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 Maia’s son.

1-1-1-1-3 (7) Athêna 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 it were 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.

1-1-1-6-4 (13) Aphrodite

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 Maia’s son.

1-3-3-3-3 (13) Zeus and Athêna

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.

1-1-1-4-4 (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 against the goads, 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 daemons 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 Aphrodite 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 Chians 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.

6-4-4-1-3 (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 purchase 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 marrying you’ll come home.
You’ll finish what you wish, both doing, 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 others 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 according to your thought;
for there’s no profit, stranger, in another 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’l 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 Kerdemporos
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 (19) 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.

6-6-1-1-1 (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) Arês Thouros
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) Athêna
One Chian, triple Sixes, and the fifth a Four:
Revere Pallas Athêna, 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 Teknophasos
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.

6-6-6-6-6 (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 astragaloi 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 astragaloi 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://opsopa.us.com](http://opsopa.us.com) and [http://omphalos.org/BA](http://omphalos.org/BA).