

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.

Reception Basics

Which Chart Elements are Examined?

What Constitutes Reception?

Committing Disposition

Committing Disposition - Another Example

Applications and Separations

Reception and the Joining of Planets

Horary Rules

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 standard Ptolemaic aspects (✕, □, △, ♀) and the ♂
- 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: *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 the another sign.

$\sigma 10 \Upsilon \Rightarrow \sigma \text{ h } 15 \Upsilon \sigma$ | σ is applying to the σ of h who is in σ 's domicile (Υ), therefore
 σ receives h , but,
 σ is not in a domicile (V , \approx) or Exaltation (\triangle) of h , so
 h does not receive σ

$10 \text{ V} \Rightarrow \square \text{ h } 20 \Upsilon$ | σ is in h 's domicile (V)
 h is in σ 's domicile (Υ), therefore,
 σ receives h and h receives σ 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 (B) of the domicile is responsible for *settling* or *disposing* of all matters within his domicile, including those of other planets lodged there. Legally, a *disposition* is a *settlement*; and B, as A's *dispositor* is responsible for settling A's concerns.

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

☉ 1 ♌ ⇒ ♍ ♎ 25 ♏

the ☉ is in the Exaltation of ♎ (♌)
♎ is in the Exaltation of the ☉ (♏), therefore
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 ♎ leaves ♏ before the ♍ can perfect, "*there will be enmities, contrariness, misunderstandings, denials and ♎ will not receive the ☉*" and so will not take on the ☉'s disposition.

¹The examples used by Masha'Allah so far involve signs of a planets 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.

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° ($7.5^\circ + 4.5^\circ$ or $(15^\circ + 9^\circ)/2$) 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.

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Reception Basics

Horary Rules

Questions

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 the who dispoits 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 although he doesn't say if he thinks it is Equal or Whole Sign.