

University of Groningen

Reading the human body

Popovic, Mladen

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:

2006

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Popovic, M. (2006). *Reading the human body: Physiognomics and Astrology in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Hellenistic-Early Roman Period Judaism*. [Thesis fully internal (DIV), University of Groningen]. s.n.

Copyright

Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

The publication may also be distributed here under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license. More information can be found on the University of Groningen website: <https://www.rug.nl/library/open-access/self-archiving-pure/taverne-amendment>.

Take-down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Downloaded from the University of Groningen/UMCG research database (Pure): <http://www.rug.nl/research/portal>. For technical reasons the number of authors shown on this cover page is limited to 10 maximum.

RIJKSUNIVERSITEIT GRONINGEN

READING THE HUMAN BODY
PHYSIOGNOMICS AND ASTROLOGY IN THE DEAD
SEA SCROLLS AND HELLENISTIC-EARLY ROMAN
PERIOD JUDAISM

Proefschrift

ter verkrijging van het doctoraat in de
Godgeleerdheid en Godsdienstwetenschap
aan de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen
op gezag van de
Rector Magnificus, dr. F. Zwarts,
in het openbaar te verdedigen op
donderdag 9 november 2006
om 14.45 uur

door

Mladen Popović
geboren op 4 maart 1977
te Apeldoorn

Promotor: prof. dr. F. García Martínez
Copromotor: dr. E.J.C. Tigchelaar

Beoordelingscommissie: prof. dr. P.W. van der Horst
prof. dr. G.H. van Kooten
prof. dr. T. Nicklas

This book is dedicated to my parents

Nedeljko Popović and Marija Popović-Maravić

and in loving memory of my cousin

Jelenko Popović (17-09-1972–03-09-1994)

CONTENTS

CONTENTS _____	i
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS _____	vi
ABBREVIATIONS _____	viii
INTRODUCTION _____	1
Physiognomics: Things Signified by the Human Body _____	2
Physiognomic Learning and Physiognomic Consciousness in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Second Temple Period Judaism _____	4
<i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> and <i>4QPhysiognomy ar.</i> : Physiognomic-Astrological and Physiognomic Lists _____	6
Two Non-Sectarian Compositions, One Possibly Sectarian Copy _____	8
Outline and Main Theses of the Present Study _____	11
CHAPTER ONE: READING <i>4QZODIACAL PHYSIOGNOMY</i> (4Q186) AND <i>4QPHYSIOGNOMY AR</i> (4Q561): TEXTS, GENRE, AND STRUCTURE _____	17
Introduction _____	17
<i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186) _____	18
Name and Genre _____	18
Material Reconstruction _____	20
Columns and Measurements _____	21
Writing, Paleography, and Date _____	25
Contents _____	28
Transcription and Translation _____	29
4Q186 1 i _____	29
4Q186 1 ii _____	30
4Q186 1 iii _____	30
4Q186 1 iv _____	30
4Q186 2 i _____	30
4Q186 2 ii _____	31
4Q186 3 _____	31
4Q186 4 _____	31
4Q186 5 _____	32
4Q186 6 _____	32
The Structure of the Text and the Primacy of Physiognomics _____	32
Reconstructing the Beginning of the Physiognomic Entries _____	34
4Q186 1 i 7: Start of an Entry _____	34
4Q186 1 i 8-9: Describing Face and Head _____	36
“The Second Column” _____	38
עמוד as a Reference to a Zodiacal Sign _____	39
עמוד as a Reference to a Zodiacal Quadrant _____	41

עמוד as a Reference to One of the Phases of the Moon	43
עמוד as a Reference to a Column of a (Heavenly) Scroll	44
Assessing the Meaning and Significance of העמוד השני	46
“And this is the Horoscope under which He Was Born”	48
Magico-Medicinal Stones	51
<i>4QPhysiognomy ar</i> (4Q561)	54
Name and Genre	54
Material Reconstruction, Columns, and Measurements	55
Paleography and Date	58
Contents	60
Transcription and Translation	60
4Q561 1 i	60
4Q561 1 ii	61
4Q561 2	61
4Q561 3	62
4Q561 4	62
4Q561 5	62
4Q561 6	62
4Q561 7	63
Body and Spirit?	63
The Relationship between <i>4QPhysiognomy ar</i> (4Q561) and <i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186)	66
CHAPTER TWO: TO READ STRANGE MATTERS FROM THE HUMAN BODY: PHYSIOGNOMICS IN BABYLONIAN AND GRECO-ROMAN CULTURE AND LITERATURE	68
Introduction	68
Ancient Reflections on the Physiognomic Art and its Purpose	69
Backgrounds of Physiognomic Learning and Literature: Mesopotamia	72
Textual Evidence	72
Authorship	75
Babylonian Scholars and Physiognomic Divination	76
Form and Principles of Babylonian Physiognomics	79
Accessibility and Exclusivity of Physiognomic Learning	81
Functions of Physiognomic Divination	83
Backgrounds of Physiognomic Learning and Literature: Greece and Rome	85
Textual Evidence	86
The Beginning and Origin of Greco-Roman Physiognomics	89
Principles and Methods of Physiognomics	92
Body, Character, and Humors	93
Physiognomic Reasoning	95
Contexts and Functions of Physiognomic Texts and Learning	99

Babylonian and Greco-Roman Physiognomics and the Dead Sea Scrolls: Comparative Issues _____	104
Principles and Methods _____	104
Divine Communication _____	104
Animal Comparisons _____	104
Excursus: בהמה – Animal and Zodiacal Sign _____	105
“House of Light,” “House of Darkness,” and the Appearance of the Body _____	106
The Textual Format of Physiognomic Descriptions _____	108
Literary Dependency of the Qumran Physiognomic Texts _____	111
Astrology and Physiognomics _____	112
CHAPTER THREE: “IN THE FOOT OF <i>TAURUS</i> ”: ASTROLOGICAL NOTIONS IN <i>4QZODIACAL PHYSIOGNOMY</i> (4Q186) _____	119
Introduction _____	119
Some Aspects of Ancient Astrology in Babylonia and Greece _____	120
Mathematical Astronomy and Zodiacal Astrology _____	121
Horoscopic Astrology _____	123
Astral Influence and the Classification of the Characteristics of Planets and Zodiacal Signs _____	126
Planetary Rulership and Zodiacal Houses _____	126
Subdivisions of the Zodiacal Signs _____	127
General and Personal Astrology in the Dead Sea Scrolls: <i>4QZodiology and Bron-tology ar</i> (4Q318) and <i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186) _____	128
Hypotheses on the Astrological Framework of <i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186) _____	129
The Word “House” as a <i>Terminus Technicus</i> for Planetary House _____	132
Matthias Delcor: Houses of the Sun and the Duration of Day and Night _____	132
Hermann Lichtenberger: Zodiacal Signs of Light and Darkness _____	133
The Evidence for Planetary Houses in Jewish Astrology and <i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186) _____	135
“The Foot of <i>Taurus</i> ” and the Constellation <i>Taurus</i> _____	136
Roland Bergmeier: Day and Night and the Moon “in the Foot of <i>Taurus</i> ” _____	137
The Divided Zodiacal Sign <i>Taurus</i> in the Rhetorius-Teucer Text _____	137
The Moon in the Feet of <i>Taurus</i> in Firmicus Maternus, <i>Mathesis</i> 6.31.88? _____	139
The Moon “in the Foot of <i>Taurus</i> ” in 4Q186 1 ii 9 _____	140
Francis Schmidt: “The Foot of <i>Taurus</i> ” as a Diurnal Decan and the Horoscope of Conception _____	142
Diurnal and Nocturnal Zodiacal Signs, Decans, and Quadrants _____	142
The Moment of Conception in Ancient Astrology _____	145
The Division of Light and Darkness in <i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186) _____	150
Conception, “the Foot of <i>Taurus</i> ,” and Schmidt’s Decanal Interpretation _____	152
Matthias Albani: “The Foot of <i>Taurus</i> ” Ascending above the Horizon into Light _____	155

The Ascendant Part of the Divided Zodiacal Sign _____	156
“House of Light” and “House of Darkness” as Cosmological Rooms above and below the Horizon _____	157
<i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186) and Casting Horoscopes at Qumran _____	160
Modifications of and Further Additions to Albani’s Ascendant Interpretation _____	164
“The Foot of <i>Taurus</i> ” in the “House of Light” _____	164
<i>Melothesia</i> and <i>Dodecatemoria</i> in <i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186) _____	166
The Human Body Signifying Greek Astrology in <i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186) _____	170
The Astrological Background of <i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186) _____	170
CHAPTER FOUR: “THERE IS A SPIRIT FOR HIM...”: HUMAN OR ZODIACAL SPIRITS IN <i>4QZODIACAL PHYSIOGNOMY</i> (4Q186) _____	
Introduction _____	172
Space or Spirit in the “House of Light” and the “House of Darkness” _____	174
The Human Spirit in <i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186) and the <i>Two Spirits Treatise</i> (1QS 3:13-4:26) _____	175
The <i>Two Spirits Treatise</i> in the <i>Rule of the Community</i> _____	177
The Two Spirits: Angels, Demons, and Dispositions _____	180
The Two Spirits and Light and Darkness in Human Beings _____	184
The Human Spirit in <i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186) _____	186
Philip Alexander: Physiognomy, Human Spirit, Astrology, and Initiation _____	187
Some Problems with Alexander’s Interpretation _____	190
Physiognomy, Spirit, Astrology, and Arithmetic _____	191
Not the Human Spirit in <i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186) _____	192
Zodiacal Spirits in <i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186) _____	194
Angels and Stars as Animated Beings in Second Temple Period Judaism _____	195
The <i>Testament of Solomon</i> and Zodiacal Spirits _____	199
Zodiacal Spirits and Planetary Demons at Qumran _____	202
People and their Zodiacal Signs and Spirits _____	203
The Nature of Zodiacal Spirits Divided between Light and Darkness _____	206
CHAPTER FIVE: FUNCTIONS AND CONTEXTS OF PHYSIOGNOMIC AND ASTROLOGICAL LEARNING IN THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS AND SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD JUDAISM _____	
Introduction _____	209
Ancient Science and Understanding Cosmic Connections _____	211
Physiognomics and Astrology as Ancient Science _____	212
Cosmic Sympathy and the Understanding of Cosmic Correspondences in <i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186)? _____	213
The Social and Cultural Locus of Physiognomics and Astrology in Hellenistic- Early Roman Period Palestine _____	215

Learning the Physiognomic and Astrological Arts _____	215
Alien Wisdom _____	219
Ancient Jewish Science and Revealed Things _____	221
The Status of Physiognomic and Astrological Learning in the Qumran Community and Second Temple Period Judaism _____	224
Ambivalent Attitudes: The Controversial Status of Astrology _____	225
Inverted and Mixed Writing and Scribal Strategies of Secrecy _____	227
Value and Function of Learned Knowledge _____	230
The Predictive Function of Physiognomic Learning in <i>4QPhysiognomy ar</i> (4Q561) _____	232
The Diagnostic Function of Physiognomic-Astrological Learning in <i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186) _____	232
The Importance of Knowing the Nature of People's Zodiacal Spirits _____	233
Practical Applications of Physiognomic-Astrological Learning in <i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186) _____	234
A Magico-Medicinal Context: Diagnosing the Zodiacal Culprit _____	234
Magico-Medicinal Countermeasures and Apotropaic Stones _____	235
A Sectarian Context: Physiognomic Control over People's Entrance into the Qumran Community and the Fight against Evil Spirits _____	237
APPENDIX I: NOTES AND COMMENTS ON READINGS IN <i>4QZODIACAL PHYSIOGNOMY</i> (4Q186) AND <i>4QPHYSIOGNOMY AR</i> (4Q561) _____	240
APPENDIX II: PHYSIOGNOMIC CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS AND SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD LITERATURE _____	277
Introduction _____	277
Hebrew Bible _____	277
Ptolemaic Palestine: Physical Descriptions of Slaves in a Letter from Tobias to Apollonius _____	278
Ben Sira _____	280
<i>4QBirth of Noah^{a, b} ar</i> (4Q534 and 4Q535) _____	281
The Description of the Newborn Noah in <i>1 Enoch</i> 106 _____	285
The Description of Sarai's Beauty in the <i>Genesis Apocryphon</i> _____	285
<i>4QBarkhi Nafshi^{a, c}</i> (4Q434 and 4Q436), and <i>4QWiles of the Wicked Woman</i> (4Q184) _____	287
Body and Soul in the <i>Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs</i> _____	288
FIGURE 1: <i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186) Fragments 2, 4 – 7 _____	291
PLATE I: Recent Photograph (B-45417) of IAA #109 Containing <i>4QZodiacal Physiognomy</i> (4Q186) _____	292
BIBLIOGRAPHY _____	293
NEDERLANDSE SAMENVATTING _____	320