



THOTH TAROT CARD MEANINGS

Major Arcana

KEY 0: THE FOOL personifies a return to spring, starting a new cycle of growth. You must be the empty vessel, ready and eager to be filled. This is the undertaking of a new Path, or the Path has not yet been chosen, and insight is needed on The Way forward. What you seek now is experience. Test your own limits and boundaries to know your potential. If your inquiry is one seeking an affirmation or negation, then The Fool is a message from spirit counseling you to seek further discussion; neither a positive or negative outcome can be conclusively determined at this time.

First Septenary

HOMO: *Integration of the Self*

KEY 1: THE MAGUS (THE JUGGLER). The Magus is the personification of creative thought and continuous creation. Here is The Juggler who is the bearer of Wisdom, Will, and the World. When the Magus appears to you, the call to action is exercising the powers of your mind. When you do, you will achieve your greatest potential. The Magus appears to you now to help you manifest discipline and focus toward mastery over your own innate talents. Never forget: you have the capability to manifest your thoughts into reality. That is the divinity in man and the powers embedded within your spirit. Embody the alchemist and transmute what is of little value to what is of great value. Invent, reinvent. The Magus is a message from spirit that the sign of this key *is* the solution you seek. Your Will becomes reality.

KEY 2: THE HIGH PRIESTESS. This is Sophia, or Wisdom personified. She guides you toward the deepening and broadening of your knowledge. Aspire for scholarship to wield the power of discernment. The High Priestess is the Queen of the Angels. When The Priestess appears to you, she instructs on the cultivation of

your wisdom and intuition. The summation of choices you have made and the landscape of thoughts you have painted for yourself have taken you to the threshold of a particular Path, and now is the time to venture deeper, farther. Here is the wellspring of magic.

KEY 3: THE EMPRESS. The Empress appears to those who are on the verge of producing a Work of worthy admiration. You will enjoy a little bit of Paradise, for The Empress is the Gate of Heaven. The magic of The Empress transforms your hopes into reality. A divinity of Universal Love is present in your life path and The Empress appearing to you is the affirmation you need for acknowledging that presence. She is a muse for poets, writers, artists, and musicians. The Empress also embodies the spirit of Rhetoric. She wields the art of persuasion.

KEY 4: THE EMPEROR. When The Emperor appears to you, your power of self-determination is being affirmed. You have the power to determine what is and what will be for yourself. You wield sovereignty. Do not say that it is out of your control, because all of it is within your control—that is the message Spirit imparts upon you. Your task: define your destination, and then lead the charge. The Emperor appears when you are being called to direct and reign. Overcome your fears, because it is now time for you to conquer new frontier. Wield your authority with aplomb. The Emperor is an affirmation to your inquiry.

KEY 5: THE HIEROPHANT. This Key represents what is most essential to all magical work: uniting the microcosm with the macrocosm. When The Hierophant appears to you, you are confronting what you have inherited and are now tasked to evaluate that inheritance with individual responsibility. This is the spirit of sovereignty over your soul purpose. When The Hierophant appears to you, it's time to evaluate your material culture and social norms. Discern for yourself whose interpretation of the Great Mysteries is the correspondence that rings true with your divine higher genius. When Key 5 appears to you, take care that you are not following a false prophet. Restrain your indulgences. The solution you seek will be found in Tradition, but be discerning of its interpretation. The Hierophant card is not about religion itself, or philosophy itself, or theology; The Hierophant card is the human expression of religion, the choice of philosophy you have adopted, and the specific theology that most frames your world view.

KEY 6: THE LOVERS (THE BROTHERS). The Lovers is the spirit of pairs. This is our internal binary. This is also the Brothers, Cain and Abel. Yet here is also the Key in the tarot that signifies the Creation of the World. You are at a crossroads and your next step is to choose between two paths. Key 6 appears to you when you must decide between instant gratification or delayed gratification. The Lovers portend the sacred marriage of your higher self and your ego. This is the Vision and the Voice. When The Lovers card appears, it can also be a call to evaluate your interpersonal matters. In modernity, The Lovers card might appear

so that attention can be called toward a romantic relationship or to the themes of Eros. If your inquiry is one seeking an affirmation or negation, then The Lovers is a message from spirit counseling you to seek further discussion; neither a positive or negative outcome can be conclusively determined at this time.

KEY 7: THE CHARIOT. You have passed the tests of initiation. The charioteer is The Grail, depicted as pure amethyst and in the shape of a full moon—the most important omen of this Key. You have proven yourself worthy of the victory that is coming. The Chariot is the spirit that helps you create change. You have attained a certain mastery of knowledge, and now you must determine how you will use that knowledge to innovate. The Chariot is an omen that you're gaining momentum. You possess mastery of knowledge and skills that now drive you farther along your Path. When The Chariot card appears, you have arrived at a critical milestone and are in active movement toward victory. Success will come to the one who refuses to stop fighting. Keep going. When The Chariot reflects who you are, you are one who has intuited the Truth and have found the right Path, but you have yet to figure out how to produce material works and fruition from that intuition.

Second Septenary

ROTA: Integration of the Cosmos

KEY 8: ADJUSTMENT. This spirit represents rectification measures that counter karmic consequences. It is the spirit guiding you toward balanced judgment and making clear decisions. Do not judge based on appearances. Choose balanced action, balanced words, and balanced thought. When the Adjustment card appears to you, it is a call for equilibrium. Do what will restore equilibrium. The Bearer of Justice arrives when all considerations have been duly weighed and the resulting outcome of the choices you've made, your actions and your speech has now been determined. Key 8 marks that point when the truth comes out. The scales of your life are about to get tipped so that balance can be maintained. If your inquiry is one seeking an affirmation or negation, then this is a message from spirit counseling you to seek further discussion; neither a positive or negative outcome can be conclusively determined at this time.

KEY 9: THE HERMIT. This is the inner light of wisdom and guidance that shines through the darkness. The Hermit bears this message: as you walk through the valley of darkness, fear no evil, for the Holy One is with you. The Holy One's rod and staff shall comfort you so that you always shine, but never burn—*luceo non uro*. The Hermit is the prophecy of a wise teacher—when the student is ready, the master will come, and that master may be in form or in spirit, so be receptive to both. When The Hermit appears to you, here is your second message: Shine with the light of the heavens. Shine for others, so others can see themselves and the world clearer. Light the life of humanity—*lux hominum vita*. The Hermit bears this

message from Spirit: It is time to dedicate and commit yourself to the Path. The Divine Lamp will guide you. Know this, however: the Path of Greatness is a lonely and solitary one.

KEY 10: FORTUNE. When the Fortune card appears to you, you are at a major turning point in your life. Changes are happening. This is the symbol of changing cycles and even the cycles of our mind, how we change our perspectives based on the evolution of our experiences. This is the guardian spirit present during a major shift in your life. When Fortune is a reflection of who you are, you are at a juncture point of learning how to master control over your own future, your fate, and destiny. Matters are alchemizing. The sphinx is symbolic of sulphur; Hermanubis symbolizes alchemical mercury; and the Typhon is salt; together they are the Tria Prima, resources you'll need appearing before you so that you can manifest your destiny. Master your Will. Fortune is an affirmation to your inquiry: yes, forward and onward you shall go. Your intentions are the Divine's intentions.

KEY 11: LUST. This is the spirit of mastery over your own fears and the joy that comes with knowing you have conquered your fears. You're awakening to higher consciousness. When Key 11: Lust appears, you are at the most critical point of the operation, for this Key in the tarot signifies the most critical of all operations in magic and alchemy. The Lust card is a reflection of who you are: you are in the midst of great realization and on the verge of divine insight. You are learning mastery over the magic chain. Key 11 is the personification of audacity to achieve personal miracles. With patience and fortitude, you overcome the initial setbacks. You are held in high esteem. Lust is an affirmation to your inquiry. One of the great Mysteries of Key 11 is the fate of all Greats: the Great One is always denied human fatherhood; the father who gave seed was a god or spirit impregnating the human mother, and so Key 11 is an omen of the Great One's fate. Key 11 is a sign of the accomplishment of the Great Work.

KEY 12: THE HANGED MAN. Examine your situation from a different perspective. When The Hanged Man appears to you, reflect on the relationship between you and the Universe. This is also the message for you: Be the outlier. This is the spirit designating how we break from establishment to serve a higher purpose. Scrutinize both the fundamentalism around you and the personal dogma embedded deep within. Key 12 sends the message of psychic mindfulness. This is the Key of Divine Waters. Tap in to your own deep sea of unconscious. This is the heretical, the eccentric, the dissident. This is the rejection of authority and rebellion against establishment. The Hanged Man appears to you when the answer is to operate outside of and in contention with the established rules of institution. This is also the sign of sacrifice: Others before you have given so that you may give. Now you give so that those after you may give. If you inquire for an affirmation or negation, this Key is a negation to your inquiry. Seek another course of action, but first, take pause. A moment of respite and meditation is needed

before a productive and constructive decision can be made. Here is an omen that one more great personal sacrifice is called from you before achievement of the Great Work.

KEY 13: DEATH. Although this Key is called Death, it is Life beneath the Waters. This is the alchemical state of putrefaction. Only second to Leo (Key 11: Lust), Key 13: Death is Scorpio, a sign of formidable power. You are being guided past and through an initiation phase—this is exaltation beyond physical matter, You are being called to transcend Body. The suffering you experience serves a greater divine purpose. You are about to embark on a journey deep into a personal underworld, but if you make it out on the other side, following the Light, you will know the Mystery. Changes that you know in your heart are imminent and yet you have been denying to yourself will become the very changes that you will face. The Death card appears to you when your circumstances call for this gentle reminder: All is not fair to the human perception. You toil until sweat seethes from your brow, and yet fruits of your labor are denied to you anyway, no matter who you are or what you have done. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. That is the purpose and the absence of purpose to human Genesis. Endure through the difficult changes to come and when those winds of change have settled, you will find yourself better for it. There will be rebirth after this death.

KEY 14: TEMPERANCE. This is where it gets better. Here is consummation of a sacred marriage. The counter-change that had been necessary has now been carried out in full and equilibrium will be restored. When Temperance appears to you, you are being called to synthesize contradictory elements into the cauldron. When they combine, they alchemize into the crystal prism through which you will finally be able to see the Coat of Many Colors. Key 14: Temperance foreshadows that the final stage of your Great Work is coming. You are growing closer to your own divine higher genius. *Genius*, in Greco-Roman lore, is one's tutelary deity, or a guardian spirit that protects an individual person. It is your *daimon* from your cradle to your grave, the realization of an inner divine. Circumstances in your life path have converged and a work of personal inspiration becomes your productivity. You realize your innate talents and bring into material being that which is extraordinary. This is the primordial spirit of exceptionalism. "Genius hits a target no one else can see." (Arthur Schopenhauer, 1788-1860)

Third Septenary

DEUS: Integration of the Divine

KEY 15: THE DEVIL. You know you've begun the final prong of your spiritual journey when you're thrust into a battle with the Devil. Here is creative energy in its most material, physical form. Do not be blinded by ignorance and misinterpret who the Devil is: here, the Devil is Baphomet, the Sabbatic Goat, and when Key 15 appears to you, Spirit sends the omen of human mastery over the

astral light. The number of the Key is divisible by Three, and latent within it is the Holy Trinity. The Devil is the Key of liberation, intelligence applied for material gains and practical success. (However, Levi notes that Key 15 as the Devil signifies power of the astral light wielded for the purposes of a perverse Will.) Yes, The Devil is intellect, the Devil is prodigy, and the Devil is masculinized creative power; but this is exercise of power that serves the Self.

KEY 16: THE TOWER. The Tower is the card of destruction, but it is the Dance of Shiva that is necessary for clearing a path to Perfection. This is the moment your material and spiritual worlds collide. The spirit of The Tower appears to you now in an effort to guide you through the challenge of dismantling your own preconceived notions. Heed these teachings: there can be joy in sorrow and stability in change. What are those flames you see? *Lux mentis lux orbis*: light of the mind, light of the world. Key 16 can also be an omen of armed conflict. In the Thoth deck, there is a secret talismanic power in Key 16: The Tower—the card itself is a *nazar*, imbued with the power of protection against the evil eye.

KEY 17: THE STAR. This is the goddess Nuit, who brings to you the open of total possibilities of every kind. This is the defined formation of your personal universe, but know that what you see of Truth is not the same as what others will see of the truth. Key 17: The Star is the sign of the Scarlet Woman. The goblets pour forth astral light—this is a divine omen that foreshadows the greatness you will soon produce. When The Star is making her presence known to you, it is the prophecy that a blessing is soon to be conferred. Key 17 confers upon you “divine ideas, the omniform essence of God” (John Locke). The Star card is the theophany, or the appearance of Divinity to you in human form.

KEY 18: THE MOON. This is winter, a period of repression. There is diminished or challenged mental and physical control. This is the foreshadowing of something ominous. Sorcery abounds. You have found yourself at the tenuous threshold between worlds, between life and death, between sobriety and intoxication. The Moon card appears when you are coming toward the crossroads of having to endure through a dark night of the soul. Yet there is prophecy here: journeying through the dark night of your soul will take you onto the path that leads to your Holy Grail. The Moon is also the spirit of resurrection. There will come a climactic miracle. Through the doubt and mystery, maintain an unwavering faith and that is what powers the miracle. When The Moon is a reflection of who you are, you wield an extraordinary reservoir of concealed power. Do you know what to do with it? When you are presented with The Moon card, it is Anubis appearing before you, the Egyptian god of death and the underworld, one who is present at the Weighing of the Heart. The Moon is the Guardian of the Scales, and so the binate, that inner binary, is pitted one against the other. When Key 18 appears to you, the matter at hand is steeped in ambiguity. You must see the

unseen, for that is the only way to understand what it is you're looking at. If you are seeking affirmation, then regrettably, The Moon is an omen of negation.

KEY 19: THE SUN. Key 19: The Sun signifies growth. Here we see your consciousness expanding. You are on the verge of confronting potential with Reason and Truth, through which you shall create Goodness. Goodness is Creation with purpose arrived at through Reason and Truth. Here is victory in the battles you've fought for your own independence. This is the omen of emancipation. This is liberation from dogma. You've broken all chains. You've detached yourself from that which had tried to control your will. And now your light shines freely out into the world. This is the foreshadowing of progressive, positive advancement. This is salvation and the successful formation of the philosopher's stone. Here is the reconciliation of divinity and humanity. Pictured here are Nuit (goddess, Queen of Infinite Space) and Hadit (god, Lord of the Sky and the serpent Apophis, Kundalini personified) in infancy.

KEY 20: THE AEON. Here is the Great God, Lord of Heaven depicted on the Stele of Ankh-ef-en-Khonsu (or the Stele of Revealing). Here appearing before you is the Chief of the Gods, the Opener of Doors. This is Divinity revealing to you that you are about to embark on great personal advancements in philosophy and science. You are a torchbearer and you will be called to hold the Light. This is the end of a personal Dark Age and the beginning of Enlightenment. This is that moment of full realization for why all that has happened to you has happened. The Aeon is the spirit of revelation, when the answers that were hidden before are now obvious. Key 20 is a mythic personification of an event horizon—this is a space-time in which no event that comes subsequent can affect the outcome, because all that could have affected it has either transpired or not transpired.

KEY 21: THE UNIVERSE. This is a complement to Key 0: The Fool. Here, all returns to nothingness. In the beginning, with The Fool, there was nothingness, and here at the end, with The Universe, there is a return to that nothingness. However, this is nothingness after its complete expansion. The end must beget the beginning. Depicted here in Key 21: The Universe is the final form of the image of the Magical Formula, the One that is the Four. Here we see the revolutions of the Tetragrammaton. See how The Mother, a dancing figure, harnesses the spiral force of the magic chain, celebrating the Great Work accomplished. You are the catalyst. This is the spirit of you succeeding at creating the change you have wanted to see in your world, and now you need to build upon that new world order. The Universe card ushers in a period of renaissance and unification. When Key 21 appears to you, it is the divinatory mark of a new epoch in your life path. With it comes dramatic changes to your world. This is the spirit of a great power rising. (Notice the pictorial relation between the Eye and the Serpent in Key XVI: The Tower and Key XXI: The Universe.)