



# The Effects of Eclipses According to the Decanates

By William Lilly  
~ transcribed by Luís Ribeiro ~





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In his work *Annus Tenebrosus* of 1652, William Lilly presents a method for eclipse delineation, which includes an interpretation of the effects of the solar and lunar eclipses occurring in each face (or decanate) of the Zodiac.

The following tables present a transcription of these 'aphorisms'.



FACE		SOLAR ECLIPSE	LUNAR ECLIPSE
☿	♂	"it portends the frequent Motions of Armies, and rumours of Warrs, continual expeditions, assaults, and batteries, yea and Wars, with much noyse and tumult; Seditions, Controversies, an intemperacy of the ayr, verging principally unto driness"	"she portends that Feavers shall bee frequent, many houses fired, woods destroyed or cut down and burned, as also a general dryness of the ayr., many Cater-pillars and destructive vermin appear"
	⊙	"it brings some King, Prince or eminent officer to Prison or restraint of Liberty, it adds sorrow and danger of Death onto him, destruction of bearing fruit-trees, and it portends to the rottenness or putrefaction of such things as the earth produces, whereby both man and beast are afflicted"	"a Pestilence, and fatality in most disease, few falling sick that escape"
	♀	"its the forerunner of lamentation, woes and mourning, onto mortal men or most sorts of man, and the death of some Noble woman; unto these I may adde that it designs destruction onto the lesser Cattle, as Sheep, Conies, Goats, Hares, &c."	"it imports many abortive births, many discommodities and dangers unto that Sex, viz. women; as also the death of many great Ladyes, according to the Climate wherein the Eclips falls"
♃	♀	"afflicts such as are Negotiators, Solicitors, Agents, or are generally employed in man's affairs, or in the publick; it compells men to undertake unnecessary business, it brings to nought, and confounds all factions undertaken by the former sort of men, and is sufficiently hurtfull to corn" (also valid for the moon's eclipse)	"household Cattle are tormented with several unusuall diseases, i.e. the oxen and horses of the Plowman fall sick and dye, and the generall disease reigns amongst Cattell"
	☽	"it shews innumerable difficulties, and many discommodities to Travellers, and to such as bear Children many abortions, and births not naturall, or Monsters are produced"	"it points out the death of some Queen, as also a death of such seeds as are usually sown, it signifies barrenness of the earth to continue during the time the effects of the Eclipses influence"
	☿	"it signifies both Plague and Famine: mortality in and amongst Oxen, Cows and Horses"	"it implies a plague amongst creeping noxious Creatures; as also amongst Rats and Mice, and such vermin as though must devour the Country-mans grain or Corn"
♄	♄	"stir up dissentions, strives, seditions amongst those we call Priests, and all manner of Merchants and Mechanicks of every Order, or any quality that is amongst them; Deadly hatred, contempt of Lawes, neglect of piety and holy duties, doth also follow, so also breach of Covenant"	"it threatens Incursions and Rapines of Enemies: fraudulent Negotiations, many Treatyes, violent Petitions, many Mis-sives, and much employment of Scribes and Secretaries"
	♂	"much Piracy at Sea, and Murder, many fruitless treaties, many turbulent Petitions presented by the people to their Superiors"	"the sudden motion of Armies and declares mens solicitations and cares, both of private and publike affairs; and that Judges will be carefull of executing Justice"
	⊙	"the Death of some King or great Person follows; various and sundry losses unto the State publick, much action to no purpose in the Managing of the Civil affairs of the Commonwealth; Many simple Consultations and no Conclusions; Superior men grant Commissions, which inferior Officers never regard; much prattling, no action"	"it foretells the death of some famous man, for the most part this person happens to be a Scholar, viz. either a Lawyer or Divine"



FACE	SOLAR ECLIPSE	LUNAR ECLIPSE
☽ ♀ ☽	"it disturbs the ayr and stirrs up strange weather, and variety of it, inclines man to Arms, and to violate National Leagues, deceitfully under species of Religion"	"it wholly excites man's minds onto War, treachery and Apostasie"
	"it dries up Rivers and fountaines and intends much incontinency in man and women, and petulency, or ill offices amongst mortal man, <i>viz.</i> one cunningly thrusting another out of his place"	"most bitter and sharp exactions, intollerable assessments, and such like Burthens oppress the Commonality; vulgar tumults, much harm at Sea"
	"it emits the Pox (I conceive the French Pox) amongst the man of that Country subject unto <i>Cancer</i> , many diseases and seditions or risings of the people, the vulgar man afflicted generally with the Dropsie, or such malevolent matter in his stomach as brings him to a Consumption"	"it foretells diseases to the female sex, also sudden, miserable and unexpected deaths unto many; and they of <i>ignoble</i> births, or of the meaner sort of people"
☿ ☽ ☽	"it premonstrates the Death of certain famous Prince, as also great scarcity of Corn and grain; if the prince misse Death, he avoyds not the occasion of many misfortunes and consumption of Treasure"	"it denotes a present & un-looked for infirmity to befall onto some great Prince, or the Death of some very much noted Person, usually of the blood of Princes"
	"it threatens great tribulation, and many damages onto Kings, Pears, and Prime of Nobility: what is meant of persons of quality, must have relation to all Magistrates"	"some journey to be undertaken by a King, with a strange mutation and Catastrophe in mundane affairs"
	"it presages Captivity, besieging of Towns, Plunderings, Profanation of holy places, a scarcity of Horses, or a destructive Murrain amongst them"	"it swells and animates the dispositions both of the people and sooldiery, so that they run after Novelties, desiring new Lawes, and new Governours"
○ ☽ ☽	"it argues the lamentable death, or pitiful end of some certain Prince or Nobleman, and a general ruine or slaughter of man, scarcity of corn and all manner of sustenance fit for man"	"it declares sicknesses unto Kings, manifold discords and dissentions universally raging amongst men"
	"it designs Famine, Plague, and seditions, of mortal men, great drought, and thereby no plentifull crops of Summer corn"	"it prepares destruction and Calamities, informs matter against counsellours, Lawyers, Secretaries, and such like men, for their oppression, bribery and indirect dealings"
	"it powres down vengeance on poor Poets, Painters, or Limners, and man Mercuriall, who flourish with excellent understandings, nothing thrives with them, nor are their Purses full, it produces Murthers, Banishment, &c. it imposeth on the vulgar Writers of those times, harsh conceptions and no esteem of their rude Poems"	"it afflicts man-kind with many diseases, and intimates scarcity of bread, and all sorts of grain"



FACE		SOLAR ECLIPSE	LUNAR ECLIPSE
♀	☽	"it corrupts the ayr, begets the Plague, inclines youth to much wantonnesse, yet straitens provisions, and makes them dear"	"hail storms, ill weather, turbulent winds, violent tempests, very harmfull"
	☿	"it portends the Death of some eminent Prince or King, or Nobleman, and for breach of Costumes, stirs up Seditions and designs a Famine"	"a rott amongst Pettyfoggers, Informers, and such like Cattle, they whipt and stript to purpose"
	♄	"it premonishes of high Controversies amoungst the Nobility, and great Detriment in their estates, much prodigality amongst them, and the extirpation of some one family"	"some eminent and noted person dyes; the Religious swell in every Country, and raise seditions in the Courts of Princes"
♂	♂	"it moves and raises warlick tumults, murthers, dissentions, captivities, and cherishes underhand practices, or plots of Treasons"	"terrible Thunders, fearful Lightnings, many times Earthquakes, abundance of destructive creatures in the waters"
	☉	"it argues Destruction to some certain King or person of worth, and declares his mind averse to Armies or warrs"	"hot and sharp Feavers afflict man, siccity destroyes the Olives and infects the ayr"
	♀	"it portends the comming in of some strange Tyrant, and the drowsie dulness and slothfulness of the former King odious onto all men; sometimes it portends a deposing of the then present Governor or King, or great dislike with him"	"many seditions, murthers and all manner of wretchednesse succeeds, mankind oppressed with abundance of obnoxious diseases, and these generall"
♃	♀	"doth manifest most dangerous seditions amongst men, and renders men's minds averse to all manner of accommodations, or Treaties: each man fearing deceit in the man he deals with, or one Prince fearing another will delude him"	"many thefts and Rapines"
	☽	"it portends the Death, or much destruction unto such Cattle as naturally bray, and of the bigger sort of any such beast as are useful for man"	"Diseases rage against and amongst Horses, Mules, &c. the Seas troubled with Pyrats"
	☿	"it assists several manner of ways Horses, and prejudiceth such Armies as then are on foot, all things and matters go hardly on with the Nobility, who willingly and foolishly undo themselves to no purpose"	"a Plague followes, and great evils afflict all mankind, Consumptions, more than ordinarie"



FACE		SOLAR ECLIPSE	LUNAR ECLIPSE
		"it imports the unhappy chances attending Great men, and strange causalities unto such; the transmigration, or oft shifting of places of some King, Prince or Person of eminent Rank and quality, and it implies the Revolt or Rebellion of Nobles, and others of meaner quality, <i>viz.</i> of the common people; it imports a covetous Prince or Magistrate, by reason of his oppression, shall cause insurrections"	"it moves many slanderers and false aspersions against very many men, and declares an untimely death onto some Person of worth"
		"it stirs up the fury and the spirits of sworn Soldiers against their Commanders in Chief or against their Emperor, King or Prince, it renders all their endeavours fruitless, and the events thereof unprosperous; it is the forerunner of scarcity of Corn, and that many will dy of want thereof"	"uprores very frequent on the Souldiery, oft incursions into neighbour-Countries, Captivities, Plunderings"
		"it implies the tumultuary motion of a King, and induces famine, and shews great poverty unto the Husbandman, bad crops, little hay or grass"	"the Death of a King, Conspiracies in the People, or Mutinies"
		"it affords matter of public sorrow and mourning unto Gentleman, but comfort to the Country man"	"it shewes averse health to a certain King"
		"Thefts publicly countenanced, Robberies, Rapines, Earthquakes, Famine, Monopolies, pilling and polling people"	"it hinders the seed-time"
		"it tells of the death of field Cattell and such like creatures, it shows greats inundations to succeed the Eclips"	"a wonderful change in all affaires, yet notwithstanding, it imports the change better than to continue as formerly, and argues a relaxation from former oppressions"
		"it drains the Rivers of their waters, unfortunates the Sea coasts, and drives fishes far from shore"	"it imports sorrow to Priests, Church officers and Bishops"
		"it designs the death of a famous and excellent man, destruction and waste of fish neer the Sea Towns, it imports an Earthquake, some great Church-men questioned, and he called to account for his Knavery"	"Death to some Prime man of Princely dissent"
		"it presages sedition, cruelty, bitterness of spirits, and the inhumanity of souldiers, as also much Controversy amongst Divines and Lawyers"	"robberies equally committed both at Sea, and on dry Land"