

ASTROLOGY  ANSWERS

TAROT MASTER GUIDE

2ND EDITION





WELCOME TO THE TAROT

The tarot has been fascinating people for hundreds of years with its mystery and its archetypal images. No one knows for sure where or when the cards originated. What is certain is they have been popular, and continue to be so. In this digital age, there is more variety and interpretations of the classic figures than ever before. The tarot holds a variety of roles. It can give us a glimpse of our own story in this wonderful adventure called life, as well as a meditation tool into our unconscious. It can be a companion and guide through our daily routines, and it can hint at what is yet to be experienced along our path. The only limit to how we can use the tarot is our own belief system and desire for knowledge.

PART 1

INTRODUCING THE ARCANAS

MAJOR ARCANAS



MINOR ARCANANA



There are two major areas of the tarot cards, and these are called 'arcana.' The major arcana consists of 22 trump cards, starting with the Fool at number 0, and going up to the World at number 21. These all represent different aspects of our journey through life, with the first 11 cards being the outward journey as we learn how to function as a person; and the second 11 cards being the inward journey, as we delve into our psyche and learn why we took incarnation.

PART 1

INTRODUCING THE ARCANAS



The other 56 cards belong to a group called the minor arcana . These are divided into four suits, much like standard playing cards are today. In the tarot, the suits are wands, cups, swords , and pentacles . These are sometimes known by slightly different names, such as batons, chalices, blades , and coins , or sometimes each deck will have its own way of naming them. I've seen branches, bowls, spears, and stones used before now; it really depends on what theme the creator of the deck wanted to embrace.

The minor arcana suits each contain fourteen cards; ten 'pip' or numbered cards, and four court , or cards with people on them. These are like contemporary playing cards, with the addition of the page . The jack is called the knight, but the queen and king are still the royalty. These names can vary from deck to deck too, with the lower two cards sometimes renamed, but their position and meaning continues to stay the same.

Many of the early decks did not have pictures on them. For example, the Visconti Sforza tarot, which dates back to the 15th century, had images on the major 22 cards and the court cards, and only pips for the numbered cards in the minor arcana. It wasn't until the 20th century when A. E. Waite commissioned Pamela Coleman Smith to put images on all the cards that the modern version of the tarot came into being. This was the precedent for many of the tarot decks that are popular today.

In the text that follows, I'm going to give you a brief description of all the Major Arcana, along with their numerical value, their element, their astrology correlation, their colors, the crystals to which they relate, and the symbolism on the cards. This will get you going, but to really get into the Tarot, it's a lifelong study.

PART 2

GETTING STARTED



Of course, all this history is well and good, but you're keen to use your cards, right? Well, before you start grabbing this guide and doing readings for all your friends, there are just a few words of caution. Now, don't panic, there's nothing bad going to happen to you or anyone else if you can't wait, but there are a few things I want you to consider.

First, every artist or craftsman has their favorite tool. Perhaps you have a favorite knife to use when cooking, or a favorite pen to use when writing, or a favorite spade to use when gardening. That tool probably didn't become your favorite overnight. You presumably used that tool a few times, tried it out on different projects, and then pronounced it as your favorite. Your tarot cards deserve the same respect and treatment.

Before you use them as an analytical tool or to read the future, get to know them. Handle them. Look closely at the pictures. You may even want to make notes of the images and what they say to you. After all, this is what the magicians and witches of old did; the original 'Book of Shadows' or 'Grimoire' was pretty much just that person's diary!

Another way of helping you to bond with your cards is to carry them with you. Pop them in your purse or your backpack, and keep them handy. You don't have to use them, but just let them absorb your energies. I'd recommend you sleep with them under your pillow, but your dreams might get very interesting indeed!

You may also want to consider how you want to store your tarot cards when they are not in use. You'll get all kinds of advice from well meaning people that the cards have to be stored in a particular kind of bag or a particular wooden box or that they all have to be put back in order and right way up before you store them.

While it is respectful of your cards as a tool to keep them safe and clean, the main thing is to do what feels right for you. If you are crafty and want to make a bag or a box for them, that's great. The more energy you put into caring for them and using them, the more you will get out of working with them.

There's really no right or wrong way for you to work with your cards. There is a lot of superstition around the tarot, though. Some say that you mustn't buy your own deck, some say that they must be cleansed in the light of a full moon, some say you must never read your own cards; I say 'hogwash!' Do what feels right to you. That is the most important thing. There's no magic or mystery in the cards; they're just pictures on cardstock. It's the history and the mystery behind them that makes them the magical tool that they are today.

DIVINATION



Divination is the art of fortune telling. To divine means to see into the future, using some kind of a tool or set of symbols. This is how many people choose to use their tarot, giving simple one card readings for a quick snapshot as to how things look at the moment; to more complex layouts using many cards, for an indepth look at something.

The person doing the divining is called either the diviner or the reader. A trusted diviner will understand the meanings of the cards, and the nuances of how they work together. Think about it; would you rather have dinner cooked by a chef who was confident in the dish that he or she was cooking, or one that constantly had to squint at the cookery book?! Getting to know your cards is important. That's why it is best to work with them for awhile, on your own, before you start to read for someone else.

Sometimes what you see in the cards will vary slightly from what other readers may see when they read the cards. That's okay. Go with what you feel. There's a fine line between intuition and imagination. The more you work with your cards, the more you will recognize the difference. No two people are ever going to interpret things exactly the same way.

There are also a lot of small symbols in the images on the cards. Some people who read the tarot may skip over these entirely. Some may spend a long time studying these smaller symbols for their hidden meanings. There are as many different ways of interpretation as there are readers, but the tarot is a wellworn path. The basic meanings are always going to remain the same.

Sometimes when you are reading the cards, they will come out of the deck upside down. That is called an inverted, reversed, challenged, or illdignified card. It will have a different meaning than the upright card does. In the text that follows, the keywords for upright and reversed meanings are given. Familiarize yourself with both of them, in order to become a proficient tarot reader.

DIVINATION



You'll find the following symbols on both the Major and the Minor Arcana. If you can learn what these symbols mean and remember to look for them in the detail of the images on your cards, you'll find yourself starting to be able to give very detailed and accurate readings very soon indeed.

ANGEL: Messengers from divinity.

ARMOR: Protection and strength.

BANNER: Representation of something worth protecting.

BIRD: Messenger of clear speech and thought.

BLINDFOLD: Impartiality.

BULL: The element of earth, or the sign of Taurus.

CASTLE: Protection.

CAT: Love, good fortune, feminine energy.

DOG: Loyalty, guardian.

CLOUD: Warning, lack of wisdom.

CROSS: Union, between man & woman, or between human & divinity.

CROWN: Power, victory, eternal life.

CUP: Pleasure, the element of water, female sexuality.

FEATHER: Justice and freedom.

FRUIT: Abundance

GARDEN: Fertility and nature.

GARLAND: Joy

HILLS: Consistency, reassurance.

HORSE: Energy and vitality.

INFINITY: Continuance, indestructibility

LAMP: Guiding light.

LILY: Purity and renewal.

LION: Strength and integrity.

MOON: The divine feminine, the unconscious.

MOUNTAIN: Spiritual path, consistency.

PATH: The journey of life.

PILLAR: A connection between the spirit world and the physical world.

PENTACLE: Money and the material world, the element of earth.

POOL: The Moon and feminine Energy

ROSE: Love and fertility, desire.

SCALE: Justice, equality.

STAFF: Magicians, power.

STAR: Divinity, mysticism.

SUN: Life force, a father figure.

SWORD: Activity, the element of air.

TREE: Fertility

THRONE: Power, ceremony.

TOWER: A connection between the spirit world and the physical world.

WAND: Masculine sexuality, the element of fire.

WATER: Feminine energy.

WREATH: Success, victory.

MEET THE MAJORS



0 The Fool : The major arcana of the tarot starts with the Fool card. He is usually portrayed as a cheery chap, knapsack on his back, clear sky above him, dog at his feet. The Fool indicates newness, but also the unpredictable and the unexpected. He represents the newly incarnated soul, stepping forth on its latest journey.

The Fool doesn't have a number. The zero is merely a placeholder. This is because, in the sequence of the tarot cards, the Fool can indicate the beginning, or the end one man's ceiling is another man's floor. The Fool is the main character as the story of the Major Arcana unfolds; because of this, he is always present in the cards, and thus, needs no number to identify him.

When you are doing a tarot reading for yourself, you are the Fool! This doesn't mean that you are foolish. It means that you are the protagonist of your own story, you are the hero or the heroine. You will always see things through your eyes, therefore, you are always the Fool, ever present, popping up in every situation.

Number: 0

Element: Air

Zodiac: Aquarius

Symbols: Dog, Feather, Flower, Staff

Upright Meaning: When the Fool appears in a reading, you can be sure that something new is about to happen. It's likely to take you by surprise. That's what the Fool does. This card is encouraging you to expect last minute changes to your plans, and not get too caught up in their details. There has to be some wiggle room, so that what needs to happen can unfold.

Keywords: *Opportunity, Newness, Openness, Foolishness, Adventure, New beginnings.*

Inverted Meaning: Even inverted, the Fool is still a fairly positive card, but it is cautioning you against assuming too much, or thinking that you already know all there is to know about something. There's always room to know more, and something can always happen to surprise you. The inverted Fool asks you not to close yourself off to possibilities you have not considered, yet. You may be surprised in a good way as to what might unfold.

Keywords: *Apprehension, Constraint, Impetuosity, Restlessness, Lack of Discipline.*

MEET THE MAJORS



1 The Magician : If you look at the Magician closely, you will see that on his altar, he has all the tools of his trade; the Cup, the Pentacle, the Sword, and he holds skyward the Wand. Over his head is the lemniscate , 5 the mathematical symbol for eternity. The Magician is a card that shows you that you hold the tools to your understanding in your own psyche, and he's a symbol for discovering purpose.

Number: 1

Element: Air

Zodiac: Gemini, Virgo

Symbols: Cup, Pentacle, Sword, Wand, Lily, Rose, Infinity

Upright Meaning: In a reading, the Magician indicates potential. You've got everything you need to create what you want; do you dare? The Magician reminds you that you have to have both a vision and determination to reach your goals. It's never too late to find your purpose and start gathering what you need to make it a reality. This card is a powerful indicator that you've got what it takes to succeed.

The Magician also indicates logic and reason, and how you use your intellectual skills. He's given the number one, the number of new beginnings. It's here where your ideas start to form, where you start to feel inspired, and where thoughts take shape. The Magician can be thought to represent the bridge between the physical world and the spiritual world.

You'll notice that on the altar are the symbols of the rest of the Minor Arcana in the tarot. This shows you that you have everything you need. You can make manifest your heart's desires but of course, you first have to know what they are. The Magician wears red and white, which symbolizes the experiences in the world with the purity of spirit. That red and white duality is echoed in the flowers at the foot of the altar, too.

Keywords: *Intent, Success, Manifestation*

Inverted Meaning: When the Magician is inverted, it's likely that you feel you're going nowhere fast. Reversed, the card can indicate inhibitions, lack of determination, and obstacles that are standing in your way whether physical blockages to your progress, or selfmade ones due to your own thought process. This may also indicate that you or someone else is using their energy to manipulate or control someone or something.

Keywords: *Inaction, Lack of Determination, Manipulation*

MEET THE MAJORS



2 The High Priestess : The High Priestess looks very imposing in her robes. On her head sits a crown depicting the full Moon. There is a black pillar to her right, and a white pillar to her left. Around her neck is a cross, and on her lap is a scroll. A crescent Moon lies at her feet, and pomegranates a symbol of fertility can be seen in the background.

Number: 2

Element: Water

Zodiac: Cancer

Symbols: Cross, Crown, Moon, Pillar

Upright Meaning: The High Priestess represents intuition and knowledge. When she appears, she's asking you to trust your hunches. Your gut feeling is just telling you to pay attention to facts that you are not yet aware of. You're wiser and have more knowledge about the situation than you think. You may also find yourself being drawn to people who seek your counsel. This card can indicate that others find you more alluring than usual.

The High Priestess sits between the pillars of darkness and light, in front of the gate that leads to knowledge and power. She's given the number two, the number of duality. The Moon at her feet shows that she's got control over her emotions, and she knows how to balance intellect and intuition. She represents feminine power, and taking control over your actions. Even if you're a guy, the High Priestess is asking you to trust your intuition.

In a reading, this card can also show you that your life is changing, and that there may be unknown factors about to appear. She reminds you not to take things for granted, because things are very malleable at the moment. You're on the threshold of a new discovery, and while it may seem puzzling at this time, all will soon be revealed.

Keywords: *Secrets, Knowledge, Female Energy*

Inverted Meaning: If the High Priestess indicates intuition and knowledge, then when she appears reversed, she's pointing to a lack of knowledge. Things may be too hectic for you to hear your inner voice, or you may be silencing it yourself by speaking too much. This card can be asking you to hold your tongue. It can also point to a lack of compassion, nurturing, or trust. It can indicate that you need to find your charisma and your self-confidence again before proceeding with the current situation.

Keywords: *Self-Doubt, Anxiety, Frigidity*

MEET THE MAJORS



3 The Empress : The Empress sits on a throne outside, in lush surroundings. There are green trees, behind her, and flowing waters at her side. She holds a staff with a crystal orb at the top, and on her head wears a crown. Her gown is covered in pomegranates. She is the epitome of fertility.

Number: 3

Element: Earth

Zodiac: Taurus, Libra

Symbols: Crown, Star, Throne

Upright Meaning: The Empress is a sure sign of creativity. Fertile in many ways, she is the card above all other cards that indicates abundance. Her's is the number three, the number of joy, and creativity. She reminds you to nurture yourself, and to look around you for inspiration, for it is always there. When the Empress appears, it's time to focus on your creativity. This card can also indicate a possible pregnancy.

Because of all of this creative energy, the Empress can be an indication that it is time to be more caring or nurturing, maybe of yourself or maybe of others. She's the 'mother' energy even if you're male, because that mothering energy is one of love and kindness and compassion. This card is here to encourage you to grow and develop, to support others, and to be supported when you need it.

This is also a card about feelings. The Empress is asking you to really connect with others and your environment they don't call it "Mother Earth" without reason! Just as the Earth supports the trees and the lifeforms on the planet (including you), the Empress is asking you to support those people and projects which are in your care. Look to newness too; remember, this is an indication of newness and creativity.

Keywords: *Fertility, Abundance, Nurturing*

Inverted Meaning: When the Empress is reversed, excess can be indicated. This card can also appear when you're trying to do too much for someone, especially if the fun has left the task. Inverted, the Empress can also indicate quarrels with a mother or motherly figure, or difficulty in understanding or expressing your feminine side.

Keywords: *Overindulgence, Fatigue, Barrenness*

MEET THE MAJORS



4 The Emperor : The Emperor looks rather stern sitting on his throne, doesn't he? He holds a staff in his right hand. He is the male counterpart to the Empress, and is opposite her in many ways. Where she is receptive, he is assertive; where she is the mother, he is the father.

Number: 4

Element: Fire

Zodiac: Aries

Symbols: Armor, Cross, Crown, Throne

Upright Meaning: The Emperor's number is four, the number of stability. He asks that you use logic and reason when he appears in a reading. You may be tempted just to go with your hunches, but he cautions that you balance the head and the heart. You're going to need stability and structure in this situation. This is the card of leadership, and it's asking you not to let the energy run away with you, but to approach things with discipline and control. In a reading, the Emperor can also represent the father, or a father figure.

Like the Empress was the 'mother' of the tarot, this card is the 'father' figure. He indicates provisions and protection. He brings guidance and counsel, and if he's appeared in your cards, he can either be telling you to listen, or he can be telling you to take control of the situation around you. He's very much a logical and reasoning, rather than a feeling and intuitive, kind of energy.

This card can also indicate structure and organization. It's a good indication that, if something is chaotic in your life, you're about to find a way to take control over things and bring them back into order. He's usually a good omen, but he does reflect rules and regulations. That always comes with a caution not to overdo the discipline.

Keywords: *Structure, Authority, Discipline*

Inverted Meaning: When reversed, the Emperor can be a control freak. The Emperor represents authority, so when it is reversed, there's a good chance that there's some kind of an issue with an authoritative figure concerning the reading. This could be someone who needs to take charge and is not; or it could be someone who is being too controlling.

Keywords: *Oppression, Domineering, Control Issues*

MEET THE MAJORS



5 The Hierophant : The Hierophant is sometimes called the Pope, and the card rather reflects this. The figure is seated, keys at his feet, a cross in his left hand, his right hand raised as if in blessing. He wears a red robe, down the front of which are three crosses. A golden crown is upon his head. Where the Emperor was the male consort to the Empress, the Hierophant is the male consort to the High Priestess.

Number: 5

Element: Earth

Zodiac: Taurus

Symbols: Cross, Crown, Pillar Rose

Upright Meaning: The appearance of the Hierophant in a reading asks you to examine why you believe what you do about this situation. There is a lesson here, either for you to learn, or for you to teach. This is a time for you to really look at your motives, and also the motives of others. This card can indicate karmic lessons, and spiritual growth.

The Hierophant's number is five, which is the four elements plus the added element of spirit. It's no wonder that it is a spiritual card, then, is it? This card represents convention. When it appears, it could be telling you that you are inhibited about breaking the norm and finding your own way; or it could be telling you that it is in your best interests not to rock the boat at the moment. The surrounding cards will help you to determine which path to follow. Often the best plan of action is to follow the existing set of beliefs and traditions, but find a new and innovative way of doing so.

This is also a card of responsibility. You're going to have to do what's expected of you, at least for the time being. This is not the time to be a maverick. On a spiritual note, this card can be encouraging you to embark on some kind of spiritual quest, exploring your belief systems, and perhaps establishing a daily ritual or observance that helps you stay connected with your higher self and the divinity in which you believe.

Keywords: *Spirituality, Tradition, Lessons*

Inverted Meaning: When reversed, the Pope is very dogmatic, or rebellious it can take either guise. Either the control is being wielded with too much absolute power, or there's a rebellion going on. Whichever way it fits, you can rest assured that there are problems with the status quo. This card might also represent something that is weighing on your conscience. There are questionable methods here, and you need to examine things carefully from all sides. The laws of cause and effect are about to come into play.

Keywords: *Rebelliousness, Remorse, Shame*

MEET THE MAJORS



6 The Lovers : The Lover's card shows a choice, and reminds us that even when we choose not to choose, we've still made a choice. Many people think that, because of its name and depiction that it is indicating a love affair, and while this is indeed one meaning for the card, its symbolism actually goes much deeper than that. The card shows two naked people, underneath a bright Sun, and an angelic being.

Number: 6

Element: Air

Zodiac: Gemini

Symbols: Angel, Cloud, Feather, Mountain, Sun

Upright Meaning: This card asks you to question whether your head and your heart are balanced or, whether you're listening to your ego, or your truth. You have to follow your heart, but not if it is ego based. The feeling of truth will always have a familiar ring to it. This card also reminds you that with every choice comes responsibility, and possibly sacrifice. Not taking responsibility for your actions is what creates bad karma. Finally, the card does indicate that love is in the air, and while this can point to romantic encounters, it is also indicative of more platonic relationships.

This card's number is six, the number that represents cosmic creation, so it's not surprising that in a reading it's asking you to consider the choices that are in front of you. These are likely to be important and significant in your life, and it's imperative that you weigh up all your options before you make any life-changing decisions. Of course, because this is the card of the Lovers, this may well have to do with your intimate relationships but it's not limited to that.

The Lovers reminds you that the easy choice isn't always the right one. You always need to consider the consequences of your actions, because this energy highlights where your belief systems or your traditions might be coming into question. While this is a card that indicates important choices, remember that there is always a choice. Even choosing not to choose is a choice.

Keywords: *Partners, Union, Choice*

Inverted Meaning: When the card appears reversed in a reading, it can indicate frustration when it comes to romantic interludes, or perhaps a relationship based on sex rather than love. It's a sure sign that something is missing, and if this is referring to a platonic relationship, it is a sign that you may not be communicating your needs correctly, or that you're seeking some kind of devotion from a person that they are either unable or unwilling to give. This can be an indicator that an existing relationship is wobbling, too.

Keywords: *Indecision, Unrequited Love, Codependent Relationships, Inappropriate Choices*

MEET THE MAJORS



7 The Chariot : The Chariot is all about movement. The figure on the card is confident, and sure of where he or she is going. He is flanked by two sphinxes, one the mirror image of the other. He wears a crown on his head, and is adorned in armor. Behind him lies a city; what lies ahead?

Number: 7

Element: Water

Zodiac: Cancer

Symbols: Armor, Castle, Crown, Feather, Moon, Star, Staff

Upright Meaning: The Chariot is urging you to take control over your life. Like the Magician, this card is assuring you that you can be in the driver's seat, that you don't have to let your life live you. It can signify a journey, too one that can be physical, as in you traveling somewhere; or one that is metaphoric, such as a journey into your higher self, or deeper into mysticism.

The Chariot's number is seven, one of the most significant numbers, and one that represents completion or perfection. This card is usually a sign that you can successfully reach your goals, just as long as you keep making them a priority and you don't get distracted. You have to believe in yourself and you have to stay focused. Discipline and dedication are required. The Chariot assures you that you have what it takes to move forward. You just need the tenacity and the self-discipline to stay motivated.

The Chariot's energy is quite bold, and it's asking you to make sure that you're standing up for what you believe and that you're looking after your physical needs. You have to stay strong and determined, and you have to make your desires and plans known to others in order to keep moving ahead. This can also be a card that is asking you to look at how bossy you're being when it comes to getting what you want; you might need to tone things down a bit to get others to cooperate with you as you head toward manifesting your goals.

Keywords: *Progress, Journey, Momentum*

Inverted Meaning: As the Chariot indicates progress, the reversed card in a reading can indicate lack of progress. You may get there, but there is something hindering you. You'll need to dig deep into your reserves of determination to see the outcome you want to experience, but it is still possible. You may not have thought things through long enough, and now feel caught up in a whirlwind of energy that is making you feel uncomfortable. If this card appears when you're considering actual physical travel, make sure you check your plans and allow yourself extra time.

Keywords: *Delays, Lack of Progress, Frustration, Obstacles*

MEET THE MAJORS



8 Strength : It shouldn't come as any surprise that this card is all about strength. The figure in the card is prising open a lion's mouth or is she? Look at the lion, is he being forced, or is he willingly submitting? Is the figure angry, harsh, or does her face reveal compassion and understanding? This card reminds you that strength isn't necessarily about brute force and bravado in fact, it often isn't about that at all. The strongest force on earth is compassion.

Number: 8

Element: Fire

Zodiac: Leo

Symbols: Infinity, Lion

Upright Meaning: When strength comes into your reading, gird your loins. This card indicates that you are going to need to muster everything you have, but it also reassures you that you have everything you need to get through the situation. Find a balance between your raw emotions and what you need to do, and then start doing.

Strength's number is eight, the number of cycles and infinity and indeed, the symbol of infinity is over the figure's head in the image. This card is asking you to honor the strength that lies in kindness. You have to be kind to the unkind, and love the unloveable, for they are the ones that need it the most. These qualities are already within you, waiting for you to tap into them. The pathway through them is through mastering the raw human emotions such as jealousy, anger, possessiveness, and even ego.

When Strength appears in your reading, it's showing you that there's a need to be very conscious of your motives, and to bring them into balance with your higher self. It's okay to want thing having goals is what keeps us moving forward. Just make sure you're not stepping on anyone else to reach the pinnacle of your success. This is a time to elevate your desires, and act 'for the good of the whole.

Keywords: *Integrity, Confidence, SelfEmpowerment*

Inverted Meaning: When the card appears inverted, you may be feeling frustrated, disillusioned, and as if you can't go on anymore. Things may seem out of control, but they really aren't. They just need a new reserve of power, and a new way of looking at them. This is not the time to fall back into old patterns of behavior, but rather, it's a time to forge ahead with new reserve. Strength reversed reminds you that there is a difference between determination and stubbornness, and cautions against the latter.

Keywords: *Lack of Control, Weakness, Stubbornness*

MEET THE MAJORS



9 The Hermit : The Hermit looks a lonely figure in his robes, with his head bowed. His feet stand on the snow, only empty sky behind him. His lantern lights the way, and as he leans on his staff, he gazes forward. Is he looking where he is going, or is he gazing into the lamplight?

Number: 9

Element: Earth

Zodiac: Virgo

Symbols: Lamp, Mountain, Staff

Upright Meaning: The Hermit shows that time alone is needed to find solutions to the situation. It reminds you that the answers you seek are not found elsewhere, but rather, deep within you. It's also an indicator that you may be in need of some rest and relaxation to recharge your batteries. Sometimes the best solution is simply to withdraw.

The Hermit's number is nine. This is a number of completion, the last of the single digits when we're counting. This card also indicates the need for soul-searching. You have to find the truth. You need a new direction, a new focus, and the beginning of that journey lies within you, not within an activity or a person or a situation. You have to know what you want, first, and then explore how to create it in your life.

If you have never practiced meditation previously, this card is an indication that now may be a good time to do it. If you already meditate, go deeper. The Hermit is promising you that the answers you seek are there, in your heart. You have to go inwards, in order to see outwards. It's by examining your own motives and desires that you can light the path to finding the solution to the immediate situation, and the purpose for your life in general.

Keywords: *Reflection, Wisdom, Solitude*

Inverted Meaning: The reversed Hermit can indicate that you're spending too much time alone. No man is an island. If you are feeling down, disheartened, or depressed, you probably don't need to spend so much time alone at the moment. Don't take it to heart if someone else needs space at this time, either. This is a time of reflecting why you withdrew, and determining what you need to do to restore the balance in situations again. Too much isolation can be dysfunctional.

Keywords: *Burnout, Isolation, Abandonment*

MEET THE MAJORS



10 The Wheel of Fortune : The Wheel of Fortune looks like a wheel with all kinds of interesting glyphs written on it. It is supported by and surrounded by all kinds of magical, mythical creatures. It's a very busy card, and that's pretty much what it represents, the busyness of life, and the changes that are happening, or about to happen.

Number: 10 /1

Element: Fire

Zodiac: Sagittarius

Symbols: Angel, Bird, Cloud, Feather, Sword

Upright Meaning: The Wheel of Fortune brings inevitable changes into your life. If you think about it, change is always inevitable, because change is the only constant that there is in the universe. Some people fear change, and push against it, but that is what brings the complications and the frustrations. It is by learning to go with the flow that things become easier. Whatever the question, the Wheel of Fortune indicates that things are about to change. Indeed, even the number of the Wheel, the number ten, can mean either ten or back to one again ($1 + 0 = 1$). Changeable indeed!

The changes that the Wheel brings may be completely out of your control. You may have to learn adapt rather than fighting them and in fact, that's often what this card represents. Things can happen with no rhyme or reason, and if you try to cling to what wants to naturally evolve, you could set yourself up for disappointment, challenges, or failure. The best plan of action is just to accept what has happened, what is happening, and then adjust the path to your goals to accommodate these changes.

It is important to stay optimistic during these times, which may indeed bring you some challenges. The Wheel reminds you that things are always in motion, and never static. What is true today may not be true next week, or next year, so cling lightly to things, being willing to surrender them to changes when you've outgrown them. While sometimes the changes that the Wheel brings can seem very dramatic and demanding, remember that the Wheel can also bring changes of a very positive nature, too. The thing is, you'll never know until you go with the flow.

Keywords: *Change, Opportunity, Destiny*

Inverted Meaning: When the Wheel of Fortune spins challenged through your reading, be prepared for obstacles. Change is here, and wants to flow to you, but something is inhibiting its progress. Either there are unavoidable delays, or perhaps you are resisting the change that is going to occur, anyway. Slow down, breathe deeply, and try to surrender to the changing tides. This too shall pass.

Keywords: *Delays, Stagnation, Hesitancy*

MEET THE MAJORS



11 Justice : The Justice card sits between two pillars, robes equally balanced, the sword in one hand, the scales in another, crown sat firmly on the head. This is an authoritative figure, one who is impartial and equal, as the rain falls on the just and the unjust alike.

Number: 11 / 2

Element: Air

Zodiac: Libra

Symbols: Crown, Pillar, Scale, Sword, Throne

Upright Meaning: When Justice appears in a reading, it's time for a rethink. Make sure that your actions reflect your words, for actions will always deliver a louder message than any words can convey. It's a sign that you need to find your center again. This can also indicate legal issues. Justice's number is eleven, which can be reduced back to two, so it's little wonder, then, that the law and control of the High Priestess card is echoed here in the Justice card.

You'll see that the scales in the picture are balanced. That is a good indication that things are working out as they were supposed to even if it's not the solution you wanted to see! What's happening now comes as a result of the decisions that you've made in the past. This is the true definition of karma.

If things aren't going your way, though, there's no need to be too despondent. This card is a promise that you can take action now to rectify things. Your future can be changed for the better by what you choose to do today. Take responsibility for your actions, and remain objective about other people and things. It's by remaining fair and balanced that those scales that Justice holds are going to stay balanced in your favor.

Keywords: *Ethics, Integrity, Accountability*

Inverted Meaning: Confusion and disorder might be surrounding you if the scales of Justice appear upsidedown in your reading. Something is most certainly out of balance. If you have been behaving unethically, you may be exposed. If someone else is behaving unethically, it's time to realize this, and put some distance between you and this person if you can. This can also indicate messy legal proceedings. Sometimes it indicates too much logic is being applied to a situation that needs a bit of compassion.

Keywords: *Guilt, Vengeance, Unfairness*

MEET THE MAJORS



12 The Hanged Man : At first sight it is hard to tell which way up this card goes! Even though the man is hanging, he doesn't seem in any distress. There is greenery on the bough from which he hangs. He hangs by one ankle, and could reach up and untie himself, if he was truly distressed. He's not been stripped of his fine clothing, and around his head shines a halo of light. Did he volunteer for this experience?

Number: 12 / 3

Element: Water

Zodiac: Pisces

Symbols: Cross

Upright Meaning: This is a card of patience and sacrifice. You have to be willing to place yourself in a position of vulnerability. Yes, you may get hurt but what if you don't? What if this opens you up to a whole new experience, one that you've dreamed of all your life, but never had the courage to expose yourself to it? This is also a time for counting your blessings, and changing your focus from one of desires to one of gratitude.

This card can show you that you may be procrastinating, hoping that things will just sort themselves out without any actions on your part. This is just wishful thinking, though. By remaining indecisive, you're just prolonging the inevitable. This card is a question of timing, and that can be tricky.

The Hanged Man's number is twelve, that can be reduced back to three ($1 + 2 = 3$). Three is the creativity of the Empress, so while the Hanged man is reminding you that while you can't wait forever, sooner or later you are going to have to create a solution. There's a fine line between hiding from a decision, and making a choice just to be choosing. The other cards in the reading will help to give you a clue as to whether you've waited long enough, or whether you might want to give yourself just a bit more time.

Keywords: *Surrender, Sacrifice, New Perspective*

Inverted Meaning: If the Hanged Man is inverted, it's time to reexamine your motives. Are you playing the martyr to get attention? That never works for long. In order for your life to be truly empowered, your actions have to come through selflessness, not through ego. Try not to overthink a situation, but allow things to flow sweetly and freely.

Keywords: *Hypocrite, Charlatan, Egoist*

MEET THE MAJORS



13 Death : Death rides a white horse, wearing black armor. He carries a flag, and appears to have no concern where he is going, or on whom he treads. This card does NOT mean death in the physical form. It simply represents transformation. Think about it; if you get a new job, then your life at your old position dies. If you move house, then your life in your old home dies. Death, therefore, speaks of transition, not the end of physical life

Number: 13 / 4

Element: Water

Zodiac: Scorpio

Symbols: Armor, Banner, Crown, Feather, Horse, Sun, Tower

Upright Meaning: Nothing is staying the same. The changes may not be pleasant ones, but they are necessary to your growth, and ultimately, to your happiness. This is a time to rid yourself of what is no longer useful. If you've been feeling like you're making no headway, then this card is encouraging you to go deeper into the fires of purification, make more sacrifices, and be willing to surrender whatever is necessary to get you moving forward again. It can point to the end of a situation, or yes, even the end of a relationship.

Death's number is thirteen but that has nothing to do with Friday the 13th or any superstition. In fact, unless you were a Knight's Templar back in the 14th Century, Friday the 13th is just another day. In this case, the number can be reduced down to four ($1 + 3 = 4$), which is the number of foundation. Every time something is born, something else dies.

That is the lesson of the death card. It's a reminder of evolution, it's a reminder that nothing is ever permanent. This card shows you that it's a time to make transitions from one phase to another. While this may not always be the most pleasant of markers in a reading, it is not a harbinger of doom. Rather, it's an indication that change is necessary, and that new beginnings are coming hot on the heels of those changes.

Keywords: *Transformation, Closure, Purging*

Inverted Meaning: Death reversed can show resistance to necessary changes. This card can show you that there is still something to learn, whether it is about why you are resisting the changes, or whether it is what these events themselves still have to teach you. There is some kind of a challenge to overcome self-made or otherwise before you can be completely free of this situation.

Keywords: *Attachment, Escapism, Non-participation*

MEET THE MAJORS



14 Temperance : Temperance is often confused with Judgement, and while they both have to do with balance, the Temperance card is far more introspective, and more in your control. The figure is pouring water from one vessel to another, scarcely looking at the action, because it is so natural so familiar. One foot is on the land, grounding; the other is immersed in the water, feeling. Wings and a halo make the image seem holy.

Number: 14 / 5

Element: Fire

Zodiac: Sagittarius

Symbols: Angel, Crown, Cup, Feather, Pool, Sun

Upright Meaning: This is a card that is about finding your own balance. You've been through the self-sacrifice of the Hanged Man and the metamorphosis of Death; now you can focus on what is really important for this incarnation. This card asks you to patiently evaluate and reevaluate things, tweaking them as needed along the way, and making steady and confident progress.

The number of the Temperance card is fourteen. This takes that spiritual vibration of the Hierophant and gives it choice, and spirituality. It shows that you're awakening into your being, and beginning to understand the nitty-gritty of the situation at hand. The card is asking you to bring everything back into balance, so that you can see it clearly.

This is also a card that asks for patience and precision. It's showing you that you need to exercise moderation in all things, and not rush into anything. If the question at hand is something that is urgent, the answer may be that it's not time to act, not just yet. There's a clash between what is already established and the newness that is yet to come, and you need to wait until you can see things clearer before acting on them.

Keywords: *Balance, Adjustment, Integration*

Inverted Meaning: Temperance reversed indicates that you're still too attached to something or someone. You may be focusing too much on your own wants, and not enough on those of others involved. Remember, there is a vast difference between what you want and what you need. It is in the synthesis of connecting yourself to all that is, rather than acting through ego, that the situation can be most easily resolved.

Keywords: *Imbalance, Overanalyzing, Lack of Compromise*

MEET THE MAJORS



15 The Devil : This card is probably as scary as the Death card to a lot of people, but it has nothing to do with demons or other nasties. This card is indicative of our temptations, and what is inhibiting us from breaking free of attachments. The devil sits above two naked figures, bound to him by chains. What do they need to do to be free of the chains that bind them?

Number: 15 / 6

Element: Earth

Zodiac: Capricorn

Symbols: Throne, Wand

Upright Meaning: The Devil card indicates an attachment to material things and physical pleasure. When this card appears, things may feel good or look enticing, but they may not be the best option for you. You know better, but chances are, you're going to do it anyway. Rules WERE made to be broken, but even then, moderation is the key. If this card is representative of a person in a reading, they're likely to be temptation, and perhaps not to be trusted.

The Devil's number is fifteen, which reduces down to the six that was the number of the Lover's card. Just as that card represented change, so does the Devil. The Devil shows you where you are stuck, where you feel restricted or out of control in your life. You may think that other people or situations are controlling you, but that's because you've allowed that situation to get the upper hand. This card is reminding you that you don't have to stay stuck but you may choose to do so, because it's easier to be comfortable in your discontent than to rock the boat and change things.

Sometimes this card can represent actual addictions or dependencies, such as unhealthy habits or overindulgences, even an idea that you just can't drop. This card can hit home, showing you that, if you really want to be free to lead an empowered life, then you have to break the chains that bind you to those dependencies. This can be unpleasant, even traumatic, while you're going through it, but once you're free it will all be worth it.

Keywords: *Indulgence, Materialism, Addiction*

Inverted Meaning: When the Devil appears inverted, you may be on the verge of releasing what's been inhibiting you from taking control of your life. This could mean quitting a job that was bringing you down, leaving an inappropriate relationship, or stopping a bad habit. This card often appears when there's no other way to go but up. Even though the appearance of this card isn't particularly pleasant, the card itself can be a very good omen.

Keywords: *Intervention, Resurrection, Turning Point*

MEET THE MAJORS



16 The Tower : The Tower is another disconcerting card. It shows a building on fire, with people leaping or being thrown from it. Lightning has struck, and knocking the crown off the structure. It's a black sky, with billowing smoke. However, look at the foundation; the Tower is standing on solid rock. Can it be rebuilt?

Number: 16 / 7

Element: Fire

Zodiac: Aries, Scorpio

Symbols: Crown, Mountain, Tower

Upright Meaning: The Tower can seem a bit of a distressing card, and with good reason. It's appearance in your reading indicates that something is about to come crashing down but only so that you can rebuild it better, stronger, and more appropriate. The energies of the Tower often take people by surprise, and these events are usually complicated. It's a sure sign that a drastic change is needed. If the question is asking if you should do something, there's likely to be consequences if you do.

The Tower's number is sixteen, which can be reduced down to seven. Remember, this is a mystical and magical number, and it brings that quality to the energy of this card. Yes, things can seem to be crashing down all around you, but that's for a reason, to get you on the right spiritual path, to lead you to your highest happiness, and your greatest success. Change or be changed and if the Tower is in your card as a warning, then heed it. It's always better to volunteer to make the necessary changes than to have them thrust upon you.

The Tower asks you to examine what's falling apart in your life. This can be daunting, and make you feel a bit insecure about what's yet to come, but don't let it strike fear into you. Remember that with any destruction comes creation. Surrender yourself to the process, and vow to create something mystical and magical out of the changes that the Tower is bringing to your life.

Keywords: *Chaos, Disorganization, Sudden Change*

Inverted Meaning: The inverted Tower comes with even more of a caution than the upright meaning. Stress, anxiety, worry, fear, they are all usually present when this card appears. It's advising you to shake things up, make some waves in order to be the catalyst of change that is needed. Change, or be changed is the theme, here.

Keywords: *Caution, Stress, Difficulties*

MEET THE MAJORS



17 The Star : The Star is a card of hope. It shines bright, surrounded by seven smaller stars. There is a bird in the tree behind the kneeling figure, and water is in abundance. Everything about this card is reassuring, spiritual, at ease.

Number: 17 / 8

Element: Air

Zodiac: Aquarius

Symbols: Cup, Mountain, Pool, Tree, Star

Upright Meaning: The number seventeen is given to the Star card, and it reduces down to number eight. Remember, this is the number of creativity and infinity, and that's what the Star brings to you; personal transformation. This card indicates hope, and asks that you be open to new ideas, and your inner creativity. This is the light of transformation, and the hope for better things ahead.

This card also brings increased self-confidence, and a trust in your own inner voice. That trust, that confidence will lead you forward to success and respect from others. If you're going through some trials and challenges now, this card shows that the end is near, and that the outcome is going to be favorable if you just take everything in your stride. Believe in yourself, and others will believe in you. That is the message that the Star brings.

Keywords: *Optimism, Renewal, Recognition*

Inverted Meaning: When the Star appears reversed, it's still quite an optimistic indicator, it just means that you may have to work a bit harder or wait a bit longer to get where you want to go. Hoping and wishing is one thing, but that won't bring the desired results. You have to get up and act on those wishes if you want to manifest your goals.

Keywords: *Ego, Lack of Motivation, Empty Promises*

MEET THE MAJORS



18 The Moon : The image of the Moon looks down from a cloudless sky onto twin towers, two dogs, and a crustacean crawling out of the water. Even though the moon is bright, the card is foreboding somehow. This is the card of the night, with all its mysteries and illusions.

Number: 18 / 9

Element: Water

Zodiac: Pisces

Symbols: Dog, Mountain, Moon, Path, Pool, Tower

Upright Meaning: The appearance of the Moon in your cards is cautioning you that things may not be all they appear to be on the surface. It can also be reminding you of the natural cycles of things, that some things cannot be hurried. Finally, it could be asking you to tune into your own hunches and psychic awareness. Listen to your dreams.

The Moon's number is eighteen, which reduces to nine, the number of completion. When this card appears in a reading, you could be nearing the end of a situation, and things are clouding your judgement about it. It's a caution to look for what is being hidden from you or what you are not seeing. Things may not be what they seem, and you need to dig deeper to bring things to a close.

The Moon urges you to trust your intuition, but to also remain open to new information. You may be gullible, and you cannot let others mislead you now, no matter how wellmeaning (or not) they may be. You're near the end of this journey and about to embark on another one. Don't let your fears, inhibitions, or lack of confidence make you too hesitant. The way forward is about to be revealed, and you're going learn lessons that will prove to be very useful to you as you leave this situation and move onto the next one.

Keywords: *Illusions, Doubts, Psychic Awareness*

Inverted Meaning: The inverted Moon can be a bit unsettling. It usually indicates that either you're listening to your illusions rather than looking to what is really happening; or that someone is trying to deceive you. It's one thing for someone else to try to kid you, but quite another for you to try to kid yourself. Makes sure that you have all the facts, and that you have the confidence and self-respect to demand it from others.

Keywords: *Deception, Self-Deceit, Lack of Confidence*

MEET THE MAJORS



19 The Sun : The Sun is one of the brightest and happiest cards in the Tarot. The child riding the white horse is happy, the sunflowers are blooming and the sun fills the sky with light. This is a positive card, echoing the triumph over the trials that have been encountered.

Number: 19 / 20 / 2

Element: Fire

Zodiac: Leo

Symbols: Banner, Feather, Horse, Sun

Upright Meaning: The Sun indicates that everything is about to be revealed. You will reap the rewards of being transparent and sharing your thoughts and feelings when this card appears in a reading. Remember, though, that actions speak louder than words. You'll get a far better reception by doing, rather than talking. In a yes or no question, this card is a resounding 'yes.' Let your inner child come out and play, now. It's time for celebration!

The numerology of the Sun is interesting, because while the card is numbered nineteen, it also resonates with the numbers twenty, and two ($1 + 9 = 20$; $2 + 0 = 2$). This means that the card's energy are both forward looking, and reflective. It embraces duality of all kinds; the brightness of the Sun is going to cast a shadow, somewhere, even though you may be oblivious to it at the moment.

You're right not to pay attention to those shadows. This is a time of happiness, this is a time of feeling inspired and enthusiastic about your life. The shadows are there to give you a place to shelter from the warmth. The clouds are there to bring the rain to water the flowers. For now, it's time to go forth with vitality and gusto. This can also be a card that indicates your physical health could be taking a turn for the better, too.

Keywords: *Happiness, Success, Inspiration*

Inverted Meaning: The Sun reversed is still a good card to receive in a reading, it just may take a bit longer before you can bask in the glow of success. It reminds you to keep your feet on the ground and cautions against celebrating too much or too early. There may be a bit of self-centeredness here, and you'd do well to remember that pride comes before a fall.

Keywords: *Consequence, Ego, Hesitation*

MEET THE MAJORS



20 Judgement : In the Judgement card, we see an angel blowing a trumpet, and all sorts of people rising up from the dead to the trumpet call. The winged angel hangs in the clouds and has a banner hanging from the horn, and there are mountains in the distance.

Number: 20 / 2

Element: Fire

Zodiac: Scorpio

Symbols: Angel, Banner, Cloud, Feather, Mountain

Upright Meaning: Judgement in a reading is making you aware that you have to let go of past hurts and disappointments if you want to taste the sweetness of happiness. It's a sure sign that things have to change, because where you are now is going to come to an end. This may be the end of a career, the end of a relationship, or the end of a mindset or outlook. It's time to let go, and move onto bigger and better things.

The number twenty on the card brings us back to that duality of all things, but puts it on a higher level. You're at a crossroads, and any choice you make now is going to create significant change in your life and perhaps quite a bit of karma, too. You can't fear this though, because you are able to make this choice with maturity and with logic and reason. Trust your judgement; you've earned the right to make the correct choice, the one that is best for you.

This card also shows you that if you've been through some challenging times, there's a bit of a break on the way for you. Don't close yourself off from others now. There are those who have gone through similar situations, those who have had related experience, and they can reassure you that you're not alone and it does get better. Don't hesitate to reach out to trusted others to find the healing and the respite that you need.

Keywords: *Rebirth, Assessment, Awakening*

Inverted Meaning: When Judgement appears reversed in your layout, you may be having trouble choosing what is the best path to take. You know that you need to change, you may even know what you need to release, but there's something inhibiting you, so that you stay spinning your wheels. This card is also a caution not to be too judgemental of others. Everyone is going through their own pilgrimage to enlightenment, and no one's journey is greater or lesser than anyone else's.

Keywords: *Confusion, Inhibition, Distraction*

MEET THE MAJORS



21 The World : This card shows an androgynous figure surrounded by a wreath. There are wands in either hands, and the wreath is flanked by four images: the eagle, the lion, the bull, and a human. It's the last card in the Major Arcana, and symbolizes the completion of a cycle.

Number: 21 / 3

Element: Earth

Zodiac: Capricorn

Symbols: Angel, Bird, Bull, Cloud, Lion, Wand

Upright Meaning: The world represents both endings and beginnings. It is the end of one journey, and the start of another one. It's a sure sign that it is time to move onto something different. It signifies completion, and victory. It assures you that you are all that you need to be, and that you have all that you need to have. The world is at your fingertips now. Go explore it.

The numerology of this card goes back to three, with the Empress and creativity ($2 + 1 = 3$). This is the turning point, where you go back to the beginning again, starting a whole new cycle of evolution. You're older, wiser, the butterfly emerging out of the cocoon. It's a time for celebration, before the next cycle of work commences.

This card also gives you a chance to pause and to see where you've been. It's a mark of deeper understanding, where everything starts to fall into place. If you've been contemplating getting more involved with your areas of interest or expertise, the appearance of this card is a definite go-ahead to do so. You may even find that it brings with it travel, and more global interests, as you start to find your way forward once more.

Keywords: *Completion, Fulfillment, Success*

Inverted Meaning: When the reversed World lands in your reading, you may be being greedy. There's a disappointment here. Perhaps you thought you were going to have the world at your feet, and now you find that you're carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders. You can still turn this around, though. You just have to revisit where your attachment is, so that you can surrender it, and move towards the end result.

Keywords: *Disappointment, Incompletion, Attachment*

THE FOOL'S JOURNEY

In the Tarot, more time is spent on with the Major Arcana, because these are the cards that tell the journey of life. The odyssey starts with **the Fool**, innocent and not yet aware of our separateness. The Fool has no number in the Major Arcana because the Fool represents the possibility of all things.

The Magician is the second character in the journey. The Magician is number I. One is the root, the potential, from which all things arise. The Magician has all the tools of his trade before him, and the symbol of infinity over him. He is associated with the planet Mercury. Because Mercury is traditionally associated with the day Wednesday, this can also be ascribed to the Magician, too.

The next five characters in the journey bring powerful energies that help develop individuality. First comes the **High Priestess**, associated with the Moon and the Moon's day, or Monday. Her card is number II. Two as a number represents the potential of one forming into an idea.

After the High Priestess comes **The Empress**. Her number is III and she is associated with Venus and the day Friday. Like the planet Venus, the number three represents harmony.

The Emperor is the consort of the Empress. He is associated with the astrological sign of Aries (21 March – 20 April) and thus indirectly with the planet Mars and the element of Fire. The Emperor's number is IV, representing foundation. Like Aries and Mars, the energies here are of willpower and action.

After the Emperor comes **the Pope**, sometimes called the Hierophant. His number is V and he is associated with the astrological sign of Taurus (21 April – 20 May) and the element of Earth. Through his ruling of Taurus, he also is associated with the planet Venus and traditionally the second house of the horoscope chart.

After the Pope, comes **the Lovers**. It is here that individuality starts to be found. The number of this card is VI. The Lovers card corresponds to the astrological sign of Gemini (21 May – 20 June). Through Gemini additional correlations are to the element of Air, the planet Mercury and the traditionally the third house of the horoscope chart.

Number VII, **the Chariot**, is the next Major Arcana card. The Chariot is the momentum of choice. Its element is Water, and its sign is Cancer (21 June – 21 July). This card is also ruled by the Moon (through Cancer), and its traditional placing is in the fourth house of the horoscope chart.

Strength is number VIII in the sequence, and it is associated with the astrological sign of Leo (22 July – 22 August) and the element of Fire. Strength indicates the power of conviction through choice. Through Leo, the Strength card is associated with the Sun, and the fifth house of the horoscope chart.

Card number IX is **the Hermit**. The Hermit is associated with the sign of Virgo (23 August – 22 September) and the element of Earth. The planetary correlation is Mercury, the sign is Virgo, and the sixth house of the horoscope chart. It is with the Hermit card that the quest for a spiritual relationship to the physical world starts.

Next comes number X, **The Wheel of Fortune**. This card correlates to the planet Jupiter, and Thursday as the weekday. It is not out of sequence; it simply does not correlate with any particular sign or house of the Zodiac, although loosely it can be

THE FOOL'S JOURNEY

associated with Sagittarius through its Jupiter connection. The Wheel is constantly turning, destination yet to be decided.

Justice is number XI, associated with the planet Venus, the astrological sign of Libra (23 September - 22 October), and the element of Air. In our journey, Justice asks us to examine the journey, and bring everything to balance. Just as Strength had an image of the lion on the card, Justice has a set of scales, the symbol used for Libra. Through Libra, Justice relates to the planet Venus, and the sixth house of the horoscope chart.

Next comes **The Hanged Man**, card number XII. This card correlates with the element of Water, the sign of Scorpio (23 October - 22 November), the planets Mars and Pluto, and the eighth house on the horoscope chart. With the Hanged Man comes the lesson self-sacrifice.

Death rises up at number XIII. Many people are frightened of this card, but its true meaning is transformation, and not physical death. This card is associated with the sign of Scorpio. Like the Wheel of Fortune, Death has no natural placement on the horoscope chart, but through Scorpio it can be associated with Water, the 8th house, and the planets Mars and Pluto.

Number XIV on the journey is **Temperance**. This card teaches imbalance, so that balance might be found. Temperance correlates with the sign of Sagittarius (23 November - 21 December), and through the astrological sign also the element of Fire, the planet Jupiter and the ninth house of the horoscope chart.

The Devil comes into our journey at number XV. Corresponding to Capricorn, (22 December - 19 January), through Capricorn the Devil is also associated with the Element of Earth, the planet Saturn, and the tenth house on the horoscope chart.

As there are 22 Major Arcana and only 12 houses of the horoscope, it is obvious that not all of the Major Arcana are going to have a natural seat. Through their planetary correspondence they will all relate to a sign and a house in some way. Most of the rest of the cards fall into this category.

Card number XVI, **the Tower**, goes right into the heart of the storm. The lesson the Tower is one of unlearning was previously thought important, and opening up to self-empowerment. The Tower indicates where attachment lies. The Tower is - not surprisingly - ruled by Mars, and is associated with Tuesday. The Tower has no natural place on the horoscope chart, but through Mars it is associated with Aries and the first house.

The chaos of the Tower is followed by the subtle light of the Star, card number XVII.. The Star is associated with the sign of Aquarius (20 January - 18 February), and through Aquarius with the element of Air, the planet Uranus, and the eleventh house of the horoscope chart.

The guiding light of the Star goes toward one final test, portrayed in card number XVIII, **the Moon**. The Moon's light is deceptive, and teaches that shadows in the night may be misleading; they must be put to the test to be validated and understood. The Moon correlates to the sign of Pisces, the element of Water, the Moon (as in the astrological 'light'), and the twelfth house of the horoscope chart.

Just as the light of the Sun follows the light of the Moon, so card number XIX, the Sun follows the card of **the Moon**.

THE FOOL'S JOURNEY

The Moon's light is deceptive, and teaches that shadows in the night may be misleading; they must be put to the test to be validated and understood. The Moon correlates to the sign of Pisces, the element of Water, the Moon (as in the astrological 'light'), and the twelfth house of the horoscope chart.

Just as the light of the Sun follows the light of the Moon, so card number XIX, **the Sun** follows the card of the Moon. In the light of day, successes can be seen. Unsurprisingly, this card relates to the Sun (as in the astrological 'light'), and the day Sunday. Like Death and the Tower, the Sun has no direct correlation to a house in the horoscope chart, but through the Sun it can be associated with Leo and the fifth house.

With **Judgment**, card number XX, the lesson is to let go of what still inhibits progress. It's here that ego is surrendered, and the realization comes that all things are in all things. This card is ruled by the element of Fire. Through the elemental correspondence, this card could be associated with Aries, Leo, or Sagittarius; and the first, fifth, and ninth houses of the horoscope chart.

Card number XXI, **the World**, brings wholeness, and oneness with all that is. The Wheel of Fortune turned previously and going from external thinking to internal thinking. Now the Wheel turns again, back to the innocence of the Fool, and the journey continues in an ever upward spiral. The lesson of this card is that one man's ceiling truly is another man's floor. The World is an Earth element card, and, like Judgment, can be associated with traditional Earth signs and houses; Taurus in the second house, Virgo in the sixth house, and Capricorn in the tenth house.

THE MINOR ARCANA

There are four suits in the Minor Arcana: Wands, Pentacles, Swords, and Cups.

WANDS represent action, and the element of fire.

PENTACLES represent material things, and the element of earth.

SWORDS represent thoughts and ideas, and the element of air.

CUPS represent feelings and emotions, and the element of water.

While the Minor Arcana is important when it comes to reading the Tarot, they are not as detailed or involved as the trump cards. It is for this reason that only the keywords are given for each card in the suit. It is by handling the cards, looking at the pictures on them, and studying the symbols that you will truly get to know how they interact with the Major Arcana to provide detailed and insightful readings.



ACE OF WANDS

“Actions speak louder than words.”

This card says just go for it. It’s a time of action, of newness, of potential. If you’ve been struggling with something, the Ace can indicate that you’ve reached a breakthrough moment. Just don’t get too restless, though. Your energy could be high, here, and it would be easy to rush into something before you’re really prepared.

Upright Keywords: *Inspiration, New Beginnings, Action*

Inverted Keywords: *Inaction, Lack of Focus, Idleness*

Number: 1

Element: *Fire*

Symbol: *Castle, Cloud, Wand, Water*



TWO OF WANDS

“To see where to go, look where you’ve been.”

This card shows conflict. It’s a reminder that things don’t have to get heated just because you disagree with someone. There may be competition when this card appears—maybe for a job, or a romantic partner, or for something else that you desire, that someone else also desires. This doesn’t have to be a bad thing. Many good ideas are borne of a friendly debate, and amiable competition can push you forward to do your best.

Upright Keywords: *Competition, Struggle, Contest*

Inverted Keywords: *Inner Conflict, Bullying, Chagrin*

Number: 5

Element: *Fire*

Symbol: *Wand*

THE MINOR ARCANA



THREE OF WANDS

"You know what to do, now do it."

This card appears as instructions for you to expand your horizons, learn something new, think outside the box a bit. It's advising you to remain openminded, and to cooperate wherever you can you never know when you're going to need those people to assist you. It can also be an indication of travel when this card appears in your readings.

Upright Keywords: *Travel, Commerce, Initiative*

Inverted Keywords: *Doubt, Delays, Lack of Commitment*

Number: 3

Element: *Fire*

Symbol: *Wand, Water*



FOUR OF WANDS

"The time to celebrate is now, the place to celebrate is here."

When this card appears in your reading, expect celebrations. This is an ideal time to get together with family and friends. It can indicate a wedding, an engagement, a christening, a graduation, or some other kind of celebration and support for a happy event, or a job well done.

Upright Keywords: *Celebration, Ceremony, Achievement*

Inverted Keywords: *Delayed Happiness, Ungratefulness, Lack of Support*

Number: 4

Element: *Fire*

Symbol: *Castle, Wand*



FIVE OF WANDS

"Pick your battles wisely."

This card shows conflict. It's a reminder that things don't have to get heated just because you disagree with someone. There may be competition when this card appears maybe for a job, or a romantic partner, or for something else that you desire, that someone else also desires. This doesn't have to be a bad thing. Many good ideas are borne of a friendly debate, and amiable competition can push you forward to do your best.

Upright Keywords: *Competition, Struggle, Contest*

Inverted Keywords: *Inner Conflict, Bullying, Chagrin*

Number: 5

THE MINOR ARCANA



SIX OF WANDS

"Let your return be victorious."

This is a card of success. If you've been struggling with something, the appearance of this card in a reading usually indicates that your struggles are going to end in your favor. The Six of Wands is encouraging you to be who you are and to celebrate your strengths. It's a marker of achievement and a good reputation.

Upright Keywords: *Leadership, Recognition, Victory*

Inverted Keywords: *Delayed Happiness, Ungratefulness, Lack of Support*

Number: 6

Element: *Fire*

Symbol: *Horse, Wand, Wreath*



SEVEN OF WANDS

"Defend only what is worth defending."

The Seven of Wands can indicate that you're in a place of strength. Yes, it seems to be a card of challenges, but those challenges can make you all the more determined to succeed. You have to accept that you're never going to please everyone, so focus on what you need to do for yourself and by yourself and let that be your victory.

Upright Keywords: *Tenacity, Defense, Determination*

Inverted Keywords: *Stubbornness, SelfDoubt, Resistance.*

Number: 7

Element: *Fire*

Symbol: *Hill, Wand*



EIGHT OF WANDS

"Things will move at their own pace, in their own time."

This is very much a card of movement. It is assuring you that things have their own agenda, and that you do well not to disrupt the natural order of things too much. If you're too impatient, you could actually create unnecessary delays or obstacles. If it's not broken, don't try to fix it.

Upright Keywords: *Movement, Advancement, Energy*

Inverted Keywords: *Impatience, Breakthrough, Risks*

Number: 8

Element: *Fire*

Symbol: *Hill, Water, Wand*

THE MINOR ARCANA



NINE OF WANDS

"Worry is a misuse of the imagination."

This card reassures you that you're so close to success you can nearly taste it, so don't doubt yourself. You're likely to start secondguessing yourself about some aspect of this situation, but you mustn't. That will create delays and frustrations. You've come this far. Trust that you can keep going.

Upright Keywords: *Apprehension, Caution, Suspicion*

Inverted Keywords: *Assumptions, Weariness, Inexperience*

Number: 9

Element: *Fire*

Symbol: *Hill, Wand*



TEN OF WANDS

"You do not have to carry the burden alone."

With great achievement comes great responsibility. This card is showing you that you've got to carry those responsibilities if you want to bask in the success that the achievements bring to you. However, you don't have to do this alone. There is always going to be someone who is willing to lend an ear, or even a hand. Don't be too proud to reach out for help.

Upright Keywords: *Burden, Pride, Responsibility*

Inverted Keywords: *Procrastination, Wasted Effort, Inundated*

Number: 10

Element: *Fire*

Symbol: *Trees, Wand*



ACE OF PENTACLES

"New beginnings need a practical approach."

This card represents something new on a material level. It could be a new job, or a new idea for a business. You may even find a little windfall coming your way. While this is usually a good omen, don't let it go to your head. You have to remain pragmatic, and invest of your time and your assets wisely.

Upright Keywords: *Practical Approach, New Beginning, Sufficient Resources*

Inverted Keywords: *Avarice, Financial Setbacks, Delayed Projects*

Number: 1

Element: *Earth*

Symbol: *Garden, Lily, Mountain, Path, Pentacle Rose*

THE MINOR ARCANA



TWO OF PENTACLES

"You do not have to carry the burden alone."

When the Two of Pentacles visits you in a reading, you've got a choice to make, and you may be oscillating back and forth about which way to go. Make sure that what you're juggling is what you want to carry. This card is an indication that a decision has to be made, and something needs to be put down.

Upright Keywords: *Multitasking, Busyness, Diversion*

Inverted Keywords: *Juggling Too Much, Inability to Cope, Overlooked Opportunities*

Number: 2

Element: *Earth*

Symbol: *Infinity, Pentacle*



THREE OF PENTACLES

"Be willing to receive."

Sometimes it's easier to give than it is to receive, but when you try to talk yourself out of accepting things, ("Oh, you shouldn't have done that. Are you sure you wish to give that to me? Oh, I don't deserve your kindness."), you're actually interrupting the flow of abundance that wants to come your way. Graciously accept the gifts that you are given.

Upright Keywords: *Employment, Assistance, Opportunity*

Inverted Keywords: *Contrariness, Criticism, Lack of Appreciation*



FOUR OF PENTACLES

"Do not hold on so tightly that you suffocate opportunities."

Another way that you can block abundance from coming your way is to hold on too tightly to what you have. You're going to open the flow of abundance by sharing what you have with others, rather than by clinging to it. This card warns against being too selfish or miserly.

Upright Keywords: *Frugality, Security, Greed*

Inverted Keywords: *Wasted Resources, Fear of Loss, Stinginess*

Number: 4

Element: *Earth*

Symbol: *Crown, Pentacle*

THE MINOR ARCANA



FIVE OF PENTACLES

"Feeling sorry for yourself prevents you from seeing the solution."

You may feel shut out, closed off, and abandoned by life in general when this card appears, but I promise you that this is only a fleeting thing. It may even be partly in your head. It's easy to feel sorry for yourself when this card is in your tarot spread, but try to focus on what you've got, rather than what you're missing. The other cards in the reading will give you an indication how to turn things around.

Upright Keywords: *Poverty, Scarcity, SelfPity*

Inverted Keywords: *Insecurity, Longing, Despair*

Number: 5

Element: *Earth*

Symbol: *Pentacle*



SIX OF PENTACLES

"The road to abundance is paved with gratitude."

This card is encouraging you to share what you have. There are always going to be those who have less than you, and while this is a card that usually indicates sharing your assets, it can be just taking the time to pay attention to someone, and share a smile, or help them in some way.

Upright Keywords: *Generosity, Charity, Gratitude*

Inverted Keywords: *Debt, Hoarding, Sense of Entitlement*

Number: 6

Element: *Earth*

Symbol: *Castle, Pentacle, Scale*



SEVEN OF PENTACLES

"What you put into something is what you will receive from it."

This card is a pause in your workday and a time for reflection. Are you on the right path? Are you manifesting your bliss? Is this what you want to be doing? Great! Then get back to it. However, this card can also be asking you if it's time for a change, and if it is, pay attention.

Upright Keywords: *Respite, Patience, Evaluation*

Inverted Keywords: *Repeated Mistakes, Failure to Learn, Disappointment*

Number: 7

Element: *Earth*

Symbol: *Pentacle, Staff*

THE MINOR ARCANA



EIGHT OF PENTACLES

“Hard work, but high rewards.”

This is the card that shows more work is necessary in order for you to perfect what you're doing and really see the end results. You're on the right path, you're working hard, but you're not at your goals yet. Make sure that you're working diligently towards them, and not trying to cut corners.

Upright Keywords: *Perseverance, Hard Work Rewarded, Accomplishment*

Inverted Keywords: *Shabby Workmanship, Exhaustion, Exploitation*

Number: 8

Element: *Earth*

Symbol: *Castle, Pentacle*



NINE OF PENTACLES

“There is nothing wrong with enjoying what you have worked to attain.”

This is a card of completion. You've worked hard, you've earned the rewards, and now it's time to enjoy that, and live a little. Indulge in a bit of what you fancy. You're allowed to bathe in the glory

Upright Keywords: *Respite, Patience, Evaluation*

Inverted Keywords: *Repeated Mistakes, Failure to Learn, Disappointment*

Number: 9

Element: *Earth*

Symbol: *Bird, Garden, Pentacle*



TEN OF PENTACLES

“Success and material gain come after hard work.”

The Ten of Pentacles is the final reward. This is material gain, this is success, recognition, and accolade. This card shows that things are coming to completion but remember that as one thing ends, another one begins. Appreciate what you have earned, but don't take it for granted.

Upright Keywords: *Success, Completion, Security*

Inverted Keywords: *Selfishness, Incompletion, Insecurity*

Number: 10

Element: *Earth*

Symbol: *Dog, Castle, Pentacle*

THE MINOR ARCANA



ACE OF CUPS

"Let your heart be full of happiness."

This is a wonderful sign for new emotional fulfillment. It can be the start of a new romance, or it can be the arrival of some much awaited happiness. Creativity and the arts can be indicated here, too, so if you have a bit of a talent and a hankering to pursue it, this card is your green light.

Upright Keywords: *Emotional Fulfillment, New Love, Happiness*

Inverted Keywords: *Delayed Happiness, Introvertedness, Distrust*

Number: 1

Element: *Water*

Symbol: *Bird, Cloud, Cross, Cup*



TWO OF CUPS

"Two can gain warmth from each other, for one cannot be warm alone."

Like the Lovers, the Two of Cups is a card about partnerships, and while they're usually romantic partnerships, they don't have to be. This is the meeting of two individuals bonding together for a common and usually enjoyable connection. It's a wonderful omen for a new intimate relationship.

Upright Keywords: *Union, Partnership, Compromise*

Inverted Keywords: *Disharmony, Unrequited Love, Lack of Connection*

Number: 2

Element: *Water*

Symbol: *Angel, Cup, Lion*



THREE OF CUPS

"Celebrate a joyful reunion."

This is such a happy card. It's a reconnection with friends, and a chance for celebration and for enjoyment. It often indicates reconnecting with an old friend or group of friends. It can also mean that there is a choice for romantic partners, too.

Upright Keywords: *Celebration, Reunion, Friendship*

Inverted Keywords: *Loneliness, Isolation, Withdrawn*

Number: 3

Element: *Water*

Symbol: *Cup, Fruit, Garland*

THE MINOR ARCANA



FOUR OF CUPS

“Do not miss the opportunity in front of you.”

There's some complacency indicated by the Four of Cups. What you want may be right under your nose, but you're not seeing it. Look to the other cards to see where you might need to look, so that you can find the fulfillment that this card shows is eluding you.

Upright Keywords: *Contemplation, Daydreaming, Boredom*

Inverted Keywords: *Estrangement, Disappointment, Unappreciation*

Number: 4

Element: *Water*

Symbol: *Cloud, Cup, Tree*



FIVE OF CUPS

“All is not lost.”

It's easy to feel sorry for yourself when things go wrong, and this is indeed a card of loss. However, it's reminding you that on the back of those upsets, there are still assets in your life. You've not lost everything, so take heart, and look not to what you've lost, but what you still have in your favor.

Upright Keywords: *Remorse, Grief, Bitter Disappointment*

Inverted Keywords: *Wallowing in SelfPity, Clinging to the Past, SelfAbsorption*

Number: 5

Element: *Water*

Symbol: *Castle, Cup, Water*



SIX OF CUPS

“Take off the rosy colored glasses.”

There's an element of nostalgia when this card appears. It's encouraging you to be forward looking rather than backward thinking. It's too easy to think that things were better in the past, when the truth is that the future can be even better. This card reminds you to deal with current situations, rather than to escape to the memories of the past.

Upright Keywords: *Nostalgia, Innocence, Childhood*

Inverted Keywords: *Living in the Past, Immaturity, Delusions*

Number: 6

Element: *Water*

Symbol: *Castle, Cup, Lily, Staff*

THE MINOR ARCANA



SEVEN OF CUPS

“Do not spread yourself too thinly or you will accomplish nothing.”

When the Seven of Cups appears in your reading it's telling you that you're too distracted. You're looking at everything that is available to you, but you're not prioritizing. Unless you find your focus, you're not going to get much accomplished. Slow down. The answer is there once you relax and take a good, heartfelt look.

Upright Keywords: *Distraction, Many Options, Fantasies*

Inverted Keywords: *Escapism, SelfMedication, SelfDeception*

Number: 7

Element: *Water*

Symbol: *Castle, Cloud, Cup*



EIGHT OF CUPS

“Walk away from what is not working.”

This card is showing you that what lies ahead of you may look great, but it is not necessarily the best option for you. You have to walk away from what is not working, no matter how appealing it may be. There's a temptation to stay with what looks good, but is that really best for you in the long run?

Upright Keywords: *Walk Away, Better Choices, Follow Your Heart*

Inverted Keywords: *Attachment, Empty Connections, Habit*

Number: 8

Element: *Water*

Symbol: *Cup, Moon, Mountain, Path, Staff*

THE MINOR ARCANA



NINE OF CUPS

"The wish card."

This card is showing you that what lies ahead of you may look great, but it is not necessarily the best option for you. You have to walk away from what is not working, no matter how appealing it may be. There's a temptation to stay with what looks good, but is that really best for you in the long run?

Upright Keywords: *Wish Granted, Indulgence, Satisfaction*

Inverted Keywords: *Smugness, Selfishness, Ingratitude*

Number: 9

Element: *Water*

Symbol: *Cup, Feather*



TEN OF CUPS

"...and they all lived happily ever after."

This card represents fulfillment on all levels. It's dreams come true, wishes fulfilled, and it is one of the most positive cards in the deck. If you asked a 'yes' or 'no' question of the tarot and got this card in your reading, the answer is almost always a resounding 'yes.'

Upright Keywords: *Completion, Happy Endings, Emotional Fulfillment*

Inverted Keywords: *Delayed Fulfillment, Unrealized Dreams, Impatience*

Number: 10

Element: *Water*

Symbol: *Tree, Cup*



ACE OF SWORDS

"Cut away what is not working."

This is the card of new ideas. You may need to blaze a new trail, think outside the box, or cut out of your life what is standing in your way. There's a new perspective on a current situation, or something that needs a new viewpoint if you're going to navigate it successfully.

Upright Keywords: *Cut a New Path, Seek Truth, New Perspective*

Inverted Keywords: *False Start, Lack of Direction, Misunderstanding*

Number: 1

Element: *Air*

Symbol: *Cloud, Crown, Mountain, Sword*

THE MINOR ARCANA



TWO OF SWORDS

"Even when you choose not to choose you have still made a choice."

There's always a choice, and this card embodies that choice. There's a stalemate, here, and some kind of inactivity that is getting you nowhere. Both paths open to you look equally appropriate when this card appears, and it may not be time to make the choice as to which way to go at this time.

Upright Keywords: *Choice, Unseeing, Impartial*

Inverted Keywords: *Faulty Logic, Blinded to the Truth, Imbalance*

Number: 2

Element: *Air*

Symbol: *Blindfold, Moon, Sword*



THREE OF SWORDS

"This, too, shall pass."

This card usually points to heartache of some sort, and it is not a very pleasant card. However, even in the middle of all of this, it's possible to tap into some kind of creative energy and find your way forward. Yes, there's a loss here, but it's the sort of loss that you can grieve, then move past. It isn't something that has to overshadow you for long.

Upright Keywords: *Loss, Betrayal, Separation*

Inverted Keywords: *Sacrifice, Resolution, Abandonment*

Number: 3

Element: *Air*

Symbol: *Cloud, Sword*



FOUR OF SWORDS

"Look after yourself, so you can give the best of yourself to others."

The Four of Swords asks you to pause. There's rest and relaxation needed. It's time to take care of yourself, and to make sure that your own needs are met. Get enough sleep, don't overindulge, and recharge your batteries.

Upright Keywords: *Respite, Reflection, Rest and Relaxation*

Inverted Keywords: *Overload, Delayed Rest, Exhaustion*

Number: 4

Element: *Air*

Symbol: *Sword*

THE MINOR ARCANA



FIVE OF SWORDS

“If you want to be a hero, you have to stick around til the end of the war.”

There’s disagreement here, and it may seem that you’re surrounded by selfish people who want a piece of you. They can only take that if you’re willing to surrender it, though. Pick up the pieces, regroup, and stay true to yourself and to your own principles. Just don’t get too egotistical with it that can come back to bite you another day.

Upright Keywords: *Disagreement, SelfCenteredness, Smugness*

Inverted Keywords: *Mediation, Animosity, Alienation*

Number: 5

Element: *Air*

Symbol: *Cloud, Sword*



SIX OF SWORDS

“Prepare for a journey, be it physical, or metaphoric.”

The Six of Swords can indicate that you need to move away from something whether you want to, or not. You have to come to terms with this, and realize that what you’re leaving behind is not as wonderful as what you are moving towards, even though there is going to be some remorse around the decision.

Upright Keywords: *Travel, Transition, Moving towards Wholeness*

Inverted Keywords: *Delays, Fear of Change, Unwillingness to Move Forward*

Number: 6

Element: *Air*

Symbol: *Staff, Sword, Water*

THE MINOR ARCANA



SEVEN OF SWORDS

“Like a thief in the night...”

This is a card of reckoning. If you were trying to get away with something, you’re very likely going to be exposed when this card appears in a reading. If not, then someone else’s illintentions could come into the light. Whichever the scenario, take control, and don’t become a victim to the story.

Upright Keywords: *Deception, Theft, Dishonesty*

Inverted Keywords: *Exposure, Regret, Consequences*

Number: 7

Element: *Air*

Symbol: *Hill, Sword*



EIGHT OF SWORDS

“Do not be a prisoner of your own device.”

When this card appears in a reading, you have to ask why you (or the person for whom you’re doing the reading) is feeling so inhibited. The only thing that is holding you back are your own ideas. You’re free to drop the illusion of being trapped, and move away from the situation, at any time.

Upright Keywords: *Inhibition, Playing the Victim, SelfRestrictions*

Inverted Keywords: *Confidence, Breaking Free, Making Changes*

Number: 8

Element: *Air*

Symbol: *Blindfold, Castle, Sword*



NINE OF SWORDS

“The nightmare card.”

The Nine of Swords is, in my opinion, one of the most traumatic cards in the deck. It’s showing you that your fears are getting the best of you, and because like energy always attracts like energy, you’re likely to draw into your life the very thing that you fear the most.

Upright Keywords: *Nightmares, Worries, Depression*

Inverted Keywords: *Irrational Fears, SelfDoubt, Dismay*

Number: 9

Element: *Air*

Symbol: *Sword*

THE MINOR ARCANA



TEN OF SWORDS

"Do not hesitate to leave behind that which has truly expired."

This looks like a card of betrayal and loss, and it is. However, it's also showing you that there's no point worrying about this situation any more. It's finished, it's a foregone conclusion, so put it behind you, and focus your attentions on something that is going to be more rewarding, and more beneficial to you.

Upright Keywords: *Ruin, Expiration, Defeat*

Inverted Keywords: *Relief, Restoration, Acceptance*

Number: 10

Element: *Air*

Symbol: *Cloud, Mountain, Sword*



THE COURT CARDS



The court cards are an interesting mix, because although they all depict people, they don't necessarily point to a particular person in a reading. They can represent people, or archetypes, or events. I've put a description of the person in with the keywords, but remember, it's more often than not the energies that this type of person brings to the reading, rather than a specific person. The group descriptions below will get you

started, and then we'll move onto the individual cards. Keep in mind that the elemental energies of the suits matter, too, when looking for the personality traits in the court cards.

KINGS

The Kings represent someone who is mature and masculine, someone who is involved in life and demonstrates authority, tradition, and control. His style is direct, and assertive. He wants results, and will do what it takes to get them.

QUEENS

The Queens represent the mature feminine energy. While the King was assertive, the Queen is passive. Her energies are more inward-looking, her style more relaxed. She's less concerned with seeing results, she's more inclined to enjoy the journey rather than the destination. She can be associated with self-expression and relationships.

KNIGHTS

Knights are immature. Older than a child, but younger than the King or the Queen. They can be seen to be teenagers, tottering on the fence between childhood and adulthood and not really knowing which way he's going to fall. He's liable to go from one extreme to the other as he tries to place himself in the world and find where he belongs. Overindulgence is a trait, but so are sincerity and eagerness.

PAGE

Pages represent the innocent child. He's likely to be thoughtless, pursuing pleasure rather than responsibility. He represents adventure, and potential. His energy is loose, impetuous, and just a little single-minded.

THE COURT CARDS



PAGE OF WANDS

“A child or someone younger than you, with a fair complexion, who is easily distracted.”

There’s a creative restlessness around you, looking for a way forward. Be young at heart, positive, eager, but not overly excitable something that might be hard to contain, as this card can indicate some impetuosity. You could find yourself easily distracted when this card appears.

Upright Keywords: *Ambitious, Enthusiastic, Curious*

Inverted Keywords: *Uninspired, Frustrating Pessimistic*

Number: 11 / 2

Element: *Fire*

Symbol: *Feather, Wand*



KNIGHT OF WANDS

“A youth with a fair complexion and light colored hair with a message for you.”

If you’ve been waiting for information, or some kind of message or acknowledgement, this card can indicate it is on its way. There’s a sense of adventure here. You’re likely to be keen and enthusiastic. It’s a good time to plan a journey when the Knight of Wands appears.

Upright Keywords: *Adventurous, Motivated, Travelling*

Inverted Keywords: *Listlessness, Fears Defeat, Lack of News*

Number: 12 / 3

Element: *Fire*

Symbol: *Armor, Feather, Horse, Wand*



QUEEN OF WANDS

“A fair woman with hair on the lighter side, who is determined and accomplished.”

This card brings a naturally gregarious energy. She indicates a time when it’s appropriate to be bold on what you pursue. There’s creativity and focus here, and the energy is optimistic. It’s a good time to work as a team with others.

Upright Keywords: *Creative, Independent, Romantic*

Inverted Keywords: *Manipulative, Irritable, Irresponsible*

THE COURT CARDS

Number: 13 / 4

Element: Fire

Symbol: Cat, Crown, Lion, Throne, Wand



KING OF WANDS

“A fair complected man with red to strawberry blond hair, who is supportive of your endeavors.”

This card encourages you to take what is in your life, and change it to match your vision. This is less about coming up with ideas, and more about molding what’s already around you to fit how you want your life to be. It’s a card of confidence, control, and manifestation. Expect new opportunities to appear.

Upright Keywords: *Generous, Confident, Enthusiastic*

Inverted Keywords: *Egotistical, Self-Absorbed, Shallow*

Number: 14 / 25

Element: Fire

Symbol: *Crown, Lion, Throne, Wand*



PAGE OF PENTACLES

“A child who may speak out of turn, causing upheaval, discord, or distractions.”

If you’re looking for financial opportunity, this card is an indication that it may be coming your way. You mustn’t try to cut corners, though. If the idea sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Rewards come through hard work. It’s a good time to learn a new skill when this card appears.

Upright Keywords: *Careful, Studious, Hard Worker*

Inverted Keywords: *Unfocused, Impractical, Insecure*

Number: 11 / 2

Element: Earth

Symbol: *Tree, Pentacle*

THE COURT CARDS



KNIGHT OF PENTACLES

“A dark complected man who may be bringing a message concerning financial matters.”

The Knight of Pentacles asks that you take control of the situation. You may find that your efforts get you noticed, and that you get some kind of financial reward or promotion as a direct result of your focus and dedication. Follow the more traditional path, though. This is not a time for blazing new trails or taking risks.

Upright Keywords: *Dependable, Cautious, Capable*

Inverted Keywords: *Apathetic, Nit-Picky, Unhealthy Behavior or Environment*

Number: 12 / 3

Element: *Earth*

Symbol: *Armor, Horse, Pentacle*



QUEEN OF PENTACLES

“A dark complected woman with dark hair and eyes, whose focus is on devoting herself to her home.”

This card represents prosperity and security. You’ve worked hard to attain what you have, and there’s nothing wrong with enjoying it. Just make sure that you don’t let it go to your head, and that you stay the ‘earth mother’ and the nurturer as you indulge yourself in the fruits of your labor.

Upright Keywords: *Nurturing, Supportive, Protective*

Inverted Keywords: *Inappropriate Attachment, Needy, Self-Absorbed*

Number: 13 / 4

Element: *Earth*

Symbol: *Crown, Garden, Mountain Pentacle, Rose, Throne*



KING OF PENTACLES

“A masculine man with dark hair and dark eyes, who stands for determination and tradition.”

When this card appears you’re going to be able to make great advancements when it comes to getting the physical comforts in your life. Look for promotions, raises, and financial stability. Of course, this comes at a price; you have to continue to be diligent and responsible in order to enjoy this wealth to the fullest.

THE COURT CARDS

Upright Keywords: *Traditional, Conservative, Provider*

Inverted Keywords: *Materialistic, Greedy, Possessive*

Number: 14 / 5

Element: *Earth*

Symbol: *Armor, Bull, Castle, Crown, Garden, Throne, Pentacle*



PAGE OF SWORDS

"A child with dark hair who could be the bringer of disappointment."

This isn't a particularly happy card. It can bring disappointment, or setbacks, when it comes to plans and communications. If the question asked was a 'yes' or 'no' question, the answer is probably 'no,' or at least, 'wait'.

Upright Keywords: *Alert, Curious, Thoughtful*

Inverted Keywords: *Temporary Disappointment, Uncommunicative, Betrayal*

Number: 11 / 2

Element: *Air*

Symbol: *Cloud, Sword*



KNIGHT OF SWORDS

"A young person with lots of energy who may be bringing good news."

Just like the Page of Swords brought the opportunity for bad news, the Knight brings with it good tidings. There's stamina and focus here, but you have to make sure that you're not running roughshod over others to achieve your goals. This is not a time for haste which is just what you'll be tempted to use.

Upright Keywords: *Stormy Physical or Metaphorical, Inflated Ego, High Energy*

Inverted Keywords: *Remorseful, Irritable, Spiteful*

Number: 12 / 3

Element: *Air*

Symbol: *Armor, Cloud, Feather, Horse, Sword*

THE COURT CARDS



QUEEN OF SWORDS

"A woman with dark hair who may try to manipulate and control your actions."

You'll be able to think on your feet and make snap judgements when the Queen of Swords appears in your reading. However, if this card is representing someone else, take a bit of caution. This person may be judgemental or stubborn, and not have your best interests at heart.

Upright Keywords: *Judgemental, Reserved, Perfectionist*

Inverted Keywords: *Contradictive, Mean, Gossipy*

Number: 13 / 4

Element: *Air*

Symbol: *Bird, Cloud, Crown, Sword, Throne*



KING OF SWORDS

"A stubborn man, with dark hair, who may be opinionated and dominating in your life."

When this card appears, you need to remain detached when it comes to the situation about which you're asking. If you get too involved, you could be putting your neck out for the wrong people. If this situation has to do with any business, legal, or financial matters, you might want to engage the advice of a business advisor, an attorney, or a financier when this King appears.

Upright Keywords: *Critical, Brusque, Logical*

Inverted Keywords: *Stubborn, Manipulative, Misuse of Power*

Number: 14 / 5

Element: *Air*

Symbol: *Bird, Cloud, Crown, Throne, Sword*



PAGE OF CUPS

"A fair young child brings good news."

This card shows you that you may be overly sensitive at this time. You could be wearing your heart on your sleeve, and more prone to react to news from or about others more emotionally than usual. This card can also bring good news about loved ones and their situations.

Upright Keywords: *Romantic, Naive, Emotional*

Inverted Keywords: *Immature, Needy, Codependent*

THE COURT CARDS

Number: 11 / 2
Element: Water
Symbol: Cup, Water



KNIGHT OF CUPS

"A young person has positive news when it comes to matters of the heart."

When it comes to romance, this card is good news. He may well be your proverbial 'knight in shining armor!' This is a time to act on any messages or information that you've recently received. This card is also a great indicator for you to start to explore new pursuits and hobbies that interest you.

Upright Keywords: *Idealistic, Artistic, Charming*
Inverted Keywords: *Oversensitive, Insincere, Delusional*
Number: 12 / 3
Element: Water
Symbol: *Armor, Cup, Feather, Horse*



QUEEN OF CUPS

"A kind and benevolent woman whose complexion is fair and whose manner is gentle and supportive."

When this Queen appears in your reading, she's asking you to be understanding and compassionate and that goes for dealing with your own issues, as well as dealing with others. This is a time for putting what you feel ahead of what you think. Hug as many people as you can it's good for both of you! Just make sure that you're not letting others take advantage of your good nature.

Upright Keywords: *Sensitive, Receptive, Kind*
Inverted Keywords: *Easily taken advantage of, Empathetic, Over-emotional*
Number: 13 / 4
Element: Water
Symbol: *Cup, Crown, Throne, Water*

THE COURT CARDS



KING OF CUPS

“An understanding and loving man who knows how to nurture and share of himself.”

The King of Cups is reminding you to be tactful and diplomatic and, depending on the situation, that may be harder than it sounds! It will be easy for you to absorb the negative energy from others when he appears, so make sure that you're grounded, centered and shielded from that hostility. Controlling your emotions is important when this card appears.

Upright Keywords: *Emotional Strength, Compassionate, Understanding*

Inverted Keywords: *Inner Turmoil, Hopeless Romantic, Needy*

Number: 14 / 5

Element: *Water*

Symbol: *Cup, Crown, Throne, Water*

THE LAYOUTS

So, you know what the cards are and what they mean, but what do you do with them? Treat them as every card is a chapter in a book, with its story to tell. There are countless patterns in which you can lay out the cards to read them. Entire books have been written on the subject. For now, we're going to concentrate on three very basic ways of reading.

The first method is the one card reading, and that is fairly self explanatory. Shuffle your cards, concentrate on your question, and then draw a card to interpret for the answer. This is a very concise way of getting a 'second opinion' on the matter at hand.



ONE CARD READING

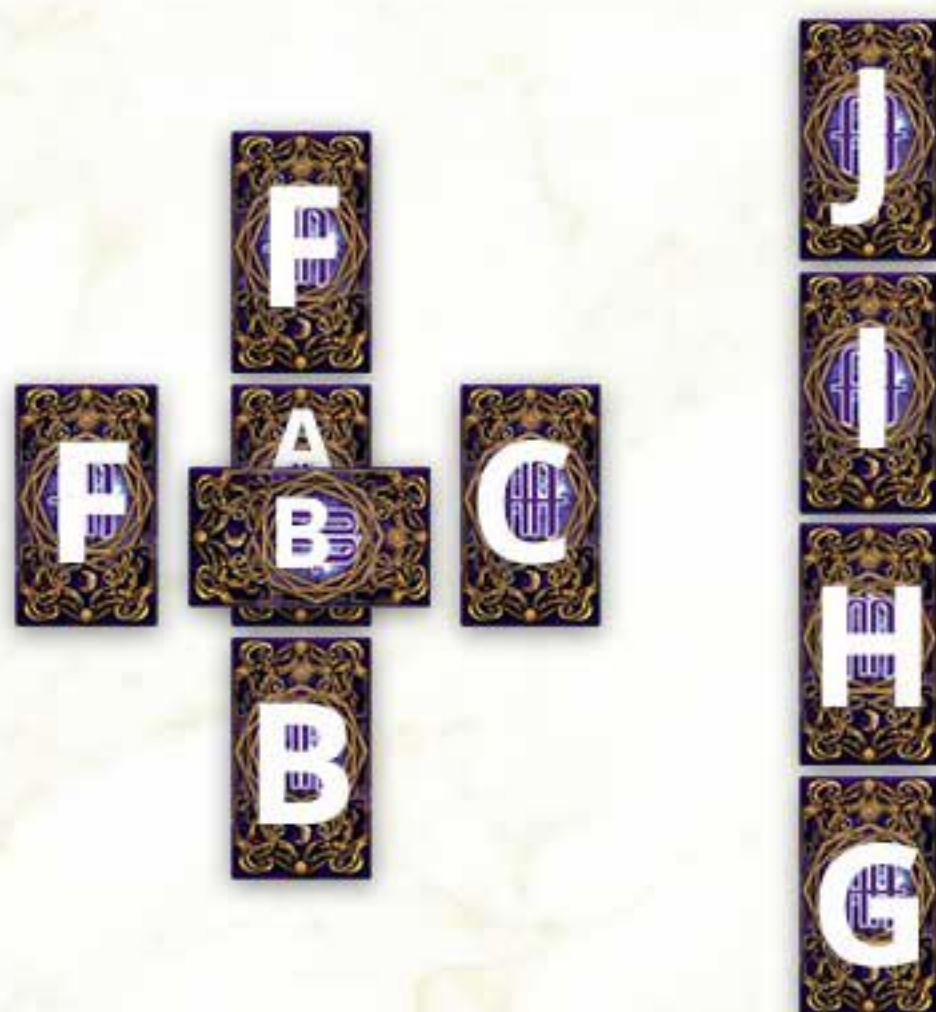
Another way of laying out the cards is a threecard reading. This is one of my favorites, because it can be interpreted as past, present, or future; it can represent three different areas of focus; it can project into the future as in now, near future, or distant future. It's really as versatile as the ways in which you want to use it. Just choose what each position is going to represent before you lay out the cards, and then shuffle and place three cards in a horizontal row. Turn them over one at a time, and interpret what they have to say, based on the attributes you gave each position in the layout. This spread can also be used to tell a story. Read each card as a frame in a comic book, to tell a story that brings to you the answer to your question.

THE LAYOUTS



PAST PRESENT FUTURE

Possibly the most renowned tarot card spread is one called the Celtic cross. This is a layout that uses 10 cards, all with a specific meaning to their placement, popularized by AE Waite, who commissioned the Rider Waite Tarot back in 1911. Here's what it looks like



Card A is the 1st card placed on the table. This is the card that covers you. It represents the heart of the issue at hand. This is the primary factor.

Card B is the 2nd card placed. It goes crossways on top of card A. This is the card that crosses you. It represents the obstacles that are standing in your way. It is what reinforces the primary issue.

THE LAYOUTS

Card C is the 3rd card placed. It goes to the right of cards A and B. This is the card that lies before you. It represents what will influence and guide you. This is the unknown factor.

Card D is the 4th card placed. It goes underneath cards A and B. This is the card that lies beneath you. It is what represents your motivation, or your current concerns. It is what will enable you to let go.

Card E is the 5th card placed. It goes to the left of cards A and B. This is the card that lies behind you. It reflects recent events as well as long term challenges. It can show you a new way of looking at things.

Card F is the 6th card placed. It goes above cards A and B. This is the card that crowns you. It indicates where your strengths lie what is likely to happen in the near future. This shows you what you should be open to accepting.

Card G is the 7th card placed. It goes to the right of the other cards, level with card D. This is the card that reveals what factors are coming into play in the near future. It also indicates how you see yourself.

Card H is the 8th card placed. It goes directly above card G. This card represents the potential future environment. It can also represent how others see you.

Card I is the 9th card placed. It goes directly above card H. This card reveals your hopes and fears about the future outcome. It can also hint at what you are overlooking.

Card J is the 10th and last card placed. It goes directly above card I. This is the outcome card. It sums up the other 9 cards and reveals to you the answer that you have been seeking.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q) How can a tarot reading help me?

A) A tarot reading can bring you a lot of insight into the situations in your life. It will also bring you insights as to who you are. The tarot can be used to bring you valuable information about the circumstances in your life, but meditating on the tarot can also bring you insights into your own journey. By knowing yourself and your situations better, you can learn how to handle things more smoothly. This can give you the upperhand in many situations, and enable you to deal with things from an improved standpoint.

Q) Do you have to be psychic to read the tarot cards?

A) You do not have to be psychic to read the tarot. It is possible to memorize the readings from the cards, and give very good and accurate readings simply by using the images on the cards and the meanings that go with them. However, most people find that the more they read the tarot, the more intuitive they become about what messages the archetypal images have to share.

Q) Do you have to be a witch or follow Wicca to read the tarot cards?

A) No. While some Wiccans make meditating on the tarot part of their spiritual path, you do not have to be Wiccan to read the tarot. Many tarot decks are aimed specifically at Wiccans or Pagans, but there are plenty of other decks which are not. The tarot is just a series of images on cards. It is available to anyone who wishes to study it.

Q) Is tarot the same as astrology or palm reading?

A) No. Astrology uses the movements of the planets through the skies in relationship to where the planets were on your day of birth. Palmistry examines the lines on your hands. Tarot is a deck of 78 cards, each with a different meaning. All three of these provide insight and guidance, but they are three very different techniques. Astrology and numerology do play their part in the tarot, though, because each card is given a number, and each card is ruled by a planetary influence.

Q) Who invented the tarot cards?

A) The history of the tarot is a bit foggy. It's generally believed that they originated in Italy, around 600 years ago. They've come a long way since then! One of the most influential changes was made around 100 years ago, when A. E. Waite instructed Pamela Coleman Smith to put images on the Minor Arcana. Up until that time, they were just 'pip cards, similar to our current playing cards.

Q) What is a tarot spread?

A) This is simply the way that the tarot cards are laid upon the table to be read. Different readers have different favorite spreads. The most common is the Celtic Cross 10 card spread, and the details of how to do that are included in this guide.

Q) Is the tarot evil?

A) No. The tarot is just a series of images on cards. How can that be evil? Like anything else, some people will use the tarot as a tool for ill gain, but the cards themselves are no more threatening than a birthday card!

Q) Should I be afraid of the cards and what they can tell me?

A) Not at all. The cards are just pictures on cardstock. They have no powers. The information that they can share with you can be used to improve your life and grow your spirit. There is nothing to fear in the tarot. Some of the images look nicer than others, sure, but there is nothing to be scared of when working with the tarot cards

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q) Are there different types of tarot cards?

A) Absolutely and with the dawning of the age of computers and graphic design, more and more decks are being made. There is no right deck or wrong deck. You just need to find the one that resonates with you. Collecting tarot art can become a bit of an obsession!

Q) I heard that tarot had to be given to me for it to work right. Is that true?

A) No. I'm not sure where that myth originated, but it is untrue. The cards will speak to you once you've learned their meanings, no matter how you acquired them. The key is to find a deck that you like, not necessarily one that was given to you.

Q) Are there some questions the cards don't answer?

A) Oh, yes! Sometimes the cards just don't play nice, and what you see laying out before you makes no sense at all. This is often because either it is not the right time for you to know the answer to that question, or because other information is needed. Very often the cards answer a question that wasn't asked, but one that is applicable to the situation anyway!

Q) I was told it's not possible to read the tarot for myself. Is that true?

A) No. Who knows you better than you know yourself? The key in providing a good reading for yourself is that you have to remain objective, and that can be hard to do if you're hoping the cards will fall in a particular way or provide you with a particular answer.

Q) Will a tarot reading tell me when I'm going to die?

A) The tarot cards will not tell you at what age you are going to die. The purpose of a tarot reading is to help you live your life to the fullest, not to tell you when you're going to die.

Q) Does the Death card mean I'm going to die?

A) No. The Death card is often called 'transformation.' It shows you what needs to end, so that new beginnings can take place. It's not really associated with physical death.

Q) Does tarot tell me what the future holds?

A) While a good tarot reading can give you glimpses about things that may come to pass, the cards are not going to predict things with pinpoint accuracy. This is because you will always have free will. The tarot is a map, a hint of what is around you, a peek at what is yet to come. That is malleable, and can always change with your will, and the will of others involved.

Q) Will palmistry tell me who my spouse or lover is?

A) The tarot can reveal a lot about how relationships are likely to unfold, but the cards won't choose your life partner for you. They can give you information about how well you will get along with someone in your life, though, and they can also help you to understand when there is likely to be friction between you or even if that person is proving to be completely unsuitable.

Q) Will the tarot predict when I am going to get married?

A) The choice of your wedding date is up to you, but the tarot can give you clues as to when might be more appropriate than at other times. The tarot can also help you to understand whether your emotional attachment to your love is reciprocated, and how well the two of you might be expected to get along. There's more to marriage than a date on a calendar.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q) Will the tarot predict how many children I will have?

A) No. The tarot can explore the relationship with the children you already have, and it can even provide hints as to how fertile you might be at any given time, but it will not predict how many children you will conceive or give birth to. If you're worried about this, you need to seek the expert advice of your medical professional.

Q) Will tarot tell me who I was in a past life?

A) Tarot can tell you a lot about your past lives! There are different tarot spreads available, and if you focus on doing one that will reveal to you who you were in past lives and what energies you brought into this incarnation from previous lifetimes, you can learn a lot about yourself. This may be more detailed for some people than it is for others. The tarot is also a wonderful tool for learning how to incorporate that past life energy into this lifetime, so that you can advance your spirit and grow your soul.

Q) Will the tarot tell me where to live?

A) The tarot really is more to do with your spirit and how you fit into different places. While there are hints in the cards as to what kind of geographical location may be more suited to you than others (near mountains, near water, that kind of thing), the cards won't choose an address for you. If you are trying to decide between different places, then yes, a thorough examination of the cards can help you to choose which location is more appropriate for your needs.

Q) Will the tarot choose my career for me?

A) The tarot can certainly help to show you where your strengths and your weaknesses are when it comes to your vocation. If you have a good idea as to what you want to do, the cards can help you to understand what you need to do to be successful. They can indicate whether more skills or education or perhaps a change in location is necessary for you to flourish, and they can help you to understand what you need to do in order to make the most of your opportunities. The tarot can even bring you some guidance as to what your chances of promotion are, and when that might happen, but the cards will rarely tell you exactly what job you need to do.

Q) Will the tarot tell me how to win the lottery?

A) Sadly, no. The tarot isn't a tool for predicting the winning lottery numbers if it was, all the tarot readers would be rich! The cards are more likely to help you to determine how your financial health is and what you need to do to improve it, rather than predicting any lottery wins or other windfalls.

Q) What happens if the cards come out upside down, should I change them to right way up?

A) Not at all! When a card comes out of the deck upside down, we call it a 'reversed,' or an 'inverted,' or a 'contrary' card. It's meaning can be completely different than when it is upright! The meanings for the upright and the reversed meanings are given in this text, with the descriptions of each card.

Q) Are upsidedown cards bad cards?

A) No, there are no good or bad cards in the tarot. They just have a different meaning than the upright cards, that's all.

Q) Is the Devil card bad?

A) No. The Devil card doesn't have anything to do with demons or devils or other nasties. Very often the Devil card shows you where you're being your own worst enemy and that's a good piece of information to have, don't you think?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q) Will I be cursed or something if I don't do what the tarot advises me to do in a reading?

A) No. You will in no way be cursed or have any bad spell or anything upon you if you do not do what the tarot advises. The tarot gives guidance, but what it offers is not carved in stone. It will not and can not take away your free will. The tarot merely shows you what your options are, and helps to guide you along your way. It's up to you whether you follow that guidance or not.

Q) What if I don't like what the tarot tells me. Can I change it?

A) Absolutely. The tarot is only a blueprint. If you do a reading and you don't like the way that things are heading, make some changes in your life to alter the course of events, then do another reading in a few days time, and see if the outcome is different. Nothing is carved in stone, and the cards can never take away your free will.