

About 140 PTOLOMY

Of the Characteristics of the Inhabitants of the General Climes.

Those who live under the more northern parallels, those, I mean, who have the Bears over their heads, since they are far removed from the zodiac and the heat of the sun, are therefore cooled; but because they have a richer share of moisture, which is most nourishing and is not there exhausted by heat, they are white in complexion, straight-haired, tall and well-nourished, and somewhat cold by nature; these too are savage in their habits because their dwelling-places are continually cold. The wintry character of their climate, the size of their plants, and the wildness of their animals are in accord with these qualities. We call these men, too, by a general name, Scythians.

The inhabitants of the region between the summer tropic and the Bears, however, since the sun is neither directly over their heads nor far distant at its noon-day transits, share in the equable temperature of the air, which varies, to be sure, but has no violent changes from heat to cold. They are therefore medium in colouring, of moderate stature, in nature equable, live close together, and are civilized in their habits. The southernmost of them are in general more shrewd and inventive, and better versed in the knowledge of things divine because their zenith is close to the zodiac and to the planets revolving about it. Through this affinity the men themselves are characterized by an activity of the soul which is sagacious, investigative, and fitted for pursuing the sciences specifically called mathematical. Of them, again, the eastern group are more masculine, vigorous of soul, and frank in all things, because one would reasonably assume that the orient partakes of the nature of the sun. This region therefore is diurnal, masculine, and right-handed, even as we observe that among the animals too their right-hand parts are better fitted for strength and vigour. Those to the west are more feminine, softer of soul, and secretive, because this region, again, is lunar, for it is always in the west that the moon emerges and makes its appearance after conjunction. For this reason it appears to be a nocturnal clime, feminine, and, in contrast with the orient, left-handed.

And now in each of these general regions certain special conditions of character and customs naturally ensue. For as likewise, in the case of the climate, even within the regions that in general are reckoned as hot, cold, or temperate, certain localities and countries have special peculiarities of excess or deficiency by reason of their situation, height, lowness, or adjacency; and again, as some peoples are more inclined to

horsemanship because theirs is a plain country, or to seamanship because they live close to the sea, so also would one discover special traits in each arising from the natural familiarity of their particular climes with the stars in the signs of the zodiac. These traits, too, would be found generally present, but not in every individual. We must, then, deal with the subject summarily, in so far as it might be of use for the purpose of particular investigations.

Of the Familiarities between Countries and the Triplicities and Stars.

Under this arrangement, the remainder of the first quarter, by which I mean the European quarter, situated in the north-west of the inhabited world, is in familiarity with the north-western triangle, Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius, and is governed, as one would expect, by the lords of the triangle, Jupiter and Mars, occidental. In terms of whole nations these parts consist of **Britain**, (Transalpine) Gaul, Germany, Bastarnia, Italy, (Cisalpine) Gaul, Apulia, Sicily, Tyrrhenia, Celtica, and Spain. As one might expect, it is the general characteristic of these nations, by reason of the predominance of the triangle and the stars which join in its government, to be independent, liberty-loving, fond of arms, industrious, very warlike, with qualities of leadership, cleanly, and magnanimous. However, because of the occidental aspect of Jupiter and Mars, and furthermore because the first parts of the aforesaid triangle are masculine and the latter parts feminine, they are without passion for women and look down upon the pleasures of love, but are better satisfied with and more desirous of association with men. And they do not regard the act as a disgrace to the paramour, nor indeed do they actually become effeminate and soft thereby, because their disposition is not perverted, but they retain in their souls manliness, helpfulness, good faith, love of kinsmen, and benevolence. Of these same countries **Britain**, (Transalpine) Gaul, Germany, and Bastarnia are in closer familiarity with Aries and Mars. Therefore for the most part their inhabitants are fiercer, more headstrong, and bestial. But Italy, Apulia, (Cisalpine) Gaul, and Sicily have their familiarity with Leo and the sun; wherefore these peoples are more masterful, benevolent, and co-operative. Tyrrhenia, Celtica, and Spain are subject to Sagittarius and Jupiter, whence their independence, simplicity, and love of cleanliness. The parts of this quarter which are situated about the centre of the inhabited world, Thrace, Macedonia, Illyria, Hellas, Achaia, Crete, and likewise the Cyclades, and the coastal regions of Asia Minor and Cyprus, which are in the south-east portion of the whole quarter, have in addition familiarity with the south-east triangle, Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn, and its co-rulers Venus, Saturn, and Mercury. As a result the inhabitants of those countries are brought into conformity with these planets and both in body and soul are of a more mingled constitution. They too have qualities of leadership and are noble

and independent, because of Mars; they are liberty-loving and self-governing, democratic and framers of law, through Jupiter; lovers of music and of learning, fond of contests and clean livers, through Venus; social, friendly to strangers, justice-loving, fond of letters, and very effective in eloquence, through Mercury; and they are particularly addicted to the performance of mysteries, because of Venus's occidental aspect. And again, part by part, those of this group who live in the Cyclades and on the shores of Asia Minor and Cyprus are more closely familiar to Taurus and Venus. For this reason they are, on the whole, luxurious, clean, and attentive to their bodies. The inhabitants of Hellas, Achaia, and Crete, however, have a familiarity with Virgo and Mercury, and are therefore better at reasoning, and fond of learning, and they exercise the soul in preference to the body. The Macedonians, Thracians, and Illyrians have familiarity with Capricorn and Saturn, so that, though they are acquisitive, they are not so mild of nature, nor social in their institutions.

Let this be our brief exposition of the familiarities of the planets and the signs of the zodiac with the various nations, and of the general characteristics of the latter. We shall also set forth, for ready use, a list of the several nations which are in familiarity, merely noted against each of the signs, in accordance with what has just been said about them, thus:—

Aries: **Britain**, Gaul, Germania, Bastarnia; in the centre, Coelê Syria, Palestine, Idumaea, Judaea.

ALBION

A description of the northern coast, above which is the Duecaledonius ocean.

Novantarum peninsula, and promontory of the same name 21°00 - 61°40

Rerigonius bay 20°30 -60°50

Vindogara bay 21°20-60°30

Clota estuary 22°15-59°20

Lemannonius bay 24°00- 60°00

Epidium promontory 23°00-60°40

Mouth of the Longus river 24°30-60°40

Mouth of the Itis river 27°00-60°40

Volas bay 29°00-60°30

Mouth of the Navarus river 30°00 -60°30

Tarvedum or Orcas promontory 31°20-60°15

Description of the west side which borders on the Hibernian ocean and the

Vergionius ocean.

From the Novantian promontory 21*00-61°40

Mouth of the Abravannus river 19*20-61°00

Iena estuary 19*00-60°30

Mouth of the Devas river 18*00-60°00

Mouth of the Novius river 18*20-59°30

Ituna estuary 18*20-59°30

Moricambe estuary 17*30-58°20

Setantiorum harbor 17*20-57°45

Belisama estuary 17*30-57°20

Seteia estuary 17*00-57°00

Caeanganorum promontory 15*00-57°00

mouth of the Toesobis river 15*40-56°20

mouth of the Stuccia river 15*20-55°30

mouth of the Tuerobis river 15*00-55°00

Octapitarum promontory 14*20-54°30

mouth of the Tobius river 15*30-54°30

mouth of the Ratostabius river 16*30-54°30

Sabrina estuary 17*20-54°30

Uxella estuary 16*00-16*00

Herculis promontory 14*00-52°45

Antivestaeum or Bolerium promontory 11*30 -52°30

Damnonium or Ocrium promontory 12*00-51°30

Description of the south side below which is the Britannic ocean. After the Ocrium promontory is

the mouth of the Cenio river 14*51-51°45

mouth of the Tamarus river 15*40-52°10

- mouth of the Tamarus river 15*40-52°10

mouth of the Iscas river 17*40-52°20

mouth of the Alaunus river 17*40-52°40

Magnus Portus 19*00-53°00

mouth of the Trisantonis river 20*20-53°00

New harbour 20*20-53°00

Cantium promontory 22*00-54°00

A description of the eastern and the southern side next to which is the Germanic ocean.
After the Tarvedum promontory, or Orcades, by which it is known,

Virvedrum promontory 31*00-60°00

Verubium promontory 30*30-59°40

mouth of the Ila river 30*00-59°40

a high shore 29*00-59°40

Varar estuary 28*00-59°40

mouth of the Loxa river 27*30-59°40

Tuesis estuary 27*00-59°00

mouth of the Caelis river 27*00-58°45

Taezalon promontory 27*30-58°30

mouth of the Deva river 26*00-58°30

mouth of the Tina river 24*00-58°30

Boderia estuary 22*30-59°00

mouth of the Alaunus river 21*20-58°30

mouth of the Vedra river 20*10-58°30

Dunum bay 20*15-57°30

Gabrantuicorum bay with many harbors 21*00-57°00

Ocelus promontory 21*15-56°40

mouth of the Abi river 21*00-56°30

Metaris estuary 20*30-55°40

mouth of the Gariennus river 20*50-55°40

A promontory 21*15-55°05

mouth of the Sidumanis river 20*10-55°00

Tamesa estuary 20*30- 54°30

Next to this the Cantium promontory 22*00-54°00

The Novantae dwell on the side toward the north below the peninsula of this name,
among whom are the following towns:

Locopibia 19*00-60°20

Rerigonium 20*10-60°40

Below are the Selgovae, among whom are the following towns

Carbantorigum 19*00-59°30

Uxellum 18°30-59°20

Corda 20°00-59°40

Trimontium 19°00-59°00

From these toward the east, but more northerly, are the Damnoni, among whom are the following towns:

Colanica 20°45-59°10

Vindogara 21°20-60°00

Coria 21°30-59°20

Alauna 22°45-59°50

Lindum 23°00-59°30 (Lincoln)

Victoria 23°30-59°00

Further south are the Otalini, among whom are the following towns:

Coria 20°10-59°00

Alauna 23°00-58°40

Bremenium 21°00-58°45

Next to the Damnoni, but more toward the east near the Epidium promontory are the Eptidi and next to these the Cerones; then the Carnonacae, and the Caereni but more toward the east; and in the extreme east dwell the Cornavi; from the Lemannonis bay as far as the Varar estuary are the Caledoni, and above these is the Caledonian forest, from which toward the east are the Decantae, and next to these the Lugi extending to the Cornavi boundary, and above the Lugi are the Smertae; below Caledonia are the Vacomagi, among whom are the following towns:

Bannatia 24°00-59°30

Tamia 25°00-59°20

Pinnata camp 27°15-59°20

Tuesis 26°45-59°10

Below these toward the west are the Venicones, whose town is Orrea 24°00-58°45

More toward the east are the Tazali and the town Devana 26°00-59°00

Below the Selgovae and Otalini are the Brigantes extending to both seas, among whom

are the following towns:

Epiacum 18°30-58°30 (Whitley Castle)

Vinovium 17°45-58°00 (Binchester)

Caturactonium 20°00-58°00 (Catterick)

Calatum 19°00-57°45

Isurium 20°00-57°40 (Aldborough)

Rigodunum 18°00-57°30 (Castleshaw?)

Olicana 19°00-57°30 (Elslack?)

Eboracum, Legio VI Victrix 20°00-57°20 (York)

Camulodunum 18°00-57°45 (Colchester)

Near which on the Opportunum bay are the Parisi and the town Petuaria 20°40-56°40
(Brough on Humber)

Below these are the Brigantes but some distance toward the west are the Ordovices,
among whom are the towns:

Mediolanum 16°45-56°40

Brannogenium 16°45 – 56°15 (Leintwardine)

From these toward the east are the Cornavi, among whom are the towns:

Deva, Legio XX Victrix 17°30-56°45 (Chester)

Viroconium 16°45-55°45 (Wroxeter)

Next to these are the Coritani, among whom are the towns:

Lindum 18°40-56°30 (Lincoln)

Ratae 18°00-55°30

Next are the Catuvellauni, among whom are the towns:

Salinae 20°45-55°50 (Droitwich?)

Urolanium 19°20-55°30 (St Albans)

Next to these are the Iceni, whose town is called Venta 20°30 -55°20 (Winchester)

Farther eastward and near the estuary of the Tamesa are the Trinovantes and the town
Camulodunum 21°00 -55°00 (Colchester)

Below the peoples we have mentioned, but more toward the west are the Demetae,

whose towns are:

Luentinum 15°45-55°10 (Dolaucothi?)

Maridunum 15°30-54°40 (Carmarthen)

More toward the east are the Silures whose town is Bullaeum 16°50-55°00 (Usk)

Next to these are the Dobuni, Corinium 18°00 -54°10 (Cirencester)

then the Atrebatii and their town Caleva 19°00 -54°15 (Silchester)

Next to these, but farther eastward, are the Canti among whom are the towns:

Londinium 20°00 -54°00 (London)

Daruernum 21°00 -54°00 (Canterbury)

Rutupie 21°45-54°00 (Richborough)

Below the Atrebatii and the Canti are the Regni and the town Noeomagus 19°45-53°05
(Chichester)

Below the Dobuni are the Belgae and the towns:

Iscalis 16°00 -53°40 (Charterhouse?)

Aquae calidae 17°20-53°40 (Bath)

Venta 18°40 -53°00 (Winchester)

Toward the west and south of these are the Durotriges whose town is Dunium 18°00
-52°40 (Hod Hill?)

Next to these, but more to the west, are the Dumnonii, whose towns are:

Voliba 14°45—52°00

Uxella 15°00 -52°45

Tamara 15°00 -52°15 (On river Tamar?)

Isca, where is located Legio II Augusta 17°30-52°45 (Exeter)

The islands which are near Albion island and the Orcades promontory are:

Scetis island 32°40 -60°45

Dumna island 30°00 -61°20

Above these islands are the Orcades, about thirty in number, the middle of which is in
30°00 -61°40

Far above these is the island Thule.

The part of this which extends much toward the west is in $29^{\circ}00' - 63^{\circ}00'$

that which is farthest eastward is $31^{\circ}40' - 63^{\circ}00'$

that which is farthest northward is $30^{\circ}20' - 63^{\circ}15'$

that which is farthest southward is $30^{\circ}20' - 62^{\circ}40'$

the middle is in $30^{\circ}20' - 63^{\circ}00'$

Eastward from the Trinovantes region there are two islands: Toliapis $23^{\circ}00' - 54^{\circ}20'$.

Counus island $24^{\circ}00' - 54^{\circ}30'$

Below Magnus Portus is the island Vectis, the middle of which is in $19^{\circ}20' - 52^{\circ}20'$ (Isle of White)

HIBERNIA

A description of the north coast, beyond which is located the Hyperborean ocean:

Boreum promontory $11^{\circ}00' - 61^{\circ}00'$

Vennicium promontory $12^{\circ}50' - 61^{\circ}20'$

mouth of the Vidua river $13^{\circ}00' - 61^{\circ}00'$

mouth of the Argita river $14^{\circ}30' - 61^{\circ}30'$

Rhobogdium promontory $16^{\circ}20' - 61^{\circ}30'$

The Vennicni inhabit the west coast; next to them and toward the east are the Rhobogdi

A description of the west side, which borders on the Western ocean

from the Boreum promontory which is in $11^{\circ}00' - 61^{\circ}00'$

mouth of the Ravius river $11^{\circ}20' - 60^{\circ}40'$

Magnata city $11^{\circ}15' - 60^{\circ}15'$

mouth of the Libnius river $10^{\circ}30' - 60^{\circ}00'$

mouth of the Ausoba river $10^{\circ}30' - 59^{\circ}30'$

mouth of the Senus river $9^{\circ}30' - 59^{\circ}30'$

mouth of the Duris river $9^{\circ}40' - 58^{\circ}40'$

mouth of the Iernus river $8^{\circ}00' - 58^{\circ}00'$

Southern promontory $7^{\circ}40' - 57^{\circ}45'$

The Erdini inhabit the coast next to the Vennicni, and between these are the Magnatae;

then the Autini; and the Gangani; below whom are the Vellabori.

Description of the south coast, which adjoins the Vergionius ocean, from the southern promontory which is in $7^{\circ}40' - 57^{\circ}40'$

mouth of the Dabrona river $11^{\circ}15' - 57^{\circ}00'$

mouth of the Birgus river $12^{\circ}30' - 57^{\circ}30'$

Sacrum promontory $14^{\circ}00' - 57^{\circ}50'$

A description of the east side touching the ocean which is called Hibernian, beginning at the Sacrum promontory which is in $14^{\circ}00' - 57^{\circ}50'$

mouth of the Modonnus river $13^{\circ}40' - 58^{\circ}40'$

Manapia town $13^{\circ}30' - 58^{\circ}40'$

mouth of the Oboca river $13^{\circ}10' - 59^{\circ}00'$

Eblana town $14^{\circ}00' - 59^{\circ}30'$

mouth of the Bubindas river $14^{\circ}40' - 59^{\circ}40'$

Isamnum promontory $15^{\circ}00' - 60^{\circ}00'$

mouth of the Vinderis river $15^{\circ}00' - 60^{\circ}15'$

mouth of the Logia river $15^{\circ}20' - 60^{\circ}40'$

Next to this is the Robogdium promontory.

On the side next to the Robogdi dwell the Darini, below whom are the Volunti; then the Eblani; then the Cauci; below whom are the Manapi; then the Coriondi who dwell above the Brigantes.

The following are the inland towns:

Regia $13^{\circ}00' - 60^{\circ}20'$

Rhaeba $12^{\circ}00' - 59^{\circ}45'$

Laberus $13^{\circ}00' - 59^{\circ}15'$

Macolicum $11^{\circ}30' - 58^{\circ}40'$

another Regia $11^{\circ}00' - 59^{\circ}15'$

Dunum $12^{\circ}30' - 58^{\circ}45'$

Hibernis $11^{\circ}00' - 58^{\circ}10'$

Above Hibernia are the Ebuda islands five in number, the largest of which toward the west is called Ebuda $15^{\circ}00' - 62^{\circ}00'$ next to this toward the east likewise is Ebuda island $15^{\circ}40' - 62^{\circ}00'$

then Rhicina 17°00 -62°00

then Malaeus 17°30 -62°30

then Epidium 18°30 -62°00

Toward the east of Hibernia are these islands:

Monaoeda island 17°40-61°30

Mona island 15°00 -57°40

Atru which is barren 15°00-59°30

Limnu which is barren 15°00 -59°00

GERMANY (Extract)

There are three islands located above Germany at the mouths of the Albis, which are called Saxon, and the one in the middle is located at 31°00-57°20

The shore *praeter* the Ocean is inhabited above the *Bructeri* up to the Amisia river yyy most to the north the *Cimbri*; after the Saxons from the Chalusus river to the Suevian river the *Farodini*, then the *Sidini* up to the Viadua river, and after these the *Rugiclei* up to the Vistula river.

Of the people of the interior and those who live inland the most important are the *Suevi Angili*, who are to the east of the Langobardi extending towards the north and up to the central part of the Albis river, and the *Suevi Semnones*, whose boundaries beyond the Albis extend from the area we mentioned towards the east up to the Suevus river, and the *Burguntnae*, who inhabit from there to the Vistula.

END OF PTOLEMY