

Victor of the Chart: Tests of Porphyry's Method

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Abstract

Objective. The objective of this paper is to test Antiochus/Porphyry's model for computing the victor of the chart. See the companion working paper *Astrology and the Soul: History and Sources* (April 25, 2012) for details.

Victor of the Chart. Of several natal rulers discussed by Hellenistic authors, the Lord of the Nativity (kurios) introduced by Antiochus/Porphyry is the forerunner of the Medieval Ruler of the Chart, or what translator Ben Dykes has named the 'victor of the chart' which is the terminology I will use henceforth. The planet chosen as victor of the chart is considered the most important planet in the natal horoscope. As conceived by Antiochus/Porphyry, the planet signifies choices made by the soul prior to incarnation according to Plato's *Myth of Er* which is told in the final pages of Plato's *Republic*. As such, the planet defined as victor of the chart has implications for an overall life purpose which generally manifests in career and profession.

Procedure. From an initial sample of 40 horoscopes completed in November 2011, as of October 2016 the sample size now stands at 151. I anticipate the full sample will expand to 200-250 by the end of 2018. The sample is drawn primarily from individuals mentioned in *The Soul's Code* by James Hillman. Based on life affairs, an overall life purpose was defined through a qualitative assessment and assigned to the planet in the horoscope whose delineation is consistent with the assessment. This planet is considered the empirical victor and will be compared to criteria for the victor identified by the Antiochus/Porphyry model. As this model leaves no formal method for computation of the victor, my intent is to compile the Antiochus/Porphyry criteria as the basis of statistical tests once the sample is complete. The goal of that project will be to examine which of the Antiochus/Porphyry criteria are statistically significant inputs with the goal of creating a formal rules-based quantitative model based on the results. As that project is some years in the future, the scope of this paper is to explain how the tables are presented within each individual horoscope report using Abraham Lincoln's horoscope as an example. Each individual horoscope report includes a qualitative discussion which compares the empirical victor (my judgment) with the Antiochus/Porphyry criteria.

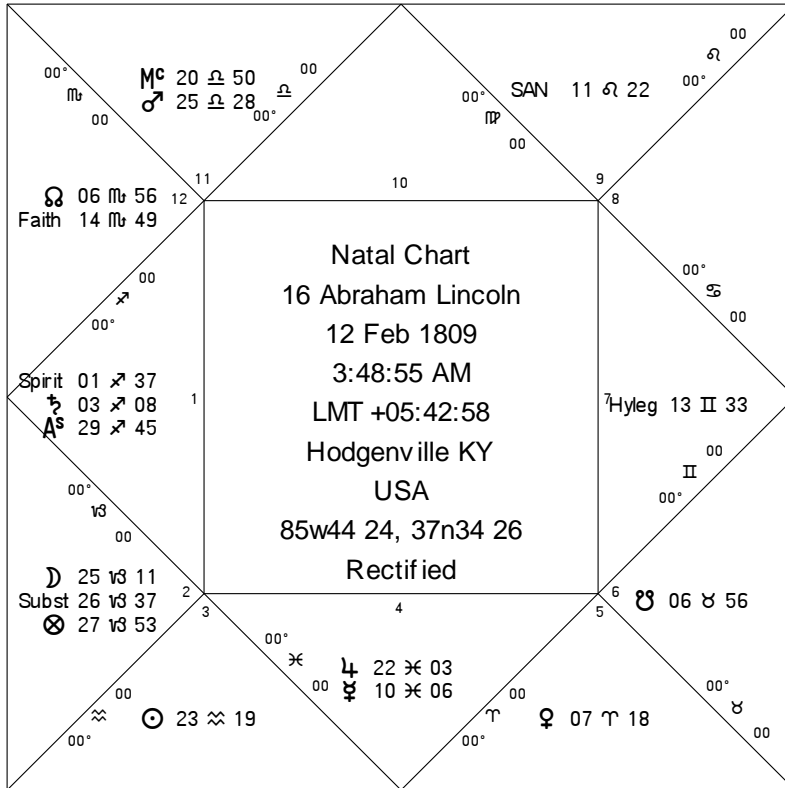
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Abraham Lincoln



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Antiochus/Porphyry Model

For more detailed commentary on the Antiochus/Porphyry text, see the companion working paper:
Astrology of the Soul: History and Sources (April 25, 2012)

Antiochus and Porphyry give two approaches for determining the victor of the chart:

Method 1

In the first method a planet ruling or placed near the Midheaven is the victor of the chart.

- a. sign ruler of the Midheaven degree if the ruler is angular (1st, 4th, 7th, 10th)
- b. planet positioned near the MC degree
(Holden: “close to the MC”; Schmidt: “present upon the Midheaven”)
- c. next planet carried to MC degree by primary motion
(Holden: “the one that is cadent to the MC”; Schmidt: “the planet ascending after the Midheaven”)

Method 2

The second method is more complicated and is a two stage process.

Stage 1 – select candidates

- a. sign ruler of the Ascendant
- b. planet positioned in Ascendant sign and bound
- c. sign ruler of the Moon
- d. sign ruler of the Lot of Fortune
- e. pertaining-to-arising, stationing, or pertaining-to-setting within 7 days of birth;
if multiple candidates, narrow to one: prefer rising over setting and setting over stationing.
- d. bound lord of prenatal syzygy

Stage 2 – rank candidates according to power

- a. Holden: “posited in front” => pertaining-to-arising
- b. Holden: “most easterly” => oriental of the Sun
- c. Holden: “the one that is most in its own domicile: => essential dignities
- d. Holden: the one “that has the most force for the scheme of the nativity” => house position
- e. Schmidt: “having the most power...in relation to the starts that jointly testify to it” => reception

In concluding the section, Antiochus/Porphyry states eminence is indicated when the victor is the same planet as the kadukhudhāh and the victor receives the sect light.

Comments: Unlike Ibn Ezra's model for the victor, Porphyry offers two models and does not provide enough details on the components to formally create a specific quantitative model for the victor using his approach. Any implementation of Porphyry's model requires judgment which makes it more a series of guidelines rather than a model, per se. That said, where Porphyry differs from Ibn Ezra is to divide the process into two parts: (1) identify candidates based on rulership of key horoscopic points first and (2) rank this list according to certain criteria.

Antiochus/Porphyry Model – Stage I – Identify the Candidates

In designing templates to test the Antiochus/Porphyry model, I have purposely cast the net wide by allowing greater freedom in choosing candidates in Stage I and more criteria for ranking candidates in Stage II. Original Porphyry's criteria are indicated by an asterisk (*) in the first column. Dwad listing is experimental and based on Hephaistio's list of 144 dwad positions of the Ascendant as a significator for thought (see Hermann of Carinthia, trans. Benjamin Dykes, pp. 198-295)

Significator (ABRAHAM LINCOLN)	Position	☉	☽	♃	♄	♅	♆	♇
MC degree	20 LI 50							
* MC degree - sign ruler						1		
MC degree - bound ruler							1	
MC degree - dwad ruler	10 GE 05			1				
* Planet in MC sign						1		
* Planet in MC bound								
Asc degree	29 SA 45							
* Asc degree - sign ruler							1	
Asc degree - bound ruler						1		
Asc degree - dwad ruler	27 SC 09					1		
* Planet in Asc sign								1
* Planet in Asc bound								
Moon degree	25 CP 11							
* Moon degree - sign ruler								1
Moon degree - bound ruler								1
Moon degree - dwad ruler	02 SC 15					1		
Sun degree	23 AQ 19							
Sun degree - sign ruler								1
Sun degree - bound ruler						1		
Sun degree - dwad ruler	09 SC 55					1		
Pars Fortuna degree	27 CP 54							
* Pars Fortuna degree - sign ruler								1
Pars Fortuna degree - bound ruler						1		
Pars Fortuna degree - dwad ruler	04 SA 49						1	
Pars Spirit degree	01 SA 37							
Pars Spirit degree - sign ruler							1	
Pars Spirit degree - bound ruler							1	
Pars Spirit degree - dwad ruler	19 SA 29						1	
Syzygy degree	11 LE 22							
* Syzygy degree - sign ruler		1						
* Syzygy degree - bound ruler								1
Syzygy degree - dwad ruler	16 SA 35						1	
Planet Phases								
* Rising within 7 days								
* Setting within 7 days								
Acronyca rising								
* Station within 7 days								
Total (Sign only)		1	0	0	1	0	2	3
Total (Bound only)		0	0	0	0	3	2	2
Total (Dwad only)		0	0	1	0	3	3	0
Total (Sign + Bound)		1	0	0	1	3	4	5
Total (Sign + Bound + Dwad)		1	0	1	1	6	7	5
Total		1	0	1	1	7	7	6

Antiochus/Porphyry Model – Stage I – Evaluate the Candidates

The Stage 2 template considers sect, solar phase (in the expanded style of Ibn Ezra), position in the horoscope, essential dignity, planetary/nodal configuration, and the day/hour ruler

SECT	☉	☽	♃	♀	♂	♄	♅
Diurnal planets: Is the chart diurnal?							
Diurnal planets: Placed on same horizon as Sun?						1	
Diurnal planets: Placed in masculine sign?	1						1
Nocturnal planets: Is the chart nocturnal?		1		1	1		
Nocturnal planets: Placed on opposite horizon as Sun?					1		
Nocturnal planets: Placed in feminine sign (except Mars)?		1			1		
Is Mercury diurnal on diurnal chart, or nocturnal on nocturnal chart?			1				
SOLAR PHASE	☉	☽	♃	♀	♂	♄	♅
Velocity	1.01	14.04	1.49	1.14	0.19	0.23	0.05
Latitude	0	4.94	-0.03	0.21	2.64	-1.1	2.01
Superiors oriental or inferiors occidental?			1	1	1		1
ADVANCED: SUPERIOR PLANETS							
Superior: Cazimi - Conjunct Sun							
Superior: Oriental - Combust							
Superior: Oriental - Under sunbeams							
Superior: Oriental - Rising to waxing sextile							
Superior: Oriental - Waxing sextile to square							1
Superior: Oriental - Square to 1st station					1		
Superior: Oriental - 1st station (retrograde)							
Superior: Oriental - Retrograde to acronycal rising							
Superior: Acronycal rising							
Superior: Occidental - Opposition to 2nd station							
Superior: Occidental - 2nd station (direct)							
Superior: Occidental - From 2nd station to waning square							
Superior: Occidental - Waning square to sextile							
Superior: Occidental - Sextile to sinking						1	
Superior: Occidental - Under sunbeams							
Superior: Occidental - Combust							
ADVANCED: INFERIOR PLANETS							
Inferior: Cazimi - Retrograde conjunction							
Inferior: Oriental - Retrograde combust							
Inferior: Oriental - Retrograde under sunbeams							
Inferior: Oriental - Rising to 1st direct station							
Inferior: Oriental - 1st direct station							
Inferior: Oriental - From 1st direct station to sinking							
Inferior: Oriental - Direct under sunbeams							
Inferior: Oriental - Direct combust							
Inferior: Cazimi - Direct conjunction							
Inferior: Occidental - Direct combust							
Inferior: Occidental - Direct under sunbeams							
Inferior: Occidental - Rising to 2nd retrograde station			1	1			
Inferior: Occidental - 2nd retrograde station							
Inferior: Occidental - From 2nd station to setting							
Inferior: Occidental - Retrograde under sunbeams							
Inferior: Occidental - Retrograde combust							

Victor of the Chart: Tests of Porphyry's Method

HOUSE POSITION	☉	☽	♃	♀	♂	♄	♅
Relative to Ascendant							
Whole Sign House Position (ASC): Angle			4			4	1
Whole Sign House Position (ASC): Succedent		2		5	11		
Whole Sign House Position (ASC): Cadent	3						
Relative to Lot of Fortune							
Whole Sign House Position (LOF): Angle		1		4	10		
Whole Sign House Position (LOF): Succedent	2						
Whole Sign House Position (LOF): Cadent			3			3	12
Relative to Lot of Spirit							
Whole Sign House Position (LOS): Angle			4			4	1
Whole Sign House Position (LOS): Succedent		2		5	11		
Whole Sign House Position (LOS): Cadent	3						
House of Joy							
Whole Sign House of Joy				1			
Quadrant Placement relative to Sex							
Masculine planets in masculine quadrants (4,5,6,10,11,12)					1		1
Feminine planets in feminine quadrants (1,2,3,7,8,9)		1		1			
ESSENTIAL DIGNITY	☉	☽	♃	♀	♂	♄	♅
Dignity - Sign						1	
Dignity - Exaltation							
Dignity - Exaltation degree							
Dignity - Triplicity - Diurnal							
Dignity - Triplicity - Nocturnal		1					
Dignity - Triplicity - Participating							1
Dignity - Bound				1			
Dignity - Decan							
Dignity - Fall			1				
Dignity - Detriment	1	1	1	1	1		
PLANETARY/NODAL CONFIGURATION	☉	☽	♃	♀	♂	♄	♅
Moon's configuration							
From which planet does the Moon separate?						1	
To which planet does the Moon apply?					1		
Reception							
Which planets are received by sign?	1		1	1	1	in	1
Mutual reception by sign				1	1		
Which planets are received by exaltation?		1		1	1		
Mutual reception by exaltation							
Which planets are received by bound?	1			in	1		1
Mutual reception by bound							
Position relative to the Nodes							
Conjunct the North Node by sign?							
Conjunct the North Node within 12 degrees?					1		
Conjunct the South Node by sign?							
Conjunct the South Node within 12 degrees?							
Square the Nodes within 5 degrees?							
TIME LORDS	☉	☽	♃	♀	♂	♄	♅
Day ruler							1
Planetary Hour ruler							1