

Via—The Way



This combination is formed if all four sticks have one line on them, forming a road or path.[2] This indicates a journey, action, or forward movement. It can also indicate time spent by oneself. Via is related to the moon, water, and the sign of Cancer. The tarot cards most applicable to it are the Chariot and Strength.

As Via is Latin for "street or way," this figure indicates travel. It can also mean the opening of a doorway, such as being exposed to new ideas. Via is an indication that the person has found the right direction and knows where he or she is going. The influence of the moon and Water shows that considerable empathy and understanding is present, and the person has the necessary skill to tactfully get his or her own way. The obstacles that appear from time to time will all be overcome.



Caput Draconis—The Dragon's Head



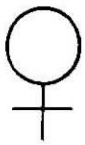
The Dragon's Head is formed when the top stick shows two lines and the lower three sticks show one line each. This can be construed as the snout of the dragon's head. It traditionally means an entrance or beginning. It is a fortuitous formation because it also indicates shrewdness and alertness.

Caput Draconis relates to Jupiter, earth, the moon's north node, and the sign of Capricorn. The tarot cards are the Star and the Fool.

Caput Draconis is representative of the moon's north node. The nodes indicate the two positions where the moon's path crosses the ecliptic. The north node occurs when the moon ascends from the southern to the northern hemisphere. Caput Draconis is often referred to as the dragon's head, because whenever an eclipse occurs, the dragon moon appears to swallow the sun.

Caput Draconis is a positive figure indicating new starts, birth and innocence. It is an indication of helping others, but remaining aware of one's own needs at the same time. The person has complete faith in what he or she is doing and is "marching to the beat of a different drum."





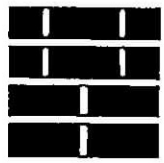
Puella—The Girl

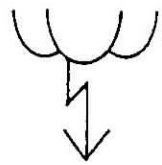


This formation of the sticks relates to wisdom, intuition, birth, and healing—all traditionally feminine qualities. The sticks show a circle with a line below it, representing the female.

Puella relates to Venus, air, and the sign of Libra. The tarot card is the High Priestess.

Puella means a young girl. It generally relates to pleasant dealings with women and is a good indication of happy family relationships. For a man, it describes his relationship with his wife and daughters. For a woman, it relates to pleasant, harmonious dealings with the other women in her family: mother, mother-in-law, and daughters. It also relates to the traditional feminine qualities of nurturing, wisdom, and intuition. It is not always a positive figure. An attractive woman is not necessarily a good person.





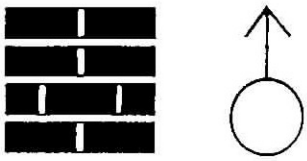
Fortuna Major—Major Fortune



As you can imagine, Fortuna Major means success, friends, harmony, and celebration. It consists of two rows of two lines each, representing the heavens, above two rows of one line each, indicating success coming down from above.

Fortuna Major is related to the sun, fire, and Leo. It relates to the tarot card Justice.

Fortuna Major is a very positive figure indicating great fortune, success, and protection. It relates very much to karma—the good that has been done in the past allows the person to enjoy good luck, success, and peace of mind in the future. It can also relate to property and possessions. It is an indication that the person is liked and held in high esteem by others.



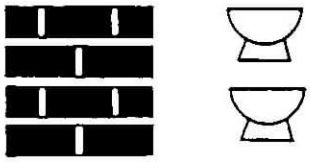
Puer—The Boy



This formation of the sticks depicts the traditional masculine attributes of physical activity, leadership, initiative, and responsibility. Nowadays, people may not like the idea of masculine and feminine activities being so rigidly defined, but it was a very natural way of deciding things thousands of years ago. The formation of a circle below, with a line above it, represent the male.

Puer relates to Mars, fire, and the sign of Aries. The tarot card is the Magician.

Puer is a positive symbol rather than a negative one, even though it can sometimes indicate rash, impulsive behavior. Traditionally, it was regarded as being positive in war and love but negative in everything else. It usually is indicative of a young man, which could be a son, boyfriend, husband, or bachelor, This person has a great deal of ability, which needs to be harnessed and used correctly. It is an indication to think before acting. Used positively, it is an indication of leadership ability, initiative, and the ability to achieve anything that is desired. All things are possible.



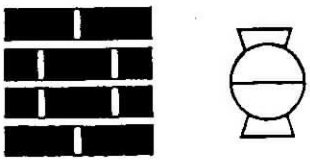
Acquisitio—Gain



This formation of the sticks can be looked at as being two full bowls. It represents prosperity, promotion, improvement, and worldly success.

Acquisitio is related to Jupiter, fire, and the sign of Sagittarius. The tarot card is the Sun.

Acquisitio means "acquiring," particularly in regard to money and possessions. Consequently, this figure relates to success, good fortune, and financial gain. It is a very positive figure. It shows that the trials and travails of the past are now behind the person. He or she has learned from experience and is now on a new cycle of experience. Ideally, this worldly success will give the person the necessary freedom to develop spiritually and intuitively. He or she will enjoy the material rewards and at the same time become aware of philosophy and some of the simple things in life.



Carcer—The Prison

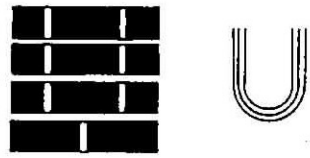


This formation shows the two bowls being held together, confining whatever is inside. It means obstacles, worry, and indecision.

Carcer relates to Saturn, the earth, and Capricorn. The tarot cards are the Devil and the Hanged Man.

Carcer is a negative figure. Because Carcer literally means "a prison," this is a sign of confinement, limitations, and restrictions.

When Carcer appears, the person has to pay particular attention to emotions such as greed, anger, and jealousy. The person has to accept the situation as it is, accept the reversals, and try to remain positive despite periods of doubt and uncertainty.



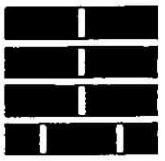
Tristitia—The Sadness

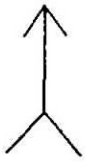


This time the rune sticks form an upside-down rainbow, indicating disappointment, sorrow, loneliness, and unhappiness.

Tristitia is related to Saturn, air, and the sign of Aquarius. The tarot card is the Tower.

Tristitia means "melancholy" in Latin. It is an indication of grief, sadness, and the possibility of a major loss. These things are likely to happen unexpectedly, and the person will have to cope with the loss or destruction of something that has been carefully built up. The immediate reaction will be to hit out in all directions and blame everyone else. In time, the person will have to learn to be unselfish, charitable, and forgiving.





Cauda Draconis—The Dragon's Tail



The druid sticks form the dragon's tail, meaning the end. It signifies a downward path, an exit, bad luck and ill fortune.

Cauda Draconis relates to the moon's south node, fire, and Scorpio. The tarot cards are Death and Judgment.

Cauda Draconis is a negative figure meaning death, endings, and terminations. Traditionally, it has always been regarded as evil and relates to the negative characteristics of Scorpio.

When Cauda Draconis appears in the chart, the person has to be prepared to walk away from the past and start anew. There will be a great deal of hurt and bitterness, but the person will have to gracefully let go without looking back. He or she will learn a great deal from the experience, and will have to accept that he or she is reaping the rewards of past actions. Cauda Draconis signifies endings, but also portends a new beginning.



Conjunctio—The Union



This formation can be interpreted as a cross, indicating two people joined together. It represents love, friendship, partnership, and sexual attraction.

Conjunctio is related to Mercury, earth, and the sign of Virgo. The tarot card is the Lovers.

Conjunctio is a fortunate figure indicating a combining, or joining together. Marriage is a good example of this, though it can also indicate relationships of all sorts. The person will have to think carefully about what he or she wants before making any important decisions. These decisions will have to be made using logic as well as the emotions. The person will have to be responsible and ensure that the union is beneficial for both parties.



Amissio—The Loss



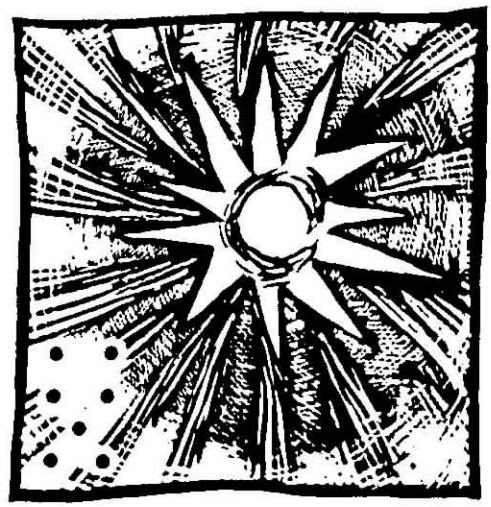
The druid sticks indicate two upside-down bowls, representing loss, illness, accidents, conflict, and financial difficulties.

Amissio relates to Venus, earth, and the sign of Taurus. The tarot card is the Moon.

Amissio means "loss" and, despite being related to Venus, is a negative figure. It relates to loss, usually of money, but sometimes of love. It indicates a negative outcome to whatever it is the person is involved in. The person will have to be aware of other people's motives and be extremely careful before making decisions. It is a warning to make sure that everything the person does is in everyone's best interest. If he or she tries to take advantage of others, it will assuredly end in failure.



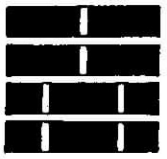
Albeo—The White



The druid sticks picture a full wine glass signifying wisdom, moderation, thoughtfulness, and patience.

Albeo is related to Mercury, air, and Gemini. The tarot cards are Temperance and the Hierophant.

Albeo means contemplation, wisdom, and moderation. It is a fortunate figure, though not as positive as Conjunctio, the other figure governed by Mercury. It can often indicate spiritual growth and the ability to balance all areas of life: physical, mental, and spiritual.



Fortuna Minor—The Minor Fortune

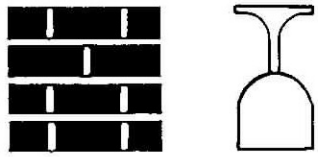


This can be represented as good luck coming from the earth. The figure is formed by two rows of two lines each below two rows of one line each, indicating success coming from the earth. It indicates success, power, possessions, and influence.

Fortuna Minor is, like Fortuna Major, related to the sun, fire, and Leo. However, Fortuna Major is related to the sun during the day, while Fortuna Minor is the sun at night, "placed in lesser dignities." The tarot card represented by it is the Wheel of Fortune.

Fortuna Minor is an indication of lesser success. It shows the person is protected from misfortune and will grow from each experience until success is attained. The person must be prepared to work hard when necessary, but also be willing to slow down, relax, and listen to the quiet voice within from time to time.

Bartholomew of Parma regarded Fortuna Minor as being a negative figure. This is probably because it is ruled by the sun at night, and the person could be inclined to adopt some of the negative qualities of Leo. These would include pride, boastfulness, love of luxury, and the need for constant adulation.



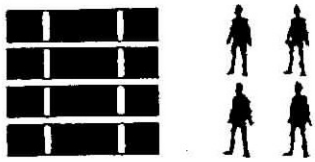
Rubeo—The Red



The druid sticks indicate an upside-down wine glass, representing emptiness. This formation indicates caution and retreat. Because it is red, it is also an indication of passion and temper.

Rubeo is ruled by Mars, water, and the sign of Scorpio. The tarot card is the Hermit.

Rubeo is a negative figure and can indicate passion, negativity, and upheaval. The person needs time for quiet contemplation, to think things through and decide where to go from here. It is a sign of retreat, almost a licking of the wounds, and a gradual awareness that the problems are probably of his or her own making. If the person is prepared to listen to his or her inner self, the correct path for the future will be found.



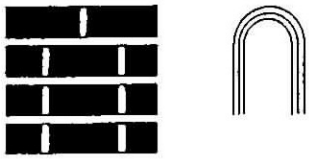
Populus—The People



The druid sticks indicate people standing beside each other. This figure represents family, friends, and group involvement.

Populus is also related to the moon, water, and the sign of Cancer. The tarot cards are the Emperor and the Empress.

Populus literally means "people" and represents a group or gathering of people. It is a neutral figure that, like a crowd, tends to reflect its surroundings. If love and good, positive thoughts are sent out, the results will be excellent. However, when negative thoughts and feelings are sent out the results will work against the person's best interests. The person has to learn from experience, and the future depends entirely on what use is made of this knowledge. Populus can also mean family, friends, and news or messages.



Laetitia—The Joy



The druid sticks show a rainbow, indicating joy, happiness, good fortune, and peace of mind. This is the most fortunate figure of all.

Laetitia is related to Jupiter, water, and the sign of Pisces. The tarot card is the World.

Laetitia represents joy, laughter, good health, and future happiness. It also relates to creative endeavors and enjoyment of the good things in life. It gives peace of mind, a positive approach to life, and an abundance of happiness and contentment. It usually means that the person has achieved his or her goals, has grown in wisdom, and can now help others. This person has balanced the spiritual and material sides of his or her nature and is living in harmony with the universe.