

Barley's Timing Method

Choose a significator card appropriate to the nature of the question to represent the “timing index.” It could also be the “outcome” card from a previous reading for which more detailed timing information is desired.

Decide in advance which time-frame will provide the most reasonable outlook for advancement of the matter to its conclusion: hours, days, weeks, months, quarters or years. This can also be determined randomly by rolling a single 6-sided die. (Note that, in most cases, “hours” and “years” are not meaningful units of measure for this method.) If unsure, use a “best estimate” assumption.

For example, a question regarding when the hiring decision on a job application can be expected would not reasonably fall within the “hours” or “years” time-frame, and “months” or “quarters” would also be a stretch. “Days” or “weeks” are likely to be the better choices.

Step 1: Shuffle the 78-card deck with the significator in it and deal the cards one at a time into 12 piles of 6 cards each starting at the far left and working counter-clockwise. The 12 packs represent the units of measure for the time-frame chosen, showing the span “within which” the result should appear: for example, within 12 hours, 12 days, 12 weeks, 12 months, 12 quarters or 12 years.

There will be six cards left over; deal these left-to-right into a 6-card line at the center of the spread.

The center line provides fine-tuning, signifying $1/6^{\text{th}}$ increments within the larger time-frame: for example, the first card in the line would show the first two weeks of a quarterly period of 90 days.

The main purpose of the six-card line is to position the "index card" within a narrower band of the original time-frame; each position is $1/6$ of that interval. It's basically a method of interpolation.

If the scale is "12 months" and the index card lands in the third pile ("within 3 months") at Step #2, Card 78 would represent 90 days from the date of the reading, and each position in the series would show roughly 15 days.

Placement of the index card in Step #4 would reflect the 2-week window during which closure could be expected. If the sixth pile is the "index pack," the line encompasses 180 days and each of the six cards would reflect 30 days, or one month ($180/6$). And so forth, on up to the 12^{th} pile and its 360-day line with 60-day segments ($360/6$).

Step 2: Go through each pack until the significator is located; the pack that holds it is the "index pack" identifying the number of "temporal units" that will pass before closure.

Set this pack aside after noting which card was face-up on the top of the pack when it was turned face-up. This card offers insights on ways the turn of events could be altered.

If the top card was a Trump card, the timing is most likely subject to larger forces at work in the matter, and possibly “fated” according to the nature of the card (one example could be a “seasonal” matter that can't conclude until the proper season arrives).

A court card could show that the timing is dependent upon the the involvement of someone exhibiting the qualities of that card.

A minor or “pip” card suggests that the timing will play out in an orderly and relatively straightforward manner, according to the nature of the card.

Step 3: Turn over the 6 cards in the central line. (At this point, the rest of the cards in the outer "ring" can be ignored.)

Step 4: Shuffle the “index pack” and deal out the six cards face-up, left-to-right, on top of the 6 cards in the line. Note the card that the significator lands on: this card should show the manner in which the situation will experience movement toward closure. (The elemental and astrological correspondences of the bottom card are especially pertinent here.)

Compare the elemental dignity of the pair; “friendly” elements should ensure a smooth evolution, while “unfriendly” elements could reflect a difficult transition. The significator is considered the “principal” or focus card and the bottom card is the modifier.

Step 5: Look at the four cards surrounding the significator. The two at the left show the nature of the “run-up” to the crucial moment, while the two at the right show possible “fall-out” from that event. Compare the elemental nature of the four outer cards to the significator for evidence of ease or difficulty in getting to closure and fielding any post-closure problems. If the significator is at one end of the line or the other, either the “run-up” or the “mop-up” will be irrelevant to the situation.

Other Considerations:

Special Case #1: If the "index card" falls among the last six cards (73 through 78) at Step #2, respond in one of the following ways. Choose the one that feels “right.”

- Consider that the answer is inconclusive and redo the layout. If it happens again, abandon the divination.**
- Consider the 6-card line to be the 13th unit of time, and use Pile #1 to form a new line for “fine-tuning.” If the pile was left face-up after Step #2, turn it face-down and deal from the top, placing the cards face-up as you go.**

Card 78 will become the “insight” card. In addition, this approach has a special affinity for the thirteenth Trump card, Death; expect the magnitude of any changes implied by the turn of events to be profound and sweeping.

Shuffle the “index pack” and deal as before.

- **Consider that the nominal time-frame originally chosen by intuition was the incorrect scale (i.e. rather than “within weeks,” it should have been “within months”).**

Pick up the last six cards (the “index pack”) and set them aside. Card 78 becomes the “insight” card.

Deal out Pile #1 into a six-card line. If the pile was left face-up after Step #2, turn it face-down and deal from the top, placing the cards face-up as you go.

The new line formed shows the first interval of the new time-frame following the range originally targeted. For example, Pile #1 would cover the first month of the 12-month period following the end of the 12-week range previously selected (which is now “off the radar”).

The span for each of the cards would now be 5 days ($30/6$), instead of approximately 1 day ($7/6$).

Shuffle the "index pack" and deal as before.

Other Considerations: Special Case #2

If the original time-frame and pile location of the “index card” produced very small segments (say “5 days”) that appear to be much too soon for the circumstances, it is permissible to shift the time scale up one notch without redoing the layout. In a “monthly” layout, simply assume that each of the original 12 piles represented one quarter (approximately 90 days) instead of one month.

Then, for example, the six-card line in a "Pile #1" example would cover 90 days, each one representing a 15-day window. An outcome originally determined to be "within 5 days" would then be reconsidered to occur “within 15 days.” This provides a little more margin for uncertain near-term events to work themselves out.