



# The Architecture of the Cosmos

Decoding Claudius Ptolemy's Tetrabiblos (2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD)

A visual synthesis of the foundational physics and philosophy of Western Astrology,  
mapping the universe from macro celestial mechanics to micro human destiny.

# The Premise of Celestial Influence

The Ambient  
(The Ether)



The Stars:  
Generate heats, winds,  
and storms, molding  
the impregnation  
and growth of all  
earthly seeds.



The Sun:  
Always acting with the  
Ambient to regulate all  
earthly things through  
heat and dryness.



The Moon:  
Proximity to Earth allows  
her to dispense moisture,  
controlling tides, rivers,  
and bodily fluids.

The Four Elements



Fire



Air



Earth



Water



Flora



Fauna



Humanity

Sublunary Matter

# The Defense of Prescience

**The Primary Cause:**  
The heavenly motion is eternally regular, divine, and undeviating.



**The Infallible Heavens**

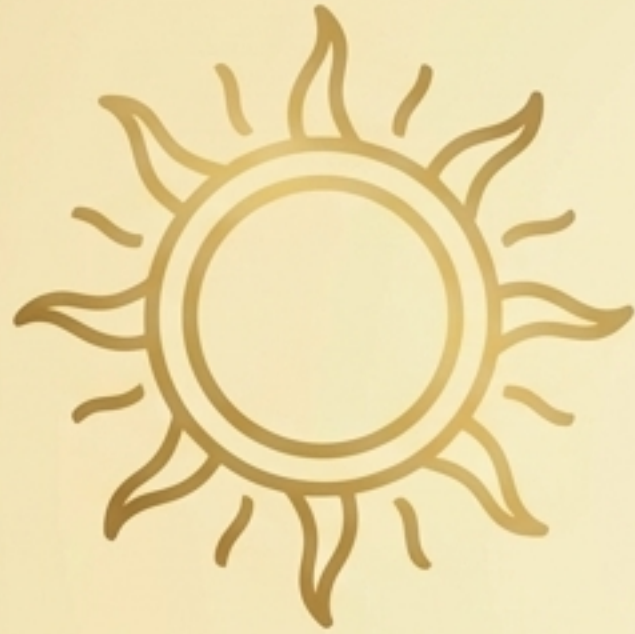
**The Variable Earth**

## The Concurrent Causes:

Errors in prediction do not stem from the stars, but from human incompetency and incompetency and compounding earthly variables:

- **Species/Seed** (Man vs. Horse)
- **Geography** (Climate and local variations)
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- **Geography** (Climate and local variations)
- **Nurture & Custom** (Upbringing and societal laws)

# The Primal Forces: Luminaries



## **The Sun (Active/Heating)**

Dominates Heat and moderate Dryness. Regulates the seasons and alters bodies through his daily progress to the zenith.



## **The Moon (Passive/Moistening)**

Dominates Moisture. Her illumination cycles cause relaxation, putrefaction, and the swelling of rivers and bodily humors.

# The Planetary Diagnostic Matrix

Planet	Dominant Quality	Nature	Gender	Sect (Time)
Saturn	Extreme Cold & Dryness	Malefic (Destructive)	Masculine	Diurnal (Day)
Jupiter	Warmth & Moisture	Benefic (Nutritive)	Masculine	Diurnal (Day)
Mars	Extreme Heat & Dryness	Malefic (Destructive)	Masculine	Nocturnal (Night)
Venus	Moisture & Moderate Heat	Benefic (Nutritive)	Feminine	Nocturnal (Night)
Mercury	Dryness OR Moisture	Common (Variable)	Common	Common (Matutine/Vespertine)

Footnote: Malefics are assigned to opposing Sects (Cold Saturn to Day, Hot Mars to Night) to mitigate their destructive extremes.

# The Zodiac: Seasons & Temperaments

**Winter (Cold):**  
Capricorn, Aquarius, Pisces.  
Begins at the winter solstice.

**Spring (Moist):**  
Aries, Taurus, Gemini.  
Begins at the vernal equinox.

**Autumn (Dry):**  
Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius.  
Begins at the autumnal equinox.

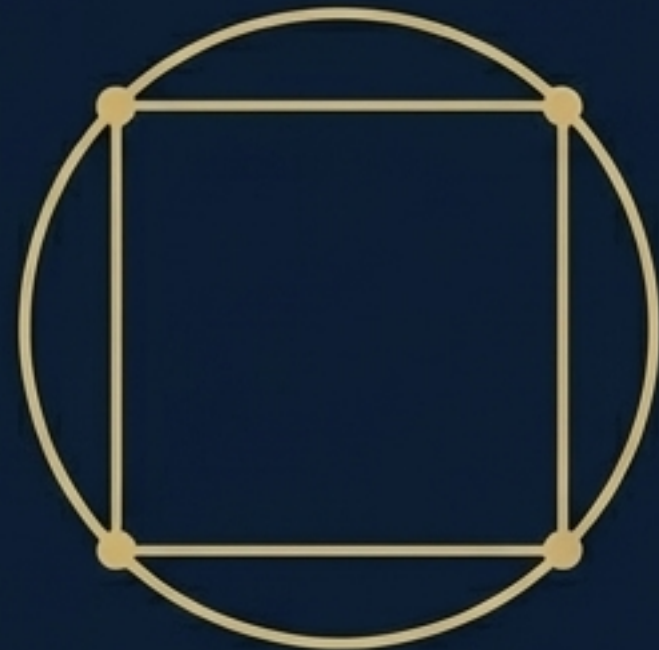
**Summer (Hot):**  
Cancer, Leo, Virgo.  
Begins at the summer solstice.



# The Geometry of Power: Aspects



Opposition ( $180^\circ$  / Line)



Quartile ( $90^\circ$  / Square)

## Discordant (Angles of Tension)

- **Opposition ( $180^\circ$  / Line):** Maximum distance, opposing natures.
- **Quartile ( $90^\circ$  / Square):** Signs of different sexes and discordant natures.



Trine ( $120^\circ$  / Triangle)



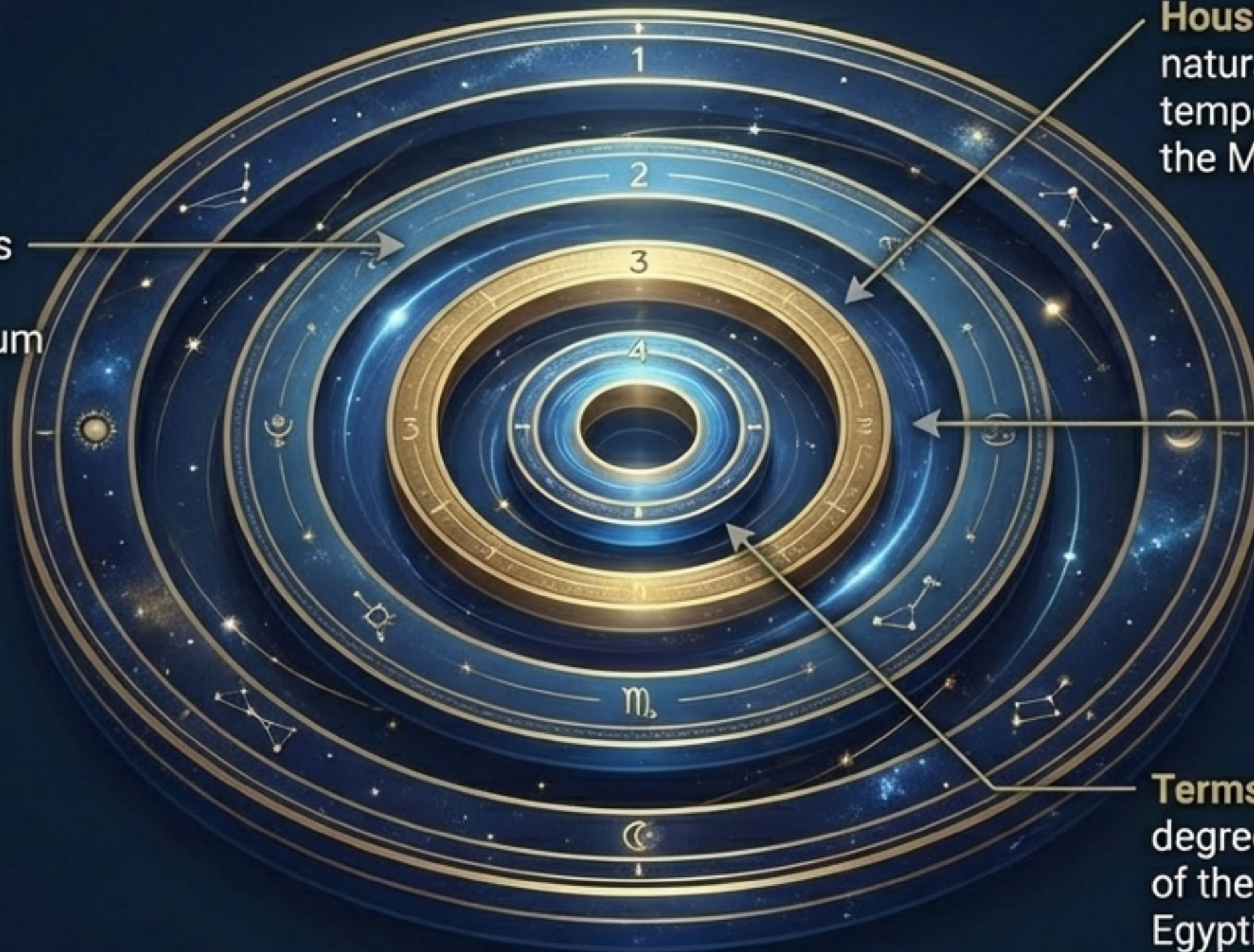
Sextile ( $60^\circ$  / Hexagon)

## Harmonious (Angles of Flow)

- **Trine ( $120^\circ$  / Triangle):** Connects signs of the same sex and harmonious nature.
- **Sextile ( $60^\circ$  / Hexagon):** Cooperative alignment.

# The Hierarchy of Dignities

**Exaltations:** Specific signs where a planet's natural influence reaches maximum intensity (e.g., the Sun exalted in Aries).



**Houses (Strongest):** The signs naturally aligned with a planet's temperament (e.g., Cancer for the Moon, Leo for the Sun).

**Triplicities:** Rulership over the four elemental triangles (e.g., Jupiter ruling the North-West Fire triplicity).

**Terms (Bounds):** Minute degree-by-degree sub-divisions of the signs, divided between the Egyptian and Chaldean methods.

# Mundane Astrology: The Macro Supersedes the Micro

The Global / Universal

The City / Region

The Individual

**Core Principle:** Natures of more extended potency must invariably control those which are limited.

**Explanation:** Before predicting an individual's nativity, the astrologer must look to the fate of the nation. A general disaster—such as war, pestilence, earthquake, or inundation—will absorb and override the fortunate chart of any single individual. The primary cause absorbs the minor.

# Astrological Geography: The Earthly Matrix

NW

## Europe

Ruled by Aries/Jupiter/Mars.

Independent, warlike,  
imperious, freedom-loving.

NE

## Northern Asia

Ruled by Gemini/Saturn/Jupiter.

Wealthy, just, free-minded,  
skilled in magic and theology.

SW

## Africa/Libya

Ruled by Cancer/Mars/Venus.

Scorched, fiercely courageous,  
governed by dual male/female  
rulers.

SE

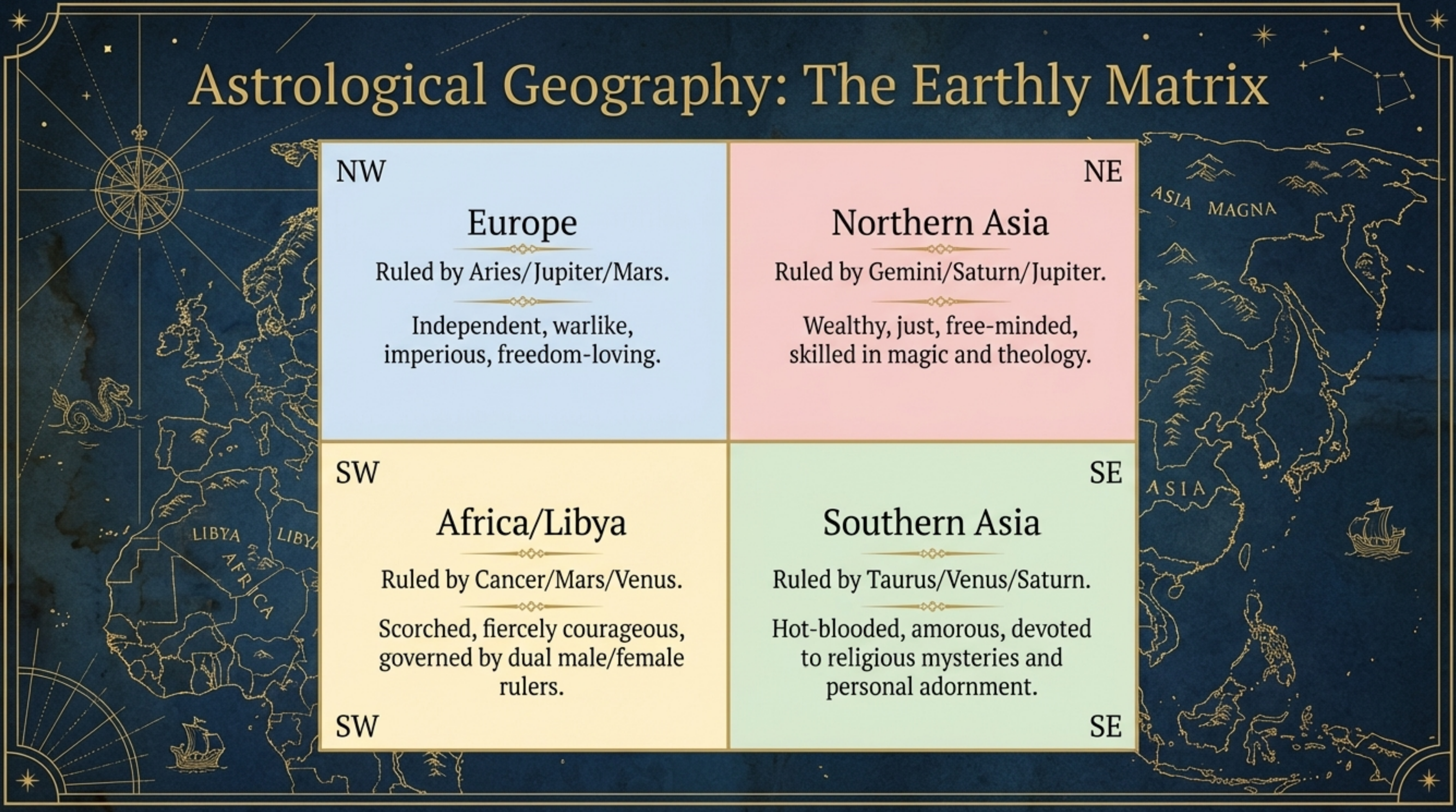
## Southern Asia

Ruled by Taurus/Venus/Saturn.

Hot-blooded, amorous, devoted  
to religious mysteries and  
personal adornment.

SW

SE



# Eclipses: Harbingers of Macro Events



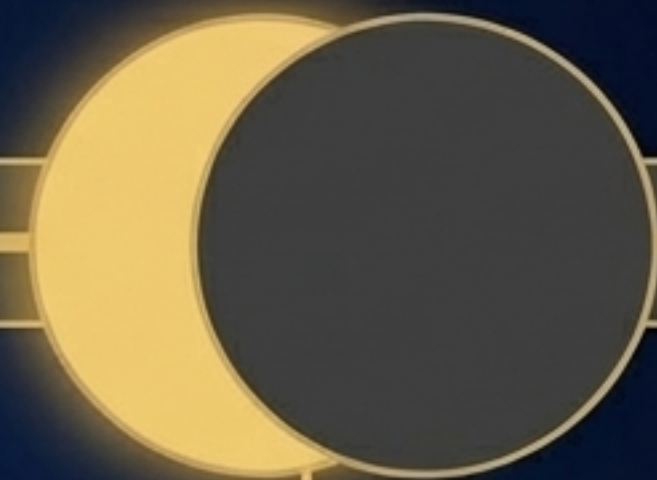
## Locality (Where?)

The effects fall only on regions where the eclipse is actually visible above the horizon.



## Timing (When & How Long?)

For Solar eclipses, each hour of obscuration equals one year of effect.  
For Lunar eclipses, each hour equals one month.



## Genus (Who/What?)

The target is dictated by the Zodiac sign's shape:  
Human shapes affect mankind;  
Bestial shapes affect animals;  
Winged shapes affect birds/crops;  
Watery shapes affect marine life and fleets.

# Celestial Meteorology & Phenomena



**Lunar Halos:** One clear halo predicts serene weather. Multiple broken, dark, or reddish halos portend violent gales, snow, and severe tempests.



**Comets (Beams & Pipes):** Operate with the violent natures of Mars and Mercury, portending wars, turbulent atmospheres, and drought.



**Comets (Trumpets):** Similar violent portents of conflict and meteorological disruption.



**Ecliptical Colors:**  
The hue dictates the event.  
Black = Saturn (death/cold);  
White = Jupiter (peace/serenity);  
Red = Mars (war/drought);  
Yellow = Venus (abundance).

# The Origin Point: Conception vs. Parturition



## Conception

The generation of the human seed.  
The exact moment the original quality  
of the Ambient is imprinted.



## Birth (Parturition)

The generation of the man. Ptolemy establishes  
the moment of birth as the primary chart  
because it is the exact moment the infant  
quits the womb, takes breath, and assumes  
independent existence in the physical universe.

# Mapping the Nativity: The Four Pillars



## Pillar 1: The Ascendant (Eastern Horizon)

The degree rising at the exact moment of birth. Rules the physical body and primary earthly existence.



## Pillar 2: The Mid-Heaven (Zenith)

The highest point in the sky. Rules vocation, rank, authority, and public life.



## Pillar 3: The Luminaries (Sun & Moon)

The primal forces. The Sun rules the father, spirit, and rank; the Moon rules the mother, soul, and body.



## Pillar 4: The Part of Fortune

A mathematically derived point. Rules material wealth and acquired substance.

# The Doctrine of Nativities: Investigation Framework

## Step 1: Ascertain the Place

Identify the specific point in the Zodiac governing the topic (e.g., Mid-heaven for career).

## Step 2: Identify the Ruler

Determine which planet holds dominion over that place via House, Exaltation, or Terms.

## Step 3: Assess Planet Nature

Evaluate the planet's inherent temperament (Benefic/Malefic, Hot/Cold).

## Step 4: Measure Vigor

Is the planet cosmically powerful (oriental) or structurally powerful (in an angle)?

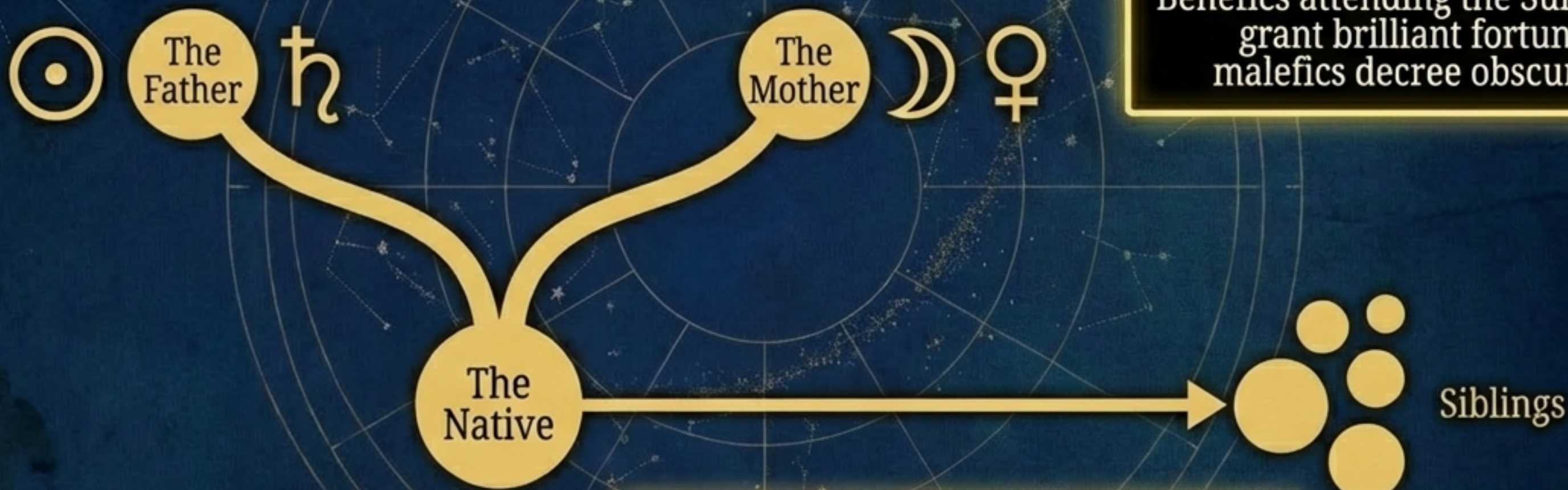
## Step 5: Determine Timing

Matutine or angular planets act early in life; vespertine or cadent planets act late.

# Ancestry & Origins

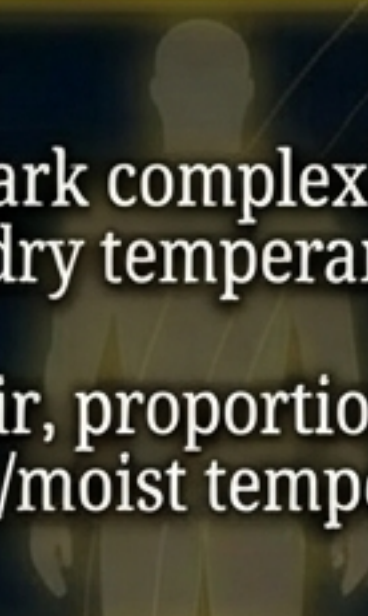
The Parents: The Sun and Saturn signify the Father; the Moon and Venus signify the Mother.

The Doryphory (Attendants): The wealth and longevity of the parents are indicated by the planets flanking the Luminaries. Benefics attending the Sun/Moon grant brilliant fortune; malefics decree obscurity.



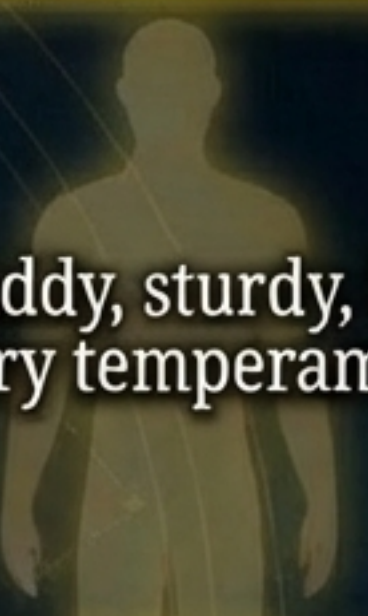
Siblings: Indicated by the maternal place (Mid-heaven, Venus, or the Moon). Benefics here grant numerous, illustrious brethren; malefics cause few or short-lived siblings.

# The Form and Temperament of the Body




**Saturn:** Dark complexion, stout, cold/dry temperament.

**Jupiter:** Fair, proportionate, large eyes, hot/moist temperament.




**Mars:** Ruddy, sturdy, healthy, hot/dry temperament.

**Concept:**  
The Ascendant and its ruling planet act as physical sculptors.



**Venus:** Beautiful, delicate, soft, azure eyes.



**Mercury:** Yellowish complexion, thin, highly proportioned.

**Note:** The quadrant of the year modifies this (e.g., Spring births add heat/moisture for finer constitutions).

# Historical Medical Astrology: Bodily Afflictions

The Sun: Governs the eyes, brain, heart, and right side.

The Moon: Governs the throat, stomach, womb, and left side.

Saturn (Cold/Chronic): Rules the right ear, spleen, bones, and phlegm. Causes chronic issues, rheumatism, falls, and spasms.

Mars (Hot/Acute): Rules the left ear, kidneys, veins, and privities. Causes acute injuries, fevers, wounds, iron/fire accidents.

The Trigger: Malefics (Saturn/Mars) stationed on the Western angle or in opposition to the Luminaries cause physical injury or disease.



# The Architecture of the Mind

$$\left\{ \text{Mercury} \right\} + \left[ \text{The Moon} \right] \times \left[ \text{Ruling Planet} \right] = \text{Mental Character} \left. \right\}$$

## Mercury

Dictates the intellect, reason, and rational faculties.

## The Moon

Dictates the soul, sensory faculties, and irrational passions.

## The Multiplier

The ruling planet amplifies these traits based on its dignity.

In Glory vs. Inglorious: A planet well-placed ('In Glory') produces high-minded traits (Saturn = profound, careful). The same planet poorly placed ('Inglorious') produces base traits (Saturn = malignant, suspicious).

# Pathologies of the Mind

The Primary Cause: Mental disorders occur when Mercury and the Moon are utterly disconnected from each other and from the Eastern horizon.

## Epilepsy

Occurs when the Malefics (Saturn by day, Mars by night) occupy the angles and oppress the disconnected mind.

## Insanity & Mania

Occurs when the Moon is in opposition to the Sun and governed directly by a malefic.

## Mitigation

If Benefics (Jupiter/Venus) are in elevation, the disease is curable via medical aid (Jupiter) or divine/spiritual interposition (Venus).

# The Fortunes: Wealth & Rank



## The Fortune of Wealth

- Ruled strictly by the Part of Fortune.
- Saturn grants wealth through agriculture/buildings.
- Jupiter through government/trusts.
- Mars through war.
- Venus through women/gifts.
- Mercury through science/trade.



## The Fortune of Rank

- Ruled by the Sun and Moon and their Doryphory (attendant planets).
- Kingship: Both Luminaries in masculine signs/angles, attended by all five planets.
- Obscurity: Luminaries cadent, lacking any benefic attendants.

# Vocation and Employment

The Rulers: Determined by the planet making its nearest appearance to the Sun or occupying the Mid-Heaven.



**Mercury (The Mind)**

Writers, accountants, merchants, bankers, astrologers, and those who live by literature and interpretation.



**Venus (The Senses)**

Vendors of perfumes, flowers, wines, colors, weavers, painters, and all things related to amusement and decoration.



**Mars (The Forge/Sword)**

Cooks, workers in copper/metals, shipwrights, soldiers, and those who operate by means of fire and iron.

# Marriage, Passions & Offspring



## Passions

Mars and Venus dictate sexual desire. Favorable aspects to Jupiter create continent, decorous passions. Disconnection from Jupiter leads to licentiousness.

## The Givers of Children

The Moon, Jupiter, and Venus grant offspring. (Bicorporeal/watery signs grant twins or multiple births).

## The Deniers of Children

The Sun, Mars, and Saturn withhold offspring or allow but few.

# The Duration of Life (Prorogation)

The Prorogator

The Core Calculation

The length of a native's life is the most essential, and mathematically rigorous, calculation in Ptolemy's system.

The Prorogator (Giver of Life)

The planet or luminary holding the strongest position in specific angles (Mid-Heaven, Ascendant).

The Anareta (Destroyer of Life)

The malefic degree that the Prorogator eventually meets through planetary motion.

The Formula

Equatorial times and ascensions are calculated to find exactly when the Life Giver meets the Destroyer; each degree of distance equals one solar year of life.

The Anareta

# Synthesis: The Stars Incline, They Do Not Bind

“A physician acts reasonably in considering the constitution as well as the disease... it is justifiably allowable to comprehend every other thing connected with the subject in addition to the motion of the heavens.”

— Claudius Ptolemy



Conclusion: The Tetrabiblos does not preach an inescapable, doomed fate. It offers a grand atmospheric physics engine. By understanding the celestial ‘Ambient,’ the wise can prepare, medicate, and navigate the challenges of earthly existence.