

# The Hyleg, the Alcoccoden and the Length of Life in Ancient Astrology

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The Hyleg and the Alcoccoden (Al-kadukhadah, Alchocoden, etc.) were the most important indicators of life in ancient and medieval astrology. The Hyleg was deemed to be the Giver of Life and the Alcoccoden was the Giver of Years. The Alcoccoden duty was to tell how many years the stars would give to the native.

The importance of determining the length of life is not new, as Ptolemy says:

"The consideration of the length of life takes the leading place among inquiries about events following birth, for, as the ancient says, it is ridiculous to attach particular predictions to one who, by the constitution of the years of his life, will never attain at all to the time of the predicted events. This doctrine is no simple matter, nor unrelated to others, but in complex fashion derived from the domination of the places of greatest authority."

Many modern Astrologers will categorically state that it is not possible to calculate how long a person may live. The main reason is the complexity and obscurity of the techniques that were common practice among ancient and medieval astrologers like Ptolemy and Bonatti. In fact, there is a general lack of knowledge on how complete and systematic these tools were, as well as a lack of knowledge regarding pre-Modern methods. Another excuse is the assumption that mentioning the possibility of death (or elaborating on its role in the native's life) is neither polite nor a sign of good manners. I must confess that I never try to find the length of life of the people close to me. I only investigate the past lives of well-known personalities, making sure I do not make public any conclusion that could do harm instead of good. In fact, these astrological techniques should be used cautiously, mainly to warn about certain situations and prevent events that may be potentially dangerous.

Another consideration is how precise or exact these prediction tools are. Make no mistake: They are as exact or as inaccurate as an X-ray interpretation. In other words, they may be quite precise or quite wrong. In the end it depends on the eyes of the beholder; a patient may need a second opinion or many other tests, and it may go wrong anyways. In everyday life, we found situations in which we were supposed to be sure about something that resulted totally different to what we were expecting.

My prediction is that after you try these methods, you will draw the conclusion that they give you a reasonable expectation of certainty, that Astrology gives you a fair idea about events that may occur in someone's life, his/her endeavors, character, and desires, among many other things. In many cases, it will give you a real X-ray vision about the unexpected. You will also reject misconceptions regarding old prediction techniques as being adequate only for people that lived short lives, in older times and harsh

situations, as opposed to people living in our contemporary society, under constant care and unrestricted access to modern health systems.

We need to understand that medieval and ancient astrologers were methodical. They recognized that clairvoyance was an extremely unusual human quality. They relied on processes, formulas, and methods, and not in magical powers. We need to reconstruct their way of thinking in order to understand how and why they were successful, and why we struggle today to achieve the same success.

While Ptolemy explained the use of Primary Directions as the main tool to predict the time of significant events, medieval astrologers devised new techniques and used the Alcoccoden as their first approach to determine life span. In order to find the Alcoccoden it was necessary to find the Hyleg first. If there is no Hyleg in a chart, there is no Alcoccoden. In general terms, the Alcoccoden is a planet related by dignity and by aspect to the Hyleg.

The rules to calculate the Alcoccoden and its given years are difficult to find, understand, and put into practice. Our best reference is Guido Bonatti's *Liber Astronomie, Treatise 9, Nativities, Part 2, Chapter 2, On the knowledge of the Al-kadukhadah*:

"And if you knew the Hilaj and you wished to know the Al-kadukhadah, who is called the divisor, you will consider the said four significators (namely the Lord of the domicile in which the Hilaj is, the Lord of the exaltation, the Lord of the bound, and the Lord of the triplicity), and the one of them you were to find more fit, make him the Al-kadukhadah, beginning from the lord of the bound: which if you were to find him projecting his own rays to the bound itself, put him as the Al-kadukhadah."

Later, Bonatti indicates that the Lord of the Face or Decanate could be used when none of the other dignities fit. He also elaborates on several options, like how to decide among different planets with the same dignities and aspects, and/or choosing an angular planet before a succedent or cadent; or oriental before occidental; in addition, Bonatti said that if a planet is dignified, or in the Ascendant or the Midheaven, it could be Al-kadukhadah even if not in aspect with the Hyleg.

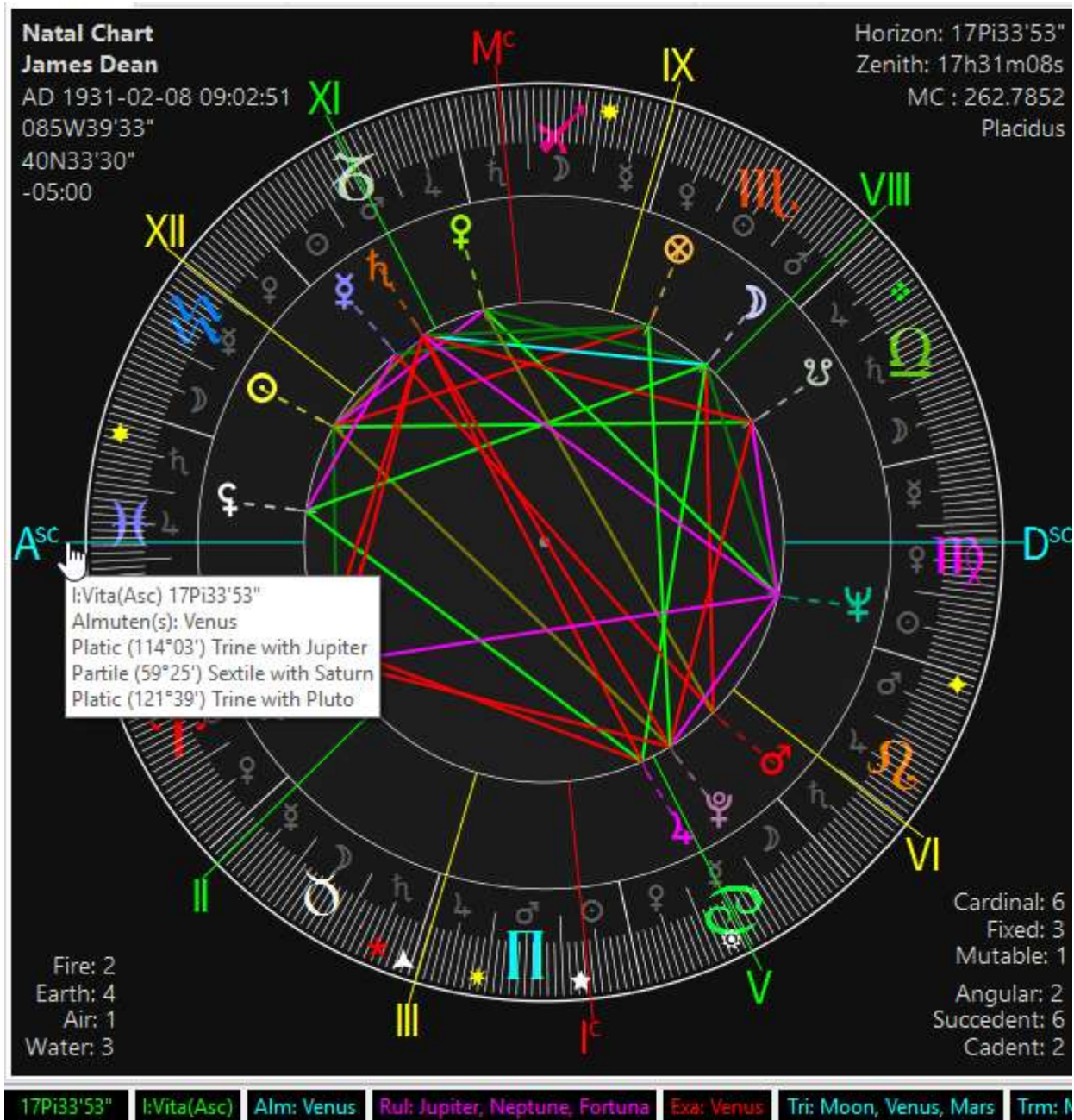
After studying many cases for clarification and experiment, we have summarized Bonatti's rules to find the Al-kadukhadah as follows:

- If the Sun is Hyleg, and it is in Rulership or Exaltation, and none of the Lords of his five dignities aspects him, then the Sun is Hyleg and Al-kadukhadah as well.
- If the Moon is Hyleg, and it is in Rulership or Exaltation, and none of the Lords of her five dignities aspects her, then the Moon is Hyleg and Al-kadukhadah as well.
- If not, the Al-kadukhadah is a planet conjunct with the Ascendant or the Midheaven (between 3 degrees before or 4 degrees after the cusp, according to Bonatti) which also has dignity at the place of the Hyleg.
- If not, the Al-kadukhadah is the planet in ptolemaic aspect with the Hyleg, with the highest dignity at the place of the Hyleg. The priorities are in this order: Term Ruler, Sign Ruler, Exaltation, Triplicity, and Face (Decanate).

- If no planet is found in any of the above conditions, the Al-kadukhadah is the Lord of the Term at the place of the Hyleg. This last rule was not explicitly proposed by Bonatti, but guarantees there will be an Alcoccoden for every Hyleg and seems .

*First Example, James Dean.*

Our first example will be James Dean, born on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 1931, 9am, Marion, IN, USA. According to several sources, this is a reliable birth time.



**Astrallis 1.6+** verifies the right time zone for the birth date by sending a request to *Google Maps Timezone API*. In this case it answers back -05:00, or EST, the correct value for the birth place at the time of birth. This is a necessary clarification, since we have found this chart casted with -06:00 in some websites. Also, we are using a birth time of 09:02:51 after rectification with Primary Directions. Please note that either time will come with the same Hyleg and Alcoccoden. We use Placidus' House System, and Placidus' formula in right ascension to calculate Fortuna. Orbs are set at 75%, which makes evident the opposition between Saturn and Jupiter.

We will follow Ptolemy's method to find the Hyleg. The Sun (XII), Moon, and Fortuna (VIII) are discarded because they are not in hylegical places.

Venus in the 10th house, Mercury and Saturn in the 11th house are in Hylegical places; however, they are not Hyleg because in order to be such, by day, they should own at least three out of five dignities to either the Sun, the new Moon, or the Ascendant. From Ptolemy's *Tetrabiblos III:X*:

"...by day we must give first place to the sun, if it is in the prorogative places; if not, to the moon; and if the moon is not so placed, to the planet that has most relations of domination to the sun, to the preceding conjunction, and to the horoscope; that is, when, of the five methods of domination that exist, it has three to one, or even more..."

Venus is in the 10th, an Aphetic place, Exalted(+4) and in Triplicity(+3) at the place of the Ascendant; that counts for only two dignities (7 points total), and therefore it doesn't qualify as Hyleg. We reject Mercury and Saturn in a similar way.

Therefore, the best candidate for Hyleg is the Ascendant in 17 Pisces. One of the reasons we prefer Ptolemy's rules to find the Hyleg is that they include all planets as candidates with the Ascendant as default, meaning there is always a Hyleg for every Chart. Alcabitius, Dorotheus, and Bonatti may not produce a Hyleg in some situations, although most authors will default to the Ascendant as well.

So far we have confirmed the Ascendant as Hyleg. Now we need to find the Alcoccoden.

From the previous Chart, the Ruler of the Ascendant is Jupiter; Venus becomes Exalted at that place; the Triplicities are Moon, Venus, and Mars, and Mercury is in its own Terms at the place of the Ascendant. Any of these planets could be Alcoccoden, if they are in aspect with the Ascendant. Since Jupiter is in Trine to the Ascendant, it becomes our first choice. Neither the Sun nor the Moon qualify for an exception because they are not rulers or exalted at their own places, and there is no planet in conjunction with the Ascendant or the Midheaven. There are only two other planets aspecting the Ascendant, which are Saturn and Pluto, but we swiftly discard both because they don't have any dignity at the place of the Ascendant. Therefore, the Al-kadukhadah or Alcoccoden is Jupiter.

In most cases I found reasonable to select the Hyleg using Ptolemy's rules, and the Alcoccoden using Bonatti's. **Astrallis 1.6+** can be configured with different options and give a detailed explanation about the selected choices:

Astrallis - Natal Chart's Hyleg, Alcoccoden, Anareta, Al-Mubtazz, and Almudebit

James Dean Syzygy: 13Le13'03" Full Moon

Hyleg: Ptolemy, Tetrabiblos III:10 Triplicities: Dorotheus, Carmen A. I.1 Faces and Terms: Ptolemy (Chaldean)

Criteria	Asc	Sun	Moo	Mer	Ven	Mar	Jup	Sat	Ura	Nep	Plu	For	Syz
In Aphetic place	I			XI	X			XI	I				
Ptolemaic aspect	Jup				Moo			Jup	Jup				
Cadent		Yes								Yes			Yes
Under Beams													
Dominance(s)													
If by day:													
Sun				4	2		3	8	5				
New Moon		1	3		3	7							
Ascendant			3	2	7	3	6						
If by night:													
Moon					3	11							
Full Moon		8			2		4						
Fortuna			3	2	4	8							
Apheta	Yes												
Alcoccoden							Yes						
Years (Bonatti)							24.3						

Alcoccoden  
Jupiter  
4th rank of Authority  
Triplcity over Sun  
Face, Rulership over Ascendant  
Face, Triplcity over Full Moon  
Platic Trine from Moon (Triplcity, Rulership over Jupiter)  
Retrograde  
In feminine sign  
Jupiter weakened, succedent, gets 3.8 years (Middle months)  
Moon adds 30.5 years (L years +M months)  
Saturn takes 10.0 years (L/3 years)

Help Close

Earth: 4  
Air: 1  
Water: 3

Angular: 2  
Succedent: 6  
Cadent: 2

TOTAL: A-  
Anareta: Mars

17Pi33'53" i:Vita(Asc) Alm: Venus Rut: Jupiter, Neptune, Fortuna Exa: Venus Tri: Moon, Venus, Mars Trm: Mercury Fac: Jupiter

The next step is to find the Alcoccoden years. Bonatti explains this procedure in the same book, under *Nativities, Part 2, Chapter 2, On the knowledge of the years of the native*:

"After this, we will look at the place of the al-mubtazz (Alcoccoden) in order to know the years of the native: which if it were oriental and in an angle, and in addition he were in his own haym (...) and it were in own of his own aforesaid dignities (...), and it were in the Ascendant or in the 10th, and in its own haym, then it will give its own greater years."

"And Ptolemy said, if however if it were oriental and in a succedent to an angle (...), and in one of its own aforesaid dignities, and were free from impediments, then it will give the middle years. Which if it were in the cadents, even if it is otherwise free, then it will give its own lesser years. If indeed it were cadent, and were otherwise impeded (...) then it will give months instead of those years; or perhaps it will give weeks instead of months. But if it were combust in

addition to one of the aforesaid impediments, it will signify, and it will give, hours instead of those years; or at most it will signify days."

" Abu'Ali esteemed all of the angles to be equal in giving greater years; and all of the succedents in giving middle years; indeed the cadents in giving lesser years."

Bonatti is giving us two choices: Either we follow Abu'Ali's recipe – and the values given will match always the full greater, middle, or lesser **years** – or we downgrade from years to months, months to weeks, and weeks to days if we see debilities and impediments on the way. The Lesser, Middle, and Greater values for years (or units of time) are, according to Lilly:

Planet/Values	Lesser	Middle	Greater
Moon	25	66	108
Mercury	20*	48	76
Venus	8*	45	82
Sun	19	69	120
Mars	15*	40	66
Jupiter	12*	45	79
Saturn	30*	43	57

\* These are well known approximate periodicities of each planet. See *Jean Meeus, Mathematical Astronomy Morsels, Willman-Bell, Inc. 1977*

There is a false perception about the origin of this table, as many may think the numbers are arbitrary. The truth is that they are most probably based in planetary periodicities and other physical phenomena.

For the sake of clarity and space, we will use the terms **Dignified** or **Afflicted** when referring to Essential Dignities, and **Strong** or **Debilitated** when referring to Accidental Dignities. Using William Lilly's system of points, a Dignified planet will have positive Essential Dignities, and the opposite if Afflicted. Positive Accidental Dignities will mean Strong, and negative will mean he is Debilitated.

If we follow Abu'Ali, the years given would be 45, since Jupiter is joined to the 5th, a succedent house. A planet within 5 degrees before a House Cusp is considered to belong to that House.

However, we want to take into account Bonatti's considerations on Dignities and Debilities; for this reason, we will generalize his rules and summarize them as follows:

If the Alcocoden is angular:

- If Dignified and Strong, add its Greater value as years.
- If Dignified and Strong, but Besieged, Retrograde, or Combust, add its Greater value as months.
- If either Afflicted or Debilitated, add its Greater value as months.
- If either Afflicted or Debilitated, but also Besieged, Retrograde, or Combust, add its Greater value as weeks.
- If both Afflicted and Debilitated, add its Greater value as weeks.

- If both Afflicted and Debilitated, but also Besieged, Retrograde, or Combust, add its Greater value as days.

If the Alcoccoden is succedent:

- If Dignified and Strong, add its Middle value as years.
- If Dignified and Strong, but Besieged, Retrograde, or Combust, add its Middle value as months.
- If either Afflicted or Debilitated, add its Middle value as months.
- If either Afflicted or Debilitated, but also Besieged, Retrograde, or Combust, add its Middle value as weeks.
- If both Afflicted and Debilitated, add its Middle value as weeks.
- If both Afflicted and Debilitated, but also Besieged, Retrograde, or Combust, add its Middle value as days.

If the Alcoccoden is cadent:

- If Dignified and Strong, add its Lesser value as years.
- If Dignified and Strong, but Besieged, Retrograde, or Combust, add its Lesser value as months.
- If either Afflicted or Debilitated, add its Lesser value as months.
- If either Afflicted or Debilitated, but also Besieged, Retrograde, or Combust, add its Lesser value as weeks.
- If both Afflicted and Debilitated, add its Lesser value as weeks.
- If both Afflicted and Debilitated, but also Besieged, Retrograde, or Combust, add its Lesser value as days.

In our example, Jupiter is Succedent, Dignified, Strong, but retrograde. This means we should take his Middle value as months (Second option for Succedent). Jupiter values are 12, 45, and 79. The Middle value is 45 (months), equal to 3.8 years.

According to Bonatti, when the planets increase years:

"...after you come to know the Al-kadukhadah, who is called the Giver of Years, see whether he is aspected by one of the planets or were joined corporally to it. You will even see he to whom he is joined, or the one who aspected him: because if it were to aspect him by a trine or sextile aspect, and it were a benefic, and that benefic were made fortunate and strong, it will add its own lesser years to him, and so many months as are its middle years. If however it did not receive him, however, by the aforesaid conditions, it will add its own lesser years to him, and besides that so many days as are its own lesser years. You may say the same if it were to receive him from a square aspect or the opposition, If however that benefic were impeded, it will add months to him according to the number of its own lesser years."

And when planets decrease years:

"...if it were a malefic who aspected him, and it aspected him from a square aspect or from the opposition, or were joined corporally to him, it will subtract from him from its own years, according to the number of its own lesser years. If however it were made fortunate and strong, it will subtract from him only to according to one-third of its own lesser years."

"Indeed Mercury is convertible, because if he were with those increasing, he will increase the years of the native according to the number of his own lesser years. Indeed if he were with those decreasing, he will take away the same amount."

"...the Head of the Dragon, if it were with the Al-kadukhadah by 12 degrees before or after, that it will subtract one-fourth of the years of the Al-kadukhadah - which however I have not proven (that I remember); but regarding the Tail, it is so."

Again, we will summarize these additional rules, considering a planet is Dignified when its total points (according to Lilly's points system) are positive, and Afflicted when negative:

#### When planets increase years:

- If Mercury is acting with the benefics, and is joined, sextile, or trine to the Alcocoden, it adds its own Lesser value as years.
- Any other Dignified benefic, joined, sextile, or trine to the Alcocoden, adds its own Lesser years plus its own Middle value as months.
- Any other Afflicted benefic, joined, sextile, or trine to the Alcocoden, adds its own Lesser years plus its own Lesser value as days.
- Any other Dignified benefic, in square, or opposition to the Alcocoden, adds its own Lesser years plus its own Lesser value as days.
- Any other Afflicted benefic, in square, or opposition to the Alcocoden, adds its own Lesser value as months.

#### When planets decrease years:

- If the Alcocoden is joined to the Dragon's Tail (South Node), decrease the own given Alcocoden years by one-fourth.
- If Mercury is acting with the malefics, and is joined, square, or in opposition to the Alcocoden, Mercury takes off as many years as its own Lesser value as years.
- Any other Dignified malefic, joined, in square, or opposition to the Alcocoden, takes off one-third of its own Lesser value as years.
- Any other Afflicted malefic, joined, in square, or opposition to the Alcocoden, takes off its own Lesser value as years.

As per our example, Jupiter gets a Trine from the dignified Moon (+7 Lilly's points), and an opposition from the dignified Saturn (+22 Lilly's points). Jupiter is already giving 3.8 years.

Therefore, the Moon adds its own Lesser+Middle/12 years, which equals  $25+66/12$  or 30.5 years.



Saturn takes off one-third of its own Lesser years, which is 30/3 or 10 years.

Totaling, we have 3.8+30.5-10=24.3, so the Alcocoden years are 24.3 years.

James Dean died in a car accident, on September 30th, 1955, when he was 24 years and 8 months old. The results are compelling and as accurate as they can be. In the previous paragraphs we talked about using a rectified birth time. We use it because there is a Primary Direction, Mars converse to the Descendant, with the exact value 24y 08m using the Key of Ptolemy, which hits exactly on the event date when the birth time is 09:02:51 instead of 09:00:00:

The screenshot shows the Astrallis 1.6+ software interface. At the top, it displays 'Saturn=AD 1955-09-30 12:00:00'. Below this, the 'System' is set to 'Placidus' and the 'Key' is 'Ptolemy' with a value of 1.000000. The 'Create Event' field shows 'AD 1955-09-30 12:00:00' and the 'Age' is '24y 08m'. The interface includes tabs for 'Theme', 'Speculum', 'In Mundo', 'In Zodiac', 'Transits', and 'Event Data'. Under 'Event Data', there are sub-tabs for 'Angles', 'Conjunctions', 'Parallels', 'Rapt parallels', and 'Interplane'. A table is displayed with the following data:

Date	Direction	Age	Rectification Time
AD 1955-09-30	♂@V←D <sup>SC</sup>	24y 08m	AD 1931-02-08 09:02:51
AD 1955-12-10	♃@VIII←IX	24y 10m	AD 1931-02-08 09:02:04
AD 1956-12-03	♃@I←V	AD 1931-02-08 09:02:51	AD 1931-02-08 08:58:09
AD 1957-07-15	♃@VIII→D <sup>SC</sup>	26y 05m	AD 1931-02-08 09:10:01
AD 1957-12-10	♃@XI→M <sup>F</sup>	26y 10m	AD 1931-02-08 09:11:38
AD 1959-02-24	♃@V→I <sup>F</sup>	28y 01m	AD 1931-02-08 09:16:27

As you may know, **Astrallis 1.6+** calculates the rectification time automatically, and casts the rectified chart with a simple double-click on the outstanding Direction. Those familiar with Primary Directions, should not need any additional explanation about the Direction and the symbolism of Mars, James Dean's Anareta, reaching the Descendant.

**2nd example, Neil Alden Armstrong:**

American astronaut, the first man to set foot on the Moon, on 7/20/1969, 10:56 PM EDT. Neil Armstrong was born on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1930 at 00:31 in Wapakoneta, Ohio. He died in Cincinnati, on August 25, 2012, at the age of 82, after complications from coronary artery bypass surgery.

We will use the time 00:29:41, instead of 00:31:00, after rectification with Primary Directions: When the birth time is 00:29:41, the converse direction of Saturn towards its own Midheaven parallel is exactly 38y 12m (Key of Ptolemy), the age at which Neil Armstrong stepped on the Moon, a few days before his

thirty-ninth birthday. Natal Saturn is in Capricorn, where he rules, trine to Mercury and Neptune, and most importantly, Saturn is Hyleg according to Ptolemy's method to find the prorogator of life.

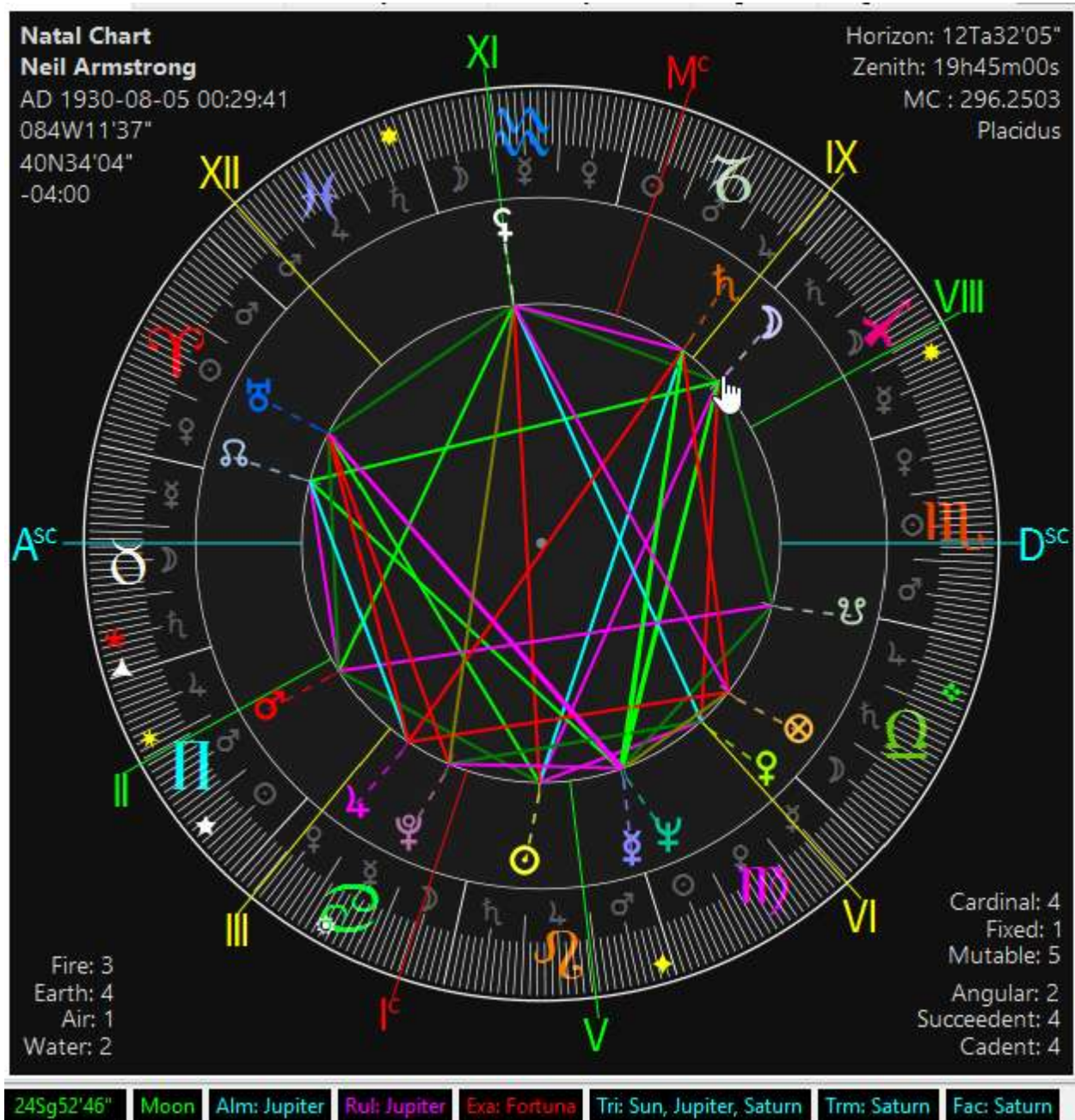
Saturn's Midheaven parallel falls in the 10th house, in Aquarius, where he is ruler too. The symbolism of the Direction matches perfectly with the facts and significance of the IX (Iter, travels) and X (Regnum, kingdom) houses.

**Astrallis 1.6+** finds this Direction and performs the rectification with a simple double-click. The resulting birth time, 00:29:41 is 1 minute and 19 seconds earlier than the one originally recorded. However, this new birth time doesn't change the results for Hyleg or Alcocoden, but gives confirmation on the timing of different events in the life of the native.

Theme Speculum In Mundo In Zodiac Transits Event Data				
Angles Conjunctions Parallels Rapt parallels Interplane				
Date	Direction	Age	Rectification Time	
AD 1969-07-20	♄←♄IIM <sup>c</sup> @M <sup>c</sup>	38y 12m	AD 1930-08-05 00:29:41	
AD 1970-06-12	♄←♄IIA <sup>sc</sup> @A <sup>sc</sup>	39y 10m	AD 1930-08-05 00:31:45	
AD 1970-09-10	♄←♄IIA <sup>sc</sup> @A <sup>sc</sup>	39y 07m	AD 1930-08-05 00:27:31	
AD 1968-02-05	♄→♄IIM <sup>c</sup> @D <sup>sc</sup>	37y 06m	AD 1930-08-05 00:26:19	
AD 1968-01-18	♀→♀IIM <sup>c</sup> @I <sup>c</sup>	37y 05m	AD 1930-08-05 00:23:40	
AD 1967-01-28	☉→☉IIM <sup>c</sup> @III	36y 06m	AD 1930-08-05 00:19:47	
AD 1967-01-07	♃←♃IIA <sup>sc</sup> @M <sup>c</sup>	36y 05m	AD 1930-08-05 00:39:49	
AD 1966-12-25	♄←♄IIA <sup>sc</sup> @M <sup>c</sup>	36y 05m	AD 1930-08-05 00:39:58	
AD 1966-10-13	♄←♄IID <sup>sc</sup> @I <sup>c</sup>	36y 02m	AD 1930-08-05 00:40:46	
AD 1972-08-12	♀→♀IIM <sup>c</sup> @A <sup>sc</sup>	42y 00m	AD 1930-08-05 00:41:56	
AD 1964-10-11	♀→♀IID <sup>sc</sup> @I <sup>c</sup>	34y 02m	AD 1930-08-05 00:10:36	
AD 1964-03-23	♄←♄IIM <sup>c</sup> @I <sup>c</sup>	33y 08m	AD 1930-08-05 00:50:59	
AD 1975-03-02	♃←♃IIM <sup>c</sup> @A <sup>sc</sup>	44y 07m	AD 1930-08-05 00:07:13	
AD 1975-07-17	♀←♀IIM <sup>c</sup> @D <sup>sc</sup>	44y 11m	AD 1930-08-05 00:05:44	
AD 1963-06-26	♃→♃IIM <sup>c</sup> @I <sup>c</sup>	32y 11m	AD 1930-08-05 00:05:24	
AD 1962-11-29	♀→♀IIM <sup>c</sup> @I <sup>c</sup>	32y 04m	AD 1930-08-05 00:03:07	
AD 1962-01-14	♃←♃IIA <sup>sc</sup> @A <sup>sc</sup>	31y 05m	AD 1930-08-05 00:59:45	
AD 1978-02-01	♂←♂IIM <sup>c</sup> @I <sup>c</sup>	47y 06m	AD 1930-08-04 23:55:33	
AD 1978-02-19	♃←♄IIA <sup>sc</sup> @M <sup>c</sup>	47y 07m	AD 1930-08-04 23:55:21	
AD 1960-11-29	♃→♃IIM <sup>c</sup> @XI	30y 04m	AD 1930-08-04 23:55:08	
AD 1978-05-07	♀←♂IIM <sup>c</sup> @V	47y 09m	AD 1930-08-04 23:54:30	
AD 1959-11-20	♄→♀IIM <sup>c</sup> @A <sup>sc</sup>	29y 04m	AD 1930-08-04 23:51:01	
AD 1959-03-16	♀→♀IIM <sup>c</sup> @II	28y 07m	AD 1930-08-04 23:48:17	

July Fac: Moon

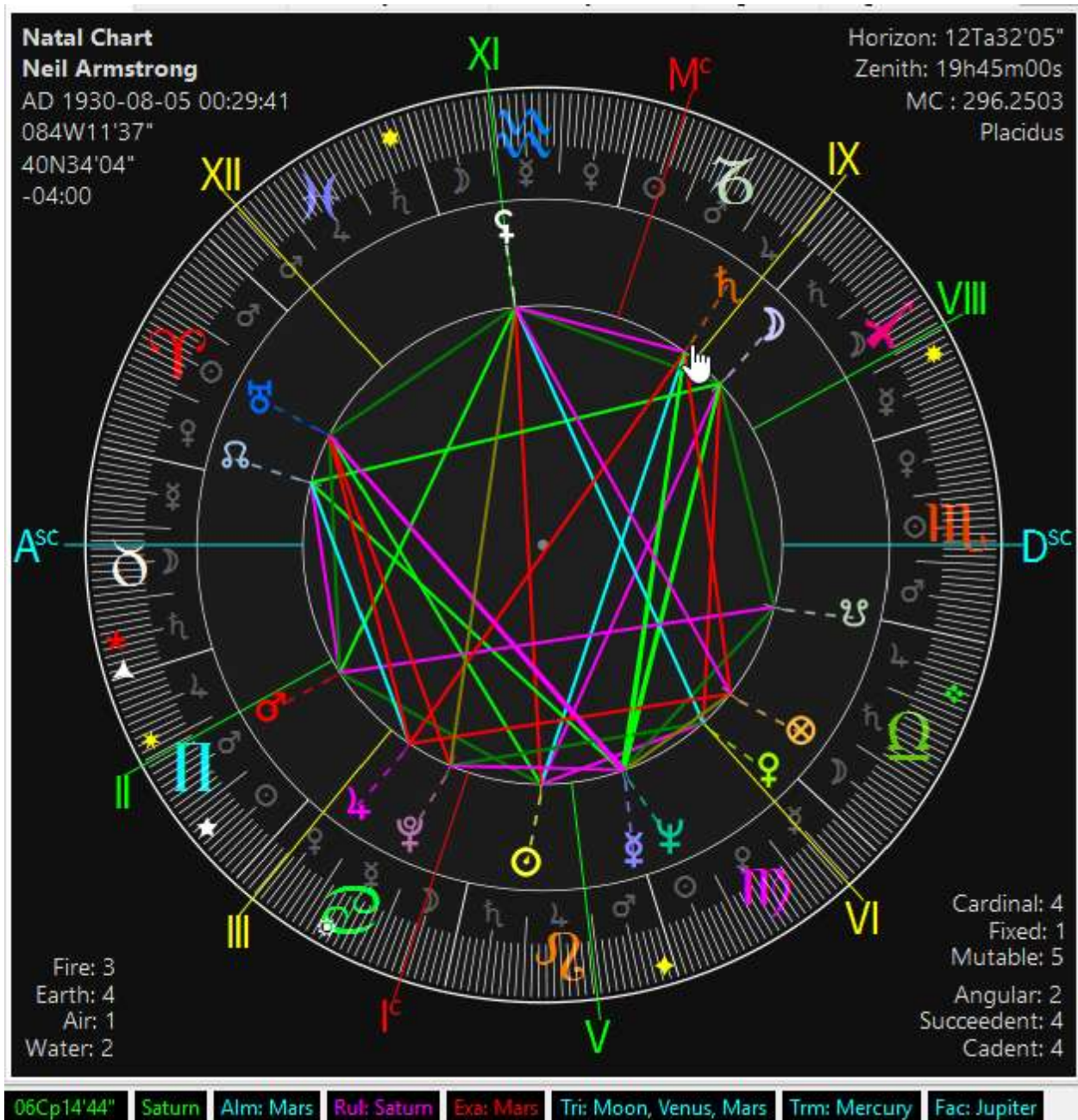
The process of finding the Hyleg is the following: The Moon is in the VIII House and the Sun in the IV, both non hylegical places. At first sight, you may think the Ascendant could be the Hyleg, but you have to consider Saturn first, the only traditional planet situated in an hylegical place.



According to Ptolemy, any planet can be Hyleg, and in order to be it, it has to be in I, VII, IX, X, or XI, and have dignity on at least three out of the five dominations that exist, over the Moon, the Full Moon, or Fortuna (by night). If you just move the mouse over the Moon's position (as depicted above), the status bar will show you that Saturn is dignified at the Moon's position: in triplicity, term, and face. Three dignities out of five. Furthermore, you will find the same with Fortuna in 4 Libra, where Saturn is exalted, in triplicity, and in his own term, again, three out of five. Additionally, Saturn rules Capricorn,

and the prenatal Full Moon is in 17 Capricorn as reported by **Astrallis**. Therefore, Saturn largely exceeds the requirements to be qualified as Hyleg.

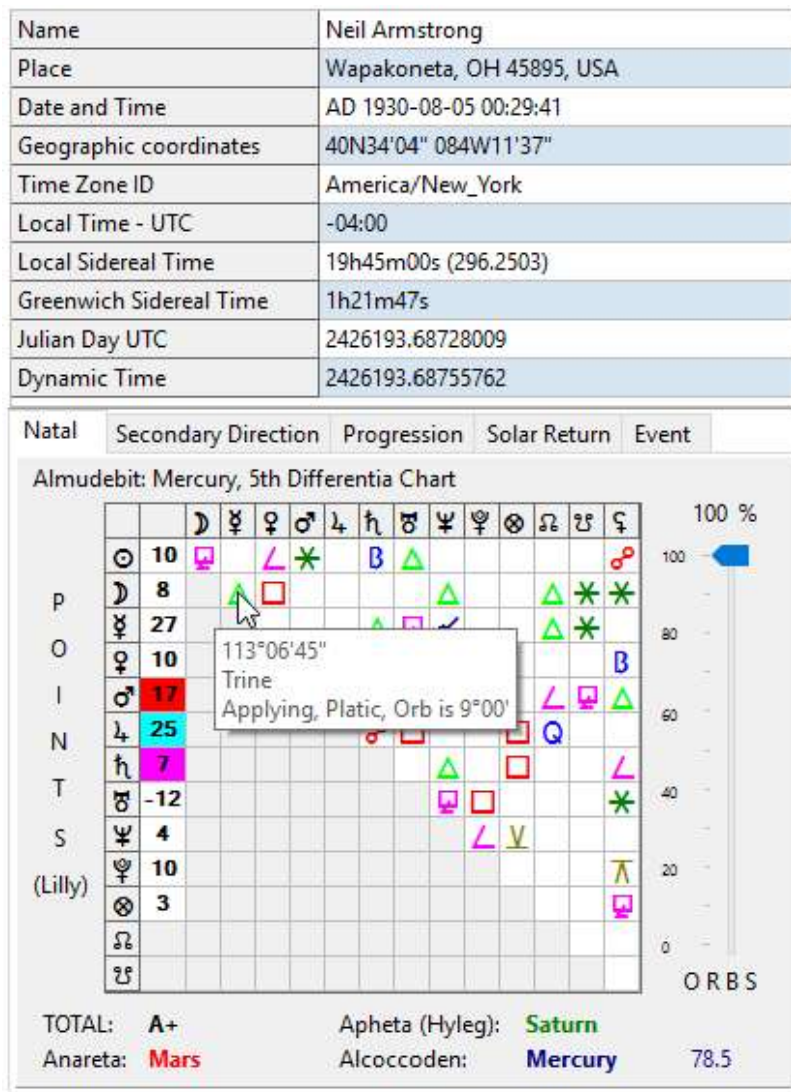
The second step is to find the Alcocoden. Since neither the Sun or the Moon are Hyleg, and no planet is conjunct to the Ascendant or the Midheaven, the Alcocoden will be a planet aspecting and dignified at the Hyleg's place. Mercury (Term) in Trine, and Jupiter (Face) in Opposition match the requirements, but, according to Bonatti, we have to prioritize them by Term, Ruler, Exaltation, Triplicity, and Face, in that order. Consequently, Mercury is Alcocoden because it is in its own term, the highest priority at Saturn's place, as shown in the status bar at the bottom of this screenshot:



The next step is to find the Alcocoden years. Since Mercury is in a succedent house, we assign his Middle value (48) as years. Mercury (The messenger, the traveler) is highly dignified in this chart: Ruler, exalted, in own terms, in the V House, free from combustion, and neither besieged, or retrograde. There is no reason at all for downgrading the years given, so we stay with 48 years from Mercury.

Now we should look at all the planets aspecting Mercury, those being the Moon (Trine), and Saturn (Trine). The Moon is dignified because of a mutual reception with Jupiter. According to our rule "Any other Dignified benefic, joined, sextile, or trine to the Alcocoden, adds its own Lesser years plus its own Middle value as months", the Moon will add L+M/12, that is 25+66/12 or 30.5 years. So far we have 48+30.5, equal to 78.5 years.

Saturn, a malefic in Trine aspect, is ruled out of giving or taking any additional time. Therefore, the total Alcocoden years are 78.5. As seen in the following partial screenshots from **Astrallis 1.6+**:



Alcoccoden	Yes
Years (Bonatti)	78.5

Alcoccoden  
 Mercury  
 4th rank of Authority  
 Term over Sun  
 Term over Ascendant  
 Triplicity over Fortuna  
 Platic Trine from Moon (Triplicity over Mercury)  
 In feminine sign  
 Mercury dignified, succedent, gets 48.0 years (Middle years)  
 Moon adds 30.5 years (L years + M months)

The Alcoccoden gave Neil Armstrong an expected life span of 78.5 years. He died after a surgery when he was 82 years old. There are at least two significant Primary Directions within range for 82 years:

Mars, the Anareta, direct to the Moon's Midheaven parallel:

Date	Direction	Age	Rectification Time
AD 2012-08-20	♂ → ♃ IIM <sup>c</sup> @XI	82y 01m	AD 1930-08-05 00:28:52
AD 2011-06-11	♀ → ☉ IIM <sup>c</sup> @III	80y 14m	AD 1930-08-05 00:26:40
AD 2011-03-14	♄ ← ☉ IIM <sup>c</sup> @III	80y 11m	AD 1930-08-05 00:31:35
AD 2010-10-16	☉ → ♃ IIA <sup>sc</sup> @A <sup>sc</sup>	80y 02m	AD 1930-08-05 00:21:27

Mundo Rapt parallel Moon-Mercury direct to the Imum Coeli:

Date	Direction	Age	Rectification Time
AD 2012-08-30	☾@VIII/→♃/♀@V	82y 01m	AD 1930-08-05 00:31:53
AD 2012-06-17	♃@III/←D <sup>sc</sup> /♀@III	81y 10m	AD 1930-08-05 00:31:53
AD 2013-03-06	☾@VIII/→♃/♀@V	81y 09m	AD 1930-08-05 00:31:53
AD 2011-11-17	☉@♃/←M <sup>c</sup> /♃@VIII	81y 03m	AD 1930-08-05 00:34:00

**Conclusion:**

In this paper, we have analyzed and summarized the way ancient and medieval astrologers like Ptolemy, Bonatti, and William Lilly used specific techniques and methodical analysis to find the life span for individuals, finding the Hyleg, the Alcoccoden, and calculating Primary Directions. In the examples, we have used the rules given by Ptolemy to find the Hyleg and the Anareta, and the rules given by Bonatti to find the Alcoccoden and its years.

While the Alcoccoden years may result in approximate values, Primary Directions are certainly more precise. A very important consideration is to review how the planetary aspects deliver different results for the Alcoccoden years, as you increase or decrease aspect orbs, a dynamic and unique feature of

**Astrallis 1.6+.**

The following table shows more examples with information about the casting parameters used in **Astrallis 1.6**. The columns show the **Name**, the date and time of birth (**DOB**), the % (percentage) of the maximum Orbs, the Hyleg's method (**M**, 1=ptolemy, 2=Dorotheus, 3=Alcabitus, 4=Bonatti), the resulting Hyleg (**H**), Alcocoden (**A**), and Differentia (**D**). The columns labeled **BK** and **BY** indicate if the menu options **Bonatti's knowledge** and **Bonatti's years +/-** were checked. The last two columns are the Alcocoden Given years (**GY**), and the actual life span (**Y**). As you can see, there is a good correlation between the Alcocoden given years (**GY**) and the actual years of life (**Y**) of the native. Obviously, you will find other examples where the correlation is not good. The purpose here is to show you how to use **Astrallis 1.6** to find the Alcocoden years considering different options.

We always use the Placidus' house system, and the locations are omitted because of lack of space. All these examples are included in the database accompanying **Astrallis 1.6**.

One of the most important considerations is the number of aspects to the Alcocoden. There could be more or fewer aspects, depending on the selected Orbs' percentage. Most of the time 60% for the Orbs is fine; other times you will need to increase or decrease the percentage to get more or fewer aspects involved.

#### Hyleg, Alcocoden, and Alcocoden years calculated with Astrallis 1.6

Name	DOB	%	M	H	A	D	BK	BY	GY	Y
Diana, Princess of Wales	1961.07.01 19:42:45	85	1	Su	Ju	3	x		35	36.2
Prince	1958.06.07 18:15:12	75	3	Su	Sa	2	x		56.6	57.8
Charles Chaplin	1889.04.16 20:00:00	65	1	Mo	Ma	4	x		92.8	88.8
Elvis Presley	1935.01.08 04:35:00	60	1	Asc	Ve	3	x	x	45	42.6
David Carradine	1936-12-08 12:01:54	60	1	Su	Sa	4	x	x	76.1	72.5
Robin Williams	1951-07-21 13:34:00	60	1	Su	Sa	4	x		67.8	63.1
Alexandra Federovna	1872-06-06 03:33:30	100	1	Mo	Sa	4	x		42	46.1
John F. Kennedy	1917-05-29 15:02:06	60	1	Mo	Me	2	x	x	42.2	46.5
Adolf Hitler	1889-04-20 18:02:56	60	1	Su	Mo	4	x	x	53.6	56
Eva Braun	1912-02-06 00:30:00	60	1	Mo	Me	2	x	x	32.2	33.2
Bruce Lee	1940-11-27 07:14:11	65	2	Asc	Sa	4	x	x	32.8	32.8
Robert F. Kennedy	1940-11-27 07:14:11	100	1	Su	Mo	5	x	x	42.3	42.6
Sharon Tate	1943-01-24 17:46:52	60	1	Su	Sa	4	x	x	19.9	26.5
Maria Callas	1923-12-02 07:07:00	60	2	Asc	Sa	2	x	x	49.8	53.8
James Dean	1931-02-08 09:02:51	75	1	Asc	Ju	4	x	x	24.3	24.8
Neil Armstrong	1930-08-05 00:29:41	100	1	Sa	Me	5	x	x	78.5	82.1
Amelia Earhardt	1897-07-24 23:30:00	60	1	Asc	Ma	4	x	x	54.1	39.9

Now take another look at James Dean's example: the default 60% for the Orbs' percentage doesn't show the trine between Jupiter and the Moon, neither the opposition between Saturn and Jupiter. When you increase the Orbs' percentage to 75%, both aspects are shown and used to calculate the Alcocoden years. Even if these aspects are not too strong, you should notice that the Moon rules over Jupiter's place, Jupiter is exalted, and Saturn is ruler at its place; those are very good indications to consider

increasing or decreasing these planet's years. The same criteria and analysis should apply to other cases, where aspects (and also the house system of choice) may be a decisive factor in giving or taking years.

Another important conclusion is that Ptolemy's method for finding the Hyleg is the most effective. If you review the few cases for which Dorotheus is better (Bruce Lee and Maria Callas), you will find that the Sun is in very close conjunction to the Ascendant; it seems Dorotheus was right in choosing the Ascendant as Hyleg, instead of the Sun, contrary to Ptolemy's opinion for such cases. It suggests that when the Sun is considered to be in the first house, or the Sun is just barely above the Ascendant at dawn, the Chart may be deemed as a night Chart.

Another exception we found was the Sun as Hyleg for Prince's Chart. The Sun is in masculine sign (Gemini), in partile conjunction with the eighth house, and in trine with Jupiter. Alcabitus' method, which aloud the Sun to be Hyleg in such place, works better than Ptolemy's method in this case.

You should notice that Abu'Ali's recipe works in a few cases, while Bonatti's rules for increase/decrease years work in most cases and are more consistent in giving good results. A good practice should be trying both options and performing further analysis and verification using Primary Directions.

There is little to say about the Differentia(s) since we only tested Bonatti's method. Hopefully we will be able to conduct additional research in the future.

As you may have noticed, we find Fortuna using the *Lunar Horoscope formula* proposed by Placidus and based on Ptolemy's *Tetrabiblos III, chap. 12*. This is the method used by Sepharial, Zadkiel, Bennett, and others who work with Primary Directions, and it is defined as follows:

*From the oblique ascension of the Ascendant subtract the oblique ascension of the Sun; to the remainder add the right ascension of the Moon. The result is the right ascension of Fortuna which will always have the Moon's declination.*

Fortuna will always be under the horizon before the Full Moon, and above the horizon after the Full Moon.

Please note that the so called *Pars Fortuna* (Arabian Part), and the point with the same name used by Lilly for Horary Charts are not the same, but are a lot easier to calculate. Perhaps that is the reason why most astrologers don't use the *Lunar Horoscope*. **Astrallis 1.6+** allows you to select any of these three options for each chart.

Finally, we must say that Amelia Earhardt's Alcocoden, giving 54.1 years, adds to the speculation about the possibility of her surviving the plane crash on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1937.