

12.512

Horoscope

June 4, 1970

Menzel...  
12.11.70

Written by Hillel b. Eli

1 (2) ... (3) ... (4) ...

2 auspicious ...

3 predestined ...

4 ...

5 abundant activity ...

6 ...

7 ...

8 genuinity ...

9 ...

10 ...

11 ...

12 ...

13 ...

14 ...

15 ...

16 ...

17 ...

18 ...

... 17 ...

the milky way - ...

Taurus



- 1 בשם(ך) רחם(נא) נעם(ה) ונצליח
- 2 כֹּנֶת] אֱלֹהִים אֲלֹהֵיךָ בְּאֵדן אֱלֹהֵי פִי אֲלֹהֵי
- 3 אֱלֹהֵי מִחְתּוֹם פִּי אֱלֹהֵי אֲחֵיךָ אֲלֹהֵי יוֹם מִן דו אֱלֹהֵי[גה]
- 4 וּוְאֵפֶק אֱלֹהִים אֲרַח[פֶּק] פִּי סֵת[ה וס] הִינן [וכ]אן
- 5 [פִּי] חֲלֵתִי אֲלִכְמֶסֶת וְכֹאן אֲלִמְחֶקֶס סִבְעָה
- 6 עֶשֶׂר דְּרָגָה מִן בְּרֵג אֲלֹהֵיךָ וְאֵפֶק דִּלְךָ אֱלֹהֵיךָ
- 7 אֲלִשְׁמֵי וְסֵת נְהֵא[ר ב] הֵא חֲלֵתִי דְרָגָה מִן בְּרֵג
- 8 אֲלֹהֵיךָ וְאֲחֵיךָ וְעֶשֶׂרִין דְּקֵאִיק מִן אֲלִבְרָג א[יִצָּא]
- 9 אֲלִקְמֵר אֲחֵיךָ וְעֶשֶׂרִין דְּרָגָה וְכִמְסִין דְּקֵיִקָּה
- 10 [מִן] אֲלִבְרָג אִיִּצָּא אֲלֹהֵיךָ כִמְסֵה וְעֶשֶׂרִין דְּרָגָה
- 11 א[רְבַעָה וְכִמְסֵה דְּקֵיִקָּה מִן אֲלִבְרָג אִי[צָּא] עֲטָרֵךְ
- 12 וְהוּוּ צִאֲחָב אֲלִבְרָג חֲמָנִיָּה וְעֶשֶׂרִין דְּרָגָה וְדִקִּי[קָה]
- 13 וְאֲחֵדָה אֲלִבְרָגָה בְּאֲלֵחוֹת אֲלִכְמֶק [ . . . חֲלֵתִי
- 14 וְעֶשֶׂרִין דְּרָגָה וְאַרְבַּעָה דְּקֵאִיק ]
- 15 גְּזוּהָ מִן בְּרֵג אֲלִעֲקֵרֵב בְּקִסְמָה ]
- 16 [..] גְּ וְאֵפֶק גְּזוּ אֲלִסְתָּה מִן אֲלֹהֵיךָ[ה]
- 17 חֲסֵע דְּרָגָה מִן בְּרֵג אֲלֵתוֹ[ר]
- 18 אֲלֹהֵיךָ אֲלִמְחֶיךָ ]

5. אלכמסה [ צ"ל: אלכמסה. 11. ארבעה וכמסה ] צ"ל: ארבעה וכמסין.

1. In the name of You, the Merciful, may we succeed in our undertaking.
2. The auspicious birth took place, thanks to God, at the time
3. which was preordained, on weekday one, the first day of Dhū al-(ḥijja).
4. [At the time of] the birth, the alti(tude) [of the Sun] corresponded to (six)ty-si(x) [degrees]. It was
5. (in) two-thirds of the fifth [hour]. The verified ascendant was seven
6. [and] ten degrees of the sign Leo. On that day
7. the Sun at noo(n) corresponded to three degrees of the sign
8. Gemini and (t)wenty-two m(inu)tes of the sign a(lso).
9. The moon was [at] twenty-two degrees and (f)ifty minutes
10. of the sign also. Venus was [at] twenty-five degrees
11. and fifty-f(ou)r [?] minutes of the sign also. Mercury,
12. which is the lord of the sign, was [at] twen(ty)-eight (degrees and)
13. one (minu)te. The ascending node was in Pisces, the . . . (. . . three)
14. and twenty degrees and four minutes. (. . .)
15. its degree in the sign Scorpio in the divisor [?] of (. . .)
16. (. . .) and the degree of the lot [?] corresponded, from the nativit(y, . . .)
17. [to (?)] nine degrees of the sign Tau(rus . . .)
18. the auspicious birth (. . .)

Notes to T-S 12.512

5. The text reads: five; emended to: fifth.
11. The text reads: four and five; emended to: fifty-four.
- 11-12. Mercury is the lord of Gemini (cf. Biruni, Astrology, p. 256).
- 15-17. The divisor and the lot are not identified.
18. The malevolent planets, Saturn and Mars, are not mentioned anywhere in the text.

The date of this horoscope is 18 May 1113 shortly before noon, which was a Sunday, 1 Dhū al-ḥijja 506 Hijra. The positions of the planets were:

	Text	Computation
Saturn		Aries 2°
Jupiter		Cancer 22°
Mars		Virgo 9°
Sun	Gemini 3;22°	Gemini 3°
Venus	Gemini 25;54°	Gemini 26°
Mercury	Gemini 28;1°	Gemini 24°
Moon	Gemini 22;50°	Gemini 22°
Ascending node	Pisces 23;4°	Pisces 23°
Ascendant	Leo 17°	Leo 14°

When the solar altitude on that day reached 66° in Cairo (latitude 30°), it was about 5 1/5 equinoctial hours after sunrise.<sup>1</sup> Since sunrise was 6;51 equinoctial hours before noon, 5 1/5 equinoctial hours corresponds to about 4 3/5 seasonal hours, very near the textual value of 4 2/3 hours. (Note that a seasonal hour is 1/12 of the time from sunrise to sunset, or 1/6 of the time from sunrise to noon.) According to my computation, Leo 14° was rising at that time, and this is quite close to the value in the text.

1. Cf. Nadi Nadir, "Abu al-Wafā' On the Solar Altitude," The Mathematics Teacher, 53 (1960), pp. 460-463. For Islamic tables that were constructed to transform solar altitude to time, see D.A. King, "Ibn Yūnus' Very Useful Tables for Reckoning Time by the Sun," Archive for History of Exact Sciences, 10 (1973), pp. 342-394.

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הורוסקופ בכתב ידו של החזן הלל בן עלי

TS 12.512

- 1 בשם(ך) רחם(נא) נעש(ה) ונצליח
- 2 כאנת] אלולאדה אלסעידה באדן אללה פי אלוקח
- 3 אל] סחתום פי אליוס אלאחר אול יום סן ח' אלו]ל
- 4 ווא]פקת אלולאדה ארת] פי סת]ה וס]תיון ד]רגה] א]אן
- 5 [תלחי אלכססה וכאן אלטאלע אלמחקק סב]עה
- 6 עש] דרגה מן ברב' אלאסד ואפק דלך אליוס
- 7 אלשמס וסט נהאר. תלאת דרב' מן ברב'
- 8 אלג'וזא ואחנין ועשרין מן] אלברב' א]אן
- 9 אלקמר אחנין ועשרין דרגה וכמסין דקיקה
- 10 [מ]ן א]מין] איזא אלזהרח כמסה ועשרין דרגה
- 11 א]מין] א]מין] וכמסה דקיקה מן א]מין] א]אן א]אן
- 12 והו צאחב אלברב' חמאניה ועש]רין
- 13 ואחדה אלג'וזא ח' באלחות .א.
- 14 ועשרין דרגה נארבעה דקאיק
- 15 ג'וזא מן ברב' אלעקרוב בה קמר
- 16 [מ]ן] וואפק ג'וזא ח' מן אלולאדה
- 17 חסע דרב' מן ברב' אלחו]ר
- 18 אלולאדה אלסעידה

(?)  
[א]אן

דקאיק מן

פר

(?)

א]מין] א]אן  
[א]אן

א. ע. (?)

Translation of T-S 12.512

1. (invocation)
2. The auspicious birth took place, thanks to God at the
3. preordained time on Sunday at the beginning of the day on the 8th of al-[ ]
4. (At the time of) the birth the altitude (?) (of the Sun) corresponded to 66 (?) degrees,
5. (and) 3/5 (of a degree). The ascendant as carefully determined <sup>a)</sup> was at
6. 17 degrees of Leo. On that day
7. the Sun at noon <sup>b)</sup> .. was at 3 degrees of
8. Gemini and 22 minutes of the sign; also
9. the Moon was at 22 degrees and 50 minutes
10. of the sign <sup>c)</sup>; also Venus was at 25 degrees
11. and forty (?) - five <sup>d)</sup> minutes of the sign <sup>e)</sup>; also Mercury,
12. and it is the ruler of the sign, <sup>f)</sup> was at 28 [degrees of the sign and -?- minutes (?)
13. Alone, the node was in Pisces ...
14. and 20 degrees and 4 minutes <sup>g)</sup>
15. its lot <sup>h)</sup> in the sign of Scorpio ...
16. [the sign; and the lot (of the demon?) corresponded to, at (the time of) the birth, [
17. 9 degrees of Tau[rus
18. the auspicious birth [

- a. This expression (al-ṭāli<sup>c</sup> al-muḥaqqaq) is not common, and thus my translation may not convey the technical sense intended. However, ṭāli<sup>c</sup> is the common term for the ascendant.
- b. The usual phrase for noon is niṣf al-naḥār.
- c. It is natural to assume that Gemini is the sign meant, but that is incompatible with the 8th day of a lunar month (the Moon travels about 13° per day).
- d. Text; "four and five" seems impossible; emended to 45.
- e. Again, presumably Gemini.
- f. Mercury is the ruler of Gemini according to the astrological rules (cf. Biruni, Art of Astrology, ed. R. Wright, p. 256).
- g. It is not clear to what this refers. I doubt that it could still refer to Pisces in the previous line.
- h. The word for "lot" should be sahm (cf. Biruni, Art of Astrology, p. 279) rather than juz', but I see no alternative explanation.



Professor S. D. Goitein  
November 8, 1971  
Page 2

is more or less compatible with a reading of  $66^\circ$  in line 4 of the text.

During the daytime the lot of fortune, F, is computed by the following formula:

$$F = H + (\lambda_m - \lambda_s)$$

where H is the longitude of the ascendant,  $\lambda_m$  the longitude of the Moon, and  $\lambda_s$  the longitude of the Sun. If F is in Scorpio (an interpretation of line 15), i.e.  $F \approx 235^\circ$ , then

$$235 = 137 + \lambda_m - 63$$

or

$$\lambda_m = 161^\circ, \text{ or Virgo } 11^\circ$$

but this shows no agreement with the text. If we accept the reading for  $\lambda_m$  in the text as Gemini  $23^\circ (= 83^\circ)$ , then

$$F = 137 + 83 - 63 = 157^\circ \\ = \text{Virgo } 7^\circ$$

i.e. the positions of the Moon and of the lot of fortune disagree.

The lot of the demon, D, is symmetric to the lot of fortune, i.e.

$$D = H - (\lambda_m - \lambda_s)$$

If D = Taurus  $9^\circ (39^\circ)$ , then

$$39 = 137 - (\lambda_m + 63)$$

or

$$\lambda_m = 161^\circ \text{ (or Virgo } 11^\circ) \text{ as before.}$$

But this simply says that

$$\lambda_m - \lambda_s = H - D \\ = F - H$$

and adds no new information.

In sum, this date does not work, but I could find no other near the latter half of eleventh century that was better. I am not at all satisfied with this conclusion but have nothing to suggest at this time. To be sure, I will continue to try various other alternatives.

I enclose a photo of the text which you may keep, an annotated transcription, and a rough translation.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

*Bernard R. Goldstein*

Bernard R. Goldstein

BRG:ls

Notes to the Transcription of T-S 12.512

- line 2. The het is reasonably clear. I don't think Elul is possible for two reasons. After the aleph-lam enough of the next letter appears to rule out a waw; it looks to me like a resh. The only Muslim month that ordinarily takes the definite article is al-Maharram, and no other Jewish month begins with aleph-lam.
- line 4. I would like to read: irtifa<sup>c</sup> of which only the first three letters appear. Nevertheless the syntax is difficult.
- line 5. One, possibly two, letters are missing at the beginning of the line.
- line 7. The aleph in nahar is clear under ultra-violet light; the resh cannot be seen. After nahar there seems to be room for a two-letter word of which the second letter seems to be he.
- line 11. The final he in wakhamsa is visible in ultra-violet light.
- line 13. Read al-jawzah<sup>a</sup>. Several letters are visible after bil-hut, but I cannot make sense of them. The vertical stroke in the letter following the aleph may belong to the line below.
- line 16. After juz', there may be a symbol (rather than a word) for "demon," but I have never seen anything like it. I also cannot explain the letter (final mem?) that comes after it.

References

- Al-Biruni, The Book of Instruction in the Elements of the Art of Astrology, translated by R. Ramsay Wright, London, 1934.
- Neugebauer, O. and H. B. Van Hoesen, Greek Horoscopes, Memoirs of the American Philosophical Society, Volume 48. See especially pages 8 - 9. (1959).
- Tuckerman, Bryant, Planetary, Lunar, and Solar Positions A.D. 2 to A.D. 1649 at Five-day and Ten-day Intervals, Memoirs of the American Philosophical Society, Volume 59. (1964).

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תורוסקופ בכתב ידו של תחזן הלל בן עלי

TS 12.512

- 1 בשם (ך) רחם (נא) נעש (ת) ונצליח
- 2 כאנת [אלולאדה אלסעידח בארן אללה פי אלוקח
- 3 אל] מחתום פי אליום אלאחר אול יום מן ה' אלול [ל
- 4 ואמקת אלולאדה ארת פי סת [ה וס] מין ד [רגח
- 5 [תלתי אלכמטח וכאן אלפאלע אלמחקק סבצה
- 6 שח דרגת מן ברג אלסטר ואמק דלך אליום
- 7 אלשמס ופס נתאר תלאת דרג מן ברג
- 8 אלגוזא ואתנין ועשרין מן אלברג
- 9 אלקפר אתנין ועשרין דרגה ובמסין דקיקת
- 10 איצא אלוחרת כמסת ועשרין דרגה
- 11 וכמסת דקיקת
- 12 וחו צאחב אלברג מטאנסיח ועש [רין [קת
- 13 ואחדת אלגוז ח' באלחות
- 14 ועשרין דרגה וארבעת דקאיק
- 15 גזות מן ברג אלקערב בת קטר
- 16 וואמק גזותה מן אלולאדה
- 17 חסע דרג מן ברג אלחור [ך
- 18 אלולאדה אלסעידח

אם  
אלכח