

# The Sage Tarot Deck

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To get a more detailed reading, please go to my blog.

## Introduction:

The origins of the Tarot are not entirely clear. The historical records seem to show that Tarot started, presumably, in the 15th century as a popular trumps game called Trionfi, later Tarocchi. Trionfi appeared in the historical record around 1440 with some evidence that Trionfi decks first appeared fifteen to twenty years earlier. The tarot was not appropriated for mystical or divinatory use until the late 18th century, when it became popular for divination after Antoine Court de Gébelin published *Le Monde primitif, analysé et comparé avec le monde moderne* ("The Primeval World, Analyzed and Compared to the Modern World") with a chapter on tarot. Through de Gébelin's work—which included the association of the 22 trumps with the letters of the Hebrew alphabet—and the publication by the fortune teller Etiella of a technique of reading the tarot, the practice of tarot reading was born.

I came to the tarot as a youth, and knowing nothing of the history or education behind the tarot, began to read the cards intuitively and obtained a number of decks including a version of the Rider Waite deck and the Thoth Deck created by lady Frieda Harris and Aleister Crowley. Concurrent with my training in the Qabbalah, I realized that none of the decks I had, indeed none of the decks I had ever seen, did justice to the principles I was studying.

That began the seven-year journey of the Sage Tarot Deck.

The intention for both the Sage Tarot deck and this book is twofold. First, to provide a beautiful deck that rewards the intuitive reader, and second, a deck that rewards the serious student of the Western Mysteries.

The inspiration for the deck comes from international art, and religious and ritual practices from around the world. Some of the cards use recognizable images from ancient Greek, Sumerian, Egyptian, and Japanese culture. The deck openly references Christian, Buddhist, and hindu spiritual traditions as well as obliquely referencing other worldwide religions, races and creeds.

The Major arcana represented by zero and the roman numerals 1 through 21 shows, not only a name at the bottom, but the planet or zodiac sign associated with the card on the lower left and the hebrew letter associated with the archetype on the lower right.

The Minor arcana, represented by the arabic number cards 2-10 shows the ruling planet of the card in the lower left, and a constellation on the lower right. The correspondence table for all the minor arcana, along with the principle name of the card is shown on page [insert page number here].

The royalty cards are laid out as a single scene, if placed from left to right as follows: king, queen, prince, page. The wands and swords are associated with Greek Gods and Goddesses.

The cups are all Atlanteans, from the lost continent of Atlantis, and the plates are ordinary people. The reasons for this will be explained in the text.

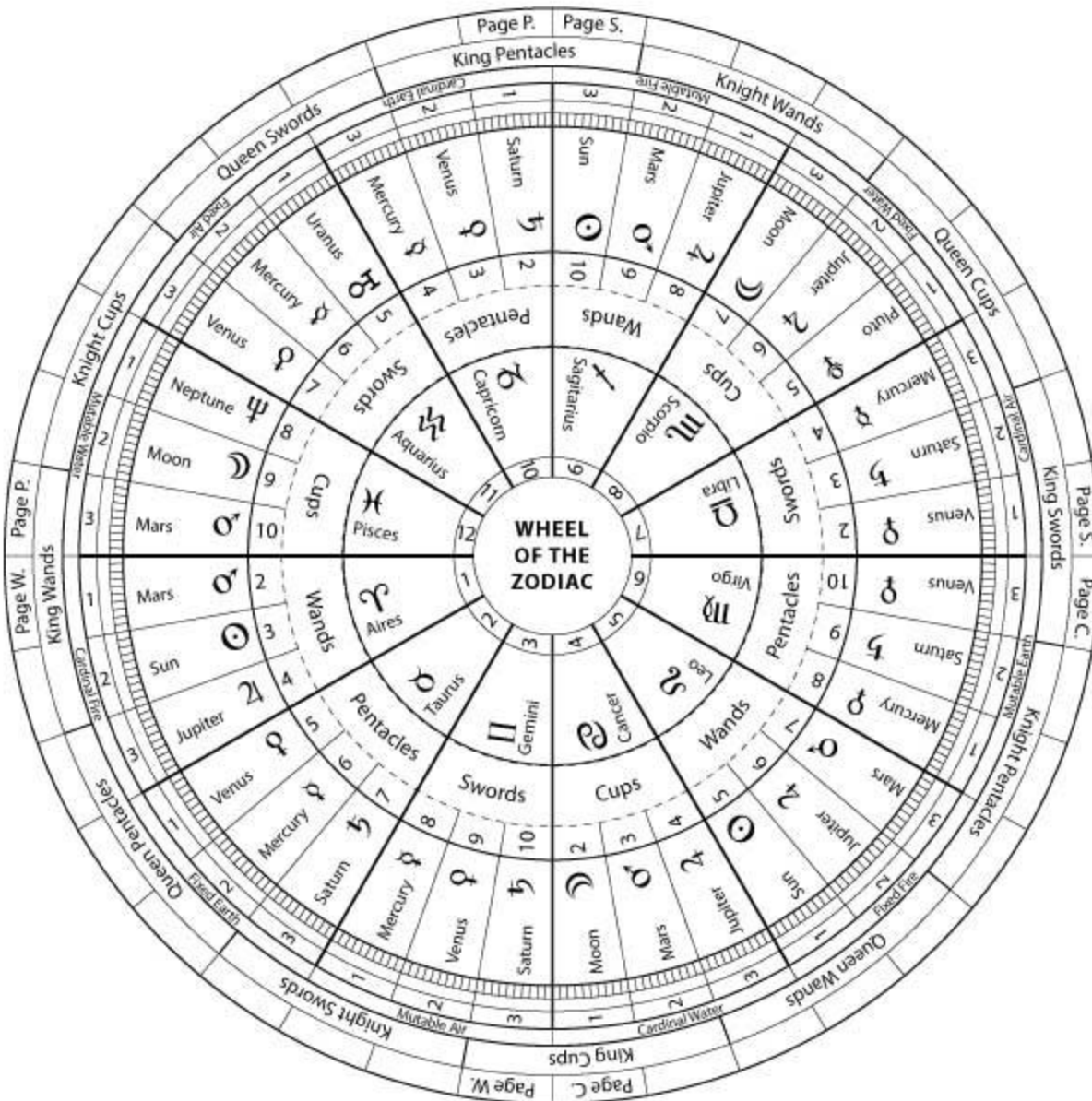
Table 1: Quick Correspondences of the Pips

WANDS			
2	Wands	Dominion	Mars in Aires
3	Wands	Virtue	Sun in Aires
4	Wands	Perfected Work	Jupiter in Aires
5	Wands	Strife	Sun in Leo
6	Wands	Victory	Jupiter in Leo
7	Wands	Valour	Mars in Leo
8	Wands	Swiftness	Jupiter in Sagittarius
9	Wands	Great Strength	Moon in Sagittarius
10	Wands	Oppression	Sun in Sagittarius
CUPS			
2	Cups	Love	Moon in Cancer
3	Cups	Abundance	Mars in Cancer
4	Cups	Nectar of life	Jupiter in Cancer
5	Cups	Disappointment	Pluto in Scorpio
6	Cups	Pleasure	Jupiter in Scorpio
7	Cups	Illusion	Moon in Scorpio
8	Cups	Indolence	Neptune in Pisces
9	Cups	Happiness	Moon in Pisces
10	Cups	Success	Mars in Pisces
SWORDS			
2	Swords	Peace	Venus in Libra

3	Swords	Sorrow	Saturn in Libra
4	Swords	Truce (Self Soothing)	Mercury in Libra
5	Swords	Defeat	Uranus in Aquarius
6	Swords	Earned Success	Mercury in Aquarius
7	Swords	Futility	Venus in Aquarius
8	Swords	Interference	Mercury in Gemini
9	Swords	Despair	Venus in Gemini
10	Swords	Ruin/Retooling	Saturn in Gemini
PLATES			
2	Plates	Change	Saturn In Capricorn
3	Plates	The Works	Venus In Capricorn
4	Plates	Money power	Mercury In Capricorn
5	Plates	Material Trouble	Venus in Taurus
6	Plates	Gifts of Success	Mercury in Taurus
7	Plates	Delayed Success	Saturn in Taurus
8	Plates	Craft	Mercury In Virgo
9	Plates	Material Gain	Saturn In Virgo
10	Plates	Wealth	Venus In Virgo



Illustration 1: The correspondences of the minor arcana and the Royalty, Circular Layout



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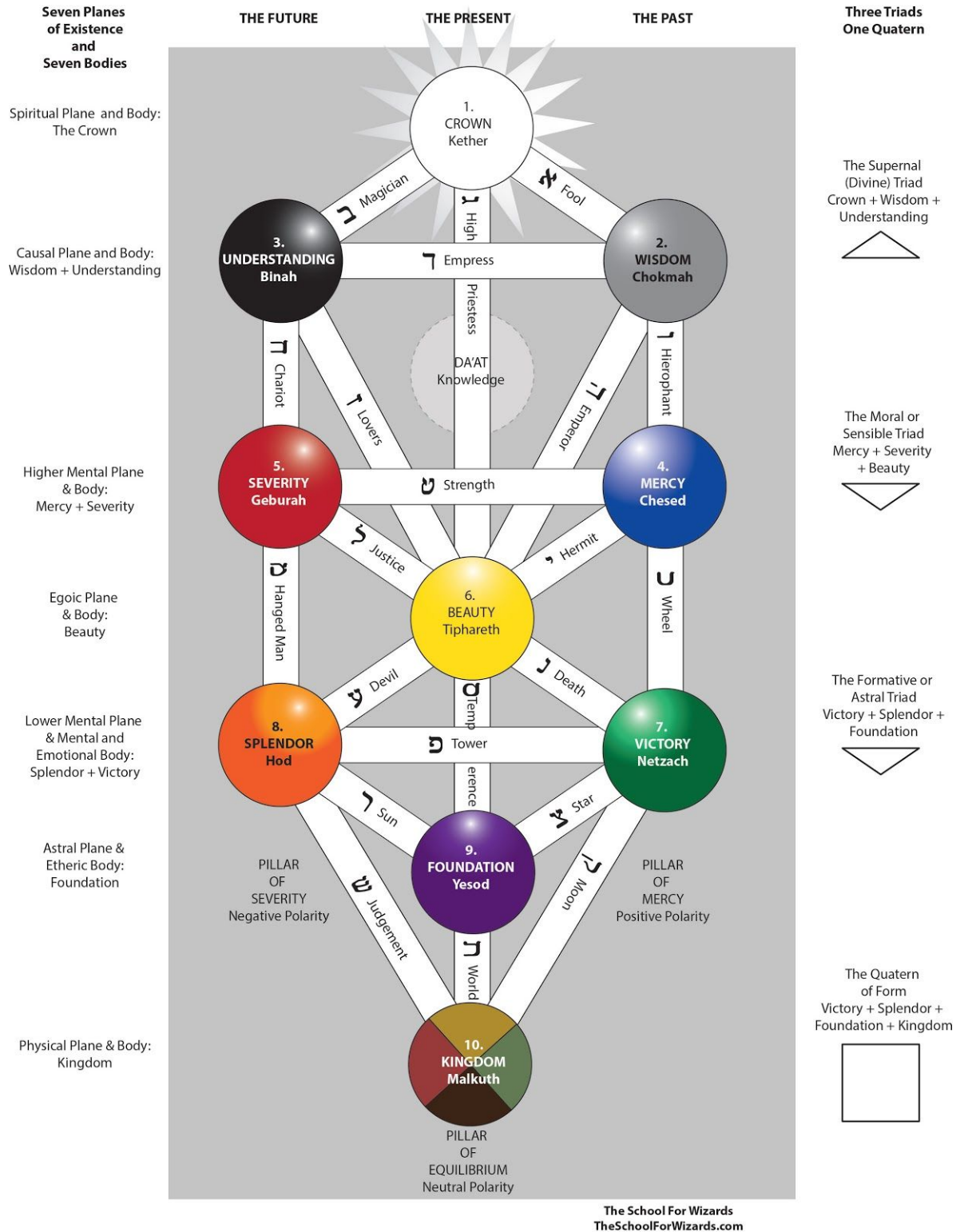
Illustration 2: The chart of the royals

<b>King Wands</b> Firey part of Fire	<b>King Cups</b> Firey part of Water	<b>King Swords</b> Firey part of Air	<b>King Plates</b> Firey part of Earth
<b>Queen Wands</b> Watery part of Fire	<b>Queen Cups</b> Watery part of Water	<b>Queen Swords</b> Watery part of Air	<b>Queen Plates</b> Watery part of Earth
<b>Prince Wands</b> Airy part of Fire	<b>Prince Cups</b> Airy part of Water	<b>Prince Swords</b> Airy part of Air	<b>Prince Plates</b> Airy part of Earth
<b>Page Wands</b> Earthy part of Fire	<b>Page Cups</b> Earthy part of Water	<b>Page Swords</b> Earthy part of Air	<b>Page Plates</b> Earthy part of Earth

Illustration 3: The Qabbalistic Tree of Life

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## Major Arcana

### **Overview:**

The study of the major arcana (the archetypes contained in the 22 trump cards) is a study of correspondences, not only esoteric correspondences with known landmarks in the visible and invisible world, but with connections in your own unconscious.

In the next pages, we'll study the major arcana, sometimes called the trump cards, in pairs. In the ancient hall of initiation, the egyptian mysteries were revealed to adepts in pairs of archetypes. Initiations would combine two energetic signatures.

That is how this section of the book is organized. Each chapter will consist of two card pairs along with an exercise, called an initiation, that it is suggested you do before reading about the next card pairs. You may participate in the "prayer of the pair" initiations by going to [school.theschoolforwizards.com](http://school.theschoolforwizards.com), searching for the meditations and clicking on the meditation for the card pair that you are studying.

Allow yourself to know that you already know the answers to the questions that are asked below. Also allow yourself to understand that studying these archetypes is essential to growing your soul, which is why I believe we came to embodiment. Let's begin.

## **0 – The Fool**



## Overview:

### The Card:

The fool drifts through space unconcerned and weightless (without care). Accompanying him are a dog, a walking staff, a suitcase, a cap, and a feather. Seven colored stones sit on the cliff he is falling past, or more accurately, drifting past. A sun emblem decorates his tunic. Purple, snow-topped mountains are seen in the distance, and behind them a white sun in a pale yellow sky.

### Symbols unique to the card:

The fool in the Sage Tarot is already falling through space instead of stepping off the cliff. The fool represents our soul or essence. The essence is captured in that moment of free fall, forgetting past lives and trusting completely in the process of incarnation.

In the bag which falls with the fool, on which is painted with the Eye of Horus (intuition), are the four tools of the magus: the cup, the sword (or knife), the wand, the plate. The fool doesn't



necessarily know they are there—he has not needed them until this journey—but they are there for him to use, nonetheless.

The Eye of Horus, covering the bag, is the Egyptian symbol of protection, royal power, and good health. Horus (intuition) is the child of Isis (understanding) and Osiris (Wisdom) and represents the light of intuition, something that the fool will always be in touch with on his journey of embodiment.

Once in the hat of the fool, and now floating with him is the feather of Maat. In ancient Egypt, souls of the dead were judged by weighing them against a feather. Those souls that were as light as a feather were considered unburdened with sin and evil, and were allowed to pass into the kingdom of Osiris. The feather flies with the fool to remind us the pure state of our soul entering this life.



## I – The Magus

### Overview:

Welcome to week 2! How did you do with the Fool? Did you find ways to interact with the Fool card? Did you answer the questions? Please email me directly if you have questions about the card or you get things from the archetype that you don't understand. This is an interactive process, and I want to hear from you. This week we are doing the Magus often called the Magician.

### The Card:

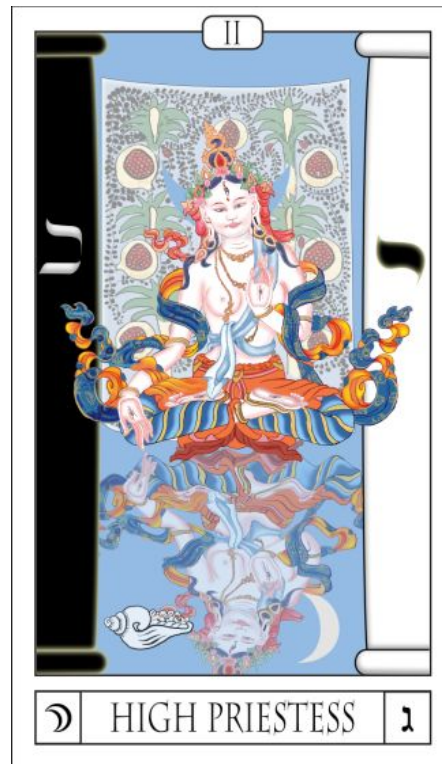
The Magus, in this card, based on the greek statue of the Hermes—originally from the school of praxiteles in the 4th century BCE— is the messenger of the Gods. His winged helmet indicates that he can move easily between the divine and mundane worlds. He holds a wand in his hand, and the wand points to heaven on one end, and the earth on the other, indicating the principle “As above, so below.”

The five roses indicate the five senses, below in the world, and above in their divine forms. Death, in the form of the lilies below, is present in the world below, but not in the world above.

Floating below the wand are the wand, sword, cup, and plate that indicate the elements of fire, air, water and earth respectively, which the Magus, or Magus has control over.

## Symbols unique to the card:

The Magus is naked here instead of clothed, and his nakedness indicates that, even though the Magus has many powers, he is still like an infant, learning what the world is about, and yet has his drape nearby, so he can protect himself from the elements when the time is right.



## II – High Priestess

### The Card:

The High priestess is an archetypal feminine presence. She's often represented by the goddess Persephone, because of Persephone's constant return to the underworld. She is also associated with the triple-goddesses like the Egyptian Goddess Hathor and the Sumerian goddess Inana, powerful goddesses who were known in ancient times before they were later split into maiden, mother and crone goddesses like Persephone, Demeter, and Hecate.

In this card, she sits in front of the veil that hides the hidden information from the uninitiated. In the process of involution, or ensoulment, she represents the connection to the great collective unconscious.

## Symbols unique to the card:

## White Tara

In the Sage Tarot Deck, the goddess representing the moon is White Tara, the goddess of pure compassion. White Tara is not associated with compassionate *acts*, but instead the exalted and divine aspect of compassion, putting her in contact with the great unconscious. She is also the keeper of the akashic records.

## The Shell

For buddhists the conch shell, pictured on the card, represents the deep, and beautiful sound of buddhist teachings. For hindus, the conch (used as a horn) is one of the representatives of Vishnu, the hindu god of preservation and protection.

## The High Priestess as a life symbol

The High Priestess is associated with the moon, and with access to the collective unconscious that is the moon's territory. Balance and harmony are important to you, and you are as dynamic as you are receptive. You are also very tenacious, and have much in common with the White Tara, who is the goddess of pure compassion.

Known as the Librarian of the Unconscious, the High Priestess card represents an innate ability to bring things up from the depths. Being born under this card, you are able to reach through the veil without any judgment whatsoever. This means you are very perceptive and can easily assess, in any situation, what is working and what is not. Able to quickly see what is out of balance, you use your creativity to bring people, projects and situations back into balance. You would be an excellent negotiator, consultant or diagnostician, and would be a tremendous asset to arenas in which your perceptions, visions and insights would apply.





## III – The Empress

### The Card

The empress in the form of the pregnant goddess Persephone, holds sheaves of wheat and snakes in her hands. She gazes directly at us, challenging us to the dual of live and death that she controls. The 12 stars of the zodiac float above her head, forming a floating crown. She has the lotus staff at her side, the staff that allows magic to be done in any sign of the zodiac, showing her dominion over time as well as life. This is the ever pregnant Empress, always expecting, always cycling, always harvesting. The cypress tree in the background, the symbol of the presence of death, indicate her dominion, as well, over death.

Her foot is resting on the crescent moon, showing her relationship to, and her understanding of her sister the High Priestess. The water in the background of her card joins the water that is in the High Priestess card.

### Symbols unique to the card:

In the Sage Tarot deck, the Empress bares one breast and keeps the other covered. This symbolizes her ability to choose to cover herself or not. She is free to be naked, but need not always make that choice. Also, the exposed breast is always available to feed humankind, sensually, spiritually, and physically.

Her flower, the rose, is also present on the card. The rose has long been associated with the feminine principle, and in the middle ages was linked with chivalry or courtly love “L’amour Courtois”.

She holds the lotus wand in her lap, a powerful magical talisman that enables her to enable magic throughout the cycle of time.



## IV – The Emperor

### **Description of the Symbols in the card:**

The Emperor wears a hat or helmet that is topped by ram's horns—the zodiac sign for Aries. The sign of the ram-headed Egyptian God Egyptian ankh, Symbol of life and creation. His left hand holds his long beard which joins the water behind him. The Emperor wears red armour, protecting him from injury or damage. He sits on the perfectly square and black cube of truth. At his feet lies the sacrificial Ram.

In ancient days, the king, or son of the King were sacrificed at the vernal equinox, the season governed by the zodiac sign, Aries. Later, this process was modified to use a ram instead of a human sacrifice.

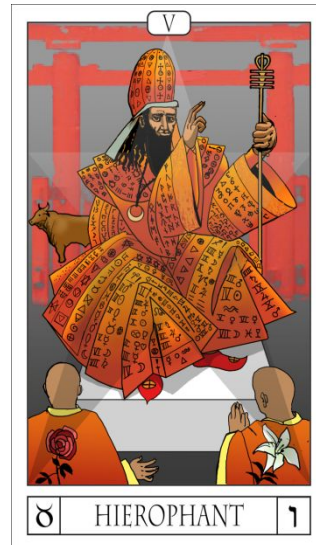
The number 4 is associated with the four elements earth, air, fire, and water. The domain of the Emperor spans all of the elemental world. The four elements have traditionally been associated with animals, archangels, colors, and divine names. The number 4 indicates that there is no location where the Emperor does not rule. The number four is also treated by Carl Young as the number of completion, or wholeness.

### **Symbols unique to this card:**

The Emperor sits on the cube of truth. It is his job and nature to deal with the truth, But not just the truth on the earthly plane. He is one of the only figures in the tarot trumps who is not looking straight ahead at the viewer. Instead one eye is hidden from view, looking toward the divine world. The other eye faces the phenomenal world. In this way the Emperor can use his connection to the both the mundane and the divine to make fair decisions.

In the normally dry world of the Emperor, water appears. That water is connected to the long growth of beard of the Emperor. This indicates that fair-minded decisions include emotional intelligence as well as intellect. Emotional intelligence is won by paying attention to the emotions and tracking internal states over time.

The sacrificial lamb at the lower right of the image it is challenging to some. Notice if you were challenged by the ram, bound up and ready for sacrifice. There is a native American concept of giveaway. This moment of giveaway is when a prey animal stop struggling and agrees to give up its life. The bound ram asks us whether we are ready to make our giveaway in the face of greater justice.



## V – The Hierophant

### Overview:

The Hierophant is a spiritual teacher, but an archetype like no other spiritual teacher. His feet are firmly on the ground. He translates directly from the divine, by listening carefully, and being patient and kind. His ego is not involved in the choices he makes, and even though he is listening to the divine, like the high priestess, he represents an added ability to make himself understood to his students. He doesn't just present information without care to how it is received. He does everything with an acute awareness of his responsibility to communicate what is coming from the divine plane.

### The Card:

The Hierophant sits in front of the Torii gate, symbol of the entrance into the sacred. He carries a scepter or wand to signify not power through dignity, but through the *truth* which is *from good*. His adepts wear the saffron robes of devotion, one with a rose on his or her robe, and the other with a lily. This represents the whole of life, from birth to death. The hierophant's robe is covered with symbols from many different languages, astrology, alchemy, number systems and symbols from ancient cultures. He has the world's knowledge available and present to him at all times, yet he listens to divine guidance through his ear that is covered. His simple shoes indicate that despite his position on the platform, he is a simple and humble teacher.

### Symbols unique to the card:

Unique to this card are the Torii Gate, the symbol-rich robe, and the unusual staff. The Torii Gate represents the entrance to the sacred. This teacher is on the human side of the gate, but it is present and alive.

Signals from the sacred world are passing from it into the human world continually, and he is there at the entrance to interpret, shape, and speak them in human voice. His robe

The staff is modeled on the Egyptian “tcham” scepter. A staff in the original Egyptian meant that which was leaned upon for support. Translated into the spiritual world, this support is affected through truth and good.



## VI – The Lovers

The lovers card is the next stop in our journey. You have to understand that this card is not just about lovers, but the relationship between the masculine and feminine within you.

On the left, a man holds the sun. On the right a woman holds the moon. Above them floats the orphic egg, the symbol for the egg that birthed the universe. Above the orphic egg floats the Archangel Gabriel, angel of healing. Behind all of it floats the sri yantra. These symbols are explained below.

6 is the number of the node (or sephiroth) in the middle of the tree of life. It represents Christ Consciousness, that part in all of us that is filled with limitless love and compassion for others. The lovers is not only about our relationships with others, but our relationship with the Christ Consciousness within each of us.

**Symbols unique to the card:** The lovers is not so much about a pair of lovers, but a set of three people, hence the sri yantra in the background. The Sri Yantra represents the union of Masculine and Feminine Divine.

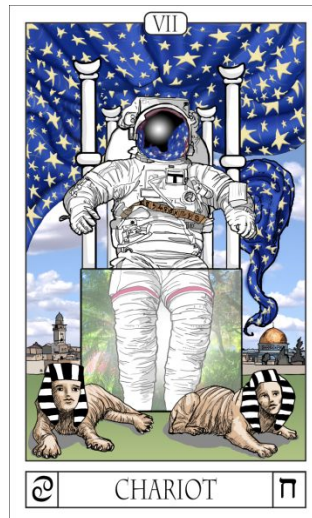
The orphic egg is at the center. The orphic egg symbolizes the belief in the Orphic religion that the universe was born from a silver egg. First out of this egg, and described in an ancient hymn, was Dionysus, personification of light (and god of alcohol and spirits.)

Raphael wears the red robes and victory wreath of Dionysus as well as the wings of angel Gabriel.

When you draw this card, it means that you are reflecting on the relationship between the masculine and feminine within you, as well as your relationship—in your wholeness—to the

divine. In business, it may mean that you need to repair a relationship, make a tough choice in your life, or pay more attention to the divine healing that is always present and trust that it will happen, no matter what occurs on the physical plane.

<http://goo.gl/8nMfUF>



## VII – Chariot

### Overview:

In the journey of the cards, the chariot is an important completion point. We've gone through the learning of the archetypal energies of the Soul (Fool), Ego (Magus), High Priestess (Collective Unconscious), Empress (Feminine Principle), Emperor (Masculine Principle), Hierophant (spiritual connection), and Lovers (Decision Making). Now we are ready to put all this together. After all, the Chariot card is quite a ride.

### The Card:

This is a very non-traditional chariot. Just look at it. It has no wheels. The beasts that would pull it are not even attached, and they are both sphinx's, perhaps the most enigmatic imaginary creature in existence. The chariot driver has everything he or she needs to withstand the extremes of any life environment. The Charioteer can pay attention to his or her own stillness. This card is about the paradox of change and stillness. Here is part of that paradox: There are

### Symbols unique to the card:

In the Sage Tarot deck, the canopy of stars reveals itself to be a cloth with painted stars. What does this mean to you? The charioteer is a spaceman, insulated from the troubles of the world, yet self-contained and ready to go anywhere. Inside the spacesuit is everything he needs for survival. How is this like the process of maturation? This is the passage in life from childhood, wherein the basic structures of life have been learned or received, to the next stage, where different life lessons can begin.



## VIII – Strength

### Overview:

The strength card is a card of balanced strength. Feminine and masculine strength in the form of the woman and the lion are equally balanced. There is no power over here, only a shared, intimate, relaxed and balanced power that trucks no machismo. When you draw this card, it draws your attention to this balanced form of power. Are you balanced or imbalanced? If this image creates disturbance or anxiety for you, it may mean that you need to balance your masculine and feminine power.

### The Card:

A beautiful woman, dressed in white holds the mouth of a lion with one hand, and with the other holds a ball or apple. She is able to do this with grace and fearlessness, just as a person who has tamed his inner lion has no fear that his animal nature will go out of control. You see this in men who are gentle, strong, and trustworthy, as well as in women who are relaxed, direct, and dropped into their receptive feminine power. Each is showing a balance of masculine and feminine that allows the flowers of beauty to bloom between them, as they do in the card.

### Symbols unique to the card:

Behind the woman and the lion, the analemma is drawn in the sky. Also known as the lemniscate, from the latin Lemniscus, meaning ribbon, the analemma represents the position of the sun at noon over an entire year. Before the advent of electronic navigation, and using only a sextant and the date, mariners could calculate their latitude anywhere on earth using the information in the analemma. In the same way, if you know your inner strength, you can navigate anything that life brings you.



## IX – The Hermit

### Overview:

The Hermit reflects the principle of contemplation and alone-ness. The Hermit shows the way to others by first being in contact with his own wisdom and understanding and being willing and able to share that with others. Does a version of the hermit live in you? Are you willing to share your wisdom with others and hold a light for them? The Hermit archetype lives in you in the form of the one who holds space for others, and owns and recognizes the internal patterns of his or her own life.

The Hermit knows him- or herself, and is comfortable enough to be able to shine the light on others.

### The Card:

The Hermit, in the form of a Hindu Sadhu, or holy man, and dressed in yellow, holds the trident or trishula in his left hand, while in his right he holds a 6-pointed star that glows as if it's a star in the sky. He stands on the top of twenty-two-hundred foot Mount Kailash, the most sacred mountain in Tibet and looks directly at the viewer.

### Symbols unique to the card:

The Trishula is the weapon held by Shiva, a triple-bladed spear/sword. It cuts through what is no longer needed: old thought patterns, old societal or cultural ideas. He holds it in his left hand, indicating that this process happens in an intuitive and automatic way if we allow it.

The glowing six-pointed star in his right hand indicates that he is willing to be in touch with the sacred, and shine the illumination of the awakened being to light the way for others. The six pointed star is the intersection of two triangles, one pointing up, and the other pointing down, reminding us once again: as above, so below.



He stands on Mount Kailash, the mountain in Tibet, that removes a lifetime of Karma if one circumnavigates, or walks around it. The hermit points to the fact that inner discipline rewards us in the outer world. Meditation, indeed, has its rewards.



## X – The Wheel of Fortune

### Overview:

The Wheel of Fortune is not a card that brings good fortune, as many believe, but a card that reminds us of the constant turning of the wheel.

Pay close attention to the interpretations of this card for your business, because the lesson of the wheel is one of the most important lessons to learn for a business owner. We can never stop the turning of the wheel, and we should not. But, we can learn to accept the turning of the wheel with grace.

In a very old version of the tarot, the wheel was surrounded by four men. The one at the top sat in a throne with a sign above that said “I reign”. The man at the left was climbing into the throne with a sign above his head that read “I shall reign”. The man on the right was being pitched out of the throne, and his sign read “I have reigned”. And the man on the bottom was crouched down with no chair in sight, and his sign read “I reign nothing”. These are the conditions of the wheel. We may find ourselves in each of those places at some time in our lives. Understanding the movement of the wheel is essential in understanding the operation of the universe. There is a great wheel that turns, and it is being turned by forces larger than us. Yet, it always turns.

### The Card:

The four figures in the corners of the card represent the cardinal signs of the zodiac, from the upper left, clockwise Aquarius, Scorpio, Leo, and Taurus. The Wheel is the home of 3 figures, representing the Hindu Trimurti: *Brahma* the creator, *Vishnu* the preserver and *Shiva* the destroyer. The symbols on the wheel itself represent the alchemical building blocks of the universe: Earth, fire, water, and air, sulphur, mercury and salt. Also, the Hebrew letters representing the steps of creation appear on the wheel as well.

### Symbols unique to the card:



The Sator Rotas Square appears below the Wheel. The Sator Rotas Square is a wheel unto itself. It is read the same forward and backward, right and left. It is a great mystery, but some believe that it means “The sower works for mastery by turning the wheel”.



XI – Adjustment/Justice

## Overview:

With this card, we are half-way through the study of the major arcana of the tarot. Adjustment sits at the center of the deck, balancing not only the items on the scale, but the set of trump cards as well. There come times in business and in life when you need to pay attention to the ideals of justice and do what is for the greatest good of all. When you draw this card it's a signal that you need to pay attention to the adjusting force of justice. Read on to see how you might use this card to help you out of a sticky situation.

## The Card:

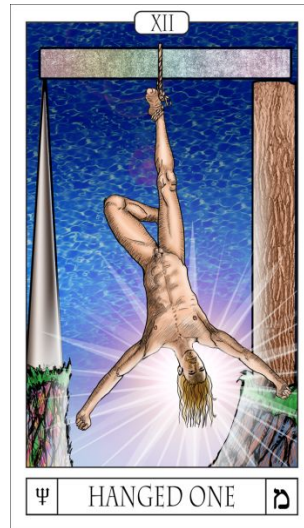
No figure appears in this card, just a set of symbols which can assist you in making judgements, or adjustments. A scale sits on top of a transparent cube. On one side of the scale is glowing light, and on the other a white feather. Inside the transparent cube sit a mysterious and impossible shape, and a sword which rests upon the inside of the cube and casts a shadow.

The scales are the scales of the judgement of the Egyptian Goddess Maat, who judged the souls of the dead before either admitting them to the afterlife or feeding them to a hungry crocodile. Only if your soul was as light as a feather would you be granted admission to the afterlife. This encourages us to “keep it light” when judging ourselves or others. The sword and its shadow form a right-angle triangle, the basis for the Pythagorean theorem, and referring obliquely to Pythagorus, one of the grandfathers of Western mysticism. Pythagorus was not just a mathematician, but a well-rounded philosopher and adept of the natural sciences. This is an indicator that justice, or the adjustment we seek when a problem has come up, is well rounded and informed on all sides.

## Symbols unique to the card:

There are a couple of symbols unique to this deck that will also help you. The strange shape inside the cube, which can stand for the cube of truth, is called the devil's pitchfork illusion. It is an impossible shape to build in the real world, but possible to draw. The devil's pitchfork can indicate a paradox. On the one hand, it's a shape that cannot exist in the real world, and on the other hand, it exists in an ideal world. No Adjustment on the earthly plain is perfect. Like an ideal shape that can be conceptualized but not actually touched, justice is an imperfect science.

The question to ask when justice is called for is "What can I do for the greatest good of all?" When you do this, make sure that you are included in that all.



## XII – The Hanged Man

### Overview:

People often say this card is challenging, especially because the imagery seems disturbing. A man hangs by one foot, tied to a stone beam. His head hangs down below the level of the earth. Disturbing, yes, but, you'll benefit by getting curious about this card. The man's head is glowing, and his arms are extended and free. Contemplating this card, you can ask yourself questions like: Why is the system he's hanging from made of wood, metal, and stone? This card definitely has an element of sacrifice in it, but the card is perhaps suggesting that it may be time to look at things from a completely different (upside-down) view. How often in your life do you find yourself in a situation that seems to have no good solution? If that is the case, it might be time to tap into the wisdom of the Hanged One.

### The Card:

This is the card of the turn around, the sudden "aha" of inspiration. It's the card of trying something new. When an important aspect of life has radically changed, voluntarily or involuntarily, we cannot think the same way. We must look at things from an entirely new perspective. The Tree, the metal cone, and the stone beam indicate both ancient standing stones (called dolmens) and the Hebrew letter Heh, meaning doorway. Try this experiment: Print the card image out and hold it upside down. The mood of the image changes completely.

The man appears to be dancing on water. His arms are held victoriously upward, and light emanates from his head.

## Symbols unique to the card:

This card shows a naked figure, whereas most are usually clothed. In this deck the moment of recognition/transformation requires a kind of vulnerability and willingness to accept whatever comes up that is symbolized by the naked figure. The figure also has his hands extended rather than behind his back.



## XIII – Death

### Overview:

The death, or transformation card is not a predictor of death in the person who draws it. Instead it is a card of transformation, referring to the eternal cycles of life and death in abstract, and to transformation in the particular case. For instance, in your business life, you may desire for things to go one way, and instead of going that way, something entirely different happens. The transformation of the death card is profound, powerful, and evolutionary, not revolutionary. Death takes one situation or experience and transforms it into something completely different. When all the plans you have made blow up, see if you can find what is emerging. If you are not tuned into the energy of transformation, you could miss it.

### The Card:

The sun rises (or sets) in the background. Across a grassy plain, a skeleton rests his scythe on his shoulder as he reclines and looks at the sky. Two heads regard rest in the foreground, while framed at the bottom of the card is the figure of a dead person. Corn sprouts in the field. This card refers to the transformation that occurs when the fields go fallow in the fall, lay dormant in the winter, and then burst into life again in the spring to bear fruit for the harvest. This process is inevitable, just as our transformation from youth to adulthood to old age is. Think of how you were 15 or 20 years ago. What transformation you have gone through. Transformation is

inevitable and natural. It's through the little deaths of things that no longer serve us that we can sprout and flower into our full magnificence.

## Correspondences of the card:

### Symbols unique to the card:

The figure at the bottom of the card is a drawing of Grunewald's dead Christ indicating the cycle of life and death. The corn sprouting in the field is another indicator of the cycle of transformation that occurs every year in the fields. The heads indicate that we are not immune from this cycle. The two heads belong to Goliath, the mighty one who was cut down by a young boy, and Anne Boleyn, the second wife of Henry the VIII of England. Even the queen could not stop the execution order, but Anne Boleyn lives on in the history books, creating a legacy which outlasted her life by hundreds of years.



## XIV – Temperance

### Overview:

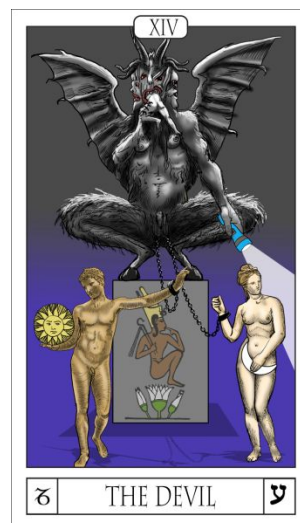
Have you ever felt like you were being dragged over hot coals in your business? Or had an interaction that felt like someone just threw cold water in your face? Have you noticed that as you move through life these experiences are making you stronger? This is the action of the Temperance card. The main figure is an angel, the archangel Michael, who is the intermediary between god/dess and humanity. The heating and cooling of water and fire tempers a piece of metal or glass to make it strong. On a molecular level, the tempering process is aligning molecules and creating strong bonds between them. On the metaphoric level, the concept of tempering is about creating wisdom. After a while these experiences make us stronger, and we no longer flinch when the fire or water hits us.

### The Card:

The angel Michael, the archangel who is “like the most high” points the fire-breathing “torch” or flashlight at the eagle and pours water on the lion. The blacksmith’s anvil sits at the front of the card and a rainbow glows behind.

## Symbols unique to the card:

The angel Michael has two faces like the two faced God Janus. The crown that surrounds both head is an indicator of the emanation of sacred or spiritual mental energy. The fire comes from a modern “torch” and fires up the eagle, representing the cardinal water sign of Scorpio, and the water flows from the pitcher onto the head of the lion representing the cardinal fire sign of Leo. This is the model of tempering. When metals or glass are tempered, they are heated and cooled alternately. Often, in our lives, the heat and cold are happening simultaneously. The light at the top of the mountain may come from the hermit. Ask yourself where this light might come from. Notice the 7 pointed star on the chest of the angel. What is unique about the seven pointed star? Does it suggest a kind of mastery? It is difficult to draw freehand. It takes practice to do right. Perhaps that’s a lesson for us with this card.



## XV – The Devil

### Overview:

There are a few archetypes that almost universally upset people. This is one of them. Although, I admit that the devil card from the old Rider-Waite-Smith tarot deck I had as a teenager fascinated me. It seemed so... bad, and I was so... good. It attracted me with its difference. In case you are among those who are upset by the leathery wings and the hairy haunches, I'll do the secret reveal of this card right now: It's light disguised as darkness.

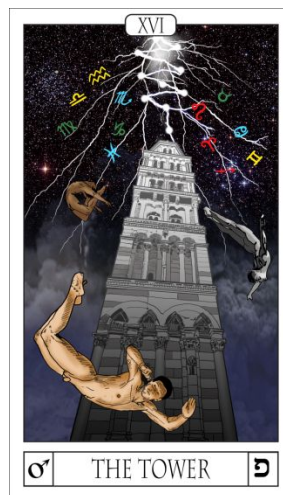
So what does this mean for you and your business? It means that things are not always as they seem. Sometimes the darkest moments are actually an opportunity for light to enter. We are vexed on the earth plane by the devil so we can grow into light.

### The Card:

A man and woman hold up their wrists to show that they are chained to the devil. The man holds a sun in his right hand, and the woman holds a moon in her left hand. The Devil sits on a pillar with the young god Horus painted on it. The Devil has three faces, and he stuffs a human into one of them, devouring the human. Here is what to notice: The wrist bonds are pretty loose. The man and woman could get out of them easily if they wanted to. Instead they show us that they are bound to the devil. The devil in this card is actually the angel Uriel, angel of the earthly plane. Uriel's job is to vex us, to test us, to present temptations and pleasures so that we grow our souls on earth. Each test that we survive makes us stronger. These are not the kind of tests in the book of Job, where Job is constantly tested in his faith, and is finally rewarded for enduring without changing his beliefs. Instead, this is the testing and honing of our selves by creating experiences that we can learn from. The devil reminds us that we can always ask, "what is the gift here that I have not yet seen?"

## Symbols unique to the card:

The devil is holding a flashlight, or torch, indicating his darkness is just a disguise.



## XVI – The Tower

### Overview:

Following on last weeks supercharged Devil, once again we have a card that challenges almost all who look at it. But who hasn't had this cataclysmic change in your life or business. There are plenty of clues in the card about how to navigate the kind of changes brought about when the tower visits you. When you are knock off your "high horse" when you are catapulted to a new level, when that deal falls through and you are headed in a completely new direction, it can be disorienting. It can also be one of the most refreshing things ever experienced. These kinds of crises occur throughout life. Here's a big secret: If you know that a crisis is about to occur, you can have the pleasure of instigating it yourself. A friend of mine says that, and believe me, he's mastered the energy of the Tower card. You can either be surprised and scream all the way to your new awareness, or you can practice diving like the people in the card are doing. If you make yourself "naked", (vulnerable), you can land on the ground intact and ready to receive your score from your inner olympian committee, rather than whining around dusting off your clothes for the next who-knows-how-long.



## The Card:

As we said above, the divers from the tower are naked (vulnerable) and diving instead of falling aimlessly. When a crisis happens, do you leap into with skill and gusto, or are you flapping your arms in a useless pinwheel. If we learn nothing else from the divers, it's that we can fall gracefully. We are going to have to hit bottom anyway... might as well do it with style.

The lightning that hits the tower is in the shape of the lightning bolt of involution, the pathway spirit takes to matter. What is being released in the explosion are the 12 signs of the zodiac, indicating that no one is spared from this kind of strike. All persons will have to endure (or enjoy) the opportunity of suddenly remastering your life.

## Symbols unique to the card:

As we said above, this Tower card shows us a whole new way to deal with crisis. There's a greater meaning to learning how to dive, other than looking nice while you are going down. It's this: There WILL be changes that you need to endure, whether they come from the divine, or whether you instigate them yourself. No matter what, they will happen. An advantage to learning how to dive is to make sure you know how to hit the water. Another advantage is that there is some skill involved in diving, just as there is skill involved in navigating sudden, unexpected change in your business and life. Learning that skill makes getting back on your feet faster and more pleasant.



## XVII – The Star

### Overview:

Finally some relief. The Star is the calm after the storm. And after the devil and the tower, we need the soothing calm of this water carrier to calm our jangled nerves. The Star, here in the form of Aphrodite presides over the pouring of water from the jugs she effortlessly holds in one arm. A star-filled sky fills the background, while the pool reflects her soft, naked (vulnerable) body. A red ibis dives behind her. Perhaps it's going to dive into the pond before us, or some larger body of water.

The question the star begs is “Are you willing to just be in the calmness and glow of the moment?” Can you accept your new good luck?

In our busy lives, we can often fail to see when there is a calm and sacred moment that has actually arrived. Let the Star allow you to recognize that moment of calm when it arrives, and remember it so you recognize it when it comes again.

## The Card:

A beautiful naked woman, in the form of the goddess Aphrodite holds two huge vases full of water with one arm. This seems to be effortless for her. She gazes dreamily into the water, while the scene is illuminated by hidden moonlight. The water from one jug goes into the pond, and the water from the other goes into the grass nearby and drains into the water. Feel the calm, and allow yourself to be both witness to the star, and to be the star yourself.

## Symbols unique to the card:

The star field pictured on this card is a picture of the Capodimonte Deep Field, a 1 by 1 degree deep look into the night sky, where more than 35,000 objects have been found in this area; the faintest are nearly 100 million fainter than what can be perceived with the unaided eye in the dark sky. In this same way, you can be calm, stay in one place, and discover thousands of things that may not have occurred to you while you were being “busy.”



## XVIII – The Moon

## Overview:



Sometimes the answer to your most vexing problems in life or business comes down to the elements found in the moon card. Like the other archetypes, the energies are big, larger than life. The two towers in the card act as gateways to the subconscious. No matter how familiar we are with a territory, for example, the street on which you live, it can seem like a strange and foreign land in moon light. The big message of this card is “Pay attention to the small dark thing at the depths. Pay attention to your devotional and wild sides, and be willing to take the risk to walk through the gates into unknown territory.”

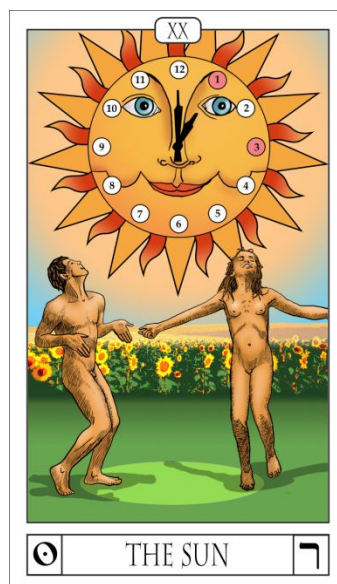
## The Card:

A black lobster peeks out from a clear reflecting pond. A domestic dog and a wolf stand at the edge of the pond. In the distance, two spiral towers guard the sacred mountain in the distance. Going this distance will require energy from you. Beyond the gateway of the towers, Mount Kailash beckons. Kailash, the most venerated holy place in the world and the least visited. It is also the mountain in Tibet whose circumnavigation will win you a ticket out of one lifetime of karma. The Hindus believe it to be the home of Lord Shiva, a god who personifies the extremes of human nature. The moon also beckons us into the extremes found in the collective unconscious. Indeed this unknown territory can be alarming, and even disturbing, but need not be treacherous.

Here is the link to the Moon puzzle online. It will help your study of the card to put together this online puzzle (and it's fun, too.): <http://theschoolforwizards.com/the-moon-puzzle>

## Symbols unique to the card:

The Spiral towers, unique to this card, remind us that all of life happens in a circle which is really a spiral. We may come to the same emotional crossroads, the memory of the death of a loved one, or recurring negative life-patterns, but we are not “full circle”. If we are doing our work, when we return again, we are at a place above it, just like the climb up the tower. And each time we reach a higher place on the tower, we have greater perspective.



## XIX – The Sun

## Overview:

The Sun Card is a card of integration and innocence. When this card is chosen in a reading, it can indicate a favourable “light” is shining on your inquiry. It can also mean that something must die in order for something new and bright to emerge. For the adolescent pictured in the card, childhood must give way to adulthood in this transition period known as adolescence. The sun is about forgiveness, fortitude, the courage of the life force, life itself and the will to exist. When the sun shines on your life and business, it’s astonishingly bright and beautiful. Without the sun, jealousy, envy, apathy can overtake us.

## The Card:

The great sun shines down on two naked pubescent individuals. The young man is in the position of the great dancer Nijinsky in *The Afternoon of A Fawn*, an event that launched this young dancers career and stirred controversy because of its supposed inappropriate content. In fact, the dancer never appeared on stage naked and the inappropriateness was mostly in the minds of the observers when faced with a view into the natural world that they had never before experienced.

The Sun shines down with the face of Grandfather Clock from the long-running American television show for children, *Captain Kangaroo*. In the show, grandfather clock would be awakened from a deep sleep to dispense wisdom, and then return to sleep, much like the sleeping wisdom inside us that is at our own beck and call when we are balanced enough to witness and understand it.

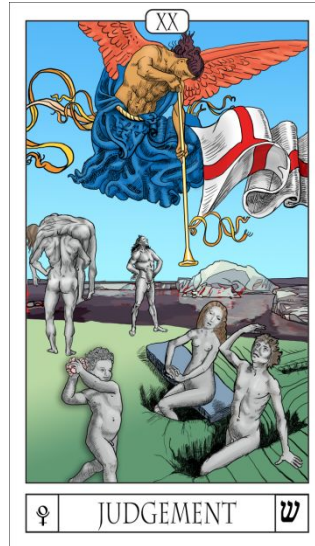
One foot of each young person is inside the circle of green at the bottom, and one foot is outside, indicating that they are balanced internally and externally.

A field of sunflowers fills every foot of space behind them, stretching as far as the eye can see. So it is with the domain of the sun, whose light covers the planet.

## Symbols unique to the card:

The clock face on the clock is set to one o'clock, and since the sun is shining, it must be thirteen hundred hours military time. Also, to reiterate this, the one and three on the clock face are a red color. Thirteen is the number of the Death card, which is associated with this card through the cyclical process of transformation. The sun creates the growth of crops, as well as presides over their death and the making way for new crops. Death and transformation is part of the cycle of life and flows as a constant undercurrent to everything that lives.

<http://goo.gl/98KyJz>



## XX – Judgement

### Overview:

The judgement card asks both that you positively judge yourself, and that you answer to a higher judgement. At this point in your journey, you can hear the sound of the trumpet that calls forth higher action. This can translate into the real world into philanthropic action, such as the man who carries his friend, into the acknowledgement and joy, like the child getting ready to throw the roses, or simply turning your head to notice the direction of the call. In your life or business, where can you notice where you have judged yourself harshly, and let that go. Where can you notice that there is something at a higher level that you can allow to change your action. This card can only be understood fully when you give up attachment to the ego.

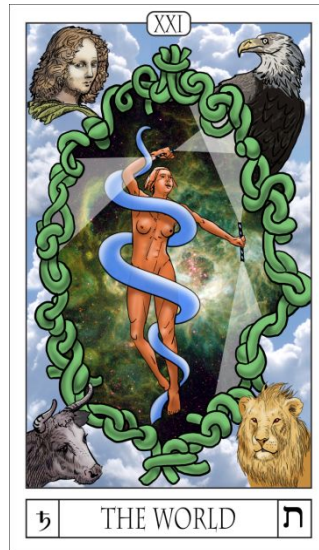
### The Card:

An angel in a blue garment sounds a trumpet. On the trumpet is a red cross. A couple climbs out of the ground, and a child, fashioned on the figure of Pleasure from a painting by the mannerist painter Bronzino, gets ready to throw flowers on the emerging figures, indicating that this is a joyous occasion. One man carries the unconscious body of another toward the water in the background. An iceberg melts in the distance. It's unclear whether the liquid it melts in is water or blood. All the human figures are naked, indicating a openness

Here is the link to the Judgement puzzle online. It will help your study of the card to put together this online puzzle (and it's fun, too.): <http://theschoolforwizards.com/judgement-puzzle>

### Symbols unique to the card:

The character of Pleasure in this card, ready to throw flowers on the serious couple emerging from the ground, reminds us that this process of emerging from our cocoon or or awakening into the light doesn't have to be so serious. It can be a light and joyful process. The characters emerge from the ground and eventually turn their attention upward, symbolizing the presence of the divine in this process.



## XXI - The World

### Overview:

Our journey with the major arcana of the tarot ends with The World. The world asks us what is being born inside us? What is our connection to the world we live in. The World card ends the journey of involution, the drawing down of spirit into flesh, and yet, as everything cycles, so does the tarot, and we are ready to begin the journey again. When you draw this card you are at a powerful completion, and at the same time, a powerful beginning.

### The Card:

An androgynous figure dances through the universe. This figure is in front of the Crab Nebula in the constellation Taurus. The sky full of clouds has broken open, revealing the dancing figure coming in through the oddly knotted gate in a shape called the vesica piscis. The vesica piscis made from the intersection of two circles of the same size. This shape has been used to surround and designate holy symbols or deities in Christian, Muslim, and Buddhist art.

A powerful process, akin to birth, is overseen by the lion, bull, human, and Eagle—representatives of Leo, Taurus, Aquarius, and Scorpio. These cardinal points of the zodiac act as guardians of the four directions, indicating that the process that is occurring is protected and their very presence lends an air of power to what is happening. The blue shape spirals around the androgynous central figure. The figure holds spiral wands. These features indicate the presence of the sacred spiral cycle that is part of all that lives.

### Symbols unique to the card:

The blue shape encircling the main figure on the card is easy to interpret as a snake. If one looks carefully, though, the blue shape has no head, and is, in fact, loosely enfolding the figure. This shape reminds us that we can often misinterpret experiences in our lives, especially experiences that seem limiting or constricting, like the snake. In fact, the figure on the card is dancing through the universe, filled with joy. The blue spiral is a companion.

# The Sage Tarot Deck

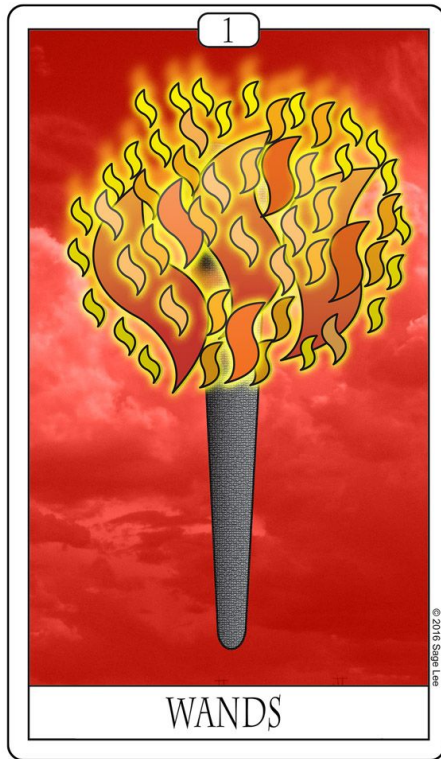
Do Not Distribute

The spiral wands in the figures hands produces light, similar to the light produced by the wand in the hand of the Magician card. Both ends of the wands are illuminated, enabling the figure to see exactly the terrain ahead *and* behind; above *and* below.

-----*End of Major Arcana*-----

## Minor Arcana

## Wands



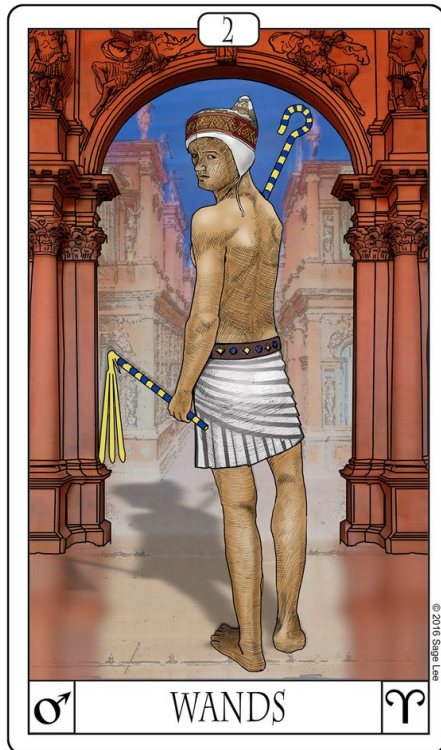
## Ace of Wands

The Ace of Wands is one of the two masculine essence cards. The Ace of Wands is the card of the uninvoked masculine. Like fire itself, spiritual energy is unpredictable. Grace, which comes from the Divine comes down whether we expect it or not. It can't be predicted or contained. The torch in this card is made up of Hebrew Yods. The Hebrew Alphabet is also known as the Flame Alphabet, and the Yod is the basis for all the other letters. Yod means Open Hand.

The Ace of Wands is also a symbol of the divine masculine phallic force, relative to the sacred Lingam/yoni of the Hindus, the phallic herms of ancient Greece, and other sacred phallic symbols, worldwide.

When you draw this card, it's asking what sacred task you are being called into action towards. What pure creative force has overtaken you and invited you to a sacred union.





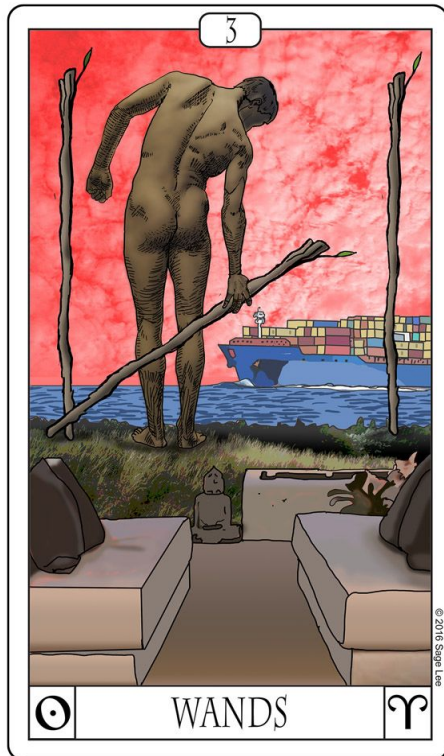
## 2 of Wands

The Two of Wands shows a young man in a traditional Egyptian Shendyt, or wrap-around skirt. He holds the crook and flail, clear symbols of a ruler's dominion over his people. Both the Crook, or Heka, fashioned after a shepherd's crook, and the flail, or nekhakha, which was a scourge were originally held by Geb, the original ruler of Egypt, and seized by Osiris, his son, while Osiris was still in the womb. They were symbols of a Pharaoh's ruler-ship over his people, but also signifiers of a connection to the divine, thus the carrier of the Crook and Flail carried divine authority. The figure in this card is also wearing the ducal hat of the venetian Doge, the highest office in Venice. The Doge was responsible for celebrating the ritual marriage of the city of Venice to the sea. This office was also associated with divine authority. The figure in the card appears to be much larger than life, when compared to the surrounding architecture.

When you draw this card, it speaks to the isolated position of dominion, and the necessary taking on of the suffering of that which you have dominion over. This card speaks of both the joys and sadness of true leadership. In the position of dominion, sometimes it feels like you cannot fit through the doorway or sit in a normal chair. Your anonymity is gone, and you serve as a projection vehicle for both the good and bad energies of your people.







## 3 of Wands

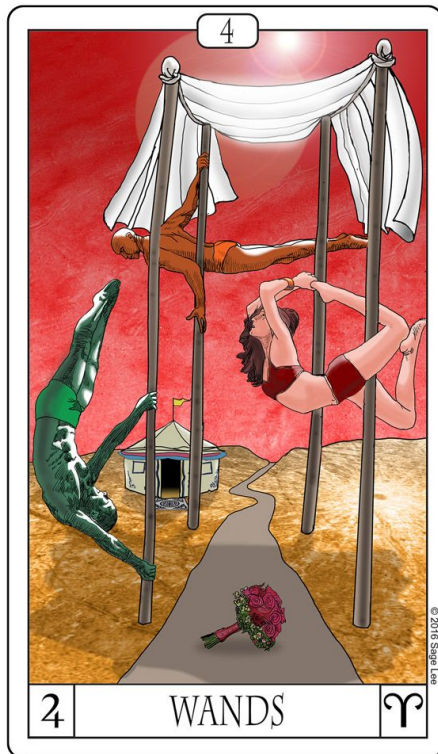
Against a red sky, a man stands between two staves. He holds a third large pole or wand, either setting it down gently, or picking it up. The man seems enormous. If he stood up tall, his head would extend out of the frame of the card. A container ship, filled with multicolored containers plows across the ocean from right to left.

Traditionally this has been the card of Established Strength, with the direct and directive Sun in in ambitious, enthusiastic Aires. Even though a container ship is large, it can still suffer damage and loss of fortune should a storm overtake it. Therefore, the ship passes under the watchful eye of the larger-than-life man in the middle ground. The modern interior in the foreground of the card indicates quiet, real strength, not showy.

When you draw this card, it can indicate that the investment you make in any area of your life, physical, mental, spiritual, or emotional has the potential of coming to fruition if you are willing to watch over it and nurture it a little.





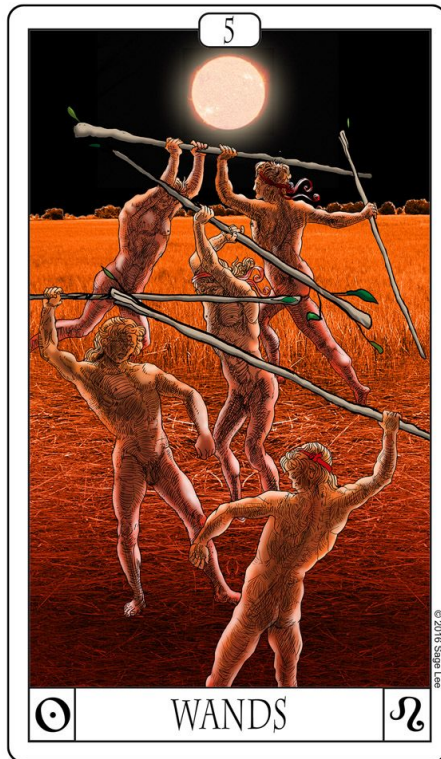


## 4 of Wands

The 4 of Wands is the card of Perfected Work.

This is the work of home, happiness and peace, including the ceremony of marriage. There is a bridal nosegay that has been dropped on the path. The sun shines down on three athletes who are playing on the wedding canopy. In the near distance is a tibetan tent has a welcome carpet out. Happiness is mobile. Like a tent, it moves easily from place to place. from one unmarked location to another.

—□-گ-گ-



## 5 of Wands

I've saved my fives for almost the end of the deck because they are so intense. All four of the fives are associated with the Sephira of Severity on the tree of life. This is sometimes called strength. The energy of the five varies throughout the deck, but it can often be the kind of energy of Jesus driving the money changers from the temple. Really intense and angry in the service of the good.

The Five of wands shows five men fighting with long clubs or sticks. Their clubs form a lightning strike like the shape that occurs when tracing the sephira of the tree of life. This lightning bolt is the lightning bolt of involution, the drawing of spirit down into matter. What appears to be moonlight is actually sunlight with a black sky. Here's the question for you with the five of wands: The only reason a black sky would occur would be in the absence of atmosphere. Why would there be a lack of atmosphere in this card?





## 6 of Wands

The six of wands takes the joyful rulership of Jupiter, and puts it in the creative constellation of Leo. This is the card that tarot expert Aurthur Waite called the card of Victory. The rider has just won an olympic medal, and is being celebrated by other olympic athletes behind him. The colors of the background jerseys are the colors of specific nodes (or sehpira) on the Tree of Life: Mercy, Strength, Beauty, Splendor and Victory. There is a mood of elation in the air. Do you feel it? How does this card inform your day?





## 7 of Wands

A man in the Assyrian costume of a king holds a staff on high ground that he defends while others with staffs assail his position from below. Six attack one, but the king has the advantageous position. The Assyrian world was polytheistic like the ancient roman world. There were over 2500 documented gods and goddesses in ancient Assyria, and likely many more for which we don't have any information. Every place had a god and each king was a representative of God, so there is an association of valor with the divine.

When you draw this card it indicates not only valor, but success, as the king is at the top with the advantage, even though there are many below who seek his position. This is the card of negotiations and trade.

The astrological sign for this card is Mars in Leo, indicating a creative solution to conflict. This is the negotiation that is won through creative energy, not through conflict or power over.





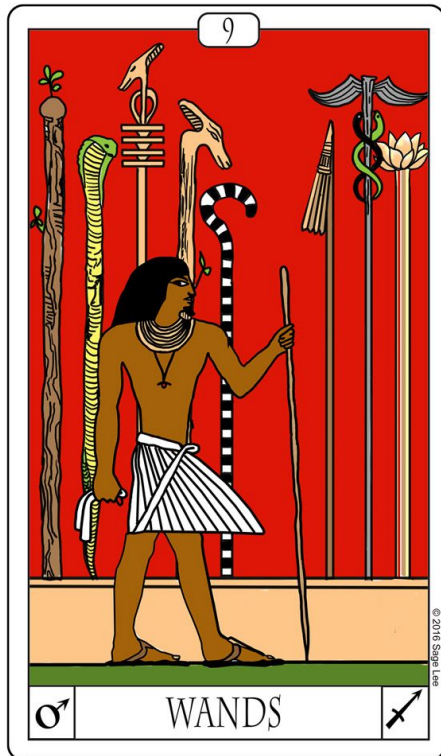
## 8 of Wands

The 8 of Wands represents Jupiter in Sagittarius. The movement of the king of gods and planets, Jupiter, through the swift and fun loving sign of Sagittarius. What better to represent this movement than the circus performer juggling 8 batons of fire. The shape of the fire torches creates the shape of the number 8, which, when seen on the side is the shape representing infinity. Behind him, the closed circus tent reminds us that this activity of skill and danger is best done outdoors. Close enough to be visible and entertaining, but not so close that anyone is burned. There is nothing that can make this activity one-hundred-percent safe, though the performer must practice long hours before the attempt is made to juggle with fire.

There is a big difference between a child playing with fire, who may be fascinated by the glow and end up getting burned, and the trained expert who can get the flaming wands into the air, juggle them, and then get them extinguished afterwards.

The common name for this card is usually swiftness, and swiftness is required in any juggling





## 9 of Wands

This is the card of great strength or strength in opposition. Your ability to succeed in any confrontation or battle, is dependent on your preparation. The figure in the 9 of wands is prepared for battle. He has at his disposal the Crook and flail of the Egyptian Pharaoh representing the power of leadership, the powerful Snake Staff of Moses representing the power of transformation, the Caduceus of Mercury representing the power of communication, the wooden staff that looks like an organ of generation, representing the power of Sexual energy, the lotus staff representing the power of manifestation and magic. The two staffs with the heads on them are topped with the Cucutha, an unknown but gentle animal from ancient Egypt with an ear made of a feather, that represents the power of good and truth. In his hand, the man holds a simple wooden staff representing the power of simplicity. With all these ways of preparing for a conflict, you have more chances of victory that those who do not have access to these forms of power.







## 10 of Wands

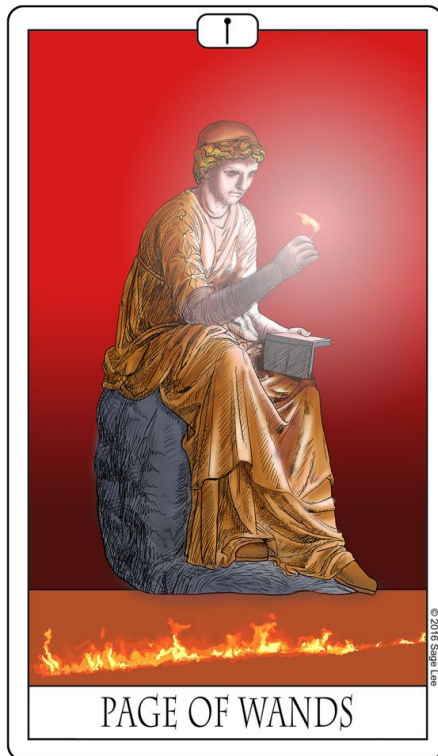
A man in an Egyptian wrap-around garment called a shendyt carries a load of sticks. They seem at the point of being out of control or slipping out of his grasp. Underneath him, in the ground: a germinating seed, a fish skeleton, and a worm. Before him, in his path: a hole. Above him, the sun beats down with ten rays.

The astrological connections in this card are the sun in Sagittarius. The doing, active energy of the sun lives in the energetic, independent, enterprising energy of Sagittarius. This can result in overdoing it, taking on more than you can handle, which can potentially create a situation where you cannot see the hole in the ground right before you that could trip you up. When you are in this constant doing state, carrying sticks from one place to another, you often are not aware of the cycle of life that goes on beneath everything, the cycle of life and death that produces new things is hidden from you temporarily.

When you draw this card, you are being asked to look at how you burden yourself unnecessarily with work that may not be important. What else is there to notice if you put your attention elsewhere? What else might you notice if you just stop the busy work and begin to dig.







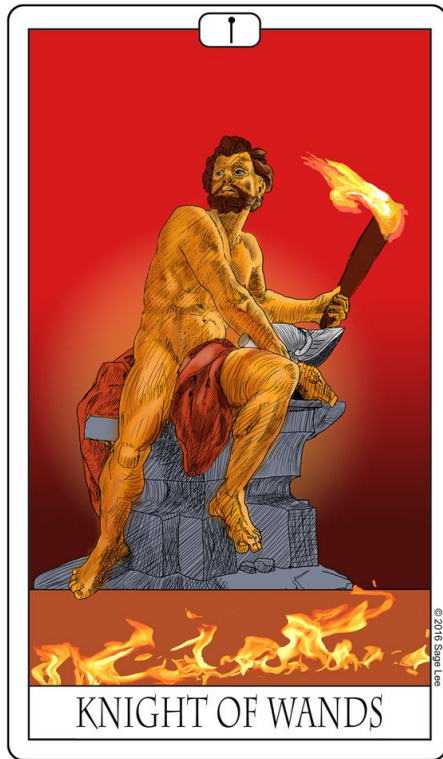
## Page of Wands

The wands are all associated with Spirit, and the pages are always associated with earthly practicality. The Page of Wands takes the form of Calliope, the muse of the Greeks, who presided over eloquence and epic poetry. Said to be the muse for Homer's epic works, the Iliad and the Odyssey, Calliope is a fitting representative of the form of mastery of the Page of wands: the mastery over blocks and obstacles. When the muse whispers in your ear, your blocks and obstacles disappear as if by magic.

The page of wands is associated with the entire season of springtime, when shoots and buds as well as new ideas and inspirations emerge.

When you draw this card it could be a symbol that you have already released an internal fear or obstacle, and you are already being renewed by the presence of the spontaneous freedom of the muse.

—□— گ-گ-ی



## Knight of Wands

If you chose this card for a daily reading:

Today may be a day of creative fire, where you get to show up as the master of your craft and generate what is needed to create the world as you want it to be, or at least show up in the circumstances of your life with your masterful Self fully evident.

The Knight of Wands is represented by Hephaestus, the smith of the Gods, who was the only God of Olympus ever to return after exile, thereby rendering him revenant (returning as if from the dead.) The story of what he did on his exile varies, but it's widely held that even though he was "shriveled of foot" he still enjoyed the company of many beautiful goddesses, including Aphrodite, the goddess of beauty, love, and procreation.

The Knight of Wands rules over Mars and Jupiter in Sagittarius and the Moon in Scorpio. In the human body, Sagittarius and Scorpio rule over the thighs and genitals respectively and we can see that Hephaestus is presenting them both to us for our consideration. Remember, the second chakra, associated with the genitals is the energy center of all creation, not just procreation, but the creation of art, beauty, and money.

The Knight of Wands represents the mastery of unlimited creativity. At the forge of the gods, he crafts whatever is needed, and is a true master of the fire of creative spirit. Creativity is applying the mind to spirit, which the Knight of Wands does so well.

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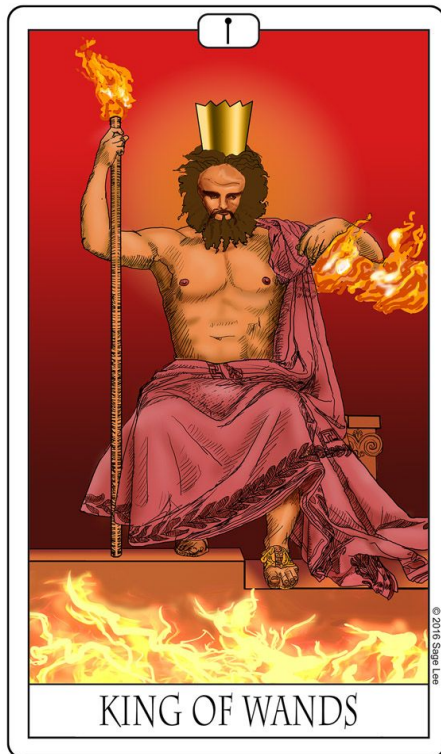
—□— گئی-گی



## Queen of Wands

The queen of Wands is the Watery part of fire. The kind of mastery represented by the Queen of Wands is self knowledge. She's represented here by persephone, queen of the underworld, who began to know herself when she willingly entered, or was captured and taken to the underworld. She became the queen of the other world, ruling over it till she returned to our world, bringing the spring with its burgeoning greenery and flowers. She holds her companion the rooster, who sounds the end of the darkness of night, and the beginning of day. Persephone knows herself by being willing to spend time in both darkness and light.

—□— گئی-گی



## King of Wands

The King of Wands is a randy fella. He comes to us in the figure of Zeus, the ever-horny King of the Gods. Zeus is most popular for spreading his seed far and wide, going to great lengths to chase down whoever he wanted to bed in the disguise of many many humans and animals.

When you draw this card you are asked to examine how desire and sexual energy shows up in your life. Do you allow it to be present, in powerful, respected god-like form, or do you deny it? When someone in your life shows up with this kind of sexual power, do you allow that energy to vibrate all three of your lower chakras, or do you push that energy away? The king of wands represents the quickening of sexual and desire energy, and is a necessary for you to become prosperous. The part that makes us money is the part that creates. Let Zeus in, for love's sake.

The King of Wands is the Fiery part of fire, the essence of the uninvoked masculine. The rising of fire is the rising of desire.

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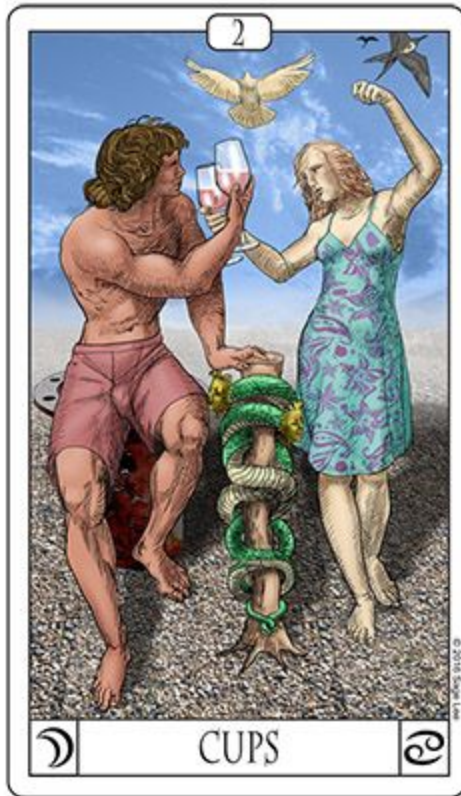
Cups



## Ace of Cups

The Ace of Cups is the root of the powers of water. This is the grail cup, the cup of the trusting and open heart. It's the card of the heart that is balanced to give and receive love in equal proportion. All the aces are associated with the node of Kether on the tree of life. This node (or sephiroth) is associated with the great potential from which everything in the universe is created. The entire suite of cups is associated with emotions, trust and ultimately, curiosity. The equal-armed cross on the side of the cup symbolizes the union between the ethereal and the material worlds.

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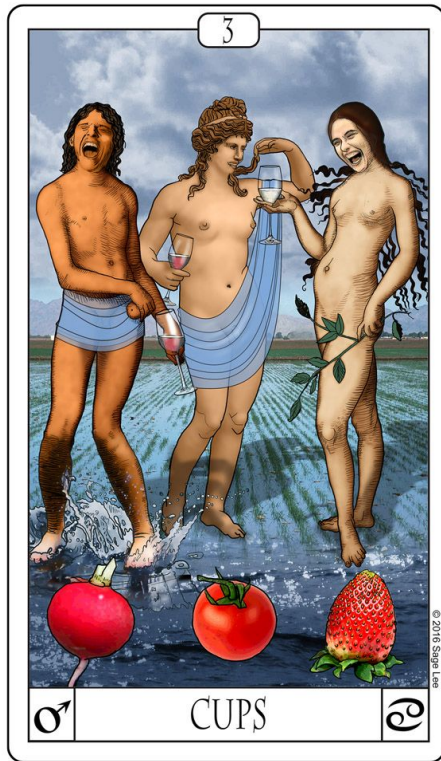
## 2 of Cups

Good love, pure love, everlasting love, fleeting love. There are hundreds of forms of love. Love is so simple and yet so complex that it has seized the imagination of poets and artists for millennia. Here, a dove, a swallow and a frigate bird all fly from the toast the couple is making. A summer day, perhaps at the beach, they toast their glasses of wine with only eyes for each other. They do not notice the snakes with human faces coiled upon the tree stump. Nor should they. Theirs is a moment of joy that is uninterrupted and incorruptible.

When you draw this card you are asked to look at the love, passion, friendship that exists in your life, or is being called up by the reading. The stump with snakes is a modified staff of Hermes, (or Mercury) the communicator. This card reminds us how far love can soar between two people who meet in joy and give each other the gift of clear communication.

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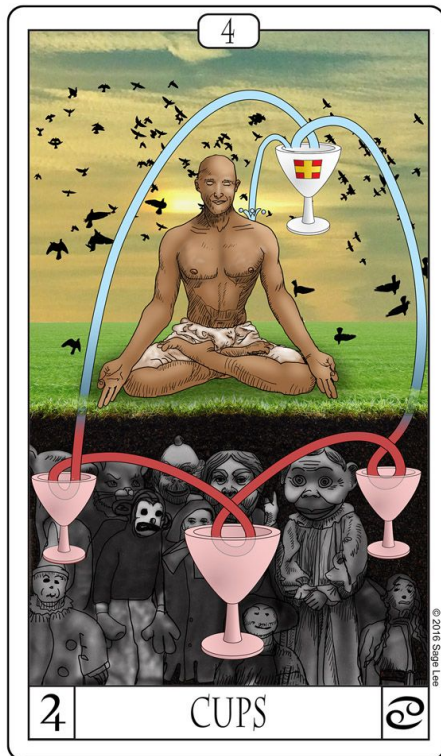


## 3 of Cups

This is the Card of abundance and joy. When you draw this card you are invited to take stock of how laughter and joyous play affect your mood and the very fabric of your life. All three figures on the card are joyful, but the ones on either side are belly laughing. The man holds a piece of fruit, perhaps, an apple, and the woman toasts her glass while coyly holding a leaf over her genitals. The man holds his glass as if he's about to throw it, or it is about to slip out of his hand because he is laughing and splashing in the water-soaked field. The hermaphroditic figure in the center holds a lock of her hair up with one hand while smiling broadly. Beneath each one is a piece of fruit representing harvest. This card represents the full range of the human condition, from female to male and in between, recognizing that joy is available to all of us no matter where on the continuum from being (feminine) to doing (masculine) we are. Find something to giggle about today.

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## 4 of Cups

The 4 of Cups is transcendental and speaks deeply to my view of awakening. There's a pump that moves from the underworld to our world, and things go down and things come up. Constantly.

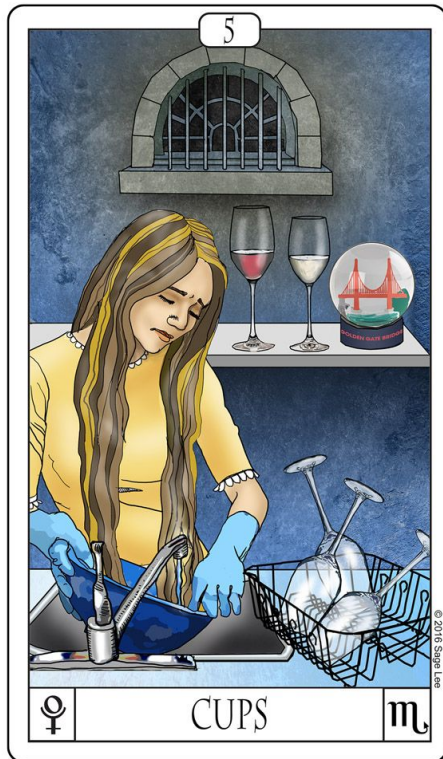
The water changes to blood in the underworld, and then back to water. Blood to water. Water to blood.

Constantly.

What has given me succor in my time of transition is this: the knowledge that this is all part of the process of life, and a process not just to be endured but enjoyed.

Going up, or going down?

c[] c[] c[]



## 5 of Cups

The five of cups is the card of loss in pleasure, or disappointment. In the card, the woman has washed 3 wine glasses, while two remain in the background. She's washing her hair out in a bowl, while on a back shelf a snow globe and two half-full glasses stand unnoticed. A barred window is over everything.

When you draw this card, it is an invitation to look to see how you are drawing yourself into disappointment. There are two full glasses standing right behind you. You cannot notice them if you are constantly paying attention to your past. Your hair is a record of your experience, your past. If you continue to go over the experiences of the past, of your disappointments, you can't see what is within your present. It can feel like you are in a dungeon, and it's a dungeon that is self created.

The astrological aspects of this card are Pluto in Scorpio. Pluto is the higher octave of Mars, so it's doing its Plutonian job of regeneration and rebirth by tearing down the old for an entire generation. This is about the way we all allow our memories of past disappointments clutter our lives. Sitting in that and allowing it to transform is more effective than denial, and is, in fact, the only way that the energy of disappointment can be reborn.

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## 6 of Cups

A man holds flowers out to a young girl on the street. A young girl stares at a vase of flowers she holds in her hands. This card can either be about past memories, or about a new meeting in a place where new meetings, new environments and new ideas occur. A family look on at the exchanges. Which one of these is the flower vendor? Is the man holding out flowers to be wrapped, or is he offering her the large roses in exchange or the vase of flowers she has in her hand? What does the number 15 mean in the sign on the flower shop? What is the difference between what is purchased inside the flower shop and outside in the street. This card is deliberately designed to create these questions. The situation of the querent determines the answers to these questions.

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## 7 of Cups

Traditionally, the 7 of cups is the card of illusion. It's associated with Netsach on the tree of life, and is associated with our emotional self. Much of the work of the lifetime of growing a soul is in coming to terms with the emotional body, and releasing the traumas of the past where energy leaks from the present. As we grow older, we have more opportunities to participate in the illusion of phantasm, the insubstantial ghosts of the past that we still send our energy towards. Many people participate more and more in the past, and less and less in the present. When we pull this card, we have the opportunity to release the energies of the past, recognizing their illusory nature, as well as recognizing that the world of fanciful illusion allows us to create whatever we want from our imaginations.

There is also an even deeper alchemical meaning to this card. I wonder who wants to take a guess as to what the elements in 7 cups in the card represent? BTW, that's a dragon in the 5th cup.

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## 8 of Cups

The eight of cups is the card of abandoned success. This is a project, relationship, or venture that you are walking away from. When you draw this card, it's time to ask if the project you've been putting your energy into is worth continuing. Perhaps you have already walked away from it. In the card, a man stumbles across the banks of the River Lethe, headed away from mount Olympus. The glasses he's leaving behind appear to be empty. It's important to look at this card as leaving a project or endeavor without attaching either positive or negative judgement to it automatically. It could be that what you were putting your attention and intention into was not bearing fruit, and so it may be a good thing to leave it. It could be that it must be left for reasons outside your control. If the decision is made to abandon the effort, please make sure you grieve it if that's needed. It does you no good to pretend it doesn't make any difference if, in fact, it does. Once you have grieved and said goodbye, though. Cross the river Lethe, the river of forgetting. Don't put any more of your energy into it. There is one important change you can make to the river Lethe. Instead of crossing the river of forgetting, cross the river of forgiving. Remember what you need to to inform your future decisions, but let go of the demand that it would have been any different.

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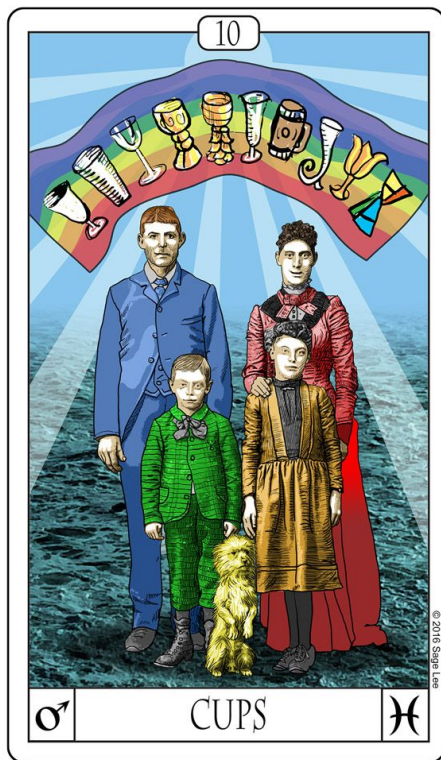
## 9 of Cups

In the foreground of the card is a Golden Buddha in the shape of the laughing Buddha. Known variously as the Hotei in Japan, the Pu-Tai (protector of children) and Maitraya Buddha in China, the laughing Buddha comes from folk tales about a Ch'an monk named Ch'i-t'zu, or Qieci, from Fenghua, in what is now the Zhejiang province in Eastern China. He represents happiness, generosity and wealth. Pu-Tai means hemp sack, and he is often pictured with children, handing out sweets from his bag. The Buddha is holding a necklace and his begging bowl. Someone has filled his bowl with water, just as they have filled the bowls on the altar around him. In temples devotees replace the water in the bowls once a day as a spiritual practice. Another reminder of this spiritual practice is the Mala or set of prayer beads the Buddha holds in his right hand. Both of these symbols represent the constant presence of devotion, or at least spiritual attention and intention in the fabric of life and happiness.

When you draw this card, the basic message is one of contentment and physical well being. How satisfaction inhabits us, especially our emotional satisfaction, is a key to understanding this card. However, in the midst of this devotion and happiness, the umbra of the shadow is still present. The curtains are propped open behind him, and the entrance to and space inside the altar is dark and shadowy. It is simply a reminder of the endless dark material inside us that can "come to light". The bringing forth of this material into this sacred space is what contributes to our continued well being and contentment.

The laughing Buddha is not laughing, but is looking curious, or satisfied, and seems about to laugh. He understands that there are secrets hidden in this sacred room that have yet to be revealed.

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## 10 of Cups

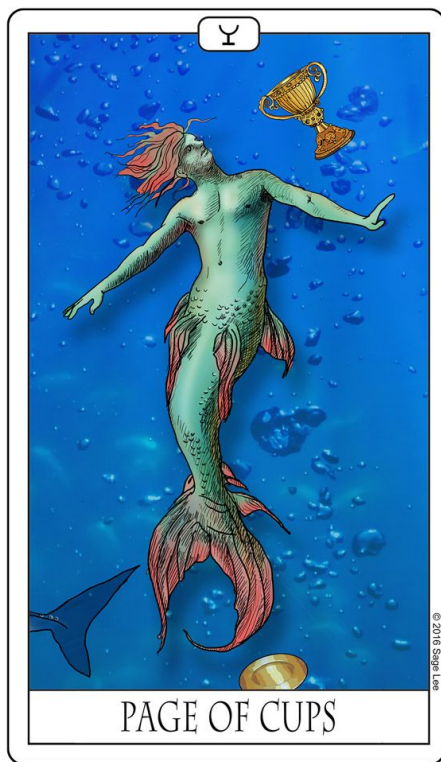
I chose the 10 of cups today. A decidedly straight-laced Victorian family looks directly at us. Their external appearance is somber. Or rather, mixed. If you looking at the mother and father in the picture after faces are smiling, And the other half are neutral. The children are simply looking expectantly, Knowing that Joy is just outside them. The dog, In some ways, represents them all. He stands on his hind legs holding his front paws up and dating position. For animals, this kind of behavior is known as a trick. This is the same kind of trick that we do when we pose for a picture. This is the image that the family wants us to have of them. But joy lurks just many the exterior, Or in this case just above their heads. There are many faces of joy, just like there are many cups on the rainbow flag above their heads. The sun with 10 shining rays above their heads also reminds us that all of the tens in the tarot are associated with the tree of life. The 10 Sephira on the tree of life are a map to both involution, The drawing down of the soul and the body and our earthly experience, and evolution, the waking of the soul within the body to the soul's purpose and the great work of soul growth.

When you draw this card, You are asked to look at the external expression of joy in the world. You are being asked to notice how your mask, Or facade, is hiding what is beneath the surface. The classic name for this card is "Happiness", however, the picture of the sun in Sagittarius is more complex than just simple happiness. Sagittarius people will always speak the brutal truth, But it can come out seeming harsh, Just like the tight laced Victorian Family on the card. What belies the true nature of the 10 of cups is this beautiful yellow dog, willing to go the extra distance for the family. Do you have full access to your happiness? Have you noticed that real



happiness comes only when you accept the shadow side of yourself, Whether that is tight-laced Victorian self, or angry self, or sad self. Real happiness comes when all parts of ourselves are accepted.

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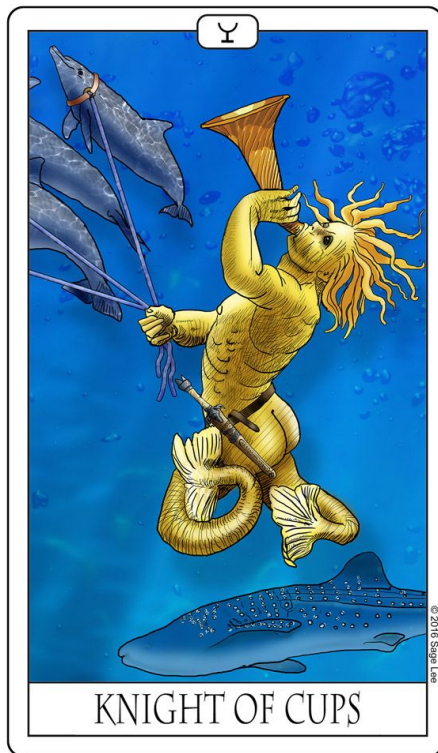


## Page of Cups

The Page of Cups is the earthy part of water, a combination of emotional intelligence and longevity. He is a merman, slightly effeminate, and like his cousin the mermaid is impelled to offer service when met. Because of his facility with the emotional realm, —his ability to swim to the depths and then rise again to the surface—and his ability to simply say “what is,” the Page of Cups is uniquely positioned to help you work through your own issues around jealousy, manipulation and envy.

When the Page of Cups shows up it means that someone in your life may present as an opportunity to work through jealousy, envy, and other dark emotions. Remember, there is nothing to “fix” here. There is only the reflection (shown by the shining plate drifting beneath his tail) of your own issues. Remember, avatars like the Page of Cups can show up as figures you see as positive, or as negative influences in your life. Each person has a lesson for us, and if we allow it, the lesson of the Page of Cups is the lesson of emotional availability and practical loyalty.

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## Knight of Cups

Each of the royalty cards represents a form of mastery, and all the cards in the suite of cups represent kinds of emotional mastery. The Knight of cups has mastered emotional desire. He is the lover within each of us who is willing to express his or her deep emotional passions. He allows himself to be pulled along by the dolphin steeds, yet he has the ability to let go the reigns at any time to navigate the water on his own with his special adaptation, fin feet. He sounds the trumpet to announce he is willing and able to make his passion known. The great whale shark, master of the depths, moves behind him.

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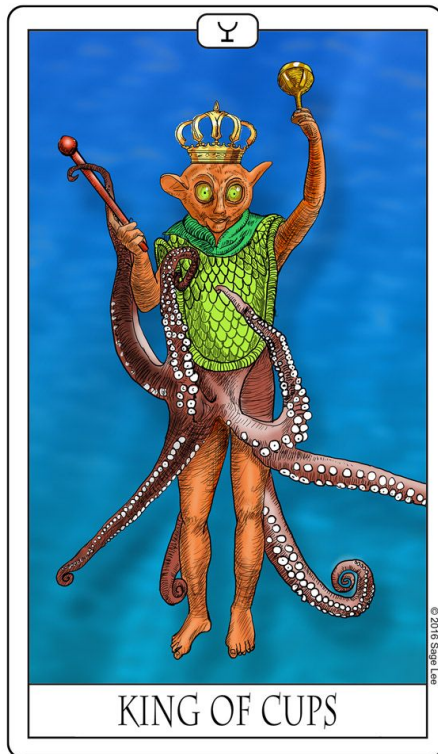
## Queen of Cups

The Queen of Cups is the queen of the food we put into our bodies. She has mastered diet and nutrition, and is well aware of the fact that we are what we eat, literally. The Queen of Plates has her finger, or her spoon, on the mystery of food that few ever think of. The food we eat doesn't just pass through us. The molecules of the food become the molecules of our blood, our flesh and our bones.

She embodies this mystery in the regular practice of communion, practiced in ancient religions long before its appearance as part of the Christian faith. This is my body, eat. This is my blood drink. This flesh and blood that becomes ours was originally the flesh and blood of the mother earth, who is the true provider of our sustenance.

The Queen of Cups represents another aspect of Emotional Intelligence, emotional integrity. This means she has integrity and congruity when owning and expressing her feelings, which she does without judgement of others. She is committed to inspiring others, as well as going to the depths of her emotional self. She's determined that whatever she's feeling on the inside get expressed fully on the outside. This means that whether she's being serious or playful, she's all in.

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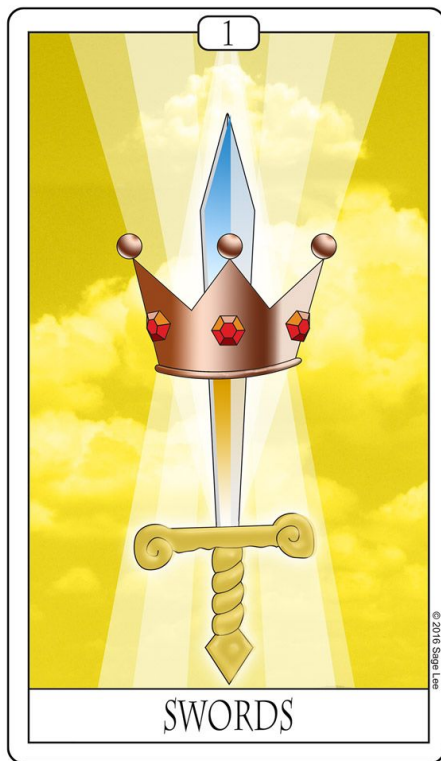


## King of Cups

The King of cups represent yet another kind of emotional intelligence. The King of cups has mastered emotional loyalty. His gaze is the direct, wide-eyed gaze of the Lemur, and indeed he represents the Lemurians, the mythical race which existed on the planet before humans. The Lemurians supposedly had mastery of energy, crystals, sound and vibrations, all non-linear subjects like the mastery of emotional loyalty. He is the spiritual side of emotions, the spiritual part of the emotional self. Loyalty, like devotion, is about answering to a higher order.

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Swords



## Ace of Swords

Today I drew the Ace of Swords. The aces in the deck are all associated with the top, center Sephira in the Tree of Life. This Sephira is named Kether and is associated with the all and everything, in other words, the substance from which all is made of and which permeates everything in the created universe. The aces therefore represent the essence of their suite. For the swords, this is the essence of masculine, invoked power, represented in part by the intellect. This is the card of the essence of air, the color yellow, and the cutting blade of the intellect. The three points on the crown represent the triple crown of creation, and invoke Kether's position at the top of the tree of life. Because Kether is on the central (neutral) pillar on the tree of life, the card represents the pure invoked masculine, as opposed to the uninvoked, natural masculine of the Ace of Wands. The neutrality in the Ace of Swords means that the blade of the sword falls where it is directed, whether that is seen as good or evil. The energy of the Ace of Swords does not care. It's just the pure form of the invoked masculine.

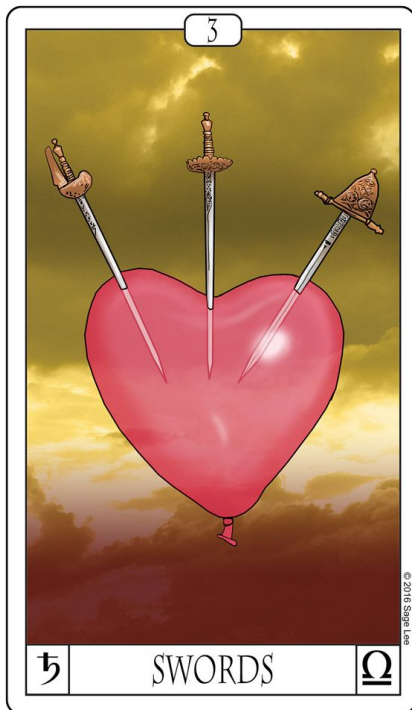
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## 2 of Swords

A woman dressed in office attire sits in the middle of a natural setting holding two enormous swords by the handles. They are not faced out in a gesture of defiance or defense, but resting on her shoulders. She wears the hood of a burka.

Traditionally this card bears the energy of truce. The idea of truce is expanded here, because contained within this woman are enormous paradoxes. She's visible and hidden, devout and worldly, casual and formal, prepared for inside and outside. It's these things that are the more important truces in our lives, the cessation of tension between all the parts of us. When a truce is reached between these paradoxical parts, we relax, and see the world more clearly.

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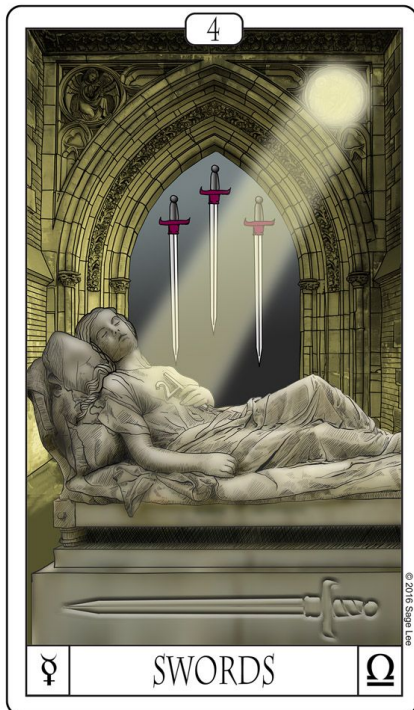


## 3 of Swords

All the threes in the tarot deck are associated with the third Sephirot on the Tree of Life—Understanding. While it is beyond our earthly understanding how a balloon in the shape of a heart can be pierced by three swords and still maintain its integrity, it's not beyond our deeper knowing. It must be that we can be fooled by the apparent substance and shape of things. Truly our lives are a miracle when there is understanding at this deep level.

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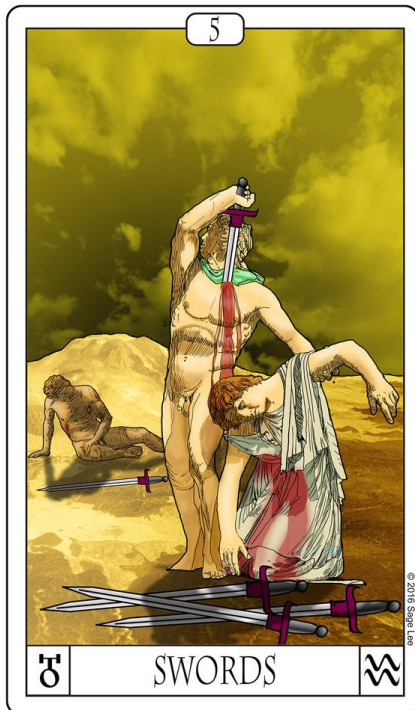
## 4 of Swords

The card for today is the 4 of Swords, the card of rest from strife. The statue is based on the statue of *The Sleeping Girl* in Athens, Greece created in 1877 by Giannoulis Chalepasthe. The statue depicts Sofia Afentaki, a girl who died at the age of 18 from Tuberculosis. While she has certainly come to a final resting place from her strife, this card means only that you have the opportunity to withdraw from the trouble you've been in, or have been witnessing. This withdrawal from the situation may be voluntary or it may seem involuntary. Either way, please have awareness and realize that because of the jolly ruler of the planets Jupiter is in equalizing and balancing Libra, you have an opportunity to rest and restore yourself.

Three swords are pointing down, and are not in readiness for fighting. One sword has become decoration for the place of rest. The swords used here are still sharp and still have their edge. They can be made ready, but they are at peace now, encouraging much needed rest and recuperation.

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## 5 of Swords

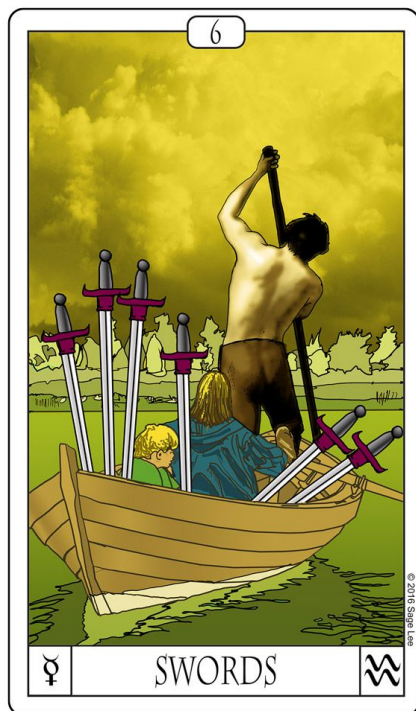
The images in this card are based on the Hellenistic Greek sculptures “Gaulish Chieftan Killing Himself and His Wife”, and “The Dying Gaul”. The man in the foreground is killing himself after killing his wife, and the figure in the background is slumping, defeated. All but one of the swords lay on the ground before the figures.

This is traditionally the card of defeat. The thing to notice here is that there are several forms of defeat. Self defeat is the defeat of the Gaulish Chieftain. He’s given up hope and defeated himself, killing himself. The Defeat of the woman is the defeat of letting yourself be defeated by those who love you, but who do not believe in you. This is the kind of defeat that is insidious, because the energy of defeat is coming from those you trust. We allow ourselves to be stopped before we ever get out the gate. The figure in the background is allowing himself to be defeated by others. He’s fallen in battle trying to defend himself and larger ideals. He crouches on the ground, on the verge of either getting up and making a stand, or breathing his last breath.

When draw this card, you are being asked to notice your relationship with defeat, your own feelings of defeat, loved one’s messages of defeat, or defeat at the hands of an enemy. What is important is not the defeat itself, but how you respond to it.

Uranus in Aquarius. Aquarius is the sign of exploration and curiosity, and Uranus is the higher octave of Venus, the power of love. At the higher octave, Uranus is about your love of community, culture, and higher ideals and structures. In this card, Uranus and Aquarius oppose one another, leading to the focus on defeat.

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## 6 of Swords

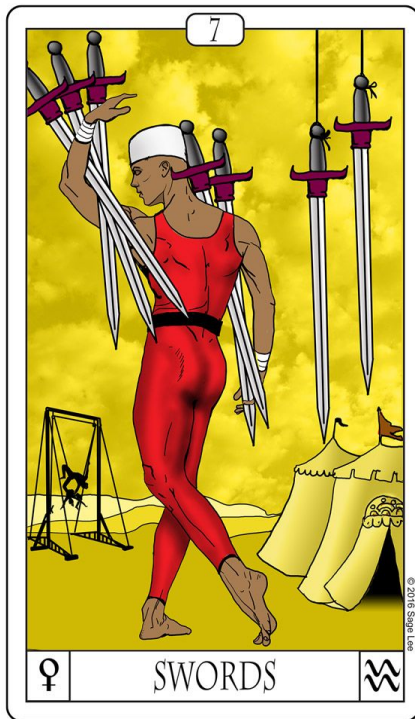
Today I drew the 6 of Swords. A strong, barebacked ferry man pushes the boat across the still waters of a lake or still flowing river. The boat contains a woman and child, bundled against the cold or against their recognition by others. This is a card that used to mean travel by water, such as taking a journey on a ship. Most people travel by plane now, or ground transportation, so the divinatory meaning of the card can now mean travel over water, such as an international trip, or to water, such as a pond or lake. This card is also the card that represents science and scientific accomplishments.

The astrological components of this card are Mercury in Aquarius. The communication capabilities of mercury are channeled into the pioneering energy of Aquarius to deliver new scientific discoveries.

So, one way to see the boat is to see a complete human represented by man, woman, and child setting out on a journey of discovery. Each scientific discovery comes from a thesis and the scientist is never sure whether the journey will be fruitful. All of the figures in the card trust the journey they are making.

Another way to see this is the journey of forgetting across the river Lethe. Shades were required to drink from the river to forget their earthly lives. The river Lethe also flowed through the cave of Hypnos, God of Sleep. In any journey across a river of forgetting, that which is forgotten makes room in the psyche for that which has not yet been. There's a link here between this kind of forgetting and new science. What had been assumed must be forgotten entirely, so that new discoveries can come in.

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## 7 of Swords

A circus performer in great shape walks through the circus grounds holding 5 swords while 2 hang on threads behind him. The sharp parts of the blades are pressing against the tender flesh of his inner elbow and the fingers of his right hand. The situation looks beautiful, but one wrong move could end in injury, just like the aerial performers practicing on the temporary frame in the background of this card. Venus in Aquarius means that the heart is involved in new and pioneering work, and the risks of things falling apart are great, but so is the reward if they do not.

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## 8 of Swords

A blindfolded woman strapped to a rotating dias trusts that swords cast from heaven will not harm her. One sword is in the air, hurtling toward her. Is this the moment just before she is killed or injured by the sword, or the moment before another sword lands safely on the rotating platform? Behind her, the surf pounds, and a great castle perches on the edge of a cliff.

When you draw this card, you are asked to examine how your fear of violent sadness or crisis affects your ability to move through the world. Have you volunteered your life energies, like the woman who has allowed her life to be risked for the entertainment of others. She's voluntarily agreed to this state of things. The swords, instead of coming from a human standing before her are coming from on high. Ultimately, sadness, bad news, conflict or loss of power all come from a combination of what is coming from the most high, and the decisions we have made. There is no one to blame.

The woman is in this position because she has agreed to be there. She trusts no matter how bad it seems, that the swords that come from the most high are either threshing her or purifying her. It's like this for all of us. It's hard to trust in the moment, though, because, from behind our agreed-upon blindfold, all we can hear is the whizzing of the swords and the thud as they make contact with the board we are strapped to. It can be frightening to be witness to this, and we can often fear that more harm will come to us.

This is the card of Mercury in Gemini. Mercury, the planet of communication has rulership in the air sign Gemini. Often the swords cards like this one can signal the trouble that comes from overuse or misuse of the mind. Is the trouble we sense real or imagined? That is the question to ask here.

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## 9 of Swords

A young man has awakened on top of a carved marble slab. This figure is based on a sculpture by Jean-Joseph Perraud named “Despair.” The bed clothes are covered with the signs of the zodiac, the planets and alchemical symbols. Behind the figure appear 9 swords interlocked with each other in a way that resembles the weave of cloth.

This is traditionally a card of desolation and cruelty, and as with all the swords, the message is about how and what we think. Sometimes we awake, like the figure in the card, from a nightmare, to witness a tangle in one or more areas of our lives. That moment can be a shock, but it’s what you do in response to the realization of that mess that is the most important point here. You can turn your cruelty inward and blame yourself. You can turn your focus outward and blame others for the situation. Or you can notice what you’ve done, take responsibility for creating it, and accept where you are right now, and learn the lessons that are there for you to learn. There will always be times when you experience cruelty and desolation, but they can dissipate when you follow this path and learn the lessons that are presented.

When you draw this card, you are being asked to look at what your mind is bringing to you around cruelty and desolation. For the 9 of swords, Here are some of the questions you can ask:

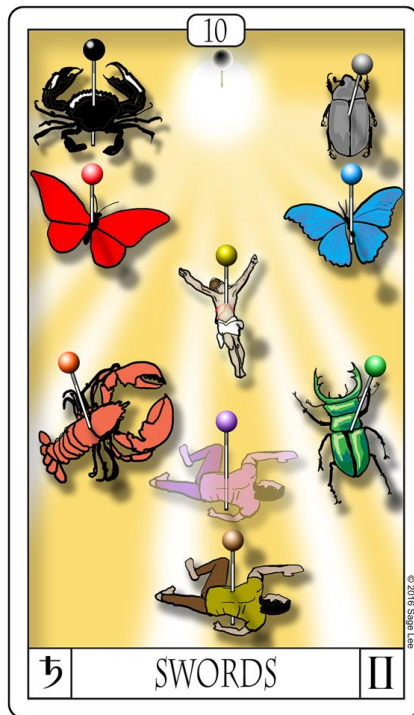
“How am I responding to the hard truths of my life?”



“What lesson is in this tangle for me?”

“How have I participated in creating this situation?”

cxxxxx][=====>



## 10 of Swords

The ten of Swords is sometimes the most dreaded of the pip cards for many people. Commonly called Ruin, the picture on the card is often a grim prone person stuck in the back with 10 swords. In the Sage deck, the Ten of Swords reveals more about what is behind the incredible power of that card. Each node, or Sephira, on the tree of life is represented with a creature pinned to a board like a biology specimen. The card becomes a glass case in which everything is fixed in place. The normal flow that is present in the tree of life is not present. Normally energy moves from the top to bottom, right to left.

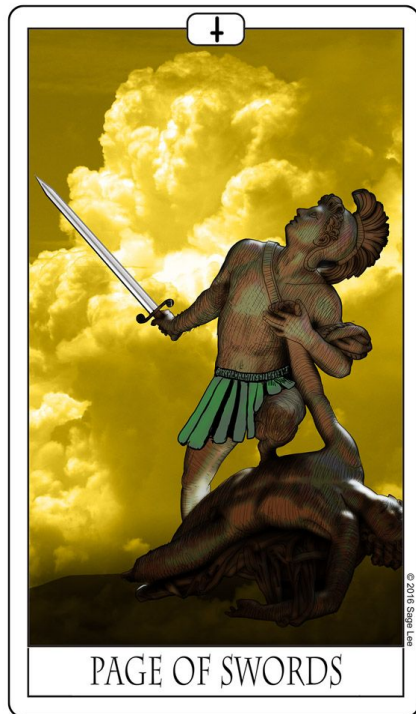
When you draw this card, it is a reminder that your fears of ruin can stop you in your place if you let them. You also have an opportunity to stand back and evaluate the situation for what it really is.

The Ten of Swords represents the Sun in Gemini. Gemini people can see both sides of any situation, the so-called good and the so-called bad. It's sometimes hard to see both, or the integration or synthesis of these two poles. Therefore, fear can often loom very large. The sun in Gemini reminds us that we can get stuck in the fear side of the paradox. It's not as if you or the world is actually in ruin, it can just seem that way.



You have an opportunity to step back from the apparent problem and take in more information so you can integrate the paradox.

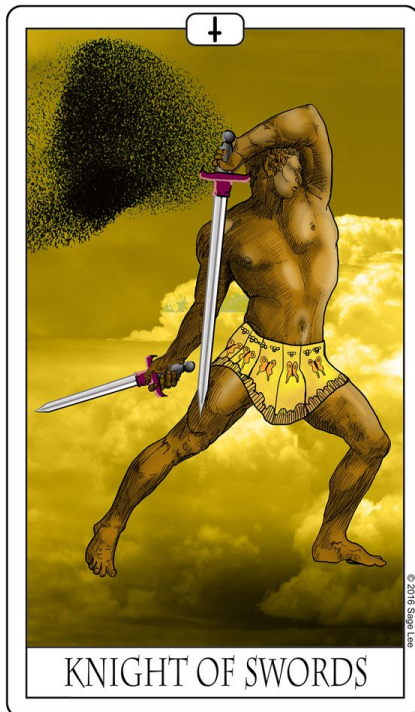
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## Page of Swords

The card for today is the Page of Swords. This young man is authoritative, quick to act, and vigilant. The image is inspired by the sculpture of the two friends and Trojan soldiers *Nisus and Euryalus* (1827) by Jean-Baptiste Roman, which is now on display in the Louvre. The Page of Swords connects the earth with the sky, and Nisus the central figure, holds the hand of the dying Euryalus. Euryalus' body resembles a mound of earth, as if he has already passed into the earth. Nisus and Euryalus have been on a night raid, where they have stolen this shiny helmet, which is to be their undoing. The stolen helmet attracted enough attention to get Euryalus killed, and Nisus died defending the body of his friend. This moment catches them on the battlefield, just before death, with Nisus defending them both, supporting and attending the dying body of his friend. It's useful to think of this card as the eternal snapshot of that moment in the story. The page is quick and attentive, as well as a good spy and thief. In this figure grouping, the Page of Swords holds off external danger as well as the internal habit of depression or negative thoughts.

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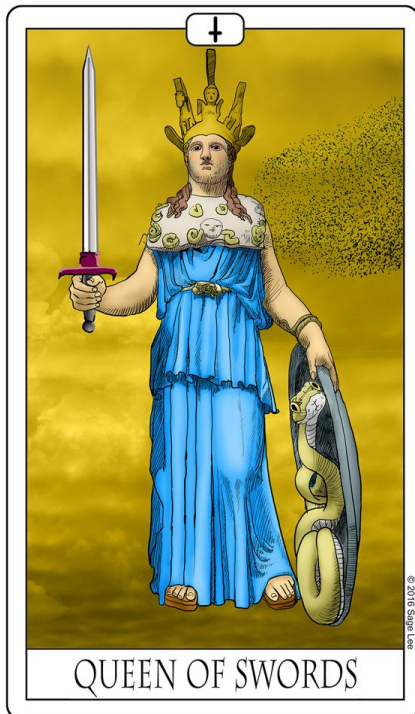


## Knight of Swords

Among the clouds.

The Knight of Swords shows us another form of mental mastery, creative thinking. The Knight of Swords dances with his long sword and his short sword. Behind him, a huge number of birds are flocking. Flocking behavior in birds allows us to see the entity of the flock instead of the entity of the individual bird. In the same way, our creative endeavors are often seen in aggregate. The entire flower garden instead of one bloom; the body of work instead of one panting, the entire race instead of one bicycle. The creative master within us sees the big patterns and pictures and is able to dance with them easily and without judgement. How is this card working for you today? Do you see yourself in the Knight of Swords?

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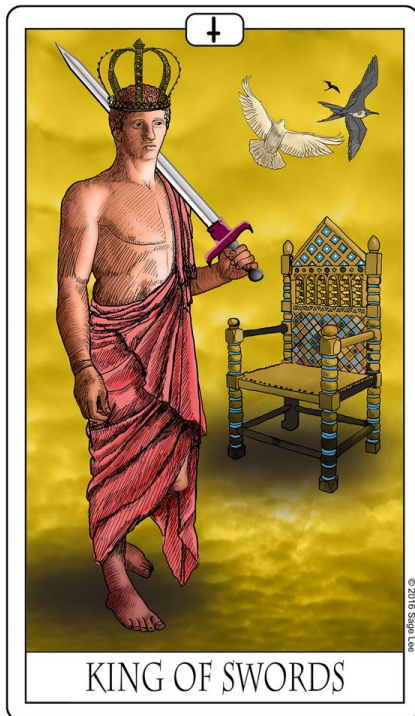


## Queen of Swords

The queen of swords is based on the statue of Athena Parthenos, the Athena that stood in the ancient Greek Parthenon. Athena is said to be motherless, born out of the forehead of Zeus. She guided Perseus in his quest to behead Medusa and assisted Hercules in skinning the Nemean Lion, defeating the Stymphalian Birds, and capturing the three-headed dog, Cerberus.

In short, she was a smart and emotionally mature guide. This is the quality of the Queen of Swords, who is the watery part of air, or the emotional part of intelligence. She is the very picture of emotional intelligence, and is willing to help you at this time to draw yourself up and attend the trials that come to you with wisdom and emotional maturity.

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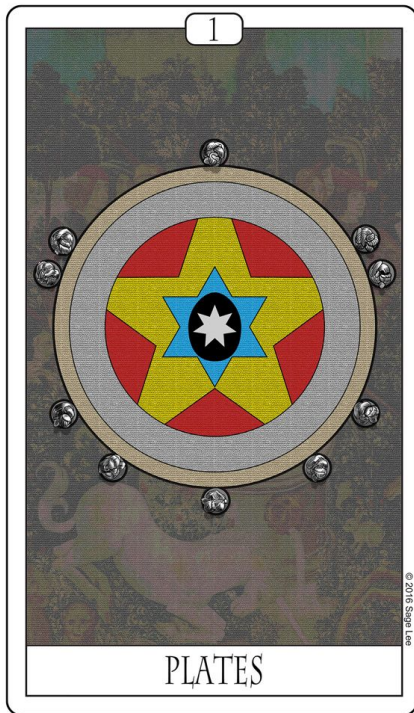


## King of Swords

The king of swords rests his sword on his shoulder and contemplates life. He wears an iron crown, and his throne sits a few feet away. He's able to sit on his throne whenever he wants to output wisdom, but he stands in contemplation to gather it. The figure of the king is based on the *Doryphoros* of Polyclitus, a sculpture that represents the ancient Greek ideal of proportion. For Polyclitus, beauty resided not in the appearance of an individual part, but the relation of all parts to each other. So it is with the kind of mastery practiced by the King of Swords, intentionality and inspired thinking. The alignment of action, mind, and heart is indicated by the three birds, the swallow, Frigate bird and Dove. His iron crown is forged by heat and cold to be strong and practical, not showy. Not only are the proportions of the body of the King of Swords perfect in relation to one another, the same proportions exist in his kingdom. He is able to easily manifest whatever he wants with proportional and ecological intentionality.

When you draw this card, it means that you, or someone in your life are called upon to inhabit the mastery of intentionality and inspired ecological thinking.

## Plates

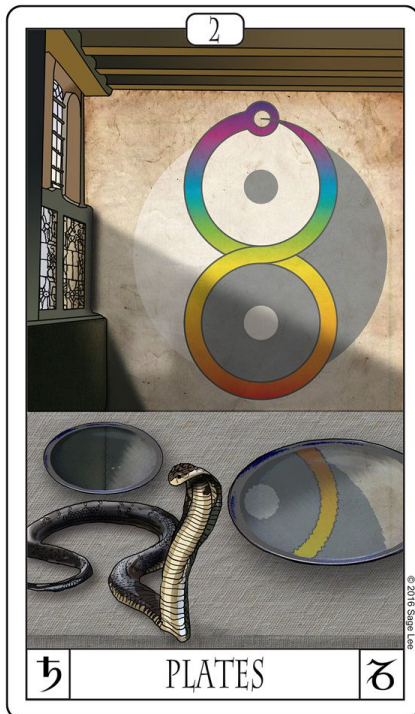


### **Ace of Plates**

Here, the Ace of Plates is rendered in textured cloth, reminiscent of needlepoint, or canvas broadcloth. It is the essence of feminine, earthly energy, the energy of the womb. There are 10 french knots around the perimeter of the plate, one for each point of the five-pointed, and six-pointed stars. (The top knot is shared by both the 5 and 6-pointed stars. Outside the plate is a faded representation of the Unicorn Tapestry, another crafted set of archetypes of the feminine mystery. Inside the plate are a 5, 6 and 7 pointed star, along with a black egg, indicating the complete seed of potential within this card that is ready at all times to burst forth with the power of life.

When you draw this card, you are asked to look inside to see what desires to manifest, or birth forth from you at this moment in time. Sometimes, it's a simple act like donating to a worthy cause or making dinner for a friend. Sometimes it's the first step towards creating something that changes the world. Remember, creation, like reproduction, happens naturally without effort, if you give it a chance.





## 2 of Plates

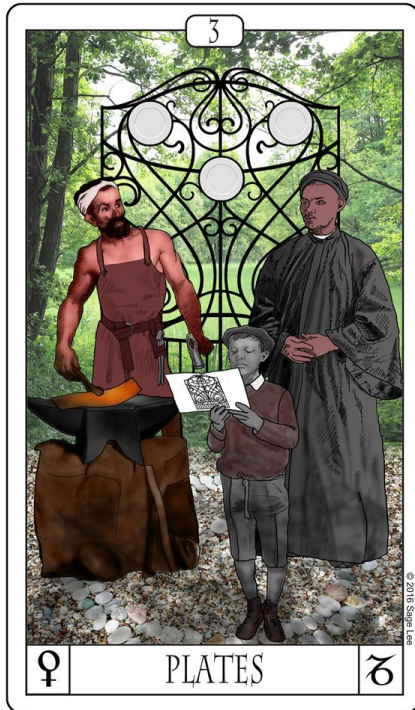
Glancing light enters a room, a wall of which is painted a with a combination Yin Yang symbol, and an Ouroboros, the snake that eats its own tail. Both are potent symbols for the change that permeates all things on the earthly plane. Two plates filled with clear water sit on a table in the foreground as a cobra raises its head.

When you draw this card you must come face to face with the poignant cycle of change that will, at one point or another, affect everything you experience. The light coming through the window will change angle, and eventually turn to moonlight. The snake will strike or move on. The plates will be cleared. Even the symbol on the wall will fade and perhaps be painted over. The building may fall to ruin or be renovated

We are asked in the face of all this not just to let go, but to let go knowing that the change may suit us or not. The invited response to change is acceptance. Even when the change seems to be in the wrong direction, change is an indicator of life and consciousness. Let change wash over you and ask in each moment, "What is the gift of this?"

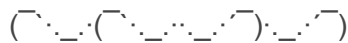






## 3 of Plates

In this card a young boy looks at a plan for a gate. A priest looks over his left shoulder, and behind him on his right is a blacksmith forging iron for the gate which looms behind them. Behind the gate, the gate from the plan looms, separating the forested environment of these three figures from the beautiful green field in the background. These three characters are the Physical, mental and spiritual aspects of material works, or putting things together on the physical plane.





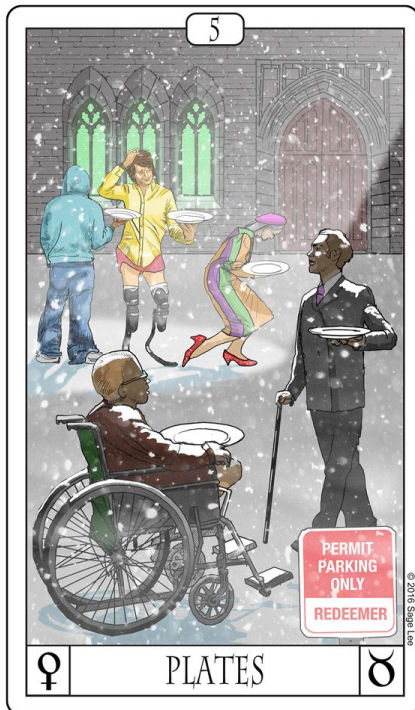
## 4 of Plates

This card is based on the paintings of Northern Renaissance artist Marinus Van Reymerswale, whose specialty was painting money lenders and bankers. These are men with great power, and traditionally, this card represents power in the earthly plane. With that power comes the opportunity to respond in different ways to the presence of money.

You can respond like the top figure, by pointing out your wealth “See what I’ve got?”, and scooping more into your plate. You can respond like the figure next to him with a self-satisfied aloofness, “Here is what I’ve got, and you’ll never have this much.” You can respond like the figure on the far left and go mad with acquisitiveness, driven mad by your money. Or, like the figure at the bottom of the page, you could just simply be with the money you have, allowing yourself to feel the power of it, but not be overtaken by it. There are lessons to be learned from each of these ways to respond to the power of money.

When you draw this card, you are asked to examine the aspects of your relationship to earthly power, and one of its main representatives, money. What is your relationship with money?





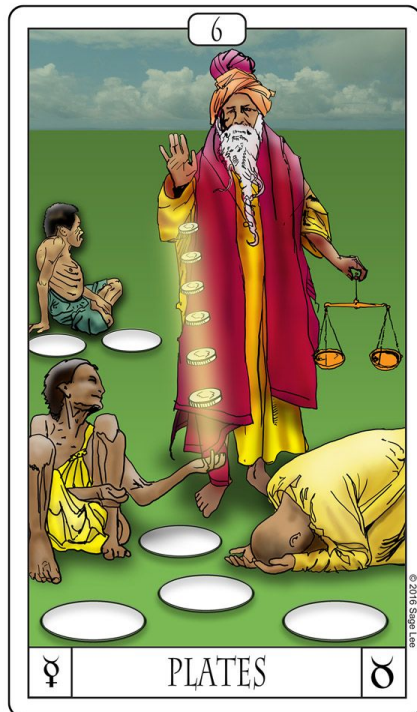
## 5 of Plates

In this card, five people each hold a plate. They all stand in a snowstorm holding their plates as if expecting to receive something in them. Or are their plates held out to give something away? They stand before a church, and a sign in front says “Permit Parking Only: Redeemer.” Are these figures seeking redemption, or are they the redeemer? And what of the different degrees of disability in this special permit parking zone. One person is in a wheelchair, one has a cane, another has blades for legs, one has high-heeled ruby slippers, and another (the most bundled up against the cold) is wearing sneakers. Some are in the spotlight. Others stand in the shadows. They each have a different response to being out in the cold with a plate. Two appear to be in conversation with each other. The woman appears to be genuflecting with her plate, and the man in the yellow shirt appears perplexed.

The traditional read of this card is “material trouble,” however, the reading is much more complex. The real principle is exposure to the outside world under the watchful eye of the divine. You are held in the hand of the divine whatever decision you make. Wherever you go, whatever your situation, and whatever the weather—and most importantly—whatever your attitude about it, you will be exposed to the elements. You will be “outside” on more than one occasion. The important questions to ask when you are outside are not why? or how did I get here? The important questions to ask are “What is the gift of this?” , “What is my response to this new situation?” and even “What is available to me now that was not available before?”

When You draw this card, these are the questions that you are being called to answer.





## 6 of Plates

An Indian man, perhaps a Sadhu or a teacher holds a scale in one hand, while six coins are passing between his open palm and the open palm of a beggar below. There are six plates in this card in addition to the six coins. Are both representing the 6 of plates? Are the coins passing from the Sadhu to the beggar or from the beggar to the Sadhu? This is the card of material success, and the message is one of the complex nature of material success. The beggars have material success when a man with coins delivers money to them, and yet the reverse is also true. When a man or woman gives generously of what he or she has, prosperity flows.

Live moves toward more life.

The money that the Sadhu gives away increases his own prosperity. Contained in this card is the law of tithing. Gratitude, like the beggars have, and giving away a portion of what you earn are both secrets to greater prosperity.

When you pull this card, it is an opportunity to notice how easily money flows to you. Is it easy? Are you allowing money to flow to you *and* from you? Are you keeping a balance sheet? What is the balance of generosity? Generally, both generosity and gratitude increase happiness. The joy is our clue that if we want to be happy, it is wise to practice both appreciation and generosity.

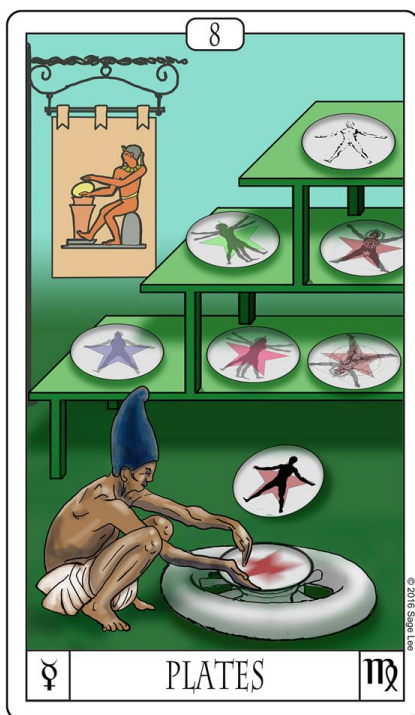
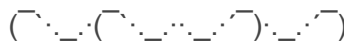
The astrological correspondence of this card is Mercury in Taurus. Mercury is the planet of communication, especially communication with the higher levels of the divine. Taurus is the Cardinal Earth sign, associated with pleasure seeking, yet bull-headed Taurus. Stubborn Taurus is ruled by Venus. When Mercury, the planet of divine communication is found in this sign, then material pleasures and success come easily. This is not material success that you have to work

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Page 81 of 88

When you draw this card it is a reminder that all success happens in divine time. Any time requirements you put on your success are subject to the same laws as the rest of the universe. Sometimes the reasons for this are in your domain, and sometimes they are in the domain of other forces. Focus on what is in your domain, and allow the universe to deliver it's manna to you when the laws of the universe permit.

This is the card of Saturn in Taurus. The Limits and boundaries of Saturn, are putting a yoke on the creative expression of Taurus. That expression is always a result in the material world, so that temporarily at least, the universe does not seem to respond as it usually does to your efforts. Rest assured this situation is temporary. There will always eventually be more room on the light tray. Like the restaurant, the universe must deliver what it creates, always. Any hold up in this delivery is temporary.

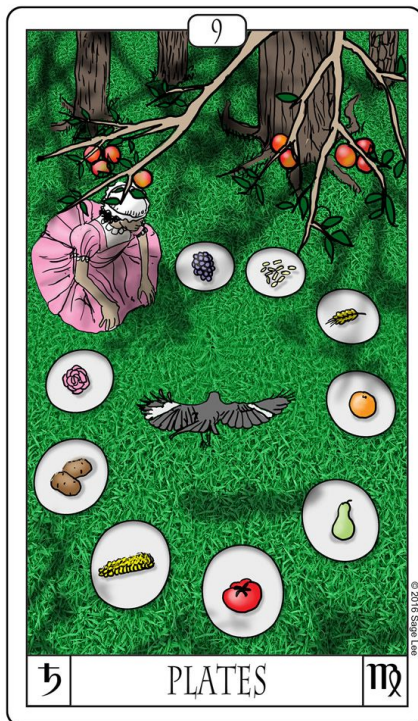
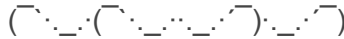


## 8 of Plates

The sign at the pottery studio shows the Egyptian God Ptah crafting the world egg. Ptah was the God of craftsmen, poetry and creation, capable, it is said of crafting even other Gods.



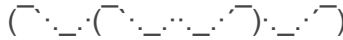
A potter with the tall hat of Osiris, the God-man who shapes plates on a potter's wheel. Osiris is the Egyptian god of opening and manifesting good things. The plates are laid out to dry on shelves behind him, the star forms take shape as human figures. This is the pottery shop of the creator—and we are all creators. Yet, what this card is implying also is that when creating, patience and prudence are part of the process. Patiently sit at the wheel. Practice your craft, and wait while whatever you have crafted matures. In this card, it's the clay drying. Be patient and wait till one step is finished before you begin the next. This way, the creator within you refines the ability to create with less effort. Sometimes, waiting is what is needed.



## 9 of Plates

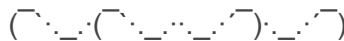
In this card, a girl in a pink dress is seen from above, having a picnic by herself in the woods. The meadow of green grass is cut by the shadows of the trees. A mockingbird flies toward her over the neat arrangement of 9 plates on the forest floor.

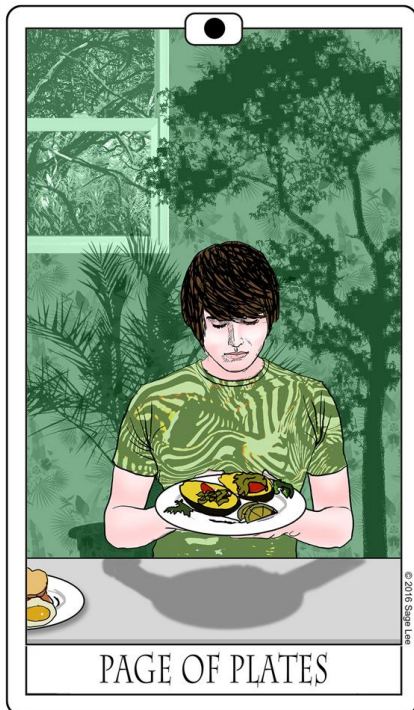
The astrological aspect of this card is Saturn in Virgo. The limits and boundaries of Saturn are expressed through the neat, methodical, almost obsessive sign of Virgo. The types of food have been separated, allowing her to subdivide her experience discreetly. This card is about the ability to parse and discern the world surrounding us in useful ways. She doesn't need to conquer the bird in the card to be in tune with it. The figure in the card can allow the bird to sit in a nearby tree and do the useful job of reflecting back the way she interacts with the world. There is great prudence and wisdom in this orderly harvest from the land.



## 10 of Plates

Typically the card of wealth, the 10 of plates shows the joyful spinning of plates. Plates at all levels of morality and spirituality are shown spinning effortlessly and joyfully. The astrological aspect of this card is venus in Virgo. The planet of love and emotional connection is in the constellation of analytical precise and reliable Virgo. This is a reminder that real wealth comes from joyfully approaching your life and being amused and grateful for everything. A genie is spinning four plates representing the All-in-everything aspect of God, wisdom, understanding and mercy. Two girls spin the plates associated with the emotions and the mind, while a dog spins the purple plate associated with the astral plane. A single empty plate represents our earthly plane. Or is it empty. It seems to be where the genie originates. The 10 of Plates is full of the mystery of life.



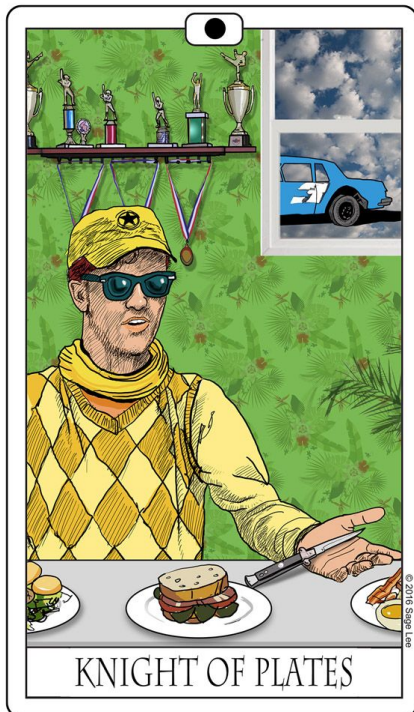


## Page of Plates

Today I drew the Page of Plates. The youngest and palest of the Royalty in the suite of cups has lifted his plate off of the table and is contemplating it. Perhaps praying over it. Plants encroach on the space behind him. Are they shadows or are they plants. They overlap the window where, outside, even more tangled nature springs up. The shirt worn by the Page of Plates has zebra stripes on it.

The Page of Plates has the dominion of the entire season of winter. He represents the earthy part of earth. Winter is the season where the earth rejuvenates itself. No energy goes into the leafing of spring, the fullness of Summer, or the fruitful harvest of the Fall. Winter is where the earth gets to turn in on itself, hibernate and rest. In a sense this is the time when the earth is most pregnant with possibility, just like the youth in this card has the potential to be anything he wants to be. While he is clearly male, his features are androgynous, indicating the presence of masculine and feminine qualities of the Page of Plates. He is in touch with the wildness of nature, a wildness that interpenetrates everything within this card.

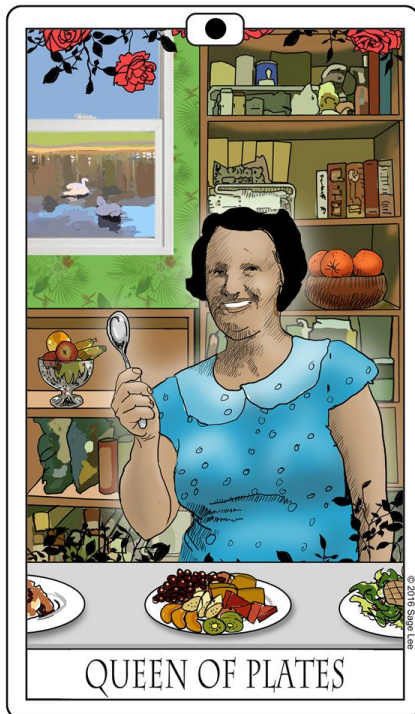




## Knight of Plates

The Knight of Plates card represents a person or quality within you. that reforms and reshapes the self through exercise. When you draw this card, it's time to ask if you or someone you know can influence you to reshape your health and body through exercise. The Knight holds a blade toward his palm, further indicating that his skill is modeling and shaping the body. His Nascar is seen through the window, showing that speed, motion and excitement are also part of the energy of the Knight of Plates. The mother of the Prince of Plates is the Queen of plates, representing diet and nutrition. Together, they form an awesome team.



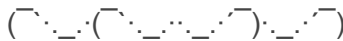


## Queen of Plates

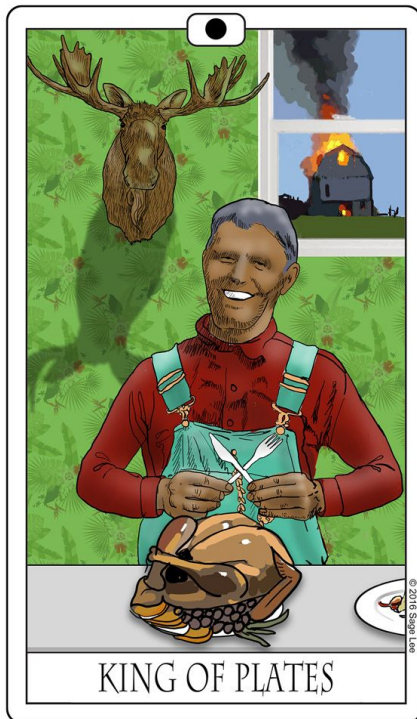
The Queen of plates represents the mastery of diet and nutrition. She is a simple woman, holding up a spoon. Behind her are all sorts of foods, from canned and boxed to an abundance of fresh fruit. The roses from the Fool card are visible at the top of the card, representing the senses. A placid pond is seen through her window.

The Queen of plates is the watery part of Earth. This means she's conquered her emotional relationship to food. She is able to make smart choices about what she puts into her body, making sure the food is both delicious and nutritious. She has given up emotional eating, and represented by the roses on the top of the card, uses food and everything she ingests to be medicine for the spiritual forms of the senses.

She is about so much more than just good nutrition. The queen of Plates uses food as a spiritual path to freedom and a healthy body. She makes no judgements about body size or shape. She accepts everyone exactly as they are, and serves them what would be best for them.







## King of Plates

The King of Disks represents a kind of Practical, and physical mastery. The kings are always associated with the realm of spirit and intuition, so this is spirit made practical in the form of mastery with creating and manifesting anything. He's able to manifest in the area of food and nutrition, in the form of the farm-raised chicken as well as dominion over the wild animals, symbolized by the giant moose head on the wall.

The barn is burning, and he seems to be fine with that, understanding that when the barn burns it is a form of spiritual fire from heaven that is associated with the alchemical process of calcination. When we lose everything, or we fear losing everything, we have the opportunity to transform that which is on his plane, but never really destroy it. Calcination allows us to transform fear into confidence. The king of Plates is confident that there is always more, so whatever happens around him, he is able to manifest even more and greater things.

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-----End of Minor Arcana-----