

# Electronic Rituals, Oracles and Fortune Telling

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ritual

- Rites of passage (baptism, prom, weddings)
- Seasonal/calendrical (Halloween, New Years Day, May Day, TNO)
- Political (court procedures, parliamentary procedures, elections, parades)
- Religious (prayer, sacrament, confession)
- Interpersonal (greetings, gift-giving)

"the performance of more or less invariant sequences of formal acts and utterances not entirely encoded by the performers"

- Related to performance, play, gesture, discourse studies, etc.
- Behavior is "ritualized" when it changes from instrumental to communicative/symbolic (e.g., mating displays in animal behavior)

# Functional views of ritual (what does ritual *do*?)

- Solidarity and social cohesion (Durkheim)
- Collective effervescence (Durkheim) and "communitas" (Victor Turner)
- Construction of power (Geertz)
- Negotiation (courtrooms, elections)





"the numinous"





**"First came the temple, then the city"**



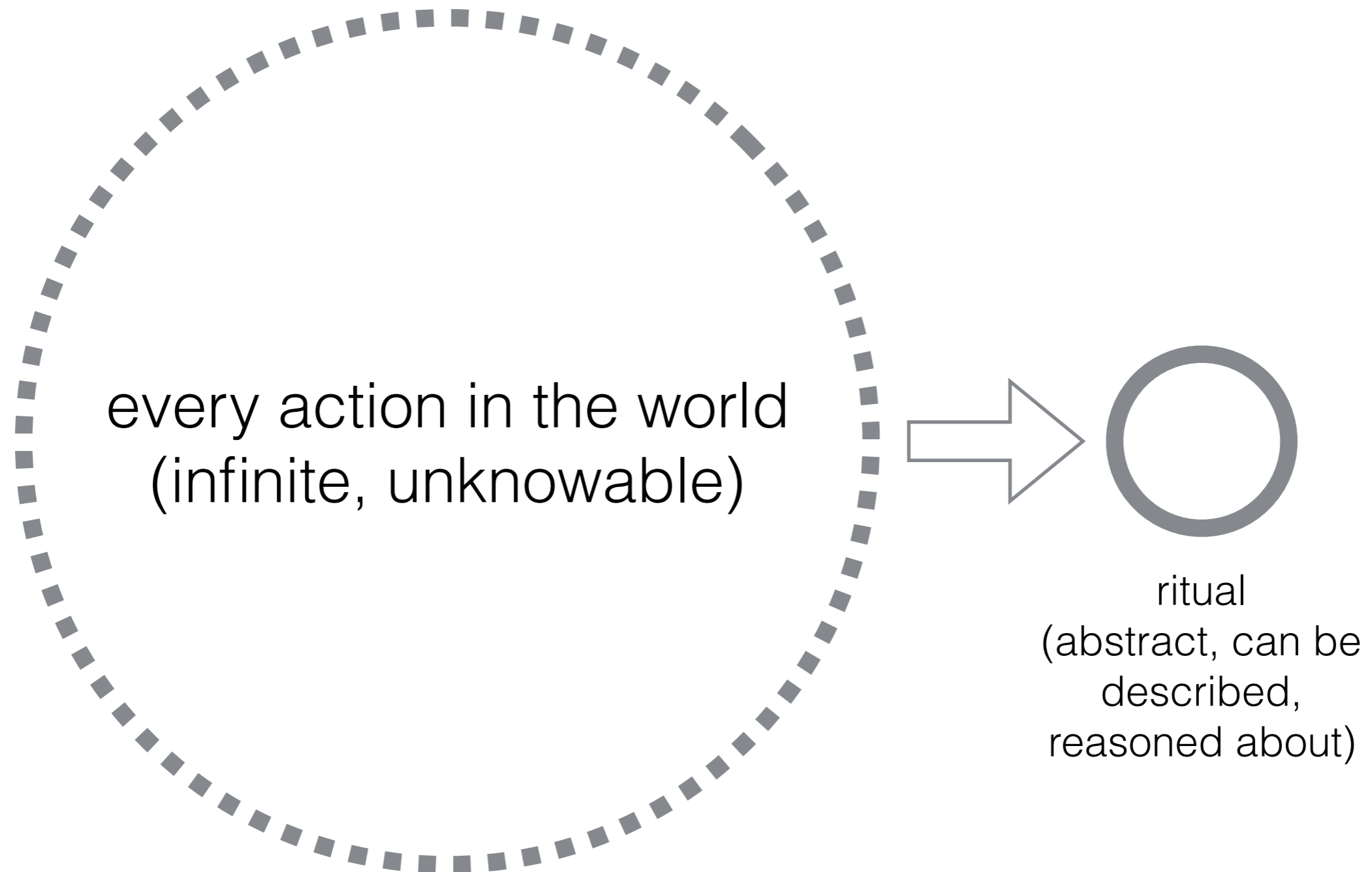
Inside a ritual, "truth"  
works differently

# Rituals transform

- J.L. Austen's concept of performativity ("doing things with words"): "I now pronounce you husband and wife"; "I promise to buy you lunch another time"
- Embodiment: the action of a ritual is a physical experience and can change the body
- Rituals enact their own abstractions



# Rituals are reflexive



divination



"ritual(ized) practices  
of finding things out"

divination is  
"subjunctive" (Turner)



augury, prophecy and  
prediction

A photograph of a blue sky filled with scattered, fluffy white and grey clouds. The clouds vary in density and size, creating a textured appearance. The overall tone is bright and airy.

**the -omancies**



# AMERICAN PHRENOLOGICAL JOURNAL

KNOW THYSELF.



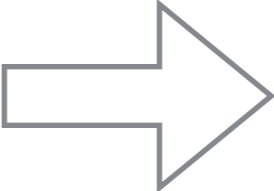




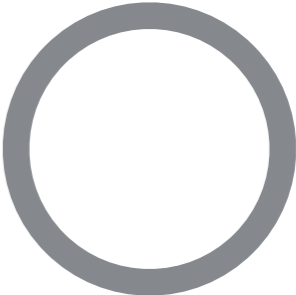




every action in the world  
(infinite, unknowable)



observation  
of  
phenomenon



small, easier  
to interpret  
chunk of  
reality

"reading means approaching something that is just coming into being" (Calvino)

(reading is also deciphering, working backwards from evidence to intention)

cleromancy: casting  
and reading

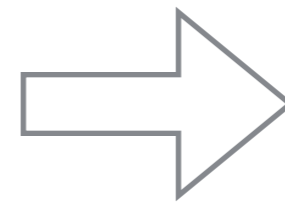
dice, cards, yarrow  
stalks...



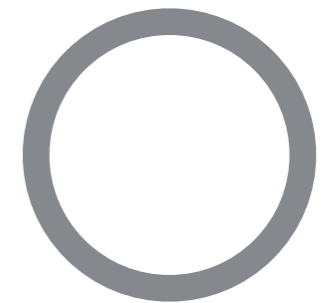
cast a shadow  
cast a spell  
making a cast  
casting lots



every action in the world  
(infinite, unknowable)



random  
process  
("casting")



small, easier  
to interpret  
chunk of  
reality

mediums and  
messages





YES



Registered

NO



A B C D E F G H I J K L M  
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

GOOD BYE





ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ  
ମାଧ୍ୟମିକ  
ଓଡ଼ିଶା

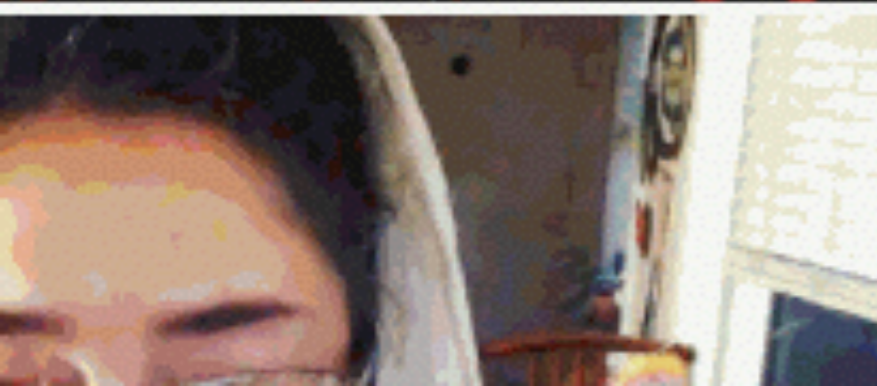
ଉପାଧିକାରୀ  
ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ଓଡ଼ିଶା

electronic contexts

- scale
- speed
- virtual (and otherwise weird) embodiment (social and physical)
- another degree of abstraction (rituals are already sets of rules, but digital rituals put those rules at another remove from interpretation and intention)



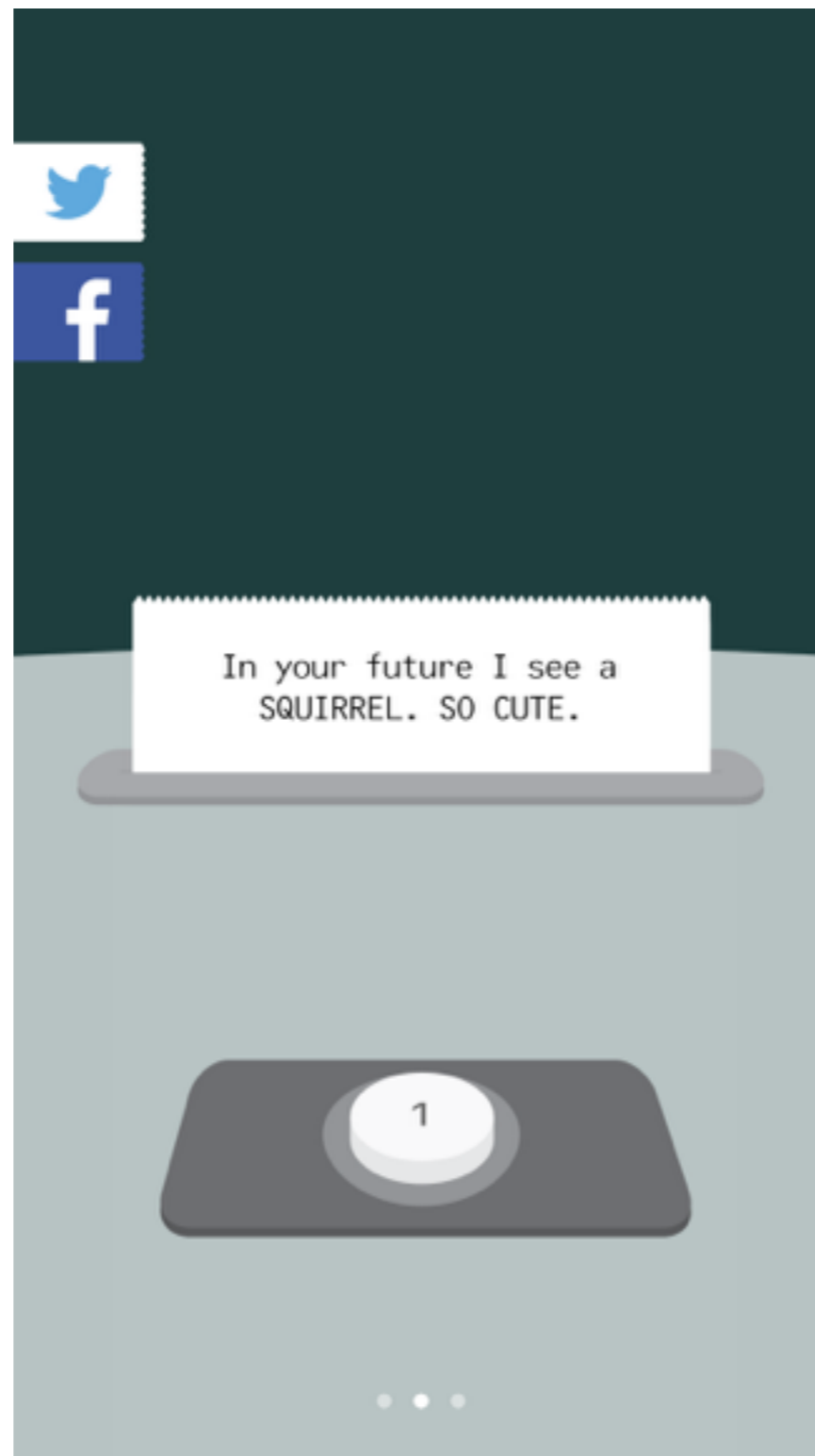
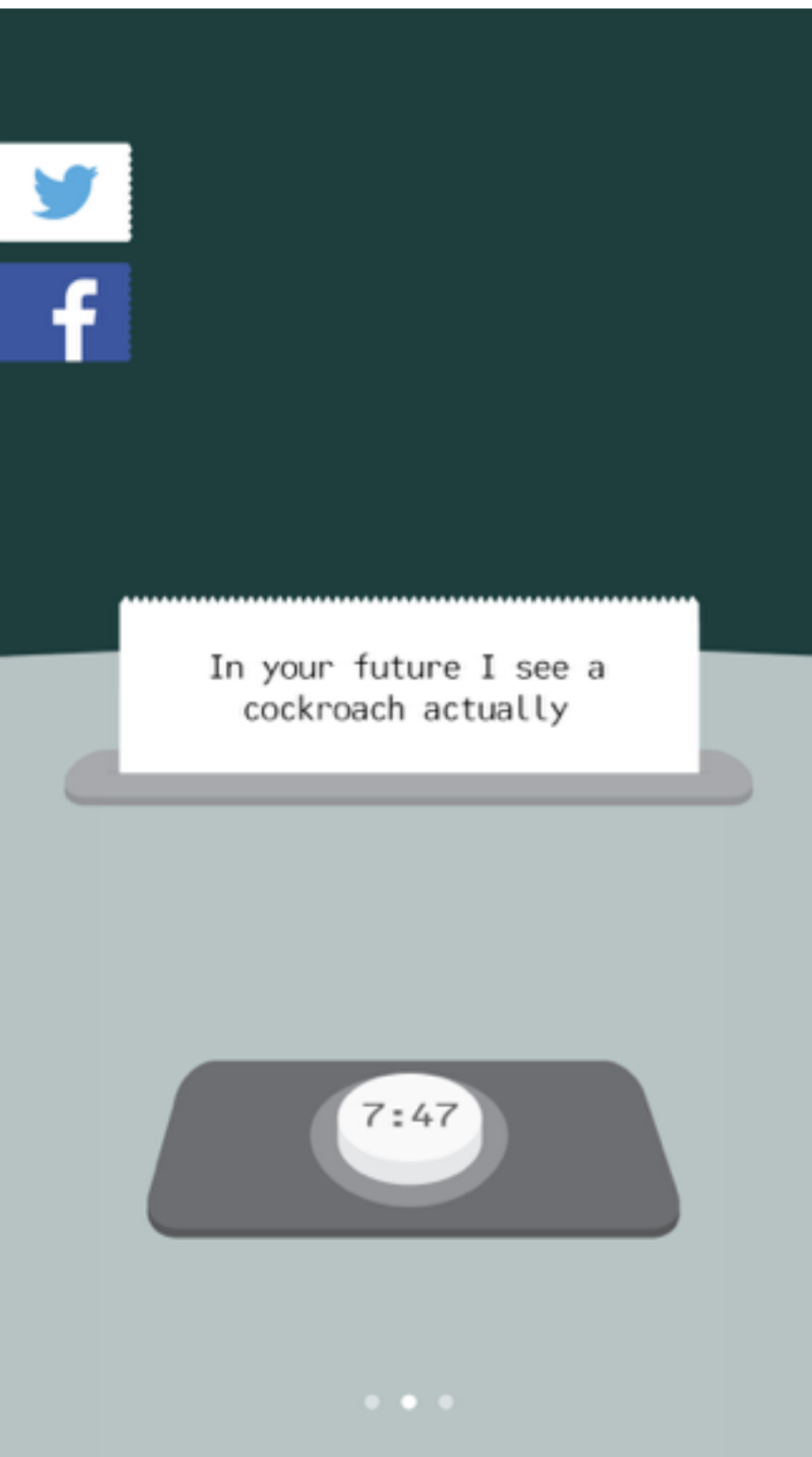






Net Tarot, Kevin Thrasher ([nettarot.net](http://nettarot.net))





#Fortune, Zach Gage ([www.fortune.ly](http://www.fortune.ly))



AMERICAN MADE



# THE MYSTIC LADY

25¢  
DIPPER  
DIPPER

LIFE IS A DREAM

- RICH AND FAMOUS
- FREE SPIRIT
- NAUGHTY BUT NICE
- LUCKY IN LOVE
- HOPELESS DREAMER
- SEEK HELP
- LIFE OF THE PARTY
- HAPPINESS IS YOURS
- STAY IN BED

# LOVE TESTER

25¢  
DIPPER  
DIPPER



# THE MYSTIC LADY

Knows All Tells All

Let Her Read Your Palm, Gaze Into The Stars, And Predict Your Future!

1. Insert Quarter 2. Place Hand On Sensor



1. Insert Quarter

































2. Squeeze Handle





**Threads In Forum : Using Tarot Cards** Forum Tools ▾

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	Thread / Thread Starter	Rating	Last Post ▾	Replies	Views
	<a href="#">Note: Using Tarot Cards Posting Rules Q&amp;A Thread ( 1 2 3 4 5)</a> rwcarter		24-12-2016 by <a href="#">Katiebear</a> 	<a href="#">47</a>	31,404
	<a href="#">Note: Using Tarot Cards Posting Rules (Updated 12Aug16)</a> rwcarter		18-10-2013 by <a href="#">rwcarter</a> 	<a href="#">0</a>	22,804
	<a href="#">Note: Forum Favorite Threads</a> rwcarter		15-11-2009 by <a href="#">rwcarter</a> 	<a href="#">0</a>	21,136
	<a href="#">Note: Table of Contents - The Cards</a> Moonbow		22-03-2007 by <a href="#">Moonbow</a> 	<a href="#">5</a>	106,673
	<a href="#">Note: Table of Contents - All About Reading</a> Moonbow		22-03-2007 by <a href="#">Moonbow</a> 	<a href="#">3</a>	51,755
	<a href="#">How is 10 Swords different from death?</a> SweetSiren		4 Minutes Ago by <a href="#">headincloud</a> 	<a href="#">4</a>	67
	<a href="#">Negative aspects of positive cards ( 1 2 3 4)</a> PageofWords		34 Minutes Ago by <a href="#">earthshine</a> 	<a href="#">34</a>	819
	<a href="#">Moved: The Sun as "Yes" to a romance question? + dreams</a> FleurMai		-	-	-
	<a href="#">Using Gameplay Rather Than Simply Drawing?</a> MadeiraDarling		46 Minutes Ago by <a href="#">MadeiraDarling</a> 	<a href="#">0</a>	14
	<a href="#">Post break up tower card ( 1 2)</a> mahafrens		1 Hour Ago by <a href="#">Holly doll</a> 	<a href="#">18</a>	521
	<a href="#">Justice as Obstacle, 2 of Cups as Advice?</a> KnightOfTheCosmos		1 Hour Ago by <a href="#">KnightOfTheCosmos</a> 	<a href="#">6</a>	98
	<a href="#">8 of Swords as what is needed?</a> Intotouch		2 Hours Ago by <a href="#">ThtDancerGuy</a> 	<a href="#">4</a>	119
	<a href="#">4 of swords as fears?</a> Forest_Floor		7 Hours Ago by <a href="#">Sharla</a> 	<a href="#">6</a>	122
	<a href="#">What he thinks and what he wants. Confused.</a> chainsmoker		7 Hours Ago by <a href="#">830</a> 	<a href="#">6</a>	479
	<a href="#">Moved: Combo The Chariot Reversed, Ace of Wands Reversed, King of Wands Reversed</a>				







# Chance of winning

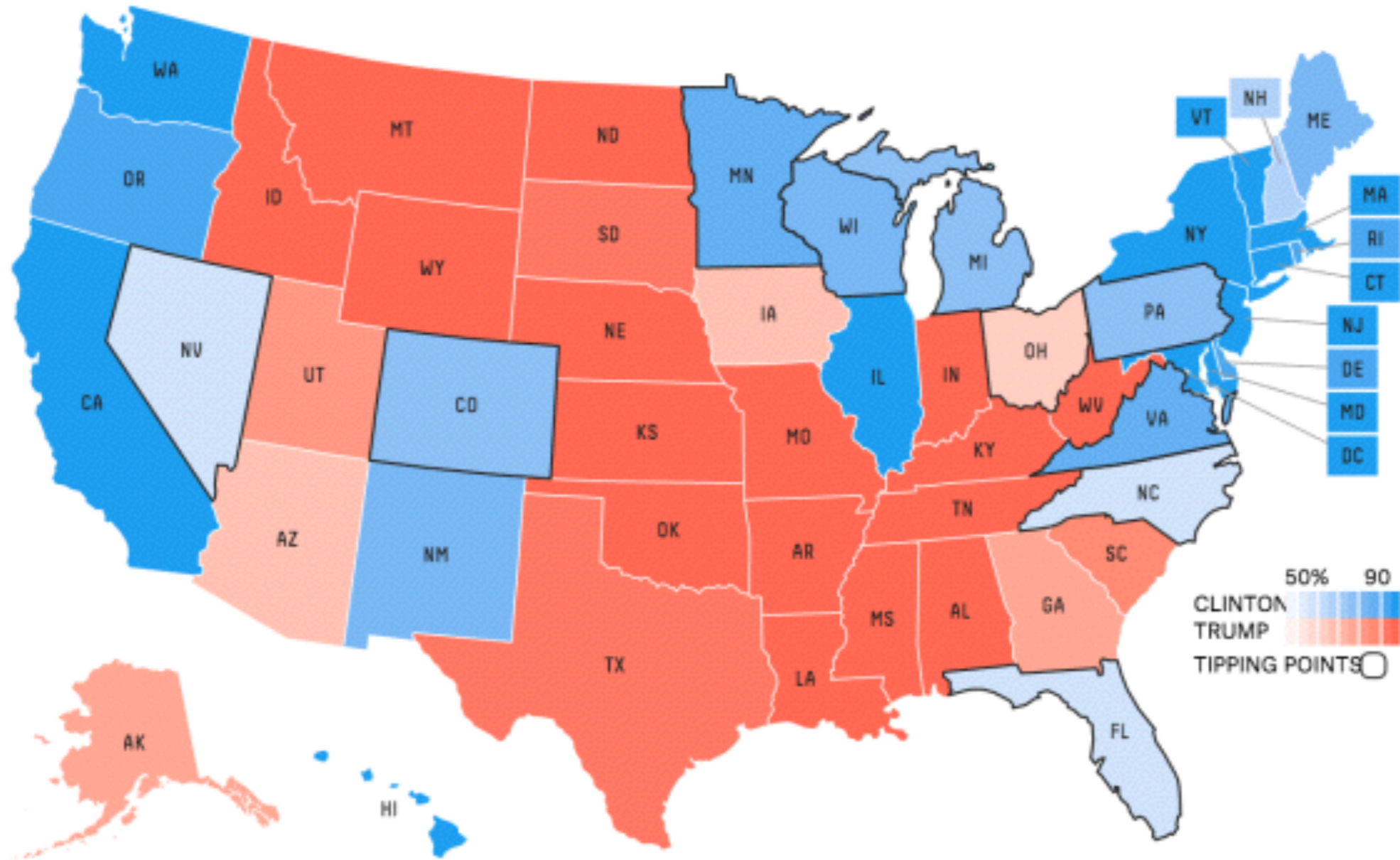


Hillary Clinton

71.4%

Donald Trump

28.6%



## Electoral votes

■ Hillary Clinton	302 . 2
■ Donald Trump	235 . 0

## Popular vote

■ Hillary Clinton	48 . 5%
■ Donald Trump	44 . 9%



[eroft.decontextualize.com](http://eroft.decontextualize.com)