

# Reception: What will or will not be

Notes and examples on Reception.

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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* (referenced texts are listed where appropriate).

## Reception Basics

- Which Chart Elements are Examined?

- Applications and Separations by  $\angle$  or Aspect

- Committing Disposition

  - Committing Disposition - Another Example

- The Joining of Planets

- What Constitutes Reception?

  - Perfect Reception - Pusing Nature

  - A Weaker Reception - Pushing Power

  - Pushing Two Natures

  - Mutual Reception

  - Corrupted Receptions and Returns

## Horary Rules

- Sahl's 16 Modes of Perfection and Destruction

### Masha'allah's Example Charts

## 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

- the signs of the Exaltations and Falls of the planets

- the applications and separations of the planets by ♄, ♀, ☐, ☐, or ♃

- receptions between the planets as they relate to the disposition of matters they signify

- whether a planet's dispositions are effected, prohibited, rejected, or returned

The state of a significator's *disposition* helps establish how a matter is effected and its eventual outcome.

## Applications and Separations by ☿ or Aspect

The faster, lighter planet (A) moves to *join* (by ☿, ✕, □, △, ♀) 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*" ([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 in aspect as long as one planet is in the light of another.<sup>1</sup>

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

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

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<sup>1</sup>A planet's own light extends for 1/2 its orb in front and behind e.g. the ☉'s orb is 30°, its light extends 15° behind and 15° ahead; for ♀, whose orb is 16°, her light extends 8° behind and 8° ahead, etc. This concept is the basis of the traditional astrologer's use of **moiety of orb**.

# 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 the planets are cadent.

Astrologically speaking, the ruler of a sign (as the receiver of a disposition) is responsible for *settling* or *disposing* of all matters signified by his sign. If a ruler is averse (♄ or ♀) to its own sign he is blind to the needs of the sign and so he cannot meet the sign's needs unless there is some mitigating condition i.e. the joined planets are in signs that are:<sup>1</sup>

**Like-engirding:** ♄ ♌, ♄ ♈, ♀ ♏, ♀ ♌, ♄ ♌ (ruled by the same planet)

**Equally Ascending:** ♄ ♏, ♄ ♌, ♀ ♌, ♀ ♏, ♄ ♌, ♄ ♌ (rise in the same number of hours)

**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

<sup>1</sup>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.

## 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 (□, ♂); an easy one, completed without labour or difficulty (✕, Δ), or a familiar, or congenial one, easily done (♂).

### Example:

☉ 10 ♀ □ ♂ 10 ♀

the ☉ perfects a □ to ♂,  
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:<sup>1</sup>

☉ 1 ♌ ⇒ ♉ ♋ 25 ♏

the ☉ is in ♌ (the exaltation of ♋) applying to ♉ ♋  
♋ is in ♏ (the exaltation of the ☉) therefore  
each planet **receives** the other in 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 ♋ 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.

Reception is one key to knowing whether a planet's significations are *disposed of* i.e. handled, completed, effected, manifested in the life, or not.

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<sup>1</sup>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 returned or corrupted.



# Reception and the Joining of Planets

Planets are *joined together* by recognized aspects (✳, □, △, ♀) or bodily ♂'s that become *exact by degree* and are said to be *conjoining* if one planet is within the light of the other.<sup>1</sup>

## Benefics joined to Benefics<sup>2</sup>

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.

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<sup>1</sup>Sahl [JH] p14

<sup>2</sup>Based on the essential nature of the planets; need to check their 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) appears 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), 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

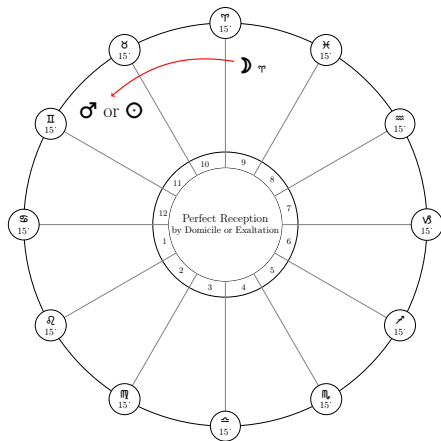
# What Constitutes Reception - Perfect Reception: Pushing Nature

An example of **perfect reception** (according to Sahl) is a planet (A) applying to the domicile or exaltation ruler (B) of the sign it occupies. Ibn Ezra (p121) says the ruler (B) "will confer its nature upon" planet A but everyone else says 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 ♃ because she is in ♈ which ♂ rules by domicile and the ☉ by exaltation.



<sup>1</sup>Sahl, p.18

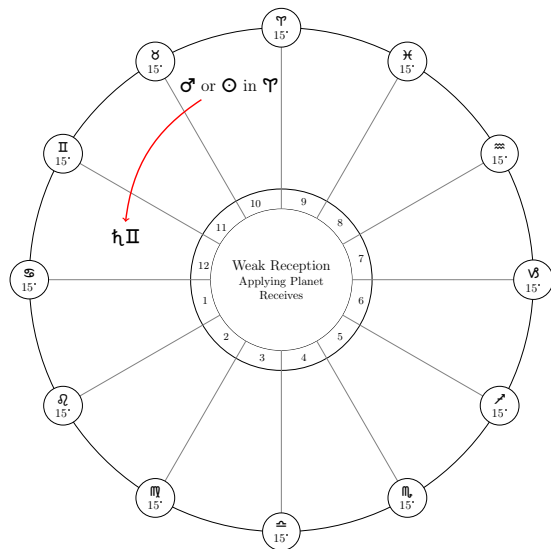
## What Constitutes Reception - A Weaker Reception: Pushing Power

A planet in its own domicile or exaltation applying to another planet is said by Abu Ma'shar to "*push [its] power*" to the other planet. Ibn Ezra calls it "*conferring influence*"; Sahl, "*giving virtue*" or "*committing disposition*".<sup>1</sup> This too is a form of reception but it is considered weaker than perfect reception. Here, A gives his own authority and resources to B.

**Example (A  $\Rightarrow$  B):** ♂ or ☉ in ♍  $\Rightarrow$  ♏

♂ or ☉ in ♍ applying to  
♏ in any sign

Note that strictly speaking Sahl would consider this a 'non-reception' as ♍ is ♏'s Fall.<sup>2</sup> Other authors accept it as a corrupted reception.



<sup>1</sup>Abu Ma'shar, p.25;Ibn Ezra, p. 121; Sahl p20 Holden

<sup>2</sup>Sahl, Dykes trans. p.62; Holden's, p.19

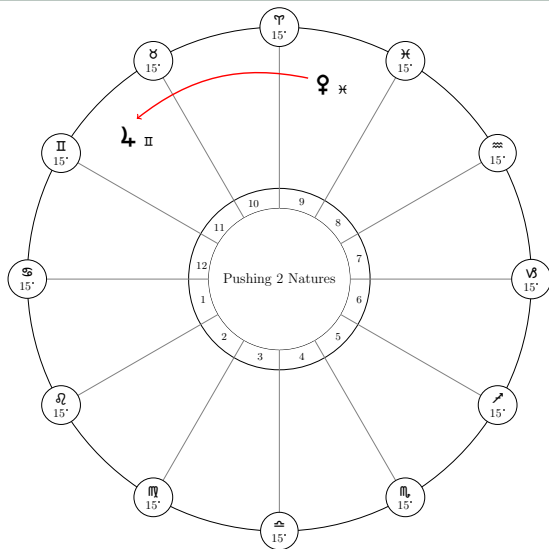
# What Constitutes Reception - Pushing Two Natures

Occurs when a planet (A) in its domicile or exaltation applies to another planet (B) who also has dignity in A's place<sup>1</sup>. Presumably the outcome will take on the nature of both planets.

**Example (A ⇒ B): ♀ in ♋ ⇒ ♎**

♀ exalted in ♋ applies to  
♎ who is the domicile ruler of ♋

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.



<sup>1</sup>Abu Ma'shar p25; Ibn Ezra p122 calls it "conferring of two natures"

# What Constitutes Reception - Mutual Reception

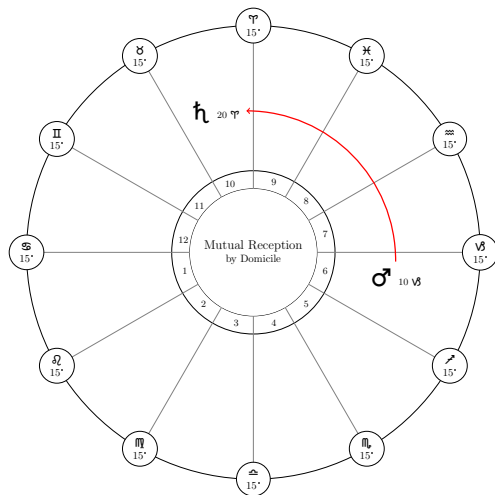
**Example:** ♂ 10 ♊ ⇒ ☐ ♏ 20 ♏

♂ is in ♏'s domicile (♊) applying to ♏  
♏ is in ♂'s domicile (♏), therefore,  
♂ receives ♏ by domicile, and  
♏ receives ♂ by domicile

giving **Mutual Reception [MR]** by *domicile*  
so ♂ receives ♏ and commits his disposition to  
him and ♏ receives it<sup>1</sup>

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 ♋ Δ ♏ in  
♏.

<sup>1</sup>Masha'allah [RH] p3; note that Sahl would call this a non-reception as ♏ is in his Fall.



## 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 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.<sup>1</sup>

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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<sup>1</sup>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.

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



Reception Basics

Horary Rules

- Horary Questions in General

- Choosing Significators

- Perfection and Outcomes

- Timing

Sahl's 16 Modes of Perfection and Destruction

Masha'allah's Example Charts

## 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 disposes 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.<sup>a</sup>

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<sup>a</sup>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 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;<sup>1</sup> noting that matters will be slow and inactive until the sign change occurs.

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<sup>1</sup>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 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.<sup>2</sup>

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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<sup>2</sup>Robert Hand says "*Rulers of houses in general are more important to outcomes than occupants of houses.*"(fn1p9)

## Perfection and Outcomes

*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* 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; or, a malefic, similarly placed, with reception

## 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 its dispositor  $B$ , it is received and the matter is accomplished. If  $B$  happens to then apply to another planet  $C$ , the conditions of that application indicate how the matter will eventually play out.

## Outcomes Continued

*"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 and, 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]



Reception Basics

Horary Rules

Sahl's 16 Modes of Perfection and Destruction

1-3 Perfection, Deterioration, and Connection

4-5 Separation, Translation

6. Conjunction (Collection) of Light

7 Prohibition

Masha'allah's Example Charts

## 1-3 Perfection, Deterioration, and Connection

Sahl summarizes the ways in which a matter can be perfected or destroyed as follows:<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Perfection or Advance

(*alichel*) when a planet is in an angular or succedent house

### 2. Deterioration or Retreat

(*alicher*) when a planet is cadent

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

## 4-5 Separation, Translation

### 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<sup>1</sup>. e.g. ♃ 27 ♃ is conjoined to ♀ 2 ♀

**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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<sup>1</sup>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)

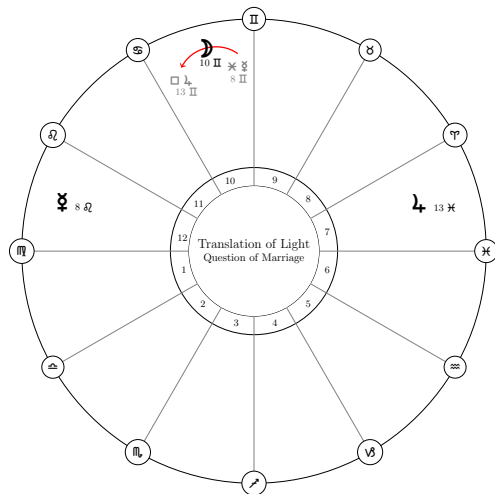
♄ separating ✕ ☿ applying ☐ ♀

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 signicator as ☿ does not aspect the 1st  
house.

Looking at the ♄ ✕ ☿ could the ☿ reception be of a  
'pushing nature' variety? with ☿ doing the pushing  
rather than the applying ♄ who does not receive ☿?<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Ibn Ezra "conferring of nature" p121

## 6. Conjunction (Collection) of Light

### 6. Collection of Light

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

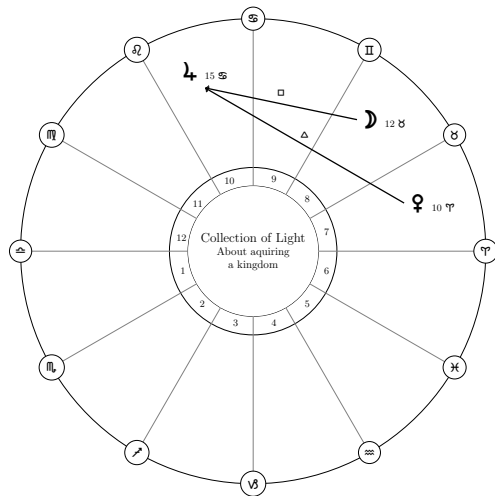
**Example:** A question about whether a king would acquire a kingdom

♀ (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).

**Note:** Another instance of a dignified benefic in the quesited house perfecting the matter without regard to reception.



## 7 Prohibition ("cutting", "intervention", "nullification")

Prohibition (*almane*) is found in 3 modes:<sup>1</sup>

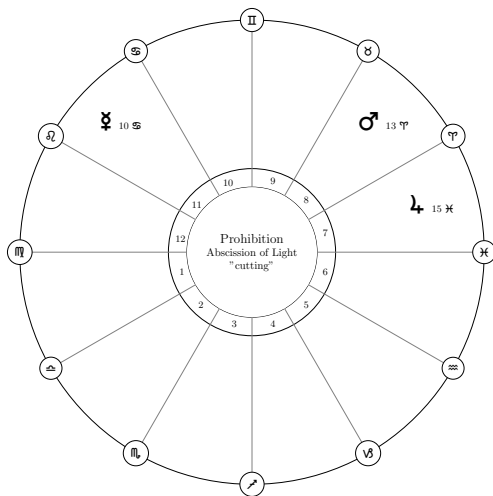
### (i) Abscission ("cutting") of Light

occurs when the signifiers are conjoining but between them is a 3rd planet who conjoins with the 2nd signifier before the 1st signifier can connect with it.

**Example:** a question of marriage

☿ (L1) will ☐ ♂ before it can △ ♀ (L7), cutting 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).



<sup>2</sup>Dkykes calls the 3 modes "cutting", "intervention", and "nullification" (p56-7)

## 7. Prohibition: "intervention"

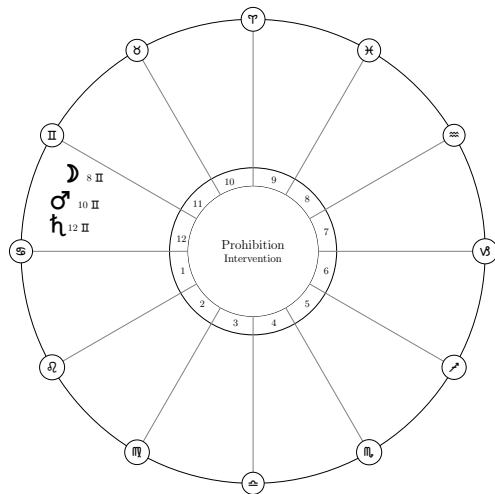
(ii) "intervention" when 2 signifiers are in the same sign and a 3rd planet, between them, conjuncts the heavier, 2nd signifier before the 1st signifier can reach it

**Example:** a question of marriage

♄ is L1 and signifier of the querent

♏ is L7 and signifier of the marriage

♂ is between the ♄ and ♏ and already conjunct with ♏ (being only 2° from it), effectively intervening between the ♄ and ♏ and so prohibiting the marriage



## 7. Prohibition: "nullification"

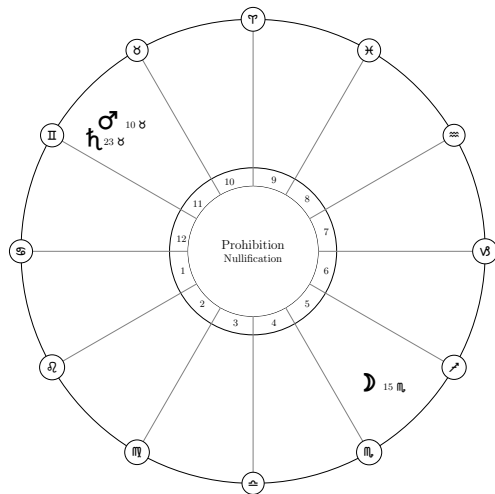
(iii) "nullification" when 2 signifiers are in the same sign and a 3rd, lighter planet, passes the 1st signifier to complete an aspect to the 2nd signifier, that joining is nullified by the conjunction as *"an aspect does not destroy a conjunction, but a conjunction does destroy an aspect"*

**Example:** a question of marriage

♃ is L1 and signifier of the querent

♎ is L7 and signifier of the marriage

♂ is seen to be ♎ ♎ (event though its fairly wide) and so *"consequently it was cutting off the aspect between the ♃ and ♎"*, prohibiting their joining and hence the marriage.



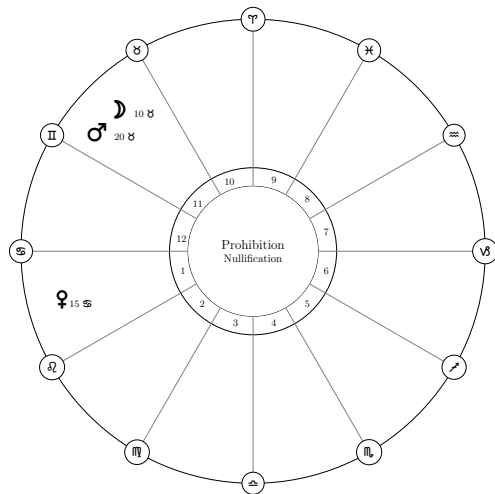


## 7. Prohibition: "nullification" cont'd

Another example, when two planets are joined in one sign (♃ and ♂ here) and the lighter planet (♃) joins a third planet (♀) and commits its disposition (the two are in mutual reception), 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."*

**Note:** Dykes points out this isn't strictly speaking a case of prohibition as ♀ is not one of the significations we are interested in. What the example does show is a situation that only *appears* to be a prohibition.

Sahl also says that *"when one planet is joined to another, but before it connects to it, it is joined to a third; and when it has been joined to that one, the conjunction itself is destroyed"* the implication being that while an aspect cannot destroy a conjunction, another conjunction can.



Reception Basics

Horary Rules

Sahl's 16 Modes of Perfection and Destruction

Masha'allah's Example Charts

- About Life or Death

- Sickness

- A Life Question

- Finding Wealth or Not

- Looking to Borrow

- Inheritance

- Seeking a Kingdom

- Another Question on a Kingdom

- Will I get the dukedom promised by the King?

## 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:<sup>3</sup>

### 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  
L8 joined to and received by L1 *"will not completely destroy"* life

### 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 benefic in the 8th who has dignity there

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.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup>If L1 is impeded, use the ☿ in its place.

<sup>4</sup>Robert Hand fnp11, at least, I think that's what the text is saying

## About Life or Death Continued [JH 27-29][RH 19-22]

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 impede itself, even if it is also a malefic"* (and the same is true of L1 and L6)

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

Mercury (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 we look to her first with ♀ being made the sharer.

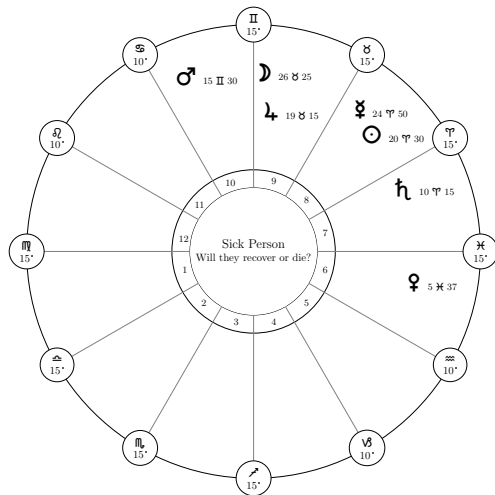
☿ in ♊ △ 1st House ⇒ enters ♀

⇒ ☿ ♀ in ♋ and commits her disposition (no mention of reception as the ☿ is now in ♀ where ♀ has no dignities)

♀ ⇒ ♀ ♋ in ♊, MR by domicile

As ♋ cannot join with any other planet<sup>1</sup>, he ends the disposition and becomes the final authority over the matter and so determines the final outcome.

<sup>1</sup>He can only apply to ♋ and he is already separated from him.



## Sickness Continued

After examining the 𐤎 committing her disposition, Masha'allah then looks at 𐤍 (L1) as sharing in the matter and finds it confirms what the 𐤎 signified:

𐤍 in 𐤍 Void of Course  $\Rightarrow$  𐤍

$\Rightarrow$  𐤍 𐤍 𐤍 who receives him from 𐤍

𐤍  $\Rightarrow$  𐤍 𐤍 in 𐤍 MR by domicile

And again, 𐤍 is the end of the disposition chain, supporting what the 𐤎 indicated.

𐤍, 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 𐤍 accepting the 𐤎's disposition to her joining with 𐤍, the person would have gradually strengthened, with the illness leaving him completely once 𐤍 separates from 𐤍 by one minute.

## Sickness (Alternative Scenarios)

One odd thing here, how does ♀ join with ♃'s ✕ at 19 ♋ before it joins with ♂'s ♎ at 15 ♋? Even assuming he took the aspect moieties into account, ♀ would have been within moiety of ♂ ♎ at 7.5° ♋ ( $15 - (7+8)/2$ ) which is less than the reach of ♃'s ✕ moiety of 11 ♋ ( $19 - (9+7)/2$ ).

Masha'allah does list the ♂ 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 ♋. So perhaps, the ♎ → ♀ → ♃ connections are also simply to illustrate a point.

He goes on to warn that the ☉, if not L1, destroys by combustion if he does not receive the planet, and this also applies to his ♎ or ♏. [JH p23.]<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>I've seen this before as a planet being protected from combustion if he's in his own signs; here, they have to be in the ☉'s signs (♏ or ♏) where the ☉ will receive and protect them.

## A Life Question

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 to ♀, no reception)

♀ is joined to, and received by, ♀

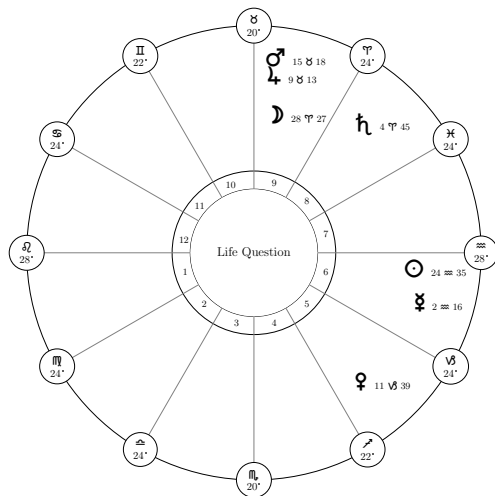
(♀ is within 2° of a perfect ♂, already engaged) therefore ♀ signifies the person's health and good fortune

☉ 24 ≈ ⇒ ♂

⇒ ♂ ♀ (with reception)

so the ☉ also 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 ♄, and ♀ (11 ♄) was separated from ♄ by 7° and moving to Δ♂ (15 ♄) with each receiving the other; ♂ receiving ♀ in his exaltation, ♀ receiving ♂ in her domicile.

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

## 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, unless the significator of the quesited commits its disposition to another planet.<sup>1</sup>*

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.

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<sup>1</sup>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 ♃ joined to a malefic with reception or a benefic in a strong place

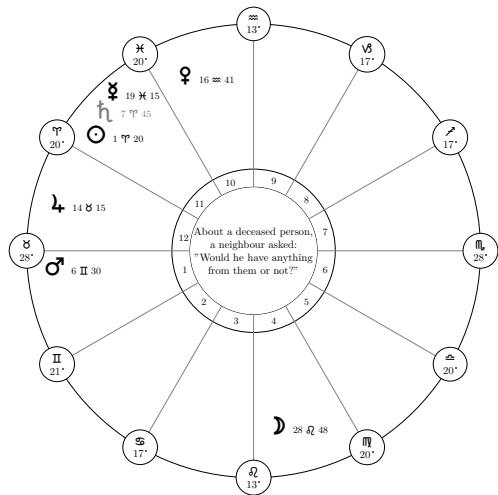
But if the person is looking to borrow from the King, use the 11th (Wealth of the King) instead of the 8th.

# Inheritance

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 ☿



House cusps are not original, Holden shows ☿ as 20 ♋;  
Hand uses the degrees shown but puts ☿ in the 10th

# Seeking a Kingdom

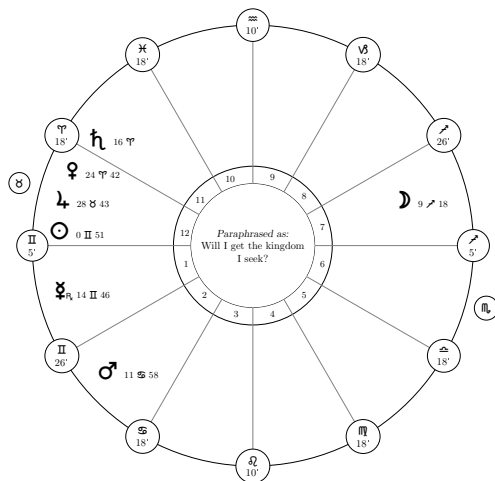
$\text{☿}_R(L1) \Rightarrow \text{♂} \odot \Rightarrow \text{♂} \text{ } \text{ħ} \text{ (L10)}$

however

$\text{♂} \Rightarrow \square \text{ } \text{ħ} \text{ (L10)}$  perfects first cutting off the  $\odot$  and denying the querent the kingdom

And Masha'allah said the querent would know his hope was lost when  $\text{♂}$  perfected its  $\square$  to  $\text{ħ}$

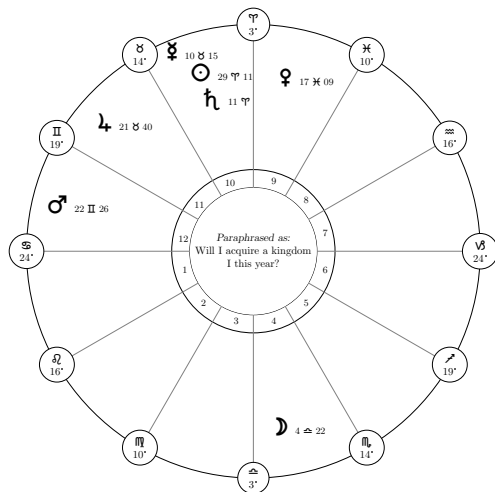
Note that the  $\text{☾}$  shows the same thing as she first applies to  $\text{☿}$ , committing her disposition to him and so he hands both his own and her disposition to the  $\odot$ . And while  $\text{☿}$  receives the  $\odot$ , the  $\odot$  is not L10 so the matter at hand is not perfected.



## Another Question on a Kingdom

♃ 4 ♌ (L1) ⇒ ♃ ♌ 11 ♏ in the 10th "completes" the matter as ♌ receives the ♃ in his exaltation.

The man had little joy from his advancement; however, because ♌ was in a place where he had no dignity, being in his Fall 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.

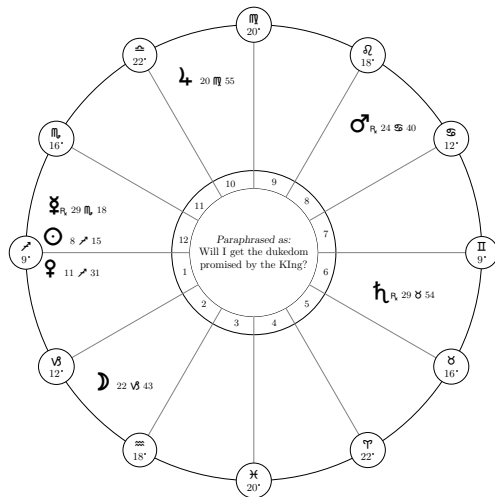


# Will I get the dukedom promised by the King?

♄ is L1, direct, in the 10th (most elevated planet)  
☉ & ♀ ⇒ ☐ from ♀ on 1st (received)  
aspects both his domiciles ♀ (1st) and ♄ (4th)  
aspects the 7th (connections to all 4 angles)  
signifying he will get his dukedom

♄ is L7, retro, a rebel opponent in the matter  
cadent in the 12th  
⇒ ♀ ♄ retro, cadent in 6th<sup>1</sup> (no reception)  
dispositor, ♀, is combust, worsening matters  
indicates destruction for the opponent

♄ retro, by transit, ⇒ ♄ ♄ with reception 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.

<sup>1</sup>Hand notes this can only be true by Primary Direction.



## Dukedom Chart as Battle Chart

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

$\mathfrak{L}$  in  $\mathfrak{M} \Delta$  (not rec'd)  $\Leftarrow \mathfrak{D}$  in  $\mathfrak{V} \mathfrak{B} \Rightarrow \mathfrak{J} \mathfrak{O}$  in  $\mathfrak{E}$  (mixed reception)

$\mathfrak{D}$  is significator of the opponent in the 2nd (support for querent)

$\mathfrak{O}$  retro, in 8th, in his Fall; indicating the opponents penury (8th is 2nd from 7th)

Masha'allah says this indicates the rebel lord could not pay his army  
so the querent bought them off; ending the battle

But, as  $\mathfrak{O}$  is the dispositor of  $\mathfrak{X}$  (L7), and it is in a strong reception with the  $\mathfrak{D}$ , the rebel lord will not lose everything and, as already noted,  $\mathfrak{X}$ 's  $\mathfrak{X}$  to  $\mathfrak{L}$  indicates a peaceful conclusion for all involved.

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