



Guidelines for Interpretation of the “Diamond Sky” Modal Sensitivity Spread

This spread is derived from the 5-card “sunrise spread,” and is an attempt to factor lunar – or emotional - elements into the predominantly solar, event-oriented nature of that spread. The idea is that there is a parallel psychological reaction that emerges shortly after confronting the external dimensions of any dilemma. The querent enters a subjective state of emotional compensation – a kind of rationalizing counterpoint to the often distressingly random flow of events in the outer world - that allows him or her to mentally process and digest the facts in a way that makes sense from a personal perspective (and ideally promotes an insightful, constructive response).

All outward events that impinge directly – and especially adversely - upon an individual have an internal component that drives querents to contemplate the extent to which they may have set themselves up for or could have headed off the situation. The emotional-response spectrum that must be navigated before the querent can get on with addressing the practical aspects of the matter frequently involves guilt, denial, dismay, remorse, fear, anger, blame – all the negative buttons that are pushed when something seems to have gone inexplicably wrong. The term “soul-searching” is often used to describe the contemplative, inward-turning thrust of this self-examination. The querent takes – or should take – a step back from knee-jerk engagement with events and seek a balanced stance from which to strike out into the future. Much of this compensatory jockeying operates at the subconscious level and provides an internally coherent backdrop or rationale (a sort of psychological “script”) for the querent’s overt reaction to outward events.

For this reason, the lunar component is envisioned as operating below the conscious “awareness horizon” and progressing in a way that mirrors the phases of the Moon – *waxing* (the “Uh-oh, what just happened?” flash of recognition), *full* (the point at which the emotional landscape is fully illuminated) and *waning* (the “Aha! moment” or insight by which the querent ideally masters his or her emotions in a constructive way, offering meaningful and informed feedback for successful handling of the situation.

Spread Structure and Commentary

Card 1 (Significator) = the querent (person for whom the reading is being performed). This can be either a pre-selected card that is physically or characteristically representative of the person, or a randomly-drawn card that shows the querent's current condition (state of mind or physical circumstances) regarding the matter.

Card 2 = the beginning of the matter; the underlying reason for asking the question.

Card 3 = recent events that imparted urgency to the matter and brought it to the forefront of awareness.

Card 4 = how the emotional significance of the situation first revealed itself to the querent (the “Uh-oh” moment).

Card 5 = how the full impact of outer events is impressed emotionally upon the querent.

Card 6 = how the querent can reach emotional equanimity in responding to those events.

Card 7 = the culmination or “peaking” of events as they currently affect the querent in daily life.

Card 8 = an indication of how the situation is likely to play out in the near term.

Card 9 = the final outcome of the matter.

Card 10 = an optional card that is useful for showing advice in situations where the outcome warrants it.

A signifier card (Card 1) is used in this spread to complement the “Sun/Moon” motif; it depicts the querent as the “Earth” at the center of the solar/lunar configuration.

Everything above the “Awareness Horizon” represents observable phenomena in the querent's external reality. These cards are solar in nature, and represent both the querent's direct experience of events and his or her objective reaction. The sequence symbolically follows the daily course of the Sun from sunrise (the beginning of the matter) to sunset (the final outcome). Noon signifies the pinnacle of conscious influence that these events have over the querent's activities.

Everything below that horizon represents the querent's psychological responses to the external events. These cards are lunar in nature, and represent how the querent subjectively processes the experience of these events in emotional terms. The sequence is a nocturnal corollary to the diurnal solar revolution and simulates the cyclical relationship of the Moon to the Sun, waxing from the New Moon through the Full Moon and waning again to New, delivering intuitive insights that the querent can use when entering the “reactive mode” of his or her approach to the situation. Midnight signifies the wellspring of subconscious influence that these considerations have over the querent's thoughts and feelings.

The “reactive mode” of response ($1 + 3 + 7 \rightarrow 8$) shows how the querent is actively immersed in the immediacy of the situation without much forethought or reflection upon actions taken or considered. Good keywords are “grappling” or “scrambling.”

The “reflective mode” of response ($4 + 5 + 6 \rightarrow 1$) shows how the querent can come to terms with his or her feelings about the situation and fashion a constructive emotional outlook in support of his or her actions. A good keyword is “deliberating.”

The spread consists of several triangles that reveal different aspects of the matter:

Triangle 1 + 2 + 3 sets the stage for emergence of the matter into the querent's objective awareness.

Triangle 2 + 3 + 4 shows how the querent experiences any dichotomy between outer and inner comprehension of the situation.

Triangle 4 + 5 + 6 summarizes all of the insights derived from emotional reflection upon the matter.

Triangle 5 + 6 + 1 reveals ways in which the querent can adapt those insights for application to his or her outer circumstances.

Triangle 1 + 7 + 8 represents the field-of-engagement for all reactive and reflective inputs from the querent, and signifies the “tipping-point” at which the in-the-moment fluidity of the situation begins to solidify and advance toward judgment.

Triangle 8 + 9 + 10 brings the matter from a first-response state to its ultimate conclusion, and suggests advice that might be useful in moving on to the next step.

Reading of the spread does not follow the typical linear, “time-line” progression of most “past/present/future” layouts, once the querent’s experiences with the early phases of the matter have been assessed. Rather, it takes a detour into the realm of the querent’s emotional reaction to the events. It offers a way to evaluate the inner urges that drive him or her to a particular mode of action in dealing with the situation. This area of the spread has more to do with intuitive groping for meaning than with a reasoned chain of logic. Positive cards in the “night sky” portion of the spread show that the querent is on top of things emotionally and will take the impact of events in stride. More neutral (or a mixture of positive and negative) cards indicate that the response may be to sit on one’s hands and take a “wait-and-see” attitude. Challenging cards reflect inner turmoil and a struggle to come to grips with troubling impressions and feelings. The specific qualities of the card in each position will shed light on the querent’s mental state leading up to and guiding his or her actions in response to outward circumstances.

The reading begins by considering the “first stirrings” of the matter as they relate to the querent’s present status: the “root” or established basis underlying the issue (sometimes called the “distant past”), and the early events that brought it to the querent’s attention. It can be helpful to “triangulate” each discrete area of the spread as a way to understand the dynamics at work. In this case, Cards 1, 2 and 3 can be taken as a unit of expression showing the querent’s “awakening” to the potentials revealed by the next two cards.

Card 4 shows how the querent begins to subconsciously internalize and process the meaning of recent events. There can be a fuzzy, unsettling apprehension that something isn’t quite right. This card forms one end of an axis joining the initial epiphany (Card 4, the “Uh-oh” moment) to the eventual insight (Card 6, the “Aha!” moment), with the querent’s emergence into the full light of intuitive comprehension (Card 5) as the pivotal point. Cards 4, 5 and 6 speak to these developments as an evolving clarification of the emotional landscape.

The insights obtained from these revelations (Cards 5 and 6) then percolate up through the querent’s waking consciousness (Card 1). Cards 5, 6 and 1 as a unit of expression show an emotional “coming together” that informs the querent’s next step in handling the situation.

Card 1 then serves to entrain the resulting insights into a consciously-directed engagement with present circumstances (Card 7), thereby nudging the matter along a particular path to resolution (Card 8). At this point the reading re-enters the “real-time” realm of outward expression. Cards 1, 7 and 8 show how the querent actively integrates his or her emotional reflections into the more reactive arena of direct interaction with events, ideally moderating the response in a more balanced direction.

Card 7 (and to a lesser extent Card 8) provides the best opportunity for the querent to make a difference in how the matter is settled. As the saying goes, “There is no time like the present.” If the querent has successfully come to grips with any “inner demons” encountered during the “soul-searching” phase, he or she should be well-situated to engage the situation in a constructive manner. Conversely, if the querent has been overwhelmed by negative impressions and feelings, this transition will prove to be much more difficult.

Card 8 operates as a kind of “proving ground” for tentative actions taken to optimize the querent’s lot. There is still room for maneuvering before the situation comes to closure.

Card 9 captures the outcome of the event chain for the foreseeable future. However, the “end of the matter” (Card 9) is itself open to further modification of the querent’s long-term status via the advice offered in Card 10. Cards 8, 9 and 10 as a unit of expression are somewhat open-ended in that a fully satisfactory outcome at Card 9 does not necessarily warrant follow-up action, and such intervention may actually be counter-productive. “Let sleeping dogs lie.”