THE MEDIEVAL GRIMOIRE OF ASTRAL MAGIC

Picatrix

Planetary incense, oils & the mirror of the winds — how medieval magi sought to rule winds and men



Book IV · Fumigations, Oils and Chaldean Secrets

LATIN MANUSCRIPT c. 1500 · FROM THE ARABIC, ALFONSO X, 1256

غاية الحكيم
BLUSABOOKS

BOOKS OF WISDOM

Picatrix
Book IV

Fumigations, Oils and Chaldean Secrets: The Moon in the Signs, the City of Hermes, Planetary Incense, the Mirror of the Winds, the Virtues of Things and the 28 Mansions of the Moon

The fourth book of Picatrix — works for the Moon in the signs and the great wonders of the Indians, the secrets of the Chaldeans and Adocentyn, the city of Hermes, the ten sciences that magic needs, the suffumigations and anointing oils of the seven planets, the wonders of Chaldean agriculture and the mirror of the winds, the natural virtues of things, the 28 mansions of the Moon and the prayers to the planets. Complete, translated from the Latin manuscript, with notes and commentary

BlusaBooks · MMXXVI

Modern English text, notes, foreword and commentary © 2026 SIA "Blusa Entertainment".

Source: the Latin «Picatrix» — the version of the Arabic «Ghāyat al-Ḥakīm» («The Goal of the Wise») translated at the command of Alfonso X the Wise in 1256, from a manuscript of c. 1500–1525 (Bibliothèque nationale de France), public domain. Translated from the manuscript; no manuscript images are reproduced; the red and dark characters are our own redrawings after the manuscript. The colour illustrations are modern.

BLUSABOOKS · MMXXVI

CONTENTS

Foreword 11

Book IV 15

Chapter 2 (beginning lost). The Moon in the signs 16

- When the Moon Is in Leo 17
- When the Moon Is in Virgo 18
- When the Moon Is in Libra 19
- When the Moon Is in Scorpio 20
- When the Moon Is in Sagittarius 21
- When the Moon Is in Capricorn 23
- When the Moon Is in Aquarius 24
- When the Moon Is in Pisces 25
- The Great Wonders That Were Among the Indians 26

Chapter 3. What the Chaldeans hold concerning the depth or secrets of this science, and what they have said about it 29

- A Composition for Hiding a Man 30

Chapter 4. In which ten reasons are discussed that greatly help this science 32

- The First of These Aphorisms 32
- The First Aphorism from the Saying of Ptolemy 36
- Sayings of Plato 38
- The Saying of Hippocrates 38
- The Saying of Aristotle the Sage 38
- Iothericius 39
- The Saying of Geber 41
- The Saying of Plato 43

Prayer 63
To Take Away Anger 63
Prayer 63
That You May Be Well Received 64
To Remove Sadness 64
That a Dried-Up Spring May Recover Its Water 64
For the Same 65
That Bees and Wasps May Not Harm You 65
To Kill Fleas 66
To Take Away Sadness 66
To Mend Wine 66
Against Hail 67
That the Winds and Storms May Obey You 67
To Protect Vineyards from Evil Mishaps 70
To Protect Vineyards from Evil Mishaps 70
To Drive from Vineyards the Animals That Harm Them 70
To Drive Away Snakes 71
For the Same 71
To Drive Away Reptiles 72
To Drive Away Mice 72
For the Same 73
To Kill Scorpions 73
That a Lover May Give Over the Beloved to Oblivion 73
That Wasps or Bees May Not Harm You 73
To Wound So That He Dies 74
The Cure 74
Against Deadly Poison 75
Theriac Against Every Poison 75
To Take Fear Away from Children 76
To Take Away Anger 76
To Make Someone Fall Ill 76
To Heal Morphea 77
To Catch Birds 78
To Drive Away Pigs 78
To Separate Two from Each Other 78
To Prevent Illnesses 79
Necromantic Wonders 81
To Cure Diseases of the Teeth 82
That a Cock May Follow You 82

FOREWORD

The fourth book. This is the fourth and last notebook of *Picatrix*. In the first book the author explained what magic is and described the mansions of the Moon; in the second, how the heavens act upon earthly things; in the third, what belongs to each planet in nature and how to speak with the spirits of the planets. The fourth book is like a great notebook of collected material: works to be done according to the Moon's place in the zodiac, sayings of the ancient sages, advice on what a magician must know, and many recipes from a book which the Latin translation calls the "Chaldean Agriculture". We translate the same manuscript as in the earlier notebooks. The following chapters and parts survive:

- **Chapter 2 (beginning lost)** — works for when the Moon is in a given sign, from Leo to Pisces: garments, suffumigations, images and short prayers to the Moon; at the end, "The great wonders that were among the Indians" — fasts and sacrifices for the seven planets.
- **Chapter 3** — what the Chaldeans know of the secrets of this science: the house of Hermes and his city of Adocentyn, and a composition that "hides" a man.
- **Chapter 4** — aphorisms of the ancient sages: the "sage of Babylon", sayings attributed to Ptolemy, Plato, Hippocrates, Aristotle, Geber.
- **Chapter 5** — the ten sciences a magician must master, and the twofold nature of love.
- **Chapter 6** — the suffumigations of the seven planets, how to keep them, anointing oils and a prayer to the Sun.
- **Chapter 7** — the longest: wonders from the book of the "Chaldean Agriculture" — the speaking laurel tree, the olive tree, protecting vineyards, driving away pests, poisons and their remedies, "wonders of necromancy", and trees that grow only in certain lands.

When the Moon Is in Sagittarius

But when the Moon is in Sagittarius and you wish to draw down its virtue and power — for the sages held this work to be a very strong and complete work, and mostly practised this work of Sagittarius for finding treasures — and when you wish to turn it to the said purpose, do this work while Mercury is in the fifth degree of Cancer. And then cast ten pounds of brass,[1] from which you shall make five images in the form of a dragon; let them be made while Mercury remains in the degrees of that same sign.

And when the images are finished, go to a flowing river, and let the water of that river be led off through five channels, which you shall make small, so that each runs separately along its own course. And in each of these channels set one of the five images in the form of the dragons fashioned above, in such a way that the water enters by the tails and comes out through their mouths. Then take five scents, as ... Let each of them be fitted to a dragon's mouth so that the water enters through them; and leave them there for an hour. Then let the scents be taken away from their mouths, and let the water run from the dragons over the ground for the following hour as well. Again put the other scents back in their place, namely each one at its own image, as they were placed at first, and let the water flowing from the dragons' mouths enter them for another hour.

At the end of that hour let them be taken away as the first time, and, keeping the same order, proceed until all are filled. And when they have been filled, withdraw with them from the river a distance of twenty palms. Then let the men, walking about the perfumes, bury them there in the ground, and let each of them be ... placed. And around them you shall dig a pit, into which the water coming from these perfumes, that is, from the vessels in which the water has been put, may flow. And directly opposite each of them let one of the aforesaid dragons be placed.

---

1 In the manuscript *laton* — brass, an alloy of copper and zinc.

37. It sometimes happens that the conjunction of the Moon is checked by Venus, and the conjunction of Venus is checked by the Moon.

38. The Sun abhors the conjunction of Saturn, and Saturn abhors the conjunction of the Sun.

39. Venus checks the conjunction of Jupiter, and Jupiter checks the conjunction of Venus.

40. The Moon abhors the conjunction of Mars; Mars abhors the conjunction of the Moon.

41. Jupiter abhors the conjunction of Mars, and Mars too abhors the conjunction of Jupiter.

42. Mercury abhors the conjunction of Mercury.[1]

43. From the opinions of the sages it appears that the two unfortunate planets[2] are hostile to nature because of the opposition and discord they have in the essence of nature. You must know and understand this perfectly.

These aphorisms we chose from the words of the sage mentioned above. And from the book of Ptolemy called the "Centilogium"[3] we chose these ten aphorisms.

The First Aphorism from the Saying of Ptolemy

The first of them is this: an astrologer can prevent much of the effects of the stars and of their natures if he knows them and recognises their works and their effects, and prepares [the recipient] for what is coming, so that it receives the effect of the star before that effect reaches it.

2. The spirit of the operator helps the heavenly effects, just as a healing physician helps the natural powers, and harvests are helped by the tilling of the

1 So in the manuscript; the name of another planet would be expected.

2 The unfortunate planets are Saturn and Mars; the fortunate ones are Jupiter and Venus.

3 The "Centilogium" (also "Centiloquium") is a collection of a hundred astrological sayings attributed to Ptolemy in the Middle Ages.

ʒ xvi, the dried blood of ... ʒ x. Combine all of it well pounded together, and in everything do as you did for the others.

The Suffumigation of Mercury

Take flower of henbane, Indian leaves, ..., of each ʒ xx, ambergris, testicles of ..., of each ʒ iiii, red ammoniac ʒ ii, the brains of jackdaws, the brain of a hoopoe, the brain of a tortoise, of each ʒ xx, the blood of an ass ʒ x. All of this, well dried and well pounded, combine together and mix, and in everything do as you did for the others.

The Suffumigation of the Moon

Take peach leaves, cinnamon, of each ʒ vi, ... storax and dried ... ʒ xx, cumin ʒ x, the fat of a white snake ʒ iiii, the brain of a white hare, the brain of a black cat, all dried, of each ʒ xx, the blood of a fox ʒ xl. Combine all of it well pounded together, and do everything in order as you did above for the others.

Remember that the said suffumigations of the planets must be combined with skimmed honey, and troches made of them, as was said for Saturn; and always, with this suffumigation, work with the power of the planet for which this composition is made, namely with the spiritual power, as was touched upon in the seventh chapter of the third book. Likewise, in burning such a work, have the words and prayers of that planet spoken continually.

But take care that no one sees these suffumigations, and that in no way do the rays of the sun or the rays of the moon see them, and put the vessel away in a closed place. And hide the vessel in a vessel of metal, and let the vessel be made from the ore of that planet whose work it shall be .... But if you do not do these things as has been said, the work will be spoiled; and know that harm will befall the operator. And after all this you must hold to it that you suffer no harm from this work.

But the sages of the regions of India found in a certain book of theirs something wonderful, which I wish to recount to you — that which is a marvel