

The Five Books of **M. Manilius**

Containing a System of the Ancient
ASTRONOMY and ASTROLOGY
Together with the Philosophy of the Stoicks,
done into English Verse with Notes.

*Nunc autem quid est sine his cur vivere velimus?
Mihi vero
Eum his itis vix: His autem detractis, ne vix quidem.
Cicero ad Var.*

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An Account of Manilius.

Sir:

The Campaign being over, and Councils not yet begun, The World is very much quiet; nor can I find News enough to fill a Letter: But to keep up our usual Correspondence, I send you an Account of an old *Latin Poet*, very little known, tho' worthy your Acquaintance, as many of those who are in Credit. He lay buried in the *German Libraries*, not heard of in the World, till *Poggius* Publish'd him from some old Manuscripts found there; and tho' ¹*Burde Coteus*, thinks *Lucian* consulted this Poet when he wrote his little Treatise on *Astrologie*; tho' *Julius Firmizus* is ² accus'd as an ungrateful Flagiary, for not acknowledging from whom he Transcrib'd the chiefest parts of his Books; yet there is no good Evidence, that any one Writer mention'd this Author before *Poggius*. *Pliny* is suppos'd to speak of him as a ³*Nathematician*, and *Gebertus*, as an ⁴*Astrologer*; but concerning the Poet, there is a dead silence as if he had never been; nor can his greatest Admirers find any Character of him in old Writers.

Yet it must be own'd, that he is an Author of some considerable Age; for the Manuscripts which *Poggius*, *Bonincontrius*, *Scaliger* and *Franciscis Junius* us'd, were ancient; *Tanaquil Faber*, *Spanhemius*, and the severest Criticks allow him to be as old as *Theodosius the Great*, and pretend to find some particular Phrases in him, which are certain Characters of that Time.

Others, who believe they have very good Reasons to place him higher, find it very difficult to account for this universal silence: What they offer is either bare May-be and Shift, and scarce ever amounts to a tolerable Reason: 'Tis true, they say, he is not mention'd by *Ovid* in his ⁵Catalogue of Poets, and no wonder, since he did not begin to write before the ⁶ Banishment of *Ovid*, and Publish'd nothing before his Death; Perhaps he was one of those Young Men,

---⁷ *Quorum quod inedita cura est
Appellandorum nil mihi juris adest.*

or His Fame did not reach so far as *Pontus*: Otherwise they are confident there are too many Graces in his Poem to be neglected; at least, the singularity of his Subject would have deserved to be taken notice of, as well as that of ⁸*Gratius*. But why *Quintilian* doth not propose him to his Orator, tho' he encourages him ⁹ to read *Nacer* and *Lucretius*, and ¹⁰ affirms, that a competent skill in *Astronomy* is nec-

essary to make him perfect in his Profession? Why the following *Philologers*, seem to be altogether unacquainted with his Writings? They confess these are Questions not easie to be answer'd.

Of this Poet, who is acknowledged by all Parties to have lain very long unknown, and about whom, since he first appear'd in the World, so many Controversies have risen, I am now to give you an account.

His Name is commonly said to be *Marcus Manilius*, which in some Copies of his Poem is shortned into *Manlius*, in others softned into *Mallius*. This variation is inconsiderable and the common fault of unaccurate Transcribers; but¹¹ *Bonincontrius* affirms, that the Title of his very Ancient Copies, was, *C. MANILII POETAE ILLUSTRIOUS ASTRONOMICON*; and that he had seen a Medal, in which was the figure of a Man, but in a Foreign Habit, with a Sphere plac'd near his Head, and this Inscription, *C. MANILI*. ¹²*Lilius Gyrildus* mentions another of the same stamp: But that these Medals belong'd to the Poet, may be as easily deny'd, as 'tis affirm'd, or rather, as 'tis conjectured: However, all Parties agree that the most Ancient Copies constantly bear the Title of *Manilius*; but whether the Books of *Poggius* and *Bonincontrius*, which call him *Caius*, or those of *Scaliger* and others, in which we find *Marcus* written, are to be follow'd, is submitted to every Man's discretion; the Matter is not of any Consequence, nor a fit Subject for Dispute, because impossible to be determin'd: Tho' if Conjecture may be admitted, I should fancy that it is more probable a Transcriber may err, when he puts *M.* before *Manilius*, than when he writes a *C.* because in the former case, the Sound of the following Word, which is the most considerable in the Title, and consequently the chiefest in his Thoughts, may pervert him; but in the latter, He hath no temptation to mistake. This *M.* or *C. Manilus*, was born a *Roman*, and liv'd in *Rome* when *Rome* was in her Glory; commanding the biggest part of the known World, and full of the greatest Men that ever any time produc'd: For the same Age that saw *Manilus* enjoy'd *Varro*, *Lucretius*, *Cicero*, *Caesar*, *Virgil*, *Vapius*, *Horace*, and (to close the Catalogue) *Augustus*. In the beginning of this *Astronomical* Poem that Emperour is¹³ invok'd, that very Emperour who was the¹⁴ adopted son of *Julius Caesar*, who¹⁵ beat *Brutus* and *Cassius* at *Philippi*, ¹⁶overthrew *Pompey* the Great's Son, ¹⁷who sent *Tiberius* to *Rhodes*, ¹⁸who lost three Legions in *Germany* under the command of *Varus*; who¹⁹ routed *Anthony*, and *Cleopatra* at *Actium*, and sav'd the *Roman*

Empire by turning the overgrown dissolute Republick into a well regulated Monarchy. Here are too many Characters, that the Person cannot be mistaken, not one of them agreeing to any but the first Great *Augustus*. So that this Author Liv'd in that Age to which He pretends by so many very particular Circumstances, or else He is a most notorious Cheat, and one of the greatest Impostors in the World.

It seems²⁰ *Tanaquil Faber* thought him to be so, since without giving any Reason He brings him down as low as the time of *Theodosius*:²¹ *Vossius* was one of the same Opinion, having observed, as He then thought, some Measures, Words and Phrases peculiar to that Age, and therefore He concludes against *Scaliger*, that *Julius Firmicus* did not follow *Manilius*, but *Manilius* wrote in Verse what *Firmicus* had publish'd in Prose under the Reign of *Constantine the Great*: But upon second Reading this²² Critick alter'd his first Sentiments, and allows him to be as ancient as the *Poet* himself desires to be thought.

²³*Gaffendus* often quotes him, and always set him after *Firmicus*, as may be seen in many places of his Writings; but gives no reason why he constantly observes that order: But *Gervartius*, who had study'd and design'd to publish Notes upon this Author, says in a Letter to Mr. *Cambden* ²⁴ 'I have been long acquainted with this Writer, and know him well, but cannot, with *Scaliger* and other learned Criticks, allow him to be as ancient as *Augustus*, for in my Notes I will demonstrate that he liv'd in the Age of *Theodosius* and his Sons *Arcadius* and *Honorius*, and that he was the same with *Manilius Theodorus*, upon whose Consulship *Claudian* writes a Panegyrick, in which he mentions his *Astronomicon*.' The same thing he asserts in his Comments upon²⁵ *Statius*, and promises to do Wonders in his²⁶ *Electa* upon this Subject; what his performance was I do not find taken notice of by any of the Criticks, nor am I concern'd for it, being certain that he fail'd in his Attempt, because it was ridiculous and rash: Yet the learn'd *Ezechieel Spanhemius* endeavours to support this Conjecture of *Gervartius*,²⁷ and tells us, that *sub Armis*, a Phrase familiar to *Manilius*, as *Lib. 1, V. 795*

—*Matrisque sub Armis*
Miles Agrippa Fuat—

Lib. 4, V. 656

—*Regnum fortita sub Armis*

And in another place

—*Quumque ipsa sub Armis*
Pax agitur—

was us'd in the time of *Theodosius*, as appears by the following passage in the Emperour's Code, ²⁸*Quincunque sub Armis Militiae munus Comitatus subierunt.* Scaliger himself unwarily gave a very great advantage to this Opinion, when he ²⁹affirm'd that the word *Decanus*, which *Manilius* uses, was brought from the *Camp*, and that a *Sign* which govern'd Ten Degrees was call'd *Decanus*, because an *Officer* who commanded Men in the Army had the same Title: But ³⁰*Salmatius*, who discover'd the Mistake, (for *Decanus* was not heard of in the *Roman Camp* before the time of *Constantine the Great*) hath so well corrected it, or rather ³¹*Huetius* hath given so good an Account of that Word, that tho' an Argument drawn from it may be strong against the Critick, it will never be of any force against the Author. It is almost needless to mention the Exceptions of those Criticks who think this *Stile* impure, or, as they please to speak, too barbarous for the Age he pretends to: Indeed ³²*Gyraldus* endeavours by his very Argument to prove he was no *Roman* born: But ³³*Scaliger* laughs at him for his Attempt, tells him that he does not distinguish between *Idiotisms* and *Barbarisms*, and that *Vitruvius* (to whom he should have added *Lucretius*) might be call'd barbarous as well as he: ³⁴*Franciscus Junius* commends the propriety of this Language, ³⁵*Salmatius* and ³⁶*Huetius* approved many passages which lesser Criticks thought to be impure: And the accurate *Vossius*, ³⁷after he had studied and considered him well, found nothing in him inconsistent with the Age of *Augustus*, and the Politeness of his Court. Indeed most of the Instances that are produc'd upon this head, do not fasten on the Author himself, but on the Transcribers and publishers of his Writings. There ought to be a new Edition of his *Astronomicon*, and I do not despair of seeing one which will have a pure genuine Text, and free that Text from many of his Interpreters Comments, especially from the Notes of the miserable wretched ³⁸*Fayus*.

You see, Sir, I have brought this diffus'd Controversie within a very narrow Compass: *Tanaquil Faber* and *Gassendus* keep their (if they had any) Reasons to themselves. Their Authority I confess had been perswasive, had they considered, and after a fair hearing determin'd the Controversie; but an incident declaration, and an unweigh'd Sentence concerning the Age of any Writer ought not to be submitted to, but appeal'd from: And therefore if I can shew the Observation of *Spanhemius* to be concluding, and refute the bold Conjectures of *Gevartius*, I shall leave *Manilius* in possession of that Age, which he so often, and with so much assurance claims. And here I am sure we should not have been

troubled with *Spanhemius's* Observation, had he been pleas'd to consider, that *sub Armis*, and *sub Armis militiæ*, being very different from one another, might be used in very different Ages of the Empire and that he argues very ill, who says, the one was known in the Time of *Theodosius*, and therefore the other was not common in the Court of *Augustus*: 'Tis certain that it was, for *Virgil* (whom *Manilius* often imitates) hath

---Sedet circum castella sub Armis
---Equitem docuere sub Armis
Insultare solo---

And in another place

---Lidunt Belli simulachra sub Armis.

And this *Virgil* himself borrow'd from *Ennius*, who says

Ter me sub Armis malim vitam cernere.

I could produce more Authorities, were not these sufficient to secure *Manilius* from *Spanhemius's* Observations.

But *Gervartius*, as he is bolder, so he is much more unhappy in his Conjectures; he fixes upon *Man*, and says this *Manilius* is *Mallius Theodorus*, celebrated by the Poet *Claudian*; for the Author of this *Astronomicon*, is in many of the old copies call'd *Mallius*, and this *Mallius Theodorus*, was a Astronomer, and a Writer of great Industry and Reputation: But did *Gervartius* ever meet with the *Astronomicon*, under the Title of *Fl. Mallus Theodorus*? Or of *Fl. Mallus* and not alwaies of *C.* or *M. Manlius*, *Mallius* or *Manilius*? Doth *Claudian* commend the Poetry of his Consul, or mention his Acquaintance with the Muses or could a Poet forget, or not celebrate that Talent which he himself must look upon as a very great Perfection, and the Age would have highly valued had he been the Author of this Poem: Doth he say he wrote Books of Astronomy, knew the Depths of Astrology and was admitted into the Councils of the Stars? Here was a large Field for that luxuriant Wit to have wanton'd in, and it cannot be thought he would have conceal'd the deserts of his Patron when he study'd to commend him: But instead of this he praises his Justice, Integrity, Clemency and Honor; he extols his eloquence, and prefers the sweetness of it before all the delicate Charms of Poetry and Musick.

39Ut quis non sitiens Sermonis Kella politi
Deferat Orpheos blanda Testudine cantus?

And tho' all the Muses are concern'd for him, and busie in his Service, yet he is devoted to none of them but *Uranie*, who assisted him in his Astronomical Diversions.

40 *Uranie red.mita comas, qua saepe Magistra
Malhus Igniferos radio descripserat Axes,*

Gervatius very well observes that this Consul Mallius was an Astronomer.

41 *Invenit aetherios signantem pulvere curfus,
Quos pia sollicito deprendit pollice Memphis:
Quae moveant momenta polum, quam certus in Astris.
ERROR: Quis tenebras Soli causisque meantem
Defectum indicat numerus. Quae linea Phoebe
Damnet, et excluso pallentem fratre relinquat*

That he publish'd some admir'd Books

42 *Consul per populos, idemque gravissimus Author
Eloquij, duplici vita subnixus in aevum
Procedat, libris pariter, fastisque legendus.*

But how doth it appear that Astronomy was his Subject, when Claudian himself tells us it was the *Origine* and *Constitution* of the World? He represents him as well vers'd in all the several *Hypotheses* of the Natural and Moral Philosophers, acquainted both with the *Physicks* and *Ethicks* of the Greeks, and able to discourse of their Opinions very properly, and very elegantly in Latin.

43 *Graziorum obscuras Romanis floribus Artes.
Irradias——*

But when he speaks of his Writings he says he describ'd the *Origine* and *Disposition* of the World, and gave very convincing proofs of his own Wit, Capacity, and Judgment, by his exact account of the beautiful Order and regular Contrivance of that wonderful Machine.

44 *Qualem te legimus teneri Primordia Mundi
Scribentem, aut Partes Animae per Singula, Talem
Cernimus, et similes agnoscit Pagina mores*

From these Verses and other passages in Claudian, as

45 *——Quae vis animaverit Astra,
Impuleritque, Choros, quo vivat Machine motu;*

it may be inferr'd that this Consul Mallius, was as to Natural Philosophy a Stoick, and built his World according to the *Hypothesis* of that Sect, and therefore wrote something very like what we find at large in the first Book, and hinted at in several passages of the other Books of Manilius. But this being the least part of our Author, and subservient to his greater and general design, it must not be suppos'd

that *Claudian* should enlarge upon this and leave his whole *Astrology* untouched; unless we think *Claudian* as ridiculous as that Painter would be, who being to fill his Canvas with a noble Family should draw a single Servant, or paint only a Finger or a Nail when he had a large beautiful Body to represent.

I have been the more particular in this matter, because *Gervartius* pretends to demonstration, tho' to confute his conjecture it had been sufficient only to observe, that it is the most ridiculous thing in the World to imagine that *Mallius* a Man well known both for his personal Endowments and Publick Employments, who had been Governour of several Provinces, and at last *Consul* should publish a Treatise under his own Name, and yet in almost every Page of the Book endeavour to perswade his Readers it was written four hundred years before. For it must be granted that the prince whom he ⁴⁶invokes in the beginning of his Poem, who is stil'd *Patriae Princepsque Paterque*, who is deify'd whilst ⁴⁷alive, and (not to repeat the other particulars I have already reckon'd up) whose ⁴⁸Horoscope was *Capricorn*, was the first Great *Augustus*, and therefore there is no need of calling in the Authorities of ⁴⁹*Horace*, ⁵⁰*Virgil* and ⁵¹*Suetonius* to prove it.

This last Character puts me in mind of another objection that may be drawn from *F. Harduin's* ⁵²Observation, for he says that *Suetonius* was himself deceiv'd, and hath deceiv'd all those who have thought *Capricorn* was concern'd in the Nativity of *Augustus*: For if this be true all the Pretences of *Manilius* are ruin'd; but since that Writer doth not back his Assertion with any Reasons, I shall not submit to his bare Authority, nor wast my time in guessing what Arguments he may rely on, being not hold enough to conjecture what the daring Author may produce. Having thus fixt the Age of this Author, and prov'd him to have liv'd in the time of *Augustus Caesar*, I shall venture farther to affirm that ye was born under the Reign of that Emperour, not only a *Roman*, but of illustrious Extraction, being a branch of that noble Family the *Manilij*, who so often fill'd the *Consul's* Chair, and supply'd the best and greatest Offices in the *Roman Commonwealth*. And here I must oppose many of the Criticks, and be unassisted by the rest. For ⁵³*Scaliger* confesses, that from his own Writings, it cannot be known what Countryman he was, and no Authors give us any Information. *Bonincontrius* and *Gyraldus* endeavour to prove from the Medal already mention'd, that he was not *Roman*; the

Learned ⁵⁴Isaac Vossius thinks he was a Syrian, and all look upon him to be the same with that *Manilius* mentioned by *Pliny*, *Nat. Hist. Lib. 35. Cap. 17.* say he was a slave: Only *Petrus Crinitus* ⁵⁵affirms, he was Nobly Born, and Mr. *Tristan* will ⁵⁶have him to be that *Manilius*, of whom *Pliny* gives a very Honourable Character, in the tenth Book and Second Chapter of his *Natural History*; where he says, HE WAS OF SENATORIAN DIGNITY, AN EXCELLENT SCHOLAR, AND (if we believe Mr. *Tristan*) A VERY GOOD ASTRONOMER. But since *Crinitus* doth not prove what he says, and Mr. *Tristan* but conjectures at best, and upond Examination, will be found to be very much mistaken in his Conjectures, therefore I cannot expect any assistance from either of these Authors. Now it is not certain that the Gentleman whom *Pliny* speaks of in the Second Chapter of his tenth Book was Nam'd *Manilius*. Copies differ, and in the *M. SS. of Salmasius* ⁵⁷he is called *Mamilius*: *Pliny* doth not say one word of his skill in *Astronomy*; he only affirms ⁵⁸, 'That he was the first 'of all the Romans who wrote concerning the Phoenix, that never 'any Man saw it feed, thnt in *Arabia* it is sacred to the Sun, 'that it lives 660 Years, and that with the Life of this 'Bird is consummated the Conversion of the Great Year, in 'which the Stars return again to their first points, and 'give significations of the same Seasons as at the beginning': And all this any one may write who is in an entire Ignorance of the Courses and Influence of the Stars: But Mr. *Tristan* farther observes that *Pliny* insinuates, besides a particular respect, a kind of Intimacy and Acquaintance between this *Manilius* and himself, he gives us a very convincing Argument against his own conjecture: For there is good reason to believe this *Manilius* the Poet dy'd before *Augustus*, and therefore could not be intimate with *Pliny*.

To set this whole matter in its due light, I shall, as the learned and ingenious Sr. *Edward Shirburn* hath already done in /Ms Preface to the *Sphere of Manilius*, take a view of these, who have been by the name of *Manilius* deliver'd down to Posterity as Men of Letters, and then consider which of all those, or whether any one of them was this *Manilius* the Poet.

M A N I L I U S

THE FIRST BOOK.

After a short Account of his Design; and a complemental Address to Augustus, he begins, 1. With the Rise and Progress of Astronomy, and other Arts: 2. Discourseth of the Several Opinion concerning the Beginning of the World: 3. Describes the Order of it: 4. Proves the Earth to be the Centre of the World: 5. Proves it to be round: 6. Asserts the Soul of the World: 7. Reckons up the Signs of the Zodiack: 8. Describes the Axis: 9. The Northern Constellations: 10. The Constellations between the Tropicks and the South Pole: 11. Explains the Figures of the Constellations: 12. Asserts Providence against Epicurus: 13. Discovers the Bigness of the World: 14. Treats of the movable and immovable Circles: 15. Makes a long description of the Milky-Way: 16. Reckons up the Planets: 17. Discourseth of Comets and Meteors, and concludes what they Presage.

SUBJECT OF THE POEM

Stars conscious of our Fates and Arts Divine!
The wondrous work of Heaven's first wise design,
In numerous Verse I boldly first inclose;
To High a Subject, and too great for Prose.
At what the Antients with a wild amaze
And ignorant wonder were content to gaze,
My Verse brings down from Heav'n, designed to show
Celestial secrets to the World below:
What yet the Muses Groves ne'er heard, I sing,
And bring unusual offerings to their spring.

THE INVOCATION

Rome's Prince and Father, Thou whose wide command
With awfull sway is stretcht o'er Sea and Land,
Who dost deserve that Heaven thy Love bestow
On thy great Father, Thou thyself a God,
Now give me Courage, make my Fancy strong,
And yield me vigour for so great a Song.

Nor doth the world this curious search refuse,
It kindly courts the darying of my Muse,
And will be known; whilst You serenely reign,
Instruct our Labour, and reward our Pain.

Wings raise my Feet, I'm pleas'd to mount on high,
Trace all the Mazes of the *liquid Sky*,
Their various turnings, and their whirls declare,
And live in the vast regions of the Air:
I'll know the Stars, which yet alone to gain
Is knowledge mean, unequal to the Pain;
For doubts resolv'd it no delight affords,
But fills soft empty heads with rattling words:
I'll search the Depths, the most remote recess,
And flying nature to Confession press;
I'll find what Sign and Constellation rule,
And make the difference 'twixt the Wise and Fool;
My Verse shall sing what various Aspect reigns
When *Kings* are doom'd to Crowns and Slaves to Chains.
I'll turn *Fate's Books*, there reade proud *Parthia's* doom,
And see the sure *Eternity of Rome*.

THE DIFFICULTY

Two *Temple's* rais'd with sacred Incense shine,
I bow at *Natur's* and the *Muses* shrine;
Both aids I need, for double Carcs do throng,
And fill my Thought, the *Subject* and the *Song*:
And whilst I'm bound to Verse with Orbs immense
The *World* rouls round me, and distracts my sense;
Vast is my *Theme*, yet *unconceiv'd*, and brings
Untoward words scarce loosned from the Things.

Who first below these wondrous secrets knew?
Who stole that knowledge which the *World* withdrew?
Whose soaring mind those Airy mazes trod
And Spight of *Heaven* defir'd to seem a God!
Open the Skies, and teach how Stars obey,
And run their race as *Nature* marks the way,
Their Power and Influence, what directs their Course
What whirls them round, and what confines their force.

I. THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF ASTRONOMY.

First *Mercury* disclos'd these mysteries,
By Him we view the inside of the Skies,
And know the Stars, and now Mankind admires
The power, not onely *lustre* of their Fires:
By Him all know how great, how just and wise,
And good is the Contriver of the Skies;
At whose Command the Stars in order met,
Who times appointed when to rise and set;

That *Heaven's* great secrets may lie hid no more
And *Man* instructed gratefully adore.

Nature disclos'd her self, and from her Springs
Pure streams deriv'd o'erflow'd the Minds of *Kings*,
Kings next to *Heaven*, who o'er the *East* did sway,
Where swift *Euphrates* cuts his rapid way,
Where *Nile*² o'erflows, and whence the Whirl restores
The Day to Us, and passing burns the Moors.

And next o'er *Priests*, whose constant Cares employ'd
In publick service did oblige the God,
His *Presence* did their holy minds inspire
With sacred flames, and rais'd their fancies higher,
Till by degrees to due perfection wrought
He made himself the *Object* of their thought.

Such were those wondrous Men who first from far
Lookt up, and saw *Fates* hanging at each *Star*;
Their thoughts extended did at once comprise
Ten thousand revolutions of the Skies,
They markt the Influence, and observ'd the Power
Of every *Sign*, and every fatal *Hour*;
What *Tempers* they bestow'd, what *Fortunes* gave,
And who was doom'd a *King*, who born a *Slave*;
How *Aspects* vary, and their change creates,
Though little, great variety in *Fates*.

Thus when the Stars their mighty Round had run,
And all were fixt whence first their Race begun,
What Hints *experience* did to each impart
They join'd, and *Observation* grew to *Art*;
Thus Rules were fram'd, for by *Example* shown
They knew what would be, from what had been done;
They saw the Stars their constant Round maintain,
Perform their Course, and then return again;
They on their *Aspects* saw the *Fates* attend,
Their change on their *Variety* depend;
And thence they fixt unalterable *Laws*,
Settling the *SAME* effect on the *SAME* Cause.

Before that time *Life* was an artless State
Of Reason void, and thoughtless in debate:
Nature lay hid in deepest Night below,
None knew her *Wonders*, and none car'd to know:
Upward men look, they saw the circling light,
Pleased with the *Fires*, and wondred at the sight:
The *Sun*, when Night came on, withdrawn, they grieved,
As dead, and joy'd next Morn when He reviv'd;

THE SECOND BOOK

MANILIUS takes care frequently to tell his Reader that He is the first who ventur'd on an *Astrological Poem*: He seems mightily pleas'd with his Undertaking, hugs it as his First-born, and the Son of his Strength: He at large acquaints us with the Pains which He suffer'd in bringing it to Perfection, and then reckons up the Beauty of the Child, and what great Hopes He conceives of it: If ever he deserves *Scaliger's* Character, that *He knew not when to leave off*, it must be principally when He speaks of himself and his own Performance. We need look no further than the beginning of this Book to be satisfied in this matter: He spends about Sixty Verses in reckoning up the chief Subjects of *Homer*, *Hesiod*, *Theocritus*, and other Poets, all which being laid aside. He declares his Design to be wholly new, and then begins. 1. To assert, that the whole World is *Animate*, and God the Soul of it. 2. The Influence of the Heavens. 3. He reckons up the several kinds or sorts of Signs, as 4. *Male* and *Female* Signs: 7. *Pairs*. 8. *Double* Signs made up of different Species. 9. Signs *Double* by place, viz. Those that immediately precede the Four *Tropick* Signs. 10. Signs of *Natural* or *Unnatural* Postures. 11. *Day* and *Night* Signs. 12. *Earth* and *Water* Signs. 13. *Fruitful* and *Barren* Signs. 14. Signs of *Different* Postures. 15. *Maim'd* and *Intire* Signs. 16. *Season* Signs. 17. He sings the various *Configurations* or *Aspects* of the Signs, As, 18. *Trines*. 19. *Quadrates* or *Square*; shews what are to be accounted *Right* and what *Left* in these Figures: And, 20. Adds several Cautions concerning *Squares* and *Trines*. 21. He describes the *Intercourse* or *Agreement* of *Trines* and *Quadrates*. 22. Of *Hexagons* or *Sex-tiles*, of which he gives a particular Account. 23. Of *Contiguous* Signs. 24. Of *Unequal* Signs. 25. Of *Opposites*. 26. He shews what Gods are the Guardians of each Sign. 27. The Signs for the several parts of the *Body*. 28. What Signs *See*, *Hear*, *Love*, or *Hate* each other. 29. He makes a short *Digression* about *Friendship*. 30. He treats of the *Friendly* and *Unfriendly* Aspects. 31. Of the *Dodecatemoria*, or *Twelfths*. 32. Of the *Dodecatemoria* of the *Planets*, and proposes *Two* ways to find them. 33. He describes the *Celestial Houses*, assigning them their Proper Charges and their Titles, together with the *Planets* which presidid in them; and then concludes this Second Book.

The mighty *Bard* in lasting Numbers sings
Ilium's long Wars, the King of fifty Kings;
Brave *Hector's* Brand, the Bloody dreadful Field,
And *Troy* secure behind the Hero's *Shield*.
He sings *Ulysses*, and his Wandring Years
In Time and Gloy equal to his Wars:
He sings how twice He conquering plough'd the Main
Whilst *Scylla* roar'd, and *Neptune* rag'd in vain,
And how at Home He fixt his tottering Throne,
Redeem'd his Honour, and secur'd his Son:
Usurping *Woers* felt his thundering Sword,
And willing Nations knew their Native Lord.

His Subjects these, from whose¹ abundant Spring
Succeeding Poets draw the Songs they sing;
From *Him* they take, from *Him* adorn their Themes,
And into little Channels cut his Streams,
Rich is his store----

Next *Hesiod* sings the Gods Immortal Race,
He sings how *Chaos* bore the *Earthy* Mass;
How Light from Darkness struck did Beams display,
And Infant-Stars first stagger'd in their way:
How Name² of Brother vail'd an Husband's Love,
And *Juno* bore unaided by her *Jove*:
How twice-born *Bacchus* burst the Thunderer's Thigh,
And all the Gods that wander through the Sky.
Hence *He* to Fields descends, manures the Soil,
Instructs the Plowman, and rewards his Toil:
He sings how *Corn* in Plains, how *Vines* in hills
Delight, how Both with vast Encrease the *Olive* fills:
How Foreign Graffs th' Adulterous Stock receives,
Bears stranger Fruit, and wonders at her Leaves:
An useful Work, when Peace and Plenty reign,
And Art joyns Nature to improve the Plain.

The *Constellation's* Shapes³ some make their Themes,
Sing whence they came, and how adorn'd with Beams,
Andromeda enjoys kind *Perseu's* Aid,
The *Sire* unbinds, the *Mother* mourns the Maid:
Callisto ravisht now the Pole surveys,
Nor grieves to change her Honor for her Rays:
The *Little Bear* that rock'd the mighty *Jove*,
The *Swan* whose borrow'd Shape conceal'd his Love
Are grac'd with Light, the Nursing *Goat's* repaid
With Heaven, and Duty rais'd the Pious *Maid*;
The *Lion* for the Honors of his Skin,
The squeezing *Crab*, and stinging *Scorpion* shine

THE THIRD BOOK

Manilius begins this Third Book as he did the Second, reckoning up and slighting the several Subjects which have imploy'd other Poets, and declaring his Design to be new and difficult. Then he proceeds to shew, 1. That the Twelve Signs of the ZODIACK are the chief Disposers, and Principal Governours of Fortunes. 2. That there are Twelve Lots belonging to these Twelve Signs. 3. He names and describes these Lots: The first is *Fortune*; The Second *Warfare and Travelling*; The Third *Civil Employments*; The Fourth, *Pleadings*, and all the concerns of the Bar; The Fifth, *Marriage Acquaintance*, *Guests*; The Sixth, *Plenty*, *Wealth* and the means of preserving it; The Seventh, *Dangers*; The Eighth, *Nobility*, *Honour*, *Reputation*; The Ninth *Children*, *Education*; The Tenth, *Manners*, *Institution*, *Family*; The Eleventh, *State of Health*, *Physick*; The Twelfth, *Wishes*, and the *Ends of Them*. 4. He teaches how to suit these Lots, Labours, or *Athla* to the several Signs, when the Birth belongs either to Day, or Night. 5. He proposeth Rules how to find the *Horoscope*. 6 Refuting the Method prescrib'd by the *Chaldaeans*. 7. And shewing how to find the different lengths of Days and Nights, together with the several Risings and Settings of the Signs in order to find the *Horoscope*. 8. He resumes the dispute against the *Chaldaeans*, and usbjoints an Account of the several lengths of Days and Nights, in the three different Positions of the Sphere, *Direct*, *Oblique*, and *Parallel*. 9. He proposes another way to find the time of the Signs Rising and Settings. 10. He particularly discourses of the Days encrease from *Capricorn* to *Cancer*. 11. He shews what are the proper Years, Months, Days, and Hours of the Signs, and confutes the Opinion of some Astrologers concerning them. 12. He sings how many years belong to each Sign, and Station. 13. And Concludes the Book with an Account of the *Tropick Signs*.

I am not to Answer for the Astronomy, it is enough if I have made the *Poet* speak intelligible English.

Whilst I new ways attempt my groveling Name
To raise from Earth, and wing my Flight for Fame;
Thro' Woods untrodden whilst I take my way,
Ye *Muses* lead; for I extend your Sway
To larger Bounds, and make the *World* obey,
No Heaven's besieg'd, no Thunder thrown from far
Intombs the *Giants*, and concludes the War:
No fierce *Achilles* tells brave *Hector's* Spoil,
Nor *Priam* bears the Hero to his Pile.
No barbarous¹ Maid betrays her *Father's* trust,
Nor tears her *Brother* to secure her Lust.
No *Bulls* breath Fire, no *Dragons* guard the prize,
Nor from the poysonous seed *Arm'd Harvests* rise:
No *Youth* returning here renews the *Old*,
Nor treacherous *Presents* carry *Flame* in Gold.
Nor will I sing the *Babes Medea* bore,
Not by much Guilt, but ah! destroy'd by more.
The *Theban* Siege, the highest Pride of Fame,
Nor how the Town by Thunder sav'd from flame
Lost whilst² it conquer'd; nor how *Spartan* fought
Round old *Messana*, shall enlarge my thought.
No *Sons*³ and *Brothers* shall be join'd in one,
Nor *Mother* bear a *Grandchild* in a Son;
No *Murder'd Babes*⁴ shall feat their injur'd *Sire*,
Nor *Days* break off, and frighted *Suns* retire.
None shall defy the *Sea*, the *Floods* enslave,
Sail o're *Mountains*⁵, and walk o're the *Wave*:
No *Asian* Kings. And thee, O mighty *Rome*,
Thy *Arms*, thy *Conquests*, and thy *World* o'recome,
Thy *Laws*, thy *Wars*, thy *Leagues* my Verse refuse,
Those claim the leisure of a greater *Muse*.

Smooth Seas the Artless Sailer safely tries,
And Flowers undress'd in fruitful Gardens rise;
He works securely, who in Gold designs,
When e'en the rude unpolisht Metal Shines;
On Specious Subjects common Wits compose,
For where the Matter takes, the Fancy flows;
And every vulgar Author writes with ease,
Secure of Credit, where the Themes can please.

This way some take to fame: Thro' Worlds unknown,
And things abstruse my *Muse* goes boldly on,
Observes all Interchange of Times, compares
The fatal turns, and views the Leagues of *Stars*,
Things so remote, so intermixt and wrought
With Parts in Parts; they are too fine for thought.

To know them is too much, but to explain
How great! to bind in Verse shews more than Man.

Then come, who e're thou art that bring'st a Mind
To know high Truth, and patient Thoughts to find;
Hear solid Reason, and go on to gain
True serious Knowledge, but neglect the vain:
No Kings at *Aulis* sworn, no tales of *Troy*
With *Priam's* tears, or *Helen's* fatal Joy,
Nor hope sweet Verse, and curious turns to find,
I'll leave thy Passions, and instruct thy Mind:
And tho' some Words of foreign Stamp appear,
Seem harsh, untun'd, uneasy to thy Ear;
This is the *Subject's* not the *Writer's* fault,
Some things are stiff, and will not yield to thought;
I must be plain: And if our Art hath found
Expressions proper, it neglects the Sound.

Thy Mind well purg'd from vainer Cares compose,
For now my *Muse* is eager to disclose,
The nicest Secrets; which observ'd, impart
Fates Laws, and prove the surest Guides to Art.

When Nature order'd this vast Frame to rise,
Nature, the Guardian of these Mysteries,
And scatter'd^U Lucid Bodies o'er the Skies;
When she the *Concave*, whence directly fall
Streight Lines of Influenc'd round the solid *Ball*,
Had fill'd with Stars; and made *Earth*, Water, Air,
And *Fire*, each other mutually repair;
That Concord might these differing parts controul,
And Leagues of mutual Aid support the whole;
That nothing which the *Skies* embrace might be
From *Heaven's* supreme Command and Guidance free,
On Man the chiefest Object of her Cares
Long time she thought, then hung his Fates on Stars;
Those Stars, which plac'd i'th' Heart of Heaven, display
The brightest Beams, and shall the greatest sway;
Which keep a constant Course, and now restrain
The Planets Power, now yield to them again;
Thus sometimes ruling, sometimes rul'd, create
The strange and curious Intercourse of Fate.

2 THE TWELVE LOTS OF THE TWELVE SIGNS.

To these her Poers wise Nature's Laws dispense
Submitting all things to their Influence:
But then as *Emperours* their Realms divide,

And every Province hath its proper Guide,
 So 'tis in Signs; they have not equal Shares
 Of Common Power, each *Fortune* claims its Stars;
 Our Studies, Poverty, Wealth, Joy and Grief,
 With all the other Accidents of Life
 She parcels out; to proper Stars confines
 The *Lots* in number equal to the Signs.
 These grac'd with proper Names and Place contain
 The various Fortunes incident to Man,
 Yet so contriv'd, that they are always found
 In the same⁶ Order, in the fatal Round.

Yet are not *Lots* thus fixt to Signs to lie
 Possessing the same⁷ Station in the Sky;
 And from one place directing down to Earth
 An equal Influence work on every Birth;
 But still the *Time* of every Birth confines
 These *Lots* to Seats, and makes them change their Signs.
 That every *Lot* from every *Sign* may flow,
 And vary the *Nativity* below.
 But lest Confusion too much Change produce,
 And make the *Art* too intricate for *Use*;
 'Tis order'd thus:-----

That when the Birth's first Minute hath decreed
 The first *Lot's* Station, then the rest succeed
 In following Signs; each *Fortune* takes its Seat
 In proper Order, till the *Round's* compleat:
 Take these short Rules till flowing Verse dilate,
 Unfolding all the Mysteries of Fate.

These *Lots* which thus decreed to Signs contain
 The various Fortunes incident to Man;
 As *Planets* joyn with a malignant Ray,
 Or Kind; or as the rolling Skies convey
 To different *Hinges*, so the *Fortune* spreads,
 And well or ill the whole Design succeeds.

3.

Their Names and Kinds obliging *Muse* rehearse,
 And sing their Titles in no vulgar Verse,
 That late Posterity with joy may throng
 To Themes unknown, and crowd to learn my Song.

Fortune's the first: This Name our *Art* bestows,
 And what it signifies the *Title* shows.
 Here *House* is found, with all that may conduce
 To *House*, either for Ornament or Use: (See Fig. 11)