thanks so much Colin, that was great. So you didn't miss anything there.

Colin: We're actually in the same place

Madeline: We're in different rooms in the same house, pretty lucky in that regard. So while we're in the vein of technical check-ins, can everyone see my screen? Cool. Okay, so how do we bring all of this together. A lot of you mentioned in the registration responses that you might just be a little bit overwhelmed with how much data there is in our products, and that's super understandable. All of the planets are moving all of the time, there's just so much information to take in on a yearly basis, on a daily basis, etc. So I'm going to walk you through some ideal questions to ask yourself, some ways to focus on how to even choose which things to focus on so that you're not trying to interpret everything all the time, which is an unmanageable task.

So first of all, it's helpful to just identify what are your goals with studying astrology? What types of astrology are you most excited about learning? Because the almanac is a very neutral tool, we've kind of just presented the data. You can choose to add the Hellenistic plugin if you're really studying Hellenistic techniques, but you can essentially use the data that the almanac presents to study any type of astrology. For instance, if you're interested in evolutionary astrology, you might be paying very close attention to the transits of Pluto or the transits of the lunar nodes. If you're the traditional astrology nerd, you'll probably de-emphasize the transits of the outer planets and maybe you'll be focusing on how do malefics or benefits affect me. So I can see that there's a hand raised at the moment and I'm just going to let you know that we're not going to be pausing to answer questions during this portion, so I just encourage you to use that Q and A feature and type your question there, or else throw it in the chat and Dave can help you out. If you throw your question in the Q and A, we'll get to it at the end.

So moving along, you can also ask yourself, how do I really want to apply astrology to my daily life? Am I trying to understand what's happening all the time with every planet or are there certain qualities of astrology that are going to be most helpful for me and my personal goals? Am I trying to attract a romantic partner or am I trying to just be a better partner in my life? In

that case, I might be looking at transits to my 7th house, or transits from the ruler of my 7th house. Am I trying to build a better awareness of my moods from day to day? Maybe I want to pay really close attention to the moon because the moon can really set that emotional tone. Ask yourself those questions and then refer to that resources document that we sent you to get a feel for which planetary archetypes represent each of these goals that you might have.

Another question to ask yourself is, are you even the type of person that enjoys journaling and taking notes? If you are, then that's great, the almanac has space for you to every day write some high level notes about what is happening in your life that you can refer to and compare to the transits. If you're not that type of person, the wall calendar is a good solution. As Colin mentioned, whenever you're noticing that you've had a weird day or a special moment, you can just pull up your calendar and see what transits are currently in play. That's just to kind of set your expectations for yourself, that there are many ways to interact with your almanac or calendar. And there's not a one size fits all approach.

Continuing on, I think when you're thinking about which transits or which planets to focus on, because the almanacs and calendars are targeted to your personal natal chart, a good strategy is just to get really familiar with who are the key players in your natal chart. For instance, in this chart, there's a Capricorn ascendant, so Saturn is the ruler of the chart, as the ruler of the ascendant. No matter what your rising sign is, the ruler of that rising sign is really going to say a lot about you, your health at that moment, what you're currently paying attention to in life depending on where that planet is currently transiting. And I kind of recommend if you do just one thing, pay attention to whatever is happening to the ruler of your ascendant. Who is currently transiting the same sign where your ruler lives, who is opposing it from the opposite sign, etc. And then the next most important planet to pay attention to is going to be the moon. The moon is the regulator of day to day activities, it represents your personal, physical and emotional needs. Pardon for that computer noise. That's the moon giving an alert that you need to pay attention to it. In this chart for instance, whenever a planet is transiting Leo or is even transiting the other fixed signs, the signs that square Leo or the sign that opposes Leo, this person is probably going to feel extra moody, or notice that their emotional needs are more prominent than at other times. So identify where the moon is in your chart and then just look out for transits to that area. And I would argue that paying attention to transits to your natal moon is even more important than your sun. Because while the sun represents your overall identity, your sense of self, your self actualization, your accomplishments, those are things that are important, but it's kind of like a "nice to have". We all want to accomplish something with our lives, but if we are struggling to just meet our physical and emotional needs because something is going on with our moon, then that kind of takes priority.

Just to take a look at a different chart, if you have a Leo rising or a Cancer rising, because those signs are ruled by the sun and the moon, you can see how they're playing double duty. That can kind of help streamline your focus, you can consider yourself lucky in some regards that you have fewer planets you have to pay attention to. So in a Leo rising chart, the sun is both the ascendant ruler and of course it represents the sun's usual significations. So you can see in this chart the sun and the moon are located in the same sign. This particular person will definitely



want to pay attention to transits of Taurus and transits of the other fixed signs to see when the major chapters of their life are playing out. And of course whenever planets are transiting other earth signs, they might find that there's that beneficial trine-based energy to help them along in their life mission.

So then if you feel like you've really got the hang of that and you want some more advanced focus for your transit tracking, you can pay attention to the other key players in the chart, which are going to be the rulers of the other angles. So in addition to the ascendant, and our glyph for the ascendant is here, you have the opposing sign, which is the descendant. And the planet that rules the descendant, in this chart that's Saturn, because the descending sign or the 7th house is Aquarius. So if this person wanted to know what's going on within the world of their partnerships, both romantic, platonic, business or otherwise, for them in particular, Saturn is the planet that represents their partners and partnerships. So whatever Saturn is up to at that point in time is going to help them understand what's unfolding for them in the realm of partnerships, and in addition they might want to pay attention to any time planets are transiting Aquarius. For instance, we know in March that if we're looking at our calendars, that Venus and Mars are going to be entering Aquarius together, forming a conjunction, so this person will probably be paying attention to that and thinking about what that might imply for their partnerships. In addition, because the ruler of their partnerships is based in the 4th house, in Scorpio rather, they'll also want to note when planets are moving through Scorpio and activating that ruler. Again, that's a bit more advanced, but if you're at that point in your studies, start paying attention to the other angles and transits to and from those rulers to see what's going on in those areas of your life.

Once we've established which planets we've chosen to pay attention to, we're going to go ahead and just get an idea for the big picture of the year. I think it's helpful when developing your routine for working with the almanac, to just sort of start big and then narrow your focus to the daily transits. As Colin mentioned, this planetary movements diagram for the year, which is at the front of your almanac or at the back of your wall calendar if you're looking at the wall calendar, it's like a cool perspective because it's oriented towards your rising sign. So you'll note here that this Capricorn rising native can see from their perspective what's going on with each of the planets this year. Because this is a whole signs chart, they can see pretty clearly whether or not Pluto is finally going to fucking make it out of Capricorn, it looks like no not yet, okay, maybe next year. They can see that Jupiter is crossing through two of their houses this year, etc. And of course because they're a Capricorn native, they're going to want to look at what sort of progress is Saturn making. So when you're looking at this page and you're paying attention to, maybe you're listening to your favorite astrological forecast for the year ahead, this is a good page to take notes as they're talking about say, the mars retrograde in Gemini later in 2022, it will be nice to home in on which area of my chart is that. Here is Gemini in the 6th house, so this person will see a focus on 6th house topics when Mars spends that really long time in Gemini.

What else do I want to say about this? Essentially as Colin pointed out, these overview tables are going to show you aspects to both mundane and natal placements with a 3 degree orb on either side, so if you're noticing that any of these retrograde or direct stations are making a

close aspect to one of your key players, like the ruler of your ascendant or your sun or your moon, you can go ahead and highlight that for yourself. It's not very easy to see on this small Zoom screen, but for instance Jupiter is stationing retrograde in Aries for this person, it's making a conjunction to the natal sun, so they will probably highlight that and think, "oh okay, this year Jupiter is going to spend an extra long time talking to my sun, how do I imagine that's going to play out for me in terms of my solar qualities, my goals, what do I want to accomplish, what do I want to be seen for," etc.

Another big picture that you'll want to take for yourself is to look at the eclipses for the year. If you're listening to an astrological forecast or reading something that gives you an overview, they're probably going to talk about which signs the nodes are transiting, the nodes of the moon rather, because those will determine which pair of signs the eclipses will be occurring in. So when you're looking at natal transits, it's really important to realize for yourself where that pair of signs falls in your chart. So if we're looking again at the Capricorn rising chart, the current eclipses this year in Taurus and Scorpio are going to be falling in the fifth house in Taurus and the eleventh house of Scorpio. Since eclipses represent major changes, beginnings and endings, sort of unpredictable portals of new experiences, this person can stop to think about, "What kinds of changes might be coming, or how can I prepare myself for changes in terms of my 5th house—creative offerings, or my children, or my sex life, other 5th house topics." And since the south node is transiting the eleventh house of Scorpio, they might think, "So what's going on with my 11th house topics, my friends, my hopes and aspirations? How can I prepare myself to maybe release some old expectations in those areas of life?" And of course again, just taking note, are any of these eclipses in addition to the lunations, but especially the eclipses for the year, are they going to be aspecting any of your key players? If so, then highlight that date in your almanac and take notes on how that plays out for you.

Moving on, this is a weird title. "What's the dominant flavor in this meal?" The idea here is that the meal is your year and the dominant flavor is what current outer planet transits is your natal chart receiving. Regardless of whatever else is going on, what the astrological forecasts might be saying, your chart is unique and the outer planets such as Pluto, Neptune, and Uranus, might be making aspects at that time that no one else knows about because it's just you, it's your chart. So it's kind of hard to see in this picture, but here's Pluto conjunct the ascendant, Pluto conjunct Mars, and Chiron conjunct the sun. These are like once in a lifetime transits that are occurring at this point in time for this native. So regardless of what Jupiter is doing or Saturn is doing, etc, this person, it's important to keep in mind, Pluto crossing the ascendant. That doesn't even happen to everybody in their lifetime. It's happening now, it's a multi year experience, so you know, interpret that as you will. But this is why I think it's super important to look at this page in your almanac and try to pick out at least conjunctions to your natal planets, or at least the aspects to your sun, moon, and ruler of ascendant, as well as the degree of the ascendant itself too to see what the major storylines are for you at this time. And then if you're comfortable with that, you can move on to thinking about "what's Jupiter doing, what's Saturn doing." As Jupiter moves relatively quickly compared to the other outer planets, Jupiter's going to be kind of zooming through and trying to uplift and encourage some places in your chart. So if

you're looking for where might be feeling more optimistic this year, it can be helpful to just take a glance at who Jupiter is going to be talking to in my chart.

So then once you've kind of gotten that big picture, you can move onto working with your weekly routines or your monthly routines, etc. I recommend setting aside time, if you can, to just look at that monthly overview page, get a sense for when the lunations are going to be occurring, what are the major mundane transits happening this month, what dates do the planets ingress different signs, and see if any of those events are happening this week. As I mentioned, a big feature of March 2022 is that Venus and Mars are ingressing Aquarius on the same day, at relatively speaking, the exact same time. So once we get to that week in our almanac, we'll want to pay attention to here, in this Australian time zone that this almanac is set for, that's happening on March 6th. And because this is a Hellenistic plugin almanac, the transits to the timelord Venus are being highlighted. Just start out the week by looking at which major events are happening this week.

My other tip is if you're looking for natal transits that might be perfecting in the week, it's helpful to take a look at this page, which is included sort of at the top of each monthly section. So rather than scouring through the daily exact aspects, this page is going to give you the sense of the 2 degree applying orb, the tick mark of the exact moment of the transit perfecting, and then the 1 degree separating orb, so you get a feel for the full range of days that you might be feeling one of these aspects, as well as being able to track down the exact moment. I know a lot of people find this view not super intuitive to read, so I recommend flipping back to the beginning section of the almanac, which explains the diagrams and how to read them. And we'll keep working on trying to make these data visualizations as intuitive as possible. Everything is a work in progress and we do appreciate your feedback when it comes to these kinds of things.

Moving on, another thing you'll want to do during the week is check out what the moon is doing, because the moon really sets the vibe for everything else, it activates other planets. If you'll pardon me just a moment, I have another cat issue. \*meows are heard\* OK. I was just saying as the moon ingresses different signs, that's going to be activating different sections of your chart. This week we can see as the moon enters Aquarius, you'll want to think about which houses of my chart are covered by Aquarius. So where naturally are my daily activities and energies going to fall. And as the moon makes its aspects to other mundane transiting planets, that can really set the tone for the day. Especially if there's a long time between these aspects. Colin was mentioning the void of course notation. So on this day, March 1st, you can see that the moon made a conjunction with Saturn and then it's moving quite a long time, it's taking a long time, over 18 hours before it ingresses the next sign. And even longer than that before it makes another aspect to another planet, it's a whole day before it talks to Uranus. So this to me says that these few days here are going to feel kind of heavy. Whenever the moon conjoins Saturn, it has this close conversation with Saturn where it gets to know what is Saturn concerned about right now, where does Saturn think that we're not working hard enough, etc. When I see something like that I will try to remind myself to not be too hard on yourself on this time, especially if you're an overly Saturnian person by nature. Just remember that the moon moves quickly, this vibe will pass.

Another good routine is at the end of your week to take some time to make sure you've written notes for what has happened each day, and kind of work backwards to see if you can teach yourself about transits in retrospect. So if you've found that you've gotten into a lot of arguments and accidents, for instance, that's something that is usually the domain of Mars. So look at that week, has anything been going on with Mars? If you found that you were running into a lot of synchronicities, or you met really interesting and exciting people, you're feeling super inspired, has there been a transit to Jupiter? If it was a busy week of socializing, etc. As you get familiar with the archetypal significations of each planet, it's kind of cool how you can, with taking notes each day, you can, as I said, backwards teach yourself based on what happened—what do I then think each of these transits meant, and how can I now move forward and predict things in the future.

With all of this wonderful structured routine that you've built, when it comes down to the day to day, really all you're doing is taking notes. As much as you can, what happened in your life, exactly what time did it happen, what were you feeling, and you can occasionally open your almanac to refresh yourself about which transits are happening that day. But essentially you're just trying to build a record for yourself. Because over time, as you keep learning and studying, you're going to be super grateful that you have all of this self-generated data about various transits, how they play out for you personally. I think that's really the goal with the almanac, just to make it easy for you to do research. And to incorporate things on a day to day basis.

In conclusion, as you've seen, astrology is a lot. It's a lot of information, it can be a lot to keep track of. So you're doing a great job! And you don't have to keep track of all of it. Just choose a few areas to focus on to get started. It's also important to remember that your natal chart is unique, so when you're reading or listening to general forecasts for any period of time, they're not going to be able to cover the nuances of your exact placements. So take things with a grain of salt, remember that Mars or Saturn are not the same for everybody. Jupiter and Venus, they're not the same for everybody. The certain signs that planets are transiting, there's a way to interpret that on a mundane level, but then bringing it home to which area of your life is that happening, that's a process that you need to go through yourself. Or if you're able to, I really recommend setting aside money for booking one on one consultations with professional astrologers. That's going to be a huge help as you learn and get familiar with your natal chart. Even if you feel like you've been studying astrology for a long time, just having an extra pair of eyes on your own chart, it's always going to teach you things. And then also if you're able to, join astro community spaces where you can connect with other peers. Ascendant Assemblies is a really cool project that's just gotten started in the past year, where people of the same rising sign can get together in Zooms and compare notes about how different transits are affecting them based on their shared house structure. So get out there and connect with people. And that concludes that.

Colin: That was great, thanks Madeline.

Madeline: Thank you! And thank you everyone for bearing with us. Not bearing with us, sorry I'm so saturn. We're going to move on to the Q and A portion now.

Colin: Yeah I can start with that and just have a look at some of the questions that we've got here. TV has asked, "I understand that the PDF planner is available but I'd like to see the calendar as a PDF. Is that going to be coming soon?" The answer to that is yes, that is going to be coming soon. We should have that in the first half of this year, all things working out. That's that. TV's also asking, "Will you offer customers to have no art in their planners or calendars for those who want to use the blank space for notes instead?" That's a really great idea, we've had one other person suggest that instead of artwork they want to include the monthly planetary movements, which is also a good idea. So we'll definitely be reviewing the options that we've got for the calendar. It didn't occur to us that people wouldn't want artwork, but customer feedback is great.

Got another question here from an anonymous attendee. "Do you have any idea what percentage of your customers employ astrological magic to create talismans and what features in your products are most useful to help them?" So we don't know how many people are using our almanacs to make magical talismans, but we imagine that people are. Certainly if you've been following Austin Coppock and Kaitlin's business Sphere and Sundry that's something that they really get into, and the almanac would definitely support that. It will give you indications of what time in the year or in the month, or when would be a good time to find a Jupiter energy or a Mars energy depending on what kind of talisman you want to create. So I would definitely say just being able to identify the time and using it as a planning tool for doing talisman-based magic would definitely work.

We've got a question here that's specifically like, "What does Saturn conjunct Vesta mean?" And we're going to focus on the features...

Madeline: I can mention that briefly since we don't have too many questions. Sorry to interrupt there. Yeah so we won't go into too many of these sorts of "how do you interpret something", because that's sort of what the resources are for. But we didn't include the asteroids in the resources so it's worth just noting.

So Vesta is one of the asteroid goddesses that is generally thought to represent, it's the goddess of the hearth, the keeper of the flame. So in the natal chart, Vesta represents something that you're spiritually devoted to, something that you think is so important that it's worth just kind of dedicating yourself to. Vesta can also indicate, because it represents the traditional or the ancient vestal virgins, it's this idea of again, not letting anybody else distract you from what's most sacred to you and being a servant to that. So if you're thinking about Saturn making an aspect to your natal Vesta, Saturn also represents commitment and discipline and focus. So my interpretation of that would be that it's a good time to sit down and think about what your long term goals are for your personal spiritual practice or your devotion. And if we're talking about a mundane transit with Saturn conjunct Vesta, it's probably something similar but

maybe in a more general framework for everybody thinking about reflecting on the topics of devotion. So yeah, thanks for that question.

The next question is, "Will we go over the zodiacal releasing plugin with examples?" I do have some slides prepared for that, so I want to take some, if we've got time, I want to go into that a bit more. I might just shelve that for just a second as we go into some of the other questions. Which I'll hand back to Colin for that. And you're muted at the moment.

Colin: Sorry about that. Jen's asking, "I love the artwork but additional pages for notes would be awesome." So the almanac itself, you can add additional note pages, but we don't offer that yet on the calendar. I think the main reason is that the pages in the calendar, if you've got a calendar you'd know, the pages are a very thick card, it's very glossy, it uses premium ink and every page in that calendar is actually quite expensive to produce. And if we publish a blank page, they still charge us the same amount. So the cost of the calendar gets quite large if we're just getting them to use this high gloss, thick card, just to show blank pages. So we might add it, but the cost to add note pages to the calendar would probably be higher than most people would imagine. But it's definitely something for us to think about, that's for sure.

So we've got a question from Loyce. Dave's actually just typing an answer but I can quickly jump into that. "Are the bold transits personal? I have the calendar." Personal transits are in blue, moon transits, which there are usually a lot more of those, they're in a light gray. And the bold gray or black transits are all of the other mundane transits apart from the moon. So if you're looking for natal transits, they're personal and they're blue. Everything else is a mundane transit, they're printed in dark unless it's the moon and they're a bit lighter just to make sure they don't crowd out the other information.

Madeline: I've got someone asking to flip through the almanac to show the layout and what is included without plugins, is that something that I should briefly do? I've got one pulled up, like a digital almanac.

Colin: Sure, if you're feeling like doing that, that would be great.

Madeline: I'll just do that quickly to sort of show what's the chronological order of the things, as they are called. Things and stuff. Okay. So are you able to see, I've set up the split screen view here? OK. What I've done here is just shown two almanacs that are for the same person but with different plugins. The one on the right is without the Hellenistic plugin is kind of the main distinction, and the one on the left includes the plugin. So the beginning of the almanac has just the table of contents, then it goes into a couple of pages that just introduce you to the—

Colin: Hey, Madeline?

Madeline: Yeah?

Colin: I was just going to say, they were specifically saying can we look at it without plugins, so just the one on the right maybe.

Madeline: I did want to just like quickly show the difference in the natal chart between the two plugins, that kind of helps. The one on the right you can see there's no decans or bounds, this is without the Hellenistic plugin so the chart is a little bit simpler. And then the Hellenistic plugin—sorry this is kind of trippy—the page facing the natal chart in the Hellenistic plugin is going to show you this technical chart analysis based on traditional assessment of planetary dignity and debility, whereas the natal chart without the Hellenistic plugin is going to give you this elements and modalities graph. Which there was a question about that in the Q & A, I think that I noticed, so I might just dive into that a little bit while we're here.

So just to kind of quickly summarize that. It's a graph that we've created according to a relative point system assigned to the major players in the chart. So the sun, the moon, and the rising sign are worth 4 points in this chart, whereas the other traditional planets and the nodes are worth 2 points, and then these remaining pieces are worth 1 point each. So just based on the distribution of where planets are falling in the elements especially, it's easy to see at a glance like, "Holy shit, this person is so earthy," with like a solid quarter of their brain being dedicated to fire and a bit of water and very little air. It's just kind of like a fun at-a-glance reference to the elemental composition primarily of the chart. And then to the right here, if you refer to the glyph key, these are our glyphs that we've designed for cardinal, fixed, and mutable, and then the traditional symbols for fire, earth, air, and water. So this matrix just kind of helps you pinpoint how many cardinal placements do I have, how many fixed, how many mutable, and then again, which placements are falling in each element.

So yeah just to, I don't know how tedious this is to just flip through the rest of the PDF, but following the natal charts are the solar return charts if you've included them. And then we get into the overview graphics like the lunations, the planetary movements for the year, the retrogrades, these outer planet timelines, and then I'm going to switch to this. Then you start moving into the monthly sections. So if you're viewing your PDF as like a single page view, then the calendar can kind of be confusing, like here's the left side of the page and here's the right side of the page. But of course if you're printing this, these will be two facing pages where the monthly calendar is side by side. There's that inner planet transits timeline that I was mentioning, and then you get into your just week by week. Most of the rest of the almanac is just going to be this kind of data. And then once you get to the end, we have the ephemeris and any extra appendices or plugins that you've added will fall at the end. So I hope that kind of helps give you some context if you haven't seen the almanac before.

Colin: Yeah, that's great. I will answer another question here. Lorelee is asking, "On the outer transits grid, can you darken the lines between the months? That was suggested in the chat and it would be helpful. Or list the months at the bottom as well." Yeah I think they're great ideas, especially putting the months at the bottom. There's a little balance in the lines, like whether they stand out too much or too little. If they're too dark, then it becomes a bit of a heavy grid to view. But yeah we'll look at darkening those a little to make them a bit easier to see.

Brian is asking, "Could you add the elemental composition to the Hellenistic version? It would be nice to have." Yeah, that was kind of a tough decision about space in the almanac. So with every natal chart and solar return chart we have 2 pages currently, either with the Hellenistic analysis of the chart or an elemental analysis. But I do agree, it would be nice to have sort of three pages if you purchase the Hellenistic version. So we'll look at maybe how we can do that. It'll add an extra sort of, it will make it a little harder to lay out the almanac. So it's nice you just open it, and there's your natal chart and then you open the next page and there's your solar return chart for one year, open the next page, but if we've got three pages that becomes a little awkward. But yeah we'll definitely think about that. The reason we switched them out is partly that and partly because they're both an analysis of the natal chart and the Hellenistic one is certainly a more comprehensive one that they used in those times.

So we've got Belinda asking, "In the future, will you be offering progressed planet transits or solar arcs?" Yeah, we're considering putting that information in. There's definitely a lot of astrological methods and processes that could be suitable for the almanac, and part of it is just finding the time to implement all of them. And others is keeping the almanac approachable and not being like every feature under the sun, and actually ordering an almanac takes a really long time because there's just so many options to pick from. We do think progressed planets especially might be a good view for us to have when we can get around to that for sure.

TV asks, "Putting in a request for the back pocket for the calendar." Yeah, that would be amazing. With our printing, we're kind of pretty limited to who we can get to print the almanac. If we look at that print process for a bit, every single item we print is unique, so first thing we need is a printer who is prepared to print one copy of a book and lots of them. That's not every printer's favorite thing to do. So that narrows our options, and then it's finding a printer that is able to print and ship internationally at an affordable price. That narrows it down again because essentially to ship at a reasonable price, it has to be printed near to where it's being shipped. So we need a printer with a European capability, an Australian capability, a US capability. And it really limits our options. And the current printer we've got for the calendar doesn't offer us the ability to put any features like back pockets into the calendar. But if we could start putting features like that in, we'd probably jump at the opportunity. And we're always paying attention to what options we have for printing. Printing a product that we prefer to print rather than that's available at that printer.

Just going to clean up some of those questions that we've answered.

Madeline: Just going to mention, we're coming down to the last 15 minutes or so, and I know we did have a lot of questions about zodiacal releasing in the registration form. So I was wondering if I should get into some of those slides here, what do you think?

Colin: Yeah, that sounds great, that's a good idea.



Madeline: Okay, we'll just do that. I think it's something that we basically need to do a workshop just on zodiacal releasing to be honest, because it's a pretty heady subject. And of course if you haven't already, check out some of the resources in the document that we shared for just like podcasts and lectures and whatnot that can help you. It's not really something that can be grasped without kind of getting that bigger picture, like what does it mean, where does it come from, how are people who have been working with it for several years, how are they working with it. But I can go over what we've built in terms of tracking zodiacal releasing in the almanac.

So the main idea with zodiacal releasing is that there's like a narrative arc that's playing out in your life, that is happening on multiple levels of time simultaneously, no big deal. So depending on which lot you've chosen to release for the purposes of tracking in the almanac, you're going to be focusing on stories of relationship and partnership dynamics as is the case if you're releasing from the lot of Eros, which is Venus' lot. You might be tracking your career or your accomplishments and recognition, which would be the lot of Spirit, the sun's lot. Or if you're tracking the lot of Fortune itself, that's the lot of the moon. So that's more like health issues and things like circumstances that you might fall into. Because fortune is, you know, sort of this concept of luck or chance. So releasing from fortune can kind of show where are the cards falling for you at this point in time.

So in general with zodiacal releasing, just in my personal trying to get the hang of it, sometimes it can be hard to figure out how the story is playing out in real time. It's easier to piece it together after the fact. So that's again where taking notes in your almanac comes in handy, because as you are starting to like, I know some people who really work with zodiacal releasing, they'll literally build spreadsheets for themselves. Where they're writing down, "here's all of my Pisces periods for the year," and okay, I'm taking my notes from my almanac and putting it into this spreadsheet to see what happens whenever I'm in a Pisces period. So the almanac primarily can just help you organize your notes in that way. Just to explain this diagram a bit, you've got these multiple levels in which the releasing periods are happening simultaneously. So level two is like zooming into this highlighted yellow level one period. And then this period that's highlighted on the level two, the level three is zooming in to look at that. The peaks and the valleys and what not are all related to which signs in your personal chart are angular from the lot of Fortune. So in order to understand interpreting zodiacal releasing periods for yourself, it's helpful to look at this graph that we've included, which is your natal Fortune angles and sort of breaking that down for you. So whatever sign contains the lot of Fortune itself is a peak period. And peak period just translates to busy. Events and experiences that are happening in that time of your life are busy, relative to your chosen releasing topic.

So again if I'm tracking periods related to Eros, if I'm noticing that I'm in a zodiacal releasing period that is Virgo, in my chart that contains the lot of Fortune, so the Virgo times are going to be busy for Eros significations. And then the other point to keep in mind is that it's the signs that are angular, so the signs that are of that same modality as the lot of Fortune that are also busy for peak periods. And then the other key point is that paying attention to the sect of your chart and which planet is the contrary malefic, which planet is the benefic in favor, these are going to influence the flavor of those periods in your life. So as you're moving through, if you're this

person and Saturn is in a cardinal sign, and the cardinal signs are the follow through or completion periods in zodiacal releasing, you can predict that after a busy period, when it comes to following through or implementing plans, this might be the challenging part of your story line. Because the cardinal signs are angular to Saturn. By contrast, the portions of time where you're building up, you're getting new ideas, you're starting new projects, you're meeting new people, because the benefic-in-favor is in the fixed signs, the preparatory periods, those might be the easier times for you. And just to compare to a different chart, those planets can fall in any place. So this person happens to have both the contrary malefic, Mars, and their favored benefic, Jupiter, in the same sign, in the follow through or completion periods. So you know sometimes that's how it feels in a person's life. Both challenging things and helpful things are happening simultaneously. So yeah it can be rather complex.

For zodiacal releasing tracking, building a routine for that, it really comes down to that reflection period at the end of your week. Taking the time to think about, "What was the narrative in whatever storyline I'm trying to pay attention to? Was I just working a lot this week, was I partying a lot, was I mostly happy, mostly depressed?" Just taking that snapshot view of your point in time and then trying to connect them with the level 4 periods that are happening every few days. And again if you're sort of building out your big picture, you're going to try to connect these periods with other points in time when you've been in the same period. That's the best that I can do in the span of 10 minutes to talk about zodiacal releasing. But feel free to keep letting us know if that's something you want to sort of workshop some more in the future.

Colin: Perfect, that's great. So we're getting close to time but there's a couple more questions here that I should be able to answer pretty quickly. Cathy's asked, "If I've ordered before, have you saved my natal chart data (time, place, date, etc) for easy ordering now?" We don't currently do that, but we expect to have our website improved throughout this year and that's one of the things that we want to make easier for you. So watch this space on that one.

Cathy's also asked, "Does your website describe what's included in a basic almanac and what plugin options one can add? Also can you order a larger page size so the print is larger?" So as you're ordering your almanac, it will start with mostly no additional things selected. The only one that's selected I think is solar returns, because they're free and most people, you know it doesn't confuse the almanac in any way, it just adds a couple of charts. So if you don't select any plugins, then you'll see that in the summary, it will say, "You've added these and you haven't added these." It should be fairly clear what plugins are there. And in terms of how specific we are about what's in there, each option should tell you what is in that plugin if you were to add it. But I think we probably could do a better job of providing some detailed information about what's in each plugin, maybe with photos on the website, you know a page for each plugin so it's really clear what's in them. So that kind of website update will be coming this year as well. And the second part of that question, yeah you can order a larger page size and the print is a little larger in the wide version of the almanac. So good question there.

Do you see any others in there that you want to catch before we close out, Madeline?

Madeline: yeah I did notice that there's a question about planetary speed, which is another some of that bonus content that I've prepared slides for, so we could look a little bit at that.

Colin: Sure.

Madeline: Okay, we'll do that. Basically we made a bunch of slides and then saved some in case they seemed relevant. So planetary speed, these mysterious diagrams come with your almanac without any explanation like many other things. The basic idea is that aside from the sun and the moon, which never retrograde, every other planet at any given point of time is moving at a relative pace that is either faster than average or slower than average and is either increasing in speed or decreasing in speed. How we got this information or how we personally started thinking about planetary speed is based on the work of Demetra George in her amazing textbook, "Ancient Astrology in Theory and Practice: Volume 1." I recommend reading that book if you're curious to know so much more than even planetary speed.

So the breakdown of these diagrams can be found in the beginning section of the almanac, where essentially blue indicates that the planet was moving direct at that time, and orange indicates that it was moving retrograde. If the colored bar is close to the stationary point, then the planet was moving very slowly and either preparing to station retrograde or direct. If the arrow is pointing to the right it indicates that the planet is increasing in speed, etc. So, how to interpret that? Demetra in her textbook covers this idea that if at the time of your birth a planet was moving near its top apparent speed, then that planet is more able to implement its agenda in your life. Perhaps at a younger age or just in general, it's just easier because that planet is moving so quickly, that archetypally represents you moving quickly with the significations of that planet in your life. So in this chart example, you can see this persons' Venus is just moving fast and getting even faster, really close to maxed out speed. So in that persons' life, Venus is just like, it's one way of indicating that Venus is pretty beefed up and able to do Venusian things. So this person is probably pretty gung ho to attract friends and lovers or to satisfy their pleasures, to have fun, to have a good time. You know, Venus is real loud, you might say, in that regard. Whereas by contrast, this person's Saturn is moving retrograde and is near the top end of its retrograde motion. So that can indicate that in this person's life, Saturn takes a long time to get going, which is kind of a funny pairing when you say that, "oh they're very Venusian, Venus is able to manifest its significations quickly, whereas Saturn takes a long time." This kind of paints the portrait of a person who really likes to have a good time, and it's going to take a while for them to maybe learn how to settle down or mature. It's just kind of a quick way to interpret that. And then in the mundane sense, the calendars will show you this snapshot for each month. So it's just another quick way to get an idea for whether or not a planet is, you know, here Pluto is about to station, so a visual way to get an idea for how quickly or slowly a planet is moving. And then natally, if a planet looks like this, like this Pluto looks, that's thought to be a special emphasis. If a planet stationed retrograde or direct within a few days of your birth, then that planet is like, it's stopped right there in the sky, so for better or for worse that planet has a special emphasis in your life. So great.

Colin: That was great. I'll mark that as answered.

Madeline: Question about the profections, a couple of other questions here and there. I know we're kind of at the end of time, but I don't mind going a few minutes over if we want to get into anything else. I do have one slide about profections, should I do that?

Colin: Yeah, why not?

Madeline: Why not! Annual profections, again if you've added the Hellenistic plugin you're going to get this mesmerizing chart. Again it's helpful to kind of study a bit more to get the full context, because we can't quite teach you how to use this technique. But in short, it's a really helpful way to focus again on transits for this particular time period. The way that it works is that for each age of life, you know from age zero onward in cycles of 12, one sign or one house is going to become emphasized in your life. So when you start at birth, the first house or the rising sign is emphasized, and when you turn 1 the second house is emphasized, and so on, in multiples of 12 for as long as you live. So in this chart, it's indicating that the person starts this almanac time period at age 33 and during the course of the almanac they turn 34, so the profection is moving from a Venus ruled 10th house year to a Mars ruled 11th house year. So they'll notice throughout their almanac that after their date of their solar return, they'll stop seeing transits from Venus highlighted and you start seeing transits from Mars highlighted. The reason why I have this little pop out here is because in addition to the lord of that sign itself being emphasized by the year, that particular sign itself is emphasized.

So in 2022 we have the eclipses in Taurus and Scorpio, and since this person is having a Scorpio profected year, I've just called out that they, it's sort of this doubling up of emphasis in Scorpio for their year. So the fact that there are eclipses happening in Scorpio, while they're experiencing a Scorpio profection, just kind of emphasizes, "All right, be prepared for some big personal events in the realm of 11th house and 5th house topics." So yeah it's essentially that, it just helps you focus a little more on what to expect for your personal year. And just to quickly answer, "Are annual profections and zodiacal releasing related?" The answer is no, they are completely independent techniques that do not inform or speak to one another. They're both included in the Hellenistic plugin because they are both sort of recently revived ancient techniques, so we've just included them together. In the future we might have the option to sort of pick and choose, "Do I just want profections, do I just want zodiacal releasing, etc", but at the moment it's just like your bulk package deal.

Colin: And to be fair, the Hellenistic plugin doesn't really add a huge amount of complexity. There are a couple of extra diagrams that you can skip if you're not enjoying them. The main place that it makes a little more complex is the natal chart. It adds 3 items to the chart itself: for the main lots of Eros, Spirit and Fortune, and it also marks the 4 less common lots outside the chart. It adds the decans, but it's not a hugely complexifying plugin. So it can be fun to get it and see, if you're just using it to look at events or plan or do things, it can be useful to just have that information marked up and see if you're noticing any correlations or whether those techniques seem to mean anything to you.

Madeline: I thought I would just mention as well since in the registration form some people were asking about the planetary conditions, so I can just quickly cover that too. With any of the natal charts or the solar return charts in the hellenistic plugin, you'll get that table, it looks like this, that gives you sort of a summary of the "condition" of each planet. So that information is directly, we developed that with some consultation from the authors of these books here. Demetra George and Chris Brennan. For the almanac itself we haven't provided a lot of context as to what these things mean, so I kind of just want to say, "Go read those big fat books if you want to learn more about it." But I can summarize what we've chosen to indicate. Essentially the blue or the very supportive conditions for a planet are going to be covering essential dignities like domicile or exaltation. You'll get a blue indication for a planet if it's in mutual reception with its domicile lord, if it's in its own bound or triplicity rulership, and if it's experiencing any technical conditions of bonification. Essentially we've prioritized those as very supportive and then anything else that's nice falls in this category of just generally supportive. So there's no particular order to this, you could argue that the sun being in an angular house is actually pretty important for its condition, but this is just kind of no particular order, this is just listing some nice things that support the sun in acting its significations for this person.

And then the very challenging conditions are going to be essential debilities like if the planet is in its detriment or its fall, and then conditions of technical maltreatment. So for example the sun in this chart is experiencing the technical condition of being overcome by Mars and Saturn, which just simply means that Mars and Saturn are in a superior square by sign to this sun. So that's just technically a difficult signification for the planet because it has to sort of like work against the agenda of Mars and Saturn, the malefics, in order to enact its significations. And then the other challenging conditions in the red outline are just everything else that's not great. The sun being ruled by a malefic, kind of challenging, even if it is the sign of the sun's exaltation. This sun kind of gives you a good idea of how a mixed bag any general planet might have when you're assessing its condition. It might be like, "Yay, my sun is exalted, it's in Aries," but then, "Boo, it's being maltreated by Mars and Saturn." This can kind of give you a realistic sense of just how nobody's chart is perfect. Everybody has their blessings and their misfortunes, generally speaking. I think that's all I have to say about that.

Okay, so we're 8 minutes past.

Colin: Just going to read one more question about the annual profections since you were there. Someone's asked, "Is the annual profection for the natal chart, for the solar return chart?" It's for the natal chart, it's based on your age, and every solar return, your profection moves forward by one house. So when you're born, for your first year you're in a first house profection, On your first birthday you go into a second house profection and it just keeps going through like that. So your solar return is an important time because that's when your profection changes, but which profection you're in is based on your age.

Okay!

Madeline: Yeah, I think that we need to wrap it up because I need to pee and we want to let you all get on with your day. But it's really amazing that you showed up for this, I was super surprised by the response that we got in offering this workshop, and it says to me that you all would like to see more of these types of offerings in the future. So yeah, I really appreciate that. Obviously there is a lot that we want to do with Honeycomb, beyond just making you some really handy planners, including more community events and community platforms. So just stay tuned to our newsletter or our social media to see what we've got cooking for the future.

Colin: Cool.

Madeline: Okay awesome, I'm just reading some of the chat comments here. I really appreciate you guys, it's very sweet. I'm just reading them some more, this is my Leo moon time, thank you. Okay, thank you thank you, I'm going to stop the recording, thank you guys again.