

METHOD & MATTER

The background of the entire page is black. Scattered across it are four moons in different phases: a waxing gibbous moon in the upper right, a waxing crescent moon in the center, a waning gibbous moon in the lower left, and a waning crescent moon in the lower right. The title text is overlaid on the central moon.

# At the End of a Cycle

*Guided reflections across transitional thresholds*

# Part 1 - Becoming the Being that You Are

The intention of this exercise is to facilitate a macro understanding of who you understand yourself to be, in this very moment. Of sensing into what it is you long for and what holds you back. To connect with your wholeness, areas of resistance, and the possibilities that open up when you can hold both, together.

## Who You Are

Take a few breaths and connect with yourself in this moment. What are you in connection with, what felt senses are arising, and what is your capacity to be with what is here, now? Answer the following questions:

- Who am I in this moment? Who do I understand myself to be?
- What am I up to in the world?
- What matters?
- What do I really believe?
- What do I really want?
- How do my thoughts, practices, moods, and habits contribute to my sense of who I am?

## How You Resist

As you worked through the previous exercise, did you notice any resistance to what you were thinking, feeling, and writing? As you begin to observe the resistance, answer the following questions:

- What am I resisting?
- How do I do that?
- What is underneath the resistance?
- What limiting beliefs do I hold?

- How does this keep me safe?
- How do my thoughts, practices, moods, and habits support my resistance?

## Appreciating Your Wholeness

Who you are and how you resist are all part of your wholeness, the system of you. Resistance serves a purpose, though it may not always be obvious. Take a moment to appreciate all of who you are, and all of how you resist. See if you can drop in and really appreciate every part of you. Answer the following questions:

- Who am I in my wholeness?
- How can I deeply appreciate my wholeness?
- What is possible when I fully appreciate my wholeness?
- With this knowledge, what new thoughts, practices, moods, and habits do I want to begin?

## Part 2: Reflecting on the Past Cycle

The second exercise in this series takes a more traditional reflection route, and uses the events of the last cycle to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments, challenges, surprises, and meaning that shaped you. Some folks like to go through their calendar, photos, journals, bank accounts, and other artifacts before jumping into the reflection questions.

- What went well?
- What needs to be celebrated?
- What didn't go well?
- What needs to be let go of?
- What did I learn?

- What did I avoid?
- What did I heal?
- What do I want to remember?
- What brought me energy?
- What depleted me?
- What surprised me?
- What disappointed me?
- What do I want more of?
- What do I want less of?
- What is enough?
- What am I grateful for?

## Dimensions of Life

- Relationships
- Love
- Wealth
- Vocation
- Spirituality
- Health & Wellness

- Practices & Habits
- Adventure
- Community & Service
- Learning & Growth
- Energy & Vitality
- Nature

## Part 3: Declaring Future Possibilities (aka The Letter)

Once you feel complete with the appreciation and reflection exercises, give yourself space to let the work settle. This may look like taking a break (15 minutes, 1 day, 1 week, whatever feels right for you), creating a completion ritual, changing locations, having a mini-dance party, making some tea, really anything that can give you a sense of closing out and completing the first part of the process.

When you are ready to begin The Letter, take a few moments to settle your mind. Sit quietly and follow your breath, feel your feet on the floor and your seat in the chair. What do you notice? What sensations are you aware of? Allow the impressions from your reflections to float into your awareness. Imagine you are sitting across from your future self, one year from today. Your future self that has just started the yearly reflection process. The first thing your future self will do is read the letter you are about to write.

What do you want Future You to know? Sitting here now, in this exact moment, what seeds of the future do you hold and what hopes do you have for what these seeds will grow into? What do you want your future self to know about who you are and what you long for? Your hopes and dreams? What you are committed to? If you are a goal-oriented person, this is a great place to talk about the goals you set and achieved.

*There is absolutely no wrong way to do this.* However you feel called to communicate with Future You a year from now, do that. A letter, a video, a song, a collage, whatever captures what you are living into. Allow your creativity and heart to lead this process. When you are finished with the letter, put it

somewhere safe. You will read it one year from now when you sit down once again to reflect on the year and the person you are becoming.

## Closing With Gratitude

To close out the reflection process, take a moment to express your gratitude for everything and everyone that has brought you to where you are today, and for the amazing person you are (becoming). Let the gratitude fully wash over you before you get up and continue move back into the flow of life.

[View the full essay online →](#)

*Cover photo by [Mason Kimbarovsky](#).*



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