

# BOOK II: TOPICS

## Chapter II.1.0: On the native's morals and his nature

You should know that the nature and morals of the native are distinguished according to the significations and natures of the seven planets in [their] shapes and morals:

For Saturn, from his own nature, signifies laziness, stupidity, foulness, fear, servitude, injury, lying, sorrow, and a bad will in the heart.

Jupiter, from his own nature, signifies law, faith, knowledge, humbleness, modesty, faithfulness, liberality, patience, sense, sobriety, and a clear face.

Mars, from his own nature, signifies wrath, disgust, violence, wastefulness, cunning, thieving, immodesty, attacks.<sup>643</sup>

The Sun, from his own nature, signifies strength, loftiness, honesty, and great power.

Venus, from her own nature, signifies humbleness, piety, a good will, the esteem of the heart, happiness, and good morals, except that the native will be reputed to be impertinent and effeminate.

Mercury, from his own nature, signifies commerce, speech, the recitation of histories, intellect, quickness of discourse, grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, and astrology.

The Moon, from her own nature, signifies a heavy tread, weakness, misery, travels, whisperings, and the introduction of evil [into things].

And these significations of the planets will be strong or weak according to the strength or weakness of the planets in themselves, and in their places. Therefore if some one of the planets were in the Ascendant or the Midheaven, it will give morals and a shape to the native according to its

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<sup>643</sup> Reading *laesionem* for *laetitiam*.

strength; which if a planet inimical to it aspected it, it will alter the morals given, according to the strength or weakness of the aspecting planet. But if the said planets would not be inimical, neither amongst themselves nor by aspect, then the morals given by the first planet will be strengthened, so that if the first planet gave modesty to the native, he himself will be truly modest, so that he will hardly hear to speak;<sup>644</sup> and it must be judged thus for the other significations of morals by means of the significating<sup>645</sup> planets. But if the said planets are inimical to each other by aspect or naturally, one will render its own signification upon the other, and one changes the morals and peculiar qualities of the other, just as you could see here: for in the nativity of one who is without fear, or bold, you will find Mars in the Ascendant or in another strong place.

And if the Moon or the Lord of the Ascendant aspected him, and he were in a strong place (so that he would have some dignity there),<sup>646</sup> the native will be a lord and master of soldiers, and have much boldness, and great powers, [and] the boldness will appear from out of the source in his heart; he will strive to kill by hand, he will love slaughter, violence and insanity, he will be a traitor, of a hard and ferocious heart, a thick liver and long anger.

And if Saturn aspected [Mars], he will give him the deliberation of a bad heart, fear, laziness, misery, heaviness, a thickness of heart, and sorrow in his matters.

And if Jupiter aspected Mars, he will break his anger, and decrease his furor, and will make him come down; he will restrain his frivolity, and will make him gain wealth more quietly than by war; he will restrain his furor, so that he will not kill someone with his own hand, and besides that he will make him turn back from places where he would be captured or killed.

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<sup>644</sup> This is obviously an idiom, and its meaning seems to be the opposite, just as when we tease quiet people by telling them to stop speaking so much.

<sup>645</sup> Reading *significantes* for *significatis*.

<sup>646</sup> This is an important point not mentioned before: Mars (or any other planet) should be joined to the Moon or the Lord of the Ascendant.

And if the Sun aspected Mars, he will give him strength, dominion, and mastery over men and soldiers, not to mention beauty of form, military discipline, and intellect.

And if Venus aspected Mars, the native will be a great lover of women, and he will have womanly moral qualities, and he will expose himself and his soul to evil and death on account of women and jealousy of them, for he will be jealous beyond measure.

And if Mercury aspected Mars, the native will be fearful, solitary, and someone who will in no way please others, nor even will others please him; he will be stupid in his approach,<sup>647</sup> and lying much, he says what he doesn't know, and wants to do what he cannot.

The *biyābānīya*<sup>648</sup> stars even confer their own significations and peculiar qualities to the native: which, were they with the Sun and the rest of the planets, they confer great and sudden fortune from their own nature. When the *biyābānīya* star which is in the second degree of Taurus (having southern latitude, and second magnitude, not to mention being of the nature of Mars)<sup>649</sup> were in the Ascendant or the Midheaven in a nocturnal nativity, the native will be a soldier, and a master and organizer<sup>650</sup> of wars, and an eye-witness of nearby slaughter, having high greatness, and someone who will be scorned under some condition. But if the nativity were a diurnal one, the native will have a hard intellect, bad profit, and someone who will obtain disgrace. And if instead of the said *biyābānīya* star there were some star of the nature of Jupiter and Mars,<sup>651</sup> the native will be a master of soldiers, and he will go with many banners, and he will be elevated in dominion, and high in his own place, [having] great fame, powerful in matters, fortunate and wise in war, he will have power in faraway lands, he will be strong in cities and lands, he will esteem truth, and will be praised by many.

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<sup>647</sup> *Incessu*. Normally this refers to one's style of walking, or else advancing in attack.

<sup>648</sup> That is, "fixed." In *BA* III.2.1 these are associated with eminence and prosperity (as they are below in II.2), but here Abū Bakr wants to associate this star at least with character.

<sup>649</sup> *BA* III.2.1 p. 79, Rhetorius Ch. 58 p. 104. This must be Pollux (β Gemini).

<sup>650</sup> Or, an "ordainer of wars," in the sense that he starts wars.

<sup>651</sup> See *BA* III.2.1, p. 78 and Rhetorius Ch. 58 p. 102. These are: Regulus (α Leo), Antares (α Scorpio), Sirius (α Canis Major), Menkalinan (β Auriga), and Altair (α Aquila).

Mars in a nocturnal nativity, appearing in his own domicile, signifies that the native will be one master, and he will have others under himself, and he will be a good soldier, and fortunate in slaughter and in wars, and always conquering, and wise in wars. And if he were in his own domicile in a diurnal nativity, the native will be lazy in those things in which he ought to make money; infirm, greedy, an evil plunderer of strangers, a fornicator, esteeming murders and evils, violent and unsound.<sup>652</sup> And if Mars were in a domicile of Saturn, the native will have a fatty liver, he will be quick in his acts, he will put the evil which is inflicted upon him into his own heart, and will retain it for a long time; and he will express his words hastily. And it was already stated that if Mars would appear in the Midheaven, and he would rejoice in his own place, the native will be fortunate in war and slaughter, and a beautiful organizer of wars, and wise in them. And if a fortune aspected a Mars so disposed, the native will acquire advantage and great fame from his wars.

The Moon, appearing in the aspect of Jupiter and Venus, in some one of the angles or the succedents, and in some one of her own dignities, signifies that the native will be strong, a master of wars, rejoicing, and having a great heart, and an endurer of all things which happen to him.

When a masculine planet will be in a masculine sign and quarters, the native will be strong, and complete in strength, having good sense, good memory, wise in slaughter but keeping death away, a master of horses, and apt in riding and arms.

If the Lot of Boldness<sup>653</sup> happened to be in the domicile of Mars or his bound, and were in one of the angles (especially in the Midheaven), and besides that in the aspect of Jupiter and Mars from a strong place, the native will be strong and renowned among men; he will be feared by others, he will be fortunate in war, a soldier of the battlefield, and always a victor over his enemies.

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<sup>652</sup> *Insanus*, the root of our “insane.” Nowadays this word has clinical overtones that are not present in the Latin, though Latins would have seen it as roughly equivalent to “crazy,” which is a much looser notion.

<sup>653</sup> This is undoubtedly the Hermetic Lot of Mars, as *Pars Audaciae* is also the name used by John of Spain when describing this Lot as given in Abū Ma’shar’s *Gr. Intr.* See *JN* Ch. 34.

### Chapter II.1.1: On him who has anxiety

If Mars were cadent in someone's nativity, weak and made unfortunate, not aspecting the Ascendant, and Saturn aspected him, the native will be weak of heart, and timid, and besides that abhorring a place of killing.

Likewise, if Venus were in a human sign the native will be weak of heart and timid.

If Saturn were in the Midheaven in a nocturnal nativity, the native will be very fearful, and have a most wretched heart.

If the Lot of Lawsuits or Wars<sup>654</sup> were under the rays of the Sun, and were cadent from the angle, and its Lord were with Saturn, the native will be timid, having a weak heart, and lazy or low-class in war and slaughter.

### Chapter II.1.2: On the native's quickness to wars and rage<sup>655</sup>

Mars appearing in the Ascendant renders the native keen for discord and lawsuits, a killer, and having a powerful unsoundness.<sup>656</sup>

If Mercury were in the fourth and appearing from under the rays of the Sun, and besides that in the aspect of Mars and Saturn, the native will have a sharp and quick change, always unsound, and busy.

Mars appearing in the 8<sup>th</sup> house and a peregrine sign, whether in a diurnal nativity or a nocturnal one, signifies that the native will be unsound, and of lasting unsoundness, and a stupid killer.

If Mercury were in his own domicile, the native will be fearful and unsound.<sup>657</sup>

If the Moon were in a domicile of Mars [and] increased in light, the native will be keen, liable to anger, having a large liver, an appetite for wars and openly expressing abuse toward men.

If the Moon applied to Mars in a nocturnal nativity, and she were increased in light, the native will have a great motion to anger, having an appetite for lawsuits and discords without reason.

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<sup>654</sup> Jag. simply reads "Lawsuit." Cf. *JN* 34 p. 300 for a Lot of the Military and its possible source in *Gr. Intr.*: from Mars to Saturn (reversed at night), projected from the Ascendant.

<sup>655</sup> Cf. *JN* Ch. 34.

<sup>656</sup> Both here and below, *insania*. This can also mean "frenzy," "mania."

<sup>657</sup> Surely this must be in combination with other conditions, such as the ones above.

If the Lot of Fortune or its Lord, or the Lord of the domicile of life, were in a domicile of Mars, the native will be frenzied, always sad, and have great fury, turning back slowly [from it].

### Chapter II.1.3: On the native's humbleness

If Mercury were under the rays of the Sun, and in a watery sign (because they lack a voice), and Mars aspected him, the native will be humble and calm, and serious in his acts.

If Saturn and Mars aspected<sup>658</sup> the Moon and the Sun (or one of them) from the Midheaven or the Ascendant, or from the 7<sup>th</sup> or the 4<sup>th</sup> house, the native will be humble and intelligent, particularly if they aspected the Sun in a diurnal nativity and the Moon in a nocturnal nativity, and that the Sun or the Moon were in the bound of a fortune.

If one of the *biyābānīya* stars of the nature of Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn,<sup>659</sup> and of the first magnitude, appeared in the Ascendant or the Midheaven, the native will be humble, of subtle character, and good encounters.

### Chapter II.1.4: On the shamelessness of the native

You should know that if Mars aspected Mercury from the opposite aspect, the native will be without shame. But if the Moon aspected Mars from the opposite aspect, she will decrease his shamelessness, and will change his disputes. And if the Moon were decreased in light, and appearing in a bad place with Mars, the native will be without shame. If Venus and Mercury were in the Ascendant, and in the opposite aspect of Mars, the native will have little shame.

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<sup>658</sup> Reading *aspexerint* (pl.) for *aspexerit* to match the following clause. But I doubt that both malefics must be doing this simultaneously, especially since the passage goes on to say it will be worse if the luminary is also the sect light. Probably any malefic aspecting either would show humility; if it aspected the sect light, more humility; and if Mars aspected the Sun in a diurnal nativity, and Saturn the Moon in a nocturnal one, more humility yet. But could this notion clash with the Sun-Mars combinations above, which showed boldness?

<sup>659</sup> Cf. *BA* III.2.1, p. 78; Rhetorius Ch. 58 p. 103. The first magnitude stars of the nature of Jupiter-Saturn in this list are: Rigel ( $\beta$  Orion) and Capella ( $\alpha$  Auriga). I do not see a star of the nature of Mars or Jupiter-Mars which would fit this description.

### Chapter II.1.5: On the native's shame

Jupiter, appearing in the Ascendant of some nativity without the aspect of Mars, signifies that the native will be modest. If the Moon were in the Ascendant, and in the bound of Saturn, and in his face, but Mars in the west, and Jupiter aspected the Moon, the native will be modest.

### Chapter II.1.6: On the beauty of the native's morals

If the Moon, appearing in the Midheaven, aspected Saturn<sup>660</sup> by a square aspect, with Saturn appearing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> house,<sup>661</sup> it is a sign that the native will have beautiful morals. The Sun appearing in a domicile of Saturn signifies that the native will have a good mind. Which if a fortune aspected the Sun, the native will have good, and good morals, and happiness.

If Mercury were in the domicile of the Sun in a diurnal nativity, the native will have good morals, especially if he were safe from the aspect of an infortune. If Mercury were in the domicile of the Moon, made fortunate, without the aspect of an infortune, the native will have good morals and a beautiful face.

If the Sun were in the exaltation of Venus without the aspect of an infortune, the native will have beautiful morals, be of subtle character, and a cheerful face, and esteemed by men.

### Chapter II.1.7: On the native's lies

If Mars were with Mercury in his<sup>662</sup> domicile, the native will be a liar, and he will express lying words without reason or basis; and his will<sup>663</sup> will adorn his tongue with lies.

If Mars were the Lord of the angle of the earth [and] were in the 6<sup>th</sup>, the native will be a liar.

If the Sun and Venus were in the 7<sup>th</sup> house, the native will be full of lies.

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<sup>660</sup> This should probably read "Jupiter" here and in the next clause.

<sup>661</sup> This should probably read "11<sup>th</sup>."

<sup>662</sup> Missing in Jag. I am unsure whose domicile is meant.

<sup>663</sup> *Velle*, in the sense of one's personal sense of will or wishing.

If Mars were in the 9<sup>th</sup> house, the native will bring forward lies, and affirm them with oaths.

If one of the *biyābānīya* [stars] of the nature of Mars and Mercury<sup>664</sup> were in the Ascendant or the Midheaven, the native will be a liar, and will firm up his lies with oaths; and he will write false letters, and he will impart things to other men which are not true.<sup>665</sup>

If the Moon, separated from Mars, applied to Mercury, and both were oriental, the native will be a liar, not to mention a master of fraud and betrayal.

If Mars and Mercury, appearing in the same degree, were in one of the angles without the aspect of some [planet], the native will be a liar, and boastful about things which he did not do, and he will bring forward deceptive words with his statements.

### Chapter II.1.8: On the native's truth

If the Moon and Venus were in the Midheaven, the native will be a truth-teller, and fulfilling [his] promises.

He who was born with Sagittarius ascending, and the Moon in it, and in the trine or sextile aspect of Jupiter—it is a sign that the native will be truthful and fulfilling those things which he will promise.

If Jupiter were in the Ascendant, and Mercury in the 7<sup>th</sup> house under the rays, the native will be a truth-teller.

Mercury appearing in the Ascendant or Midheaven with Venus signifies that the native will be an orator, a truth-teller, fulfilling promises, and expressing the truth, [whether] in his own favor or against himself.

### Chapter II.1.9: On the native's religion<sup>666</sup>

Jupiter appearing in the 9<sup>th</sup> house and in a diurnal nativity signifies that the native will be a cultivator of God, and trusting God, and contemplative,

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<sup>664</sup> *BA* III.2.1 p. 79 and Rhetorius Ch. 58 p. 105: Bellatrix ( $\gamma$  Orion), Procyon ( $\alpha$  Canis Minor), Betelgeuse ( $\alpha$  Orion), and Alpheratz ( $\alpha$  Andromeda).

<sup>665</sup> Reading with Jag. 1540 adds that he will be a braggart.

<sup>666</sup> Chapter missing in Jag.