



### Barley's Timing Spread



## Barley's Timing Method

### Preliminary Considerations:

This timing method is based on the nominal 12-phase division of most standard systems of temporal measurement. Reversals are not used.

Choose a significator card appropriate to the nature of the question to represent the “timing index” or “pointer.” You can also use the “outcome” card from a previous reading for which more detailed timing information is desired. In fact, any chosen card will work as a “pointer” if there is no particular reason for selecting a topical significator.

Segregate the 40 minor cards – Ace through 10 of each suit - from the deck, shuffle them (cut if you want), and deal a line of four cards face-up. If all of the cards are Wands, expect closure of the issue within hours. If there are two or three Wands cards, the event should occur within a span of days; if there are two or more Swords, it will transpire within a period of weeks; if there are two or more Cups, expect it to happen within months; if there are two or three Pentacles, the time-frame will be one or more quarters; and if all four cards are Pentacles, the outcome will most likely be years away. If you get two pairs or no pairs, pull again; if twice, go to the next paragraph. If the range determined in this manner is inappropriate for the context of the question, go to the next paragraph. The specific increment of time will be revealed in Step 2.

Alternately, judge according to your own experience which time-frame will provide the most reasonable outlook for advancement of the matter to its conclusion: hours, days, weeks, months, quarters or years. If unsure, use a “best estimate” or create several spreads to cross-check each likely option. For example, the answer to a question about when the hiring decision can be expected for a previously-submitted job application would not reasonably fall within the “hours” or “years” time-frames, and “months” or “quarters” could also be a stretch. “Days” or “weeks” are likely to be better choices. This can also be determined randomly by rolling a single 6-sided die with the six pips reflecting hours through years. While not explored here, the use of specialty dice (multi-sided “role-playing” dice, “Astro-Dice™”) is another possibility.

### Timing Process:

**Step 1:** Reassemble the deck with the significator and the minor cards in it, shuffle and deal the cards one at a time into 12 piles of 6 cards each starting at the far left and working counter-clockwise. (There is nothing symbolic about this order, it's merely a convention based on the standard 12-house astrological spread; clockwise will work just as well.) The 12 packs represent the units of measure for the time-frame chosen, each one showing a span of time “within which” the result should appear: for example, within 1-to-12 hours, days, weeks, months, quarters or years. Multiples can be used for each interval if preferred (2-to-24 hours, days, weeks, months, quarters, years; 3-to-36; 4-to-48; etc).

There will be six cards left over (Cards # 73 through #78); deal these left-to-right in a 6-card line at the center of the spread. This line permits fine-tuning of the results at Step #4.

**Step 2:** Go through each pack in order until the significator is located; the pack that holds it is the “index pack” identifying the maximum amount of time that will expire before closure. There are three ways to apply this method of interpolation.

The “index” pack can capture the period of time from the moment of the reading up to the end date shown by the “index” pack. If the significator appeared in the third pile of a 12-month spread, the expectation for closure is “within three months.”

Alternately, the target range can run from the end of the previous pile to the end of the “index” pack. In the above example, the line would cover the 30-day period of the third month.

If the anticipated time-frame is unusually elastic (for example, a lingering health issue that could take weeks, months or years to resolve), a hybrid of the two approaches can be used. In the above examples, the first instance would show the end of three months as the “not to exceed” date, with the second one showing the start of the third month as the “not before” date.

Set the “index” pack aside

**Step 3:** Turn over the 6 cards in the central line. (At this point, the rest of the cards in the outer "ring" can be ignored.)

Fine-tuning will be achieved by randomly positioning the "index card" within one of six equal divisions, each covering a narrow band of the original time-frame; one division represents 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the total. For example, if the “index” pack capped a three-month period, Card #78 would denote the 90-day mark and each card in the line would represent two weeks of elapsed time. If the “index” pack represented only the final one-month period of the 3-month range, each 1/6<sup>th</sup> phase would be 5 days; therefore the series would show “2 months and 5 days,” “2 months and 10 days,” etc, with Card #78 indicating the last day of the target period.

**Step 4:** Shuffle the “index pack” and deal out the six cards face-up and left-to-right on top of the 6 cards in the line. Note the card that the significator lands on: this card should show the manner in which the situation will experience movement toward closure. (The elemental and astrological correspondences of the bottom card are especially pertinent here.)

Compare the elemental and astrological dignities of the pair; “friendly” elements, signs and planets should ensure a smooth evolution, while “unfriendly” factors could reflect a difficult transition. The significator is considered the “principal” or focus card and the bottom card is the modifier.

**Step 5:** Look at the four cards surrounding the significator. The focus card and modifier at the left show the nature of the “run-up” to the crucial moment, while those at the right show possible “fall-out” and recovery from that event (“mop-up”). Determine the dignities of each set as above.

Compare the elemental and astrological dignities of the two outer “focus” cards to the significator for evidence of ease or difficulty in getting to closure and fielding any post-closure problems. If the significator is at one end of the line or the other, either the “run-up” or the “mop-up” will be irrelevant to the situation. It is also possible to read all six pairs of cards as a narrative “story.”

For purposes of elemental and astrological dignity, Wands/Fire cards are friendly to Swords/ Air cards, moderately friendly to Pentacles/Earth cards, and unfriendly to Cups/Water cards. Cups are friendly to Pentacles and moderately friendly to Swords. Swords are unfriendly to Pentacles. Fire and Air signs are cooperative, as are Earth and Water signs; other zodiacal combinations are neutral to moderately uncooperative. From a planetary perspective, Mercury is neutral; the Sun is fortunate and generally cooperative with the Moon, Venus, Mars and Jupiter and uncooperative with Saturn; the Moon is variable and generally cooperative with Venus and Jupiter and uncooperative with Mars and Saturn; Venus is fortunate and generally cooperative with Jupiter, of mixed dignity with Mars, and uncooperative with Saturn; Mars is unfortunate and generally cooperative with the even more unfortunate Saturn. The “modern” planets (Uranus, Neptune and Pluto) are not used in this method.

## **Other Considerations:**

### **Special Case #1:**

If the "index card" in Step #2 falls among the last six cards (Cards #73 through #78) at Step #2, respond in one of the following ways. Choose the one that feels "right" to you.

- Consider that the answer is inconclusive and redo the layout. If it happens again, abandon the divination.
- Consider the 6-card line to be the 13<sup>th</sup> unit of time, and use Pile #1 to form a new line for "fine-tuning." If the pile was left face-up after Step #2, turn it face-down and deal from the top, placing the cards face-up as you go.

In addition, this approach has a special affinity for the thirteenth Trump card, Death; expect the magnitude of any changes implied by the turn of events to be profound and sweeping.

Shuffle the "index pack" and deal onto the "fine-tuning" line as before.

- Consider that the nominal time-frame originally chosen was the incorrect scale (i.e. rather than "within weeks," it would have been more reasonable to select "within months.")

Pick up the last six cards in the order drawn (the new "index pack") and set them aside.

Deal out Pile #1 into a new six-card "fine-tuning" line. If the pile was left face-up after Step #2, turn it face-down and deal from the top, placing the cards face-up as you go.

The new line shows the first interval of the new time-frame following the range originally targeted. For example, Pile #1 would cover the first month of the 12-month period following the end of the 12-week range previously selected (which is now "off the radar"). The span for each of the cards will now be 5 days (30/6), instead of ~1 day (7/6).

Shuffle the "index pack" and deal onto the "fine-tuning" line as before.

### **Special Case #2:**

If the original time-frame and pile location of the "index card" produced very small fine-tuning segments (say "5 days") that appear to be premature for the circumstances, shift the overall time scale up one notch without redoing the layout. In a "monthly" layout, simply assume that each of the original 12 piles represented one quarter (approximately 90 days) instead of one month. Then, for example, the six-card line in a "Pile #1" example would cover 90 days rather than 30, each one representing a 15-day window. An outcome originally narrowed down to be "within 5 days" would be reconfigured to occur "within 15 days." This provides a little more margin for uncertain near-term events to work themselves out. You could also double the original interval size to substitute "bi-monthly" partitions with fine-tuning segments of 10 days each. There is a substantial amount of flexibility in this timing method as long as the basic rules of multiplication and division are followed.