

# AMICUS MEDICORUM

Johannes Ganivetus

1431

Extract from the 2nd edition, Lyon 1508

translated by

*Robert Zoller.*

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# GANIVET'S AMICUS MEDICORUM

(Extract)

## INTRODUCTION TO TRANSLATION

The following is a translation by Robert Zoller of an extract from **Amicus Medicorum** by Johannes Ganivetus {Friend of Physicians by Jean Ganivet} completed in 1431 and first published in 1496. It is also referred to by the author as The Dictionary of Astrology Made Medical. This translation is from the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition published in 1508 at Lyon by Johannes Cleyn {Clein Schwab}.

Ganivetus was a Minorite brother and professor of theology at Vienne in the Dauphine {modern day France}. Vienne being a city on the Rhone south of Lyon. The work is described by Thorndike as “probably the most influential treatise composed in Europe during the fifteenth century” in the field of astrological medicine. It was last published in Frankfurt in 1614 indicating an influence on medicine spanning two centuries.

In the Year of our Lord Jesus 1431 and on the seventh day of the month of August, which was the day of Mars, with seven hours completed from the middle of the night, in the hour of the Sun, a certain master in arts and doctor in medicine named Henry Amici, a native of Brussels in the Brabant, asked on behalf of the lord dean of Vienne, who was ill, whether he would survive or not. It happened that the figure of the heaven above Vienne at that hour was as shown {refer to horoscope in accompanying text extract from original}.

I looked at this figure or question and I gave the Ascendant and Moon to the ill dean and saw that the Moon was applying to the conjunction of the Sun and was already under the Sun's rays. This was one testimony of death.

I considered that the Part of the Killing Planet in the 14<sup>th</sup> degree of Leo between the Moon and the Sun and within the rays of the Sun at the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> House to be a sign of the evil tormenting the patient.

I considered in the third place that the Part of Death in the 26<sup>th</sup> degree of Virgo in the Ascendant, the House of Life, was an evil testimony.

Fourthly, I considered the Part of Life of the present figure in the 26<sup>th</sup> degree of Aries, in the House of Death; so that there was a certain evil combination, i.e., life or the Part of Life in the House of Death, and the Part of Death in the House of Life; both in the same number of degrees in each Sign, which degrees are the terms of the malefics.

Furthermore, the Part of Fortune was in the 7<sup>th</sup> degree of Virgo in 12<sup>th</sup> House, with Mercury at the end of its direct motion coming to the beginning of its retrogradation and corrupting the Ascendant.

From this I judged that the patient would come to delirium within one natural day at the latest no matter how prudent he was, and so it happened that he became delirious before one natural day and died before two.

*Extract ends*

Title Page Amicus Medicorum, 1508, Lyon.

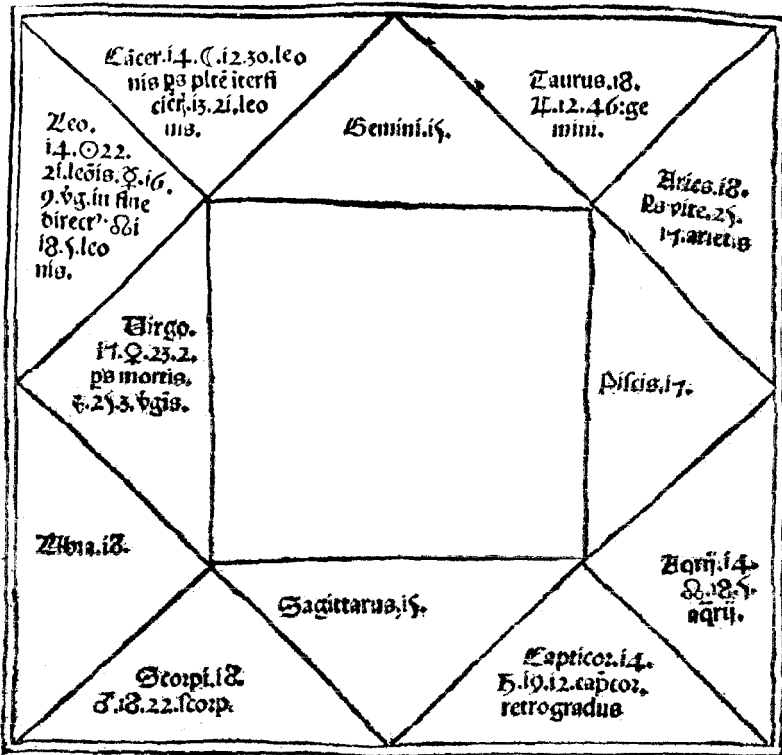
**¶ Epistola astrologie defensiva.**

**¶ Amicus medicorum magistri Johannis Ganiueti: cum opusculo quod celi enarrant propter principium eius inscribitur: et cum abbreviatione Abrahe auenezre de luminaribus et diebus creticis.**

**Astrologia Ypocratis**

**Guillhermi Ramelei sagiensis  
ad lectorem. Epygramma.**

**Quisquis es in tutum: facile euasurus a liptem  
Huc: quoq; ad ethereum lumen iturus ades.  
Janua nunc cunctis patet obice lata reiecto  
Dependet foribus clavis et ipsa suis.  
En tibi proptus iter ganiuetus monstrat eundem  
Ut poteris nusquam deuius esse miser.  
Nil dubites noster medicorum ducet amicus  
Te dabit et voti mox habitare locum.  
Nos omnes igitur demum illi soluere dignas  
Conemur grates qui hoc vigilavit opus.  
Vale.**



**Q** Anno fluēte dñi Iesu i.43i. 7 die septia  
 in cōpleta mensis Augusti que fuit dies  
 martis completis septem horis a media  
 nocte hora solis quidam magister in arti  
 bus 7 doctor in medicina vocatus henricus  
 eius amici natus de bampella in brabantia  
 petiit p. domino decano viemē. acui  
 infirmo questionem quid de infirmitate  
 eius sanitas vel mors: cuius questionis  
 hora talis incidit super viemē. celi figu  
 ra 7 ordo planetarum asperi in hac figura  
 seu questione 7 ordine celi: 7 dedit ascen  
 et lunam infirmo 7 vidi lunam eantem  
 ad conjunctionem solis infra radios so  
 lis: hoc fuit vnum testimonium mortis.

consideravi partem planete interficiētis  
 in. 14. gra. leonis inter lunam 7 solem et  
 infra radios solis in principio domus. 12  
 esse figuram mali aggregantis infirmum.  
 Consideravi tertio partem mortis in. 26.  
 gra. virgi. in ascen. in domo vite mali: tes  
 timonium. consideravi quarto partem vite  
 presentis figure in. 26. gra. arietis in do  
 mo mortis: ita q. est quedam mala. consi  
 deratio: vite seu pars vite in domo mortis  
 7 pars mortis in domo vite: 7 vniuersum  
 in consimili numero graduum signorum arie  
 tis 7 virginis in. 26. vniuersum eorum qui  
 gradus sunt termini malorum saturni 7 maris  
 consideravi vltim' ad ppo<sup>m</sup> malorum signorum.

seu significacione parte fortie i. 7. gra. vir  
gis. 6. gra. copleri 7. 9. minu. in domo. i. 2.  
que oia dicta sunt testimonia malis: ex qb<sup>9</sup>  
signis 7 testimonijs malis iudicavi moites  
egri futura in breui ex eade infirmitate.  
¶ Ceterum asperi mercurii dñm ascēden.  
prope ascēden. ad vñū gra. in domo. i. 2. in  
fine sue directionis veniētē ad pñcipiū re  
trogradationis 7 corūpentes ascēn. 7 ex  
hoc iudicavi egrū venire ad frenesim ad  
tardius infra diem naturalē licēt esset. q̄  
plurimū prudens: 7 ita euenit de frenesi  
7 citius ante dies naturalē 7 mox post  
duos dies 7 infra duos dies. \*\*\*

Arguētū sc̄ti cap. tertie dñe

¶ Sextū cap. de inuentione almutē ascē  
den. qui dñs pñcipalis dicit 7 aliarū do  
morū celli 7 totius celi 7 de statu plane  
te corūpētis vitam.



**E**iedū est q̄ iste

termin<sup>9</sup> almuten i figura  
in lingua arabū q̄ magni  
sunt astrologi in lingua lati  
na interpretat vincts. 7 est sensus talis pla  
neta est almuten ascēn. hoc est idē plane  
ta est fortior i ascēn. oib<sup>9</sup> alijs planetis. Pri  
mo igit vidēdū est q̄ signū q̄s gra. sit in  
ascēn. 7 tūc videre oportet q̄s planeta sit  
fortior i virtutib<sup>9</sup> essentialib<sup>9</sup> q̄ ille edñs  
ascēn. vbi gra. ponat q̄ aliq̄s gra. faciei se  
cūde aries q̄ est facies sol sit in ascēn. 7 q̄  
q̄stio sit diurna vidēdū est q̄s planeta sit  
ibi fortior aries est dom<sup>9</sup> maris. ideo habz  
q̄ncq̄ vtutes: sol q̄ exaltat in arietē habz  
vtutes q̄tuor 7 p̄t triplicitatē diurnam  
tres 7 p̄t facie vna q̄ sunt in sūma virtu  
tes octo: 7 sic habem<sup>9</sup> q̄ sol est ibi fortior  
s̄do iudicādus dñs ascē. si q̄stio eēt noctur  
na 7 aries eēt i ascē. a. 20. gra. vsq̄ ad. 25.  
qui sunt terminū maris. tunc mars h̄ret p  
pter domū vtutes q̄ncq̄ 7 p̄t terminū  
vtutes duas q̄ est i sūma vtutes septe  
sol. vō p̄t exaltatōes hz vtutes q̄tuor 7  
nō plures: q̄ nullā triplicitatē hz in eo q̄  
q̄stio est nocturna 7 nullā in terminis neq̄

in facieb<sup>9</sup>: restat igit maris sit fortior ibi  
dē ideo erit dñs ascēn. ponat etiā q̄ q̄stio  
sit nocturna 7 q̄ secūda facies arietē ascēn  
dat q̄ est facies sol: tūc mars p̄t domū  
hz q̄ncq̄ vtutes: sol p̄t exaltatōe. hz vtu  
tes q̄tuor 7 p̄t facie vna q̄ sunt in sūma  
vtutes q̄ncq̄ 7 sic ambo sunt eq̄les in sus  
pradictis vtutib<sup>9</sup>: ideo vidēdū ē q̄s istoz  
duoz sit dñs ascē. p̄mo nāq̄s vidēdū est si  
aliquis istoz sit in ascē. q̄ si sit 7 licet solū  
h̄ret vtutes tres 7 alter vtutes sex existēs  
in alia domo: ille q̄ erit in ascē. cū trib<sup>9</sup> vir  
tutib<sup>9</sup> erit dñs ascē. si vō aliq̄s plācta eēt  
in p̄mo gra. ascēn. 7 haberet solū duas vir  
tutes esset dñs ascē. nō obstant q̄ ali<sup>9</sup> exi  
stēs in alia domo haberet om̄s vtutes  
q̄s habere posset. 7 hoc nota bene. nā pla  
neta q̄to p̄p̄inquo: est gradū ascēn. tan  
to ē fortior: 7 q̄to remotior tāto debilior  
si igit null<sup>9</sup> istoz planetarū esset in ascēn.  
quos dicim<sup>9</sup> esse eq̄les in vtutib<sup>9</sup>: sed eēt  
in alijs domib<sup>9</sup>: tūc vidēdū est q̄s sit in  
fortiori domo vt in angulis vel in succe  
den. 7 habentib<sup>9</sup> aspectū ad ascēn. 7 ille q̄  
in fortiori domo 7 i meliori aspectu erit  
dñs ascē. si vero ambo essent in vna domo  
tūc vidēdū est q̄s eozū sit fortioris vtutis  
in signo 7 domo illa 7 ille q̄ erit fortioris  
virtutis in domo illa erit dñs ascē. si autē  
ambo in domo illa essent eq̄lis vtutis: vī  
dēdū est tūc si aliq̄s eozū eēt significator  
rei q̄stite in q̄stione vt si q̄stio esset de bello  
mars q̄ significat bellū esset significator  
rei q̄stite: 7 ideo dñs ascē. Et nota q̄ si pla  
neta sit dñs hore addit fortitudinem ma  
gnā. si forte null<sup>9</sup> istoz eēt significator rei  
q̄stite tūc vidēdū est q̄s eozū hz aspectū ad  
meliorē planetā 7 fortiorē aspectum 7 ille  
erit dñs ascē. 7 si ambo haberēt vñū aspe  
ctū ad vñū planetā vel equale vidēdū est  
tūc q̄s eozū sit magis amio: illi<sup>9</sup> plane  
tae ad que habet aspectū 7 ille erit dñs ascē.  
quādo aut istī planetesunt ita equales in  
potētia tūc vidēdū est q̄s eozū sit in me  
liori vt fortiori gra. vt in augmētate 7 lu  
cido qui augēt fortunā aut in puteis tene  
e iij

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