

infirmities, death, famine, many harmful winds (if he were direct, and especially in airy signs). If indeed he were retrograde, it speaks against winds, nor will he permit them to grow strong; however the ones which there are, will be harmful. If however he were the Lord of the Ascendant, it will mitigate the aforesaid things, nor will they be so harmful.

On Jupiter in the Ascendant at the hour of the revolution: what he would signify

If however Jupiter were in the Ascendant at the hour of the revolution, it signifies the general goodness of the disposition of the year or revolution, and there will be peace and security, and good will between men of that region, more so than usual; and it will be good for its wealthy and great men; and goods will be increased and bring profit, and their business matters will be improved. And if the Lord of the Ascendant ([or]¹²¹ the Lord of its exaltation) were joined to him, or he to it (from whatever aspect, and especially from the trine or sextile, or by corporal conjunction), and it were of good condition, there will be love between the king of that region and his subjects; and the rustics will encounter good from him, and that he will please them.

On Mars in the Ascendant: what he would signify

If indeed Mars were in the Ascendant at the hour of the revolution, free (namely made fortunate and strong), it signifies there is going to be an earthquake in that region. And if he were in an eastern sign, it signifies it is going to be in the first quarter of the revolution. If indeed he were in a southern sign, it signifies it is going to be in the second quarter of the revolution. If by chance he were in a western sign, it signifies it is going to be in the third quarter of the revolution. And if he were in a northern sign, it signifies it is going to be in the last quarter of the revolution. It even signifies a scarcity of rains, and a scarcity of battles. If indeed he were impeded and of bad condition, say the contrary, namely instead of good say bad, and instead of bad say worse, except for rains (because he does not extinguish their powers so much in it).

If however he were on the line of the 10th house, or beyond it by 15' or less, or after it by 1° or less, it signifies that the king or the chief of that region will capture or imprison more of his subjects. And if he were beyond it by 15' up to 30', or after from 1° up to 3°, he will capture a lesser quantity of them. And if it were beyond it from 30' up to the end of 1°, or after from 3° up to 5°, he will

¹²¹ Reading *aut* for *et*.

capture fewer. And if he were¹²² beyond it from 1° up to the end of 2°, or after it from 5° up to the end of 10°, he will capture far fewer again. If however he were beyond it from 2° up to 5°, or after it from 10° up to the end of 25°, and the house was not removed, he will imprison practically none (even if some). And even though he will have imprisoned [some], still he will not kill them, nor will he mutilate them (except for few), although he will torture them.¹²³

If however Mars at the revolution were on the line of the 4th house, or in the other degrees or places opposite the aforesaid, he will kill (of those whom he will capture) according to the quantity and proportion and mean by which he will capture them if Mars were in the 10th, and according to the places and degrees opposite them.¹²⁴

Indeed if he were in the first or the 7th, in similar places and degrees, he will mutilate some of them, according to the aforementioned quantity and proportion.

On the Sun in the Ascendant: what he would signify

If however the Sun were in the Ascendant at the hour of the revolution, free from the malefics and the other impediments, and the Lord of the Year or Revolution were with¹²⁵ him, it signifies the good condition of the wealthy and great or noble men, and their joy, and the increase of the good, and the progress [or success] of things. And if he were received, it signifies the taking away of evil. If however he were not in the Ascendant at the hour of the revolution, but were outside it¹²⁶ in a good place from it, free from impediments, it signifies the same, but less so. If indeed he were impeded, it signifies their detriment, and the contrary of the things which I told you.

¹²² Reading *fuert* for *fuert*.

¹²³ In this passage, “beyond” means “in an earlier degree than the cusp’s,” i.e., so that it has already passed beyond the cusp by primary motion; “after” means “in a later degree than the cusp’s,” i.e., so that it has not yet passed beyond the cusp by primary motion.

¹²⁴ I am not sure what Bonatti means by this sense of proportion.

¹²⁵ Bonatti probably means “in the Ascendant but not combust, or in aspect.” See following sentences.

¹²⁶ *Extra illud*. This use of the neuter is another reason why the quadrant/whole sign distinction is often unclear in Bonatti. Here Bonatti seems to mean “outside the ascending sign.”

On Venus in the Ascendant: what she would signify

Indeed if Venus were in the Ascendant at the hour of the revolution, namely free and made fortunate and strong, it signifies joy and gladness, and dancing, and the breaking up of battles, and especially of young women and men employing venereal practices; and the good disposition of the Arabs and their goods; and all the more so if she were with the Lord of the domicile or exaltation of the sign in which she is. And if she were impeded, it signifies the contrary of the aforesaid.

On Mercury in the Ascendant: what he would signify

If for example Mercury were in the Ascendant at the hour of the revolution, in the aspect of the benefics, and he were free from impediments (namely made fortunate and strong), and he himself were the Lord of the Year, it signifies the good condition and good disposition and the usefulness of the wise (namely of judges and medical doctors), and merchants, also writers and boys; and all the more so if he were joined with the Lord of the domicile or exaltation of the sign in which he himself is. If however he were impeded, it signifies the contrary of those things which I have told you.

On the Moon in the Ascendant: what she would signify

Which if the Moon were in the Ascendant at the hour of the revolution, or she were in the house [domicile?] of the Lord of the Year or Revolution, joined to him by body or by aspect (except for the opposition), and were otherwise free from impediments, it signifies an abundance of waters or rains, and the increase of rivers and streams, and their flooding; the increase of cold; and the goodness of the disposition of men, and that they will rejoice in the good. If however she were impeded, the aforesaid will be decreased, or perhaps annihilated.

Chapter 12: On Saturn and Mars, if they were impeded in a revolution when they are above the earth

Likewise you will look in the hour of the revolution to see if Mars and Saturn are above the earth [and] impeded, because this signifies the severity of the year or revolution. And more strongly so, if Mars were to receive Saturn, and

committed disposition to him, because it will signify severe and lasting accidents, and that the significations or detriments will appear and manifest: for they will signify the detriment and weakness of the king or the chief, and of the wealthy and nobles or great men (namely, those who are fit for a kingdom), and that faith and religion will be decreased (or rather it will be annihilated), and their religious men will suffer detriment; and there will be many robbers and cutters of roads, or pillagers; and battles and contentions will be multiplied; and there will be more quarrels between men than usual; and even between the religious men themselves; and they will envy each other, and especially those to whom pride and vainglory is fitting; and more seriously so if Saturn were in the 10th.

And by how much more the malefics were elevated above the earth, by that much more will the accidents be more serious. And it will be thus far worse¹²⁷ if the Moon were below the earth, and she were to commit her own disposition to Saturn while he is located above the earth, or [if] she were joined to him by the opposition or square aspect: because then it signifies severe detriments, and great tribulations, and horrible and fearful things, like the death of the king and great men and the wealthy, or nobles, or a regime change¹²⁸ for the worse; and the more strongly so if the malefics were retrograde, or occidental, or otherwise impeded. If however they were direct, or oriental, nor impeded, the significations will be more remitted [or abated].

And if Mars did not commit his own disposition to Saturn, the significations of Saturn will not be so intense,¹²⁹ and the significations of Mars will be stronger, and especially in contentions and battles. And if Saturn were to commit his own disposition to Mars, the significations of Mars will be more intense, and the significations of Saturn will be decreased.

And if the benefics were above the earth, namely direct, made fortunate and strong, they signify the taking away of evil, and the increase of the good; and the more strongly so, if Jupiter were so disposed in one of his own dignities, and were oriental. And Venus is stronger when she is occidental, so long as she is otherwise made fortunate. Whence if a planet goes out from under the rays of

¹²⁷ *Adhuc deterius*. I believe Bonatti means that this situation by itself will make things worse, regardless of how it may be worsened by other bad conditions.

¹²⁸ *Mutatio regni*, lit. “a change/mutation of the kingdom.”

¹²⁹ This word (*intensa*) forms one half of a pair with *remissiora* (“more remitted”) in the previous paragraph. They come from Hellenistic astrology, which standardly speaks of the “intensification and remission” of planetary effects especially over time. But Bonatti does not seem to give them any special technical role here. It is possible that his textual sources use these terms.

the Sun, it is like a man who has grown ill and is freed, and begins to resume his own powers, and is increased little by little until he is returned to his own original strength, provided that the malefics do not aspect [that planet]—because then it is like a sick man over whom a crisis has come and he seems to have escaped; afterwards he would relapse. And when it enters under the rays, it is like a man who had been healthy and begins to grow ill; or who was a young man, and begins to grow old, until his natural heat is gone.

Chapter 13: On the planets when they enter into the degrees of their exaltation

Again, look to see if Saturn is entering into Libra, or is in it, and especially in its twenty-first degree. Because his virtue will be increased that much, and his significations will be made greater; and more strongly so if he were to receive the disposition of other planets, and especially of the malefics. For then it will signify changes, and great and wondrous and stupendous things, which was touched on [in Treatise 4] in the recounting of the conjunction that Mars and Saturn make in the beginning of Cancer.

You will even look to see whether Jupiter is entering into Cancer, or is in it, especially in its fifteenth degree: because then his virtue will be increased, and his significations made greater; and more strongly so if he were to receive the disposition of one of the benefics: for it will signify great things, and wondrous and famous and durable changes, however to the good.

Likewise you will look to see if Mars is entering into Capricorn, or is in it, and especially in its twenty-eighth degree: because then his significations will be increased and made greater; and more strongly so if he were to receive the disposition of the other planets, and particularly of some malefic. For it will signify great and terrible things of those things which seem to pertain to Mars.

And thus all the other planets: if they were found to be entering into their exaltations at the hour of the revolution, they will increase their significations and make [them] greater (namely the benefics for the good, indeed the malefics for the contrary of the good). But the significations of the superiors are considered more, because they are more powerful, and stronger, and higher, and more notable.

And Māshā'allāh said,¹³⁰ when the year is revolved, look at the benefics and malefics to see if they were to aspect from a fixed sign: what they signified will

¹³⁰ *De Rev. Ann.*, Ch. 39.

be prolonged, for good or evil. And if they were to aspect from a movable sign, this will be middling. If indeed they were to aspect from a common sign, it will be half this.

[*Eclipses*]¹³¹

After this, if you knew an eclipse was going to come in that same year, or in that same revolution, look at the Lord of the sign in which you saw it was going to be: what his condition [or nature] is, and how he behaves with the Lord of the ascending sign of the eclipse to come,¹³² and whether they aspect each other or not. Likewise, how he¹³³ behaves with the Lord of the Year or Revolution, if they were to aspect each other or not, and whether the benefics or malefics aspect him or not. Because if the benefics and the Lord of the Ascendant of the eclipse (or the Lord of the Revolution, or other benefic planets) were to aspect him, it signifies good. If however the malefics were to aspect him—unless perhaps they receive him by a trine or sextile aspect (because reception takes away from their malice, even if it does not abolish it completely)—and the aforesaid planets (or one of them) do not aspect him from a praiseworthy aspect, it signifies evil. If indeed they were to aspect him together with the malefics, nor were they impeded, they signify neither this nor that. If however they were impeded, they signify evil, slightly remitted. If indeed they were to aspect without the benefics, or the benefics without them, it signifies good, slightly remitted.

Likewise, look at the significator of the king to see whether the aforesaid planets (namely the Lord of the sign in which the eclipse ought to be, and the Lord of the Ascendant of the eclipse) aspect him or not; and whether the benefics or malefics aspect him. Because the benefics signify the good condition of the king; indeed the malefics, to the contrary, signify his bad condition. And the significations which the aforesaid planets signified, will be greatly burdened if they were impeded by the aspects of the malefics. And the condition of the king will be more strongly burdened if his significator were the Lord of the sign in which the eclipse is going to come. Because if it were, it signifies his ruin—and this will be when the Sun reaches the degree which is the 10th house at the hour

¹³¹ Heading mine.

¹³² In other words, we must cast a chart for the time of the eclipse itself. If the eclipse will be in Taurus, we must look at Venus (the Lady of Taurus) and her relationship—in the revolution—to the planet that will be the Lord of the Ascendant at the time of the eclipse.

¹³³ The Lord of the sign in which the eclipse will occur.

of the eclipse. And if the Lord of the sign in which the eclipse is going to be, were the same as the Lord of the Year ([i.e.,] of the common people), it signifies detriment is going to come over them. And the time of this effect will be when the Sun reaches the degree which is the Ascendant at the hour of the eclipse to come. And these will either be in the persons or the affairs of the king and the populace.

For if the Ascendant of the eclipse were Gemini, or Virgo, or Libra, or the first half of Sagittarius, or Aquarius, the detriments will happen in their persons. But in Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius, they will likewise happen in birds. And these will happen more strongly if Saturn were in one of these signs, whether he were direct or retrograde (but if he were retrograde it will be worse).

If however the Ascendant were Aries or Capricorn, it will happen in sheep or goats, or other small animals, according to the substance of the sign.

If indeed the Ascendant were Taurus, or the last half of Sagittarius, they will happen in cows and other greater animals according to the substance of the sign; but in cows [it will be] more serious than in the others.

If however the Ascendant were Cancer or Pisces, they will happen in fish and other animals of the kinds [that are] in waters, which are useful to men. Indeed if it were Scorpio, they will happen in poisonous animals, and those striking with their tails or rear; and more strongly to those living in waters.

And always understand the increase of detriment when Saturn is in the sign deputed over the matter.

In order to know the time of the lastingness of the detriments from the hour of the eclipse, you will consider how many hours and how many minutes of the hour the eclipse lasted. Because if it were a solar [eclipse], it will last one year for each hour, and one month for every five minutes. And if it were a lunar [month], it will last one month for every hour, and one day for every two minutes.

And look to see where the impeding malefics are: because if they were in the tenth or eleventh, or ninth, the significations will happen in the seventh clime, and in that [area] of the earth which is inhabited outside the clime toward the arctic circle. And if they were in the first or the second or twelfth, they will happen in the sixth and fifth and fourth climes. If however [they were] in the seventh or eighth or sixth, they will happen in the third and second and first climes. But if they were in the fourth or fifth or third, they will happen in the northern parts of the region in which they happen. Nevertheless if the impeding malefics were received, they will impede somewhat less.

[Further rules]¹³⁴

And he whom God willed to be a Master¹³⁵ said if the Sun were the Lord of the Ascendant in the revolution, and Venus were under the rays, [then] because she is the Lady of the Midheaven,¹³⁶ the Sun will be the significator of the king. Then you will look to see how the king's condition is going to be in that year or revolution—which you could know by the place of [the king's] significator [i.e., the Sun] in the figure of the revolution. Therefore see where he is, and how he is aspected by the planets, namely whether benefics or malefics are aspecting; and whether he is in an angle, or in a succedent, or in a cadent (even though this rarely happens); and whether the Lord of the domicile or exaltation of the sign in which he is, aspects him or not. Because the benefics signify good, the malefics on the contrary signify evil, just as was said to you elsewhere.

You will even look at the significators of all the houses, and the one of them you find fortunate and strong, judge the goodness of the signification of that house whose Lord he is; and the one of them you find unfortunate and weak (namely retrograde or combust, or cadent from the angles or from the Ascendant or from his own domicile), judge the badness of that house whose Lord he is. And if you were to look at all houses, see in which of them the benefics are found, because they increase the significations of those houses according to how they were made fortunate and strong, because they will increase more strongly. If however they were weak, they will increase what they increased, more weakly.

¹³⁴ Heading mine.

¹³⁵ Māshā'allāh, *De Ren. Ann.*, Ch. 41.

¹³⁶ I.e., of Taurus, which would be the tenth sign and in most cases on the cusp of the Midheaven.

You will even look at the Part of Fortune, which if you were to find it alone in whatever house it was, it will signify the greater fortune of its signification. If however some good planet were to aspect it, it will signify greater fortune. And if [the good planet] were to receive it, it will signify greater fortune again. If however the malefics were to aspect it from a trine or sextile aspect with reception, it will be as if it were not aspected by anyone; if indeed without reception, they will subtract one-fourth of the goodness from it. Indeed if one of the malefics were joined to it from a square aspect or opposition, or corporally, they will take all the goodness from it, and it will profit nothing.

You will even look at the house in which the Head of the Dragon is, because it signifies the increase of the significations of the house in which it is, both for good and evil. For in the 6th, it signifies the increase of infirmities, and of the other significations of that house; in the 8th, it signifies the increase of its mortality and of the other significations. And understand [this] in the rest of the houses, according to the significations of each of them.

Likewise you will look at the Tail. Because it signifies the decrease of the significations of the house in which it is, both for good and evil. For in the 6th it signifies the decrease of infirmities, and in the 8th the decrease of mortality, and of the other significations which are signified by those houses. And understand [this] for the rest of the houses.

And if the Lord¹³⁷ of a sign in which there were a benefic promising good, were free and namely made fortunate and strong, the good will be multiplied. And if it were impeded, [the good] will be decreased according to the quantity of the impediment. And if the Lord of the domicile¹³⁸ in which there was a malefic (by which evil threatens),¹³⁹ were impeded, the evil will be increased according to the quantity of the impediment; and more strongly so, if [the malefic] were northern or committed its own disposition to another malefic who is northern. And if [the Lord] were free, the evil will be decreased according to the quantity of [the Lord's] own strength.

And if the malefic who is in the domicile of the impeded planet, were to commit his own disposition to some malefic located in the sixth, it signifies a multitude of infirmities; and more strongly so, if the commission [of disposition] were from the opposition or the square aspect. If however it were from the trine or sextile aspect, it will be somewhat less than this. If indeed it were to

¹³⁷ Reading *dominus* for *domus*, as with the third sentence.

¹³⁸ Reading “domicile” instead of “house,” to go along with “sign” in the first sentence.

¹³⁹ Reading *minatur* for *minuitur*.

commit it to a benefic, it will decrease what is signified somewhat less again. And if it were to commit it to a malefic located in the eighth, it signifies mortality; and if it were to commit [it] from the opposition or square aspect, it will be more serious. If however from the trine or sextile, it will be somewhat less than this. If indeed it were to commit it to a benefic, it will be decreased in it more again. And if it were to commit it to a planet in the ninth, long journeys of the citizens of that region will be impeded. And if it were to commit it to a planet in the tenth, it signifies the impediment of the officials and the governors of that region. If however it were to commit it to a planet in the eleventh, it signifies the impediment of men's trust and of their hope. If indeed it were to commit it to a planet in the twelfth, it signifies the impediment and difficulties of greater animals, and enmities, and contentions, and battles and captures. And understand thusly for the rest of the houses, for each one according to their significations, just as I have touched on for you elsewhere.

Which¹⁴⁰ if Venus were not under the rays of the Sun, nor otherwise impeded by a strong impediment, she cannot avoid being the significatrix of the king, and especially if she were in Taurus (or Libra).¹⁴¹

Chapter 14: How the condition of the king and the nobles and the populace should be considered—of what sort their condition is going to be

After you have understood the condition of the aforesaid persons (namely [that] of the king and the nobles, and great men, and the common people or the rustics), you will consider what will be concerning their condition in the revolution, and concerning their accidents, and what will be between them, namely how the king may be treated by his subjects, and will follow [for] them from him, and how the citizens of that region will follow and obey their authorities and administrators or those set over them.

And you will look at the condition of each of the aforesaid following the condition of the king, which you could look at in this way. For indeed you will

¹⁴⁰ Māshā'allāh, *ibid.* Māshā'allāh also puts this after a (short) digression, as opposed to directly after the statement above about Venus and the Sun. It is unclear to me why Māshā'allāh does this, since the material in the digression is perfectly general, and does not seem to pertain only to cases where Taurus is on the Midheaven.

¹⁴¹ Māshā'allāh simply says "if she were in the Midheaven," which obviously includes Taurus if the prior scenario regarding her and the Sun is meant. Bonatti seems to add Libra in order to generalize Māshā'allāh's meaning.

see in which house his significator is, because his accidents will take their root or power from the house [domicile?] in which he is, according to its fortune or misfortune, and you will see his impediments, or his escape, or his liberation from them, according to this. And if you were to see that contrarities are supposed to happen to him, like battles and legal controversies the like, you could see what ought to happen to him from thence, which you could know through his significator and the strength or weakness of his enemies. Likewise, you will see whether journeys (long or short) ought to happen for him in the revolution, which you could know through the Lord of the ninth and through the Lord of the third. For through the Lord of the ninth you will perceive pilgrimages or long journeys; through the Lord of the third, short or nearby journeys. Whence you will see the Lord of the house of the journey at the hour of the revolution, and his place: which if he were well disposed, and in a fortunate and strong place, and were received from the house in which he is, it signifies that [the king] will journey or go on a pilgrimage of his own devices, for the purpose of finding tranquility or wandering or getting some space. And if [the significator] were in its first station, or near it by 5° or less, it signifies slowness and laziness in his pilgrimage or in journeying. And if it were retrograde or stationary in its own first station, and it were received, it signifies that he will journey, but will return shortly. If however it were like this without reception, it signifies that he will not complete his journey, but rather will suffer detriment in it, and anger or distress.

Then look at the Lord of the house [domicile?] of the journey, and see if the Lord of the domicile in which he was, is retrograde, and were to aspect its own domicile by a trine or sextile aspect: because this will signify that [the king] is going to go in order to organize and dispose his business concerns, and for the sake of his subjects. If however [the Lord of the Lord of the ninth] were to aspect [its own domicile] from a square aspect, or from the opposition, it signifies that he is going to go out in order to do battle with his rebels and enemies.

Then look at the significator of the king, to see if it were free from impediments, and even if one of the planets which is naturally inimical to it were free,¹⁴² and that the Lord of the journey or the pilgrimage is not in the house of infirmity [the 6th] or in the house of death [the 8th]. Because this signifies the guarding and deliverance of his person in the pilgrimage or journey, in accor-

¹⁴² I do not understand why this latter condition is so important as to merit notice, especially since nothing more is done with it in the paragraph.