

THE TROPALECT HANDBOOK

A Practical Guide to Reading Change.



See the pattern. Read the movement.
Return to life with a better question.

A companion to The Tropaelect Deck
and Tropaelect: A Symbolic Language of Change

FIRST EDITION • SEPTEMBER 2026

WELCOME

One language, three companions

Tropalect is a symbolic language for recognizing recurring patterns of change. It asks: **What is becoming what?** Its seven basic activities are the Primes; each directed transition between them is an Echo. Seven Origins × seven Destinations give forty-nine Echoes.

The Tropalect Deck puts those forty-nine prompts in your hands. **Tropalect: A Symbolic Language of Change** is the full reference. **The Tropalect Handbook** teaches the compact method. You may use any companion on its own.

You may read Tropalect naturalistically, archetypally, or mystically; these are perspectives, not conclusions proved by the symbols. The same coordinate identifies the same Echo in all three. **5:4 Commitment** is an address, not page 54, a ranking, or a personality type. A **House** contains the seven Echoes sharing one Origin.

Find what you need

Begin in five minutes	3
Primes, card anatomy, and reading tools	4
Core practices and applied use	11
Complete matrix and all forty-nine Echoes	19
Chains, notation, and glossary	27
Reading worksheets	30

THE GOVERNING PRINCIPLE

| Use the symbol to widen inquiry. Never use it to close inquiry prematurely.

Tropalect is an original contemporary framework for reflection, education, and creative practice—not a scientifically validated predictive system. It does not replace medical, mental-health, legal, financial, or safety judgment. Correspondences are analogies of structure, not proof of identical causes.

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Aligned with the First Edition book and the current separated-glyph deck. Practical examples and recording layouts are aids to using that system, not additional Echoes or new canonical rules.

START HERE

Use the deck in five minutes

- 1. **Name the situation.** Choose one focal system—a decision, habit, relationship, project, or group—and one time window. “This project over the past week” is more useful than “my whole life.”
- 2. **Describe before interpreting.** Complete: “It was chiefly ___ and is becoming ___.” Start with ordinary observations, not card names or the outcome you hope for.
- 3. **Draw or choose.** Shuffle and draw one card to invite an unfamiliar question, or choose a card deliberately to test a pattern you already notice. Neither method supplies evidence by itself. Keep cards upright.
- 4. **Read the movement.** Name and path → core meaning → central question → Light and the three Shadow modes. Add Mirror and Complement only when useful.
- 5. **Test and close.** State what supports the reading, one close alternative, an observable Threshold sign, and a small action or observation. Choose when to review it and what would make you reconsider.

A USEFUL CLOSING SENTENCE

“My provisional reading is __ because __. The closest alternative is __. I will test it by __ and reconsider it if __.”

Use only the depth you need

Depth	What to use
See	Name, directed meaning, question, Light, and Shadow.
Compare	Origin, Destination, Mirror, Complement, and close alternatives.
Map	Scale, Trace, Threshold, phase, chains, and optional notation.

A card that does not fit may remain an unused prompt. Choosing another lens is allowed; record the change rather than calling it confirmation. A useful reading can end with a question, rest, or further observation.

FOUNDATIONS

The seven Primes

Primes describe activities, not kinds of people, mysterious forces, or stages of superiority. Learn the verbs first; the numbers are stable labels.

Prime	Activity and guiding question
	1 Center gather, cohere, become one What is becoming coherent?
	2 Divide separate, distinguish, oppose What difference is appearing?
	3 Relate meet, exchange, communicate What is interacting?
	4 Form stabilize, bound, embody What is taking durable shape?
	5 Branch multiply, explore, differentiate What possibilities are opening?
	6 Converge integrate, coordinate, weave What belongs together?
	7 Return complete, release, transform, renew What is ending and becoming new?

The master cycle

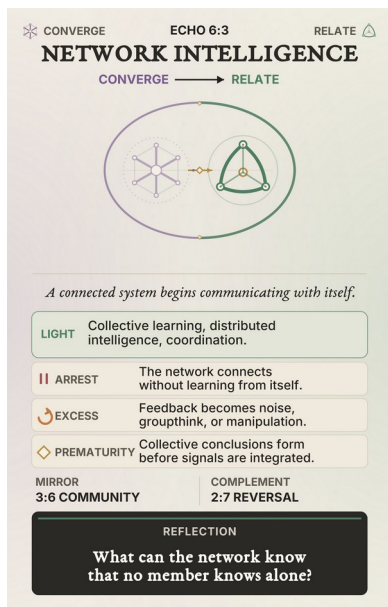
1 → 2 → 3 → 4 → 5 → 6 → 7 → 1'

The last mark means a changed center, carrying **Trace**. This cycle organizes the vocabulary; it does not require every situation to pass through all seven Primes in order.

All forty-nine combinations remain available, including persistence. Choose the activity doing the work, not a keyword such as “together” or “change.”

FOUNDATIONS

How to read a card



Coordinate and name. A:B identifies Origin and Destination. The coordinate is the shared address across the companions.

Path and glyph. Read left to right: the quieter Origin becomes the stronger Destination. The written coordinate and path govern interpretation.

Meaning and question. Begin with the one-sentence movement and the reflection question.

Light and Shadows. Test constructive expression, Arrest, Excess, and Prematurity.

Mirror and Complement. Use these as comparisons, not automatic remedies or next steps.

Reduced card illustration. Its wording is not a substitute for reading the full-size card; the matching meaning and question are on page 25.

The arrow changes the meaning

1:5 Seed: Center → Branch; one source opens many possibilities.

5:1 Selection: Branch → Center; many possibilities resolve toward one priority. The ingredients match, but the direction differs.

Diagonal Echoes, such as 2:2 Mirror, describe an activity reinforcing or maintaining itself. Off-diagonal Echoes move between different activities. A diagonal is its own Mirror—not a separate opposite card.

The gold path and diamond are visual transition cues, not evidence that a real Threshold has been crossed. The separated forms show the movement without requiring you to decode ornament. Keep every card upright.

READING TOOLS

Light, Shadow, and timing

No Echo is inherently good or bad. **Light** is a constructive expression in context. **Shadow** is an unworkable expression—not a moral verdict or a label for a person. Ask who benefits, whose choices narrow, and what the change costs at relevant scales.

Mode	What to test
Arrest	The transition begins but cannot complete. What is starting without becoming established? On a diagonal card, is the claimed activity actually being maintained?
Excess	The Destination becomes disproportionate and harms the whole, its parts, or an adjacent scale. What is being overwhelmed?
Prematurity	Movement is forced before the Origin can support it. What capacity, information, relationship, or form is not ready?

Three tests of healthy movement

Test	Question
Ripeness	Has the Origin developed enough to support this transition?
Proportion	Can the Destination serve the wider system without taking over?
Continuity	Is the Trace of what came before integrated rather than denied?

OCCURRENCE AND QUALITY ARE DIFFERENT

A transition can cross a Threshold and still be excessive or premature. “It happened” and “it was constructive” are separate judgments.

The **Law of Arrest** is a question about a possible missing transition. It does not explain all suffering or imply that someone caused their circumstances. Keep material limits, power, loss, and other causes visible.

READING TOOLS

Mirror, Complement, and response

Tool	Rule and purpose
Mirror	$M(A:B) = B:A$. Reverse the direction to compare the same activities from the other side.
Complement	Pair $1 \leftrightarrow 5$, $2 \leftrightarrow 6$, $3 \leftrightarrow 7$, and $4 \leftrightarrow 4$. Substitute both positions without reversing their order: $C(A:B) = c(A):c(B)$.
Counter-Echo	Choose a transition from the actual situation to restore movement or balance. There is no fixed formula.

For **1:6 Magnet**, the Mirror is **6:1 Integration** and the Complement is **5:2 Divergence**. Clearer roles might instead call for **6:2 Articulation** as a contextual Counter-Echo. None is automatically the next step.

Mirror and Complement sometimes coincide—for example, **1:5 Seed** and **5:1 Selection**. **4:4 Foundation** is both self-mirroring and self-complementary. **Mirror** also names the specific card **2:2**; the comparison tool applies to every card.

Echo Distance is an index gap

Distance = $|B - A|$. Subtract the two indices and take the absolute value—not the shortest path around the cycle.

Gap	Conventional label	Gap	Conventional label
0	Persistence	4	Disruption
1	Development	5	Metamorphosis
2	Adaptation	6	Inversion
3	Reorganization		

NOT A SEVERITY SCORE

Distance does not measure difficulty, speed, probability, worth, or real-world magnitude. A distance-1 change can be momentous; a distance-6 change can be gentle. Judge consequences from the case.

READING TOOLS

Scale, Trace, and Threshold

Name the actual focal system before selecting a scale label. These are **interpretive lenses**, not seven sealed or perfectly nested layers of reality.

Lens	Typical focus
α Interior	Thought, feeling, attention, imagination.
β Individual	Embodied behavior, skill, habit, action.
γ Relational	Dyads, families, teams, small groups.
δ Collective	Organizations, communities, networks, institutions.
ε Civilizational	Cultures, economies, political and historical systems.
ζ Biospheric	Ecosystems, landscapes, species relations.
η Cosmic	Astronomical or cosmological patterns as the broadest lens.

A whole and a part

A **Holon** is a whole relative to its parts and a part relative to a larger whole. A team contains people and belongs to an organization. The **Law of Relative Oneness** means that “one” and “many” depend on the scale of observation.

What remains; what becomes consequential

Trace (τ) is persistent alteration carried from a transformation. A changed center, **1'**, carries history rather than returning to an exact reset. The symbolic expression $1' = 1 + \tau$ is not arithmetic.

Threshold (◇) is the point at which a possible change becomes behaviorally or structurally consequential in the stated system and time window. Crossing it does **not** necessarily mean complete irreversibility.

Name an observable sign: a schedule is actually being used, a boundary affects decisions, or feedback changes behavior. The book’s Threshold signs are prompts to adapt—not universal cutoffs or validated measures.

READING TOOLS

Resonance and different phases

A **Vertical Echo** (≈) compares a transition across scales. A **Horizontal Echo** (≈) compares it across domains at a similar scale. Both require more than a similar shape or repeated word.

Test the correspondence

Check	Ask
Geometry	Does the arrangement of centers, boundaries, connections, or recursion match?
Dynamics	Do the elements influence one another in a comparable direction?
Transformation	Is the same Origin-to-Destination sequence occurring?
Consequence	Does the transition alter the system in an analogous way?

Record differences and counterexamples. Similarity does not establish identical mechanisms or one shared cause. Several descriptions of the same event are not independent confirmations.

Harmonic Convergence means strong vertical and horizontal resonance together; it does not prove orchestration. The card **3:3 Resonance** is a specific transition—relationship amplifying relationship—not the whole comparison tool.

Different processes can coexist

Pattern	Meaning
Polyphase	Different subsystems occupy different Echoes at once.
Phase Lock	Several domains enter a comparable transition in a short, specified period.
Phase Lag	One subsystem transforms faster than another. “Ahead” and “behind” describe timing, not worth.

An inner change and an unchanged work routine may be in different phases. Ask what would let them communicate; do not force all domains into one card.

READING TOOLS

A disciplined, responsible reading

Keep **observation**, **interpretation**, and **proposed response** distinct. Describe one system over one period; identify its Origin and Destination; compare a close alternative; and test the reading against observable consequences.

Evidence before certainty

The card supplies a question, not privileged knowledge. Read a shared process with consent and direct information—not an absent person’s private inner life. No card predicts an event or substitutes for medical, mental-health, legal, financial, or safety judgment.

A name such as Ruin, Surrender, or Pruning is not an instruction to destroy, endure harm, or make a loss happen. Practical safety, consent, and real constraints govern what you do.

When the reading does not fit

Difficulty	Better next move
Several cards seem plausible.	Compare their Origins and Destinations. Separate systems or time windows, or keep alternatives open.
The drawn card has no clear connection.	Leave it unused. A deliberately chosen alternative is a different lens, not confirmation.
Only the hoped-for outcome fits.	Call it a proposed next movement. State its conditions, resources, and consent requirements.
The same question is redrawn repeatedly.	Stop drawing. Identify the information, conversation, rest, or support actually missing.

A VALID ENDING

“There is not enough information to classify this responsibly.” An unresolved question is better than a forced story. A useful reading increases agency and can be revised when evidence changes.

CORE PRACTICE

The one-card reading

Use one card for one clear question. This is the simplest complete reading; a notebook and the reference pages also work without a deck.

OPENING QUESTION

What transition deserves attention in this situation?

1. **Set the scope.** Name the focal system and time window before drawing or deliberately choosing a card.
2. **Read the card.** Say its name and path, core meaning, and central question. Identify the Origin and Destination in the actual case.
3. **Test its expression.** Read Light, Arrest, Excess, and Prematurity without assuming which applies. More than one condition may need investigation.
4. **Look for consequence.** Has the Destination become observable, or is it still possible? Name the Threshold sign and the Trace of earlier changes.
5. **Compare and close.** Test one close alternative. Use Mirror or Complement only when helpful. Choose a small action or observation and a review point.

Write a four-line close

Reading: "I provisionally read __ because __."

Alternative: "It could instead be __ if __."

Test: "I will observe or try __ by __."

Review: "I will reconsider if __."

A valid response may be to gather information or take no immediate action. When the card does not fit, do not retrofit the facts. Use the recording space on page 30.

CORE PRACTICE

Present, Shadow, Next

Use three cards to examine a present movement, a difficulty or missing capacity, and a possible continuation. Name one focal system and time window. Draw or choose three cards and place them upright, **left to right**.

Position	Question and discipline
1 Present	What transition is most visible now? Name its Origin, Destination, and supporting evidence.
2 Shadow or Missing	What is arrested, excessive, premature, or inaccessible? Treat this card as a diagnostic lens, not a verdict.
3 Next	What transition could restore movement or deepen the process? Treat it as a possibility; name the conditions and an observable Threshold sign.

The middle position is not automatically negative

A card in the Shadow or Missing position may point to a **constructive capacity that is unavailable**. Read the whole card, including Light; do not assume its printed Shadow describes the situation.

Check continuity without forcing a story

A continuous chain requires **A:B → B:C**. Compare the Present card's Destination with the Next card's Origin. The middle card may be a lens on difficulty, not an event between them.

If the codes do not join, state the gap. An intermediate movement may be unobserved, the focal system may have changed, or the interpretation may not fit. Do not invent a bridge to make the spread work.

CLOSE WITH A TEST, NOT A FORECAST

Which proposed response is feasible and freely chosen? What observation would support it, and what would make you reconsider? A Next card never guarantees the future.

CORE PRACTICE

The seven-card Spiral

Use the Spiral for a whole-system review. Name one focal system and time window. Draw or choose seven cards; lay them upright in a line or spiral, keeping the numbered positions below.

Position	Read the card through this question
1 Center	What currently organizes the situation?
2 Divide	What difference, boundary, or polarity has appeared?
3 Relate	What must enter contact, dialogue, or feedback?
4 Form	What structure is carrying or constraining the situation?
5 Branch	What possibilities are opening or multiplying?
6 Converge	What requires integration, coordination, or interdependence?
7 Return	What transformation could complete the present cycle?

A position is a question, not a card requirement

Any Echo may appear in any position. The Center position does not require a Center-origin card. Describe what each card asks you to examine and whether the case supports that description.

Compare repeats, tensions, different phases, and possible connections. A spread is not automatically a chain, and the frequency of a Prime in a random draw is not evidence of a life pattern.

RETURN IS NOT A GUARANTEED FUTURE

Position 7 points toward completion and a changed center, 1'. Finish with one observable sign, one reason to reconsider, and a proportionate next step. Record the spread on page 31.

CORE PRACTICE

As Above / As Below

Use this comparison when a local pattern may involve larger or smaller systems. The card layout below is a practical aid to the book’s method; it does not establish a cause.

- 1. **Choose the focal Echo.** Place one chosen card in the center, or write its coordinate. State the system and time window.
- 2. **Look below, above, and sideways.** Note what smaller processes compose it, what larger system contains it, and where a comparable transition appears in another domain. Add deliberately chosen cards only where observations support them.
- 3. **Test the comparison.** Check arrangement, dynamics, sequence, and consequence. Separate observed connections from possible explanations and shared effects of one event.
- 4. **Choose an appropriate scale.** Consider what can change, who has authority, and whose consent is needed. Do not locate every structural constraint inside an individual.

Where	When and possible response
Below	Constituent processes generate the pattern: examine inputs, habits, interactions, incentives, or feedback.
Local	The focal system maintains it: examine roles, boundaries, allocation, form, or decision rules.
Above	The containing system recreates it: examine policy, governance, infrastructure, environment, or power.
Across scales	Levels reinforce one another: coordinate changes so one level does not restore the old pattern elsewhere.

THE HARMONIC PRINCIPLE

Does the proposed change preserve workable conditions across relevant scales—for the whole and the parts that sustain it? Similarity alone does not prove systemic causation.

CORE PRACTICE

Chains, loops, and the Missing Exit

An **Echo Chain** joins transitions when one Destination becomes the next Origin in the same focal system: **A:B → B:C → C:D**. A **loop** returns to an earlier Prime or Echo. Repetition can maintain something useful or something unworkable.

Build a chain from observations

1. **Lay out the sequence.** Place chosen cards left to right for the transitions actually observed, or mark the sequence clearly as a proposal.
2. **Check each link.** The indices must connect. Matching codes make a sequence formally possible; they do not show that it happened.
3. **Name the consequences.** Record the Threshold at each step and the Trace carried forward. Separate systems when the focal process changes.
4. **Keep gaps visible.** An unobserved bridge is a question to investigate—not an event to invent. A comparison can be useful without being a chain.

Find a workable exit

Record the repeating sequence, the reward that keeps it going, and the cost that accumulates. The **Missing Exit** is a possible transition that repeatedly remains inaccessible in practice. Ask which scale controls access to it.

For example, 5:5 → 5:3 → 3:5 → 5:5 can keep opening possibilities without selecting or embodying them. Selection, Commitment, Ecology, or Pruning may offer different exits—but the case decides which is appropriate.

SMALL, EVIDENCE-BASED INTERRUPTION

Choose the link where change can reduce harm and widen future options. Record what you will try, what support it requires, and what outcome would challenge the reading. Canonical sequences are on page 27.

CORE PRACTICE

Daily practice and your Signature

At day’s end, ask **What changed?** “I had a meeting” names an event. “A vague disagreement became an explicit boundary” describes a transition. Record the system, window, provisional Echo, evidence, Threshold sign, and close alternative.

A thirty-day practice, not a personality test

Record one to three meaningful transitions on days when there is something to record. Then merge duplicates, separate focal systems, correct weak classifications, and mark uncertain cases. **Count observations, not cards drawn.** Thirty days is a practice window, not a validated sample size.

Each usable record adds one to its Origin total and one to its Destination total. The most frequent Origin is the provisional **Ground**; the most frequent Destination is the provisional **Attractor**. Keep ties. Count repeated **Echoes** separately.

A small fictional tally

Observed Echo	Count
5:5 Proliferation	3
5:1 Selection	2
1:4 Incarnation	2
4:6 Architecture	2
6:1 Integration	1

In these ten observations, **Branch** is the Ground (5 Origins). **Center and Branch tie** as Attractors (3 Destinations each). **5:5** is the most frequent Echo (3). These are three different results. A Ground–Attractor summary does not identify the most common card.

Report usable records, ties, uncertainty, and gaps. Absence from a record does not prove a missing capacity. To weight optionally, add each observation’s chosen intensity to its Origin and Destination totals. Keep weighted and ordinary counts separate; subjective ratings are not calibrated measurements.

A Signature summarizes what was recorded, not a permanent identity. Compare another period before making broad claims. Use the summary on page 32.

APPLIED USE

Decisions, creativity, and reading together

Use	A practical way to begin
Decision	Name the current movement. Compare a needed selection, experiment, commitment, integration, or release; test it against real constraints.
Creative work	Choose an intended Destination, then test the Origin. To open possibilities, compare Seed (1:5), Cross-Pollination (3:5), Growth (4:5), and Emergence (6:5).
Relationship or team	Read an observable shared process: boundaries, exchange, roles, coordination, or changing agreements—not hidden motives.
Contemplation	Sit with one central question. Let it sharpen observation without demanding an answer or turning coincidence into proof.

Consent and accountability

Before a shared reading, agree on the question, what is off-limits, and whether notes will be kept or shared. Make participation optional. Do not promise confidentiality the setting cannot provide; workplace power can make refusal difficult.

Let people describe the movement before naming cards. Offer: “This card invites a question about __; does it fit what you can observe?” Accept **no**. Do not use Shadow to dismiss disagreement or demand disclosure, forgiveness, loyalty, payment, or continued participation.

Distinguish an insight, a proposed action, and an actual agreement. Record who freely agreed to do what, within whose authority, and when evidence will be reviewed. A symbolic vote cannot settle a factual disagreement.

Facilitation is not clinical diagnosis or professional certification. Keep decisions with the participant and with appropriate qualified help when the situation calls for it.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Choosing is not yet committing

Illustrative case: a maker has six promising projects. New ideas keep interrupting sustained work. Over two weeks, possibilities generate more possibilities: **5:5 Proliferation**.

Moment	Evidence and provisional reading
Options multiply	New alternatives repeatedly interrupt existing work. Test 5:5, including its three Shadow modes; possibility itself is not wrong.
A priority emerges	One idea receives sustained attention while alternatives are consciously deferred: 5:1 Selection.
The priority takes form	A coherent priority gains a workable schedule and output: 1:4 Incarnation, when that center is the immediate Origin.

A direct move from several possibilities into a resourced project may instead be **5:4 Commitment**. Choose the description that fits the observation window. Do not count the same episode twice unless distinct transitions were actually observed.

Make the next step testable

Choose one idea for a seven-day trial, reserve a realistic period of work, and name one small output. At review, ask whether attention and behavior changed. An unused schedule does not demonstrate a completed transition.

Compare the nearest alternative

Selection focuses possibilities toward one center. **Commitment** gives possibility durable form. **Incarnation** gives an already coherent potential form. Similar outcomes do not erase different Origins.

THE CARDS DID NOT CHOOSE THE PROJECT

They supplied a language for the movement and a way to test a response. If evidence remains mixed, retain alternatives or leave the reading unresolved.

REFERENCE

The forty-nine Echo matrix

Rows are **Origins**; columns are **Destinations**. Read across a row to see one House’s possibilities. Read down a column to find the different starting points for a needed movement. Use the next seven pages for every name, meaning, and question.

FROM TO →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 Center	1:1	1:2	1:3	1:4	1:5	1:6	1:7
2 Divide	2:1	2:2	2:3	2:4	2:5	2:6	2:7
3 Relate	3:1	3:2	3:3	3:4	3:5	3:6	3:7
4 Form	4:1	4:2	4:3	4:4	4:5	4:6	4:7
5 Branch	5:1	5:2	5:3	5:4	5:5	5:6	5:7
6 Converge	6:1	6:2	6:3	6:4	6:5	6:6	6:7
7 Return	7:1	7:2	7:3	7:4	7:5	7:6	7:7

Columns: 1 Center · 2 Divide · 3 Relate · 4 Form · 5 Branch · 6 Converge · 7 Return. Shaded cells show persistence. In the PDF, select a coordinate to open its reference entry.

Distinguish nearby Primes

Compare	Useful distinction
Center / Form	Coherent focus / durable structure.
Divide / Branch	Consequential distinction / opening possibilities.
Relate / Converge	Exchange / functioning coordination or interdependence.
Center / Converge	A coherent center / coordination among differentiated parts.
Return / any change	Completion or transformation of a cycle with Trace—not every adjustment.

A desired Destination is a starting question, not proof that a transition is occurring. Establish its Origin and test a close alternative.

HOUSE 1 • ORIGIN CENTER

Center

What is becoming coherent?

Every Echo here begins in Center. The Destination determines its next activity.

1:1 Still Point

Center → Center

Unity maintaining unity.

What needs simply to remain?

1:2 First Cut

Center → Divide

Unity becomes distinction.

What distinction must now be made?

1:3 Encounter

Center → Relate

A center discovers itself through relation.

What can only be known through relationship?

1:4 Incarnation

Center → Form

Potential becomes form.

What must become concrete?

1:5 Seed

Center → Branch

One becomes many.

What concentrated potential wants to multiply?

1:6 Magnet

Center → Converge

A coherent center gathers a field around itself.

What naturally gathers around this center?

1:7 Surrender

Center → Return

Identity releases its current form into transformation.

What identity is ready to be released?

Light, Arrest, Excess, Prematurity, Mirror, and Complement are printed on each card. Use the matching A:B entry in the book for the extended reading, Threshold sign, practice, and caution.

Divide

What difference is appearing?

Every Echo here begins in Divide. The Destination determines its next activity.

2:1 Reconciliation

Divide → Center

Difference returns to a deeper unity.

Which difference can now be reconciled?

2:2 Mirror

Divide → Divide

Polarity encounters and reinforces itself.

What defines itself through its opposite?

2:3 Dialogue

Divide → Relate

Difference becomes communicative relationship.

What happens when the poles actually communicate?

2:4 Boundary

Divide → Form

Difference becomes structure.

Which separation needs a clear boundary?

2:5 Fork

Divide → Branch

A distinction opens multiple futures.

Which distinction genuinely opens different futures?

2:6 Concord

Divide → Converge

Distinct elements integrate without becoming identical.

How can difference cooperate without disappearing?

2:7 Reversal

Divide → Return

A polarity reaches transformation or inversion.

Which apparent opposite has reached its limit?

Light, Arrest, Excess, Prematurity, Mirror, and Complement are printed on each card. Use the matching A:B entry in the book for the extended reading, Threshold sign, practice, and caution.

Relate

What is interacting?

Every Echo here begins in Relate. The Destination determines its next activity.

3:1 Communion

Relate → Center

Relationship reveals or produces unity.

What relationship reveals a deeper unity?

3:2 Clarification

Relate → Divide

Relationship exposes distinctions that isolation concealed.

What distinction has relationship exposed?

3:3 Resonance

Relate → Relate

Relationship amplifies relationship.

What is strengthening through interaction?

3:4 Covenant

Relate → Form

Relationship becomes durable form.

What interaction needs a reliable structure?

3:5 Cross-Pollination

Relate → Branch

Contact generates new possibilities.

What new possibilities arise from contact?

3:6 Community

Relate → Converge

Relationships become a networked whole.

Which connections are ready to become a whole?

3:7 Metamorphosis

Relate → Return

Encounter permanently changes the participants.

Which relationship is changing what you are?

Light, Arrest, Excess, Prematurity, Mirror, and Complement are printed on each card. Use the matching A:B entry in the book for the extended reading, Threshold sign, practice, and caution.

HOUSE 4 • ORIGIN FORM

Form

What is taking durable shape?

Every Echo here begins in Form. The Destination determines its next activity.

4:1 Crystallization

Form → Center

Structure resolves into a coherent essence or identity.

What structure is revealing its essence?

4:2 Fracture

Form → Divide

Stable form separates.

Where is established form splitting?

4:3 Interface

Form → Relate

Structure develops an opening through which relation can occur.

Where does structure need a deliberate opening?

4:4 Foundation

Form → Form

Structure reinforces structure.

What genuinely deserves reinforcement?

4:5 Growth

Form → Branch

Structure extends into new possibilities.

Where can established form grow?

4:6 Architecture

Form → Converge

Structures integrate into larger structures.

Which structures belong inside a larger structure?

4:7 Ruin

Form → Return

Form yields to transformation.

What structure has completed its useful life?

Light, Arrest, Excess, Prematurity, Mirror, and Complement are printed on each card. Use the matching A:B entry in the book for the extended reading, Threshold sign, practice, and caution.

Branch

What possibilities are opening?

Every Echo here begins in Branch. The Destination determines its next activity.

5:1 Selection

Branch → Center

Many possibilities resolve toward one center.

What possibility should become primary?

5:2 Divergence

Branch → Divide

Possibilities separate into increasingly distinct paths.

Which possibilities truly lead in different directions?

5:3 Exploration

Branch → Relate

Possibilities interact experimentally.

What can be learned by allowing possibilities to interact?

5:4 Commitment

Branch → Form

Possibility becomes structure.

Which possibility deserves form?

5:5 Proliferation

Branch → Branch

Branching generates further branching.

What is multiplying, and what does that multiplication now require?

5:6 Ecology

Branch → Converge

Diversity becomes interdependent.

What differences belong in the same living system?

5:7 Pruning

Branch → Return

Excess possibility is transformed through subtraction.

What must be removed so growth can continue?

Light, Arrest, Excess, Prematurity, Mirror, and Complement are printed on each card. Use the matching A:B entry in the book for the extended reading, Threshold sign, practice, and caution.

Converge

What belongs together?

Every Echo here begins in Converge. The Destination determines its next activity.

6:1 Integration

Converge → Center

Many coordinated parts become one coherent whole.

What can become one without being reduced?

6:2 Articulation

Converge → Divide

An integrated whole differentiates necessary roles.

What distinctions does the whole actually require?

6:3 Network Intelligence

Converge → Relate

A connected system begins communicating with itself.

What can the network know that no member knows alone?

6:4 Institution

Converge → Form

Cooperation becomes durable structure.

What cooperation needs durable form?

6:5 Emergence

Converge → Branch

An integrated system generates possibilities unavailable to isolated parts.

What becomes possible only because the parts are connected?

6:6 Web

Converge → Converge

Integration reinforces integration.

What depends upon what?

6:7 Transcendence

Converge → Return

Integration crosses a threshold into a qualitatively new order.

What observable new order could emerge from integration?

Light, Arrest, Excess, Prematurity, Mirror, and Complement are printed on each card. Use the matching A:B entry in the book for the extended reading, Threshold sign, practice, and caution.

Return

What is ending and becoming new?

Every Echo here begins in Return. The Destination determines its next activity.

7:1 Rebirth

Return → Center

Transformation creates a new center.

What new center has the transformation created?

7:2 Reopening

Return → Divide

Completion generates a new distinction or question.

What completed cycle has generated a new polarity?

7:3 Transmission

Return → Relate

Transformation becomes relationship.

What has been learned that now needs relationship?

7:4 Tradition

Return → Form

Transformation becomes durable form.

What transformation deserves preservation?

7:5 Renaissance

Return → Branch

Completion reopens possibility.

What new possibilities arise from what has ended?

7:6 Reintegration

Return → Converge

The transformed part returns to the larger whole.

How can what changed return without becoming what it was?

7:7 Spiral

Return → Return

Transformation itself becomes recursive.

What pattern of transformation itself must transform?

Light, Arrest, Excess, Prematurity, Mirror, and Complement are printed on each card. Use the matching A:B entry in the book for the extended reading, Threshold sign, practice, and caution.

REFERENCE

Canonical chains and loops

These named sequences belong to the book's symbolic framework. They are not prescriptions, forecasts, or guarantees. A formally connected sequence still needs evidence in the same focal system.

Creation

1:5 → 5:4 → 4:6

Seed → Commitment → Architecture

Healing

2:3 → 3:6 → 6:1

Dialogue → Community → Integration

Liberation

4:2 → 2:7 → 7:1

Fracture → Reversal → Rebirth

Wisdom

5:7 → 7:3 → 3:4

Pruning → Transmission → Covenant

Innovation

3:5 → 5:6 → 6:5

Cross-Pollination → Ecology → Emergence

Collapse

4:4 → 4:2 → 2:2 → 2:7

Foundation → Fracture → Mirror → Reversal

Novelty loop

5:5 → 5:3 → 3:5 → 5:5

Proliferation → Exploration → Cross-Pollination → Proliferation

Rigidity loop

4:4 → 4:1 → 1:4 → 4:4

Foundation → Crystallization → Incarnation → Foundation

“Healing” is a conventional sequence name, not a medical outcome. “Collapse” does not make collapse inevitable. A loop becomes unworkable through its effects, not merely because it repeats.

REFERENCE

Compact notation without false precision

Describe the movement first. Notation is optional and records your interpretation; it does not make that interpretation scientifically precise.

Mark	Meaning
A:B	Origin A becomes or reinforces Destination B.
α β γ δ ε ζ η	The seven scale lenses, defined on page 8.
↑ ↓ ∪	Outward expression or multiplication; inward concentration or integration; circulatory feedback, recursion, or return. Describe the case, not an automatic property of the code.
τ	Trace: persistent alteration carried from transformation.
◇	Threshold: possible change becomes consequential in context.
≈ / ≈	Vertical resonance across scales / horizontal resonance across comparable-scale domains.
I1-I7	Optional intensity, from subtle to systemic in the defined case.
T1-T7	Optional tempo, from very slow to very rapid relative to a stated window.
Θ1-Θ7	Optional Threshold proximity, from barely forming to effectively irreversible within the chosen window.
R1+	Separately described resonance observations. Record shared causes and dependence; do not assume independence.

Define the reference; leave gaps honestly

The intermediate ratings have no mandatory cutoffs. Describe what the endpoints mean for your case. Do not add ratings into a score of health, worth, progress, or destiny. A rating of 6 does not establish twice as much change as 3.

Example: “5:4 Commitment; one creative project; past week. An agreed work period is being used and produces the planned output.” Ratings can stay blank when that description is enough.

REFERENCE

Compact glossary

Use these as reminders; the preceding pages explain how to apply them.

Arrest. A transition begins but cannot complete; a diagonal activity may remain unreliable.

Attractor. The most frequent recorded Destination; report ties and coverage limits.

Complement. Both Primes substituted by $1 \leftrightarrow 5$, $2 \leftrightarrow 6$, $3 \leftrightarrow 7$, $4 \leftrightarrow 4$.

Continuity. The new state integrates the Trace of what produced it.

Counter-Echo. A contextual response proposed to restore movement or balance.

Destination. The activity being approached or reinforced; second in A:B.

Echo. A directed transition between Primes, not a fixed personal identity.

Echo Chain. Transitions joined by matching Destination and next Origin, with evidence.

Echo Distance. The index gap $|B - A|$; not severity or difficulty.

Excess. Disproportionate Destination harming a whole, part, or adjacent scale.

Focal system. The bounded process being read: a decision, relationship, or project.

Ground. The most frequent recorded Origin; report ties and coverage limits.

Harmonic Convergence. Strong vertical and horizontal resonance together; not proof of orchestration.

Harmonic Principle. Workable conditions across relevant scales and their sustaining parts.

Holon. A whole relative to its parts; a part of a larger whole.

Horizontal Echo. A comparable transition across domains at a similar scale.

House. The seven Echoes sharing one Origin Prime.

Light. A constructive expression in the actual context and relevant scales.

Loop. A repeated chain returning to an earlier Prime or Echo.

Mirror. Reversed coordinate B:A; also the particular Echo named 2:2 Mirror.

Missing Exit. A possible transition repeatedly inaccessible in practice.

Origin. The activity chiefly being moved from; first in A:B.

Personal Echo Signature. A bounded summary of observed transitions, including its limitations.

Phase Lag. Subsystems transform at different rates; timing is not worth.

Phase Lock. Domains share a comparable transition within a stated short period.

Polyphase. Different Echoes coexist in different subsystems or domains.

Prematurity. Movement forced before its Origin can support the Destination.

Prime. One of the seven elementary activities of the system.

Proportion. The Destination stays workable without overwhelming the wider system.

Resonance. Comparable recurrence; also the particular Echo named 3:3 Resonance.

Ripeness. Sufficient capacity, information, relationship, or form to transform.

Shadow. Unworkable Arrest, Excess, or Prematurity; never a personal verdict.

Threshold. Possible change becomes consequential, not necessarily fully irreversible.

Time window. The stated period over which a transition is observed.

Trace. Persistent alteration carried from transformation; history is not erased.

Vertical Echo. A comparable transition across different scales.

WORKSHEETS

One-card and three-card record

Write briefly here or use a notebook. Keep one system and one time window. Leave a field blank when it does not improve the reading.

One-card field	Your notes
Focal system / time window	
Card / plain Origin → Destination	
Light / Arrest / Excess / Prematurity	
Evidence / closest alternative	
Observable Threshold sign / Trace	
Action or observation / consent needed	
Review date / reason to reconsider	
Outcome / revised interpretation	

Present • Shadow or Missing • Next

Position	Card / evidence or proposed question
1 Present	
2 Shadow or Missing	
3 Next possibility	
Continuity / unobserved gap	
Next test / review date	

A gap may remain unresolved. Do not invent an event to connect the cards.

WORKSHEETS

Spiral and scale record

Focal system: _____ Time window: _____

Spiral position	Card / evidence or question
1 Center	
2 Divide	
3 Relate	
4 Form	
5 Branch	
6 Converge	
7 Return	

Any Echo may appear in any position. The spread is not automatically a chain.

As Above / As Below

Focus	Observation / limits of the comparison
Focal Echo	
Below: constituent processes	
Above: containing system	
Sideways: another domain	
Shared causes / counterexamples	
Intervention / consent / review	

WORKSHEETS

Chain, loop, and Signature review

Chain or loop	Your notes
Observed sequence / focal system	
Reward / accumulating cost	
Missing Exit / scale controlling it	
Small interruption / support needed	
Review evidence / Trace to preserve	

Thirty-day Signature summary

Measure	Result / limits
Time window / domains covered	
Usable records / uncertain or omitted	
Ground: Origin tally / ties	
Attractor: Destination tally / ties	
Repeated Echoes (count separately)	
Phase Lock / Phase Lag / gaps	
What the record suggests	

What the record cannot establish

Keep weighted totals separate. Do not count random draws as observed transitions, erase ties, or treat an under-recorded Prime as a defect.

RETURN TO LIFE

The map is useful when it brings you back to ordinary life with greater clarity, humility, and choice. Things pass. Relations echo.