

The Plant Spírít Oracle

Meaníngs, Recípes & Journeys

By Dana O'Driscoll



Copyright © 2020 by Druid's Garden / Dana O'Driscoll

All rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the express written permission of the publisher except for the use of brief quotations in a book review or scholarly journal.

First Printing: 2020

ISBN 978-1-7341759-1-2

Ordering Information:

Special discounts are available on quantity purchases by corporations, associations, educators, and others. For details, contact the publisher at the above-listed address.

www.plantspiritoracle.com

Dedication

I dedicate this work to three important people who taught me about plants: two in my childhood and one in my adult life. The first was my grandfather, George Custer, who taught me plant lore when I was a child. We journeyed into the woods behind the house on a weekly basis and he taught me the names and uses of plants. Thus, I also dedicate this book to that forest and the many plant teachers I have had, particularly Reishi, Eastern Hemlock, Stinging Nettle, Jewelweed, and Hawthorn. Finally, I dedicate this work to my herbal teacher and friend, Michigan folk herbalist Jim McDonald. Through his wisdom, I first learned about many of the types of outer and inner healing that plants in this oracle provide.

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge several people who helped make this project a reality. The first is John Michael Greer, who introduced me to the concept of pathworking through his book *The Celtic Golden Dawn*. My original pathworkings and spirit journeys to meet plants were done through that system. The second is Karen Fisher, the copyeditor for this book. Finally, I honor and thank the plant spirits themselves for working with me so closely on this project.

Disclaimer

Herbal information and recipes are included in this book are for educational and informational purposes, and are not intended as medical advice. Please consult a qualified health professional for medical advice.



Chapter 1: The Plant Spirit Oracle Medicine of the Body Medicine of the Spirit Methods and Traditions used in this Book A Note on Invasive Species A Note on Plant Identification A Note on Plant Naming Conventions	3 		
		Overview of the Plant Spirit Oracle	8
		Chapter 2: Using the Plant Spirit Oracle for Divination	10
		Introduction Ceremony and Finding Your Plant Spirit Ally	10
		Handling Your PSO Cards	12
		Divination Spreads	13

Chapter 1: The Plant Spirit Oracle

Plant-human relationships are as old as humanity itself. We have evidence that the Neanderthals, predating modern humans, used herbs and mushrooms as part of their regular diets—they have been found preserved with sachets of herbs and strings of Birch Polypore and other mushrooms. The first records of herbs and their uses were inscribed on clay tablets over 5,000 years ago in ancient Mesopotamia. We have records of herbal practices from all major civilizations and, in some cases, rich traditions of herbalism that span hundreds, if not thousands, of years, including Traditional Chinese Medicine, Ayurveda, and Traditional Western Herbalism. Working and healing with plants is one of our most important ancestral traditions.

Today, people are seeking to strengthen and rekindle ancient bonds with healing plants through working with herbs on many levels, including the physical and metaphysical. The rustle of leaves outside your window, the beauty of an unfolding flower, or the song a plant sings to you are all simple messages that plants may offer. These messages weave landscapes beyond what we can experience with our five senses, and these messages invite us deeper into the mysteries of the earth and all living beings. The spirits of plants take a number of forms and can appear to each of us uniquely. The more that we open ourselves up to understanding them, honoring them, and working with them, the stronger our connection with the living earth in her many forms.

While many plants are medicinal for our physical bodies, other plants offer teachings to the heart, mind, and spirit. The Plant Spirit Oracle (PSO) serves as a gateway to some of this physical and metaphysical work, starting with the understanding that healing happens at all levels, and that the medicine of plants can be accessible to all. Plants from the PSO are all commonly found in the North Eastern and Midwestern parts of the United States, although many plants in this deck can be found globally.

The Plant Spirit Oracle is a 49 card, full color oracle deck. An Oracle deck can be used for a wide variety of different purposes. The most common purpose is for divination; that is, you can use this deck to ask questions or help guide your path by connecting with nature's deeper wisdom. In addition to being a divination tool, the PSO is can also be used as a magical tool, a learning tool, a meditative tool, and a journeying tool. This book will cover each of those possibilities. The PSO weaves together spirit communication with plants and exploration of the herbal medicines that plants provide. Thus, I spend this opening chapter offering groundwork for the interweaving of plant spirit work and herbalism: that is, medicine of the body and medicine of the spirit as well as offering some insights and inspirations for this work.

Medicine of the Body

Herbalism is the term we use for working with plants for healing purposes. Herbalism is much older than modern medicine; it offers us ancestral wisdom and connections. Plants have physical bodies and various kinds of chemical constituents that make up those physical bodies. Over millennia, humans have come to depend on those chemical constituents, using them for a variety of healing practices. And so, on a basic level, plants have physical bodies that can aid in healing and supporting humans' physical bodies.

As a specific example: the chemical compounds in the Reishi mushroom, which is included in the PSO, have been well studied. We know that this fungus fights cancer and free radicals and boosts the immune system due to specific compounds that scientists have been able to isolate and observe. If we take a Reishi mushroom extract, every day, we can gain the physical benefits of Reishi. The chemicals contained within the physical bodies of the plants are predictable; Reishi's chemical composition doesn't change much, if at all, from one fruiting to another. For some people, it is enough to know that Reishi can support the immune system, and so, giving Reishi to someone with a compromised immune system is likely to help.

Further, a rich body of folk wisdom about the use of healing plants exists in many parts of the world. Today, materia medicas often contain this knowledge (such as Matthew Wood's *Earthwise Herbal* books). Herbal knowledge can also be passed down in families, communities, and cultures. Thus, for medicine of the body, we can look at what science says, or what common folk knowledge over centuries tells us. But physical medicine is only one piece of what the plants can offer us.

Medicine of the Spirit

In the spiritual practices of many cultures and peoples, humans recognize that all living beings have an essence or consciousness beyond the physical, a consciousness rooted in spirit. Healing plant species like those in the Plant Spirit Oracle have been working hand in hand with humans for ceremonial or spiritual purposes since before recorded time. These are the plants that people carefully cultivated and cherished. Traditionally, when people moved to new regions of the world, they often took their sacred plants with them because their healing power was so great they could not leave them behind. To understand a plant from the perspective of spirit, we must do more than just identify its features and healing properties, and understand where it grows. We can deeply connect with the spirit of the plant for lessons, wisdom, and healing. To return to the example of Reishi, by connecting with the spirit of Reishi and observing what Reishi does in a typical ecosystem, we can learn more about the medicine—of all kinds—that Reishi provides. Reishi helps our spirits overcome trauma and suffering; it breaks down the old so that the new can be kindled. This is what Reishi does in an ecosystem, and what it also can do for the human spirit.

Working with plant spirits requires an acknowledgment of the spirit in all things, also known as animism. This perspective understands that plants, animals, places (rivers, forests), and many objects (stones) have a spirit, and we can interact with that spirit. An animistic perspective acknowledges that all spirits have agency; they are not just passive recipients of the world around us.

⁴

Interacting with spirits can lead to positive impacts for both your nonphysical and physical being. Most animistic worldviews also recognize that the world of spirit is quite close to the physical world and that each affects the other. There is close interconnection between the mind, body, and spirit (for more on this, see Land Within and Without card entry in Chapter 3).

This oracle helps connect you with the medicine of the spirit through both divination meanings and spirit journeying. It also helps you connect with the medicine of the body through various herbal preparations and recipes.

Methods and Traditions used in this Book

The PSO derives its approach from several different sources, each of them noted here.

From an herbal perspective, the PSO and material, particularly on herbal healing, is derived from the approaches advocated in traditional western herbalism. This herbalism tradition focuses not only on use of specific plants for healing (particularly in Europe and North American) but the relationship between plants energetic dimensions and those of the human body. For more work in this tradition, please see Matthew Wood's *Foundations of Traditional Western Herbalism, Earthwise Herbal Vol. I & 2* or any teachings by Jim McDonald.

The PSO also uses basic frameworks found within the druid revival tradition as its basis for all of the advanced meditative, ritual, elemental, and journeying work. For example, opening and closing a sacred grove is part of this tradition, and one method for opening and closing a Sacred Grove using the PSO is present in this book. Working with the elements (earth, air, fire, water) and the three dimensions of spirit: above, below, and within are specific to the tradition of the Ancient Order of Druids in America. This is a tradition to which I belong and regularly teach. For more on this tradition, please see www.aoda.org or the *Druidry Handbook* by John Michael Greer.

Finally, the PSO is also influenced by the practice of permaculture design. Permaculture asks us to recognize the interconnectivity of all living things, and offers humans the tools and responsibility of being agents of good in our land. Regenerating landscapes, bringing health and diversity back to ecosystems, and working with nature are parts of this practice. The term "guild" comes from Permaculture design; it refers to a group of interrelated and interdependent plants intentionally or naturally occurring.

The PSO was developed through a five-year process of working with plants through herbal practice, through meditation and spirit journeying, and through the flow of Awen (divine inspiration). Some plants appeared as female, others as male, and others as androgynous—in that case, I've used the appropriate pronouns for the plants in the card description themselves. I've also did my best to offer racial diversity in this deck. The rest of the PSO journey now rests with you, dear reader, and the inspiration that you may bring from these plants.

A Note on Invasive Species

Because a wide range of plants are included in the Plant Spirit Oracle, and some of these plants have been labeled "invasive," it is important to discuss the term. Modern society often puts humans and nature in an adversarial relationship, both in the realm of words and in the realm of actions. Many of the plants in this book are on various "invasive species" and "noxious weed" lists. The principle of invasive species and invasion biology has been heavily promoted by chemical companies as a way to sell more plant-killing products. Our ecological reality is this: we have influenced and changed, much of our native ecology. We have brought new plants in (wanted or not), and now those plants thrive in ecosystems where they traditionally did not.

Looking at the situation from a long-term view of 100 years or more offers some perspective. I lived in Michigan for six years on a three-acre homestead; when I first moved in, I had huge fields full of Ox-Eye Daisy, listed as an invasive species on the Michigan

Department of Agriculture's list. I let the field grow and chose to mow only small walking paths. Over a five-year period, I observed that the Ox-Eye Daisy didn't grow in the field any longer (and was replaced by Boneset, Blue Vervain, St. John's Wort, and Wild Strawberry, some of which I planted and some of which simply grew naturally). Instead, the daisies only grew where I had mowed my paths. In six years, after the soil had healed and mowing stopped, hardly any daisies remained at all. In the meantime, I made Ox-Eye Daisy salads and Ox-Eye Daisy capers, as they are a delicious wild edible.

This story illustrates an important principle: invasive species almost all thrive on disruption, and since humans are causing a great deal of disruption to the living earth, invasives thrive more and more. Healthy, diverse, and whole ecosystems are much less likely to be invaded (certain species still do invade and harm healthy ecosystems, but many are able to co-exist peacefully).

In other words, rather than looking to these plants as the problem, we might look to the human disturbances as the root of the issue: Dandelion and Burdock crop up quickly in lawns and disturbed areas because they are nature's first responder plants: they break up compacted soil with their deep taproots and help begin ecological succession. They are not invaders but rather plants best adapted and suited to beginning to heal a wound upon the earth. They are abundant because disturbance is abundant, and many native species cannot take up that first responder role. This makes these first responders excellent plants to work with magically and medicinally because they are easy to find and because we can readily harvest them without concern for depleting their numbers.

Thus, in the Plant Spirit Oracle, you will find some plants that are native, some that are naturalized, and some that find themselves at the top of the list of the world's most invasive species (like Knotweed). These plants ask that you put aside preconceived notions of what they are, which have been determined by others, and instead work with them as living beings, as spirits, and as plants with medicine and magic to teach. They are here in our ecosystems

now. They can likely never be eradicated without great ecological and financial cost (including millions of tons of pesticides), and so, we work with them like we work with any others—as honored friends, spirit companions, and allies.

A Note on Plant Identification

The PSO book provides basic information on identification and ecology for plants. If you want to engage in any of the harvesting and medicinal practices found in this book, I would also strongly suggest that you obtain a plant identification guide. In addition to any picture-based guide, I recommend reading *Botany in a Day* by Thomas J. Elpel.

A Note on Plant Naming Conventions

The PSO uses both common (folk) names for plants as well as the genus and species system for plant naming using Latin. This naming system was developed by Carolus Linnaeus, a Swedish botanist. This naming system allows people worldwide, regardless of language or folk name, to correctly talk about and identify a plant. In this naming system, the first name is the species of the plant and the second name is the specific plant. So for Common Yarrow, the name is Achillea millefolium. Achillea referes to the species of plants, which is characterized by plants that have hairy and aromatic leaves with flat clusters of small flowers. There are about 1000 plants in the Achillea species—Millefolium is Common Yarrow, depicted on the card. Sometimes, you will see "Spp" rather than a common name, such as in the case of Apple (Malus Spp.). Spp refers to all species in that genus. In this case, Malus Spp refers to all apple trees. f

Overview of the Plant Spirit Oracle

The rest of this book is organized as follows:

Chapter 2, "Using the Plant Spirit Oracle for Divination," provides an overview of how to introduce yourself to the PSO, how

⁸

to use the oracle for daily or regular divination, and a variety of different reading strategies for the oracle.

Chapter 3, "Oracle Meanings," offers meanings for all 49 PSO cards as well as the broader guild organization of the deck. The deck contains seven groupings of seven plants and/or primal energies connected to plants, for a total of 49 total cards. Each of the oracle meanings includes keywords for quick divination (also found on the cards themselves), a description of the plant's ecology and features, three key meanings, herbalism information, and a recipe or craft you can make with each plant.

Chapter 4, "Medicine of the Spirit: Journeys and Rituals," offers you additional ways to work with the PSO, in particular through spirit journeying with each of the cards, healing rituals, and protective rituals.

Chapter 5, "Medicine of the Body: Plant Medicine," offers information on how to create different kinds of physical preparations of plants, to be used in conjunction with specific recipes and herbal information in Chapter 3. It includes information on tincturing, plant essences, teas, infused oils, salves, and infused vinegars.

At the end of this book, you will find a list of references and resources. The herbal information in chapters 3 and 5 is drawn from these resources.

Note that all plant names are capitalized as a sign of respect for the spirits of these plants as autonomous beings with agency.

Chapter 2: Using the Plant Spirit Oracle for Divination

The PSO can be used in a multitude of ways including divination, meditation, and plant spirit journeying. In this chapter, I offer the deck's basic uses, including how to introduce yourself to the plant spirits and how to use the PSO for divination and for finding your plant spirit ally.

To use the PSO as a divination tool, you may want to start with the "finding your plant spirit ally" at the beginning of this chapter. These two activities can help attune you deeply with the energies of the plant spirits in this deck and set you up for some of the deeper work in Chapter 4. These attuning practices can help introduce you to the PSO cards. Another simple way of attuning to the deck is to carry it on your person for several days, and look at and connect with each of the cards each day.

You may find it very helpful to keep a journal of your work with the PSO. This journal can be used to record your regular divinations as well as any deeper work with the oracle, such as working with plant spirit allies, inner journeying, or making herbal remedies. Keeping a journal has tremendous benefits—it allows you to record and remember, to go back and trace issues over time, and it allows for your own spiritual development. You can also keep notes on your own insights on the meanings of the cards—over time, you will likely begin developing your own meanings and relationships with each of the plants in this deck, and you will want a place to record those understandings.

You will likely want to get a wrap or protective bag for your oracle. In esoteric circles, linen or silk bags are known not only to offer physical protection but also to block outside energies. Wooden boxes can also be a nice choice. Some people also prefer to use a casting cloth, which is a cloth that you can put down to lay your cards on as you read. Casting cloths can be anything from a simple cotton towel or piece of fabric to much more elaborate embroidered or sewn items.

Introduction Ceremony and Finding Your Plant Spirit Ally

A great way to begin attuning your energies to this oracle deck is to find your plant spirit ally. This is a plant who is most eager to work with you as you learn the oracle. You might choose to do this only once and keep this ally as a lifelong friend. Or you may choose to do this on a regular basis (at the start of each year, for example) to find your ally for the coming year. You could even choose a new ally for each new season. To find your plant spirit ally, follow these steps.

Set up a Sacred Grove where you will be working with the Plant Spirit Oracle. Setting up an altar, lighting candles, playing soft music, or doing anything else that creates Sacred Grove will be helpful here. As part of your preparation, create a place where you can lay out all of the PSO cards and shuffle them, laying a clean cloth out on the altar, table, or ground. Prepare representations of the five elements: air, fire, water, earth, and spirit. For example, use incense or a smudge stick for air, a bowl of soil or salt for earth, a candle for fire, and a bowl of water. For spirit, many options are available: a living plant, a feather, a crystal, and so on.

The Ceremony

Optional: Open up a sacred grove using the PSO (see Chapter 4). While you do not have to do this, it is a great way to start attuning to the oracle and the energies of the deck. If you have a method for opening Sacred Grove in your own tradition, feel free to use that instead. Or simply proceed.

Setting up the space: On an altar or the ground, place a clean cloth before you. Place the PSO on top of the cloth. You can also light candles or incense, sound a singing bowl, or anything else you'd like to do to prepare the space.

Clear the deck. Sit comfortably and begin by knocking on the PSO deck three times. This clears the deck of unwanted energies.

Bless the deck. Now, using each of the elements, offer a blessing to the deck. You can simply go to each element, move the element around the card deck in a clockwise fashion, and speak words that flow from you. Or use the following language:

- Air: Powers of the air, please offer me clarity and insight as I use this oracle. Bless this oracle and our journey together!
- Fire: Powers of fire, please offer me energy and passion as I use this oracle. Bless this oracle and our journey together!
- Water: Powers of water, please offer me inspiration and intuition as I use this oracle. Bless this oracle and our journey together!
- Earth: Powers of earth, please offer me grounding and stability as I use this oracle. Bless this oracle and our journey together!
- Spirit: Three great powers of spirit—above, below, and within—please offer me connection and communication as I use this oracle. Bless this oracle and our journey together!

Attune with each card. Now, spend time looking at each card. Explore the artwork, but also, sit with the card in your hand, simply feeling the energies of the plant it symbolizes. After you look at each card, set it face down on the cloth.

Choose your plant spirit ally. Place a clean cloth on your altar or on the earth in front of you. Spread out, face down, all of your PSO cards.

Close your eyes and focus on your breath. Breathe deeply, taking in three deep breaths. Then continue breathing quietly and normally until you feel a sense of quietude.

Ask the plant spirits for guidance, and ask to find your first plant spirit ally. You can use your own words or say, "Oh sacred plant spirits, you who have worked with humans for millennia! I seek my first plant spirit teacher and ally, to guide me and offer wisdom, healing, and insight."

Now, reach down and, with your eyes still closed, feel the cards. Mix them with your hands, stirring your energies into the cards. Keep feeling each card as you mix them until the one that feels right comes forth.

Draw that card and look at the image. Spend some time studying the card, looking at the plant and the plant's features. Listen for any message that the plant spirit offers. Then read the entry in Chapter 3. Think about how this particular energy might be welcome or needed in your life at this point.

Close the space. Thank the plant spirit and, if you opened a Sacred Grove, close it out (using methods in Chapter 4, if you choose). Write about your experience in your journal.

Connect with your ally. Your plant spirit ally is a special plant spirit, one that has come forth to guide you and befriend you on this stage of your journey. As such, you might want to do some additional work with your ally to work to deepen your relationship with this plant. One thing you can do is learn about the plant—study her in her native habitat. Seek the plant out if you can, or grow her if you cannot. Learn about the plant's history, ecology, and uses. If you can, grow some of this plant yourself, or find a way to tend and honor her in the wild. Learn about the plant as medicine and, if appropriate, take some of it and learn how to make it. In other words, make this plant a regular part of your life.

Handling Your PSO Cards

You can do simple daily readings in only a few minutes with the PSO, or you can do much more elaborate ritual readings that take time and offer deep insights about a situation. Before we get into specific spreads, here are some basic instructions for how to use the Plant Spirit Oracle.

Shuffling and drawing. The most basic way to use your PSO is by shuffling your deck and then drawing cards using one of the spreads below (or other spreads that you create or find elsewhere). There are many ways to shuffle and draw cards, and you will likely develop your own preferences in time. One way is to shuffle the cards three times and then draw cards from the top of the deck. Another way is to shuffle the cards and then spread them out in a line, and draw ones you feel connected to. You can also take the whole deck and shuffle it by stirring it up on a table, then draw cards from the pile. In each case, the important thing is that you physically shuffle your deck in some way and then use your intuition to draw cards. Sometimes when you are shuffling, cards may jump out of the deck—if this happens, always use these cards in your reading, as they have a very important message for you. Sometimes, more than one card will come out of the deck at once—again, use these cards in your reading. While shuffling and drawing, keep an intent focus on the question or issue at hand. You can ask the question aloud before shuffling if you choose. Focusing on your question as you shuffle puts the energy of the question into the cards. Using your intuition to draw the cards.

Asking for clarification for unclear readings. Sometimes, a reading is unclear. It is appropriate in this case to ask the PSO for clarification. To do this, you can draw an additional card from the deck (choosing to shuffle or not). Often, this additional card will help you clarify the meaning and message in the reading or will reinforce the earlier message.

Interpreting cards and meanings. Chapter 3 provides details about each of the cards in the PSO, including divination keywords and more detailed meanings. Use this as a basis for starting to interpret the cards. Chapter 3's individual entries cover both divination

meanings and herbal meanings. In most cases, the divination meanings will provide you with the clearest message, although you may also look at the plant itself and how it acts medicinally as an additional interpretative tool. Additionally, you may choose to use the larger plant guild system to get overall meanings. The plant guilds, which are explained at the beginning of Chapter 3, offer a larger structure to the oracle by grouping the cards into seven distinct guilds—each with its own overall meaning.

In addition to the meanings in Chapter 3, you are strongly encouraged to seek your own meanings from these plants. What is your previous experience with these plants? How do these cards speak to you? What does the image and symbolism convey? If you keep a journal, over time, you will develop your own nuanced readings for the oracle deck.

Clearing your oracle between readings. Each question you ask puts energy into the oracle so that a response can be given. If other people touch or hold your deck, for the purposes of readings (or just to look at the cards), their energy is also present in the oracle. The easiest way to address old energy is to clear the deck by knocking on it three times with your knuckles before performing a new reading. This knocks out the energy of a previous person or reading and clears the deck for whatever divination, magic, or journeying you are ready to do. Alternatively, you can do a smoke clearing by burning Sage, Mugwort, Rosemary, Lavender, or other clearing herbs (see Mugwort entry for instructions on making a smoke cleansing or smudge stick) and use that to cleanse your deck.

Reversed cards in the PSO. Meanings for reversed cards are not given in Chapter 3. Some people prefer to read without a different meaning for reversed cards, and that's perfectly fine in the PSO. Including reversed meanings can give deeper insights. The way to read any reversed card is that it signals the opposite of an upright card, that the energies of that upright card are blocked or prevented from flowing in some way, or that a difficult situation is nearing its end. Reversed cards may be positive or negative, depending on the original meaning of the card.

For example, if you drew Blackberry, which has a meaning of being entangled, trapped, and/or powerless, a reversal of that card would be a very good thing, indicating that while entangling energy may be present now, you may be coming out of this situation soon. Likewise, if you drew New England Aster, which indicates that the stars are aligning in your favor, a reversal would indicate that the time is not yet right, or that the stars are not in your favor at that moment, so it is best to wait and not move forward. Reversals add an entirely different level of depth to your reading.

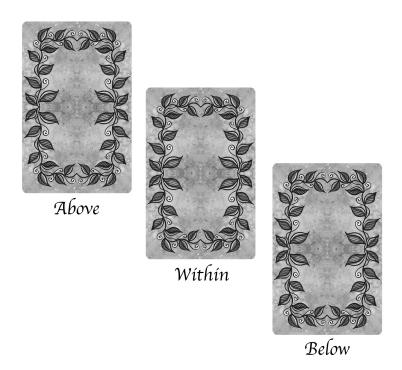
Divination Spreads

You can use the PSO with any number of spreads. This section offers some spreads that are particularly useful for this oracle, but others that you may already be familiar with or create yourself will also work.



Single-Card Draw

For quick questions or daily divination, use a single-card draw with a single question. Focus your attention on a single clear question. Shuffle the deck in whatever manner you prefer, and draw a card. The card will offer you insight into how to proceed with the situation at hand.



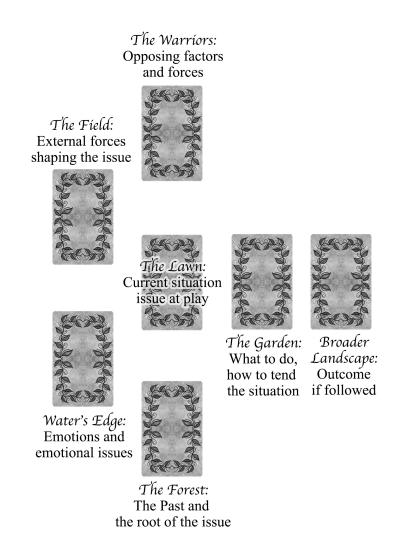
Above-Below-Within Spread (3 card draw)

Another simple spread that you can use quickly to help understand a situation I call above-below-within. You can use this spread anytime you are looking for a quick reading that helps you understand a problem and possible actions.

Below. The issue at hand and the nature of that issue.

Above. The course of action that is recommended.

Within. The outcome if the course of action is followed.



Plant Spirit Guild Spread

This spread offers guidance for reading a specific situation in depth, focusing on the guilds represented in the PSO. The guilds indicate not only where plants live but also how they function. Please refer to Chapter 3 for an in-depth discussion of the guilds.

The Field. The field is that which is in the open—the field is the nature of the issue at hand, the issue as it is visibly seen and understood. Remember that many issues or situations are a lot like icebergs floating in the ocean—there is what we can see (the field) and there is also what we cannot see (the lawn).

The Lawn. Lawns are things we walk on but rarely pay attention to. Thus, this position indicates things unnoticed or left unseen about the present situation, that which is under the surface.

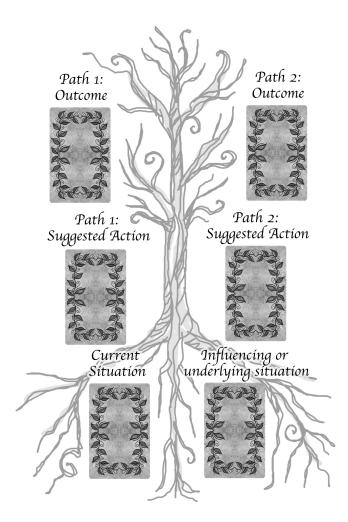
The Forest. Most issues have deep roots in the past. The forest position indicates things that have happened in the past or historically that directly influence the situation at present. Consider here also our own patterns, family patterns, generational patterns, or even cultural patterns.

At the Water's Edge. Water focuses on emotions and emotional energy. The water's edge position Indicates the emotional issues in a situation or other emotional forces at play.

The Garden. Indicates that which we must do or carefully tend—this is the PSO's advice for what to do now or how to act, given this situation.

The Warriors. Indicate forces that may be opposing us or in opposition to the situation at hand. Pay close attention to them, as they can influence and interfere.

The Broader Landscape. Indicates the outcome, given all of the above.



Roots and Shoots Spread

This spread helps us choose between two or more possible paths. You can draw a standard spread with two paths, but if you feel there might be a third potential path (or more), feel free to draw as many paths as you may need.

Card 1: Current Situation

Card 2: What is influencing or underlying the situation

Path 1:

Card 3. suggested activity

Card 4. suggested outcome

Path 2:

Card 3: alternative suggested activity

Card 4: alternative suggested outcome



Flower Spread: Your Soul's Expression

This spread helps us understand how our soul wants to express itself as part of our spiritual path. This simple spread allows us to understand which energies are resonating with us in multiple ways.

Card 1. What energy my spirit resonates in this moment.

Card 2. What energy my heart resonates in this moment.

Card 3. What my body resonates in this moment.

Card 4. What energy my mind resonates in this moment.

Card 5: What energy I am putting into the world in this moment.

Center. My message from spirit.



Creativity Spread

This spread helps inspire us and encourages our creative practices. It is in the shape of the Awen (pronounced "ah-wen," which is a symbol in the druid tradition that focuses on creativity).

Left ray of the Awen. Barriers to my creative work

Right ray of the Awen. Things that facilitate my creative work

Center ray of the Awen. Where I should be focusing my creative energy