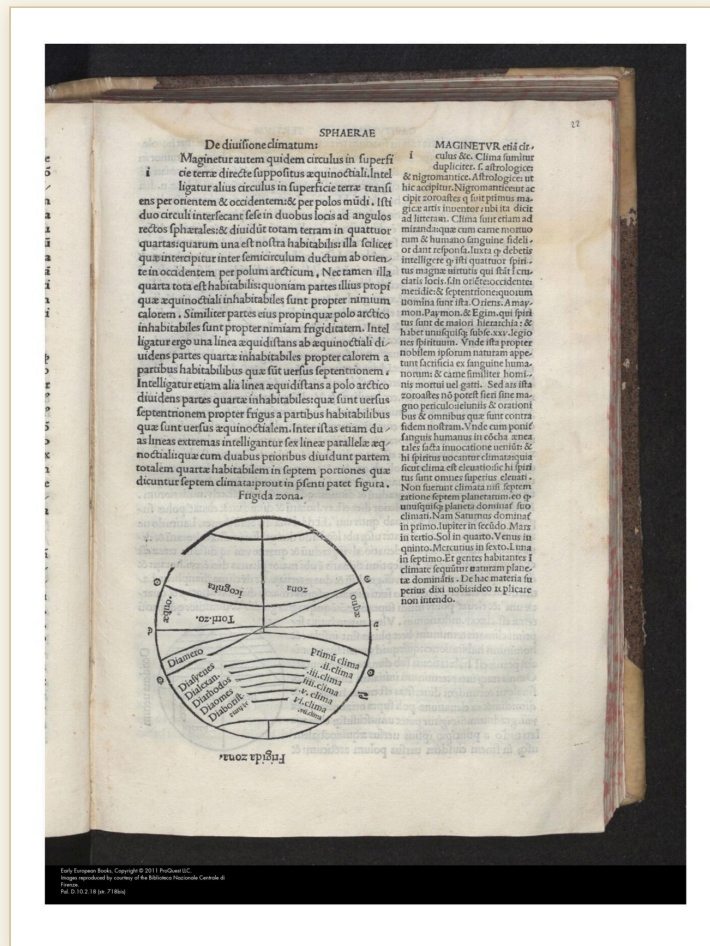


GRIMORIUM · AN HONEST EDITION

CECCO D'ASCOLI

The necromantic passages of the commentary on the Sphere — Venice,

1499



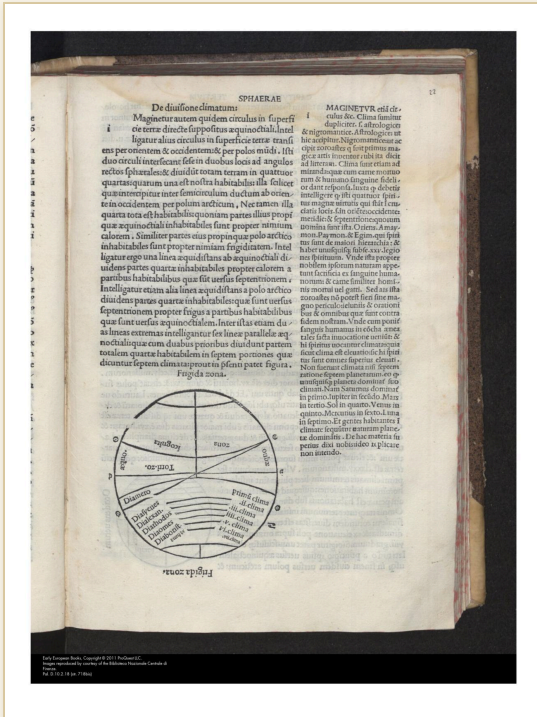
Sphaera mundi, Venice 1499, fol. 22r · BNCF / Internet Archive · public domain

Cecco d'Ascoli (Francesco Stabili, c.1257–1327) was a physician, astrologer and professor at Bologna, burned by the Inquisition in 1327. His commentary on Sacrobosco's *Sphere* —the most widely read astronomy manual of the Middle Ages— slips, amid the cosmology, some of the oldest and most explicit **necromantic** passages we still possess.

We edit here only those passages, from the **1499 Venice incunabulum** (Simon Bevilaqua), which prints them uncensored —before the Tridentine expurgations—. They contain the **ur-source of the four kings of the directions** (Oriens, Amaymon, Paymon, Egim) bound to the climes and planets, and the **first appearance of Floron and his mirror**. It is the oldest link in the thread this project follows all the way to the Goetia.

We work **only from the public domain**: the 1499 incunabulum is free by age. We do not use the modern copyrighted edition (Hadfield & Johnson, Hadean Press, 2024) nor Thorndike's (1949). The Latin is transcribed from the facsimile, expanding abbreviations [*in brackets*] and marking doubtful readings [?] or text lost in the gutter [...], and translated by Grimorium. Cecco writes as a Christian commentator who *condemns* these arts; we publish it as a historical document.

MANUSCRIPT



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TRANSCRIPTION LATIN

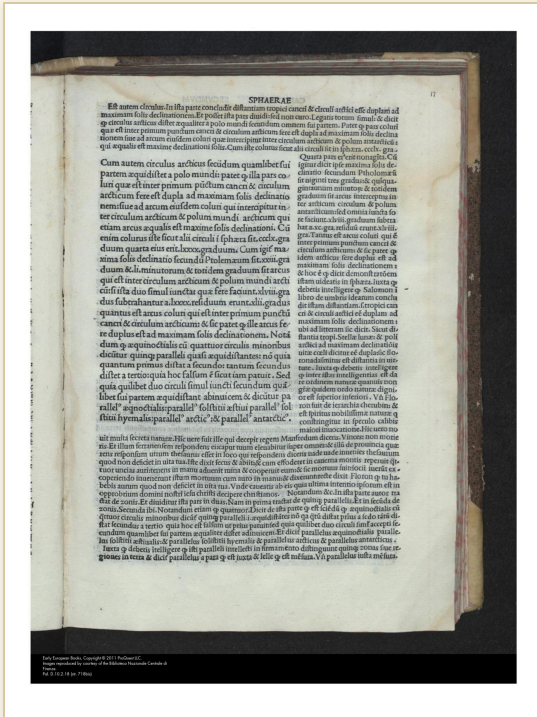
[glosa a «*Maginetur etiam circulus...*»] Clima svmitvr
 dvplciter, scilicet **astrologice** et **nigromantice**. Astrologice,
 vt hic accipitvr. Nigromantice, vt accipit **Zoroastes**, qvi fvit
 primvs magicæ artis inventor, vbi ita dicit ad litteram:
 «Clima svnt etiam admiranda, qvæ cvm carne mortvorvm et
 hvmano sanguine fideliter dant responsa.» Ivxta qvod debetis
 intelligere qvod isti **qvator spiritvs magnæ virtvtis**, qvi
 stant in crvcatis locis, scilicet in **oriente**, **occidente**, **meridie**
 et **septentrione**, qvorvm nomina svnt ista: **Oriens**,
Amaymon, **Paymon** et **Egim**, qvi spiritvs svnt de maiori
 hierarchia, et habet vnvsqvsvqve svb se **XXV legiones**
spiritvum. Vnde ista propter nobilem ipsorvm natvram
 appetvnt sacrificia ex sanguine hvmanorvm et carne similiter
 hominis mortvi vel gatti[*cati*]. Sed ars ista Zoroastes non
 potest fieri sine magno pericvlo, ieivniis et orationibvs et
 omnibvs qvæ svnt contra fidem nostram. Vnde cvm ponitvr

sanguis hvmanvs in **cocha aenea**, tales facta invocatione venivnt; et hi spiritvs vocantvr **climata**, qvia sicvt clima est
 elevatio, sic hi spiritvs svnt omnes svperivs elevati. Non fvervnt climata nisi septem, ratione septem planetarvm, eo
 qvod vnvsqvsvqve planeta dominatvr svo climati: nam **Satvrnvs** dominatvr in primo, **Ivpiter** in secvndo, **Mars** in
 tertio, **Sol** in qvarto, **Venvs** in qvinto, **Mercvrivs** in sexto, **Lvna** in septimo. Et gentes habitantes in climate
 seqvvtvtr natvram planetæ dominantis. De hac materia svperivs dixi vobis, ideo replicare non intendo.

TRANSLATION ENGLISH

The «clime» is taken in two ways: **astrologically** and **nigromantically**. Astrologically, as it is taken here. Nigromantically, as **Zoroaster** takes it, who was the first inventor of the magic art, where he says thus, to the letter: «The climes are also wondrous things, which with the flesh of the dead and human blood faithfully give answers.» Whereby you must understand that these **four spirits of great power**, who stand in the crossed places—that is, in the **east**, **west**, **south** and **north**—, whose names are these: **Oriens**, **Amaymon**, **Paymon** and **Egim**, who are spirits of the highest hierarchy, and each has under him **twenty-five legions of spirits**. Wherefore these, on account of their noble nature, crave sacrifices of human blood and likewise of the flesh of a dead man or of a cat. But this art of Zoroaster cannot be performed without great danger, with fasts and prayers and all that is against our faith. Wherefore, when human blood is placed in a **bronze vessel**, once the invocation is made, such [*spirits*] come; and these spirits are called «**climes**», because just as a clime is an elevation, so these spirits are all elevated on high. There were but seven climes, by reason of the seven planets, because each planet rules its clime: for **Saturn** rules in the first, **Jupiter** in the second, **Mars** in the third, the **Sun** in the fourth, **Venus** in the fifth, **Mercury** in the sixth, the **Moon** in the seventh. And the peoples dwelling in a clime follow the nature of the ruling planet. Of this matter I spoke to you above, so I do not intend to repeat it.

MANUSCRIPT



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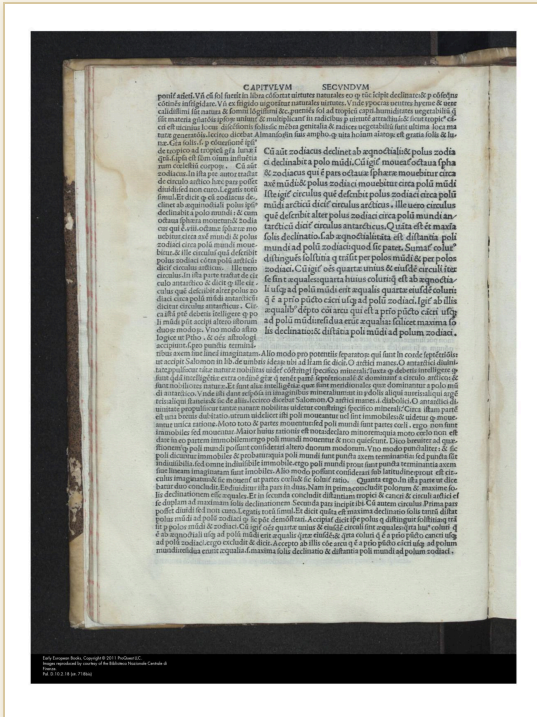
TRANSCRIPTION *LATIN*

[*Hic spiritus*] constringitur in speculo chalybe[o] maiori invocatione. Hic vero novit multa secreta [*naturae*]. Hic vere fuit ille qui decepit **regem Manfredum**, dicens: «Vinces, non morieris.» Et illum ferrariensem [*de Ferrara*], respondens ei: «Caput tuum elevabitur super omnes.» Et illum de provincia quaerens responsum utrum thesaurus esset in loco, qui respondens dicens: «Vade, vade, invenies thesaurum quod non deficit in vita tua.» Iste dixit [*gratias?*] et abiit; et cum effoderet in caverna montis, reperiit **quatuor uncias auri**, tenens in manu; advenit ruina et cooperivit eum, et sic mortuus [*fuit*]. [*Illi qui iverunt cum eo*], cooperiendo [*aperiendo*] invenierunt istum mortuum cum auro in manu, et dixerunt: «Recte dixit **Floron**, quod habebis aurum quod non deficit in vita tua.» Unde caveatis ab eis, quia ultima intentio ipsorum est, in opprobrium domini nostri Iesu Christi, decipere christianos.

TRANSLATION *ENGLISH*

[*This spirit*] is constrained in a **steel mirror** by a greater invocation. He indeed knows many secrets [*of nature*]. He was truly the one who deceived **King Manfred**, saying: «You will conquer, you will not die.» And to that man of Ferrara, answering him: «Your head shall be raised above all.» And to that man of the province who asked for an answer whether there was a treasure in a place, answering him: «Go, go, you will find a treasure that will not fail you in your life.» This man [*gave thanks*] and departed; and while he dug in the cave of a mountain, he found **four ounces of gold**, holding them in his hand; a collapse came and buried him, and so he died. [*Those who went with him*], on uncovering him, found this man dead with the gold in his hand, and they said: «Rightly did **Floron** speak, that you would have gold that would not fail you in your life.» Wherefore beware of them, for their ultimate intention is, to the reproach of our Lord Jesus Christ, to deceive Christians.

MANUSCRIPT



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holds the northern part and they rule from the arctic circle; and the intelligences that are southern, which rule from the pole of the world, [...] by images of minerals, as in idols some of gold, some of silver [...] Solomon said: «O arctic shades», that is, **diabolical ones**, «O antarctic di[*abolical*]» [...] it seems to be constrained by a specific mineral.

TRANSCRIPTION *LATIN*

[...] modo pro potentiis separator[*um*] qvi svnt in corde septentrionis; [...] vbi ad l[*itte*]/ram sic dicit: «**O arctici manes. O antarctici** [...]». [...*det*]vr constringi specifico minerali. Ivxta qvod debetis intelligere qvod [...] tenet parte[*m*] septentrionale[*m*] et dominant[*ur*] a circvlo arctico; et intelligentiae qvae svnt meridionales, qvae dominantvr a polo mvndi, [...] imaginibvs mineralivm, vt in ydolis aliqui avreis, aliqui arge[*nteis*] [...] dicebat Salomon: «O arctici manes» .i. diabolici, «O antarctici di[*abolici*]» [...] videtvr constringi specifico minerali. Circa istam parte[*m*]...

TRANSLATION *ENGLISH*

[...] in some way, by the separate powers that are in the heart of the north; [...] where he says thus, to the letter: «**O arctic shades, O antarctic** [...]». [...] it seems to be constrained by a specific mineral. Whereby you must understand that [...]