

# TABLE OF CLASSICAL ESSENTIAL DIGNITIES

Ptolemy vs William Lilly — Traditional Astrology Reference

Essential dignities describe the inherent strength or moral quality of a planet based on its zodiacal position. This table compares the system of Ptolemy (widely accepted in the Hellenistic and Medieval eras) with the modifications documented by William Lilly in his landmark work *Christian Astrology* (1647).

Planet	Rulership (+5)	Exaltation (+4)	Triplicity (+3)	Term (+2)	Decan / Face (+1)	Detriment (-5)	Fall (-4)
<b>Sol / Sun</b>	Leo	Aries 19°	Fuego (Día)	—	Decanatos del Sol	Acuario	Libra 19°
<b>Luna / Moon</b>	Cáncer	Tauro 3°	Tierra (Noche)	—	Decanatos de la Luna	Capricornio	Escorpio 3°
<b>Mercurio</b>	Géminis / Virgo	Virgo 15°	Aire (Noche)	Lilly / Ptolomeo	Decanatos de Merc.	Sagitario / Piscis	Piscis 15°
<b>Venus</b>	Tauro / Libra	Piscis 27°	Tierra (Día/Noc)	Lilly / Ptolomeo	Decanatos de Ven.	Escorpio / Aries	Virgo 27°
<b>Marte / Mars</b>	Aries / Escorpio	Capricornio 28°	Agua (Día/Noc)	Lilly / Ptolomeo	Decanatos de Mart.	Libra / Tauro	Cáncer 28°
<b>Júpiter</b>	Sagitario / Piscis	Cáncer 15°	Fuego (Noche)	Lilly / Ptolomeo	Decanatos de Júp.	Géminis / Virgo	Capricornio 15°
<b>Saturno</b>	Capricornio / Acuario	Libra 21°	Aire (Día)	Lilly / Ptolomeo	Decanatos de Sat.	Cáncer / Leo	Aries 21°

## Meaning of the Dignities (Classical Scoring)

- **Rulership (+5):** The planet is in its own kingdom or home. It acts sovereignly and has full control of resources within that sign.
- **Exaltation (+4):** The planet is treated as an honored guest. Its virtues are amplified, sometimes with a tendency towards exaggeration.

- **Triplicity (+3):** Shows environmental support and relations. Rules according to the element (Fire, Earth, Air, Water) and day/night conditions.
- **Term (+2):** The planet rules specific degree sectors of a sign. Shows control over immediate circumstances or specific behavior.
- **Decan / Face (+1):** The weakest dignity. Gives a superficial sense of purpose or clothing, but little actual power.
- **Detriment (-5):** The planet is in the sign opposite its rulership. It feels alien, restricted, and forced to act against its original nature.
- **Fall (-4):** The planet is in the sign opposite its exaltation. Represents dishonor, weakness, or an abrupt fall from position.

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