



# Useful Astrological Aphorisms

for Young Students and others

By William Lilly  
~ transcribed by Sue Ward ~





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Extracted from *Merlinus Anglicus* by **William Lilly**, London 1677.

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Lilly provides information which answers the little questions that we all ask at one time or another relating to the benefics and malefics, the fixed stars, when an aspect is partile and when platic. He gives excellent insights into how the inferior and superior planets act, what the Moon does and a little about antiscia. Together these aphorisms help to broaden and define an astrologer's understanding and should be read frequently.

Sue Ward





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William Lilly

1. He who is naturally well affected unto Astrology shall verily pronounce more certain Judgments.
2. Divers Effects of the Stars are drawn forth from the stars, according to the various dispositions of the matter; whereof the Astrologer ought very well to examine the several natures and qualities of the subjects receiving.
3. Sol and Mars are fiery; the heat of Mars is destructive, that of the Sun answers the vivifying heavenly fire.
4. The Superiour Planets are most efficacious; the inferiour weak, and easily do suffer by the Superiours, and receive good or ill from them.
5. Superiour Planets because they most resist, they do not easily receive a detriment or assistance from the Inferiour Planets.
6. The misfortunes proceeding from Saturn or Mars are mitigated, if their places are protected by Jupiter, being well disposed and in good aspect.
7. When a Planet who is a Fortune is in Conjunction with an Infortune, he allays his malice, so that the Infortune shall do no hurt.
8. The Fixed Stars are the most efficacious of all in their Operations, for what actions they manifest or occasion are very great.
9. The Fixed Stars do imitate the nature and action of the Erraticals or Planets, wherefore they transfer their actions unto them.
10. The Moon hath a certain natural mutability, therefore she easily communicates to us the Influence of the other Stars.
11. The Moon doth then most especially transfer actions unto the inferiour world, and the influx of other Stars, from whom she is separated when she is swift in motion.
12. Three manner of wayes the Planets are varied or changed, by reason of their first qualities, of their Houses, and significations.
13. Saturn governs Contemplation and memory, Mars boldness and fortitude, if they want not strength, or are ill disposed.
14. Retrograde Planets degenerate from their proper nature, by that means Fortunes are made Infortunes, and the evil Planets far worse.

15. Planets do manifest greater and worsen evils when they are stationary, than when they are retrograde.
16. The reception of Planets when they behold one another, if it be strong, doth diminish the malice of an evil aspect, and increase goodness of a good aspect.
17. A Planet in an Angle doth more effectually produce his effects, but remiss in Cadent Houses.
18. Be not too confident either of a Sextile or Trine Aspect in violent Signs, nor out of those Signs in which the Planets behold one another, yet essentially suffer.
19. Consider what things the Planets perform not by their Aspects, and observe if they do them not by their Antiscions, for the Antiscions have power, and are to be enumerated amongst Aspects.
20. It's rare if any Planet prove a fortune in the eighth or twelfth, by reason of the malignancy of those Houses.
21. The qualities of Saturn and Mars are not made better by their conjunction; being mixed so together, they are confounded, and hurt very much.
22. Planets are notably made unfortunate by these accidents, viz. Combustion, Retrogradation, Peregrination, Detriment and Fall.
23. The swift and various motions of the Planets are to be considered, as also their slowness, because when they vary, the accidents of the Aspects do alter.
24. Saturn seldom applies to any Planet, by reason whereof he signifies great Princes and Monarchs.
25. A Partile Aspect comes to pass within the difference of three degrees; a Platick Aspect happens by a semidiameter of the orbs of the Planets.
26. The vertue of a Pla[net] is in that house, whose beginning or cusp a planet precedes by no greater space than five degrees.
27. Understand the simple qualities of the planets, for from thence thou shalt know all their mixt significations.
28. Those Houses which behold not the Ascend[an]t signifie occult or obscure places, and these houses are the 12<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.
29. The Application of the Planets shews what is to come, the Separation what is past.

