

**MEDIEVAL ASTROLOGY FOUNDATION COURSE  
SAMPLE EXTRACTS**

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## **From: Medieval Astrology Foundation Course Orientation**

We need not be “creative”, still less do we indulge in associative thinking running a stream of consciousness out of our liquid lips hoping to say something “right”. We do not “channel”. As astrologers we read the horoscope. We only read the horoscope. There is no need to “interpret” the horoscope. There is nothing we can add to it. Our personal contribution can only get in the way. There is no way we can understand the client. We have not lived his/her life.

Though the Art is called Judicial Astrology, it is our reading of the horoscope where the judgement takes place, not our judging of the client. We are frequently called upon to judge if a planet will produce a thing, deny a thing or destroy it once produced. This requires experience and the faithful application of the rules of judgement. The assistance of angelic intercession, inner voices and familiar spirits is categorically discouraged as self-delusion, unnecessary and unhelpful.

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## From Lesson 1: Sign Subdivisions & Rulerships

Next is Figure 2 *The Planets*

	Sun	
	Moon	
	Mercury	
	Venus	
	Mars	
	Jupiter	
	Saturn	
Masculine Planets	<input type="checkbox"/>	(either)
Feminine Planets	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Diurnal Planets	<input type="checkbox"/>	(either)
Nocturnal Planets	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Benefic Planets		
		(depending on circumstance) (waxing)
Malefic Planets	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		(depending on circumstance) (waning)

This lists the names and the symbols {or glyphs} of the seven planets used in Medieval Astrology. You may notice that the more “modern planets” Uranus, Neptune and Pluto are omitted. These last three are often used by Modern astrologers but are not used in Medieval Astrology.

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## From Lesson 1: Sign Subdivisions & Rulerships

Below the list you will see that the planets have been categorised. The masculine planets are the Sun, Saturn, Jupiter and Mars. The Feminine planets are the Moon and Venus. While Mercury can be either masculine or feminine depending on particular circumstances.

The diurnal {or day} planets are the Sun, Jupiter and Saturn. The nocturnal {or night} planets are the Moon, Venus and Mars. Again, Mercury can be either depending on the circumstances.

The benefic {"works good effect"} planets are Jupiter, Venus and the Sun. The malefic {"works bad effect"} planets are Saturn and Mars. But you will have noticed that the Moon is listed in both. When the Moon is waxing {increasing in light, as it appears to grow daily larger until it becomes a Full Moon} it is considered benefic. However, when the Moon is waning {decreasing in light, as it appears to grow daily smaller until it becomes a New Moon – which is when it cannot be seen at all} then it is considered malefic. Mercury can be either a benefic or a malefic planet depending on the circumstances of each case. When dealing with malefic and benefic planets the question is "good for what and bad for what" and this we will explore later. But for now it is important that you understand basics.

It is important you know these categories, as they will be explained later. Now is perhaps the time to say that the astrological diagram the astrologer reads in Medieval Astrology is termed the horoscope, natal figure, chart, or natal chart. They are all interchangeable and mean the same thing. Medieval Astrologers had additional names for it but I will attempt to restrict myself to these usages.

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## From Lesson 2: The Arabic Parts in Astrology

Jean Ganivet, in *Amicus Medicorum*, Lyons 1508, gives us an example of the use of the Parts in Astrological Medical diagnosis. He casts a horary figure for the time in which a friend of the Dean of Vienne asked if the Dean would survive his current illness or not. See *Ganivet [Medical](#)*. He concludes, after considering the Sun and Moon, the Part of the Killing Planet, the Part of Death, the Part of Life and the Part of Fortune, all of which were adversely placed, that the Dean would fall into delirium in 24 hours and die within two days. He reports that such was the case.

In Natal Figures, the Parts were usually used to get a deeper understanding of the native's life. Thus the Part of Fortune was called "the Lunar Ascendant" and provided the medieval astrologer with information relating to the native's inner motivation (as opposed to his outer drives imposed upon him by physical and worldly demands). More concretely, the Part of Fortune figures in calculations relating to the delineation of a number of temporal concerns: finances, health, longevity, etc. The Part of Fortune is found: In diurnal horoscopes, take the distance from the Sun to the Moon and project it from the Ascendant. In Nocturnal figures, take the distance from the Moon to the Sun and project it from the Ascendant.

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## From Lesson 3: Delineation of the Astrological House

Prediction is nothing more than the application of timing techniques to the natal promise. They indicate **when** what is promised in the natal chart will come forth as an event in the life of the native. Be very clear about this: Delineation tells us "what." Prediction tells us "when." ***You cannot honestly or reliably predict anything astrologically which is not promised in the natal chart.***

This having been said, it will be apparent that, in order to predict we must first delineate. We must have a thorough understanding of the natal figure's promise. In order to do this we must understand how the planets are operating both universally as per their natures and specifically as relates to the chart in question as per their local determination {their house position, rulership(s) and aspects as well as per their dignity or debility}. The way a planet operates, its quality, is a function of its dignity or debility. You were introduced to this concept in a previous lesson and now you will see it more concretely spelled out.

The quantity of a planet's influence depends upon its house position. Angular planets (planets in 1<sup>st</sup>, 10th, 7th, 4th houses) give 100%. Succedent planets (in the succedent houses (2<sup>nd</sup>, 11th, 8th, 5th) give 50%. Both angular and succedent planets are considered strong. Cadent planets (houses 12<sup>th</sup>, 9th, 6th, 3rd) are regarded as weak, even afflicted and give only 25%. Angular planets and succedent planets tend to realise what they promise, although, if they are severely afflicted, they may bring forth what they promise accompanied with trouble of a sort indicated by the afflicting causes. Cadent planets are weak and afflicted. By themselves they cannot realise what they promise. In order to do so they must receive assistance.

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## From Lesson 3: Delineation of the Astrological House

Once you understand the procedure for the delineation of any house you can apply it to all the houses of the chart. The General Approach permits you to be quite precise in your delineation of the affairs of life corresponding to the house under examination and is an important step in the process of coming to understand how the planets are working in the chart. As you will see, the process of delineation of one house usually leads to the consideration of the position of one or more of its rulers in other houses. This in turn entails the delineation of these other houses and so, step by step, we are led to an understanding of the entire chart. It is this understanding that we need in order to be able to predict.

The General Approach consists of examining:

1. any planets in the house under examination
2. the significator of the issue under examination
3. the ruler of the house under examination
4. the Almuten of the house under examination
5. the Arabic Part (or Parts) relating to the meaning of the house under examination.

And finally reaching a conclusion by synthesising the above testimonies as per the 4-fold Aristotelian considerations of Whether it is, What it is, How it is and Why it is. This is easier than it may sound at first. We will be led inevitably to the correct conclusion by the method - not by our own innate genius, associative thinking, angelic voices or "messages." Simply by reading the Chart.

Let's look at this Approach more closely and use it to delineate the 11<sup>th</sup> House in Figure 9

### **Rule 1: Examine any planets in the house under examination**

This rule rests upon the general rule that "**Position is stronger than rulership.**" By "position" is meant a planet's, node's, Part's or a star's position in a house in the astrological figure.

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## From Lesson 4: Predictive Techniques

4. After the first period (either Moon or Sun) move clockwise around the *Firdaria* Figure.

Progress through the whole *Firdaria* Scheme of the Figure 10. In a diurnal figure the sequence will be Sun, Venus, Mercury, Moon, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, North Node and South Node. In a nocturnal figure the sequence will be Moon, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, N. Node, S. Node, Sun, Venus, Mercury.

5. The sequence will give the general outline of the native's life. During the *Firdaria* or period in question the quality of the time conforms to the nature and zodiacal state of the planet ruling that period. This quality will be linked to the house the planet is positioned in and will be associated with issues corresponding to the house(s) it rules both by rulership and by exaltation.

The ability to make correct predictions and to accurately read the past using this technique is based upon knowing beforehand what each of the planets are doing in the horoscope. Your delineation of the chart beforehand enables you to do this.

If you make statements based merely upon the natures of the planets themselves, your reading will be bland and general. This will be because you will only be reciting a series of planetary influences common to everyone with a diurnal or nocturnal chart. If, on the other hand, you take the ruling planet's house position, its rulerships, nature and dignity or debility, **and** its aspects; especially if you have thoroughly synthesised all this previously and know precisely what the planet ruling the period is doing {in the natal figure before you} your reading will be accurate, penetrating and impressive.

6. The next stage is to apply the *Firdaria* sub-periods in which shorter time periods are examined. In this note that each of the planetary periods is divided into 7 sub-

