Reception

Notes and examples on Reception.

Primarily based on Masha'Allah's book *On Reception*, translations by Robert Hand and James Holden.

Masha'Allah tells us that we learn, from reception, whether something will be or not; and, if it will be, when, how, and by whom it will come about. And if it will not be, what will prohibit it and when that will become obvious to us.

Outline i

Which Chart Elements are Examined?

The following elements of a chart are examined in judging what will or will not be:

- the 7 planets

- the 12 zodiac signs

- the places of the Exaltations and Falls of the planets

- the applications and separations of the ☌ and the standard Ptolemaic aspects (⚹, □, △, ☍)

- Mutual receptions

- return of reception

- planets giving (pushing) their dispositions

The state of the significator's *disposition* either effects (brings about) or prohibits whatever matters the significator represents.

What Constitutes Reception?

> **Axiom:**[a] *Reception* happens when one planet (A) is in the domicile or exaltation of another planet (B) whom it aspects or conjuncts. The aspect (or conjunction) from planet *A* must *perfect* (become exact) before that of a third planet (C) intercedes by completing its own aspect or conjunction with planet *B*, or, before *B* moves into another sign.
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> [a]*Axiom*, when it appears, refers to a basic assumption or principle, implied or explicit, rather than a 'rule'.

♂ 10 ♈ ⇒ ☌ ♄ 15 ♈ ♂	♂ is applying to the ☌ of ♄ who is in ♂'s domicile (♈), therefore ♂ *receives* ♄, but, ♂ is not in a domicile (♑, ♒) or Exaltation (♎) of ♄, so ♄ *does not receive* ♂
10 ♑ ⇒ □ ♄ 20 ♈	♂ is in ♄'s domicile (♑) ♄ is in ♂'s domicile (♈), therefore, ♂ receives ♄ and ♄ receives ♂ and there is **Mutual Reception** [MR] by *domicile*

MR can happen by Exaltation if the two planets are in each other's signs of exaltation. Masha'Allah tells us that if the matter being analyzed has to do with a King, the Exaltation rulers will have more authority over the matter than the domicile rulers.

Committing Disposition

Axiom: Any planet (A) joining another (B) from B's domicile or exaltation *commits its disposition* to B, who, because of reception, will perfect the matter signified by A.

The language used here makes sense in that if A is in a domicile of B he is a guest in B's home. Astrologically speaking, the ruler of the domicile (B) is responsible for *settling* or *disposing* of all matters within his domicile, including those of other planets lodged there.

The nature of the aspect qualifies the nature of the request as a hard one (□, ☍), an easy one (⚹, △), or a familiar, or congenial, one (☌).

Example:

☉ 10 ♈ ⇒ □ ♂ 10 ♑	the ☉ applies to the □ of ♂,
	committing his disposition to ♂, who
	receives the ☉ in his domicile (♈), and so
	accepts the ☉'s disposition and will perfect it, but
	due to the □
	only after some anxiety and errors i.e. not easily

Committing Disposition - Another Example

Example:[1]

$\odot$ 1 ♎ $\Rightarrow$ ☌ ♄ 25 ♈ | the $\odot$ is in the Exaltation of ♄ (♎)
                             | ♄ is in the Exaltation of the $\odot$ (♈), therefore
                             | there is **Mutual Recption** by *exaltation*, and
                             | the $\odot$ commits his disposition to ♄, who accepts it

According to Masha'Allah, when there is Mutual Reception, *"there is peace and the matter will be perfected"*; however, if ♄ leaves ♈ before the ☌ can perfect, *"there will be enmities, contrariness, misunderstandings, denials and ♄ will not receive the $\odot$"* and so will not take on the $\odot$'s disposition.

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[1] The examples used by Masha'Allah so far involve planets in their sign of Fall or Detriment which we will see (in later examples), may result in a commitment being rejected.

Applications and Separations

Axiom: The faster, lighter planet (A) moves to join a slower, heavier planet (B) and in so doing, *A* commits his disposition to *B* and the aspect does not leave off until the two planets are separated.

> **Note:** Robert Hand says *"there is no separating orb"* and so once the two planets are no longer in a partile (exact according to degree) configuration, the matter is done; however, other authors may consider planets to be in aspect as long as they are within the moiety of both.
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> The *moiety* of an aspect between two planets is equal to the addition of half of each planet's orb. For example, the ☉ has an orb of 15°, ♄ of 9° so the moiety is 12° (7.5° + 4.5° or (15° + 9°)/2) so, for some, the pair would not be fully separated until the ☉ was 12° past ♄.

Axiom: A planet *applying to (joining)* another planet indicates *"what will be"*.

Axiom: A planet separating from another planet indicates *"what has passed away"*.

Reception and the Joining of Planets

Benefics joined to Benefics

If a benefic (♀ or ♃) joins with and is received by another benefic, the reception increases the good indicated by the planets.

Benefics joined to Malefics

If a benefic (♀ or ♃) joins with and is received by a malefic planet (♂ or ♄) then the malefics are at peace and *"their evil goes away"* unless they are joined by a □ or ☍, in which case there will be some labour, and error.

Malefics joined to Malefics

If a malefic (♂ or ♄) joins with another malefic with reception, they are made good and their evil and impediment goes away.

> **Note:** the above are generalities based on the essential nature of the planets; there are conditions under which a benefic can act as a malefic and vice versa.

Outline i

Questions in General

A question must be of great concern or necessity for the querent (the one asking the question); and they should not ask further questions with regard to the matter until the first question has been understood and examined (i.e. no compound questions).

An astrologer should not look to answer his own questions as *"it does not suit a wise man to look for himself"*.

To examine the question, draw up a chart for the time the question is asked or verbally put to the astrologer; or, if in the form of a letter, the moment when the astrologer understands what is asked; calculating the Asc, the MC, the places of the 7 planets, and note who disposits each of them and which houses they are in.

> **Note:** James Holden thinks the calculation of the MC implies a quadrant system of houses, most likely Alchabitius, but he acknowledges that Masha'Allah, in later examples, appears to be using a Sign-House system; most likely Equal House[a]
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> [a]In Holden's translation of Masha'Allah's *The Book of Thoughts* he indicates that either the Alchabitius or Equal House system were used.

Choosing Significators

Masha'Allah's method for choosing which planets will act as significators for the person asking the question (the *querent*) and the question's subject matter (the *quesited*), can be reduced to:

- Does the ruler of the Ascendant (L1) aspect the 1st House?

    - Yes? use L1 as the main significator of the querent and the ☽ as their partner

    - No? does L1 aspect another planet that aspects the 1st House or one who does so indirectly by aspecting a 3rd planet that aspects the 1st House?

        - Yes? work through these planets and use the ☽ as a their partner

        - No? repeat the same steps using the ☽ instead of L1 and if she is suitable, make her the main significator and L1 her partner

- If neither L1 nor the ☽ are usable, see which of the two is the first to leave its sign and judge the effect from that planet's first joining to another planet after entering its new sign, using the other planet (L1 or ☽) as their partner;[1] noting that matters will be slow and inactive until the sign change occurs.

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[1]Normally the ☽ is the first to change signs as she moves faster than the other planets.

Choosing Significators Continued

- The main significator of the matter being asked about will be the ruler of the house signifying the matter i.e. Life, ruler of 1st House (L1); Wealth, ruler of 2nd House (L2); Siblings, ruler of the 3rd House (L3); etc.

- Planets in the 1st House and the house signifying the matter at hand have a bearing on the conditions surrounding the matter BUT they do not determine the outcome of the matter; that depends on the chosen house rulers, their aspects and condition.[2]

    - planets in the affected houses, if they are received by their dispositor, *"indicate the goodness and worthiness of the thing sought"*, if they are not received by their dispositor, then they indicate impediments and the worthlessness of what is sought

- If the ruler of the Asc or the ☽ does not aspect the 1st House it to be considered *evil and impeded*

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[2]Robert Hand says *"Rulers of houses in general are more important to outcomes than occupants of houses."*

Outcomes

Axiom: In all matters *"when the disposition comes to a planet which receives the lord of the matter sought for, that matter will be made fortunate, and it will be perfected."*

If the significator of the querent joins and is received by the significator of the matter then the matter will be perfected and complete when the joining is complete.

The number of degrees to the completed joining give an indication as to timing; depending on the context, they can represent years, months, weeks, days, or hours.

If the significators started off Void of Course, needing to enter a new sign before joining with another planet, then things will go slowly and mattes will be prolonged.

Outline i

Example: About Life or Death [JH p18-19] [RH p10-11]

If a person asks whether he will die during the year, look for indications that:[3]

They will escape death:
- L1 to a benefic who is not L8 and who does not pass on disposition or return it to another
- L1 to a planet that receives him, and if they are ill, they will recover from their illness
- ☽ joined to L8 but L1 strong and unimpeded

Death wins out:
- L1 joined to L8 or vice versa (do not consider the ☽)
- L1 joined to a malefic or L8 without reception and the ☽ evil and impeded

To know if the person will fully recover their 'good fortune and health' examine the planet that signifies escape from death; if it aspects the significator's original position in the chart the person will escape all harm.[4]

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[3]If L1 is impeded, use the ☽ in its place.
[4]Robert Hand fnp11

Example Chart: Sickness