

Chapter Four - Two Kinds of Ephemeral Elections

Introduction

There are two different kinds of ephemeral elections, "character elections" and "activity elections." Although they both involve initiating an endeavor at a specific date, time, and place, and erecting a stand-alone chart, they have very different purposes. As you will see, character elections form an entity such as a marriage, business, or partnership that has character. On the other hand, activity elections rarely form an entity and can be more appropriately described as "to-do" elections. They are erected with a specific purpose in mind, such as lowering the price of a house you wish to buy or applying for a scholarship. The successful accomplishment of a goal is what's most important.

There are no perfect electional charts, whether character or activity. There is only the best chart given the selected time period whether it be a day, week, or month. Within any electional chart, you can see your hopes, intentions, resources, and support, but also your fears. Most importantly, you can envision your path to success in the chart and the steps you need to take. Present in the chart are also any challenges you need to face and surmount, otherwise you may fail. Electional charts are mirrors of one's innermost thoughts and feelings. Everything in the electional chart is information that can prepare you for the journey, guide your steps along the way, and improve your chances for success.

Character Elections

Character elections are the type of elections most astrologers and many people are familiar with. They establish an entity that has an enduring character or quality. These types of electional charts are used for marriages, partnerships, businesses, incorporations, organizations, and groups, just to mention a few examples. The essential element and purpose of this type of election is to establish a real presence that manifests and expresses a character that can last over a period of time. The important thing to remember is that once established and set in motion, the entity you create has a chart just like a natal chart. You can look at the transits and progressions to see how the character or quality of the entity created evolves and endures. You live with a character election chart, sometimes for years.

Because the nature and quality of character elections are lasting, you want to think in terms of process and dynamics. What will the chart look like moving forward into the future? Is there a balance of power? What are the strengths in the chart and what are the challenges? (There are always challenges since there are no perfect charts.) Do the planets in the electional chart enhance the natal charts of the participants? For example, in a marriage election, you want the chart to complement both the bride and the groom so that the marriage brings out the best in each. You want the election to reflect their combined and individual wishes in forming this union. Do they want children? Will they practice a common religion? What do they see as their roles in marriage? Where is there agreement, and what are the areas of disagreement? Most importantly, how will they make their love last.

Character Election Examples

Establish an entity that has a character or enduring quality.	Emphasizes process, harmony, & chart dynamics of the planets.
Marriage charts	We want our love to endure.
Partnerships / Contracts	We want our talents to blend & complement each other.
Business & corporations	Our business should grow & succeed financially.
Organizations	Our charitable organization should help others.
Groups	We need harmony within our support group.

Creating a character election is generally more involved than creating an activity electoral chart. It can be an in-depth process. Not only do you have to understand the goal of the entity being formed and be able to reflect that in the electoral chart, but you also need to investigate how the election will affect each of the individuals involved. This means looking at the individual natal charts for the participants. For this reason, it is always good to do a radical electoral search first. Choose a time period that is beneficial and complimentary to the natal horoscopes of the participants. When you scan all the transits and progressions, you should see things come together in a common time period that is good for everyone involved. Within this mutually beneficial time period, look for a chart that complements both individuals. This technique of doing a radical search first and then shifting to an ephemeral election is particularly important when doing a marriage or partnership election. You want the strengths and energies of the individuals to balance each other out, and the best way to do this is to select a time period that is good for all those involved.

Activity or “to do” Elections

Activity elections are also known as “to do” elections because they are meant to accomplish a specific goal or result such as buying a home for less or selling a house for more. These elections

are task oriented and only last as long as it takes to successfully complete an endeavor. The timing may be short-term, as little as minutes, or long-term and lasting over several years when goals are complex. Activity elections do not form an entity. You can create an activity election around any purpose you desire. Besides buying or selling a house, activity elections can be used to secure a loan, apply for a scholarship, get a book published, file a consumer complaint, initiate a lawsuit, apply for a job, or seek acceptance into a school or club. These are just a few examples, but there is no limit to the reasons for using an activity electoral chart. If you can envision your goal and find the appropriate astrological weather in the ephemeris and aspectarian, you can erect a chart to initiate your endeavor. Your goal can be lofty or mundane, complex or simple. The possibilities are endless.

Activity or "To-do" Election Examples

Accomplish a specific result. They are usually short term, and they do not form an entity.	Emphasize outcome, actions to take & the activity Moon
Sell or buy a house	I must sell my house immediately
Get a loan or scholarship	I need startup cash for a business.
Apply for a job	I want to get the bid for this construction job.
Publish a book	I want an agent to get my book published.
File a consumer complaint	My purchase was defective & I want a new replacement.

The beauty of a good activity election is that the chart can help you understand the process moving forward, and even tell you how to succeed by providing specific instructions. An exchange of information occurs between the electoral chart and the creator of the chart. The exchange might be intuitive, it might be intellectual, it might be a gut reaction. The mind expands to see movement

within the chart. Many or all of the interim Moon aspects can suggest step-by-step guidance regarding actions you need to take and tasks you need to complete in a timely manner. In addition, the overall chart will have a lot to say about the path to a successful conclusion.

Another benefit of creating an activity electional chart is that it has measurable outcomes. If you practice creating ephemeral elections regularly, your astrological skills will sharpen over time. You can use these charts in ordinary situations to make life easier for yourself. Character elections are not generally measurable. With an activity election either you are successful, or you fail. Results tend to be clear-cut, black or white. Unless you are a professional astrologer, you might not erect many marriage or business charts. These are not everyday needs, especially for the amateur. But an activity election can be used for common endeavors and be most helpful even in mundane situations. There are many times when you can use an activity election chart.

Below is a breakdown of the various electional astrology techniques. Radical elections are totally different from character and activity elections. The tools, techniques, and processes you use for radical versus ephemeral elections entail different skill sets. I believe ephemeral elections give you a lot more information because you have a chart you can interpret. They also allow you to use astrological symbolism as a language to write the story of your success.

The Innate Value of Ephemeral Electional Charts

An ephemeral electional chart is like a vision board. It is a statement in concise symbols (planets, houses, and aspects) of what you wish to happen or manifest. It embodies your goal in astrological notation. Both the process of finding a good electional time for your endeavor, and the subsequent implementation of the steps needed to succeed, stimulate a creative problem-solving mindset.

During the search for the best electional time, you must weigh various options as you work to translate your goal into astrological symbolism. There are many things to consider. What future Moonsign or Moonsigns are of the highest quality? What are the best planets to represent your intention? What houses should you focus on? What aspects would work to your advantage? What Moon aspects would you prefer to avoid? Can you imagine planets as people and the aspects as interactions?

Just as importantly, what electional times and charts do you reject? Why do you reject them? Do you reject them out of anxiety and fear, or concrete problems you wish to avoid? If the same issues keep coming up in your search, you probably must address them regardless, or you need to seriously expand your search calendar. As much information and guidance can be gleaned from the charts you reject as the final chart you choose.

The very act of searching for and choosing an ephemeral election chart stimulates one to think ahead, plan, and prepare. This is why electional astrology goes far beyond horary rules and takes on a life of its own. Electional astrology is an art form and creative process that helps you navigate life issues and gain insight into solutions. It helps you to see beyond the problem and pray for the solution.

The more you put into your project, with or without an electional chart, the more positive and productive the outcome. It is also true that the more confident you feel, the more likely you are to succeed. Optimistic thoughts tend to lead to success, and this is where a good electional chart can be most helpful, raising your self-confidence. If you can see the goal in an electional chart, you will believe that it can happen. The greatest gift an astrologer can give to any individual is a “sense of vision” of how good the future could be along with guidance on how to get there.

Draw on all of your abilities to be successful. Let the positive interpretations associated with the electional chart stimulate your creative impulses, allowing you to develop new avenues for success previously not considered. Let the challenging interpretations caution you to consider possible proactive solutions to future problems which could affect your project negatively. By perceiving difficulties before beginning a project, they can be circumvented, counteracted, or corrected. Use any negative interpretations seen in the chart to troubleshoot situations. You can overcome difficulties with practical solutions and common sense. With electional astrology you can be inspired to reach higher, try harder, persevere despite impediments, and succeed against all odds.

In this book, I will be presenting numerous examples of electional charts, both character elections and activity elections. Some of these charts worked despite impossible odds. I will show you how to construct a good election using astrological symbolism so that the chart says what you want to happen. I will teach you to see planets as people, and aspects between planets as interactions between people. The chart houses can indicate either things or locations. Now that you know the different types of electional charts and understand their point of origination, let's begin to see the planets as people within the electional chart.