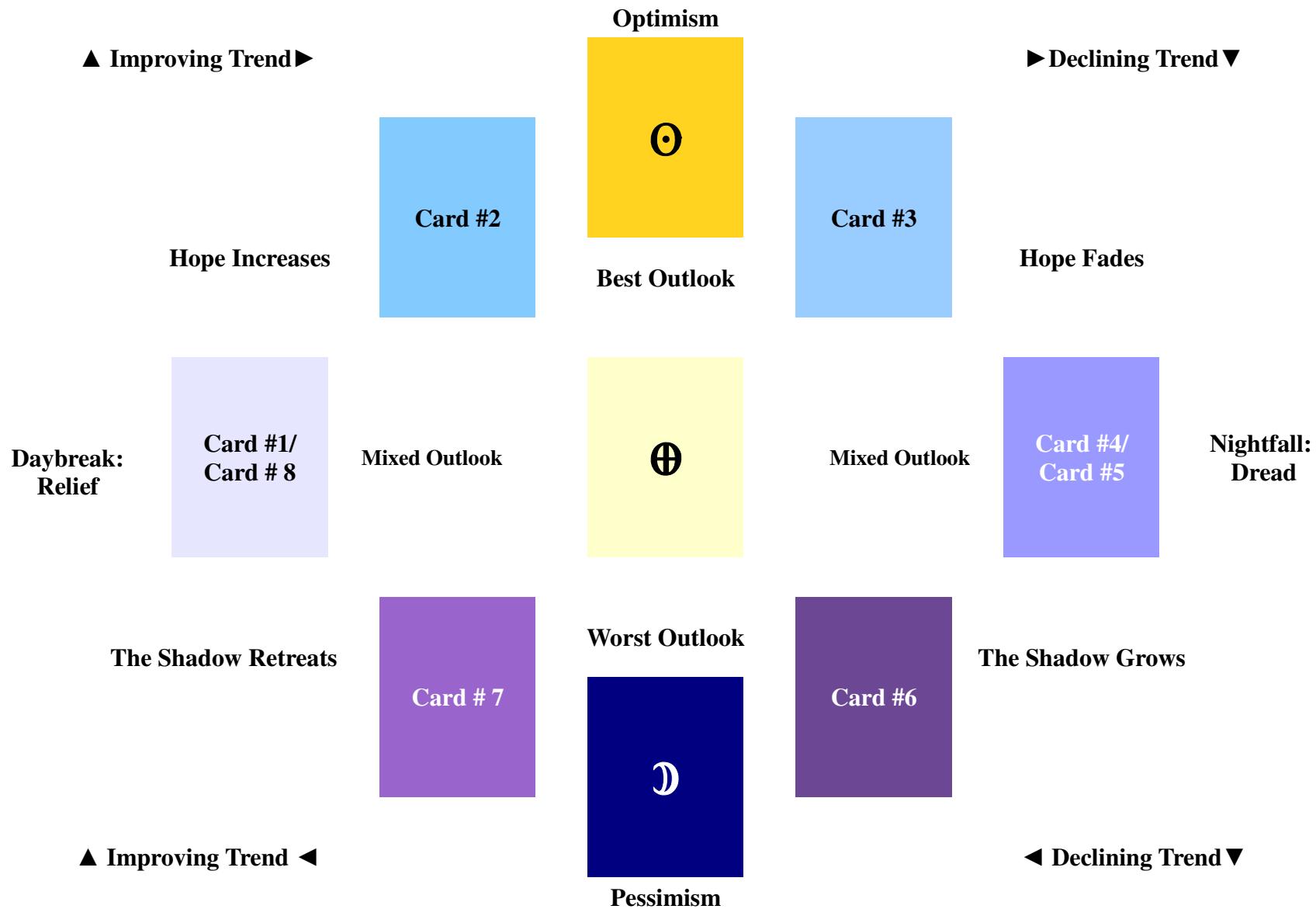


## “Light and Shadow” Trending Spread



This spread is designed for situations that are delicately balanced and could go either way. The flow of the spread simulates a “pendulum swing,” moving from variable optimism to variable pessimism and back again. Each of the six “stations” in this trend cycle involves two cards to be read as a pair, offering the possibility of exacerbating or mitigating influences:

Cards #1 and #2 – Hope Increases

Cards #2 and #3 - Optimism (the best that can be expected)

Cards #3 and #4 – Hope Fades

Cards #5 and #6 – The Shadow Grows

Cards #6 and #7 – Pessimism (the worst that is likely to occur)

Cards #7 and #8 – The Shadow Retreats

Cards #1 and #8, and also #4 and #5, are dealt into a single position to show a state of uncertainty (a clouded or “mixed” outlook) bridging optimism and pessimism. The card of each pair that is dominant will sway the unsettled outlook according to its nature.

The Sun, Moon and Earth symbols are just decorative, but you could if you like place the Sun and Moon cards from another deck in those positions for story-telling purposes. The Earth position could be any card that strikes you as “earthy” (perhaps the World), or, alternatively, you could place a signifier card there or a card to represent the situation itself.

But I had another thought regarding use of the signifier as a “pointer” to locate the querent within the trend pattern. Before dealing out the spread proper, choose a signifier card to represent the querent, but leave it in the deck. Deal the deck into the six positions (no need to double up positions #1 and #4 for this) until the signifier appears in one of those positions. Note this fact (or alternatively set a card from another deck in that spot) and reassemble the deck with the signifier placed back in it. Reshuffle and deal out the spread. The querent's “hopes and fears” status in the situation will be explained most fully by the cards landing in the “station” of the series that holds the signifier. \*

Each quadrant represents either an increase or decrease in confidence that the situation will play out in a manner favorable to the querent. Strongly positive or negative cards (and especially Trumps) in the “stations” will either augment or impede the fluent expression of the position meanings in support of their mission, as will the presence of a correspondingly sympathetic or hostile signifier card. All interactions of the cards will be influenced by their relative compatibility with one another.

Positions #1 and #2 show the possibility of an improving trend, signified by daybreak. Mutually compatible cards in those positions - whether positive or negative - will work together to reinforce the likely emergence of whatever those cards represent: favorable cards will foster keen anticipation, unfavorable cards will temper that impression with uncertainty. Incompatible cards will yield a mixed outlook, in which the stronger of the two cards will gain the upper hand; if there is no clear “winner,” the result will be neutral. (As always, the signifier here will give a boost to whichever card it is most in tune with by correspondence – elemental, numerical, astrological, etc.)

Positions #2 and #3 bracket the highest expression of optimism (symbolized by the noonday Sun). As such, they show peaking confidence in a favorable outcome. As before, the relative compatibility of the cards will alter this outlook according to their nature, especially if accompanied by the signifier.

With positions #3 and #4, confidence is waning. The blended nature of the cards here will either postpone or accelerate this decline.

Positions #4 and #5 border the “shadow” side of the picture – the onset of nightfall. Doubt in a favorable conclusion begins to increase, slowly imparting a sense of dread. The resident cards will color this perspective accordingly, as will the presence of the signifier.

Positions #6 and #7 envelope the nadir of hope – the midnight Moon. Some mitigation may occur with positive cards of a friendly nature, descent into depression is possible with a discouraging emphasis. This is a highly sensitive placement for the signifier.

Positions #7 and #8 show the tide of hopelessness turning in the direction of dawn. Here the last vestiges of shadow are reduced to lurking in the corners “Good” cards will propel them on their way, “bad” cards will induce them to linger. The ideas of “holding one’s breath” and “crossed fingers” are suggested, and the signifier will amplify that perception.

The transition from position #8 to position #1 completes the cycle, bridging the realm of twilight and signaling the decline of doubt in the face of growing confidence. Once again, the resident cards will add to or detract from the sense of relief inherent in this development.

\* Note that if the signifier card appears again in the spread proper, it should be read primarily as a quality or energy at work within the situation, and only secondarily as another person of that type not the querent.