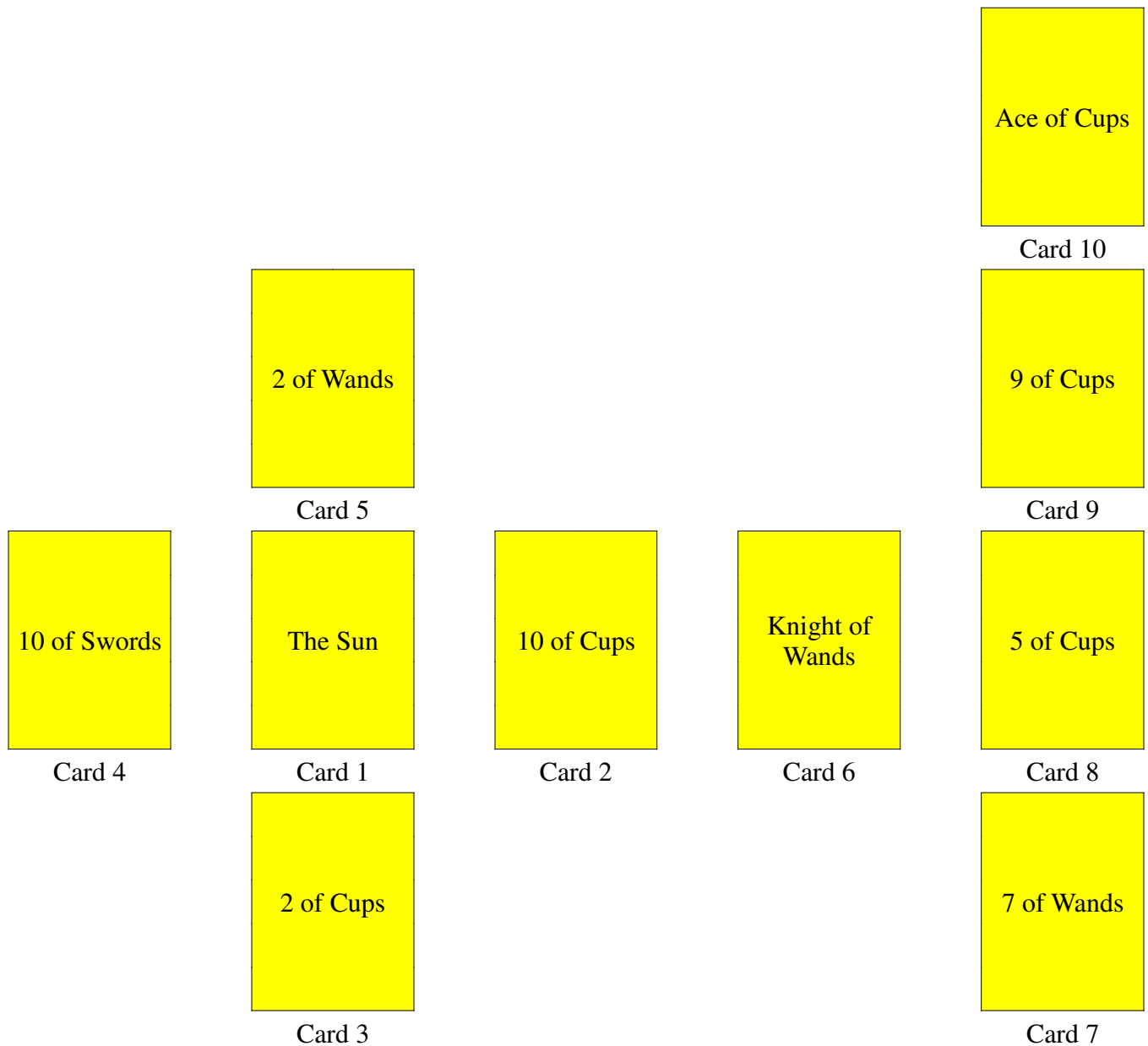


# Celtic Cross Spread for Elemental Dignity Analysis

## Example Layout



## Elemental Dignities and the Celtic Cross

### Example Reading

The attached diagram shows a typical spread that was analyzed with this technique. It was a general “life reading” scenario with no particular question in mind. The analysis covers only the elemental dignity aspect of the reading, which might then be applied to the normal card-by-card approach to Celtic Cross interpretation, by weighting the potency of each focus card accordingly.

The Sun at the "heart of the matter" looks like pure bliss (although it's radiance is slightly dimmed by its mixed elemental modifiers when both the primary and secondary triplets are considered); it is a powerfully benevolent Fire Trump bracketed by two low-impact, traditionally positive but static suit cards (the Twos), one Fire and one Water. The dominance of Fire gives the idea of "lightness" suggested by the evaporative action of intense heat on water.

The “Major Motivator” card in the middle of the "old-to-new" transition axis, the 10 of Cups, is flanked by two "unfriendly" Fire cards. The 10 of Cups is a benign, peaceful card, perhaps too placid for its role as a transformative conduit to the future here. It is being pushed vigorously forward by the Sun, and almost as strenuously resisted by the Knight of Wands (as shown by the "facing" of the two figures). It's caught in a squeeze between strong desires and may overheat in the process. It conjures up the idea of an emotional "steam bath" rather than a happy home. Not a place you would want to tarry long, but at least it is a transitional phase. However, the Knight of Wands is itself weakened by the third primary triplet, in which it is modified by two "unfriendly" Water cards, implying that the debilitated Knight will give way before the superior authority of the Sun and let the environmental retrenching proceed. The line itself is populated by an equal measure of Fire and Water, making for a somewhat "clouded" outlook; the 10 of Swords is shunted off impotently to one side and has no power to influence the adjacent Sun to any significant degree.

The "new" environment at the end of the series doesn't seem like a much happier place than the "old" one left behind with the 10 of Swords. But at least the 5 of Cups has something to work with. As the focal card in the primary "staff" triplet, it is emerging from a time of pitched conflict (preceded by the "unfriendly" 7 of Wands - maybe at war with oneself?) and reaching toward the magnanimous 9 of Cups. It looks like the two remaining full cups can be nurtured into the very rewarding "bumper crop" of satisfaction shown by the 9 of Cups, which is in a much more advantageous position than the 10 of Cups since the way forward is not blocked. The adjacent Knight of Wands is also "unfriendly" to the 5 of Cups, but it seems to have its hands full with the drama involving the Sun and the 10 of Cups.

The Ace of Cups as outcome is almost as ebullient as the Sun at Position 1. Following the 9 of Cups, it excels at creating an "overflow" of good feeling. The advice is to make the most of it (perhaps "wallow" in it) since it might be intense but brief.

Regarding the Elemental Dignity of the cards in the normal sequence (Cards 1-to-10):

Secondary Triplet S1: The 10 of Cups is of mixed dignity (Fire-Water-Water) but the triplet ends in two complementary cards, and, as noted above, the “unfriendly” card feeding it (the Sun) has a benevolent nature not unlike the 10 of Cups. As is often stated in the I Ching: “No blame.”

**Secondary Triplet S2: The 2 of Cups is moderately dignified (Water-Water-Air), since Air is “strengthening but neutral” to Water. The 2 of Cups is slightly enhanced by the combination, and should fulfill its promise without much interference from the anxious 10 of Swords.**

**Secondary Triplet S3: The 10 of Swords is moderately dignified (Water-Air-Fire), since Water is “strengthening but neutral” to Air while Air and Fire are “friendly and supportive.” Although it's importance has largely diminished, it will have a lingering influence on the matter.**

**Secondary Triplet S4: The 2 of Wands is of mixed dignity (Air-Fire-Water), neither substantially strengthened nor weakened by the combination. There will be no pronounced bias in its influence.**

**Secondary Triplet S5: The Knight of Wands is strongly empowered by its companions (Fire-Fire-Fire) and holds a dominant position in driving the matter forward into the future with energy and enthusiasm.**

**Secondary Triplet S6: The 7 of Wands is of mixed dignity (Fire-Fire-Water). It is forcefully motivated by the Knight of Wands but loses its resolve in the pensive 5 of Cups. Thus, the clashes arising from the personal conflict it implies will be somewhat muted going forward.**

**Secondary Triplet S7: The 5 of Cups is of mixed dignity (Fire-Water-Water); like the S1 triplet, the sequence ends in two complementary cards, opening the way for an improving trend in emotional gratification signified by the 9 of Cups.**

**Secondary Triplet S8: The 9 of Cups is highly dignified (Water-Water-Water), and is ideally situated for the Querent to take full advantage of its emotional largesse.**

**Secondary triplet S9: The Sun in this secondary triplet is of mixed dignity (Air-Fire-Water; it is modified from behind by the dour but "friendly" 10 of Swords and in front by the "unfriendly" but innocuous 10 of Cups. But the figure of the mounted child is advancing toward the future, shutting out the misery of the 10 of Swords and leaving it to wither in the past. Since Fire and Air are agreeable, the dominant Sun takes things firmly in hand. Also, because the Sun and the 10 of Cups are both "happy" cards, the elemental stress would not be expected to sap the Sun's brilliance in any meaningful way.**

**Elementally, this is a generally “pleasant” spread overall, with two highly dignified cards in key positions, two cards of moderate dignity, five cards of mixed – and essentially neutral – dignity, and only one debilitated card. The Sun infusing the “happy” 10 of Cups at the beginning and the Ace of Cups generously supported by the 9 of Cups at the end, point to an encouraging turn of events in the coming months.**