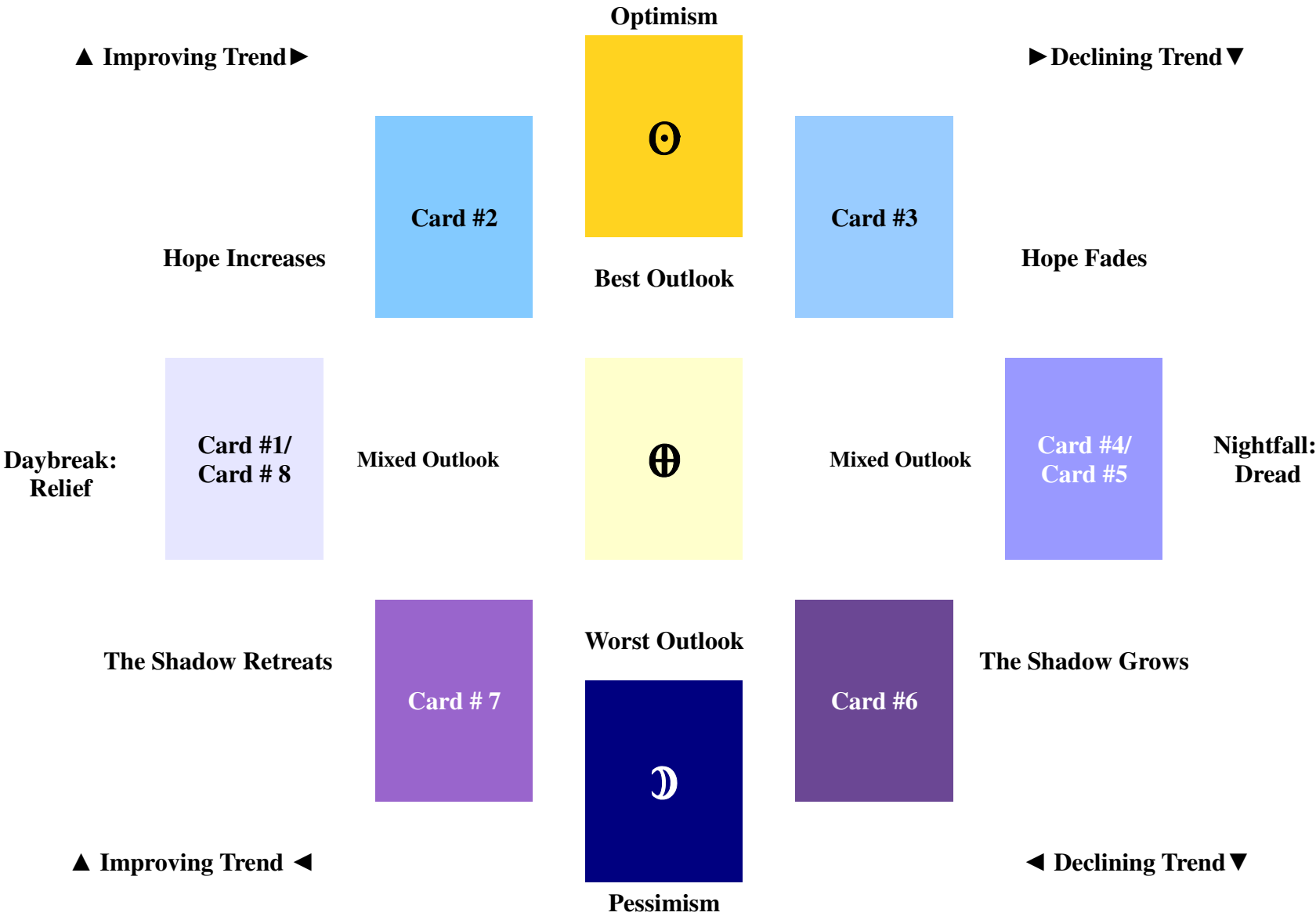


“Light and Shadow” Trending Spread



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.

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 expression of the position meanings in support of their mission.

The Sun, Moon and Earth symbols are just decoration, 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 significator card there or a card to represent the situation.

But I had another thought regarding use of the significator as a “pointer” to locate the querent within the trend pattern. Before dealing out the spread proper, choose a significator 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 significator 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 significator placed back in it. Reshuffle and deal out the spread. The querent's “hopes and fears” status in the situation will be explained by the cards landing in the “station” of the continuum that holds the significator.