

*DOROTHEUS OF
SIDON: CARMEN
ASTROLOGICUM
RE-WORKED*

FROM DAVID PINGREE'S TRANSLATION

PREFACE

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

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 (☉, ☿, ♀, ♂, ♄, ♀, ♃), the degrees of the Ascendant and MC, which signs are straight and crooked² in rising, and that

²The *straight* signs are those that appear to rise straight up from the horizon taking slightly more than two hours each: ♉ 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 Triplexities and Rulers

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

The masculine, diurnal signs are the ♈-♌-♊ and ♊-♋-♏ triplexities and the diurnal planets are ☉, ♂, and ♂.

The feminine, nocturnal signs are the ♉-♍-♎ and ♋-♌-♍ triplexities and the nocturnal planets are the ♀, ♀, and ♂.

Dorotheus doesn't spell this out here but in latter sections the reader is assumed to understand these categories.

♊, the remaining signs are called *crooked* as they rise at an oblique angle to the horizon and each take slightly less than two hours.

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

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

1.2 Exaltation of the Planets

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

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.

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

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
- 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 strong¹
- all three triplicity rulers in strong places
- two triplicity rulers in strong places, preferably with the first triplicity ruler in a good place²
- all three triplicity rulers in strong places and square or trine each other, and its even better if they aspect the ☉ or ☽, or both

¹It is not clear what he means by "strong" placement; could be by sign, degrees, or good places which he calls *powerful* in §1.5.

²The *good places* are given in §1.5.

- 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"¹

If the triplicity lords of the Ascendant are in a "sign of misfortune"² check the first³ 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.

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 places⁴, according to their *superiority* or *power* for good events occurring in the person's life⁵, relative to each other is:

¹This usually means the ☉ must be moving away from a conjunction with the planet such that there is 15 to 120° between them.

²The places of *misfortune* are the 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 8th or 12th places from the Ascendant, they are described in §1.5.

³This is an assumption on my part as the first triplicity lord rules the first part of the life, which is when *upbringing* occurs.

⁴Where Dorotheus does not provide a descriptive name for a place the commonly given Greek place name is listed.

⁵That the power of the place is related to the *good of the life* is implied by the text. The activities of the *good* places are generally those people consider to involve good events while those of the remaining houses are generally considered to involve difficult events.

- 1st Ascendant
- 10th Midheaven
- 11th [*Good Daimon*]
- 5th Children
- 7th Marriage
- 4th Angle of the Earth
- 9th [*God*]

-
- 3rd Joy of the \mathfrak{D}
 - 2nd [*Gates of Hades*]
 - 8th Death
 - 6th [*Evil Fortune*]
 - 12th [*Evil Daimon*]

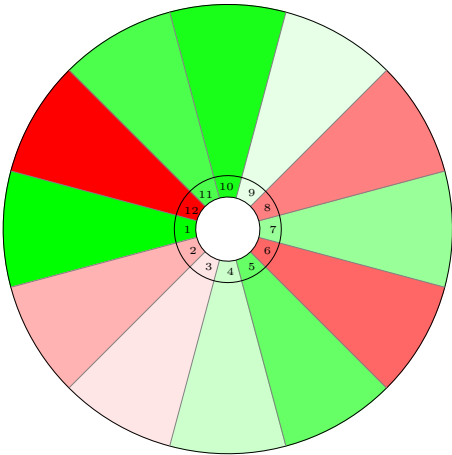


Figure 1.1: The Superior Places

In the figure the seven *good* places are in shades of green; the bad in shades of red.

1.6 Power of the Seven Planets

Every planet in its own sign, exaltation, or triplicity is benefic as “what it indicates of good is strong, increasing.” This is true even of malefics as their “evil becomes lighter and decreases” when they are in their own places.

♄ in a masculine sign¹ in a day chart (even though he is a diurnal planet) can cause harm but it will be less harmful if he is also in one of his own dignities.. The same is true for ♂, a nocturnal planet, in a feminine sign in a nocturnal chart.

A planet’s power *disappears* if it is within 15° of ☉ while the ☉ is moving towards a conjunction with the planet.

A retrograde planet indicates “there is difficulty [and] misfortune” for the person and others.

1.7 More on Upbringing

Upbringing

The person will be brought up if:

- diurnal planets in

No Upbringing

- text

¹In §1.4 we are told ♄ (a diurnal planet) is at his worst when in a feminine sign. Here we are told he can still do harm when in a masculine sign but not as much and even less if he is in one of his own dignities. In the same section, ♂ (a nocturnal planet) in a feminine sign is described as less harmful than a feminized ♄.