

CHAPTER III

THE MOON IN ELECTIONAL ASTROLOGY

The consideration of the ☽ is of paramount importance in the study of Elections, and it is always essential to pay special attention to the lunar aspects and the sign and house in which the ☽ is to be placed. In all elections it is a sound rule to fortify the ☽, whether she be a special significator of the matter in hand or not, because the ☽ is a general significator of everything relating to human affairs, and anything begun at a time when she is weak and afflicted is extremely unlikely to prosper. As in all branches of astrology, a good aspect between the ☽ and the ☉ is an excellent foundation for success, and will improve any election.

To be at its best it is said that the ☽ should be below the earth by day and above the earth by night, but this is not an important point, and is quite secondary to considerations of house position. This relation of

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the ☉ and ☽ is one of the fundamental factors that should be considered at the very outset of making an election, for the Moon's phase may make all the difference between success and failure. In a quite general way matters progress much more speedily and successfully if begun when the ☽ is increasing in light, or in other words passing from New to Full. There are certain purposes that need a decreasing ☽, such as destroying weeds or cutting down timber, but whenever growth or progress is needed an increasing ☽ is essential. The time of New Moon itself however is an unfavourable one for most things except such as require secrecy. The first twelve hours after the exact moment of New Moon are known as Combust Hours, and are unfortunate for beginning anything. The next seventy-two hours are good and fortunate provided the ☽ be strong and well aspected, especially by the benefics, at her entrance into the beginning of the thirteenth hour. The next twelve hours are again combust and unfortunate; the follow-

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ing seventy-two are favourable; and so on throughout the whole month.

If an election is contemplated for a time when the ☽ is just separating from the conjunction or opposition of the ☉, that is, for a time just after New Moon or Full Moon, the planet to which the ☽ applies after leaving the ☉ is of considerable importance, and the general rule is that nothing should be begun when the ☽, on separating from the conjunction or opposition of the ☉, applies to the conjunction or aspect of a malefic, especially if that malefic was unfavourable in the birth horoscope.

The exact effect of the Moon's application to a malefic or benefic immediately after New or Full Moon depends upon whether the lunation itself was well aspected, strong, and fortunate, or otherwise. If the lunation was unfortunate, and the ☽ applies to a malefic, any matter begun at that time will end badly. This is all the more certain if the lunation or its dispositor falls in a cadent house, or in the third, sixth, ninth or twelfth house from that one ruling the matter of the election. If

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one or the other falls in a succedent house good may come in the end, but only after much trouble. If after a fortunate lunation the ☽ applies to a malefic, the matter then begun will start well but will fail in the end. On the other hand if the ☽ applies to a benefic after an unfortunate lunation the beginning will be bad and the end good, while if the lunation was a fortunate one, both the beginning and end of the matter will be good.

Having decided which part of the month is most favourable according to the relation of the ☽ to the ☉, the next step in the making of an election is to study the Moon's aspects and sign position, the former being more important than the latter. The ☽ should be as well aspected as possible, especially by the planets that are of general or particular significance to the matter in hand, and even if few good aspects are obtainable she should always be kept free from affliction, especially by the malefics and the significators of the election. Good aspects to the ☽ from planets that were fortunate in the birth horoscope are a considerable help, just as afflic-

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tions from the unfortunate radical planets are particularly to be avoided; and it is said to be favourable to place the ♃ at the same distance and in the same relation to the ☉ as obtained at birth, but unless the birth horoscope is known these considerations cannot be taken into account.

It is preferable as a rule for the ♃ to be in no aspect at all to the malefics, for this is better even than a favourable aspect, unless the malefic concerned happens to be a significator of the matter in hand. But in all cases afflictions from the malefics to the ♃ should be avoided if possible. Sometimes, however, an affliction from one of the malefics is unavoidable, and in such cases an affliction from ♃ is less evil when the ♃ is decreasing in light than when increasing, while with Saturnian afflictions the reverse holds good, and the affliction is less evil when the ♃ is increasing.

The ideal proceeding is to place the ♃ in good aspect to all the planets that rule the matter of the election, or in other words to the chief significators. But as a rule this is

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impossible and one must be content to have favourable aspects to one or two of them only, choosing the most important ones for preference. If, as sometimes happens, the ☾ cannot aspect two given planets Ptolemy states that care should be taken to connect her if possible with some fixed star whose nature combines them both.

In choosing the Moon's aspect it is most important to avoid a lunar application to the conjunction or aspect of any retrograde planet, for anything begun at such a time will quickly fail, and if other evil aspects are in force at the same time, will end in considerable difficulty and trouble.

The next consideration is that of the Moon's sign position. This should be as appropriate to the business of the election as possible, and full details will be found among the special rules contained in later chapters. In a general way the ☾ is weakened by being in ♎ and ♏, its signs of fall and detriment, but special considerations may over-rule this, as will be evident from the later rules. The worst zodiacal position for the ☾ is said to

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be the Via Combusta, which extends from 15°♋ to 15°♌ . This is unfavourable for everything but especially for buying and selling, travelling, and marriage and all matters connected with women. Unless any special signs are stated, it will be favourable to place the D in ♍ , ♎ , ♏ , or ♐ .

The ancient astrologers considered the D to be impeded or weakened in ten ways.

1. When combust or within 12° from the ☉ . This was considered a worse affliction when applying than when separating. After having separated 5° the worst of the effect is over.

2. In her fall in ♌ , and especially in $\text{♌} 3^{\circ}$, the exact degree of fall.

3. Within 12° of the opposition of the ☉ , and especially when applying.

4. In conjunction, square or opposition with the malefics.

5. Within 12° of Caput or Cauda.

6. In the latter degrees of a sign containing a malefic.

7. When cadent, or in Via Combusta.

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8. In her detriment in \mathcal{V} , or in \mathcal{V} or \mathcal{A} , all of which afflict her own sign \mathcal{C} .

9. When slow in motion, or moving at less than her average speed of $13^{\circ} 11'$ a day.

10. When void of course, or in other words when she forms no aspects at all before entering another sign.

The final consideration is the house in the electional map which the \mathcal{D} should occupy. If possible the \mathcal{D} should be placed in the house ruling the matter of the election or in any angle except the ascendant, which, as already mentioned, is usually a very unfavourable position for the \mathcal{D} . A strong position is advisable, especially if the matter is one that involves permanence and long continuance. When the business of the election necessitates speed or concerns ephemeral matters it is better not to place the \mathcal{D} in too strong a position, and in such cases it is preferable to place \mathcal{Q} or \mathcal{L} in the ascendant or midheaven.

It frequently happens that something must be begun quickly, and there is not sufficient time to allow of the choice of a day when

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the ♃ is favourably placed or aspected. In such cases the only course to pursue is to make the best of the available positions. If the ♃ is applying to a malefic when the business must be put in hand it is best to make this malefic the lord of the ascendant, no matter whether it be afflicted or not. But take care that the chief significators are as free from affliction as possible. If the ♃ is weak and afflicted place her in an angular or succedent house, but see that she is in no aspect with the ascendant, its lord, the lord of the house ruling the election and its dispositor, or any other important significator. If haste is essential under these conditions, put the ♃ in a cadent house in no aspect to the ascendant, but let a benefic be rising or favourably aspecting the rising degree.