

A Lecanomancy Glossary of Suggested Meanings

What follows is information from original sources, plus a list of my own and one other's intuitive and observational insights on how to interpret the various ways the oil will manifest itself on the water's surface once it is poured. Some of these suggested meanings may even conflict with each other. This glossary may, in time, serve as a jumping-off point for your own intuitive insights as you are divining by this ancient method.

Of course, the correct answer to the question will depend on the question asked, so some of these suggested meanings may apply in some situations, but not in all. As always, consult your own intuition when practicing lecanomancy. Artomantic divination methods tend to be open-ended, heavily-subjective, and entirely-dependent on the diviner's interpretation.

Original ancient sources I have found give but few definite interpretations in lecanomancy:

Oil poured into the dish forms two large separate blobs—if the inquirer is asking about the success of a war campaign, the two camps will advance against each other. If the inquirer is asking about the recovery of a sick person, then this result means the sick person will die.

If from the middle of the pool of oil, two drops surface, one big, the other small—if inquiring of a pregnancy, the child will be a son. If inquiring about the recovery of a sick person, the sick person will recover.

If, in response to a question about the success or failure of a conflict, a gem or pebble is dropped or thrown into the basin and it falls to the bottom without separating the pool of oil—then it is an indicator of triumph in battle.

If a gem or pebble is dropped or thrown into the basin and the oil separates into tiny particles—then the morale of the troops will be dissipated, the effort will be foiled, and the battle will be lost.

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MY OWN INTERPRETATIONS

Proceeding on the basis of my own intuition, the following are my own general speculations as to what the various possible manifestations of oil on the water mean:

- Oil forms one big blob as soon as it's poured**—unity and oneness, if that is what the inquirer is asking about, but otherwise, no conclusion can be drawn; it's all one big, indistinguishable mass. No one wants to stand out; there's safety and anonymity in numbers.
- Oil immediately separates into a number of separate bubbles and stays that way**—things are scattered, there is disunity, no cohesion is present yet. Chaos, division, disorganization, anomie.
- Oil separates into a number of separate bubbles as it is being poured, then quickly starts uniting into larger and larger units of oil**—a number of separate, distinct elements are coming together and joining forces. Some seemingly disparate and uncooperative components can quickly unite for a common purpose.
- Oil starts out as one large unit of oil, then separates into smaller blobs of oil**—some seemingly-unified entity, such as a family, an organization, or a state, has divisions within it that may not be apparent at first, and which may be exploitable by potential enemies. A company or organization may subdivide into smaller sub-sections.
- Some but not all of the bubbles of oil unite into a larger pool of oil**—there could be some who are less-than-enthusiastic or even resistant about the project. There are some general areas of agreement, but what is commonly agreed-upon by *some* is not readily agreed-upon by *all*. The resisters who are eventually persuaded to join the larger group may have some residual reservations. Some are outsiders, no matter how much they may want to be part of the group. Or not; those on the periphery.
- One big blob with smaller bubbles of oil inside it**—a single parent with one or more children, or one person with one or more major concerns in their life.
- Oil starts out as one big blob, then slowly starts breaking into smaller blobs**—there may appear to be cohesion and unity and health of the organism at first, but there are divisions and problems present and these will likely soon become apparent. An affirmation of unity, but various tasks must be completed by the various members of the group.
- Oil goes all the way to the bottom of the basin, and some oil drops *stay* on the bottom, at least at first**—there is a decided reluctance or hesitation on the part of some to join the larger group. A weighty matter; ponderous, distracting thought; someone may be feeling heavy-hearted.

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Two large main blobs of oil, with a number of smaller bubbles of oil around them—either parents with children, or two adversaries who both have their supporters and opponents.

A smaller blob of oil inside a larger one, and an even-smaller blob of oil inside of that—grandparent, parent and child; like a nesting Russian doll, this situation could have layers.

The following list of lecanomancy meanings comes from late author and witch Scott Cunningham:

If the oil simply divides into two main sections—it represents either a simple negative answer to a question, or more ominously, it may indicate that an argument is in the offing.

If the oil forms a ring, and not a filled-in circle, and this remains unbroken—either it represents a simple positive answer to a question, or it indicates a sick person will recover, or it indicates that a business trip will be successful and profitable.

If smaller droplets of oil emerge from a larger one—it may indicate pregnancy, or even a series of them. Alternatively, it may possibly indicate a creative person with an abundance of ideas. This is also a favorable sign for an ill person, as it predicts they will experience a full recovery from their affliction.

If the oil spreads thinly and covers the entire surface of the water—then beware; it is a sign that troubles are ahead.

If the oil forms many small, unconnected globules of oil—this favorable sign indicates the coming of money.

If the oil forms either a crescent or a star shape—this rather rare manifestation of the oil on the water's surface is considered to be an extremely fortunate sign of good things to come.

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