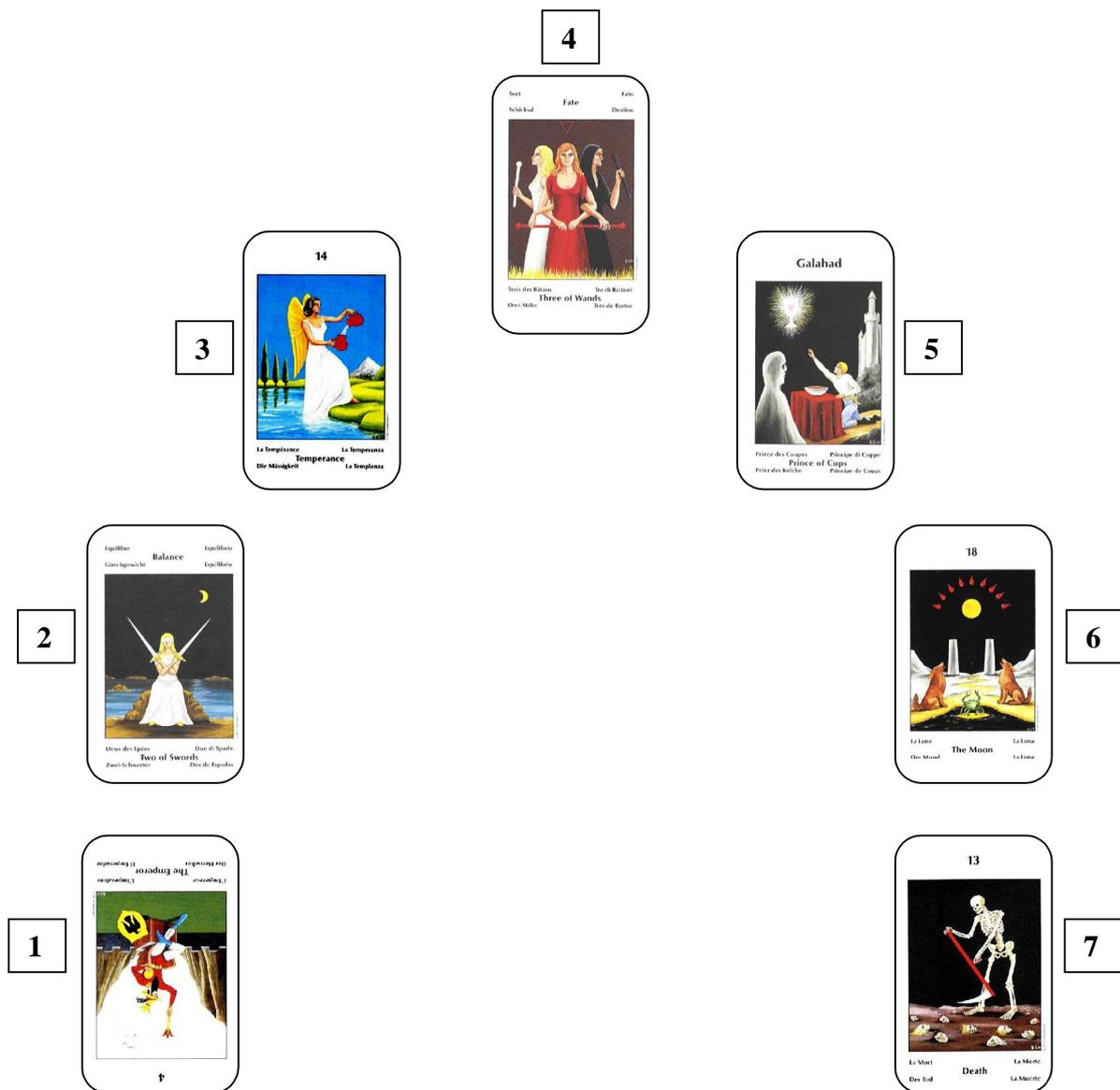


## The Horseshoe (Ask a Question)

### About the Spread

This is a very simple spread, useful for answering questions. It is particularly suitable for beginners since it does not contain too many cards. You can look up each card in turn, and relate its meaning to the position quickly. And since each position represents a distinct sphere of influence, you can quickly discard any meanings which seem inappropriate.



## Asking your Question

As in the case of the Celtic Cross spread, the question needs to be unambiguously framed. Remember, the clarity of the answer depends upon the clarity of the question; if two choices are involved, ask one question for each of them. There are three versions of the Horseshoe spread, one general (classic), one designed with relationships in mind, and one for career questions.

### The Classic Horseshoe

- Card 1:** The past. Check to see how many important former events or actions there have been. Is the Major, or Minor, positive or negative?
- Card 2:** The present. Feelings, thoughts or actual events are revealed here.
- Card 3:** Hidden influences, which could surprise you or alter the outcome in some way.
- Card 4:** Obstacles to overcome, which can be mental attitudes or practical difficulties.
- Card 5:** The environment, and attitudes of other people.
- Card 6:** What should be done! Here you may find a practical solution.
- Card 7:** The most likely result is denoted by this card, assuming you follow the advice given by the card in sixth place.

### The Love Horseshoe

- Card 1:** The past – this shows the foundations of the relationship.
- Card 2:** The present – how the inquirer sees his or her relationship now. Remember that this card is usually very subjective since it refers to someone's point of view of his or her partner, which may not represent reality.
- Card 3:** Hopes, fears and expectations – this shows what kind of dreams and beliefs the inquirer is bringing to the relationship, and may reveal unconscious patterns of behaviour.
- Card 4:** Areas of conflict – this can be entirely mental or emotional, or suggest financial or other practical problems, such as clashing careers, religious differences and so on.
- Card 5:** Outside influences – what worldly factors are affecting the relationship. These can range from a former marriage to the effect any children in-laws, or even friends or colleagues may be having.

**Card 6:** The best current course of action.

**Card 7:** The probable outcome if this course of action is taken.

### **The Work/Career Horseshoe**

**Card 1:** Past influences upon the problem or dilemma.

**Card 2:** The present situation.

**Card 3:** This shows what is most positive about this situation. This may include talents and abilities, a sense of security, or represent some kind of challenge needed by the inquirer in order to progress.

**Card 4:** This suggests what is most difficult about this situation. This represents inner problems such as low self-confidence, boredom, inability to settle, being in the wrong job area and so on. If a very positive card appears here, there is little opposition and few blocks to long-term progress. The problems may then be due to factors outside the querent's control, for which, see card 5.

**Card 5:** Outside factors are revealed in this position. These can range from the current economic situation to jealousy at work. Positive outside factors include unexpected help, job offers, and opportunities for further training.

**Card 6:** The best course of action at present.

**Card 7:** Probable result.

## **The Calendar**

(Timing and Tarot Layouts)

### **About the Spread**

The Calendar layout is identical to that of the Horoscope. Twelve cards are laid out in a circle with one in the middle. However, this time each card represents a month of the year, beginning with the current month. Should you wish, you can choose a significator as in the Horseshoe or Celtic Cross spreads, and place it in the centre of the circle before you begin.

However, it is more interesting to let the Tarot speak here, and simply lay the thirteenth card in the centre. This card then represents the overall feeling or theme of the year ahead, and often indicates which area of life will be uppermost in the inquirer's mind and pattern of fate.

You can also carry on dealing round the circle a second and third time, so that there are three cards for each month – and three cards in the centre. This should expand the original information somewhat, although it is too complicated for an absolute beginner.

### **When to use the Calendar**

This layout is a good one to use after you have done a general spread such as the Tree of Life or the Horoscope. It is also effective if you have noticed a significant future event in the Romany spread, but are unable to pinpoint the exact timing.

The Calendar can also be used when someone wants to find out when he or she will move home, or job. It is also quite helpful when you want to discern the probable future pattern of a difficult relationship. And if a new and important lover is on the horizon, this spread should indicate when the romance will finally blossom.

### **Timing and the Minor Arcana**

Since each suit in the Minor Arcana corresponds to an element, which in turn is linked with a season of the year, it is possible to use it to answer the question, "When?"

#### **Method 1**

The first method uses the twos, threes and fours in each suit and is very simple and basic. The correspondences are as follows:

##### **The Suit of Pentacles: Winter**

Two: December; Three: January; Four: February

##### **The Suit of Swords: Spring**

Two: March; Three: April; Four: May

**The Suit of Wands: Summer**

Two: June; Three: July; Four: August

**The Suit of Cups: Autumn**

Two: September; Three: October; Four: November

Shuffle the whole pack, concentrating upon the question. Cut the cards into three, using the left hand (if right-handed) and reassemble it in a different order.

Now start turning up the cards from the top until you have counted off thirteen cards, stopping if a card of the month has appeared, in which case you have your answer. Should no card appear, start a fresh pile of thirteen. If this pile too, is empty, commence a third. Should this pile fail to reveal the answer, the matter is still undecided or unlikely to happen with in the next twelve months.

**Method 2**

**The Four Aces**

A similar method employs the four Aces, each of which represents a season of the year. This method is slightly more sophisticated in that it can also answer 'yes' or 'no' as well as 'when'.

Separate the deck, discarding the Major Arcana. Shuffle well, making sure some cards are reversed as you do so. Cut as usual and begin dealing the cards into a pile of thirteen until you reach an Ace. If it falls in an upright position, the answer is 'yes', if reversed, 'no'.

Should no Aces appear in the first pile, continue with a second and third pile of thirteen. Again, if no Aces appear, a definite answer to the question is not possible at the moment. You will probably have to do another type of spread to find out why this is so.

If you received a definite 'no', it is also advisable to investigate further to discover the potential problems, blocks or any other avenues which could be explored. If you received a 'yes' and would like to know when your wish will be granted, look at the Ace you have drawn and refer to its seasonal correspondence. These are: Pentacles – winter, Swords – spring, Wands – summer, and Cups – autumn.

## **The Tree of Life**

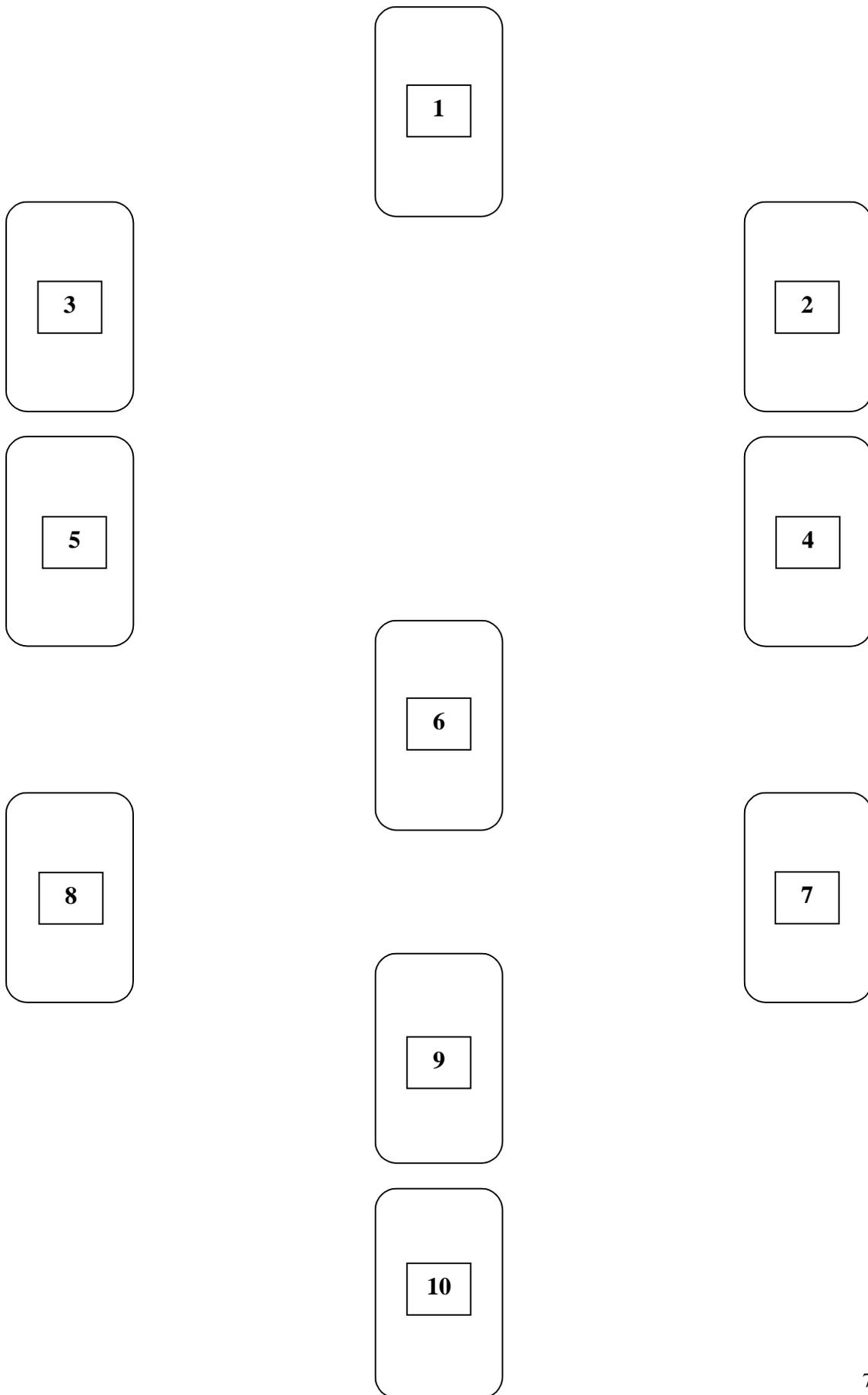
(Where you stand now)

### **About the Spread**

This spread is based upon the pattern of the Kabbalistic 'Tree of Life', and contains ten cards, each relating to a different sphere of life. This is a simplified version of the layout, designed to give you an overall view of someone's current situation and concerns. Like the Horoscope, it is a good one to choose to begin a reading.

### **Interpreting the Positions**

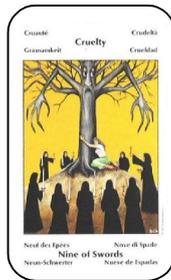
- Card 1:** This represents the inquirer's spiritual world, his or her attitudes towards it, and general inner state of being at the time.
- Card 2:** Denotes energy, drive and spheres of responsibility.
- Card 3:** Relates to understanding, and represents limiting or containing factors operating in the inquirer's mind.
- Card 4:** Represents financial matters and practical activities.
- Card 5:** Denotes strife and challenges, and indicates what kind of opposition must be overcome by the inquirer.
- Card 6:** Refers to the inquirer's achievements, successes and outer image.
- Card 7:** Represents the inquirer's love life, emotional attachments and feelings about this side of life in general.
- Card 8:** Denotes worldly matters concerning the inquirer, business and career, cultural or artistic endeavour, and indicates how these are being approached.
- Card 9:** Represents the unconscious mind, and all its secrets and hidden depths. It can also refer to health matters, especially when these concern overall well being.
- Card 10:** Indicates the inquirer's roots, and denotes home, family and close relationships.



## The Three-Card Spread

### About the Spread

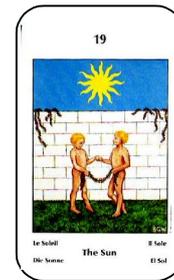
This spread is the simplest of all Tarot spreads. It involves laying out three cards in a row representing the past, the present and the future.



**Past**



**Present**



**Future**

### Interpreting the Positions

- Card 1:** The Nine of Swords indicates that there was a lot of anxiety in the past, probably due to a bad mixture of people.
- Card 2:** In the present, Temperance reveals that the situation is becoming harmonious, and many of the problems are falling away.
- Card 3:** The future, represented by the Sun, shows there is a lot of happiness in store – maybe a love affair or a holiday in a warm country.