

48.3 Putting your Houses in Order

Introduction

Those new to Tarot reading – and even some with experience – often pose a series of questions which are all basically around the same theme. It is asked, “how do you know which spread is best for which question?”, “what’s the best spread to look at relationships?” or “is there is a better spread for long-term issues as opposed to short-term ones?” and so forth. The choice of spreads is bewildering, and we have added to that ourselves by providing not only new ones here in this book, but even whole new types and categories of spread, such as gated spreads, calibrated spreads and layered spreads amongst many more - each with thousands of possibilities.

So in this section we will attempt to simplify matters again by providing twelve new spreads for the range of questions you are likely to be asked (see also chapter on “What Questions Will I Be Asked?”) and helpfully divide them into sections for each area of question. These are based around another existing esoteric system which has already divided life into helpful sections – Astrology.

12 Spreads for the Whole of Life, based on the Houses of Astrology

The phrase “to put your own house in order first” comes, as do many, from the Bible. In this case, both in Kings (2. 20:1) and Issiah (38:1):

Isa 38:1 In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.

We hope then to set our house in order long before our appointed time, by using Tarot to explore the aspects of our life which require work and offer opportunity for development. We can also divine for questions posed by others using these spreads and divisions.

As the concept of “houses” is also to be found in the system of Astrology, we will not re-invent the wheel, but use this system to generate twelve new spreads, each appropriate to the twelve areas of life represented by those houses.

Of course, there are many different systems of houses in Astrology. The one utilised here is that found in John Frawley’s *The Real Astrology* (2000) and is based upon traditional or horary Astrology.¹ As Frawley points out – at length – this viewpoint maintains some areas of the houses as being entirely malefic and troublesome, rather than what he sees as a “modernist” gloss of positivity.

The King of the Mountains

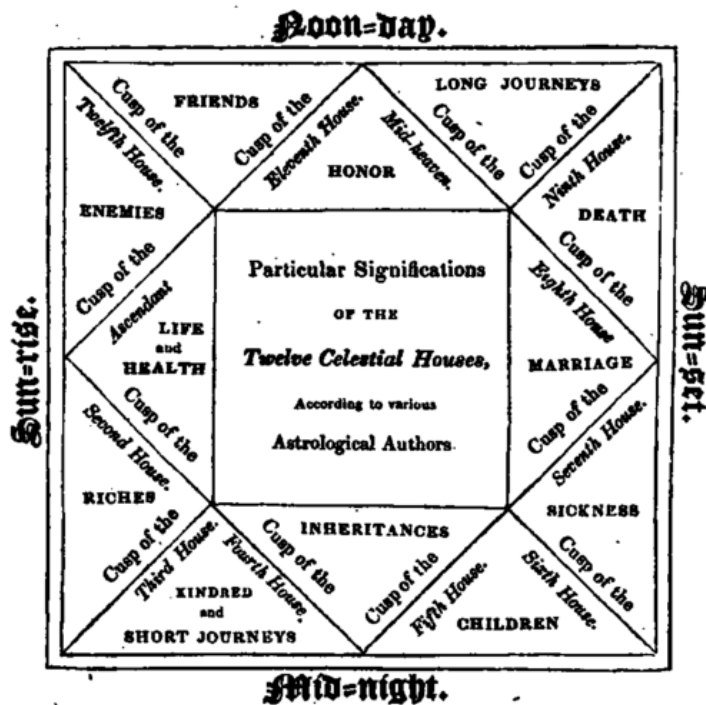
The Twelve houses presented by Frawley use the Regiomontanus system of Johann Muller (1436 – 1476) who used the pseudonym, “king of the mountains” (Regiomontanus) in his writing. However, the system had been in use long before this time.² The houses are divided into areas relating to the following aspects of life – earthly or mundane houses reflecting the cosmic houses of the Zodiac:

¹ John Frawley, *The Real Astrology* (London: Apprentice Books, 2000) pp. 91-104

² *Ibid*, p. 93

Table 74: The Twelve Houses

1. Spark and Your Body
2. Resources and your inanimate and movable “possessions”
3. Siblings, Neighbours and Communication
4. Land, Property and the Father
5. Children, Pleasure, “Ale-houses and Taverns”
6. Service, Ill-health and all that afflicts us
7. The Other Person, Marriage, Relationship
8. Death
9. God – religion, learning, dreams and vision
10. Mother, King and Boss
11. Friends, Friendship, Hopes & Wishes
12. Enemies, Tribulation, Sorrow



So each of these areas is very general of course, but we can easily align most questions into one of these categories. A question about a partner or likely partner – the most likely we are going to be asked, is a seventh house question, although what we do with that person is a fifth house question! A question about our career is possibly a tenth house question where it relates to potential promotion, but a ninth house question where it relates to improving skills for that promotion. If the relationship or promotion is merely at present a vague wish or hope, then it falls into the eleventh house of this system.

This is an important approach to looking into the very heart of a question posed to us in divination. As a contemporary Oracle, we should look into the context of the question to be assured that we are answering it in the world and environment in which it exists for the client, avoiding as much as possible introjecting our own beliefs and presumptions into the question. Whilst this is impossible, we can limit – or at least identify and prescribe – our own projection by using a framework.

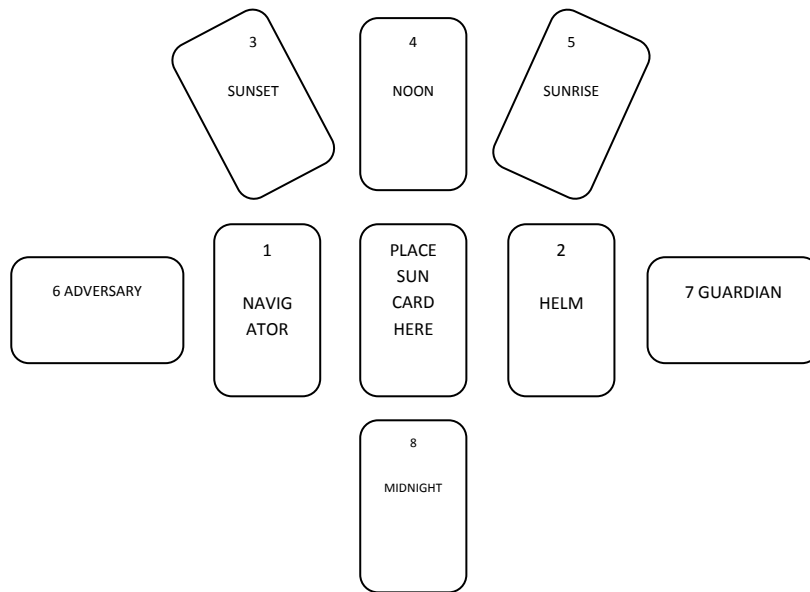
In My Father’s House there are Many Mansions

Whilst we can project our mundane life into the stellar map and find twelve areas of correspondence, we will benefit further by having a tool to work in each such area, appropriate to the nature of the question or situation being chosen.

Spread 1: The Soul Boat, for matters of The House of the Self

Questions such as “Where is my life going to?” “Who am I?”, “What should I do?”

This spread is based on the ancient Egyptian concept of the soul boat, or the barque of the Sun. The Sun was seen as traversing the sky in a vast boat, and the nature of the Sun changed as the day and night progressed. As the central glyph of the self or soul, the Sun is here used as Significator. The remaining cards are shuffled and dealt as depicted. As the ancient Egyptians also believed in a serpent adversary to the Sun – Apep – this is also reflected in the reading.



1. Navigator: This card indicates what may be seen to steer you towards in your life journey, your vision and a signpost or beacon.
2. Helm: This illustrates your resources, things which can be drawn upon, avenues which can be explored and assistance given.
3. Sunset: This is a part of your life that must be allowed to fade.
4. Noon: This is a part of your life that must be recognised and enjoyed.
5. Sunrise: This is a part of your life that must be developed and nurtured.
6. Adversary: This is what blocks you.
7. Guardian: This is what defeats the blocks.
8. Midnight: This is the secret core of your life which must be brought to the light.

As with any other reading, do not mistake the positions and numbering as anything other than a convenient description. You can read the cards in any order, and recognise patterns as you read. In this spread, you may wish to read the Helm and Guardian cards together and then the Adversary for example, comparing to the midnight card.

Spread 2: The Well of Untapped Reserves, for matters of the House of Resources

Questions such as “What am I missing?”, “what can I do?”, “How can I make it happen?”

This unique spread utilises not only the symbol and image of a house – but actually your house or apartment itself! It is specifically designed as a self-reading, although if performed on behalf of a client, you can do it as written, or map out (with the client) their house and use that as a layout. In Jungian terms, the house is a symbol of the self, and the locations in a house often appear in dreams indicating aspects of the self. Here we also take the physical locations as representing functions.

Take your deck and shuffle, whilst standing in whatever place you regard as the “centre” of your house or apartment. Take out the first card and lay it somewhere in the space around you, saying:

1. This is the card which tells me exactly what I have.

Now move to the next room or area of your property, and lay out a card according to the function of that location. I have given some examples below:

2. Kitchen: This is the card that tells me what nourishes me.

3. Study: This is the card that tells me what I can yet learn.

4. Childrens Room: This is the card that tells me what delights me.

5. Bedroom: This is the card that tells me what will give me rest and relaxation.

6. Basement: This is the card that tells me what is hidden from which I can draw upon.

7. Attic: This is the card that tells me what I can still aim for.

8. Hallway: This is the card that tells me how I will get there.



You can use your own imagination for this reading, and have fun with it. You can lay down more than one card in any particular area, and then go back through your property reading the cards. Be careful with this reading not to lose any cards, or perform the reading when there are lots of other people or animals passing through the place!

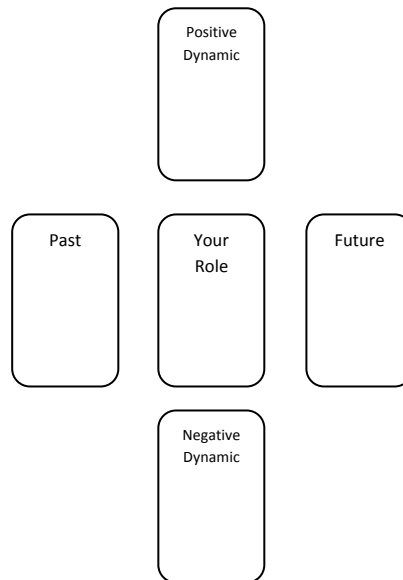
Whilst the bathroom/toilet card may indicate “this card tells me what I must flush away” please be careful not to get your cards wet or damp! Similarly, whilst it is fun to be clambering into the attic to receive a card that otherwise would not make itself known, be careful!

Spread 3: The Family and the Fishing Net, for matters of the Family

Questions such as “How do I deal with my family?”, “Whats going to happen at the wedding?”

This is another example of a *separated spread* (see section 98.5) which utilises the deck split into selections – in this case of the Court cards separate from the rest of the deck. It also uses the system we have called the layered spread, with developmental questions.

Take out the 16 Court Cards, and shuffle them. Lay out 4 cards as follows in any order:



Put the rest of the Court cards (12) to one side. Read these cards laid out first, then take the separated deck (composed of Majors and Minors only) and ask a further question as may occur to you, such as “How do I avoid trouble?” or “What can the Querent do to make the most of the day?” etc. Shuffle the deck and lay out one card on top of each of those already laid down. This will indicate the divination developing in that area of the situation. You can then repeat as many questions as you wish, laying further cards down on top of each stack.

For a further family-spread, or relationship dynamic spread, also see the *All the Worlds a Stage* method given in Section 2.8 Why You Can’t Read the Court Cards.

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