Carmen Astrologicum
Book III
Translated by David Pingree, 1976

Note on this reproduction – by Deborah Houlding
The following reproduces David Pingree’s English translation of the third book of Dorotheus, as published by BSB B.G. Teubner Verlagsgesellschaft of Germany in 1976. The Teubner edition is accompanied with a parallel text in Arabic and various passages in Greek and Latin. All credit for this work belongs to David Pingree. The right to reproduce his English translation was acquired from Teubner in 1993, when the text was initially serialised in the Traditional Astrologer magazine and then published as a book entitled Carmen Astrologicum; Dorotheus of Sidon (Ascella, 1993; ISBN: 1-898503-00-1); both formats offering facsimile reproductions from the Teubner edition. The following retains references to the Teubner pages and Pingree’s chapter numerations, but the text has been rendered by OCR to make it searchable, and to facilitate the ability to copy and paste passages as required.

Content of Carmen Astrologicum, book three:
1. [Untitled, but begins] “with respect to the haylāj and kadkhudāh, which are the governor and the indicator of the time of the years of life" - p.45.
2. The haylāj - p.48.

Introductory notes and discussion of the contents of this book are available at www.skyscript.co.uk/dorotheus3notes.pdf
The third book of Dorotheus which he wrote with respect to
the haylāj and the kadhkhudāh, which are the governor and
the indicator of the time of the years of life.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Here] begins the third book of Dorotheus which he wrote with respect to the haylāj and the kadhkhudāh, which are the governor and the indicator of the time of the years of life.

At the beginning of this he says: consider Saturn, Jupiter, and Mars. If you find them eastern or in one of [their] stations, [then they are used], but, if they are under the Sun’s rays in the degree of the Sun, then this is not counted, [or if it is] western. If you find them seven days before the nativity or seven days after it in the positions which I named for you in the term of [one of] these three, then it will be governor…

p.236] of the nativity. A planet is eastern if it is behind the Sun and western if it is between its [the Sun’s] hands. If there are fifteen degrees between Saturn and the Sun, and similarly -- degrees between Jupiter and the Sun, and eighteen degrees between Mars and the Sun, and -- degrees between Venus and the Sun, and nineteen degrees between Mercury and the Sun – whenever you find them behind the Sun by these degrees, then say concerning them [that they have] the power of being eastern. If one of them is under the Sun’s rays, then it will be one which will not be seen.

See also on the third day from the nativity in the term of which planet the Moon is because, if this planet is a benefic and its lord is in a good place aspecting the Moon from a good place from trine while the Moon is in a cardine or what follows a cardine, then say that all of the nativity’s condition is good. But if the lord of the Moon’s term is a malefic and it is in a cardine while the lot of fortune is in opposition to the Moon, then say [that there is] no doubt that the nativity is bad. If the lord of the term is a benefic or a malefic and is in a good place aspecting the Moon, then it will be mediocre.

Look at the conjunction of the Moon and both halves of its course and [its] opposition, which is [its] fullness, because if the Moon is in one of these situations, then the lord of the Moon’s term rules the nativity. If you do not find the lord of the Moon’s term in a cardine or in what follows a cardine, then consider the lord of the ascendent’s term because the degree of the ascendent becomes the governor in it [the nativity]. If it is as I mentioned, then look at the lord of the [ascendent’s] house, which [planet] it is, as, if it is eastern in a good place, then it will be governor. If you find the lord of the [ascendent’s] house under the [Sun’s] rays, then see which is its lord and see whether that place in which it is is masculine or feminine.

If the lord of the Sun’s term is in a good place, then it will be the protector of the haylāj. If the Sun is in the seventh or eighth sign, which sign is masculine, then the lord of the Sun’s term will be ruling in it, but if the Sun is in a feminine sign then it will not be thus because the Sun has been feminized twice - once [by] the sign in which it is and the other time by its position among the twelve [places]. If you find the Sun in this position in a nativity, then consider the Moon. If the Moon is above the earth and in midheaven or what follows midheaven and [it is] a feminine sign, then the lord of the…

p.237] Moon’s term will be the ruler unless it is under the Sun’s rays. If you also find the Moon in the cardine of the West or what follows [that] cardine in whatever sign it is, then the Moon will be the haylāj and the lord of its term will be the ruler in the governorship of the other; similarly [is it done] in a nocturnal nativity. If you find the Moon cadent and the Sun in a nocturnal nativity [in the cardine] under the earth or [in] the fifth place, then, if the lord of the Sun’s term is free of [its] rays, it will be the ruler in the nativity. If the lord of the Moon’s term is under the [Sun’s] rays, then you must also at night look at the Sun as, if it is in the fifth or fourth, then it will take over the governorship of this. But if the Sun and the Moon are both cadent or weakened and in their light and it happens that the two luminaries have no power, or [if] one of the two luminaries is weak, then look at the degree of the ascendent. If you find the lord of this ascendent under the [Sun’s] rays or cadent, then say [that there is] ruination in this nativity and that he [the native] will have no
upbringing. But if together with this a benefic is in the ascendent in what is between it and fifteen degrees, then mix this planet with the haylāj. If the haylāj is the Moon and the Moon is in Cancer while the lord of its term is in quartile or trine to it, then say that [the native] will be brought up; [it is] this [also] if you find the Sun [as haylāj] in its own house, but if it is in what is like it among the houses, then look at the lord of its [the Sun's] term or house. Calculate if the Sun is in the first degrees of Aries and the lord of its [the Sun's] term or house aspects it as this becomes the indicator. If Mars and Jupiter are in cardines or some of those that follow cardines or in the places which I mentioned above or in their houses or in their terms or in their exaltations or in their triplicities or in their portions, then it will be good as [those] planets will rule in the nativity which are in their house[s] or term[s] or image[s] [decans] or exaltation[s] or tripliciti[es].

Now I will explain to you the length of life and the number of years as I attempt [to compute it], because sometimes you will want to consider it in a horoscopic diagram as I will show you. The native was born in the ninety-sixth year of the years of Darīnūs [Diocletian] in the month Mihr on the second day in one and a half equinoctial hours of daylight. I wanted to know the places of the haylāj among which he was born because they are five places, and none of the planets...

table

But I calculated for this nativity from the degrees of the ascendent, and its degrees progress in the clime in which the native was born, which is the fourth clime. Saturn is in Taurus four degrees and thirty seconds, so it is casting rays from sextile to five degrees of Pisces. Because the ascendent is in eighteen degrees count from the ascendent to the rays of Saturn, and it does not come down to it. Then Mars in Taurus twenty-four degrees and fifty minutes casts rays to twenty-five degrees of Pisces.

I wanted to know in how many years the ascendent would conjoin with the rays of Mars. I took the eighteen degrees of the ascendent and I found in the [tables for] my clime and the twelve parts [signs] [that] placed under it [was] three hundred and fifty-two [time] degrees and thirty seconds; I wrote this down separately. Then I took the twenty-four degrees and fifty minutes where Mars cast its rays to Pisces and I found the rising-times under this [to be] three hundred and fifty-six [time] degrees and forty-eight minutes; so I subtracted the three hundred and fifty-two [degrees] and thirty [minutes] which belong to the ascendent, and there were left four [time]...

table

degrees and eighteen minutes. I said that the degrees of the ascendent would conjoin with the sextile rays of Mars in four years and a fifth and a tenth of a year. Because Venus [is] in this term, it dissolves the fear and misery that Mars indicates and he will not die, but this misery will pass by him
because whenever the rays of the benefics are found with the rays of the malefics, then the benefic dissolves whatever the malefic indicates; but if the malefic and its term cast rays without the benefics, then it will not be long before he dies.

Then, when the degrees of the ascendent depart from Aries, they will descend to the [first] term of Taurus, which [is] the place in which Saturn is. I computed this thus in the [table for the] cline in which I was, and I found the rising-times under thirty degrees of Aries [to be] nineteen [time] degrees and twelve minutes. I wanted to subtract from these the [rising-]times which [were] under the degrees of the ascendent. Because they were greater than the nineteen [degrees] and twelve [minutes] which [are] in Aries and I was not able to subtract it, I added to it [19; 12] a complete rotation, which is three hundred and sixty degrees, and I subtracted from it [379; 12] the three hundred and fifty-two [degrees] and thirty [minutes] which [were] under the degrees of the ascendent; there remained twenty-six [degrees] and forty-two [minutes]. I said [that] the degree of the ascendent will depart from Aries in twenty-six years and a half and a fifth of a year. This makes clear that the conjunction of the degree of the ascendent with a malefic indicates a great misery unless there are some of the benefics which cast their rays to this term because sometimes misery and death will come to him before the conjunction of the degree with a malefic. This [was] in twenty-six years and a half and a fifth of a year.

But I wanted to know when would be its conjunction with the degree of Saturn. I took the four and thirty minutes in which Saturn [was] and I found in the [table for the] cline and the twelve parts [signs] [that] the rising-times [are] twenty-two [degrees] and twenty-one [minutes]. Because [this was] less than what I wanted to subtract from it, I added to it [22; 21] a rotation, and it became three hundred and eighty-two [degrees] and twenty-one [minutes], and I subtracted from it [that] which was placed under the degree of the ascendent, which was three hundred and fifty-two [degrees] and thirty [minutes]; there remained twenty-nine [degrees] and fifty-one ...

... p.240] [minutes]. I said that in twenty-nine years and a half and a quarter and a tenth of a year the degree of the ascendent would conjoin with Saturn. Because the Sun cast its rays from sextile to the first term of Taurus where Saturn was staying, the heat of the Sun will drive away the maleficence of Saturn, and the harsh misery will pass him by, and he will not die.

In twenty-two degrees of Taurus the degree of the ascendent will arrive at where Mars [was]. I took twenty-two degrees of Taurus and entered with them in the [table for the] cline and the twelve parts [signs], and I found [that] the rising-times [were] thirty-five [degrees] and twenty-four [minutes]. Because [it was] small [and] I could not subtract from it what I wanted to, I added to it [35; 24] a rotation, and it became three hundred and ninety-five [degrees] and twenty-four [minutes], and I subtracted from it the three hundred and fifty-two [degrees] and thirty [minutes] which belong to the ascendent; there remained forty-two [degrees] and fifty-four [minutes]. I said that it will arrive at the term in which Mars is in forty-two years and a half and a third and two-thirds of a tenth of a year.

The degree of the ascendent to the degree of Mars: I calculated it thus. I entered with the twenty-four [degrees] and fifty [minutes] which pertained to Mars in Taurus in the [table for the] cline in which I was and its parts [signs], and I found [that] the rising-times [were] thirty-seven [degrees] and forty-three [minutes], and because of its smallness I added to it [37; 43] a rotation, and it became three hundred and ninety-seven [degrees] and forty-three [minutes], and I subtracted from it the three hundred and fifty-two [degrees] and thirty [minutes] which belong to the ascendent; there remained forty-five years and a sixth and half a tenth of a year [in which] the ascendent would conjoin with Mars. Because Venus also cast its rays on this place from sextile, it will dissolve the maleficence of Mars, and he will not die because of Venus’ aspect, and whatever of [its] rays it cast to this place, by means of them this misery will pass [him] by. Then the rays [of the malefics] will not reach it [the ascendent] until it comes to Cancer, so that the degrees of Taurus and Gemini pass it by because none of the malefics will aspect [it] till it reaches the degrees of Cancer.
Then the degrees of the ascendent will enter the beginning of Cancer and Saturn will aspect it. I computed thus. I entered with thirty …

Then I calculated its conjunction with the degree of Saturn. I took the four degrees and thirty minutes in which Saturn was and I entered with them in the [table of] rising-times of Cancer, and they were seventy-six [degrees] [and twenty minutes], and I added a rotation and subtracted from it three hundred and fifty-two [degrees] and thirty [minutes]; there remained eighty-three years and a half and a fourth of a year.

Also it is not useful to look at the course of these degrees and their term, but to look at the course of the degrees of the Moon because the conjunction of the Moon’s degree with the malefics indicates misery, especially if with this the benefics do not aspect as, if they do aspect, they dissolve misery and death. It is necessary for you to look at the transit of the planets and the revolution of years; in these sometimes it makes him miserable and spoils [his] life, but we do not find this peculiarity in everyone [of the books]. I sought for this in a long period of years and I suffered every misery so that I might write it down. Look at the casting of rays in latitude also because sometimes a planet is aspecting from opposition, and if you calculate it in latitude and you find one (planet) in the south, the other in the north, then this is not in opposition and also does not cast [its] rays, which according to this indicates misery. Also if you find both the Sun and the Moon in the sixth or the eighth or the twelfth and the malefics aspect [them], then they indicate death when their degrees conjoin with the malefics. But if they are in a bad place but are not injured, and you find the malefics casting [their] rays close to their degrees, then the misery which would be will pass by, and he will not die in it.

The haylāj is the indicator and the kadhkhudā is the governor of the matter of life. The haylāj by day is the Sun and by night the Moon, then the degrees of the term of the ascendent, then the lot of fortune. Whosoever’s nativity takes place from conjunction to fullness [of the Moon, for him] it [the kadhkhudā?] is the degree of the conjunction, and whosoever’s nativity takes place in what is between fullness and conjunction, the degree in which the fullness is; [each period] is fifteen days in a month, and its nighttime is more powerful than that [daytime]. By day the Sun and by night the Moon, and the better of these two is what is in a cardine, especially the ascendent. It is necessary that the lord of the term aspect the haylāj, or the lord of its house, or the lord of its exaltation, or the lord of its triplicity, or the lord of its image [decan]. If it is in this situation, it is the haylāj, but if there does not witness it the lord of the term or one of those which I mentioned – the lord of its house or its triplicity or its exaltation or its image (the first of these is the lord of the term, then the lord of the triplicity) – then it will not be good that you make it the haylāj. See which [planet] casts [its] rays once you have found the haylāj, casts [its] rays to it from both quartiles and both trines and both sextiles or is present with it or in opposition. In a diurnal nativity if the Sun is in the ascendent in the degrees above the earth and one of those [planets] which I mentioned aspects it, then it will have the power to be the haylāj. Similarly [is it] if you find it in midheaven or in the eleventh sign, which is the sign of good fortune. Similarly look in nocturnal nativities from the Moon. But if in diurnal nativities you find the Sun cadent, injured, but the Moon in those places, it has the power for the
Moon to be ruling in it. Similarly in a nocturnal nativity, if you find the Moon cadent and the Sun in the ascendent, then speak about the Sun [as haylāj]. Look at the lot of fortune in the same way.

Look at the place in which is the conjunction of the Sun and the Moon or the fullness [of the Moon]. Once you have found the haylāj, look at the lord of the term of the Sun and of the Moon. If you find them cadent, not aspecting the haylāj, then this haylāj is no good. If you find a malefic casting its rays to the degree of the haylāj, it will harm him [the native] and injury will come to him in the period during which this malefic is governor of the prorogation or ray. If the Sun is in opposition to Mars from the ascendent, consider that this ...

p.243] is an indicator of the squandering of his father’s property, and striking and grief from the nobles of men, and ruination will harm him and a pain in his leg, and this will come to him in the period during which Mars is the governor of the ray.

Because the nativity was diurnal, I looked in search of the haylāj at the Sun, and I found the Sun cadent. I also looked at the Moon, and I found it cadent. I found the lot of fortune and the fullness [of the Moon] also in cadent[s]. There was nothing obvious from which the haylāj might be found except the ascendent. The lord of the term of the ascendent, Mars, was above the earth and near the East and the four parts which have been mentioned and [in] the place of good fortune aspecting the ascendent and casting [its] rays to that term in which the ascendent is, from above it, because it casts to the house and term together; if that casting were to the house only, it would not have this power. There is left of the term one degree that belongs to Mars.

So Mars takes over the governorship of the prorogation and ray. Until this degree in its prorogation and its ray ends without the ray of any [other], Mars indicates in this year injury from fire and disease. Even though Mars is in a good place, it is necessary that it indicate like this. This misfortune is worse for him [the native] because the ...

p.244] Moon aspects it [Mars]. If it were not that the Sun stands between its ray and the ascendent and breaks the power of Mars, it would be worse. Then the prorogation of the ascendent comes to the term of Venus till the eleventh degree. Because Mars has left and Venus has entered it is necessary to mix the power of these two together. Because of this the native will be blessed with love from his parents because both of these [planets] are in a good place, and moreover pain will reach him. Then till the nineteenth degree is the prorogation of Mercury, and in this period he will increase [his] learning and culture and the like. Then the prorogation at puberty reaches Jupiter, and it will indicate praise on account of [his] culture and good from [his] eloquence and the manifestation of
[his] ways which are pleasing to people. Even though Jupiter is retrograde in motion and does not aspect the Moon and the ascendent, this will not decrease it because, whenever the planets are thus, their power is weakened and its gift is muddied. If Jupiter were in a better place than this, it would increase the good. Then the prorogation comes to Saturn while Venus casts [its] rays to the twentieth degree of Scorpio from quartile, so that Saturn and Venus govern this prorogation together. Saturn indicates his slowness in work and disease and distance from his land and grief and obstruction and difficulty, and this is worse because Mars is elevated over Saturn. If it were not that Jupiter aspects Saturn it would be worse. Because of the place of Saturn his mother will die in this period, but he will acquire goods because Saturn indicates these, and he will marry a wife with a dowry, and [a child] will be born to him who will live a short while and die in the third year; his enjoyment of women and children will be from Venus, but his lament and the death of his child will be from Saturn. Then the prorogation arrives at Sagittarius, the first term, which is the house of Jupiter and its term. Because Jupiter makes this place its house and its term, it governs the prorogation alone without any [other] of the planets [and] it increases its power. It indicates for the native leadership and honor among groups of men, and his elevation among them. Because Saturn is in the twelfth degree, it indicates the last day of his life, and he will live after the twelfth degree forty-eight nights because Saturn is in the beginning of the degree [at 12; 8°].

If you want to know how each planet increases the nativity and how it diminishes it, then look at the transit of the planets and which ...

p.245] aspects the haylāj from right or left, and [look] at the term of the ascendent and at the lord of the ascendent’s term and the planets which are in it. Consider well the rays, whether of benefics or of malefics or mixed, because if the rays are of malefics without benefics then it is bad. See which [planet] casts [its] rays in aspect or in being with it [the haylāj?], and in how many degrees of rising-times in the clime in which you are it will arrive at the prorogation. Consider that planet which casts [its] rays to the planet which aspects it [the haylāj?] or [is] with it and the lord of the prorogation; then mix them together in proportion to their maleficence and their beneficence and their power in the places and the planets’ aspect of them and their portions and their terms and their houses, and judge in accordance with how you find them.

The third book of the books of Dorotheus is finished. Praise to God – He alone deserves praise and merits it.

*** End of Book Three