

*DOROTHEUS OF  
SIDON: CARMEN  
ASTROLOGICUM  
RE-WORKED*

FROM DAVID PINGREE'S TRANSLATION

## PREFACE

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This is a re-working of David Pingree's translation of Dorotheus of Sidon's *Carmen Astrologicum* primarily to make it easier to reference and study. If you are looking for the original text of the translation, there are a number of them online, notably the original text on [Archive.org](https://www.archive.org).

The public domain [StarFont Sans](#) astrological fonts used in this document were created by Anthony I.P. Owen and made available as a Latex package by Matthew Skala.

This document was built from Latex files created with the [TexWorks](#) editor.

### Other works consulted

**CAA** *Carmen Astrologicum: Dorotheus of Sidon* trans. David Pingree, Astrology Classics, 2005

**CAD** *Carmen Astrologicum: Dorotheus of Sidon: The 'Umar Al-Tabari Translation* trans. Benjamin N. Dykes. 2019.

**CAP** *Carmen Astrologicum: Dorotheus of Sidon* trans. David Pingree, Ascella, 1993.

**DH** *Notes on Dorotheus III: the haylāj, kadhkhudāh, and terms of life* by Deborah Houlding, [URL](#), as at August 03, 2020

### Useful Resources

#### [PlanetDance Astrology Software](#)

A free astrology software application created by J.C. Remers. Includes a number Hellenistic Greek techniques under Horoscope->Classical.

Table of Hellenistic Ascensional Times

Ascensional Rising Times & Oblique Ascension Tables

One of the many astrology tools on the *AstroSeek* web site.

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## BOOK I ON UPBRINGING AND THE LIFE'S CONDITION

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*In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. May the lord be rich in compassion towards you.*

*This is the first book of Dorotheus the Egyptian, on the judgments concerning nativities. He chose it and selected it and picked it from the books which were before him, and he wrote it for his son Hermes.*

*He said to his son at the tie of his testament: I shall relate to you, oh my son, and I shall explain to you so that you may depend on and be confident in your heart about what I shall show you of my work and words according to the stars which indicate for men what will pertain to them from the time of a [person's] birth till his leaving the world, if God wills. I have traveled, o my son, in many cities, and I have seen the wondrous things which are in Egypt and in Babylon, which is in the direction of the Euphrates. I collected the best of their sayings from the first [authorities] who were before me like the bees which gather [honey] from the trees and all kinds of plants; for from it there is the honey of medicine.*

### 1.1 Triplicity and Sign Rulers

Know the longitude and latitudes of the seven planets ( $\odot, \text{♂}, \text{♀}, \text{♂}, \text{♂}, \text{♂}, \text{♂}$ ), the degrees of the Ascendant and MC, which signs are straight and crooked<sup>2</sup> in rising, and that

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<sup>2</sup>The *straight* signs are those that appear to rise straight up from the horizon taking slightly more than two hours each:  $\text{♈}$  thru

the signs, their triplicities and rulers are:

Sign	Ruler	Sign	Ruler
♈	♂	♊	♀
♉	♀	♋	♂
♊	♀	♌	♂
♋	♂	♍	♂
♌	♂	♎	♂
♍	♀	♏	♂
♎	♀	♐	♂
♏	♂	♑	♂

Table 1.1: Signs and their Domicile Rulers

The shaded cells represent the sign the planet ruler *rejoices* or is *happiest* in.

Triplexity	Rulers		
	Diurnal	Nocturnal	Participating
♈-♏-♌	♂	♂	♂
♉-♎-♍	♀	♂	♂
♊-♊-♏	♂	♀	♂
♋-♋-♏	♀	♂	♂

Table 1.2: Signs, their Triplicities and Rulers

The rulers of the triplicities give give indications for, and decide, everything.

In mundane astrology, the “afflictions and distress” that effect the world are timed and indicated by the triplicity rulers of a solar or lunar eclipse. Every hour that the ♂ is eclipsed is equal to one year while every hour that the ♀ is eclipsed is equal to one month. T

he sign of the solar eclipse gives indications as to who will suffer the afflictions and distress: ♈, sheep; ♌, work-horses and horses, ♏, lions, etc.

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♌, the remaining signs are called *crooked* as they rise at an oblique angle to the horizon in slightly less than two hours.



## 1.2 Exaltation of the Planets

Each planet has a sign of *ascent* known as its *exaltation*, and another sign, lying opposite, known as its *descent*<sup>1</sup>.

Planet	°	Ascent	Descent
☉	19	♈	♏
☿	3	♈	♏
♀	15	♏	♈
♀	27	♏	♈
♂	28	♏	♈
♂	15	♏	♈
♂	21	♏	♈

Table 1.3: Planet Exaltations

## 1.3 Ease or Difficulty of the Birth

If the ☉, ☿, and Ascendant are in masculine signs (for males) or feminine signs (for females) then the birth was an easy one for the mother. If you find the reverse then there is “misery and death.”

In particular, ♀ angular in a feminine sign has an intense power to make the birth slow, difficult, and unfortunate.

If ♂ is angular, especially if he is in a feminine sign, the birth will come upon the mother unexpectedly but generally it is easier because ♂ cuts.

The mother will have a difficult time if:

- the ☿ is in a crooked sign (♈,♏,♏,♏,♏,♏) and aspected by ♀ or ♂
- the ☿ is in an angle and aspected by both ♀ and ♂, who are both in crooked signs

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<sup>1</sup>The place of *descent* may also be referred to as a planet’s place of *depression* or *fall*.

- both ♄ and ♀ are in angles and neither the ☉ nor the ☾ aspects the Ascendant

## 1.4 Upbringing

Don't worry for the person's life because you see a malefic in an angle, there are conditions involving the triplicity rulers of the Ascendant that can increase and strengthen the life.

Mitigating conditions include:

- a triplicity ruler in its own term and angular or in another place where it is strong<sup>1</sup>
- all three triplicity rulers in strong places
- two triplicity rulers in strong places, preferably with the first triplicity ruler in a good place<sup>2</sup>
- all three triplicity rulers in strong places and square or trine each other, and its even better if they aspect the ☉ or ☾, or both
- if ♄, ♀, or both are actually in the Ascendant look to see if all three of the Ascendant's triplicity rulers are in strong places and "coming out in their light"<sup>3</sup>

If the triplicity lords of the Ascendant are in a "sign of misfortune"<sup>4</sup> the check the triplicity lord of the Lot of Fortune. If it aspects the lot or is in a good place and aspecting the ☉ for day births, the ☾ for night births, then the person will be brought up.

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<sup>1</sup>Not clear if this refers to the planet being strong by sign or by being in strong degrees.

<sup>2</sup>The *good* places are the 1st, 4th, 5th, 7th, 9th, 10th, and 11th places from the Ascendant.

<sup>3</sup>This usually means the ☉ must be moving away from a conjunction with the planet such that there is 15 to 120° between them.

<sup>4</sup>The places of *misfortune* are the 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 8th or 12th places from the Ascendant.

Other conditions that indicate the person will be brought up are:

- ♄ in the Ascendant or in a sign that is of the same triplicity as the sign of the Ascendant
- ♄ in the 2nd place from the Ascendant
- ♄ in the 4th place with the ☿ and ♀ both in the Ascendant
- in a day chart, ☿, ♄, and ♀ in angles
- in a day chart, ☿ angular and in his own triplicity

### 1.5 The Superior Places

The order of the places<sup>1</sup>, according to their *superiority* or *power* for effecting good in the person's life, relative to each other is:

**1st** Ascendant

**10th** Midheaven

**11th** [*Good Daimon*]

**5th** Children

**7th** Marriage

**4th** Angle of the Earth

**9th** [*God*]

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**3rd** Joy of the ☿

**2nd** [*Gates of Hades*]

**8th** Death

**6th** [*Evil Fortune*]

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<sup>1</sup>Where Dorotheus does not provide a descriptive name for a place the commonly used Greek name has been given.

12th [Evil Daimon]

The following figure shades the seven *good* places with green; the shaded red places are not as good, going from bad to worst.

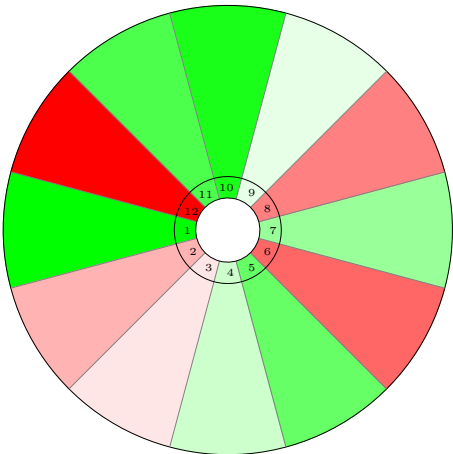


Figure 1.1: The Superior Places