

Two Dice Divination

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Research in divination methods

All of our ancestors used what is actually a scientific method in developing their means of divination, be it astrology, palmistry, reading tealeaves, or the tarot. This scientific method was basically compiling, either in their head or through actual documentation, the results of their own trial-and-error and adjusting their interpretations accordingly. This was often passed from generation to generation, and refined over hundreds of years, removing many fallacies and adding new insights as they occurred.

We do the same thing on an individual level, like when a particular tarot deck seems to assign one card a favored interpretation over another (since each has many likely possibilities). When my oldest deck coughs up a certain card that has always leaned to one specific interpretation of that card, it almost always means that certain thing to me, and the results verify this. However, I can do a reading on the same night on the same question with my wife's deck (both Rider-Waite), get the same card, and it will usually have a different meaning. Sometimes it's altogether different; sometimes it's a shade of meaning that my own deck almost never gives from that card.

For example, whenever my deck gives me the Sun or the 10 of Coins, both of which are generally seen as 'good' cards, they often give my reading a negative vibe. No other deck gives me this consistency with these two cards. It's always a sort of *too happy* feel that I have to consider—the good things in the reading are probably delusional, perhaps, or deceptive, or just plain giddy lies. The Sun in my deck often means: *watch out, that baby is you, and you're naked and you ain't got any sunscreen*. The 10 of coins is often like: *la-la-la, the dogs are starving, Grandpa is sitting there with Alzheimer's, but we have 10 coins, maybe enough to get through all of today, and we're dancing*.

If I am using her deck, when I draw these same cards, the meaning is almost always the more common, more positive interpretations. And yet, in the same way, she has cards that give her a specific vibe more consistently than others do.

This is a result of trial-and-error research applied, probably unconsciously or at least unthinkingly, to a very specific tool. That card in that deck draws that meaning from the subconscious consistently, and you've learned to recognize it and factor it into your readings, probably because they've been valid interpretations before. However, more broad approaches to this kind of thing are what led people to the conclusions they have drawn about the tarot and the meanings of the cards in the first place. Some of the typical descriptions of the cards don't much fit the intuitive, first-impression reaction the artwork should logically produce, and this is because of research and study.¹

Without this kind of research, and without documentation there would be **nothing** known about astrology. However, with the research that began in Sumeria and continued in every area of the world since the beginning of civilization, astrology in its various stripes is, and always has been, our most advanced tool for general divination. Astronomy as a science depended on astrological observations, and that science would be hundreds of years behind where it is now without astrology. Modern tarot

¹ Many of these insights are not intuitive at all, but are kabalistic in their origin, and the basic occult sciences such as kaballah are always to be considered in any systematic program.

reading is very advanced and owes a huge debt to the various mystical orders around the turn of the century like the Golden Dawn and Crowley's A.A., and their grudging release of the information they had compiled. Tarot lacked this research up until the last hundred years or so, and was, outside of secret societies of true initiates, just a weak parlor game.

Occult research has largely stopped. We do not know all we need to know. We need to keep going. Keep track of your divinations, and the results from them. And for the love of whatever there may be out there worth loving, factor this in to future interpretations when you divine. If you do research using my dice method as detailed herein, please share your results with me, so I can refine my own method.

This will be on the test. I'm not telling what test, though....

Dice

Dice came from divination (bones) in the same way playing cards did (the tarot). Dice are therefore inherently capable of magickal work just as playing cards are capable of it; with a bit of finesse and figuring-out. I've been actively working on forming a decent system of dice divination for about 5 years now, and instinctively using them that way for about three times that long.

I won't go into a long history of reading the bones, but it's important to understand the backdrop, just as it's important to understand how playing cards came from tarot if you're planning to use playing cards for divination. It's always foolish and usually dangerous to just meddle without understanding.

Bones were perhaps even more common than astrology in the ancient world. Shamen, and even the 'common people' in some cultures, utilized bones, whereas astrology was often a very exclusive art reserved for the literate, who have historically been the minority and the elite. It was usually done with small bones, such as those from the ankles or fingers, taken from a ritually sacrificed animal or person, though African cultures used (and still use) larger bones in combination with the smaller ones.

In many instances, the bones are cast on a platform of some sort, which is usually a circle drawn in the dirt. African bone reading is particularly complicated, and calls for a circle representing the universe, or the world, and may be seen as covering the four elements or directions as well. This circle is usually quartered, though not always visibly; the skill of reading is in knowing the unseen areas in the circle. Depending on the reader and the culture, this gives different shades of meaning: by not just where the bones fall within the circle, but subsequently what angles the bones are at to each other, how the bone 'combinations' (every possibility is different, and which is on top, which is facing what direction, etc., all makes a completely new 'combination') fall in relation to other 'combinations,' what quarters are 'cut' by which bones or bone combinations and what relation those combinations have to other 'cutting' combinations—and many, many other details.

Bone reading is probably the second-most complex type of occult scientific divination after astrology, and is the most complicated means of divination when used strictly to divine, or to foresee and predict future events or possibilities. It also has more room to be specific, and is a potent form of divination.

The I-ching is one scientific method which grew from a more primitive bone reading system. The Chinese perfected this system in ancient times through meditation and research exactly as described above: documenting and refining their results with experience of correct versus incorrect readings. They also included their own basic occult sciences, just as the tarot has included the kaballah. A thorough study of the I-ching is fruitful to any aspiring philosopher.

Accounting for the Bell Curve in dice divination

I'll keep this simple, but it has to be addressed. When I speak of dice here, I refer to the common six-sided cube variety. I have other systems under development for the other platonic solids we have made into dice, but we won't talk about that yet (someday maybe you can buy my book, if I ever develop the system enough to write it).

One die, when rolled, has *no average result*.² You are exactly as likely—I think it's right around 16 ½%—to roll a 1, as you are to roll a 6, as you are to roll a 3, and so on.

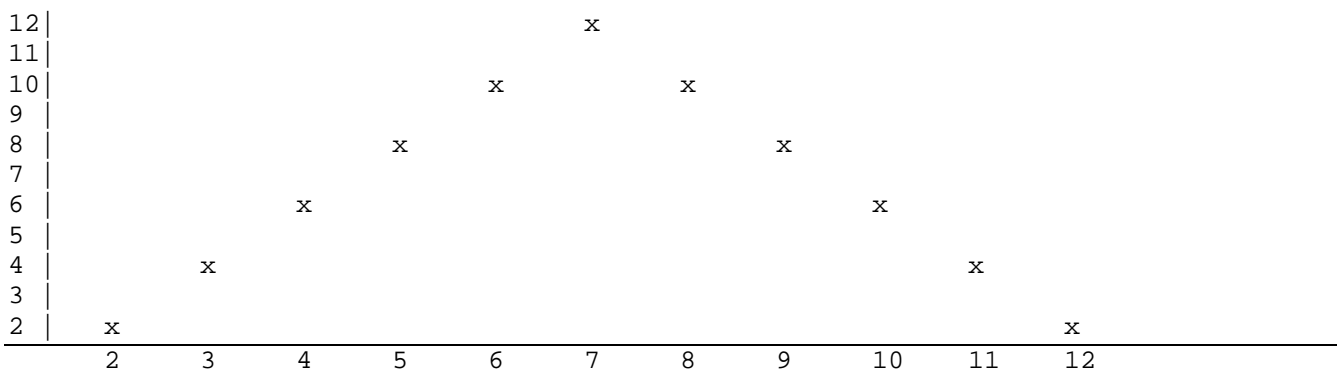
This may get semantic, but bear with me, since it's important: Two dice also have *no average result*: you are as likely to roll a 1 on one die as you are on the other die. Any given die is going to land on one face each time, and it can be any of the six faces. Every roll of every die gives a random result.

Note, please, that randomness is a mathematical, not a magickal, concept.

(This is where it might get semantic.) However, when you **add the numbers** of two dice together, the results become *less mathematically random* and the science of probability allows an average to be figured which can actually matter. The actual formula for the average result of two dice is $x((n+1)/2)$, where x =number of dice rolled and n =the number of faces on the dice. So the average result of two regular six-sided dice is $2((6+1)/2) = 2(7/2) = 7$.

You have only one combination that will result in a 2, which is 1 on one dice and 1 on the other (for two possibilities). You have two combinations for a result of 3, which is a 1 on Die 1 and a 2 on Die 2, or a 2 on Die 1 and a 1 on Die 2 (for four possibilities). These possibilities increase, with the most possibilities being the total of 7 (6 and 1, 1 and 6, 5 and 2, 2 and 5, 4 and 3, 3 and 4; twelve possibilities). They begin to decrease with totals over 7; 12 having the same possibilities as 2 (6 and 6).

A bell curve is what you get when you graph out all these possible combinations when rolling and adding up the results of multiple dice. It kind of looks like a bell (it looks a lot *more* like a bell when you use 3 or more dice):



² Mathematically this is not how it should be stated, but this is the fact. Pedants can figure an average for one die by summing the total of the sides and dividing; thus the average result for a 6 sided dice is $(1+2+3+4+5+6)/6$; this makes the average roll of one six-sided die = 3.5 When's the last time you rolled a 3.5?

The question that remains is: does the bell curve factor significantly into divination?

In other words, does randomness and probability skew the results of the divination? I know, logically, that I should roll a 7 more often than any other given combination. Does it actually work this way?

If you roll two dice one time, you could get any possible combination. Some may be mathematically more likely in a single throw, but a single throw can not give statistical evidence; one event of any kind does not constitute proof. Probability can give the likeliness of a single throw, but it can not *predict* that throw with any accuracy beyond a slim margin of percentage chance. I wouldn't bet the farm on a single crapshoot.

So, to answer the question—I can't tell you that. You have to decide for yourself. Do you seem to always draw the same card from your tarot deck? Is it a factor that people tend to copulate more in certain months in certain climates, and thus certain astrological signs have more births and are thus more densely populated in those areas?

But just as you have to decide for yourself, I have decided for myself. I feel coincidence and randomness are weaknesses of perception, a base and basic misunderstanding of synchronicity or a lack of insight regarding activities on other planes. They are tools of the universe to conceal that which is not to be lightly disclosed.

Therefore I am not overly concerned with the bell curve in dice divination. You only roll once, and you interpret accordingly. It's not a game.

Much more can be said about interpreting the dice. Particularly in interpreting the *way the dice fall within the circle*, and in interpreting *individual combinations of die rolls*, which I do not have time to get into here. Dice sometimes careen madly to land in a certain part of the circle; this should be considered in divining the interpretation, particularly in reference to the four directions and their elements. And two dice will never give a result of 1, for example, yet 1's will factor into many results. A 3 and a 3 can be a much different result than a 1 and 5, yet both are a 6. I suggest a study of basic western numerology, and interpret as it feels right to you, considering both the sum total and the individual die rolls involved in creating that sum. I hope to write more on these subjects when it is permitted and proper for me to do so, but for now I leave it to you.

Simple two-dice divination by query: situational, personal, prophetic

(A work in progress)

Know as you ask whether you seek insight into the situation, insight into a personality, or prophetic guidance. Roll on a small cloth or within a large circle drawn on a piece of paper with a single white candle burning.

In silence, shake the dice:

- ✂ For prophetic queries in the *dominant* (masculine/projective/active) hand, which is usually the right hand;
- ✂ For personality queries in the *submissive* (feminine/receptive/passive) hand, which is usually the left hand;
- ✂ For situational queries in *both hands* cupped together.

Concentrate silently on nothing but the question before you roll, and speak the question as you roll. Only roll once per query and meditate on the response; interpret the answers given in relation to the question. Don't second-guess or re-roll for a given question.

Basic Interpretation Key

Two

Situation: Duality, balance, partnership.

Personal: intuitive, adaptable, new beginnings.

Prophetic: Intuition alone will give foresight.

Three

Situation: growth, dominance, fertility.

Personal: optimistic, joyful, satisfaction.

Prophetic: Goals are attainable if attitude is optimistic

Four

Situation: limitations, compromise, stability.

Personal: diplomatic, calm, haggling.

Prophetic: Progress is only possible through compromise

Five

Situation: communication issues, flexibility

Personal: versatile, clever, decisive.

Prophetic: The solution is only found in ingenuity.

Six

Situation: love, financial prosperity, involvement in art or literature.

Personal: loving, prosperous, emotionally stable.

Prophetic: Love and emotional well being are paramount to the situation.

Seven

Situation: unseen and/or spiritual factors, sacrifice to survive.

Personal: mysterious, much more than is easily seen.

Prophetic: Dreams and the spirit world are most significant to the situation, more than has been realized.

Eight

Situation: longer-term problem, deep roots.

Personal: reserved, prudent, finances.

Prophetic: A decision must be made and executed with patience

Nine

Situation: strife, new developments, completion approaching.

Personal: rough, decisive, perfectionist.

Prophetic: Aggressive action is called for.

Ten

Situation: change, cycles ending and beginning, loose ends being tied up.

Personal: mystic, cyclical, apparent waffling.

Prophetic: Now is the time to finish the old and start the new.

Eleven

Situation: Decision is essential, conflict in discussion, sacrifice to succeed.

Personal: unrelenting, perfectionistic, absolute, pain, sacrifice.

Prophetic: There is only one possible end and it must be brought to pass.

Twelve

Situation: chaos, at the end of the line, exhausted and unable to continue.

Personal: Unsure, insecure, troubled beyond hope.

Prophetic: Help is needed from other people, you can not do it yourself.