

# Divination with Dice/Astragalomancy

# Divination with Dice/Astragalomancy

## What is Astragalomancy?

**Astragalomancy** is a divinatory system in which dice are used to uncover hidden and/or unknown messages and meaning behind a certain aspect of a current situation, person, relationship, past experience, or future event. Much like tarot and oracle cards, dice can be used as a form of divination to offer guidance related to any question. It is worth noting that divination is not meant to be used as an end-all-be-all answer or way to live your life. Divination, including astragalomancy, is meant to be interpreted more as a form of guidance or to offer suggestions.

Astragalomancy can be performed with a multitude of different dice shapes:

- **D4:** A type of dice with 4 sides, shaped like a pyramid.
- **D6:** A type of dice with 6 sides, your standard cube-shaped dice.
- **D8:** A type of dice with 8 sides, in the shape of an octahedron.
- **D10:** A type of dice with 10 sides, typically in the shape of a pentagonal trapezohedron.
- **D12:** A type of dice with 12 sides, in the shape of a dodecahedron.
- **D20:** A type of dice with 20 sides, in the shape of an icosahedron.
- **Fate Dice:** A type of dice with 6 sides, but instead of the traditional numbered sides, it has three sides showcasing a positive symbol and three sides showcasing a negative symbol.

Confused by the names of the shapes of each dice? That's okay, me too. Luckily, knowing the mathematical name for each of the polygons the dice are structured after is the last thing you'll need to know to perform astragalomancy. Honestly, you could go your whole life performing astragalomancy without ever knowing the names of these shapes.

The important part is being able to identify how many sides a die has, to be able to recognize the symbols on each side, and to be able to use that as the basis for answering any questions you approach it with.

## How to Perform Astragalomancy?

You can perform astragalomancy with any kind of dice, even ones that I haven't mentioned here. As long as a die has a fixed set of sides with symbols, colours, numbers, or letters on either side, you can find correlations for each and use it as a tool for astragalomancy.

The basic premise of astragalomancy is as follows:

- **Establishing Meaning and Correlations**
- **Establishing a Divinatory Space**
- **Asking a Question**
- **Casting the Dice**
- **Interpreting a Question**

## **Establishing Meaning and Correlation**

As was previously stated, as long as a die has a fixed set of sides each with unique determining factors, they can each be assigned a specific meaning and/or correlation and used to interpret a reading. Dice may have numbers, colours, letters, symbols, runes, zodiac signs, or other identifying symbols on either side, so whichever your dice has, either use the internet to cross-reference different associations and meanings those symbols have, or have a feel for each and make your own!

Some resources to help you find meanings for certain symbols (please be sure to cross-reference):

- **Colours:** <https://academyofanimatedart.com/color-symbolism/>
- **Numbers:** <https://www.learnreligions.com/number-sequences-meaning-1732008>
- **Letters:** <https://affinitynumerology.com/using-numerology/letter-meanings.php>
- **Runes:** <https://norse-mythology.org/runes/the-meanings-of-the-runes/>

## **Establishing a Divinatory Space**

When performing astragalomancy, it is often helpful to create an isolated space (I typically create a circle on my altar using string) in which the meanings of dice inside the space will be considered, and the meanings of dice outside the space will not be considered. This is not required, however it is often helpful in preventing conflicting messages/meanings and avoiding confusion when using multiple dice.

Furthermore, you may feel inclined to perform some sort of cleansing ritual before performing any divination. In my opinion, it is not required, however it is very good practice to do a quick cleanse and protect before performing readings of any kind (unless you've already done it recently).

## **Asking a Question**

Here is where you will set your intention/ask your question. To do this, I typically will hold my dice in my hands, visualize the question as a physical statement in my mind that I can look at, then imagine the letters unifying together as a coloured, energetic mass travelling down my neck, torso, and hands and finally into the dice.

If visualization is not for you, you can simply think of the question you want to ask and feel the energy from your body moving through your arms, hands, and into the dice. Alternatively, you can write your question on a piece of paper, burn it, and pass your dice through the smoke that evolves from it. You can even write your question on some paper and wrap the dice in the paper until you feel your question has been properly infused.

## **Casting the Dice**

Just as the title states, this is the stage in which you will cast your dice into the isolated space you have created or just onto any flat space you have available. To do this, I typically will just shake the dice in my hand until my intuition tells me to throw them. Sometimes it will be a rough throw, other times it will be gentle, I let my intuition completely guide my actions here.

If you have created an isolated space and any dice do not make it into the space you have created, that's okay! That's the whole point of creating an isolated space. I consider the dice outside of the space I have created meaningless; their meanings are not something that is applicable to me right now.

## Interpreting a Question

Depending on the imagery your dice showcases, you will interpret the meanings of the dice/answers to the questions vastly differently. Refer to the links I suggested earlier if you are having trouble understanding how the dice imagery applies to your question. Remember to think outside the box and open yourself to different interpretations you may not have originally considered.

If, by chance, no dice make it into the isolated space you have created, I typically just take this as a sign to let my intuition guide me throughout the day/situation I am inferring about, however you can always try casting your dice a second time if you feel that there is something more that you need to hear. If you cast the dice a second time and still receive no dice inside the space you've created, I would definitely take that as a sign that there is nothing the dice have to say.

## How to Structure a Question?

Structuring a question to be used in astragalomancy is defined mostly by the amount of dice you are using. There is not a certain question or kind of questions that are exclusive to a certain kind of dice, however you may, at times, have to alter the way you word the question/how many times you cast the dice to make it more applicable to the question you are asking:

For example, you can perform a past/present/future reading with any kind of dice. The important part is that you have established the meanings of each of the symbols showcased on the dice so that you can apply and interpret them in different ways based on the question you are asking, and that you cast the dice a sufficient amount of times (in this example it would be three casts for a single die, since there are three questions to be answered). However, sometimes altering the question you are asking is the easiest way to get a clearer answer (e.g. asking an open ended question and using the fate dice to answer it would not be the most effective method, however you can alter your question to have a yes/no answer so that the fate dice can be used).

In the example of the fate dice, a more effective alternative to the question "what should I be aware of regarding my relationship with (x)?" would be "will my relationship with (x) build in a beneficial way in the near future?"

## What Questions to Ask?

The following is a list of astragalomancy-specific questions that I have come up with myself as well as ones that I have found and compiled from online sources. Along with reading this list, however, I would also encourage you to research and create your own questions, as there are many more than I have listed:

### 1 Die (Or 1 Cast)

- Most important message for daily guidance.
- Something you need to focus on.
- Something you need to let go.
- What bad habit is affecting you most negatively?
- Any yes/no or true/false questions.

- Any singular spirit/deity identifications.

### **2 Dice (Or 2 Casts)**

- Something you need to focus on/something you need to let go.
- Any past/future readings.
- What is holding you back/what will help you move forward?
- What habit should you cultivate/what habit should you break?
- What lesson should you learn/what pain should you focus on healing from?

### **3 Dice (Or 3 Casts)**

- Any past/present/future readings.
- Any now/later/never readings.
- Any mind/body/spirit readings.
- Any strength/weakness/opportunity readings.

*created by xxxvq on disc*