



SOLAR WRITER

MEDICUS

A SOLAR WRITER REPORT
for John's Heart Attack



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The Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to present text relevant to interpreting the Decumbiture chart. What is a decumbiture? It may be one of several events - the time a person feels so sick that they retire to their bed (the traditional meaning), or it may be the time of a sudden onset of a disease condition, such as a seizure. It may be the time of admission to a hospital. Each of these would be interpreted in the same way - as a starting point to the delineation of what the disease condition may be, whether it is physical, mental or spiritual, how readily it may be cured, and the general length of the disease. **Please note that this report should never be taken as a substitute for an examination and diagnosis by a qualified health care practitioner.**

The difficulty that Astrologers have faced when confronted with medical questions is that the astrological literature consists mostly of extensive lists of very specific aphorisms (e.g., "...in questions relating to sick people, or Decumbitures, Whether the Lord of the Seventh, and Seventh House itself, be free from Impediments? for if they be, the sick may safely trust himself to the care of the Physicians, for medicines will do very well. But if the Seventh House and its Lord shall be Afflicted, Ptolemy saith 'The Physician must be changed, for neither the physic nor care will do any good,' for the 7th signifies the medicine, as 'Zael' saith. Or at least the disease grows chronic and lasting. The like is to be expected if the same positions happen at the beginning of any cure." [Bonatti]).

The challenge of this material is that none of the works are very much systematized, much less critically discussed. It is left to the individual Astrologer to "collect" all the relevant aphorisms that apply to a particular Decumbiture, despite the fact that these ideas are scattered over a number of references, in a number of languages, with no indexing available!

This program attempts to rectify this difficulty by automatically collecting all the aphorisms that apply, and by presenting this information in a systematic fashion. Only then can we really study this material, and make our way through it critically. To date, we have no idea how systematically *any* of these ideas were applied, because the historical examples that we have only present a short list of aphorisms per chart. Did they ignore the rest, or never even attempt them? Did every physician attempt to memorize literally hundreds of considerations? We just don't know.

Types of Medical Charts and Delineations

There are several types of medical charts. The Decumbiture, mentioned above, is the basic type. However, it was common to deal with disease through the use of Horary Astrology. In this case, either the Patient, or a Party related to the Patient, would consult the physician, and this would be treated as a variant of the question: What is the cause of my illness, and will I recover? This computer program also applies to this type of question, but only if the Patient is represented by the 1st House.

When is the Patient given by the 1st House in Horary? There are several ways.

- The Patient asks the question. In Horary, the person asking the question, or Querent, is always given by the 1st House.
- The Patient is unable to ask the question, and so designates another party to ask on her or his behalf. Traditionally, this was a servant or relative. Notice that this method **requires** that permission be granted to the asking party.

If the question is asked by another, it works better if the party asking is not likely to figure in the horary otherwise. The reason for this is simple - the 1st house always shows the Querent, and this meaning can only be ignored if the Querent's interests are not vitally affected by the outcome of this horary. Thus, it is unlikely that a son or daughter could ask this question concerning a parent, and be so objective that the son or daughter's response to the disease or threat of death could be ignored. In this case, the emotional response of the child to the parent could mask the reading of the First House for the vitality of the parent. It could instead show the state of the Querent! As Saunders explained,

"It's very necessary in this manner of Judgment, that you always have respect unto the Question; for if the Question come direct, that the Party sick did send, or was acquainted with the coming of the Messenger, or Urine, then ought you always to have respect to the Ascendant, the Lord thereof, to the Moon, to the 8th House, and Lord thereof..." (page 41)

Saunders also gives a special case for a parent asking about a child.

"And also, whereas you may desire to know where the Ascendant shall be taken, when the Father or Mother do make the Question for their Son or Daughter, without consent of the Sick,

"This you shall observe after our Experience in such a case -

"The 4th House shall be the Ascendant for the Querent, and for the Urine.

"The 1st House and Lord thereof, shall be the Ascendant for the Son or Daughter sick." (pages 42-43)

Actually, Saunders addresses this issue in gory detail, pages 72-80, of which we have only summarized here the most significant cases. Once it has been determined that the 1st House really does apply to the Patient, we can proceed with our delineation.

However, before we do, a word about "acute" and "chronic." Diseases were either viewed as being delineated using the Moon or the Sun as timer, depending on whether the disease was acute or chronic. Acute disease run their course in less than 30-90 days; chronic ones, longer. Much of what gets said concerning the Moon can be used for the Sun if the disease has turned chronic.

And, of course, a word about the urine and our 20th Century sensibilities... It was standard procedure when a Patient was too sick to go to a physician for the Patient to send a sample of a bodily fluid. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that urine was the most likely candidate. When the physician received the sample, he would cast a chart for the moment of receipt, hence the professional term "urine caster," for the casting of a chart. The urine was also examined for color, turbidity, and taste. This was the genesis of the modern urine sample that is often requested for a medical examination.

Understanding the system of disease presented here requires an understanding of the system of Humoral Medicine that developed out of Hippocrates' system. Many of the descriptions refer to the qualities - hot, cold, wet and dry - by degrees. These degrees work in the same way that burn degrees work. A 1st degree burn, or a humor hot in the first degree, is much more minor than a 2nd degree burn, or a condition hot in the second degree. The highest degree of quality is the 4th, which is a near fatal condition: either an extreme burning fever for hot in the 4th degree, or a metabolism so shut down as to be at death's door for cold in the 4th degree.

Thus, when degrees are given for the qualities, we can see immediately how serious the condition is. It is worth reminding ourselves that the more serious the description, the more likely it is that significant medical intervention will be necessary to get the condition under control.

This, then, relates to the utility of the delineation of Death in the Decumbiture. It is important for us to mentally insert the modifier "without aggressive medical intervention" into each warning of Death. Consider that, in Saunder's day, pneumonia, measles, scarlett fever, chicken pox, not to mention gangrene, were almost always death sentences. Any serious condition for which you were given a full dose of antibiotics *could* have been fatal in earlier centuries.

This does not mean that fatality is no longer possible: of course it is. In the cases where fatality is a strong possibility, there's a high probability that the illness will represent a major crisis in one's life, if it doesn't in turn result in death. We may also return to a comment I made in the beginning: that part of the delineation of a disease condition is to classify it as physical, mental or spiritual. This is not my opinion: it is a firmly grounded concept in the philosophy of our tradition. A disease that is spiritual in origin may not be "dangerous" to the body, but it can still kill. It is also not going to be susceptible to the methodology of conventional medicine, because the cure of the Body only tangentially affects the Spirit.

The curious conclusion is that this traditional medical diagnosis may ultimately provide a bridge between the more biochemically, bioenergetically, or spiritually based approaches to Medicine, by suggesting an appropriate treatment protocol.

How to Use this Report

Because this report draws on such a variety of sources and methods, it is difficult to conceive of taking this report as a literal description of the disease. The lists of conditions covered by the Significators is often overwhelming. On a first screen, the best plan is probably to specifically watch for the organ part(s) and/or symptoms known to be included in the condition in the delineation. If the description of the disease specifically lists the condition as known, then the condition is more serious.

This may seem like a strange way to proceed. But consider surgery. At approximately the same time, in the same hospital complex, a laser cataract procedure, an open heart surgery, a nose job, an EKG, and a cancer surgery could be starting, not to mention the fact that a child could be delivered. Suppose that the chart for this time highlights eye conditions. Does this mean that the heart surgery isn't needed? Not at all! But it suggests that the eye operation, although arguably the simplest and least dangerous of the procedures listed is likely to be the one with the greatest consequences.

So does that mean that the eye patient dies on the table? Probably not. However, there may be consequences: vision is not improved, or it turns out that there was another condition present with the cataract that now is allowed to manifest.

Another factor to consider: in virtually all cases, there are astrological conditions that would merit the statement, "danger of death," just as there are likely to be conditions that would be listed as "recovery." This is probably a good way of reminding us of the myriad possibilities present in each moment. If the "danger of death" warnings exceed the "recovery" ones, then the condition is probably grave enough to require considerable attention.

The Humors

The classical medical model was given by Hippocrates a century before astrology had been incorporated into Greek thought. This model incorporated four basic qualities: Hot, Cold, Wet, and Dry. These four qualities varied by season, gender, age, and person. The ideal of Hippocrates was to lead a balanced life. If the body is balanced, then disease is less likely to take hold. The method of creating balance was diet and regimen.

I have written extensively on the philosophical underpinnings of this model in my book, *Classical Astrology for Modern Living*. This introduction reviews some of the more pertinent points as they apply to lifestyle issues.

The entire ancient scheme was based on the four qualities: Hot, Cold, Wet and Dry. "Hot" and "Cold" were one pair - "Wet" and "Dry" the other. These qualities are understood somewhat differently within the context of disease than they are in a natal analysis.

"Whatsoever is Hot, as the Fire is his Simple and Elementary Quality, doth heat, open, digest, attenuate, ripen, subtilitate [i.e., to make more subtle: remember that Fire is of the Spirit], and make thin, and simple, and maketh soft.

"Whatsoever in his Simple and Elementary Quality and Nature is Moist, as the Air, doth moisten, putrifie and corrupt, make slippery, lighten, and conglutinate [i.e., to congeal].

"Whatsoever is Dry, as the Earth is in its Simple Quality and nature, drieth, maketh barren, attracteth and setleth, and is the worst in decreasing.

"Whatsoever is Cold in his Simple Nature and Quality, as the Water, doth make cold, thicken, and causeth indigestion, congealeth, destroyeth, maketh hard, knitteth together. It doth not pierce and open, but shutteth, incloseth and stoppeth, and nourisheth not, but astonisheth and extinguisheth the Radical Heat and Breath of Life." (Sa-069)

Each of the four qualities actually represents a cluster of concepts, and their opposites. For example, the qualities Hot and Cold do not represent extremes of a temperature continuum, as we would define them. They represent *qualities* of energy, where *Hot* represents high energy or physical heat, and *Cold* represents low energy or physical Cold. But these qualities are opposites in a critically different way from the way we normally envision them. Take temperature. From a purely chemical perspective, molecules in a hotter gas vibrate more rapidly on average than molecules in a colder gas. Mixing Hot and Cold gases will produce an intermediate result. In other words, in our thinking the "Cold" portion is completely canceled out by a portion of the "Hot" component. But this is not how it works - at least as far as the qualities, and not chemistry, is concerned! People are, in fact, more than capable of expressing opposite qualities without one canceling the other. In psychological testing there is often an index of consistency, which is actually a measure of to what extent an individual will give the same answer to the same question. If such an index is deemed necessary, it becomes clear exactly how capable we are of expressing "incompatible" ideas and emotions! Opposites do *not* cancel each other out!

Thus, people - or a disease condition - can have Hot and Cold qualities *simultaneously*. In fact, having "half and half" would be to manifest equal quantities of each, not to have a "zero-sum state" in which "Hot" cancels "Cold," perhaps producing lukewarm. It may be useful to envision Hot and Cold as being like two different colored marbles, red and blue. Having more blue marbles doesn't take away the red ones: it just means that, if you were to draw one marble out of a box at random, you would more likely draw a blue one, but you could draw a red one.

In addition to the simple (one element types), there are also combinatory disease conditions. Saunders gives them as follows.

"Whatsoever is Hot and Dry of Nature, is choleric, generative, attractive, durative, and conservative, drying, heating, and attracting; doth harden, and cause watchfulness, because of heating and drying of the Brain and Head; they do also exhaust and draw, gather together and collect, they also cleanse and purge, provoke to sledge [i.e., siege: to a crisis point in the disease], and make sweet, they do cleanse and scour the Body replenished with cold and moist Humours.

"Whatsoever is Hot and Moist, generates by reason of Heat, and corrupteth by reason of Moisture, and bringeth not to perfection.

"Whatsoever is Cold and Dry participateth of duration and destruction; for if the Dry exceed the Cold, then it will be durative [lasting], , but if the cold Quality in the same subject exceed the dry, then destructive, & *est sicut Lignum aridum*.

"Whatsoever is Cold and Moist, is indigestible material, corruptive, and always destructive, none generative, *neque durat, neque fructum sert, sed obstupes*, expulsive, refrigerated, humid, corruptible, mortificant; creates heaviness, dulness, and slowness in all things, provokes to sleep and drowsiness, Rots, consumes, separates and divides, is of the nature of the Moon and Venus, ingenders moist and watry Humours and Impostumes [swellings], and repels Humours by congelation and thickening, dispersing them in sundry places." (Sa-070)

Each type has what were called Natural or Unnatural characteristics. These, for example, illustrate the natural and unnatural characteristics of choler:

"Natural Choler [pronounced like "collar"] is hot and dry, temperate, and maintaineth the Attractive Virtue in all the Members of the Body, to the maintenance of Life and Health, and the right Natural Choler is reddish, clear and pure.

"Unnatural Choler, if it abound in the Gall, it overfloweth the Liver, and causeth the yellow Jaundies, and there are caused many bitter belchings in the Stomach. If Unnatural Choler in the Liver commix it self with Blood in the Veins, and ascend to the Brain, it maketh the Party light-witted, and frantick, and drieth the Radical moisture and humidity of the Brain, preventing sleep and rest." (Sa-148)

The important point is how to tell whether the humor is natural or unnatural. Saunders explains this as follows:

"Choler is one of the four Natural Humours in the body of Man, and is ingendred in the Liver, and hath its residence in the Gall. And by nature Choler is maintained the Virtue Attractive in the members of Man, which is hot and dry, and is of the nature of Venus and Sun, if it be Natural. But if it be Unnatural and burnt, then it is of the nature of Mars, which is hot and dry, by Nature untemperate." (Sa-147)

The critical point to notice is that natural choler is lodged in the Venus-ruled parts of the body. Venus is cold and wet, so natural choler is lodged in those areas of opposite nature. Also, the Sun is hot and dry, but much less so than Mars, so that choler can naturally occur in temperance in organs of a like nature. The natural condition is the healthy type; the unnatural is the unhealthy type. Thus, when Mars-ruled organs become excessively hot and dry, they are likely to become focal points for disease.

Hippocratic medicine combines allopathy and homeopathy. The allopathic approach would mean that if you have become out of balance because your body is experiencing too much heat (that Mars transit to your Sun?), then you need to take a Cold herb, Cold food, Cold exercise, or literally experience Cold

temperatures in order to cool yourself down. Homeopathy would give you a small amount of a slightly hot to kick your system back to balance.

Hippocrates believed that, in adults at any rate, the biggest problem that resulted in disease was either eating the wrong foods, the wrong mixture of food, or too much food in the absence of exercise. What bearing does this have on allopathy and homeopathy? Going back to basics, an **allopathic** approach to the cure of a disease is to give a substance or create a circumstance which is opposite in nature to the nature of the symptoms, or of the disease itself. Thus, for a poison, we give an antidote which is antagonistic in its effect on the poison itself. A **homeopathic** approach is to give a similar or identical substance in small quantity, essentially to "kick" the body back into balance. By definition, allopathic medicines have higher dosages than homeopathic.

If we then consider that Hippocrates is saying the biggest problem that puts people in danger of disease is food, then immediately we have a clue that food can **only** be an allopathic agent, because food is eaten in bulk. Spices or medicines can be either, because the concentration is so much lower relative to the concentration of foods, that it's possible to administer either an allopathic, or a homeopathic dosage.

Nicholas Culpeper addressed disease in a somewhat different Manner. Speaking of Saturn, he said,

"The great wisdom of a physician is to know whether *Saturn* cause the disease by ... Sympathy or Antipathy, and then take notice, that as the cause is, so is the cure., Sympathetical, or antipathetical: and withal do not forget, that sympathetical cures strengthen nature; Antipathetical cures, in one degree of another weaken it; ... Antipathetical Medicines are not be used, unless to such Patients whom Doctor Ignorance or Doctor Carelessness hath had so long in hand, that Sympathetical will not serve the turn.... If *Saturn* cause the disease by Sympathy, cure it by the Sympathetical herbs of *Saturn*. If he cause the disease by Antipathy, note whether it be by Antipathy to Sun or Moon.... Make use of the Sympathetical herbs of these Planets ... for cure." (Page 46)

What we begin to perceive is that the concepts **allopathic** and **homeopathic** may not be inclusive enough: Culpeper is clearly talking about the broader terms **antipathetic** and **sympathetic**. When Culpeper refers to antipathy, he is mainly referring to the dispositor of the signs in which the planet is in Detriment. So here, Saturn is in Detriment in Cancer and Leo; thus, the antipathetic causes are the Moon or the Sun.

If we apply the more modern parlance of "antagonistic" to the quainter term "antipathetic," the situation becomes even clearer. Much of modern medicine is based on the principle of antagonism: if the patient has high blood pressure, give them something to bring it down; if the patient has low thyroxin, then give them thyroxin (or a chemical relative) to increase the amount in the system. Granted, this is being done within the context of a completely different theory of disease. However, the older theories explain one bane of modern medicine: the frequency of side effects. As Culpeper says, treating a condition antagonistically **weakens** the system. Therefore, we see side effects, which we can understand as being manifestations of this phenomenon.

If we are to understand how this whole system works within an astrological framework, then we need to reintegrate the Humours Theory within conventional astrological analysis. Here's how it works. In your Natal Report from Solar Writer/Classical, there is a computation of your temperament. This computation is based on a number of factors, but in a way completely different from the approach of conventional astrology. The conventional astrological analysis can be broken down into an equivalent method for computing one or more dominant planets.

First, it's necessary to determine which planets are predominant in the natal chart.

- Any planet in an angular house should be considered important, especially if it is conjunct the angle.
- The Ruler of the Ascendant, the Sun, and the Moon are all potential candidates *if* any one also disposes a number of other planets, or conjoins a Royal or other significant Fixed Star.
- In the absence of other indications, the most dignified planet may be considered.

Once we have decided upon the planet(s) to use, then we can translate them into qualities.

- Saturn is Cold and Dry.
- Jupiter is Hot and Moist.
- Mars is Hot and Dry.
- The Sun is Hot and Dry, but not as much as Mars.
- Venus is Hot and Moist.
- Mercury adapts to its sign and conjunctions.
- The Moon is Cold and Moist.

The signs of the planets modify the effect of the planets, as follows:

- Fire Signs are Hot and Dry.
- Water Signs are Cold and Wet.
- Air Signs are Hot and Wet.
- Earth Signs are Cold and Dry.

The reason that we mention this is because so much of the analysis of what is out of balance requires basic understanding of these qualities. If you examine the Decumbiture analysis, you may see that Hot and Wet qualities predominate in the disease description. If you are naturally Cold and Dry, then the nature of the disease is completely antagonistic to your natural balance, and may wreck more havoc than the reverse. Hot people *tend* to experience more fevers (and higher ones) than Cold people. On the other hand, there *are* limits. A fever above a certain degree will kill, just as reduced metabolism below a certain degree (the cold equivalent) will kill.

Different humors also react differently to disease in general *regardless* of the nature of the disease. Thus we see that when the Natal Complexion is Choleric, the disease is shorter. (Cu-061) When the Natal Complexion is Melancholic, the disease is longer. (Cu-061)

In the **Notes** section, we have correlated the so-called *Faculties* with the Qualities, which is another way of doing this analysis. The Faculties have to do with the body's reaction mechanisms to an excess of particular qualities.

This program analyses the Decumbiture Chart, which becomes a blueprint for how the disease process has developed. Thus, here we have already started from the position that a disease has occurred. What we have just seen is the theory behind the understanding of disease onset in the first place. The rest of this report focuses on describing that disease.

Interpretation of Planetary Placements

The Moon

As Culpeper says of the Moon, the stronger, the better, the weaker, the worse. (Cu-066) One of the specifically important considerations about the Moon is that she rules relapses. (C1-091) The Moon also gives most changes in the condition, unless the disease is chronic in nature. It is almost impossible to overrate the Moon in the delineation of Decumbitures. In compiling this survey of aphorisms, I found that approximately one quarter of the total concern the Moon. A large proportion of the aphorisms relating to either danger of death or likelihood of recovery come from the Moon.

The formula for determining the gravity of an illness is rather simple: if the Moon is in good condition, and either approaching benefic(s), or improving in dignity, then the disease is neither serious, nor will it last very long. If the Moon is in bad condition, but moving to benefics, or improving in condition, then the condition of the patient will improve. But if the Moon is either moving to malefics, or deteriorating in condition, then the condition gets worse. If the Moon starts out in a bad condition, and then deteriorates from there, the condition is especially grave, because then the patient has no resources to fight the disease.

"The Moon is cold and moist, flegmatick by nature, and yet more moist than cold, she having chief dominion over all Bodies inhabiting this Globe of mortality.... She is most temperate, not much disagreeing from Nature, because it is her own house...

"The Moon hath of the Body humane, the Brain, the Lights [lungs], the Marrow, the Neck, the taste, the swallowing, the Back-bone, the Stomach, the Menstrues [menstruation], and all the Excrements, the right Eye of a Woman, and the left Eye of a Man, the force and strength of growing, the left side of the Stomach, the Head, the Matrix [womb], the Vulva, and according to some, she hath the Belly and Mother in Women..." (Sa-197/8).

The Moon is in a Fixed Sign

Disease is prolonged. (Cu-005) Long illness. (Li-0253) Less medication is better. (C2-148)

...and The Moon is leaving a Trine with Mars

"The grief diminisheth." (BL-073)

...and The Moon is leaving a Conjunction with the Ruler of the 12th House

"The grief diminisheth." (BL-073)

The Moon is Dignified and not Combust

...and The Moon is not Debilitated

Argument of recovery. (Li-283)

The Moon is Square the 1st House Cusp

...and Mars is not Hard the 1st House Cusp

...and Saturn is not Hard the 1st House Cusp

...and Dispositor of The Sun is Mars

...and Mars is Peregrine

"... then is the Patient vexed with a tormented Soul." (Li-265)

The Moon is approaching a Trine with Saturn

The disease is at its peak. (Sa2-006) "An ill omen." The Querent doesn't understand what is happening, and has no confidence in her/his symptoms. (Li-0253)

The Moon is Trine Jupiter

Recovery. (Sa-065) Purging may do harm to patient. (AN1-225)

The Moon is leaving a Trine with Jupiter

The problem is in the Body, because that is what Jupiter affects. (Li-264)

...and The Moon is approaching an Opposition with Mercury

"[T]he Disease will diminish." (Sa2-005)

The Moon is Trine Mars***...and The Moon is Trine Saturn***

Danger of death. (Co-184)

...and The Moon is approaching an Opposition with Mercury

"[T]he Disease will diminish." (Sa2-005)

The Moon is approaching an Opposition with Mercury***...and Dispositor of Saturn is Mercury***

Danger of death. (Lou-082)

The Moon is Opposite The South Node

Danger of death. (C1-087)

The Moon is Conjunct The North Node

Danger of death. (Sa-040)

The Moon is approaching an Opposition with Mercury***...and Mercury is in the 4th House******...and Saturn is approaching a Square with the Ruler of the 1st House******...and Saturn is in the 2nd House***

Danger of death. (Li-283)

The Moon is approaching a Trine with the Ruler of the 6th House

Disease will increase, possibly to a life-threatening stage. (Cu-062) Disease has not peaked. (Sa-044) Likely to be problems or complications in the course of the illness. (Cu-063)

The Moon is approaching a Trine with the Ruler of the 8th House

Likely to be problems or complications in the course of the illness. (Cu-063)

The Moon is Trine the Ruler of the 8th House

Danger of death. (Sa-041) "One fears for the sick." (Her-071)

The Moon is in Taurus

In the Four-footed signs, Medication provokes vomiting. (C2-148) In the ruminating signs, it's not good to give a purge, because the body tends toward vomiting. (Her-074) If this occurs on a Critical Day, it bodes well for Recovery. (Cu-067)

The Moon is in the 10th House
...and The Moon is Trine the Ruler of the 8th House
...and The Moon is Antiscion the Ruler of the 8th House
 Recovery. (Sa-064)

The Sun

The Sun rules chronic diseases in the same way that the Moon rules acute ones. (Cu-007)

As the Ruler of a Disease, the Sun gives short diseases. (C1-091) It increases hot and dry diseases, being somewhat hot and dry itself. (C4-088)

The Sun is in the 4th House
 Joys in this placement. (Cu-041)

The Sun is approaching a Square with the Ruler of the 6th House
 Likely to be problems or complications in the course of the illness. (Cu-063)

The Sun is approaching a Square with the Ruler of the 8th House
 Likely to be problems or complications in the course of the illness. (Cu-063)

The Sun is leaving a Conjunction with the Ruler of the 1st House
...and The Sun is approaching a Square with the Ruler of the 8th House
 Danger of death. (Sa-039)

The Sun is Square Saturn
 Disease long and tedious, if not mortal. (Cu-070) Disease is melancholic, and will last longer than anticipated. (Cu-056)

The Sun is Square Saturn
...and The Moon is Trine Saturn
 "... denote[s] a chronical and long Distemper..." (Sa-064)

The Moon's Nodes

This section contains aphorisms which apply only to a limited number of charts, and if none apply to this chart, it will be blank.

The North Node is Square the 1st House Cusp
 Violence in disease and danger to patient. (Cu-027)

The North Node is in the 10th House
 "[P]ain in the Back, Reins and Kidneys." (Sa-098)

The South Node is in the 4th House
 "[P]ain and distemper in the Stomach." (Sa-098)

Interpretation of House Placements

Astrology gathers themes under twelve areas, known as houses. In a health reading, only a few of these houses are used. The 1st House shows the vitality of the Patient. The 6th House shows the nature of the disease. The 8th House shows death, if death is a likely scenario.

Sources for text are shown as an abbreviation after each paragraph. Note that the text is derived from these various classical sources, and does not represent exact quotations, unless enclosed in quotations. The full source listing is given in the References section. In this case, the report follows the source texts to the greatest extent possible, since its purpose is to provide a comprehensive listing of ideas which apply to a decumbiture, not to filter and edit those ideas.

The most common system of house rulerships gives the house attributions as follows:

- The Patient and her/his vitality is given by the 1st House.
- The End-of-the Matter is given by the 4th House.
- The Illness and its cause is given by the 6th House.
- The Physician is given by the 7th House.
- Death, or the possibility of it, is given by the 8th House.
- The Physic, or treatment method, is given by the 10th House.
- Hospitalization, or bewitchment, is given by the 12th House.

However, there wasn't total consensus on these attributions. Ganivettus, cited by Saunders (pages 35-36) gives this alternate list:

- The Patient and her/his vitality is given by the 1st House.
- The Illness and its cause is given by the 6th House.
- The Physician is given by the 10th House.
- Death, or the possibility of it, is given by the 8th House.
- The Physic, or treatment method, is given by the 4th House.

The following sections describe the affairs of each of the houses in relation to the decumbiture chart. However, note that there are no aphorisms for the 2nd, 3rd and 11th houses.

Affairs of the 1st House: Health and Vitality

What is vitality? It was seen as a force, with different persons having greater or lesser degrees of it. A strong vitality was necessary - but not sufficient - in order to have a long life. When we deal with vitality in the context of illness delineation, we are really asking the question, Is the vitality stronger than the disease, or than the threat of death? If your life force is stronger than the disease force which is oppressing you, you live. If not, you may die.

There are also diseases specifically related to the 1st House: headaches, eye disease, brain fevers or tumors, epilepsy, nervous weakness, bone marrow diseases, jaw disease, tooth disease, nervous system disease, sense organ disease (sight, smell, taste, etc.), nose problems, face problems, ear problems, and baldness.

The Almuten of The Ascendant is in the 9th House

The belly is a site of the illness (Sa-097)

Ruler of the 1st is Combust

Danger of death. (AN1-207) Death is doubtful. (Li-283) Patient may be cured, but will suffer a relapse after a short time which may present grave danger or "desperate infirmity." (Li-251)

Ruler of the 1st is Peregrine

Death is doubtful. (Li-283) Patient may be cured, but will suffer a relapse after a short time which may present grave danger or "desperate infirmity." (Li-251)

...and Saturn is Square the Ruler of the 1st House

"And [if] no fortune [is] interposing, sheweth death." (BL-074)

The Sun is the Ruler of the 1st House

"... infirmity is Bodily" (Li-265)

...and The Sun is in a Fixed Sign

Argueth long and lasting griefs or infirmities." (BL-073)

...and The Sun is Debilitated by Peregrine

"It's a very evil sign..." (Sa-060)

Ruler of the 1st is in the 4th House

Danger of death. (Cu-069)

...and Mars is not Aspect the Ruler of the 1st House

Signifies recovery. (Li-251)

...and Ruler of the 1st is Square the Ruler of the 8th

Danger of death. (BL-074)

Ruler of the 1st is approaching a Square with the Ruler of the 6th House

Disease has not peaked. (Sa-044) Likely to be problems or complications in the course of the illness. (Cu-063)

Ruler of the 1st is Square the Ruler of the 6th

"... it protracts the Disease, and is an argument of much affliction therein." (Li-284) Sickness is "natural." (Sa-043) "There's a danger in the disease threatened." (Li-251)

Ruler of the 1st is Square the Ruler of the 8th

Death is likely cure. (Cu-064) "One fears for the sick." (Her-071) Danger of death. (Cu-068)

Ruler of the 1st is approaching a Square with the Ruler of the 8th House

Likely to be problems or complications in the course of the illness. (Cu-063)

Saturn is approaching a Square with the Ruler of the 1st House

"...retards the cure, prolongs the infirmity." (Li-251)

Saturn is Square the Ruler of the 1st House

"... the sick party labours with some affliction of the Minde, or with some vexatious care whereof his minde is much troubled." (Li-264)

The Ascendant is in Leo

"... it is a good sign of Life." (Sa-057)

*Saturn is not Aspect The Ascendant**...and Saturn is Trine The Moon*

The problem is in the body, not the spirit. (Li-284)

*Mars is not Aspect the 1st House Cusp**...and Mars is Trine The Moon*

The problem is in the body, not the spirit. (Li-284)

Affairs of the 4th House: Stomach, Lungs, and the End-of-the-Matter

The 4th House rules diseases of the stomach and lungs, including pleurisy, pneumonia, coughs, tumors, swellings, etc.

Dispositor of The Ascendant is in 4th

The stomach will be a site of the illness. (Sa-095)

Planetary Hour Ruler (Mercury) is in the 4th House

The stomach will be a site of the illness. (Sa-095)

Affairs of the 5th House: The Liver and the Humour of the Disease

In a modern context, we seldom associate the 5th House with anything health-related, but Saunders assigned it to the rulership of the Liver. The Liver was understood as the seat of whatever humoral imbalance occurs.

The 5th House also rules false pregnancy and diseases of the reproductive system.

Almuten of the 5th is Peregrine

It is hard to cure, because the Body in essence is too weak to help. (Sa-093) The cause is a condition resulting from a weakness or debility of the nature of the ruling planet. (Sa-094)

Affairs of the 6th House: Illness, and the Nature of Disease

In medical charts, the 6th House is used to describe the nature of the disease. Nature of disease described by sign, ruler, planets in, especially if in aspect to luminary or Ascendant. (Cu-039) The 6th House also specifically relates to sciatica, and other diseases of the same area of the body.

Jupiter is in Late Degrees

A sudden change in the disease, but whether for the good or the worse is dependent on other factors. (BL-073)

Ruler of the 6th House is Saturn

You are subject to the following general health issues: rheumatism, leprosy, obstructions, trembling, palsies, toothache, deafness, vain fears, gout, rashes with itching, knee problems, hemorrhoids, fractures, dislocations, ruptures, sciatica, bladder infections, madness, chronic disease, or forgetfulness.

"Saturn in a Chronical Disease is the Author of such as proceed of Melancholy, as Quartan Agues [malaria], Black Jaundices [hepatitis], obstruction of the Spleen, Deafness, Madness proceeding of Melancholy, Palsie, Swimmings in the head, ringings and noise in the Ears, Anorexia, Hyposarca [edema], Gouts, Prisis [misspelling of phthisis, tuberculosis], Crudities, and Flux [any excessive flow]. In acute disease Saturn being the Morbificant Planet, the Disease shall proceed of superabundance of Flegm, and crude Humours, Surfeits [excesses], stuffing of the pipes with Flegm, toughness of the Stomach, a lassitude and weariness in all the Limbs, lothness to speak, the Pulse slow and remiss, all Impediments in the right Ear and Teeth, Leprosies, Rheums [discharges], Consumptions [tuberculosis], Palsies, Tremblings, vain Fears, Fantasy, Dropsy [edema], the hand and foot-Gout, Apoplexies [cerebral hemorrhage, embolism, occasionally paralysis of other organs], Dog-hunger [i.e., ravenous appetite], too much flux of the Hemorrhoids..." (Sa-019) "Saturn is Cold and Dry, Melancholick, resembling the Earth, with a superfluous cold Flegm, naturally Noxious and Evil, Unwholsom, Unpleasant." (Sa-067) Long Disease. (Cu-062) "... the sick party labours with some affliction of the Minde, or with some vexatious care whereof his minde is much troubled." (Li-264) Disease continues for a long time and is likely to become chronic. (Co-183) "... he produceth continued and tedious Sickneses, quartan Agues, Coughs, consumptions, &c." (Li-261) Right side of body is afflicted. (Cu-060)

"[Saturn] causeth the falling-sickness [epilepsy], black Cholera and Leprosie, Morpew, Fistulas, and Podagra." (Sa-115)

...and Saturn is in Virgo

In addition, you are specifically subject to the following health issues: painful or blocked urination, bowel obstructions, flatulence, gripping of the guts, weakness in the thighs, kidney or bladder stones, or colic. Saturn in Virgo rules the thighs, genitals and feet.

...and Saturn is in range 0 Virgo to 5 Virgo

"Saturn... is cold and dry in the extremity of 2[nd] degree causing Disease of Melancholy, cold and dry, mixed with a certain superficial and tough Flegm, the which, if it possesseth the Liver, it causeth indigestion and a cold and dry Stomach, and maketh oppilations [obstructions] and indigestions in the Liver. And if it affect the Milt [spleen], it causeth swellings of the Milt, pain of the side, Stitches, with Consumptions. If it affect the heart, it causeth heaviness and evil thoughts. If it reach the Brain, it drieth the Brain, prevents Sleep, so that one shall be ever musing, melancholick and solitary. And when it falleth into the great guts, as it doth often, it causeth exceeding pain in the guts, like the Cholick, and it breedeth much wind in the Belly, and griping in the Bowels, and pain of the Haunches, and small of the Back, and an exceeding desire often to the Stool, and yet to void nothing but Flegm, and hard knobs like Nuts." (Sa-127)

...and Saturn is Occidental

Disease comes from heat, and seldom kills. (Cu-067)

...and Saturn is in a Mutable Sign

"... the Disease proceeds not from the disaffection of one humour alone, but hath many changings, receding and reverting, and yet the Disease continues a long time." (Li-262)

...and Saturn is in a Feminine Sign

...and Saturn is Trine The Moon

...and The Moon is in a Feminine Sign

...and The Moon is in the 10th House

"... the Disease is in the left side of the Body." (Li-263)

...and Saturn is Trine The Moon

...and Venus is in the 4th House

"... the Disease is in the left side of the Body." (Li-263)

...and Saturn is in a Feminine Sign

...and Saturn is in the 2nd House

When the Ruler of the 6th House is below the Horizon in a Nocturnal Sign, "... the infirmity is in the back part of the Body." (Li-263) Disease is in lower part of body, left side (Cu-060)

...and Saturn is in a Feminine Sign

Disease is in the back part of the body, or an internal area like the bowels. This kind is more difficult to diagnose. (Cu-060)

...and Saturn is Debilitated by Peregrine

"a signe of a strong fit of sickness." (Li-251)

...and Saturn is approaching a Square with the Ruler of the 1st House

Disease is increasing. (Cu-062)

...and Saturn is approaching a Square with the Ruler of the 1st House

Disease is increasing, and has not yet reached its maximum. (Li-249)

Ruler of the 6th House is in range 0 Aries to 9 Aries

"... the upper part of that Member is pained or grieved." (Li-264)

Ruler of the 6th is in the 2nd House

The neck or shoulders is a site of the illness. (Sa-097)

Jupiter is Trine the Ruler of the 6th House

Recovery soon. (Cu-063)

6th House Cusp is in Capricorn

Disease is shorter. (Cu-061) A short disease. (Li-248)

Ruler of the 6th House is Saturn

...and Saturn is Occidental

If the disease is hot in nature, then recovery occurs. (Li-253)

Affairs of the 7th House: The Physician and The Portals of Death

The 7th House specifically relates to diseases of the legs, Podagra [foot gout], feet, and toes. "...in questions relating to sick people, or Decumbitures, Whether the Lord of the Seventh, and Seventh House itself, be free from Impediments? for if they be, the sick may safely trust himself to the care of the

Physicians, for medicines will do very well. But if the Seventh House and its Lord shall be Afflicted, Ptolemy saith 'The Physician must be changed, for neither the physic nor care will do any good,' for the 7th signifies the medicine, as 'Zael' saith. Or at least the disease grows chronic and lasting. The like is to be expected if the same positions happen at the beginning of any cure." (Bon-068)

Jupiter is Trine the Ruler of the 7th House

"... refuse not in any wise the help of the Physician, for he shall by Gods help Cure thee, to Gods Glory, and Credit." (Sa-034)

Saturn is Conjunct the Ruler of the 7th House

"...change thy Physician, for he shall do no good, but be crafty in his Actions and Judgment, and to thee unfortunate." (Sa-034)

Affairs of the 8th House: Death

The 8th House relates to diseases that involve swellings or edemas. It also relates to Death.

As for death, astrology has long recognized that you can be plagued by many illnesses, but not die from them, instead dying by some completely different means. This idea used to fall under the rubric of "morbidity" versus "mortality." One further point on mortality: one method of delineating the nature of death is by using the planet ruling the 8th House, sometimes called Anareta. Some sources gave other options for a different planet to be Anareta. There is even a Part of Anareta. Whichever definition is preferred, the extent of dignity of the Anareta is important. A poorly dignified Anareta results in a sudden death. The idea was clearly that to die "well" meant to have the time to accept the process, make your peace with God and your fellows, and then to die in witnessed, genteel conditions, fully shriven or forgiven. A sudden death did not allow for absolution or preparation, and was thus less ideal. However, these days, with hosts of lingering illnesses possible, many of us prefer the concept of "sudden!"

Ruler of the 8th is in the 2nd House

...and Ruler of the 2nd is approaching a Conjunct with the Ruler of the 1st House

"...Because a Planet so affected becomes the destroyer of Life, and kills as well if it be a Fortune as an Infortand, that whether there be a reception or not." (Bon-092)

Ruler of the 8th is approaching a Square with the Ruler of the 1st House

"...Because a Planet so affected becomes the destroyer of Life, and kills as well if it be a Fortune as an Infortune, and that whether there be a reception or not" (Bon-092) Danger of death. (Sa-039) Likely to be problems or complications in the course of the illness. (Cu-063)

...and Saturn is Conjunct the Ruler of the 8th House

...and The Moon is Trine the Ruler of the 8th House

Danger of death. (Sa-060)

...and Ruler of the 1st House is The Sun

...and Saturn is Debilitated by Peregrine

...and The Sun is Debilitated by Peregrine

Danger of death. (Li-257)

Saturn is Conjunct the Ruler of the 8th House

...and Saturn is the Ruler of the 8th House

Danger of death. (Sa-057)

Affairs of the 9th House: Cholic and Windiness.

This house is only used in medical astrology occasionally, to refer to specific conditions.

Affairs of the 10th House: The Physic, also known as the Method of Treatment

The 10th House specifically relates to diseases of the kidneys, bowels, and back, also gonorrhea.

Affairs of the 12th House: Confinement, Hospitalization, and Bewitchment

The 12th House rules herpes, palsy, and diseases of the nerves and connective tissue.

General Notes

There are a number of considerations that apply to all decumbitures. Some of these are provided here.

One of the concepts mentioned in the various sections has been the four Virtues: digestion, attraction, retention, and expulsion. The virtues can be understood as processes, all of which are necessary for the functioning of the body. It is theoretically possible (if highly improbable) that one could have a temperament lacking a quality, such as cold. One cannot lack a virtue. The shutting off of a virtue would result in death, and the magnification of one virtue at the expense of the rest results in sickness.

"Digestion hath its operation, and is maintained by Blood, making his operation in the Stomach by the Liver, for so long as the Liver keepeth his natural proportion, by heat and moisture of good blood, so long shall the Body be in Health. And if the Party shall distemper himself by his Diet or otherwise, whereby the Liver is oppressed with much Moisture, Drowth, Heat or Cold, then the meat in the stomach for want of Decoction, by too much cold, or overmuch heat, fouleth and corrupteth the Blood, and breedeth distempers and Diseases of the Body, proceeding unnaturally from the excess of Cholera, Melancholy, Blood, or Flegm." (Sa-081) Remember that according to Hippocrates, diet was one of the most common causes of disease. Notice that the characterization of digestion highlights the qualities hot and wet, the qualities of both the air signs, and specifically of the planet Jupiter, which is given rulership of the liver. Not surprisingly, Jupiter was believed to rule the Digestive Virtue.

"The second of the four Virtues aforesaid is Attraction, this operation is performed by natural Heat and Cholera [natural means healthy while unnatural relates to a diseased condition], which is ingendered by good digestion, of the Liver, and hath its principal residence in the Gall, and if this Humour become ad[j]ust or abound [i.e., out of balance], the Blood is infected thereby, and many distempers and infirmities are caused...." (Sa-081) Venus rules the Attractive Virtue.

And what is the Virtue Retentive? It "conserveth the Nutriment in the Body till it be digested, and it is maintained by Melancholy, naturally cold and dry, and hath its proper residence in the Milt or Spleen...." (Sa-082) It is ruled by Saturn.

The Expulsive Faculty is ruled by the Moon and the Water Signs. It is characterized by moisture, and it works with Blood. "The Expulsive Virtue ... is that which driveth out by sledge, the dregs of the meat after digestion, and separateth that which the Attractive Virtue hath drawn down into the Bowels or Bladder, or that evacuateth, or driveth out of the Veins any evil or unnatural Humours gathered in any part of the Body or Members." (Sa-193)

In a disease condition, if any of these four planets predominated as the ruler of the 5th House, then that Virtue was believed to be the one out of balance, either by being too strong or too weak. If the ruler of the 5th House is dignified, then that Virtue is believed to be too strong. If the Ruler of the 5th House is in Detriment, Fall, or Peregrine, then the Virtue was believed to be too weak.

"But in all your ministrations for any Disease, let the Lord of the 6th House be weak and infortunate, in his Fall or Detriment, in a Cadent house, or in opposition to the 6th House. But if the lord of the 6th be Retrograde, or a Retrograde Planet in the 6th, or in the Sign of the 6th House, it is a sign that the Sickness will return again. Or if it be a Sore or Wound, that it will relapse and break out again." (SA-094)

"Touch no part of the Body with an Instrument to take away any Blood, when the Moon is in the Sign governing that Member." (CPT-020) This is the surgical rendering of the general understanding that the Moon in sign ruling disease was considered to be a very bad sign. (Cu-006)

When the Moon is in the element ruling the part of the body afflicted, it's good for administering a vomitative. (AN1-224) When the Moon is in the element ruling the part of the body afflicted, and the Planet ruling that part of body is angular, it's not a favorable outcome for purging. (AN1-226)

If the illness is ruled by Jupiter or Venus, this is unfortunate, because the Benefic acts as a malefic. (Lou-083) If the illness is ruled by Mars or Saturn, this is fortunate, because the Malefic acts as Benefic. (Lou-083)

Planets are consider inimical when houses or exaltations are opposite. (Cu-014) Or when qualities are opposite. (Cu-014) Or when planets are opposite or square other planets, they are accidentally inimical. (Cu-014)

"At the Erection of a Figure at the decumbiture, if it be contrary to that Radix, the Sick person will be in danger, especially if no good Planet assist" (CPt-044)

If the Season is Spring or Summer, the disease is shorter. (Cu-061) If the Season is Autumn or Winter, the Disease is longer. (Cu-061)

"A Disease or Sickness beginning when the Moon is in a Sign where an Infortune was at the Radix, or in square or opposition thereunto, will prove very grievous, and if she were then in ill Aspect of an Infortune, it will be dangerous. But if at the first falling Sick, she be upon the Radical place of a Fortune, there will be no danger." (CPt-042)

Another consideration is whether the planets involved are slow or fast (swift) of course. There is a generic understanding of the meaning of slow versus swift, with swift planets giving a faster than average duration for the disease, and slow planets giving a slower than average course. We can see this idea clearly in the following list of specific considerations:

- The Moon: If the Moon is swift, the cure is effected swiftly, if not immediately. (Li-0252) If the Moon is also in a sfot aspect to the Ruler of the Ascendant, the "Cure comes gallantly on" - and very quickly. (Cu-065) If the Moon is slow of course, and aspecting the Ascendant, the Moon "...retards the cure, prolongs the infirmity." (Li-0251), or alternately, the "Cure comes gallantly on" - but not very quickly. (Cu-065)
- The Ruler of the 1st House: If swift, then the sickness moves quickly through its stages. (Cu-064) If it is slow of course, then the sickness is slow in departing. (Cu-064) If in addition, the Ruler of the 1st House is Saturn, then the sickness gets worse. (Cu-064)
- If the Ruler of the 6th House is conjunct a Planet Slow of Course, the "Cure is slow to a hair." (Cu-065)
- If the Ruler of the 6th House is Saturn and Saturn is slow in motion, the disease is extremely prolonged. (Li-248)
- If either Mars or Saturn is in the 1st House and slow in motion, the disease may be in the head. (Li-244)

Planetary Hour

Mercury

Mercury gives variable diseases. (C1-091)

*The Moon is approaching an Opposition with Mercury
...and Mercury is in the 4th House*

The stomach will be a site of the illness. (Sa-095)

Venus

Venus gives mediocre or feeble diseases. (C1-091) Venus is more helpful to younger patients than older ones. (Cu-006) Venus helps, if disease is of a hot nature. (Cu-042) If disease is Mars-ruled, Venus is better than Jupiter. (Cu-006)

Venus is in the 4th House

...and Venus is not the Ruler of the 8th House

Brings speedy conclusion. (Cu-042)

...and Mars is Peregrine

...and Saturn is Peregrine

Recovery. (Sa-065) Recovery. (Cu-067)

Mars

Mars gives short, but acute diseases. (C1-091) Mars increases hot and dry diseases. (C4-088)

Mars is Oriental

A more dangerous position. (Sa-065)

Jupiter

Jupiter gives short diseases. (C1-091) Jupiter helps, if disease is of a cold nature. (Cu-042) If disease is Saturn-ruled, Jupiter is better than Venus. (Cu-006)

Saturn

Saturn gives long diseases. (C1-091) Saturn increases cold and dry diseases and increases long diseases. (C4-088)

Saturn is Occidental

"...if the Disease proceed from ... a hot Cause, he recovers [but be long weak]." (Sa-065)

Saturn is not Aspect the 1st House Cusp ...and Mars is not Aspect the 1st House Cusp

Good. (Cu-022)

The Moon is approaching a Trine with Saturn ...and Saturn is in the 2nd House

The neck or shoulders is a site of the illness. (Sa-097)

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Glossary of Terms

Accidental Dignity: this is a mix of conditions, all of which relate to the strength of a planet being increased (or decreased, with accidental debility) because of the planet's placement, apart from its tropical zodiacal position. The kinds of factors which are included in the tables of accidental dignity include: house placement, whether oriental or occidental, in conjunction to fixed stars, aspects to benefics or malefics, closeness to the Sun, and speed.

Almuten/Almutem: There are five Essential Dignities for any degree of the zodiac: the rulership (+5), exaltation (+4), triplicity (+3), term (+2), and face (+1). If you take a particular house cusp, find the planet which rules each of the five essential dignities of the position, and assign the points to the planet. The planet with the highest point value is the Almuten. For example: for 8 Aries 15: Mars is the ruler (+5), the Sun rules the exaltation (+4), the triplicity (+3) and the face (+1) = +8, and Mercury the terms (+2): the Sun is Almuten. Arabic sources give the word as "Almutem," but by the 17th Century, the word was consistently being translated and used as "Almuten."

Antiscion: "Some of the learned in this Art do hold that the Antiscions of the Planets be equivalent unto a Sextile or a Trine-aspect, especially if they were beneficial Planets; and their Contrantiscions to be of the nature of Quadrate or Opposition. How to know the Antiscions is no more than this; first, know the Antiscions of the signs, which is no more but a sign being equally distant with another from Cancer and Capricorn the two Tropicks; as Gemini hath its Antiscion in Cancer, Taurus in Leo, Aries in Virgo, Pisces in Libra, Aquarius in Scorpio, and Capricorn in Sagittary; for when the Sun is in 1° of Gemini, he is as far from the Tropick point of Cancer as when he is in 29° of Cancer; and in the 5° of Taurus, as when the 25° of Leo, &c.... The Contrantiscion is known thus; look in what sign, degree and minute your Antiscion falls, and your contrantiscion will be in the same degree and minute as your opposite sign to your Antiscion. [RA]

Application, "is when two Planets approach each other, either by Body or Aspect; and this may be three several ways: First, when both Planets are direct, for Example, Jupiter in 11 deg. of Aries, and Mars in 9 degrees of Aries, both of them direct; here Mars applies to a conjunction of Jupiter.

"The second is when two Stars are Retrograde, and apply to each other by a Retrograde motion; thus Jupiter in 9 degrees of Aries. Retrograde, and Mars in 11 degrees of the same Sign Retrograde also, here Mars applies to the body of Jupiter by Retrograde motion.

"Thirdly, when one Planet is Retrograde in more degrees of a Sign, and another direct in fewer; as suppose Mars in 12 degrees of Aries Retrograde, and Venus in 10 degrees of Aries, here Mars applies to Venus and Venus applies to Mars, and this kind of application is of great force and efficacy in all manner of Astrological Resolutions; but this must be remembered also, that a Superior Planet cannot apply to an Inferior one, unless he be Retrograde. "[PA]

Beholding: This word has shifted somewhat over time, but it refers to two planets which are either in ptolemaic aspect (conjunction, opposition, trine, square or sextile) or antiscial, or contranticial relationship.

"The Bendings": the points square the Nodal axis. If a planet square the Nodes is zodiacally between the North Node and the South Node (i.e., start counting at the North Node), then it is at the Northern Bending; if between the South Node and the North Node, it is at the Southern Bending.

Besieging: "this I think need no Explanation, for every Souldier understands it; as suppose Saturn in 10 deg. Jupiter in 1 deg. and Mars in 13 deg. of Leo; here Jupiter is besieged by Saturn and Mars." [PA]

Cazimi: "is when a Planet is in the heart of the Sun; that is, not distant from him above 17 min. as Mars in

10 deg. 30 min. of Aries, the Sun in 10 deg. 15 min. of Aries; here Mars is in Cazimi." [PA]

Combustion: "A Planet is Combust when he is not distant from the Sun 8 deg. 30 min. either before or after him; for Example, Jupiter in 10 deg. of Aries, the Sun in 14 deg. and Mars in 18, here both Jupiter and Mars are Combust; and observe that a Planet going to Combustion is more afflicted than when departing from it." [PA]

Essential Dignity: Essential dignity was a system for assessing the strength of a planet by its placement in the zodiac alone. There were five essential dignities: by sign, exaltation, triplicity, term, and face. A planet with dignity can act or do as it wants, whereas a planet without dignity has difficulty getting from Point A to Point B except by a very circuitous route.

Face: One of the minor dignities, also called Chaldean decanates. The faces are 10° slices of the signs, marked by planetary rulers falling in the sequence known as the Chaldean order. The Face is given +1 point.

In a House; the **5° rule:** Consider the movement of the planets diurnally. For example, the Sun "rises" by going from the 1st House to the 12th House. A planet on the 12th House side of the Ascendant may be said to be angular if it is within 5° of the Ascendant: this is the so-called 5° rule. Depending on the source, this may actually entail anywhere from 2° to 7-8°, depending on the source, and whether the House moved into is Angular, Succedent, or Cadent (largest for Angular; smallest for Cadent).

Joys: This word was used two ways, which can lead to some confusion. One use was as a synonym for "exaltation." The second was an indicator of which house would be the top choice for a given planet. The joys by house are: Mercury = 1st House, Moon = 3rd House, Venus = 5th House, Mars = 6th House, Sun = 9th House, Jupiter = 11th House, and Saturn = 12th House.

Occidental: "is when a Planet or Star sets after the Sun is down." [PA]

Oriental: "is when a Planet riseth before the Sun." [PA]

Partile: within the same degree number. Notice that this is not an orb size. The Moon at 6 Leo 01 is partile Mars at 6 Leo 59, while the Moon in the same place, and Mars at 5 Leo 59 is within a degree, but not partile. Any aspect may be called either partile, or plactic, for those that are not partile.

Peregrine: "a Planet is Peregrine when he is in a Sign and degree where he hath no Essential dignity, as Mars in 26 degrees of Gemini is Peregrine, because he hath no dignity there, &c." [PA]

Quality: the Greek system of components that underlaid their elemental and physical systems: the qualities are hot & cold (active), and wet & dry (Passive). Please refer to the table shown under "temperaments" to see how these qualities corresponded to the system of elements.

Reception "is when two Planets are in each other's dignities, as the Sun in Aries, and Mars in Leo, here is a Reception by House, it may be also by Exaltation, Triplicity, Term and Face." [PA]

Sect: whether diurnal or nocturnal. The primary sect of a chart is whether the chart itself is by day or night. A night chart has the Sun posited in the 1st through 6th Houses; a day chart has the Sun in the 12th through 7th Houses: right on the Ascendant-Descendant is anyone's guess! In addition, planets were considered to have intrinsic sect (Sun, Jupiter and Saturn: diurnal; Moon, Venus and Mars: nocturnal; Mercury: mixed); signs had intrinsic sect (Masculine = diurnal, Feminine = nocturnal), and planets had sect placement, according to whether they were diurnally or nocturnally placed in the chart in question.

Sect Light: The Sun, for a day chart; the Moon for a night chart.

Separation: "is when two Planets have been in Conjunction or Aspect and are going from it as Jupiter in 6 degrees of Aries and Mars in 7 degrees; here Mars separates himself from Jupiter; but yet he is not quite separated from him till they are distant from each other 8 degrees 30 minutes, which is the moiety of both their Orbs; what their Orbs and Aspects are." [PA]

Temperament: This was a system that Hippocrates used for relating a number of common conditions found in people. He described four temperaments, and each type was characterized by a similar psychology, metabolism, and pattern of illnesses. The four types are given in the following table, taken from *Classical Astrology for Modern Living*:

Air	Libra, Aquarius, Gemini	Sanguine	Wet, becoming Hot
Fire	Aries, Leo, Sagittarius	Choleric	Hot, becoming Dry
Earth	Capricorn, Taurus, Virgo	Melancholic	Dry, becoming Cold
Water	Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces	Phlegmatic	Cold, becoming Wet

Sanguine types are the jolly glad-handers; choleric type fly off the handle; melancholics are morose, and phlegmatic are lethargic.

Term: One of the five essential dignities. The Term ruler was said to be "of the body" of that planet, so if the Ascendant is in the Terms of Saturn, it would represent a person serious, older, in a saturnine profession, etc. - primarily physical or outward appearance. The Term was given +2 points, and is considered a minor dignity.

Triplicity: One of the five essential dignities. Triplicities run by element, so there is one set of rulers for the fire signs, another for earth, etc. Triplicity is worth +3 points on the scale of essential dignities. The trick is that there are three different systems. Two of them utilize a day, night, and mixed ruler; the third, which was in common use by English astrologers in the 17th Century, used only day and night. Among the most obvious differences between the two that will be seen in this work is Jupiter being the mixed Triplicity ruler of Air: thus, for a year with Jupiter In Aquarius, Jupiter will often be the most dignified planet, and will virtually always be a contender for use because of the dignity.

Under the Sun's Beams: "a Planet is said to be under the Sun's beams, till he is full 17 degrees distant from him." [PA]

Via combusta: zone from 15 Libra to 15 Scorpio. Considered a dangerous area of the sky.

Void of Course: "is when a Planet is separated from one, and doth not apply to any other while he is in that Sign, and it is most observable in the Moon." [PA]

Old and New Medical Terms

Agnail: Hangnail **Ague:** Malaria or malarial fever **Alerative:** Restores Normal Body Functions
Alexipharmic: Poison Antidote **Alopecia:** Baldness **Anodyne:** Relieves Pain **Apoplexy:** Cerebral hemorrhage, Embolism, occ. Paralysis of other **Apostems:** Abscess **Aposthumes:** Abscess **Ardent Fever:** A form of remittent malaria **Aromatic:** Fragrant Herb **Avoid:** Void or excrete **Axungia:** Lard **Biles:** Boils **Blain:** Blister or Pustule **Blood Poisoning:** Septicemia **Bloody Flux:** Dysentary, or Bloody stools
Cachexia: Severe Wasting **Cacoethe:** Ulcerous tumor **Cantharides:** Powdered Beetles (Spanish Fly)
Carbuncles: Staphylococcal Inflammation **Carminative:** Medicine: Expells Flatulence **Casting:** Vomiting
Catamenia: Menstrual Flow **Cataplasm:** Poulstice **Catarrhs:** Inflammation: Mucous Membranes **Cathars:** Purges **Cathartic:** Purgative **Cephalic:** Medicine: Clears Head **Ceruse:** Lead Carbonate **Cholagogue:** Medicine: Incr. Bile Flow **Choler:** Bile **Choler, Red:** Bile, Red **Choler, Yellow:** Bile, Yellow **Cholic:** Pain, Acute Abdomenal **Claustered:** Clotted **Clenge:** To clean **Clysters:** Enema Or Injection **Consumption:** Progressive tuberculosis **Continual Fever:** One with little variation in temperature on a daily basis
Costiveness: Constipation **Courses:** Menstrual Flow **Defluxion:** Inflammation: Mucous Membranes
Delay: To dilute **Detersive:** Medicine: Cleansing **Diaphoretic:** Sweating Induction **Distemper:** Ailment
Distillation: Discharge, Trickling **Diuretic:** Urine, Increased Flow **Draught:** Medicine: Qty Taken in 1 Dose
Dropsy: Edema **Emerods:** Hemorrhoids **Emmenagogue:** Drug that induces menstruation **Entrails:** Intestines **Erysipelas:** Streptococcus **Excess of the Flowers:** Menstrual Flow Excess **Excoriation:** Abrasion **Excrement Retention:** Constipation **Expectorant:** Promoting bronchial secretion and ejection
Falling-Evil: Epilepsy **Falling-Sickness:** Epilepsy **Febrifuge:** Medicine: Reduces Fever **Fistula:** Abnormal Tube-Like Passage **Fluor Albus:** Vaginal White Discharge **Flux:** Excessive Flow **Fuliac-Passion:** Gut, Pains **Fundament:** Anus or buttocks **Gall:** Bile **Gargarism:** Gargle **Gravel:** Urine: Sand-Like Deposit
Green sickness: Anemia **Gripping Of The Guts:** Cholic **Gristle:** Cartilage **Gulesought:** Jaundice **Guts, Croaking:** Flatulence **Hamms:** Buttocks **Haw:** Growth on or in the eye **Humor:** Bodily Fluid
Hypochondrium: Upper Abdomen **Hyposarca:** Dropsy: Edema **Iliaca Passion:** Sciatica **Impostumations:** Swelling, Abscess **Impostume:** Abscess which is purulent **Jaundice:** Hepatitis **Kernels:** Swelling, Hard. Can be specific reference to tonsils **Kibes:** Chilblains, especially ulcerated ones on the heels **King's Evil:** Scrofula **Knop:** Knob-shaped protuberance, or a wart or pimple **Lask:** Diarrhea **Laxes:** Bowel, Looseness; diarrhea **Leucophlegmatia:** Dropsy: Pale, Tumid, Flabby **Leucorrhoea:** Vaginal Discharge **Lights:** Lungs
Lochia: Vaginal Discharge after Labor **Matrix:** Womb **Matrix Passions:** Matrix Passions **Mediastinum:** Septum **Megrim:** Migraine **Melicrat:** Mixture of milk and honey **Mesenterion:** Mesenteries **Milt:** Spleen
Mithridate: Medicine which protects against Poison **Morphew:** Leprous or Scurvy Eruption **Morphy:** Schleroderma **Mother:** Womb or Uterus **Obstruction Of Meseriacks:** Obstruction, Abdomenal **Olibanum:** Frankincense **Oppilations:** Obstructions **Ophthalmia:** Inflammation of the eye **Oxymel:** Mixture of Honey & Vinegar **Palsy:** Paralysis **Passion:** Pain or suffering **Pecten:** Anal Canal, Middle **Pectoral:** Medicine: Chest
Peripneumonia: Inflammation of the lungs **Phlegmon:** Suppurative inflammation, especially of connective tissue **Phthisis:** Tuberculosis, Advanced **Pin And Web:** Eye Disease with Film **Ploukes:** Lumps or swellings **Podagra:** Gout, Foot **Polyypus:** Polyyps **Posset:** Cold Remedy, Milk Base **Priapism:** Lewdness
Ptisick: Tuberculosis **Ptisis:** Tuberculosis **Push:** Pimple or Boil **Putrid fever:** Diphtheria **Pyles In The Ars:** Hemorrhoids **Quartan Ague:** Malaria **Quinzies:** Tonsillitis **Quotidian Fevers:** Fevers, Recurring **Reds:** Menstrual Flow **Reins:** Kidneys, Loins **Rhagades:** Skin Fissures **Rheum:** Discharge, Watery Or Atarrhal
Scalls: Skin disease with scaling or scabs, especially on the scalp **Schirrhi:** Tumors, Hard **Scirrhus:** Cancerous tumors **Scouring:** Purging **Secudines:** After-Birth **Simple:** Medicinal Herb **Simpler:** Herb Doctor **Sloes:** Milk sickness **Squinacy:** Throat disease; quinsy **St. Anthony's Fire:** Erysipelas **Starting Of The Members:** Involuntary Movements **Stomachic:** Substance that acts as a stomach tonic, promoting digestion **Strangle:** To poison **Strangullion:** A quinsy or throat glandual inflammation **Strangury:** Urination, Painful **Styptic:** Hemorrhage Checking Agent **Sudoric:** Induced Sweating **Suffocation of the Matrix:** Hysteria **Surdity:** Deafness **Syncope:** Loss of consciousness **Synochus Putrida:** Continuous Fever
Tertian Fever: Malaria **Tetters:** Skin euptions, usually herpes, eczema, psoriasis, or ringworm

Throat-Bole: Bolus **Tonic:** Remedial agent that increases body tone **Troches:** Lozenges **Tussis:** Coughing **Tympanies:** Distention of abdominal wall from gas accumulation **Venery:** Sexual Intercourse **Vermifuge:** Substance that expels intestinal worms or parasites **Wen:** Cyst, Subcutaneous **Whelks:** Pimples **Whites:** Vaginal Discharge