

1.2.3

TAROT

ANSWERS IN AN INSTANT



Affection



responds



with joy



DONALD
TYSON



Donald Tyson has been writing about the Tarot and other New Age and esoteric subjects for more than fifteen years and is the author of over a dozen books. He lives in Nova Scotia, Canada.

1.2.3 TAROT

ANSWERS IN AN INSTANT



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TYSON

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DER NARR

NIENINONX KÖNIGIN



SWARDS
ESPADAS

REGINA DI BASTONI
REINE DE BATONS

QUEEN OF WANDS
REINA DE BASTOS



KÖNIGIN DER STÄBE

STAVEN KÖNINGIN

Introduction

Tarot Made Easy

The purpose of this book is to enable anyone to do Tarot readings quickly and easily, even those who have never held a Tarot pack in their hand. This is accomplished through the use of Tarot sentences, a completely new system of divination in which the cards are laid out in sets of three. Each triplet of cards expresses a composite sentence that conveys the triplet's collective meaning. Individual cards have their own simple sentences, parts of which are combined to make up the composite sentences of the triplets.

There is no need to memorize the cards. It only takes a moment to look up the parts of each Tarot sentence in the tables provided at the back of this book. The Tarot sentences themselves provide the essential explanation of the card layout. Those seeking a more detailed understanding of the question can obtain it by referring to the individual sections for each card in chapters 9, 10, and 11, where the meanings of the cards are explained in greater depth. It really is as easy as 1-2-3.

The Universal Tarot of Roberto De Angelis that illustrates this book is a variation on the Tarot designed by Arthur Edward Waite and illustrated by Pamela Colman Smith. It was chosen because the Waite designs are widely regarded as the easiest to learn and use. In its original form and its numerous variants, the Waite deck is also the most

popular and most common Tarot. However, anyone wishing to use a different Tarot may do so. The system of Tarot sentences presented here can be applied to almost any Tarot deck.

The descriptions of the cards are based on the images in the *Universal Tarot*, which differ in slight respects from the original Rider-Waite designs, but the upright and inverted sentences and general meaning given for each card are derived from the interpretations used by the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, supplemented by the interpretations of Aleister Crowley and Arthur Edward Waite. Both Crowley and Waite were members of the Golden Dawn and gained much of their understanding of the Tarot from Golden Dawn teachings.

The Golden Dawn was a secret society founded in England toward the end of the nineteenth century. It was devoted to the study of esoteric subjects such as the Tarot. Its correspondences and meanings for the cards are as close to a general standard on the Tarot as presently exists. It is not, however, necessary to know anything about the Golden Dawn or its teachings to use this book.

Those familiar with Waite's writings on the Tarot will notice that some meanings given here for the cards differ from those of Waite. Although Waite knew the Golden Dawn teachings, he did not reveal them fully in his writings, but often substituted traditional meanings for the cards. Where Waite's traditional meanings conflict with the Golden Dawn interpretations, I have favored those of the Golden Dawn.

This book sticks to the basics. It contains nothing difficult or esoteric, no history or theory, just what you need to know to do Tarot readings. The method of Tarot sentences is explained first, followed by advice on how to read the Tarot, and five layouts for the cards designed to answer different types of questions. Each layout is accompanied by a sample reading, so that you can see how it is used. After the layouts, the cards themselves are individually described so that the meaning of each card may be linked to its location in any composite Tarot sentence. The

appendix contains tables of the Tarot sentences associated with each card for quick reference during readings.

You should not be intimidated by the Tarot. You can learn as much or as little about it as you want. Some readers will use this book only as a beginning, and will move on to study such esoteric complexities of the Tarot as its elemental, astrological, and Kabbalistic associations. For others, who only wish to do simple and reliable card readings for their friends and themselves, this book is all they will ever need.

REGINA DI COPPE
REINE DE COUPES



KÖNIGIN DER KELCH

IL MAGO
LE BATELEUR



DER MAG

REGINA DI SPADE
REINE D'ÉPÉES

QUEEN OF SWORDS
REINA DE ESPADAS



KÖNIGIN DER SCHWERTER ZWAARDEN KONINGIN

chapter one

How to Use this Book

The method for reading Tarot cards that is presented in the following pages is based on the ability to divide the meaning of each card into three parts that correspond with the parts of a simple sentence. Consider the sentence "The girl dances with joy." The first part, "The girl," is what the sentence is about; the second part, "dances," is what she does; the third part, "with joy," describes the way the action is directed or modified.

Each Tarot card also has three aspects. The first is the nature of the card in itself, its subject; the second is what is done by the card, its action; the third is the way that action is expressed, its direction. These three parts of the card's meaning correspond with the three parts of the type of sentence used in the example.

For instance, the subject of the card known as the Magician is "skill," since a magician is defined by his ability to cleverly and adroitly manipulate objects and other human beings. The action of the card is "will"—a magician uses his skills to accomplish his intention or desire. The direction is a "design" or "plan," since the will of the magician must express itself in the form of some sort of an achievement. He applies his skills through his willed intention to attain his goal. This complete base meaning of the Magician may be conveyed in a kind of shorthand by the Tarot sentence "Skill wills with design." "Skill" is the subject, "wills" the action, and "with design" the direction.

Reading the Tarot Sentence

When we examine a Tarot card by itself, we must consider all three parts of its sentence together in order to get a rounded understanding of it. However, when the cards are laid out in a divination spread or layout, their meanings are modified or limited by their locations in the spread. All the layouts in this book use as their basic unit the card triplet, which is composed of three cards arranged in a row and read from left to right in the manner of a written sentence. When a card is placed in a triplet, we read only that part of its meaning that corresponds with its location. In this way, the three cards in any Tarot triplet express only a single sentence for any one order.

There are thus two types of Tarot sentence. The first is the simple sentence that expresses the complete meaning of any individual card. It is called "simple" because it applies to an individual card. The second is the composite sentence formed by three cards laid out in a triplet. The first card in a triplet gives the subject for the triplet; the second card gives the action; and the third card gives the direction. For example, the card of the Magician placed in an upright attitude at the beginning of a triplet would signify "skill," but in the middle it would mean "will," and at the end of the triplet it would express "with design."

Instead of referring to the parts of a Tarot sentence as subject, action, and direction, in this book they are simply labeled 1, 2, and 3. To determine the meaning for a card in any triplet, it is only necessary to look up the card in the quick reference tables at the end of the book, and find its meaning under column 1, 2, or 3, depending on the location of the card in the triplet. Every group of three cards gives a completely unique composite Tarot sentence.

The meaning for each card in a triplet provides a keyword to the understanding of that card. It is not the only possible keyword, but it has been chosen to convey the most common or general meaning of the card in that location in the triplet. The composite sentences in any layout are enough by themselves to provide a complete but basic answer to the divination. However, once you have learned to use

them, you will want to progress to a more detailed understanding of the cards. This is obtained by looking up the complex meaning for the card in each position of a triplet in the card's section in chapter 9, 10, or 11. As you become familiar with the cards, you will soon learn what parts of the detailed meanings to apply to the question under investigation.

Not all possible meanings for a Tarot card apply to it in any given layout. Part of the art of Tarot divination is learning what to include and what to exclude from your interpretation. This only comes with practice, but it is not difficult. The meanings selected for the cards of a layout from all their possible meanings are those that flow together and complement each other, and have a direct bearing on the question. For example, the card known as the Fool can mean foolishness, but it can also mean spirituality in the sense of worldly innocence. If you are doing a divination on a spiritual question, the latter meaning is more likely to apply, but if the question concerns business, it will often be the former meaning.

During divination, the meaning of a Tarot card is modified by the question; by the location of the card in the layout; by the cards that surround it, lie near to it, or otherwise influence it; and by its orientation. These factors give the *dignity* of the card. A Tarot card is said to be well dignified or ill dignified depending on whether these factors facilitate the expression of the card's meaning or hinder its expression.

Orientation refers to the attitude of a card when it is turned faceup in a layout. A card may be upright or inverted from the perspective of the person performing the reading, who is known as the diviner or reader. Inverted cards are also called reversals. It is sometimes said that the meaning of an inverted card is the opposite of its upright meaning, but this is not quite true. A card always has the same identity. When it appears upside down in a layout, the purity of its action is weakened or inhibited. This often has the effect of making a favorable card seem unfavorable. However, it also makes cards that have a harmful influence in the divination less hurtful. Inversion

hinders the action of bad cards just as it obstructs the action of good cards. Sometimes inversion will make a spiritual card more material in its working, or make a material card less practical.

Tarot sentences, and more detailed meanings, have been provided in this book for all the cards in both their upright and inverted postures. This removes the need to think in your own mind what the significance of a card would be were its action to be hindered or weakened by inversion. It is a good idea to do this anyway, as an exercise, since you will have a much better understanding of the complete sense of a card once both its upright and inverted meanings are understood. Try reading the detailed upright meaning of a card, then read its detailed inverted meaning, and ask yourself how the inverted meaning relates to the upright meaning. After doing this, you will have a much better concept of the card in its totality.

The number of possible Tarot sentences in any card triplet is quite large. There are three positions, and each position may be occupied by any card in the pack. The result is close to half a million possible combinations. If we add the inverted attitudes of the cards, this number is increased by a factor of seven to over three million possible unique sentences! It is unlikely that you will ever exhaust the possibilities of even a single triplet, and most of the card layouts in this book contain multiple triplets.

Court Cards

You will notice that the meanings of the *court cards*—the King, Queen, Knight, and Knave—in the position 1 in a triplet are expressed in a slightly different way from the meanings of the other cards. The court cards are generally understood to stand for human beings having an influence on the question that the divination is intended to answer. This is a little simplistic. Any of the cards may stand for human beings, and any of the cards may stand for things other than human beings. However, it is helpful when doing readings to think of the court cards as persons having an influence on the question.

In the *Universal Tarot* deck, which illustrates this book, the court cards of each suit are the King, Queen, Knight, and Knave. The King

usually represents a mature man, the Queen a mature woman, the Knight a young man or youth, and the Knave a young woman or a child of either sex. Hence, the King of Wands, when it falls upon the number 1 position of a triplet and forms the subject of its Tarot sentence, is given the meaning "the impulsive man," but the Knave of Wands falling on the same position in a triplet receives the meaning "the daring girl/ child." It is up to the diviner to judge from the other cards in the layout whether the Knave represents a young woman or a child. Knaves can, and sometimes do, stand for boys before they have reached the age of adolescence, since it is sexual maturity that symbolically differentiates the sexes. Adolescent boys and young men are represented by the Knights.

It used to be the practice to divide the court cards into various classes based on the hair color, eye color, and skin complexion of the persons represented by the cards. In the popular esoteric system of the Golden Dawn, the assignment of hair and eye coloring to the court cards became quite specific and complex.

The trouble with this system is that it is frequently inaccurate. A court card appearing in a layout is far more likely to express the personality of the human being it represents than to indicate hair and eye color. In any case, there is no precise agreement among writers on the Tarot as to the physical characteristics represented by the court cards—for example, Arthur Edward Waite wrote that the court cards of the suit of Wands represent dark persons rather than those who are fair, as indicated by the Golden Dawn. Finally, the hair, eye, and skin color attributed to the various court cards work fairly well for those of European ancestry, but are virtually worthless when applied to those of African or Asian heritage.

All these considerations have led me to omit references to types of physical appearance from the descriptions of the individuals represented by the court cards. In this decision, I merely emulate the practice of Aleister Crowley, who described the human beings represented by the court cards according to personality type, not appearance.

The Structure of the Tarot

A few words must be written about the structure of the Tarot for those completely unfamiliar with it. The Tarot is a deck of seventy-eight cards, which may be divided into two groups: the twenty-two picture cards known as the trumps or *Greater Arcana*, and the fifty-six suit cards known as the *Lesser Arcana*. It is easy to recognize the suit cards—they resemble in their names and numbering the cards of a deck of ordinary playing cards, except that in the Tarot four additional court cards have been added, the Knights. By contrast, the trumps are usually numbered with Roman numerals from I to XXI (the Fool has no number or is numbered zero), and are unique to the Tarot. The suit cards may be further divided into the sixteen court cards and the forty number cards. The number cards of each suit are numbered in Arabic numerals from the ace or 1 to 10.

The four suits correspond with the four elements of ancient philosophy: Fire, Water, Air, and Earth. Wands are fiery, and, in general, indicate matters relating to the force of the will, the inspiration, creativity, and active energy. Cups are watery, and stand for matters connected with the emotions, particularly love and affection, and also for dreams, illusions, desires, and fantasies. Swords are airy, and they signify things of the mind, such as spoken and written communications, thoughts, plans, and calculations; but because the sword is a weapon, the suit of Swords also stands for conflict and strife. Pentacles are earthy, and signify, in general, matters relating to the health of the body, cultivation, property, possessions, and wealth.

As has already been indicated, in Tarot divination, the court cards generally stand for human beings. The trumps represent greater factors, either in the world at large or in the personality of the individual asking the question. The number cards tend to represent more specific influences that have a bearing on the matter under inquiry. Although no card in a layout can be said to be more important than any other—just as no stone in an arch is more important than its neighbors, since all are needed to hold the arch up—when a trump

How to Use this Book

appears in a layout, it points to matters of profound significance and should be carefully considered.

In the esoteric Tarot system of the Golden Dawn, each card has a specific astrological or elemental association that aids in understanding the meaning of the card. It is not necessary to know the Golden Dawn correspondences, which have been omitted for the sake of simplicity, to use this book. Rest assured that the meanings and sentences presented here were composed with those correspondences in mind.

FANTE DI SPADE
VALET D'EPEES



BUBE DER SCHWERTER

COPPE
COUPES



KELCHE

L'IMPERATORE
L'EMPEREUR

IV

THE EMPEROR
EL EMPERADOR



DER HERRSCHER

DE KEIZER

chapter two

How to Divine With the Tarot

The person who reads the cards is known as the *diviner* or *reader*. The act of consulting the Tarot is called a *divination* or *reading*. The person asking the question is known as the *querent* or *client*. It is possible to divine for yourself, and when you do, you are both diviner and querent. When you divine for another person, you act as the querent's agent, and you take the place of the querent in the reading. You read the cards from your perspective, as though you were the querent. The arrangement of the cards on the table is known as a *spread* or *layout*.

Layouts

There are countless different Tarot layouts that may be used for divination. Those described in this book are made up of card triplets that yield composite Tarot sentences, but in spreads described in other books, the cards are read individually and as they relate to each other, rather than in groups of three. It is possible to use other popular Tarot layouts with this book and get good results. When using a layout in which the cards are read individually, rather than in triplets, you should refer to the general meaning given for each card in chapters 9, 10, and 11, and to the expanded Tarot sentences provided for each individual card in its upright and inverted posture.

Various spreads for different purposes will be presented in subsequent chapters, along with examples for each, but here it is necessary to outline the general approach to Tarot divination.

Before You Read

Before you attempt a reading with the cards, either for yourself or for somebody else, you must have a question. It may be very broad or very specific, but without some question to act as the focal point for the reading, results are likely to prove disappointing. The Tarot cards have so many possible meanings, they can overwhelm the diviner unless the meanings are narrowed down by the question. Even in a general life reading, a question must be asked, such as "What does the future hold for me?" Usually the question is more specific, such as "Will I get a job soon?" or "Will my current relationship endure?" or "When will I get the money I need?"

A few authorities on the Tarot have asserted that the querent should not tell the question to the diviner. This is very poor advice. It leaves the diviner in the dark concerning the nature of the reading and causes the information provided by the diviner to be vague or general. It is far more useful to the querent for the diviner to be able to focus precisely on the question while interpreting the cards, and this can only happen when the diviner knows the question before the start of the reading.

Once you have a question in mind, you must choose the layout that is best suited to answer it. Various card spreads have different functions. For example, the Yes-No Layout is designed to give a simple yes or no to a question by means of a single Tarot sentence, and it will provide only a limited amount of background insight into the nature of the inquiry. The Triangle Layout is well adapted to simpler questions that do not have ramifications in more than one area of life. The Nine-Card Layout provides insight into complex matters extending over time, and it may be used for a full-life reading.

It is important to shuffle the cards thoroughly before attempting a divination. A new pack of cards should be shuffled for ten or fif-

teen minutes at a minimum, or it will not be mixed well enough to give good results. Never start with an unmixed deck. The cards must already be well randomized before you even pick up the pack to shuffle for a reading. As you shuffle them, stop every once and a while, and rotate a pile containing around half the cards in the deck to invert their attitude, before continuing with the shuffle. If you do this five or six times between periods of shuffling, there will be a good mixture of upright and inverted cards in the layout.

The Reading

Whether you are divining for yourself or somebody else, you should have the question clearly expressed in your mind all the time you are shuffling the cards just prior to the reading. It is customary for the diviner to shuffle the cards, even when doing a reading for another person. Many individuals cannot shuffle cards at all, or shuffle very awkwardly, so it may be easier for the diviner to do the shuffling. On the other hand, some readers like to have the querent shuffle the cards in order to imprint the querent's mental energies upon them. This is a matter of individual preference.

Continue to hold the question in your thoughts while you perform a final cut of the cards. When you read for yourself, you will both shuffle and cut the cards, but when you read for someone else, most often you will shuffle, then place the deck in front of the querent and have the querent cut the cards. The querent may or may not shuffle the cards, but he or she always cuts the cards. The querent must keep the question firmly in mind all the while you shuffle the deck, as well as during the cut.

It is usual to cut the cards into three piles to the left using the left hand, but this is more of a superstition than anything else. Any manner of cutting the cards will serve as well. If you use the traditional cut, gather the cards up by placing the pile that was formerly on the bottom of the deck upon the middle pile, and these two on the pile that was formerly on the top of the deck.

Take up the deck and deal the cards into the layout you have chosen as the most suitable for the question. Cards are usually dealt facedown

on the table and then turned faceup during the reading in the order indicated by the layout.

There are two ways of turning the cards, each with its own purpose. Cards may be turned by flipping them over from side to side or from top to bottom. When they are turned from side to side, their attitude is preserved. That is to say, if they were upright in the pack before the deal, they will still be upright when they lie faceup on the table. When the cards are turned from top to bottom, their orientation is inverted. Cards that were upright in the pack will be inverted when they lie faceup on the table.

Which way you turn the cards depends on your location relative to the querent. Cards are turned in such a way that the orientation which the cards had to the querent when the querent cut the deck is the same as the orientation the cards have to the diviner when the diviner reads the cards. Always bear in mind that the diviner acts as the agent for the querent—the diviner takes the place of the querent during the reading. For this reason, the cards must have the same orientation to the diviner that they had to the querent during the cut.

If you divine for yourself, you and the querent are the same person, and the cards should be turned from side to side to preserve their orientation. However, if the querent sits across the table from you—as will often be the case—when you take the deck back from the querent after the cut, the cards in the deck will be upside down for you in your role as the querent's agent. You can restore their orientation in one of two ways: either rotate the pack in your hand as you receive it from the querent across the table, then turn the cards side to side when exposing their faces, or take back the deck without rotating it, and turn the cards top to bottom when exposing them in order to invert their orientation.

This may sound a bit confusing, but it is really quite simple if you keep in mind that you as the diviner take the place of the querent during the reading—therefore the cards must have the same orientation to you that they had to the querent when the querent cut the

deck. You do not want cards that were upright relative to the querent to be inverted relative to you when you read the layout. This would cause you to give the wrong interpretation.

Each card layout has a specific order in which the cards are read. Usually, it is the same order in which they have been dealt onto the table. Some Tarot readers prefer to read each card as it is dealt onto its place in the spread, but it is a better practice for beginners to first deal the entire layout facedown, then turn the cards as they are read. Having the entire layout on the table makes it easier to see the role of each card in the totality of the reading. Since the layouts in this book rely upon Tarot sentences expressed by triplets of cards, the three cards of each triplet in a layout are turned faceup at the same time, so that the cards of the triplet can be read together.

Many layouts employ a card that represents the querent in the reading. This card is known as the *significator*. It is most often selected from the court cards based on the hair and eye color of the querent. A much better practice, though, is to select the significator from the court cards based on the personality of the querent. In general, the four court cards of each suit are as follows.

- Wands represent a willful, fiery temperament.
- Cups represent a loving, emotional nature.
- Swords represent a sharp, analytical, and critical personality.
- Pentacles represent a reliable, practical disposition.

If the querent is an older man, a King will be used as the significator; if a mature woman, a Queen; if a young man or teenage boy, a Knight; if a young woman, a girl or a young child, a Knave. You can more precisely match the court card that serves as the significator to the querent by comparing your understanding of the querent's personality with the complete upright Tarot sentence given for each court card under the descriptions of the individual cards. Significator cards are always treated as upright.

The use of a significator is not necessary to do Tarot readings, and often when it is used, it plays no active part in the reading. None of

the layouts in this book employs a significator. My own experience is that the significator, as it is customarily used in Tarot divination, is redundant and can easily be eliminated without affecting the reading in the least degree.

Tarot Sentence Divination: Overview

The procedure for Tarot divination described above may be briefly outlined for easy comprehension:

1. The querent tells the diviner the question.
2. The diviner mentally decides upon the layout most suitable for the question.
3. If a layout is used that employs a significator, the diviner chooses the court card that best expresses the personality of the querent and sets it aside faceup on the table.
4. The diviner shuffles the cards while both querent and diviner hold the question in mind.
5. The diviner gives the Tarot deck to the querent to be cut.
6. The querent cuts the deck while both querent and diviner concentrate on the question.
7. The diviner picks up the restored deck and deals the cards facedown on the table in the pattern of the chosen layout. The significator, if used, is placed into the spread at the appropriate location.
8. If the layout is composed of triplets, the diviner turns the first triplet of cards faceup in order, using the method of turning the cards that preserves the orientation that the cards held for the querent during the cut.
9. The diviner interprets aloud each triplet's meaning with regard to the question.
10. When all card triplets have been turned and read, the diviner gives a summary of the overall interpretation of the layout.

A good Tarot reader will encourage the querent to ask questions and make comments throughout the reading. The more interaction

there is between the querent and the cards, the more likely the interpretation of the spread will be meaningful for the querent.

As a diviner, you should avoid overly dramatic or extreme interpretations of the cards. This is true even if you are doing a reading for yourself. Some of the cards, particularly the trumps, have very powerful meanings, but in ordinary life the full force of the cards seldom expresses itself to the final degree. More often, the force of the cards is diluted. For example, the trump Death can indeed mean a physical death. However, in the common course of our lives, the death of someone known to us happens infrequently. Usually, when the trump Death occurs in a layout, it does not signify the physical death of a human being but rather an abrupt change of direction or transformation in the life of the querent.

A good reading strikes a balance between unreasonable optimism and harsh pessimism. Extremes are uncommon in life, and extremes of interpretation should be avoided in Tarot divination. The common tendency is to interpret the cards too favorably, by exaggerating every positive aspect and minimizing or ignoring every negative indicator. This has the effect of making the querent feel better about the matter under question, but, if carried too far, can render the reading meaningless. On the other hand, too unfavorable an interpretation of the cards can cause the querent needless worry and distress. Strive for balance in divination, as in life.

SPADE
EPEES



SCHWERTER

REGINA DI SPADE
REINE D'EPEES



KÖNIGIN D

KÖNIGIN DER MÜNZEN MÜNZEN KÖNIGIN



QUEEN OF PENTACLES
REINA DE OROS
REINE DE DENIERS
REGINA DI DENARI

chapter three

Reading a Tarot Sentence

Turn the three cards of the triplet faceup, beginning with the card on the left. Consider the meaning of the left card. The first thing to notice is whether it is a trump, a court card, or a number card. The trumps generally signify larger factors in the life of the querent; the court cards stand for individuals who have a bearing on the question or personality aspects of the querent; and the number cards represent more specific factors relating to the question.

When the first card in a triplet is a court card, it is very likely that it stands for a person. A court card in the second or third position in a triplet may also stand for a human being, but it is just as likely that in these positions it signifies a personality trait of the querent that concerns the matter of the reading. Two or more court cards in a triplet may indicate interpersonal conflict or interpersonal harmony, depending on the directions in which the figures face. If the two figures of the court cards face one another, either communication or argument is indicated; if they face the same direction, it shows that they are concerned with the same matter; if they have their backs to each other, they are concerned with different matters.

- When the figures of two court cards face each other, they are in communication about a pleasant subject if both are

















upright, but about an unpleasant subject if both are inverted; but if one is upright and the other inverted, they are arguing.

- Similarly, if they face the same direction and both are upright, they are in harmony or agreement about a pleasant subject; if both are inverted, they are in agreement about an unpleasant subject; if one is upright and the other inverted, they are in disagreement about the same subject.
- When the figures in two court cards face opposite directions, and both are upright, each is concerned with a pleasant but separate matter; when both are inverted, each is concerned with an unpleasant separate matter; when one is upright and the other inverted, the subject that preoccupies the first is agreeable, while the subject holding the attention of the second is unpleasant.

The three sections of the table on the next page correspond with the three bullet points above. The time frame of interactions between the court cards—whether the action concerns the past, present, or future—is indicated by the directions the cards face: both facing left suggests a past matter, both facing right a future matter, and when facing in opposite directions, the present is indicated.

In the traditional Marseilles Tarot, all sixteen court figures look either to the left or to the right. Unfortunately, modern Tarot designers do not always understand the importance of making the court figures face to the side, and sometimes in modern decks, one or more of the figures look straight ahead. In the *Universal Tarot*, this is true of the King of Swords, the Queen of Swords, and the King of Cups. When these cards occur beside other court cards, notice must be taken of which side of the card is occupied by the emblem of the suit, since this can reveal the direction of energies. The sword of the King of Swords is in the left side of the card, so he may be thought of as looking to the left. Similarly, the sword of the Queen of Swords is on the left side, so she is treated as though she looks to the left. The cup of the King of Cups is on the left side also, so in readings this card is treated as though he looks to the left.

Interactions Between Court Cards

	Facings	Timeframe	Concerns
Facing each other		present	communication, pleasant subject
		present	communication, unpleasant subject
		present	communication, argument
		present	communication, argument
Facing same direction		past	agreement, pleasant subject
		future	agreement, pleasant subject
		past	agreement, unpleasant subject
		future	agreement, unpleasant subject
		past	disagreement, same subject
		past	disagreement, same subject
		future	disagreement, same subject
		future	disagreement, same subject
Facing opposite directions		present	separate matters, pleasant subjects
		present	separate matters, unpleasant subjects
		present	separate matters, pleasant-unpleasant subjects
		present	separate matters, unpleasant-pleasant subjects

If the figure on a court card looks one way, but the emblem of the suit is on the other side of the card, the direction in which the figure looks has precedence. For example, the Queen of Wands in the Universal Tarot looks to the right, but her wand is on the left. She is treated as looking to the right. Only if the figure looks straight ahead should the placement of the emblem of the suit be used to indicate the direction of energies.

A court card in the first place on a triplet and another in one of the remaining positions usually suggests an individual who interacts with the querent in a personal way. The court card in first place stands for the individual, and the card in the other position expresses an aspect of the querent's personality that is either in conflict or harmony with the overall personality of the individual indicated by the first card. Sometimes, however, two court cards in a triplet indicate two individuals concerned with the question who have a relationship with each other.

When all three places in a triplet are occupied by court cards, which happens only rarely, the information conveyed by the composite Tarot sentence of that triplet is of a social nature, involving the querent's relationships with others in his or her life.

The first place in a triplet is the most important. It reveals the general area of significance of the triplet's composite Tarot sentence. When a court card is first, the sentence concerns another person; when a trump is first, the sentence concerns a larger evolutionary aspect of the querent's personality; when a number card comes first, the sentence is directed at a specific detail or aspect of the question.

The second thing to look for in the initial card of a triplet is whether it is upright or inverted. Upright cards are generally more positive, inverted cards more negative. However, in the case of strongly negative cards, inversion may actually cause their influence to become milder and less harmful, since inversion has the effect of obstructing or weakening the natural action of a card.

Obtain the base meaning for the first card in the triplet by reading its full, individual sentence. These sentences are found both in the

descriptive text for each card in chapters 9, 10, and 11, and in the tables in the appendix. If the first card is an upright card, read its upright sentence; if it is inverted, read its inverted sentence. You may also wish to read the general meaning for the card, which provides its broadest interpretation, to refresh your memory concerning the overall sense of the card.

Turn your attention to the card in the middle of the triplet. Note whether it is a trump, court card, or number card. Note whether it is upright or inverted. Obtain its base meaning by reading its individual Tarot sentence.

Finally, consider the card on the right end of the triplet and note its type, orientation, and individual Tarot sentence.

Now that all three cards in the triplet have been examined individually, you can consider them collectively. Their group meaning is expressed by their composite Tarot sentence, the sentence derived from all three of the cards in the triplet. This is the most important information conveyed by the triplet, and when interpreting its meaning, the composite sentence should be given the greatest weight.

The sentences of individual cards express the meanings of those cards, but the composite sentence of a triplet expresses a large portion of the answer to the question asked by the querent. The individual Tarot sentences are descriptive, but the composite sentences are oracular. Although the composite sentences sometimes seem more obscure than the individual sentences, they convey information of much greater significance to the querent and should be considered with greater care.

The composite Tarot sentence for the triplet is created by combining part 1 of the individual or simple sentence of the card in position 1 of the triplet, part 2 of the simple sentence of the card in position 2, and part 3 of the simple sentence of the card in position 3. The result is a unique Tarot sentence that expresses the joined meanings of all three cards in their relative locations in the triplet.

Because the card on the left occupies the position of the subject in the sentence, it contributes the topic or focus of the composite sentence of the triplet. The subject is the innate identity of the triplet.

The card in the middle occupies the central position in the composite sentence, and is taken by the subject. The card in the right position, and contributes to the composite way in which the action is directed or expressed, subject acts through the action.

It is useful to write down the composite triplets of a layout while doing a reading. Together at the end of the divination, you will become more familiar with the card, but the composite sentence itself must be analyzed for the first time when possible that if you do Tarot readings for a technique, you may encounter the same than once, but due to the large number of it is not likely, provided the cards have been

To gain a fuller understanding of the triplet, look up the appropriate sections in the cards of the triplet. These sections give the corresponding parts of the composite sentence. Tarot readings for a few months using this you no longer need to refer to the section Tarot sentences will be enough to get the meaning of each card.

Reading the Tarot with clarity and effort comes after much practice. The aim of to help master this art by providing the greatest information in the smallest space with the least missed merely as an aid to beginners. Tarot sentences are not to be obtained in reading.

Chapter Three

The card in the middle occupies the position of action, and it contributes to the composite sentence of the triplet the action undertaken by the subject. The card on the right occupies the modifying position, and contributes to the composite sentence of the triplet the way in which the action is directed or expressed. It reveals how the subject acts through the action.

It is useful to write down the composite sentences of each of the triplets of a layout while doing a reading. They can then be considered together at the end of the divination. As you practice your technique, you will become more familiar with the individual sentences of each card, but the composite sentences are almost always unique, and each must be analyzed for the first time when it appears in a layout. It is possible that if you do Tarot readings for a number of years using this technique, you may encounter the same composite sentence more than once, but due to the large number of composite Tarot sentences, it is not likely, provided the cards have been properly shuffled.

To gain a fuller understanding of the composite sentence of the triplet, look up the appropriate sections in chapter 9, 10, or 11 for the cards of the triplet. These sections give an expanded version of the corresponding parts of the composite sentence. After you have done Tarot readings for a few months using this book, you may find that you no longer need to refer to the sections—the words in the basic Tarot sentences will be enough to trigger your memory of the full meaning of each card.

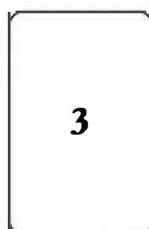
Reading the Tarot with clarity and effortlessness is an art that only comes after much practice. The system of Tarot sentences is designed to help master this art by providing the greatest amount of information in the smallest space with the least effort. It should not be dismissed merely as an aid to beginners. The meanings conveyed by Tarot sentences are not to be obtained in any other system of Tarot reading.

chapter four

The Yes-No Layout

This simple three-card layout is perfect when you are seeking a yes-or-no answer to a question. It is also a good way to learn how to interpret composite Tarot sentences. The layout consists of a single triplet that is read in the form of a Tarot sentence. The cards are shuffled and cut in the manner described in chapter 2, then dealt in the layout in order.

All the cards of the layout are dealt facedown, then all are turned faceup in the same order in which they were dealt. When turned, the cards should maintain the same orientation to the diviner, who reads them that they held to the querent when the querent cut the deck. The way in which the cards are turned, either side to side or top to bottom, is not important in itself—what matters is that the orientation is preserved. If you are doing a reading for yourself, as will often be the case, the cards should be turned from side to side so that their orientation to you in the pack is the same as their orientation to you on the table.



The Yes-No Layout

A triplet with two or more upright cards gives an answer of yes, and two or more inverted cards, an answer of no. Both the individual cards and the composite Tarot sentence they make up collectively provide additional insight into the matter under inquiry.

Example of the Yes-No Layout

Grace, a shy woman who is attending university away from home, asks the cards whether she should she go out on a blind date with Jerry, the cousin of her roommate at university. She knows nothing about Jerry other than that he is seven years older and works in a bank.

She shuffles and cuts the deck while concentrating on the question, then deals the following three cards on the table in front of her in the Yes-No Layout:



1



2



3

1. Five of Swords
2. Two of Swords (inverted)
3. Seven of Pentacles

The short answer to the question is, yes, Grace should go on the blind date with Jerry. This is indicated by the two upright cards, which give a positive response.

The most important card in any triplet is the first. In this case, it is the Five of Swords. An unfortunate card, the Five of Swords generally signifies dishonor and loss. The individual Tarot sentence for the card reads:

Defeat dishonors with pain.

There are no trump cards in the layout, suggesting that the question of the reading has no higher significance in Grace's life, but that the answer of the cards refers to immediate practical matters. Since there are also no court cards, the number cards must provide information about the human beings involved in the question—usually it is the court cards that represent people. The dominant male figure pictured in the first card gives insight into the character of Jerry, and the attitude with which he approaches the blind date—he regards it as a kind of conquest.

The card in the active place in the triplet is the inverted Two of Swords. When inverted, this card is less favorable than when it is upright. It indicates the actual process of the date itself, the way in which it will unfold, the nature of its actions. The individual Tarot sentence for the inverted Two of Swords reads:

Affront resumes with insensitivity.

The affront is probably some comment or action that Jerry will make toward Grace in the course of the date. It is given with insensitivity, and is persisted in or repeated. There is also the suggestion, in the blindfolded female figure with two swords, of a blind choice that has been unfortunate or has had unhappy consequences.

The card in position 3, the place of direction, is the upright Seven of Pentacles, an unhappy card in this generally positive suit of Pentacles,

a card that indicates anxiety and disappointment. The simple Tarot sentence for the upright Seven of Pentacles reads:

Failure disappoints with sorrow.

The final card in any layout provides insight into the outcome of the matter under question. In this case, the indicator is unfavorable. Since the matter under question is the blind date, this card suggests that it will end in an unsatisfactory way for Grace. She will be disappointed with Jerry.

By taking part 1 of the individual sentence for the Five of Swords, part 2 of the sentence for the inverted Two of Swords, and part 3 of the sentence for the upright Seven of Pentacles, we arrive at the following composite sentence for the triplet:

Defeat resumes with sorrow.

“Defeat” represents the subject or identity of the composite sentence. “Resumption” is its action. “With sorrow” is the manner in which that action fulfills itself. The composite sentence can only be understood in the context of the question.

When the meaning of the composite sentence of a triplet is unclear, it may be helpful to construct its extended version by gathering its parts from the descriptions of the individual cards. This is optional and will not be necessary in all readings. The extended version of the individual card’s simple sentence can be found in each card’s section in chapters 9, 10, or 11. The extended versions of composite sentences are read in three distinct sections, one part for each card in the triplet.

Grace consults the descriptions of the Five of Swords, the inverted Two of Swords, and the Seven of Pentacles, and constructs the following extended composite sentence:

*Defeat that results from the surrender of resistance
resumes when pardoned and repeats the injury
with sorrow compelling acceptance of the loss.*

The answer to the question, “Should Grace go on the blind date with Jerry?” is yes, based on the two upright cards out of the three in

The Yes-No Layout

the triplet. However, the date will be marked by a clash of personalities that will result in sadness on Grace's part. The decision to go on the date will seem at the time to have been a mistake, indicated by the inverted Two of Swords, and will result in the extenuation of her loneliness. After it is over, she will regret that Jerry is not the man she has been seeking in her life.

If the cards appear so unpromising, why is the overall response to the question a yes? It can only be that, although the experience will seem unfulfilling to Grace at the time, it will produce some unforeseen benefit in her life that will make it worth the effort. Perhaps she will learn something that she can turn to her practical advantage, or meet somebody else who is more compatible with her needs than Jerry. Why she should go on the blind date is not indicated in the cards, only that she should go, in spite of the potential for disappointment. Forewarned by the cards, Grace can enjoy the date itself without expecting too much from Jerry.

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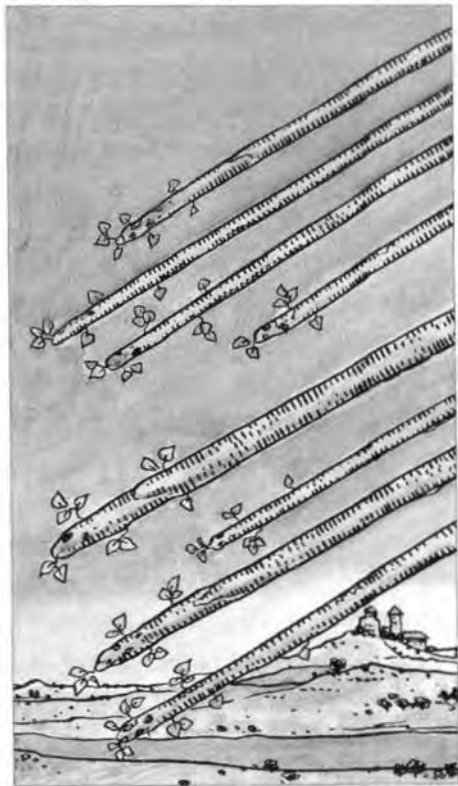


WANDS
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8

WANDS
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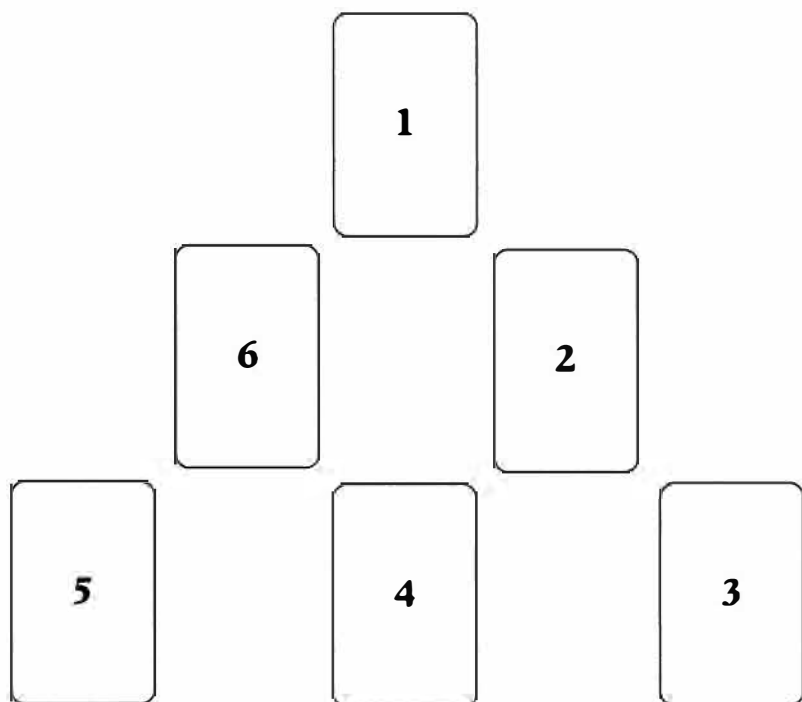
chapter five

The Triangle Layout

This layout is ideal for answering uncomplicated, practical questions when more detail is desired than can be obtained from the Yes-No Layout. The Triangle Layout involves three triplets of cards. However, the triplets are arranged on the sides of a triangle in such a way that the final card of the first triplet forms the initial card of the second, and the final card of the second, the initial card of the third. In this way, three triplets are possible using only six cards. Because the triplets overlap, their meanings flow naturally into one another, allowing an extremely coherent response.

The triplet on the right side of the triangle of cards is interpreted with regard to the matter under inquiry. Its sentence reveals the true nature of the matter, how it is presently expressing itself—which may not be fully understood by the querent. The triplet that forms the base of the triangle provides insight into the basis or foundation that underlies the question. It is particularly useful for revealing hidden causes. The triplet forming the left side of the triangle relates to the outcome or resolution, the fulfillment of the matter.

Because the cards are numbered and read clockwise around the triangle beginning at the apex, the first card is also the last card, but for the first triplet it gives the subject of the sentence, whereas for the last triplet it shows the direction of the sentence.



The Triangle Layout

Deal the cards onto the places of the layout in the order indicated by the numbers in the diagram above. They are read in the same order in groups of three. The first triplet is made up of cards 1, 2, and 3; the second triplet is composed of cards 3, 4, and 5; the final triplet is formed from cards 5, 6, and 1. Turn the cards of each triplet in order, reading each composite Tarot sentence as the cards of its triplet are exposed.

Example of the Triangle Layout

Frank, who is twenty-eight years old and who has worked six years in a government office, wants to know why he is being passed over for promotion. Twice in the past two years, younger men with less experience have been given higher positions that Frank applied for; even though both had no direct experience and had to be trained before they were able to fulfill their duties. Frank gets along well

with his superior in the department, an older woman, and cannot understand the reason for his neglect.

He shuffles and cuts the cards while concentrating on the question, then deals six of them facedown onto the positions of the layout, placing them in the figure of an upright triangle beginning with the apex and proceeding clockwise as illustrated in the diagram on the facing page.

The First Triplet

The first triplet is composed of cards 1, 2, and 3. Frank turns each in order from side to side so as to preserve the orientation the cards held while in the pack during the cut. After the cards of the triplet have been turned faceup, Frank reads their individual Tarot sentences.

The three cards in the first triplet are:



1



2



3

1. Justice
2. Five of Cups
3. Queen of Swords (inverted)

The initial card of the first triplet is the trump Justice. This sets the tone for the triplet, and indeed for the entire reading. The individual Tarot sentence for this trump reads:

Balance weighs with equality.

The most significant factor in this triplet, which concerns the true nature of the matter under question, is balance or equity in judgment.

The middle card of the triplet, relating to the action of the matter, is the Five of Cups. It is not a particularly happy card, as its *Universal Tarot* image suggests. Its individual sentence reads:

Disappointment frustrates with bitterness.

The frustration concerns the matter of the reading—that is, being passed over for promotion while others less qualified for the position are promoted. Clearly, it expresses the disappointment felt by Frank.

The final card of the initial triplet is the inverted Queen of Swords. Since this court card does not, in this triplet, occupy the first position, it probably does not refer here to a person, but to an aspect of Frank's personality or emotions that concerns the truth of the matter under question. The Tarot sentence of the inverted Queen of Swords reads:

The sly woman misleads with cruelty.

In this initial triplet, the significance of this card is deliberate and malicious deception or misdirection. It is a cruel deception in the eyes of the querent, who feels misled.

By taking part 1 of the sentence associated with Justice, part 2 of the sentence linked with the Five of Cups, and part 3 of the sentence revealed by the inverted Queen of Swords, Frank arrives at the following composite sentence for this triplet:

Balance frustrates with cruelty.

Seeking a fuller understanding, Frank constructs the extended composite sentence for this triplet, gathering its three parts from the descriptions of the individual cards:

*Balance in impartial judgment blind to emotion or personal interest
frustrates more keenly due to its surprise
with cruelty disappointing the hopes of the faithful.*

This is interesting because it makes no reference to injustice or inequality. It suggests that the real matter of the question is Frank's frustration with the way in which his application for promotion has been handled. He regards his treatment as cruel, yet it is not unjust

in an absolute sense, but merely balanced. He was looking for some kind of favoritism due to his seniority and work history, and he has become frustrated because he did not receive it. An impartial evaluation is perceived by him as cruel and unjust.

The Second Triplet

The three cards in the second triplet, along the base of the triangle, are:



3



4



5

3. Queen of Swords (inverted)
4. Knight of Pentacles
5. Judgement (inverted)

The first card is the same as the final card of the initial triplet, due to the structure of this particular card layout. When a court card falls in the first place of a triplet, it is probable that it refers to an actual person in the querent's life—in this case, an adult woman. The individual sentence, as indicated above, is:

The sly woman misleads with cruelty.

Because the card is inverted, its function in the matter under inquiry is impeded or less perfect than the ideal expression of this card. Were the card upright, the woman it represents would be “watchful,” but because of the inversion, her perceptive nature has been debased and

she is “sly.” This woman is a factor in the foundation underlying the matter under question—this triplet expresses the root of the question.

The second card in the triplet on the base of the triangle layout is the Knight of Pentacles. A similar matter of concern between these cards is indicated because the Knight of Pentacles faces the same direction as the Queen of Swords, to the right. (The figure of the Queen of Swords in the *Universal Tarot* looks straight ahead, but her sword is on the right side of the inverted card, which indicates the direction of energies.) Since she is upside down, but the Knight is upright, there is discord or discontent between her view and that of the Knight on the subject that involves them both. The individual sentence for the Knight of Pentacles reads:

The energetic youth adapts with ingeniousness.

In the middle position of the triplet, this card may represent an aspect of the querent’s personality, or it is possible that it represents another human being who has involvement with the question. Since Frank’s attitude shows neither adaptability nor energy, the suggestion is that this card represents one of his rivals for the promotion he sought, a younger man with energy and cleverness who is able to adapt to new circumstances to suit his purposes.

The final card in the foundation triplet is the inverted trump Judgement. As the title implies, this card can represent a decision or conclusion to a matter. It is not the conclusion to the matter under inquiry, but the conclusion to a course of action that formed the base of the question. The individual sentence for Judgement inverted is:

Decision punishes with severity.

It is natural to assume that the decision represented by this card is one of the promotions objected to by Frank.

The most fascinating aspect of this foundational triplet is the discord or unhappiness between the Knight of Pentacles and the inverted Queen of Swords. Perhaps the young man indicated by the Knight, who was promoted, was not entirely satisfied with the way things were handled; or it may be that the woman who made the promotion regretted it. The woman represented by the Queen of

Swords is in a position of power or judgment. The sword she holds can be used to reward or punish. It mirrors the sword in the hand of the goddess Justice in the initial card of the first triplet. The composite Tarot sentence for this middle triplet reads:

The sly woman adapts with severity.

When the expanded composite version of this sentence is formed by gathering together its three parts, the result reads:

*The sly woman of superficial grace and deceiving beauty
adapts conditions in reliable ways
with severity in evaluation and denial of reward.*

The suggestion is that the woman in a position of authority over Frank made her decision regarding this promotion in an effort to adapt to a difficult situation, even though she may not have been happy about it. She did not wish to pass over Frank's application, but circumstances beyond her control caused her to act with strictness, in perfect accord with the rules, and with no favoritism toward Frank. As a result, he resents this woman whom he considered a friend or close co-worker before having his hopes for promotion dashed. This is a bit unreasonable, since she did not act unfairly, but only, for reasons of prudence, failed to give him the preferential treatment he'd expected.

The Third Triplet

The three cards of the final triplet are:



5



6



1

5. Judgement (inverted)
6. Two of Wands
1. Justice

Due to the way this layout is constructed, two of the three cards of the last triplet are already exposed. Only the middle card must be turned. The final triplet has to do with the final outcome of the question, its fulfillment or resolution.

The first card of the final triplet is the same as the last card of the middle triplet. As we saw above, its individual sentence reads:

Decision punishes with severity.

Since in this triplet it occupies the first place, its subject is more important concerning the fulfillment of the question than it was in the matter of the foundation of the question. It appears that the outcome of the question—the whole matter of Frank's work promotion—will not be resolved to his satisfaction.

The second card of the final triplet is the Two of Wands. The twos, because they represent duality, often have to do with a choice. The individual sentence of this card reads:

Dominion assesses with possessiveness.

The dominion in the matter of the question is Frank's job, the source of his income. As a result of his failure to gain a promotion, it will be assessed on its merits. This evaluation, which will probably be undertaken by Frank himself, will not be done impartially but will be conducted with a possessive attitude.

The final card of the last triplet of the layout is, as we have already seen, the trump Justice, the individual sentence of which reads:

Balance weighs with equality.

The decision made by Frank, in spite of his possessive attitude toward his work, will ultimately be balanced and well considered.

When he constructs the composite sentence for the final triplet of fulfillment, Frank reads:

Decision assesses with equality.

This is the most important Tarot sentence in the entire spread because it embodies the final outcome of the matter under inquiry. The nature of that outcome is a decision of some kind, one that has been carefully considered and arrived at with balanced judgment. The possessiveness of the Two of Wands has, in the end, given way to an impartial assessment of the situation on its own merits.

To better understand the triplet of the final outcome of the question, Frank constructs its extended composite sentence by collecting its three parts from the descriptions of the individual cards:

*Decision imposed without appeal from a higher authority
assesses attainments critically in unsatisfied ambition
with equality determining truth from falsehood.*

What is Frank, who so anxiously searches for a solution to his job frustration, to understand by this? There is no indication that he will gain the promotion he seeks, only that at some point he will take a cold, clear look at his present employment situation and make his own judgment about it, a judgment that is within his own sphere of authority and is not subject to the whims of his superiors. He may decide to leave his job and seek another, or he may decide that what he has is worth hanging onto, even without the promotion, but whichever way he decides, it will be his decision alone, and making it will restore to him a sense of his own self-determination.

ZWAARDEN KONING



KING OF SWORDS
REY DE ESPADAS

BEKERS



CHAUCES
COPAS

FANTE DI BASTONI
VALET DE BATONS

KNAVE OF WANDS
SOTA DE BASTOS



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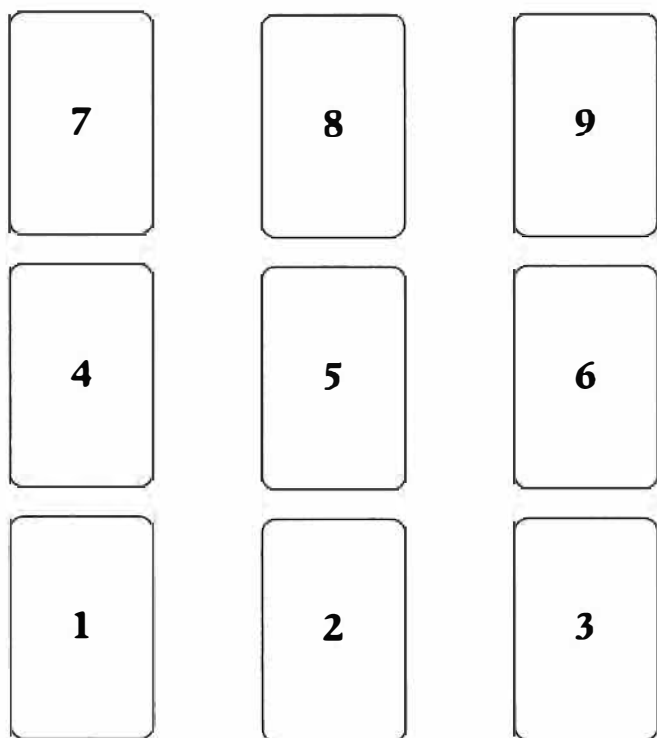
STAVEN SCHILDKNAAP

chapter six

The Nine-Card Layout

The Nine-Card Layout is ideal for more general questions and larger concerns that affect the querent over a significant span of time. It can even be used for a full-life reading—a reading that reveals key circumstances and events that are present or will occur over the full course of the querent's life. The cards are arranged in three triplets, one above the other. The bottom row, which is dealt first, concerns the past, the middle row the present, and the upper row the future. The cards in each triplet are both dealt and read from left to right, after the manner of a sentence.

The first triplet, on the bottom of the layout, reveals circumstances, motivations, actions, and individuals that, in the past, shaped the matter under question. The second triplet, which forms the middle row of the spread, reveals similar factors that are presently at work in the matter. The third triplet, on the top of the spread, deals with factors that will, in the future, affect the matter the querent is concerned about. These three triplets also reveal the nature of the matter itself, in the past, the present, and the future. When this layout is used for a full-life reading, the past, present, and future circumstances of the querent's own life are expressed.



The Nine-Card Layout

Deal the cards out in three rows of three, from left to right, the first row on the bottom, the second above it, and the third above the second, so that the nine cards of the spread form a square. As always, the cards of the spread are turned and read in the same order in which they were dealt.

Example of the Nine-Card Layout

Andrea, who holds a full-time job teaching music at the university level, has a second career as a professional concert pianist that takes her around the world playing before large audiences. She wishes to know what the future holds for her career as a performer.

After she shuffles and cuts the deck, Andrea deals nine cards into the layout in the order indicated by the numbers on the diagram.

The first triplet contains cards numbered 1, 2, and 3. When the cards have been turned upright from side to side so that the attitude they had to Andrea during the cut is maintained, she reads their individual Tarot sentences.

The First Triplet

The cards that make up the first triplet, concerning the past of the matter, are:



1



2



3

1. Three of Swords (inverted)
2. Seven of Pentacles (inverted)
3. Seven of Swords (inverted)

It should be noted that all three cards of the initial triplet in this layout are inverted, indicating a general obstruction or hindrance in the past concerning the matter under question.

The first card of the triplet sets its tone, since the first card functions as the subject or identity of the triplet. It is the Three of Swords inverted, traditionally an unhappy card. However, because it is so negative in its upright posture, inversion actually softens its hurtful effect. The individual Tarot sentence attached to this card in its inverted attitude reads:

Discord interrupts with mischief.

Since the question involves music, the wording of the sentence must be given a more specific sense than might otherwise be the case. "Discord" is not merely disruption and quarreling here, but particularly the discord or disharmony of sound. The quality of music is reduced by interruptions, which are motivated by mischievous intentions. This card suggests that Andrea's early training may have been deliberately hindered by another person, though that person may not have been motivated by actual malice, but merely by mischief. Even so, it had a significant effect on the progress of Andrea's art.

The second card of the triplet of the past, its active force, is the Seven of Pentacles inverted. The posture of the figure on the *Universal Tarot* design suggests brooding disappointment. When inverted, the sense of this card becomes somewhat worse. Disappointment turns to suffering. The individual sentence of the second card of this triplet reads:

Servitude torments with necessity.

In the past, Andrea felt at times that her talent was a burden, and her need to practice regularly to improve her technique a kind of servitude. The minor interruptions and distractions indicated by the first card of this triplet made this torment more unpleasant than it might otherwise have been.

The final card of the first triplet is the Seven of Swords inverted. It expresses the way in which the activity of this triplet fulfilled itself. The sentence attached to this inverted card reads:

Instability betrays with insult.

The instability may refer to Andrea's emotional state or to the quality of her playing or even to the irregularity of her practice. It was viewed as a kind of betrayal, and provoked recriminations. These probably were directed at Andrea, and were spoken or otherwise expressed by someone near to her.

The composite sentence for the triplet of the past reads:

Discord torments with insult.

Andrea goes to the chapters describing the individual cards, and constructs the extended composite sentence for this first triplet:

*Discord caused by unhappy circumstances
torments by the loss of what was not yet gained
with insult and falsehood withdrawing support.*

It may be assumed from the composite Tarot sentences of this triplet that, in the past, the querent suffered insults that caused her pain, and these attacks arose as a result of discord or conflict over music. The discord also refers to the quality of music, which suffered as a result of these insults. Her failure to meet the expectations of others caused her to be treated coldly. All of this happened in the past. It may refer to Andrea's early musical training or to her early career as a public performer or both.

The Second Triplet

The three cards making up the middle triplet, which concerns the present situation, are:



4



5



6

4. The Chariot (inverted)
5. Queen of Swords
6. The Magician

The extended composite sentence of the middle triplet gives a more rounded understanding:

*Rebellion against oppression begun in secret and nurtured in darkness
interprets and weighs the significance of events
with design and foresight harmoniously fulfilling the great work.*

The rebellion appears to be within the mind of the querent. Andrea rises up and exerts her intellectual efforts against what she perceives as a difficult situation, making a conscious decision to seek a plan of action from a man whom she accepts as a teacher or mentor. She is looking for help in the form of practical advice from someone who is close to her in her present life.

The Third Triplet

The three cards that constitute the final triplet, which concerns the future outcome of the matter under question, are:



7



8



9

7. The Hanged Man (inverted)
8. Six of Swords
9. Eight of Pentacles

Since the triplet begins with a trump, it will have a larger or more cosmic significance in Andrea's life than had it begun with a court or

The Chariot inverted, as the first card in the triplet, sets its overall tone. Normally, the Chariot indicates a victory or conquest. However, because it is inverted, this victory has been undermined or overthrown by an uprising of opposing forces. The individual sentence for this inverted trump reads:

Rebellion riots with defeat.

A very powerful conflict is indicated within the mind or emotions of the querent concerning her career as a performer. What has been achieved in the present is threatened by this revolution.

The middle card of the triplet, occupying its active position, is the Queen of Swords in an upright attitude. Her left hand is upraised as though she delivers an edict or passes a judgment. Her sentence reads:

The watchful woman interprets with accuracy.

The card, occupying the very center of this layout and the present moment of time, is a card of discernment and interpretation. It probably stands for Andrea herself, who contemplates a decision that is based upon her past and which will affect her future.

The final card of the middle triplet is the Magician, indicating the direction of the attention of the Queen of Swords, since the direction of a Tarot sentence always shows the manner in which the action expresses itself. The Magician signifies willed purpose that reveals itself in the form of skillful works. Here it may stand for a man who is a teacher or mentor to Andrea. The sentence for this card reads:

Skill wills with design.

Andrea seeks guidance or advice in the form of some sort of coherent plan for her future, a plan that will counteract what she perceives as the conflict in her present situation.

The composite Tarot sentence that gives the overall meaning of this triplet of the present reads:

Rebellion interprets with design.

The extended composite sentence of the middle triplet gives a more rounded understanding:

Rebellion against oppression begun in secret and nurtured in darkness interprets and weighs the significance of events with design and foresight harmoniously fulfilling the great work.

The rebellion appears to be within the mind of the querent. Andrea rises up and exerts her intellectual efforts against what she perceives as a difficult situation, making a conscious decision to seek a plan of action from a man whom she accepts as a teacher or mentor. She is looking for help in the form of practical advice from someone who is close to her in her present life.

The Third Triplet

The three cards that constitute the final triplet, which concerns the future outcome of the matter under question, are:



7



8



9

7. The Hanged Man (inverted)
8. Six of Swords
9. Eight of Pentacles

Since the triplet begins with a trump, it will have a larger or more cosmic significance in Andrea's life than had it begun with a court or

number card. The initial card is inverted, suggesting hindrance, but the final two are upright, showing that this inhibiting factor does not persist but is overcome.

The Hanged Man is the most enigmatic of all the Tarot cards. When the card is upright, its figure is inverted, but when the card is inverted, its figure appears to be upright. Its individual sentence in an inverted attitude reads:

Inversion sacrifices with resignation.

By inversion, a turning of something on to its head is meant. This upset results in a sacrifice, which is accepted with resignation. Some radical change is indicated in the future for Andrea concerning the question of the reading. She will accept this as inevitable, even though it entails some form of sacrifice.

The middle card of the triplet of the future is the Six of Swords. This card is of a mixed nature, neither wholly positive nor wholly negative. Its individual sentence reads:

Attainment achieves with labor.

Progress will be made, but only at the cost of hard work. This work may well be the sacrifice indicated in the sentence of the initial card in this triplet. A desired goal will be achieved.

The final card of the third triplet, and the last card of the layout, is the Eight of Pentacles. The last card in a spread provides a keynote on the fulfillment of its question. It is the final comment given by the divination. The sentence of the Eight of Pentacles reads:

Prudence prepares with skill.

The message of this card is somewhat similar to that of the previous card, but the emphasis here is on practical results. The suit of Pentacles is the suit of material things. Prudent preparation augmented with skill will achieve the result desired.

When we extract the composite sentence that expresses the heart of this triplet of the future, we read:

Inversion achieves with skill.

The Nine-Card Layout

From the descriptions of the individual cards may be gathered the parts of the extended composite sentence of this triplet of the future:

*Inversion of expectations causing confusion and distress
achieves a well-earned success on the journey
with skill achieving great results through limited means.*

In the future Andrea, will make a radical change with regard to her career as a performing musician. It will come as a result of actively seeking advice from a man she regards as a mentor and man of skill, although it will not necessarily be the result of her following the advice received from this man. This change will seem to turn her world upside down, but it will result in desired achievements in her career as a performer that are a result of skillfulness on her part. She must work for what she wants; it will not be given to her. The change she will make in her life will require courage, but prudent preparation and hard work will resolve the situation to her satisfaction.

GLI AMANTI
LES AMANTS



DIE LIEBENDEN

IL GIUDIZIO
LE JUGEMENT



GERICHT

BASTONI
BATONS

9

WANDS
BASTOS



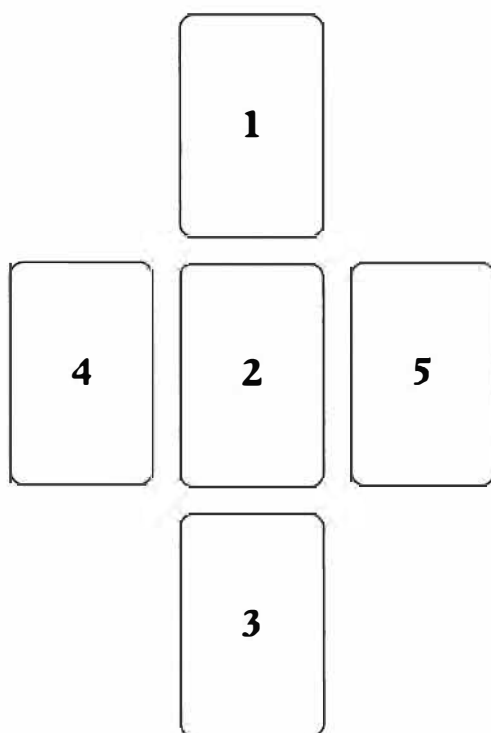
STÄBE

STAVEN

chapter seven

The Cross Layout

The Cross Layout is another spread in which a single card forms part of two separate triplets. This layout is used to give answers to simple questions that center on the querent, and are of immediate personal concern to the querent. It is not a good spread for predicting the future, but it is excellent at revealing an existing situation. Five cards are dealt in a cross pattern, first the three cards of the column of the cross from top to bottom, then the two remaining cards that make up the beam of the cross from left to right. The second card dealt, at the center of the cross, forms part of both the column and the beam, and is the middle card in both the first and second triplet of this spread.



The Cross Layout

Deal the cards of the layout in the order indicated by the numbers in the illustration. The first three cards on the column of the cross constitute the first triplet, and express the querent in relation to the question. Cards 4, 2, and 5 make up the second triplet, on the beam of the cross, and express the question in relation to the querent. The middle card of the cross, which is the middle card of both triplets, stands for the central factor that has a bearing on the question.

Example of the Cross Layout

Anne, a professional woman in her early thirties, wants to know how to lose weight and keep it off. In the past, she has joined health clubs and gone on diets, and she has had some success in becoming thinner, but she has been frustrated because the weight always comes back.

While she concentrates on the question, Anne shuffles the cards and cuts them on the table, then picks up the pack and deals five cards into the pattern of the layout, as indicated by the numbers in the diagram on the facing page.

The First Triplet

Anne flips the cards of each triplet from side to side to expose them in the order in which they were dealt. The cards of the first triplet, showing factors in Anne's nature that influence the matter under question, are:



1



2



3

1. Nine of Wands
2. Five of Swords
3. Eight of Cups (inverted)

All of these cards are number cards, indicating that the triplet expresses specific factors, probably of a material or practical type.

The first card of the initial triplet, which shows Anne's nature with respect to the question, is the Nine of Wands. Wands in general express matters relating to the will or intention, and the image on the *Universal Tarot* design suggests watchful resolve. The individual sentence of this card reads:

Strength awaits with formidableness.

The strength here is strength of determination, shown by the suit of Wands, the suit of will. This power of will is formidable, and it is vigilant.

The middle card of the first triplet, representing the central factor in this layout, is the Five of Swords. This is not a particularly positive card, but Anne understands that it expresses only the matter under inquiry—it is not a general expression of her overall circumstances. The sentence of the Five of Swords reads:

Defeat dishonors with pain.

The failure of the querent to maintain her resolve concerning her diet has caused her to feel bad about herself, and as a result she has experienced emotional distress. She regards her past weakness of will as a personal dishonor.

The final card of the triplet on the column of the cross is the Eight of Cups inverted. Its sentence reads:

Misery abandons with indifference.

Due to her sense of dishonor and failure at breaking her diet, and the mental suffering this caused, Anne has given up her resolve to maintain her slender figure with the rationalization that it is a matter of no great importance whether she is a few pounds overweight. She does not really believe this fiction, but it helps her to forget about her resolution to be thin when she finds it impossible to resist eating.

From the three cards on the column of the cross, Anne extracts a composite Tarot sentence that expresses the essential meaning conveyed by this triplet. The composite sentence reads:

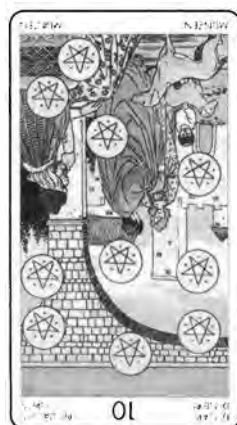
Strength dishonors with indifference.

When Anne gathers the parts of the extended composite sentence for the initial triplet from the descriptions of the individual cards, the following message appears:

*Strength sustaining the will and supporting the resolve
dishonors by failure to persevere to the end
with indifference rejecting what was formerly prized.*

Anne's initial resolve to keep her weight down has weakened because she has found it difficult to resist cheating on her diet. She tells herself that it does not really matter very much, but she knows in her heart that this is a lie, and her hypocrisy causes her to feel dishonored—she feels that she has betrayed her own dignity.

The cards of the second triplet, which express the nature of the matter under question with regard to the querent and how the matter bears upon the querent, are:



4



2



5

4. Ten of Pentacles (inverted)
2. Five of Swords
5. Four of Wands

Again, note that all the cards on the beam of the cross are number cards. This divination has no higher cosmic message to convey to Anne, only practical advice on a practical matter.

The initial card, which sets the general tone of the triplet, is the Ten of Pentacles inverted. Since this triplet refers not to Anne herself but to the matter under inquiry, the meaning of this card applies to the question. The individual Tarot sentence for the Ten of Pentacles inverted reads:

Materialism hardens with stagnation.

This is usually quite a good card, in a material sense, but inversion has obstructed the expression of its best qualities. The matter of the question is Anne's weight, and this card indicates that her weight is becoming more difficult to lose due to the stagnation of her efforts. She needs some new approach that will refresh her resolve.

The middle card of this triplet is the same as the middle card of the first triplet, and it represents the central factor of the question directly, its most essential aspect. The sentence reads:

Defeat dishonors with pain.

It is her sense of dishonor at failing to keep her strongly willed resolution that has allowed the stagnation in the matter of her weight to become entrenched. Anne is ashamed that she has failed, and rather than risk future failure, she has almost given up the battle.

The final card in the triplet, dealing with the matter itself, is the Four of Wands. Its individual sentence reads:

Completion perfects with harmony.

A very favorable card, and it occurs at an auspicious location, the final place in the layout, which sums up the outcome of the question. This card gives good reason to hope that Anne's battle with her weight is not irredeemably lost, but can be won if she will finish what she starts and maintain her resolutions.

When she constructs the composite sentence of the triplet upon the beam of the cross, she reads:

Materialism dishonors with harmony.

How can a harmony of materialism dishonor? Harmony is agreement. Anne has acquiesced to her body's urges to eat. Seeking a fuller understanding of this statement, Anne extracts the extended composite sentence for the second triplet and obtains:

*Materialism preoccupying the attention with present concerns
dishonors by failure to persevere to the end
with harmony giving satisfaction and repose.*

Since this triplet expresses the matter under inquiry rather than Anne herself, the sentence applies to the actual efforts taken to lose

The Cross Layout

weight and keep it off. The failure of the effort, with its accompanying feeling of a loss of self-respect, has caused Anne to fall into a kind of slothful indifference. She tells herself that the weight doesn't matter in order to escape from her dissatisfaction.

The message of the Tarot is that she must throw off the complacency of her flesh by seeking new resolve on a higher level. Dissatisfaction with her looks will not in itself be enough to keep her to her diet and exercise. She needs to consider not just how she looks outwardly to others, but also how she feels inwardly herself, when she is more slender. The final card, the Four of Wands, suggests that her power of spirit must be involved in this physical effort—Wands is the suit of the will, and four is the number of matter. By seeking beyond the physical, she will master her own body.

IL MATTO
LE FOU



DER NARR

IL PAPA
LE PAPE



DER HIERO

STAVEN



WANDS
BASTOS

2

STABE

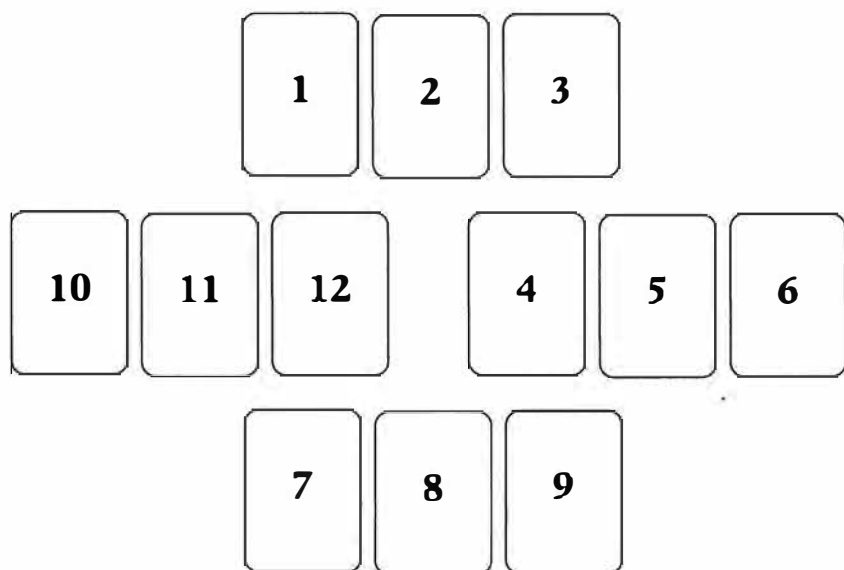
BASTONI
BATONS

chapter eight

The Four-Elements Layout

The Four-Elements Layout is based on the qualities of the four elements of the ancient world: Fire, Water, Air, and Earth. Fire accords with the action of human will and may be associated with spiritual matters. Water is linked with the emotions, particularly the emotion of love. Air is linked with thought and speech—expressions of the mind—and may be associated with important information or studies. Earth is of the nature of the body and its circumstances, and it may be associated with material conditions, physical health, and strengths or weaknesses.

You do not need to know anything about the elements to use this spread, which is best for assessing your personal status in the present with regard to a specific matter under inquiry. It can help reveal your physical condition, state of mind, likes or dislikes, and highest potential with regard to the question.



The Four-Elements Layout

Twelve cards are dealt in four triplets, one for each of the four elements. The Fire triplet is placed at the top, the Air triplet on the right, the Earth triplet at the bottom, and the Water triplet on the left.

Suit cards act more strongly when the element of their suit is the same as the element of the triplet into which they are dealt. The fiery suit of Wands is strongest in the Fire triplet; the airy suit of Swords is most forceful in the triplet of Air; the earthy suit of Pentacles is most potent in the triplet of Earth; the watery suit of Cups has the greatest impact in the triplet of Water. Trumps act with equal force in all four triplets.

Example of the Four-Elements Layout

Lee is near the beginning of his second year of college. He has been taking a general science degree because he has been led to believe it will be more valuable to him when it comes to getting a good job, but he is struggling with his grades, especially in math. He finds him-

self more interested in his elective class on the Victorian novel than in calculus. Lee thinks that he might enjoy teaching English at the high-school level, but before changing his major from science to English or education, he decides to ask the Tarot whether he is suited for a teaching career.

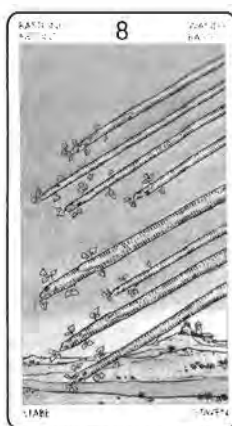
He shuffles and cuts the cards while concentrating on the question, then takes them up and deals out twelve in four rows of three, as indicated by the numbered places in the diagram on the facing page. Each triplet of cards is turned faceup in the order in which the cards were dealt. Since Lee is doing the reading for himself, he turns the cards from side to side to preserve their orientation.

The First Triplet

The cards of the Fire triplet, corresponding with Lee's will and the inclination of his spirit, are:



1



2



3

1. Six of Cups
2. Eight of Wands
3. Knave of Wands (inverted)

The Six of Cups is a card of harmony and happiness, and indicates the beginning of a wish fulfilled. The individual Tarot sentence for this card reads:

Pleasure renews with reflection.

Located in the first place on the triplet of Fire, it suggests an auspicious, if somewhat weak, intention.

The Eight of Wands shows quickness of action and ease of communication. The sentence for this card reads:

Swiftness conveys with lightness.

Lee notes that the place of action in the fiery triplet of will is occupied by a card from the suit of Wands, which relates to Fire and the will. This agreement between the element of the triplet and the element of the card's suit renders the card more potent.

The Knave of Wands is a card of ardent and enthusiastic intention, but inverted it is unstable. The sentence reads:

The superficial girl/child intimidates with instability.

Since this card falls in the final position in the triplet, it shows the direction or expression of Lee's willed intent. In this place, it probably does not stand for a person but for an aspect of Lee's personality.

When we construct the composite Tarot sentence for the entire triplet, we read:

Pleasure conveys with instability.

Gathering the three parts of the extended composite sentence from the descriptions of the individual cards yields:

*Pleasure beginning in the quiet awareness of merit
conveys the intention successfully to its destination
with instability of emotions striving to impose control.*

The sense of this triplet of Fire, or will, is active intention dominated by the emotions. Lee enjoys the thought of teaching so much, he has the impulse to commit himself to this career change joyfully, without waiting to weigh all the consequences. His impulsive enthusiasm lacks a firm direction.

The Second Triplet

The cards in the triplet of Air, or intellect, are:



4



5



6

4. Six of Pentacles
5. King of Pentacles
6. Seven of Swords

The suit of Pentacles is in elemental disharmony with the triplet of Air. Pentacles relate to Earth, which is heavy and hard, whereas Air is light and soft. Still, the card is auspicious and indicates good judgment, gifts of a practical type, and nobility. Falling here, it shows that Lee's intellectual talents for teaching are serviceable, but perhaps a bit mundane. The sentence for the Six of Pentacles reads:

Success distributes with partiality.

Lee may not possess the mind of a great teacher, able to inspire genius in others, but he has the ability to teach with competence, supplying his students with what they need, and is particularly well suited to practical subjects.

The second card in the triplet of mind is the King of Pentacles, which here indicates active authority of an uninspired kind and honest effort coupled with honor. The sentence reads:

The dull man labors with patience.

The action of his intellect is unimaginative but persevering. Lee is the kind of student who keeps hammering away at his studies until

at last comprehension dawns. What he lacks in quickness he makes up for in determination.

The final card in this triplet is the Seven of Swords, which signifies unstable effort and exhaustion that may result in surrender. It reads:

Futility annoys with conflict.

This is not a particularly good card, and its nature is made stronger by the agreement of its element with the element of the triplet. It indicates that the labor of Lee's intellect will suffer from distractions or doubts, leading to an imperfect result.

The composite sentence for the entire triplet of Air reads:

Success labors with conflict.

When Lee expands the composite sentence of this triplet, he gets:

*Success in worldly life having acquired wealth
labors through instinct rather than understanding
with conflict of the mind weakening the will to persevere.*

The worldly success that is the subject of the triplet is intellectual achievement of a practical type, and the wealth should be understood as wealth of understanding or knowledge. Lee will use his practical intellect with diligence, but a lack of natural ease will divide and make unstable his efforts, weakening the result.

The Third Triplet

The cards of the triplet of Earth are:



7. Judgement (inverted)
8. Knave of Cups
9. Queen of Swords

The inverted trump Judgement, falling in first position on the triplet, points to a physical or material matter of higher significance. Its inverted individual sentence reads:

Decision punishes with severity.

This trump signifies an imposed decision, and, when inverted, a decision that is critical or unwelcome. In the context of the question, it probably stands for strict class discipline and Lee's ability to control and assess his future students.

The Knave of Cups is generally favorable, but weak and given to emotion. The Tarot sentence for this card reads:

The loving girl/ child shares with grace.

In the place of action on the physical triplet, it suggests generosity and kindness, perhaps a soft heart on Lee's part.

The final card of the triplet of the physical is the Queen of Swords, a card of skillful industry. The sentence for this card reads:

The watchful woman interprets with accuracy.

This card may stand for a woman, but falling in the last place of the triplet, it is more likely that it shows an aspect of Lee's personality. It is the direction taken by the action of his judgment.

The composite sentence expressing the essential meaning of the triplet of Earth reads:

Decision shares with accuracy.

Lee's discipline over his future students will be decisive but compassionate, and directed with impartiality. The expanded sentence is:

*Decision imposed without appeal from a higher authority
shares the rapture of a vision of beauty
with accuracy and balanced judgment assessing consequences.*

The dominance of the inverted trump Judgement in this triplet indicates that Lee's control over his classroom may be a bit domineering,

but it will be motivated by kind intentions and tempered by generosity, and his evaluation of his students will be fair.

The Fourth Triplet

The cards in the triplet of Water, which relates to emotion, are:



10



11



12

10. Hanged Man (inverted)

11. Ten of Swords (inverted)

12. The Chariot (inverted)

The first card of the Water triplet is the Hanged Man inverted. It is always an enigmatic card, signifying an overturn of the natural order. The sentence of this card reads:

Inversion sacrifices with resignation.

Suspension of the feelings is suffered without complaint, as a necessary sacrifice for a higher purpose.

The Ten of Swords is not a particularly happy card—something that might be said of the suit in general—and falling, as it does, inverted on the triplet of emotion, it indicates an affliction in the expression of feeling. The sentence of the Ten of Swords inverted reads:

Disruption overthrows with misdirection.

Because the card is upside down, the ruin it portends does not arise from within, but is imposed from outside. In this triplet, the

disruption is the inability to adequately express feeling, a deadening of emotion.

The final card of the layout is the Chariot inverted. This card sums up the response of the divination as a whole, and, at the same time, expresses the consequences of the action of this Water triplet. When upright, the Chariot is favorable, but it loses its positive expression when reversed. The individual sentence for this trump reads:

Rebellion riots with defeat.

Upright, the Chariot represents victory, but inverted it signifies authority attacked, mutiny, and insurrection. In the final place of the triplet of Water, the interpretation is loss of control over the emotions.

The composite sentence for the final triplet in the layout reads:

Inversion overthrows with defeat.

Emotional sacrifice inhibits the heart, leading to a sense of being overwhelmed. When Lee expands the composite sentence, he reads:

*Inversion of expectations causing confusion and distress
overthrows the chance for success
with defeat the final consequence for the vanity of powerless authority.*

The powerlessness in this triplet is an inability to control or master the emotions. It is not powerlessness in a general sense.

When Lee considers the entire layout, he sees that, although he is enthusiastic about his impulse to teach—viewing it as a pleasant or even ideal lifestyle—his intellectual talents for the job are only adequate, and he must compensate for this weakness with hard effort. He will have no trouble keeping discipline in the classroom, and will treat his students with kindness and grade them fairly. However, he will have a tendency to care too deeply about his work, and will sometimes sacrifice his own happiness to help his students. The two trumps appearing in the final triplet lend it a greater weight of importance in the question than any other triplet of the spread. It should be viewed as a caution against excessive emotional sacrifice.

If Lee applies his mind to his studies and avoids the pitfall of too deep an attachment to his work, he will make a good teacher.

L'IMPÉRATRICE
L'IMPÉRATRICE



DIE HERRSCHERIN

LA PAPESSA
LA PAPERSE



DIE HOHE

IL CARRO
LE CHAR

VII

THE CHARIOT
EL CARRO



DER WAGEN

DE ZEGEWAGEN

chapter nine

Trumps

The following descriptions of the twenty-two cards of the Major Arcana, also known as the trumps, present the cards in greater depth than is possible just by using the individual Tarot sentences attached to each card provided in appendix 1.

Refer to the description of each card to understand its image. The general meaning is useful when seeking to know the card in itself—for example, when using one of the many forms of divination that relies on the individual interpretation of the cards, rather than upon triplets of cards and composite Tarot sentences. The numbered sections expand on the meanings of the three parts of the Tarot sentences attached to each card and provide a fuller comprehension of those parts.

THE FOOL

The Fool



↑ Spirituality progresses with impracticality.

↓ Ignorance wanders with danger.

Description

A young man in brightly colored clothing, with a flower in his left hand and a pack on a pole slung over his shoulder in his right hand, gazes up at the sky with an enraptured expression as he is about to step off the edge of a precipice. A little dog barks a warning at his side but is unheeded.

General Meaning

Spiritual wisdom can seem like worldly foolishness, but it is to be respected unless it disregards the common sense necessary to survive a mortal existence.

Upright: Ecstasy, intoxication, enthusiasm, rapture, impracticality, heedlessness, spirituality, self-absorption.

Inverted: Carelessness, negligence, folly, rashness, imprudence, delirium, extravagance, vanity.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Spirituality	progresses	with impracticality.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Ignorance	wanders	with danger.

1

Upright: Spirituality lost in the wonder of interior contemplation

Inverted: Ignorance lost in a maze of illusions and allured by empty hopes

2

Upright: progresses along the path of life in a waking dream

Inverted: wanders as though blind to the reality of daily existence

3

Upright: with impracticality disregarding the necessities and duties of ordinary life.

Inverted: with danger in many forms threatening neglected health and security.

THE MAGICIAN

The Magician



↑ Skill wills with design.

↓ Craft manipulates with deception.

Description

A serious young man stands behind a table that bears a pentacle, a cup, a sword, and a wand. In his right hand, he raises high a rod, and with his left index finger, he points down toward the ground, from which grows a profusion of flowers. Above his head floats a lemniscate, and about his waist is a serpentine belt.

General Meaning

There is great attainment when ability is focused through the will to accomplish higher purposes, provided the temptation to use deception in order to manipulate others is resisted.

Upright: Self-confidence, eloquence, ability, skillfulness, willpower, persuasion, influence, attainment.

Inverted: Craftiness, arrogance, misdirection, deception, manipulation, intimidation, illusion, artifice, guile.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Skill	wills	with design.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Craft	manipulates	with deception.

1

Upright: Skill in the secret ways of nature and hidden motives of humanity

Inverted: Craft in using to personal advantage the flaws of human nature

2

Upright: wills the realization of a higher purpose that elevates the soul

Inverted: manipulates for self-interest without regard to feelings or consequences

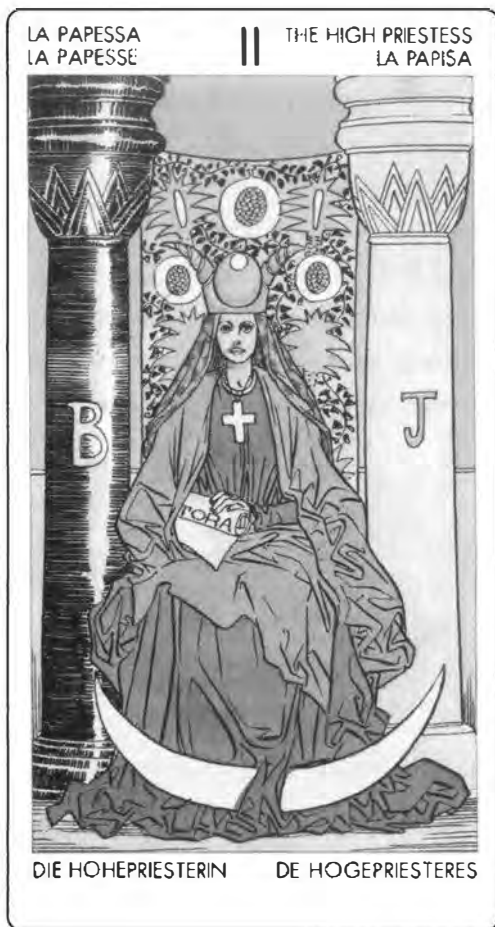
3

Upright: with design and foresight harmoniously fulfilling the great work.

Inverted: with deception giving false promises and empty hopes.

THE HIGH PRIESTESS

The High Priestess



↑
Mystery unveils with wisdom.
↓
Secrecy conceals with jealousy.

Description

A woman in a flowing robe with the crescent of the moon at her feet, a cross on her breast, and a scroll in her hands sits between a black pillar and a white pillar. What lies behind her is partially obscured by a curtain decorated with pomegranates that hangs between the pillars.

General Meaning

The veiled mysteries of higher understanding are revealed to the wise, but remain hidden from those who approach with conceit.

Upright: Mystery, secrets, hidden knowledge, veiled from sight, guarded wisdom, way of attainment.

Inverted: Superficial understanding, withholding of information, conceit, silence, obstinacy, obstruction to progress.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Mystery	unveils	with wisdom.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Secrecy	conceals	with jealousy.

1

Upright: Mystery of the hidden sources of higher knowledge

Inverted: Secrecy concerning forbidden knowledge deliberately withheld

2

Upright: unveils the path of attainment to the sincere seeker

Inverted: conceals and obstructs the entrance to attainment

3

Upright: with wisdom that is suited to the ability to comprehend.

Inverted: with jealousy disregarding need or ability.

THE EMPRESS

The Empress



↑ Vitality creates with nourishment.

↓ Excess expands with wildness.

Description

A blond woman in a long dress sits on a cushioned seat in a field. She holds in her right hand a short scepter topped by a ball. A heart-shaped shield bearing the astrological symbol for Venus rests upright upon the ground beside her. Through the forest behind her flows a waterfall.

General Meaning

The vitality of nature expresses itself by the endless birth of new forms, and, if allowed to expand without constraint, may give rise to extreme mutations.

Upright: Fruitfulness, fertility, growth, ripening, development, doorway, womb, mother nature.

Inverted: Unnatural growth, deviation, abortion, maturation in concealment, rankness, boundaries exceeded.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Vitality	creates	with nourishment.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Excess	expands	with wildness.

1

Upright: Vitality of impregnation within the receptive place of development

Inverted: Excess in vital energies at the time of conception unlimited by constraint

2

Upright: creates new forms that issue forth in a natural and orderly manner

Inverted: expands uncontrolled and unbalanced to fill up every possibility

3

Upright: with nourishment from their source sustained and strengthened.

Inverted: with wildness of growth that may produce deformities or mutations.

THE EMPEROR

The Emperor



Leadership rules with firmness.

Power controls with suppression.

Description

A mature bearded man wearing a crown and holding in his right hand a scepter sits on a stone throne decorated at its corners by four ram's heads. Behind him, a mountain range is visible.

General Meaning

Firm leadership provides stability and order, but too much firmness leads to the loss of freedom.

Upright: Virility, power, authority, command, decree, rulership, stability, protection, manifestation.

Inverted: Intolerance, petulance, impatience, arrogance, caprice, selfishness, domination, control, imposition.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Leadership	rules	with firmness.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Power	controls	with suppression.

1

Upright: Leadership capable in assessing the needs of those it protects

Inverted: Power hardened into inflexible and unquestionable authority

2

Upright: rules by providing necessary stability and structure

Inverted: controls all aspects of what lies under its dominion

3

Upright: with firmness that is not shaken by changes in circumstance.

Inverted: with suppression and intimidation eliminating threats to its dominance.

THE HIEROPHANT

The Hierophant



↑ Authority teaches with certainty.

↓ Control imposes with intolerance.

Description

A robed man wearing the triple crown of a religious leader sits between two stone pillars. In his left hand, he holds a triple cross, and with his right hand, he makes the sign of the Trinity. Two priests kneel facing him at his feet. Between them is a pair of keys crossed to form an X.

General Meaning

Moral laws imposed by a higher power provide a useful framework for a healthy society, but they prohibit dissent through the application of severe censures.

Upright: Religion, ritual, orthodox beliefs, traditions, observances, rules, moral teachings, accepted beliefs.

Inverted: Intolerance, inflexibility, taboo, prejudice, absolutes, formalities, censure, condemnation, excommunication.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Authority	teaches	with certainty.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Control	imposes	with intolerance.

1

Upright: Authority in traditional matters of spiritual and moral doctrine

Inverted: Control that has lost conviction in the source of inflexible laws

2

Upright: teaches correctness in thought and action in obedience to higher will

Inverted: imposes through intimidation insensitive to need

3

Upright: with certainty of the impossibility of error or loss of supernal guidance.

Inverted: with intolerance for what defies its judgment or seeks a new direction.

THE LOVERS

The Lovers



↑ Affection unites with happiness.

↓ Disharmony separates with frustration.

Description

A man and a woman, both naked, stand beneath the outstretched hands of an angel with flaming hair who emerges from a cloud. Behind the woman, a tree bears round fruit like apples. A large serpent coils up the tree's trunk. Behind the man is a tree with leaves resembling flames. A mountain is visible on the horizon between the figures.

General Meaning

Human love unmixed with lower concerns leads to the attainment of union and perfect happiness, but when tainted by mundane matters, the result is division and dissatisfaction.

Upright: Love, marriage, union, attraction, satisfaction, fulfillment, appreciation of attainment, admiration.

Inverted: Quarrels, separation, divorce, disunion, coldness of heart, contempt, indifference, someone taken for granted.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Affection	unites	with happiness.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Disharmony	separates	with frustration.

1

Upright: Affection warming the loving heart in admiration of grace and beauty

Inverted: Disharmony arising from indifference and contempt for the familiar

2

Upright: unites the twain in harmony born of mutual understanding and shared purpose

Inverted: separates hearts that once sought a shared goal through the same desire

3

Upright: with happiness that sustains itself on the radiance of spiritual awareness.

Inverted: with frustration that the joy of union was no more than an illusion.

THE CHARIOT

The Chariot



↑ Dominance attains with victory.

↓ Rebellion riots with defeat.

Description

A man wearing armor stands in the box of a chariot beneath a canopy decorated with stars. In his right hand, he holds a wand. Two sphinxes crouch before the chariot, one black and the other white. The front of the box of the chariot is decorated with a shield bearing a wheel pierced by an axle, above which is a winged disk.

General Meaning

Dominion won by force of arms and maintained by threat of punishment quickly turns into rebellion once the iron rule is weakened.

Upright: Victory, triumph, domination, subjugation of others, rule by force, spoils of war, rewards of conquest, display of power.

Inverted: Dissension, mutiny, uprising, rebellion, resistance to authority, disobedience, confusion, empty pomp, honorary titles without true power.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Dominance	attains	with victory.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Rebellion	riots	with defeat.

1

Upright: Dominance of the will backed by physical might and a firm purpose

Inverted: Rebellion against oppression begun in secret and nurtured in darkness

2

Upright: attains its end by applied force and ruthless intimidation

Inverted: riots in violent and cruel reaction against imposed controls

3

Upright: with victory rejoicing in an outward display of supreme authority.

Inverted: with defeat the final consequence for the vanity of powerless authority.

STRENGTH

Strength



Courage subdues with force.



Discord abuses with weakness.

Description

A woman uses her bare hands to gently close the jaws of a male lion. The lion licks her right wrist with its tongue. Above her head floats the lemniscate, a figure eight on its side.

General Meaning

Courage arising from certainty of purpose can subdue violent rage, provided that doubt does not weaken its control.

Upright: Fortitude, moral authority, purity of purpose, certainty, control over emotion, assurance of victory.

Inverted: Confusion, doubt, fear, emotionalism, clinging to power, self-defeat, one's own worst enemy, tiger by the tail.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Courage	subdues	with force.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Discord	abuses	with weakness.

1

Upright: Courage of moral conviction in the rightness of purpose

Inverted: Discord between the judgment of the mind and the passion of the heart

2

Upright: subdues irrational impulses and conflicts born of desires or fears

Inverted: abuses those under its power and delays the necessary outcome

3

Upright: with force of will empowered and fortified by a higher authority.

Inverted: with weakness of the will unable to choose the correct path.

THE HERMIT

The Hermit



↑ Prudence learns with profundity.

↓ Betrayal conceals with falsehood.

Description

An elderly bearded man wearing a cloak and hood stands on a prominence, gazing downward. In his right hand, he holds up a lantern, and in his left hand, he bears a staff.

General Meaning

An outer cloak of modest circumspection may signify mature wisdom and depth of learning, or it may be a disguise that hides treachery and guileful intentions.

Upright: Wisdom, study, secret teachings, intellectual attainment, careful progress, circumspection, discernment.

Inverted: Disguise, concealment, hiding the truth, treachery, subtle dealings, excess caution, machinations.

Tarot Sentences

1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i> Prudence	learns	with profundity.
<i>Inverted:</i> Betrayal	conceals	with falsehood.

1

Upright: Prudence in the exercise of moderation and self-control

Inverted: Betrayal of trust and abuse of faith of those who believe

2

Upright: learns the wisdom of secret teachings and hidden truths upon the quest

Inverted: conceals in excessive caution beneath a plausible cloak

3

Upright: with profundity penetrating the shadows and illuminating the source.

Inverted: with falsehood and misdirection its traitorous aspect.

WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Wheel of Fortune



↑
Destiny rewards with advancement.

↓
Luck turns with cycles.

Description

A wheel bearing the Latin letters T, A, R, O, the Hebrew letters Yod, Heh, Vau, Heh, and the alchemical symbols for salt, mercury, sulphur, and water is surrounded at the top by a sphinx with a sword, at the right side by an ascending animal-headed humanoid figure, and at the left by a descending serpent. The corners of the card are decorated by clouds supporting a winged angel, an eagle with its wings outstretched, a winged bull, and a winged lion, all four of which read open books.

General Meaning

The wheel of fortune turns upward and brings joy when propelled by destiny, but its motion is uncertain when driven only by chance.

Upright: Good fortune, upturn of circumstance, advancement, promotion, raise in salary, honors bestowed.

Inverted: Caprice, luck uncertain, changing circumstances, revolution of the cycle, downturn of fortune, possible disgrace, loss of advantage.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Destiny	rewards	with advancement.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Luck	turns	with cycles.

1

Upright: Destiny in pursuit of the highest personal attainment of the soul

Inverted: Luck that is undependable and of little consequence

2

Upright: rewards unwavering determination and unshaken persistence

Inverted: turns in a sporadic and capricious manner

3

Upright: with advancement in all areas in harmony with the fulfillment of true will.

Inverted: with cycles following the changes of external circumstance.

JUSTICE

Justice



Balance weighs with equality.

Partiality withholds with favoritism.

Description

A crowned woman with a serious expression sits before a curtain that is supported at either side by stone pillars. She holds upright in her right hand a sword, and from her left hand hangs a set of scales, their balance beam exactly level.

General Meaning

Justice acting with impartiality returns fair decisions and fulfills the purpose of the law, but when hindered by manipulation and favoritism, its actions become uncertain.

Upright: Equity, fairness, sound decision, fulfillment of the law, impartiality, legal victory, wrong righted.

Inverted: Legalities, lawsuit, severe judgment, court costs, lawyer's fee, delay in proceedings, legal manipulations, favoritism, partiality, letter of the law.

Tarot Sentences

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
<i>Upright:</i>	Balance	weighs	with equality.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Partiality	withholds	with favoritism.

1

Upright: Balance in impartial judgment blind to emotion or personal interest

Inverted: Partiality drawn by desire and repelled by prejudice or fear

2

Upright: weighs and assesses the positive and negative factors for error

Inverted: withholds a true judgment from motives of self-interest

3

Upright: with equality determining truth from falsehood.

Inverted: with favoritism punishing or rewarding regardless of merit.

THE HANGED MAN

The Hanged Man



↑ Suspension endures with patience.

↓ Inversion sacrifices with resignation.

Description

A young man with blond hair hangs upside down by his right ankle from a scaffold shaped like the letter T. His left shin is crossed behind his right leg, and his arms are bound behind his back. A halo of radiant light shines around his head, and green leaves grow from the scaffold.

General Meaning

The inability to go forward, though frustrating, may bring an opportunity for patient reflection on the state of affairs, but if the impediment persists and overturns the anticipated outcome, it must be endured with resignation.

Upright: Delay, devotion, mysticism, need for patience, reflection, meditation, transformation.

Inverted: Martyrdom, sacrifice, suffering, punishment, impotence, confusion, loss of purpose.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Suspension	endures	with patience.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Inversion	sacrifices	with resignation.

1

Upright: Suspension between practical concerns and matters of the spirit

Inverted: Inversion of expectations causing confusion and distress

2

Upright: endures the delay in progress on the way of attainment

Inverted: sacrifices unwillingly happiness and comfort

3

Upright: with patience that recognizes the virtue of reflection.

Inverted: with resignation enduring misfortune that cannot be avoided.

DEATH

Death



↑ Change transforms with finality.

↓ Inertia delays with uncertainty.

Description

A skeleton knight in full plate armor rides a white charger across the body of a man, from whose head a crown has rolled. In front of the horse, a bishop with two children kneeling at his feet pleads for mercy. The black standard held in the left hand of the horseman bears the stylized image of a rose. In the background, a ship sails upon a river through a valley, and on the horizon the sun sets between two towers.

General Meaning

Every transformation ends the existing state and begins a new condition, carrying events forward through time; for without change, there is no progress.

Upright: Change, ending, possible death, renewal, rebirth, conclusion of a matter, new beginning.

Inverted: Inertia, paralysis, stasis, coma, trance, sleep, changelessness, lack of innovation, slave of habit.

Tarot Sentences

1	2	3
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<i>Upright:</i> Change	transforms	with finality.
------------------------	------------	----------------

<i>Inverted:</i> Inertia	delays	with uncertainty.
--------------------------	--------	-------------------

1

Upright: Change of the familiar state into the new and unknown

Inverted: Inertia of familiar actions and unexamined thoughts

2

Upright: transforms the expectation and requires adaptation

Inverted: delays the necessary ending of the present cycle

3

Upright: with finality accepting that return to the old way is impossible.

Inverted: with uncertainty hindering the inevitable transition.

TEMPERANCE

Temperance



↑ Polarity blends with moderation.

↓ Contrariety separates with incompatibility.

Description

A winged angel with a solar emblem on his forehead pours liquid from one goblet into another. He stands with his left foot upon grass and his right foot submerged under water. Beside him grow iris flowers. A path leads from the pool to the mountains on the horizon, which are lit by a solar glow in the shape of a shining crown.

General Meaning

Opposites blended produce the mildness of a median condition, but when they cannot be mixed, they struggle to separate and remain hostile.

Upright: Mildness, blending of opposites, accommodation, compatibility, harmony, carefulness, agreement.

Inverted: Incompatibility, discord, division, confrontation, excess, contamination, immoderation, distemper.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Polarity	blends	with moderation.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Contrariety	separates	with incompatibility.

1

Upright: Polarity of opposites brought together in a single place

Inverted: Contrariety that cannot in any way be accommodated

2

Upright: blends in equal measure to soften extremes and achieve concord

Inverted: separates and drives apart the irreconcilable elements

3

Upright: with moderation creating harmony of feeling and unity of purpose.

Inverted: with incompatibility forever prevented from achieving union.

THE DEVIL

The Devil



↑
Passion desires with excess.

↓
Pettiness blinds with weakness.

Description

A monster with hornslike those of a goat and hairy legs that terminate in hawklike claws crouches on a pedestal. Bat wings sprout from his shoulders, and at the crown of his head is an inverted pentagram. In his left hand he holds an inverted torch. On either side stand smaller, naked humanlike figures. Both are loosely chained around their necks to a ring on the pedestal. The tail of the woman ends in a cluster of pomegranates; the tail of the man ends in a flame.

General Meaning

Passion may take the form of a single, overriding, violent urge to dominate and satisfy desire at any cost, or it may express itself as numerous, small, imprudent, and perverse impulses leading to self-destruction.

Upright: Unreason, wild emotions, violence, strong appetites, powerful force, sexuality, dominance, lack of conscience.

Inverted: Impulsiveness, selfishness, thoughtlessness, weak will, imprudence, lack of control, perversity, viciousness, self-destruction.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Passion	desires	with excess.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Pettiness	blinds	with weakness.

1

Upright: Passion in physical needs too strong to control

Inverted: Pettiness of impulses seeking immediate self-gratification

2

Upright: desires to attain fulfillment regardless of consequences

Inverted: blinds the reason and silences the voice of conscience

3

Upright: with excess acting to satisfy the driving and unconsidered urge.

Inverted: with weakness of petulant desire disregarding common sense.

THE TOWER

The Tower



↑
Vanity collapses with adversity.
↓
Scheming fails with oppression.

Description

Lightning strikes off the roof from a square tower that stands on the summit of a peak. Flames issue from the broken top of the tower and from the three windows in its front. Two humans jump or fall. The figure on the left appears to be a man, the one on the right, a woman with a crown upon her head. Flaming droplets fall through the air around the two figures.

General Meaning

The failure of vainglorious ambition may express itself by the collapse of an unsound structure or the frustration of an unworthy plan, but, in either case, the destruction is complete.

Upright: Catastrophe, ruin, disaster, fall from grace, destruction, confusion, structural collapse, business failure.

Inverted: Plotting, machinations, threats, dangers, intimidation, imprisonment, difficulties.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Vanity	collapses	with adversity.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Scheming	fails	with oppression.

1

Upright: Vanity in physical power and the strength of material creations

Inverted: Scheming and malicious plot to bring misfortune

2

Upright: collapses suddenly in utter ruin bringing terror and despair

Inverted: fails disastrously when exposed to scrutiny

3

Upright: with adversity causing confusion and the inability to act.

Inverted: with oppression and loss of freedom the consequence for evil.

THE STAR

The Star



Hope refreshes with optimism.

Loss deprives with impotence.

Description

A naked blond woman kneels on her left knee at the edge of water, her right foot resting on its surface. From a vase in her right hand, she pours liquid into the body of water, and from a vase in her left hand, she pours liquid onto the grass. Tiny flowers grow in the grass. A bird is perched on a bush behind her. In the sky shines a single large star surrounded by seven smaller stars.

General Meaning

Hope held in the expectation of fulfillment gives enthusiasm for the future, but when fulfillment fails, that same hope turns bitter and its remembrance brings only regret.

Upright: Bright expectations, renewal, prospects for the future, promises, higher truth, a gift, something beautiful.

Inverted: Disappointment, deprivation, frustration, loss, powerlessness, despair, bitterness.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Hope	refreshes	with optimism.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Loss	deprives	with impotence.

1

Upright: Hope raised by the bright promise of a better future

Inverted: Loss of the confidently held expectation for a better condition

2

Upright: refreshes and sustains the heart allowing it to strive

Inverted: deprives the heart of strength and casts the mind into despair

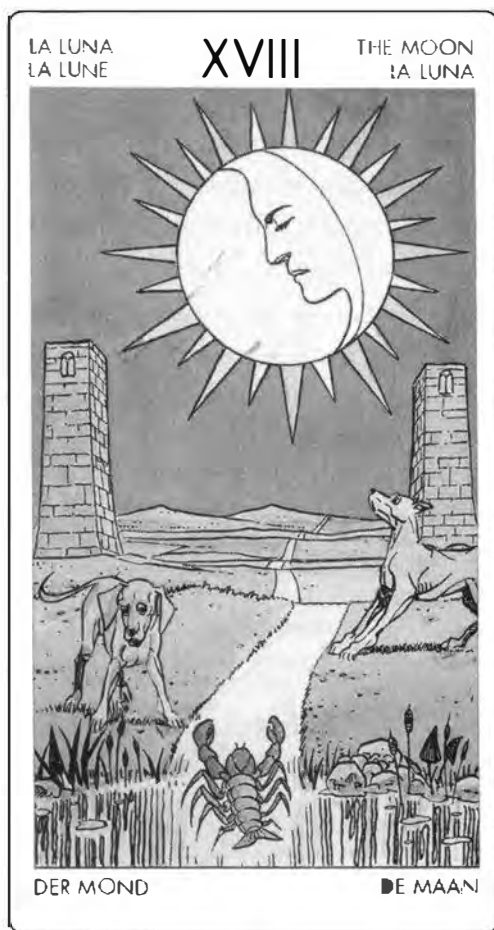
3

Upright: with optimism that circumstances must improve.

Inverted: with impotence scarcely able to go on.

THE MOON

The Moon



↑ Concealment threatens with anxiety.

↓ Error confuses with inconstancy.

Description

A crayfish rises from a pool of water, from which a path runs to the horizon. Two towers, each with a single window, stand on opposite sides of the path. In the sky above them is the face of the crescent moon, which appears to be asleep and frowns as though troubled by a bad dream. On either side of the path stand dogs.

General Meaning

Deceptions and dangers concealed under a cloak of darkness cause anxiety in the imagination, and the resulting mental confusion leads to uncertain judgment and error in action.

Upright: Enemies, danger, threatening circumstances, ambush, hidden pitfalls, deceptions, worry, bad dreams, insomnia.

Inverted: Mistakes, misunderstanding, failure of purpose, lack of insight, changeableness, vacillation, doubt, wandering lost.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Concealment	threatens	with anxiety.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Error	confuses	with inconstancy.

1

Upright: Concealment in silence and shadow of necessary information

Inverted: Error caused by an inability to see the consequences

2

Upright: threatens physical security and peace of mind

Inverted: confuses through doubt and leads to fruitless efforts

3

Upright: with anxiety and apprehension about the chosen course.

Inverted: with inconstancy doomed to failure and greater obscurity.

THE SUN

The Sun



↑ Perfection rejoices with harmony.

↓ Contentment enjoys with satisfaction.

Description

A young child, its arms and legs spread wide so that its body forms the shape of a pentagram, sits naked astride a white horse that has no saddle or bridle. An enormous, serpentine red standard fills the right side of the design. Sunflowers grow above a brick wall behind the horse. In the sky shines the placid face of the sun, streaming its rays down upon the earth.

General Meaning

Perfect success and the attainment of material goals brings well-earned celebration and happiness, but if this satisfaction is indulged too long, it weakens the will and causes indifference to future challenges.

Upright: Well-being, success, wealth, joy, health, prosperity, attainment of material desires, happy marriage.

Inverted: Satisfaction, acceptance of circumstances, peace of mind, fulfillment of immediate purpose, lack of ambition, indolence.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Perfection	rejoices	with harmony.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Contentment	enjoys	with satisfaction.

1

Upright: Perfection of material circumstances to the final degree

Inverted: Contentment in present circumstances lacking ambition

2

Upright: rejoices in the attainment of purpose and freedom from striving

Inverted: enjoys what is possessed and does not look for more

3

Upright: with harmony enjoying true happiness in all actions.

Inverted: with satisfaction satiated and with indolence softened.

JUDGEMENT

Judgement



↑
Renewal resolves with truth.

↓
Decision punishes with severity.

Description

A winged angel emerges from a cloud and sounds a trumpet that bears a banner with a cross. Awakened by the blast, the dead rise up from their tombs. In the foreground stand a woman with her arms extended, a man, and a child, and in the background are similar figures.

General Meaning

Those who heed the higher call reawaken joyfully to their purpose and act with decisive force to fulfill their destiny, while others who heed it not undergo harsh judgment and are compelled to submit to their fate.

Upright: Awakening, kindling, resurrection, resolution, acceptance of change, vitalization, higher calling, imposed task.

Inverted: Rejection, condemnation, censure, punishment, failed evaluation, penalty, harsh scrutiny, probation.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Renewal	resolves	with truth.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Decision	punishes	with severity.

1

Upright: Renewal of purpose reawakened by higher necessity

Inverted: Decision imposed without appeal from a higher authority

2

Upright: resolves conflict and banishes uncertainty in singleness of vision

Inverted: punishes wrong action and transgression of responsibility

3

Upright: with truth illuminating the way that must be followed.

Inverted: with severity in evaluation and denial of reward.

THE WORLD

The World



↑ Success fulfills with absoluteness.

↓ Delay impedes with stagnation.

Description

A naked woman dances upon air, her left leg crossed behind her right knee. In each hand she holds a wand. A bolt of cloth winds around her body, concealing her groin. She is surrounded by an oval wreath. Beyond the wreath at the corners of the card, supported on clouds, the heads of an angel, an eagle, a bull, and a lion appear.

General Meaning

When the work of life is completed, the dance of existence is fulfilled, but if the great work remains unfinished, no passage of time can close the circle.

Upright: Fulfillment, arrival, completion, totality, full circle, destination, purpose attained, new life begun, consummation of work.

Inverted: Inertia, unfinished task, waiting, interruption, loss of purpose, lack of direction, changing goals.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Success	fulfills	with absoluteness.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Delay	impedes	with stagnation.

1

Upright: Success in completing the great work that is the highest goal

Inverted: Delay in progress toward the consummation

2

Upright: fulfills the noble purpose and releases the burden of duty

Inverted: impedes the final realization of a higher purpose

3

Upright: with absoluteness attaining the completion of the cycle.

Inverted: with stagnation preventing the end of the journey.

IL DIAVOLO
LE DIABLE

X



DER TEUFEL

L'EREMITA
L'ERMITE



DER EREM

IL PAPA
LE PAPE

V

THE HIEROPHANT
EL PAPA



DER HIEROPHANT

DE HIÉROFANT

chapter ten

Court Cards

The individual descriptions of the sixteen court cards expand on the human personality types represented by these cards. In divination, the court cards usually represent individuals who affect the matter under inquiry, but they may, at times, represent the attitude of the querent with regard to the question or in relation to another person. Although it was the accepted practice in past centuries to identify those represented by court cards by their hair color, eye color, and skin complexion, this method has been abandoned by many modern diviners as unreliable, and identification is now often made on the basis of gender, age, and character traits.

King of Wands

KING OF WANDS

RE DI BASTONI
ROI DE BATONS

KING OF WANDS
REY DE BASTOS



KÖNIG DER STÄBE

STAVEN KONING

↑ The impulsive man acts with fierceness.

↓ The austere man reacts with forbearance.

Description

A crowned man sits on a throne with a high back that is covered in a tapestry decorated with images of lions and salamanders holding their tails in their mouths. In his right, hand he grasps the upright shaft of a leafy staff. A single living salamander crawls across the dais that supports the throne.

General Meaning

The man with a generous heart acts on impulse from noble motives, without thinking of the consequences, but if the generosity is absent, the impulse to react to perceived wrongs may be cruel and judgmental.

Upright: Honest, active, generous, impetuous, forceful, direct, unpredictable, open.

Inverted: Serious, guarded emotions, reactive, controlling, harsh, ungenerous.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	The impulsive man	acts	with fierceness.
<i>Inverted:</i>	The austere man	reacts	with forbearance.

1

Upright: The impulsive man careless of consequences

Inverted: The austere man in harsh judgment

2

Upright: acts unhesitatingly from motives generous and noble

Inverted: reacts in response to perceived transgressions

3

Upright: with fierceness hastening to uphold the truth.

Inverted: with forbearance withholding approval until terms are met.

Queen of Wands

QUEEN OF WANDS



↑ The adaptable woman persists with calmness.

↓ The obstinate woman confronts with resentment.

Description

A crowned woman sits in a highbacked throne with her feet firmly planted and her knees widespread. A lion is carved into each arm of her seat. In her right hand, she grasps the upright shaft of a leafy staff, and in her left hand holds the upright stem of a sunflower. A black cat sits in front of her feet.

General Meaning

The woman takes the initiative and usually gets her own way, and, since she is kind and generous, she is well liked and respected, though when opposed her temper shows itself through prideful obstinacy and a vengeful attitude.

Upright: Magnetic, pleasant, compelling, persuasive, determined, honorable.

Inverted: Domineering, unpredictable, tyrannical, vengeful, temperamental, confrontational.

Tarot Sentences

QUEEN OF WANDS

1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i> The adaptable woman	persists	with calmness.
<i>Inverted:</i> The obstinate woman	confronts	with resentment.

1

Upright: The adaptable woman steady and determined of will

Inverted: The obstinate woman vexed by contradiction and delay

2

Upright: persists undeterred in pursuit of the final objective

Inverted: confronts and attempts to dominate and subdue

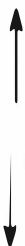
3

Upright: with calmness seeking an honorable outcome.

Inverted: with resentment expressing a vengeful temperament.

Knight of Wands

KNIGHT OF WANDS



The swift youth expresses with forcefulness.

The ungenerous youth asserts with violence.

Description

A knight in armor sits astride a horse. The plume of the knight's helmet resembles a flame. His tunic is decorated with salamanders. In his right hand, he holds the upright shaft of a leafy wand, and, in his left, he pulls upon the reins of his mount. Pyramids are visible in the desert behind him.

General Meaning

The youth enthusiastic for debate and strong in opinion, unless of honorable character, will choose the wrong side and defend it with vigor.

Upright: Noble, strong, hasty, generous, impulsive, enthusiastic, opinionated.

Inverted: Aggressive, intolerant, bad-tempered, prejudiced, haughty, boastful.

Tarot Sentences

KNIGHT OF WANDS

1

2

3

Upright: The swift youth expresses with forcefulness.

Inverted: The ungenerous youth asserts with violence.

1

Upright: The swift youth strong in opinion and of noble mind

Inverted: The ungenerous youth of intolerant boasts

2

Upright: expresses the true and just course boldly

Inverted: asserts in haughty assurance a position of prejudice

3

Upright: with forcefulness asserting the necessary action.

Inverted: with violence defending the unworthy cause.

Knave of Wands

KNAVE OF WANDS



↑ The daring girl/child imposes with boldness.

↓ The superficial girl/child intimidates with instability.

Description

A man stands regarding the knobbed end of the leafy staff he supports upright in both hands. In the background, hills are visible.

General Meaning

The girl with an ardent but irrational disposition usually prevails due to her persuasive enthusiasm, but she may be prey to temper tantrums and, if thwarted, may try to intimidate.

Upright: Courageous, enthusiastic, vigorous, brilliant, beautiful, loyal, aspiring, ambitious.

Inverted: Precipitous, irrational, unreliable, faithless, implacable, domineering, superficial.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	The daring girl/child	imposes	with boldness.
<i>Inverted:</i>	The superficial girl/child	intimidates	with instability.

1

Upright: The daring girl/child strongly desiring to get her own way

Inverted: The superficial girl/child in response to imagined offenses

2

Upright: imposes in the sudden force of enthusiasm

Inverted: intimidates using theatrical threats and lies

3

Upright: with boldness and courage seeking power of authority.

Inverted: with instability of emotions striving to impose control.

King of Cups

KING OF CUPS



↑ The amiable man responds with weakness.

↓ The sensual man deceives with indolence.

Description

A crowned man sits on a throne in the midst of the waves of the sea. In his right hand, he holds a cup, and in his left, a short scepter. The ornament on his breast is in the shape of a fish. In the background to the right of the throne, a ship sails the waves, and to the left, a sea creature leaps.

General Meaning

The man of amiable but passive disposition becomes enthusiastic only when roused, and may sometimes take the easiest course and resort to deception in order to indulge his sensual appetites.

Upright: Graceful, amiable, passive, sensitive, responsive, indulgent, lacking persistence, innocent.

Inverted: Idle, untruthful, shallow, pleasure-loving, untrustworthy, fickle, easily bored.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	The amiable man	responds	with weakness.
<i>Inverted:</i>	The sensual man	deceives	with indolence.

1

Upright: The amiable man easily attracted by excitement

Inverted: The sensual man of shallow character

2

Upright: responds enthusiastically while attention endures

Inverted: deceives to attain fulfillment of immediate desires

3

Upright: with weakness losing interest when the stimulus has ended.

Inverted: with indolence seeking the easiest path to amusement.

Queen of Cups

QUEEN OF CUPS

REGINA DI COPPE
REINE DE COUPES

QUEEN OF CHALICES
REINA DE COPAS



KÖNIGIN DER KELCHE BEKERS KONINGIN

↑ The dreaming woman transmits with passivity.

↓ The self-absorbed woman attracts with tranquility.

Description

A crowned woman gazes intensely at a chalice she holds. She sits in a throne at the edge of the sea. The tall back of her throne is in the shape of a seashell. Beyond the throne, a high sea cliff is visible.

General Meaning

The woman of imagination but little deep feeling does not like to be too much troubled by the affairs of others, yet many are attracted to her because she reflects like a mirror what they most wish to see.

Upright: Imaginative, good-natured, impressionable, kind, calm, abstracted, enigmatic.

Inverted: Coquettish, alluring, indifferent, passionless, vain, colorless, uninvolved.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	The dreaming woman	transmits	with passivity.
<i>Inverted:</i>	The self-absorbed woman	attracts	with tranquility.

1

Upright: The dreaming woman unaffected by circumstance

Inverted: The self-absorbed woman reflecting in her own image

2

Upright: transmits accurately without being altered

Inverted: attracts by showing others their desires and expectations

3

Upright: with passivity viewing the world as an illusion.

Inverted: with tranquility unmoved by surrounding events.

QUEEN OF CUPS

Knight of Cups

KNIGHT OF CUPS

CAVALLO DI COPPE
CHEVALIER DE COUPES

KNIGHT OF CHALICES
CABALLO DE COPAS



RITTER DER KELCHE

BEKERS RIDDER

↑ The subtle youth conceals with guile.

↓ The crafty youth plots with ambition.

Description

A young man in full armor sits astride a horse, a cup extended in his right hand. In the background, a river runs at the base of rugged hills.

General Meaning

The youth, calm outwardly but fierce within, pursues his own advantage with subtle craft, and may act mercilessly to clear the way for his ambitions.

Upright: Ardent, artistic, intense, dissembling, volatile, secretive, passionate.

Inverted: Manipulative, untrustworthy, ruthless, ambitious, self-involved, scheming.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	The subtle youth	conceals	with guile.
<i>Inverted:</i>	The crafty youth	plots	with ambition.

1

Upright: The subtle youth gathering impressions for his own ends

Inverted: The crafty youth using his arts to manipulate circumstance

2

Upright: conceals the true purpose that gives motivation

Inverted: plots hidden violence to overcome opposition

3

Upright: with guile working to bring about the secret design.

Inverted: with ambition unrestrained by conscience intent solely on the prize.

Knave of Cups

KNAVE OF CUPS

FANTE DI COPPE
VALET DE COUPES

KNAVE OF CHALICES
SOTA DE COPAS



BUBE DER KELCHE

BEKERS SCHILDKNAAP

↑ The loving girl/child shares with grace.

↓ The selfish girl/child withholds with conceit.

Description

A young man gazes at a fish emerging from a cup held in his extended right hand. Beyond the place where he stands roil the waves of a troubled sea.

General Meaning

The poetic girl of kind and gentle nature possesses infinite grace, but her sensual and self-absorbed manner may at times lead to selfishness and a disregard for the feelings of others.

Upright: Graceful, tender, kind, sweet, loving, romantic, dreamy, supportive.

Inverted: Indolent, luxurious, self-involved, dependent, seductive, clinging.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	The loving girl/child	shares	with grace.
<i>Inverted:</i>	The selfish girl/child	withholds	with conceit.

1

Upright: The loving girl/child who dwells in a world of romance

Inverted: The selfish girl/child sustained in the midst of delusion

2

Upright: shares the rapture of a vision of beauty

Inverted: withholds affection unless indulged and admired

3

Upright: with grace sustaining pure love and perfect charity.

Inverted: with conceit indifferent to the needs or desires of others.

King of Swords

KING OF SWORDS



↑ The clever man conceives with spontaneity.

↓ The indecisive man vacillates with futility.

Description

A crowned man sits with a sword held at a slight angle in his left hand. His throne is out of doors, and its high back is decorated with wings. Trees are visible behind the throne.

General Meaning

The man of strong intellect acts impulsively upon his inspiration, not pausing to reflect on its prudence, and he often succeeds through the initial rush of his enthusiasm, but when prey to doubt, he may vacillate and waste his initial force, and then act weakly and without conviction.

Upright: Skillful, restless, bold, fierce, inspired, unreflective, impulsive, proactive.

Inverted: Inadequate, uncertain, weak, unsteady, petty, blustering, complaining.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	The clever man	conceives	with spontaneity.
<i>Inverted:</i>	The indecisive man	vacillates	with futility.

1

Upright: The clever man carried forward on the wind of inspiration

Inverted: The indecisive man acting without preparation

2

Upright: conceives the action without reflecting on its consequences

Inverted: vacillates between choices unable to pick one or the other

3

Upright: with spontaneity rushing heedlessly to fulfill the purpose.

Inverted: with futility wasting the force of the initial motivation.

Queen of Swords

QUEEN OF SWORDS



↑ The watchful woman interprets with accuracy.

↓ The sly woman misleads with cruelty.

Description

A crowned woman with a serious expression sits holding a sword upright in her right hand. Wings decorate her throne, which is out of doors. Several trees may be seen behind her.

General Meaning

The woman of outward beauty observes and interprets with grace, then acts in a balanced way to offer her advice, but if of an unjust disposition, she uses her attractiveness with sly skill to deceive for her own advantage.

Upright: Perceptive, quick-witted, confident, observant, well-balanced, individualistic, gracious.

Inverted: Deceitful, unreliable, cruel, dangerous, malicious, dissembling.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	The watchful woman	interprets	with accuracy.
<i>Inverted:</i>	The sly woman	misleads	with cruelty.

1

Upright: The watchful woman who perceives with confident skill

Inverted: The sly woman of superficial grace and deceiving beauty

2

Upright: interprets and weighs the significance of events

Inverted: misleads by presenting the illusion of an honorable cause

3

Upright: with accuracy and balanced judgment assessing consequences.

Inverted: with cruelty disappointing the hopes of the faithful.

Knight of Swords

KNIGHT OF SWORDS

CAVALLO DI SPADE
CHEVALIER D'EPEES

KNIGHT OF SWORDS
CABALLO DE ESPADAS



RITTER DER SCHWERTER

ZWAARDEN RIDDER

↑ The intellectual youth plans with abstraction.

↓ The unreliable youth hesitates with stubbornness.

Description

A knight in full armor rides a terrified horse at full gallop, a naked sword upraised in his right hand. Birds adorn the equipage of the horse. Everything is windblown, including the mane of the horse, the cloak of the knight, and the trees and clouds in the background.

General Meaning

The youth possesses great powers of imagination and reason, but has little ability to apply his conclusions to practical results, and when afflicted by a fanatical or obstinate turn of mind, all his energies are devoted to destructive criticism, and no solutions are offered.

Upright: Thoughtful, cautious, loyal, imaginative, designing, rational, impractical, ungrounded.

Inverted: Unstable, faddish, obstinate, opinionated, fanatical, sporadic, wayward, unsustaining.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	The intellectual youth	plans	with abstraction.
<i>Inverted:</i>	The unreliable youth	hesitates	with stubbornness.

1

Upright: The intellectual youth filled with airy ideas and opinions

Inverted: The unreliable youth who obstinately disagrees

2

Upright: plans unrestrained by the limits of practical realities

Inverted: hesitates to commit material resources

3

Upright: with abstraction constructing castles in the clouds.

Inverted: with stubbornness exposing flaws but offering no solution.

Knave of Swords

KNAVE OF SWORDS



↑
The stern girl/child manages with practicality.

↓
The frivolous girl/child connives with cunning.

Description

A youth with a sword held up in both hands strides across the ground. Clouds fill the sky behind him.

General Meaning

The girl firm of purpose applies the strength of her mind in resourceful ways to accomplish practical ends, but when preoccupied and uncertain, she is reduced to confusion and spends her force in pettiness and cunning.

Upright: Dexterous, strong, capable, determined, clever, diplomatic, resourceful.

Inverted: Petulant, spiteful, calculating, petty, unfocused, vindictive.

Tarot Sentences

1	2	3
----------	----------	----------

Upright: The stern girl/child manages with practicality.

Inverted: The frivolous girl/child connives with cunning.

1

Upright: The stern girl/child applying the force of reason

Inverted: The frivolous girl/child unworthy of respect

2

Upright: manages the controversial affair to its conclusion

Inverted: connives by any means to achieve the purpose

3

Upright: with practicality overcoming all obstacles to attainment.

Inverted: with cunning of a base nature striving to prevail.

King of Pentacles

KING OF PENTACLES

RE DI DENARI
ROI DE DENIERS

KING OF PENTACLES
REY DE OROS



KÖNIG DER MÜNZEN

MUNTEN KONING



The dull man labors with patience.



The avaricious man seizes with jealousy.

Description

A crowned man sits in a massive black throne that is decorated with four bulls' heads. In his right hand, he holds a scepter with a globe on its end, and with his left hand, he balances upright on his leg a disk inscribed with a pentagram. Plants wreath the back of the throne, beyond which may be seen the towers of a castle.

General Meaning

The man close to the earth labors without imagination, applying honest effort and perseverance to fulfill his appointed task, but when he covets with jealousy the attainments of his superiors, his simple nature is poisoned by greed and malice.

Upright: Laborious, persevering, unimaginative, materialistic, instinctive, imitative.

Inverted: Greedy, stupid, slavish, surly, grasping, interfering, fearful, meddling.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	The dull man	labors	with patience.
<i>Inverted:</i>	The avaricious man	seizes	with jealousy.

1

Upright: The dull man skillful in minor material things

Inverted: The avaricious man desiring to possess what he cannot understand

2

Upright: labors through instinct rather than understanding

Inverted: seizes the opportunity to meddle and cause trouble

3

Upright: with patience working untiringly to accomplish the task.

Inverted: with jealousy preventing the natural fulfillment.

Queen of Pentacles

QUEEN OF PENTACLES



↑ The quiet woman achieves with instinct.

↓ The unimaginative woman toils with servility.

Description

A crowned woman sits out of doors, supporting in both hands an upright disk inscribed with a pentagram. She gazes down at the disk as though in deep meditation. The heads of goats adorn the arms of her throne, which rests under a leafy canopy. The landscape behind her is fertile and alive with growth.

General Meaning

The woman of sound instincts and kindly impulses unobtrusively fulfills her duty with practical skill, but when her good nature is abused by the demands of an unsympathetic taskmaster, she becomes a dull-witted and servile drudge.

Upright: Charming, timid, impetuous, great-hearted, melancholy, affectionate, truthful.

Inverted: Servile, foolish, capricious, uncertain, dull, unimaginative, accepting, unquestioning.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	The quiet woman	achieves	with instinct.
<i>Inverted:</i>	The unimaginative woman	toils	with servility.

1

Upright: The quiet woman filled with affection and greatness of heart

Inverted: The unimaginative woman lacking a higher purpose

2

Upright: achieves through practical application and hard work

Inverted: toils in dull persistence to fulfill the obligation

3

Upright: with instinct finding the sensible solution.

Inverted: with servility accepting the control of authority.

Knight of Pentacles

KNIGHT OF PENTACLES



CAVALIER DE DENARI
CHEVALIER DE DENIERS

KNIGHT OF PENTACLES
CABALLO DE CROS

KNIPTER DER AUFGEVEN

MOUTATEN RIDDER

↑ The energetic youth adapts with ingeniousness.

↓ The plodding youth resents with anger.

Description

An armored knight sits astride a powerful black horse that stands motionless. He holds upon his right palm an upright disk inscribed with a pentagram, as though presenting it. Behind him is a furrowed field.

General Meaning

The youth manages affairs with practical skill and steady application, bringing reliable increase in the matter, but when his insensitive nature is roused to resentment by arrogant criticism, he digs in his heels and with dull fury offers opposition.

Upright: Practical, reliable, steady, applying, persevering, competent, able, thoughtful, careful, trustworthy, imperturbable.

Inverted: Brutish, insensitive, stupid, resentful, predictable, implacable, unimaginative.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	The energetic youth	adapts	with ingeniousness.
<i>Inverted:</i>	The plodding youth	resents	with anger.

1

Upright: The energetic youth unemotionally applying his skills

Inverted: The plodding youth unreceptive to other opinions

2

Upright: adapts conditions in reliable ways

Inverted: resents the imposition of higher motives

3

Upright: with ingeniousness causing increase in good or evil.

Inverted: with anger implacable opposing contradiction.

Knave of Pentacles

KNAVE OF PENTACLES



↑ The benevolent girl/child preserves with diligence.

↓ The wasteful girl/child squanders with inconsistency.

Description

A dark-haired man supports on his fingertips an upright disk inscribed with a pentagram. He gazes at it with admiration. Trees are visible in the distance.

General Meaning

The strong girl of earthy beauty conserves her resources with practical skill and distributes them for efficient use, unless her nature is corrupted by sensual ease, causing her to become wasteful and careless.

Upright: Generous, kind, persevering, benevolent, practical, conserving, managing.

Inverted: Prodigal, liberal, luxurious, dissipated, imprudent, unpredictable, wayward.

Tarot Sentences

1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i> The benevolent girl/child	preserves	with diligence.
<i>Inverted:</i> The wasteful girl/child	squanders	with inconsistency.

1

Upright: The benevolent girl/child practical in her ways

Inverted: The wasteful girl/child extravagant in the spreading of gifts

2

Upright: preserves the form and substance using careful management

Inverted: squanders imprudently the reserves of value

3

Upright: with diligence conserving the foundation of growth.

Inverted: with inconsistency consuming or discarding according to whim.

CAVALLO DI SPADE
CHEVALIER D'ÉPÉE



RITTER DER SCHWER

FANTE DI DENARI
VALET DE DENIER



BUBE DE

REGINA DI COPPE
REINE DE COUPES

QUEEN OF CHALICES
REINA DE COPAS



KÖNIGIN DER KELCHE

BEKERS KONINGIN

chapter eleven

Number Cards

The number cards of the four suits of the Tarot concern practical, specific matters, as opposed to the trumps, which deal with broader issues and affairs of personal evolution, and the court cards, which involve human beings and personality states. It is often the practice to treat the number cards as somehow less important than the trumps or the court cards, but this is an error. All three groups of cards are necessary for a complete divination.

One of Wands

ONE OF WANDS



Enterprise begins with creativity.

Impotence declines with decadence.

Description

A right hand extends from a cloud, grasping the vertical shaft of a leafy club with a bulbous tip. In the distance, a castle occupies the crest of a hill.

General Meaning

Creative energy welling up like green sap in springtime may fail to attain its goal if its initial impulse lacks the momentum to carry it from inspiration to established design.

Upright: Natural force, vigor, strength, energy, origin, outburst.

Inverted: Weakness, fall, failure, insufficient force, false start, wasted effort.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Enterprise	begins	with creativity.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Impotence	declines	with decadence.

1

Upright: Enterprise arising spontaneously as a natural impulse

Inverted: Impotence striving but failing to attain its end

2

Upright: begins the task in a rush of vigor not to be denied

Inverted: declines due to a lack of clarity of purpose

3

Upright: with creativity expressing the urge to bring forth into manifestation.

Inverted: with decadence descending into futility and spent force.

Two of Wands



TWO OF WANDS

↑
Dominion assesses with possessiveness.

↓
Pride oppresses with authority.

Description

A man stands upon a battlement looking out to sea. On his palm he supports a globe of the world, and in his other hand, he grasps an upright leafy staff. A similar vertical staff stands fixed to the stones of the battlement. On the side of one of these stones is a design showing a cross in the shape of an X, with two roses occupying the ends of one arm, and two lilies occupying the ends of the other arm.

General Meaning

Determination to undertake the enterprise with bold disregard for the potential pitfalls may lead to harshness and unconcern for the opinions of others.

Upright: Boldness, fierceness, determination, ambition, generosity.

Inverted: Obstinacy, shamelessness, lack of forgiveness, arrogance, control.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Dominion	assesses	with possessiveness.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Pride	oppresses	with authority.

1

Upright: Dominion achieved by forceful action and power of will

Inverted: Pride of possession demanding complete control

2

Upright: assesses attainments critically in unsatisfied ambition

Inverted: oppresses by rigorous and unrealistic expectations

3

Upright: with possessiveness pleased by what is held but seeking more.

Inverted: with authority over others dictating remorselessly.

Three of Wands

THREE OF WANDS



↑ Virtue sustains with constancy.

↓ Strength establishes with arrogance.

Description

A man viewed from the back stands within a triangle defined by three staffs that have been thrust into the ground. He gazes down at the waters of a strait below his lofty vantage while holding onto one of the staffs for support.

General Meaning

Sustained purpose carries the work smoothly toward its fulfillment, provided obsession with the attainment of desire does not lead to the abuse of authority.

Upright: Nobility, realization, continuing success, achievement, productive effort.

Inverted: Self-assertion, rudeness, presumption, insolence, abuse of power.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Virtue	sustains	with constancy.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Strength	establishes	with arrogance.

1

Upright: Virtue inherent in the source of creation

Inverted: Strength available in abundance and freely used

2

Upright: sustains the enterprise through unwavering purpose

Inverted: establishes the purpose in disregard of objections

3

Upright: with constancy working to fulfill the design.

Inverted: with arrogance determined to maintain the present course.

Four of Wands



FOUR OF WANDS

↑ Completion perfects with harmony.

↓ Interruption prevents with unreliability.

Description

A garland of greenery hangs suspended from two of four staffs that stand upright in pairs, forming a kind of gateway. Between them, in the distance, two women hold leafy plants in their hands. In the background is a large manor or castle.

General Meaning

After attainment comes repose, the well-deserved enjoyment of a purpose that has been fulfilled, but if there are unexpected delays, the result is worry that preoccupies the mind.

Upright: Concord, repose, rest after labor, refuge, haven, settlement, arrangement.

Inverted: Limitation, anxiety, extension of work, delay, failure to meet deadline, unrealized purpose.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Completion	perfects	with harmony.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Interruption	prevents	with unreliability.

1

Upright: Completion of orderly labor through sustained effort

Inverted: Interruption and delay in the perfection of the work

2

Upright: perfects the design by determined application

Inverted: prevents its attainment through unequal effort

3

Upright: with harmony giving satisfaction and repose.

Inverted: with unreliability causing continued anxiety and unrest.

Five of Wands

FIVE OF WANDS



↑ Strife opposes with strenuousness.

↓ Rashness battles with violence.

Description

Five men brandish leafy staffs in a contest of courage or fighting skill.

General Meaning

A sudden and unfair attack requires a strenuous defense to protect the fruits of long labor, but the advantage of surprise and a lack of mercy in the assault will sometimes prevail.

Upright: Contest, resistance, boldness, conflict, assertion of desire, competition.

Inverted: Quarreling, trickery, legal disputes, unfair attack, aggression, ambush.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Strife	opposes	with strenuousness.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Rashness	battles	with violence.

1

Upright: Strife arising from a conflict of wills

Inverted: Rashness of attack seeking the advantage

2

Upright: opposes the overthrow of purpose by force

Inverted: battles to impose its intention by any means

3

Upright: with strenuousness defending the enterprise fairly.

Inverted: with violence willing to resort to ignoble methods.

Six of Wands

SIX OF WANDS



↑ Victory crowns with reward.

↓ Pride increases with insolence.

Description

A man mounted on horseback holds up in his left hand a staff surmounted by a laurel wreath. Behind the horse, men stand with five staffs upraised.

General Meaning

To the victor rightly go the spoils of war, and the recognition of an achievement won through valiant determination of will, but with fame and public honor may arise a loss of simplicity and the increase of pridefulness.

Upright: Triumph, gain, expectation rewarded, favorable news, renewed hope, victory after strife, fruits of labor.

Inverted: Vanity, flattery, conceit, undeserved honors, aggrandizement, notoriety.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Victory	crowns	with reward.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Pride	increases	with insolence.

1

Upright: Victory after strife that has been nobly achieved

Inverted: Pride in an undeserved and empty victory

2

Upright: crowns and honors the triumphant purpose

Inverted: increases vanity over imaginary attainments

3

Upright: with reward giving deserved pleasure long delayed.

Inverted: with insolence swelled by flattery and empty fame.

Seven of Wands

SEVEN OF WANDS



↑
Valor resists with advantage.

↓
Pretense quarrels with ignorance.

Description

A dark-haired man defends a piece of high ground with a staff. Six similar staffs are raised to attack him from below, but those who wield them remain unseen.

General Meaning

Unequal odds in conflict can produce great displays of valor and may lead to victory for the besieged, provided there is no hesitation or indecision in the defense.

Upright: Courage under fire, valiant defense, possible victory, resistance, indomitability, obstacles confronted.

Inverted: Petty victory, abuse of a subordinate, wrangling, threats, indecision, doubt, lack of confidence.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Valor	resists	with advantage.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Pretense	quarrels	with ignorance.

1

Upright: Valor in the face of overwhelming odds

Inverted: Pretense seeking unfair advantage through deceit

2

Upright: resists the attack using courage and decisive action

Inverted: quarrels over minor matters of little importance

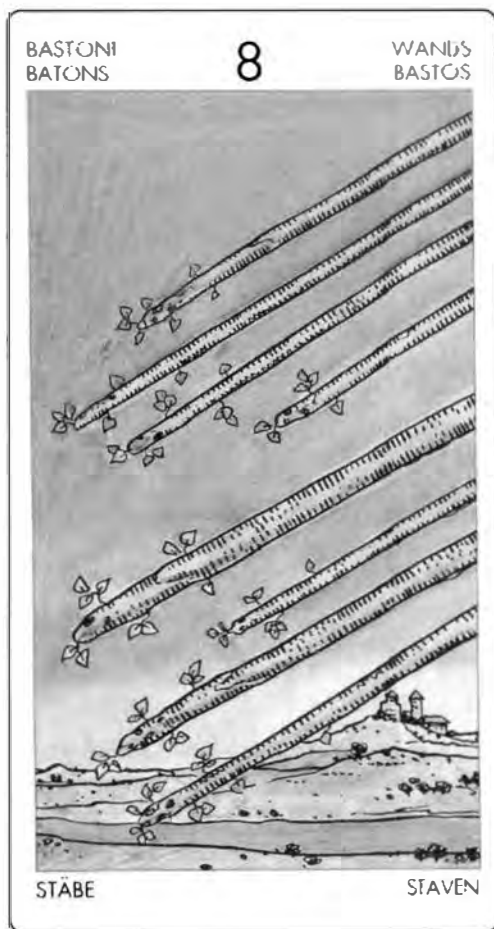
3

Upright: with advantage of position turning defeat into triumph.

Inverted: with ignorance and lack of confidence failing to prevail.

Eight of Wands

EIGHT OF WANDS



↑
Swiftness conveys with lightness.

↓
Haste steals with mistrust.

Description

Eight leafy staffs fly through the air as though thrown. In the background flows a river, beyond which a fortification surmounts a hill.

General Meaning

Swift and steady action speeds the attainment of the purpose, but excessive haste may overshoot the mark and spend its force imprudently.

Upright: Swift communication, rapidity of action, confidence, freedom, boldness, travel by air.

Inverted: Unsustained, unreliable, a theft, precipitous action, a fool rushes in, rapaciousness, violence.

Tarot Sentences

1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i> Swiftness	conveys	with lightness.
<i>Inverted:</i> Haste	steals	with mistrust.

1

Upright: Swiftness applied steadily and with balanced force

Inverted: Haste resulting in unbalanced and spent effort

2

Upright: conveys the intention successfully to its destination

Inverted: steals unfairly what cannot be won by an honest attempt

3

Upright: with lightness overleaping barriers and outpacing slower rivals.

Inverted: with mistrust arousing hostility and opposition to the enterprise.

Nine of Wands



NINE OF WANDS

Strength awaits with formidableness.

Obstinacy worries with uncertainty.

Description

A weary man stands watchfully with a staff held upright in his hands. Eight similar vertical staffs are arranged in a palisade—the one he holds appears to have been taken from the gap in this defensive barrier directly behind him.

General Meaning

Sustained and powerful strength of will arising from a healthy body is unshakable, provided it is not divided by stubbornness of action combined with uncertainty of purpose.

Upright: Tremendous power, steady force, applied strength, health of the body, bold defense.

Inverted: Stubbornness, uncertainty, adversity, obstacles, calamity, body obsession, desperate defense.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Strength	awaits	with formidableness.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Obstinacy	worries	with uncertainty.

1

Upright: Strength sustaining the will and supporting the resolve

Inverted: Obstinacy in the absence of good judgment

2

Upright: awaits in calm confidence the coming assault

Inverted: worries the mind with inner doubts and fears

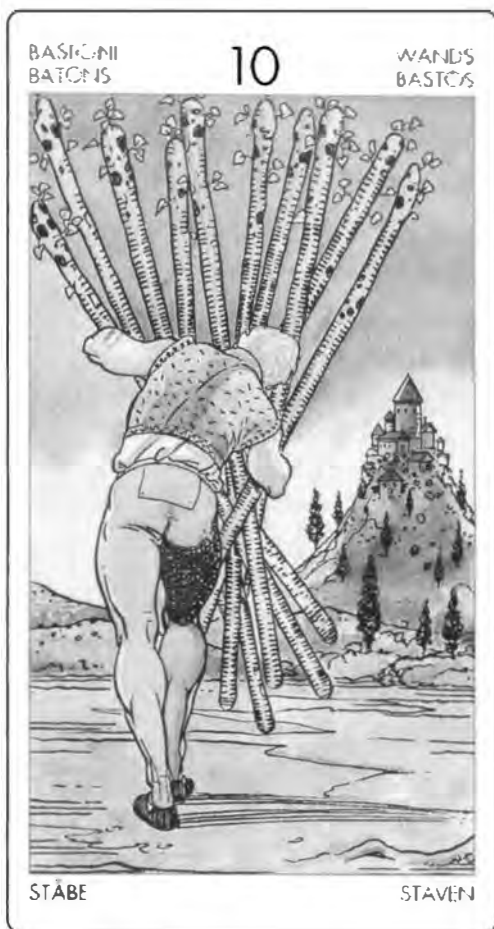
3

Upright: with formidableness prepared to resist against overwhelming odds.

Inverted: with uncertainty diminishing the strength needed to prevail.

Ten of Wands

TEN OF WANDS



↑ Oppression burdens with heaviness.

↓ Revenge strikes with malice.

Description

A blond man awkwardly carries in his arms a bundle of ten leafy staffs. Preoccupied with not dropping any of the staffs, he keeps his eyes to the ground in front of his feet as he walks toward a distant castle.

General Meaning

Dealing with many matters at once causes oppression of the spirit while simultaneously providing the opportunity for great tangible gain, but the temptation to prevail through dishonest means must be resisted.

Upright: Burden, many tasks, overwork, thankless toil, weight of cares, duty, obligation.

Inverted: Intrigues, difficulties, repression, cruelty, lies, ill will, selfish purposes, injustice, punishment.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Oppression	burdens	with heaviness.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Revenge	strikes	with malice.

1

Upright: Oppression caused by obligations that cannot be avoided

Inverted: Revenge oppressing the thoughts relentlessly

2

Upright: burdens the mind by unrelenting toil that has no higher purpose

Inverted: strikes using the ignoble weapons of slander and lies

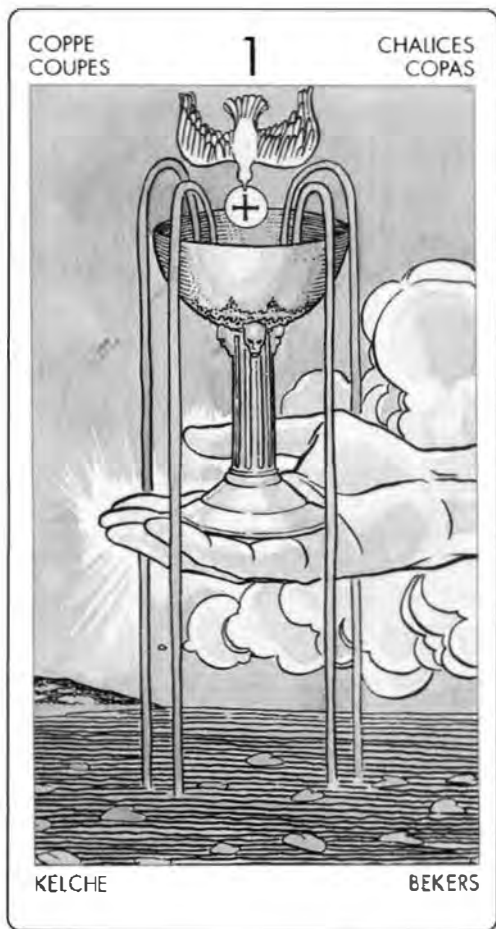
3

Upright: with heaviness oppressing the heart until the task has been accomplished.

Inverted: with malice and cruel intent seeking the unworthy attainment.

One of Cups

ONE OF CUPS



↑ Contentment fertilizes with joy.

↓ Instability mutates with falseness.

Description

A radiant right hand extends from a cloud supporting a gold cup or chalice on its palm. Streams of water arc out from the cup and descend to a pond below, where lily pads grow. A white dove with a sacramental wafer in its beak flies directly downward into the cup. The wafer is inscribed with a cross.

General Meaning

The waters of life flowing forth in abundance fertilize the world and bring joy, but in the absence of control an excess of vital energy can result in mutations that assume unexpected forms.

Upright: Fertility, beauty, productivity, pleasure, nourishment, replenishing.

Inverted: Change, distortion, excess, disguise, revolution, expulsion.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Contentment	fertilizes	with joy.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Instability	mutates	with falseness.

1

Upright: Contentment stemming from the flow of vital energy

Inverted: Instability in the control of an excess of germinating forms

2

Upright: fertilizes that which was barren and causes renewal

Inverted: mutates creative energies into unforeseen and rebellious expressions

3

Upright: with joy replenishing the wellspring of creative abundance.

Inverted: with falseness striving to overthrow the regular order and bring chaos.

Two of Cups



TWO OF CUPS

Love attracts with empathy.

Dissipation squanders with foolishness.

Description

A young man and a young woman pledge their love by exchanging cups. In the air above the cups floats the caduceus of Hermes, surmounted by a winged lion's head. Both the wings and the head of the lion are red.

General Meaning

Lovers united in adoration fulfill their destiny together, but when devotion descends to desire, its power is poured out and dissipated in foolish acts.

Upright: Marriage, harmony, union, true love, devotion of the heart, shared joy.

Inverted: Folly of the heart, foolish passion, infatuation, unworthy object of affection, unrequited desire, love wasted.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Love	attracts	with empathy.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Dissipation	squanders	with foolishness.

1

Upright: Love that is a true expression of the soul

Inverted: Dissipation of affection on unworthy objects

2

Upright: attracts so that it may be completed and fulfilled

Inverted: squanders power in futile expressions of desire

3

Upright: with empathy uniting in mutual harmony and joy.

Inverted: with foolishness wasting the higher on the lower.

Three of Cups

THREE OF CUPS



↑ Abundance fulfills with perfection.

↓ Sensuality satisfies with pleasure.

Description

Three young women dance together in a harvest garden, each elevating a cup in her hand. One of the women wears green leaves entwined in her hair.

General Meaning

It is good to rejoice in the fulfillment of an abundant harvest, but overindulgence reduces happiness to mere satisfaction, and transforms enjoyment into satiety.

Upright: Bounty, hospitality, plenty, merriment, abundance, enjoyment of success, gladness.

Inverted: Sensual pleasures, dancing, feasting, drinking, partying, indulgence of appetites.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Abundance	fulfills	with perfection.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Sensuality	satisfies	with pleasure.

1

Upright: Abundance in the realization of the bounty of good fortune

Inverted: Sensuality in the indulgence of the appetites

2

Upright: fulfills all needs and gives rise to celebration

Inverted: satisfies the lower but leaves the higher incomplete

3

Upright: with perfection of circumstances causing true joy.

Inverted: with pleasure pandering to the impulses of the flesh.

Four of Cups

FOUR OF CUPS



↑ **Luxury wearies with discontent.**

↓ **Excess vexes with aversion.**

Description

A dark-haired youth sits beneath a tree. Three cups stand upright on the ground before him. He contemplates them with sullen indifference, ignoring a fourth cup held in a hand that issues from a small cloud.

General Meaning

Pleasure can lead to indifference, and when the attempt is made to overcome indifference with more pleasure, the result is aversion and disgust.

Upright: Weariness, imaginary annoyances, boredom, dullness, insensitivity, abandonment, cloying of the appetites.

Inverted: Frantic indulgence, false celebration, disgust, revulsion, decay, souring, vomiting, impotence.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Luxury	wearies	with discontent.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Excess	vexes	with aversion.

1

Upright: Luxury enjoyed too long blunts the senses

Inverted: Excess provoking revulsion of the senses

2

Upright: wearies the imagination by repeated dissatisfactions

Inverted: vexes until what was formerly sought is rejected

3

Upright: with discontent forcing the abandonment of indulgence.

Inverted: with aversion pursuing and ending desire.

Five of Cups



FIVE OF CUPS

Disappointment frustrates with bitterness.

Trouble betrays with ingratitude.

Description

A dark-haired figure wearing a long black cloak stares down at three cups that lie on their sides on the ground, their contents spilled out. Behind him, two cups stand upright. In the background, a bridge leads across a river to a fortified keep.

General Meaning

At the expectation of pleasure, disappointment, which may have as its cause the betrayal of trust.

Upright: End of pleasure, sorrow, regret, unfulfilled expectation, resentment, affection not returned.

Inverted: Loss, unfair withholding, legal trickery, inheritance concealed, unkindness of a friend, broken engagement, charity betrayed, abuse of trust.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Disappointment	frustrates	with bitterness.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Trouble	betrays	with ingratitude.

1

Upright: Disappointment of the firm expectation of happiness

Inverted: Trouble arising from trust ill-required

2

Upright: frustrates more keenly due to its surprise

Inverted: betrays the hope of lasting benefit

3

Upright: with bitterness over failure lingering in the heart.

Inverted: with ingratitude destroying the expectation of gain.

Six of Cups

SIX OF CUPS



↑ Pleasure renews with reflection.

↓ Presumption contends with vanity.

Description

A boy in a red hood presents a cup containing a white flower to a younger girl. Both are warmly dressed. Behind the boy on a stone block bearing the emblem of a shield with a cross rests another cup of flowers, and four more cups containing flowers are arranged in a row across the base of the design.

General Meaning

The beginning of a time of steady increase in pleasure born of contented reflection carries with it the danger of complacency and self-satisfaction.

Upright: Commencement of steady gain, wish begins to be fulfilled, happy thoughts, success, enjoyment, patient joy.

Inverted: Thanklessness, self-assertion, an affront, defective knowledge, selfishness, egotism, overly pleased with oneself.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Pleasure	renews	with reflection.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Presumption	contends	with vanity.

1

Upright: Pleasure beginning in the quiet awareness of merit

Inverted: Presumption arising from self-satisfaction

2

Upright: renews a period of deserved contentment

Inverted: contends against those that would destroy the illusion

3

Upright: with reflection enjoying the fruits of past effort.

Inverted: with vanity seeking to preserve the image of perfection.

Seven of Cups



SEVEN OF CUPS

↑ Promise disappoints with unfulfillment.

↓ Illusion deceives with dissipation.

Description

A man stands gazing in wonder at a vision of seven cups that float upon a cloud. The cups variously contain the head of a boy, a veiled specter, a serpent, a castle, jewels, a laurel crown, and a reptilian monster with a barbed tongue.

General Meaning

Castles in the clouds tantalize with grandiose promises of wealth, love, fame, and power, but futile attempts to realize in the material world the unattainable visions of the imagination may provoke sensual excess and folly.

Upright: Empty hopes, unrealistic dreams, fanatical plans, get-rich-quick schemes, vain expectations, unsound enterprise, delusions of grandeur, misplaced trust.

Inverted: Deceptions, false promises, misleading advice, betrayal of trust, vanity, conceit, fraud, confidence racket, seduction, sexual excess, intoxication of the senses, debauch.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Promise	disappoints	with unfulfillment.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Illusion	deceives	with dissipation.

1

Upright: Promise of attainment in the absence of realistic means

Inverted: Illusion arising from the false promises and flatteries of others

2

Upright: disappoints by false hopes and empty plans

Inverted: deceives into extravagant and foolish excesses

3

Upright: with unfulfillment the consequence of vain expectation.

Inverted: with dissipation tempting to self-destructive acts.

SEVEN OF CUPS

Eight of Cups



EIGHT OF CUPS

↑ Indolence declines with inconsequence.

↓ Misery abandons with indifference.

Description

Three cups are stacked upon a row of five cups in the foreground. A man with a staff walks away from the cups, his back to them.

General Meaning

The recognition that success is an illusion leads to a careless disregard for affairs, and may even cause sadness of heart and the rejection of what has been attained.

Upright: Indifference, disinterest, lack of concern, ennui, carelessness, temporary success, travel without purpose, matter revealed to be unimportant.

Inverted: Repining, negligence, things of value discarded, melancholy, failure to fulfill duties, unkempt appearance, walking away from responsibility.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Indolence	declines	with inconsequence.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Misery	abandons	with indifference.

1

Upright: Indolence arising from a lack of enthusiasm for success

Inverted: Misery of depression due to emptiness of heart

2

Upright: declines to maintain a continuing interest in the outcome

Inverted: abandons duties as matters of trivial concern

3

Upright: with inconsequence expressing careless disregard.

Inverted: with indifference rejecting what was formerly prized.

Nine of Cups

NINE OF CUPS



↑ Happiness succeeds with advantage.

↓ Materialism inflates with conceit.

Description

A fat merchant sits upon a bench. Behind him on a high, curved counter are nine cups arranged in a line.

General Meaning

Worldly success carries with it many advantages, but a preoccupation with materialism obscures the importance of intangible pleasures.

Upright: Pleasure, satisfaction, generosity, kindness, concord, contentment, wish fulfilled, complete success.

Inverted: Foolishness, self-praise, vanity, conceit, preoccupation with appearances.

Tarot Sentences

1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i> Happiness	succeeds	with advantage.
<i>Inverted:</i> Materialism	inflates	with conceit.

1

Upright: Happiness attaining its highest sensual perfection

Inverted: Materialism giving satisfaction of the worldly condition

2

Upright: succeeds in its effort to spread concord and well-being

Inverted: inflates the ego by self-admiration and displays of acquisition

3

Upright: with advantage fulfilling the wish and attaining success.

Inverted: with conceit mistaking possession for attainment.

Ten of Cups

TEN OF CUPS



↑ Satiety placates with consummation.

↓ Debauchery wastes with extravagance.

Description

A man and woman stand together gazing in wonder at a rainbow that contains ten cups. Beside the couple, two children dance for joy. In the distance beneath the rainbow is a house sheltered by trees.

General Meaning

Perfect success has been achieved in all endeavors and desires concerning the material side of happiness, such as family, home, and career, yet this perfection carries hidden within it the seeds of emotional discontent and material excess.

Upright: Abundance, fullness, dullness, enjoyment without enthusiasm, smugness, careless generosity, largess, contented home, bourgeois mentality.

Inverted: Needless spending, vain displays of wealth, self-indulgence, impulse buying, extravagant gift-giving, large wardrobe, art collecting, acquisition of jewelry.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Satiety	placates	with consummation.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Debauchery	wastes	with extravagance.

1

Upright: Satiety of feeling in all material desires

Inverted: Debauchery arising from the dissatisfaction with satiety

2

Upright: placates the urge for additional pleasures

Inverted: wastes value in a vain effort to arouse the senses

3

Upright: with consummation of contentment dulling the senses.

Inverted: with extravagance seeking to reawaken happiness.

One of Swords

ONE OF SWORDS



↑
Wisdom triumphs with forcefulness.

↓
Conquest precipitates with disaster.

Description

A right hand emerges from a cloud grasping the hilt of an upright sword. Around the tip of the sword is a gold crown that is draped with boughs of palm and olive. Mountains line the low horizon.

General Meaning

When power is invoked from the source of spiritual strength, it can be used for justice and truth, but when it is invoked from the darkness of the soul, it will accomplish only works of pain and sorrow.

Upright: Invoked force, power for good, justice, sword of truth, victory, conquest, strength in time of trouble.

Inverted: Power for evil, multiplying problems, wrath, punishment, affliction.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Wisdom	triumphs	with forcefulness.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Conquest	precipitates	with disaster.

1

Upright: Wisdom in the use of invoked power

Inverted: Conquest using anger in the absence of justice

2

Upright: triumphs over disorganized enemies

Inverted: precipitates ever more numerous difficulties

3

Upright: with forcefulness achieving a just and due victory.

Inverted: with disaster overthrowing the gains that have been made.

Two of Swords

TWO OF SWORDS



↑ Peace balances with equality.

↓ Affront resumes with insensitivity.

Description

Seated in front of the sea at low tide, a blindfolded woman holds two large swords so that the blades of the swords extend up diagonally past her shoulders to form a V. The crescent of the moon shines down upon the reef-filled ocean strait behind her.

General Meaning

The offer of peace is a precarious balance, either received with honor and leading to harmony, or seized upon as an instrument of advantage and leading to increased conflict.

Upright: Harmony restored, quarrels ended, resolution of differences, strength from sacrifice, unselfishness, truth, pleasure after pain.

Inverted: Selfishness, tactlessness, repeated offenses, tension in relationship, lies, unintentional wounding.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Peace	balances	with equality.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Affront	resumes	with insensitivity.

1

Upright: Peace regained after a time of conflict

Inverted: Affront given carelessly without intent to harm

2

Upright: balances opposites in unselfish accord

Inverted: resumes when pardoned and repeats the injury

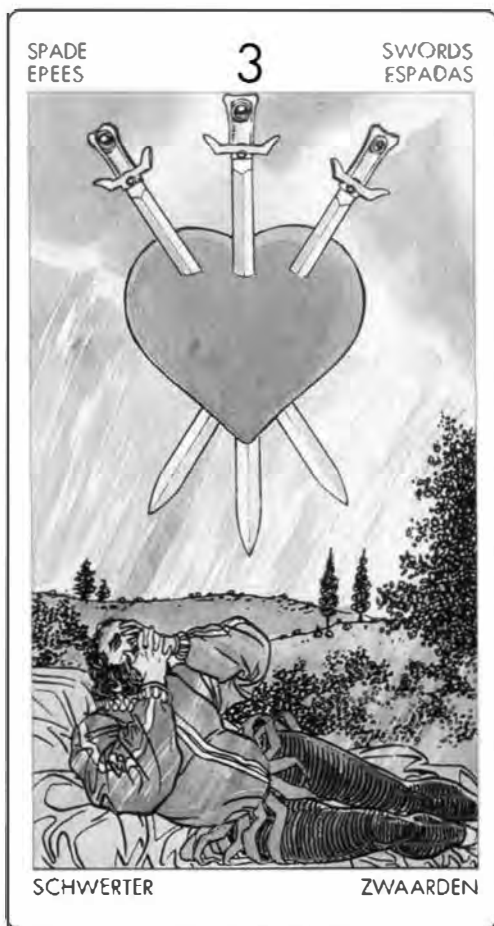
3

Upright: with equality sacrificing advantage for truth.

Inverted: with insensitivity failing to respect the peace.

Three of Swords

THREE OF SWORDS



↑ Sorrow divides with distance.

↓ Discord interrupts with mischief.

Description

Three straight swords pierce a large, red heart, their points crossing through its center, against a background of gray clouds streaming rain.

General Meaning

A heart divided from the object of its affections knows sorrow and breeds discord and mischief within its darkness.

Upright: Separation, disruption, unhappiness, absence, delay, dispersion, removal.

Inverted: Alienation, confusion, disorder, quarrel, sowing strife, deceitfulness, lies and slanders.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Sorrow	divides	with distance.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Discord	interrupts	with mischief.

1

Upright: Sorrow arising out of forced separation

Inverted: Discord caused by unhappy circumstances

2

Upright: divides the affections and prevents fulfillment

Inverted: interrupts the tranquility it cannot possess

3

Upright: with distance increasing suffering due to loss.

Inverted: with mischief transforming concord into discontent.

Four of Swords

FOUR OF SWORDS



↑ Truce maintains with vigilance.

↓ Convalescence heals with time.

Description

A knight lies with his hands joined upon his breast in prayer. On the wall behind is a stained-glass window depicting a youthful figure kneeling before a woman, with a castle in the background. Three swords hang beside the window with points downward, and a fourth lies on its side.

General Meaning

Rest from strife in time of war, when guarded with care, provides an opportunity for wounds to heal and strength to return.

Upright: Quietness, mental ease, peace in strife, rest from sorrow, relaxation after hardship, repose, guarded solitude, a retreat.

Inverted: Recovery, regeneration, gathering of resources, restoration of health, passage of time, improvement, acceptance of terms, desertion, exile.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Truce	maintains	with vigilance.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Convalescence	heals	with time.

1

Upright: Truce sincerely offered giving rest from sorrow

Inverted: Convalescence gained at the price of appeasement

2

Upright: maintains itself by the honorable agreement of both sides

Inverted: heals and regenerates available resources

3

Upright: with vigilance allowing recovery from conflict.

Inverted: with time enabling resumption of the battle.

Five of Swords

FIVE OF SWORDS



Defeat dishonors with pain.

Spitefulness slanders with untruth.

Description

A man gathers up three swords in his hands. Two more lie on the ground at his feet. He sneers in derision at two men who walk away from him toward a body of water. Clouds blow across the sky.

General Meaning

Dishonor arising from surrender causes suffering, which may be worsened by the spiteful treachery and lies of the enemy.

Upright: Surrender, failure, dishonor, loss, anxiety, infamy, troubles, grief, no rest for the weary.

Inverted: Malice, telling tales, troublemaking, degradation, busy-body, cruelty, vileness.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Defeat	dishonors	with pain.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Spitefulness	slanders	with untruth.

1

Upright: Defeat that results from the surrender of resistance

Inverted: Spitefulness toward the vanquished foe

2

Upright: dishonors by failure to persevere to the end

Inverted: slanders by malicious and misleading words

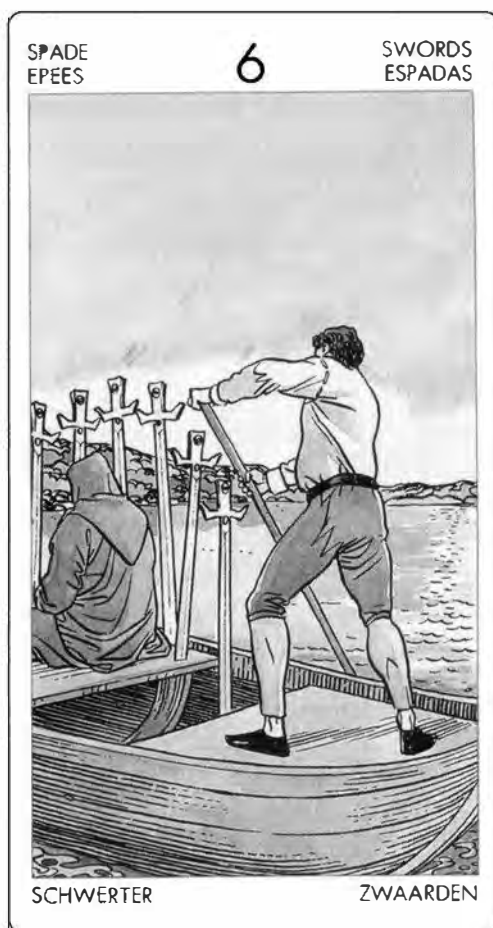
3

Upright: with pain troubling the mind and depriving it of rest.

Inverted: with untruth seeking to increase suffering.

Six of Swords

SIX OF SWORDS



↑ Attainment achieves with labor.

↓ Trouble delays with anxiety.

Description

A ferryman poles his boat across a river, carrying a woman to the far shore. The woman is cloaked and sits with a dejected posture. Six naked swords stand in the craft with their points downward. The sky is a lowering gray.

General Meaning

Safe passage is attained after much trial and effort, but delays may cause worry before the fulfillment of purpose.

Upright: Journey, earned success, need for patience, ongoing work, mental evolution, balanced attitude.

Inverted: Impatience, obstruction, worry, detour, postponement, loss of balance, storm approaches.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Attainment	achieves	with labor.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Trouble	delays	with anxiety.

1

Upright: Attainment of a dynamic balance of thoughts and desires

Inverted: Trouble that disturbs the balance of the mind

2

Upright: achieves a well-earned success on the journey

Inverted: delays the progress of personal evolution

3

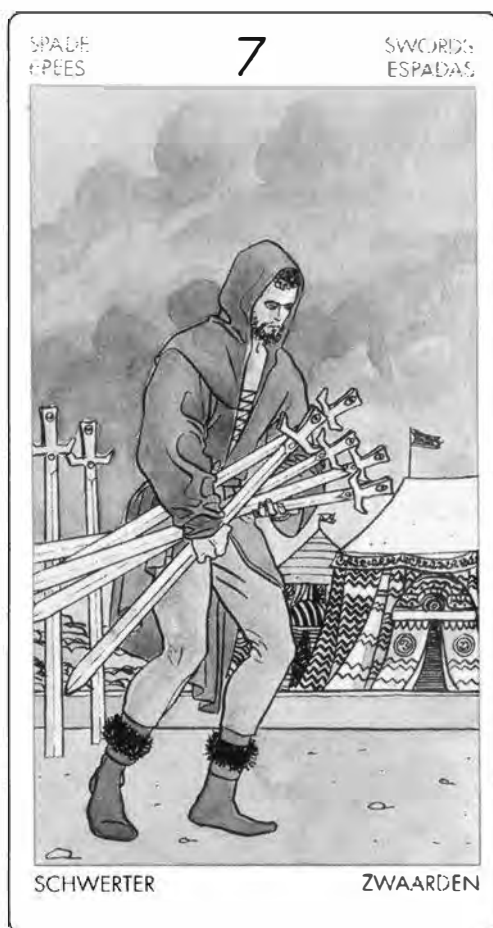
Upright: with labor and patience maintaining the gains that have been won.

Inverted: with anxiety caused by the need to pause and reconsider the way.

SIX OF SWORDS

Seven of Swords

SEVEN OF SWORDS



↑
Futility annoys with conflict.

↓
Instability betrays with insult.

Description

A crafty man sneaks away with five swords in his hands. Two more swords stand point downward in the ground. In the distance may be seen the tents of a military encampment.

General Meaning

On the eve of victory, the battle is forfeited due to unstable effort, leading to a sense of futility and recrimination, and inviting the insults of untrustworthy allies.

Upright: Vacillation, success turns to failure, exhaustion of effort, failure of nerve, self-defeat, giving up, imperfect attainment, desire to compromise.

Inverted: Unreliable ally, betrayal of confidence, expressions of contempt, abandonment, denial, quarrel causes failure.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Futility	annoys	with conflict.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Instability	betrays	with insult.

1

Upright: Futility arising from a sense that defeat is inevitable

Inverted: Instability of effort when determination is most needed

2

Upright: annoys and exhausts the strength through doubts

Inverted: betrays the trust that was relied upon

3

Upright: with conflict of the mind weakening the will to persevere.

Inverted: with insult and falsehood withdrawing support.

Eight of Swords

EIGHT OF SWORDS



↑ Interference binds with briefness.

↓ Restriction narrows with smallness.

Description

A woman stands bound and blindfolded, surrounded by eight naked swords, their points stuck into the ground.

General Meaning

Distraction of the mind by countless minor concerns temporarily weakens the ability to act on larger principles, and if allowed to continue unaddressed, results in small-mindedness and enslavement to petty details.

Upright: Unfocused thoughts, weakened effort, countless concerns, preoccupations, distractions, excessive attention to detail, patience in small matters.

Inverted: Narrow-mindedness, pettiness, unimaginative thinking, resentment, incarceration, tied up in red tape, drudge, office gofer.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Interference	binds	with briefness.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Restriction	narrows	with smallness.

1

Upright: Interference in an important matter by countless minor concerns

Inverted: Restriction of the attention to endless petty tasks

2

Upright: binds the attention to trivial details

Inverted: narrows the imagination and causes resentment

3

Upright: with briefness temporarily distracting from the main issue.

Inverted: with smallness incapacitating the noble impulse.

Nine of Swords

NINE OF SWORDS



↑ Cruelty miscarries with despair.
↓ Patience endures with obedience.

Description

In the dark of night, a woman sits up in her bed, weeping, face buried in her hands. Nine swords float in the air behind her.

General Meaning

Mental cruelty deliberately applied with malice to the defenseless produces agonizing sorrow, yet even when it cannot be directly opposed it may be resisted by patient endurance and inner courage.

Upright: Pitilessness, suffering, misery, oppression, burden, loss, failure, disappointment, fear, shame.

Inverted: Passive resistance, resignation, faith, determination, endurance, martyrdom, outward obedience.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Cruelty	miscarries	with despair.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Patience	endures	with obedience.

1

Upright: Cruelty of the mind imposed on the defenseless

Inverted: Patience during suffering that cannot be opposed

2

Upright: miscarries through excess and lack of discernment

Inverted: endures silent and determined in expectation of the end

3

Upright: with despair aborting the reward for dominance.

Inverted: with obedience of action but resistance of faith.

Ten of Swords

TEN OF SWORDS



↑ Ruin afflicts with fatality.

↓ Disruption overthrows with misdirection.

Description

A man lies pierced by ten swords that stand upright in a line from his neck to his thigh. Black storm clouds threaten overhead.

General Meaning

The utter ruin of plans and projects, which fail in their execution due to lack of intrinsic merit, yet sometimes the failure is aided by the disruptive slanders and lies of a malicious individual.

Upright: Failure, defeat, collapse of an unrealistic project, affliction, desolation, fatal flaw, sorrow.

Inverted: Slander, sabotage, disinformation, warring forces, betrayal, withdrawal of support, abandonment.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Ruin	afflicts	with fatality.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Disruption	overthrows	with misdirection.

1

Upright: Ruin caused by a fatal flaw in the plan

Inverted: Disruption of the enterprise by malice

2

Upright: afflicts through sorrow and doubt the determination

Inverted: overthrows the chance for success

3

Upright: with fatality of result inhibiting a future attempt.

Inverted: with misdirection causing confusion and failure.

One of Pentacles

ONE OF PENTACLES



↑ Health abides with steadiness.

↓ Possession disappoints with awkwardness.

Description

A golden disk inscribed with a pentagram is supported by a right hand issuing from a cloud. Beyond may be seen a garden of lilies protected by a rose hedge. A path leads across the garden through an open archway in the hedge.

General Meaning

Material well-being is a blessing when it fulfills true need, but an excess of matter becomes a burden leading to imbalance and unhappiness.

Upright: Physical strength, freedom from sickness, steady force, wealth, possessions, well-being, prosperity, comfortable conditions, contentment.

Inverted: Burden of wealth, too many possessions, obesity, lack of fitness, money improperly used, investments neglected, material excess, indulgence.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Health	abides	with steadiness.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Possession	disappoints	with awkwardness.

1

Upright: Health physical and fiscal continuing strong

Inverted: Possession in excess of what can be well employed

2

Upright: abides and meets all requirements as they arise

Inverted: disappoints the expectation of contentment

3

Upright: with steadiness providing unfailing prosperity.

Inverted: with awkwardness and imbalance causing discomfort.

Two of Pentacles

TWO OF PENTACLES



↑ Change rewards with increase.

↓ Alternative troubles with instability.

Description

A young man in a tall, phallic, red hat dances as he balances a pentagram in each hand. The disks are connected by a band in the shape of the lemniscate.

General Meaning

The never-ending cycle of harmonious change brings pleasure and reward, but inevitably what is given is taken away, since nothing endures forever.

Upright: Pleasant change, turn for the better, improvement, enjoyment, celebration, restless enthusiasm, good news, sound decision.

Inverted: Agitation, simulated enjoyment, embroilment, troubling news, wavering, inconsistent, loss after gain, wandering, argumentative, foolish choices.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Change	rewards	with increase.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Alternative	troubles	with instability.

1

Upright: Change of a helpful kind improving the outlook

Inverted: Alternative causing a downturn of circumstance

2

Upright: rewards enthusiasm by giving a cause for celebration

Inverted: troubles through uncertainty over the correct action

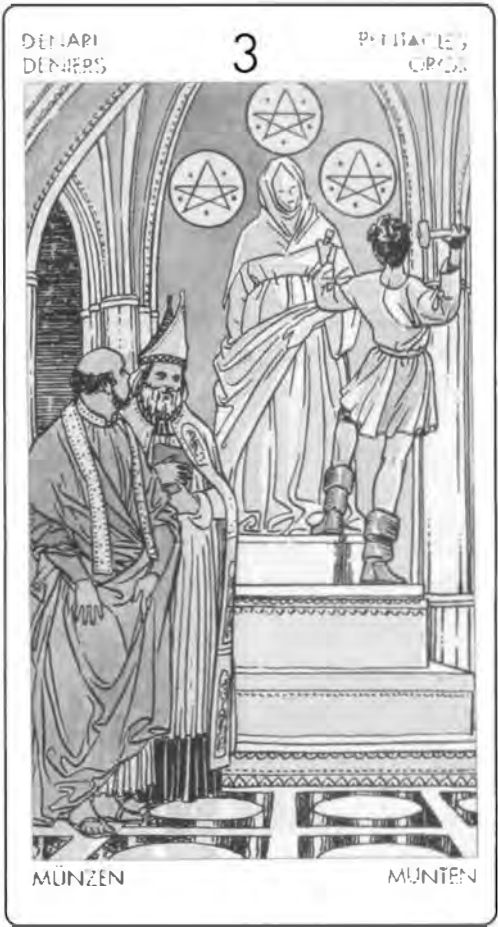
3

Upright: with increase making conditions more agreeable.

Inverted: with instability transforming gain into loss.

Three of Pentacles

THREE OF PENTACLES



↑ Work proceeds with dedication.
↓ Delay inhibits with impracticality.

Description

A stone mason stands working at his craft in the vault of a cathedral. In the arch above him are three pentacles arranged in a triangle. Two men of the church stand watching.

General Meaning

When construction is well begun, a builder equal to the task performs with admirable skill, but if demands of work exceed ability, the unsatisfactory result discredits the reputation of the maker.

Upright: Construction, building up, erection of structure, work, realization, material increase, commercial gain, personal influence, higher rank, honors, titles, business.

Inverted: Impossible goal, setback in project, delay, impractical labor, too many jobs at once, mediocre quality, rushed or unfinished work, pettiness, false credentials.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Work	proceeds	with dedication.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Delay	inhibits	with impracticality.

1

Upright: Work well considered and begun with skill and energy

Inverted: Delay caused by the need to reassess the procedure

2

Upright: proceeds smoothly to a satisfactory completion

Inverted: inhibits the undertaking through error and uncertainty

3

Upright: with dedication rewarded by honors and increase.

Inverted: with impracticality spoiling the quality of the result.

Four of Pentacles

FOUR OF PENTACLES



↑ Power cleaves with greed.

↓ Reputation covets with discontent.

Description

A heavyset man in a golden crown sits hugging a pentacle to his breast between his arms. Another pentacle is balanced atop his crown, and two more lie flat beneath his feet. A town is visible behind him.

General Meaning

Earthly power and wealth once attained must be jealously defended, leading to suspicion and unease in the protection of the existing condition, with no chance to enlarge the holding.

Upright: Material gain, success, dominion, certainty of possession, legacy, inheritance, a present, vigilance.

Inverted: Past glory, fading power, suspicion, covetousness, opposition, lack of originality, no initiative, suspense, delay.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Power	cleaves	with greed.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Reputation	covets	with discontent.

1

Upright: Power having attained the seat of authority

Inverted: Reputation of past glory incapable of new achievement

2

Upright: cleaves to its present gains through constant vigilance

Inverted: covets and defends from attack the accumulated holdings

3

Upright: with greed enjoying what is already held.

Inverted: with discontent struggling to keep what is slipping away.

Five of Pentacles

FIVE OF PENTACLES



Worry troubles with difficulty.

Loss afflicts with deprivation.

Description

A beggar on crutches hobbles through the snow past a stained-glass window. Beside him walks a woman. Neither notice the window, which bears five pentacles.

General Meaning

Anxiety of mind over a threatening loss of income or position is a burden, but heavier still is the affliction of poverty when such worries are fulfilled.

Upright: Money concerns, bills, debts, mental strain, problems at the workplace, impending layoff, unrewarding labor, need for economy.

Inverted: Poverty, want, destitution, homelessness, loss of job, bankruptcy, ruin, financial chaos.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Worry	troubles	with difficulty.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Loss	afflicts	with deprivation.

1

Upright: Worry over a lack of money to meet necessities

Inverted: Loss of income leading to severe financial problems

2

Upright: troubles the heart and strains the mind to breaking

Inverted: afflicts the well-ordered plan and casts it into chaos

3

Upright: with difficulty stealing away the happiness of life.

Inverted: with deprivation bringing collapse and despair.

Six of Pentacles

SIX OF PENTACLES



Success distributes with partiality.

Influence withholds with unfairness.

Description

Two beggars kneel before a merchant who holds a set of scales in his hand. The merchant drops four coins into the waiting palms of one beggar, but the other receives nothing. In the sky, six golden penta-
cles define the shape of tipped scales.

General Meaning

Prosperity enables the judicious distribution of wealth to the poor, according to need, but charity must never be withheld from those without influence or favor.

Upright: Authority, nobility, rule, prosperity in business, material success, presents, gifts, gratification, liberality, sound judgment, high rank.

Inverted: Insolence, injudiciousness, pride of wealth, influence, cupidity, envy, jealousy, patronage, nepotism, favoritism, vanity.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Success	distributes	with partiality.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Influence	withholds	with unfairness.

1

Upright: Success in worldly life having acquired wealth

Inverted: Influence leading to the attainment of power over others

2

Upright: distributes liberally using discrimination

Inverted: withholds or grants favor according to whim

3

Upright: with partiality giving or withholding according to need.

Inverted: with unfairness denying aid where there is no advantage.

SIX OF PENTACLES

Seven of Pentacles

SEVEN OF PENTACLES



↑ Failure disappoints with sorrow.

↓ Servitude torments with necessity.

Description

A young farmer leans on his stick and gazes at seven pentacles that have grown upon a leafy plant. Some of the leaves of the plant are browned, as though by blight, and the expression on the man's face is one of intense scrutiny.

General Meaning

The bright promise of success, when unfulfilled, shatters hope for future prosperity and may necessitate a period of hard toil for little gain.

Upright: Slight gain after much labor, hope disappointed, expectation deceived, unprofitable speculation, scant harvest, blight, lack of growth, good money after bad.

Inverted: Slavery, misery, base toil, thankless effort, bitterness, suffering, unpaid taxes, foreclosure, seizure of assets.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Failure	disappoints	with sorrow.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Servitude	torments	with necessity.

1

Upright: Failure of an enterprise promising greater prosperity

Inverted: Servitude arising from the blight of future hopes

2

Upright: disappoints the expectation of a rich harvest

Inverted: torments by the loss of what was not yet gained

3

Upright: with sorrow compelling acceptance of the loss.

Inverted: with necessity bringing fruitless toil and suffering.

Eight of Pentacles

EIGHT OF PENTACLES



↑ Prudence prepares with skill.

↓ Avarice hoards with pettiness.

Description

A mason seated at a wooden bench carves a pentagram into a disk. Five finished pentacles of similar design are hung up before him, and two more may be seen by his feet.

General Meaning

It is good to exercise care and economy in the gathering of resources, but too much concern over saving trifles leads to a lack of enterprise and petty thinking.

Upright: Industriousness, savings, efficiency, careful preparation, cultivation of the land, ingeniousness, recycling.

Inverted: Penny-wise and pound-foolish, miserly, collecting mania, keeping things of no value, preoccupation with small matters, cupidity, usury, hoarding, lack of ambition.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Prudence	prepares	with skill.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Avarice	hoards	with pettiness.

1

Upright: Prudence in using good judgment to manage resources

Inverted: Avarice concerning the acquisition of small profit

2

Upright: prepares the ground for the work that will follow

Inverted: hoards what might be employed to better effect

3

Upright: with skill achieving great results through limited means.

Inverted: with pettiness saving the lesser at the expense of the greater.

Nine of Pentacles

NINE OF PENTACLES



↑ Gain enjoys with possessiveness.

↓ Theft acquires with covetousness.

Description

A noblewoman with a hooded falcon perched on her gloved hand stands in a vineyard amid ripe clusters of purple grapes. Six pentacles are stacked beneath her other hand, and three more pentacles are grouped behind her. A snail crawls across the ground at her feet. She wears an expression of tranquil ease. Behind her are two large trees and a manor house.

General Meaning

Profit resulting from good fortune or the skillful management of material affairs may be enjoyed openly and with pleasure, whereas wealth that is obtained through knavery or theft must be concealed and seldom brings lasting delight.

Upright: Inheritance, accomplishment, certitude, much increase in goods, well-being, costly possessions, property, success, discernment, popularity.

Inverted: Deception, roguery, bad faith, voided project, fraud, stealing, embezzlement, counterfeiting, forgery, acquisition by unfair means, concealing assets.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Gain	enjoys	with possessiveness.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Theft	acquires	with covetousness.

1

Upright: Gain in material matters resulting in prosperity

Inverted: Theft of value by dishonorable methods

2

Upright: enjoys the blessings of fortune to the full

Inverted: acquires what cannot be openly displayed

3

Upright: with possessiveness delighting in the use of wealth.

Inverted: with covetousness concealing the source of increase.

Ten of Pentacles

TEN OF PENTACLES



↑ Wealth fulfills with completeness.

↓ Materialism hardens with stagnation.

Description

Two dogs fawn at the feet of an elderly man with gray hair and a gray beard, who sits cloaked in rich robes. Beyond him, framed in a stone archway, a young man and woman talk. A child at the feet of the woman touches one of the dogs. Through the opening of the arch appears a tower. Ten pentacles seem to fall through the air like snowflakes.

General Meaning

When the summit of ambition in material affairs has been achieved, it brings fulfillment and peace, yet the continuing absence of challenge may cause dullness and a sense of futility.

Upright: Riches, family prosperity, wise patriarch, achievement of fortune, pinnacle of success, shrewdness in money matters, house paid for, pension.

Inverted: Sloth, dullness of mind, heaviness, material preoccupations, partial loss of wealth, lack of enterprise, solidification.

Tarot Sentences

	1	2	3
<i>Upright:</i>	Wealth	fulfills	with completeness.
<i>Inverted:</i>	Materialism	hardens	with stagnation.

1

Upright: Wealth resulting from the final achievement of the goal

Inverted: Materialism preoccupying the attention with present concerns

2

Upright: fulfills the long-held ambition in every respect

Inverted: hardens opinion and resists innovation

3

Upright: with completeness satisfying all material needs.

Inverted: with stagnation reaching the end.

SPADE
EPEES



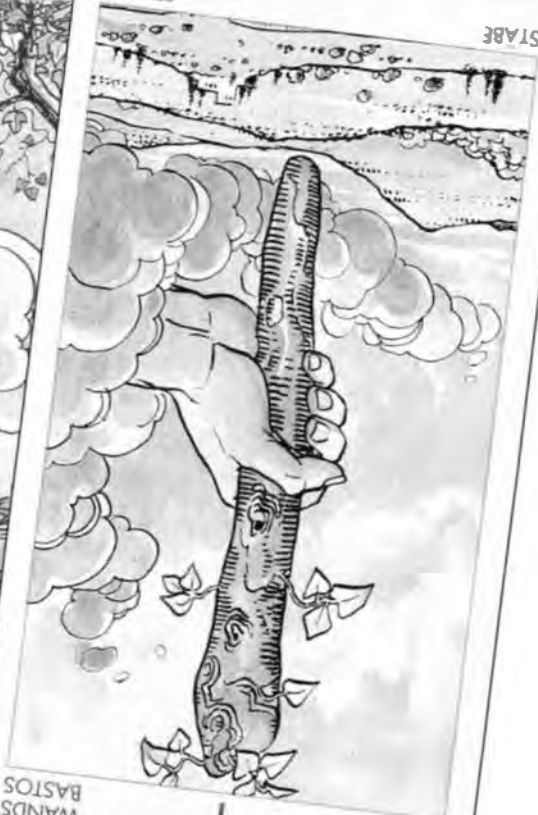
SCHWERTER

COPPE
COUPES



KELCHE

STAVEN



WANDS
BASTOS

1

BASTONI
BATONS

STABE

appendix one

Tables of Tarot Sentences

The following tables are designed to provide quick reference to the simple Tarot sentences attached to each card, both in its upright and inverted attitude, and also to clearly distinguish the three parts of each sentence so that new compound sentences can be easily composed for card triplets.

When seeking the complete Tarot sentence for each individual card, read all the text in the row occupied by that card from left to right. If the card is upright in the layout, read its upright sentence, but if it is inverted, read its inverted sentence.

When constructing composite sentences for card triplets, the text under the column numbered 1 for the first card in the triplet forms the subject of the triplet sentence, the text under column 2 for the second card in the triplet forms the action, and the text under column 3 for the third card forms the direction. In this way each of the three cards in any triplet contributes one-third of the composite Tarot sentence expressed by the triplet. An upright card receives the text in the upright row, an inverted card the text in the inverted row.

Trumps

Card	1	2	3
<i>Fool</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Spirituality Ignorance	progresses wanders	with impracticality. with danger.
<i>Magician</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Skill Craft	wills manipulates	with design. with deception.
<i>Priestess</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Mystery Secrecy	unveils conceals	with wisdom. with jealousy.
<i>Empress</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Vitality Excess	creates expands	with nourishment. with wildness.
<i>Emperor</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Leadership Power	rules controls	with firmness. with suppression.
<i>Hierophant</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Authority Control	teaches imposes	with certainty. with intolerance.
<i>Lovers</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Affection Disharmony	unites separates	with happiness. with frustration.
<i>Chariot</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Dominance Rebellion	attains riots	with victory. with defeat.
<i>Strength</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Courage Discord	subdues abuses	with force. with weakness.
<i>Hermit</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Prudence Betrayal	learns conceals	with profundity. with falsehood.
<i>Wheel</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Destiny Luck	rewards turns	with advancement. with cycles.
<i>Justice</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Balance Partiality	weighs withholds	with equality. with favoritism.
<i>Hanged Man</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Suspension Inversion	endures sacrifices	with patience. with resignation.
<i>Death</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Change Inertia	transforms delays	with finality. with uncertainty.
<i>Temperance</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Polarity Contrariety	blends separates	with moderation. with incompatibility.
<i>Devil</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Passion Pettiness	desires blinds	with excess. with weakness.

Card	1	2	3
<i>Tower</i>	Vanity	collapses	with adversity.
<i>Inverted</i>	Scheming	fails	with oppression.
<i>Star</i>	Hope	refreshes	with optimism.
<i>Inverted</i>	Loss	deprives	with impotence.
<i>Moon</i>	Concealment	threatens	with anxiety.
<i>Inverted</i>	Error	confuses	with inconstancy.
<i>Sun</i>	Perfection	rejoices	with harmony.
<i>Inverted</i>	Contentment	enjoys	with satisfaction.
<i>Judgement</i>	Renewal	resolves	with truth.
<i>Inverted</i>	Decision	punishes	with severity.
<i>World</i>	Success	fulfills	with absoluteness
<i>Inverted</i>	Delay	impedes	with stagnation.

Court Cards

Card	1	2	3
<i>K. of Wands</i>	The impulsive man	acts	with fierceness.
<i>Inverted</i>	The austere man	reacts	with forbearance.
<i>Q. of Wands</i>	The adaptable woman	persists	with calmness.
<i>Inverted</i>	The obstinate woman	confronts	with resentment.
<i>Kt. of Wands</i>	The swift youth	expresses	with forcefulness.
<i>Inverted</i>	The ungenerous youth	asserts	with violence.
<i>Kv. of Wands</i>	The daring girl/child	imposes	with boldness.
<i>Inverted</i>	The superficial girl/child	intimidates	with instability.
<i>K. of Cups</i>	The amiable man	responds	with weakness.
<i>Inverted</i>	The sensual man	deceives	with indolence.
<i>Q. of Cups</i>	The dreaming woman	transmits	with passivity.
<i>Inverted</i>	The self-absorbed woman	attracts	with tranquility.
<i>Kt. of Cups</i>	The subtle youth	conceals	with guile.
<i>Inverted</i>	the crafty youth	plots	with ambition.
<i>Kv. of Cups</i>	The loving girl/child	shares	with grace.
<i>Inverted</i>	The selfish girl/child	withholds	with conceit.

Appendix One

Card	1	2	3
<i>K. of Swords</i>	The clever man	conceives	with spontaneity.
<i>Inverted</i>	The indecisive man	vacillates	with futility.
<i>Q. of Swords</i>	The watchful woman	interprets	with accuracy.
<i>Inverted</i>	The sly woman	misleads	with cruelty.
<i>Kt. of Swords</i>	The intellectual youth	plans	with abstraction.
<i>Inverted</i>	The unreliable youth	hesitates	with stubbornness.
<i>Kv. of Swords</i>	The stern girl/ child	manages	with practicality.
<i>Inverted</i>	The frivolous girl/ child	connives	with cunning.
<i>K. of Pentacles</i>	The dull man	labors	with patience.
<i>Inverted</i>	The avaricious man	seizes	with jealousy.
<i>Q. of Pentacles</i>	The quiet woman	achieves	with instinct.
<i>Inverted</i>	The unimaginative woman	toils	with servility.
<i>Kt. of Pentacles</i>	The energetic youth	adapts	with ingeniousness.
<i>Inverted</i>	The plodding youth	resents	with anger.
<i>Kv. of Pentacles</i>	The benevolent girl/ child	preserves	with diligence.
<i>Inverted</i>	The wasteful girl/ child	squanders	with inconsistency.

Number Cards

Card	1	2	3
<i>1 of Wands</i>	Enterprise	begins	with creativity.
<i>Inverted</i>	Impotence	declines	with decadence.
<i>2 of Wands</i>	Dominion	assesses	with possessiveness.
<i>Inverted</i>	Pride	oppresses	with authority.
<i>3 of Wands</i>	Virtue	sustains	with constancy.
<i>Inverted</i>	Strength	establishes	with arrogance.
<i>4 of Wands</i>	Completion	perfects	with harmony.
<i>Inverted</i>	Interruption	prevents	with unreliability.
<i>5 of Wands</i>	Strife	opposes	with strenuousness.
<i>Inverted</i>	Rashness	battles	with violence.
<i>6 of Wands</i>	Victory	crowns	with reward
<i>Inverted</i>	Pride	increases	with insolence.
<i>7 of Wands</i>	Valor	resists	with advantage.
<i>Inverted</i>	Pretense	quarrels	with ignorance.

Card	1	2	3
8 of Wands <i>Inverted</i>	Swiftness Haste	conveys steals	with lightness. with mistrust.
9 of Wands <i>Inverted</i>	Strength Obstinacy	awaits worries	with formidableness. with uncertainty.
10 of Wands <i>Inverted</i>	Oppression Revenge	burdens strikes	with heaviness. with malice.
1 of Cups <i>Inverted</i>	Contentment Instability	fertilizes mutates	with joy. with falseness.
2 of Cups <i>Inverted</i>	Love Dissipation	attracts squanders	with empathy. with foolishness.
3 of Cups <i>Inverted</i>	Abundance Sensuality	fulfills satisfies	with perfection. with pleasure.
4 of Cups <i>Inverted</i>	Luxury Excess	wearies vexes	with discontent. with aversion.
5 of Cups <i>Inverted</i>	Disappointment Trouble	frustrates betrays	with bitterness. with ingratitude.
6 of Cups <i>Inverted</i>	Pleasure Presumption	renews contends	with reflection. with vanity.
7 of Cups <i>Inverted</i>	Promise Illusion	disappoints deceives	with unfulfillment. with dissipation.
8 of Cups <i>Inverted</i>	Indolence Misery	declines abandons	with inconsequence. with indifference.
9 of Cups <i>Inverted</i>	Happiness Materialism	succeeds inflates	with advantage. with conceit.
10 of Cups <i>Inverted</i>	Satiety Debauchery	placates wastes	with consummation. with extravagance.
1 of Swords <i>Inverted</i>	Wisdom Conquest	triumphs precipitates	with forcefulness. with disaster.
2 of Swords <i>Inverted</i>	Peace Affront	balances resumes	with equality. with insensitivity.
3 of Swords <i>Inverted</i>	Sorrow Discord	divides interrupts	with distance. with mischief.

Appendix One

Card	1	2	3
<i>4 of Swords</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Truce Convalescence	maintains heals	with vigilance. with time.
<i>5 of Swords</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Defeat Spitefulness	dishonors slanders	with pain. with untruth
<i>6 of Swords</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Attainment Trouble	achieves delays	with labor. with anxiety.
<i>7 of Swords</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Futility Instability	annoys betrays	with conflict. with insult.
<i>8 of Swords</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Interference Restriction	binds narrows	with briefness. with smallness.
<i>9 of Swords</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Cruelty Patience	miscarries endures	with despair. with obedience.
<i>10 of Swords</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Ruin Disruption	afflicts overthrows	with fatality. with misdirection.
<i>1 of Pentacles</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Health Possession	abides disappoints	with steadiness. with awkwardness.
<i>2 of Pentacles</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Change Alternative	rewards troubles	with increase. with instability.
<i>3 of Pentacles</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Work Delay	proceeds inhibits	with dedication. with impracticality.
<i>4 of Pentacles</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Power Reputation	cleaves covets	with greed. with discontent.
<i>5 of Pentacles</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Worry Loss	troubles afflicts	with difficulty. with deprivation.
<i>6 of Pentacles</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Success Influence	distributes withholds	with partiality. with unfairness.
<i>7 of Pentacles</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Failure Servitude	disappoints torments	with sorrow. with necessity.
<i>8 of Pentacles</i> <i>Inverted</i>	Prudence Avarice	prepares hoards	with skill. with pettiness.

Tables of Tarot Sentences

Card	1	2	3
<i>9 of Pentacles</i>	Gain	enjoys	with possessiveness.
<i>Inverted</i>	Theft	acquires	with covetousness.
<i>10 of Pentacles</i>	Wealth	fulfills	with completeness.
<i>Inverted</i>	Materialism	hardens	with stagnation.

REGINA DI BASTONI
REINE DE BATONS



KÖNIGIN DER STÄBCHEN

DE GELEEFDEN



DE LOVERS

DENARI
DENIERS

2

PENTACLES
OROS



MÜNZEN

MÜNTEN

appendix two

Glossary

Arcana: One of the plural forms of the Latin word *arcanum*, which means “secret” or “mystery,” used to refer to the Tarot cards. A variant form of the word *arcanum* is “arcane,” which is also applied to the Tarot. A single card is sometimes known as an “Arcanum” or “Arcane,” and a number of cards is sometimes collectively called “Arcana” or “Arcanes.” See Major Arcana; Minor Arcana.

Correspondences, occult: Links or relationships connecting esoteric symbols with one another in a meaningful way. The Tarot correspondences of the Golden Dawn have become one of the most important tools used to define the meanings of the Tarot cards. Each card is associated with various esoteric symbols, such as a sign or signs of the zodiac, an astrological planet, a Hebrew letter, an element, and so on. Although the occult correspondences of the Golden Dawn are not explained in this work, the meanings attached to the cards are based on those correspondences.

Crowley, Aleister: Member of the Golden Dawn, and a leading authority on the esoteric Tarot. With the artist Frieda Harris, he designed a Tarot deck known as the *Book of Thoth*, and wrote a book with the same title describing and explaining its symbolism.

Appendix Two

Much of his Tarot teachings are derived from the teachings of the Golden Dawn.

Cut: Division of the deck into two or more piles, which are placed back together in a different order to insure that the cards are randomized. It is traditional for the person asking the question to cut the cards before the diviner deals them into the layout. This is usually done by separating the deck into three piles to the left using the left hand, then restacking the deck by placing the former bottom pile onto the middle pile, and these two onto the former top pile, also using the left hand.

Deal: The action by which the cards are individually removed from the shuffled deck and placed on the table in the pattern of the chosen layout. Cards may be dealt faceup or facedown. When dealt faceup onto the table, they are turned as they are individually removed from the top of the deck.

Dignities: The factors influencing how a card is interpreted in a layout. A card is said to be well dignified when these factors are favorable, but ill dignified when they are unfavorable. A card is dignified by its location in the layout, by the other cards that are next to it, by the card or cards that are read in conjunction with it, and by its upright or inverted attitude.

Diviner: A person who obtains the answer to a question through divination.

Elements: The four basic principles recognized by European philosophers as the building blocks of the universe, from the time of the ancient Greeks until the dawn of modern science. The elements were termed Fire, Water, Air, and Earth. These material substances are not the elements themselves, but express and exemplify in physical form the prevalent quality of each element.

Golden Dawn: A Rosicrucian society established by three English Freemasons in London in 1888 for the purpose of studying and teaching the principles and practice of Western ritual magic.

The teachings of the Golden Dawn have become the primary basis for modern Western esotericism, including the interpretation of the Tarot.

Greater Arcana: The twenty-two picture cards of the Tarot, which are distinct from the suit cards. They are also known as “trumps.” The Greater Arcana are usually numbered with Roman numerals, with the exception of the Fool, which is either unnumbered or numbered zero.

Inverted, inversion: Also known as reversal. When a card lying faceup in a layout is upside down from the perspective of the diviner, it is called inverted or reversed. Inversions are interpreted in a different way from upright cards. Inversion serves to obstruct or hinder the natural action of the card, and can make a strong card weak or a good card less favorable, but it can also render a bad card less harmful.

Layout: The arrangement of the Tarot cards on the table when used for purposes of divination. There are numerous different layouts designed to answer various types of questions. They may be simple or very complex, and may involve only a few cards or the entire Tarot deck. A layout is sometimes referred to as a “spread.”

Lemniscate: The mathematical symbol for infinity, shaped like a figure eight lying on its side.

Lesser Arcana: The fifty-six suit cards of the Tarot. The Lesser Arcana may be divided into four suits, each containing fourteen cards. The suits are generally called Wands, Cups, Swords, and Pentacles. The Minor Arcana may also be divided in a different manner into two groups, the sixteen court cards and the forty number cards.

Querent: A person asking a question that is to be answered by divination.

Shuffle: The manner of mixing the Tarot cards prior to dealing them into a layout for divination. It is similar to the ordinary

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Diviner: A person who obtains the answer to a question through divination.

Elements: The four basic principles recognized by European philosophers as the building blocks of the universe, from the time of the ancient Greeks until the dawn of modern science. The elements were termed Fire, Water, Air, and Earth. These material substances are not the elements themselves, but express and exemplify in physical form the prevalent quality of each element.

Golden Dawn: A Rosicrucian society established by three English Freemasons in London in 1888 for the purpose of studying and teaching the principles and practice of Western ritual magic.

The teachings of the Golden Dawn have become the primary basis for modern Western esotericism, including the interpretation of the Tarot.

Greater Arcana: The twenty-two picture cards of the Tarot, which are distinct from the suit cards. They are also known as “trumps.” The Greater Arcana are usually numbered with Roman numerals, with the exception of the Fool, which is either unnumbered or numbered zero.

Inverted, inversion: Also known as reversal. When a card lying faceup in a layout is upside down from the perspective of the diviner, it is called inverted or reversed. Inversions are interpreted in a different way from upright cards. Inversion serves to obstruct or hinder the natural action of the card, and can make a strong card weak or a good card less favorable, but it can also render a bad card less harmful.

Layout: The arrangement of the Tarot cards on the table when used for purposes of divination. There are numerous different layouts designed to answer various types of questions. They may be simple or very complex, and may involve only a few cards or the entire Tarot deck. A layout is sometimes referred to as a “spread.”

Lemniscate: The mathematical symbol for infinity, shaped like a figure eight lying on its side.

Lesser Arcana: The fifty-six suit cards of the Tarot. The Lesser Arcana may be divided into four suits, each containing fourteen cards. The suits are generally called Wands, Cups, Swords, and Pentacles. The Minor Arcana may also be divided in a different manner into two groups, the sixteen court cards and the forty number cards.

Querent: A person asking a question that is to be answered by divination.

Shuffle: The manner of mixing the Tarot cards prior to dealing them into a layout for divination. It is similar to the ordinary

Appendix Two

method of shuffling playing cards, except that at intervals the deck should be divided, and one of its divisions rotated so that its cards are inverted, before the shuffle is resumed. This ensures a random mix of upright and inverted cards in the layout.

Significator: A card sometimes chosen to represent the querent in the layout prior to the beginning of the reading. It is usually one of the court cards. Not all layouts employ a significator card.

Spread: *see* Layout.

Suits: A suit of cards is a group of cards bearing the same symbol. The four suits of the Tarot are Italian in origin. Each suit contains ten cards numbered from 1 to 10 with Arabic numerals, and four court cards, the King, Queen, Knight, and Knave. The 1 is usually referred to as the Ace. The Knave is sometimes called the Page. The suit of Wands or Rods or Staffs is equivalent to the suit of Clubs in common playing cards, which bear French suit emblems; the Tarot suit of Cups or Chalices corresponds with the French suit of Hearts; the suit of Swords or Daggers or Pins with the French suit of Spades; the suit of Pentacles or Coins or Disks with the French suit of Diamonds.

Tarot: A pack of seventy-eight cards invented in the mid-fifteenth century in northern Italy for purposes of gaming. It is now used primarily for divination. The name “Tarot” is the French form of the Italian name *tarocchi*, the origin of which is unknown. Formerly, it was the practice to refer to a single card as a Tarot, and to a group of cards as Tarots, but the common modern practice is to use the name Tarot for the full deck—a single card is usually referred to as a Tarot card.

Tarot Sentence: A sentence expressing the meaning of a single Tarot card or of a group of three cards. A Tarot sentence has three parts, a subject at the beginning that embodies its identity, an action in the middle that shows how the subject operates, and a direction at the end that modifies or limits the action.

Triplet: A row of three Tarot cards expressing a single composite Tarot sentence that is read from left to right.

Trumps: A common name for the Major Arcana, the twenty-two picture cards of the Tarot. The Tarot cards were invented to play a trick-taking game similar to bridge, in which cards of higher value, known as trumps, captured other cards of lesser value.

Turning: Cards may be turned faceup either by flipping them over from side to side or from top to bottom. When cards are turned top to bottom, this has the effect of inverting their orientation, so that cards which were upright when facedown in the deck become inverted when face up on the table. Turning cards from side to side does not invert their orientation.

Waite, Arthur Edward: Member of the Golden Dawn. He designed the Tarot deck commonly referred to as the “Rider-Waite Tarot” or the “Rider-Waite-Smith Tarot” in company with the artist Pamela Colman Smith. He also wrote a book, *The Pictorial Key to the Tarot*, describing and explaining its symbolism. Although Waite knew the Golden Dawn teachings on the Tarot, he felt bound by his oath of secrecy to that esoteric Order not to reveal his knowledge—as a result, his writings on the Tarot merely hint at the Golden Dawn teachings rather than revealing them outright.

SPADE
EPEES



SCHWERTER

COPPE
COUPES



KELCHE

DE KEIZER

DER HERRSCHER



THE EMPEROR
EL EMPERADOR

IV

L'EMPEREUR
L'IMPERATORE

appendix three

Suggested Reading

All of the books in this brief reading list are works that I have studied and relied upon for years, so I am able to recommend them with complete confidence. They share one feature in common: they are part of the mainstream of the Western esoteric tradition. I have avoided mentioning books that teach Tarot systems that are in conflict with this central current of the Tarot, although many such works exist.

It would be difficult to define precisely this central Tarot current, but it is a cohesive body of teaching that began in the late eighteenth century with the writings of Antoine Court de Gébelin, continued through the French occultists of the nineteenth century who were based around Eliphas Lévi, crossed the English Channel to Britain in the magical system of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn under the leadership of S. L. MacGregor Mathers and in the writings of Arthur Edward Waite, was further advanced by Aleister Crowley after the dissolution of the original Golden Dawn, and found expression in America in the writings of Paul Foster Case. Many other names might be mentioned as contributors to its evolution, but these are some of its key exponents.

This central esoteric current of the Tarot is usually simply accepted as the correct teaching on the Tarot by those with a limited knowledge of its origin and development. Anyone seeking to learn the meanings of

the Tarot cards and the methods of Tarot divination should first learn the basics of this central current, which might aptly be termed the Golden Dawn Tarot current, before becoming distracted by less important systems.

A Complete Guide to the Tarot by Eden Gray (1970).

This is an excellent introduction to standard Tarot divination that uses the cards designed by A. E. Waite. First published in 1970, it has been in print for over three decades, and with good reason—it is simple, clear, and practical. Gray gives popular meanings for the cards rather than esoteric meanings, but this makes them easy to use in divination.

The Pictorial Key to the Tarot by Arthur Edward Waite (1910).

Those working with the Rider-Waite Tarot, or one of the many modern Tarots closely based on its images, such as the *Universal Tarot* of Roberto De Angelis, will find this book useful since it gives Waite's own understanding of the Tarot and of the individual images on the Rider-Waite cards. Waite's grasp of the Tarot is imperfect, but since this book's initial publication in 1910, it has been hugely influential on Tarot designers and those writing about Tarot divination. It must be considered essential reading.

The Tarot: A Key to the Wisdom of the Ages by Paul Foster Case (first edition 1927; revised edition 1947).

After reading A. E. Waite's *Pictorial Key to the Tarot*, it is worthwhile to study Case's book on the twenty-two Tarot trumps (Case did not include the Lesser Arcana in his own Tarot). The Case Tarot is closely based on the trumps of the Rider-Waite Tarot, and Case's detailed analysis of the meanings for the trumps may be applied to Waite's cards. Indeed, the first edition of this work used the Rider-Waite trumps as its Tarot images. Case draws together the symbolism of the Rider-Waite trumps and the esoteric system of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. This book provides insight into Golden Dawn Tarot attributions without being too difficult to understand for the beginner.

The Book of Thoth by Aleister Crowley (1944).

This is the best esoteric treatment of the Tarot that exists. It is firmly based in the Golden Dawn system—much of its content is derived directly from the documents used to teach members of the Golden Dawn the meaning of the Tarot—but Crowley succeeded in expanding on the material and presenting it in a logical and lucid way. The book describes Crowley's own personal Tarot, also called *The Book of Thoth*, which is the most complex esoteric Tarot ever created. The obscurity of the symbolism on Crowley's cards may at first prove overwhelming to the beginner. It should be studied in conjunction with the Tarot documents of the Golden Dawn presented in Israel Regardie's book of *The Golden Dawn*.

The Golden Dawn by Israel Regardie (1938–40).

Regardie was a member of the Golden Dawn and was the personal secretary to Aleister Crowley. His book is a collection of the Golden Dawn teaching documents that convey the grade rituals of the order, as well as its system of practical magic. The most important Tarot document in the work is that known as Book T. Also of great value are the sections dealing with Tarot divination and the Tarot trumps. This work helps in understanding Crowley's *Book of Thoth*, and Crowley's book aids in the comprehension of Regardie's *Golden Dawn*—the two should be studied together by serious students of the esoteric Tarot.

The New Golden Dawn Ritual Tarot by Chic Cicero and Sandra Tabatha Cicero (1991).

A much easier introduction to the Golden Dawn system of the Tarot is presented in this book, intended to accompany the *Golden Dawn Tarot* deck designed by the Ciceros. The original Golden Dawn Tarot has been lost, but by using the many references in the Golden Dawn documents and rituals, it was possible to reconstruct the Golden Dawn deck. Those who do not wish to be overwhelmed by the full magical system of the Golden Dawn but only to understand the esoteric Tarot as it was taught in that order, will find this book invaluable.

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Donald Tyson (Nova Scotia) has been writing about the Tarot and other New Age and esoteric subjects for more than fifteen years and is the author of over a dozen books. He lives in Nova Scotia, Canada.

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