

Class 24 – Multiple Signifiers

Covered in This Class

1. Preparation for This Class
2. About Multiple Signifiers
3. Two Card Signifiers
4. Using Three or More Card Signifiers
5. Expanded or Blow Up Readings
6. Exit Ritual

1. Preparation for This Class

- *Video Clips: Multiple Signifiers*

2. About Multiple Signifiers

You can use more than one card in your signifier to specify in detail any situation, person or relationship you want to read. These are called multiple signifiers. You can use as many cards as you want to build a picture of what you want to read. You can also make your own signifiers using pictures, symbols, lists, cutout shapes or written descriptions. If you're going to build a complex signifier it's best to use as few Tarot cards as possible since you want the cards to be available in the reading itself. The position of a card or item in the signifier layout determines the effect it has on the reading. Cards on top of and to the right of other cards are affecting the cards below. The sections below describe the various ways you can position signifier cards.

3. Two Card Signifiers

Use two card signifiers when you want to find out about the relationship between two people or two situations, such as, between two people, between a person and a situation, or between a person and an aspect of herself. In two card signifiers the first card is placed in the normal position and the second card is placed on top of and to the right of the first card. You need to key each card you use as a signifier separately.

The reading will show the effect that the second card (on top of and to the right of the first card) is having on the first card. For instance, if you put your own signifier in the first position and the 8 Discs (signifying your career) on top of and to the right of your signifier, the reading would tell you how your career is

Class 24 – Multiple Signifiers

affecting you. If you put your signifier on top of and to the right of the 8 Discs, the reading would tell you how you are affecting your career.

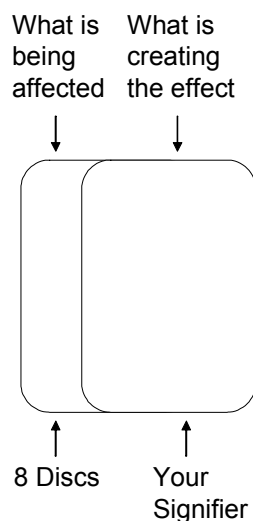


Figure 24.1

You can use the same procedure to find out how one person is affecting another in a relationship. Put the signifier of the person who is having the effect on top of and to the right of the signifier of the person being affected. If you want to know how Jim is affecting Charlotte put Jim's signifier on top of and to the right of Charlotte's signifier. If both people share the same signifier you can either use the signifier card and a photograph, or two royalty cards of the same suit. For instance, if both people are Queen Swords you can use the Knight Swords or King Swords for one person and Queen Swords for the other person. As long as the card will key you can use it for the signifier. If you are keying the Knight Swords for a woman, the Knight may begin to look like a woman when the card keys. If the card will not key then you will need to use another card or symbol for the signifier.

You may need to do a base reading on the original signifier before adding the second signifier. The base reading will tell you the factors associated with the first signifier. When you add the second signifier and do another reading, any new factors or lines will tell you the effect created by the second signifier.

For instance, if you do a reading on a person that has no Cups cards in their reading you may want to find out what factors have created this emotional depletion. You can do a reading with Ace Cups on top of and to the right of the person's signifier to find the causes and conditions that created the situation.

Remember: When using more than one signifier you need to key each signifier individually on your plate.

4. Using Three or More Card Signifiers

If you want to do a reading on a complex situation you might need to use three or more cards as signifiers. For instance, with a two card signifier you can find out how you are affecting your career. If you now want to find out how your family is affecting you and how you, in turn, are affecting your career, you can add a third signifier for your family. The 8 Discs (for your career) would be at the bottom, your signifier would be on top of and to the right of the 8 Discs, and 3 Cups (for your family) would be on top of and to the right of your signifier.

The three signifiers will give you a reading that includes many factors (your career, you and your family). Do a reading with each new signifier you add.

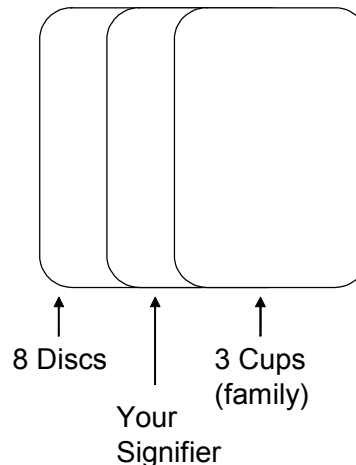


Figure 24.2

In this case you would do a base reading on 8 Discs to find out what's going on in your career. Next you would add your signifier and do another reading. Any new factors or lines in the reading will tell you how you are affecting your career. Finally, you would add the 3 Cups and do a third reading. Any new factors in this last reading will indicate how your family is affecting you and how that is, in turn, affecting your career.

For instance, if the 6 Discs Rx appears in the base reading it tells you that you are not being fairly compensated in your career. If it appears again in the second

reading, you know that it refers to your career and not necessarily your effect on your career because it was a factor in the first reading.

Three card signifiers are also useful when you want to determine the effect of two factors on one situation. For instance, you can use three card signifiers to determine the effect two married people have on their relationship. In this case the way you lay out the signifiers would be different. Place the relationship signifier (2 Cups) on the bottom, then place one person's signifier on top of and to the left of the 2 Cups, and the other person's signifier on top of and to the right of the 2 Cups. Make sure that at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of the 2 Cups is still showing.

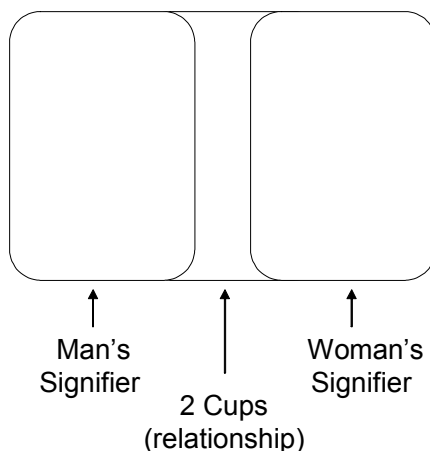


Figure 24.3

You will also need to do base readings. Read one person's effect on the relationship first, then the other person's effect on the relationship and finally the effect of both people on the relationship. If you just want to find out the effect both people have on the relationship without separating each person's effect you won't need to do base readings.

If you wanted to find out how the relationship was affecting both people you could use the same signifier layout as above but, put the 2 Cups on top of the signifiers for the two people.

For even more complex readings, you can use a square pattern to accommodate four people with a fifth person or factor on top of all four cards. You can build as many people into the signifiers as you want – just make sure to build it up vertically or to the left. If you build cards out to the right it indicates sequence of effect (i.e. this person affects this person, who in turn affects this person). Remember that you must key each signifier separately and that a card automatically becomes unkeyed when you put it back into the deck. Also, when you get into complex signifiers try to use as few Tarot cards as possible. Use other

types of signifiers to keep the Tarot cards available for the reading itself. Here are some other relational signifiers to consider:

- Your signifier on the 8 Discs on the Devil: How you affect contracts or contractual type jobs and work
- Ace Discs on your signifier: Find out where health problems are coming from. Do this if the Ace Discs or Sun keeps coming up reversed in your readings

5. Expanded or Blow-Up Readings

You can also use multiple signifiers to expand, magnify or blow up a pair (or stack) of cards in a Celtic Cross or 12 Card reading. You can expand a stack of cards that you don't understand or want to get more details about. For instance, if you want to find out more about a certain pair of cards in a 12 Card reading:

1. Blow out your candles (assuming they are still lit from the original reading).
2. Pick the stack you want expand out of the reading and place it on your plate.
3. Put the rest of the cards back into the deck.
4. Place the stack of cards on top of and to the right of your original signifier (and be sure to record a new reading in your Book of Shadows).
5. Relight your candles and follow the procedures for a regular reading.

The reading will give you information specifically about that stack of cards (its past, present and future) and how it affects your original signifier.

The time line of the stack of cards in the original reading, now part of the signifier, will give you the timeline of the expanded reading. For instance, if the stack of cards came from the past line of the original reading, the expanded 12 Card reading will give you information from the far past, past and present as related to the original reading. If the pair of cards came from the future line of the original reading, the expanded reading will give you information about the present, future and far future. If the pair of cards came from the present line of the original reading, the expanded reading will have the same time line as the original reading.

If you are expanding the outcome cards from a Celtic Cross reading, say at the top of the time column, the present line in the expanded reading is equal to the far future in the Celtic Cross (see Figure 24.4 for signifier card placement). This is

Class 24 – Multiple Signifiers

also a quick way to do a progression (or move the reading into the future) on a Celtic Cross reading. We'll talk about progressions next class. Note that you can only expand readings using the 12 Card layout, though you can expand stacks of cards from both 12 Card and Celtic Cross layouts.

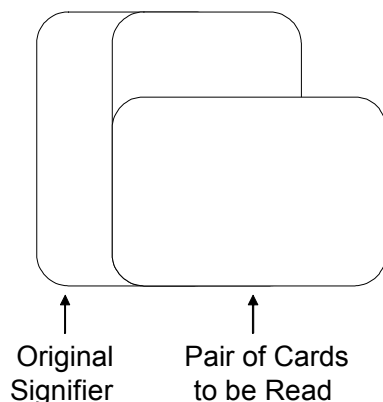


Figure 24.4

If the original signifier is a person's signifier and you want to know what the person has been doing about the situation portrayed in the pair of cards, place the person's signifier on top of and to the right of the pair of cards. This will tell you how the person has or has not been dealing with the situation.

There is a limit to how many expansions you can do. At a certain point all probabilities become equal and you will get a reading that will give you an equal number of opposite factors.

You do not need to key the stack of cards to be expanded unless you put the cards away between the original reading and the expanded reading. If you do put the cards away you will need to key the original signifier, then the pair of cards. Key the pair of cards together and as "the stack of cards from such-and-such a reading done on this date" or something similar. Do not key the cards from the pair separately.

Blow-up readings are useful for tracking hidden adverse magical spells that people have done – these almost always show up in readings. If you find a Magi Rx or Priestess Rx in the past or present line of a reading it could indicate that an adverse spell has been cast, that magic needs to be done but has not been done or that inappropriate magic is being done. Look at the context of the reading to find out what is being indicated. Try interpreting the reading all three ways – one way will make sense while others won't.

Hidden or shielded spells often don't show up as reversed Magi or Priestess, but may show up as a 7 Swords Rx second carded by a Magi (loss of personal power),

a Chariot Rx second carded by Ace Discs (loss of control of their health), or a Devil Rx second carded by Sun (some force prevents the person from achieving their birth vision). If there's nothing else in the reading to indicate that the person is creating this situation then you may want to expand those cards to see if you can find a spell. The spell will show up as a Magi Rx or Priestess Rx in an expanded reading. If the spell was created by a very skilled practitioner you may need to expand the reading 6 or 8 times to find the actual spell. In later classes we'll give you the procedure for taking down the spell.

6. Exit Ritual

For your Exit Ritual, Day Greetings and Day Endings (6 directions) this week use:

“In Beauty.”

Class 24 – Multiple Signifiers