

Counting in the New Year

by Judith Waller, "The Soul Connector"

Beginning another year is always a great opportunity to welcome in new energy and make a fresh start. You may be interested to know that, numerologically, 2007 is a number 9 year. While I don't believe in allowing yourself to be ruled by outside influences, I've found that, just as it's helpful to work in tune with the seasons, it can be really useful to understand the energy of the cycle of change in the external environment. Harnessing this can add another dimension to the way you connect and work with energy in your own life. To determine the universal number for a year, you add each of the digits together and reduce them down to a single digit, ie $2007=2+0+0+7=9$. A 9 year is especially significant in that it carries the energy of completion – it's the final year of a nine year cycle.

UNDERSTANDING THE CYCLE OF CHANGE...

To give you an overview of how the nine-year cycle works, consider the analogy of a farmer planting and tending a field:

1. The field is planted
2. The seeds are germinating
3. First shoots are showing
4. The little plants are growing nicely
5. Critical time for the plants – they will either grow big and strong or die
6. The plants are nourished with fertiliser
7. Farmer is patiently waiting for the plants to mature
8. Just about there, tending to any weeds that have come up. The plants show what they will look like when they are ready to be harvested.
9. Harvest time, and time to prepare the field for next year's planting.

(Adapted from: Marlies' Creative Universe)

2006 was an 8 year, which can be quite an intense and frustrating energy to work with – a year in which you may have felt yourself to be strongly tested, to ensure that what has been built over the previous few years is well founded and sustainable. If there is anything difficult that you've been trying to ignore or hoping will go away, an 8 year is often the one in which it will come up again to finally be dealt with (ouch!). Try not to be disheartened if you found last year hard going, because this is a natural part of the Divine process of life. It's true that the toughest challenges can often result in the greatest learnings.

The good thing about moving into a 9 year is that we have acquired a "big picture" view and are able to evaluate and make sense of what has happened over the preceding eight years. With the energy of completion, you have the chance to finish off anything that you've been working on during the last few years, in order to prepare for the beginning of a new cycle next year. On a planetary scale, this enables us to finally close the door on the energy and events of the last decade and, indeed, the last century.

REFLECTING ON WHAT YOU'VE LEARNT...

So ask yourself: Do you have any unfinished business that you need to take care of now? Are there any unresolved conflicts that you need to address, or attachments to outdated modes of thinking or patterns of behaviour that you could constructively release? Are there any goals or dreams that you haven't yet been able to realise? Is there anything that you need to finish off or let go of before you're in a solid position to manifest these in your life?

On a positive note, a 9 year is also one in which we can enjoy harvesting the fruits of our labours, so get ready to celebrate and appreciate your achievements! What are the things for which you are especially grateful? What have you created and grown in your life over the last eight years? What have you learned from this period of your life, and how will you continue to build on this in the future? Pay special attention to whatever comes to fruition this year, as this will form the foundation for the next cycle.

EXPLORING YOUR PERSONAL YEAR...

You can explore the idea of the cycle of the years in even more depth by looking at the number of your "personal year". The universal year number, as described above, affects everyone on a broad scale. But there is another layer beneath this. Each of us is also at a different stage in our personal cycle. To calculate this number, you add the digits from the day and month of your year of birth, together with the current year. Be aware that your personal year commences on your birthday (not on New Year's Day, unless your birthday's actually on that date) so, until that occurs, you will still be working with the energy of the previous year. You will likely notice a transition period, and a shift of energy, during the two weeks before and after your birthday.

Let me give you an example. If you were born on the 2nd of January, then you've just had a birthday and so will use 2007 to calculate your personal year (day+month+current year): $2+1+2+0+0+7=12$ and $1+2=3$. So you will have just started a 3 year. However if you were born on the 2nd of May, then you haven't yet had your birthday this year, so you would still use 2006 to work out your current personal year, giving you: $2+5+2+0+0+6=15$ and $1+5=6$. So right now you would be in the middle of a 6 personal year, and would start a 7 year on your next birthday.

Translating what each year in the nine-year cycle may mean for you:

1. Follow your dreams – a year of new beginnings
 2. Cooperation – a year of integration, patient development
 3. Express yourself – a year of active social life, get out of rut, communicate
 4. Taking care of business – a year of putting down roots, making and accomplishing goals
 5. Change and surprise – a year of speculation and enthusiasm, breaking free
 6. Nurturing – a year of taking care of others, responsibility and obligation
 7. Reflection – a year of Sabbatical, quietude, examination and analysis, looking within
 8. Test and evaluation – a year of taking control of your life, being tested and evaluated
 9. Graduation – a year of endings, tying up loose ends, letting go.
- (Adapted from: Marlies' Creative Universe)

The first year of a cycle, the 1 year, is frequently when you will find yourself beginning new things or starting over in different areas of your life – perhaps you find yourself alone after ending a relationship, or this may be the time in which you decide to buy a new house or launch a business venture. I suspect that what people refer to in relationships as "the seven-year itch", likely relates to this nine-year personal cycle. People often marry in the second year of the cycle, because a 2 year carries the energy of coming together. Seven years on, and you come to the energy of an 8 year, in which you are testing others and being tested yourself. Sometimes the structures of your life, such as relationships, don't pass this testing process and you discover it is necessary to let them go. Equally, you identify those structures that are really important and resilient, and are able to build on them as you progress into another cycle.

Wherever you are in your personal cycle, when you work with the energy of growth and change, you will find that your efforts at manifestation flow more freely and easily.

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