



Necessary Observations in the Genethliacal  
Part of Astrology

By William Lilly  
~ transcribed by Sue Ward ~





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## Necessary Observations in the Genethliacal Part of Astrology

Extracted from *Merlinus Anglicus* by William Lilly, London 1678.

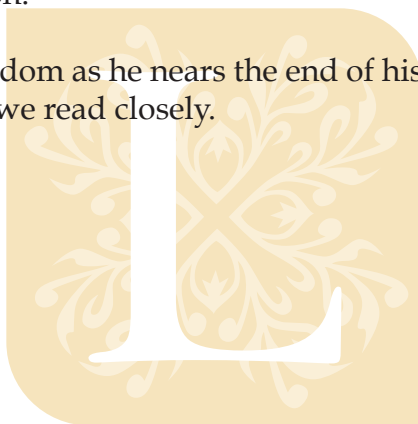
(Transcription and comments by Sue Ward)

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Another in the series of transcribed extracts of Lilly's lesser known works. All too often we consider the almanac to be inferior to the book and yet within the pages of *Merlinus Anglicus* can be found some very important pieces. In this case, Lilly deals with the nativity and provides a detailed view of essential dignity and debility, that is, strength and weakness. He offers explanations of strong or weak malefics and benefics, and the interpretation of their combinations whether strong or weak. This is yet another point upon which the modern practitioner falters for lack of reliable information.

Again, Lilly offers his wisdom as he nears the end of his life and we may sense the urgency of his mission if we read closely.

Sue Ward



## Necessary Observations in the Genethliacal Part of Astrology

by William Lilly

1. Observe the natures or Analogy of the Planets, also their heavenly state, and that in two respects, (1) As to their fortitudes, (2) Conjunction or Aspects, (3) Their earthy state or Determination, and that in several cases. (1) As to their Position, (2) Dominion, (3) Exaltation, and by these distinctly considered, you may judge of the Planets amity or enmity in any Nativity, Direction, Revolution, Profection, or Transit.
2. Note, That *Saturn* is extremely cold and dry, *Jupiter* is remissly hot and dry, the *Sun* is meanly hot and dry, *Venus* is hot and moist, *Mercury* is remissly cold and dry, the *Moon* is meanly cold and moist.
3. If *Saturn* be in *Aries* his driness is increased, and his coldness abated, or he is intently dry, or remissly cold. In *Taurus* he acts with a double force, *viz.* he is intently cold and dry; in *Gemini* he is remissly cold and dry; in *Cancer* he is intently cold, but remissly dry: so that if *Saturn* Aspect the Ascendant from thence, more of cold and driness, than of cold and moisture will thereby flow, because the Planets elementary Natures are so formally, but the Signs by accident Determination, & *fis de cæteris*.<sup>1</sup>
4. A Planet in his House, as the *Sun* in *Leo*, retains his own Nature well affected in his influence; but if in his detriment, as in *Aquary*, he is then ill affected or depraved. If he be only peregrine, as in *Taurus*, he is meanly affected as to good or evil, *viz.* neither essentially strong nor weak. If he be in his fall, as in *Libra*, he flags in his motion, and is as a man indisposed or uneasie: therefore a Planet in his fall or detriment effects no good to the Native; if any, 'tis depraved, and consequently dangerous and pernicious.
5. A planet direct and swift in motion, *vel contrà*, is as those very terms import, therefore their direct motion, celerity, orientality (if Superiors) and their Position *supra terram*<sup>2</sup> makes their effects more manifest and powerful.
6. *Aries* ascending gives a martial wit and inclination; but if the *Sun* be in partile *Trine* or *Sextile* to it, or its Lord, or in conjunction of *Jupiter*, who may be in platick *Sextile* or *Trine* to either of them, then 'tis made Solar and Jovial, but chiefly Solar. Understand the like in other Signs ascending according to their natures, and the natures of those Planets that behold them.
7. Observe chiefly the nature and heavenly state of any Planet, for a Planet may be considered in relation to the Portents or signification of any Sign or mansion of Heaven thus, (1) As to Position, (2) Dominion, (3) Exaltation, (4) Aspect, (5)

<sup>1</sup> Comment: Lilly begins his lecture regarding the changes that take place in a planet according to where in the Zodiac it is placed. He continues this theme throughout by way of essential dignity or its lack.

<sup>2</sup> "Above the earth".

- Opposition thereunto, and (6) Triplicity: as for example, *Saturn* in *Aries* must be considered as martialized and solarized, because *Aries* is the House of *Mars*, and the Exaltation and Triplicity of the *Sun*, and so in others.
8. The Ascendant (*viz.* the sign thereof) in any Nativity is to be observed, also the Lord of the Ascendant and his Position, a Planet posited therein: all which are to be considered by the Artist or Student as to the portents or signification of the Ascendant.
  9. The twelfth House rather than the sixth of a Figure signifies diseases, and all manner of corporal affliction: yet a Planet in the sixth house shall be cosignificator, as being in opposition to the twelfth house.<sup>3</sup>
  10. From the Lord of the Ascendant, or any other house proceeds the chief virtue or most powerful part as to the signification of that house: if *Saturn* and the *Sun* be in Conjunction in *Leo* in the tenth house, the latter being nearest to the Cusp thereof, then the Native arrives to some degree of Dignity or honour from the Analogy, Position, Dominion, and Fortitude of the *Sun*, as also his propinquity to the Cusp. But *Saturn* being of a contrary nature, and averse to what the *Sun* portends analogically, also hating the place of his residence, and partly afflicting the *Sun*, will therefore cause some unhappy misfortune to arise and cloud the glory promised by the *Sun* at least in the end. But *Saturn* in Conjunction with the *Sun* in *Libra* upon the Mid-heaven in any persons Geniture, assuredly produces Honour to the Native, by reason of the great Dignities of *Saturn*; and this the rather, in regard the *Sun* by analogy is more favourable in this respect, than by his debility contradictory. Understand the same in other cases of like nature.<sup>4</sup>
  11. *Saturn* in Conjunction with *Jupiter* in *Virgo* is most powerful, and overcomes in his effects; but if they are conjoined in *Aries*, then *Jupiter* is strongest, and becomes Victor.<sup>5</sup>
  12. The *Luminaries* are to be considered as more powerful and significant than the rest of the *Planets*; therefore any of the Superiors in Conjunction with the *Sun* in *Leo* influences much power and honour to the native by virtue of the *Sun*, &c. So if *Saturn* be in Conjunction with *Jupiter* in *Sagittary* the Dignities of *Jupiter*, then *Saturn* acts in dependence to his Dispositor, & *sic de cæteris*.<sup>6</sup>
  13. Any *Planet* strong in a good house or part of the Heavens, is of good signification; but much better, if the Planet be a fortune by Nature, & *contrà*.

<sup>3</sup> Comment: a very interesting remark from an experienced and knowledgeable astrologer and physician.

<sup>4</sup> Comment: what is being explained is that the Sun performs better when conjunct a dignified Saturn, even though it is itself in fall in Libra. Thus the Sun is less debilitated than when in its own sign of Leo and conjunct a very debilitated Saturn.

<sup>5</sup> Comment: this is generally true that when in conjunction the more dignified planet overcomes.

<sup>6</sup> Comment: this is reinforcing the previous teachings.

14. A malefick Planet weak in the 10<sup>th</sup> house of a Figure denies Honour; if they behold either the Cusp or Lord thereof by any malevolent Aspect, then many impediments or obstructions prejudice or hinder the natives advancement. *Mars* in the Mid-heaven strong usually portends military preferment, dignity, or profession, &c. A malefick by nature and determination doth oftner hurt than help by good Aspect.
15. *Saturn* or *Mars* strong in a good House of a figure are as discords in Musick, corrected to effect a Concord or *Harmony* in sounds; so when they are well affected, they cause imperfect good by evil Arts, or difficult ways, means or methods, always accompanied with danger, trouble, or infelicity. In fine<sup>7</sup>, their good is always mixed or tempered with something of evil, because they are naturally more propense to effect evil than good: As for Example, *Saturn* in the second house or Lord therefore, and strong, gives riches by rapine and covetousness, in the 7<sup>th</sup> he denotes the death of the wife.
16. A malefick Planet meanly affected in a good house neither gives nor denies the portents thereof, but often times obstructs or prevents what is naturally signified thereby, so *Saturn* denies honour, riches, &c. As for Example *Saturn* meanly affected, *viz.* peregrine in the second house neither gives nor prohibits riches, but retains them being gathered by sparing and penuriousness. *Mars* so posited and ill affected dissipates or destroys an Estate by prodigality and other imprudent expences, &c.<sup>8</sup>
17. *Saturn* debilitated in the 11<sup>th</sup> house of a Nativity produces trouble with or by the means of friends unrelated and the analogy of a malevolent prevails, *Saturn* or *Mars* by their *Sextiles* or *Trines* strong, and *Jupiter* and *Venus* by their *Squares* or *Oppositions* meanly fortified, produce or effect a mean good or evil as to the quantity, quality, and duration, and by difficult ways or means: so *Saturn* or *Mars* strong, or *Jupiter* and *Venus* meanly affected in a bad house or place of the figure, only extenuate or mitigate an evil.
18. An *Infortune* in *Conjunction* with a *fortunate Planet* is either impeded or depraved of the good signified. For though the fortunate Planet be in his own house, yet he partakes something of the Nature or Analogy of the malefick Planet with whom he is conjoined.
19. Three *Planets* or more act jointly and severally according to their respective natures, and their heavenly and earthy states, but principally according to the nature and state of the most strong and ruling *Planet*.
20. If an *Infortune* (especially *Saturn*) be placed between two *Planets* which are in conjunction, he prevents or retards the good promised by the other two *Planets*, the nature or kind whereof is discovered by the house of Heaven wherein such a Congress is made.

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<sup>7</sup> "in the end".

<sup>8</sup> Comment: when Saturn is only weakened by lack of essential dignity, it neither gives nor takes resources, but it does imply hard work in obtaining them.



21. The Lord of the Ascendant applying to the Conjunction of the *Sun* in any Nativity, shews the Native apt, or delights to converse with Honourable persons, Grandees, and such like; as also will be ambitious of Fame, Honour, and Dignity, &c. If he apply to *Saturn*, the native affects to converse or associate himself with *Plebeians*, Rusticks, and inferiour persons: he is subject to envy, fear, pensiveness, and covetousness, &c.

