Reception: What will or will not be

Notes and examples on Reception.

Masha'allah tells us that we learn, from reception, *"Whether something will be or not; when it will be if it should come to pass; when it will become apparent that it will not be if it should not come to pass; what prohibits the matter in case it should not be; and through whom, and from whence it should be if it should come to pass."*[RH p1]

These notes are based primarily on Masha'allah's *On Reception* trans. Robert Hand, ARHAT, 2nd ed. 1998, and *Six Astrological Treatises by Masha'allah:The Book of Reception* trans. James Holden, AFA, 2009 with reference to Sahl Ibn Bishr's *16 Modes of Perfection and Destruction* and Ibn Ezra's *The Beginning of Wisdom* as well as a few other reference texts, listed where appropriate.

Outline i

Outline ii

Which Chart Elements are Examined?

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

- the 5 planets and two luminaries
- the 12 zodiac signs and their domicile rulers
- the signs of the Exaltations and Falls of the planets
- the applications and separations of the planets by ☌, ⚹, □, △, or ☍
- mutual receptions, return of reception, and "the mutual giving of their disposition"

The manner in which a planet commits its *disposition* helps establish if its significations are effected, prohibited, corrupted, rejected or returned.

Applications and Separations by ☌ or Aspect

The faster, lighter planet (A) moves to *join by degree* (complete a ☌, ✶, □, △, or ☍) a slower, heavier planet (B) and in so doing, *A* commits his disposition to *B* and the joining does not leave off until the two planets are separated.

> **Note:** Robert Hand says *"there is no separating orb"* [RH fn4p5] 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 joined as long as one planet is in the light of the other.[1]

A planet in another planet's light is connected to that planet, the state of the connection indicates whether it represents a past, present, or future event.

- A planet **separating** from another planet indicates what has been done and is *"passing away."*
- A planet is **truly joined** to another planet when the two are in an exact conjunction or aspect, indicates what is *"in the present"*.
- A planet **applying to** (*joining*) another planet indicates *"what will be"*.

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[1] A planet's own light extends for $1/2$ its orb in front and $1/2$ its orb behind e.g. the ☉'s orb is 30°, its light extends 15° behind and 15° ahead; for ♂, whose orb is 16°, his light extends 8° behind and 8° ahead, etc.

Committing Disposition

Any planet (A) joining another planet (B) *commits its disposition* to *B*. If the disposition is received, the matter signified will be completed. A disposition may be *returned*, possibly in worse condition, if the receiver is retrograde, USB, or in its Fall. It may not be lasting if both planets are cadent.

Astrologically speaking, a planet is responsible for effecting all matters committed to and received by him. If the planet is averse (♈︎ or ♑︎) to its own sign he is blind to the needs of the sign and so he cannot effectively fulfill the commitments he was given unless there is some mitigating condition i.e. the joined planets are in signs that are:[1]

Like-engirding: ♈ ♏, ♉ ♎, ♊ ♍, ♐ ♓, ♑ ♒ (ruled by the same planet)

Equally Ascending: ♈ ♓, ♉ ♒, ♊ ♑, ♋ ♐, ♌ ♏, ♍ ♎ (rise in the same # of hours, contrascion)

Seeing-Perceiving: ♈ ♎, ♉ ♍, ♊ ♌, ♏ ♓, ♐ ♒ (equally distant from ♋ - ♑)

Commanding-Obeying: ♉ ♓, ♊ ♒, ♋ ♑, ♌ ♐, ♍ ♏ (equally distant from ♈ - ♎)

In which case, a ♈︎ acts like a ♂; a ♑︎ acts like an ♃; and a ✶ has the power of a △; a □'s power is doubled

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[1]Mitigating conditions are found in *Late Classical Astrology: Paulus Alexandrinus and Olympiodorus* trans. Dorian Gieseler Greenbaum, ARHAT, 2001 p16-20 and *Julius Firmicus Maternus: Mathesis* trans. James Holden, AFA, Book II.30.9 p81-82. **Note:** Masha'allah does not mention them in his text; I've added them here for my own reference.

Committing Disposition - An Example

The nature of the aspect qualifies the nature of the request as a hard one that will be completed with difficulty, delay, or labour ($\Box$, $\mathcal{o}$); an easy one, completed without labour or difficulty ($\times$, $\triangle$), or a familiar, or congenial one, easily done ($\mathcal{o}$).

Example:

$\odot$ 10 Υ $\Box$ $\mathcal{O}$ 10 $\mathcal{V}\mathcal{S}$	the $\odot$ perfects a $\Box$ to $\mathcal{O}$, committing his disposition
	$\mathcal{O}$ **receives** the $\odot$ in his domicile (Υ), and so
	accepts the $\odot$'s disposition and will perfect it, but
	due to the $\Box$ only after some anxiety and errors i.e. not easily

Note: This is an example of a *true joining* as the aspect is exact, essentially at full strength; it represents a present (existing) moment (situation).

Committing Disposition - Another Example

Example:[1]

☉ 1 ♎ ⇒ ☌ ♄ 25 ♈ | the ☉ is in ♎ (the exaltation of ♄) applying (⇒) to ☌ ♄
| ♄ is in ♈ (the exaltation of the ☉) therefore
| each planet **receives** the other into their signs of exaltation
| so there is *mutual reception* by *exaltation*, and
| the ☉ 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 the ☉ is in ♈ and ♄ is in ♎, *"there will be enmities, contrariness, misunderstandings, denials"* because neither planet receives (has dignities in the sign of) the other.

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[1]The example used here by Masha'allah involves planets in their signs of Fall which we will see (in later examples), may result in a commitment being returned or corrupted.

The Joining of Planets

Planets are *joined together* (connected) by recognized aspects (⚹, □, △, ☍) or bodily ♂'s that are within orb and will eventually become *exact by degree*.

Benefics joined to Benefics[1]

A benefic (♀ or ♃) joined to another benefic is good; if there is also reception, the good indicated by the planets is increased.

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. Ibn Ezra says they can also receive each other be by ☌, ⚹, or △ (p.124)

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[1]Based on the essential nature of the planets; need to check their actual condition in the chart.

What Constitutes Reception?

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 planet *B* moves into another sign or a third planet (C) intercedes by completing its own aspect or conjunction with planet *B*.

While Masha'allah appears to have been the first to begin categorizing and explaining the way reception, applications, and separations indicate outcomes Sahl ibn Bishr al-Israili (786-845) seems to have been the first to spell out the 16 distinct modes of the "perfection and destruction of things". These were also listed and amplified by Abu Ma'shar (787-886), and Ibn Ezra (1089-1164).

Examples from these authors are used to name and describe the various ways in which reception can occur. The referenced texts are:

The Introduction to the Science of the Judgments of the Stars by Sahl ibn Bishr trans. James Holden, AFA, 2008

The Astrology of Sahl B. Bishr Vol. I trans. Ben Dykes, Cazimi Press, 2019

The Abbreviation of the Introduction to Astrology by Abu Ma'shar trans. Charles Burnett, ARHAT, 2nd. printing, 2000

*Ibn Ezra: The Beginning of Wisdom* trans. Meira Epstein, ARHAT, 1998

An example of **perfect reception** is a planet (A) applying to the domicile or exaltation ruler (B) of the sign it occupies.[1] Ibn Ezra (p121) says the ruler (B) "will confer its nature upon" planet A, and "there will be joy in the matter", but other authors say A pushes B's nature onto B.

Example (A $\Rightarrow$ B): ☽ in ♈ $\Rightarrow$ ♂ or ☉

☽ in ♈ applying to either of
♂ (domicile ruler of ♈) or
☉ (exaltation ruler of ♈)

♂ or the ☉ can be in any sign; they receive the ☽, accepting her disposition, because she is in ♈ which ♂ rules by domicile and the ☉ by exaltation. Might think of this as the ☽ having an Arian task to complete and is asking those in charge of ♈ for help in completing the task.

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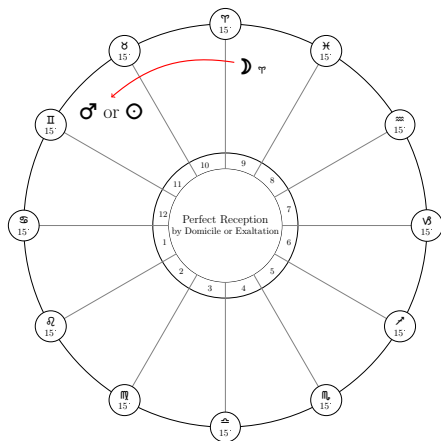
[1]Sahl, p.18

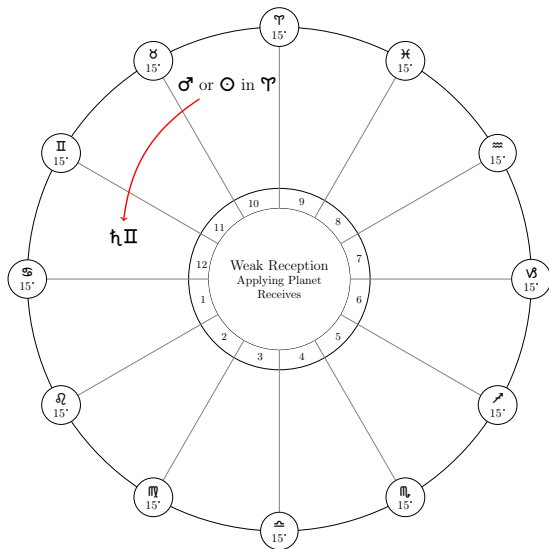## What Constitutes Reception - A Weaker Reception: Pushing Power

A weaker reception occurs when a planet in its own domicile or exaltation, applying to another planet, pushes its own power to the other planet (Abu Ma'shar). Ibn Ezra calls it *"conferring influence"*; Sahl, *"giving virtue"* or *"committing disposition"*.[1] Here, *A* gives his own authority and resources to *B* and "the matter will be perfected as desired."

Example (A ⇒ B): ♂ or ☉ in ♈ ⇒ ♄

♂ or ☉ in ♈ applying to
♄ in any sign

♂ or the ☉ are gving their disposition (virtue, power) to ♄. Might think of this as someone in their own place, strong in themselves, seeking additional assistance in completing a task.

Note: that strictly speaking Sahl would consider this a 'non-reception' as ♈ is ♄'s Fall.[2] Other authors accept it as a corrupted reception.

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[1]Abu Ma'shar, p.25;Ibn Ezra, p. 121; Sahl p20 Holden
[2]Sahl, Dykes trans. p.62; Holden's, p.19

What Constitutes Reception - Pushing Two Natures

When a planet (A) in its domicile or exaltation applies to another planet (B) who also has dignity in *A's* place *A* is said to be "pushing two natures" onto *B*; his own and *B*'s.[1]

Example (A ⇒ B): ♀ in ♓ ⇒ ♃

♀ exalted in ♓ applies to
♃ who is the domicile ruler of ♓
♀ pushes her own and ♃'s nature, onto ♃

Rob Hand also describes another form of reception called **communion** which happens when two planets are found in the same sign with one ruling the sign and the other being the exaltation ruler of the sign e.g. ☽ and ♃ both in ♋, or ♂ and ☉ both in ♈, etc.

[1]Abu Ma'shar p25; Ibn Ezra p122 calls it *"conferring of two natures"*
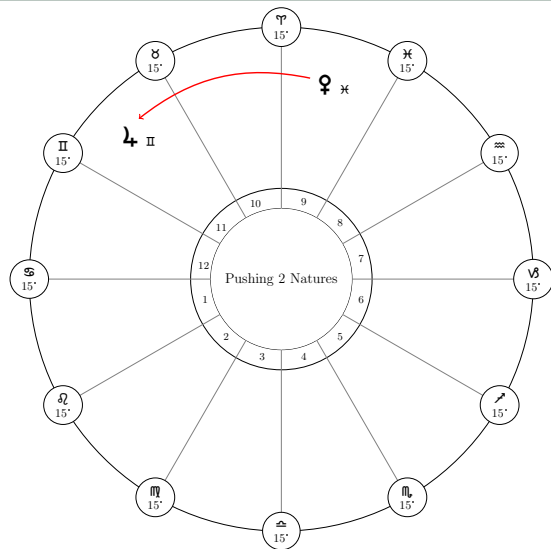
What Constitutes Reception - Mutual Reception

Example: ♂ 10 ♑ ⇒ □ ♄ 20 ♈

♂ is in ♄'s domicile (♑) applying to ♄
♄ is in ♂'s domicile (♈), therefore,
♂ receives ♄ by domicile, and
♄ receives ♂ by domicile

This is **Mutual Reception** [MR] by *domicile*
where ♂ commits his disposition to ♄, who receives it (as
♂ is in ♄'s domicile) and in turn, ♂ receives ♄'s
disposition (as ♄ is in ♂ domicile); essentially, the two
commit to helping each other.[1]

This is the strongest form of reception; the second
strongest form occurs when there is mutual reception by
exaltation. e.g. both planets are in each other's sign of
exaltation. i.e. ♀ in ♋ △ ♃ in ♓.

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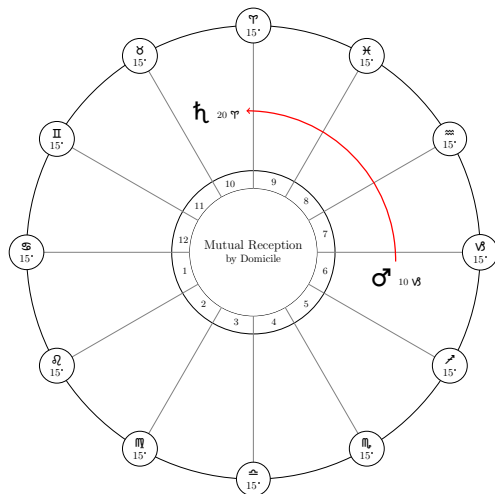
[1]Masha'allah [RH] p3; note that Sahl would call this a non-reception as ♄ is in his Fall. It also appears to be an
exception to the rule that it is the *applying* planet that commits their disposition.

What Constitutes Reception - Corrupted Receptions or Returns

There can be **no reception** if neither planet has dignity in their own or the other planet's place e.g. ☿ ⇒ ♃ in ♉ where both are peregrine. Although Masha'allah does describe a situation which allows for eventual reception if the applied to planet (♃ in this example) goes on to apply, with reception, to a third planet.

While Sahl denies reception if a planet is in his own Fall or applying to another planet from that planet's Fall, the other authors appear to accept the reception but say that it is **corrupted or greatly diminished** i.e. the outcome to the matter is far less than what was hoped for or fails to last.

As well, a receiving planet that is **retrograde** or **USB** will **return** what it received, destroying it in the process. The same occurs if both planets are cadent.[1]

Still another form of return occurs when a planet applies to a cadent planet, in which case Sahl says the matter *"will not have an ending"*.

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[1]Sahl [Holden] p20

What Constitutes Reception Continued

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.

As a general rule, reception is stronger if the planet applied to (usually the heavier planet) receives the applying planet (usually the lighter planet).

The later authors (Sahl, Abu Ma'shar, Ibn Ezra) also allowed reception by triplicity, term, and face but only considered it to be an *effective* reception if it involved at least two of these minor dignities i.e. received by triplicity and term or triplicity and face or term and face. Masha'allah does mention these minor dignities in his *Book of Thoughts and Intentions* but only in relation to determining which planet has the most authority over a specific matter; he does not use them in any of his *On Reception* examples.[1]

Reception is important as it implies completion; that the matter will be disposed of, effected, by the receiving planet; that what the significator commits to another will be brought into being and realized.

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[1]Although Sahl does claim that Masha'allah allowed reception by the minor dignities [JH p18].

Outline i

Horary 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. don't begin the analysis with a series of questions; a clear, concise question is best

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 verbally put to the astrologer; or, if in the form of a letter, the moment when the astrologer understands what is asked; calculate 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 or Equal House system. Holden gives house cusps for the example charts as they appear in his source text but says they were not original to Masha'allah.[a]
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> [a]In Holden's translation of Masha'allah's *The Book of Thoughts and Intentions* he indicates that either the Alchabitius or Equal House systems were used.

Choosing Significators

Masha'allah's method for choosing which planets will act as significators for the *querent* (the person asking the question) and the *quesited* (question's subject matter) 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 that 2nd planet aspecting a 3rd planet that aspects the 1st House?

Yes? work through these planets and use the ☽ as 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 on 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 quesited will be the ruler of the house signifying the matter asked about i.e. Wealth, ruler of 2nd House (L2); Siblings, ruler of the 3rd House (L3); Friends, ruler of the 11th House (L11); Children, ruler of the 5th House (L5), 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 significators, 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 (which implies no aspect between the two), 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 they are 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."*(fn1p9)

Perfection and Outcomes

When a significator of the querent is joined to the significator of the quesited, *"they say that the thing will be"* [JH p22]

In a general way, *"When the disposition comes to the planet that receives it, the thing is improved and perfected.... And also, when it comes to a benefic, it perfects by the same disposition. And when its disposition is completed and it has committed it to another [Planet], that dispositor will work through the quantity of its nature, and what there is of it."* [JH p24]

Perfection (the performance of a thing) is perhaps known from the planet to which the ruler of the Asc is first joined; from the ☽; or from the second one that receives the commitment [of the disposition], or namely from whichever one is the last reception [and] there will be the end; or from the ruler of the thing quesited; or from a benefic that is in a good place without reception. [JH p36]

Perfection and Outcomes - Summary of the ways a matter can be realized

Perfection can come about in a number of ways [RH p31, 34]

- significator of the querent (A) to the significator of the quesited (B), with or without reception, and *B* does not commit his disposition to a third planet (C)
- L1 joining a benefic in the house signifying the matter
- L1 joining a malefic with dignity in the house signifying the matter
- L1 joining, and received by, an undignified malefic in the house signifying the matter
- significator of the quesited to L1, with or without reception, or, to planets in the 1st (under the same conditions described for L1 to planets in the house of the matter signified)
- L1 or the ☽ to an angular or strongly dignified benefic, with or without reception
- L1 or the ☽ to an angular or strongly dignified malefic with reception

Perfection and Outcomes Continued

If *A* is the significator of the querent and receives *B*, the significator of what is sought; the querent will get what he has been seeking but if *A* is the significator of what is sought and *B* is the significator of the querent, then the querent will get what has been asked about without any seeking of it on his part. [JH 38]

Outcomes are better, stronger, more readily done, and stable, and durable if the significator of the quesited receives the significator of the querent. [JH 38]

"Reception will not be destroyed in any way whatsoever,...,if the planet which receives has rulership over a matter, and it is the dispositor [of the querent's significator] and the disposition comes to it [the querent's significator applies to it], and if it does not commit disposition to another. Because if it should commit disposition to another planet after its own reception, the reception signifies the accomplishment of the matter, and the commission of its disposition to another planet signifies the end of the matter and to what [state] its final affairs would come." [RH p32]

So if A applies to and is received by its dispositor B, the matter is accomplished. If B happens to then apply to another planet C, the conditions of that application indicate how the matter will ultimately play out.

Perfection and Outcomes Continued and Prohibition

"After that, the ruler of the house of the thing [quesited] is looked at to see to what planet it commits its own disposition after its effecting...if it is a benefic, they say the thing will be made better. And if it is a malefic, they say that the thing will be subsequently destroyed." [JH]p22

If an application by L1 or the ☽ shows that the matter will be completed; look to the ruler of the matter being sought (the ruler of the quesited) to see how the matter will play out once it has been effected.

The exception is if the question is about death as there is nothing that can come after it.

If the first joining of the querent's significator is to a malefic and does not involve reception and if the malefic is not the significator of the quesited; a **prohibition** is indicated [JH p35].

Timing [JH 32-33] [RH 27-29]

When the joining is by aspect (not conjunction) the number of degrees needed to perfect the aspect gives the number of days.

If it doesn't happen then, it will happen when the two join bodily (by a conjunction) in a strong place, an angle or a place where the significator of the matter rejoices.

If not then, it will happen when the planet handling the disposition is rising from the ☉, renewing itself.

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 matters will be prolonged [JH 17, RH 8]

Angles strengthen, hurry, and fortify the matter, for good or ill, and whatever is signified by the ruler of the disposition, it will last [JH p36] while cadent houses cause delays, little advancement, and only small things [JH p48].

Swiftness of completion, as indicated by the houses; the quickest to the slowest are:
Asc, MC, 11th, 7th, 4th, 9th, 5th, 3rd, with all these being *"good and praiseworthy"* while the averse houses (8th, 6th, 12th, 2nd) are slowest and "inimical" to the querent [JH p48, RH p46]

Outline i

Sahl's Modes: 1-3 Perfection, Deterioration, and Connection

Sahl summarizes the ways in which a matter can be perfected or destroyed as follows:[1]

1. Perfection or Advance

(*alichel*) when a planet is in an angular or succedent house (Ibn Ezra says "it indicates a favourable result").

2. Deterioration or Retreat

(*alicher*) when a planet is cadent (Ibn Ezra says "the person will give up the matter")

3. Conjunction or Connection

(*alittisal*) if A is applying to ☌ B, they are connected until they are separated by 1°, or, if A ☌ B in the same sign, they are connected until A moves past B (the heavier planet) and B is no longer within A's light (1/2 its orb)

"Whenever one planet aspects another and within its own light strikes the degree of that other, it is said to be conjoined to it; and if it does not strike it within its own light, it is not said to be conjoined but rather "going to conjunction." [JH p14]

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[1][JH] p12-25. Bonatti, in his *Considerations* #4, gives a similar list.

3. Connection Cont'd

A planet at the end of a sign, not joined to another, but striking a planet in the next sign with its light or being within the other planet's light, is conjoined to it even though it is blind (averse) to it[1]. e.g. ☽ 27 ♈ is conjoined to ♀ 2 ♉. They "perfect after despair" if they join in the next sign before another connects to either of them (Ibn Ezra p131).

Planet's Light Before and Behind: ☉: 15°; ☽: 12°; ♀ & ☿: 7°; ♃ & ♄: 9°; ♂: 8°.

4. Separation

(*alitiuctraf*) separation occurs when one planet overtakes and passes another either by conjunction or aspect but "*an aspect is from one sign to another, while a conjunction is said to be from one degree to another*".

5. Translation

(*anualac*) translation of light occurs when a planet A is separating from a planet B and immediately applies to a third planet C; A is said to *carry the nature* of B to C.

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[1]This could be an argument for out-of-sign conjunctions, especially given what is said under *Separation*.

## Translation of Light - A Question of Marriage

☿ (L1) (querent) ⚲ ♃ (L7) (marriage)
☽ separating ✶ ☿ applying □ ♃

Therefore, the ☽ was carrying the light of ☿ to ♃
"and this signified the completion of the thing, i.e.
the attainment of the woman through the hands of
go-betweens and those running back and forth
between the two [parties]." ([JH] p14-15)

Note:
In this example, it would seem that the ☽ is the
querent's main significator as ☿ does not aspect the 1st
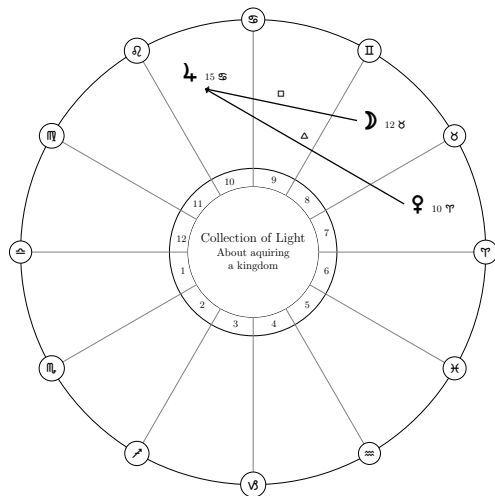house.
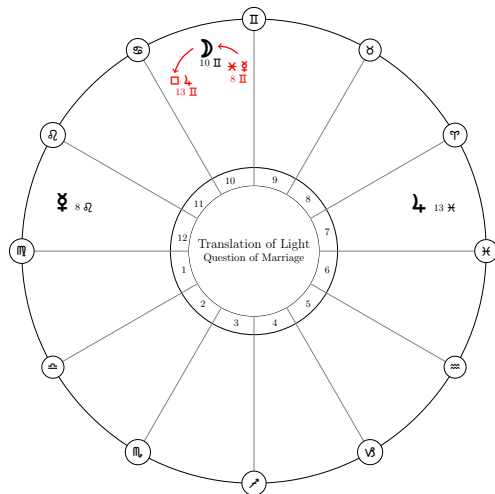
6. Collection of Light

(*algemee*) when 2 planets, not in aspect themselves, both connect to a 3rd, heavier planet, that planet is said to collect their light

Example: A question about whether a king would acquire a kingdom

♀ (L1) and ☽ (L10) are averse (⚼)
♃ is in the 10th, the house of the kingdom
both ♀ and the ☽ are joined to ♃

"This signified the acquisition of the kingdom through the hands of some judge or bishop or the hands of some chosen man to whom both planets freely gave their assent." (p15).

Prohibition (*almane*) is found in 3 modes:[1]

(i) Abscission ("cutting") of Light
occurs when the significators are conjoining but
between them is a 3rd planet who the 1st
significator conjoins before it can connect with the
2nd significator.

Example: a question of marriage

☿ (L1) conjoins □ ♂ before it conjoins △ ♃(L7)
so ♂'s cuts off ☿'s light from ♃, prohibiting the
marriage.

And Sahl says *"the destruction of this thing would
be from the description of the dowry"* as ♂ is in
the 8th house (the bride-to-be's property).

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[2]Dykes calls the 3 modes "cutting", "intervention", and "nullification" (p56-7)

(ii) "intervention" occurs when 2 significators are in the same sign and a 3rd planet, between them, conjuncts the heavier, 2nd significator

Example: a question of marriage

☽ is L1 and significator of the querent
♄ is L7 and significator of the marriage

♂ is between the ☽ and ♄ and already conjoined with ♄ (being only 2° from it), effectively intervening between the ☽ and ♄ and so prohibiting the marriage
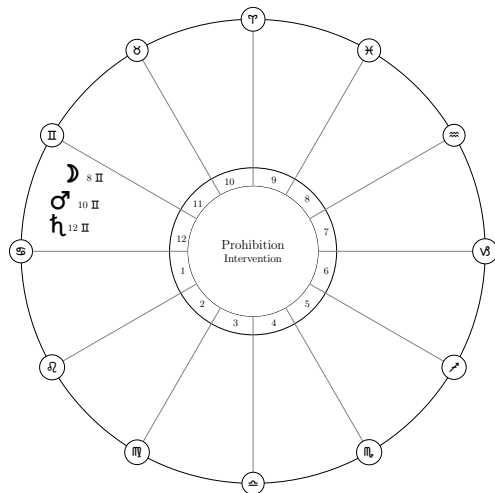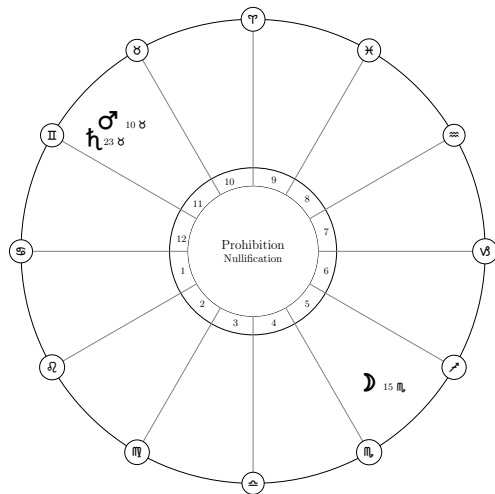
Sahl's Modes: 7. Prohibition: "nullification"

(iii) "nullification" when 2 significators are in the same sign and a 3rd, lighter planet, passes the 1st significator to complete an aspect to the 2nd significator, that joining is nullified by the conjunction as *"an aspect does not destroy a conjunction, but a conjunction does destroy an aspect"* [JH p16-17]

Example: a question of marriage

☽ is L1 and significator of the querent
♄ is L7 and signifcator of the marriage
♂ is seen to be ☌ ♄ and so *"consequently it was cutting off the aspect between the ☽ and ♄"*, prohibiting their joining and hence the marriage.

Note: Although ♂ and ♄ are 13° apart, and not conjoined, ♂, by transit, will eventually conjunct ♄ and so nullify the earlier ☍ to ♄ from the ☽.

Sahl's Modes: 7. Prohibition: "nullification" cont'd

Another example, when two planets are joined in one sign
(☽ and ♂ here) and the lighter planet (☽) joins a third
planet (♀) by aspect and commits its disposition before it
completes its ♂ the judgment is from the planet that is in
the same sign because *"conjunction of this sort is, as we
have said, stronger than an aspect."*

Sahl also says *"And when one planet is joined to another,
but before it comes to it, it is joined to a third; and when it
has been joined to that one, the conjunction itself is
destroyed"* [JH 17]

I think he's speaking of 3 planets (A B C) together with A
joined to both B and C, in this case A connects to B first
and B handles the matter; A's joining with C is broken.[1]

_____
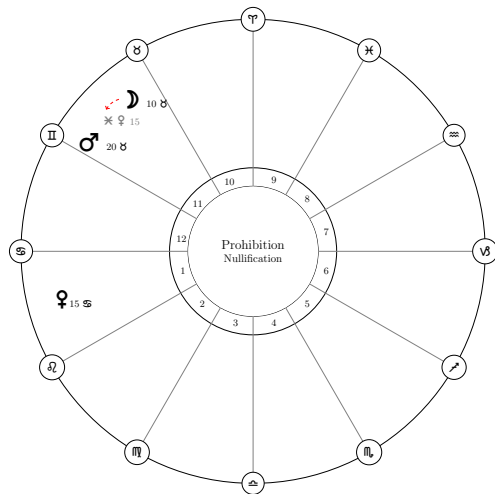
[1]Unfortunately Dykes text doesn't have this sentence so no way to double check my reading; however, Ibn Ezra
describes the same under his definition of Prohibition (p.122)

(alchobol) Reception occurs when a planet joins
another from that planet's domicile or exaltation
(perfect reception) or from two of the other planet's
minor dignities (triplicity, term, face).

Example:

☽ in ♈ in △ to ♂ in ♐

♂ will receive the ☽ because she occupies his (♂)
domicile. Similarly, if she was joined to the ☉, as ♈ is
his exaltation; or if she was in ♉ and joined to ♀, or in
♊ and joined to ☿; in each case she would be received
as she would occupy the domicile or exaltation of the
planet she was conjoining.

And if the ☽ was void of course but on moving into the
next sign she was joined to the domicile or exaltation
ruler of the first sign, she will be received but if she
first joins another planet in her new sign, she will be
impeded [JH p19]
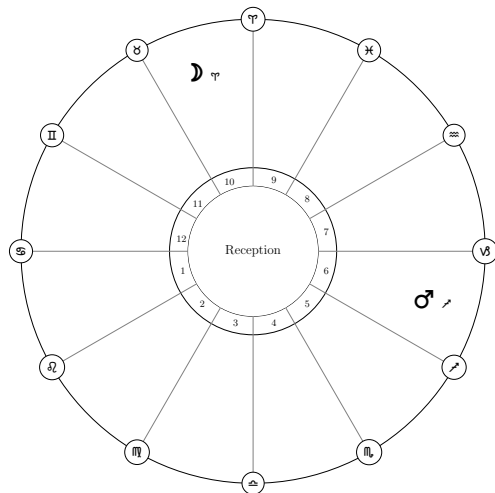
(gattalchobol) There can be no reception between two planets (A ⇒ B) if:

(i) A is in the sign of B's Fall (☽ □ ♄)
(ii) A is in its Fall and B is peregrine there (♀ ⚹ ♃)
(iii) B is peregrine in the sign A occupies (♃ △ ♄)
(iv) B is in the sign of A's Fall (☿ □ ♂)
(v) B is in the sign of its own Fall
   i.e. ☽ in ♊ △ ☉ in ♎ (not shown)

According to Sahl, a planet with no *testimony* (dignity) in a place cannot recognize the planet that is applying to it and so cannot receive it.

And he says A in B's fall *"will be like someone who comes to him [B] from the house of his enemies–it does not receive it nor esteem it."* (i)

And a planet in its own Fall conjoined to a planet with no dignity in that same sign will see the other planet *"for nothing, as if an unknown garment should be given to anyone asking"*. (ii)

And a planet joined to another in its own Fall *"makes him descend, and it diminishes what will come to him"*. (v)
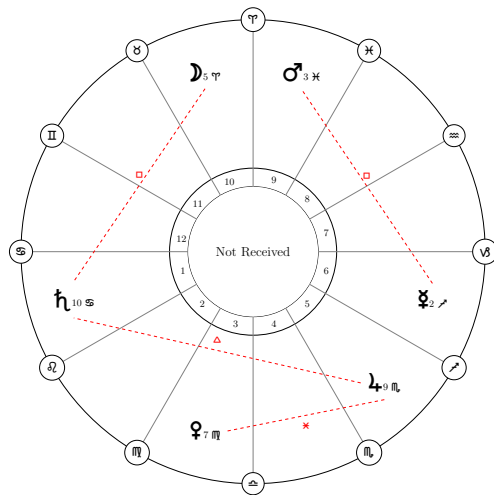
10. Void of Course

(halaaceir) void of course occurs when a planet is separating from one planet and not joined to (in the light of) any other planet before it leaves the sign it is in. (A **feral** planet forms no aspect, separating or applying, in the sign it occupies.)

11. Return

(atrad) Return occurs when a planet is retrograde or USB. In such situations the planet will return whatever it receives, destroying the matter. The same also occurs if both planets are cadent i.e. ☽ in the 6th applying to ♂ in the 12th which *"denotes destruction of the beginning of the question and [also] its end."* And if A is angular and only B is cadent, it signifies the beginning of a matter that will not have an end.

12-13. Giving Virtue and Nature

(defaalchota) a planet in its own domicile or exaltation is joined to another planet i.e. ☽ in ♋ or ♉ joined to ♃ or any other planet *"gives its virtue"* (nature) and commits its disposition. When she is not in ♉ or ♋ she just gives her dispostion.[1]

---

[1]Here I think *disposition* refers to a planet's significations while *virtue* refers to its authority and power.

Sahl's Modes: 14. Strength of the Planets [to Realize Events]

(alchoe) There are 11 modes in which a planet can effectively execute the disposition of another planet, these occur when the planet is:

1. in a good place i.e. angular or succedent

2. in its own dignities i.e. domicile, exaltation, or in 2 minor dignities

3. direct in motion

4. not joined to a malefic by conjunction, square, or opposition

5. not in its Fall or joined to a planet in Fall or in a cadent place

6. received

7. superior (σ, 4, $\hbar$) and oriental of the $\odot$ or inferior (ξ, φ) and occidental of the $\odot$

8. *"in their own light"* i.e. a diurnal planet above the horizon in a day chart, a nocturnal planet above the horizon in a night chart

9. in a fixed sign (υ, Ω, $\mathbb{m}$, $\approx$)

10. in the "heart of the ☉" which happens when it is in the same degree as the ☉[1] *"because then the fortunes increase good fortune and their good, but the malefics both increase and greatly strengthen their evil"*

11. a masculine planet in masculine quarters (Asc to MC, Desc to IC) and signs or a feminine planet in feminine quarters (MC to Desc, IC to Asc) or signs

"These are the testimonies by which the planets are greatly strengthened...for completing the matter when they have received and allowed." [JH p23]
or,
"These are the testimonies which, [when] the planets are in them, they are strong,...when they accept [the management] and make a promise." [Dykes p67]

---

[1]This is usually called *cazimi* and many authors limit it to a planet within 17' of the ☉.

Sahl's Modes: 15. The Debility of the Planets

(adoef) There are 10 modes in which a planet can be debilitated and impeded in a nativity or horary chart; these occur when a planet is:

1. cadent and so not in aspect to the ascending place i.e. in the 6th or 12th place

2. retrograde

3. USB i.e. within 17° of the ☉

4. ☌, □, or ☍ a malefic

5. besieged by malefics

6. in its own fall or joined to a planet in its fall

7. joined to a cadent planet or separating from a planet that was receiving it

8. peregrine and *"being pursued by the ☉, i.e. when it is before the ☉"*[1]

9. on the ecliptic (0° latitude) and with the ☊ or ☋

10. in its detriment (opposite its domicile)

"Follow these modes...with regard to the planet that receives the disposition and the one that promises the matter." [JH p24]

[1]Dykes says this means the planet has set before the ☉ and is invisible. [p68]

Sahl's Modes: 16. The Defects of the Moon

(alchamar) There are 10 ways the ☽ can come to be in a bad condition and so detrimental in all questions and initiatives; they are when she is:

1. combust i.e within 12° of the ☉

2. in her fall (♑) or joined to a planet in its own fall

3. within 12° of an exact ☍ with the ☉

4. joined to a malefic by ☌, □, or ☍ or beseiged by malefics

5. within 12° of the ☊ or ☋ and in the same sign with them

6. in ♊ (the 12th sign from her domicile) or in the last, and so malefic term, of any sign

7. cadent or joined to a cadent planet

8. in the *Via Combusta* (19 ♎ to 3 ♏)

9. feral or void of course i.e. not joined to any other planet

10. slow (moving at less than her average motion) or waning and at the end of the lunar month

Sahl's Modes: 16. The Defects of the Moon Continued

"These are the...defects of the Moon and its impediments during which no work should be begun,...; and it is not praiseworthy in a nativity [either], or in travel." [JH p25]

♂ harms the ☽ most by ☌, □, or ☍ when she is waxing as then they are both hot; ♄, similarly joined, does not impede her then because he is cold. And in nocturnal charts, when the ☽ is waning, and ♂ is in a feminine sign, he impedes less but in a day chart, when the ☽ is waxing and he is in a masculine sign, he impedes more.

♄ harms the ☽ most by ☌, □, or ☍ when she is waning as then they are both cold; ♂, similarly joined, does not impede her then because he is hot. And in diurnal charts, when the ☽ is waxing, and ♄ is in masculine signs, he impedes less but in a nocturnal chart, when the ☽ is waning and he is in feminine signs, he impedes more.

Impeded: no planet or sign is impeded unless it is in the ☌, □, or ☍ of a malefic.

Fortunate: no planet, or the Asc, is fortunate unless ♀ or ♃ are in its angles.

Some of Ibn Ezra's Descriptions of Planet Conditions (Ch.8)

Any matter will be accomplished according to the strength of the receiving planet

A planet is not "declared harmed" unless it is in the light of a malefic

A planet separating from aspect of a malefic by at least $1°$ "will cause fear which is not realized"

A benefic aspecting L1, if L1 does not aspect the rising sign, nothing will come to pass

Benefics cadent or in signs of opposite nature, detriment, or fall "do not bring benefit at all"; malefics in similar state do little harm

Malefics "in great power" indicate good "except it comes with effort and suffering"

♃ removes ♄'s harm (♀ needs ♃'s help to do so); ♀ removes ♂ harm more so than ♃ can

A planet in Fall "indicates worry, distress, and hardship"

A retrograde planet "indicates antagonism, and the destruction of anything that is contemplated"

A planet Stationary Direct (SD) about to turn retrograde "is like a person who does not know what to do and the result is unfavourable"; it indicates "difficulty and loss"

A planet Stationary Retrograde (SR) about to turn direct "is like a person hoping for something and not losing one's hope"

Outline i

About Life or Death [JH p18-19,23,27] [RH p10-11,15,19]

If a person asks whether he will die during the year, look for indications that:[1]

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

L1 joined to a malefic in the 8th

L1 joined, without reception, to a dignified benefic in the 8th

L8 joined to a planet in the 1st

To know if the person will fully recover their 'good fortune and health' examine the planet that signifies escape from death; if it was joined to a second planet that once joined the significator and that planet it is now remote (cadent) from the significator, the person will escape all harm.[2]

---

[1] If L1 is impeded, use the ☽ in its place.

[2] Robert Hand fnp11, at least, I think that's what the text is saying

L8 joined to and received by L1 *"will not completely destroy"* life. When L8 joins and is received by L1, L8 cannot completely destroy life but we need to look at L1 and the ☽ and if one signifies life and the other death, the significations of L1 are stronger as it has more significance in the matter of Life than the ☽; however, as they are partners, the ☽ will impact the effects of L1 according to the strength or weakness of L1 and the ☽

L8 is inimical to L1 UNLESS they are the same planet as *"then it will not impedite itself, even if it is also a malefic"* (and the same is true of L1 and L6)

Sickness [JH]p19-21, [RH]p11-13

The question was about a sick person, *"whether he would be freed from his sickness, or whether he would die"*

☿ (L1) Void of Course in the 8th signifies *"the strength of pain and the fear of death"* as does ♂ (L8) in the 10th aspecting the 1st who signifies *"the strength of pain and the loss of hope"*.

☿(L1) is Void of Course, does not aspect the 1st, and is not first to leave his sign.

The ☽ is also Void of Course but she is △ the 1st House and she is the first to enter a new sign so she is the stronger significator.

The two significators of the querent, both VOC, signified *"a prolongation of the sickness"* and its severity.
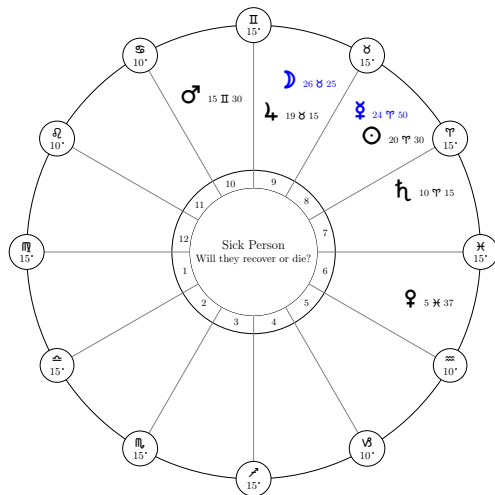
Sickness Continued

We look at the ☽, the stronger significator, first.

☽ in ♉ △ 1st House enters ♊
⇒ □ ♀ (in 6th, sickness)
♀ ⇒ ✶ ♃, MR by domicile

As ♃ cannot join with any other planet[1], he ends
the disposition and becomes the final authority
over the matter and so determines the final
outcome.

After examining the ☽ committing her disposition,
Masha'allah looks at ☿ (L1) as sharing in the
matter and finds it confirms what the ☽ signified.

Sick Person
Will they recover or die?
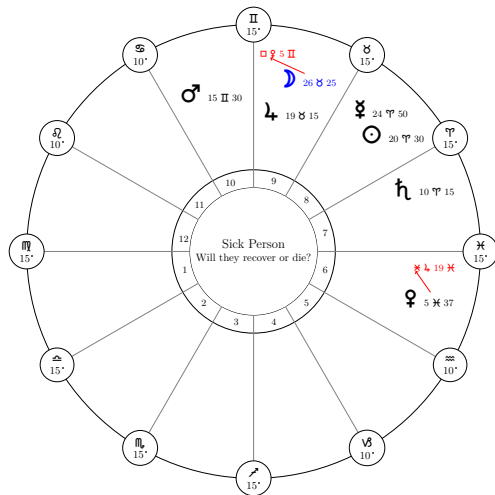
_____
[1]He can only apply to ♄ and he is already separated from him.

Sickness Continued

☿ in ♈ Void of Course ⇒ ♉
⇒ ✶ ♀ in ♉ accepts his disposition[1]
♀ ⇒ ✶ ♃ in ♉ MR by domicile
And again, ♃ is the end of the disposition chain, supporting what the ☽ indicated.

♃, a benefic, as the final arbiter of the disposition promises "health and quiet" and the end of the illness after a prolonged period (due to the VOC's) but we are told that from the time of ♀ accepting the ☽'s disposition to her (♀'s) joining with ♃ by ✶, the person would have gradually strengthened, with the illness leaving him completely once ♀ separates from ♃ by one minute.

Chart:
- ♊ 15° (top)
- ♋ 10°
- ♌ 10°
- ♍ 15°
- ♎ 15°
- ♏ 15°
- ♐ 15°
- ♑ 10°
- ♒ 10°
- ♓ 15°
- ♈ 15°
- ♉ 15°

□ ☋ 5 ♊
☽ 26 ♉ 25
✶ ♀ 5 ♉
☿ 24 ♈ 50
♂ 15 ♊ 30
♃ 19 ♉ 15
☉ 20 ♈ 30
♄ 10 ♈ 15
✶ ♃ 19 ♓
♀ 5 ♓ 37

Sick Person
Will they recover or die?

Houses: 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 12, 11

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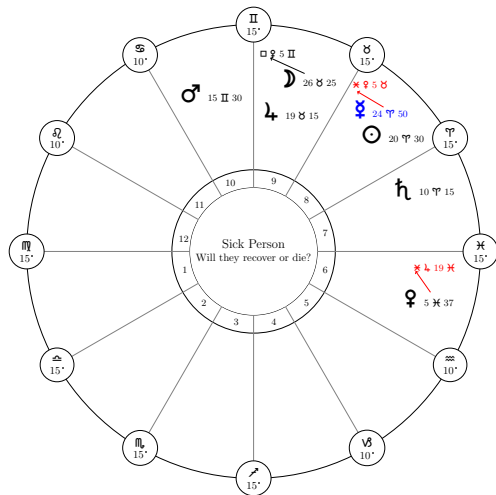
[1] Sahl's mode 14.2, *Strength of the Planets*, says a planet in dignity can effectively accept a disposition; here it appears to apply to the location of the aspect but it could also apply because ♀ has dignity in her place, in ♓.

Sickness (Alternative Scenarios)

The significator of the matter being asked about (death) is actually ♂ as the ruler of the 8th. Masha'allah does list a ♂ connection as an alternative scenario, saying such a connection would have meant death for the querent as ♂'s is L8 and does not receive ♀ in ♓. However, as neither L1 nor the ☽ joined to ♂, the person did not die; although they had a severe illness (♀, while not the ruler of the 6th, is in the 6th of sickness). (**Note:** the ☽, as the main significator of the querent, is averse to (⚺) ♂.)

He also goes on to warn that had the ☽ joined with the ☉, as he is not L1, he can destroy by combustion if he does not receive the planet, and this also applies to his □ or ☍. [JH p23.][1]

---

[1]I've seen this before as a planet being protected from combustion if they are in their own signs; here, the ☽ is in her Exaltation but we are told she has to be in the ☉'s signs (♌ or ♈) to be protected from combustion.

The ☉ (L1) and ☽ are both VOC, with the ☽ being first to leave her sign so looked to her first with the ☉ as sharer.

☽ 28 ♈ ⇒ ♉
  ⇒ □ ☿ 2 ♉ - ☽ commits her disposition
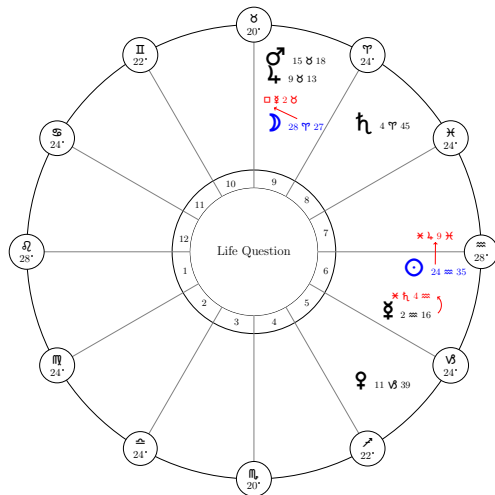 ☿ ⇒ ✶ ♄ 4 ♒ with reception
therefore ♄ signifies the person's health and good fortune because he's in his own domicile

☉ 24 ♒ ⇒ ♓
  ⇒ ✶ ♃ 9 ♓
even though ♃ is L8, the ✶ is in ♃'s domicile, so he receives the ☉, and the ☉ (as L1) signifies health and good fortune

Both L1 and the ☽ indicate the same for the person's health and fortune.

A Life Question Continued

Wanting to know when the sickness would lessen, Masha'allah says he next looked at the House of Sickness, the 6th, which was ruled by ♄, who, being the heaviest, was not separating or joining any planet; so he looked for who was applying or separating from ♄, and found:

♀ (11 ♑) was separated from ♄ by 7° and
$\Rightarrow$ △ ♂ (15 ♉)

with each receiving the other; ♂ receiving ♀ in his exaltation, ♀ receiving ♂ in her domicile.[a]

This *"signified a lessening of pain and the arrival of health"*

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[a]Here, the sign occupied by ♂ is used to define the reception rather than the sign the aspect falls in, which was the case in the previous example.
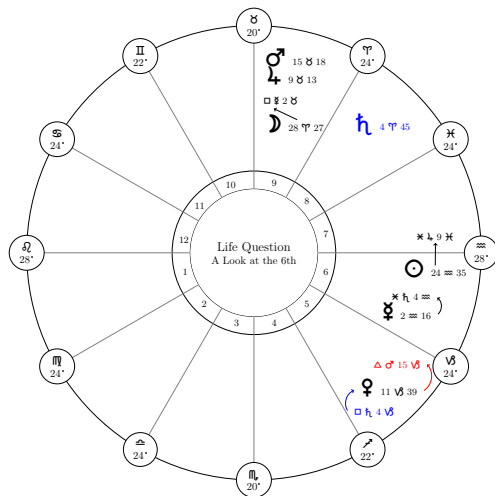
Finding Wealth or Not [JH 29-31][RH 23-25]

If the question is about wealth in general, and not specific to some source or person, examine L1 and the ☽ to see which is the main significator of the querent and which the sharer and use L2 as the significator of the quesited, wealth.

"The connection of the ruler of the Asc or the ☽ with the ruler of the thing is the attainment of the thing by itself", whether joined to a benefic or malefic, with or without reception, <u>unless</u> the significator of the quesited commits its disposition to another planet.[1]

If L2 commits its disposition to:

  a malefic, with reception, *"the thing will be perfected"*

  a benefic, with or without reception, *"he will find wealth...if the dispositor is in a strong [place] or in the angles"* as angles are useful to the 2nd and hasten things; cadent houses delay things

Wealth is also shown if the 2nd holds: a benefic, a dignified malefic, or a malefic without dignity that receives L1.

---

[1]Hand says this is true only for the stronger of the two, L1 or ☽.

Finding Wealth or Not Continued

If L1 joins with L2 or planets in the 2nd, the querent has been seeking wealth but if L2 joins with L1, the wealth will come about without any seeking on the querent's part and they will receive more than they hoped for.

If no L1, ☽, 2nd House Connections

If L1 or the ☽ do not connect to L2 or a planet in the 2nd, see if one of them connects to a benefic (with or without reception) that is in a strong place or angular; if that benefic does not commit its disposition elsewhere, the querent will find wealth.

And the same applies if it connects to a malefic with reception but if it is without reception, the matter will be destroyed.

A benefic that commits its disposition to a malefic who does not receive it signifies the matter ruled by the benefic will be harmed when the disposition is complete; with reception, the matter is perfected without harm.

Looking to Borrow

If a person is looking to borrow from another, L1 and the ☽ signify the querent, L2, his wealth while L7 and L8 signify the possible lender and their wealth.

The querent will get what he seeks if:

L1 or the ☽ are joined to L8 or a planet in the 8th

L8 is joined to L1 or a planet in the 1st that is a benefic, a dignified malefic, or a malefic that receives it

either L1 or the ☽ is joined to a malefic with reception or a benefic in a strong place

But if the person is looking to borrow from the King, use the 11th (Wealth of the King) instead of the 8th.

L1, ♀ (16 ♒), was VOC, separating from □ ♃ (14 ♉), L8 (the deceased person's wealth) with reception

"Separation by reception is something foul and a horrible thing" [JH 35]
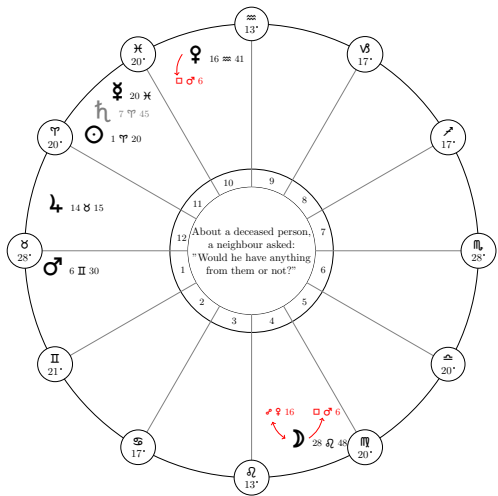
☽ (28 ♌) VOC separating from ☍ ♀ (16 ♒)
☽ first to leave her sign ♌ ⇒ ♍
⇒ □ ♂ (6 ♍), neither planet receives the other, and
since ♂ is not L8 he signifies prohibition

♀ moves from ♒ to ♓
⇒ □ ♂ (6 ♓), neither planet receives the other shows the same as the ☽; no inheritance

House cusps are not original, Holden shows ☿ at 20 ♓; Hand has it at 19 ♓ 15 in the 10th

☿℞(L1) ⇒ ♂☉ ⇒ ✶ ♄ (L10)

however

♂ ⇒ □ ♄ (L10) perfects first

cutting off the ☉ and denying the querent the kingdom

And Masha'allah said the querent would know his hope was lost when ♂ perfected its □ to ♄

Note that the ☽ shows the same thing as she first applies to ☿, committing her disposition to him and so he hands both his own and her disposition to the the ☉, but not before ♂ cuts him off.

Paraphrased as:
Will I get the kingdom
I seek?
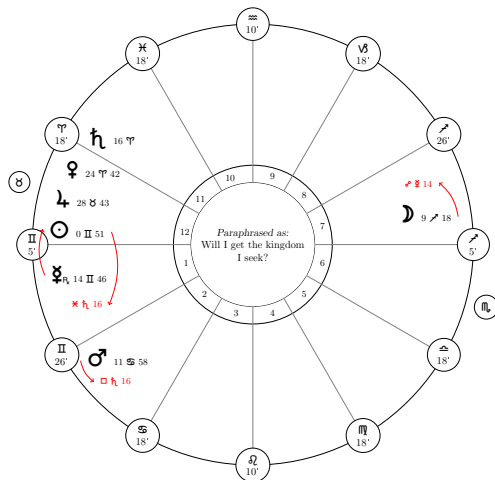
Another Question on a Kingdom [JH p44] [RH p42]

$\mathbb{D}$ 4 $\triangleq$ (L1) $\Rightarrow$ ∂ $\hbar$ 11 $\triangleq$ "completes" the matter
as $\hbar$ receives the $\mathbb{D}$ in his exaltation and he is
posited in the 10th (kingdom)

The man had little joy from his advancement;
however, because $\hbar$ was in a place where he had
no dignity, being in his Fall (Υ) and furthermore,
in a pitted degree and because it hated its own
place it gave something hateful but it made what
it gave fixed, strong, and stable because it was in
an angle.

58/60
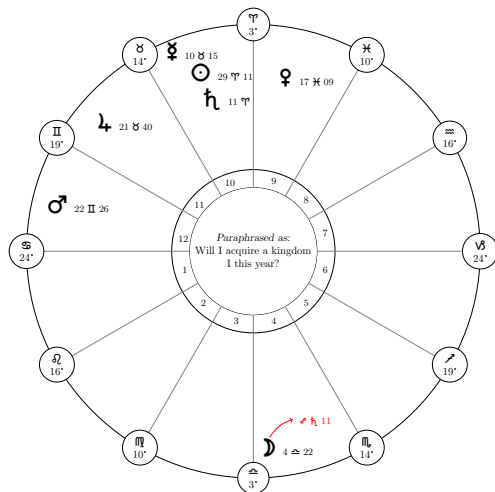
Will I get the dukedom promised by the King? [JH p57] [RH p59,80-82]

♃ is L1, in the 10th (house of rulers)
    he aspects his domicile (♐) on the 1st;
    he will get his dukedom

♃ in detriment in ♍
    detriment indicates a "flawed" dukedom,
    not "no" dukedom

☉ & ♀ in ♐ (connected to 1st) ⇒ to □ of ♃ in 1st
(received) supports a "yes", he will get his dukedom

☿ is L7, retro, a rebel opponent in the matter
    cadent in the 12th
    ⇒ ☌ ♄ retro, cadent and without reception
    disposited by ♀, combust, which worsens matters
    indicating destruction for the opponent

☿ retro, by transit, ⇒ ✶ ♃ with reception (♃ is in ♍)
indicates the rebel opponent will end by seeking "peace and
accommodation" from the querent
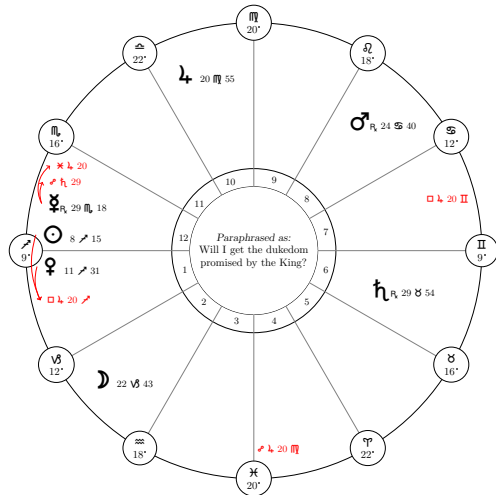
The MC was not given, only the Asc degree. The other cusps are in
the text Holden used but are not original to Masha'Allah.

Dukedom Chart as Battle Chart

Masha'allah goes further into the chart, reading it as a
'battle' or 'war' chart; he begins with the ☽, using its
separating to identify the querent and its application to
identify the rebel lord.

☽ separating △ ♃ (reinforces ♃ as main significator)
☽ applying ☍ ♂ in ♋ (mixed reception)

♂℞, in 8th, in his Fall (♋); indicates the opponents penury
(8th is 2nd from 7th)

☽ dispositing ♂ is in 2nd, querent's resources
The rebel lord could not pay his army so the querent
bought them off; ending the battle

But, as ♂ is the dispositor of ☿ (L7), and it is in a strong
reception with the ☽ (♂ in ♋, ☽ in ♑) the rebel lord will
not lose everything and, as already noted, ☿ to the ✶ of ♃
indicates a peaceful conclusion for all involved.

This is the last of Masha'allah's examples.