

The “Spirit of the Year” Annual Outlook Spread



The Spirit of the Year: A Mandala of Growth and Opportunity

This annual forecast spread is divided into three parts, each using a different deck. Reversals are not applied. In addition, a pair of 6-sided dice is used to provide a numerological perspective for each month of the year. This spread can be easily segmented if you enter it in the middle of a year.

The “Spirit of the Year” card is always a Major Arcanum (or “trump”) card. Shuffle Deck #1 and deal it face-up into a pile until you come to the first trump card. Place that card in the center of the spread.

Shuffle Deck #2 and populate the four quarterly positions, moving counter-clockwise from Spring.

Shuffle Deck #3 and populate the twelve monthly positions, moving counter-clockwise (in zodiacal order) from Month 1.

Read these cards as setting the overall “tone” for the period under consideration. The nature of forthcoming activities or events may also be discerned in conjunction with the next two steps, although with less confidence.

During the course of the year, at the beginning of each month, read the annual, quarterly and monthly cards together as a situational overview for the upcoming month, focusing on environmental conditions and circumstances. Next, perform the following supplemental step:

For any of the first six monthly positions, roll a single die, obtaining a number from 1 to 6; for the last six monthly positions, roll two dice, obtaining a number from 2 to 12. Factor the general meanings below – or numerical meanings from your own experience - into the card interpretations as a way to ascribe additional emphasis to developments during that month. If the numerical value for a month reinforces the quality of the resident card (or card combination), either directly or by numerological calculation, consider the reliable manifestation of that quality in observable actions or events to be more likely, “for good or ill.” Experimentation with various methods of rolling the dice is encouraged.

One spot: The beginning of something.
Two spots: A period of give-and-take.
Three spots: A period of growth or progress.
Four spots: A period of consolidation.
Five spots: A period of challenge or upset.
Six spots: A period of harmony restored.
Seven spots: A new direction or test.
Eight spots: A period of adjustment or anxiety.
Nine spots: A period of re-centering or reconciliation.
Ten spots: A period of rest and relative inactivity.
Eleven spots: A period of renewed trial and striving.
Twelve spots: A period of redemption or regeneration.

These meanings come primarily from the Tree of Life by way of Aleister Crowley, with minor input from Agrippa's "Three Books of Occult Philosophy." They aren't related to the "lucky number" form of pop numerology. This model adopts the historical principle that the first half of a year in temperate climates is a time of “plowing, planting and cultivating” while the second half is a time of “harvesting and preserving;” in situational terms the analogy isn't perfect because modern humans are no longer closely bound to seasonal cycles.