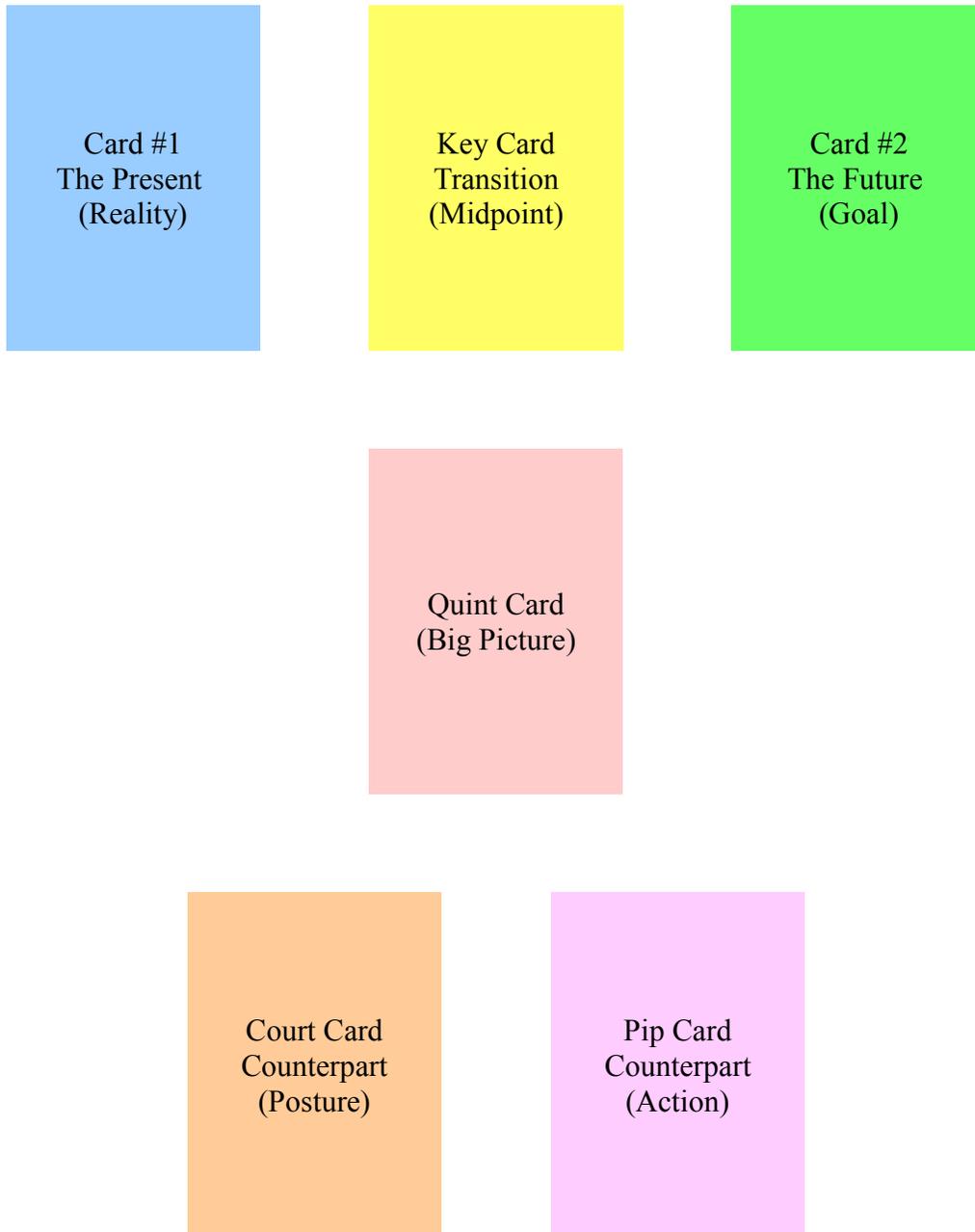


The “Hidden Key” Advice Spread



This is a two-card spread that unfolds into a fully detailed advice scenario using correspondences. Cards #1 and #2 can either be chosen specifically to reflect one's present reality and desired future, or they can be drawn randomly from the deck. Reversals are not used.

This spread uses several tables: the 78-card numbering sequence table, the trump card elemental and pip card correspondence tables, and the trump card/court card “allies” table. The Key Card is the card that sits mid-way between Cards #1 and #2 in the numbering sequence; the Quint Card is derived from the sequence numbers of the first three cards (*not* the numbers on the faces of the cards); and the last two cards come from the elemental and numerological associations of the Quint Card.

Note that two adjacent cards in the numbering sequence will produce no result other than what is depicted in those two cards, so the reading stops there. Also, if the numerical midpoint falls between two adjacent cards, the sequence numbers of both cards (*not* the numbers on the faces of the cards) should be added together when deriving the Quint Card. In situations where the Pip Card Counterpart can be either a Ten or an Ace, the rule of thumb is that Aces are more about “intentions” than “actions,” so the Ten is more relevant as “advice.” Similarly, the Fool as zero can never be reached by ordinary numerological reduction, so it may be considered more of a “cocoon” state (like the Aces) than an active element in the reading; alternatively, it can be renumbered as 22 and viewed as an opportunity for “rebirth” as the Emperor (22 reduces to 4). The Quint Card (always a trump) represents the “big picture” in the situation, often revealing major external influences entering the matter that are critical to the outcome. So the Fool might be seen as “not much happening yet,” although its potential is great. The Court Card Counterpart shows the characteristics, attitudes and behaviors the querent should consider embracing or avoiding in dealing with the situation, and the Pip Card Counterpart suggests the type of action that can be taken to further the goal. Because this spread uses the trump card correspondences shown in the tables, the Court Card Counterpart will be a card of nominally similar nature to the Quint Card, and the Pip Card Counterpart will be a card of the same number and element as that card.

Step #1: Choose Cards #1 and #2 either intentionally or randomly to represent “Where I Am Now” and “Where I Want to Be.” Note their associated numbers from the numbering sequence table.

Step #2: Using the numbering sequence table, find the card that lies mid-way between Cards #1 and #2 and note its associated number. If the midpoint is between two cards, add the sequence numbers of the two adjacent cards together for calculation of the quintessence.

Step #3: Using the sequence numbers from the table for Cards #1, #2 and the Key Card, add the values of all three cards and reduce by summing the digits in the total until a number between 1 and 10 is reached. Place the trump card represented by that number into the Quint Card position. (This departs from the usual quint card calculation approach in order to link the trump card directly to a corresponding pip card. Because the ten trump cards following the Fool represent the first leg of the Fool's journey - call it the “outward bound” phase – they are considered appropriate for indicating early movement in the matter. Think of it as “what querents can do with external forces” as opposed to “what could be done to them” by those forces.)

Step #4: Using the trump card/court card “allies” table, find the court card that corresponded to the derived Quint card and place it in the Court Card Counterpart position. This card provides advice about the posture the querent should take in facing developments in the matter. It should not be read as “other people” in most instances since that aspect should be addressed in the “external influences” outlook.

Step #5: Using the trump card correspondence tables, determine the element associated with the Quint Card, and select the pip card that matches that element (Fire = Wands, Cups = Water, Swords = Air and Pentacles = Earth) and the number on the face of the Quint Card. Place it in the Pip Card Counterpart position. (Each trump has primary and secondary counterparts; consider the primary first.)

Step #6: Read the last three cards as advice for the querent from the perspective of “What's coming?” (Quint Card); “How should I position myself to deal with it?” (Court Card Counterpart) and “What can I do to make the most of the opportunity?”

Optional Step #7: Cards #1, #2 and the Key Card can be read as a stage-setting “preamble” to the advice portion, with the Key Card showing a transitional state that offers a window for application of the advice. In this case, pair the advice cards with the Key Card to see how they interact.

78-Card Numbering Sequence

Trumps	Wands	Cups	Swords	Pentacles
0 (1)	1 (Ace) (23)	1 (Ace) (37)	1 (Ace) (51)	1 (Ace) (65)
I (2)	2 (24)	2 (38)	2 (52)	2 (66)
II (3)	3 (25)	3 (39)	3 (53)	3 (67)
III (4)	4 (26)	4 (40)	4 (54)	4 (68)
IV (5)	5 (27)	5 (41)	5 (55)	5 (69)
V (6)	6 (28)	6 (42)	6 (56)	6 (70)
VI (7)	7 (29)	7 (43)	7 (57)	7 (71)
VII (8)	8 (30)	8 (44)	8 (58)	8 (72)
VIII (9)	9 (31)	9 (45)	9 (59)	9 (73)
IX (10)	10 (32)	10 (46)	10 (60)	10 (74)
X (11)	11 (P) (33)	11 (P) (47)	11 (P) (61)	11 (P) (75)
XI (12)	12 (K) (34)	12 (K) (48)	12 (K) (62)	12 (K) (76)
XII (13)	13 (Q) (35)	13 (Q) (49)	13 (Q) (63)	13 (Q) (77)
XIII (14)	14 (K) (36)	14 (K) (50)	14 (K) (64)	14 (K) (78)
XIV (15)				
XV (16)				
XVI (17)				
XVII (18)				
XVIII (19)				
XIX (20)				
XX (21)				
XXI (22)				

Trump Card Elemental Assignments	Trump/Pip Card Primary & Secondary Counterparts
Fool (Air) (0)	Fool as Zero – None
Fool (Fire) (22)	Fool as 22 – 4 of Wands/Fours in general
Magician (Air) (I)	Magician – Ace of Swords/Aces in general
High Priestess (Water) (II)	High Priestess – 2 of Cups/Twos in general
Empress (Earth) (III)	Empress – 3 of Pentacles/Threes in general
Emperor (Fire) (IV)	Emperor- 4 of Wands/Fours in general
Hierophant (Earth) (V)	Hierophant – 5 of Pentacles/Fives in general
Lovers (Air) (VI)	Lovers – 6 of Swords/Sixes in general
Chariot (Water) (VII)	Chariot – 7 of Cups/Sevens in general
Strength (Fire) (VIII)	Strength – 8 of Wands/Eights in general
Hermit (Earth) (IX)	Hermit – 9 of Pentacles/Nines in general
Wheel of Fortune (Fire) (X)	Wheel of Fortune – 10 of Wands/Tens in general
Justice (Air) (XI)	Justice – 2 of Swords/Twos in general
Hanged Man (Water) (XII)	Hanged Man – 3 of Cups/Threes in general
Death (Water) XIII)	Death – 4 of Cups/Fours in general
Temperance (Fire) (XIV)	Temperance – 5 of Wands/Fives in general
Devil (Earth) (XV)	Devil – 6 of Pentacles/Sixes in general
Tower (Fire) (XVI)	Tower – 7 of Wands/Sevens in general
Star (Air) (XVII)	Star – 8 of Swords/Eights in general
Moon (Water) (XVIII)	Moon – 9 of Cups/Nines in general
Sun (Fire) (XIX)	Sun – 10 of Wands/Tens in general
Judgement (Fire) (XX)	Judgement – 2 of Wands/Twos in general
World (Earth) (XXI)	World – 3 of Pentacles/Threes in general

Trump-to-Trump Numerological Counterparts
Fool as Zero – None
Fool as 22 - Emperor
Magician – Wheel of Fortune - Sun
High Priestess – Justice - Judgement
Empress – Hanged Man - World
Emperor - Death
Hierophant – Temperance
Lovers – Devil
Chariot – Tower
Strength – Star
Hermit - Moon

<u>Trump Card</u>	<u>Principle</u>	<u>Quality</u>	<u>Ally</u>	<u>Principle</u>	<u>Quality</u>
Fool	Initiation	Primal Air/Uranus	Ace of Swords	Root of the Power of Air	Air (Active)
Magician	Concentration/Will	Mercury/Air	Knight of Swords	Power in Action	Air of Air (Active)
High Priestess	Reflection	Moon/Water	Queen of Cups	Brooding Power	Water of Water (Passive)
Empress	Fertility	Venus/Earth	Queen of Pentacles	Brooding Power	Water of Earth (Passive)
Emperor	Authority	Aries/Fire	King of Wands	Potential Power	Fire of Fire (Active)
Hierophant	Traditional Values	Taurus/Earth	Page of Pentacles	Reception & Transmission	Earth of Earth (Passive)
Lovers	Choice	Gemini/Air	Page of Swords	Reception & Transmission	Earth of Air (Mixed)
Chariot	Material Triumph	Cancer/Water	Knight of Cups	Power in Action	Air of Water (Mixed)
Strength	Self-Mastery	Leo/Fire	Queen of Wands	Brooding Power	Water of Fire (Mixed)
Hermit	Practical Wisdom	Virgo/Earth	King of Pentacles	Potential Power	Fire of Earth (Mixed)
Wheel of Fortune	Evolution	Jupiter/Fire	6 of Wands (Victory)	Harmonizing Power	Fire (Active)
Justice	Deliberation	Libra/Air	Queen of Swords	Brooding Power	Water of Air (Mixed)
Hanged Man	Involution/Delay	Primal Water/Neptune	Ace of Cups	Root of the Power of Water	Water (Passive)
Death	Transformation	Scorpio/Water	King of Cups	Potential Power	Fire of Water (Mixed)
Temperance	Mediation of Forces	Sagittarius/Fire	9 of Wands (Strength)	Synthesizing Power	Fire (Active)
Devil	Materialism	Capricorn/Earth	Knight of Pentacles	Power in Action	Air of Earth (Mixed)
Tower	Disruption	Mars/Fire	Knight of Wands	Power in Action	Air of Fire (Active)
Star	Clarity of Vision	Aquarius/Air	King of Swords	Potential Power	Fire of Air (Active)
Moon	Illusion	Pisces/Water	Page of Cups	Reception & Transmission	Earth of Water (Passive)
Sun	Success	Sun/Fire	Page of Wands	Reception & Transmission	Earth of Fire (Mixed)
Judgment	Renewal	Primal Fire/Pluto	Ace of Wands	Root of the Power of Fire	Fire (Active)
World	Completion/Entropy	Saturn/Earth	Ace of Pentacles	Root of the Power of Earth	Earth (Passive)

NOTES:

The Wheel of Fortune and Temperance represent evolutionary rather than revolutionary change. The Wheel of Fortune allies with the 6 of Wands, associated with the solar sephira Tiphareth and Jupiter in Leo (Six was the "Second Perfection" of the ancient Greeks), while Temperance is attended by the 9 of Wands, associated with the lunar sephira Yesod and Moon in Sagittarius (Nine was the "Third Perfection"). Temperance occupies the 25th path, which unites these sephiroth on the Tree of Life.

The "power" principle of each court-card ally is derived from an unofficial Golden Dawn paper, "Description of the Tarot Trumps" by G.H. Soror Q.L. The rest of the correspondences come from Aleister Crowley and Paul Foster Case.

The "Active," "Passive" and "Mixed" qualities of the "ally" cards were derived from elemental correspondences.

Development Notes:

I decided to tackle the subject of two-card readings. Because the number Two can be more about polarity and division than cooperation and resolution (depending on whether the "pendulum" in a situation is swinging in or out), two-card spreads can seem static, especially if the cards are of similar rank, number and element. I created a way to unfold the "hidden" implications of those two cards using correspondences to provide advice on how to navigate between them.

At the same time, I wanted to apply some of my experimental ideas in an actual spread. One notion is using the 1-78 number sequence to look at midpoint relationships between cards in the deck; another is assigning court card "allies" to the archetypal trump cards as person-centered counterparts; a third is treating pip cards matching the number and element of the trump cards as functional derivatives of a less abstract nature; and a fourth is consciously picking the cards for "present" and "future" to show the current reality and the desired goal, and letting the rest of the cards explain how one might be turned into the other. Note that the Golden Dawn approach to linking pips, courts and trumps wasn't used here; much of this is original work as far as I know.

Here is an example of how pre-selected subject cards might work:

Suppose you are a demoralized Queen of Cups who really wants to become more decisive (like the Queen of Swords), so you pick those two cards as "Present (Reality)" and "Future (Goal)." The Queen of Cups is numbered 49 in the 1-78 sequence and the Queen of Swords is numbered 63. The card that sits midway between them is the 6 of Swords, numbered 56. Adding 49, 56 and 63 together gives a total of 168, which reduces to 6, the Lovers, as quint card (see the spread instructions for why I reduce to a single digit). The Hebrew letter that corresponds to the Lovers means "sword," so the implication leans more toward an important decision or a crossroads of some kind than the prospects for a new relationship. (But it certainly could involve an existing relationship if the real issue is about becoming more assertive and independent.)

The Lovers corresponds to the element of Air, and I gave it to the Page of Swords in my "trump card allies" system. The pip card associated with the Lovers combines the number 6 and the element of Air, so (surprise!) it's the 6 of Swords. In considering the kind of advice this combination might yield, I see the 6 of Swords as indicating a "mental voyage of discovery" with new horizons in sight, and the Page of Swords as showing the kind of creative mental energy that must be applied to successfully make the journey. In summary, I might tell the querent "Work on becoming nimble and quick-witted like the Page of Swords and keep your eye fixed on the goal so you aren't pushed off-course. Maybe take some classes to feed your inspiration. Don't stand for the same old demeaning run-around that seeks to 'keep you in your place.' You have a mind of your own and you need to give voice to it."