

TAROT

FOR BEGINNERS

The Complete Guide To Learn Tarot Reading and Develop Your Psychic Abilities. Discover Spreads and Cards Secret Meaning, Divination History and Symbolism, Decks and Rituals

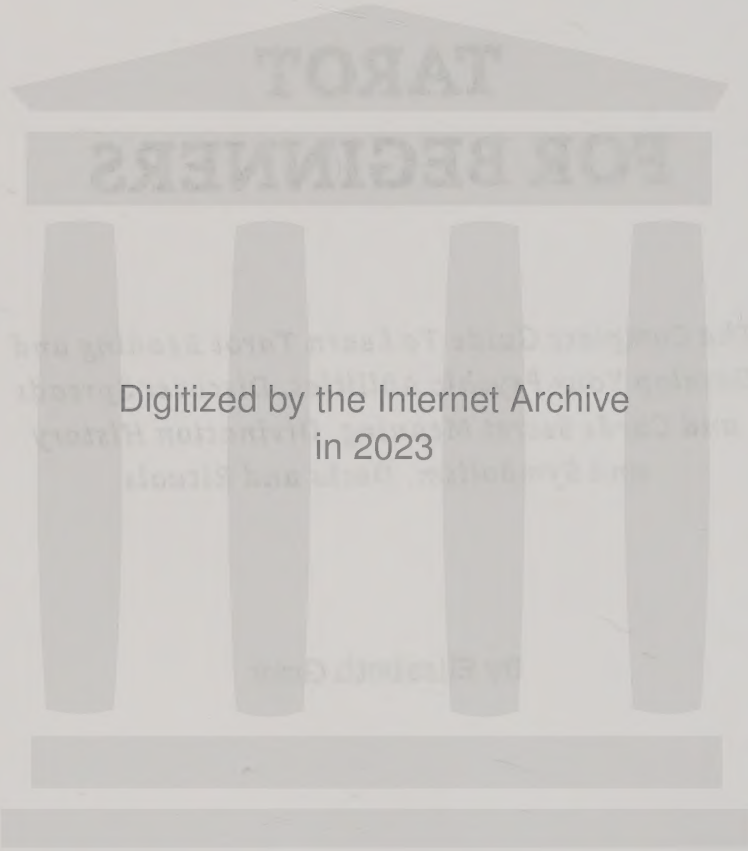


ELIZABETH GRAY

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*The Complete Guide To Learn Tarot Reading and
Develop Your Psychic Abilities. Discover Spreads
and Cards Secret Meaning, Divination History
and Symbolism, Decks and Rituals*

By Elizabeth Gray



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Introduction

This beginner's guide book will help you learn everything you need to know about Tarot cards - its history, principles, philosophy, and how you can use the deck for daily practical affirmation and long-term spiritual development.

Contrary to popular belief, you don't need psychic ability before you can read the Tarot. You can greatly benefit from the Tarot's insights so long as you have an open mind and you are willing to trust the impressions you feel during a reading.

Tarot reading will allow you to become much more aware of yourself and your surroundings. The increased perceptiveness can benefit you in multiple ways; it can help you improve your relationships with your loved ones, and it can help you pinpoint the areas of your life that could use a bit more attention and improvement.

Tarot can also be incredibly relaxing, and it forces you to think deep; to relate specific images and core meanings of cards to particular real-life situations, and draw connections that may help you gain insights that you didn't have before. Believe it or not, for centuries, experts have appraised the amazing soothing and calming powers of tarot that make it the perfect process to help you keep your head clear so you can view situations from perspectives you previously didn't even know existed.

By sharpening your mind to help you ponder extensively, tarot not only improves your critical thinking skills, it also guides you on your path to self-discovery and heightened spiritual awareness. By helping you to make more use of your intuition rather than your analytical mind, tarot helps you to discover a part of you that the modern world forces you to repress; the spiritual part of you. With both the analytical and intuitive segments of your mind fully developed and honed with the aid of tarot, you are not only able to see everyday issues from diverse perspectives, you become a more well-rounded individual.

For a tarot divination to work, whether you are doing a personal reading, or you are having someone do the reading on your behalf, you have to be open-minded. Learning to read tarot cards is a gradual process; a process that cannot be rushed under any circumstance. Learning to read tarot cards can be likened to building a house. First of all, you need to learn how to make your bricks, and then you need to assemble those bricks to form basic structures. Then you need to learn how to incorporate appropriate additions, and from there you can be on your way to erecting your unique superstructure; a creation with your unique, individual imprint.

However, to learn the basics, you need a guide, and the purpose of this book to guide you through your early stages of learning to read Tarot cards. As you progress in tarot, your interest is likely to get even more kindled, and then you can seek out more advanced material on the use of tarot cards for personal divination. There is a lot to be

learnt about tarot reading as a science and as an art, and it promises to be an exciting, mind-blowing experience.

Regardless of your purpose in learning the Tarot cards, I encourage you to share with me the journey of this esoteric wisdom and partake from the greater insights into yourself and the people you care for. Welcome aboard!

Chapter 1: What is Tarot?



Tarot is a symbolic map of consciousness. This map contains our journey through life in all ways - be it practical or spiritual. Reading Tarot cards is a way of divining guidance and wisdom through the way that we lay or spread them out. Their placement and the way they relate to the other cards near them are how we interpret the messages they contain.

It's wise to remember that the cards themselves are not oracles. They do not reveal a future that is lying in wait for us but rather we can use them to create the future we want. It's that revelation that the cards can hold that draws us to the Tarot. The mystery and lore surrounding the cards keep some people away, for fear of negative consequence but others seek to understand them on a deeper level.

While most Tarot readers understand that instructional books on the subject serve as guidelines and give us basic definitions, it's the personal practice by each of us that allows us to develop a style, a technique, and deeper knowledge.

The Tarot is an archetypal map of human consciousness that goes beyond our journey through life both in the practical and the spiritual realms. Reading the Tarot cards is the practice of divination through a particular layout or spread of cards. But contrary to common belief, Tarot reading is not all about fortune telling, and you don't need to possess psychic powers before you can read the cards.

The Tarot cards are used to provide insight into the deepest knowledge of our higher consciousness. They provide an evolved awareness of what we already know deep within.

The Typical Tarot Deck

Tarot cards are divided into two major sections, the Major Arcana which reveals major mysteries, and the Minor Arcana which functions in the revelation of minor mysteries. There are seventy-eight cards in all. 22 cards make up the Major Arcana, and they are numbered from 0 to XXI. Each of the cards of the Major Arcana has a specific name, unlike the cards of the minor Arcana which are usually described by their position in the suit and the suit they are found in. The first card of the Major Arcana is The Fool, numbered 0, and the final card numbered XXI is named World.

The difference between the cards of the Major and Minor Arcana is the Major Arcana helps to reveal the coming of hugely significant life-changing events, while the cards of

the Minor Arcana simply help to reveal minor mysteries like everyday occurrences.

More often than not, the cards of the Major Arcana reveal mysteries beyond our control; events that are likely to serve as important milestones in our journey through the Earth. Hence, Major Arcana cards may not be drawn so often but when they are drawn, it means something big is coming. If a divination is made, and a Major Arcana card shows up, it is unlikely your actions will lessen the possibility of that event happening. However, knowing about the possibility of that event occurring in a particular sphere of your life (depending on the question you asked) will put you in a position to be able to handle the coming events with adequate preparedness.

The remaining 56 cards of the typical Tarot deck constitute the Minor Arcana. The suit representing the element fire is known as Wands, the one representing water is known as Cups, the one representing Air is known as Swords, and the one representing Earth is known as Pentacles. Depending

on the tarot deck being used, alternative names may be used in the nomenclature of the suits of the Minor Arcana. The Wands suit may be known alternatively as Rods, the Cups suit as Chalices, the Swords suit as Spears and the Pentacles suit as coins. It is not the name that a particular suit is called in a deck that matters, what matters is what element of the universe the suit represents.

Tarot as a Part of Life

Tarot cards are quite popular, and most all of us are familiar with them, even if only to a small degree. We see them featured frequently in entertainment media, used by fortune tellers, witches and magicians as part of a supernatural practice, either to see into the future, form a magical barrier for protection, or to summon spirits and entities from other dimensions. In truth, the way Tarot is stereotypically portrayed in popular media is inaccurate, or at the very least, highly exaggerated. We often see protagonists of films visiting a clairvoyant or cliché gypsy character to discern the next steps of their journey or uncover an important secret; the cartomancer will usually

pull an easily recognizable trump card of the Major Arcana from the deck (the Lovers, Death, and the Devil seem to be the most commonly used cards in popular media) and jump to dire conclusions immediately upon seeing it. Usually, the interpretation of these cards is quite literal: The Lovers signify the beginning of a new romantic affair; Death implies a loss of life looming just around the corner, and the Devil is a sign that something wicked is at work in the protagonist's world.

If you're just getting started, dipping your toes into the world of Tarot and metaphysical spirituality, you'd be wise to let go of the expectation of a similar experience; otherwise, you'll be setting yourself up for disappointment. Tarot can indeed be an immensely powerful, life-changing tool but any experienced reader knows that it's rare to encounter a single card that can accurately predict a romantic development, death, or any other specific future event. Every single card in the deck has multiple potential interpretations--for example, the Death card is much more likely to reference change or figurative rebirth than it is to

refer to a literal death, and depending on the context provided by surrounding cards, it can often deliver a message of positivity and optimism for the querent's future. This being the case, it's important for any Tarot enthusiast to remain open-minded and ready to embrace complexity. In the world of divination through Tarot, there is very little black and white; most of the practice resides in a grey area, and no matter how experienced a reader may be, the deck will always have something new to teach them.

Tarot is for everyone. While it has been historically influenced by philosophical and spiritual trends, Tarot itself isn't connected to any single religion or dogma. Though occult-oriented decks have existed for hundreds of years, the original Tarot decks held no more mystery or darkness than a standard fifty-two card deck of playing cards, and there are plenty of modern decks designed with decidedly light-hearted illustrations. While many turn to Tarot with an interest in seeing into the future, there are those who do not believe the cards harness any type of clairvoyant power; instead, they may use the cards as a

means of introspection and self-understanding, much like a psychologist using a Rorschach test to gain insight into a patient's psyche. At the end of the day, Tarot is what you make of it, and the cards can only be as powerful as your belief in them.

Tarot for Today's World

You may have noticed an increase in interest surrounding Tarot. It seems as if we are currently experiencing a sort of Tarot revival where Tarot readings are being performed via live video feeds online, Tarot Clubs are meeting up in public spaces to hold readings and fellowship with like-minded people. What started out as a more mystical practice that helped form the works of many artists and philosophers before us, is now more of an insight into our current lives. Card interpretations can be given without the air of mystery or perceived implications. By removing the smoke and mirrors that have disguised Tarot for too long it is being opened to new audiences that can express it as more of a creative act rather than a metaphysical one. This ability to creatively read a story that the cards present and

apply it to certain aspects of our lives is quite attractive. This pull is partly because it's all about us. No one else can truly understand what the cards mean to you on a personal level.

If you've never had your Tarot cards read, start there. You should be able to achieve this quite easily if you are willing to have a reading performed online or if you know of someone in your circle that has a Tarot deck. You can just pull one card, or find out your Birth Cards, or pose a question that you need insight on. Keep in mind that there is still a certain stigma that comes with the Tarot. Many followers of religion still warn against the idea of being able to control our own fates and rejecting God's creation and care over all life. Some leaders in religion are still creating fear around the Tarot by saying its use will attract demons and evil spirits. Even with the negativity that still surrounds the Tarot, many young people are drawn to embrace the mystic. As older generations sought consolation and order to their lives through religion, many people now are finding a sense of control through Tarot.

For many, the meditative practice of reading Tarot cards is in and of itself a reason to continue doing it. Handing over major life dilemmas and decisions to the ancient illustrations found in the Tarot can be both comforting and insightful during times where guidance is needed.

Popular Tarot decks

Decks for novices

Rider-Waite

The Rider-Waite deck makes an excellent first deck for beginners. Originally published in 1909, the deck was named for publisher William Rider, and A.E. Waite, a prominent public figure in the mystic community at the time. The deck was masterfully illustrated by Pamela Colman Smith, using a combination of traditional Christian imagery, Jewish and Kabbalist symbolism, ancient Egyptian references, and modern feminist slant (or, at least what would have passed for “modern feminism” during this era). The deck set itself apart by including an explanatory booklet with a guide to divination, and by

illustrating the numbered suit cards with unique narrative details to aid in memorization.

There are several versions of this deck in publication, some with more radiant or muted color schemes, some in larger or smaller card sizes, and many special editions. There's even a set that glows in the dark!

Thoth Tarot, or Book of Thoth

This is a great deck for beginners who want a bit more esoteric energy in their Tarot practice. Produced by English occultist and magician Aleister Crowley, and painted by Lady Freida Harris under his instruction, this beautiful deck was published alongside a book of the same name, including detailed instructions for divination. This can be a great deck for novices, so long as they know how to translate the updated names of some Major Arcana cards. In the Thoth deck, the Magician is renamed the Magus; the High Priestess is simply the Priestess; Strength is retitled as Lust; the Wheel of Fortune is just Fortune; Justice is renamed Adjustment; Judgment is recast as the Aeon; and finally, the World becomes the Universe.

The Gilded Tarot

Inspired by the classic Rider-Waite imagery with renaissance era characters but set in the cosmos with a psychedelic, new age twist. It's particularly useful for beginners because the suit cards are color-coded; this helps to get into the practice of associating the corresponding elements to each of the suit cards as you read spreads.

Sun and Moon Tarot

Painted in soft pastels and a folk-art style, this deck is fantastic for those who are new to Tarot, specifically because the numbered suit cards are labeled with clue words--an excellent tool for memorization. It's lovely to look at and features a more racially diverse cast of characters, and some that shake up gender norms of traditional tarot decks.

The Golden Tarot

Designed from medieval and renaissance era artworks, this historic style deck is great for beginners because the images hold so many detailed clues to the cards' meanings.

It's a perfect deck for art history lovers, beautifully designed and full of biblical symbolism; for example, the Empress card uses a painting of the Virgin Mary. This deck uses the suit of Coins in place of Pentacles.

New Mythic Tarot

Originally published in 1986, this deck draws heavily on the illustrations of the Rider-Waite deck but has some minor illustrative departures. The deck is re-imagined to feature a cast of characters from ancient Greek myths, adding an extra layer of narrative content to the card meanings. For example, the Star card is drawn to represent a snapshot moment from the myth of Pandora's box, while the Hanged Man is drawn as Prometheus, ready to receive Zeus' punishment.

Morgan Greer Tarot

Loosely based on the Rider-Waite deck, these cards are borderless, full of bright, lush colors, and most characters are drawn in closeup, with features and details well-defined. This is a great deck for those who are new to the

world of Tarot, as the artwork is very approachable but still intricate, beautiful, and complex. Designed and published in the 1970s, the Morgan-Greer illustrations hint at the trends of flower power and psychedelia. This is one of very few decks to use a medieval or fantasy era setting while also including racial diversity in the illustrations.

Robin Wood Tarot

This deck is inspired by Rider-Waite but leans heavily upon pagan symbolism rather than Christian religious imagery, so it is a go-to for modern-day pagans, wiccans, and secularists. The illustrations have an ethereal, art-nouveau era style, with a dark fairy tale mood, and bright colors that make the card imagery extremely easy for novices to read.

Decks for Experienced Readers, Collectors, and Tarot Lovers

Tarot de Marseilles

This traditional French medieval style deck is a must-have for any collector who loves history. It is one of the oldest deck designs still in popular circulation; its earliest version

may have been produced as early as the year 1500; there is a copy of this deck still in existence that was made in 1650. In the Tarot de Marseilles, illustrations of the Major Arcana cards are somehow cartoonishly simplistic and hauntingly beautiful at the same time. The only reason this deck is not ideal for beginners is the design of the numbered suit cards; while they are beautiful and intricate, they often feature geometric designs rather than illustrations and can be difficult for novices to interpret.

Motherpeace Tarot

This is one of the most popular and distinctive modern decks around. It was designed in the 1970s to update the classic Tarot imagery to something better suited to new-wave feminist ideals, particularly inspired by the Goddess movement. The cards are round rather than rectangular; their shape symbolizes the moon and feminine energy. This is a wonderful deck for those who crave a diverse, intersectional, feminist update to Tarot imagery and symbolism. The deck even has its own unique spread of eleven cards laid out in a circular shape.

The Hermetic Tarot

Another great deck for history lovers, and those with a special interest in the esoteric side of Tarot. This deck features a great deal of symbolism from the Secret or Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, an occultist group that was popular in Europe at the turn of the twentieth century and still survives to this day (though it boasts lesser numbers currently). While the current Golden Dawn movement may have some unfortunate connections to fascist and racist ideologies, the Hermetic order was primarily concerned with the preservation of ancient alchemical, cabalistic, and arcane knowledge; current leaders of the Hermetic Order claim no connection or alignment whatsoever with the modern Golden Dawn movement. This deck is a wonderful tool to further your study of individual card meanings, as the images feature clues to elemental, astrological, Kabbalistic, numerical, and geomantic connections for many cards. The entire deck is drawn in only black and white, with highly detailed illustrations; you'll want to stare at these spreads for hours.

Aquarian Tarot

This deck is breathtakingly beautiful, featuring art deco and art nouveau inspired illustrations and a modern color scheme. The symbolism is a bit more complex than a standard deck, and this isn't ideal for a novice cartomancer but for a reader who has some experience with a traditional deck, it will be easy to transition into this style.

Shadowsapes Tarot

This is a gorgeous deck, with finely detailed, ethereal illustrations. In fact, the beautiful imagery is the only reason this deck might not work for beginners--it can be a distraction, and furthermore, some of it is quite abstract. This is a great deck for anyone who loves fantasy, Norse mythology, and faeries.

The Wild Unknown Tarot

This beautiful deck is gaining a large modern following. It may not be best for novices, as many of the illustrations are minimalist, featuring nature and animals rather than

human characters but the artist's interpretations of card meanings are profound and inspiring.

Starchild Tarot

A perfect deck for the modern-minded wiccan, this deck uses a gorgeous pastel, new-age color scheme, and photo-collage art to create some truly breathtaking imagery. This deck draws heavily on cosmic spirituality, sacred geometry, metaphysical healing philosophies and ancient mystery schools for symbolism.

Fountain Tarot

Another wonderful modern deck, the Fountain Tarot features original oil paintings by Jonathan Saiz that beautifully capture the concepts of Tarot, updating them for the internet age while retaining a sense of mystery and appreciation for its historical legacy. It's a must-have for modern metaphysical practitioners, energy healers, and contemporary art lovers, too.

Visconti-Sforza Deck

This deck is about as old as the Tarot de Marseilles design, and another wonderful deck for history lovers, with illustrations drawn in more of a medieval style, barely hinting at the dawning of the Renaissance. The original Visconti deck is missing four cards--the Tower, the Devil, the Three of Swords and the Knight of Coins--so for modern prints, these four cards have been recreated in a similar style to the rest of the deck. Many of the original cards survive to this day, in museums and private collections; they were often created using precious materials, such as gold leaf for the card's borders, and show us not only that Tarot was valued by the wealthy and powerful but also provide us a glimpse into the daily life and value structure of the Italian nobility of the 15th century through its detailed imagery.

Chapter 2: Tarot History



Tarot is essentially a card game designed to tell fortunes and reveal the future. It didn't start off that way, though! At first, tarot was simply a deck of cards for playing card games socially. Tarot decks were only comprised of those original 56 cards, and they hardly looked anything like they do today.

In the early days of tarot, the deck was rather simple. With no Major Arcana section whatsoever, there were just the

court/face cards and the remaining 40 suited cards, with each suit counting from Ace to 10. The early days of tarot were also likely not as ancient as you'd like to think. Early days of tarot were simply the late 14th and early 15th centuries.

While many ancient cultures surely had their own means of divination, it is unlikely that the actual tarot deck of today existed anywhere across time except from around the turn of the 15th century. There is no archaeological proof of this long-time connection, and we have virtually no historical proof of the tarot's existence unless we look at Europe around the 15th century.

Despite this concrete history – which places the first tarot decks being released and played (casually, as a card game; not as a divination tool) around 1375 – it is possible that the ancient mysteries and archetypes revealed by the Major Arcana cards especially – which weren't added to the deck until around 1450 – may have been passed down from ancient cultures across the world.

The symbols in the tarot seem older than time itself. Perhaps this is why people freely speculate about tarot

being older than history can prove. Perhaps this is why people across the world can relate to the cards. The symbols speak to us in ways we often can't put words to, and that's the essence of divination.

Tarot was originally played as a parlor game called Triumph that was similar to Bridge today, and that game had no divination intent. However, with growing interest in divination in Europe around the turn of the 17th century, people began to associate their own, much deeper meanings to the cards.

At this time, the deck would have consisted of a detailed Major Arcana section with a far simpler Minor Arcana section, and the court/face cards may have been beautiful but the pip cards (numbering ace-10) would have been extremely simple with just the cups, swords, wands, and coins – nothing else. Even around the turn of the 19th century, the deck was still incredibly simple, without much adornment on those pip cards but people were *much* more fascinated in the tarot as a means of divination than anything else at this time.

In fact, the first divination-only tarot deck was designed and released on the European market by Jean-Baptiste Alliette in 1791. This French occultist developed the imagery on the Major Arcana and court/face cards extensively but the pip cards were still largely neglected. It wasn't until the turn of the 20th century that a follower of Aleister Crowley's philosophy, Arthur Waite, teamed up with fellow occultist and artist Pamela Colman Smith to design the cards as we know them today. At this point, tarot got its first distinctly American influences, and the study of tarot increased in popularity, allowing it to spread across the world like wildfire.

Waite insisted on the importance of including people and imagery on the pip cards as well as all the others, if not for any other reason than to give the card readers at home a little more to work with on those previously basic cards. Smith's artwork was finalized, and the deck was released to the world under the name of the Rider-Waite deck, although some still call it the Waite-Smith deck in recognition of the artist herself.

Chapter 3: The Cards of the Major Arcana



The major arcana is composed of 22 cards. Going by the Rider-Waite-Smith deck, the cards are arranged thusly:

The Fool



This card can be the start or end of the deck as its number is 0 and therefore doesn't have a permanent place from either of the two options. It's a card with unlimited potential as it signifies a clean slate. As the whole deck is sometimes interpreted as "a fool's journey through life", this card signifies new beginnings of a journey.

The card features a man staring out from the edge of a cliff. He seems to be without a care and looks set to embark on

an adventure. In his right hand is a small bag tied to a stick and it is slung over his shoulder and it contains all he needs. He is gazing at the universe (skywards) and looks unaware that he is about to fall off the cliff's edge into the unknown. His left hand clasps a white rose which represents his innocence and purity and a small dog at his feet which signifies loyalty and protection. The mountain in the background signifies future challenges but the Fool's attitude shows he's not concerned with the right that moment and is rather focused on the new adventure that awaits.

Upright

When the card is upright, it signifies new beginnings, opportunities, and potential. It is a sign that you are starting a journey into the unknown and trusting the universe to take you on an adventure that you are committed to even though it might seem crazy. The Fool encourages you to be curious, open-minded and adventurous on this new journey. Forgo the anxiety and worries of what may be or not and sink yourself into the

experience and excitement coming your way. The card is a sign to take action on a new endeavor even if you feel you don't have all you need. Be creative with what you have and let spontaneity guide you on this adventure. Go with the flow, have fun and relax. Embrace your carefree spirit and unlimited potential and don't let the doubt of details hold you back. Take a chance and trust the universe to catch you as you fall off the precipice into this new adventure.

Reversed

The reversed Fool card can signify that you are moving too fast too soon. In an attempt to be free and trust the universe, you are committing to too many risks and thoughtless actions without considering the consequences on yourself and others. The card calls you to slow down and take stock of yourself and your adventure. As you trust the universe, let your actions also show that the universe can trust you. The reversed Fool can also signify indecision and hesitation. You are letting too many thoughts cloud your free-spirited nature and are holding back from embarking on your adventure. While forethought and caution are

okay, don't use it as an excuse to hold onto the past rather than explore the unknown of the future. The reversed Fool urges you not to be "a Fool"

The Magician



The Magician is numbered 1 in the deck and that is a number that represents new beginnings and opportunities. This signifies his connection to both the cosmic and physical realm. He uses this connection to tap into energy from the cosmic realm to create matter in the earthly realm.

His white robe signifies purity while his red cloak signifies knowledge and experience of the world.

On the table are objects symbolizing each suit of the Tarot with each representing an element (Wands for Fire, Coins for Earth, Cup for Water and Sword for Air). This signifies that he has the resources needed to manifest his thoughts into action. Above him is an infinity symbol and around his waist is a snake swallowing its tails and this both signify unlimited potential. The foreground contains an array of blossoming flowers that symbolize the fruition and blossoming of his ideas.

Upright As a master of making his thoughts a reality along with having all the tools, energy and potential, The Magician signifies that you have all the resources to realize your dreams into reality. You have spiritual energy (Fire), physical energy (earth), mental energy (air) and emotional energy (water). It signifies that it is a perfect time to go ahead and make a dream into a reality. You have everything you need to make your dreams become a reality and you are ready. Tap into the unlimited potential and energy at

your disposal, establish a clear image of your goals and take the necessary steps towards achieving it. Remember, it is not only about having the energy, resources, and potential. You also have to take action and seize control. Focus and commit to the task at hand and take steps to manifest your dreams into reality. You are the master of your fate.

Reversed

On one hand, the reverse Magician can signify that you are exploring an idea to make into reality but are yet to take action to pursue it. You are being limited by your doubts in your ability to make it work with the resources at your disposal. Trust yourself and stay awake to the signs around you for the opportunities they can bring. On another hand, the reversed magician can signify a struggle to accomplish a current goal. You either don't know where to begin or what the next step to take is. You have failed to create a clear mental image of what your goals are and you are suffering from poor planning. Or you have lost touch with why the goal is important and no longer feel joy in following that path, therefore the universe is telling you to

look back before you continue forward. At its worst, the reversed Magician signifies greed and manipulation. You are achieving your dreams to the detriment of others and doing it solely for your gain. This can either be intentional or unintentional. It can also mean untapped potential in that you have all the resources and are the one holding yourself back from achieving your dreams.

The High Priestess



This card may also be called the Papess or Popess, as the term “High Priestess” would be anachronistic in historically accurate decks designed before the late 1700s. It represents intuition, mystery, and the divine feminine. In an upright position, this card signifies the need to trust in one’s gut instincts, keep faith in spiritual wisdom, or to trust in the mystical knowledge of a feminine sage or diviner. It encourages stillness, passivity, and introspection, urging the querent towards a level of inner balance that will allow them to hear their own intuitive voice. Her message is: look within you, not without.

The High Priestess also indicates an enigma: things disguised or hidden, mysteries that have yet to unfold, people, objects, or institutions that are not what they appear to be. This is hinted at in the card’s illustration; the High Priestess sits before a temple but the building itself is hidden behind a patterned veil. When you find this card upright in any spread, it is advisable to trust in your gut and stay wary of anything that seems particularly tempting, seductive, or too good to be true.

Reversed

When the High Priestess is reversed, it may signify cognitive dissonance, secretiveness, self-doubt, or other intuitive challenges that could be preventing the querent from trusting in their own judgment. It can also represent a duplicitous female or dishonest feminine energy in the querent's life, distorting their perception of reality. In the context of health issues, a reversed High Priestess may indicate a hormonal imbalance or underlying health issue that impacts the querent's mood, capacity for impulse control, and judgment.

No matter the context or question, a reversed High Priestess is most often an urgent call for self-care. The querent needs to focus on reconnecting to the self and getting in touch with their inner voice and core desires.

In earlier decks, the High Priestess or Papess might be depicted in a more traditionally religious light, wearing a Papal tiara with modest vestments and a Holy Bible in hand. In many modern decks, the High Priestess is renamed as "the Seer" and may be depicted as an androgynous or gender fluid being. No matter the era, this card always

references inner knowledge and some form of divine wisdom.

The Empress



The twelve stars, however, signify the months of the year and planets. She dons a white robe patterned with pomegranates which symbolize innocence and fertility and she sits on a luxurious arrangement of flowing red velvet and cushions. One cushion has a symbol of Venus

which symbolizes love and it is symbolic of fertility, beauty, grace – all these which are attributes of The Empress.

A vibrant forest and winding stream surround her to signify her connection to the Earth, nature, and life. Golden wheat in the foreground reflects abundance for harvest.

Upright

It is a sign of a powerful connection to femininity which translates to elegance, sensuality, fertility, nurturing, etc. all of which are necessary to create a balance between man and woman. You are urged to synchronize with your femininity. Connect with beauty. Tap into your senses and experience pleasure and fulfillment from your environment. Express yourself and be creative through art forms. Apply yourself to a new hobby that will tap into and improve your creativity.

The Empress also signifies abundance. Reflect on the beauty of abundance around you and take pleasures in the luxuries that life is offering. As an archetype of Mother Earth, The Empress also encourages you to involve yourself in nature and sync with its energy. When this

happens, you'll take in Mother Nature's caring nature and feel love, compassion and the urge to care for others.

This can also suggest pregnancy, birth or stepping into a mothering role. Birth and pregnancy can be literal or metaphorical in the sense of coming up with a new goal or even a sense of self.

Reversed

The reversed Empress encourages you to prioritize yourself. Love and care for yourself and focus on caring for your needs. It can also suggest a creative block in birthing a new idea or in creative expression. Don't bother with what people think and express yourself in ways that make you happy. The card may also make you aware of your body image. It asks you to love yourself and recognize your beauty inside and out. Don't depend on other people's perception of how you see the beauty in yourself and others.

The Emperor



A looming mountain range with a flowing river at its base is in the background. The mountain symbolizes and solid foundation that can be immovable but the river gives a contrast that there exists a gentler side if one were to search for it in the midst of all the rigidity. The card suggests you are adopting a fatherly role, regardless of your gender. You are providing for and protecting your loved ones. People attribute a sense of stability and security

to you. The card also suggests your comfortability with respect to authority. You are fit to lead and you do it firmly but fairly. You listen to others but have the final say. You are always ready to protect those important to you from danger and people know they can rely on you.

Upright

The Emperor represents a system of law and order. You create order from chaos and enforce rules and regulations. You don't rush into situations without a plan but rather figure out an approach that is effective and efficient. Emperor signifies wisdom through experiences. You have passed through trials and come out the other side stronger and wiser and can, therefore, offer guidance and direction to those around you.

Reversed

The reversed Emperor asks you to re-evaluate your relationship with power and authority. It can also symbolize a misuse of power or authoritarian behaviors from you or those around you. It may also be a sign of

inflexibility and an unwillingness to listen to the advice of others. Also, it represents a lack of authority causing a gradual collapse in the system. You may have lost a sense of direction because you have lost an authority figure or you have given away your power or compromised your authority to either please others or for selfish gain. It can also be a sign of unwillingness to take on the leadership role or be father figure despite being in a position to do so.

The Hierophant



This card may also be called the Pope in older or historically inspired decks, or the High Priest, as a counterpart to the High Priestess. The Hierophant is the bridge between deities and mortals, as well as the key to divine knowledge. He represents the importance or power of tradition, convention, and established institutions. Upright, this card can also symbolize guidance through some form of teacher and student relationship, whether this is in a spiritual, educational, creative, or domestic setting.

Finding this card in a spread may point the querent towards a conventional approach to their troubles, encouraging orthodoxy over radical or innovative choices. The Hierophant represents institutional knowledge and value structures, so he may appear to remind the querent of the tenets of their own morality.

Reversed When the Hierophant is reversed, the querent may feel shackled, pinned down, or caged in by the rules of tradition. Perhaps the need to conform to social or religious norms is the only thing standing in the way of forward momentum for the querent. This reversed card encourages

rebellion, innovation, and rejection of institutional wisdom. Alternatively, the upturned Hierophant can indicate the need to question the teachings of a tutor, guru, or spiritual leader who wields great influence over the querent, advising skepticism and critical thinking. Advise the querent to feel emboldened to take risks but always ensure they are thinking for themselves as they do so.

This card typically features a male Hierophant, even in modern feminist decks. Some decks may choose to omit any explicitly Christian religious symbols, while others may depict the Hierophant as the Pope in actuality.

The Lovers



This card may seem self-explanatory but there is a lot more meaning to it than just romantic love. Love comes in many forms, whether familial, platonic, or romantic, and this card addresses them all. When the Lovers appear upright in a spread, they frequently represent a major choice, dichotomy, or a fork in the road, implying that whatever decision is made, the querent will have to sacrifice something to embrace their choice fully.

Reversed

Predictably, a reversal of this card can indicate that there is trouble brewing in the querent's relationships: lack of commitment, infidelity, indecisiveness, separation, or problems with trust. When the Lovers are reversed in a spread, it is often an indication that the querent needs to make a decision, or fully honor a choice they've already made.

Symbolism

In the Rider-Waite deck, the Lovers are drawn as Adam and Eve, standing naked in the Garden of Eden; their nudity is a representation of honesty and emotional vulnerability. Eve stands in front of the biblical Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, fruiting ripe apples with a snake coiled around its trunk. Adam stands before the Tree of Life. Above them is the Archangel Raphael, wings and arms spread wide, sun shining bright; Raphael's name means "God Heals," so this card references the power of love as a

cure-all for emotional and physical ailments, and possibly equates the power of love to divine force.

Earlier decks most often depicted the Lovers as regular people, fully clothed, receiving a marriage blessing from a priest or other revered figure. The choice to illustrate this biblical scene in the Rider-Waite deck may have been meant to punctuate the sense of finality in whatever choice the querent must make; this card is not only indicative of an upcoming fork in the road but also of the fact that once one path is taken, there can be no turning back. In earlier times, when divorce was far less frequent and considered scandalous or even criminal, this card's illustration of a typical marriage was enough to reference this finality. The modern update to this biblical scene can be widely understood as a representation of temptation, innocence lost, and irreversible acts.

Chariot



The card shows a warrior in a chariot. He wears armor adorned with crescent moons which represent what is coming into being, a tunic with a square which represents strength of will, and other symbols that represent spiritual transformation. The star and laurel crown signify success, victory and spiritual evolution. He has a magician like wand that signifies his control over the chariot that comes from his strength of mind as he holds no reins. His

standing stance indicates his proactive nature in taking action and moving forward. The canopy above him is adorned with six-pointed stars suggesting a connection to the Divine Will and the celestial world. Two sphinxes of black and white sit in front of his chariot representing duality. They also suggest opposing forces with their color scheme and the fact that they are going in either direction. However, the charioteer is in charge and can steer the chariot in any direction he wants through his force of will. Behind the chariot is a river representing the need to float with the stream of the universe while also being in command of the direction he is going.

Upright

This card represents willpower, strength, and determination. Just as The Lovers card has shown you how to choose your values, this card indicates that it is time to take action on those choices. The card is a sign of encouragement, a nudge that you should dedicate yourself to achieving your objectives. Apply willpower, commitment, and discipline on your path to achieve your

aims and objectives successfully. Stop taking a passive path hoping things will work out. Get up, get active and proceed to achieve your goals no matter the challenges that may come your way. Even if you are being pulled in different directions and find you are faltering, believe in yourself and find that strength and willpower to make your goals a reality. If you are already working to achieve your dreams, the chariot is a sign to persevere, concentrate and remain confident. Don't search for shortcuts. Accept the test of strength, conviction, and willpower thrown your way and follow through to victory. Be confident and courageous. Boldly express your desires and set your boundaries. Have faith and believe in your strength.

Reversed

Where the upright Chariot indicates an encouragement to move ahead, the reverse Chariot is a sign to go back. Turn a blind eye rather than doggedly moving in your current direction, or re-evaluate your goals and see if a change is to be made. The reversed Chariot can be a warning that you are allowing the challenges in your path to get the better of

you and prevent you from making your goals a reality. It is time to reaffirm your commitments and push through your challenges. Take greater control over your destiny. Focus on what you can control, and for what you can't, take this opportunity to improve yourself in a bid to achieve more control. However, don't fall into the trap of exerting too much control. Sometimes it is good to allow the universe to be in charge and let things follow their natural course. Don't be overconfident. Seek help when it is required and accept help when it is offered.

Strength



In the Rider-Waite deck, this card features a woman taming a lion, hands placed gently over the beast's forehead and lower jaw. Like the Magician, this woman has an infinity symbol floating above her head, pointing to the limitless nature of emotional strength. The lion is a symbol of strength, courage, passion, and regal power; it also signifies the ego, or raw animal instinct, inside every one of us, which the female figure has easily under control. In

many illustrations, she looks down towards the lion with concern, while the lion gazes up at her with admiration, sometimes licking her hands; it's clear that her power comes from sensitivity, and that she has earned the animal's respect and obedience through kindness. She wears a belt and garland made of roses, a symbol of victory and triumph.

Historically, this card has also been called "Fortitude," and in some modern occult decks, it was renamed "Lust." No matter the era, this card references a form of inner strength, rather than the purely physical power that is depicted in the Chariot card. It references courage, persuasive power or influence, patience, and emotional resilience. When appearing in a spread, this card may serve to remind you that strength can be sensitive, sweet, and silent; that problems can be resolved without conflict, and situations can be controlled without the use of excessive force. It may symbolize intellectual prowess, diplomatic skill, stamina or persistence.

Reversed

This signifies a lack of emotional strength: cowardice, self-doubt, misplaced anger, and overindulgent behaviors have weakened the querent. They may be struggling with self-control, or failing to take responsibility for their actions, and feeling stagnant or stuck in a rut as a result of these problems. The reversed Strength card is a call to restore inner-balance, atone for past wrongs, and find healthier methods of channeling negative emotions. While upright, the Strength card can symbolize the power that is found through taming inner demons; in reverse, though, it may mean that the querent's inner darkness has been allowed to spiral out of control, and needs treatment.

Alternatively, the reversed card could indicate a misuse of inner strength. Is the querent or someone in their life, using their influence to coerce, manipulate, or exploit others?

The Hermit



The Hermit is cast as an old man with a long beard in hooded robes, trudging along through a barren landscape. He uses a walking staff, and lights his way forward with a lantern that contains a six-pointed star, which is divine light; still, he stares at the ground. Every aspect of this illustration holds meaning. The Hermit's lantern is the Lamp of Truth, a guiding light for the lost soul, and his walking stick is the Patriarch's Staff, a symbol of authority

and enlightenment. He is alone, and in his cloak, he is hiding from humanity; yet, he is on the move, searching for something.

Our modern conceptions of this title are often negative but this card doesn't bear implicitly positive or negative connotations. The Hermit card is all about introspection, seeking guidance, and searching for truth. Sometimes, that denotes isolation, even long periods of total solitude but this card doesn't always need to be interpreted to such an extreme degree. The Hermit can indicate that the querent needs to withdraw from something in their life to find what they need; for instance, pulling back from a friendship, club, or team that is distracting you or leading you to test the limits of your morals and values. Sometimes, the Hermit's isolation comes incidentally, as he embarks upon a quest to find spiritual guidance and must allow frivolous things to fall behind him. This card may symbolize the sacrifice of material possessions or institutional involvement. When it is upright, though, that usually means the life of sacrifice and isolation is

undertaken willfully in pursuit of something greater, more important, than whatever the Hermit is leaving behind.

When upright in a spread, this card almost always encourages the querent towards meditation of some form. Even for the healthiest of minds and bodies, it is never a bad idea!

Reversed

When reversed, the Hermit can be a good sign, as it may mean a return or comeback, and an ending to the period of searching and solitude. Sometimes, though, it may signify a return to the same old story that the querent initially sought to escape; this may be a warning not to repeat the same mistake twice, or to end your quest before you've thoroughly learned your lesson. Alternatively, a reversed Hermit can represent isolation taken to an unhealthy extreme: antisocial or hostile behavior, fear of interactions or other people, and so on. It's very important to look to the context when you see this card reversed in a spread; it is an urgent call for the querent to rethink some aspects of their social life (or lack thereof) but it may not always be a dire

warning. Perhaps it's simply an encouragement not to give up on a connection you considered letting go of.

Wheel of Fortune



In this card, we see a revolving wheel filled with letters and symbols; the letters spell out “T-A-R-O” and in between each of these are the letters “Y-H-W-H” meaning God of Israel. A sphinx sits atop the wheel, sword in hand, representing the well-guarded mysteries of fate and

chance. A snake slithers along another arc of the circle, symbolizing growth and transformation, shedding skin that no longer fits. On the underside of the circle is Anubis, an Egyptian God associated with death and the afterlife, rising with the upward turn of the wheel, representing the start of a new cycle of life.

This card is all about cyclical change. It references the circle of life, karmic rewards, and turning the tables. Something in the querent's life is about to change, or very recently has changed, and the results will involve poetic ironies, role reversals, and changes in station. It very often refers to a change in material wealth or power status. Upright, it can be a symbol of good luck or an upcoming fortuitous turn of events in the querent's life. It can just as easily be a symbol that change is constant, and nothing good can last forever; if the querent has had a recent streak of good fortune, this card might be a warning not to get too comfortable floating up there on cloud nine.

Reversed

This may be a sign that bad luck is just around the corner. It could also point to an unexpected change of fate or the possibility of a sudden loss being followed by a greater gain. A reversed Wheel of Fortune card depends on context for precise interpretation but it certainly never encourages the querent to take any unnecessary risks or major gambles in the near future.

Justice



The Justice card portrays the judge or the personification of Justice holding the symbols of law - the scales and the upright sword. But unlike the conventional figures of justice, the figure in this card is not blindfolded. She has a clear vision.

Justice is in favor of those who deserve virtue but is ready to seek retribution for wrongdoings. She is focused on

delivering logical procedures and focused on the mind instead of the emotions.

While Justice is enrobed in red (signifying the material world) the yellow background of the card suggest enlightenment. The design of the card is strikingly similar to the High Priestess and the Hierophant that points out to knowledge and duality.

But take note that the Prudence card has disappeared from the Tarot but its meaning is seen as associated with Justice. Instead of caution, prudence is seen as wisdom. The study of law is called jurisprudence.

Upright

The upright Justice card signifies a positive outcome. The time is near when imbalances or past errors will be redressed. You will be the recipient of a fair system as long as you are deserving and honest. Also, you might find yourself as the judge of your life using your integrity and perspective to make sound decisions that will protect your future.

You may also take a moral stand on the issue, which affects you and the people you care about. If you are currently involved in a legal issue, a ruling or decision made will be in your favor. Order will be restored and justice will be done.

Reversed

Your life may be out of balance. Money and relationship issues spiral out of control. A ruling may go against you so there might be a miscarriage of justice or dishonesty.

You are unfairly treated that is compounded by malevolent advice from a trusted authority. You may find it difficult to speak your truth. The reversed Justice card encourages you to find your voice and keep your principles if you know you are right.

The Hanged Man



The Hanged Man is strung up by one of his ankles, not his neck, hanging upside down from a tree branch. The tree may symbolize the World Tree of Norse mythology, also called Yggdrasil, which Odin hung himself upon, stabbing himself and refusing the help of other Gods, offering his own blood as a sacrifice to learn the runes that control the heavenly and mortal realms; it is also drawn in the shape of a capital letter T in the Rider-Waite deck, perhaps also

referencing the biblical cross upon which Jesus was sacrificed.

In most decks, the Hanged Man wears a serene expression, or sometimes even smiles, even in historical decks from time periods in which this form of torture was used to punish traitors. This shows us that he accepts his vulnerable position; perhaps he even chose it for himself on purpose. His head is usually surrounded by a halo or aura of light, which symbolizes spiritual wisdom or philosophical enlightenment. His free leg is bent at a right angle and crossed behind his suspended knee; this represents a crossroads, and it draws the shape of the number four, perhaps referencing the four corners (north, south, east and west), four seasons, or four suits of the deck.

This card's title may have given it a bad reputation that it never deserved to carry. The Hanged Man may sound like a negative card but facing upright, it has a lot of positivity to offer to the querent in certain contexts. To put it simply, this card is all about letting go; that being said, there's hardly anything simple about that concept, nor is there an

easy one-size-fits-all interpretation for the Hanged Man card within a spread. Sometimes, he can symbolize sacrifice; sometimes, surrender; other times, it may mean a suspension of time or lack of momentum. Usually, though, these things can be seen in a positive light if the card is upright, and the Hanged Man character is hanging upside down. This card points to sacrifices made willingly, voluntary atonement, a shedding of the ego, and acceptance of divine will. It can also refer to emotional vulnerability; giving in to a difficult experience to get the most out of it, or even enjoy it; living in the moment; staying patient, knowing better opportunities will come to those who can wait; complete and utter devotion to a spiritual faith; or release of a struggle or conflict that has caused the querent emotional stress. This card can symbolize forgiveness, and the wisdom that comes from knowing that acceptance and surrender are signs of strength, not weakness.

Reversed

When the Hanged Man is flipped in a spread, it points to a character who is unable to let go. This might be the querent or someone who plays an important role in their life; either way, this person may be struggling to set aside the ego, to release their grip on someone or something under their control, or to give up an old grudge. It can also represent sacrifices made in vain, or time wasted on fruitless efforts.

Death



This card depicts the messenger of Death. A skeleton in black armor atop a white horse carrying a black flag decorated with a white five-petal rose. The skeleton represents the part of the body that survives afterlife has left it. The armor symbolizes invincibility and the fact that death comes regardless, its dark coloring is that of mourning and mysteriousness while the horse is the color of purity and is a sign of strength and power. The five-petal

rose on the flag reflects beauty, immortality, and purification and the number “five” represents change. All of these symbols tell us that death is not just about the end of life. It is about birth and rebirth, endings and beginnings, change and transformation. Death is part of life and there is a beauty to be found in it.

A dead royal figure can be seen on the ground while a bishop, a young woman, and a child seemingly plead with Death presumably to spare them but at the end of it all, Death gets everybody. In the background is a boat sailing down a river similar to mythological tales of boats escorting the dead to the afterlife. The Sun is set between two towers over the horizon in a sense of being born every morning and dying every night. This mirrors the depiction on the Moon Tarot card.

Upright

Most people take the card literally and believe that card represents an actual death. In reality, the card can be a positive card.

After the pause and reflection of the Hanged Man, the Death card symbolizes the end of a major era in your life that is no longer necessary for your growth and therefore opens up the possibility of something new that is more valuable and essential. The past must be put down and left behind for a new future of hope and possibilities to be embraced. More than anything, the Death card signifies the inevitability of endings and change. It may be difficult to let go but the importance of doing so will be revealed with the promise of transformation and renewal.

Reversed

The reversed Death can be a sign of resistance to change. A sign of not letting go or not knowing how to. You want to carry the baggage of your past into the future and are therefore stuck. This card gives you the chance to embrace change and not resist it. Take a chance on the possibilities that come with change. As you let the past go and give yourself to the present, the future gets brighter. You are releasing what is no longer necessary and thereby creating space for something new. The change can be physical or

mental but it is a necessary one that you will come out the better from.

Temperance



This card depicts a large winged angel who appears to be not just masculine but also feminine. She dons a light blue robe with a triangle enclosed in a square on the front. This represents that humans (triangle) are bound by Earth and

its natural laws (square). The angel is balanced with one leg on the stones and the other in the water. The foot on the stones symbolizes the need to stay rooted and the one in the water symbolizes the need to flow. She is pouring water between two cups symbolizing the flow and alchemy of life. In the background, a winding path up a mountain can be seen, representing life's journey. A gold crown encased in golden light hovers above the mountain symbolizing the taking of a higher path and staying true to one's life purpose and meaning.

Upright

The Temperance card brings with it balance, patience and moderation. You are being reminded to stabilize your energy and let life flow through you without resistance. Recover your flow and get order and balance back in your life. Remain calm even through the stress of life. Control your emotions and temperament. Respect balance and tranquility and let your patience help you control your temperament with regards to the little things.

Take the middle path and accommodate all views. Don't be opinionated or controversial. Be a peacekeeper and keep the balance. Avoid extremes. Create harmony among a diverse group of people and work together to leverage the mix of weaknesses and strengths to be found. The card is about the alchemy of diverse elements to create something new and better than its individual parts. Take your time to do your best. Take a moderate and guided approach to your goals. The card also reflects higher learning. You are learning, your conscience is helping you get the optimal outcome and you are listening and following with patience.

Reversed

The reversed Temperance card is a warning or invitation for you to restore balance and moderation if you have been indulging in excesses. It may be drinking, eating, fighting, buying, partying, *etc.* These excesses take you away from your true self and what you can achieve, your greatest potential. Stop the excesses or maybe even abstain from it completely to restore balance back in your life. The reverse Temperance can represent that things aren't right with

your life and therefore creating tension and stress. There is a voice deep within telling you things aren't right and you will do well to listen, re-align and re-adjust yourself to find your flow once more. It also reflects a period of self-evaluation and a time to reassess your priorities so you can shed the excesses weighing you down. You might still be involved in things that will not add anything to you in terms of your future goals and aspirations. Some of them might even be positive things but they have no place in the future you envision for yourself, so they are excess and you need to leave it. The balance and moderation you attain from heeding the warnings of the reversed Temperance card will open you to the possibility of self-healing and create more flow in your life.

The Devil



The Devil card shows a bearded creature sitting on top of a door that chains two demons - a male and a female.

With the inverted pentacle on his crown, the man-beast is clearly the devil. His right hand is raised signifying that he has control over the two demons standing before him. These two figures are the Lovers who have lost their way. They have been corrupted and so they are becoming evil. But if you take a closer look, the chains around their necks

are not that tight. They are not completely dominated by the devil, and they can easily walk away if they want to.

Upright

You might be following a path or you might be in a relationship which demands too much. What began positively or even pleurably has now reversed, and now you see the situation for what it is. This is a damaging situation, and you might feel controlled and under a bad influence. The Devil card is a card of materialism, temptation, and greed.

But to change your situation, you have to think creatively and use a bit of wit. The negativity is too high so it may be best not to confront the situation altogether. This card usually appears when you are in a situation that you can't fix. Its message is to just walk away, escape in the best way you can no matter how good the offer. Other meanings of the Devil card are related to addiction such as substance abuse, food, sex and other damaging habits.

Reversed

The reversed arrival of the Devil card brings hope because this signifies that the decision you need to make will be easier than it appears.

If the Devil card is upside down in your reading, the chains around you are looser so a situation is not quite as problematic as you first thought. This is the time to make an action.

The Tower



We see a tall and narrow grey building, built upon a narrow mountainous ridge, being struck by a lightning bolt, which represents insight, epiphany, and a surge of new energy. The mountain's small size in comparison to the grand height of the Tower is significant; the tall building represents lofty ambitions or enormous promises built upon falsities and exaggerations. The few windows the Tower has are spewing flames, and people are tumbling out of them, falling face-first towards the ground, presumably having leaped to their deaths. They represent the concept of losing control, being backed into a corner or stuck between a rock and a hard place, forced to make a decision you might never otherwise make. At the top of the tower is a large crown--large enough to function as the roof of the building--that is being blasted off of the building by the lightning bolt. This represents the dismantling of the ego through the opening of the crown chakra. There are twenty-two balls of flame in the sky behind the falling figures; these represent the twelve zodiac signs and the ten nodes of the tree of life, symbolizing the fact that divine balance is constant, even in the face of catastrophic tumult.

The Tower card is all about chaos, upheaval, and cataclysmic change. It's another card that looks immediately foreboding and has earned itself a bad reputation but it isn't always a bad sign within a spread. In some contexts, The upright card can signify danger or destruction but it can also reference positive change coming in the form of a revolution, or a happy accident. It can point to oncoming storms, both literal and figurative but it can also symbolize liberation, and the freedom to rebuild upon a stronger, superior foundation to the one that has crumbled. The key to this card is that it implies a sudden disruption of the status quo, rather than a gradual shift or transformation. It also implies that the change will be unforeseen, either coming out of left field or, if it is somewhat anticipated, arriving earlier or with more violent force than expected.

Reversed

When the Tower is reversed, the querent can still expect change in the near future; in this case, though, the change

may be subtle, gentle, slow and steady, rather than chaotic and explosive. Alternatively, if appearing in a spread after a personal question or prompt, the reversed Tower card might indicate a reluctance to accept change or a period of great personal growth and inner turmoil. For example, a devout religious person experiencing a crisis of faith could turn up The reversed Tower in a spread; likewise, this card could be drawn for someone going through an existential crisis, or losing interest in a career field that they've been dedicating their lives to for years. If a querent is questioning their purpose or the meaning of their life, the reversed Tower urges them to embrace change. Out with the old, and in with the new.

The Star



Beneath a sky full of eight-pointed stars, a naked young woman kneels at the edge of a small pool. She holds two water jugs, pouring one jug of water back into the pool she upends the other over the grassy bank, nourishing the earth. She pours these freely, as though the jugs will never run empty; this signifies the abundance of the universe and free-flowing energy. The jug in her right hand is stretched out in front of her, pouring into the water,

representing the conscious mind, while the jug in her left-hand pours out behind her back, representing the subconscious, and diverging into five rivulets on the ground, each standing for one of the five senses. Much like the angel on the Temperance card, the young woman kneels with one foot submerged in the water, while the other foot remains on dry land; this stance symbolizes her inner balance, rooted in intuition and rationality, emotion and practicality, esoteric and scientific knowledge.

Behind the young woman is a tree upon a shallow hill, with one lone ibis bird perched atop it, a symbol of creativity and aspiration. Above her are eight stars in total, one of which shines larger and brighter than all the rest, representing her core identity. The other seven smaller stars represent each of the chakras. The woman's nudity is a symbol of her vulnerability; she is ready to surrender herself to divine will.

Upright

The Star card represents a sliver of hope that leads you through to the other side of disaster--the calm and peace

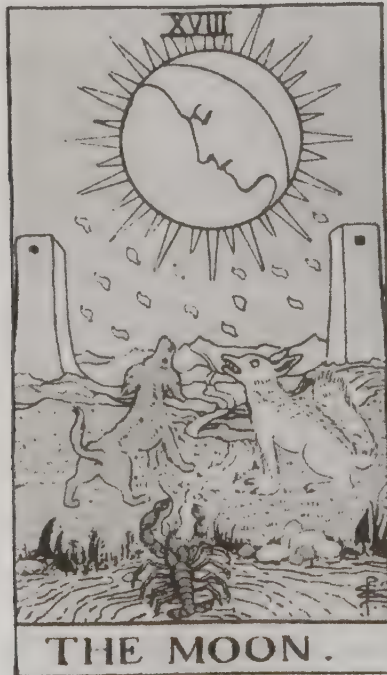
that comes after the storm is over, or the miracle that restores your faith, even if it seemed for a moment as though all might be lost. It signifies belief and optimism, inspiration, personal reinvention, and unwavering trust in divine guidance. It points to blessings, opportunities, and good luck, and a sense of cosmic importance or divine purpose.

Reversed

The reversed Star card symbolizes cynicism, negativity, closed-mindedness, or stagnation. It can indicate a loss of hope, a sense of being overwhelmed by every aspect of life, or tested convictions. The querent who receives a reversed Star may be in dire need of an attitude adjustment or lifestyle change, lest the universe return all the negativity in their outlook by tenfold. When this card is upside down, it can also point to a health problem or hidden injury left over from a disastrous event, preventing the querent from truly moving past it. It may also imply that the querent is struggling with symptoms of depression, such as lack of interest in things they once enjoyed, a pessimistic outlook,

the desire to disengage from social engagements or other activities, and so on. The querent must do whatever it takes to turn their gaze back up to the celestial heavens and find a source of renewed hope.

The Moon



This card's illustration is full of dualities. The Moon itself appears as both a crescent and a full sphere; the sphere is bright and looks almost as if it could be the sun. The Moon

hangs in the sky between two distant towers, symbolizing the choice between right and wrong, good and evil; the towers look exactly the same. In the foreground lies the edge of a body of water, presumably the ocean, out of which a large crayfish is emerging; he represents hidden fears, suppressed emotions, and repressed memories coming resurfacing from the murky depths of the subconscious. There is a path leading from the shoreline to a mountain range in the distance, running between the two towers. On either side of it is a domestic dog barking at the moon, and a wild wolf howling. These creatures reference someone's animal instincts, or their wild, dark side. When we walk the path below the Moon, we are on a tightrope between the known and unknown, the conscious and subconscious, the domesticated and the wild, the present and the past, the natural and the supernatural.

In the Rider-Waite deck, this card has a deceptively optimistic color scheme. In Tarot, the Moon card symbolizes fear of the unknown, subconscious memory, suspicion, dishonesty, an illusion. The Moon implies

fluctuation, uncertainty, miscommunication and a lack of clarity. Someone in the querent's life is not who they appear to be; some situation or circumstance is only half-understood; something is in flux and cannot be grasped by the querent, at least not for the time being. Perhaps someone is keeping a secret that could change the querent's perspective entirely, or someone holds hidden ulterior motives. This card encourages the querent to rely on their intuition because their extrasensory perceptions cannot be trusted. Furthermore, it urges the querent to release negativity and painful memories that may be clouding their judgment of the current situation.

The Moon is cyclical; this card can represent repressed memories or emotions returning, old fears resurfacing, and recurring dreams or nightmares. It has a strong feminine energy but it should be thought of in terms of feminine characteristics or traits only--it may not reference an actual woman.

Reversed

When the Moon card is reversed, a bright, clear light is shone upon that which used to mystify the querent. Secrets are unveiled, disguises lifted, and illusions dissolved. This doesn't always lead to happiness, though; The reversed Moon can point to sadness and confusion, especially in the context of retrieving difficult memories or exposing painful secrets. Generally speaking, though, the reversed Moon is a sign that a fog is lifting; anxiety is ready to be released, fears will soon be overcome, and challenges will be conquered. The querent may be on the verge of an awakening, or a new stage of enlightenment.

The Sun



This illustration in the Rider-Waite deck is bright and busy, with a large anthropomorphized sun filling the top half of the card; below, a young naked child or baby rides a white horse before a grey rock wall, behind which a garden of sunflowers blooms. The grey wall symbolizes the hurdles or challenges overcome to reach this state of happiness. There are four sunflowers, representing the four elements or suits of the Minor Arcana; they represent optimism and

emotional resilience. The child is a symbol of new beginnings; the baby's nudity represents freedom from negativity, worry, and doubt. The child holds a large red banner, a sign of announcement: changes are coming, and they will serve to feed the querent's sense of joy and satisfaction.

The warm and positive energy of this card is usually obvious, even in esoteric decks. The Sun means good fortune, joy, blessings, achievement, and fulfillment. If the querent has brought a problem or complex question to the reading, this upright card points to positive resolutions, and outcomes exceeding expectations. It encourages the querent to move forward with confidence and self-assurance. Let yourself be radiant; it is your turn to bask in the sunlight.

Reversed

When the Sun is reversed, it doesn't simply mean the opposite of an upright card; even upside down, this card never bears deeply negative connotations. Rather than implying true unhappiness, reversed Sun points to clouded or muted joy. It often references doubt, dying enthusiasm, or unrealistic expectations overshadowing what should be a happy time. This is often a call to get in touch with your inner child. Perhaps the only thing muting your happiness is your inhibition, your ego, your stress or anxiety; what happens if you can let go of all that, and live in the moment, as a child would?

Judgment



The card depicts naked people, including children, all rising up from their different graves, looking skywards with their arms outstretched. Above is the archangel Gabriel and he is blowing a trumpet. The people below are responding to the call and waiting to see if they will be accepted into heaven after being judged. The background has an extensive range of mountains signifying

insurmountable challenges and unavoidable calls for judgment.

Upright

The judgment card can often signal the need to make a life-altering decision that would require a combination of intuition and intellect. You may be at the crossroads ready to make this life-changing decision that carries long term effects and consequences. Trust your judgment and believe that you are walking the right path. Tune in to your Higher Self and let your past life lessons guide you. You have reached a major stage in your journey. You have learned from the past and have gained absolution from its lessons. You have released yourself from regrets and guilt and are ready to step into the future with its new challenges.

The card also suggests that you will find comfort in sharing your struggles in a controlled group with those who have had a similar experience. Let them guide and help you.

Reversed

Reflection and self-evaluation. With meditation and contemplation, you gain deep understandings of the weavings of the universe around you. You may fear the judgment of people which has prompted you to keep secrets hidden. Work on self-acceptance and self-forgiveness. The reversed Judgment card can also appear when you are ignoring messages from the universe. You might be afraid of not being worthy enough to answer the call or worried about the sacrifice it will entail. The call never goes away, therefore push past your self-doubts and insecurities and trust that the universe called you for a reason. The card can also mean your inner critic shouting out loud and clear. This is the underlying reason for your self-doubt and insecurities and it is limiting you from fulfilling your potential. Separate your inner critic from your true self. Acknowledge its valid criticism and focus on breaking from the cycle of self-criticism by replacing it with positive reinforcements.

The World



The World card depicts a naked woman partially wrapped in purple cloth dancing inside a laurel wreath. She is looking back to her past as her body dances forward into the future. Her hands hold two wands like that of a magician. This symbolizes the Magician's manifestations finally coming to fruition with the world. The circular shape of the wreath symbolizes the continuous cycle of successful completions and new beginnings as the woman

is ending a phase and beginning another almost simultaneously.

The wreath is surrounded by four symbols which are similar to the Wheel of Fortune as both cards allude to the cycle of life and progression through it. The four figures are; a Lion, a Bull, a Cherub and an Eagle.

Upright

When the World card appears, you have attained fulfillment, completion, and achievements. It might be graduation, marriage, achieving a long-held dream, etc. It has all come together and everything is right with the world. You feel whole and complete and you have a sense of closure and accomplishments. Therefore, the card invites you to reflect on your journey until now. Celebrate your accomplishments and bask in the joy it brings. All the trails and obstacles have made you stronger, wiser and more experienced. Take time to celebrate the conclusion of the journey before you begin a new one. Look back and acknowledge how far you have come, and consolidate what you have learned. This reflection will serve as a

building block when you finally start a new phase. If loose ends remain, the World card implores you to complete them. Take the final step needed to reach the finish line so you have the time and space for new beginnings and opportunities.

More literally, the card can signify travel. You might have a chance to travel from your comfort zone and see new parts of the world. This can serve as a reinforcement of your understanding of the universe and provide you a greater appreciation of its beauty.

Reversed

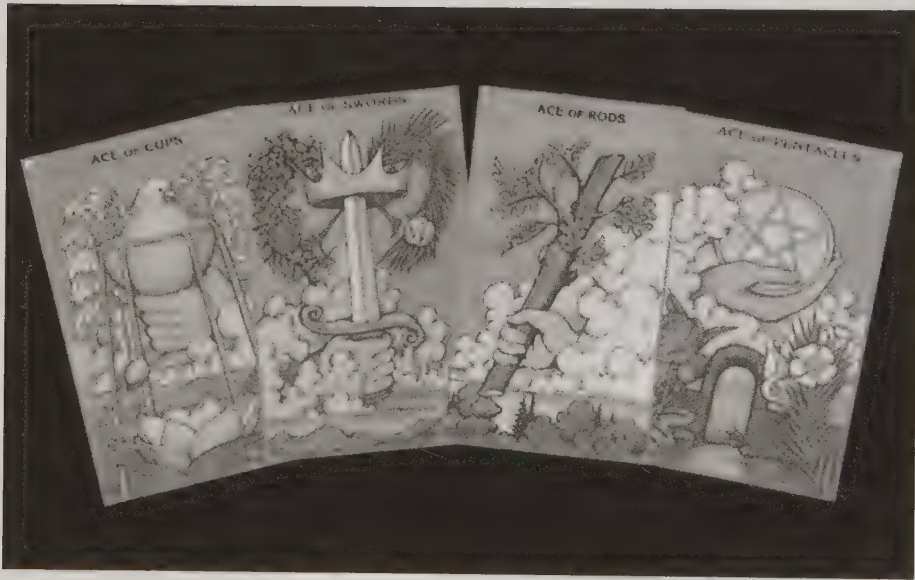
The reversed World suggests that you might be seeking closure. You want to move on from an emotionally charged dream, aspiration or situation. You have accepted the inevitability of the change that has occurred and are ready to embrace the new reality. The reverse World can also signify you need to complete a phase but an unwillingness to take the necessary steps. You want to skip through the trials and challenges which are necessary for you to gain a sense of achievement and completion. Don't be afraid to

test your limits even through hardships and challenges as they make victory even sweeter.

The card also reminds you not to lose focus especially at the final lap of the phase you are experiencing *e.g.* a project.

Re-energize and find new focus by reminding yourself of the sweetness of victory. The reverse world can also mean a delay in completion. Get creative and find new ways to scale the hurdle preventing you from reaching your goals.

Chapter 4: The Cards of the Minor Arcana



The Suit of Wands

Ace of Wands

The card depicts a hand coming out of a cloud holding a wand as if to offer it to whoever wants it. This can represent new ideas, opportunity or potential. The rich

land shows growth potential. A castle is in the distance along with hills and mountains which represent the challenges along the way that are to be conquered.

Upright

This card brings with it spiritual potential. You are being motivated and inspired by the ideas you are having and are being directed to new opportunities to synchronize with your Higher Self. the card encourages you to follow your passion and live as your heart directs. This is a nudge to pursue your dreams and forge new paths for yourself. Use your creative energy and take the first steps. Follow your instincts and your gut feeling.

Remember that the Ace card represents potential and not guaranteed results, so you still have to work hard at your dreams and even if you fail a few times, believe in yourself and keep moving forward. This is also a chance for you to grow personally and spiritually. You might need to learn a new skill to achieve your goals or you might need a different mindset.

Reversed

You have energy, passion, and even an idea but you struggle on what comes next. How to translate what is in your head into reality. You are finding it difficult to define yourself, your idea and your purpose. You lack direction or maybe you don't even know where to start from. Find your passion and purpose and put in the work necessary to make it a reality. Contemplate what you want to achieve and how it can be done.

This can also represent delays in bringing your idea to fruition. Maybe it just isn't time yet or you have missed something.

Two of Wands



The Two of Wands card portrays a young man holding a wand in his left hand and a globe in his right hand. The man is holding the wand on its base, and he rests it on an elevated section of a wall so it is taller than him.

The symbols in this card offers meaning of extension - to look beyond the immediate future. Standing at the top of a castle, this man is watching over a peaceful lake. The man has plans, and they are starting to grow as signified by the budding leaves in the two wands.

Upright

You are going forward with your plans. In the workplace, you are gaining influence and proving your worth. In return, you can receive good advice and support. This card can also show new beginnings and creative partnerships. The two wands in the card signify two aspects of your present situation. Carefully consider what is helping you on your path as well as any issues that are holding you back. Your talent will continue to shine if you maximize your strength.

Reversed

If reversed, your talent might be wasted because the people who are capable of helping you are not listening to you. Hence, you need to consider a change of scenery. You should be with people who understand your views and who are appreciative of your skills.

Three of Wands

The card shows a man wearing green and red robes standing on a ridge, back turned. Three sticks are planted in the ground representing his commitment. He is representing the man in Two of Wands by having left the comfort zone and is now in the open. He looks over the sea to distant mountains watching three ships sail by symbolizing movement and progression. From his current position, he can see all the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Upright

While Two of Wands is planning from his comfort zone, Three of Wands has moved out and started to implement the plan. The card is a sign of chances available to you as you broaden your horizons. There are opportunities everywhere and your commitment to your plan is how you'll take advantage of them. The card encourages you to dream big and explore bigger as you set your vision with confidence.

In all this, be aware of the challenges ahead. Prepare ahead of time for the obstacles that will come your way. As you

plan to conquer the horizon, be ready for the challenges it will bring with it. Be adventurous in your planning. Your plan doesn't have to be within your immediate vicinity. It can go beyond your borders into new places unknown to you.

Reversed

The reversed card suggests that you see the opportunity for growth but you are playing it safe and staying within your comfort zone. You might have walked out of the castle but you still stay within its protections and don't want to venture out. Don't limit yourself and close yourself off to new chances. Spread your wings and take to the sky.

The reversed card also indicates a failure in your previous attempts to broaden your horizons. This may be causing you to feel like giving up. Remember that these setbacks should be lessons to learn to help you with your future endeavors and personal growth. Even if your plans have come to a standstill, learn from that and try again. You might not have adequately prepared or some external factor largely beyond your control is responsible. Don't let

that stop you. Your plan is always flexible and can handle a few setbacks.

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Four of Wands

One of the happiest cards of the Minor Arcana, the Four of Wands portrays a celebration. A young couple stands in victory, holding up flowers. The four wands hold a garland with pink blooms, purple grapevines, plums, apples, and lemons. This picture may show a wedding, a public holiday, or harvest time.

The bright yellow background of the card signifies solar energy, which is the power of the sun to nurture living things. Solar yellow is also the symbol of awareness that is reflected by the couple presenting themselves in public.

Upright

This heartwarming card reveals success after completion. In social settings, you will have the chance to celebrate and

enjoy yourself. This card predicts that you will be brimming with vitality and confidence.

People around you will also become aware of your existence as a pillar of your workplace or home. Your talents will be appreciated and you are full of enthusiasm and ideas.

Reversed

This card is one of the few lesser cards, which retain its positive message despite minimal nuances. When reversed, this card shows that you don't have the time you need to focus on doing what you love - from socializing, pursuing creative projects, or traveling. You may also experience some disruptions in your plans.

If you feel out of place, consider if your environment is a good fit for you. There is a chance that it is the people around you are not right for you. This unsettling environment will soon pass as the positive element of this card still dominates the reading.

Five of Wands

The Five of Wands portray five young men each holding a wand and at odds against each other. They are not united as a group so they are not accomplishing anything. Each one is focused on his own agenda: one holds his wand over his shoulder trying to keep his ambition for himself, another one holds his wand in triumph, while the other three seem to be battling with each other.

These young men are the Pages of the four minor arcana suits - brown and green (Pages of Wands), blue (Page of Pentacles), red (Page of Swords) and blue and white (Page of Cups).

Upright

The traditional interpretation of the Five of Wands is competition, and this card urges you to hold your position instead of entering into a compromise.

While this card does not predict outright battle, there will be fiery expression of opinions and you may not enter into

an agreement at this point. There will be a lot of misunderstanding, especially at work.

Reversed

There is misinformation and deception. You may act because someone is misleading you. Check the sources of information before you make assumptions or take any action. This card also suggests dishonesty or legal problem. Be careful of the people you trust.

Six of Wands

This card depicts a young man riding a white horse and parading in victory.

He is wearing a laurel wreath, which is a symbol of power and victory. From his wand also hangs the same symbol. However, the wand in this presentation symbolizes fertility, of dreams becoming reality.

Other young people are also carrying wands. They support the homecoming of a hero. One person is facing away from the hero suggesting that he is protecting the rider.

Upright

You deserve whatever success you are enjoying now. This is a positive card if you have been recently struggling with your work and you are not certain that it will finally pay off. This card is usually associated to projects, career, and work and may show promotion and a new contract or bid.

Just enjoy this happy time and do not be afraid to share your accomplishments. Other will support you. It is high time to bask in glory and celebrate with your friends.

Reversed

Unfortunately, if this card appears in reverse, the reward that you are expecting will not materialize when you need it.

However, this is only a delay and not cancellation. Hold fast to your goals. Waiting for the fruits of your labor may be disappointing but this is caused by circumstances that

are beyond your control and not a reflection of your abilities.

Be patient and work on your other tasks in the meantime.

Seven of Wands

It is interesting to take note of the scale of this card. A young man seems a giant if you take a closer look at the landscape below. Towering over the river and hills below, the young man is clearly not from this world.

Using his two hands, he is using everything to defend his position. He is capable of looking at the bigger picture due

to his size. He has great ideas signified by the five buds on his wands in comparison with the fewer buds shown on other cards. The other six wands are rising towards him but the young man is ready to take them all.

Upright

There are some obstacles in your path but you are capable of overcoming them. This card reflects your work and career and signifies negotiations regardless of how difficult the conversation becomes. You have to keep talking and stay engaged until you are happy with the result. You must hold your ground so you can win.

Reversed

The reversed appearance of this card shows that you have doubts on your purpose. People around you may not be listening to what you say and you have to overcome a lot of challenges. This card also reflects hesitation and anxiety.

Eight of Wands

This card shows eight wands with budding greens flying through a clear sky.

This is quite a special card because it is one of the only two lesser cards that don't portray people (the other one of the Three of Swords).

The interpretation of this card focuses on movement. The events are about to speed up.

The wands may be spears about to land or they may be carrying messages similar to carrier pigeons. The wands take up most of the space of the card, which dominates everything in the picture.

Upright

This card is one of the most welcoming cards of the suit of wands. The wands predict communication so be ready to be inundated with exciting offers, calls, or emails.

The appearance of this card also suggest positive news, which is great if you are stuck waiting for decisions or if

you have held back recently. Your projects will speed up so be prepared for the shift. The following events will energize you but you have to prioritize your offers.

Reversed

The reversed interpretation of this card is 'delay'. You may need to wait a bit longer for a particular decision that will lead you to a better path. But this is temporary so be patient. You may also need to work on a lot of pending tasks.

Nine of Wands

This card portrays a wounded yet alert man. The eight standing wands symbolizes his responsibilities but also resources, and he holds the ninth wand like a tool for defense. The other eight wands are orderly as if ready for any attack.

The man has a powerful build, which symbolizes his endurance and strength. From experience, he has learned

to anticipate challenges to his position, and his previous battles are signified by the bandage on his head.

Upright

You are in a very formidable position. You have fought hard and long to obtain your status, and you have endured extreme challenges.

It can be exhausting to be constantly ingenious and vigilant, so you need to be careful in using your energy. Plan all your activities and avoid overexerting too much. Fortunately, as with all lesser cards in the Tarot deck, the influence of this card is only temporary. There is no need to always defend yourself or make numerous sacrifices.

Reversed

You are enduring a strong opposition that seems not fair. You are working hard but you are not receiving any appreciation at all. You might be giving your all but it seems not enough.

Your current situation might be demotivating, so you become fixed on getting through tasks without enjoying the elements of your work that you find satisfying.

Ten of Wands

This card depicts a young man walking towards a manor despite his view being blocked by the wands. There's a sense of desperation in this card because of the mystery behind the man's decision to pursue this kind of journey. He chooses to carry the wands in front of his face and this blocks his view. Possibly he sees himself not as a human but a blind beast that is desperate to be relieved from his burden.

Upright

You have too much on your shoulders right now. Over the years, you might have become so familiar with too much work that you have already missed the reason why you are working.

This is a common card for entrepreneurs, home makers, and people who are constantly multitasking or juggling different projects.

You need to learn how to delegate and ask support from the people around you. There is no need to carry all burdens yourself. This is also true for emotional burdens. You have to share them.

This card also suggests that you may be carrying issues from the past. But this also reveals that you are poised for success, even though you have to manage your time and resources well.

Reversed

The interpretation for the reversed Ten of Wands is quite similar to the upright card, except that some of your burdens are more physical than emotional.

This card may signify an ongoing stress, where each task is framed as a potential problem. Try to lighten up a bit and take some of the stress off yourself. No one expects you to be perfect.

This also suggests that you are sandwiched in a draining routine between domestic and work commitments because you are trying to please everyone. Have some space for your needs. You also need to make yourself happy. Once you do this, you will see the path more clearly.

Page of Wands

This card portrays a young man looking upwards towards his wand. The red feather in his hat looks like a flame associating with the element of Fire signifying ambition.

The wand is taller than the man, which means that his ideas are bigger than his experience. However, he is motivated to overcome shortcomings with his enthusiasm and knowledge.

Upright

The appearance of this card in a reading brings great news about projects and any situation that is in need of negotiation.

Phone calls, urgent emails, and messages will keep your schedule full, so you need to step back for a while before you react and study just how much work you have to do.

This card also predicts a job offer or a creative enterprise. While the status of the job may not be as high as you want, this opportunity will bring you more rewards in the long run.

The interpretations are as follows when two or more Pages appear in your reading:

Two Pages - Righteous friendship

Three Pages – Plenty of social activity

Four Pages – A gathering of young people

Reversed

If reversed, the Page of Wands signify delays. Communications can be difficult as emails and other messages go astray. Having one or multiple page cards

reversed could indicate rivalry. This may also suggest that you are at the moment showing stubbornness. Try to listen to the opinions of other people.

Knight of Wands



This Minor Arcana card features a flamboyant knight riding a horse in the desert near the pyramids. The knight is full of vigor and he holds a wand eager to deliver a message. The Knight of Wand card is an element of Fire in the suit of Fire.

Double fire signifies desire, ambition, and passion. However, the picture has no sense of imminent battle, danger, or chaos. The reins of the horse are tight and short that at first glance provides the impression that the horse is dancing. The young Knight has control over the natural urges of the animal and knows when to hold back and when to let loose.

Upright

Things will speed up. Any hindrances to any progress will be lifted, so this is a positive card if you have been feeling trapped or if you have been waiting for decisions.

Now you can have the action and conversations you need to push forward with your projects. This card is particularly auspicious for professional projects, finding a new career, or moving house.

If you get two or more Knights in a reading, the interpretations are as follows:

Two Knights - Righteous friendship but rivalry if one or both cards are reversed

Three Knights - Meeting of men

Four Knights - Events speeding up, lots of action

Reversed

The reversed Knight of Wands signifies miscommunication. Be careful in sending a message and make sure that it is clear with both the sender and the receiver. It also predicts delays so be ready to be disappointed with the lack of progress. But this is only temporary and will just pass. Hold on to your plans and just believe in yourself.

Queen of Wands

The Queen of Wands is associated with the Empress and also a symbol of motherhood representing the soul. Similar to the Magician, this Queen manifests her ideas for the spiritual path. Her wand is alive and it is her job to nurture this wood. She also holds a sunflower, which is a solar symbol for illumination, growth, and energy.

Upright

Ideas thrive, and you can now express your abilities. Show your true self and fire up your passion. But you also need to reflect how you are managing your life to ensure that you have the time to grab the opportunities that are coming your way. In general, this card shows you that you are strong enough to nurture your career, family, friendships, and romance.

If there are two or more Queens during your reading, it can be interpreted in the following ways:

Two Queens: Rivalry

Three Queens: Friends happy to help

Four Queens: Women meeting up

Reversed

You need to fix something that has been messed up by someone else. This might be because you allow yourself to be in a relationship or a commitment in which this person has been taking too much but is not responsible enough. The reversed appearance of the Queen of Wands may also

signify that someone is envious of you because you are shining brighter.

King of Wands

The King of Wands is associated with the Emperor or the symbol of father image who brings authority, order and structure.

His robe and throne are designed with black salamanders, who are resistant to fire. There's also a live salamander at the bottom of the card, which reinforces the King of Wand as a fire suit. The card is also dominated by orange and red that signifies passion and ambition.

Upright

This is the best time to express your ideas and collect your entrepreneurial spirit. Build a plan and the ideas you will pursue have higher chances of success. You will have all the support that you need but you need to initiate the plan.

Just do it. Avoid over thinking and don't allow perfectionism to impede your ability to achieve your goals.

Here are the interpretations if you get two or more Kings in your reading:

Two Kings - a viable partnership

Three Kings - circle of influence

Four Kings - a battle for power

Reversed

You are in a time of restriction when you can't convince others to support your ideas. Try checking if you are going against your intuition, especially if you feel that you are not in the right path. Be open to alternative ways and stop pressuring yourself too much.

The Suit of Cups

Ace of Cups

One cup, offered by a hand that emanates from a cloud, is overflowing with water coming from five streams and pours into the lake below.

Water lilies grow on the surface of the lake. We can also see a white dove, which symbolizes peace. The bird is holding a wafer on its beak. The wafer is marked with the sign of the cross, which is a symbol of the Eucharist.

This card may symbolize the spark of the Divine, or the life force that enters the cup or the womb, for fertility at a physical, spiritual or creative level, reflecting the divine light.

Twenty six droplets appear to float around the cup, which is usually seen as a symbolism of semen. They resemble the form of dew drops on the Moon, the Tower, the Ace of Wand, and the Ace of Swords.

Upright

This card indicates love and important emotional events such as pregnancy, fertility, birth, and motherhood. Aside from heralding pregnancy, it also reveals that being a parent will take priority over your career.

In personal relationships, this card signifies falling in love, passion, and an important new partnership. In current relationships, it denotes love and support. Positive emotions flow. If you are working on a new project, this card heralds growth and creativity. Hence, it may be the time for things you enjoy, and you can witness them flourish.

A project you are interested will start to bear fruit, so it is time to turn your ideas into reality and give them your full attention. This is also a positive card for spiritual development, so you will find yourself discovering a belief system or other significant ways to navigate your spirituality.

Reversed

When reversed, the Ace of Cups predicts creative and pregnancy issues. You might be lacking in time and space to grow your relationships and projects, or you may be the one feeling ignored. You may be feeling drained because of the emotional demands from the people around you.

If you want to take a glimpse about new romance, unfortunately, the reversed Ace of Cups indicates confusion and disappointment. There's a high chance that a budding romance will not develop into something that will last.

Two of Cups

Two figures (a maiden and a young man) face each other and offer each other a cup. In the middle of them is an interesting symbol - a lion's head integrated with the caduceus of Hermes.

The lion's head in this card can be interpreted as a symbol of protection as well as passion. On the other hand, the caduceus is a rod with entwined two snakes. This is an ancient symbol of balance and negotiation associated with the Roman god Mercury (or Hermes among Ancient Greeks).

The young woman is dressed in the colors of the High Priestess (white and blue), while his partner is wearing

boots and tunic that are similar to those of the man portrayed in the Fool card. Even the colors of his tunic (black, red, and yellow) are similar to the Fool.

The appearance of the intuition of the High Priestess and the beginnings of the Fool reveals a brand-new relationship in the cards. The young man wears a garland of red flowers, while the maiden is crowned with an olive garland. These two garlands signify love and success.

The couple's cup reveals that they are showing their emotions and the man's hand is reaching out to grasp the maiden's cup. This has sexual symbolism, as cups symbolizes the womb just as the wand symbolizes the male genitalia.

Upright

The upright appearance of the Two of Cups represent love, partnership, peace, and harmony. In relationships, this card signifies a deeper commitment in a current relationship such as engagement or tying the knots of matrimony. There is a strong indication of marriage if this

card appears with the marriage cards - the Ten of Pentacles or the Hierophant.

There's a strong connection between you and your partner, so your emotions are freely expressed and reciprocated. You feel full and satisfied. This card also heralds strong passions and new romance, which could be consuming for now.

This card also favors inspiring partnerships. Hence, this is a fortunate card for getting together with a creative partner. Whomever you choose to partner with, the relationship will be mutually understanding and supportive.

Reversed

The reversed Two of Cups predicts stress brought on by your relationships. A new love interest may turn sour as your aspirations for romance are dissipated.

Moreover, this card asks you to depend on your intuition. Someone might be keeping an important secret from you, and the traditional interpretation of this card is infidelity.

Listen to your instincts. There's a reason behind your doubts, and it's best to openly express your fears instead of ignoring them.

If you are in a relationship, this card also indicate an unavoidable problem simply caused by stress from the workplace.

Three of Cups

Three young ladies raise their cups in a toast. They are so close together that they almost appear as one figure, and as such they represent the three aspects of the goddess - the maiden, the mother, and the crone - the entire experience of a woman.

They are also seen as the three virtues in the Tarot signified by the colors of their robes. The woman in white is the maiden from the Strength card; the woman in red is Justice, and the woman in white and gold is associated with the Temperance. These three virtues provide us part of this card's interpretation - reunion, balance, and vitality.

The maidens are dancing barefoot and their robes are flowing. Completely engaged with life, two maidens raise their cups using their right hands and one maiden toasts using her left hand. The left hand is the hand of receiving, and the right hand is the hand of giving. their poses shows they can both receive and give abundantly.

This card is also a card of material pleasures signified by the plentiful ripe fruits and the garden of flowers.

Upright

The Three of Cups is the Celebration card. It heralds birthdays, weddings, christenings, anniversaries and other joyous occasions. This is a time for rewards and indulgence, to take pleasure in other's company, to have fun and be carefree.

There's also a flirtatious vibe in this card, so if you are looking for a relationship, you will soon be in an ideal situation and mood for a vibrant love.

The maidens in the card are raising their cups on a toast. This symbolizes abundance. But if you prefer wine than

water, or you have a sweet tooth, you may be enticed to overindulge.

Regardless of your pleasure, this card finally reveals physical or emotional healing. Spending time with people who make you feel good could raise your energy and vibration levels.

The number three is also the number of creation. This signifies a creative time. Concentrate on bringing new ideas as whatever you do will be pleasurable and be well received. This is the time to allow your talent to shine.

Reversed

If reversed, the Three of Cups may indicate an indulgence or flirtation gone too far with affairs and overbearing emotions. In established relationships, there may be a distance and a lack of understanding or unity.

Someone close may be egotistical and overly opinionated, and the dynamics of a close relationship - romantic or friendly - could be affected. Another common interpretation of the Three of Cups is emotional betrayal.

Your creativity can be affected, too, as you may experience creative block. It may be difficult to begin as you suffer a lack of support and motivation. Take a short break and resume working on your projects if you feel more grounded and less affected by the emotional demands of other people.

Four of Cups

A young man is sitting under a tree, his legs and arms crossed. Three cups are set out in a row in the foreground. From a small cloud, a hand holds out another cup signifying a new beginning. Even though the hand appears at his eye level, he is looking down. He refuses to recognize the cup being offered.

Disillusioned, the young man appears to be glancing frustratedly at the three cups resting on the grass as if to indicate that the fourth cup, regardless of what it may represent, is bound to be just more of the same old thing. The young man's position is defensive, and he has set himself apart from the possibility of change and from his

own emotions. Whatever his mood, the outlook is bright. The tree that provides him refuge is verdant.

He may enjoy the abundant life going all around him if he could just stand up and move around. Through this, the Four of Cups shows the possibility to see the light, to see that you can stand tall like a tree.

Upright

If you are searching for a relationship, this card shows disenchantment. This usually appears if you have been damaged in the past and protect yourself with a checklist, immediately rejecting anyone who doesn't live up to your specific standards.

You may think that you are ready for love. However, there may be some issues in the past that you need to heal. If you are in a relationship, this card shows a tinge of boredom.

This could be a phase, and if it is probably time to add some romance into your life. You may find yourself staying in a relationship out of obligation. In home and work life, this card shows a static situation. You may feel bored with your

job or you may need to make a positive change to your surroundings.

Reversed

The interpretation of the reversed Four of Cups is the same as for its upright card but with a more intense dissatisfaction. You may be looking for change but don't yet know what you want.

You may need to try new tactics at work and manage what you need to change in your environment or relationships.

Try to express your needs now instead of locking them up.

If the Four of Cups is reversed, the young man's crossed legs resemble the bent knee of the Hanged Man.

The Hanged Man's meaning is hanging around. Instead of waiting for change, the message is to take control and allow life to happen. Fortunately, this limbo is temporary - change is always possible.

Five of Cups

A person covered in black shroud is mourning and contemplating three overturned cups. These cups are cast to the ground spilling water, wine, or blood.

A small house is situated above a river that flows under a bridge with two arches. This could be the dwelling that he has left behind, This symbolizes previous happiness and security that he is now separated from by the river. This body of water is reminiscent of the mythical river Styx, which divided the underworld from the world of the living. The mourning figure is an uncomfortable terrain. The card depicts a place of sadness away from emotional security at least for the moment.

Upright

This card is also known as the card of loss. It usually shows confusion and sadness due to arguments, frustrations, and breakup. It also reflects the temporary distance from a close friend or a family member who has caused you pain. This card also applies to leaving home or a job before you are ready to do so. You need to force this deal with whatever life is giving you. This card may also refer to a

loss of money or status. The gift of this card is that there's no mistaking what has happened because you also feel it deep within.

There's no going back at this point. However, all is not lost. You will be able to move onwards regardless of your situation. The two standing cups on the card shows the support of your family and friends.

This card also appears in a reading for bereavement and the natural sense of grief and loss that this brings. It is also an indicator that you or the recipient of the reading is reminiscing the past. You are probably trying to assimilate the old stress and grief so you can finally move on.

Reversed

This card, along with the Devil card, are the only Tarot cards whose reversed interpretations are more positive than their upright counterparts.

The reversed Five of Cups reveal you are already undergoing the lowest point in a downward cycle. As a result, you are close to recovery and finally letting go of painful memories of the past.

Ready to move forward, you will be stronger than you were in the past. An additional interpretation of the card is meeting up with old friends and also coming back to life.

Six of Cups

The two figures in this card are interesting - a girl dressed like an old woman and an overgrown child in a red cap holding a cup.

Four cups are standing in the foreground while another cup is standing on a stone podium decorated with a shield. The atmosphere of this card has a fairytale vibe. It is reminiscent of children's stories. Perhaps little red riding hood or even a prince awakening a princess.

This card reminds us of the past. The watchman and the tower on the left signifies protection while the flowers symbolize blossoming of spirituality and romance.

Upright

This card heralds happy memories and a time to recall our childhood with fondness. If you have kids, they will help you to reconnect with your childhood. You are also able to give your inner child freedom to have fun without worrying about your daily struggles.

This is a good time for good things coming from your past - reconnecting with your family and friends, reunion parties, or revisiting your old home. This card may predict a trip home or to a place with happy memories.

The past can also return to help you live peacefully in the present. In general, you will find the right balance in your relationships and enjoy a period of harmony and peace.

Reversed

Nostalgia rules and you may remember previous events in a positive light. The card may also show you feeling trapped in the past as a way to avoid moving on.

A specific relationship should stay in the past instead of being rekindled. Unexpected messages or people may stir up old wounds, and if allow these memories to rest. People from your hurtful past have no place in your current life.

Seven of Cups

Seven cups appear in the sky and an anonymous, dark figure seems to control or behold them. Every cup has its own cloud not like the one we see on the Ace of Cups.

But similar to the Ace of Cups, the cups in this card offer seven rewards. However, it is up to us to discover what is feasible.

At present, we are like the figure in the foreground - trying to understand the reality from fantasy. Each cup offers a unique symbol.

The first cup holds a male head with curly hair, which resembles the figure of Archangel Michael in the card of Temperance. This signifies a higher force at work. This can also be interpreted as your reflection, which is a sign of your future potential.

The small covered figure at the center cup signifies what is concealed and can be considered as a divine symbol. Maybe

the hidden figure is sensing a divine plan that is yet to be revealed.

The third cup holds a snake, which stands for flattery and wisdom. This snake also appears in the Wheel of Fortune and the Lovers.

The fourth cup shows a fantasy castle, which symbolizes a fantastic spirit. Meanwhile, the fifth cup shows overflowing wealth.

In the sixth cup, we can see a laurel wreath that can also be seen in the Six of Wands card. But it is interesting to note that this cup has a shadowy skull image, which casts doubt on this positive interpretation. The last cup holds a dragon or a salamander. Who knows if what you hear is true?

Generally, the seven images in the card reflect your imagination, sentiment, reflection, and contemplation.

Upright

The cards in this position heralds confusion and choices. Even though this card brings the possibility for great opportunities, these offers seem insubstantial.

This card is also known as the visionary card and presents the early stages of a new venture when anything is possible. Visions and dreams are additional meanings.

Reversed

The reversed appearance of the Seven of Cups has much the same interpretation as the upright card. But in this position, high emotions are usually at play.

You should be aware of the dangers of idealizing a situation and avoiding a difficult truth. In personal relationships, this card predicts being deceived by looks and even betrayal.

Maybe this is not the right time for commitment. Stay away from being embroiled in emotional conflict. Step back until you are clear with your options.

Eight of Cups

Similar to the Moon card, this one portrays the combined sun and moon. Who will win? The moon (intuition and impulse) or the sun (the mind)?

It is evening - the moon's time. The figure is turning away from his comfortable surroundings under the light guided only by instincts.

The sun will have his time tomorrow. But for now, the man should go with the flow - following the water towards a new path. The hooded man has discovered a way to move forward. He has explored a pathway by the rocks that gives way to a safe riverbank. Here, he walks with purpose. This is reminiscent of the Hermit's staff or the Magician's wand - both are symbols of spiritual guidance.

The man's red cloak is a symbol of his capacity to manifest his intentions. There is also a sense that he has left the eight cups several moments ago. He fills the gap between the three cups on the top.

Upright

This is a time of restlessness and you may feel that something is missing. Personal and business relationships

may appear in harmony from the outside. However, your intuition could be bothering you. The outcome may be a departure.

Conventionally, the Eight of Cups predicts that you will break an agreement or leave a situation that no longer gives you satisfaction.

Be wary of making hasty decisions. You should only move when you are certain that there's more you can contribute or gain. If the time is right, there's also less emotions than you would normally expect. Similar to the man on this card - moving under the hood, you may take your leave fast but silently.

Reversed

The reversed Eight of Cups urges you to take stock of what's holding you back. Are you still clinging on to the past when you are aware that your present circumstances must change?

This position reveals errors of judgement, so you either stay too long or you jump too soon. There's a possibility that you are not aware of alternative ways to do things.

Timing is crucial now. You need to trust yourself that you will know the right time to move without too much pressure on yourself.

An additional interpretation of this card is feeling abandonment. You may feel confused as others are moving on with unceremonious pace.

Nine of Cups

Nine cups surround a man who is radiant with pride. He shows off what he has in life - achievement and joy. The cups are trophies - rewards for his previous efforts - on display for all to see. This is a card of genuine happiness. He fully enjoys his possession.

As the table is covered with a blue cloth, there is also a sense of celebration. The table set is ready to welcome a party. Certain of his role as a benefactor, it is the man's joy to share his wealth with others.

He is perfectly comfortable with this wealth signified by his posture on a low bench and wearing a cap and hose - both are red in color for joie de vivre and vitality.

Upright

This card is also known as the wish card because it heralds a dream come true. Whatever you dream for will soon materialize. Happiness comes from optimism, generosity, and prosperity alongside entertainment and parties.

In personal relationships, the Nine of Cups predicts new romance and genuine friendships. The feelings that you have nurtured in the past can now be expressed as others show their hearts. The period for waiting for love is over. It will be completely declared if love has grown.

As you feel more connected to your heart, your friends will be closer to you. Other people will also respond when you fully live your truth. In the spirit of sharing, you will find it easier to connect with others as projects start and current work becomes more rewarding. This is a good time to appreciate all you have - to laugh and communicate.

Reversed

When reversed, ego steps in - and with it emotional disconnection and self-centeredness. This may manifest as smugness. More commonly in readings, the Nine of Cups reversed signifies narcissism. You are faced with the inability of other people to see beyond their own needs.

This influence may affect personal and business relationships that suffer as others forge ahead with their interests for short-term gain, which can leave you bruised. Your creativity may also be affected at this time. Concentrate on sustaining balance and routine to help you explore these murky waters and hold onto your dreams and schemes.

This may not be the best time to nurture your ideas. However, this will not affect your worth or the viability of your ideas.

Ten of Cups

This card portrays an ideal family scene - father, mother, and their kids who are having fun. Their home is situated above the river, and from the river plain below. The couple looks at 10 bright cups in the sky floating with a rainbow. The sky is clear - no clouds can be seen, the trees are verdant, and the river is flowing. The family is a wealthy one - depicted by their nice clothes - and they appear to be in victory over their accomplishment.

This is their kingdom. What can be happier than this place of contentment and security? The focus here is on the idea of a perfect life.

This is the perfect life - blessed by the vision of the 10 cups. The rainbow is a symbol of reward and hope. We can see the backs of the couple and even if the kids are busy with their game, they are happy while their parents are raising their arms in gratitude.

Upright

The Ten of Cups is one of the most positive cards of the Minor Arcana. It heralds the rewards of security and love of

the family. It favors kids as an expression of love, and usually reveals that children will do well at school.

Therefore, the card heralds great happiness for families and couples or even close friends. In the workplace, this card shows harmony and peace for business partnerships and other important networks. Your strength is in unity and not competition.

In personal relationships, this is an emotional period but in a positive way. Connections built on trust and stability become even more supportive and rewarding.

Different generations of a family will help each other and put aside previous conflicts. It is also a typical card for forthcoming parties, weddings, and other important celebrations. Communication between children and parents will grow stronger and be more satisfying.

If you are looking for a new home, the Ten of Cups shows this will materialize soon. You will also find the right property in the right location for your needs.

When it comes to projects, this card provides assurance that you will be rewarded for what you have worked hard. In your finances, the Ten of Cups is a positive indicator of

prosperity that comes to you as a result of a well-deserved accomplishment.

Reversed

If reversed, the Ten of Cups retains much of its bright promise but with some minor irritations.

You may need to resolve a concern within a family as your routine is affected. There is also a sense of discord in some relationships .

Your dreams of bringing your family and friends together may not be realized because of problems with communication. Equally, the need to keep up your appearances will prevent genuine understanding and communication.

Your friends may also bring problems under the influence of this reversed card. As such, a friend may step back from the circle. But always take note that like all Minor Arcana cards, these effects are only temporary.

Page of Cups

A whimsical page is holding a cup and looking at a fish inside. The fish seems to look at the page as if he can talk.

The fish is a symbol here of emotions and dreams that have materialized, so the young man is in deep contemplation.

In Chinese mythology and folklore, the fish is a symbol of prosperity. In some pagan societies, the fish is also a symbol of fertility and often associated with the female genitals. The fish is also a symbol of the soul. Early Christians used the fish as a secret symbol during the Roman persecution.

However, the page in this card is not linked to any deep symbols. This card has a light atmosphere and playful vibe. The young man stands on dry land, and in the background there is flowing water.

The Page's clothes are decorated with water lilies, which is a traditional symbol of purity. This signifies that this page has a pure heart.

Upright

The Page of Cups represents fun, good company, and sociability. Regardless of your age, this card heralds your feelings as young at heart.

As Pages are natural heralds, this card brings good news about the emotional side of your life. This includes children, romantic relationships, and even money if this has a direct effect on your relationships.

In the romance side, this card shows a potential new partner. But this is not the Page of Cups himself because he is just a messenger. He is just sending you a message that love is about to come. While it is enticing to rush into a new romantic relationship, you may need to hold back a bit.

Reversed

If reversed, the Page brings irresponsibility and frustration. Potential rewards may not materialize. You may feel that life is now filled with struggles.

As an individual, the reversed Page is not fully mature and always seeks attention. Therefore, it is not wise to depend on his perspective. He is only after his needs.

An additional interpretation of the reversed Page of Cups is intoxication. Maybe you are having too much fun that you are trying to ignore more important things in life. This card urges you to relax a bit and bring order to your life.

Knight of Cups

The Knight of Cups is a proud one. With his gallant helmet adorned with the wings of the Greek God Hermes, he sits astride a dainty steed.

Poised and elegant-looking, this knight is dressed more for appearance than battle.

As conventionally knights all have a quest, the Knight of Cups aim to pursue love, which is symbolized by two elements on the card - the river flowing through the valley and the holy grail of love.

His blue armor is associated with the meaning of truth, which is also shown in the High Priestess. Meanwhile, the red fish decor on his tunic signifies passion and faith.

Upright

The Knight of Cups predicts an emotional period. There is a possibility that you will be enamored with a new love, experience more romance with your current lover, or other sweet things that can capture your imagination such as nature, beauty, or a temporary break from your work routine.

If you get two Knights in a reading, it could mean righteous friendship (or rivalry if at least one of the cards is reversed). Three knights signify a meeting of men, while four could indicate events being fast-paced and plenty of activity.

Reversed

The reversed Knight of Cups heralds disappointment - an offer that at initial glance seems perfect but does not materialize, leaving you feeling pushed out and confused. As a person, the reversed Knight is unreliable and untrustworthy. He is committed on his quest, the sexual or romantic ideal but has little desire to go beyond the honeymoon stage of a relationship. He may also be seeking

for the thrill of new romance elsewhere, continuing the flow of control.

This card usually arrives in a reading to signify a lover who has issues with commitment and intimacy. His behavior may be unpredictable and inconsistent. But if challenged, he may protest that this is not an issue and try to avoid confrontation.

The best thing to do is to step away as this knight has little to offer other than being involved in high emotional ride.

Queen of Cups

The Queen of Cups is associated with the Empress or the symbol of motherhood that brings abundance, kindness, and love.

She admires her treasure - a decorative golden chalice. Designed with a cross on top and two praying angels on the side it is a symbol of spirituality and faith. The chalice is not open, which suggests the sacredness of the womb and life creation.

The card also portrays three water-babies - one holding a fish (symbol of prosperity), while the other two are sitting on each side of the throne like Gemini. The water-babies symbolize the maternal instinct of the Queen.

Upright

The upright presence of this card predicts positive influence of a sensitive and intuitive woman. She is compassionate and nurturing with developed emotional intelligence.

Her work may be creative, and she may also be attracted to the medical arts, caregiving, specific types of sales work, or research in non-mainstream topics.

Considering the Queen's natural empathy and sensitivity, this card urges you to choose your close friends carefully.

This card usually appears in readings to show the ideal female lover who is not afraid of intimacy while having the stability and proper limits. It also predicts motherhood and having children.

If two or more Queens fall close together in a reading, it indicates the following:

- Two Queens indicate rivalry
- Three Queens could mean friends who are willing to help
- Four Queens indicate women meeting up

Reversed

You may experience financial or emotional pressure. There could be jealousy in your relationships, and most negatively, this card in this position may show that someone is not loyal to you.

King of Cups

The King of Cups is associated with The Emperor or the father symbol who brings authority, order, and structure. His domain is the emotions.

In this card, the King is sitting on a throne in the sea. He is comfortable despite the waves. Look at the sailing ship on the horizon, the big waves and the white-gray sky.

The shape of his throne is a shell, and considering his obvious cool demeanor despite his isolation, he is

reminiscent of Triton a Greek god of the sea who blew through a shell to control the waves.

He wears a fish amulet, which signifies faith and prosperity. A small fish can also be seen leaping from the left.

The water is gray, turquoise, and green - the many colors of the emotions. On his crown are red jellyfish and waves. The jellyfish is a reference to the King's zodiac reference, Scorpio.

Upright

The King of Cups usually comes up in readings to show the ideal romantic partner who is not afraid of intimacy while having stability and proper restrictions. It predicts fatherhood as well as children.

This card also foretells the need to settle a conflict, either within yourself or with a person at work or at home. You are not sure whether to be reasonable or creative - to follow your gut or conform with the status quo.

If you are in doubt, follow your intuition and allow your heart to rule. If you are in the negotiation table, remember

to use empathy and your charm. If others feel that you are engaged with them, communication will improve and they will lower their defenses.

Keep in mind that if two or more Kings fall close together in a reading, they could be interpreted in the following ways:

- Two Kings indicate a genuine partnership
- Three Kings signify men of influence
- Four Kings may indicate a power struggle

Reversed

The reversed King of Cups reveals emotional weakness. If this is applicable to a person close to you, you may need to deal with someone who is volatile at the moment. This person may be timid or secretive. Fortunately, this is only temporary and will change.

Another interpretation of the reversed card is a person with destructive behavior patterns and possibly addiction problems.

The Suit of Swords

Also known as Blades, Knives, Scimitars, Feathers and Arrows, Swords is the suit of *action*, which is the result of the combining of ideas (Wands) with emotions (Cups).

The effort involved in pursuing a goal, which can often be perceived as struggle, is the realm of Sword energy. It can be hard to turn our ideas into reality but this is also where the most learning tends to occur.

Many Swords in a reading are likely reflecting a high level of activity or commotion in a current situation as it moves toward a final result. Swords are logical rather than emotional, and can therefore be cold or harsh with their messages, as they cut straight through any illusions we may be clinging to. Rationality is needed to solve problems, and detachment is often advised by the cards in this suit. In some cases, Swords may signify strength, authority, and power, as well as the more unfortunate elements of human nature that lead to violence and suffering.

While the qualities of logic and reason associated with problem solving understandably lead some systems to

assign Swords to the element of Air, the correspondence with Fire in Wiccan traditions emphasizes the realm of action leading to transformation of reality.

Key words most often used in association with Swords: action, movement, struggle, shrewdness, responsibility

Ace of Swords

A magical cloud produces a hand holding an upright sword. Added with a crown, this image is the symbol of Kether on the Kabbalistic Tree of Life.

The crown also hangs a sprig of mistletoe and frond of fern. As these plants are capable of attaching themselves to trees, the sword has become a symbol of strength.

Near the hilt of the sword are six golden leaves, which remind us of the leaves in the Ace of Wands. This number is associated with Zain or the 6th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

The number 6 is also associated with the Lovers, which signify decisions as any action or inaction with the sword is decisive. The landscape under the sword portrays purple and blue mountains, which signify goals and spiritual truth.

Even though there are no green pastures or dwellings, growth is reflected on the crown. The fern and mistletoe signify the fertility of the mind. Therefore, the sword provides us the gift of intelligence (associating with the Air element of the card, for the realm of the mind).

Similar with other Ace cards, this card is offered using the right hand or the giving hand as opposed to the left hand or the hand of receiving.

Upright

The Ace of Swords is considered auspicious. In a reading, it dominates any negative lesser cards nearby. Its effect is similar to the Sun. It predicts clear thinking, decisions, and new beginnings. It also relates to love and work.

This card also heralds confrontation, drama, and action. The Ace of Swords manifesting in your life and will bring an immediate change based on your circumstances.

As a divination card, it reflects assertiveness and mental agility. The other cards nearby the Ace in a reading will point you in the direction of your conquest. However, you should be cautious. Be direct without being abrasive. Be conscious of how you would want to be treated if you are the receiving party.

Note that getting two or more Aces in your reading could mean different things:

- Two Aces - important partnership
- Three Aces - good news
- Four Aces - beginnings, excitement, potential

Reversed

The reverse arrival of this card predicts arguments and conflicts. You may also become involved in a damaging battle of wills. It also foretells a challenge that you may not be able to overcome for now.

You may need to withdraw, recuperate, and direct your focus on other important aspects of your life. You may also lack the confidence in your intellectual abilities for now and you don't feel at par with the people around you. However, this is only your perception and not the actual reality.

Another traditional interpretation of the Ace of Swords is a decision going against you such as failing at a job interview or an exam. You may also not be able to stand your ground when you encounter a more dominant personality.

Two of Swords

An isolated and blindfolded maiden is holding two swords across her chest. It seems that she is taking a break from a duel and she is guarding her heart with the swords. She appears to be afraid that the heartbreak of the Three of Swords will attack her.

Even though blindfolded similar to the lady in the Eight of Swords, the maiden portrayed in this card is in a safer place. Sitting on an elevated ground, this is her place for thinking. Her bluish clothes in a monastic theme signifies the lady is taking a break from the material world and keeping her thoughts close in the meantime.

The partially submerged rocks signify issues that are about to surface in the next few days. The maiden's hair is parted in a way that her third eye can be seen.

While she can't see using her physical eyes, she has the intuitive visual prowess. The twilight sky mirrors a shift in the emotional self.

The lady is contemplating about two major options, which is also noted by the appearance of the two swords.

Upright

You need to take your time before making a decision. The situation is now a stalemate, so you can take this time as a rest before you resume negotiations. Your tendency at this point is to guard yourself, have a bit of peace, and don't take action at the moment. Sadly, this upcoming battle may not

go away. You have to handle it now so you can be done with it. Or else, the situation will just fester and will return.

The two swords predict that you have to deal with a person you are crossing swords with. This person may have a sharp tongue. But hold your ground and don't give in to the lashing. You should say what is on your mind.

This card usually appears in readings to show workplace issues as well as the need to take a break from your relationships. If this card appears with a reversed Lovers or the Three of Swords, it signifies making a decision about the future of your relationship.

Reversed

If reversed, the conventional meaning of the Two of Swords is deception and being blind to the manipulation of a person close to you.

This card is specifically applicable to partnerships - business, friendships, or love. If your gut is telling you that someone is not being honest, listen and perform your investigation so you can get to the bottom of the issue. Do not delay taking action because the timing here is sensitive.

Three of Swords

This card portrays an enlarged heart stabbed by three swords. The background is also bleak with clouds and rain, which enforces the action of the swords. They are like arrows stabbing the gray sky.

But surprisingly, this card has the subtle blue sheen on the lower part of the swords, which suggest truth. The swords pierce through the truth. Possibly, after all the chaos, a clear sky is waiting for brighter days ahead.

This is one of the two lesser cards that don't portray human figures (the other is the VIII of Wands). Hence, there's no clear action for interpretation. This is by design, because the primary focus is the effect of the swords, giving the cards its primary meaning of heartbreak.

Swords basically symbolizes the mind but in this card, we are dealing with emotional pain (a realm of emotions). The swords lend drama to the situation. However, the pain is very much in the heart instead of the head.

Upright

This card shows the pain of truth, and there's nothing you can do but face the reality. This is a traditional card for betrayal in relationships and may signify disloyalty or affairs.

In a more positive interpretation, you are capable of going right to the heart of the matter. You can easily banish any confusion, and you are now in a position to start to move on from the trauma. You will soon start the healing process and move on.

Reversed

The reversed interpretation of this card comes with drama and conflict. In a sense, despite the chaos, this will provide you with a more positive interpretation compared to the upright version of this card. The people around you will understand your need to vent out your emotions.

Four of Swords

Placed between the Three of Swords (Heartbreak) and the Five of Swords (Battle), this card offers rest or the opportunity to rise up from the onslaught of the Five and the betrayal and stress of the Three.

The knight portrayed in this card has temporarily laid down his tools. A sword is shown lengthwise with the hilt aligned with the man's head.

The other three swords are hanging above the knight, fastened in the wall, ready for the knight when he wakes up. But at this point, the knight is resting, safe from attack as well as the demands of tension.

The stained-glass window signifies that the world is being held at a distance during the man's quiet time. The stained-glass depicts a monk assisting a child, which reflects the commitment of a medieval knight to charity. This is reflected in the code of chivalry.

Upright

The traditional interpretation of this card is time out. You are taking a rest from a relationship, personal project, or from work. This card usually comes up in card layouts in the past or present to show taking a break from a relationship and also the need for recuperation.

This card also suggests recovery from stress, so you may need to preserve your energy and take rest as much as you can. The isolation of the figure in this card also applies to lightworkers and mediators as well as other people who follow a spiritual path.

You may need more private time and mental space than the usual, so in this sense, the card is a nudge to take some time alone for recovery.

Reversed

The reversed arrival of this card enforces the need for rest. You have to take a break from work or other obligations. You cannot avoid this need for a break as this will be caused by powers way beyond your control.

Sadly, there is little you can do to change this situation. Hence, you should surrender to events. Use the rest time

positively. You may have to rethink your work situation or come to terms with sudden shift in your relationships, especially if you are now living apart from your partner or potential love.

Five of Swords

This card depicts a young man holding three swords, one downward and two hoisted at his shoulder. Two swords are lying down on the beach, possibly used by the retreating men. Instead of having dignity in victory, the man appears to be smirking, possibly feeling pleasure in the defeat of his enemies.

The retreating figures have their backs against the reader suggesting that they are not able to face the challenger. The figure on the right covers his face in shame.

The clouds reflect the story of the conflict, which has just ended. They are slashed and gray similar to torn fabric. The youth wears green (the color of nature) and red (energy and vitality).

This also tells us about the personality of the man. Red reflects his ego and energy and green suggests his sense of natural entitlement. He enjoys his enemy's humiliation.

Upright

The conventional interpretation of this Minor Arcana card is loss in battle. It usually predicts conflicts at the workplace or at home and also being under the scrutiny of the system such as authorities.

In personal relationships, this card predicts conflict and tension. In general, this card reveals continuous challenges to your position, ongoing stress, and mostly defeat.

But all is not lost. You may not win this round but you can still rise up and walk away with your dignity as long as you make a gracious exit at the right time.

There's a risk here that you still fight even if the battle is over. Manage your anger and frustration regardless of the provocation.

Reversed

The reversed Five of Swords predicts unnecessary tension. You may become trapped in the middle of other people's fights and you may receive the most injury.

This battle is not for good reason. The person who started the battle has his own self-interest in mind and he may be trying to cover up his or her faults so there is a need to demonstrate his power. As such, it may be easier for you to extricate yourself because you know that this battle is not personal.

Another interpretation of this card is oppression and bullying. There's no shame in this. Instead, the card suggests looking for an opportunity to expose the inequality and to change the balance of power.

Six of Swords

This card is one of the most positive cards in the Sword suit alongside the Four of Swords (Peace) and Ace of Swords (Winning). It portrays a ferryman steering a boat to a more peaceful destination with gentle trees and hills.

Take note of the calm water before the boat but the water on the right is choppy. The troubled water signifies a rough situation that the man is moving away from and the still waters ahead is a time of serenity away from chaos.

The ferryman has two passengers - a shrouded person and a child, possible a mother and child. They face away from the reader, which suggests that they are focused on their destination. They already made a decision, and the journey has started.

Upright

You are moving on from a relationship or a situation and you will enjoy a time of harmony and peace. This may manifest mentally instead of physically as you are more detached in your approach. You want to stay away from complications and drama.

This provides you a chance to recharge and rest. It may cause you to make a spiritual discovery or explore a new environment. In the workplace, this card shows travel as part of your role as well as a respite from the office or other workplace.

In personal relationships, the card usually shows two people who are about to spend time apart. It may also mean an end to a relationship, especially if this card appears alongside Three of Swords (heartbreak).

In a much simpler interpretation, this card suggests taking a break from your usual environment or taking a break from work. You may also travel for a longer period if this card appears alongside The Chariot.

Reversed

If reversed, the Six of Swords has a meaning similar to that of its upright counterpart. It suggests a need for a temporary escape but this plan will be delayed.

Perhaps, it is not the right time for you to travel or leave an unsatisfying situation as specific problems should be resolved or addressed before you can be free.

Check if your intentions are sound and that you are searching for the right direction instead of focusing on a specific result. You may feel disappointed by lack of progress, but keep your focus and stay grounded.

Seven of Swords

A thief is trying to run away carrying five of seven swords from an unguarded encampment. This appears to be an easy job as the doors of the tent are open, and their flashy colors make them enticing to anyone. The thief is aware that he is safe with his stolen swords and even smirks as he looks back at the encampment, knowing full well he will not be caught.

The yellow background of this card signifies consciousness, so the character is not hiding his deed. This is a thief in the middle of the day.

His clothes are also flashy, and his red boots and hat gives the impression of someone with a sense of pride and taste for the finer things in life - except, he is willing to possess these things by any means necessary. The color red also signifies the material world. The red boots suggest that the man acts on his ego to achieve his goals.

But it is curious that the thief only stole five swords. The remaining swords provides this card a positive aura. The

swords can be used by the victims to protect themselves, even if the opponent has the edge.

Upright

The traditional name for this card is the Thief, and its core message is to safeguard your properties and possessions. This card also predicts a potential challenge to your position. There may be a person who will try to invade your space, or in relationships, your partner may take too much from you or even defraud you.

Because the swords symbolize intellect, you need your wits and instinct to uncover the truth. You may need to scheme to avoid being taken for a ride.

Your enemy may have the advantage but you still have important resources by your side. This card may also predict legal problems and fraudulent or unfair business transactions.

Reversed

The reversed arrival of this card shows your tendency to quit instead of holding your ground. You may feel that you

are not skilled enough to think like your enemy to anticipate their next moves.

However, this attitude can help you defend what is yours. Otherwise, you may give up too soon.

This card reflects your workplace if a colleague is trying to take power from you. It is crucial to hold your ground. As with upright version of this card, the reversed one also predicts legal problems or shady business dealings.

Eight of Swords

This card tells a story gone bad - a young person has been banished from the castle, and their hands are tied. They are alone inside a semicircle of planted swords, with their back turned to the castle. An isolated figure, this is the archetype of disassociation. They are far away from the castle, which symbolizes inclusion and civilization.

The red dress is a symbol of vitality but this energy cannot be used so it is restricted. The pool look innocuous and pretty but if the maiden cannot change her position soon,

the rising water can be dangerous to her life. Her eyes are covered, signifying an inability to see the path ahead.

Upright

You feel trapped at the moment. This may be caused by a series of poor luck and bad experiences, and you start to wonder if things will ever improve.

You may feel anxiety because of an unsatisfactory bond with an organization or a person. Specifically, you may be trapped by a financial agreement, which leaves you with little money for yourself.

This negative card usually reveals problems in the workplace and the mental or intellectual domain, demonstrating disappointment and at its most extreme chaos.

At present, you may find it challenging to do your work because of disorganized management or unreasonable demands. Moreover, there may be a sense of talk going behind your back so you feel disassociated and even open to attacks.

The card also results in readings to show a person who is not fit for the role but still working for the sake of conformity. Maybe you are forced to work in a family business or you take a course because it will lead to a high-paying career, even though it is not what you love to do.

Many creatives go through this ordeal of conforming. However, it may take time and confidence to look for your path. You may release yourself from these restrictions but it may take some determination, and you may have to swallow your pride and ask other people for advice and support.

On a social level, the Eight of Swords may show you feeling ignored or humiliated, and you are also worried about the attitude of other people towards you.

Reversed

Much of the upright interpretation of this card also applies in the reverse position, except that it is usually accompanied by strong emotions such as regret, anger, and guilt.

But it is likely that you express these feelings in negative ways because you are so disappointed. Avoid lashing out the people that are closest to you. As with all the lesser cards, the Eight of Swords is only temporary.

Nine of Swords

This card is another negative card. It portrays a figure in despair sitting upright in bed. It is already night but he is awake and anguished.

Nine swords appear in the background. While swords represent thoughts and intellect, in this card, it signifies restriction.

The lowest sword seems to cut through the figure's heart while the second sword from the bottom strikes through his head that oppresses him. This figure is stressed in the mind and in the heart. He is also cut off from the obvious sources of comfort in a desperate struggle within.

The scene depicted on the bedside invokes a dreamy scene. However, the two figures portrayed are not at peace. There is an anguished tone in the decoration.

But in contrast to the negative aura of this card, the blanket is beautiful and bright. It shows the 12 signs of the zodiac with patches of red roses.

The symbols of the zodiac signify multitude instead of any individual importance. These glyphs are trying to tell you that your worries may encompass your life. The red roses are a symbol of hope and love. The figure cannot see hope yet because he covers his eyes.

Upright

You may have been sick for a while and the resulting low energy or a buildup of minor worries or trauma is now starting your peace of mind.

External events such as these may have triggered the initial worry but the issue now is how you will respond to it. Look at the nearby cards to see the life area, which is relevant to your card, even though the anxiety in this card may reflect

sadness in important life areas from personal relationships to the workplace.

This card also signifies the habit of anxiety, so you may be worrying about trivial things that you usually don't mind. Fortunately, as this is a lesser card, this is only temporary. In the workplace, this card indicates that you feel overwhelmed. You basically have too much on your plate, especially if this card arrives with the Ten of Wands, which signifies burden.

Reversed

The reversed Nine of Swords reflects a more negative aura than the upright card. This card traditionally means feeling stuck, guilt, or despair. If you get this card, bear in mind that this is the lowest point in the sequence, and soon, your anxiety will start to shift.

As you eventually move out of this challenging stage, you will feel more capable of turning your feelings of powerlessness. Learn how to wait and be kind to yourself. Share your problems with the people who care about you. Don't carry your burdens alone.

Ten of Swords

This card has a black background, which can also be seen in the Devil and the Nine of Swords. This is indeed a negative card as it depicts a young man stabbed at the back by 10 swords.

There's also a sense of shock in the card, signified by the yellow sky dominated by black clouds or heavy rain. The sky represents two worlds, which is the bright outlook of the world before the conflict, in which everything can be changed and then abruptly descends like a shroud to cover the body.

The victim is slumped and we can't see his face as if he is no longer important. This card focuses on the swords, instead. His hand is slightly twisted, and if you take a closer look, you can see it forms the blessing sign of the Hierophant. As such, we may interpret the figure as a fallen guru or master. This position could also be a sign that the victim has already accepted his ending. He is draped by red cloth,

and this fabric flows like blood from the body. Red is the color of love and life.

Upright

The conventional interpretation of this card is ruin. Even though this sounds frightening, it does not mean destruction or death.

Also take note that the scene depicted in this card, while abrupt, has a background story. This is not an act of Nature similar to the lightning strike in the Tower. This is a result of a series of events, which results in inevitable change.

This culmination clears the way for new possibilities. This ending could release you from stress and frustration. As such, this card is associated with the Death card in terms of new beginnings, transition, and endings.

In your relationships, you may see some break up with your close friends, and there's no going back. Sadly, this is unavoidable but with hindsight, you can see that some people in your circle will cause stress or discord.

In romantic relationships, this card signifies a dramatic culmination, especially if it appears with the Three of Cups.

This card usually applies to a group of people, instead of individuals. In the workplace, this may manifest as the closure of a project accompanied by failing business or loss of employment.

In a more positive interpretation, this signals the end of an era. The stress and chaos will be soon over. Health issues like exhaustion and energy will also improve.

Reversed

If reversed, this card contains the essence of the upright card. However, it also signifies that there may be more repercussions.

You may recall your past actions and feel angry or guilty and react more deeply to the breakup. Avoid being affected too much by stress.

Just accept the situation and learn to let go. This card may also show you are feeling helpless, especially if you have been sick or overwhelmed by your emotions. You will soon recuperate and start over.

Page of Swords

This Minor Arcana card portrays a young man who stands strong, sword brandished using his both hands and alert to the signs of any attack. The background is dominated by clouds, and there are few trees that are blown over by the wind.

The flock of birds suggest that something is about to take form or flight. Regardless of what may happen, the Page of Swords is ready for action during times of trouble.

His position is the best position to counter any attack. He stands tall for all to see with his sword, which is a weapon of his mind and intention that is similar to the Knight of Swords, extends beyond the edge of this card.

The young man is open to deal with known and unknown threats to plan his response and ultimately win. Even though he is not dressed for battle - he has no armor and possible no background in warfare - his position suggests that he is ready to defend or attack. He looks over his right

shoulder away from his sword, which is a sign that he is on high alert.

Upright

This card signifies valuable information. Your hard work is now paying off in business and other professional dealings. This one also suggests that people around you are supportive to help you realize your dreams.

However, this is also a time to be alert and carefully observe what other people are saying. Be ready to take action as you see the right opportunity and consult others who may act as advocates on your behalf.

This lesser card also appears in readings to note that a contract will be coming your way usually about travel documents, careers, or property.

Reversed

If reversed, this witty Page becomes shrewd and manipulative. Be careful about the information you receive now, as it may not be reliable. Be cautious about what you

hear about other people, as it may be unreliable and even untrue.

Knight of Swords

The Knight of Swords is shown in full battle gear. He seems to be in the middle of a battle with his swords raised, and his feet forced down into the stirrups so his horse will keep pace.

However, his visor is raised, which shows that he is ready to look into the eyes of his enemy. He is against the wind, which is a sign that he is not afraid to ride towards opposition. The landscape is mostly barren, which is a symbol for survival. His sword reaches the edges of the card, which suggests that his intention goes beyond the limited landscape. Focused on his mission, nothing may stop this Knight.

Upright

Tempestuous and unpredictable times are ahead. You may experience a roller coaster drama. Underlying conflicts may be exposed or sudden truths may come to light. Depending on your position, you may find this bewildering, stressful, or illuminating.

This card usually comes up to show disputes at work as well as tension within families and in romantic relationships. Even though you may not be responsible for the root of the problem, what is important now is how you can rise up. You need to move forward but you may have to wait until the situation is more peaceful before you make a move.

If you get two or more Knights in a reading, the interpretations are as follows:

Two Knights - Righteous friendship but rivalry if one or both cards are reversed

Three Knights - Meeting of men

Four Knights - Events speed up, lots of action

Reversed

The reversed arrival of the Knight of Swords means stressful circumstances that could be blown out of proportion. It also pertains to a person who thrives on emotions but has no ability to take control of the situation. This card also predicts that you may be let down by someone you thought was steadfast and reliable. An individual with a big personality may have many things to say but have minimal substance. But the person's intelligence means he has the ability to talk his way out of a situation and deny any involvement.

Queen of Swords

The Queen of Swords is associated with The Empress or the symbol of mother figure.

This royalty is the 'mind' aspect of the mother, just as the heart is the realm of the Queen of Cups.

This Queen has a sense of sovereignty like no other as she is the only royal female figure shown like a head on a coin. Her hand is raised as if she is greeting a visitor.

Similar to the Queen of Wands, she is alert, signifying that she is in charge. She also holds her swords at the right angle to her throne arm and sits on a raised ground. This provides her a sense of authority over her realm.

Upright

The Queen of Swords is traditionally known as the widow and pertains to a woman who has to make her own way in the world. This is also a common card for single parents. The Queen urges you to stand strong and push your determination as she offers her intelligence, wisdom, perspective, and ability to see the bigger picture.

If it appears near a negative card in a reading, the Queen shows strength in the midst of adversity.

Remember that the interpretation may vary depending on the number of queens in your reading: two queens may mean rivalry, three means helpful friends and four may signify a gathering of women.

Reversed

When reversed, this minor arcana card suggests that you are in a situation in which you are attacked unfairly or you

are making excuses for bad behavior. You may need to deal with an opponent or an individual who has suddenly turned vengeful and bitter.

The usual reason for the Queen to invert could be extreme stress. This female royalty lacks awareness of just how unreasonable the pressure has become. If you are in this situation, you should back away.

King of Swords

The King of Swords is associated with The Emperor or the symbol of father image who brings authority, order, and structure.

Mind is the domain of the King of Swords just as the King of Wands the soul, the King of Pentacles, the physical body, and the King of Cups, the heart.

The King has a regal ensemble and has similarities to Justice. His throne is decorated with butterfly motifs, signifying the element of the Air. There is also a female fairy on his right.

The two crescents that form a crest with the butterflies at the top of his throne resemble sickles, which is another tool that cuts like a sword. In all his regality, this King is charming but can be ruthless.

Upright

The King of Swords can be a logical man or a male figure who depends on his intellect to win. He welcomes ideas, even though he can be impatient if he has to wait for other people before he takes action. But he is calm and make sound judgments. He is quite charming and has a dry sense of humor.

In card layouts, he can appear as a charming man you meet at work or via other business connections. His ideal vocations include conventional professions, and you will usually find him in powerful roles such as lawyer, professor, judge, or doctor. In the workplace, he is often a director or a manager. Regardless of the profession he chooses, he must be able to make decisions that could make a difference.

If this card appears in your card reading (in an upright position) it means that you have to take charge. However, you should focus on the mind instead of the heart. You might be going through an intensive time at work.

You should also take the initiative when it comes to domestic affairs and your relationships.

Here are the interpretations if you get two or more Kings in your reading:

Two Kings - a viable partnership

Three Kings - circle of influence

Four Kings - a battle for power

Reversed

If reversed, the influence of the balanced king could be damaging. You may be placed under unreasonable stress to produce results.

However, there's no room for personal interpretations or arguments, so you might feel oppressed. But because this is just a minor card, this situation is temporary.

Also, this card suggests that you may need to deal with someone who is playing mind games and who is willing to do anything to win.

The Suit of Pentacles

Ace of Pentacles

This card means the seeds of productivity are being planted and it is up to you to nurture it. It can come in the form of a gift, business idea, career opportunity, etc. It is time to be practical and build something lasting based on hard work. It is a sign that your dreams can be realized, and you just have to figure out how to make it so.

It can also symbolize wealth in a holistic way. You discover new opportunities in love, happiness, and fulfillment. The Ace signifies abundance.

Reversed

The reversed Ace of Pentacles signifies missed chances and lost opportunities. You have failed to take advantage of the opportunities around you because of doubt or lack of planning and now, things are passing you by. It can also be a call to order to wait a moment before plunging headfirst and take your time before taking an opportunity.

The reversed card can also be a sign that an opportunity might not pan out as expected, so don't count your chickens before they hatch. It also advises you to be careful with spending too much as the reversed card looks like a coin about to fall off the palm.

Two of Pentacles

A young man dances as he juggles two coins in his hands. An infinity symbol links the two coins symbolizing that he can handle unlimited challenges. Two ships at sea are in the background and they are bobbing up and down to huge

waves. A sign of the ups and downs of life being manageable.

Upright

This means you have the capability to take on everything needed, you can do it easily, and with a smile. You believe in yourself and can meet all challenges if you remain flexible. If you feel you'll soon be overwhelmed, the card reminds you that you can handle it as you are a master of managing your time and priorities. It also reminds you of balance, as nothing is ever in perfect harmony. strive to find the balance in your priority to give everything due attention.

Reversed

This is a sign that you have taken on more than you can handle, or you have failed to manage what you potentially should have been able to handle. It can also be a sign that you are getting overwhelmed even if you aren't able to acknowledge it. get organized and drop the things that

aren't prioritized high enough. Reassess your priorities and get rid of distractions as much as you can.

Three of Pentacles

This card depicts a stonemason working on a church. A man wearing a strange orange cloak holds a plan. Symbolizing a lifelong commitment, a monk is also in the card, observing the work on the building.

The young mason is standing on a workbench, similar to the one used by the man portrayed in the Eight of Pentacles. The two cards both show a craftsman at work.

The three of pentacles are a part of the church's design. The young man's ideas are now part of the building structure. His contributions are now lasting and set in stone. He is working by a half-open door, which signifies that his reputation and good work will open doors for him in the future.

Purple is the color of his tunic. This is the color of high office in the church, and this shows that he is spiritually

attuned with his beliefs and talents. He completely comprehends his work and knows how to direct his skills to the best effect.

It is also interesting to note that the mason appears in public, where he can be seen by people. This signifies that he is proud to demonstrate his work, and what he builds is accessible, because he believes that it is more important than the money he will receive.

This is also the card in the Pentacles suit that shows the coins in black. They represent a lasting satisfaction instead of a reward of literal golden coins.

Upright

The upright interpretation of the Three of Pentacles is rewarding work. It usually shows that you are ready to show your talents to the public, and this card usually appears in readings for launching an enterprise or important project.

The card also predicts improvement work in your home or selling a property. It is also a good card for creative people,

predicting that projects will be completed and appreciated. The work can also be shown in a public space.

Reversed

Work is tiresome and you may not have the motivation to work at all. This may be caused by routine tasks and you doubt about success in your current career.

You need to go through the monotonous details or make a fast decision to move on. Another meaning of the card is poor planning that means a project may not succeed.

Four of Pentacles

The figure portrayed in the Four of Pentacles has declared himself as a king complete with a stone throne and a crown. His goal is to elevate himself financially and socially and establish a solid base for his future. His red gown shows that he is focused on setting up a stable foundation for himself, and now that he has accomplished this, he added a black cloak of protection to guard his possessions.

He needs to keep his possessions for himself. The components of the card are quite in harmony, which is often expressed in the number four as a symbol of balance. But what is interesting is how connected this figure to his money. He steps on two pentacles, he holds tight to one coin against his body, and the other is attached to his crown.

Symbolically, his wealth grounds him but also at the core of his heart and mind. His arms are wrapped around the coin to make sure no one can touch it. Wearing a coin on his crown signifies that he is proud to demonstrate that he is now a person of means and has risen through the social ladder.

Upright

This card shows the need for stability and setting up a solid foundation. If you have experienced past hardship, this card shows the difficult times are over, as your work is now paying off. Even though this doesn't predict a significant windfall (unlike the Ten of Pentacles), your financial

resources will be enough and you will also receive recognitions.

The Four of Pentacles also show protection of properties and conventional values. Establishing a solid foundation for a growing family may be crucial to you now, so you have to consider moving to a new home or investing in a business that will bring money.

In the workplace, you have achieved a position that is quite secure, so if you are working in a temporary role, this card predicts you will be offered a permanent job.

Reversed

If reversed, this card shows an overly materialistic person who holds too fast to possessions and status. If this pertains to you, you should let go of insecurity as this may take up much of your mind. You will have an insatiable belief that you will never have enough.

In your career, this card reveals that you miss some opportunities because of low confidence, and changes to your role may leave you feeling disempowered. As such, you need to do well in your profession and you

have to put in more effort than you usually provide.

Five of Pentacles

This card depicts a snowy scene with two poor people suffering a harsh winter.

The man on crutches wears a bell, which in medieval times was a requirement for lepers to warn others of their approach. This signifies that the man has become untouchable and ostracized from society.

The gray-haired woman is barefoot and wears a red cloak, signifying her persistence despite their situation. However, she cannot yet understand any possibility of change.

The two impoverished figures in this card are focused on surviving the winter and they are not aware of the window near them, with its portrayal of a money tree of five pentacles and a solid, warm edifice behind it.

The stained glass window is reminiscent of church windows. As the paupers are not members of the church,

and they cannot enter inside, there's a sense of exclusion from a spiritual community.

Upright

The traditional interpretation of this card is financial loss. When this one shows up in your reading, it may signify losing a job or you may experience some financial hardships.

On a positive note, you will find support from others in a similar position. These people will become good friends whom you may never have encountered in usual circumstances. Consider new alternatives, and you may discover another approach or resource that can help you move forward.

But this card usually comes up in readings to signify a fear of isolation and poverty instead of actual poverty. It also shows a fear of losing the security of home as an effect of a divorce or break away with one partner feeling drained and alone.

While the Tarot cards cannot predict physical demise, this card may reflect your current emotions of sadness caused by losing a loved one.

Reversed

You need to examine your values. Are you perhaps holding on too much to something that you end up getting stuck? It's important to think about this because fear of change could be harmful. It may lead you to neglect debt or even cause you to outright ignore (if not become unintentionally oblivious) to the arising problems in your relationships.

Clinging to old memories and possessions show you need to feel safe for now, and you don't have the faith or confidence that you will gain support in the future. But like other Minor Arcana cards, this is just a temporary influence.

In relationships, you may suffer due to a partner's selfish behavior. This person doesn't want to give to you emotionally, or he or she withholds money. The card can

also show you being ill-treated by an ex-partner who doesn't pay what is due.

Six of Pentacles

Similar to the figure in the Justice card (XI), the nobleman in this Minor Arcana card is holding a pair of scales, and the color of his dress is red symbolizing practicality and energy. Purple is the color of his mantle or the color of spirituality and intuition. This is a sign that his actions are in good faith. His tunic has blue and white stripes which is a symbol of generosity.

The young nobleman gives out coins using his right hand and his left hand weighs down the situation using the scales of mercy. There are two beggars in the card. One has a wound and wears a bandage around his head. The other beggar wears a tattered blue cloak, signifying that he is experiencing true poverty and requires help.

The beggars are in a barren place beyond the walled city. The white-gray sky gives an uncertain feeling. It is not blue

for clarity or yellow for joy. Regardless, the man still gives money.

Upright

Money is coming to you in the form of a gift or a grant and will come from a person instead of an organization. This will allow you to settle any outstanding debt or invest it for your future.

If you have financial struggles, this card is a positive sign that your situation will improve. Also, this card shows that you are also a generous person and will be in a position to help someone in need or you feel drawn to help a charity.

In general, this card brings authentic support and predicts you feeling connected and close to your usual circle of family and friends. An additional interpretation is receiving money or help from an individual from the past or unlocking your savings to help another person.

Reversed

If reversed, the Six of Pentacles shows money coming to you but you will not be able to keep it. The traditional

interpretation of this card is having your wallet stolen, and this message is strongly reinforced if this arrives with the Seven of Swords.

Pay attention to your possessions and keep track of your expenses so that you will have enough money in your wallet. Some people may be jealous of your money, so monitor your behavior as well as the behavior of people around you.

Another meaning is an offer of money but it may come with conditions that are not fair to you. This card urges you not to compromise and say no if you need to. There are more options for you.

Seven of Pentacles

This card is also known as the card of potential success. It portrays a young man looking down at his treasure - the six pentacles on a vine and one at his feet. The vine is reminiscent of the vine in the King of Pentacles, Nine of Pentacles and Four of Pentacles. But in this card, the vine

is established with healthy, large leaves. But notice that there are no grapes yet because the vine is not mature enough.

The young man leans on his hoe as he tends to the vine. But with effort, he will soon see the fruits of his labor.

The six pentacles on the vine show what should be set aside for the future, while the one coin symbolizes the ideal disposable income, or what you can spend now. This is a small reward today but with patience and effort, more will come.

The young man wears blue and red to symbolize energy. His feet, like his vine, are strongly grounded in the soil. He is probably taking stock of his accomplishment as he looks at his coins but he needs to keep going to realize his dreams.

Upright

You are close in achieving your goals. However, now is not the time to stop and reflect. The Seven of Pentacles is not about philosophizing but rather it is a card of doing. Keep your focus on what you want and believe you can accomplish it.

It may seem that you are exerting a lot of effort but your hard work will soon pay off. This card usually appears in readings to show the need to focus on your career goals or to persist in a particularly tedious phase in a present project that is leaving you drained.

This card may also mean that your finances are not enough for the little luxuries. But regardless of your situation, just keep on, and your future self will thank you for your hard work and perseverance.

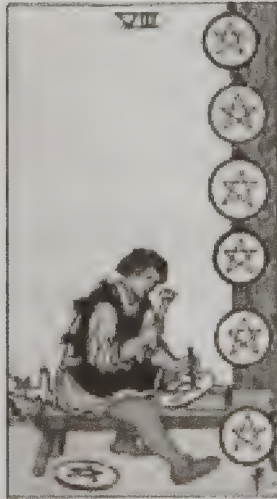
Reversed

If reversed, the Seven of Pentacles shows that you might be procrastinating. You might be out of time, so you need to fully commit to the work that you are doing regardless of the highs and lows.

You may also need to place your energies elsewhere. You may need to consider a different career path. You may feel disheartened with slow or zero progress in your career or your finances are currently in disarray. However, opportunities may slip away while you're in the doldrums.

Take your action now. Any decision is a lot better than no decision at all. Another interpretation of the card is depression brought by a loan or other financial agreement. If this is affecting your health, try to renegotiate the terms instead of giving up now.

Eight of Pentacles



The Eight of Pentacles portray a young apprentice at work. He is quite productive, and the wood in the card - assumed as a bark of a tree that symbolizes sturdy growth - showcases his work.

The apprentice works hard, and has eight pentacles as proof. Wearing red and blue, for truth of purpose and energy, he also wears a brown apron or the traditional vestment of a smith or a mason.

Even though the apron provides the young apprentice with protection during his work, its dark color signifies protection similar to the dark cloak that you will see in the Four of Pentacles.

The budding knowledge of the apprentice will provide him financial security in the future. A solid skill and education will provide him the opportunity to live a good life.

Even though his workplace has an uncertain atmosphere (signified by the white-gray sky) he keeps his head down and he focuses on his task. The civilization can be seen in the background, so he may have made a conscious decision to work or study away from comfortable environments.

His choice to work far away from home demonstrates his ambition and commitment to walk his own path. His work is repetitive but he does his job for mastery. He is proud of his work but he can be overly perfectionist, as one coin is

lying on the floor, while others are showcased. He set his standards high and needs to uphold excellence.

Upright

You will soon receive a compensation, which is money that results from your previous decisions or efforts. There's a chance that you will be provided with an opportunity to master new skills that will help you to become profitable in the future.

You may also consider a new work direction or working hard for a promised promotion. Generally, this card also highlights the need for a diligent and logical strategy for your projects.

This card usually shows up in a reading to predict gaining qualification or education, specifically a diploma or undergraduate degree.

Reversed

Do you feel trapped at the moment? This may be caused by your decision to choose educational tracks that are not for you or you have little interest with.

At work, you may be aware that you are only doing your job for the money. Even though this may be acceptable for short-term, it may do you harm or stifle your growth.

While you are supporting your financial needs, it may be the best time to look elsewhere instead of tolerating the situation.

The Eight of Pentacles card is also a prediction tool to show that a cycle is about to come, so instead of waiting for this to happen, preserve your energy and point it towards finding a new career.

Nine of Pentacles

This card depicts a prosperous woman standing proudly in her vineyard. In this land of abundance, the lady of the manor is tending not only to her grapes but also to the nine pentacles lying beside her.

These treasures are reminiscent of hay bales that are harvested and piled during the summer with their circular ends like the faces of the coins.

It is interesting to note that the pentacles are not equally distributed. On her right, she has six coins, and three are on the left. The coins on the right are her prized possessions, while the coins on the left are for distribution. She ensures the sustainability of her lifestyle by ensuring that she is giving away less than what she has.

Red is the color of her hat as well as the lining of her gown. This color signifies energy and passion. It also offers a link with the womb and its significance to fertility. The flower design on her robe is associated with the glyph of Venus or the ruling planet of this card.

The bird resting on the lady's gauntlet is covered with a red hood. This shows temporary control. While birds are usually symbols of spirit, when restrained or domesticated, they also signify vanity. As the bird is not caged or chained but wears a hood, we sense that this lady is aware of the dangers of using money to gain control. She is alert against egotism and materialism.

Upright

The Nine predicts a time of financial stability. You will be proud of your accomplishments and you will feel safe in your home. Finally, you will be surrounded with the fine things you love. You may soon find yourself redesigning your home or tending to your yard or garden.

This is also the time to appreciate all that you have. Reward yourself with whatever that makes you happy and take pleasure in the fruits of your labor. Take care of your needs without the guilt. This card also brings you peace of mind. In the workplace, this card predicts monetary rewards such as a bonus or perks in recognition of your efforts.

Reversed

If reversed, this card shows egotism and vanity. Your urge for material wealth may get out of control. You need to confront overspending not only for you, but also your loved ones.

This card also shows financial dependence that brings discomfort or misuse of wealth for selfish ends.

An added interpretation is feeling that your domestic harmony is threatened because you are struggling with

debt. There is no need to struggle alone. You can ask for support.

Ten of Pentacles

This card portrays a happy couple and their child and dog. They are under the archway, which is the entrance to a wealthy home.

We can also see a house in a prosperous courtyard, and there's also a high tower that is a symbol of love, protection, learning, or tradition.

Another figure in this card is an older man who is seated in a chair resembling a throne. He is probably the King of Pentacles who is already old but still wears his cloak. He appears to bestow the couple his blessing, signifying that it is now their turn to continue the family legacy through marriage.

The card depicts three generations - the king as the grandfather, the couple, and a small child. Each generation

seems separate from each other but they share the same happiness.

The position of the ten pentacles is not random. Instead, it follows the symmetry of the Tree of Life. Also, the four elements are represented equally. These elements suggest balance and harmony.

Upright

This card shows love relationship, generosity, and inheritance that brings happiness and wealth. If your current concern is stability in your present relationship, the appearance of this card is good news.

This card usually comes up in a reading to predict a wedding. The couple also shares similar values and usually has similar social and cultural backgrounds.

Another interpretation is inherited property. You may soon buy a second home or extend your present home to make room for a growing family. At this point, you will also take advantage of sharing your money, skills, resources, or time to help each other out.

Take note that in this context, family may signify people whom you consider as family. Hence, this may also relate to your closest friends.

The Ten of Pentacles also suggest maturity. You may see this in emotional maturity that comes with your experiences in life, as well as financial maturity when your investment grows.

Reversed

The reversed appearance of the Ten of Pentacles shows communication problems in families. One generation might be trying to dominate another. Parents and children often argue and hold different values.

This card may also highlight problems related to money or property that could test the relationships within the family. In general, attitudes toward money could be at the center of the problem. This card usually appears in readings to show overly strict older generations who are trying to control the family using money.

Page of Pentacles



Not similar to the Page of Swords, the Page of Pentacles is absorbed in his coin instead of the landscape around him. He holds the coin lightly - like a precious gem - a present that will become an accolade or an award for his talents. Around him are trees, grass, ploughed fields, and low mountains - clearly a landscape of abundance. The verdant trees nearby tell that that the Page's good fortune has come from the seeds that he tended. He admires money with the knowledge that he has its support.

Turning his focus to one issue doesn't mean any other life aspect will be neglected. There is no need for him to look over his shoulder for challengers who want a share of his wealth. As such, the Page is a symbol of wealth consciousness. He believes that he has everything that he needs with his energy and optimism.

His red headgear stands for passion and energy. He also wears a scarf that drapes over his shoulder and extending down his back, which signifies wholehearted motivation. The yellow coin and background symbolizes solar consciousness and intelligence. The Page yearns to show his talents.

The Page's elemental association is double Earth. What he achieves come from the ground up similar to the trees with solid roots. He starts with a sound plan and a target to build something great. As Earth of Earth, he is more practical than idealistic. He sees through his ideas, and he is steadfast to his mission.

Upright

This card reveals adventure, progress, and fortunate beginnings. This is a good time to nurture your abilities and skills. You may receive good news about travel, education, business, or finances.

Also, this card highlights your need for organization, and in the workplace, there will be an opportunity to manage people and important projects. This Page usually appears to predict a job offer or an offer made on a real estate.

However, this card comes with a warning. You have to pay attention to details. You need to double check all agreements and arrangements. Be sure to check through all your work and personal schedule to make certain that you are still realistic about your commitments.

This card also appears if there's a need to check your finances. Pay your taxes or renew your lapsed insurance policies.

Here are the meanings if two or more Pages appear in your reading:

- Two Pages - good friendship but rivalry if one or either of the card is reversed

- Three Pages - your days will be filled with social activities
- Four Pages - you will join a social group of young individuals

Reversed

There may be unwelcome news concerning property or finances.

Not similar to its upright and responsible counterpart, the reversed card means irresponsibility and extravagance. It also predicts suffering caused by the selfish actions of other people.

This is usually applicable to young people who are associated with immature friends. It also applies to an individual with a great sense of entitlement who doesn't mind taking what is yours.

Knight of Pentacles

This is an interesting card as this is the only Knight in the four minor suits of the Tarot whose horse is not galloping. The Knight's steed is made for pulling a plough instead of raging into battle. This signifies a measured approach, which is quite unlike the Knight of Swords who rushes headlong towards his mission. The Knight of Pentacles is long-term. He has no interest in fast-paced action and will work long and hard to ensure his victory.

The Knight's helmet and the plumes on the horse bridle are green, which is the color of nature. They look like a bunch of oak leaves, which reminds us of a saying "from acorns great oaks come."

This provides us the interpretation of future investment, which is a message supported by a land of rich terracotta soil. This is the right time for planting, and you can even visualize the Knight sowing his golden coin in the land and waiting for money to grow.

The Knight of Pentacles is strategic, logical, and has the ability to think several steps ahead. He is prepared for his mission. The cover under the saddle shows that he has equipped his horse for a long ride. We can also see a book, which he probably brought along to read when he stops for a break or maybe it is a notebook in which he can record his progress.

The element of this card is Fire in the suit of Earth. As such, this Knight has all the important ingredients for a stable purpose. The energy of fire drives him forward while the energy of the Earth supports him and rationalize the ideas. The Knight's right hand holds a coin that shares the same color as the sky. Similar to the Page of Pentacles, this knight sees potential prosperity all around him. He displays his coin, which signifies that financial stability is his main concern. His red tunic shows he has the energy, and similar to the other Tarot Knights, the color of his armor shows his true purpose.

Upright

As a card of good investment and financial growth, Upright arrival of this card into your reading predicts growth in your property business. You have a high chance to succeed if you strategize and set a realistic goal. Focus your attention to the practical details today, so you can ensure future benefits.

This Knight follows a steady pace, which signifies that you need to work on boring yet important tasks. In the workplace, this card may indicate more money coming to you because of a promotion, a special bonus, or a raise. However, you may have to work harder.

Another meaning of the card is looking for a secure home, probably with a partner.

Reversed

If reversed, the Knight of Pentacles urges you to stay away from being complacent and double check all your financial agreements. The uncomfortable meaning of this card is misleading financial advice or financial mismanagement.

Queen of Pentacles



The Queen of Pentacles is associated with the Empress or the symbol of motherhood. She also represents the material or physical side of the mother, so she deals with practical concerns, property, and money.

This royal figure looks down on her golden coin as well as to the Earth as her suit of element. Surrounding her are symbols of fertility and spring - the flowers, the flowing water, lush vegetation, and the hare.

The rose briar is also portrayed in the Magician and the Strength card that also shares the dominant colors of yellow and red for clear sightedness and practicality.

The landscape is partly wild and cultivated, giving the sense that work is continuing and that the Queen is quite comfortable in nature and in the domain of her yard or garden. She cares for her environment, pragmatic, and most importantly, she knows how to work to achieve her goals.

She has the patience and will wait to see her rewards. Her throne portrays pears, which are symbols of long life and fertility. This fruit is also sacred to the ancient Roman deity Pomona.

The Queen's crown also features a winged goat as a reflection of Capricorn, which is one of the Queen's zodiacs. The goat also appears on the Devil card signifying excess, and in the case of the Queen of Pentacles, this translates to sensuality.

Upright

As a person, the Queen of Pentacles is often supportive, generous, and well off. She is wise, affectionate, and has a strong maternal instinct. She represents a woman who has wisdom beyond her years.

Her professions include entrepreneurship, sport coaching, politics, agriculture, ecology, public office - or any career that is driven by dealing with a lot of people. She is also an ideal housewife as she loves taking care of her home or garden.

This Queen loves the good things in life and knows how to spend money well - on beautiful things, on presents for loved ones, and also on herself. She is hands-on in her projects and physically affectionate. Instead of dictating from the sidelines, she is active in offering her helping hand. She usually shows up in readings as a benefactor.

The main message of this card is to take care of your body as well as your finances. Aside from financial help, money management, wisdom and support, the Queen of Pentacles predicts marriage or money from a generous couple. It is also an auspicious card for children, fertility, sensual sex life, and good health.

Reversed

Your finances may suffer if you see this card on reverse. The money you are expecting will not roll in or will not be properly spent. You may need to deal with the effect of someone's financial challenges. But this is just temporary. An additional interpretation is you might be ignoring your domestic affairs while you are too busy with your other concerns.

As a person, the reversed Queen can be unimaginative and stubborn. She may spend big sums based on emotions and she can be mean with money. Her erratic behavior is for self-comfort or she uses financial leverage to win over the affection of the people around her.

King of Pentacles



The King of Pentacles is associated with The Emperor or the father symbol who brings authority, order, and structure. He also deals with practical concerns, property, and money for a more secure life.

The head of a boar on his left foot represents his control on base instincts . The King's foot and leg are armored which stands for the hard labor to achieve his position. Showing supremacy, his crown is decorated with red flowers and fleur de lis that are symbols for fertility from ancient Egyptians.

The images of bulls and grapes in the picture are similar with the ancient legend of Ampelos, a young satyr loved by the Greek god of wine named Dionysus.

When Ampelos was killed by a feral bull, Dionysus turned his blood into wine and his body into grapevine. The red grapes and vines spread around the King's robes and the bull's head signifies success and fruitfulness. This only means that the King plans thoroughly and anticipates outcome from long-term investments.

He rests a large-golden coin on his left knee with his left hand while holding a scepter with his right. He is stationed inside the castle battlements that is protected by a stone wall.

Castle towers and the keep are prominent on the right side of the card making the King protected and secured. With the orange and golden background similar to his coin, the warm sky tells us it's the season of harvest - a symbol of abundance. The King does not rest on his laurels for his red cowl means the energy of the physical world.

Upright

As a person, the King of Pentacles refers to a visionary man who has a plan. He is driven to work hard to achieve his goals and he is usually wealthy. He is also supportive, generous, and reliable. Security is also important for him. He yearns for a more stable relationship.

He needs to be a protector because of his firm boundaries. He has zero tolerance for those who are trying to take what is his. His ideal professions include business, property, finance or any work that relies on numbers or land management.

If two or more Kings appear in a reading, the interpretations are as follows:

- Two Kings - A good partnership
- Three Kings - Men of influence
- Four Kings - Power struggle

Reversed

If reversed, the King of Pentacles is untrustworthy and greedy. Therefore, you must carefully check all financial dealings to make sure that there are no unfair caveats.

This card could also mean debt, so focus well on your finances to limit the effects of overspending.

The King refers to a corrupt person who may be involved in gambling or fraud. He has the drive to win at any cost.

Chapter 5: Tarot Rituals



The rituals here are not the types you see in movies where you have to draw mysterious signs on the ground, wear a hooded robe, place candles at specific spots and then begin to recite incantations while waiting for a huge, scary gust of wind to blow. As fascinating (or downright petrifying) as that would have been, tarot reading does not involve fetish ritual proceedings in any form. 'Ritual' in this context is a set of actions that you carry out before a tarot

reading to help calm your mind and 'activate' your intuitive capabilities.

To cope in the real world, your analytical mind needs to constantly be at work; you need to analyze how much you have spent on gas, how many more years you have left to pay off the mortgage, how many calories you have consumed in a day...the list is endless. But for an effective tarot reading, you will need more than just your analytical mind, you'll need your intuitive mind on board. The rituals are just a process of helping you clear your mind, and usher in your intuition to lead you through the reading.

It is essential to note that carrying out a ritual is not a compulsory prerequisite for an effective tarot reading session. If you feel you can utilize your intuition efficiently without needing to prepare your mind in advance first, then by all means, do so. But over the centuries, most people have found it extremely helpful to have a specific routine that helps them get prepared to engage their intuitive capabilities before carrying out a tarot reading.

Your ritual should preferably be a consistent practice. It can be as simple as taking a few deep breaths and closing

your eyes to enable you to calm your mind, to using velvet, silk, crystals, candles and incense to create a specific type of atmosphere you feel helps you get in touch with the deepest recesses of your mind. When it comes to tarot rituals there are no specific standard procedures. It's all about figuring out what works for you and harnessing it to the fullest to enable the delicate balance between your analytical mind and your intuition to be established. Once you feel you have reached that state of delicate balance, then you may proceed with your tarot reading session.

It is very important that your ritual procedure be a series of steps you are completely comfortable with; both mentally and physically. If you are allergic to something, it doesn't make sense to use it because you think it would let you be at peace. If something scares you, then it doesn't make sense to include it in your ritual routine either. You want to be clear-headed, not apprehensive while carrying out your tarot reading.

However, as long as you are comfortable with a particular series of steps, then by all means, carry on. Even if it is

carving out specific signs on sand and lighting candles and saying whatever incantations come to your mind, as long as the ritual process makes you feel at peace and unlocks your intuitive capabilities, by all means, fire on.

A great part of most people's tarot rituals is saying prayers. If you believe in God, or the existence of a supreme supernatural entity, then you can ask Him for guidance and direction as you prepare to proceed to seek answers to your burning questions. Communicating with an invisible divine entity not only helps to calm you down and improve your intuition, it also allows you to be collected enough to frame your question properly. When you are praying, you are likely to say your question out loud; to ask God for help. Therefore, praying helps you to frame your question right without any ambiguities.

Another key part of most rituals is deciding exactly how many times you would shuffle the tarot deck before carrying out your reading. The amount of times you shuffle the deck will eventually have a direct impact on what your final reading will be, so it is extremely

important for you to be clear-minded as you decide exactly how many times you want the cards to be shuffled.

During the process of preparing your mind to carry out the reading, it is also important for you to decide whether you as the reader will be the one to shuffle the tarot cards, or if you will be doing it with the querent, or if only the querent will be responsible for the shuffling. As stated earlier, there is no absolute right or wrong way to do these things; it all comes down to personal traditions, and of course, intuition. While carrying out your ritual, it makes sense to visualize the tarot reading in your mind in advance, and decide exactly who will be doing the shuffling of the cards.

It is believed by a lot of tarot experts that a unique, temporary and mysterious bond exists between the deck of cards, the reader and the querent during the process of the reading. The open-minded atmosphere helps to connect them, and as the reader and querent open up their minds to the possibilities of the reading's results they find themselves working together on a subconscious level to find a solution to the querent's problems.

Chapter 6: Starting Out Your Journey to Tarot Reading



We all start our journey to tarot in different ways; different circumstances lead different people to tarot reading. Inevitably, people will view the very practice of tarot reading from different individual perspectives. Unlike other more accurate scientific fields, tarot reading is an art that has thrived over the ages on generating controversies in interpretations; bringing people together using differences in their reasoning. The way you will understand how the reading of a particular card or spread

appears to your peculiar situation might differ slightly from how your reader sees it.

The key to being a great tarot reader in the long run is for you to first look deep in the recesses of your mind, find yourself, and come to terms with who you are. You need to realize exactly who you are, underneath the cloak of educational backgrounds, social class and all those cloaks we use to mask our real selves in the modern society. You are not your occupation or job description, you are not your position in your family, you are not the role that the society has foisted on you.

You must go back to the very basics of your consciousness and discover who you are and the ideals you hold dear. Discovering yourself will help you to have an independent voice and a self-reliant thought pattern that will be able to help your intuition bloom. Once you as a person are in perfect harmony with your intuition, then reading the cards and relating them to your life becomes easier.

Discovering yourself will also let you find out you are intrinsically different from everybody else. Who you are fundamentally as a person differs from what people think

you are, and it sure differs from who other people are. Therefore, since we all differ on a very primal, base level, it is not expected for our intuitions to work the same way. What your intuition regards the interpretation of a card to mean in your situation is likely to be slightly different from what someone else would think if they got that particular reading in your same exact situation. Self-discovery will let you understand who you are, and will let you come to terms with the differences that exist between yourself and others.

First and most importantly. There should be a reader. If there is no reader, then exactly how is the interpretation of the card determined? A reader has to be in place to examine the cards drawn and the spread created, and to guide the person who asks the question on the core meaning of the reading produced.

This leads to our second most important factor, the querent. In Tarot literature, a querent is simply the person who asks the question (or who makes the query). In circumstances of personal divination therefore, the reader

and the querent will be the same person. the querent is the one who is seeking an answer to a burning problem.

The third prerequisite is the question itself. This is the most important thing the querent has to possess for a tarot reading to be successful – a concise, clear-cut question that has been decided on in advance or on the spot. For a querent to be able to relate a tarot reading to his own personal circumstances, the question asked has to be as concise and unambiguous as possible.

Finally, a spread is the last important prerequisite for a reading to be completed. A spread may be an arrangement of cards picked out in a particular fashion based on the direction of the reader's or querent's intuition. In other types of readings, the spread may be a single card pulled randomly from a deck or from a random pile of cards. Whatever form it takes, the most important thing to note is that the spread is the card, or sequence of cards that is interpreted to give an answer to the question asked by the querent.

Even though a lot of tarot readers practice personal divination in the modern dispensation, back in ancient Europe, there were huge concerns about the ability of readers to be objective when seeking answers to their own questions from the cards. When carrying out a personal divination through a tarot reading, as both the reader and the querent, you need to strive consciously during the course of the tarot reading to remain as objective as possible.

Tarot readings have always been regarded as a way of providing a mirror for us to gaze back unto ourselves, our unique predicaments, circumstances and situations and reflect deeply to come up with intuitive deductions and solutions. The aim of tarot is to help you reach into the deepest recesses of your mind, and relate the tarot reading you have done by yourself, or the one an expert reader has just done for you to your unique circumstances.

It's that simple. Having to distill the path to the solution of your problems to just one image or a few sequential images allows you to think deeply from a unique perspective, see

how the core meanings of the card relates to you, and begin to work out a simple, basic solution to your problems. Tarot helps to eliminate complexities by forcing you to come down to a base level when attempting to solve a problem. Instead of engaging your analytical mind and trying to find various complex solutions to mostly simple problems, tarot brings your intuitive mind into the picture and allows you build your solutions from the simple to complex phases, which is the most efficient mechanism of problem solving.

Contrary to popular opinion, you don't need to have studied the entire tarot deck to be able to perform a simple reading. As has been reiterated several times in this book already, the key to a successful tarot reading is your intuition; the limitless power of your mind. as a total novice with no prior knowledge of tarot, you can still carry out an effective tarot reading using the power of your intuition. All you have to do is get your deck of cards, think of a particular question, pull out a single card, and then think of how the image on the card relates to the question you asked.

You can just write down the first couple of things that comes to your mind. It might take a while for you to be able to effectively establish a connection between the question you asked and the image on the card you pulled. That's where the power of your intuitive mind comes in. The more you ponder intuitively on the image, the clearer the path between your tarot reading and the question you asked becomes to you. It's so simple, yet so unbelievably powerful.

Reading for Yourself

However, there *are* potential pitfalls here, as you may be unconsciously inclined to interpret your cards in a favorable light, stretching or even changing the meaning you normally associate with the card until it fits with what you want the answer to be. Be watchful for this tendency, as it's only human nature to be attached to certain outcomes but it isn't doing you any good to ignore what the cards are telling you.

The Process of Reading

Reading Tarot cards is an art. A perfect mixture of knowledge of the card symbols and intuition. There are no laws on how you go about doing your reading. With time, you will decide on the method that works for you and you understand. However, as a newbie, a breakdown of a method you can use in a Tarot reading is as follows;

Choosing a Deck for reading

Tarot is based on different images that were created from a wide array of human experiences. There are myriad Tarot decks made available over the years. Your readings will be more or fewer stories created from the images of cards in the deck of your choosing. Therefore, picking a deck you can relate to is very important.

The most common deck is the Rider-Waite Deck. However, there are numerous others to pick from. Including some minimalist decks which make reading a lot easier.

Preparing the Space for Tarot Reading

The space where you perform the Tarot reading should be filled with positive vibes. This space should be peaceful, and must provide you comfort and relaxation.

Be sure that your reading space has a clean, flat surface where you can place your cards on. Some Tarot readers place a reading cloth to protect the cards from physical or energy harm.

The reading cloth is often the cloth you use to wrap your cards when you keep them. However, any kind of fabric will do as long as it is clean.

You may choose to perform a simple ritual before you start the reading. This ritual is done to honor this practice.

Remember, our thoughts can create reality and helps in manifesting a strong connection between the Tarot cards, ourselves, and the person for whom you are performing the reading.

Tarot reading will also involve your spirit guides, if you are already aware of them.

Below is the suggested ritual to help you get started. However, you can personalize your preparation as you enhance your reading skills.

- Light a candle (preferably a white one) and put it near your reading space.
- Take three to five deep breaths and close your eyes.
- As described in the attunement ritual, visualize a pure light flowing from your head and into your cards.
- You may also choose to set the intention to enjoy the best Tarot reading you want to experience
- After you complete your reading, you can affirm your mind that the reading is over.
- Express gratitude for the insights you have received and keep your Tarot cards in a safe place.
- Don't forget to blow out the candle.

Creating a Sacred Space

If you think about it, you're not likely to get good results in a noisy room with people coming and going, or with the television on in the background. You need to be able to focus your undivided attention on listening to what the cards have to say. It's very difficult to get a useful reading when you're trying to battle distractions! The more conducive your space is to divination, the deeper and insightful the reading is likely to be.

The physical space includes everything in the tangible environment, whether you're at home in your room, out in public in a park or café, or in a beautiful, secluded natural setting.

The mental space is, of course, inside your head but is just as real and important as anything you can physically see. Thoughts, hopes, anxieties, and stressors take up space in your mind. If you are plagued with too many other thoughts, the cards you draw may not add up to anything that makes sense to you.

You can work on making sure that you're calm and centered by creating your pre-reading ritual. You can work

through meditative breathing exercises, and let yourself tune into the room, leaving out the rest of the world. Meditation music or recorded nature sounds can be helpful in this regard as well.

If you're reading for someone else, it's a good idea to advise them to take a deep breath before concentrating on their question and shuffling the cards. You can use the "lock box" technique with them, too, if it becomes clear that there are extraneous thoughts that won't go away. The state of mind of the querent is possibly the most important element of a quality reading—even if the cards speak to some other aspect of their life beyond the question they've come to ask. Emotional space and mental space are generally intertwined but where thoughts tend to come and go rather easily, emotions can be harder to release. It's one thing to be preoccupied by your to-do list for the next day, and quite another to be worried about the health of someone you love.

If you find yourself in any kind of emotional distress, it might be not be the best time to do a reading.

Develop a Personal Connection

Now you are ready to work with your cards and develop a personal connection to them. This connection should be with every single card in the Tarot deck. You may choose to begin with the Minor Arcana and develop a sense of what each suit represents. You may decide to start with the Major Arcana and develop an understanding with the illustrations found there. However, you go about learning the cards for the first time, you'll want to associate meaning to each one. You will begin to develop a relationship with your cards, which is why working with a deck you like and resonate with is so crucial. You're basically bonding with the deck and noting how you feel when using it.

You don't have to memorize the meaning of each card, only develop a basic sense of what the card represents at first. You will inherently acquire a sense of what they mean as you continue to work with them. Keep in mind that you will at one point want to express what they represent to other people so work on creating associations that are easily recognized, repeated, and deciphered. Some people

select only one card and meditate on it and learn everything they can from it for an entire month. This can take a very long time but if you are serious about using Tarot for deeper insight, it's a practice that is highly recommended. Remember that you can do this as you practice daily.

For now, any symbolism and representation that you find in each card are completely fine. Lay out all the cards and with a birds-eye-view take note of any patterns that emerge. Keep a journal of themes that the cards share and feelings that they give you. Refer to your journal throughout your learning to build upon your relationship with them. The interpretations of each card are only activated when you are interacting with them. When you have a need for the indications, you will be ready to find them and use them. Use this time you are spending bonding with your Tarot cards to develop your opinions about them. The deck you chose essentially becomes an extension of your voice. Be honest with anyone that might approach you for a reading early on. Let me know that you can do it for fun but that they shouldn't take anything that

comes across seriously as you are just learning. Remember, these meanings are hypothetical and not necessarily prophetic. You and the people you may do readings for are safe from harm.

Attuning Your Energy with a New Tarot Deck

Attuning refers to the process of connecting your energy with a new set of Tarot cards. The stronger your connection with your cards, the more inspiring, insightful, and accurate your readings could be.

Before you start reading a new deck of Tarot cards, it is important to attune them by placing the cards under your pillow for seven days.

You should also be familiar with the cards by touching them and looking at them every day. This will allow your energy to be imprinted in the deck.

Also, you can try visualization to further attune your energy with the cards.

Follow these steps for attuning your Tarot cards:

- Use your right hand to hold the new cards. It is important to use the right hand because this is called the giving hand. In this way, you are giving your cards your energy.
- Take a deep breath, close your eyes, and try to visualize a pure light coming down from your forehead, going through your neck, then heart, then down to your arm, and into your right hand, and going into your new deck.
- See your cards being filled with pure light.
- If you are aware of your angel or spirit guides, ask for their assistance. Specifically ask for their protection.
- Slowly open your eyes when you feel that you are ready.

Cleansing Your Tarot Cards Before Reading

Always remember to dispel any stagnant energy whenever you take out your Tarot cards. You can do this through the following steps:

- Use your right hand to hold your cards and blow air on them.
- Just gently blow on the edges of the card. Just one breath is enough.
- Place the cards in a neat pile but don't let them go.
- Firmly knock on the top of the cards once. After this, your card is already cleansed of stagnant energy, and you can use it for reading.

How to Choose Tarot Cards for Reading?

First, you need to learn how to shuffle the deck. Remember to always be relaxed so your energy will not be disturbed. Also clarify your intentions.

To select the cards for a reading, you may either cut the deck or use the fan method.

Cutting the deck is ideal for specific layouts that require a lot of cards like the Tree of Life or Celtic Cross. On the other hand, the fan method is best if you just need a few cards for the reading.

Cutting the Tarot Deck

If you are reading the cards for yourself, cut the deck two times using your left hand.

The left hand is used as this is the hand of fate.

You should have three piles for this method. Select one pile to place on top of the deck and place the other two piles under your chosen pile.

Choose a layout. Deal the cards from the top of the deck and place them face down in your front.

If you are reading for another person, you should ask the recipient to perform the steps mentioned above except for the layout.

Picking a Question or Focus

Before deciding to have a reading done, you most likely have a question on your mind. And when Tarot is used in the right way, they often provide insights as to the other available perspectives to explore and also the best ways to move forward from it.

Shuffling the Deck When Reading

Just before a reading, regardless of whether you are reading for yourself or for someone else, you need to shuffle your cards. This isn't just to confirm that the cards are as random as possible, it's a great way for you to physically connect with the deck. Also, during the time you are shuffling, you can take time to carefully think about the question or focus of the reading.

Create a hypothesis

Before working on the meaning of the cards, you can scan the cards and come up with a hypothesis. What are your thoughts on the cards' meanings? What are your reactions to the images? What emotions do they raise in you? Consciously think of these as you make your way through the spread.

Get the Card meanings from the Images and Positions

As a newbie, you will need a reference to consult as it isn't easy to know the translation of the cards offhand. There are many references online if one doesn't come with the deck you purchased. However, over time, you have to be independent of these references as you become more connected with your intuition.

The major part of Tarot reading is the ability to interpret a couple of random events and linking them together to get something much more whole and meaningful.

To get the meaning of the cards after the archetype has been established, get the seeker to shuffle the cards of the minor arcana eight (8) times and then cut into three (3), with each pile facing down. After that, you pick the top cards of each pile.

The first card symbolizes the physical realm. That is what's going on in the material realm for the Seeker.

The second card represents the mental realm. That is whatever is in the seeker's mind which might be holding them back.

The third represents the spirit realm. It is usually a message to the seeker from the spirits.

All three cards are then related together and deciphered from the perspective of the archetype. It very often turns out to be a very accurate reading.

How to Protect Your Tarot Cards?

Similar to people, Tarot cards are also capable of picking up negative or excessive energy from people and even places. These uninvited energies could affect your readings. Therefore, it is important that you protect your cards when you are not using them.

You need to wrap the cards using a dark-colored cloth. Silk or cotton are recommended. Also use a box or bag in storing them, and store them alone (Don't mix them up with mundane things).

For extra protection, you can keep the cards with certain crystals, such as amethyst or clear quartz.

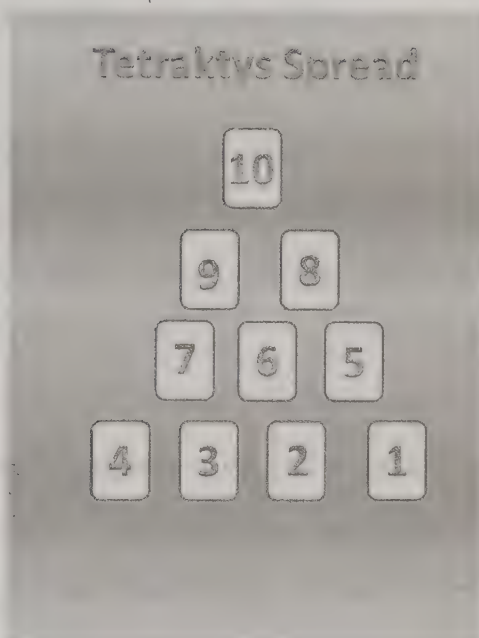
End the Reading

Having a routine, we follow can go a long way in how we process things. Even for the most skeptical of people, having a strict routine while treating their cards with respect does a lot to change their view of the world and how they interact with it.

After every reading, you should be grateful to the universe, clear up where you did the reading, and store your deck in a safe and secure place.

Chapter 7: Tarot Spreads

The Tetraktys Spread



The spread of Tetraktys is based on Pythagorean mathematics and Platonist thought. The 10-card spread offers an overall snapshot of your environment and discusses your whole life, starting basic physical elements all the way through to the spiritual. The specific cards in this set include:

- Fire (creative force, will and ambition)
- Air (current goal strategies and thoughts)
- Water (explores emotional self)
- Earth (coping with everyday life)
- Creator (explores what drives you in new directions)
- Sustained (what helps you to maintain a balanced and healthy life)
- Destroyer (what needs to be thrown away to move forward)
- Light (cosmic forces that guide you towards fulfillment)

The Tetraktys spread, a favorite among those dependent on the Pythagorean tarot and kabbalah, offers a metaphor for testing future event prediction by signifying and adhering to various magical disciplines such as alchemy.

The row at the top consists of a single card and represents the reading's overall premise, creating the basis for the other cards' translation.

The second row of two card positions reflects the universe and the person and their relationship to each other

To the right, the Light Card reflects the cosmos' power which leads the person to action.

The Dark Card to the left is the cosmos' reaction to the individual's actions.

The third row of three-card positions reflects three types of decisions to be made by a person.

The Creator Card is to make new choices and directions.

The Sustained Card is in the center, representing juggling choices and issues that are not supposed to change.

The Destroyer Card is left to the left, reflecting old actions and paths not to be continued.

The Fire card reflects the most diverse creative force, goals, and personal will.

The Air card is in the right-center, reflecting the goal-oriented mind, emotions, and tactics.

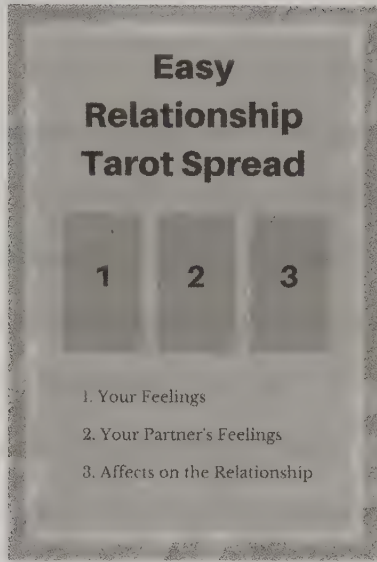
The Water card is in the center of the left reflecting desires, thoughts, and whims.

The Earth card is left to the center ground, representing everyday life's physical realities.

A recommended course of study to include is the exploration of the natural elements and how they are

balanced in the body with the regular use of the Tetraktys spread. While reading this spread, it becomes apparent which element is dominant and which other elements follow in importance. A higher knowledge is gained by keeping an eye on one's elementary equilibrium while reading. This allows the element to communicate its message freely to the reader and to subsequently deliver that message (with the proper strength of the required element) to the querent. That is, if the reader is relaxed, the energy of any given element will find its way to balance itself in the querent. We see how a spread can be an effective medium to heal from spirit to reader to querent, and then to all the others, we communicate with after reading. What a mathematical gift! Far better than algebra in high school, that's for sure.

The Relationship Spread



Love is one of the greatest human mysteries that we want to experience perhaps even the greatest. And of course, because of its elusive and coveted nature, it also happens to be among the most common subject's readers are expected to respond to. Whether it's for you or someone else, there are plenty of circumstances we're seeking answers to.

The spreads that we are concentrating on here are supposed to be used to get an alternative perspective on your love lives and relationships. We focus on romantic relationships for the most part but some of these can also

be used for relationships in general or adapted to be used in this way. We will list these from the easiest to the most complex in the order.

To this end, it is critical that the querent or the one who makes the inquiry open to the information revealed by the cards. Very often, when you start a relationship or reach a specific stage, you may be concerned or confused that your better half has the same perspective on that relationship as much as you do. Do they have other plans, plans that may not include you, to enter into a long term engagement with you?

Such reading is useful even when you have a relationship with another person in your mind or when there is more than one partner to choose from. You also have to bear in mind that nothing is ever 100% accurate in a Tarot reading and is always subject to interpretation. You can very well get cards that will fit in nicely to your way of thinking if you feel a certain way toward your relationship, wishing or idealizing about your relationship, or the potential of a new. They can be lovely and romantic and satisfy your exact

wishes but they may not be based on reality. Try your best therefore to ignore any suggestions or precepts.

This reading may indicate a lack of proper communication and a misunderstanding in the relationship between partners. It can also highlight areas that need to be delved into. It would be wise to sit frankly and speak about what both of you expect from the relationship. Your reading may show that you see wedding bells in your future and your partner may reveal a feeling of being trapped or restlessness. Sometimes simply talking about the problems can ease all areas of doubt or concern.

If your partner is interested in another and his cards show complete devotion to you, you may be paranoid and this will certainly have no beneficial effect on your time. Do not worry about what happens in the reading, because you are expected to care about your partner and relationship when asking these questions.

We suggest this for a fast evaluation of your relationship. After shuffling your cards and focusing on your questions, lay first the most left card, then the most right, make room for the next card in the center between them.

You-What's your part in this relationship? How do you feel about yourself, and how does that affect your relationship?

Lover/Partner-What is the relationship's role? How do you feel about your partner? And what impact does that have on your relationship?

Dynamics-How would this relationship be described? What are the characteristics of it?

First shuffle and card selection are for yourself/Querent: The loving relationship potential from Querent's viewpoint. Draw five cards and put them in front of you face down.

Cleanse and Check the cards again before you reverse a couple, asking the same questions but now – the promise of a loving relationship from your partner. Make sure you name the person fully as a partner may also refer to a business partner to provide further clarity. Let your purpose also be clear that love and romance apply to the relationship. Draw and place five cards in front of you, face down.

You can use 2 decks, one for The Querent and one for The Partner if you do not want to exclude any cards from the second set of five.

Turn the first five cards and read them before turning the second line of five cards. It is very difficult to stay focused if you turn them all at once. Hopefully, when both lines are analyzed and compared, the relationship should be mapped from both points of view. You might discover that you sing lovingly from the same song sheet but you are completely out of tune or just have to practice a little before both of you can sing in harmony. For clarity, additional cards may be drawn.

The Birthday Spread



A set of twelve cards is ideal for understanding the energies that move in and out of your life. This examines your expectations and plan for in the main parts of your life (love, job, fitness, spirituality, or personal development) and offers a guide for the following year. try this spread before you make that wish on your cake:

CARDS 1 & 2

Think about the resources that move out of your life and what you can keep as you reach your life's incoming year. Even with a negative first-place card or a difficult previous year, you should always keep the important life lesson that will appear on Card 2.

You should, however, remember that when a card appears in reverse, the lesson is yet to be understood, and often you need to go back to the previous card's energy to progress. You can spend the next one week after your birthday working on a deeper understanding of the lesson.

CARD 3

This card looks at your goals for the following year and what you decide on doing now that you're one year older. A Major Arcana card shows a desire for a major change in life or a shift in mindset. The type of person you'll become is indicated by a court card. A Minor Arcana card can show what real efforts you want to make.

In this place, a reversal or a 'bad' card can potentially show what you want your life to prevent or alter. As we get older, this is a normal thing to consider. Reversed Three of Cups,

for example, may mean the desire to leave behind an excessive party lifestyle or unfulfilled friendships.

CARD 4 & 5

Both are looking at what will inspire you as you work towards your dream and challenge you. Your life's new year comes with new energy. How do you plan on harnessing that energy to make the most of the coming year? Which energy might be in your way? In understanding the obstacles, instead of letting them take you in surprise, you can plan and deal with possible issues as they arise.

CARDS 6 TO 9

These focus on your life's key areas and what your expectations of each are. These places you don't have to stick with. Think about your main priorities and draw a card for each one at the moment. I recommend that you keep your reading based on six goals. Look for Major Arcana cards showing where the majority of the energy will be.

CARD 10

This card is a focal point for the next year. You need this focus card to track how much energy you need to tap into before your next birthday rolls around.

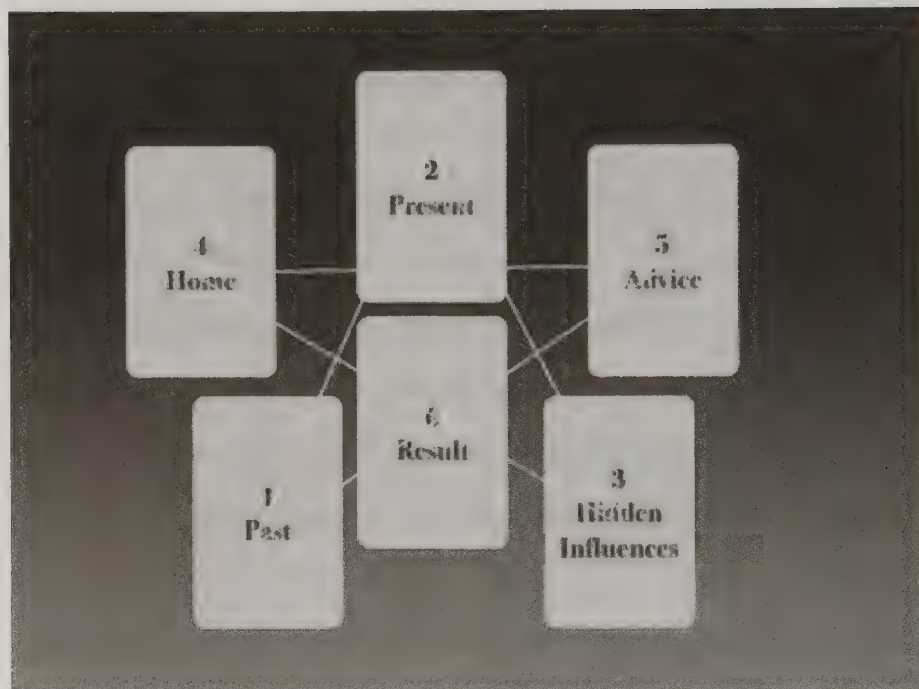
CARD 11

This shows you the lesson you will learn over the coming year. Another year older, another year wiser. Just like the previous year's lesson, a Major Arcana shows a life-changing lesson, a reversed card shows a lesson that you're not still 'getting' and a Minor Arcana card shows a challenge or an actual endeavor that you're working on.

CARD 12

What to be expected in the next 365 days is what the final card focuses on. This is like the Celtic cross reading Outcome card. Look back at the year's aspiration (Card 3) and compare it to the result – are you going to achieve your aspiration? On the way (Card 5) will you overcome the challenges? Will you use this much needed power to get to where you have to be (Card 4)?

The Star Guide Spread



The Tarot's Star Spread is a spread that is usually used when a situation requires more guidance and clarity. This uses seven cards, typically the design of six-point stars. Although this spread is not used by all Tarot readers, it is a quick and easy way to gain information about a specific situation.

A black cloth should be put on the reading surface before drawing the cards for the set. This helps to protect the

cards against any possible dirt or debris. If not in use, the cards may be wrapped in this cloth.

Thoroughly shuffle the cards. You must shuffle both Major Arcana and Minor Arcana together. All the Tarot's 78 cards should be spread face down in a fan-shape. Then the individual can select a total of seven cards that are placed in the Star Spread in the order they are selected.

Astrological Card Spread Positions

Each of the Star Spread's seven locations has its fixed symbolisms. Positions and their interpretations are:

The problem: this position describes, positive or negative, the current situation.

Positive Factors: This card shows that factors could have a positive effect on the situation. You have to encourage these influences.

Negative Influences: This card shows which influences could negatively affect the situation. If necessary, these effects should be reduced.

Past Factors: This position indicates what factors in the situation are losing their power.

The Present: shows what's going on in the situation at the moment. Typically, this position also indicates if a change is required.

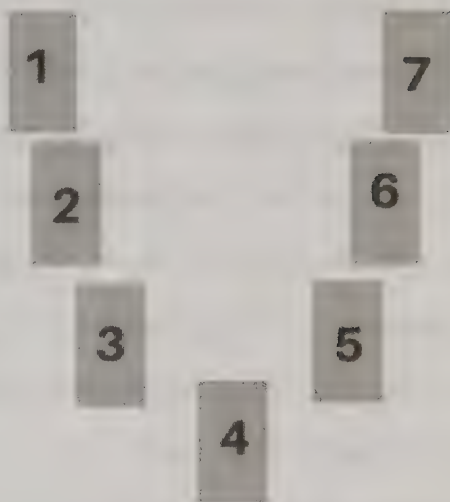
The Future: The card that holds this position shows the current situation's immediate future. It's essentially a culmination of the last four cards' influences.

The Final Outcome: This card shows how things will eventually fix themselves. The word 'outcome' may be a little misleading as the Tarot seems to have a time frame of only six months.

The Horseshoe Spread

HORSESHOE SPREAD

1. Past Influences.
2. Present Circumstances.
3. Upcoming influences.
4. Best Course of Action.
5. The Attitude of Others.
6. Possible Obstacles.
7. Final Outcome.



This spread uses seven cards. Its name may be a bit misleading, as the cards are typically arranged in a V shape rather than a U. Many cartomancers will shuffle and cut the deck while the querent focuses on their question, and allow the querent to blow on the deck or to touch it through a soft barrier (use a cloth, for example, so that they can hold the cards without touching them) before they cut it. They will then lay the cards out one at a time, with each subsequent card overlapping the corner of the previous

card. The fourth card is the anchor of the shape--the low point of the V.

For this particular spread, it can be helpful to compartmentalize card meanings. The fifth card in this spread will have very little impact on your interpretation of the first two, for example but may weigh heavily in your understanding of the sixth and seventh cards. Discuss these connections aloud with your querent as you pull the cards--that way, the connections won't become tangled or muddled in your head.

In order from left to right, the cards correlate to:

- The past events that have placed the querent in their current position.
- The current realities of the querent's life that prompted their question.
- The unseen or unacknowledged influences that inform the querent's feelings (this could reference the phases of the moon, parental influence, the ego, repressed emotions, health issues, or even world events).

- This card represents the querent and gives both the reader and the querent insight into how their personality will affect the outcome of this situation.
- How others view the situation or how they feel about the querent.
- Advises next steps for the querent.
- Hints at the most likely outcome or result of actions taken, as advised by the sixth card.

The Pentagram Spread



Despite the implications of its name, this layout uses six or seven cards, rather than five. It is often used by Wiccans, Pagans, and those who study the occult.

The first step is to choose a Significator--a card to represent the querent. The reader can choose this card purposefully--

-no need to shuffle the deck and draw a card at random here. Choose a card, ideally from the Major Arcana, that signifies the querent's current emotional or mental state, or their role in the situation that they're seeking guidance to manage. This may require you to perform a little get-to-know-you interview before the reading begins. Be sure to explain your choice to the querent as you lay this card down as the center of your pentagram; if you've chosen the Devil, or the Hanged Man, for example, make sure your querent understands that these cards are not condemnations, and can have positive as well as negative meanings.

After laying out this card, shuffle the deck while meditating on the querent's question, or discussing it aloud. Then lay out five cards to surround the Significator, each corresponding to a point of a star. You may want to create or purchase a spread board that has the pentagram drawn upon it to guide you but this isn't necessary. Just make sure one card is directly above the significator; place two cards to the left, one slightly above and one slightly below the center; then mirror this card placement on the

right side as well. Lay them out and read them in clockwise order.

The top right card corresponds to the element of earth and represents stability and physical matters. This card points to the querent's present realities, and what grounds them. Does the querent feel boxed in? Chained down or tethered? What is serving to hold them back from manifesting change, or accomplishing their goals? This card also represents the recent past: the circumstances that landed the querent here, the routines they've gotten comfortable with, and so on.

The lower right card is related to the element of air, and concerns thought and communication. This represents the querent's hopes, anxieties, fears, and ideas; it can also correlate to the advice or information the querent is receiving from other people. This card often represents the root of the issue.

The lower left card is linked to the element of fire, which is both a creative and destructive force. This card points to the energies and manifestations that are impacting the situation. What is the querent's will? What have they done

(or what might they do moving forward) to accomplish their goals? What is driving them? And finally, how much of this situation is intangible (existing only within the mind), and how much of it grounded in reality?

The upper left card is related to water, the element of intuition, emotion, and the divine feminine. This card represents the querent's inner voice--what their gut is telling them to do. It also points to the near future.

The sixth card can be the first card drawn and the last one read, placed at the star's apex, above the significator. This card is connected to the fifth element of spirit, and represents totality or culmination; it summarizes the message that the previous four cards have laid out as one full concept. This also points to the final outcome, or result.

Alternatively, you might choose to lay out a seventh card with this spread, separate from the Pentagram shape, above its upper right-hand corner. This seventh card will represent the unknown, unseen, and mystical forces that are impacting the situation. This card is removed from the star shape because it generally points to forces that are beyond the querent's control. It can be useful to lay out this

final card after placing and reading the previous six, especially if you're struggling to see a unified story or understand the message of the sixth card (the star's apex, and "final" outcome). It can be a real game-changer.

The Romany Spread



The Romany spread is also sometimes called the Gypsy spread; it's one of the oldest traditional divination layouts.

The methodology of this spread is fairly simple but it uses a whole lot of cards. It's best to set aside a hefty chunk of time to analyze this spread; trying to rush through it will quickly overwhelm, confound, and exhaust you. Prepare yourself for a chatty reading--you'll want to talk your way through the interpretation process, so as not to lose track of your place in the story the cards are trying to tell you.

This layout is great for querents who may not have specific questions; perhaps start by simply discussing the querent's current life circumstances and mood; look into anything causing them stress, melancholy, confusion, or anticipation. Also ask the querent for some insight into what makes them feel happy, safe, and calm. It's also very useful for querents who have multiple interconnected issues, and are struggling to untangle their thoughts or feelings about them.

This spread echoes the three card spread by addressing the past, present, and future; but instead of using three cards, it uses three rows of seven cards each. The center row describes the querents current circumstances; the top row tells a story about their past; finally, the bottom row

explains possibilities for the future. Some card readers may switch the meanings of the top and middle row but this is the more traditional route.

As a reader, you could then dive deeper into the meanings by analyzing the seven columns in turn; in groups of three, they will create mini-narrative arcs, flashing back to the past that informs the present, gaining insight into the current circumstances, and then proceeding into the future.

The first column will reference physical realities, and social influence--this pertains to friends, family, and lovers but also money, career, and health.

The second column will speak to the emotional body--the querent's feelings, wishes, desires, and fears, as well as their intuitive abilities.

The third column concerns the mind--thoughts, ideas, and plans. Also, philosophical questions or struggles.

The fourth column is about querent's core identity. Who are they today? Who were they in the past? How will they evolve in the future?

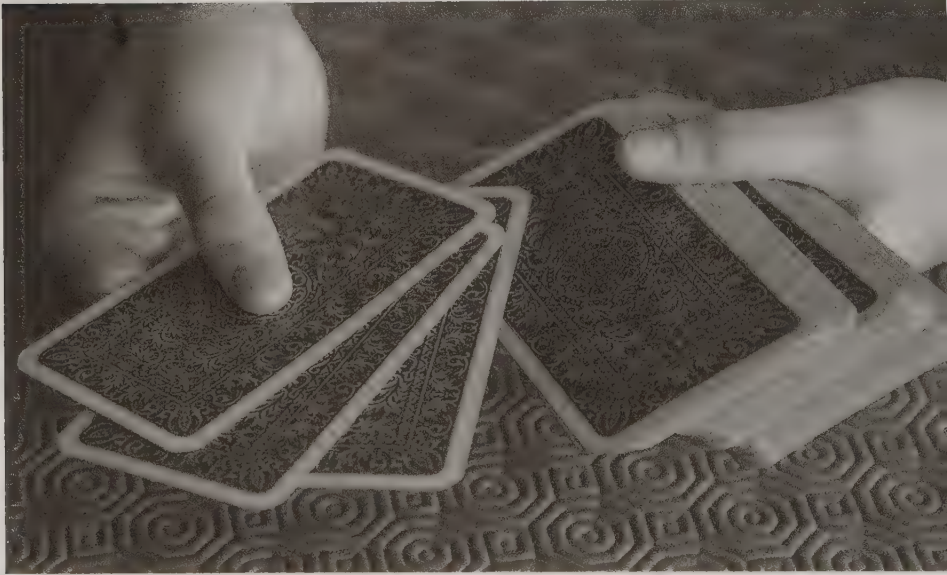
The fifth column hints at the unknown: surprises, unexpected events, curveballs, as well as mysteries, secrets, esoteric knowledge and spiritual energy.

The sixth column predicts the near future or the querent's next few steps.

The seventh column points to the distant future or ultimate outcome.

Alternatively, some readers may use the seven columns to predict the next seven days of the querent's life, reading each column in order.

Chapter 8: Enhancing and Expanding Your Tarot Reading Prowess



Tarot is an art form. No matter how many spreads you have mastered or how many card meanings you have memorized, there will always be another step you can take to improve your practice and deepen your understanding.

Set goals and intentions for your readings to work towards steady improvement. Track your progress in a Tarot journal, and stay open to experimentation. Your progress may not always follow a straight, direct, forward facing line; you might have to take one step forward and then jump a few steps back to re-examine ideas that you once thought you fully understood but now see deeper layers or hidden complexities within. There is no shame in unpacking and relearning the basics that you've already got under your belt.

Masculine and Feminine

You might also try reading spreads while keeping an eye out for the balance of feminine and masculine cards; as a whole, does this spread lean towards the assertive, active, and rational? Or does it lean in favor of the emotional, passive, and receptive? You could instead focus on elemental energies; upright and reversed cards; you might even read Minor Arcana cards as changing circumstances, while Major Arcana cards reference the constants or immovable realities of life.

Astrology and Tarot

Symbols from the zodiac signs are incorporated into illustrations of several Major Arcana cards, and they are intertwined with our understanding of the four elements and the four suits that reflect them.

The world of astrology is very complex, with vast amounts of information available for interpretation. To incorporate astrology into your Tarot practice, start simple. Below is a list of the twelve signs and the cards of the Major Arcana that they are linked to, as well as their respective elements.

- Aries - The Emperor - Fire
- Taurus - The Hierophant - Earth
- Gemini - The Lovers - Air
- Cancer - The Chariot - Water
- Leo - Strength - Fire
- Virgo - The Hermit - Earth
- Libra - Justice - Air
- Scorpio - Death - Water

- Sagittarius - Temperance - Fire
- Capricorn - The Devil - Earth
- Aquarius - The Star - Air
- Pisces - The Moon - Water

The rest of the Major Arcana cards are linked to single planets or celestial bodies, rather than entire constellation signs.

- Uranus - The Fool - Air
- Mercury - The Magician - Air
- Earth's Moon - The High Priestess - Water
- Venus - The Empress - Earth
- Jupiter - The Wheel of Fortune - Fire
- Neptune - The Hanged Man - Water
- Mars - The Tower - Fire
- Earth's Sun - The Sun - Fire
- Pluto - Judgement - Fire
- Saturn - The World - Earth

There are further astrological correlations for all of the numbered suit and Court Cards, which can be overwhelmingly complex without a solid foundation of astrological study. Read up on the twelve zodiac signs, their seasons, and the personality traits they relate to; this information can help you make sense of confounding spreads, identify particular characters as representations of real people, and incorporate a sense of timing into your predictions.

Suits and Seasons

If you feel overwhelmed by the astrological associations of Tarot, one way to simplify the concept is to group the zodiac signs by their houses, or seasons, and correlate those to the four suits. This can allow some readers to forecast timing in a reading--for instance, alerting their querent that the resolution of their issue may not come until the next winter season hits. Some readers are not comfortable using the cards in this way, as seasons are recurring--they may be wary of getting someone's hopes up for the coming autumn, when the cards are pointing to an incident that

will occur during the autumn season several years away, or even in the figurative autumn season of one's life (middle age). In that case, the seasonal implications of suits can simply be used to color the mood of it. Summer cards can imply easiness, carefree attitudes, and emotional warmth. Autumn cards may imply the brisk winds of change or the sense of manifestation that is embodied by the harvest season. Winter cards can point to conclusions, endings, and death, while spring cards may reference rebirth, survival, overcoming struggle, and moving on.

The suits and their respective seasons can also be connected to the four corners of the earth, though opinions on these links may vary from one cartomancer to the next. They each have correlated colors, as well.

- The Suit of Wands - Spring - Fire - South - Yellow
- The Suit of Cups - Summer - Water - West - Red
- The Suit of Pentacles - Autumn - Earth - East - Green
- The Suit of Swords - Winter - Air - North - Blue or indigo

Numerology and Tarot

Numerology is the study of symbolism and meaning in numbers. We've already touched on this in the fifth chapter, where we outlined the formula by which you can combine a suit and number to decipher a suit card's meaning.

This method can be further applied to the cards of the Major Arcana, and govern the relationships between cards within the context of a spread. For example, in a spread that features the Fool, and the Magician, as well as a Ten of Wands, the numbers one and zero in the Major Arcana could be connected to the Ten card, implying that all three cards are a part of the same narrative arc or theme. A spread that is dominated by the number ten is primarily speaking to culmination, finality, and conclusion, and since so many of these cards feature wands, you might determine that a creative endeavor is about to pay off big time.

The number zero does not factor into the interpretations of Minor Arcana cards but it still holds a great deal of

significance within numerology and the Major Arcana. It signifies freedom from responsibility, expectation, and limitation.

Addition, multiplication, and division factor heavily into this study. If you're interested in incorporating the theories of numerology into your Tarot practice, it would be wise to study numerology on its own first, and then proceed to merge the two methodologies.

Geomancy and Tarot

Geomancy is another complex and ancient divination practice. It concerns the physical alignment (or lack thereof) of items or lines in spatial relation to one another. The term "geomancy" is derived from Latin, ancient Greek, and Arabic roots, translated from words meaning "earth foresight" or "sand science."

The art of Feng Shui is an example of Geomancy; so is tasseography (the art of reading tea leaves), crystal scrying, the I Ching, Kumalak, and even rune casting. Historical evidence suggests that the earliest Geomantic methodologies arose in Africa, or possibly in ancient Arab

civilizations; these methods used handfuls of dirt thrown into the air, analyzing the patterns in which they would fall, or alternatively, lines and dots drawn in the sand with the sharp end of the stick.

Geomancy incorporates the ideas of sacred geometry, numerology, mathematics, elemental physiology, geology, and astrology, using a chart of sixteen points or elemental factors. It is far too complex and extensive to outline fully within this chapter, especially as there is a great deal of recursion involved in Geomantic study (meaning that it involves terms and concepts which can only be defined by other terms and concepts that are unique to the practice--most of it is indecipherable until a student is ready to dive in and be fully immersed in the subject). I'd advise choosing one of the above-listed forms of geomancy and engaging with it as an introduction to geomantic concepts before bringing it into your Tarot practice; if you attempt to study and merge these metaphysical ideologies too quickly, you may just end up divining a headache for yourself.

Crystals, Cooking, and Creativity

If astrology, numerology, and geomancy leave you feeling boggled, numbed, or stressed, it may be time to return to the fun and carefree side of Tarot for a while.

Crystals can help to lighten the mood of your Tarot practice, as well as protect your deck from negativity. And even better--they're gorgeous! You may want to start collecting crystals with the intention of decorating a sacred space or altar in your home; they can be wonderful for meditation, yoga, reiki and chakra healing. They can also be fun to use in crafting or to wear as jewelry.

As adults, we tend to forget how we filled our days as children; without work, taxes, dating, commutes, errands, or other adult responsibilities, most of us had to get inventive and learn to entertain ourselves. We played pretend, with or without toys and costumes, and allowed our imaginations to run wild.

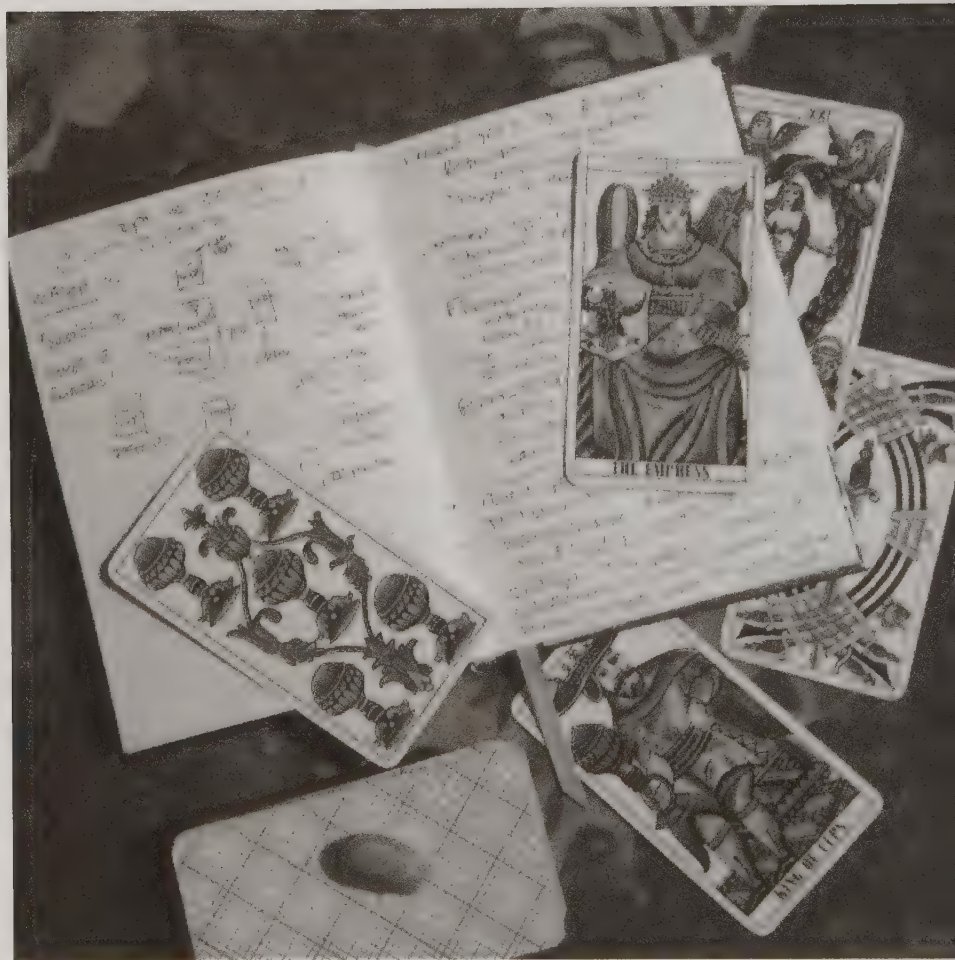
Both Tarot cards and crystals can be seen as toys to inspire adult play. Awaken your inner child. Throw the rules out the window. Do you feel drawn to a crystal because of its

metaphysical properties, or simply because its sparkly, pretty, and you feel good when you hold it? Maybe it's the latter but if who cares! Do you need a better reason?

Attraction is a fundamental form of intuition, so aim to stop questioning your impulses and desires. It's entirely possible that you like the things you like for a good reason. Whatever crystals (or bones, petrified wood, dried herbs, essential oils, or other organic materials) you find yourself drawn to are potential sources of divine inspiration. Lean into that attraction; honor it, respect it and let it guide you. To restore some carefree fun into your Tarot practice, you might want to dabble in using the cards to source creative inspiration. Some easy examples are through cooking, painting, or creative writing. Shuffle your deck and draw cards at random to prompt your next steps--whether that dictates the ingredients you throw into a dish, the colors or shapes you choose for a blank canvas, or the characters and plot developments you use to move a fictional story forward. Some people also find Tarot cards helpful for free-writing (writing as a form of therapy, rather than writing done to create a complete narrative arc). Whatever practice

you choose, you'll be amazed at how easily Tarot can reinvigorate your creative drive, helping you to think outside the box, innovate, and skip right over artistic blockages.

Chapter 9: Keeping a Tarot Journal



When learning anything, it is important to keep a record. Right from our days as kindergarten pupils, we've been trained to always keep records of what we learn. That's because when you learn something, and you do not have the means to revisit that imbibed knowledge, it simply fades away from your memory over time. However, when you keep going back to what you have noted, that knowledge tends to become ingrained in your long-term memory over time, eventually becoming a part of who you are.

How you choose to keep a record of your tarot knowledge will depend on your preferences. Factors such as long-term availability of your records, ease of accessing your records, and transferability of your records may be important factor to consider before choosing a journaling method.

A lot of people, even in the modern era, tend to favor the traditional notebook as a means of maintaining a journal. This method is convenient and efficient, notebooks are affordable and readily available, and you can easily refer to your records on the go. Notebooks are small and therefore, mobile, so while you are on the bus, the train or in a taxi,

you can easily whip out your tarot reading notebook and go over what you have learnt. It is also pretty convenient to input information conveniently into a notebook. Including images in the notebook is also fairly efficient, except there are no blank pages dedicated for drawings.

Another journaling technique very similar to the traditional notebook is a three-ring binder. I have always preferred three-ring binders personally because you can easily attach more pages of information to particular spots within the book without having to create the mess of stapling or gluing pages together. The three-ring binder also usually has blank pages, making it easy to create any drawings you might desire.

Perhaps the most efficient method of journaling in the modern dispensation is through a personal computer. Inputting information is relatively easy if you are familiar with the computer system, although the average computer system is considerably more expensive than any traditional notebook or three-ring binder. If you are out of power also, you might not be able to get access to your files. If you choose to use a laptop computer instead, you might

even have to shell out more money. However, the laptop provides the convenience of mobility and a battery that can help store power.

Whether you choose to input your information into a laptop or desktop computer, there are various Cloud storage platforms available in today's rapidly developing technology industry, making it possible for you to store important files on online storage platforms. The advantage of these Cloud storage systems is you can access your information even if your computer gets damaged or misplaced. Another advantage of using the Cloud storage systems is you can easily access your tarot notes and drawings on your mobile device or any other computer if you do not have immediate access to your computer.

A mobile phone or tablet is also a convenient means of storing your tarot notes, though it may be quite challenging to input images into your mobile phone, except you choose to download those images online. Even at that, coupling those images to your notes on your mobile phone might still be quite daunting. Mobile phones also usually have limited battery capacities and storage

capabilities, making it quite unreliable in extreme circumstances and environment. However, mobile phones can be used to connect to Cloud storage systems to save and retrieve files, and that makes them quite handy.

Storing your files on a blog is an efficient way of sharing your knowledge and development with a group of like-minded individuals who like you, are also passionate about Tarot. While the costs of maintaining a blog and cybersecurity issues might be significant challenges militating against this form of journaling, it is a highly laudable method to enables you to not only learn from your research but from the research of other passionate tarot readers as well. Some individuals may not like blogging about tarot because they might want to keep their questions and tarot readings private.

However, journaling about tarot is not just about writing down notes and making drawings. It's also about utilizing your records as efficiently as possible to make you a true master of the art. It is important for you to review your notes from time to time, and if you believe in divination, keeping records may be a good way to keep track of events

that you are expecting to happen. Reviewing your notes from time to time will make you gradually develop until you can recollect core meanings of cards once drawn off-hand without consulting any written literature.

To ensure you keep your journal constantly updated and get as much tarot practice as possible, it is necessary for you to do tarot readings regularly. If you can't do readings every day, then endeavor to create a schedule that allows you to do tarot readings at least three times a week. That way, you can keep learning new things about the interpretations of cards, you can hone your intuition, and you can boost your open-mindedness.

An efficient method that can encourage regular practice is just asking a question in your mind, and pulling a card out of your deck at random. Take a few minutes to consider how the card you pulled relates to the question you asked, and write down what your deductions are. If you have the time, you can include an image of the card you pulled and include its core meaning as part of the caption. This way, you keep learning and your journal remains constantly updated. If you just choose to write down the card you

pulled, the question you asked, and your deductions, then within five to ten minutes, you are done with tarot reading practice and you can move on with other endeavors.

Another effective method of journaling is freewriting. Freewriting simply refers to the practice of picking a random card that inspires you, and writing about what that card signifies to you. If you feel the card you pulled is symbolic to an occurrence or circumstance in your life at the moment, you may also write about it. The aim of freewriting is to help open up your mind, encourage your creative juices to flow, and of course to help you when you eventually decide to do an actual tarot reading.

You can record your freewriting records in your journal, and if you have a blog, your opinions about a particular card and what it represents may be commented upon by visitors to your blog who may give assenting or dissenting opinions, or who may have something additional to chip into the points you made. Any way you look at it, freewriting is a fast and effective way to help you progress in your studies of tarot.

When doing freewriting and the card you pull is a court card, things can get even more interesting. You are just not thinking of situations in your life the random card has helped you to recollect and put in focus, you can also remember people, perhaps long-lost acquaintances or friends that the image on the card has helped you remember. This may even encourage you to rekindle those old flames and reconnect with long-lost loved ones.

Conclusion

It is now time for you to start your journey, and begin listening to and interpreting the cards for yourself. Remember to trust your intuition along the way. Don't approach a reading the way you'd approach a book report in school. There are designated meanings to each card and instructions for interpreting them but it's not meant to be the kind of thing that you need a book to guide you through forever.

Pay attention to the ideas that pop into your mind, and to the way that you feel when interacting with the cards. Don't doubt your instincts just because instructions in a book contradict what you see in the cards. It's not always easy in the beginning but once you get more comfortable with your deck and become better versed in the art, you'll have more and more moments when the cards are clearly speaking to you directly.

It's a good idea to take notes on your readings before putting the cards away. You can go back to them later to see which of your interpretations panned out, and deepen your understanding of the cards through your experience of life.

Tarot reading depends majorly on intuition. It's you connecting with your spiritual self so you can hear its voice more clearly. Tarot cards serve as the medium with which your inner self can speak to you so you can embrace its messages and apply them to your daily life.

Having this book to guide you through the readings and teaching you the Tarot card meanings and interpretations will go a long way in aligning you with what your spiritual consciousness is telling you. You will be better equipped to sift and get the best solutions to your life problems.

While this beginner's guide may help you to begin your passion with the Tarot, and in some cases other areas of

interest such as numerology or Kabbalah, always remember that experience is the best teacher.



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