CHAPTER 69

ON THE TWELVE SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC AND THE FIVE STARS

166.34 Again, one time as the Apostle [sat]

167.1 in the assembly, a disciple stood before him (and) asked
167.2 him, saying: We implore you, our lord, that you proclaim
167.3 to us and clarify about the twelve signs of the Zodiac
167.4 which are set in the Sphere. How are they ordered, or to which place do
167.5 they belong according to their nature? Or for that matter these Five Stars
167.6 that surround them, where do they come from, or why did the craftsman appoint
167.7 them as authorities and guides? He who is the Great Builder, who established the whole of creation, he bound them (and)
167.9 closed them in the Sphere. We implore you, our lord, that you satisfy us regarding these things which are hidden from everybody.
167.11 Then, he spoke to this disciple who had asked him: Both
167.12 these twelve zodiacal signs that he put in the sphere and these Five Stars that turn above them, they are present in all the Archons
167.13 according to their nature. They are all enemies and adversaries to one another. They plunder one another through the activity of the Great Builder who fashioned all the worlds. He set
167.16 [them] (and) bound them in the Sphere above, which always turns.
167.18 When it turns and moves them, they do everything that pleases them above and below according to their will.
167.20 But, there is a governor above them, a debt-collector
167.21 causing them to act, coercing them, (and) taking from them what is theirs. This, however, is how it should be understood: They are drawn from the Five Worlds of Darkness, are bound in the Sphere, and two zodiacal signs are taken per world. The Twin and the Archer belong to the World of Smoke, which

202 Written above line 15: “one is pressing the other; they are hung from one another” (Polotsky/Böhlig).
203 Gemini.
204 Sagittarius.
167.26 is the Mind. Also, the Ram\textsuperscript{205} and the Lion\textsuperscript{206} belong to the World of Fire. The Bull,\textsuperscript{207} the Water-bearer,\textsuperscript{208} and the Scales,\textsuperscript{209} belong to the World of Wind. The Crab\textsuperscript{210} and the Virgin\textsuperscript{211} and the Fish\textsuperscript{212} belong to the World of Water. The Goat-horn\textsuperscript{213} and the Scorpion\textsuperscript{214} belong to the World of Darkness. These are twelve Archons of wickedness, those who wickedness does not commit every evil and in the world, either in the tree or in the flesh.

168.1 Know, also about these \textit{Five Stars}\textsuperscript{215} the wanderers\textsuperscript{216} how they are put in place. The star of Zeus is generated by the World of Smoke, which is the Mind. Aphrodite, in turn, came to be from the World of Fire. Ares, however, belongs to the World of Wind. Hermes belongs to the World of Water, while Kronos belongs to the World of Darkness. The Two Ascendants,\textsuperscript{217} however, belong to fire and lust, which are dryness and moisture, they are the father and mother of all these things. But, the Sun and the Moon, who are counted along with them, {in the . . . } [they are counted] among their race, but they are counted among them\textsuperscript{218} artificially, so that they might be ruled over. You will find them tormenting them at every moment. These seven, which we have named—the \textit{Five Stars} and the Two Ascendants—they are the evil-doers who perpetrate every wickedness and evil in every single land, above and below, in every creation, in dryness and moisture, in tree and flesh.

168.17 Again, I am revealing to you about these zodiacal signs: They are

\begin{itemize}
\item Aries.
\item Leo.
\item Taurus.
\item Aquarius.
\item Libra.
\item Cancer.
\item Virgo.
\item Pisces.
\item Capricorn.
\item Scorpio.
\item Zeus = Jupiter; Aphrodite = Venus; Ares = Mars; Hermes = Mercury; Kronos = Saturn.
\item That is, the planets.
\item The \textit{anabibazontes}, see discussion above.
\item Inserted between lines 10 and 11 (Polotsky/Böhlig 168). A \textit{homoioleteuton} seems to have occurred due to the double occurrence of \textit{aizôyn nêchî}. See A&C.
\end{itemize}