

## Chapter Four

*The general theory and arrangement  
of the heavens for making magical  
images*



**W**hile the wise of old desired to make images, it was not in their power to disclose the constellations which are the foundations of the science of images, and by which the effects of that science are made manifest. We, however, intend to speak of the foundations of these constellations, with which you may help yourself in every ceremony involving magical images; and these foundations are the means by which the heavens bring about the effects of the images. Those who seek to

make images must first master the science of calculating the positions of the planets and the constellations, and also the motions of the heavens.

Furthermore, they ought to believe firmly in the works that they do with images, so that what they do will be true and without doubt, nor should they harbor doubts concerning its effectiveness, since this work is not done in order to test or prove whether it be true or not; rather, they should have faith in their mind that it be true. By this the rational spirit is strengthened, and joined to that virtue of the upper world from which proceeds the celestial spirit that acts in the image; and in this way, what is desired will come to pass.

Thus it is necessary to believe firmly, because it is by this that the image will have the power to call upon the cooperation of the intelligence, and of all the primary and principal intelligences, and all the intermediate intelligences. Among all these intelligences, the human soul or intellect is clearly the lowest that can call upon the cooperation of others, and then only when it operates and cooperates with a firm and full intention and diligence and with the greatest solicitude. This is called faith in a proposition. In other works of craftsmanship, if the craftsman is not diligent, solicitude and full intention can accomplish the work, but only rarely in making images will this function and complete the work.

Now, however, I wish to teach you one thing very necessary for this work, and that is working when conditions are best around this world.<sup>16</sup> I say to you that you should not do anything in this work unless the Moon stands in a degree convenient and appropriate for the work you intend to do, because the Moon has powers and manifest works in all things that are beneath her,

<sup>16</sup> That is, when conditions in the heavens that surround the earth are favorable.

and none of them are hidden from her. And hereafter I will tell you the highest considerations in these processes that will produce much for you in this work, but for now I intend to speak of the effects and works of the Moon within the boundaries of her mansions, according to the consensus of all the wise of India about the 28 Mansions of the Moon.

The first Mansion of the Moon, then, is called *Alnath*<sup>17</sup>. It begins at the first minute of Aries,<sup>18</sup> and ends at 12 degrees 51 minutes 26 seconds of that sign. The wise of India begin journeys and take medicines when the Moon is in this Mansion. This Mansion also ought to be used as the root in every image that you wish to make in order to go on a journey, so as to travel safely and return in good health. It ought also to be used as the root to place discord and enmity between husband and wife, and between two friends so that they become enemies, and to sow discord between two allies; and you should do similarly when you wish to cause servants to flee. I will reveal to you also the roots and foundations that ought to be observed in all good acts and works, that is, you should see that the Moon is well dignified and that it is safe from Saturn and Mars and from the combustion of the Sun. Do the contrary in every evil work, that is, see that the Moon is combust or conjunct Saturn and Mars, or that she applies to an aspect with one of the latter.

The second mansion is called *Albotain*.<sup>19</sup> It begins at 12 degrees of Aries 51 minutes and 26 seconds, and ends at 25 degrees 42 minutes and 52 seconds of the same sign. In this Mansion make images to dig for streams and wells, to find hidden treasures, and for the planting of a great deal of wheat, for the destruction of buildings before they can be completed;

17 In Arabic, *Al-Sharatain*.

18 That is, 0 degrees 0 minutes 0 seconds of Aries.

19 In Arabic, *Al-Butain*.

and similarly to make images to enrage one man against another and to make stronger and firmer the incarceration of captives.

The third mansion is called *Azoraya*.<sup>20</sup> It begins in the aforesaid degree<sup>21</sup> and ends at 8 degrees 34 minutes and 2 seconds of Taurus. In this Mansion make images to sail safely on the sea and to return safely, and to firmly incarcerate captives, and to complete the works of alchemy, and all works done by fire, and to hunt in the country, and to cause love between man and wife.

The fourth mansion is called *Aldebaran*.<sup>22</sup> It begins at 8 degrees 34 minutes and 2 seconds of Taurus and ends at 21 degrees 25 minutes and 44 seconds of the same sign. In this Mansion make images for the destruction of cities and villages and for any other building which you wish not to endure, so that it proceeds to destruction, and to make a lord despise his servant, and to place discord between man and wife, and to destroy fountains, streams, and those that seek treasures underground, and to kill and bind all reptiles and venomous animals.

The fifth mansion is called *Almices*.<sup>23</sup> It begins at 21 degrees 25 minutes and 44 seconds of Taurus and ends at 4 degrees 17 minutes and 10 seconds of Gemini. In this Mansion make images for youths to learn arts and occupations, and for the salvation of travelers, and to quickly return and for sailors to travel safely, and to improve buildings and to destroy the friendship between two people, and for favor between husband and wife, and do this when the Moon is rising in a humane sign, safe from Saturn and Mars and the combustion of the Sun, as we have described above in the First Mansion. These are the humane signs: Gemini, Virgo, Libra,

20 In Arabic, *Al-Thuraiya*.

21 That is, 25 degrees 42 minutes and 52 seconds of Aries.

22 In Arabic, *Al-Dabaran*.

23 In Arabic, *Al-Haqa*.