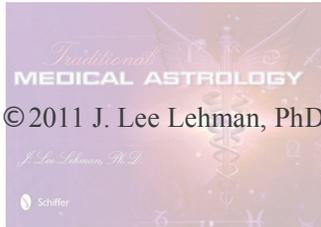


Traditional Medical Astrology



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Ancient Medicine

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Traditional Medical 3

Classification of Disease

- First, let's begin with Hippocrates' own conceptions of disease.
- We can see this quite clearly in his work *Breaths* (found in Volume 2 of the Loeb translations).
- Is based on excess wind accumulating in various parts of the body, resulting in clinical symptoms there.

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Humors

- Hippocrates' school was associated with the development of humors, or literal fluids of the body.
- An imbalance of fluids would produce disease.

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The Humors

Air	Sanguine	Wet, becoming Hot	Sweet taste, plump, buoyant, enthusiastic
Fire	Choleric	Hot, becoming Dry	Bitter taste, irascible, impulsive, angry
Earth	Melancholic	Dry, becoming Cold	Fresh taste, sad, serious, nervous
Water	Phlegmatic	Cold, becoming Wet	Salty taste, corpulent, indolent, lethargic

Table 2-1. The Complexions or Temperaments.

From: *TMA*, p 68

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Humors

Sanguine	Hot & Wet	Air	Upbeat and social
Choleric	Hot & Dry	Fire	Quick to anger
Phlegmatic	Cold & Wet	Water	Slow moving; couch potato
Melancholic	Cold & Dry	Earth	Thoughts dominate over action

Table 2-2. The Four Traditional Temperament Types.

From: *TMA*, p 68

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Accidents

- While Hippocrates didn't explicitly mention this, maiming, such as caused in war or other physical injuries, was not considered disease, although it was treated by a physician.

Fever

- Hippocrates began his discussion of disease in general with fever, which he considered the most common disease because of its common association with all other diseases.
- While we would not credit fever with being a part of all disease, we would certainly concur that it is common.

Structural Issues and Disease

- This point is so obvious it is often completely missed by the modern mind.
 - He discusses the physical properties of the organs as they relate to the kinds of symptoms and accumulations that can occur in that organ.
 - For example, edema cannot occur in all tissues.
 - The kinds of conditions that occur on the inside of a tubular structure are different than those which can occur on the outside.

Hippocrates' Theory of Disease

- "Diseases which arise soon after their origin, and those whose cause is clearly known, are those the history of which can be foretold with the greatest certainty."
- Basically, this statement speaks to the greater ease of dealing with an acute condition of known cause, compared to a chronic condition, the etiology of which is not fully understood.

Hippocrates' Theory of Disease

- "...if a part suffer pain before the illness, it is in it that the humours settle..."
- Again, an interesting idea from a diagnostic standpoint. As we shall see in Lesson 4, what we generally take as the decumbiture can also be taken from the onset of pain.

Hippocrates' Theory of Disease

- It is extremely important to know where a disease settles, because that gives clues about how to treat it.
- Hippocrates gave two methods of ascertaining the location beyond the observation of pain in a particular place:
 - sweat occurring on an isolated place
 - a particular portion of the body being excessively hot or cold.

Hippocrates' Theory of Disease

- “Those diseases are most dangerous which arise in the strongest part of the body.”
- He further adds that it is good if a disease moves from a weaker part to a stronger part, because then it is more easily thrown off.
- A weak area produces a weak or trivial disease, and a strong area produces a strong or dangerous disease.

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Strong and Weak Parts of the Body

- Translating this statement into astrological parlance, what is a strong part of the body?
 - As a first assessment, consider the Ascendant, its ruler and Almuten, and planets in the 1st House.
 - Find any of these placements that are dignified.
 - The dignified planet referred to then gives the rulership of the part of the body which is strong.

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Strong and Weak Parts of the Body

- Suppose you have the Sun in Leo in the 1st house.
- The Sun in Leo is strong, so you have a “strong” heart.
- What this statement says is that heart disease is dangerous to you.

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Strong and Weak in Application

- So: what do you do about this?
 - The generally accepted lifestyle solution is to exercise aerobically and cut down on fats, since both these measures will allegedly strengthen the heart.
 - In other words, you have identified the strong organ, and then devised a means to strengthen it further.

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Strong and Weak in Application

- This is reinforcement, which is essentially homeopathic in philosophy, because you are strengthening the already strong, rather than weakening it, which would be antagonistic, and hence Contraries.
- We have taken a “strong” component and strengthened it further, thereby reducing the chance that disease can get a foothold.

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Strong and Weak in Application

- But wait! If you or anyone you know has gone through this process, you would probably argue that, before the exercise regime kicked in, your heart (and circulatory system) was weak, not strong!
- So what’s going on here?

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Strong and Weak in Application

- The answer is that strength as it was meant in a classical context did not mean brute force!
- It meant “locus or nexus” of energy or dynamism.
- If you examine the expression, “so-and-so has a lot of heart,” the reference to heart isn’t to blood flow, or valve action, but to strength of character.

Strong and Weak in Application

- What we are proposing here is that the person with the Sun in Leo comes hard-wired for a certain fortitude of character.
- But life doesn’t always permit the expression of this character.
- We are therefore changing the life flow by artificially “strengthening” the organ on a physical level.

Strong and Weak in Application

- We are in effect saying that you’ve allowed your fortitude to become flabby, so we’ll work on the fortitude by working on the heart muscle.
- Our identification of “strong organ,” we will henceforth call fortitude to denote strength of character.
- And we are saying that it is not always possible to exercise fortitude in life: too often, it gets blocked by circumstance.

Strong and Weak in Application

- But there is still an intrinsic fortitude that must be addressed if disease is not to grab hold.
- On the gross physical plane we strengthen the appropriate muscles, thereby strengthening the organ that may have been physically weak.
- Here, we appear to be acting in a more Contraries mode, because we are strengthening an organ that may be physically weak.

Strong and Weak in Application

- But here’s the point. Physical fitness is not health.
- We may be working the “heart,” but we’re only indirectly working the “Heart.”
- If our physical strengthening does not result in a strengthening of character, then all the running, walking, treadmill, or swimming is in vain.

Culpeper's Version of Hippocrates on Disease

- Let’s jump ahead a number of centuries and consider Nicholas Culpeper’s interpretation of Hippocrates, which was somewhat inaccurate, since Culpeper specifically attributed an astrological medicine to him.
- However, the concept that concerns us here is Culpeper’s concept of how planets cause disease.

Culpeper on Saturn as the Cause of Disease

“The great wisdom of a physician is to know whether *Saturn* cause the disease by ... Sympathy or Antipathy, and then take notice, that as the cause is, so is the cure., Sympathetical, or antipathetical: and withal do not forget, that sympathetical cures strengthen nature; Antipathetical cures, in one degree of another weaken it; ... Antipathetical Medicines are not be used, unless to such Patients whom Doctor Ignorance or Doctor Carelessness hath had so long in hand, that Sympathetical will not serve the turn.... If *Saturn* cause the disease by Sympathy, cure it by the Sympathetical herbs of *Saturn*. If he cause the disease by Antipathy, note whether it be by Antipathy to Sun or Moon.... Make use of the Sympathetical herbs of these Planets ... for cure.”

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Contraries further considered

- If we apply the more modern parlance of “antagonistic” to the quainter term “antipathetic,” the situation becomes even clearer.
- Much of modern medicine is based on the principle of antagonism: if the patient has high blood pressure, give them something to bring it down; if the patient has low thyroxin, then give them thyroxin (or a chemical relative) to increase the amount in the system.

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Contraries further considered

- What we begin to perceive is that the concepts Contraries and homeopathic may not be inclusive enough: Culpeper is clearly talking about the broader terms antipathetic and sympathetic.
- When Culpeper refers to antipathy, he is mainly referring to the dispositor of the signs in which the planet is in Detriment.
 - So here, Saturn is in Detriment in Cancer and Leo; thus, the antipathetic causes are the Moon or the Sun.

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Contraries further considered

- Granted, this is being done within the context of a completely different theory of disease.
- However, the older theories explain one bane of modern medicine: the frequency of side effects.
 - As Culpeper says, treating a condition antagonistically weakens the system.
 - Therefore, we see side effects, which we can understand as being manifestations of this phenomenon!

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Contraries further considered

- However, contrast this statement with Hippocrates: “in general contraries are cured by contraries.”
- How do we resolve this contradiction?
 - I do have an idea. We have seen how Culpeper has taken Hippocrates’ ideas and run with them, showing how the cause can be either sympathetic or antagonistic.

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Contraries further considered

- Then, sympathetic cases should be treated sympathetically, and antagonistic cases antagonistically.
- Furthermore, he has placed himself in contradiction to most of his predecessors in claiming that the principle way to determine antagonisms is to look at dignities.

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The Body & Its Diseases

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The Body and Its Diseases

- Traditional medicine did not presume to predict the means by which someone developed chronic or life-threatening disease.
- The focus was on curative or palliative measures once disease developed.
- From an astrological standpoint, the focus was on identifying when, not how one was likely to become ill.

Traditional Medical 101

The Body and Its Diseases

- In the wake of modern medicine, and the belief that particular life style choices can slow or prevent the development of specific diseases, there is greater interest in predicting future disease patterns.
- We are essentially quantifying the relative conditions of the 1st, 6th and 8th houses as a means of determining the health and disease patterns of the individual..

Traditional Medical 102

The Body and Its Diseases

- As a means of doing horary or other interrogatory astrology, this is perfectly fine.
- But virtually all of us end up in this field after extensive study of natal, and few of us lose our taste for that particular style!
- Thus, we constantly take material from interrogatory studies and attempt to apply it to our natal work.

Traditional Medical 103

The Body and Its Diseases

- In short, the more prominent the 6th house natally, the more likely that sickness becomes a major theme of the life.
- Notice one difference in emphasis, however: Lilly ascribed more importance to the 7th house in natal work for examining disease possibilities.
 - Why? Remember that a very old facet of the 7th house was danger - it's the house opposite the 1st, after all, so if the Ascendant is Life, then the Descendant is Death.

Traditional Medical 104

Health & Disease

- Our question is: does the nativity show these propensities, and if so, how?
- I think the major matter to consider is how much we are talking about health, and how much about disease.
- For some time, there have been philosophies and religions - Christian Science being one of the more obvious - that have taught that disease is essentially an illusion, in great part because the body itself is an illusion.

Traditional Medical 105

Health & Disease

- Recently, there have even been studies which have begun to support the position that different temperament types - leaving aside the tricky definition of the word temperament to a non-astrologer - seem to show different disease complexes.
- This is an area being explored by medical intuitives as well as psychologists.

Traditional Medical 106

Finding Disease Types

- Let's examine these ideas a bit further within an astrological context.
- For purposes of this study, I extracted three populations from the AstroDataBank: those listed for cancer, heart conditions, and drug abuse.

Traditional Medical 107

House Rulerships by Planet

- Let's characterize the house rulerships by planet, beginning with the 1st house.
- Distributions of the Ruler of the 1st house (or other house cusps) suffer from two demographic difficulties.

Traditional Medical 108

Demographic Problems with House Rulership

- Signs of long and short ascension will affect the results because there is a seasonal distribution to births (more Geminis are born in the USA than any other sign; this is a typical Northern Hemisphere result, but it does vary somewhat by country), and there is also a diurnal distribution to births (natural births cluster just before dawn, while induced births cluster during normal business hours).
- The Sun and Moon ruler one sign; the regular planets each rule two signs.

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