

The Hyleg and Alcocoden

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Life and Death

It is only in the last one hundred years that science and medicine have made sufficient advances to free us from the concerns of our own length of life. Those of us who live in the western world expect to live a long and healthy life and feel we have the right to assume that every child will also live and fulfil society's expectations of adulthood. Of our own children we expect that they will reach maturity and accordingly we plan for their future, in a sense investing in them in the hope that they will also provide us with family and security in our old age. How valid this modern belief is can be questioned. However, we do know that this was not the common belief held throughout most of human history.

For apart from modern times the continuing life of a new born child could not be assumed and there was every reason to assume that the child would not be reared successfully. The parents therefore would naturally have questions concerning whether they should produce another heir, whether the child should be named or educated or trained in a profession, or whether he or she should be allowed to enjoy a happy, if not short life, which contained no education or expectations of their adulthood.

These may seem offensive questions to our modern expectations but when resources were limited and one's safety and quality of old age depended upon one's ability to produce and rear heirs, these were vital questions concerning the chart of the new born child. Thus Hellenistic, Arabic and Medieval authors devoted large sections of their writings to this subject and although modern medicine buys for us a certain comfort zone and we find death an offensive thing to acknowledge, the fact still remains that some of us are born with greater vitality than others. In our modern world this may or may not reduce our life expectancy but based on the simple fact that people do vary in their vitality and health, these ancient techniques, which have been considered unofficially taboo by modern astrology, are well worth a consideration.

Techniques to determining life expectancy are really concerned with questions of the vitality and life force in a chart rather than the timing of a person's death. This is evident by the fact that calculations give the length of life *provided* the person is not killed in a sword fight, run over by a speeding chariot, pushed off a cliff or lost at sea. In other words, the methods were for looking at how much "life" or power was given to a chart provided you were not accidentally killed before hand and this length of life was considered to be when your life energy would wind down. So these techniques are about judging the vigour and physical resilience of a chart, how strongly a chart claims life and therefore how strongly it will hang onto it.

The Techniques and Principles

Methods vary from one author to the next and it would be impossible to cover all of these techniques but fortunately there is sufficient common ground to be able to grasp the basic principles.

No one single planet was considered to give life. The ancients did not have the concept that, let us say Jupiter, because it was the great benefice, was the planet that described the length of life of the individual. Such qualities or abilities were not connect to a specific planet but rather were “chosen” by the chart. A planet gained authority over certain specific parts of the native’s life by virtue of its position, house, sign, aspect in that person’s chart. Such a planet would gain a title which would indicate its authority in a particular horoscope¹. In determining the life force and the possible length of life of a chart there are three planetary titles.

The Hyleg is a planet in the chart that fulfils certain conditions. Once found, it signifies that life is present. Generally the planet’s individual nature does not reflect on the quality of this life force, but the presence of a Hyleg tells the astrologer that life is granted to the horoscope. The astrologer will then look for the planet, which has a certain relationship to the Hyleg, and this planet is called the Alcocoden. The duty of the Alcocoden is to allocate the years or length of life. If there is no Hyleg in a chart, there can be no Alcocoden.

In addition to the Hyleg and the Alcocoden, the length of life was divided into five categories:

A child could die before he or she took any form of nourishment. In other words, dies at birth or very shortly there after.

A child could take nourishment but die later.

The Age of Rearing² covered the period from birth to age four years. The above two points would be described as the child not strong enough to be successfully “reared”.

Dies before the age of 12 years old.

Lives to adulthood but dies before reaching old age

Lives to old age.

Thus any birth chart, via planetary patterns or the absence of a Hyleg or the condition of the Alcocoden, would be deemed to fall into one of these five categories called

Differentia³. If a chart was considered a First Differentia chart, the prediction for the infant would be that it would die without taking nourishment. A Second Differentia chart is one where the child takes nourishment but will not be reared; and so on. So the first step by the ancient and or medieval astrologer in determining the length of

¹ In modern astrology we generally call the planet that rules the Ascendant the “Lord of the Chart”. Such a statement is an example of a planet gaining a title due to its relationships in a particular chart.

² Trans R.Ramsay Wright Al-Biruni *The Book of Instruction in the Elements of the Art of Astrology* Luzac & Co London 1934. Page 324

³ The fifth condition was not actually called the 5th Differentia but was the result of a 4th Differentia chart which had a good Alcocoden.

life was to determine whether the chart was a First, Second, Third or Fourth Differentia chart.

Differentia – Definition

The First Differentia Chart

If the chart fulfils the following conditions, it is deemed to be a First Differentia Chart and the native dies without taking food.

First Differentia - Ptolemy according to Bonatti⁴

Look at the main Luminary of the chart (Sun by day and Moon by night.)

If the degree of this luminary as well as the degree of the Ascendant are both in a partite⁵ conjunction, square or opposition to a non-dignified Malefic⁶. AND the rulers of BOTH Luminaries are cadent.

Then the chart is deemed a First Differentia chart.

First Differentia - Ptolemy - from Tetrabiblos Book III⁷

If either⁸ luminary be in an angle and one of the malefics is either conjunct that luminary or on the midpoint of the two luminaries, while at the same time no benefic may partake of the configuration AND the rulers of the luminaries are also located in places belonging to or controlled by malefics, then the chart is a First Differentia chart

First Differentia Charts

Ptolemy according to Antonius de Montulmo⁹

Consider the degree of the Ascendant and its lord, as well as the place of the main luminary and its triplicities rulers and if it is found that they have been rendered

⁴ Zoller, Robert. *Tools and Techniques of the Medieval Astrologers*. 1981 Page 14. It is not unusual for authors to misquote older sources and this could come about for many reasons, one being the lack of source material; and the other being a way of justifying their own variations on techniques.

⁵ Same degree. Ie 10⁰ Taurus to 10⁰ Leo is a partial square.

⁶ Saturn or Mars not in rulerships or exaltation.

⁷ Ashmand J.M Ptolemy's Tetrabiblos Foulsham & Co 1917. Page 126

⁸ The Hindsight translation of Ptolemy's Tetrabiblos Book III differs and stresses that BOTH luminaries have to be involved with both malefics and the aspecting has to be partite. [Schmidt R. Ptolemy's Tetrabiblos Book III Page 26.]

⁹ Hand, Robert trans. Antonius De Montulmo *On the Judgment of Nativities Part I*. Project Hindsight. The Golden Hind Press 1995. Page 25

unfortunate, are cadent or receive aspects from the malefics, then the chart is a First Differentia chart.

Second Differentia charts

The same as First differentia charts but instead of partile aspects from the malefics to the luminaries, there are orbs involved.

Although there are differences of opinion, it would seem that if the Ascendant and/or the main luminary is being affected by malefics and are cadent, or in poor zodiacal state or have dispositors in poor condition or their triplicities rulers in poor condition then they cannot fight off this challenge from the malefics¹⁰ and death occurs in infancy.

An example from my own files. This is the chart of a infant that died at 6 days old.

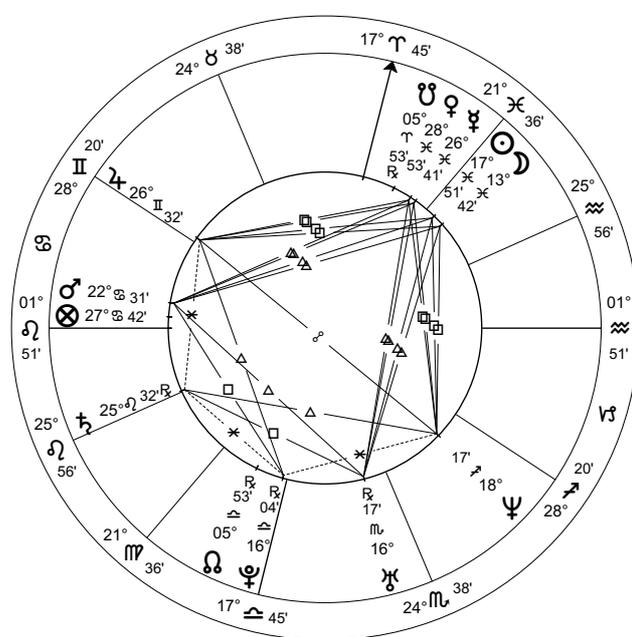


Figure 1 – Infant that died at six days old

Both Luminaries are in feminine signs and the Sun is cadent with the Moon Succedent in the 8th¹¹. The rulers of the Luminaries (Jupiter in both cases) are in detriment and cadent (within orb of being considered in the 12th) The Ascendant is receiving an applying conjunction of Mars, which is also in Fall and in the 12th house. The Sun, although not receiving a square, opposition or conjunction from Mars or Saturn, is receiving a square form the modern planet Neptune¹². The three triplicity rulers of the

¹⁰ It is interesting to note that Ptolemy actually defined the malefics as having malefic natures because their qualities of Hot, Dry or Cold were considered anti-life.

¹¹ The Alcabitius house system is used for all charts in this paper.

¹² The use of modern planets in this technique may or may not be valid. At this stage of my work I will note their involvement but only as a supporting statement for what is already being indicated by the older planets.

main Luminary are Venus, Mars and the Moon. Venus is exalted in Pisces but cadent and conjunct the Dragon's Tail (South Node). Mars is in Fall in the 12th and the Moon in Pisces is combust.

Because the conjunction of Mars to the Ascendant is not within the same degree, the chart would be deemed a Second Differentia chart. That is to say the infant takes nourishment but will not be reared. As already stated the infant died when six days old.

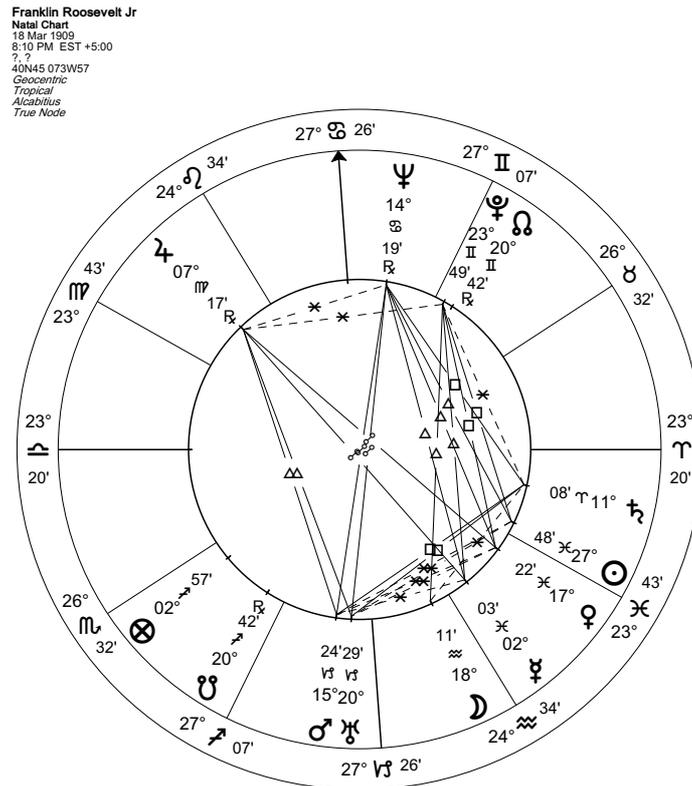


Figure 2 - Franklin Roosevelt Jr – died when only a few months old.

Another example is the chart of Franklin Roosevelt Jr, who lived to be only a few months old.

The Moon is the main luminary and looks comfortable in Aquarius in an angular house. However, its dispositor is Saturn in Fall in the 6th house. The triplicity rulers of the Moon are Mercury, Saturn and Jupiter. Mercury is in Detriment and Fall in Virgo, Jupiter is in Detriment and retrograde and Saturn, as already stated, is in Fall in the 6th house. The Lord of the Ascendant is Venus, exalted in Pisces but Under the Beams of the Sun and within a 3⁰ square to the nodal axis. Its dispositor, Jupiter, is in Detriment and retrograde. The other luminary, the Sun is cadent with its dispositor also the badly-placed Jupiter. The degree of the Ascendant is squared by an exalted Mars which is damaged by not only its conjunction to the modern planet Uranus but also by its dispositor being Saturn in Fall and cadent.

The infant Roosevelt died when a few months old after being ill for about a week.

The Almudebit Method of determining the Differentia of a chart

Another technique for determining the Differentia grading of a chart was to calculate what was known as the Almudebit. This is the planet that has the greatest dignity over a particular list of planetary and or angular positions in a chart.

Bonatti's method: Almudebit - Bonatti in *Liber Astronomiae Tractatus Decimus*¹³

The Almudebit is the planet with the most dignity in the following places: (a) The degrees of the four angles. (b) The Rulers of the four angles. (c) The Triplicity Rulers of the four angles. (d) The Sun. (e) The Moon. (f) Ruler of the Sun sign. (g) Ruler of the Moon sign. (h) The Part of Fortune. (i) the Ruler of the Part of Fortune. (j) The Ruler of the conjunction (New Moon before birth) or Prevention (Full Moon before birth) whichever lunation occurred prior to birth.

The planet or planets that have the most dignity by Ruler = 5 , Exaltation = 4, Triplicity=3, Term¹⁴=2 and Face =1 was called by Bonatti the Almudebit.

The Differentia grading was then determined by the following considerations of the Almudebit¹⁵.

	☉	☽	♃	♄	♅	♆	♁
Asc = 1/51 ♈	5+3					3+2	3+1
Ruler Asc = ☉ 17/51 ♈		3	2	4+3	3	5+2+1	
MC = 17/45 ♉	4+3+1		2		5	3	3
Ruler MC = ♅ 22/31 ♉		5+3+1		3	3	4+2	
Dsc = 1/51 ♊			3+2	1		3	5+3
Ruler Dsc = ♁ 25/32 ♊	5+3				2+1	3	3
IC = 17/45 ♋			3	5		3+2	4+3+1
Ruler IC = ♁ 28/53 ♋		3		4+3	1	5+3	2
Three Trip rulers of Asc ☉, ♆, ♁							
☉ 17/51 ♈		3	2	4+3	3	5+2+1	
♆ 26/32 ♉	1		5+3			3	3+2
♁ 25/32 ♊	5+3				2+1	3	3
Three Trip rulers of MC ☉, ♆, ♁							
☉ 17/51 ♈		3	2	4+3	3	5+2+1	
♆ 26/32 ♉	1		5+3			3	3+2
♁ 25/32 ♊	5+3				2+1	3	3
Three Trip rulers of Dsc ♁, ♃, ♆							
♁ 25/32 ♊	5+3				2+1	3	3

¹³ op cit Zoller, Page 12.

¹⁴ The Egyptian terms have been used for all the Almudebit calculations

¹⁵ op cit Zoller, page 14.

♃ 26/41 ♆		3		4+3	3+2+1	5	
♃ 26/32 ♀	1		5+3			3	3+2
Three Trip rulers of IC ♃, ♃, ♃							
♃ 25/32 ♀	5+3				2+1	3	3
♃ 26/41 ♆		3		4+3	3+2+1	5	
♃ 26/32 ♀	1		5+3			3	3+2
☉ 17/51 ♆		3	2	4+3	3	5+2+1	
Ruler of the ☉ = ♃ 26/32 ♀	1		5+3			3	3+2
♃ 13/42 ♆		3		4+3	3	5+2+1	
Ruler of the ♃ = ♃ 26/32 ♀	1		5+3			3	3+2
Part of Fortune 27/42 ♃		5+3+1		3	3	4	2
Ruler of the PF = ♃ 13/42 ♆		3		4+3	3	5+2+1	
Ruler of the full moon before birth							
4 ⁰ ♃	1	3	5+2	3	3		
	63	48	73	78	60	125	72

Figure 3 – Almudebit Table for infant

The Condition of Almudebit: Case 1

If the Almudebit is cadent (greater than 5 degrees from an angle and behind it) AND a Malefic forms a partile conjunction, square or opposition to the Almudebit, then the chart is a First Differentia chart.

Case 2

If the Almudebit is cadent (greater than 5 degrees from an angle and behind it) AND a Malefic is forming a partile conjunction, square or opposition to the ASCENDANT AND the malefic has no dignity, THEN the chart is a First Differentia chart.

Case 3

If the Almudebit is cadent (greater than 5 degrees from an angle and behind it) AND a malefic is forming a partile conjunction, square or opposition to either luminary, THEN the chart is a First Differentia chart.

Second Differentia Charts - take nourishment but is not reared

The Second Differentia chart - one where the native takes nourishment BUT lives only until a direction takes the Almudebit to the Malefic or vica versa - is exactly the same as above for any three cases except that if the aspect from the malefic is not partile but rather has “longitude”, or orb as we know it, then the chart is deemed to be a Second Differentia chart.

Using the first chart as an example of Bonatti's method of calculating the Almudebit, the following almuten table can be constructed.

Jupiter is the Almudebit of the chart as it scores 125 points. Jupiter in the chart is cadent as well as in Detriment AND a malefic is forming a conjunction to the Ascendant (Case 2). Because the Malefic (Mars) is not forming a partile conjunction but rather one which has an orb, then the chart moves from being a 1st Differentia chart to a 2nd Differentia chart.

Franklin Roosevelt Jr's Almudebit is Venus. Six degrees from the Alcabitus 6th house cusp, so although not technically cadent it is within a few degrees of being cadent. If the Almudebit is cadent, then the astrologer looks to see if 1) The Almudebit or 2) the Ascendant or 3) one of the Luminaries receives a hard aspect from a malefic. In this case the modern malefic Pluto forms a non-partile square to the Almudebit Venus, implying that the chart is a 2nd Differentia chart¹⁶.

Third Differentia Charts - The child dies before the age of 12 years old.

The Almudebit is not used in this case.

If the chart has no Hyleg and therefore no Alcocoden, it is a Third Differentia chart EVEN if the rulers of the luminaries and the Ascendant are:

- a) Not retrograde, combust or in partile conjunction to a malefic; or
- b). Not in partile aspect to the ruler of the houses (or sign) of a place of a malefic; or
- c). Not in cadent houses.

Fourth Differentia Charts - Charts that reach maturity and can obtain old age.

Any chart that has a Hyleg and thus an Alcocoden and whose Almudebit is not cadent *while* either it (the Almudebit) or the Ascendant or the Luminaries are being weakened by a malefic.

Other Opinions:

Antonius de Montulmo - *On the Judgment of Nativities*¹⁷ also talks about the Differentia charts although he does not name them. He gives his preferred method which is to find the Almudebit but rather than looking at its condition, he takes the same list of points and looks to see if each one of the rulers of said points is cadent and so on. So each ruler is evaluated separately. If ALL fail, then the chart is a 1st or 2nd differentia.

¹⁶ It is interesting to note that the Venus is on the edge of cadency. However, if he was born a few minutes earlier than the recorded 8.10 pm, then his Venus would be in the 6th and Saturn in Fall would have been forming a conjunction to the Descendant, thereby well and truly placing the chart into the domain of the 2nd Differentia grading.

¹⁷ Hand Robert, Antonius de Montulmo *On the Judgment of Nativities* Part I. The Golden Hind Press 1995. Page 25

The Hyleg and Alcoccoden

If the chart proves not to be a First or Second Differentia via the examination of the Luminaries and Ascendant situation or by going to the calculation of a Almudebit¹⁸, then the next step is to determine what is known as the Hyleg, the “giver of life”.

Hyleg methods

The methods of finding a Hyleg vary from one author to the next.

Ptolemy’s Method¹⁹

The Hyleg places are the 1st (5 degrees above and 25 below the Ascendant) 11th, 10th, 9th and 7th house²⁰.

- 1) Look for either luminary to be in a Hyleg place (if both take the Sun)
- 2) If Point 1 fails, then calculate the Almuten of the degree position of the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, Part of Fortune and the Conjunction before birth. This planet MUST have honour, by any dignity, in at least three of the above zodiacal places. This planet is then the Hyleg.

Bonatti’s Method²¹

Diurnal and Nocturnal Charts

In Bonatti’s method, the Hyleg can only be one of the following: The Sun, Moon, degree of the Ascendant, the Part of Fortune, the degree of the Conjunction or Prevention.

The Sun as Hyleg

If the Sun is in the 1st, 11th or 10th in a masculine or feminine sign, then it is the Hyleg.

¹⁸ In order to make this work simpler SolarFire 4 has the ability to construct any type of Almuten table that the astrologer may require, so the Almudebit can be easily found for any chart.

¹⁹ op cit Ashmand, page 133.

²⁰ Bonatti considered that a planet in a cadent house within about 8 degrees of an angular house is considered to be angular. A planet in an angular house and 5 degrees from a succeedant house is considered to be succeedant. And a planet in a succeedant house which is 3 degrees from the cadent house cusp is considered to be cadent.

²¹ op cit Zoller, page 32.

If the Sun is in the 7th, 8th or 9th in a masculine sign, then it is the Hyleg.

If the Sun is not the Hyleg, then move to the Moon.

The Moon as Hyleg

If the Moon is in ANY angular house or a succedent house and in a feminine sign and ANY of the four rulers of her degree (Rulership, Exaltation, Triplicity and Term²²) aspect her then she is the Hyleg.

Degree of Ascendant as Hyleg - Conjunctional

If the Sun and the Moon cannot be Hyleg and the chart is Conjunctional, then take the degree of the Ascendant. And if any of the above rulers of the Ascendant aspect the Ascendant, it will be the Hyleg. If the Ascendant is not the Hyleg, then use the Part of Fortune.

Part Fortune as Hyleg - Preventional

If the Sun and the Moon cannot be the Hyleg and the chart is Preventional, then take the Part of Fortune²³. And if any of the above rulers aspect the Part of Fortune, it will be the Hyleg. If the Part of Fortune is not the Hyleg, then use the Ascendant.

Use the Degree of the Prevention or Conjunction as Hyleg

If all of the above fail, then look to see if any of the four rulers of the Conjunction aspect the degree of the Conjunction. For Conjunctional charts only. (Bonatti does not add to look to the degree of the Prevention in the same way for Preventional charts)

If the Hyleg is still not found, then the Hyleg is said to be frustrated and the life of the native will be short. In other words, it is a 3rd Differentia chart.

Finding the Alcocoden²⁴

The Alcocoden is the planet that forms a Ptolemaic aspect to the Hyleg and has the greatest dignity in the Hyleg's place. Thus one looks to the planets that are forming aspects to the Hyleg. If more than one planet aspects the Hyleg and has dignity there, then it is the planet that scores the most points. For example, the ruler would score 5 points but if another planet which aspects the Hyleg was also exalted in the place of

²² Egyptian terms

²³ The Part of Fortune is calculated according to whether the chart is a diurnal or nocturnal.

²⁴ op cit Zoller, page 33.

the Hyleg and ruled the term of the degree of the Hyleg, then it would score 7 points and would be considered the Alcocoden.

If two planets score the same, i.e. one is the ruler the other is a triplicity ruler which scores 3 points and also the term ruler which scores 2 points, then the planet that forms the aspect with the smallest orb is selected. If no such planet forms an aspect to the Hyleg, then the chart is considered not to have a Hyleg.

Once the Alcocoden is found, then it is examined to determine the length of life. There are sets of rules to follow based on House placement, zodiacal condition and aspects received by other planets that are best considered while working through an example.

Charlie Chaplin's Hyleg and Alcocoden

Charlie Chaplin was born on the 16th April 1889 at 8.00pm GMT, London 51N31, 00W06²⁵.

Charles Chaplin
Natal Chart
 16 Apr 1889
 8:00 PM UT +0:00
 Walworth, London
 51N29 00W05
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Alcabittus
 True Node

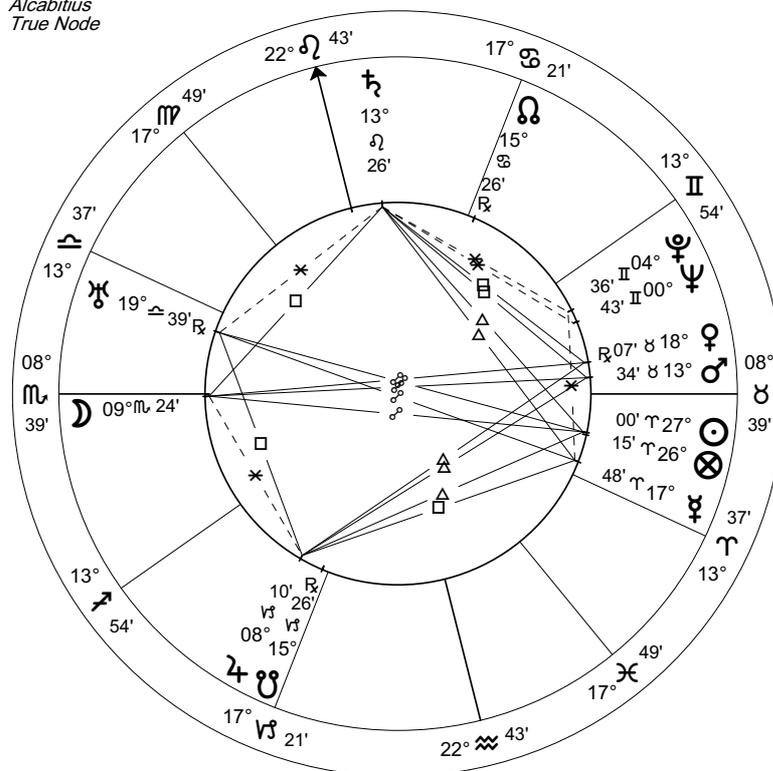


Figure 4 – Sir Charles Chaplin – Length of Life.

²⁵ Chaplin, *Charles My Life in Pictures* Peerage Books London 1985. Page 40

The First Step is to consider if the chart is either a First or Second Differentia chart.

Using Ptolemy's method, the main luminary is the Moon as it is a nocturnal chart and the Moon is angular. In addition, the triplicity rulers of the Moon as well as the Ascendant are the Moon, Venus and Mars. All three are angular, and even though Mars and the Moon are in difficult zodiacal condition, angularity gives them strength. As well as the Almudebit of his chart is Venus which is angular. So the chart is not a First or Second Differentia chart.

The Second Step is to look for a Hyleg.

Charlie Chaplin's Moon in Scorpio on the Ascendant would be the Hyleg in both Ptolemy's or Bonatti's method, provided a planet which has dignity in the place of the Moon aspects it.

With the Moon as the Hyleg the Alcoccoden would be Mars, as it opposes the Moon and the Moon is both in Mars' rulership as well as in its term. Thus Mars aspects the Hyleg and has the greatest dignity in the place of the Moon.

Having determined the Alcoccoden, the astrologer can now measure the length of life. Every Planet has a number of years allocated to it. These years are divided into Lesser, Middle and Greater years (see figure V). The allocation of the number of years to the Alcoccoden is determined by its condition. The aspects it receives adds or subtracts years depending on the planet doing the aspecting²⁶. Generally speaking, an angular planet in good condition gains the greater years whereas a cadent planet in poor zodiacal condition would attract only the Lesser years. The many shades of grey in between these two conditions seem to be a judgement call by the astrologer.²⁷

Mars, as Alcoccoden, is in Detriment but it is angular, so one could calculate the following length of life:

Mars - Middle years - 40.5 years

²⁶ There is considerable differing of opinion by authors as to the methods of allocating years to the Alcoccoden. A good discussion of this is put forward by Antonius de Montulmo in his work *On the Judgement of Nativities Part 2* Trans Robert Hand. Golden Hind Press. Berkeley Springs, 1995

²⁷ I tend to give the Greater years to any planet that is angular, or Succeedant provided that it is not in Detriment or Fall. The Middle years I will give to an Angular or Succeedent planets in Detriment or Fall; or a cadent planet provided it is not in Detriment or Fall. The Lesser years I would only give to a cadent planet in Detriment or Fall.

The years of the planets

	☽	♃	♀	☉	♂	♃	♄
Lesser	25	20	8	19	15	12	30
Middle	66.5 ²⁸	48	45	69.5 ²⁹	40.5	45.5	43.5
Greater	108	76	82	120	66	79	57

Figure 5 – The Years of the Planets

Aspects to the Alcoccoden

If benefics conjunct, trine or sextile the Alcoccoden, these planets add years to the life, usually the Lesser years of the planet making the aspect and the months in terms of the number of the aspecting benefics Middle years. If, however, malefics aspect the Alcoccoden by a conjunction, square or opposition, then they take years from the life via their Lesser years and the months of their Middle years. However, if they are in poor zodiacal condition then you add the number of years for the Lesser years and only days, instead of months, for the Middle years or if in very bad condition only the number of months for the Lesser years and if also retrograde then you add weeks not months.

Charlie Chaplin's Mars as Alcoccoden

Venus is in Taurus conjunct Mars in Taurus, so to the 40.5 Middle years of Mars allocated to the Alcoccoden, and because Venus is in good condition we can now add the Lesser years of Venus (8 years) plus the months of her Middle years (45 months.)

Thus 40.5 years plus 8 years plus 45 months which equals 52 years and 2 months.

Jupiter in Capricorn, in Fall but in its own term also trines Mars and will therefore add the Lesser years of Jupiter (12 years) and, the days (rather than months) of his Middle years (45.5 days).

Thus to 52 years 2 months, we add 12 years and 45.5 days which equals 64 years and 3.5 months

²⁸ Trans Burnett, Yamamoto & Yano. Abu Masar *The Abbreviation of the Introduction to Astrology*. Brill. New York. 1994 page 81- Gives the Middle years of the Moon as 39.5

²⁹ op cit Burnett, page 89- Gives the Middle years of the Sun as 39.5

Now Subtracting for malefics:

Saturn square Mars subtracts the Lesser years of Saturn (30 years).

This gives 64 years 3.5 months - 30 years = 34 years and 3.5 months. Therefore Charlie Chaplin should have died at age 34. But he lived to be 88 years old!

If he was not born at 8 pm but 12 minutes earlier, then the Moon would not be Hyleg. The Sun in Aries would be close enough to the Descendant to be considered angular and would therefore, according to Bonatti, be the Hyleg.

With the Sun as the Hyleg, the Alcocoden is Jupiter in Capricorn. Jupiter trines the Sun which is in Jupiter's triplicity as well as in the terms of Jupiter.

Charlie Chaplin with the Sun as Hyleg and Jupiter as the Alcocoden.

Jupiter in Capricorn in a succedant house yields the Middle years of Jupiter (45.5) years.

We add years for Benefics:

Venus in Taurus trines Jupiter thus we add her Lesser years of Venus (8 years) and the Middle years as months thus add 45 months.

Moon in Fall, but angular and in the terms of Venus a benefic, sextiles Jupiter so we add the Lesser years of the Moon and the days of its Middle years (25 years plus 66.5 days).

Thus we have:

$45.5 \text{ years} + 8 \text{ years} + 45 \text{ months} + 25 \text{ years} + 66.5 \text{ days} = 82.3 \text{ years}.$

Subtract malefics - none aspect the Jupiter by square, opposition or conjunction.

So if Charlie Chaplin was born 12 minutes early then his Alcocoden would have given him 82.6 years of life. After that a direction to a malefic would indicate death. He lived till he was 88 years old.

Bruce Lee - Length of Life

Bruce Lee was born 27th November 1940 at 7.12 am PST San Francisco USA 37N47, 122W26³⁰. He was a martial arts genius who also starred in films. He died suddenly one evening after lying down with a headache.

The Sun is the main luminary being a diurnal chart and it is free from a hard aspect to a malefic. There are no hard aspects to the Ascendant and the Lord of the Ascendant,

³⁰ From Birth Certificate (Robert Paige, AA)

Jupiter, is in Taurus in the 5th house. The three triplicity rulers of the Ascendant are the Sun, Jupiter and Saturn. All three are angular or succedent. In addition, the Almudebit is Mars which is in the 11th in its rulership. So by any method, the chart is not a First or Second Differentia chart.

Finding the Hyleg

At first glance one would think that the Sun was the Hyleg, but no planet aspects the Sun³¹ and thus there can be no Alcocoden. Therefore since the Sun cannot produce an Alcocoden, it cannot take on the role of the Hyleg. If the Sun cannot be Hyleg, then look to the Moon. It is in Scorpio and in the 12th house. If she was in the 11th house, then as long as one of the rulers of the degree that she occupied aspected her she would be Hyleg. However being in the 12th house, the Moon cannot be the Hyleg.

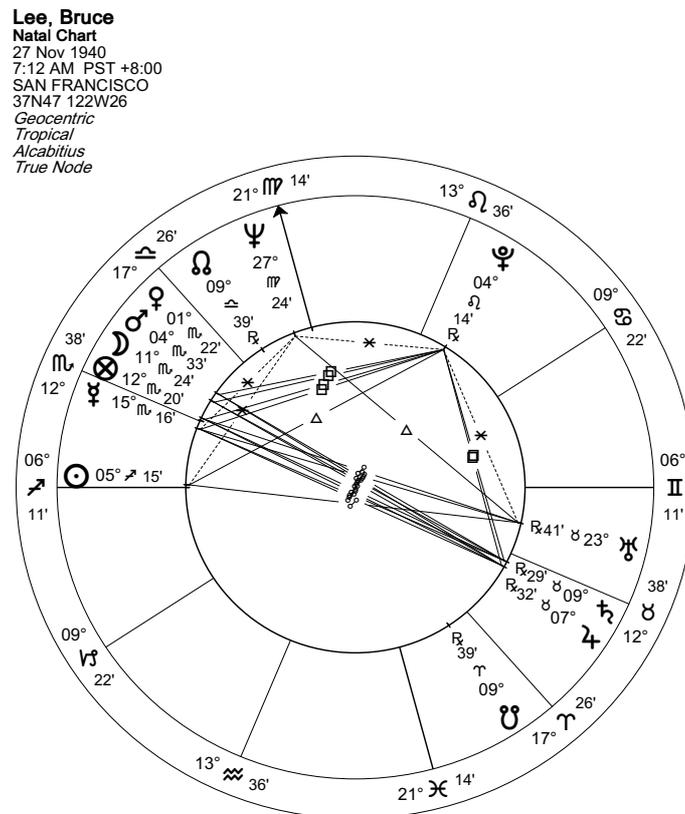


Figure 6 – Bruce Lee – Length of Life

The next step is to decide whether the chart is Preventional or Conjunctional³². Bruce Lee was born on a waning Moon, so it is a Preventional chart. We look therefore to

³¹ Since the modern planets have no Planetary Years, they cannot be considered as an Alcocoden. Thus aspects from the modern planets to the Hyleg are not taken into account when finding the Alcocoden.

³² The last lunation before birth is either a Full Moon (Preventional) or New Moon (Conjunctional)

the Part of Fortune. In his chart it is in Scorpio in the 12th. Any of the rulers of its degree position must aspect it for it to be considered the Hyleg and Mars fulfils this requirement with an applying conjunction. So the Part of Fortune is the Hyleg.

Aspecting the Hyleg is:

- Moon - conjunction .. Triplicity rulership
- Mercury - conjunction .. Term rulership
- Mars - conjunction .. Rulership and triplicity rulership
- Venus wide conjunction .. triplicity rulership
- Jupiter - opposition.. no rulership.

Mars is therefore the Alcocoden as it has the greatest dignity in the degree of the Hyleg.

Mars is in rulership and succedent . Thus we take the Greater years for Mars, (66 years) as it is in rulership and not being depleted in anyway.

For any conjunction sextile or trine by a benefic add the Lesser years as years and the Middle years as months. However, remember, if they are in poor zodiacal condition then this is scaled down.

Venus, succedent, in Detriment, and in the terms of the malefic Mars, conjunct Mars adds only the Lesser years as months - 8 months.

Moon, succedent in Fall conjunct Mars adds 25 months³³

66 years add 2 year 1 month = 68 years 2 months.

For any conjunction, square or opposition by a malefic, subtract the Lesser years as years and the Middle years as months.

Saturn opposes Mars so subtract 30 years and 43.5 months = 33 years 7.5 months

68 years 2 months - 33 years 7.5 months is 34 years 7.5 months.

Bruce Lee died at age 32 years 7 months.

What this technique implies is that Charlie Chaplin has the opportunity for a long life. He is given the vitality or strength to resist the influences that drain the life energy and that this will see him well into old age. However, in the case of Bruce Lee, for all his physical strength and fitness as a martial arts expert, his actual “life-force” or ability to fight against the depleting influences and events that make up a person’s life are not as strong as one would expect.

³³ This is a judgement call on the condition of the Moon although she is in the terms of Mercury, she is conjunct a malefic, Mars, as well as opposing the malefic Saturn and being squared by the modern planet Pluto. This was sufficient to surmise that the Moon would only add her Lesser years as months rather than years.

Summary of the technique:

Step 1: Decide to which Differentia the chart belongs. This is regardless of whether the chart has a Hyleg

Step 2: Find the Hyleg.

2b: If no Hyleg, then the chart is a 3rd Differentia chart

Step 3: From the Hyleg find the Alcocoden.

3a: If no Alcocoden, then the supposed Hyleg cannot be a Hyleg and if no other Hyleg can be found, then the chart is deemed to be a 3rd Differentia chart.

Step 4: From the condition of the Alcocoden's sign, house and aspects, determine the length of the life.

Discussion:

So the question that now needs to be asked is do these techniques belong in the modern astrologer's tool kit?

In this world of modern medicine, far more people live to reach old age and in developed countries infant mortality has been dramatically reduced. Therefore, since the planets have not changed in their ability to make aspects and create 1st, 2nd or 3rd Differentia charts, one must conclude that "fate" can be, and is being cheated by science. However, if we remove the idea of predicting death and replace it with the concept of having a technique for measuring the vitality and life force in a chart, then these ancient methods do have a place in our modern life.

In my practice I am often asked to consult on a new-born child's chart and having a technique which allows me to look at the strength of the child is a very valuable tool.

Potential crises can be minimised if the parents are aware that their child may be more sensitive to illness than one would first expect. A 2nd or 3rd Differentia chart can imply a weakened chart but not necessarily a death. An Alcocoden, which has run out of time, does not mean that the person will die but may indicate a time of crisis and that after that period their energy may lessen or they may make such huge changes to their life that their life work is complete. Science cheats death every day, so apart from the ethics of the situation, it would be unwise of an astrologer to predict

a person's death. However, the astrologer can, by revisiting these techniques, gain considerable insights as to the client's ability to fight against the pressures of modern life.

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