



Lilly's Recommendations for Judging Legal Disputes

Extracted from *Christian Astrology*

Retyped and annotated by Deborah Houlding

CA, p.366 CHAP. LI

Of battles, war, and other contentions

If one demand whether he shall overcome his adversary or not, give to the querent the lord of the ascendant, the Moon, and the planet from whom she is separated; and unto the defendant¹³⁶⁷¹ the seventh and his lord, and the planet to whom the Moon applies; and behold whose significator is in angles and best, and with better planets, and so judge.

If evil planets be in the ascendant, and fortunes in the seventh, the adversary shall overcome, & *e contra*.¹ The lord of the seventh in the ascendant, betokens victory to the querent, & *e contra*.

CA, p.369 CHAP. LII

Who shall do best in a suit of law?

If the lord of the ascendant and seventh be in angles, neither shall overcome²: see which is joined to an evil planet in a cadent house, that party shall be overcome: if both be joined to infortunes, both parties will be undone by the suit, or receive infinite prejudice. If the one be strong and the other weak, and he that is strong be not cadent, nor joined to an infortune; and he that is ill dignified, or in a weak quarter of heaven or house, I say, if he be not in his own house, or exaltation, or with a good planet; then the strongest in the scheme overcomes.

He that is but meanly strong in the figure, seems very fearful; sometimes he hopes to win, at other times to lose: and observe this in questions, concerning wars and kingdoms, the fortitude of a planet is greater in his exaltation than in his house, in all other questions quite contrary.

CA, p.372 CHAP. LIII

Of a lawsuit or controversy between two, who shall speed best, or whether they shall compound,³ or have the matter taken up or not before they do go to law?

Behold the ascendant, his lord and Moon, these signify the *querent*; the seventh house and his lord are for the *adversary*. If the lord of the ascendant or the Moon be joined to the lord of the seventh, or be in sextile or trine aspect with mutual reception, the parties will easily of themselves accord, and compose all difficulties without mediation of any, or with a little entreaty.

But if one receive the other, and he that is received, receive not the other *significator*, they shall agree without suit of law, but not without intermission of a third party or more; and those that intercede, for the most part shall be his friends or acquaintance that did receive the other planet.

If they, *viz.* the lord of the seventh and ascendant are in a square aspect, or in opposition, with mutual reception, or in a sextile or trine without reception, they will be reconciled, but first they will have one little combat at law: and you must observe, that unity shall proceed from that party whose *significator* is less ponderous, and commits his disposition to the other; and this concord shall be the more firm, if both *significators* receive one another: if the lighter planet be joined to the more weighty, and receive him not, but the superior planet receive him, it argues, he that receive would accord whether his adversary will or not.

Who wins?⁴

³⁷³¹ Having considered the former *significators*, observe the *significator* of the *Judge*, who is ever the lord of the tenth house, and whether he aspect either of the *significators*, *viz.* whether the lord of the ascendant or seventh, or be in conjunction with either of them; see if the lord of the ascendant hastens to the conjunction of the lord of the seventh, or the lord of the seventh to him, and that the lord of the tenth house doth frustrate their conjunction, it's then an argument they shall not agree before they have been at law, and herein the *Judge* or *Lawyer* seems faulty, who will not permit the parties to compose their differences: see if the Moon transfer light between the

¹ *e contra* or *e contrario* – 'on the contrary'.

² Meaning they are both equally as strong as the other.

³ The word *compound* is used in its archaic meaning of 'to settle' (rather than its modern meaning of making things worse) – the same where Lilly later uses the word *compose*.

⁴ Red margin notes such as this are my own additions.



lord of the ascendant and seventh; if she do not, see if any other planet carry their influence or light to each other; for if it be so, it's like some[one] or other interposes their pains, and reconciles the parties though they be in law.

See after this, whether the lord of the ascendant or seventh be strongest, for he whose *significator* is most powerful, ought to have the victory; he is strongest, who is in an angle, and in some of his essential dignities; the greater his strength is, how much greater the essential dignity is wherein he is; and if he be also received by any other planet, it's an argument that party is able, and that he has the more friends to assist him: if you do find that they will compound, the first mover thereunto, will be on the part of the lighter planet, who commits his disposition to the other; for if the lord of the ascendant be more light, and the lord of the seventh more ponderous, the first motion of peace shall come from the *querent*, and so *e contrario*. A planet in a cadent house is more weak, if not received or assisted by the aspect of some other; if the lord of the seventh house be in the ascendant, then the *querent* without doubt overcomes, and the *adversary* will yield; the like happens to the *querent* when he is in the same condition, *viz.* that he shall be overcome: and this happens not only in law suits, and for money, but also in fights, duels and war. See further if the lord of the ascendant be retrograde, it argues the weakness of the *querent*, and that he will not stand to it stoutly, that he will deny the truth to his *adversary*⁵ nor will he believe that he hath any right to the thing in question; ¹³⁷⁴ if the lord of the seventh be retrograde, it argues the same things on the *quesited's* part.

The Judge

Behold the *significator* of the *Judge* who is to give sentence in the cause, which is the lord of the tenth house, whether he be direct, and behold them,⁶ for then he will proceed according to order of law in the cause, and will endeavour to shorten and determine it; but if he be retrograde, it's an argument the *Judge* will not go on or proceed according to order of law, nor will he care to end it; nay, it's rather probable he will prolong it a longer time than he ought by law: judge the same if the lord of the ascendant be separated from the lord of the seventh, or the lord of the seventh from the lord of the ascendant.

See if the lord of the ascendant be in aspect with the Sun or Moon, or either of them joined to him, so that no other planet hinder their aspect; beware it be not a corporal conjunction [*with the Sun*], for that signifies an impediment, unless the planet were in the heart of the Sun, for then the planet was fortified thereby. So is he in like nature, if the planet be in either of the houses of the *luminaries*, or if the Sun and Moon be in the ascendant: these argue the potency of the *querent*. If the lord of the seventh be dignified or qualified as before I mentioned of the lord of the ascendant, you must judge in like nature on the behalf of the *quesited*: if the lord of the ascendant be joined to the lord of the tenth, he that is the *querent* will acquaint the *Judge* himself, or make means to acquaint him with his cause, and it may be he will endeavour to bribe the *Judge*, that so he may judge on his side: if the lord of the tenth receive the lord of the second, the *Judge* will have money for his pains; but if the lord of the tenth receive the lord of the ascendant, the *Judge* hears the *querent's* importunities, otherwise not.⁷

If the lord of the tenth be more light than the lord of the ascendant, and joined unto him, he will do the *querent's* business though he never speak unto him;⁸ if the lord of the seventh⁹ be joined to the lord of the tenth, then the *adversary* makes means to the *Judge*; and if the lord of the tenth receive the lord of the seventh, he will assist him; but if he receive the lord of the eighth, he will take his money.

If the lord of the tenth receive both *significators* the *Judge*¹³⁷⁵ will compose¹⁰ the matter before it comes to a full trial.

If the lord of the tenth be in the tenth, in his own house, the *Judge* will then do justice, and judge the cause for his honour, unless that planet be Saturn: if the lord of the tenth be only in his own term or triplicity, it's true the *Judge* will determine the cause, but makes no matter which way it goes. If a planet be in the tenth house that has no dignity, or is not in reception with the lord of the tenth, it argues the parties will not be content, or stand to that sentence, they both fear that *Judge*, and had rather have another *Judge* his sentence, with which they would be content: if Saturn be *Judge*, he will not judge as he ought; if at that time Jupiter, Venus, Sun, Mercury or Moon be in any aspect to Saturn but opposition, the *Judge* will be ill reported of, but in a little time will be cleared, and the aspersion taken off; but if any of those be in opposition to Saturn, there will go a hard report on the *Judge* for that his sentence, and it will continue long; the *Judge's* defamation will be great if Mars be in opposition to Saturn, unless Mars be with Saturn in Capricorn, then the scandal will be the less.

⁵ Meaning he will deny himself the opportunity to argue the truth, or his own cause, out of trepidation.

⁶ Meaning: see if the 10th ruler is direct and aspecting the 1st and 7th rulers.

⁷ Meaning that the Judge is willing to listen sympathetically to the querent's cause (rather than literally hearing him).

⁸ Again, this does not mean that he will not speak to him, literally, but that the judge will sympathise with the querent without even having to be cajoled or bribed by him; it is an indication that the judge favours the querent's argument.

⁹ Correcting the manuscript, which says 'lord of the second' – this obviously makes no sense and should read 'seventh'.

¹⁰ *compose*: 'settle' (archaic meaning).



Summary

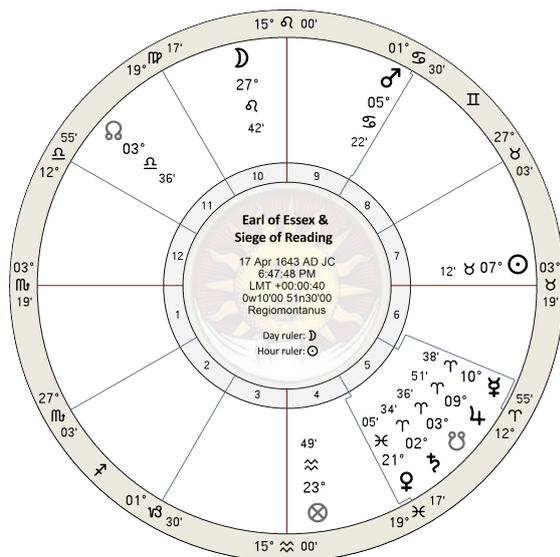
But to be short, in these like judgments observe this method: the querent is signified by the lord of the ascendant, the adversary by the lord of the seventh, the Judge by the lord of the tenth, the end of the matter from the lord of the fourth; consider well the lords of the houses, their fortitudes, and whether they be in angles, succedents or cadents, fortunate or not fortunate; for the planet that is most strong, and best posited, is the best man, and most likely to carry the victory, and has the best cause.

If more planets be in the ascendant and second, the querent shall have most friends & sic e contrario: if both significators give their virtue to one planet, there will be one who will intercede between them: if the sign ascending and seventh be fixed, both querent and quesited are resolutely bent to proceed in the suit or controversy; if movable signs be there, it's like they have no great stomach to the business but will end it very shortly; if common signs be there, they will continue the suit long, and have the cause out of one court into another. On whose part you find the infortunes, that party shall receive most prejudice, sorrow and trouble by the contention.

You are to consider in this manner of judgment the Moon, from whom she is separated, and the planet to whom she applies are equally significant, as the ascendant and seventh houses, &c.

Lilly does not include any of his own example horaries on this theme, but illustrates the method of judgement by adding extra narrative to the end of his battle-themed horary 'If his Excellency Robert Earl of Essex should take Reading, having then surrounded it with his army'

CA, p.403 CHAP. LXV



Had this very question been of a lawsuit, Who should have overcome? you must have considered the lord of the ascendant for the querent or plaintiff, and the ascendant itself, together with the Moon; for the enemy or defendant, the seventh and his lord and planets therein placed. In our figure, in regard the Moon applies to a sextile of Mars, the querent therefore would have had the victory, by reason of the verdict given by the Jurors, who ever are signified by the Moon; but because the Sun is locally in the seventh, opposite to the ascendant, and is lord of the 10th, viz. of the Judge, there's no doubt but the Judge would have been adverse to the plaintiff, as his Majesty was to his Excellency and to the Parliament.¹¹

In this case I should have judged the defendant a man of good estate, or able to spend well, because Venus, lady of the 8th, viz. his second, is in exaltation; and yet the Sun and Mars in sextile might give strong testimonies that the Judge would labour to compound the matter between

both parties. The dispositor of the Part of Fortune in his fall, viz. Saturn in Aries with the South Node, would have shown great expense of the querent's or plaintiff's estate and money in this suit; and that such a man as Saturn would herein be a great enemy unto him, because Saturn and Mars are in square. As Saturn is lord of the third, he may show an ill neighbour, or a brother or kinsman; but as the third house is the ninth from the seventh, it may argue some pragmatical priest, or one of the defendant's sister's husbands; wherefore the plaintiff must either take such a one off, or else compound his matter, or must see whether his enemies attorney be not Saturnine, then shall he receive prejudice by his extreme rigid following the cause: if Saturn signify his lawyer, the damage is by him, or by some aged man, perhaps the querent's father or grandfather, or else some sturdy clown or ill tenant, &c. For according to the nature of the question, you must ever vary the nature of your rules; by exact knowledge whereof, you may attain the perfection of the whole art.

¹¹ A detail from the judgement of the actual horary, which concerned the outcome of a siege at the town of Reading; effectively this was a battle chart where Parliamentary forces (led by Essex) were assigned to the ascendant and signified by Mars, Royalist forces that were marching to defend the town were assigned to the 7th house and signified by Venus, the town itself was assigned to the 4th house, its governor was assigned to the 4th-ruler Saturn, and the King was assigned to the 10th house and so signified by the Sun. Lilly wrote: "Finding the Sun his Majesty's significator in the seventh, in a fixed sign, I acquainted the querent, his Majesty would oppose what he could, and send Forces to relieve the Town with all vigour and resolution".