

THE ASTRAGALOMANTEION HANDBOOK

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1-1-1-1-1 (5) Olympian Zeus

*Five Chians falling all together, thus he says:
O stranger, Zeus will give good counsel to thy heart.
He'll grant thee joy in works, of which thou shalt rejoice.
Appease both Aphroditê, also Ma-ia's son.*

1-1-1-1-3 (7) Athênâ Areia

*Four Chians altogether and one Three, he says:
Both hatred, evil fleeing, you'll have prizes soon,
and then Athena grey-eyed goddess thee shall save.
The act, which you pursue, will be as in your mind.*

1-1-1-1-4 (8) The Moirai

*You threw one Four and Chians four times, thus you have:
Don't do the deed you're doing: for 'twere better not.
About the work, it will be hard, impossible.
If for a time you travel, nothing will be bad.*

3-3-1-1-1 (9) Eagle of Zeus

*And if there fall two Threes and with them Chians thrice:
High-flying eagle on the right, the wayfarer
will give a goodly oracle; with Greatest Zeus
perform the deed on which you've started. Never fear!*

6-1-1-1-1 (10) Greatest Daimôn

*There being just one Six and Chians being four, he says:
Repay the daimôn the vow you hold, for you it will
be better, if you want to handle cares as wished;
for both Demeter, Zeus your saviors will be.*

1-1-1-4-3 (10) Guardian Tukhê

*And if the five are Chians thrice and Four and Three:
You, stranger, will not do the deed you now pursue;
and yet the gods hold fast the one who's in distress.
The pain the gods will loosen; nothing will be bad.*

3-3-3-1-1 (11) Nikê

*If thrice fall Threes, and Chians are the other two:
You'll win, obtain what you desire; all will be yours.
The daimôn grants you honor, and you'll master foes.
The will which is pursued will be as in your mind.*

4-4-1-1-1 (11) Gracious Nikê

*If Fours do fall two times, and Chians fall three times:
You'll do the whole affair, for better it will be.
The gods will save the one in sickness on the bed.
One in another land will come, proclaims the god.*

4-1-1-3-3 (12) Asklêpios

*One throw's a Four with Chians two times and two Threes:
A storm will press the matter, but for you it's fair.
The god proclaims he'll save who strives in misery.
The gods will bring back safely home the one away.*

1-1-1-6-3 (12) Tukhê the Guide

*Three Chians, Six and Three, which are the five that fall:
Press on not yet, for going isn't good; abide.
If you rush mindlessly, you'll greatly hurt yourself.
Remain 'til comes the proper time; you'll reach all goals.*

1-1-1-6-4 (13) Aphroditê

*Three Chians with a Six, and the fifth is Four:
Set forth where'er you wish, for joyful you'll come home.
You've found and done whatever in your heart you crave.
Appease both Aphrodite, also Ma-ia's son.*

1-3-3-3-3 (13) Zeus and Athênâ

*If falls one Chian and the Threes that fall are four:
You're good for every deed and you're prepared for work.
The gods will save the one in sickness readily.
Concerning other oracles, it will be well.*

1-1-3-4-4 (13) Hôroi

*If fall two Chians and a Three with double Fours:
You plan what's hard to catch and useless; choose it not.
The god forbids the plan that you pursue; so wait.
It's dire to come to strife, a trial, a judgment too.*

1-3-3-3-4 (14) Poseidôn

*One Chian and three Threes and Four, the god proclaims:
You kick at goats, you work against oncoming waves.
Seek fishes in the sea; hasten not the deed.
It's bad for you to force the gods when badly timed.*

6-1-1-3-3 (14) Daimôn

*A solitary Six, two Chians, double Threes:
Devise not horrors, nor against the daimons pray.
You think the dire, but nothing useful comes from it.
No gain will come to you from this, the way you go.*

4-4-4-1-1 (14) Good Daimôn

*And if three Fours might fall and
with them Chians twice:
The daimôn'll lead you on the way
that you pursue.
To good things laugh-fond Aphro-
dite thee will send.
Go happily with fruits and with a
kindly Fate.*

1-3-3-4-4 (15) Zeus the Savior

*One Chian and two Threes have
fallen, double Fours:
The deed you're now pursuing,
bravely go and do;
attempt it, for the gods reveal fair
oracles.
Shun not what's on your mind; for
you there's nothing bad.*

1-1-1-6-6 (15) Zeus Ammôn

*Three Chians and two Sixes, thus the
god proclaims:
With courage go where in your heart
you wish to go.
The god will grant thee all; you'll do
just what you will.
High-thundering Zeus shall be your
savior in all things.*

3-3-3-3-3 (15) Tukhê the Savior

*And if have fallen all the same, all
Threes alike:
This one who's lately born the babe
has barren breasts,
but she has swelled again and
streamed with milk;
and sometime you will have the
fruits of which you've asked.*

4-3-6-1-1 (15) Zeus Xenios

*One Four, a Three, a Six, two Chi-
ans are the rest:
The deed you've urged, urge not,
because the time's not right.
The gods will swiftly save the one
who's in distress.
One in another place will come,
proclaims the god.*

6-3-3-3-1 (16) Hêrakles

*One Six, three Threes, and a Chian
is the fifth:
You've seen the chance not yet; you
rush. Don't work in vain;
nor as some bitch has born a baby
that is blind.
Take counsel cautiously, and thee
the god will lead.*

6-4-4-1-1 (16) Arês

*And if there fall one Six, two Fours,
and Chians twice:
Why do you rush? Be quiet, for the
time's not yet.
If you rush mindlessly, you chase
what's not prepared.
You've seen the chance not yet; wait
briefly, hit the mark.*

4-3-3-3-3 (16) Kronos

*A Four has fallen and the other four
are Threes:
Upon the way stand scorpions. Has-
ten not the deed
that you intend. But stay, and what
you wish will be,
for neither better is to purchase nor
to sell.*

4-4-4-1-3 (16) Delphic Apollôn

*There are three Fours, one Chian,
and the fifth's a Three:
Don't rush. You've seen the chance
not yet. These things you do
will all be as you think, and thee the
god will lead.
For neither should you rush to pur-
chase nor to sell.*

6-6-1-1-3 (17) Isis the Savior

*A double Six, two Chians, and a
Three is fifth:
Accept the Delphic tripod's speech:
there'll be a chance
with bridal chambers full, and mar-
rying you'll come home.
You'll finish what you wish, both do-
ing, finding cares.*

1-6-3-3-4 (17) Hermês the Savior

*A Chian and a Six, two Threes, the
fifth a Four:
For you naught painful do I see of
which you've asked.
Be not disheartened. Bravely go, and
all you wish
you'll find, but also pray, the fruit
will perfect be.*

4-4-3-3-3 (17) Serapis

*If fall two Fours and three Threes
are the other lots:
Be brave! Contend! Zeus Ktêsios
will be your aid.
He'll check your rival; you will have
him in your hand.
He'll give you Joy in works, in
which you will rejoice.*

1-4-4-4-4 (17) Nemesis

*And if doth fall a Chian, and all oth-
ers Fours:
For you the daimôn all fulfills and
leads you right.
You'll do all as you think; no longer
waste yourself.
You'll reach all goals, and perfectly,
which you desire.*

6-6-1-1-4 (18) Adrasteia

*A double Six, two Chians, and the
fifth is Four:
Attempt the deed you're doing; the
right time will come.
At source it's difficult and danger
lies nearby.
Concerning other oracles, it will be
well.*

1-6-4-4-3 (18) Zeus Keraunios

*A Chian and a Six, two Fours, the
fifth a Three:
Your cares will not be managed ac-
cording to your thought;
for there's no profit, stranger, in an-
other land,
nor buying will you understand what
is of use.*

4-4-4-3-3 (18) Daimôn of the Suppliants

*Three Fours and double Threes have fallen, he proclaims:
I do not see a plan that's safe for you; so wait.
You will do well, have Fortune in these things, but now be still; comply thou with the gods and stay with Hope.*

6-3-3-3-3 (18) Good Time

*And if there is one Six and if the Threes are four:
Don't rush. The daimôn is opposed. But rather wait, not as some bitch has born a baby that is blind.
Take counsel calmly; beauties will be done for you.*

6-6-1-3-3 (19) Good Hope

*Two Sixes and a Chian, th' other two are Threes:
Unblocked for you and safe all things of which you've asked.
Fear not! Because the daimôn to all things will lead, for grievous pain he'll stop and supposition loose.*

4-4-4-6-1 (19) Zeus Ktêsios

*Three Fours, and just one Six, a Chian is the fifth:
Attempt it bravely; th' oracle is full of Hope.
O stranger, it foretells the sick one will be saved; and it foretells that you'll get back the debt you need.*

3-4-4-4-4 (19) Hermês Kerde-moros

*And if a Three should fall, the others being Fours:
O stranger, Zeus will give good counsel to thy mind; and so all will be well. You'll hit the goals you will.
You'll gain what you've divined, and nothing will be bad.*

3-3-3-6-4 (19) Nikê

*Three Threes, a solitary Six, a Four is fifth:
You'll speak a goodly oracle, O stranger; think on it; you'll do what's wished; the god will be your aid.
You'll win, obtain the fruits, and you will reach all goals.*

4-4-4-4-4 (20) The Inexorable Moirai

*And if all Fours do fall together and alike:
The Sun has set, destructive Night is in command, and all is dark. Desist from that of which you've asked, for neither better is to purchase nor to sell.*

4-3-6-6-1 (20) Selênê

*A Four, a Three, two Sixes, and a Chian fifth:
Don't do this deed; it isn't fortunate for you.
The god proclaims he'll save the one who's in distress; and even if there's Fear, nothing will be bad for you.*

6-3-3-4-4 (20) Guardian Dioskoroi

*One Six alone, two Threes, and Fours the others be:
No chance of striving for whate'er your spirit bids.
You have concern, and over all's an evil cloud.
The deed's ill-fated; everything's distressed. Beware!*

6-6-6-1-1 (20) Hêphaistos

*There are three Sixes and two Chians; hear and learn:
Do not do something foolishly.
Don't work in vain.
Disturb not every stone, lest ye a scorpion find.
The deed's ill-fated; everything's distressed. Beware!*

6-6-4-4-1 (21) Dêmêtêr.

*A double Six, two Fours, a Chian is the fifth:
Unblocked for you and safe all things of which you've asked.
Fear not! Because the daimôn to all things will lead.
I see no pain for you. Go forth courageously.*

4-4-4-6-3 (21) Hêlios Phôsphoros

*Three Fours, a Six alone, the fifth one is a Three:
You'll do whatever you desire; you'll find your cares.
Attempt it bravely, stranger; everything's prepared.
You'll find what's hidden, and you'll reach the saving day.*

3-3-3-6-6 (21) Tukhê Who Leads to Fair Things

*Three Threes, have fallen, and two Sixes, thus he says:
The deeds are good; press on, the oracle proclaims.
You will escape from sore distress and master all.
The roaming wanderer will come, the god proclaims.*

1-6-6-6-3 (22) The Manifest Moirai

*One Chian and three Sixes, Three is fifth to fall:
No hand put in a wolf's mouth, lest some thing befall.
That which you've heard is hard, no trust concerning deeds.
But, being still, desist from purchasing and path.*

4-4-4-4-6 (22) Poseidôn

*The Fours are four upon one Six, thus he declares:
To cast seed in the sea, or on it letters write:
these both are empty toil, an unsuccessful deed.
But mortal, force thou not the god, who hinders yet.*

4-3-3-6-6 (22) Arès Thourous

*A Four and double Threes and Sixes twice, he says:
Walk not the way you mean to,
stranger; no one does.
A great and fiery lion goes about;
beware of it!
The oracle is futile, dire; in stillness wait!*

1-6-6-6-4 (23) Athèna

*One Chian, triple Sixes, and the fifth a Four:
Revere Pallas Athèna, and all will be for thee,
all that you wish. All you suppose will be fulfilled.
She'll loosen thee from bonds, and save the sufferer.*

6-6-4-4-3 (23) Euphrosunê

*And if two Sixes, double Fours, the fifth a Three:
Set forth where'er your spirit bids;
back home you'll come,
devising deeds as per your mind,
and master all,
with merriment this way to purchase and to sell.*

6-6-6-3-3 (24) Pythian Apollôn

*Three Sixes having fallen and two Threes, he says:
Stand fast! Don't do it! Yield to Phoibos' oracles.
Observe the opportune in time, but now be still,
for holding back a bit, you'll handle all your cares.*

4-4-4-6-6 (24) Kronos Teknophagos

*Three Fours, two Sixes, thus the god proclaims to you:
Remain at home, nor from thy native land depart,
lest come a deadly and avenging beast on thee,
because I see the deed as neither safe nor sure.*

4-6-6-6-3 (25) Mên Phôosphoros

*One Four has fallen, Sixes thrice, and Three is fifth:
Be brave! You have the chance;
you'll do as wished; you'll win.
Proceed thou on the path, for hard work holds some fruit.
To seize the work is good, a trial and judgment too.*

6-6-6-6-1 (25) Mother of the Gods

*Four Sixes and the fifth a Chian; thus he says:
As wolves control the sheep, and mighty lions do the twisted cattle, you'll yet master all these things.
Of which you've asked, by Zeus's Hermes, all is yours.*

6-6-6-4-4 (26) Zeus Katakthonios

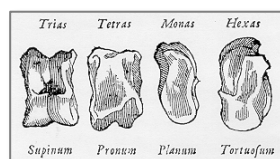
*Three Sixes and two Fours, the oracle proclaims:
The action has impediments. Don't rush; delay.
The way is painful, difficult, unreachable.
It will be dangerous to buy, some harm to sell.*

6-6-6-6-3 (27) Aphroditê Ouraniê

*Four Sixes and the fifth is Three, he sayeth thus:
Dame Aphroditê, Heaven's Child, Queen of Loves,
will send good oracle and grant the way to you.
Distress you will escape and care that grieves the heart.*

6-6-6-6-4 (28) Harm

*Four Sixes and a Four alone, thus he proclaims:
Do not do something foolishly.
Don't work in vain,
lest from it harm arise just now for you in haste;
'tis neither fair to hasten on the way nor buy.*



6-6-6-6-6 (30) Hermês Tetragônos

*Whenever Sixes, every one alike, do fall:
Don't go where you intend, for better 'tis to stay.
I see what's hostile to you. Wait.
Then this will be:
He'll both undo your fear and save the sufferer.*

Casting

Casting the oracle: Roll five astragali or roll one astragalus five times and write down the throws. Alternately, roll one ordinary die until you get five casts of 1, 3, 4, or 6 (ignore 2s and 5s). The order doesn't matter. Add up the numbers on the astragali or dice and use the sum to find the oracles with the same sum (in parentheses in the oracles). Then, from among the oracles with the correct sum, find the combination of five numbers that matches your cast (again, order doesn't matter). Interpret the oracle in the context of your question. (A throw of 1 is called a "Chian.")

For more on ancient Greek divination, see my *Oracles of Apollo: Ancient Greek Divination for Today* (Llewellyn, 2017), which teaches the ancient Greek Alphabet Oracle (similar to runes) and the Oracle of the Seven Sages. It does not, however, teach this divination system. More information is available at <http://opsopaus.com> and <http://omphalos.org/BA>.