

AT ITS ESSENCE, this is a book about symbols. A symbol is a representation, a mark, a picture, or an image that stands for something else. All communication, or transmission of ideas, takes place through the use of symbols. Symbols are a silent and potent language that reaches our conscious awareness through the agency of subconsciousness, rising on wings of spirit from the deepest parts of our being as messengers from our soul.

This book will explore how a dream can be interpreted like a Tarot reading, and a Tarot reading can be experienced as a dream. In a metaphorical sense, all of life can be experienced as a symbolic reflection, offering us wisdom and growth. Integrating these ancient and powerful methods of symbolic communication provides an enhanced ability to decode messages from our soul, thereby aiding our spiritual path.

—Julie Gillentine

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Special Topics in Tarot



TAROT & DREAM INTERPRETATION

JULIE GILLENLINE

FOREWORD BY RACHEL POLLACK

2003

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To my daughters, Emily and Lizz,
Your presence in my life is a dream come true

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Also by Julie Gillentine

The Hidden Power of Everyday Things (Simon & Schuster, 2000)

Messengers (Archive Press, 1997)

Contents

List of Figures . . . x

Foreword by Rachel Pollack . . . xi

Part One: Tarot and Dream Principles

Chapter One

Tarot and Dreams . . . 1

Chapter Two

Dreamtime . . . 19

Part Two: Tarot and Dream Practices

Chapter Three

Tarot and Dream Spreads . . . 35

Chapter Four

Sample Tarot and Dream Interpretations . . . 49

Part Three: Tarot and Dream Interpretations

Chapter Five

The Major Arcana . . . 83

Chapter Six

The Minor Arcana . . . 107

Chapter Seven

The Court Cards . . . 149

Chapter Eight

A Symbol Dictionary . . . 169

Bibliography . . . 221

Index . . . 223

List of Figures

- Figure 1. Dream Journal, page one . . . 24
- Figure 2. Dream Journal, page two . . . 25
- Figure 3. Life Issues Pyramid . . . 31
- Figure 4. Single-Card Spread—Meditation . . . 39
- Figure 5. Significator Spread—Dominant Image . . . 39
- Figure 6. Two-Card Spread—The Gift . . . 41
- Figure 7. Three-Card Spread—State of Being . . . 41
- Figure 8. Three-Card Spread—Overall Guidance . . . 42
- Figure 9. Three-Card Spread—Levels of the Mind . . . 43
- Figure 10. Four-Card Spread—The Crossroads . . . 44
- Figure 11. Five-Card Spread—Four Seasons . . . 46
- Figure 12. Six-Card Spread—Pyramid of Consciousness . . . 48

Foreword

“Tarot is a dream that stands still.” With these words Tarotist Joanna Young succinctly described the relationship between two kinds of symbolic “language,” as Julie Gillentine says. Dreams are slippery, and dense with meaning and mystery. Tarot cards are certainly complex and meaningful, yet their pictures come out of a spiritual tradition, and this makes them accessible. Dreams, Julie Gillentine says, speak the “private language” of symbols, Tarot the “public language.”

Does this mean that reading Tarot cards about a dream simply translates the dream story into some one-to-one explanation or prescription? Not really, for there are many levels of possibility in a Tarot card, just as there are many levels in a dream. Tarot is in fact a great deal more subtle and fluid than the sorts of readings we usually see in Hollywood movies.

Whatever statements we make about Tarot, whether simple formulas or complex esoteric doctrines, the cards remain first and foremost pictures. Images without words. It is worth remembering that for several hundred years Tarot cards existed without any explanation at all. They first appeared in Europe in the early Renaissance, and it was not until 1781 that anyone published any statements about their symbolic meaning.

Like dreams, Tarot cards simply exist. Julie Gillentine describes both Tarot and dreams as “knowledge and understanding through the agency of subconsciousness and the mechanism of pictorial symbolism.” Neither dreams nor cards give us specific information. Whatever message either one contains, we need to feel our way into them; we need to learn to think symbolically. And this is a practice that can bring many rewards, not least the ability to see the world in a fresh way.

By combining Tarot and dreams it becomes easier to understand each one. If we think of Tarot as similar to dreams then the pictures on the cards become more alive, more open to possibilities and personal

meaning. If we look at dreams—including, as Julie Gillentine says, real life experiences that *feel* like dreams—the way we look at a Tarot reading, we can get a firmer sense of the possible messages our dreams can give us.

Julie gives various spreads in this book, and spreads are always valuable. They help direct our attention to important issues. The simplest way to use Tarot cards in dreams, however, is to write the dream down in parts (1. I am walking down a dark street, 2. Someone calls me, 3. I turn and see a shadowy figure in a doorway), and then draw a Tarot card for each part. This technique, originally pioneered by Gail Fairfield in her book *Choice Centered Tarot*, allows us to “double” the dream images. In other words, we match randomly pulled Tarot cards with the parts of the dream and see how each set of symbols illuminates the other. The “private language” of dreams and the “public language” of Tarot cards can learn to speak to each other. Through the two of them, we can learn to speak to ourselves.

In the little made-up example above, suppose you drew the Empress card for the part of the dream where you see a shadowy form in a doorway. Now, the Empress card often means motherhood. Could it be your own mother calling to you? Or could it be the maternal in yourself? The Empress also suggests sensuality and passion. Have you denied these qualities in your life? Are they calling to you from the shadows of your dream self? Hopefully, this small example can demonstrate how the Tarot can open up the images in the dream.

Doing readings about dreams can help liberate us from that awful question people always want to know about a reading: “How accurate is it?” It often seems to me that a more useful question to ask about a reading is “How helpful is it?” A dream may in fact point to some actual occurrence, but on the whole dreams are not about events, they are about meaning. And a Tarot reading about a dream does not offer us predictions, it offers us wisdom.

Rachel Pollack is the author of *The Shining Tribe Tarot* (Llewellyn, 2001) and *The Forest of Souls* (Llewellyn, 2002).

Part One

Tarot and Dream Principles

ONE

TAROT AND DREAMS

"There is a Dreamer dreaming us."

AFRICAN BUSHMAN SAYING

Dreams have offered guidance and counsel for as long as humans have told their stories and treasured their myths. Cultures around the world have probed the meaning of their dreams and taken heed of the advice they discerned from the sometimes enigmatic symbolism. Many spiritual traditions believe that daily life is but a waking dream and may actually be more illusory than the fragments we recall when our body rests and our soul takes flight in the realm of spirit.

Heeding messages in dreams has a history that stretches back in time at least five thousand years to ancient Egypt and Sumer. Three thousand years ago, the authors of the Upanishads, Hindu sacred texts, described dreaming as a higher state of consciousness than the waking state. Dreams might be viewed like a one-way mirror, reflecting a deeper reality behind the seemingly mirrored wall of waking existence. Only by going behind the "mirror" can we perceive differently.

Australian aborigines have a deep and abiding respect for dreams. They refer to "the Dreamtime," a sacred and

significant state when the soul journeys in the heavenly realms. Through concentration and breathing, aboriginal shamans claim to enter Dreamtime at will, performing consciously in this state while awake.

Tarot has a shorter historical track record as a tool for seeking higher wisdom, dating from roughly 1200 C.E., but people have used other forms of divination that also date back to the dawn of the human search for meaning.

Tarot and Dreams

A powerful synergy seems to be at work when Tarot and dreams work together. After decades of exploring this combined way of working with the symbols, I believe that reading Tarot to interpret dreams engages dream consciousness in the waking state.

In a sense we step through a portal or gate, which is generally veiled between these two “worlds,” and we stand in both simultaneously. Using Tarot images and dream symbols together seems to open a dialogue between the conscious mind and subconscious mind that is normally closed. This may be akin to what Australian aboriginal shamans do. Subsequent scientific research may show a relationship in brain wave patterns which explain this.

Clients have reported breakthroughs in the release of lifetime limiting patterns working with the symbols in this combined manner that seem magical and alchemical. Tarot seems to act as a linking mechanism, showing relationships between dreams and personality-level issues, enabling us to see patterns of self-defeating behavior which were previously unclear.

Tibetans have a long tradition of valuing and working with the messages and symbols in dreams. Indigenous shamans around the world consider dreams to be important messages from the spirit world and are taught to work with dream symbols to help people in their tribes.

These native healers and teachers learn to interpret dream symbols, clarifying and illuminating the spiritual lives of village people.

Chuang Tzu, a Taoist seer, wondered along with Shakespeare if “all life was but a dream.” Famous dreamers include a pharaoh, a prisoner, and the earthly father of Jesus. Assurbanipal, an Assyrian king from the seventh century B.C.E., considered dream elements to be like ciphers, symbols with distinct meaning.

Quantum Holograms

Leading-edge physics, grappling with Einstein and beyond, have come up with a mental construct to describe an ever-widening universe. Apollo astronaut Edgar Mitchell, also a physicist with a doctorate from the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology, speaks in terms of a quantum hologram. This concept describes a paradoxical reality. There is an aspect to existence outside—or perhaps beyond—time and space as we conceive it. Within this mental construct everything happens at once, and the memory of all events is known in every part of the universe. This very mystical-sounding idea is likely the real realm of dreams.

Dream Oracles

In ancient times an oracle, or oracular site, was a place where advice or prophecy was sought from the gods. Dream oracles existed at sacred sites around the world where people would travel, seeking answers to troubling questions or guidance about their lives. Delphi in Greece is believed to have been such a place where wise Sybils assisted seekers who came to sleep, perchance to dream, at the oracle’s temple.

Epidaurus was a famous Greek oracular site. Searchers were instructed how to facilitate a powerful dream through rites of purification, including bathing, special diet, and most importantly, asking for the dream.

Three Basic Types of Dreams

Mental

Mental dreams generally reflect the processing of the day's actual experiences and the thoughts and feelings we have in response to those events. They function like a daily "data download," routing and processing information before it is sorted and stored in memory. Dreams also process the significance of important events of the day. They generally act as a commentary on what we're doing, thinking, aspiring toward or fighting for in our waking life—the other dream.

Physical

Physical dreams often address health issues or imbalances that reveal themselves in dream symbols. Health or medical dreams can function as early warning systems if recognized for what they are. Death dreams sometimes appear as warnings intended to "frighten" us into paying attention to our health.

Nightmares are believed to be a dramatic attempt to "get through" to the conscious level after repeated attempts at symbology that were consistently ignored. Pegasus, the winged steed of Greek myth, actually came from an earlier myth with archaic matriarchal origins. The original "night mare" was named Aganippe, "the Mare who destroys mercifully," a title of the goddess Demeter. These winged horses appear in many traditions and carry people to the heavenly realms. Some cultures believe they are important harbingers of coming events. Nightmares may also be a category of physical or health dreams. Human nature often stubbornly resists change. Nightmares can act like a "shock treatment," dramatically capturing our attention. Decoding the symbols in the nightmare reveal where in our lives the warning is pointing.

Spiritual

Sometimes called "big dreams," spiritual dreams are believed to be messages from our soul to our conscious mind. The "big dream" deals with spiritual guidance or contact, and has the intent of gaining knowledge and power. A dreamer in ancient times who sought an oracle did so in

the hope of having a big dream. This seems to be shamanic in nature. Big dreams usually repeat the same theme in a slightly different way over several nights. Memories of a big dream are generally vivid and emotionally packed. Other times a big dream is so startling the experience is like being awake, and the memory remains clear and stark, and does not fade with time. Big dreams are often literal, and their messages should be taken seriously.

What is a Dream?

Are dreams merely the response to the body's biochemical reaction during sleep, or perhaps the still, small voice of the soul? Is there any value in dreams, or are they just random and unimportant wanderings of the subconscious mind that are better left ignored? The answer to these questions differs based on whether the approach is purely a neurological description versus a psychoanalytical or spiritual one.

In the first case, scientists attempt to describe exactly what happens in the body, describing such things as REM (Rapid Eye Movement), which occur during the dream state. In the second case, we try to assign meaning and significance to the symbols, images, and messages that bubble up to our conscious minds when we awaken.

Why Do We Dream?

Sleep deprivation studies have shown how essential both sleep and dreaming are to our mental and emotional well-being. Research subjects who were awakened during dreams and unable to continue processing, developed anxiety, emotional upsets, and other temporary disorders in their waking life.

Dreams also seem to serve some important function in learning and healing. Newborn babies experience the most intense and longest duration of REM sleep. Researchers believe this may be related to the rate of growth and development and the amount of learning a newborn does. On a deeper, or perhaps more spiritual level, our dreams can also provide counsel, which serves to guide us on our spiritual paths.

Edgar Cayce, the "Sleeping Prophet," had an interesting perspective on sleep and dreams that was revealed in one of his trance readings.

Sleep—that period when the soul takes stock of what it has acted upon during one rest period to another, making or drawing as it were the comparisons that make for life itself in its essence, as for harmony, peace, joy, love, long-suffering, patience, brotherly love, kindness—these are the fruits of the Spirit. In sleep all things become possible, as one finds oneself flying through space, lifting, or being chased by those very things that make for a comparison of that which has been builded by the very soul of the body itself. (Reading number 5754–2)

Does Everyone Dream?

Research confirms that everyone dreams several times during the night whether or not these nighttime experiences are recalled. We move through several sleep and dream cycles, ranging in depth of sleep and intensity of dream activity. While dreaming occurs, REM, or Rapid Eye Movement, has been documented by researchers. Dreams also occur during non-REM sleep, but researchers do not yet know the different psychological or physiological reasons for this. Some studies show that dreams may reflect our emotional state in a manner like blood tests reflect different measures of our physical health.

We take in far more stimuli in a day's experiences than our conscious minds can process and assimilate. Just like telephone calls, letters, or other messages, not all are urgent. Some messages loom large in importance, and the same is true of dreams. On one level, dreaming seems to serve as a mechanism for cataloging and storing the day's experiences and transferring the information to long-term memory.

Not all dreams are created equal, and every dream is not worth the same amount of effort at interpretation. If we think of our dreams as letters from our subconscious, most of the correspondence is routine, and some is frankly "junk mail."

But periodically a really important communication arrives in our dream mailbox. The key is learning to recognize which dreams merit close scrutiny and work. Likewise if we're using Tarot to ask which outfit to wear in the morning, we're not focusing on important questions. We need to train our conscious minds to be discerning.

Edgar Cayce also said "Those dreams that make such an impression on the conscious forces as to become a portion of the mental activities . . . should be interpreted," (Reading number 294–40). In other words, if the dream makes an impact that lingers, the message is worth decoding.

What a Newborn Baby Dreams is a Mystery

While working on this book, a new baby was born in our family. One afternoon I gazed at my new granddaughter, not yet a week old, as she slept. I was startled and amazed when her face broke into a radiant smile, and she laughed out loud. Newborns typically do not smile in response to people until they are more than a month old. Was the sleeping infant touched by an angel, remembering heaven in her dreams? I was deeply moved by the gift of sharing her joy as she slept.

The elderly, on the other hand, seem to dream in preparation for departing this earthly realm and returning to heaven. Their dreams are often characterized by searching for the right way, wandering in a house with many rooms, asking for directions while traveling, or seeking an unknown destination.

Other Types of Dream Experiences

Past-Life Memories

In the case where dreams have a different quality of intensity, some researchers believe they are actually memories, existing outside of time, of past-life experiences. These dreams are characterized by a vividness of detail and sensation that does not fade over time. These dream experiences can be recalled and described years later in all their Technicolor intensity. Dream memories of past lives are also accompanied by

sensations different from other dreams. The dreamer is usually aware that they are seeing one or more of their past lives. These dreams often change the dreamer's attitude toward death and dying.

Lucid Dreams

In our waking life we can imagine that we have traveled to Hawaii, or we can physically travel there. What is termed a "lucid dream" is an awareness by the dreamer that they're dreaming. The dreamer is "awake" in the dream and can make choices and decisions that feel different than an ordinary dream experience. A lucid dream is thought to be a nighttime journey of the soul, an actual experience, rather than a mental image or the mental process of the psyche.

Out-of-Body Experiences

According to people who have experienced this phenomenon, OBEs (Out-of-Body Experiences) differ from lucid dreams in the sense that the dreamer is "free" of the body and can actually know and experience things the sleeping person could not. In some cases, people who were under anesthesia had OBEs where they could hear and remember the discussion of the operating team. They may have traveled to other rooms or places in the hospital and overheard the conversation of a loved one. In a lucid dream, described above, the dreamer would still be limited to the ordinary input and activity of the location.

An Out-of-Body Experience in the dream state might be recalled as traveling to the home of a loved one, having a conversation where information was gathered, and returning home to bed. In some of these cases the information has been confirmed the next day. In some instances, the person who was visited had their own recollection of a nighttime visitation.

Collective Precognitive Dreams

The potency of a disaster or a significant historical event seems to stir the collective subconscious of many people. At the time President Kennedy was assassinated, many people reported dreaming of the incident in advance. The tremendous loss of life that resulted from the

September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States provided an example of collective precognitive dreaming. With the advent of the World Wide Web and the opportunity for people to share their experiences, this phenomenon was shared in dialogues on the Internet. This provides a database for further exploration of this phenomenon by researchers.

Shared Dreams

Shared dreams seem to be an added dimension of the lucid dream experience. They may also be related in some way to OBEs. Sometimes dreamers share a dream where the same experiences occur at the same time and the same symbols appear in the memory of both dreamers upon awakening.

A compelling example occurred while I was writing this book. I collected dreams and case studies from clients and friends who provided material for the manuscript. Two friends shared what they felt were unusual dreams. These dreams occurred at the same time of night on the same date. The two dreamers were unaware of the synchronicity until the similarity of the symbols was noticed.

These dreams are analyzed in the sample dream interpretation section since they are an example of this facet of the dream state. (See sample dreams about masks, pages 60–62.)

Waking Dreams

Waking dreams or visions fall into the realm of shamanic experiences and are also called portents or omens. An example might be an animal walking across your path, like a coyote or fox in a developed neighborhood. Perhaps a hawk swoops out of the sky and flies right in front of you. These experiences can be examined and interpreted in the same manner as a dream. What does the animal represent to you? What's happening at the time? You might pose the question, "If this were a dream, how would I interpret this symbol?"

Dreamers Through Time

Tutmosis IV of Ancient Egypt

Beneath the paws of the Great Sphinx of Egypt is a stone monument called the stela of the dream. This relic is dated to the time of King Tutmosis IV, a New Kingdom pharaoh who ruled nearly 2,500 years ago. The stela tells a fascinating story. When Tutmosis was a young boy, the Sphinx was covered to its neck with sand. One day, in the heat of the desert afternoon, the young prince slept in the shadow of the huge head and had a riveting dream. The Sphinx spoke to Tutmosis in his dream saying, "Son, cast your eyes upon me. Can you see how long I have been neglected? Deliver me from the sands of ages, and I will crown you king of Upper and Lower Egypt."

Compelled by the voice in his dream, the prince awoke and ordered workers to free the massive statue from the tons of sand surrounding its enormous body. Tutmosis was soon crowned pharaoh. He inscribed the stela of the dream and placed the stone between the leonine paws of the Great Sphinx, where it remains today.

Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors

After his brothers sold him into slavery, Joseph ended up in the pharaoh's jail where he established a reputation for interpreting dreams. One night, the pharaoh dreamed of seven fat cows entering the Nile, emerging as seven lean cows. Joseph interpreted the dream as a warning that seven years of plenty would be followed by seven years of famine, and counseled the king to take heed and fill the larders (Genesis 41:17–27). The pharaoh followed Joseph's advice, and the subsequent events have endured as a famous story. Joseph rose to the important position of advisor to the pharaoh and became perhaps the most famous interpreter of dreams.

Apocalypse of Saint John

The book of the Bible known as Revelation, or the Apocalypse of Saint John, occurred and was transcribed on the Greek island of Patmos. This vision is usually rendered as a dream. This dream is perhaps the

most often interpreted, or misinterpreted, dream on record. Countless scholars have debated the literal or symbolic significance of John's haunting and enduring dream images.

Flight into Egypt

Another well-known Joseph, Mary's husband and Jesus' earthly father, received a dream message, warning of danger to his family. He listened to the angel's nighttime summons (Matthew 2:13), fled to Egypt with his family, and saved Jesus from almost certain death at the hands of Herod's bloody executioners.

Abraham Lincoln

President Abraham Lincoln is said to have had a recurring dream before his presidency that showed him dying. Two weeks before his assassination, Lincoln dreamed that he entered the East Room of the White House and found a body laid out in state. A general told him the president had been assassinated. We can only speculate what might have happened if Lincoln had been able to take adequate precautions.

Edgar Cayce, the Sleeping Prophet

The famous "Sleeping Prophet" of Virginia Beach, Edgar Cayce, paid as much attention to his dreams as his psychic visions. He advised others to heed their dreams and to invest time learning their language. In one of his trance readings the sleeping Cayce remarked, "Dreams are given for the benefit of the individual, would (he or she) but interpret them correctly," (Reading number 294-15).

Many Others

There are countless stories and anecdotes of scientists searching for the answer to a problem, writers seeking a plot element, composers searching for the perfect chord, and artists questing for an image—all of whom received answers in dreams. Albert Einstein claimed to receive dream guidance when pondering a difficult mathematical equation. Physicist Neils Bohr saw the model for the atom in a dream. Author Robert Louis

Stevenson received the idea of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* in a dream. Poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote his fragment, "Kubla Khan," word-for-word as remembered from a dream. He was interrupted after fifty-four lines, and the rest was lost to him forever. This is a potent reminder that dreams are generally fleeting and therefore need to be captured like illusive butterflies when we wake.

There are numerous accounts of loved ones who paused by a bedside to say farewell, appearing in a dream at what would later be revealed as the moment of their death. These nighttime visitations are generally of great comfort to those losing a loved one, supporting a belief that life continues beyond physical form.

The Language of Symbols

At its essence, this is a book about symbols. A symbol is a representation, a mark, a picture, or an image that stands for something else. All communication, or transmission of ideas, takes place through the use of symbols. Pictures are shorthand for ideas and demonstrate concepts that might take pages of words to explain. Symbols are perhaps the most enduring and fascinating characteristic of humanity.

Symbols are a silent and potent language that reaches our conscious awareness through the agency of subconsciousness, rising on wings of spirit from the deepest parts of our being as messengers from our soul. Haunting images, painted on cave walls in ancient France thirty thousand years ago, still send a powerful message across time of humanity's need to express ourselves in a transcendent way.

The common denominator of Tarot and dreams is transmission of knowledge and understanding through the agency of subconsciousness and the mechanism of pictorial symbolism. Symbols are the language of the subconscious mind, and Tarot and dreams speak to us in exactly the same way, in the language of symbolism. It is a natural marriage to combine Tarot and dreams to deepen and enhance the understanding of dream symbols and to expand our understanding of Tarot.

This book will explore how a dream can be interpreted like a Tarot reading, and a Tarot reading can be experienced as a dream. In a

metaphorical sense, all of life can be experienced as a symbolic reflection, offering us wisdom and growth. Integrating these ancient and powerful methods of symbolic communication provides an enhanced ability to decode messages from our soul, thereby aiding our spiritual path. Humans are creatures of choice, and therefore we can ignore the signals that come gently, and sometimes forcefully, from the inner reaches of existence. But I believe ignoring these messengers can be a great loss.

The Nature of Symbols

A symbol is generally a graphic or pictorial emblem for a concept or idea. A symbol is a shorthand communication that bypasses linear, alphabetical language. For example, in a religious context a cross has become the symbol for Christianity, a six-pointed star for Judaism, and a star in a crescent represents Islam. We recognize these images without words.

Symbols are how we communicate whether through an inviting smile, a finger to our lips asking for silence, or through the words of the most exquisite prose. An arrow with the point on top means "up" and the point on the bottom means "down." A black circle with a diagonal line through the center now says to the world "No . . . smoking, guns, . . ." fill in the blank. In America a bright red octagon means "stop." Male or female figures on bathroom doors indicate which gender should use the room. For purposes of this book, a symbol takes the place of written or spoken words. Tarot and dreams both communicate through symbols, which are mostly pictures.

Words are symbols that have been turned into sounds. Writing is the symbolic representation of sounds, images, and concepts. Scholars believe writing evolved from simple hash marks, through pictographs, ideograms, and complex glyphs into the alphabets of modern languages. The word *alphabet* comes from the Greek combination of Alpha and Beta, the first two letters of that alphabet. This in turn came from the earlier Hebrew, Aleph and Beth.

Three Types of Symbols

Universal

A universal symbol contains the intrinsic meaning of the symbol itself. This type of symbol is said to be recognized by the subconsciousness of everyone, regardless of culture or creed. A smile is a universal symbol of goodwill, a beckoning hand is welcoming, hands held up palm out means "Do not approach." Another example is "X marks the spot," an ancient emblem of a crossroad, and "Making your mark," which was used when most people were illiterate.

Numbers are a good example of universal symbols even if we don't usually use them in their symbolic sense. While the number one represents a quantity of one, it also connotes the qualitative notion of singleness, being first or alone, and unity. These qualities are intrinsic to the nature of one. Two, likewise, is a quantity, but also signifies the quality of a pair, duality, polarity, attraction, and opposition.

Certain geometric shapes function as universal symbols. A circle shows both potential and a closed system. A triangle pointing upward implies spiritual aspiration and hierarchy; a square signifies stability and displays a well-grounded balance.

Cultural

Cultural symbols, sometimes called "collective," are recognized by groups of people and include such things as flags of nations, colloquialisms or slang, such as the currently popular "cool," clan plaids, family crests, and the seal of a monarch. Sports team identifiers like Rams, Bulls, Cowboys, and Eagles are cultural symbols as are state flowers or birds. The American eagle, the Chinese dragon, or the Russian bear are cultural symbols of countries. Corporate logos and trademarks are also cultural symbols, like the world-recognized icons of McDonald's golden arches and the "Mickey Mouse" ears of the Walt Disney empire. A yellow happy face became an emblem of simple goodwill, while the Playboy bunny represented a lifestyle (or the unspoken desire for it) for a period of time.

Holiday icons (once holy days) such as a shamrock, a red heart, a black cat, a Halloween pumpkin, a Thanksgiving turkey, a Yule log or Christmas tree, Father Time and Baby New Year are associated with holidays without any written language. A four-leaf clover is a sign of good luck, since they're rare. However, these symbols are relative since a good omen in one culture may be bad news in another context.

Personal

A personal symbol has meaning only to a single individual, evoking emotions and unique responses. Your signature is a personal symbol. Your son or daughter will represent something to you personally that is an individual response. One person may have a fascination with spiders creatively spinning webs, while another person may feel terror of arachnids.

Tarot Symbols

A wise Chinese is credited with the saying "One picture is worth a thousand words." Asian written language takes the form of pictograms, and even though speaking seven different languages and many different dialects, Japanese and Chinese people can communicate through visual images.

The evolution of Tarot is a testament to the wisdom of this idea. One legend says that Tarot evolved after the destruction of the Library of Alexandria when the Wise gathered in Fez, Morocco. The marvelous book of Tarot was developed around 1200 C.E. to facilitate sharing of wisdom without spoken language. Other legends tell compelling tales of Tarot coming out of ancient Egypt shrouded in uncertainty along with the misty origins of Qabalah.

Paul Foster Case, author of *The Tarot*, rightly said, "Tarot is a pictorial book of ancient wisdom." The book of Tarot communicates to us through the language of symbols and is said to speak directly to the subconscious mind. Tarot is both a symbolic alphabet and a book of wisdom. Its ingenious design renders it applicable to many different uses.

The Royal Road

Sigmund Freud remarked that “The dream is the royal road to the unconscious.” Tarot has been called the Royal Road to mastery, and traveling the twists and turns of the Fool’s Journey is not for the faint of heart. Mastering correspondences, memorizing meanings, and synthesizing interpretation can seem overwhelming in the early stages. Tarot reveals the path of initiation, the internal struggle of our own spiritual growth, and the conflicts with others who become teachers and mirrors along this quest. For those students of Tarot who persevere, the rewards are great. Tarot is truly a jewel, offering guidance, hope, and inspiration to those who penetrate its secrets. Tarot reveals the nature of the Universe, the Macrocosm, and our nature, the Microcosm.

Tarot decks tend to use universal symbols, although each deck also has the imprint of the author’s cultural orientation as well as the artist’s unique and individual style. Through the combined use of color, shape, and symbolic imagery, Tarot automatically communicates certain truths to the conscious mind. Like any language, repeated use and reflection on the symbolic language of Tarot helps us become fluent.

Dream Symbols

In general, dreams are not meant to be taken literally. For example, dreaming of an old man rather than a newborn may indicate the stage of an enterprise. Dream symbols are the nouns—the persons, places, and things—and may be either universal, cultural, or personal. The nature or quality of the “nouns” in our dreams reveals how and what the symbols are trying to tell us. For example, water is generally said to represent emotions in dreams. How the water appears in a dream provides clues to the dream’s message. Do we dream of an ocean, and is it calm or stormy? Is the body of water in our dream a clear mountain lake, or a stagnant pool? Usually the most significant symbols in dreams include the people, animals, houses, buildings, or vehicles.

Invitation

Edgar Cayce also said, “The dreams . . . come to individuals through the subjugation of the conscious mind, and the subconscious being of the soul—when loosed—is able to communicate with the subconscious minds of those whether in the material or the cosmic plane,” (Reading number 243–5). The counsel offered through our dreams is free to us and provides a priceless opportunity to commune with the wisest part of our being. If we believe spending time with our dreams is important and we expect wise counsel, we will be amply rewarded. All that is asked is some time and an earnest heart to open a dialogue with our inner self. We can learn to converse with the wisest part of us, the aspect that lives in eternity.

Central to spiritual work is formulating ideals in our life to which we can aspire. These ideals become the central focus of our dreamwork. Dreams are like a school we attend each night. Since most traditions agree that our sleeping self is more attuned to our soul and spirit, our job is to learn to understand the language of dreams, becoming receptive to guidance from Spirit. Where do we begin to blend these two ancient disciplines, bridging the language of Tarot and dreams?

TWO

DREAMTIME

"Those who lose dreaming are lost."

AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINE SAYING

There is good reason that we don't remember all of the millions of stimuli our brains receive and process in everyday waking life; this would be counterproductive, not to mention overwhelming. There's a mechanism in our brain-consciousness called the "reticular activating system," which sorts those stimuli which merit remembering based on their potential threat or likely benefit to us. This mechanism allows us to focus on what seems important and allows literally millions of items of input to be ignored by our conscious minds.

We have to train ourselves to override this mechanism in specific instances. For example, as you go about your daily routine you may pass by dozens of white cars. Unless there is something unusual or striking, you don't notice them. If someone tells you that tomorrow you will receive one hundred dollars for every white car you see, they suddenly pop up everywhere. We "train" our subconscious minds to pay attention by suggesting that now this stimulus is important.

Likewise, every dream is not worthy of intense scrutiny and interpretation. Most dream activity seems to be a fairly routine filing and processing of the day's events. The goal of dreamwork is first to remember dreams that are significant and instructive and second to learn to interpret the symbols. The real objective is to cultivate a dialogue with the wise and eternal part of ourselves. Anyone who has worked with Tarot and its symbols has already opened that dialogue.

Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep— Remember, Record, Reflect

Research has shown that everyone dreams, but most people don't remember their nighttime messengers and, for the most part, this is practical. However, if certain dreams are potentially important, and there is benefit to recalling and interpreting significant dreams, how do we facilitate a selective recollection process? Below are suggestions for enhancing dream recollections as well as increasing your insights into them.

Remember

Evidence suggests that most dream activity occurs in the final hour of sleep—basically summarizing the night's work—so planning for adequate rest is essential. Some research has shown that B vitamins play a role in memory storage and dream recall, so increasing intake of these nutrients may improve retention.

Understanding how our minds function can also help. Our subconscious mind and the autonomic nervous system (the part of our consciousness that runs the automatic functions) is sometimes compared to computer files with infinite RAM (Random Access Memory). Subconsciousness seems to be amenable to suggestion from the conscious, self-aware level of our minds. Learning to pose specific questions—and expecting a wise response—is key to many spiritual disciplines. The same is true with dreamwork.

Before you sleep

- Plan for a good night's rest.
- Use autosuggestion prior to sleep, making a repeated mental suggestion to yourself before you go to sleep: "I will remember my significant dream(s) in the morning."
- Place a Tarot deck under your pillow to infuse your dreams with archetypal significance.
- Some dreamers report that meditating before retiring to bed, and posing a specific question to be answered through a dream, yields positive results.
- Hang a Native American dream catcher by your bed to capture your dreams before they drift away. This sends a powerful message to your subconscious that your dreams are important and you want to "catch" one that has a significant message.

A few thought-provoking (or "big-dream" generating) questions:

- How am I blocking my potential?
- What are my unhealed wounds?
- What am I denying?
- What is my destiny?

During the night

- Keep paper, pen, and a small flashlight by your bedside.
- If you awaken during the night with a dream in your mind capture the key symbols immediately; even a few words can trigger your memory in the morning to recall the complete dream.
- Some dreamers find it useful to speak into a tape recorder during the night rather than using pen and paper.

In the morning

- As soon as you awaken, capture the main symbols, ideas, and theme of the dream as an outline. Use what works—tablet, tape recorder, index cards, or type directly into your computer.
- Give the dream a title; titling a dream draws focus to the key issue or theme at work in the dream.
- If you have only a vague or fleeting image of a dream, research shows that memory is somehow tied to the sleeping position. Lying in the position you normally sleep, or the position in which the dream occurred, can trigger recall of fading dream images.
- Conversely, switching positions seems to “erase” memory of a frightening or disturbing dream.
- Once you begin the habit of working with dreams, performing a morning ritual, such as a shower or walk, evokes the dream’s memory through subconscious association with routine body movements.

Record

The most basic and fundamental tools for working with dreams are pen and paper, and perhaps some index cards. Date and record the dream in detail in your ongoing dream journal as soon as possible. Most people overlook the importance of this step, believing they will remember the key elements of a dream. It is vital to record a dream while it is fresh in your mind. As noted earlier in the case of the amazing poem “Kubla Khan,” Coleridge transcribed word-for-word what he remembered upon awakening, but an interruption after fifty-four lines cost the world the rest of the poem.

Research in learning retention has proven the value of writing or typing the words. Something occurs in the brain as a result of getting the words down on paper, or in a computer, which seems related to a dialogue between the brain’s hemispheres and the function of mem-

ory. There seems to be a relationship between the body’s actions and memory that we don’t completely understand.

Always use present tense when writing. Psychologist Fritz Perls’ research indicates this recaptures the alpha pattern of the dream, enhancing recollection, and aiding interpretation and synthesis. I have found in my work that shifting to past tense when relating or recording a dream may indicate an unconscious attempt to distance from potent emotional content. Relating the dream in present tense keeps the dream alive and appears to enhance the flow of information from the subconscious mind.

Dream Journal

Start immediately to record, track, and enter your own personal symbols in your dream dictionary. Creating an ongoing dream journal and making the process enjoyable is a potent message to your subconsciousness that you’re listening. Decorating the journal with pictures, sketches, or images that serve to illustrate the dream can help evoke meaning from dream symbols. Accessing your creative side will enhance your memory and will likely improve recollection as well as the quality of the information you receive.

Record your dreams as fully as possible. A seemingly insignificant detail may prove to be a vital clue when you work to decode the dream symbols. Use a steno notebook or a page divided vertically down the center (see figures on following pages). Record (write or type) your dream on one half of the page, leaving the other side for symbol interpretation. Underline or highlight the symbols and your interpretation next to them. Working to decode the symbol directly beside the dream context is helpful to see patterns that emerge. This will also be helpful when building your personal dream dictionary.

It’s also helpful to list symbols separately and interpret them just like the words of a foreign language. Symbols are the “nouns” in your dreams, the people (and animals), places, and things. What are they doing? When people appear as symbols, list three descriptors or qualities that come directly to your mind. People in our dreams generally depict aspects of ourselves. How might the “character” in your dream

Dream Journal

Date _____ Time _____ Title Castle on a Hill

Emotion(s) upon awakening:

Overall tone: Harmonious? Fearful?

Dangerous? Mischievous? Joyous?

Other:

What image, person, or feeling stands out?

What happened yesterday that relates to the dream?

Beginning scene:

A pale rider gallops across a forbidding landscape on a white horse.

Dark clouds lay like strips across a gray sky. The rider is a woman,

wearing a flowing white gown,

blowing in the wake of the galloping

Underline or highlight people and symbols (nouns)

What was the most compelling, haunting, lingering image in the dream?

Note colors, tone, light or dark

Identify possible puns or plays on words

Note dates, numbers, time frames

Expand the symbol through adjectives

Select Court cards for significant people in the dream

Select Minor cards for significant numbers in the dream

Do other interpretive readings

Symbols:

pale rider

forbidding landscape, white horse

dark clouds, gray sky

woman

flowing white gown

galloping horse

rocky cliff

turrets, tall castle

darkening sky

Figure 1. Dream Journal, page one

Dream Journal

Date _____ Time _____ Title Castle on a Hill

Middle scene:

horse. In the distance, high on a

rocky cliff, the turrets of a tall castle

loom against a darkening sky. . .

Ending scene:

Symbols:

Figure 2. Dream Journal, page two

play be you in disguise or costume? Symbols, images, and even other people in the dream usually represent aspects of ourselves.

Interpret the dream using your first intuitive sense. Note your primary emotions and first impressions. Look for any patterns or recurring symbols. Is the dream portraying a theme that repeats in your dreams? Look also for puns, word plays, and humor. Our subconscious loves to teach us through humor. Learning to laugh at our foibles is strong medicine for the evolving self.

If you get stuck, use a regular dictionary or an encyclopedia to learn the traditional meaning. This may trigger an insight of how you're using the symbol in your dream as a message. A symbol dictionary can be a useful tool. Remember to record the symbol in your personal dream dictionary. For example, you may dream of a bed, and your subconscious may be using this as a symbol, through a play on words, for a situation in your waking life where "you've made your own bed." Perhaps you dream of a church bell and there is something in your life that just doesn't "ring true."

Critical Dream Elements

Dividing the dream into beginning, middle, and ending "scenes" like a play can be helpful. Who is the main character of the dream? Are you the "star" in your story, or are you an observer? What is the age and gender of the main character? Unless the dream is prophetic or a shared experience, in almost every case the main character in a dream is the dreamer.

Note setting, plot, lighting, characters, time of day, feelings, colors, numbers, clothing, and time period in history. Your Higher Self is setting the stage, writing the plot, and casting the characters. Pay attention to these details; each may be a clue. Investigate all the hints and images, including animals, buildings, houses, objects, actions, roads, paths, weather, season. Identify the overall tone: harmonious, mischievous, dangerous. What emotion did you feel when you awoke?

Reflect—Cultivating the Inner Teacher

This aspect of working with dreams is probably the most rewarding. Knowledge of symbology and archetypes from studying Tarot will be tremendously enhanced by this exercise. Check the symbol dictionary in chapter 8 or other books on dream symbolism. Check your personal dream dictionary and keep compiling your symbols and their meanings.

No matter how skilled and insightful another person's analysis is, the dreamer is the ultimate authority where dream meaning is concerned. It is *your* dream; books and experts are only guides. Recognition of meaning is often accompanied by some physical sensation, such as a chill or a certainty in the pit of the stomach, a so-called "gut reaction." Each person has a built-in internal radar that defines this sense of accuracy.

The most important thing to notice first are your feelings. Dream feelings, what you're experiencing in the dream, seem to indicate how things may work out in waking life. For example, if you're feeling fear in a dream, chances are the issue you're concerned about won't happen. On the other hand, if your dream is filled with joy, you can expect smooth sailing with the project or person.

Questions

Invest time with the symbols in your dreams, and your dividends will far outweigh the investment. As Plato knew, formulating the right question is critical to receiving a meaningful response. This is paramount when reading Tarot for a client and is equally important when working with dream symbols. The questions below are suggestions to ask after recording the dream and before doing a Tarot spread. Expand the list with your own questions.

- What am I feeling? In the dream? When I awaken?
- What symbols or images jump out? How big or small is it? What color, texture, type? Note the details.
- What do these things mean to me personally?

- How am I acting in the dream? Why am I doing this?
- How does this dream relate to my life right now?
- Why did I remember this dream?
- Is this an area of ignorance or denial?
- What is my current waking state of mind?
- What was my state of mind when I went to sleep?
- What is this dream trying to tell me?
- What is the main thrust or theme of this dream?
- If I step back, what scene is portrayed on the "TV screen" in my mind?
- Do I feel safe or threatened? Am I running from something or someone?

Other Techniques

Grounding (Bridging) and Incubation (Seeding)

Grounding a dream in waking reality is thought to deepen understanding. Take some action that will imprint the symbols and bring the dream into the waking dimension. This sends a powerful message back to your soul and subconscious that you're paying attention, taking heed, and applying your lessons. Some dreams stay with you through the day. Others are so powerful their impact remains over years.

Sand Mandala/Psychodrama

Create a "psychodrama" by placing Tarot keys representing dream images as a sand mandala. Cast the dream like a play, using characters or the "Court" using Tarot cards. Have your "cardboard characters" act out the dream's story line and imagine alternate endings, examining your feelings with different endings. The Iroquois Indians went so far as to act out all dreams, believing that dreams were the soul's way of communicating with the body.

Waking Dream

Become the symbol through visualization. Have a "waking dream" or visualization, carrying the dream through to completion. Examine your feelings as the dream dynamic shifts.

Charades

Invent your own dream charades, acting out the symbols and guessing what the message might be from the clues provided in the dream. Use charade questions or suggestions like "sounds like" for a play on words, or pointing to body parts for puns. Your subconscious mind loves humor!

Tarot Suggestions

Use more than one deck of Tarot cards to work with your dreams. One set of cards should be clear in conveying the archetypal symbols and images. Additional decks, including whimsical, artistic, or unusual interpretations of the Tarot, can be used for dream spreads.

A Deck of Dreams

Collect images that strike you from photographs, greeting cards, magazines, and catalogs. Cut and paste them onto colored construction paper or poster paper, and assemble your own Tarot deck. By "bridging" the dream images into the waking dimension, you strengthen your intuition. These images can be used to create your own personal Tarot deck, literally a "deck of dreams" to be used for personal and individual interpretation. (These cannot be reproduced for other than your personal individual use.) Draw the dream or make a collage or a dream mosaic using your collection of images.

Personal Dream Glossary

Because dreams contain both universal and individual symbols, a personal dream symbol index is an invaluable tool. Your dream dictionary can be accumulated in a spiral or loose-leaf binder, in an index card file, or as a computer file; convenience, accessibility, and ease of adding entries in alphabetical order is the key. Make your personal

symbol guide a resource you add to and draw on frequently. Decorate your dream dictionary with pictures, drawings, and images. Later you can incorporate the material in your personal dictionary on to your own Tarot card for your deck of dreams.

Body, Mind, and Soul

Psychologist Abraham Maslow developed what he termed a “hierarchy of needs,” which he illustrated like a pyramid. At the base are our fundamental survival needs. As the steps of the pyramid rose, assuming the basic needs were met, we finally rose to the point where we were able to consider our spirituality. I find the same to be true for those who seek the counsel of a Tarot reader. I have adapted Maslow’s pyramid to reflect how the issues of Tarot clients stack up (see Figure 3).

Tarot was created to be a powerful tool for personal transformation and spiritual teaching, however, those who seek guidance are generally in a quandary about the everyday issues of life. Having worked professionally with Tarot for more than three decades, my own assessment of this hierarchy is based on the percentage of time a querent’s questions can be categorized into one of four ways, and is illustrated in the figure. As the figure shows, most of us focus our attention on day-to-day occurrences, and our dreams and Tarot questions reflect this. Ask yourself honestly, “Will this issue have any real significance to me in a week, a year?” The chances are good that today’s crisis will be tomorrow’s forgotten incident.

When we embark on a spiritual path, the nature of some of our dreams may change. As a dialogue opens between our Higher Self and our personality, walking the spiritual path, the opportunity to draw on a higher view may emerge.

Advanced Dream Techniques

Adding this facet to your Tarot practice can enrich the work you do with clients, expanding and deepening your interpretations.

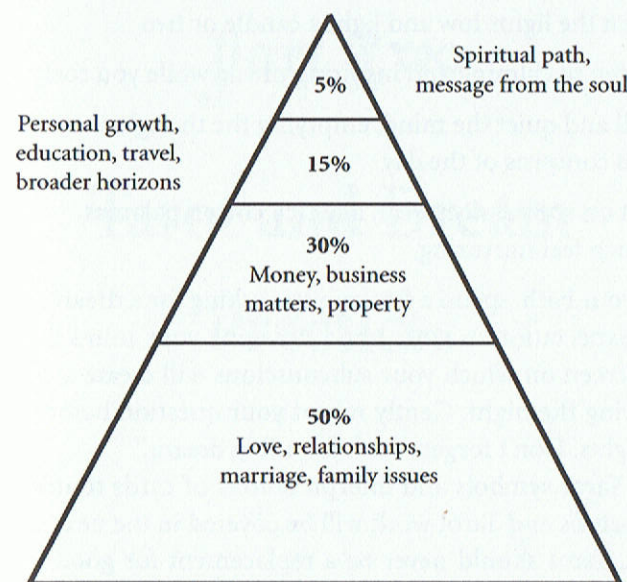


Figure 3. Life Issues Pyramid

Tarot Oracle: “Seeding” a Dream for Guidance

Dream incubation, sometimes called “seeding” a dream, is an ancient technique in which the dreamer strives to dream with a specific question or subject in mind, usually related to soul purpose or your spiritual path. This technique is still used today. You can create your own dream oracle when seeking counsel on a serious or spiritual question.

Take care formulating the question: prepare, eat sparingly, consume no alcohol or mood-altering substances, meditate before sleep, and ask the question. Perform a Tarot spread, using the archetypes of Tarot to heal, teach, and incubate dreams, before retiring to impress these symbols onto your subconscious.

Some helpful hints from people who have had success:

- Take a warm, soothing bath before retiring
- Scent the water with an aromatic oil such as jasmine or lavender

- Turn the lights low and light a candle or two
- Listen to calming and inspiring music while you soak
- Still and quiet the mind, emptying the thoughts and concerns of the day
- Put on special sleepwear, like rich cotton pajamas, which feel nurturing

After your bath, spend a few minutes asking for a dream, creating a positive expectation in your mind. Imagine your mind like a blank slate or screen on which your subconscious will create a compelling story during the night. Gently repeat your question before you turn out the lights. Don't forget to ask for a "big dream."

Using Tarot symbols and interpretations of cards to deepen both dream analysis and Tarot work will be covered in the next sections of the book. Tarot should never be a replacement for good judgment, abdication of responsibility, or reduced to a mere parlor game. We seek the counsel of the Higher Self when we need a broader perspective and a grander view, and have exhausted our human resources.

Toward that end, the next section will introduce several Tarot spreads that are tailored toward working with dreams and provide sample interpretations. Section Three includes Tarot interpretations that are intended for dreamwork. The last chapter is a fairly comprehensive symbol dictionary.

Part Two

Tarot and Dream Practices

THREE

TAROT AND DREAM SPREADS

"All visions and dreams are given for the benefit of the individual,
would they but interpret them correctly."

EDGAR CAYCE, READING NO. 294-15

Creating and sustaining a dialogue with subconsciousness and our inner guidance is a matter of habitual practice and consistency. A growing familiarity with the language of symbols is like learning the vocabulary of a foreign language: the more words you understand, the more information you can translate. It's also vital to trust the information you receive from your subconscious messengers speaking through dream symbols and Tarot spreads. This sends a silent vote of confidence to the aspect of your consciousness, which is in constant touch with eternity.

Preparation

Create a sacred space where you will not be interrupted. Take time to relax, closing off the noise and intrusions of the outside world. Enter into the sacred temple of your consciousness, asking in humility and trust for guidance and

answers. Don't rush your process. Be sure to allow time for the symbols to seep into your consciousness, stimulating dialogue and intercourse between the analytical and intuitive parts of your mind. Look for the "click" or "ah-ha" response when the meaning of the dream becomes clear. Always record your reflections and intuitions in your dream journal. Remember to add any new symbols and insights to your personal dream dictionary. Grounding or honoring your dream by some physical act tells your subconscious that you "got it."

Dancing with Your Dreams

The following is a summary of the procedure for working with your dream symbols and Tarot spreads.

1. Record the dream and identify the dream symbols in detail in your journal. Take care to describe the people who appear in your dream.
2. Attempt to decode the dream symbols based on your responses and the emotions triggered by the dream. Remember the importance of context.
3. Use additional references if necessary, including the Symbol Dictionary in this book (see page 169), a symbol glossary, or a regular dictionary.
4. Perform one of the Tarot spreads included in this chapter. You can also use one of your own design, or one with which you're already familiar. Interpret the Tarot reading within the context of the dream.
5. Take additional notes in your journal, comparing the dream symbols and Tarot cards from the reading. What symbols seem related?
6. Finally, for another view, use the Tarot interpretations in this book or your favorite book of Tarot meanings.
7. When working with a client's dreams and Tarot, be sure the dream has been recorded and the symbols identified.

Tarot and Dream Spreads

The following Tarot spreads were developed specifically to work with dreams. These spreads are meant to stimulate your creativity and hopefully inspire you to explore further. Please create additional spreads that evoke your intuition or use other old friends with which you're already familiar.

All Tarot spreads are intended to provide a container or template to communicate with your Higher Self and guidance, using the symbolic alphabet of the individual Tarot cards. The important thing is to create the space for that dialogue and to listen to your guidance.

Listed below, "at a glance," are nine suggested spreads that have been developed specifically to work with Tarot and dreams. The explanations that follow have the same corresponding numbers. Likewise, in the next chapter, the same numbers correspond to the sample interpretations. Hopefully these spreads will provide initial grist for the mill. By all means, engage your creativity and design your own tools for transformation.

1. *Meditation*—Single-card spread
2. *Dominant Image(s)*—One-to-four card significator spread
3. *The Gift*—Two-card spread
4. *State of Being*—Three-card spread
5. *Overall Guidance*—Three-card spread
6. *Levels of the Mind*—Three-card spread
7. *Crossroads*—Four-card spread
8. *Four Seasons*—Five-card spread
9. *Pyramid of Consciousness*—Six-card spread

1. One-Card Spread: Meditation

A one-card spread is a powerful multipurpose meditation. Many people pull a single Tarot card each morning to set a tone for the day or to gain a focus of direction for their daily activities. Using a one-

card spread with dreams can shed light on the central message or symbol of the dream and where the dreamer should really pay attention. Using the Tarot card that you've drawn or chosen as a focus for your attention, breathe deeply and allow all the images and colors on the card to permeate your consciousness. As you reflect on the single card, what aspect seems to stand out? Let your mind dwell on that particular image or symbol and see how it speaks to you. Then close your eyes for a few moments, breathing deeply and rhythmically, and ask for clarity.

If the card that appears in the reading is from the Major Arcana, perhaps the issue is one based on principle or archetypal influences. If a Court card appears, then a particular person or the characteristics shown by the card may be the underlying message asking to be addressed. Write your reflections in your journal.

2. One-to-Four Card Significator Spread

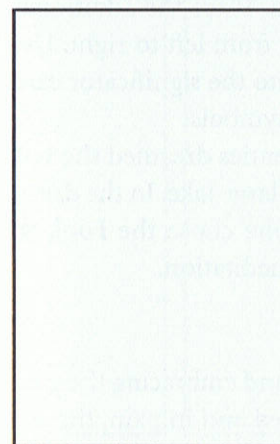
Single Significator Spread—Dominant Image

Who is the “star” of the dream or the figure in your life who is looming large at this time? Is there a central image in the dream that stands out from all the others? Choose one significator based on the most prevalent symbolism or image, and your knowledge and intuition about the meaning of the cards that reminds you of this person or symbol. Reflect and meditate on this single image or theme, allowing feelings to emerge from your subconsciousness. Let your intuition have full reign as you receive impressions about the image's significance.

For example, a dreamer recalled only one scene from a dream in which he walked outside at night, looking at the bright moon in the sky. He chose the Major Arcana card “the Moon” for his meditation, asking what needed to change form in his life.

Multiple Significator Spread—Dominant Images

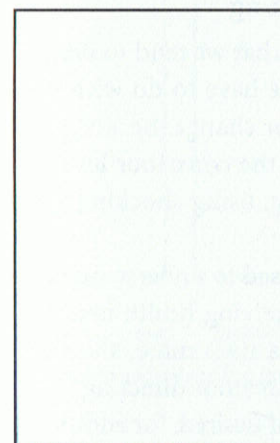
After recording the dream and identifying key dream symbols, select two-to-four Tarot cards to represent key dream images based on the same criteria as the Single Significator Spread above. Analyze possible meanings and significance of the symbols, recording your insights in your dream journal.



Shuffle and cut, or pull out one card, asking, “What is the core message, outstanding symbol, or central theme of this dream?”

Write your reflections in your dream journal.

Figure 4. Single-Card Spread—Meditation



Who is the “star” or main character of the dream? Is there another central image that stands out from all the rest?

Choose one card based on the prevalent symbolism of the dream that reminds you of this dominant image. Reflect on the deeper meaning.

Figure 5. Significator Spread—Dominant Image

As an option, you can then shuffle and cut, looking at the card on the bottom of the pile, or placing the deck into the same number of piles as the significator cards chosen. Place the additional cards beneath the significator cards, moving from left to right. Use the additional cards to gain deeper insight into the significator cards that you have chosen to represent the dream symbols.

For example, a woman in her seventies dreamed she was a passenger in a boat, slowly moving across a large lake. In the dream she wore very unusual bright yellow shoes. She chose the Fool, the Hanged Man, and the Six of Swords for her meditation.

3. Two-Card Spread: The Gift

The essence of this spread is finding and embracing the good in all situations. Even when we feel challenged and in pain, there is usually a way to look at the situation and see the blessing that may be disguised in the circumstances. The first card shows what the central issue of the dream (or reading) is. The second, or lesson, card may seem contradictory or paradoxical at first. Allow time to meditate on how the pain of the lesson can be turned around and seen as a gift. Look for the pearl of transformation hidden in the experience.

4. Three-Card Spread: State of Being

Dream symbols often address issues that we tend to deny or ignore at the conscious level. Sometimes these have to do with health-related problems that may require a behavior change. Because we may be ignoring what's in our best interest at the conscious level, dreams may come that are startling or disturbing, using shocking imagery to get and keep our attention.

The State of Being spread can be used to understand and integrate a disturbing dream with possible underlying health issues. This spread can also provide initial insight into a nightmare, showing where the dramatic message of the nightmare dream is directing us to look. This can be followed with another spread, if desired, for additional meaning.

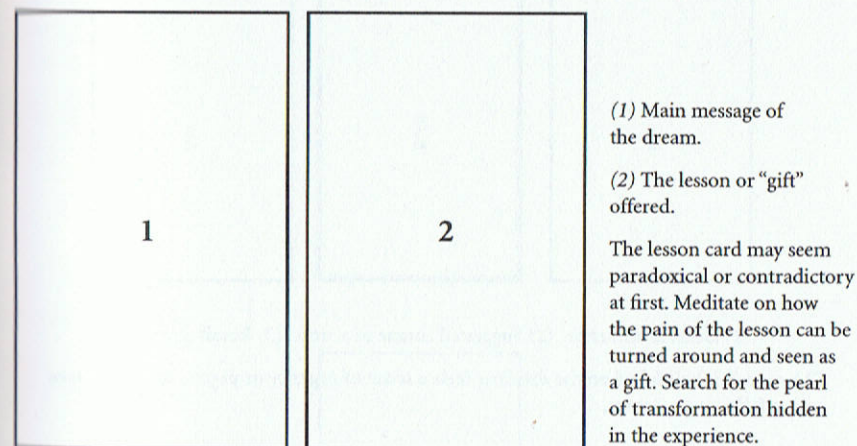
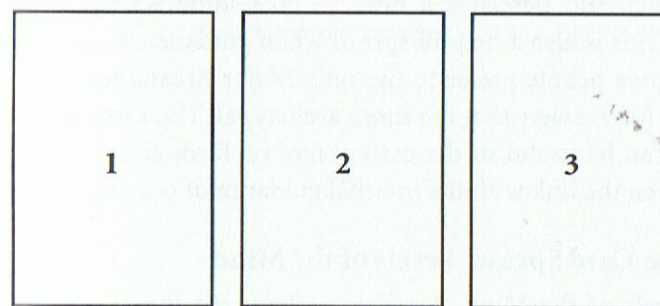


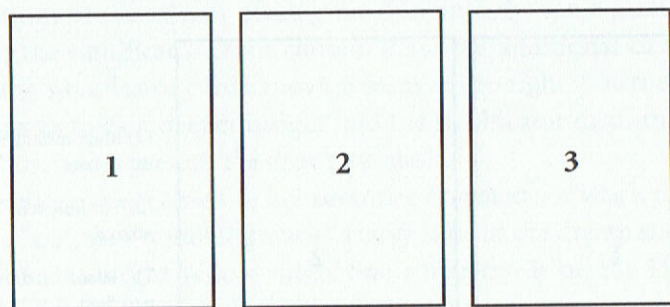
Figure 6. Two-Card Spread—The Gift



(1) Physical well-being. (2) Emotional well-being. (3) Spiritual well-being.

This spread can be used to understand and integrate a disturbing dream that may have possible underlying health issues.

Figure 7. Three-Card Spread—State of Being



(1) General influence. (2) Suggested course of action. (3) Result or outcome.

This spread is helpful when the dreamer feels a sense of urgency or perceived need to take action following a dream.

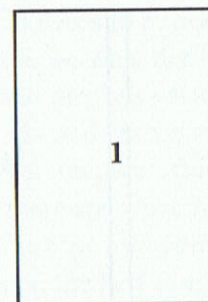
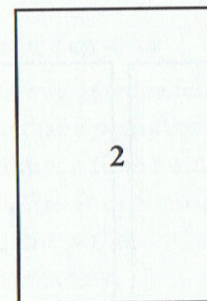
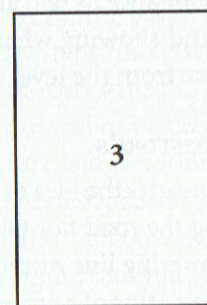
Figure 8. Three-Card Spread—Overall Guidance

5. Three-Card Spread: Overall Guidance

The Overall Guidance spread is helpful when the dreamer feels a sense of urgency and perceives a need to take some action following a dream. This is also a helpful spread when guidance is sought on any issue. Some people prefer to use only Major Arcana for this spread, looking for answers that are more archetypal. The Overall Guidance spread can be useful in the early stages of Tarot and dreamwork to strengthen the link with the internal guidance of our Higher Selves.

6. Three-Card Spread: Levels of the Mind

The Levels of the Mind spread is perhaps the most generic dream spread and can be used as an opening gambit with any dream. The first card placed is the subconscious message, acting as a foundation for the reading. Interpreting this card can reveal the main message in the dream. The conscious awareness card is laid next above that, indicating what is occurring at the level of ordinary awareness that may be blocking our connection to guidance. Receptivity and willingness to



(1) Subconscious message. (2) Conscious awareness. (3) Superconscious guidance.

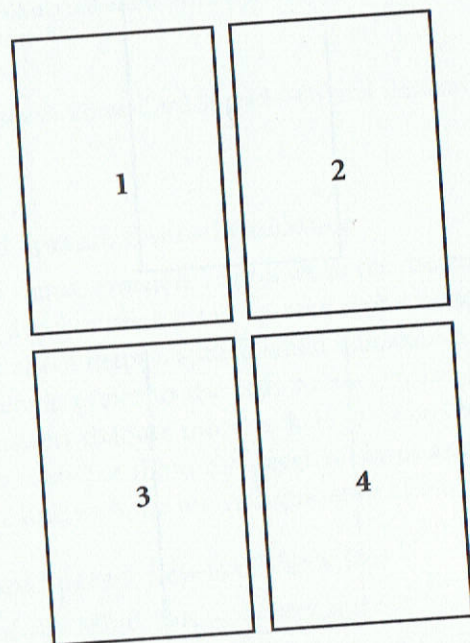
This spread is perhaps the most "generic" dream spread and can be used as an opening gambit with any dream to get the intuitive juices flowing.

Figure 9. Three-Card Spread—Levels of the Mind

change occur at the level of self-conscious awareness by choice. The third card, superconscious guidance, is laid above that, moving us to a higher level of perception and showing what quality or influence we can bring to bear on the issue from the level of Spirit.

7. Four-Card Spread: Crossroads

Inherent in the Crossroads spread is the idea of shifting focus and changing direction. Contemplating the road not taken and alternative paths and choices can be an empowering line of thought. This spread is laid out in two rows, or like the four arms of a crossroads. Cards one and two form the top row, and cards three and four form the second row.



(1) What holds or binds you; what you can't see. (2) What's offered in the moment; what you see. (3) What will result if nothing changes. (4) A new path, a different road, a shift of focus, a new opportunity or paradigm.

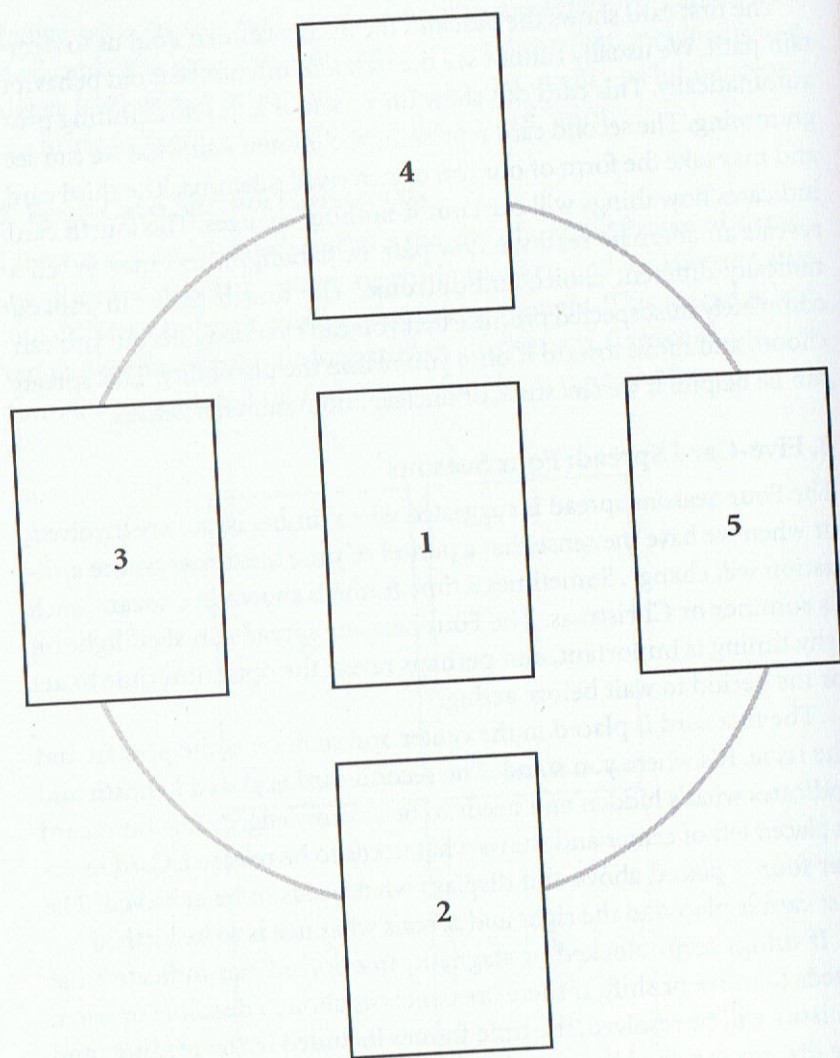
The first card shows the past and the influences that hold us to a certain path. We usually cannot see the past and often repeat old behavior automatically. This card can show unconscious and self-defeating programming. The second card represents the present and what we can see and may take the form of our real or perceived dilemma. The third card indicates how things will turn out if nothing changes. The fourth card reveals an alternate reality, a new path or paradigm, and may unveil a radically different choice and outcome. The fourth card can show a completely unsuspected promise that you can't yet imagine, but you can choose and move toward it once you realize the possibility. This spread can be helpful if we feel stuck or unclear about our alternatives.

8. Five-Card Spread: Four Seasons

The Four Seasons spread is suggested when timing issues are involved, or when we have the sense that a period of time must pass before a situation will change. Sometimes a time frame is shown in a dream, such as summer or Christmas. The Four Seasons spread can shed light on why timing is important, and perhaps reveal the optimum time to act or the period to wait before acting.

The first card is placed in the center and represents the present and the issue. It's where you stand. The second card is placed beneath and indicates what's hidden and needs to be acknowledged. The third card is placed left of center and shows what needs to be released. Card number four is placed above and displays what needs to be achieved. The last card is placed to the right and reveals what needs to be birthed. If things seem blocked or stagnant, this spread can indicate what needs to move or shift. If there are concerns about a deadline or when an issue will be resolved, the time frames included in the reading (and the dream) can shed light on the best course of action.

The first card, at the top of the pyramid, is the core issue. Cards two and three, the middle level of the pyramid, show the past influences and present circumstances. The last row, the foundation of the pyramid, shows what's hidden, what needs to change, and the potential outcome.

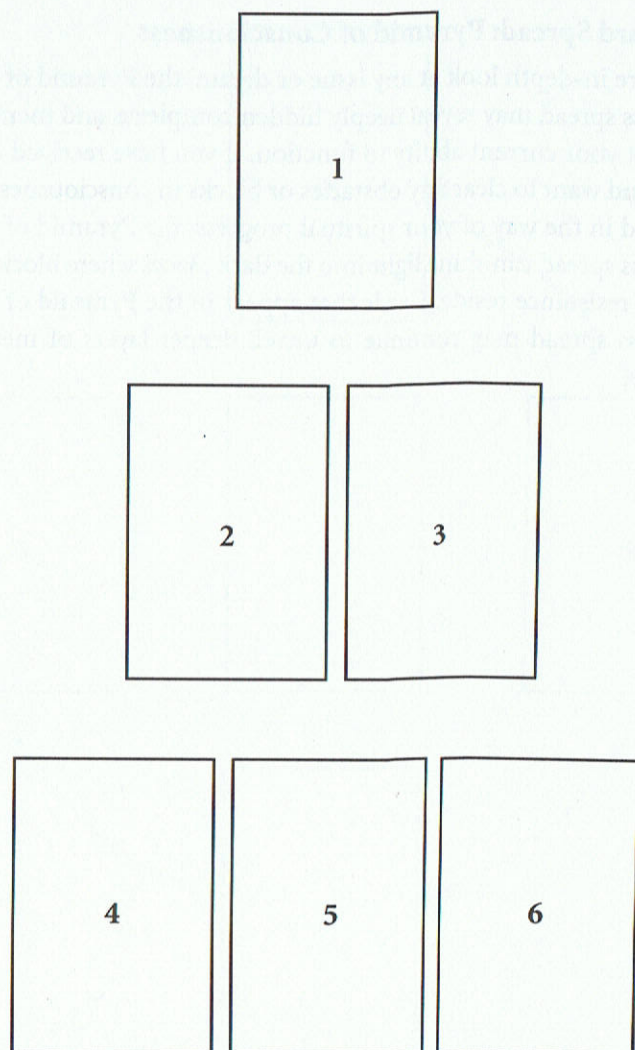


The Four Seasons spread is suggested when timing issues are involved. If things seem blocked and at a standstill, this spread can reveal what needs to move. (1) The issue, the present. (2) South, summer, incubation, what's hidden. (3) West, fall, harvest, what must be released. (4) North, winter, metamorphosis, what must be achieved. (5) East, spring, emergence, what's coming into being.

Figure 11. Five-Card Spread—Four Seasons

9. Six-Card Spread: Pyramid of Consciousness

For a more in-depth look at any issue or dream, the Pyramid of Consciousness spread may reveal deeply hidden complexes and memories that affect your current ability to function. If you have received a “big dream” and want to clear any obstacles or blocks in consciousness that may stand in the way of your spiritual progress, the Pyramid of Consciousness spread can shine light into the dark places where blocks, denial, and resistance reside. Cards that appear in the Pyramid of Consciousness spread may continue to unveil deeper layers of meaning over time.



This spread is for a more in-depth look at any issue or dream. It may reveal deeply hidden complexes and memories that affect your functioning in the present. (1) The core issue. (2) Past. (3) Present. (4) What's hidden. (5) What must change. (6) Potential outcome.

Figure 12. Six-Card Spread—Pyramid of Consciousness

FOUR

SAMPLE TAROT AND DREAM INTERPRETATIONS

"The myth is the public dream,
and the dream is the private myth."

JOSEPH CAMPBELL, *THE POWER OF MYTH*

This chapter includes sample Tarot readings and dream interpretations for each of the Tarot spreads introduced in the previous chapter. These are suggestions and thought starters. By all means, design your own and improvise.

Linking the Symbols: Sample Dream Exercises

The sample interpretations are given in the same order of the Tarot spreads from the previous chapter. The names of the spreads and title of the dreams are:

1. Meditation—Single-card spread

Dream title: *Native Symbols*

2. Dominant Image(s)—One-to-four card
significator spread

Two-card spread—Dream title: *The Intruder/Stalker*

Four-card spread—Dream title: *House with Antiques*

3. The Gift—Two-card spread

Dream title: *Nighttime Visitations*

Dream title: *Stairway to the Light*

4. State of Being—Three-card spread

Dream title: *Masks*

5. Overall Guidance—Three-card spread

Dream title: *Castle on a Hill*

6. Levels of the Mind—Three-card spread

Dream title: *White House*

7. Crossroads—Four-card spread

Dream/vision title: *Golden Girl*

8. Four Seasons—Five-card spread

Dream title: *Four Seasons*

9. Pyramid of Consciousness—Six-card spread

Dream title: *Zodiac Star Temple*

1. Meditation—Single-Card Spread

Dream Title: *Native Symbols*

A woman dreamed she was visiting a pueblo and sketching **symbols**, like Native American **petroglyphs**, which came to her unsought. **Traditional Native American people** are very interested and encourage her. She draws symbols that were **secrets** known only to them. She draws the symbols on a **Medicine Wheel**, a diagram of the four directions and four seasons. She is offered a **reward** for work well done and can choose a

pair of earrings among **twenty** or so pairs. She chooses a pair of **silver** earrings with **round coral stones**.

Dream Symbol Interpretation

The woman's dream symbols were emerging unsought. She described them as Native American and petroglyphs. The traditional people were interested and surprised because the symbols were part of their secret tradition. This suggests something of a creative process coming to light from an archetypal level. Earrings emphasize the ears, hearing, and receptivity to an inner voice. Silver is a lunar metal, also emphasizing receptivity and the importance of listening. The coral spheres are round like the sun, as well as the full moon. These symbols all encourage her to be still and listen to the counsel that is offered.

Coral reefs are living creatures, marine invertebrates, who join together in colonies and secrete limestone skeletons that eventually become coral reefs. Coral as a semiprecious gem may be a message to listen to the voice of the sea, the great collective subconsciousness and the waters of the emotions. This is an encouraging dream, indicating the dreamer can trust the guidance offered.

Tarot Symbol Interpretation

The Seven of Cups represents choosing between several options and seeking a direction in life. This card carries the admonition to choose wisely. The dreamer felt the Seven of Cups was alerting her to pay close attention and to stay alert to possible choices since several opportunities were presenting themselves in her waking life. Since the coral earrings



were offered as a reward in the dream, she was on the lookout for a pair of earrings to ground and anchor this important message from her dream guidance.

Subsequently, while traveling, she found a similar set of silver and coral earrings and purchased them, thereby grounding and linking the reward from her dream to her waking reality. Each time she wears the earrings, she sends a powerful message to her subconscious mind that she's listening to guidance from her Higher Self.

2. Significator Spread—Dominant Image(s), One-to-Four Cards

Choose one or more dream symbols, then select a significator card, or up to four, for striking symbols, and meditate on the card(s) chosen. As an option, after this, using one of the cards as a reading significator, perform another of the suggested spreads.

Two-Card Significator Spread, Multiple Significators

The following dream was interesting to me since Tarot cards actually appeared as symbols in the dream. I chose the two Tarot cards from the dream for the Tarot spread.

Dream Title: *The Intruder/Stalker*

A *man* who has been *stalking me* gets into my *house* while I am away. He *ransacks the house* and, as his "*calling card*," leaves two of my Crowley *Tarot cards* pinned to my *burgundy bedroom curtains*: the Death card and one of the Swords . . . like 7, 8, or 9. He places the cards in the shape of a *cross*: the Death card was vertical, and the swords on top of it were horizontally placed and intersecting Death.

I am having a hard time *phoning for police help*. There seems to be much chaos and lack of cooperation from the "others" around the neighborhood. No one seems very concerned about this invasion and my terror but me. And then *Brugh Joy* walks in with a *hat* on, and wearing *a lot of red*. He approaches me and kneels down and embraces me, offering *comfort and safety*. He asks if he can stay with me. I feel so much better!

Dream Symbol Interpretation

Masculine energy forcibly "intrudes" into the house or "consciousness" of the female dreamer. The man had been "stalking" her, suggesting that integrated maleness was not a part of her awareness. Perhaps masculinity and relationships were perceived as a threat in the dreamer's waking life. The stalker "ransacked" the house, completely destroying the feminine order she had so carefully created and guarded. The man left a "calling card" in the form of a cross made of two Tarot cards. The woman tried to phone police (symbolizing authority figures) for help and had trouble. This could mean that traditional answers will be of little value.

In the end Brugh Joy, a well-known healer and dream symbol interpreter known for working with shadow or dark-side issues, arrives to comfort her. He is wearing a hat, symbolically cloaking conscious thoughts, and dressed in lots of red, the quintessential male color. I felt the hat to be an important clue that might indicate the dreamer was in denial. Unfortunately, the dreamer could not recall any details about the hat, such as color or description, which might have revealed what kind of concealment was occurring.

I believe the thrust of this dream suggests that the woman is struggling to integrate the masculine and feminine aspects of her own nature, believing that these archetypal energies are at odds with one another. The dream's threat comes from an unknown stalker who is clever enough to send a powerful symbolic message. Her rescue arrives in the form of someone she trusts and respects who is dressed in red. In the end, the solution to the crisis comes from the very masculinity she fears.

Tarot Symbol Interpretation

Since Tarot cards appeared as symbols in the dream, I decided to work with these cards for the dream spread. I placed the Death card in a horizontal position and chose the eight of Swords, a woman blindfolded, tied, and surrounded by swords, as the crossing card.

In a reading, the Death card signals that a profound change is called for or is in process. To the dreamer, allowing alien masculine energy

into her consciousness may be akin to a kind of death. Certainly a dramatic shift is indicated, a fundamental shift in the way she views herself and "others." She may feel in a "do or die" situation.



The Eight of Swords shows someone who has been chained by their choices and circumstance, but is actually able to move out of the situation of bondage if they choose. They remain imprisoned by their own consent. What is required is removing the bonds and the blindfold and seeing the truth of the situation. Probing the nature of the terror and sense of violation symbolized by the "stalker" is important. What is the dreamer so afraid to face that she blinds herself or wears a hat to hide?

Synthesis

After working with the dream images and the Tarot spread, the woman believed the combined symbols revealed her deep fear that her sense of identity, who she believes she is (or is not), would cease to exist if she faced the aggressive, male energy that symbolically violated her sanctuary. She felt she had received significant insight into a long-term and ongoing problem. The woman realized that deep and lasting change was called for to move out of the situation of fear. She resolved to continue working with her dreams in this way to gain further wisdom into her issues.

Four-Card Significator Spread

The following is a summary of a series of dream symbols that recurred over a period of many years. Some meaningful message is rising from the deeper level of the dreamer's awareness, suggesting changes and realizations that need to take place at the conscious level.

Dream Title: *House with Antiques*

For many years I have a recurring dream of an *old house* filled with *antiques*. Sometimes the house is *wood frame* construction style and at other times it is *adobe*. The house always has many *rooms and unused apartments*. The owners are a *group of people* I have never met. They do not care about the antiques or the house. The old house is left vacant, falling into disrepair, but the owners will not sell or give away the property.

I love the antiques, some are so *beautiful*, but they are *locked away (hidden)* where no one can appreciate the *artisanship, craftsmanship*, or the *spirit* of the people who created these beautiful things. I *covet* the antiques, and think of ways I can save some from the lonely, crumbling warehouse. Sometimes in some dreams, someone takes me to the house. Usually it is an *unknown figure*, but sometimes it is a real *West Texas kind of cowboy*, the "Virginian" type. I can also envision the unused apartments fixed up. I can see that they were really quite comfortable at one time. I always feel frustrated.

Dream Symbol Interpretation

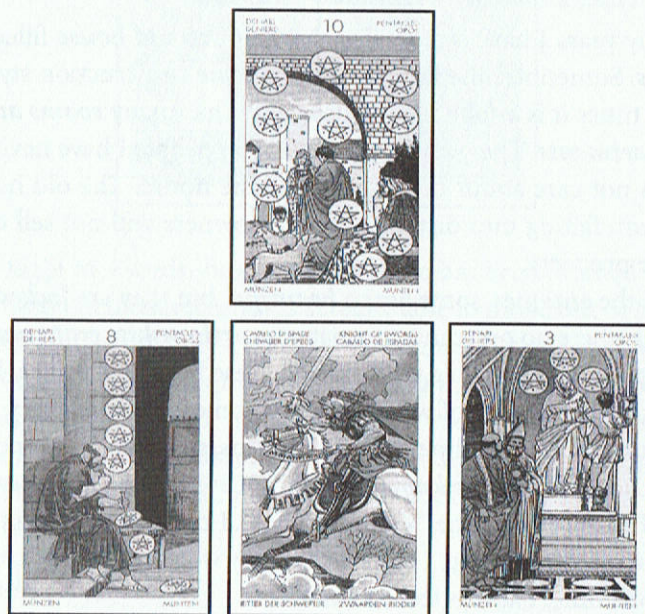
The large house with many rooms is symbolic of a state of consciousness with plenty of room for growth and expansion of consciousness. The dreamer feels she does not own the house and has never met the group who does. The beautiful antiques are hidden where no one can see or appreciate them, suggesting that priceless gifts or treasures from the past or forgotten memories lie buried. What is the worth and beauty that is locked away? This house represents the latent and untapped talents of the dreamer that she longs to express.

Usually the person who takes the dreamer to the house is an unknown person, a part of the dreamer yet to be known or claimed.

Sometimes her guide is a cowboy, a “Virginian,” who likely represents a “hero” archetype or a knight in shining armor. This figure suggests an aspect of the dreamer who will eventually ride in and save the day.

Tarot Symbol Interpretation

The following Tarot cards were chosen as signifiers for this dream:



The Ten of Pentacles signifies the main issue of the dream since that card represents the fullness of wealth, position, and possessions. The scene depicted on most cards shows a family of wealth and position who seem strangely disconnected from the outer symbols of that status. In fact, they seem to carry their position as a burden. This card certainly reflects the attitude shown by the people in the dream.

The Eight of Pentacles shows an apprentice patiently practicing his craft. He is carefully stamping out identical patterns until he finally masters his skill. This appears as a striking contrast to the disenchanted family in the Ten of Pentacles. What does the dreamer need to learn at a basic level about the true source of her support?

The Knight of Swords is the heroic knight par excellence charging forward on a quest. This situation will require strong action to bring the latent “worth” into the light. Where does the dreamer need to take action on her own behalf?

Finally, meditating on the Three of Pentacles, the dreamer can imbue her consciousness with the image of the master craftsman. This card shows adulation and appreciation for a job perfectly executed. The rewards for diligence will come in time.

Synthesis

The dreamer also independently cast the Level of the Mind spread. The cards she received were the Ace of Swords as the Subconscious card, the Eight of Swords as the Conscious card, and the Ten of Pentacles as the Superconscious card. Clearly the symbolism of the Ten of Pentacles and the perceptions of and relationship to the “things of the world” is a central theme to be examined. The woman felt she needed to reflect on her orientation to the nature of providence and how she receives supply from Spirit.

At one point this dreamer actually discovered that an artifact she had inherited, an antique, had a value far beyond what anyone had suspected. After the events of the dream and working with the Tarot symbols, the young woman ultimately sold the artifact and her life was radically changed. She felt her work with the symbols aided her ability to make the shift in consciousness which prepared her for good fortune.

3. The Gift—Two-Card Spread

The following dream sequence occurred over a matter of several years. The woman was haunted by these dream experiences and longed to know what they might mean. I believe this illustrates how a recurring dream may be the soul’s attempt to change a point of view or transform a mindset over time.

Dream Title: Nighttime Visitation

A young married woman dreamed of a terrible fatal accident. In the dream, her **first husband** rose from a **mangled car** and appeared **in**

front of her. She woke around 1 A.M. feeling frightened and alarmed. The shocking images stayed in her mind.

Early the next morning the dreamer received a phone call informing her that the young man had indeed been killed in a fatal car crash at the time of her dream. Although the young woman viewed her first marriage as a painful mistake which had ended in betrayal, she was deeply saddened by his sudden death at the young age of twenty-three.

Dream Title: *Stairway to the Light*

Several months after that dream, the deceased young man began appearing regularly in her dreams. Sometimes these dreams recreated incidents from their relationship and caused emotional pain, but at other times his presence seemed to serve as a warning or prelude to something in her waking life. These periodic appearances spanned several years.

Finally one night the woman dreamed she saw the young man on a **spiral staircase**, waving to her. **Brilliant white light** shone out of a **doorway** at the top of the spiral stairs. The man **waved goodbye**, communicated she would not see him again, and **ascended** the stairs, **disappearing into the light**. She never dreamed of him again.

Dream Symbol Interpretation

This series of dreams falls into the category of unusual communication or messages from dreams. The woman was haunted by these experiences and sought a deeper understanding. We chose to do a two-card spread, asking about the core message and the lesson or gift that might be contained in the experiences and their symbols.

Tarot Symbol Interpretation

The Queen of Swords is the Mother of Air, ruling by the power of the mind and the cold, clear abstract quality of reason. She is often described as a widow, but a woman who can bear her sorrow. The Queen of Swords is a strong woman who has steeled herself to the pain life can bring and now uses her wisdom and experience to help others. She may represent emotional detachment or an inability to feel emotions.



Death is the fundamental symbol of change and indicates the transitory nature of physical forms. In the context of this dream and reading the message might well be, "This too shall pass." The young woman went on to marry again, have children, and heal from the pain of her early marriage.

Synthesis

Using Tarot with these dreams allowed her to work through the choices and emotional consequences of the relationship. The woman expressed shame that she hadn't been strong enough to refuse his proposal of marriage. She felt her decision to marry was driven by passion, and she felt unable to act in her own best interest. She said her friends and family saw the true dynamic of the relationship but supported her in her choice to marry.

Perhaps the first husband chose to linger to reduce some karma from his part in causing the woman pain. After the dream interpretation and the Tarot reading the woman felt relief, forgiveness, and deepened understanding. She realized the pain inflicted by her choices and the subsequent betrayal had caused her to close off her vulnerability because the residual pain was buried inside and unacknowledged. The dreamer experienced a catharsis and a renewed feeling of hope.

4. State of Being—Three-Card Spread

The following dreams are examples of the shared dream experience and have been included as examples of working with this phenomenon. The people who shared these dreams are members of the same

group which meets regularly to work on their dream symbols. "Dreamer A" was sufficiently impacted by her dream to phone her friend in the morning. "Dreamer B" only remembered the final scene and not what went before, but had the strong sense that this scene was a continuation of something that had just occurred. There was a sense of finishing something.

Dreamer A Title: *Many-Colored Masks*

Dreamer A is in a very **large rectangular room** without any chairs where many **people are standing around looking confused**. They seem to be waiting for a **lecture**. Dreamer A is with her husband and recognizes that the woman who will speak is her fellow dream group member (Dreamer B), who is about to give a lecture on symbols. The lecturer is clothed in a long dress with huge, long pointed sleeves that shift and sway as she moves. Dreamer A describes the outfit as something **Katherine Kulman** would have worn (a TV healer and evangelist), or possibly a **Halloween witch's costume**. The lecturer's hair is prominent, looking fuller, darker, and longer than in ordinary life.

There are hundreds of **people of all different races and nationalities** who speak many **different languages**. There is a large **dry-erase, white board** on an easel where the lecturer is drawing **symbols**. The symbols seem similar to Reiki symbols, like **graphic representations** of something, which perhaps **transcend the language barrier**. Each symbol had a specific meaning.

The wall behind the lecturer is covered with **masks**. Each mask is a **single solid color**, but there are masks of **many different colors hanging on the walls** of the room. The masks have very **pronounced features** and seem to be made of something like **papier-mâché**. The lecturer's motions are very **dramatic** as she delivers her talk, the long pointed sleeves swaying when she moves. Dreamer A looks around the room as people are listening to the lecture.

The ceiling area is **very brightly lit**, and Dreamer A looks up to discover the source of the strong brilliant white light that is coming from above. She wonders if there are skylights.

When Dreamer A woke and related the dream to her husband, she remarked that there were no chairs in the room, reminding her of cathedrals in Europe in earlier times.

Dreamer B Title: *Blue Mask*

Dreamer B is in a **very large complex** of some sort, having just completed some sort of work, and is heading into an enormous **public rest room** waiting area to use the facilities. Her left arm is filled with **work papers**, lecture notes, and a **black binder**. In her right hand is a **blue mask**. The mask fits over her hand up to the elbow, somewhat like a **hand puppet**. The mask stands out as important. She does not remember where it came from or why she has it. The mask is **sky blue or powder blue** and has very **pronounced features and a pointed nose**. The features are **sharp, almost pointed, and angular**. It seems to be made of **papier-mâché** or some sort of molded paper material.

It is near **Halloween**, and Dreamer B enters the rest room, walking through **large glass doors**, to **urinate, wash her hands, and put on the blue mask**. She examines the mask and realizes she can't put it over her head or on her face; it is **too small**. She decides to carry it. She has a strong sense of preparing for something related to Halloween. (This year, 2001, there was a "blue moon" on Halloween, the second full moon in the same month).

The room is **enormous, rectangular**, and the **ceiling area is enveloped in very bright light**. Dreamer B looks up to determine the source of the brilliant white light coming from **above**. There are **no chairs** in the room, and people are all standing—hundreds, maybe thousands—**looking confused**.

Dreamer B encounters **a beautiful woman** who she believes to be from Jamaica from her lilting speech and the caramel color of her skin. Her hair is a striking feature, very long and wavy, and it shifts as she moves. She assumes **a difficult yoga position—a back bend**. She tells everyone who can hear that in her youth she was in **a pornographic movie, a "porn star,"** and feels a lot of **guilt**. She says she used her flexibility in a different way then. She wants **forgiveness**. People tell her what matters is the person she has become.

The Jamaican woman then morphs into a **Barbie doll**, like a **caricature** of herself. Dreamer B thinks that the doll and the mask are both like caricatures. Dreamer B holds the doll and tries to place a **black elastic headband** around her hair to keep it from falling over her face. The doll morphs again into some sort of **African doll**. The woman seemed very significant. Dreamer B awoke around 3:30 A.M.

Note: Dreamer B woke much later than usual the following morning with no conscious memory of the dream. Minutes later the phone rang. Dreamer A called to ask if Dreamer B had any memories from the previous night of dreaming. This prompted the recollection of certain key symbols from the early morning hours, and the entire dream sequence then surfaced to the dreamer's memory.

The friend had phoned because her night's sleep had been punctuated by a strange dream that included activities with the first dreamer. Several of the central dream symbols were too similar to attribute to chance and fit the criteria for a shared dream experience. Dreamer B's experience seems to begin where Dreamer A's experience leaves off. Dreamer A seems to explain the activity Dreamer B couldn't recall.

Additional note: These dreams occurred close to the time of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center. People from many places in the world who spoke numerous languages worked in those buildings. After working with the dream symbols and her own guidance, Dreamer B felt these dreams were fragments of memories of actual soul travel and work, helping victims of sudden and traumatic death to make their transitions "into the light."

Dream Symbol Interpretation

Both of these dreams shared several identical symbols. Both dreamed of colored masks and large rectangular rooms with brilliant overhead light. In both dreams people were standing because there was no place to sit. Both also mentioned lectures. Dreamer A was aware of Dreamer B in her experience and one dream seems to begin where the other leaves off.

The dreamers felt in retrospect that this was an example of remembering an actual nighttime journey. Dreamer A felt the colored masks were symbols of our transitory human personalities that are worn like

masks during life and must be laid aside after death, and that the variety of colors represented the numerous nations represented at the World Trade Center. The use of symbols in the "lecture" may have been a way to communicate ideas without words. A caricature, in this case a Barbie doll, is a comic representation of a person by exaggeration of characteristic traits and may be another reference to what we leave behind when we depart this life.

Tarot Symbol Interpretation

The Devil reversed symbolizes release from a state of bondage as the chains are thrown off and the man and woman find a new state of freedom. In the context of this dream and in the position of the physical state in the reading, this suggests that the restrictions of the body may have been released from ordinary earthbound reality during the sleep state. This may indicate and affirm the ability of the soul to take flight and travel while the body sleeps. The Death card may also suggest the large-scale transition which took place on September 11, 2001.



The King of Swords in the position of the mental state shows the presence of, and a need for, a balanced mind and the capacity for impartial judgment. Perhaps this also hints that things can be seen more clearly within the context of these shared dreams and the release of the bondage of matter. In a reading the King of Swords asks, "Where is harmony lacking?"

The Star symbolizes the inner light and the truth and wisdom that are available when we turn within and listen to the voice of the silence.

Appearing in the position of the spiritual state, the Star is further evidence of the quality of comprehension and vision that may be operating in these dreams.

Synthesis

As noted above, after working with the dream symbols, Dreamer B believed that the dreams were actually fragments of memories of soul work that took place at the site of the World Trade Center tragedies, helping the spirits of many who died suddenly to make their transition "into the light." The Star as the indicator of the spiritual state suggests that it is wise to trust what guidance reveals and follow our inner light.

5. Overall Guidance—Three-Card Spread

Dream Title: *Castle on a Hill*

A *pale rider* gallops across a *forbidding landscape* on a *thin white horse*. *Dark clouds* lay like strips across a *gray sky*. The rider is a *woman*, wearing a *flowing white gown*, which blows in the wake of the galloping horse. In the distance, high on a *rocky cliff*, the *turrets* of a *tall castle* loom against a *darkening sky*.

The woman seems bent on an *urgent mission*, and she urges her horse on toward the castle. She hears hoofbeats behind her and fears she is *being pursued*. *Lightning* strikes on the horizon, and for a moment the whole landscape is *illuminated* and then plunged into gathering gloom.

Dream Symbol Interpretation

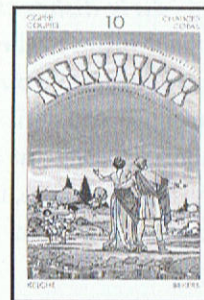
The Tower was chosen as a significator for this dream because of the central image of the lightning bolt in the Tarot card and the dream. This card lends an overall meaning of awakening from a period of self-imposed bondage. As a Major Arcana, the Tower brings archetypal energies to bear on the dream's analysis.

The Tower invites the dreamer, in this case a young man in waking reality, to break out of his chains and choose a different way of responding to the influences in his life. The dreamer might ask himself,

"What have I been blind to? Where am I not seeing the truth of the situation? In what way have I kept myself in the dark?"

Tarot Symbol Interpretation

The Ten of Cups as the overall influence indicates that contentment, or need for material security, may have made the dreamer soft and too yielding to another person. The lightning flash of awakening reveals a new landscape of potential. Ask what you need to face? What fears or needs keep you bound?



In the place of suggested action is the Six of Swords. Perhaps the dreamer needs to shake off complacency and inappropriate compromise. It may be advisable to move out of the current situation and move into calmer waters, leaving troubled waters behind.

The result or outcome is the Page of Swords indicating that a spiritual quest will reveal what is truly important in life. It's time for a new adventure which may unveil dimensions of the dreamer's self that are barely glimpsed.

Synthesis

The young man **confided** that he had embarked on a spiritual search within the past **several years**, but the woman he was dating did not share his **aspirations**. He had been increasingly troubled by what seemed to him a widening gulf in their communication. He loved her, and they had many other things in common, but something was **urging** him to change.

The image of the lightning in the dream and the Tower in his dream spread galvanized him to commit to his spiritual path. He realized that it wasn't his responsibility to force change on the young woman. He further accepted that if he focused his attention on his own growth that the relationship would either end or grow accordingly.

6. Levels of the Mind—Three-Card Spread

Dream Title: *White House*

The dreamer is a middle-aged man walking through the rooms of a **large white house**. He does not live in the house. He first walks through the rooms of the **main floor** and finds **dirty dishes cluttering the kitchen**. Next he descends a flight of **steep stairs** to the **basement** and finds that **several inches of water have seeped through the walls**, covering the cement floor. He then **ascends** the stairs, now climbing to the **second floor** of the house, where he looks out a **window facing east**. The sun is **just coming up** over the horizon, illuminating wispy clouds and coloring them crimson. The man feels a **surge of hope** upon awakening.

Dream Symbol Interpretation

The main floor of a house usually represents the conscious mind or self-conscious awareness. A kitchen full of dirty dishes indicates work that is not being accomplished, and suggests nurturing isn't being given or received. Water in the basement suggests emotional "leakage" and feelings below the surface that aren't being dealt with. Perhaps his emotional foundation is not secure. The continuing seepage shows pent-up feelings building to a possible overflow. The theme of "trou-

bled waters" is clearly shown in the dream. The dreamer is a man; perhaps he needs to probe his role in the emotional situation.

As he moves upward in his consciousness, climbing to the second floor, he experiences a new dawn and a surge of hope, suggesting that the situation will clear up if he's willing to rise above his situation.

Tarot Symbol Interpretation

Pulling the Two of Cups as the subconscious message indicates the dreamer is dealing with issues of relationship. This suggests that going back to basics is called for. Issues of trade-off and compromise are high-



lighted. The dreamer might ask, "What were the points of common ground in the beginning that may have been forgotten? Where is compromise required?"

Conscious awareness is shown by the Six of Swords, which in the Rider deck shows a man ferrying a woman and child from choppy waters into a calm lake. Maybe the man needs to face his part in doing "emotional work." The dream's chosen title of "White House" implies the ruling authority of the president. The dreamer might ask himself, "Where am I not accepting or using my appropriate authority? Where do I need to take charge?"

The Nine of Pentacles in the place of the Higher Self counsels solitary self-sufficiency. Peace and contentment with the simple things in life should be acknowledged. The figure in the card is alone, but fulfilled and complete in herself. The dreamer's soul may be asking the man to take a hard look at the relationship. Should the partnership end? Should he move out of the painful situation and learn to be complete within himself? Or is this counsel to integrate the feminine energies within himself in order to bring more to the union?

Synthesis

The man who sought advice and understanding with this dream through a Tarot spread admitted he had been struggling with whether to stay in his current relationship. He acknowledged he remained in an unsatisfying situation because the relationship had become comfortable and familiar. Working with the combined symbols he resolved to confront the issues through counseling to determine whether the conflicts could be addressed or to gain the strength to end his current relationship and become open to a more fulfilling possibility. The rising sun in the dream gave him hope and strength to meet his challenges.

7. Crossroads—Four-Card Spread

This spread was used to interpret an enigmatic dream experienced by a middle-aged woman entering into the Crone aspect of her life, and feeling very much at a crossroads.

Dream Title: *Golden Girl*

The dreamer recalled only one major scene followed by a brief closing scene. I am **traveling** and **leading a group** in a **foreign country**. We are in **India or Egypt**. The group consists mostly of **women**. The tour bus has stopped so that we may **shower** and **change our clothes**. The building is like an **enormous school**. Where I am standing reminds me of a **gymnasium** or athletic area. I am in a small space, like a **cubicle**, with a **very high ceiling**; the doorway is to my left, but there is no door, just an opening. In the dream I am reminded of the numerous rooms in Egyptian temples that are shaped like this.

The walls are formed of **big blocks** and are colored a **golden orange**. The color casts a **warmth** and **golden hue** to my skin and the surroundings. Everything seems **bathed in this golden light**. Although there are no external light fixtures, everything is **brightly lit** and extremely warm and humid. The **humidity** makes me believe I am in India.

I am dressing and putting on a garment of **very fine white cotton** which is **embroidered** at the edges. The outfit is a blouse and skirt. I put on the blouse first. As I button the blouse I notice that I have a **tattoo near my heart** but slightly to the **right**. The tattoo is a **stylized flower** about the size of a **nickel or quarter**. I believe the flower has **seven petals**. The design has a very **Celtic feel with lots of spirals**.

To my left on the wall several nails hold objects that belong to me: my **purse**, a **mirror**, the **skirt**, and others I can't recall. There is also a **black mask of Ganesh**, about the size of a human face, hanging on the wall.

A **Native American shaman** who I know walks by the door. He greets me and **acknowledges my progress**. I feel honored and pleased by his comments. I realize he is participating in whatever ceremony or event is happening.

I continue my preparations and realize I can't see how I look because the **small, blue, ornately painted mirror** (about 6 x 8 inches) is to my left. The style of the mirror reminds me of something from Bali, but the colors are primary blues and reds rather than tropical greens or pinks. I move the mirror in **front of me** and hang it on a nail above my head. I look at the mirror but it's **too high** on the wall to see

my reflection. Slowly, and with some trepidation, I lower the mirror until I can see my reflection. **When I see my face I am very pleased** with how I look.

I am now aware that the weather is **very hot** and my **skin is damp** with perspiration. As a final act of preparation I wrap the cotton skirt (like a sari) around me and **tie it on the left**. I realize I'm wearing no **undergarments**. I am now ready.

As I go outside to join the others, someone tells me that my **ex-husband** has returned. I definitely do not want things to go back to the way they were. In fact I know I can't go back as I have become **self-sufficient** and have enjoyed my time with the group of women.

In the final scene I am **outside** with my group and huge crowds of people who are waiting to **board buses**. The Egyptian or Indian **tour guide** is waiting and helping people. I feel ready to face whatever happens next.

Dream Symbol Interpretation

Traveling in a foreign country in the dream suggests that the dreamer is experiencing a transition in her life and that she is moving into new or "foreign" territory in her life. Both India and Egypt represent ancient wisdom and knowledge, suggesting that the woman is drawing from a deep resource of inner knowing. Both cultures have been cradles of humanity's highest spiritual awareness. India's spiritual traditions have continued unbroken for thousands of years, speaking of powerful tradition and suggesting that the dreamer is drawing on deep wisdom.

A shower and change of clothing symbolizes washing away the old and putting on new attitudes. The outfit the dreamer described is a combination of ancient (sari) and modern (blouse and skirt) styles. This symbolizes the need to synthesize old and new points of view in her emerging awareness.

She is standing in a building constructed of large blocks that remind her of temples or the pyramids. This suggests that her present state of consciousness is built on a firm foundation. The dreamer's awareness of the warm golden light may indicate both healing and illumination.

Items in the dream, such as the ornate mirror and the embroidered clothing, are not only functional they are decorative, suggesting an element of beauty is involved. The dreamer also discovers an ornate tattoo on her breast, perhaps indicating a change of heart. This may also symbolize a "branding" from an earlier heartbreak which needs to be healed. She comments that the tattoo is the size of a nickel or quarter, implying that only a "small change" is required.

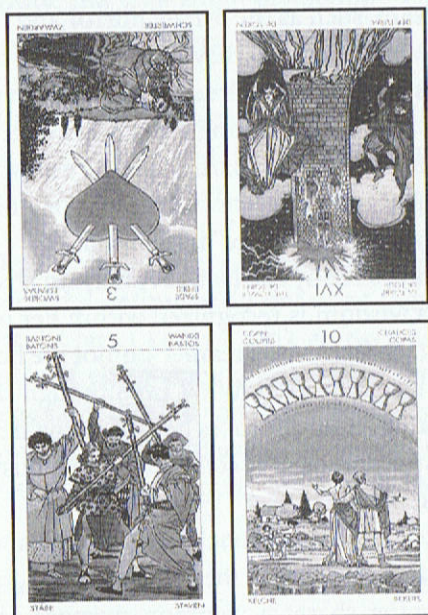
The cameo appearance by the Native American shaman reinforces that the dreamer's wisdom is recognized within her own culture. Although there is ample light, the dreamer cannot see herself, and she is afraid to face her true reflection. Why? Even though she is concerned about her appearance, once she faces herself in the mirror she is very pleased with her appearance. Her concerns were unjustified and she is ready to "face what comes."

Buses move according to someone else's schedule and agenda. Large numbers of people are moving in the same direction and for the same purpose. The dreamer shares a common purpose or goal with the guide. There is evidently a collective direction indicated. The dreamer does not choose the path, but she does prepare and accept her role. The presence of the indigenous tour guide as a symbol suggests that the dreamer possesses the knowledge and skill necessary to arrive at her destination. Refusing to acknowledge the return of her ex-husband shows that she intends to move ahead and not repeat past patterns. Collectively her dream symbols are evidence that she is ready to make the changes in her life.

Tarot Symbol Interpretation

The Crossroads spread yielded the Three of Swords, reversed (Past), the Tower, reversed (Present), the Five of Wands (Outcome) and the Ten of Cups (The Choice).

The first card reveals hidden or unconscious influences from the past which hold the dreamer in self-defeating behavior patterns. There may well be past life issues at work, stemming from India. The Three of Swords reversed suggests that some old wound or heartache, also indicated by the tattoo symbol, may lie at the heart of the matter in the



dream's symbols. A tattoo pierces the skin and leaves an indelible imprint. The old pain must be released before healing can occur.

The second card shows the situation as the dreamer sees and experiences present circumstances. A mirror is an important symbol in the dream. The dreamer has to move and adjust the mirror so she can see her true reflection. She experiences anxiety in the dream as she takes a real look at herself. The Tower reversed expresses the same idea of being in the dark, unable or unwilling to see a situation for what it really is. What is the dreamer blind to or refusing to see in her current life situation? Where does she need the lightning flash of illumination to bring an awakening and liberating insight to help clarify her vision? This card echoes the significance of the Three of Swords and further indicates a powerful release is required.

The third, or outcome, card indicates how things will turn out if nothing changes. The Five of Wands is a card of strife. Unless the dreamer changes her outlook and perception about her situation she will remain in a state of conflict.

The fourth and final card in the spread offers a new path and a different choice. An incredible promise is offered by the Ten of Cups as the alternative path. If the dreamer can acknowledge her pain, accept her grief and the healing process, the outcome is a joyful heart and emotional fulfillment.

Synthesis

The dreamer continued to work with the Tarot and dream symbols for several weeks. She sought further counseling assistance as well as hypnotic regression. She was able to connect with some memories and wounds from a prior lifetime which were impacting her present circumstances. She realized a profound shift in awareness and embarked on a deep and lasting healing process.

8. Four Seasons—Five-Card Spread

I had this dream while writing this book. I had already written the interpretations for the Tarot cards, so I used the book exactly as I had written it, and as I hoped readers would do, to interpret the following dream.

Dream Title: *Four Seasons*

Beginning: I awoke in the predawn hours, around 3:30 A.M., realizing I had been given a *new Tarot spread*. I called it *Four Seasons*. The spread consists of *five cards*, one in the center, and four laid out and interpreted like the qualities of the seasons. When I awoke, this *gift* felt very significant to me.

Middle: I am sitting on a *beautiful hillside in the mountains*. It is *late afternoon* on a glorious *fall day*. I am *alone*, sitting on a *blanket*, casting the four seasons spread. Brilliant *sunlight* filters through Ponderosa pines. I realize it is *5 P.M.*, and I have a *long hike* to my *horse* before the *sun goes down* (dusk or dark). I gather my cards and blanket. *My dog*, Baron, is now with me as we prepare for the walk down the hillside. I feel full and overflowing with a sense of gratitude as I *easily climb down the hill in plenty of time*.

End: I am in my *childhood bedroom*. The *twin beds* my sister and I slept in are in the room, and I feel *my mother's presence*. I watch *my*

new granddaughter as she sleeps. I feel total bliss. As she starts to wake she rolls over and then sits up. I am amazed that she can do this at only *three months of age*. I carry her into the *kitchen* and say to my *husband* how grateful I am to have the *gift* of this baby. I take her back into the bedroom to *change her diaper and dress her*. Her mother, *my daughter*, is there. She takes the baby a moment, smiling with her own joy. My granddaughter turns to me, giggles, and gives me a *big wet kiss on the mouth*. All of her actions are *beyond the normal capacities* for a three-month-old baby. I awaken feeling tremendous joy and gratitude.

Dream Symbol Interpretation

Beginning: A new Tarot spread suggests the need or opportunity for a new outlook or "interpretation" of circumstances. Five cards indicates a change is called for. The spread was a "gift" in the dream, given by what I felt was my Higher Self. Four seasons implies both the cyclic nature of events and a possible time frame.

Middle: The hillside in the mountains suggests that the obstacle in the project is less difficult than if I were climbing a mountain. The situation is beautiful and idyllic. Late afternoon suggests that the time elapsed is "three-quarters" spent. I notice in the dream that it is five o'clock in the afternoon. There are also five cards in the spread that was given. Therefore the number five is important. Five is the number of change and adaptation, hinting that a change of mind may be in order. This was born out by the subsequent Tarot reading.

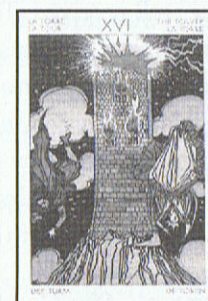
I gathered my blanket and cards, and joined by my dog Baron (I feel responsible for him), I hiked down the hill to join my horse. I do not have a horse but to me this represents independence and carries the meaning of a magical steed. I arrived with ease and in plenty of time. My feelings were joy and gratitude. I interpreted this to mean I would finish the manuscript on time if I paid close attention to timing and focus and remained responsible.

End: Being in my childhood bedroom with my infant granddaughter, and in the presence of my mother and oldest daughter, signified to me that the young and developing project, symbolized by my grand-

daughter, was thriving and proceeding beyond normal expectations. The kiss from my granddaughter suggests that this project will "breathe new life" into my work. Throughout the dream, and when I woke, I experienced intense joy and gratitude.

Tarot Symbol Interpretation

Later that day I shuffled my cards and laid out the four seasons spread, asking for further insight or deeper meaning for this wonderful dream. The cards that appeared in the reading were:



Synthesis

When I compared the cards in the reading with the symbols of the dream my understanding of the message was deepened and intensified. I felt the reading's outcome, the Nine of Wands reversed in the East, actually related to the beginning of the dream where I was given the "gift" of a new interpretation. I sensed I was being given a "heads up" where coming circumstances were concerned and that my attitude was vital. The choice is offered to "change my mind" and view events as an exciting challenge rather than a battleground.

The Three of Pentacles in the center was a heartwarming beacon of hope that the work would be well received. The Queen of Cups in the South indicated the vital importance of focus and direction of energy. Care should be taken to stay on target and not waste time.

The Four of Swords in the West seemed to indicate that a quiet period of seclusion and solitary writing may be nearing an end. The Tower in the North spoke powerfully of seeing things as they really are and preparing for a new vision of the lay of the land.

9. Pyramid of Consciousness—Six-Card Spread

The dreamer is a young woman, twenty-three years old, who in 1969 was just embarking on a path of spiritual awakening, studying astrology and Tarot. She reported that this dream stayed with her as a powerful memory throughout her life. The sensations and images never faded, and she recalled the dream with all the intensity of the first time. This indicated the presence of a "big dream" or a possible past life memory. She also reported that she often has significant dreams at the time of the new moon.

Dream Title: *Zodiac Star Temple*

I am alone and standing in an ancient and magnificent *circular star temple* carved of *alabaster and marble*. The temple stands on a vast plane, like a landscape in another world. Nothing but pale *golden sand, almost white*, which seems to sparkle, is visible in any direction toward the horizon which can be seen in three hundred and sixty degrees. I feel that I am *not on Earth*, perhaps on another planet in another realm or

another time. This place seems very familiar to me, yet is unknown in this lifetime.

Twelve-to-fifteen-foot black basalt statues of the zodiac symbols occupy spaces between enormous, shimmering alabaster pillars. (They are larger than life and now remind me of statues in Egypt.) The alabaster glints like tiny diamonds in the starlight, and the contrast with the black statues is dramatic. Somehow I know that the *white temple is a pure container* and the statues represent potential and differing levels of expression as well as the fiery process of transmutation. It is night, and the round temple is *open to the stars*. The Moon is not visible; I know somehow that it is a *New Moon*, so the light from the stars is breathtaking.

I stand at the very center of this beautiful temple, gazing up at brilliant stars that sparkle against an indigo sky. I am aware that the sky is a vivid, dark blue but not black. I recognize certain star patterns and feel a sense of profound awe. Even though it is night, I am aware of the intensity of color and the feeling of the stone when I touch it. Everything seems to be illuminated by starlight.

I turn my attention to the zodiacal statues. I begin to perform a ritual, rotating slowly counterclockwise (toward the left), facing each one in turn. (This is the way the sun appears to move through the signs). I cannot recall which statue I faced first. When I come to Scorpio, the statue "comes to life" and steps down from its place between the pillars. The giant scorpion approaches me, growing in size as it gets closer. My heart beats very fast. The scorpion grows to fill up the entire central space of the temple, its head reaching through the circular opening.

Although I am not certain whether the creature intends harm or healing, I do not feel ready to face it. I run first downward through an opening in the marble floor of the temple. I find and climb up a long spiral staircase, which ends at a narrow door. I pull the door open (toward me) and enter my high school music room. I know the safety I feel there is temporary, and that sooner or later I will have to face the Scorpion and its significance.

Dream Symbol Interpretation

The images in this dream are archetypal and both beautiful and fearsome. The statues are basalt, a fiery, igneous rock formed from volcanic activity. The statues resemble large black basalt statues in Egypt but the dreamer had not visited Egypt or even seen an exhibition of such statues at the time of the dream. In ancient Egypt, ceremonies and rituals were intended to invoke the power of a god and to have a statue actually hold those archetypal energies.

How the images rise from subconsciousness is interesting. The symbols strongly suggest a past life connection to Egypt. In fact the dreamer had a lifelong fascination with Egypt. The context of the dream also suggests an awareness of knowledge from the past that had not been recovered in the present.

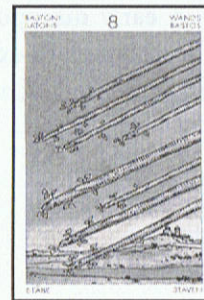
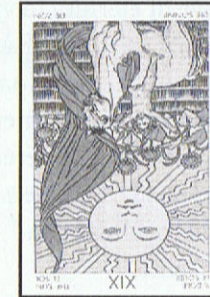
This is a dream that can be interpreted on several levels. In an almost "Freudian" sense, the young woman in the dream is afraid to face the Scorpion. Astrologically, Scorpio is the sexual and reproductive energy, but also the same energy which rises as the fire of Kundalini along the spine and results in illumination. The white alabaster pillars are formed from watery buildup of sediment and contrast with the black basalt statues. The watery origin of the pillars may suggest emotional support for the work to be done.

The dreamer stands at the center of the wheel, rotating to the left, or in the direction of the receptive aspect. She ascends a spiral staircase to "safety," and emerges in her high school music room. This dream suggests knowledge, energy, and karma from the past which the young dreamer chose to defer.

Tarot Symbol Interpretation

The entire reading has the energy of fire. There are four Wands, the Sun, and Judgment, which corresponds astrologically to the planet Pluto. The abundance of Wands indicates that great energy is at work and available to fuel the endeavor symbolized by the dream.

The first card in the Pyramid of Consciousness spread represents the main issue. The Sun reversed appears here, indicating perhaps that the light of day is absent. The dream occurs at night, and the dreamer



is able to see in the starlight. What is the dreamer unable to see or perceive correctly that is keeping her "in the dark?"

The Three of Wands reversed falls in the place of the past. This card reveals a sense of weakness from a past failure and a reduction in overall strength. Where the past is concerned, something has wounded the dreamer that affects her ability to see clearly. However, Judgment as the influence in the present calls the dreamer to a higher level of perception

and even offers the perspective of eternity to view the issue. In the context of immortality, human fears seem small and transitory.

The Ace of Wands appears in the position of what is hidden. The power, love of life, and the potent sexual energy of this card is somehow diminished. Perhaps the wound suffered in the past has caused the dreamer to close off and shield this aspect of herself. This is shown by her fear of the Scorpion in the dream and her inability to deal with the energy this symbol represents.

The Eight of Wands is in the position of what must change. The keyword for this card is "swiftness," implying that the end of the journey is at hand. The Eight of Wands is also said to show the arrows of love finding their mark. As is often the case, the answer to the dilemma lies in the willingness and ability to direct love at the problem. As a further indication, the outcome is the Five of Wands reversed, meaning in this case a surrender to the energy that is perceived as a threat. Love your enemies.

Synthesis

The dreamer realized that an early disappointment in her life had caused her to close off her willingness to experience intimacy. After working with the Tarot spread and the dream symbols she felt willing to engage the Scorpion.

Part Three

Tarot and Dream Interpretations

FIVE

THE MAJOR ARCANA

"To strengthen what is right in a fool is a holy task."

I CHING

Archetypal influences or principles which are described in this chapter are discussed in pure form or isolation. Rarely does anything act on its own in this way. The universal archetypes of the Major Trumps of Tarot and their meanings are focused for use with dreams.

Colors, numbers, and images may all combine to trigger symbolic messages originating in our dreams. Use all the correspondences included in the following interpretations as well as any others you work with. The traditional meaning of the colors are listed in the symbol dictionary under "colors." The meanings of the numbers are included in the next chapter on the Minor Arcana. Take all that's provided along with your own knowledge to weave a rich symbolic interpretation from your dreams.

A list of symbols included in the cards appears with the interpretation. You can use this as a cross-reference to work with dream symbols if the card appears in a spread. Look up the meaning of the symbol to see what additional insight you might gain.



Keyword: Potential

Significator: A leap of faith is required

Reversed: The risk of a wrong choice; Look before you leap

Fool

Leaping from a height into the unknown

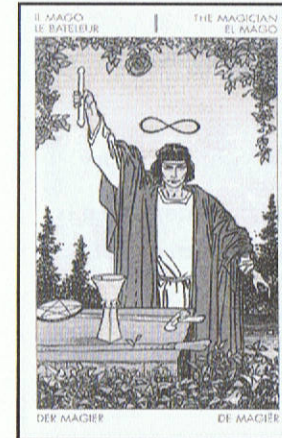
Description

The Fool is generally portrayed as young and androgynous, blissfully poised on a precipice. Unencumbered by material possessions at this stage of the soul's journey, the Fool carries all he needs in a small pouch, gazing upward expectantly, ready to take the plunge into a new adventure. Trusting in the support of the Universe to guide and guard is implied here. The Fool represents the beginning of the hero's journey.

Astrologically, the Fool corresponds with the planet Uranus. The color is pale yellow and the number is zero. Symbols in the card include a dog, feather, mountains, precipice, wallet, and wand.

Dream Spread

A choice is before you; choose wisely. A new direction or a fresh start may soon present itself. Move forward with confidence and explore your untapped potential. Where is faith required? Where are you being foolish?



Keywords: Attention or Focus

Significator: The desired outcome

Reversed: You've lost your direction; Inability to choose

Magician

Focusing the power of choice and will on a desired outcome

Description

The Magician moves within a circumscribed field of power. He has chosen an operation and stays focused on the outcome he expects. From the infinite realm of what's possible, the Magician has chosen an outcome. The Messenger of the Gods is skilled in wielding his magical implements. He is generally depicted raising his right hand to invoke power from above, directing force through his left into the field of his attention.

Astrologically, the Magician corresponds to the planet Mercury. His number is one and his color is bright yellow. Symbols in the card include flowers (rose and lily), garden, and the four suits. Archetypes include Mercury, Hermes, Loki, and Coyote.

Dream Spread

Draw power into your circle. Power is yours to wield in this situation, but you must remain focused and alert. Magic can be yours, but you have to believe. Where are you not paying attention? Where do you want or need to claim your power, or to take charge in your life? Have you abdicated your choice?



Keyword: Memory

Significator: What is hidden or not yet revealed

Reversed: A revelation; A secret uncovered

High Priestess

Guardian of the mysteries

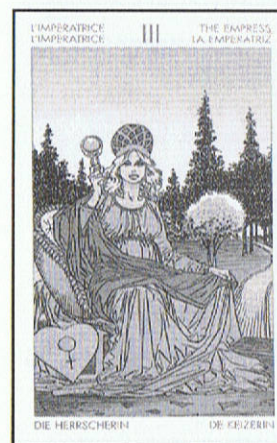
Description

The High Priestess is the keeper and guardian of hidden knowledge stored deep in memory and subconsciousness. This memory may be individual or the collective remembrances of all humanity. She often holds a scroll representing wisdom that lies beneath the surface. She is the female archetype of all Moon goddesses in different cultures, such as Hecate, Isis, and Diana.

She corresponds to the Moon. Her number is two and her colors are blue or silver. Symbols include an equal-armed cross, fruit (palm and pomegranates), Moon phases, pillars, veil, and water.

Dream Spread

Concealment and mysteries. The unfolding of the law. Secrets. Hidden or untapped potential. What are you hiding? Are others keeping secrets from you?



Key concept: Giving birth and bearing fruit

Significator: A birth is imminent

Reversed: Blocked growth or stunted creativity

Empress

Creativity

Description

A pregnant woman is enthroned in a fertile and blooming valley. Life-giving water from the robe of the High Priestess flows past her, fertilizing the earth. The Empress is the embodiment of all the Mother goddesses. She gives birth to new life and nourishes emerging forms.

Astrologically, she corresponds to the planet Venus. Her color is green and her number is three. Symbols include a crown, trees (cypress), heart, vegetation, and the symbol of Venus. Archetypes include Venus, Aphrodite, Ishtar, and Hathor. She is in touch with the vibrant fruits of the land.

Dream Spread

Creative self-expression, new life and growth. Maternal love. Pregnant with creative possibility. What do you long to create? Where do you need new life?



Keyword: Reason

Significator:

The voice of reason

Reversed: Inability to see or think clearly in the matter; going off half-cocked

Emperor

Cold, clear, abstract thought

Description

The Emperor sits on a height with a far view in all directions. His is the aerial and coolly detached view far above the verdant valley of his consort, the Empress. He sees dispassionately with the eagle's eye. The Emperor is the archetypal father figure, and his role is to establish and maintain order in the realm.

Symbols include armor, beard, mountains, rams, throne, and wand. Astrologically, he corresponds with Aries. His number is four and his color is red.

Dream Spread

Logic and clear-headed thoughts are called for. Be reasonable and don't let your emotions run away with you. Look at the big-picture point of view. What needs to be put in order in your life? What issue needs to be viewed with logic and reason?



Keyword: Inner voice

Significator: Knowing and speaking your truth

Reversed: You may not be acting in your own best interest

Hierophant

Listening to the still, small voice

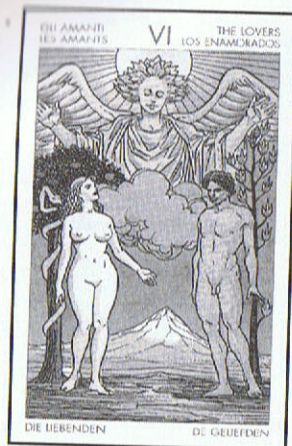
Description

The Hierophant, sometimes called the Pope, represents the faculty of inner hearing and intuition. The Hierophant receives divine inspiration directly from Spirit and can impart those truths to humanity. The keys of wisdom are crossed at his feet. Two neophytes kneel, awaiting instruction. He embodies the outer power of institutions.

Astrologically, the Hierophant corresponds to Taurus, which is ruled by Venus. His number is five and his color is red-orange. Symbols in the card include a cross, crown, keys, pillars, staff, throne, and vestments.

Dream Spread

Listen to your inner voice and trust your own counsel. Stay attuned to higher wisdom. Acknowledge the force of tradition. Are you ignoring your inner voice? Are the voices of others influencing you?



Keyword: Discernment

Significator:

Relationship issues

Reversed: Your relationships may be out of balance

Lovers

Partnership

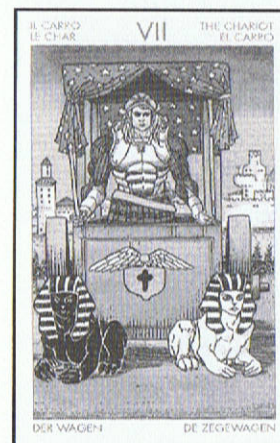
Description

However they are depicted, the Lovers represent the archetypal union of the feminine and masculine principles. Creation can only occur through the interaction of these polarities. The man is the conscious mind, the woman is subconsciousness, and the archangel Raphael represents superconscious awareness. When the aspects of our self function appropriately, we might say we are in our "right mind."

Astrologically, the Lovers correspond to Gemini, ruled by Mercury. The number is six and the color is orange. Symbols include the archangel Raphael, apple, fruit, garden, mountain, serpent, Sun, and wings.

Dream Spread

Appropriate compromise is called for. Relationship potential is offered. A balanced mind and teamwork are required. Are you in the wrong role? Are you in right relationship? Is the angel in charge?



Keyword: Receptivity

Significator:

Taking charge

Reversed: Your life may feel like a runaway train, or like you're falling asleep at the switch

Charioteer

Field of influence

Description

The Charioteer represents the true self of each of us, which, in spite of appearances, is the real driving force in our lives. The sphinxes, or creatures which give the chariot its motive force, require the wise control of the driver. The Charioteer is master of his emotions and desires. He knows what he wants, is open to direction from above, and doesn't fall asleep at the wheel.

He corresponds to Cancer, ruled by the Moon. His number is seven and his color is yellow-orange. Symbols include armor, chariot, Moon, seashells, sphinxes, and wings.

Dream Spread

Draw a magic circle. Narrow your focus, and truly commit to a course of action.

Set priorities in your life. Who's running the show in your life? Have you placed the cart before the horse? Do you have one foot in the boat and the other on the dock?



Keyword: **Suggestion**

Significator:

Inner strength

Reversed: **Reckless or
unconscious use of
force**

Strength

Kundalini, Serpent power

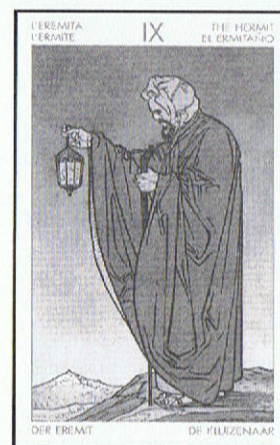
Description

An enormous lion, generally red, is usually a centerpiece of the Strength card. A woman is shown taming the lion through the power of love without fear. Size is not an indicator of true strength, as stories like David and Goliath, the lion and mouse, and Yoda and Darth Vader from the Star Wars series show. This card describes the spiritual force that ultimately works to create our unfolding spiritual anatomy. This process should never be forced or rushed. When the student is ready the teacher will appear. Meanwhile, our task is to control our unruly thoughts and subdue our addictions. Eventually we head toward the mountain.

Strength corresponds to Leo, ruled by the Sun. The color is yellow and the number is eight. Symbols include the red lion, mountain, and roses.

Dream Spread

Learn to access the subtle nature of feminine power. Cultivate the right use of force, taming through love. Demonstrate the appropriate application of will. Slow down. Where is fortitude required? Do you know how long forever is? Where are you feeling out of control?



Keyword: **Illumination**

Significator:

Guiding light

Reversed: **A perpetual
"Peter Pan"; refusal
to learn life's
lessons; staying a
victim**

Hermit

Response to divine guidance

Description

The Hermit stands alone on a peak, holding aloft a lantern. Often depicted carrying a staff of power, the Hermit has walked far on the spiritual path through the valley of life's experiences. He has mastered his lessons and now stands on a pinnacle, lighting the way for other spiritual pilgrims. His presence is like a strong beacon, a lighthouse shining across a stormy sea. We all walk the path of return regardless of our awareness. When we meet and acknowledge the Hermit in the form of Light bearers in our life, our journey accelerates.

The Hermit corresponds to Virgo. His number is nine and his color is yellow-green. Archetypes include Father Time and Kronos. Symbols include darkness, lamp, mountains, snow, and staff.

Dream Spread

If you're quiet you will hear the voice of the silence. An opened hand is offered. You have been touched by an angel. The light of truth shines in the darkness. The quest for enlightenment. Am I lighting a candle or cursing the darkness? Am I called to be a guide for someone else?



Keyword: Rotation

Significator: Change of circumstances

Reversed: Things may not turn out as you hope

Wheel of Fortune

The unchanging center of the ever-turning wheel

Description

The Wheel of Fortune portrays the principle of change in the experience of life, and the paradox of the constancy of Divine unchanging reality behind the ever-shifting veil of appearances. Seasons change, people are born, age, and die. Nothing in form remains the same. Fortune seems to smile on us at times and other times brings anguish and loss. Wealth and poverty are two sides of the same coin. Our lesson is to accept everything as a blessing and a teacher. Whatever the joys or sorrows of the moment, this too shall pass.

The Wheel of Fortune corresponds to Jupiter. The color is violet and the number is ten. Symbols include the animals of Ezekiel, books, jackal, serpent, sphinx, wheel, and wings.

Dream Spread

Change is in the air, and your luck is about to turn. Wheel of Karma; what goes around comes around. The cycles of life, both up and down. Take what comes. Experience the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. What have you sown? Do you like what you're reaping? Are you planting wheat and desiring corn? Are you clinging to the familiar?



Keyword: Balance

Significator: Balance point

Reversed: The situation is out of balance; restore equilibrium

Justice

Undeviating Justice

Description

Justice is often depicted with scales which mete and measure to attain balance and harmony. Some versions show Justice's eyes covered to show that she does not judge from appearances and her verdicts are based on principle. Every action has an equal and opposite reaction. The school of life is meant to teach us "Right Action" from a place of stillness and clarity. The sword of keen discrimination cuts through delusion and denial. Justice reminds us that our acts for good or ill come back to us. What we send out returns to be balanced in the scales of eternity. Like the scales of the Egyptian goddess Ma'at, will our hearts be light enough to balance with her feather of truth?

Justice corresponds to Libra, ruled by Venus. The number is eleven and the color is green. Symbols include a crown, pillars, scales, sword, and veil.

Dream Spread

Adjustment is required; find your center. There is need to restore harmony in the situation. Look carefully at all sides of the issue. Spirit is goading you to act. Where do you need to take action? What will the consequences of this action be? What is fair to all in the situation?



Keyword: Reversal

**Significator: Turn the
other cheek**

**Reversed: Matter over
mind**

Hanged Man

Surrender to Spirit

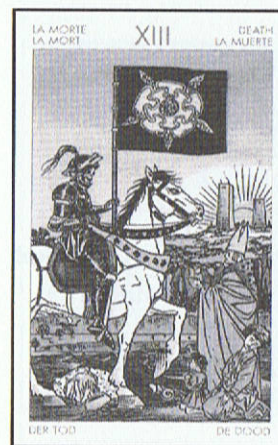
Description

The Hanged Man is often feared or misunderstood since hanging is viewed as punishment of a crime and a painful way to die. A closer examination reveals that the suspended man is in a state of bliss. He has willingly surrendered to Divine Will and is supported by the true and certain foundation of the universe. We are reminded of the Biblical phrase, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Astrologically, the Hanged Man corresponds with Neptune. The color is blue and the numbers are twelve and three. Symbols include a cross, light, tree, and triangle.

Dream Spread

Search for a suspended mind and the spiritual state of Samadhi. Atonement. Attitude determines altitude. Reversal of ordinary mind-set. Does your world feel upside down? What are you willing to give up to be happy?



Keyword: Change

**Significator:
Transformation**

**Reversed: Stuck in an
old pattern**

Death

Rising of the Phoenix

Description

The Death card is often frightening at first, but it rarely, if ever, signifies a literal death. Rather, the dissolution of old forms must make way for the new. Without the dissolving of last year's vegetation, new fruits and flowers would not be born the following spring. Physical death is a doorway, a portal to a greater reality. Death reminds us to release our grip on present reality to make space for something better. Nature dislikes a vacuum and will fill our cup if we empty it. Don't let the contents spoil or rot before we lift the chalice to drink deep of the blessing.

Death corresponds to Scorpio, ruled by Mars and Pluto. The color is blue-green and the numbers are thirteen and four. Symbols include a crown, horse, flag, river, skeleton, and tower.

Dream Spread

Above all, change is called for. Keep moving. Give up what holds you. "Let go and let God." Promise of rebirth. Where are you stuck? Are you digging the same hole deeper? What no longer serves?



Keyword: Adaptation

Significator: Alchemical combinations

Reversed: Dangerous combinations

Temperance

Trial by fire

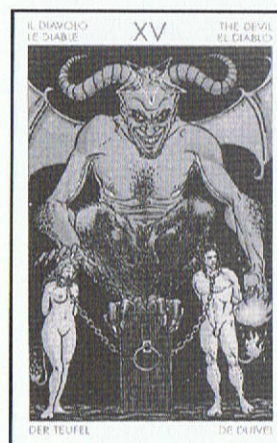
Description

Temperance refers to the alchemical process of purifying our nature similar to tempering steel in a fiery furnace. Rough edges need to be softened. Weak aspects of our character must be strengthened. Archangel Michael is the wise and eternal part of us which knows exactly what we need for our growth and who acts to bring just the right circumstances into our lives to offer us transmutation. We learn by trial and error, test and experimentation. Temperance reminds us to take heed of our lessons and learn. We are pruned and shaped by a loving taskmaster.

Temperance corresponds to Sagittarius. The color is blue and the numbers are fourteen and five. Symbols include the archangel Michael, cups, flowers (iris), mountains, path, sun, water, and wings.

Dream Spread

Take care what factors you combine in the situation. Be mindful of the importance of ingredients. Trial and error; experimentation. Don't go to extremes; examine the situation before acting. Read the recipe. Are you throwing gasoline on a fire? Are you mixing oil and water?



Keyword: Bondage

Significator: Chained by your own choices

Reversed: You're ready to break out of your self-imposed prison

Devil

Illusion of outward appearance

Description

On the surface the Devil is one of the more daunting images in the Tarot deck, but a closer examination reveals some surprising features. In most versions, the chains binding the people are loose and can be removed at any time. The people have been chained by their own choices. Their horns reflect an imperfect understanding of the physical world. At a deep level the Devil illustrates the principle of limitation required for expression in the physical realm of matter. As soon as we choose to create there are limits. Our goal is to learn to work and play joyfully within those bounds and to throw off the chains that cripple us and accept with joy those responsibilities that are truly ours. Lucifer paradoxically was the light bearer and the most beautiful angel.

The Devil corresponds to Capricorn, ruled by Saturn. The color is indigo or blue-violet. The numbers are fifteen and six. Symbols include chains, horns, tails, and torch.

Dream Spread

The ties that bind. Stop taking yourself so seriously; lighten up! Open your eyes and see the irony and humor in your situation. Are you really responsible for this? Do you have too much structure? Not enough?



Keyword: Awakening

Significator:

A wake-up call

Reversed: Denial or refusal to see a situation for what it is; self-seclusion

Tower

Shocked into awareness

Description

The Tower itself symbolizes the structures built by error, ignorance, and unconscious behavior. We build in the unconsciously chained state depicted by the Devil. The lightning bolt represents a sudden flash of spiritual inspiration or insight which may come in many forms. All sense of separateness disappears during the experience and life is never the same afterward. Darkness may return, but the flash forever serves as a vision of the ultimate goal. The Tower is an expression of grace, but at the moment of the thunder's crash it may not feel welcome.

The Tower corresponds to the planet Mars. The color is red and the numbers are sixteen and seven. Symbols include clouds, crown, falling, lightning, and tower.

Dream Spread

A flash of clear vision or insight; illumination. A rude awakening or sudden realization. Release from a stagnant condition. Where have you been denying an important truth? Where do you now see the painful, obvious reality?



Keyword: Revelation

Significator: Inner light

Reversed: You are too busy and outwardly focused to sit silently

Star

Truth unveils herself in the silence

Description

The Star is our inner light that begins as a tiny spark and is fanned to a flame by the strength of our aspiration. The Star invites us to reach deeply into the wellspring of our being and discover the priceless treasure of stillness. In order to hear the voice of the silence, our mind must be still and clear like a cold mountain lake, reflecting the sky above. Two streams flow from vases or urns, refreshing both earth and water. Starlight is dim, but it is the light of distant suns.

The Star corresponds to Aquarius, ruled by Saturn and Uranus. The color is violet and the numbers are seventeen and eight. Symbols include containers (urns), nakedness, mountain, star, and water.

Dream Spread

Listen to the still, small voice in the silence. Be still, and know. Slow down and breathe; unplug the phone and television. Can you turn down the volume and still your mind? Are you taking any time for contemplation?



Keyword: Evolution

**Significator: Unfold-
ment of our spiri-
tual self**

**Reversed: Nightmares;
resisting growth;
complacency**

Moon

Footsteps on the path

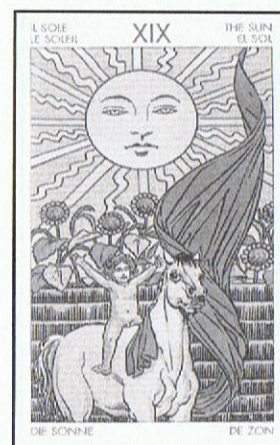
Description

In order to express higher or more complex levels of consciousness, increasingly complex organisms must be developed. The Moon shows stages of development, rising out of the sea. A path stretches between two towers, leading to levels of expression not yet glimpsed by the ordinary person. Illumination is dependent on bodily states. When we sleep (and dream) our spiritual work is built into our organs. From dim starlight we advance to the increasing and cyclical light of the waxing and waning moon. Even during the darkest nights we are moving steadily toward the greater light.

The Moon corresponds to Pisces, ruled by Neptune and Jupiter. The color is red-violet (fuchsia). The numbers are eighteen and nine. Symbols include a dog, mountains, moon, path, sea creature, towers, water, and wolf.

Dream Spread

Pay attention to your dreams! Development of your spiritual anatomy. Your shadow self. Night vision. Delve into the night-side of yourself. Are you getting enough sleep? Get in touch with your body's consciousness. Are you recording your dreams and asking for guidance?



Keyword: Regeneration

**Significator:
Being born again**

**Reversed: A dark cloud
of doubt blinds you
to the truth; your
train is going
through a tunnel**

Sun

The fifth kingdom

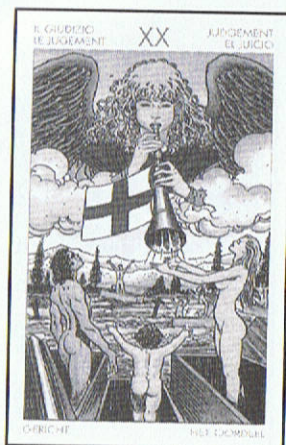
Description

The Sun emerges after a period of darkness, but of constantly increasing light. At this stage we are new creatures, awake and conscious of our spiritual awareness. There is still a considerable maturation process, but we now have a constant vision of the path ahead. Our own Sun concentrates and radiates the energy of the one Life Power so that we may have life. It is said we must enter the kingdom as little children. The fifth kingdom represents regenerated humanity.

Astrologically, the Sun also corresponds with the Sun. The color is orange and the numbers are nineteen, ten, and one. Symbols include a child, flag, flowers, horse, sun, and wall.

Dream Spread

Cultivate simple joys and childlike wonder. Take time to play. Have faith, things will clear up. Make hay while the sun shines. Are you dwelling on the negative side of things? Is the glass half empty?



Keyword: Realization

**Significator: Gabriel,
blow your horn**

**Reversed: Refusal to
heed the call**

Judgment

Resurrection

Description

Judgment is often portrayed as the image of the Last Judgment when the “saved” will be separated from the “damned.” The archangel Gabriel blows his horn for those who can hear the clarion call. In actuality this separation distinguishes those who have done their spiritual work and have overcome the pairs of opposites. The scene of judgment occurs in the fourth dimension where all sense of time and space has dissolved in the eternal present of here and now. In this state all aspects of our nature and consciousness have been redeemed, and we rest in the everlasting arms.

Judgment corresponds with the planet Pluto. The color is red and the numbers are twenty and two. Symbols include the archangel Gabriel, coffins, cross, flag, horn, mountains, and water.

Dream Spread

Human consciousness which is on the verge of blending with universal consciousness. Awake in the fourth dimension. Consciously immortal. Do you know how long forever is? Can you hear the trumpet?



**Key concept: Cosmic
consciousness**

**Significator:
Coming full circle**

**Reversed: Issues of
dominion or slavery;
you can only see
your limitations**

World

The Dance of Life

Description

The wheel no longer turns. Center has become circumference. Sometimes called the Universe, the figure represents the joyous dance of the cosmos. Like Shiva, she dances the world into existence in a blissful, whirling dervish of expression. The World represents a profound state of accomplishment and awareness, yet she is but a plateau on a continuing journey into infinity. The next step may call for another leap into the void. The World corresponds with the planet Saturn. The color is blue-violet or indigo. The numbers are twenty-one and three. Symbols include Ezekiel's four animals, nakedness, veil, wands, and wreath.

Dream Spread

Concentrate on your ideal. There is always a higher goal to strive for. Every ending is a new beginning. A time of completion and fulfillment is at hand. Are you blissfully twirling or just going around in circles? Are you ready to play the Fool again? Where do you need closure?

SIX

THE MINOR ARCANA

"Everything is disposed according to the numbers."

PYTHAGORAS

The numbered cards of the Minor Arcana combine the symbolic meanings of the numbers from one to ten with the significance of the four elements represented by the four suits. To understand and interpret the forty numbered minors, it is necessary to have a working knowledge of the meanings of the ten numbers. To aid this purpose the interpretations of the Minors are grouped by number rather than suit or element.

Using numbers in Tarot and dreamwork is twofold. First, numbers may appear in dreams as symbols, dates, or images. Numbers in dreams sometimes appear in their symbolic meanings that are listed below. In that case the meanings of the numbers can be used to gain insight into the symbolic message. Second, numbered Minor Arcana cards may appear in dream spreads. Interpretation may involve the traditional meanings of the cards, but sometimes there is a numerical clue within the number of the card.

Numbers have both abstract and conceptual significance along with their quantitative meaning. All the numbers derive from one by addition, division, and multiplication. The

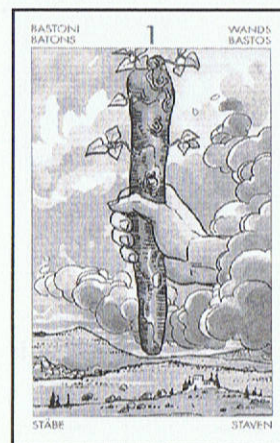
farther the number is from one, or the greater in quantity, the more it can be said to be enmeshed in matter.

Numbers in dreams sometimes relate to dates, time frames, seasons, and cycles. For example, the number 420 might refer to the time of day as 4:20 A.M. or P.M. 420 might also hint that something needs to be accomplished by April 20. It could also show a time span of four months and twenty days which needs to pass before things shift. Sometimes insight can be gained by numerically reducing the figures. Forty-two also equals six by adding the numbers together. Then work with the meaning of the number six for more understanding. As always the context of the other dream symbols are important to discover the meaning.

Number One (Aces)

One is always first and stands alone. Symbolically one cannot be divided. Unity can only create by a process of addition. Meanings of the number one include initiation, unity, beginning, initiative, singleness, isolation, originality, and self-consciousness. In the vertical, linear form of the Arabic numeral one, initiation of movement begins with the vertical line that connects above to below, showing the place where heaven touches earth. The action and impetus of the number one is the primal will, initiating manifestation in one of the four worlds. The concept of one can also be represented by the dot within the center of a circle. On the Qabalistic Tree of Life one is Kether, the Crown. This is said to represent the sphere of the galaxy or a realm of existence beyond our present awareness.

When the number one is a key symbol in a dream, look for what stands alone or what may need to be viewed in isolation. When Aces (ones) appear in a dream Tarot spread, look for opportunities for new beginnings, originality, or standing on your own.



Keyword: **Idea**

Significator: **A bold,
new venture**

Reversed: **The fire goes
out; the spark is lost**

Ace of Wands

One of Fire

The Ace of Wands combines the initiative of one with the volatility of fire. Its realm is the spiritual plane. This card is the essence of new beginnings and holds the symbolic spark which must be fanned into a flame. Traditionally the suit of Wands are depicted as staffs from living trees which may also be ignited and carried into the dark places as torches.

Dream Interpretation

The beginning of a new enterprise. Primal fire and seminal ideas; initiative. The seed idea itself.



Keyword: Desire

Significator: Affairs of the heart

Reversed: The pattern is broken

Ace of Cups

One of Water

The Ace of Cups is the principle of one acting in conjunction with the element of water. This Ace functions on the level of the soul and engages the emotions in our life. In most decks Cups are pictured as containers or chalices, reminding us of the legend of the Holy Grail. As such they represent potential. As the first card in the suit the Ace of Cups carries tremendous emotional power. Imagine the energy of Niagara Falls tumbling over a rocky precipice.

Dream Interpretation

Desire force; desire to create the idea. Initial patterns; an emotional matrix. A particular kind of seed is imagined. Emotional longing.



Keyword: Process

Significator: A potential battleground

Reversed: Ruined plans, confused ideas, slow motion

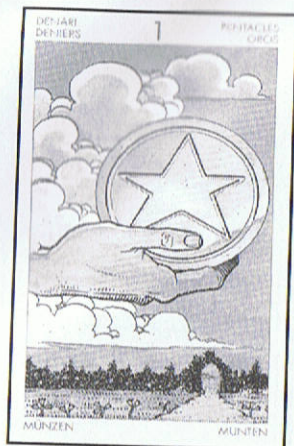
Ace of Swords

One of Air

Functioning on the mental plane, the Ace of Swords brings the force of the intellect to bear on ideas and desires, moving concept into motion toward its goal. The suit of Swords is typically shown as swords that are often raised in a defensive posture or characterized by battle. The realm of the mind is the source of most of the conflict in our lives.

Dream Interpretation

Action; a process begins. Implementation and movement toward the idea or goal. The seed sprouts according to its nature.



Keyword: Results

**Signicator: A new
business venture**

**Reversed: The seed
doesn't germinate or
falls on parched and
barren soil**

Ace of Pentacles

One of Earth

The Ace of Pentacles operates on the material plane of existence and reveals the original idea as it ultimately manifests in the world of form. Pentacles, or Coins, depict a medium of exchange and a way of valuing things in the material world.

Dream Interpretation

Materiality; attainment of the idea. First fruits. Visible coins or a new job. The map for the journey; the path itself.

Number Two

In the expression of two the energy of manifestation moves from singularity to duality. Two is a perfect replica of one, created by addition, and is the first divisible number. Meanings of the number two include duplication, duality, reflection, replication, division, recreation, receptivity, dependence, polarity, division, double, twin, mirror image, antagonism, opposition, complementary, alternate, life force, and subconsciousness.

Two can be either divided or multiplied. Two corresponds with Chockmah, or Wisdom, on the Tree of Life and is called the Sphere of the Zodiac. Here we move from the realm of distant stars to the domain of our own star and its zodiacal home.

When the number two manifests as a symbol in a dream, look for issues of duality, partnership, reflection, or mirroring. What needs to be duplicated or replicated? When twos appear in a dream spread interpret both the meaning of the number and the significance of the cards.



Keyword: Dominion

**Signicator: Setting sail
on a new adventure**

**Reversed: Sense of
powerlessness
and failure**

Two of Wands

Two of Fire

The Two of Wands doubles the fiery enthusiasm which the Ace brought forth. Here we have the hero, full of zeal, stepping forth on the quest.

Dream Interpretation

Positive expectations and possessing the mindset to succeed. Boldly venturing forth. You feel invincible, as if you hold the world in your hands. What you send forth returns fulfilled.



Keyword: Love

Significator:

Partnership

**Reversed: An unlikely
partnership or
incompatibility**

Two of Cups

Two of Water

The Two of Cups transforms the Ace's longing for love into the fairy tale meeting of the beloved other. Romeo meets Juliet and the sky is filled with stars.

Dream Interpretation

Pledging a troth; a partnership begins. Desire for love, romance, home, and family. Desire to create in the world of emotions; pulled by strong emotional currents.



Keyword: Indecision

Significator:

A difficult choice

**Reversed: Sudden real-
ization of former
blindness; vision
without balance**

Two of Swords

Two of Air

The Two of Swords shows the unstable element of air duplicated and therefore placing things on the horns of a dilemma. Already difficult to pin down, the Two of Swords swirls choices before us.

Dream Interpretation

Holding a posture of defense. A stalemate. Blinded by needs or fear. Self-centered attitude which cloaks the true reality of the situation.



Keyword: **Love**

Significator:
Partnership

Reversed: **An unlikely
partnership or
incompatibility**

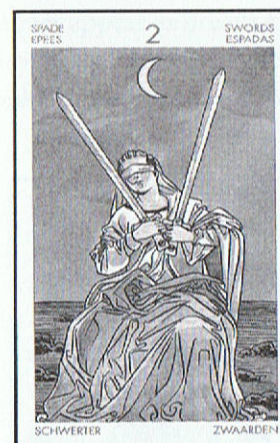
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Significator:
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Reversed: **Sudden realization of former blindness; vision without balance**

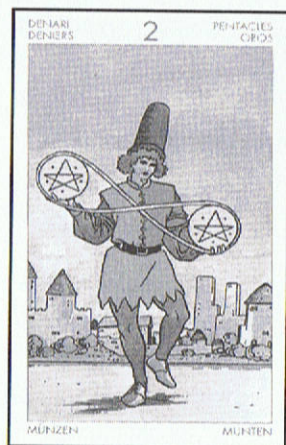
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Dream Interpretation

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Keyword: Fluctuation

**Significator: Juggling
life's priorities**

**Reversed: The juggled
plates fall to the
ground; a project is
abandoned**

Two of Pentacles

Two of Earth

The Two of Pentacles depicts the idea of a seesaw with shifting, and perhaps conflicting, priorities vying for attention. Focus and attention are required to keep the balls in the air.

Dream Interpretation

Fluidity in form. You may have too many balls in the air. Weighing alternative options. The scales are in motion. Believing you can successfully manage multiple priorities if you choose carefully and prioritize.

Number Three

Three expresses the perfect outworking of the principles of one and two and grows through multiplication. Meanings of the number three include: multiplication, trinity, development, imagination, growth, creativity, unfolding, procreation, and expression. On the Tree of Life, Binah, Understanding, and the Sphere of Saturn correspond to the number three.

When threes appear as dream symbols, look for what needs to grow or what may be multiplying. When threes appear in Tarot and dream spreads, look for clues where growth may be blocked.



**Key concept: Estab-
lished strength**

**Significator: A success-
ful manager**

**Reversed: A project fails;
sense of weakness**

Three of Wands

Three of Fire

The Three of Wands combines the vitality of fire with the growth of the number three. Here is the successful merchant, optimistically awaiting the return of his fully laden ships.

Dream Interpretation

Championship. There is strength in numbers. Your ship is coming in. Feelings of strength and being on a winning streak.



Keyword: Celebration

Significator: A reunion

**Reversed: A ruined
expectation**

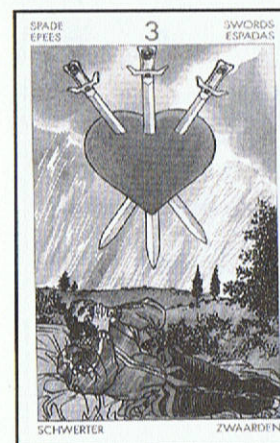
Three of Cups

Three of Water

The Three of Cups carries the significance of a party at the successful conclusion of a venture. Here the expansiveness of three unites with emotional joy.

Dream Interpretation

Outpouring of joyful emotion. My cup runneth over with deep feelings. Singing in the rain. Maiden, mother, and crone rejoice together. Happy home.



Keyword: Sorrow

**Significator:
A broken heart**

**Reversed: Grief turned
inward**

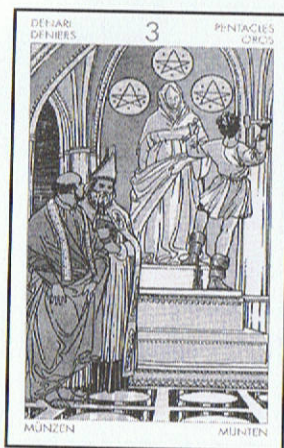
Three of Swords

Three of Air

The Three of Swords symbolizes mental anguish as swords are depicted piercing a heart. The growth of three combines with the mental conflict of the Swords.

Dream Interpretation

Karma. I balance my karma. The scales of justice must be equilibrated. A karmic debt comes due. Grief and the subsequent acceptance of the loss.



Keyword:

Constructiveness

Significator:

Career recognition

Reversed: **Lack of**

recognition at work

Three of Pentacles

Three of Earth

The Three of Pentacles is often depicted as a master craftsman, illustrating the creativity, growth, and imagination of three combined with the fruitful expression of earth.

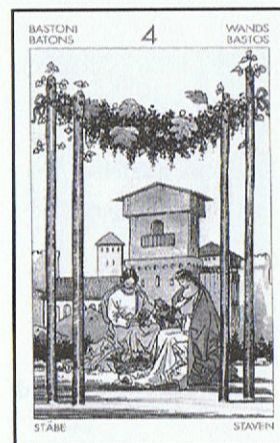
Dream Interpretation

Material works. Exquisitely beautiful forms. A thing of beauty is a joy forever. A job promotion.

Number Four

The number four carries the memory of the order of manifestation and an understanding of the lay of the land, moving from the first three numbers. Four corresponds to Chesed, Mercy, and the Sphere of Jupiter on the Qabalistic Tree of Life.

Fours appearing in dreams may reveal where the situation is stable or stagnant and shows what needs to move. Fours in Tarot and dream spreads may indicate where the situation requires grounding.



Key concept:

Perfected work

Significator:

A fruitful outcome

Reversed: **Celebration**

without joy

Four of Wands

Four of Fire

The Four of Wands unites the fourfold material universe with the energy of fire, resulting in balanced and stable abundance. The harvest is full to overflowing.

Dream Interpretation

Triumph; honor; abundance. Successful completion of a project or endeavor. Bounty of spirit made manifest.



Keyword: Surfeit
(Physical excess)

Significator:
Blocked feelings

Reversed: A new challenge is accepted

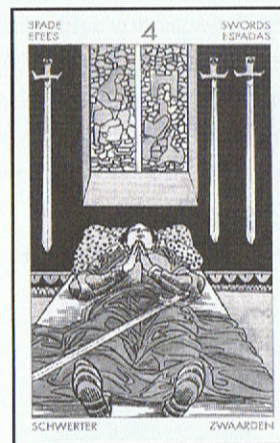
Four of Cups

Four of Water

The Four of Cups unites the solid, stationary four with the flowing energy of the emotions. The result is a stalemate as movement slows or stops.

Dream Interpretation

The cup of your consciousness and your life is filled to capacity and overflowing. You are receiving more stimulus from the outer world than can be comfortably processed. Emergence of ancestral memories.



Keyword: Rest

Significator:
A quiet mind

Reversed: A new cycle of activity is begun

Four of Swords

Four of Air

The Four of Swords halts the movement of the element of air with the stable, grounded four, and the result is often shown as a retreat or period of rest.

Dream Interpretation

Suspended thought. Unplug, still your mind, and turn off the chatter. A balanced mind is called for.



Key concept:

Earthly power

Significator:

An attitude of greed

Reversed: **The heart**

**is opened by an
unselfish act**

Four of Pentacles

Four of Earth

The Four of Pentacles brings the already grounded Pentacles to a complete stop. The result is a miserly attitude toward the circulation of material goods.

Dream Interpretation

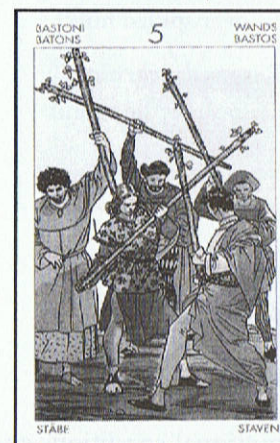
I use my mind to order my world; constructiveness. The pen is mightier than the sword. Clinging thought forms impinge on the free flow of energy. A closed mind is dangerous. Seeing only the world of form and hierarchical power.

Number Five

The number five embodies the law which proceeds from the abstract order of the number four. Five stands in the middle of the numbers one through nine and is an ancient symbol of humanity since a human figure with arms outstretched and legs spread wide resembles a pentagon. Meanings of the number five include mediation, change, adaptation, means, agency, activity, process, uncertainty, instability, transition,

and versatility. Five corresponds to Geburah, Severity (Justice), and the Sphere of Mars on the Tree of Life.

Fives as dream symbols may show where change is occurring below the surface of conscious awareness. Fives in Tarot and dream spreads may further reveal where change is needed, but being resisted.



Keyword: **Competition**

Significator:

A sporting event

Reversed: **The danger of
wishing to overcome
or dominate an-
other; the game is no
longer fun, releasing
the will to fight**

Five of Wands

Five of Fire

The Five of Wands marries the unstable energy of five with the enthusiasm of fire. Here we see the challenge of competition.

Dream Interpretation

Strife. The will to fight and the thrill of the chase. Competition for the sake of improving performance. An overbearing personality.



Key concept: Defeated desire

Significator: Crying over spilled milk

Reversed: Learning to look on the bright side

Five of Cups

Five of Water

The Five of Cups causes changing emotional conditions and usually brings a perception of emotional loss. The unstable nature of five causes the ebbing tides of the emotions to overflow.

Dream Interpretation

Loss of pleasure inviting purification of desire. Focusing only on a loss and not perceiving the lesson. What needs to be surrendered? What is the pearl of great price in the situation?



Keyword: Defeat

Significator: An unethical coup

Reversed: Forgiveness of enemies

Five of Swords

Five of Air

The Five of Swords takes conflict into the mental arena and the energy here is one of mental failure as the instability of five combines with the often unruly nature of the mind.

Dream Interpretation

Failed forms. A revolt for its own sake; anarchy. Following the Pied Piper. Knowledge of outworn forms and the overthrow of old ways without a vision for the future. Recklessness.



Key concept: Material trouble

Significator: Changing fortunes

Reversed: Realization of spiritual source; knowledge of divine presence

Five of Pentacles

Five of Earth

The Five of Pentacles brings change, tumult, and feelings of loss on the material plane. This card symbolizes being cut off from our true source.

Dream Interpretation

Uncertainty. Financial insecurity; dependence on outer forms. Lost sense of self and severed connection to the Source. Feeling on the outside looking in. Poverty consciousness.

Number Six

One form of the number six is two interconnected triangles forming a perfectly balanced symmetry. This is the Mogen David, the shield of love, the perfected union of opposites. Six corresponds to Tipareth, Beauty, and the Sphere of the Sun on the Tree of Life. Meanings of the number six include equilibration, balance, symmetry, harmony of opposites, balanced polarities, reciprocity, love, and complementary activities.

Sixes in dreams may indicate the reciprocal nature of the energy required in a situation. Sixes in Tarot and dream spreads may show where the required balance should come from.



Keyword: Victory

Significator: Conquering hero

Reversed: Unappreciated effort; work seems done in vain

Six of Wands

Six of Fire, Balanced Energy

The Six of Wands blends the enterprise of fire with the complementary activities and balance of six. The result is a sense of victory and conquest.

Dream Interpretation

A hero's welcome. Triumphant conclusion of an undertaking. Balance of opposing forces. Conquest; the will to win overcoming difficult odds. Victory celebration.



Keyword: Betterment

Significator:
Simple pleasures

**Reversed: Stand on
your own feet and
grow up**

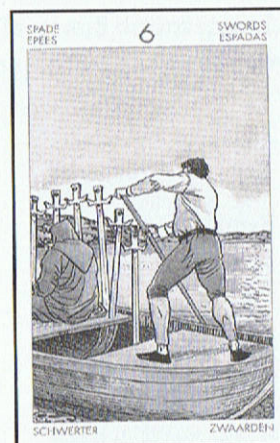
Six of Cups

Six of Water

The Six of Cups portrays harmonious feelings as the emotions come into balance in a blend of joy and reciprocity.

Dream Interpretation

Spiritualized desires. Desire for a transcendent life. Remembered pleasures. This can mean living in the past or in an illusory dream world. Fantasy. Acting like a perpetual Peter Pan.



Keyword: Patience

**Significator: Reciprocal
communications**

**Reversed: There seems
to be no way out
of the present
circumstance**

Six of Swords

Six of Air

The Six of Swords harmonizes the unruly mental nature and signifies a movement from mental conflict into the still waters of a calm mind.

Dream Interpretation

Earned success. Time heals all wounds. Release your old pain and accept healing. Journey out of present conditions. Order your thoughts.



Keyword: Prosperity

Significator:
Material success

**Reversed: You don't
receive what you
deserve**

Six of Pentacles

Six of Earth

The Six of Pentacles depicts a completely balanced scale where goods and alms are dispensed with exacting precision. The harmony of six equalizes material success. The books are in the black.

Dream Interpretation

Prosperous ideas. Calculated generosity; measured alms. Illusion of something-for-nothing. For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Conditional giving.

Number Seven

The ancient word for the number seven meant oath and implied the fulfillment of a sworn compact. Seven equates with Netzach, Victory, and the Sphere of Venus on the Tree of Life. Meanings of the number seven include temporary cessation, rest, safety, security, peace, health, wealth, satisfaction, recognition, and spiritual forces.

Sevens in dreams may hint at the awakening and movement of spiritual awareness in the dreamer's life and may reveal the path ahead.

Sevens in Tarot and dream spreads may cast additional light on the nature of the spiritual quest and provide guidance.



Keyword: Valor

**Significator: Holding
the high ground**

**Reversed: The odds are
stacked against you;
cowardice**

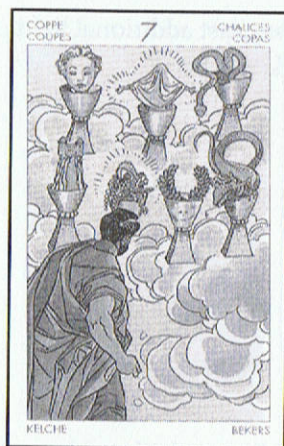
Seven of Wands

Seven of Fire

The Seven of Wands shows the power of the focused use of spiritual forces united with the energy of fire. The result is a spiritual warrior.

Dream Interpretation

Holding your own against impossible odds. Courage to stand against your foes. David and Goliath. Strength and singleness of purpose. Taking the moral high ground.



Keyword: Illusion

Significator:
Confused goals

**Reversed: A clear path is
chosen; your vision
clears**

Seven of Cups

Seven of Water

The Seven of Cups combines the shifting nature of water with the spiritual aspiration of seven. The result is a longing for something that is difficult to define.

Dream Interpretation

Myriad of pleasurable forms. A bewildering array of illusory choices. Confused direction. Indecisiveness. Castles in the clouds. Compelled by passions rather than logic.



Keyword: Instability

**Significator: Believing
the end justifies the
means**

**Reversed: Return of
what was lost or
stolen; balancing
of scales**

Seven of Swords

Seven of Air

The Seven of Swords shows a mind bent on its own narrow views yet propelled to achieve by the influence of seven. The result is often a selfish desire to possess what is not yet ours.

Dream Interpretation

Self-centered thoughts. Taking what does belong to oneself; theft. Unrealistic expectations. Expecting what isn't ours or what we don't deserve.



Keyword: Loss

Significator:

Anticipated harvest

**Reversed: The time of
waiting has ended;
immediate
consequences**

Seven of Pentacles

Seven of Earth

The Seven of Pentacles combines the meaning of rest and completion with the physical fruits of the earth. This card carries the caveat that all may not turn out as we hope.

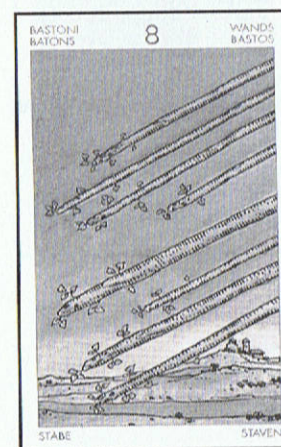
Dream Interpretation

Unfulfilled expectations. Limitation of forms. The harvest may fail. A period of waiting. Have patience and don't disturb the seedlings. Don't try to push the river. Take care not to pluck the fruit prematurely.

Number Eight

The number eight holds the meaning that opposite forms of expression are effects of a single cause. Eight implies the ebb and flow and the flux and reflux of a single breath-like motion, like the tides of the ocean. Eight corresponds with Hod, Splendor, and the Sphere of Mercury on the Tree of Life. Meanings of the number eight include vibration, rhythm, involution and evolution, and resurrection.

Eights in dreams may provide insight into where a compensating balance of energy might be found to harmonize the flow. Eights in Tarot and dream spreads can indicate the manner in which the dreamer has become unbalanced.



Keyword: Swift

**Significator: Coming in
for a landing**

**Reversed: Missing
the mark**

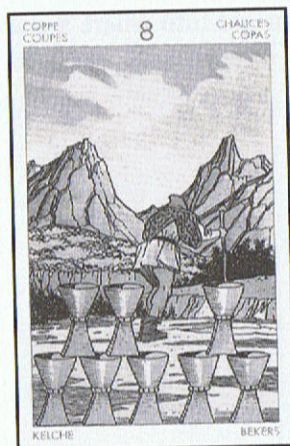
Eight of Wands

Eight of Fire

The Eight of Wands brings together the accumulated force of fire with the balancing energy of opposing forces. The image is an arrow in flight, swiftly speeding toward its intended target.

Dream Interpretation

Arrows, speeding toward their intended mark. A heat-seeking missile. The issue will be resolved quickly. The end of the journey is at hand.



Key concept:

Abandoned success

Significator:

Time to say goodbye

Reversed: **You'll stay
where you are**

Eight of Cups

Eight of Water

The Eight of Cups shows a recognition that something beyond material success is possible. This card represents setting off in search of something higher.

Dream Interpretation

Spiritual success. Abandoning what previously meant everything. Pilgrim's journey. Letting go of earthly concerns. Trust Spirit to guide, guard, and provide.



Keyword: **Mediocrity**

Significator:

Self-imposed denial

Reversed: **Brave**

**movement out of a
limiting situation**

Eight of Swords

Eight of Air

The Eight of Swords shows the perfect picture of someone who is chained by their choice. The only way out is to think differently and make other choices.

Dream Interpretation

Cowardice. Maintaining a victim mentality. Shortened force. Self-imprisonment. Self-imposed blindness to other alternatives. Digging the same hole deeper.



Keyword: **Prudence**

Significator:
Apprenticeship

Reversed: **Careless work
and refusal to learn**

Eight of Pentacles

Eight of Earth

The Eight of Pentacles has the quality of a cultivated garden with well-tended and identical blooms. The pattern has been set and is now being replicated.

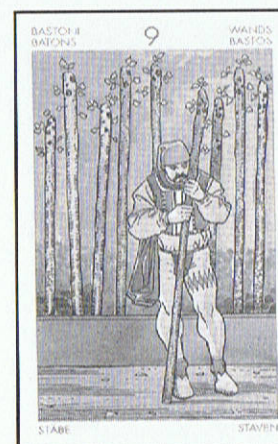
Dream Interpretation

Attention to detail. Take time to do things "right." Look before you leap. Be aware of your level of competency. Don't overcommit.

Number Nine

The number nine embodies the pure, clear expression of the idea that began the cycle at one. Nine equates with Yesod, Foundation, and the Sphere of Moon on the Tree of Life. Meanings of the number nine include completion, culmination, attainment, fulfillment, goal of endeavor, termination, and the end of a cycle.

Nines in Tarot and dreams almost always reveal what is coming to a point of conclusion and what is now passing from the life. Nines in dream spreads can shed light on how release can be achieved more easily.



Key concept:
Great strength

Significator:
A battle looms

Reversed: **Drop the attitude of defense; not everything is worth fighting for**

Nine of Wands

Nine of Fire

The Nine of Wands shows the buildup of energy and power but also the heavy toll the struggle has taken. Here we can learn the lesson of choosing our battles wisely.

Dream Interpretation

Preparedness. Ready to do battle again. Another round of "fighting" may be necessary.



Key concept:
Desire fulfilled

Significator:
The wish card

Reversed:
Disappointment

Nine of Cups

Nine of Water

The Nine of Cups depicts the fulfillment of emotional desires. The danger here is becoming lost in our feelings and pleasant emotions.

Dream Interpretation

Your wish will be granted. There's a genie in your magic lamp. There is a danger of indolence. A dream comes true.



Keyword: **Worry**

Significator:
Mental anguish

Reversed: **Acceptance
of the dual nature
of life**

Nine of Swords

Nine of Air

The Nine of Swords illustrates the collective doubt, worry, and disillusionment that can come from living too much in the mind. Every imagined ill or horrible fate clutters the mind.

Dream Interpretation

Despair and a loss of hope. Fear that all is lost. Knowledge that all forms are temporary. This too shall pass. Realization that both joy and sorrow are temporary states.



Keyword: Harvest

**Significator: Solitary
self-sufficiency**

**Reversed: The harvest
fails; loneliness**

Nine of Pentacles

Nine of Earth

The Nine of Pentacles shows the fruitful harvest which comes at the end of the season. This card promises a good crop and a prosperous year.

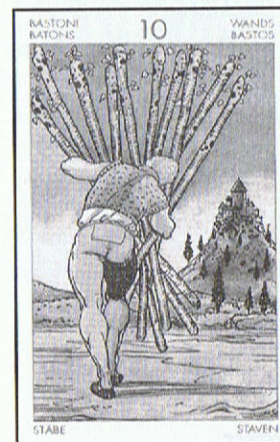
Dream Interpretation

Material gain. Gifts of the earth. Reach for the brass ring. Bountiful fruits of our labors. Pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Number Ten

The number ten combines the one of new beginnings with the zero of potentiality, starting a new cycle at a higher level of expression. Ten corresponds with Malkuth, Kingdom, and the Sphere of Earth on the Tree of Life. Meanings of the number ten include dominion, perfection, mastery, embodiment, consummation, a grand finale, and a return to unity.

Tens in dreams indicate both what needs to pass away as well as the new cycle beginning again at a new level. Tens in dream spreads may reveal the area of life in which to look for the next chapter.



Key concept:

Fullness of power

**Significator: Too many
irons in the fire**

**Reversed: Abdication of
responsibilities;
release of a false
sense of duty**

Ten of Wands

Ten of Fire

The Ten of Wands suggests the idea of burning on all cylinders or viewed another way might be said to represent the modern term "burnout." All the resources have been consumed and the person is moving ahead under sheer willpower.

Dream Interpretation

Carrying a nearly impossible burden; superhuman strength. Oppression. There is danger of collapsing under the weight of current responsibilities, so lighten your load. Cast off ballast.



Key concept:

Perfected success

Significator:

Domestic happiness

Reversed: **Inability to see joy in ordinary life; sense of dissatisfaction**

Ten of Cups

Ten of Water

The Ten of Cups combines the mastery of the number ten with the loving energy of water. The result is like Prince Charming and his Princess living happily ever after in their fairy castle.

Dream Interpretation

Fullness of emotions. A joyful heart. Love of home and family. A “fairy tale” ending to the story.



Keyword: **Destruction**

Significator: **Overkill**

Reversed: **Overcoming a sense of melodrama; the dawn comes**

Ten of Swords

Ten of Air

The Ten of Swords brings the dark and heavy nature of too much thinking to bear on the strife of air. This card shows the dominion of such negative qualities as fear and aggression.

Dream Interpretation

Ruin. Centrifugal force; everything flies apart. Implied resurrection. Things aren't really as dark as they seem. Pride goes before a fall. Don't get lost in your own melodrama.



Keyword: Wealth

Significator:

**Conspicuous
consumption**

**Reversed: False pride
in riches; loss of
inheritance**

Ten of Pentacles

Ten of Earth

The Ten of Pentacles symbolizes what is sometimes called “old money.” There is no longer a conscious connection between the wealth amassed and the work that accomplished it. Material affluence.

Dream Interpretation

Excess. You can get too much of a good thing. “Old” money; family lineage. Noblesse oblige.

SEVEN

THE COURT CARDS

“It was not so much that they drifted, as that in the presence of a boat the world drifted, forgotten. The dreamed-about changed places with the dreamer.”

EUDORA WELTY, *A CURTAIN OF GREEN AND OTHER STORIES*

Most dream experts agree that people in dreams are generally symbolizing an aspect of ourselves. There are a variety of ways the Court cards can be used to represent people when working with dreams. Court cards can be selected, based on their appearance, to represent people who appear in dreams. A Court card can appear in a reading as an archetype or an aspect of you, just like a character in a dream. As a significator the Court cards may be used as actual people about whom you dream or have a concern in waking life. They may also be used to signify the qualities of the card.

When Court cards appear in a dream reading, they may shed additional light on a person who appeared in a dream and may be masquerading or illuminating a part of yourself. Give three descriptive adjectives for the person when this happens.

In dreams, the people or faces that appear generally represent an aspect of ourselves that subconsciousness shows to us as a “character” in our dream. In Tarot readings, the

Court cards fill a similar function. The Court cards represent the zodiacal wheel with four added influences which act like potential receptors for the energies. Often a Court card appears to reveal an aspect of ourselves that is at issue in the situation. A Court card in a reading can, of course, also indicate a person who matches the appearance or the occupation or life role signified by the card. The receptive, feminine, and attracting energy focus is inward. If Queens or Princesses (Pages) appear, what's pulling you toward the center? Have you gone too far afield? Likewise, if the male cards appear, the message may be you need to focus outward.

A Court card can be used as a characteristic or can be chosen based on the type of "office" or work they might represent. A characteristic is generally a central figure or image in a dream. The following physical descriptions are to be used as guides only. Someone can be fiery and fair, mental and dark, or emotional and freckled. See the following description of each office for further ideas and descriptions.

Wands

Generally fiery in nature and/or red-haired-type complexion

Cups

Emotional in nature and/or fair in coloring; blue-eyed blondes

Swords

Mental or intellectual in nature, tending toward medium complexion, and/or brown, sandy or brunette hair

Pentacles

Earthy and practical, sturdy physical build, and/or black hair and dark complexion

Aces and Princesses (Pages)

Both aces and pages carry the energy of potential. An ace is the energy itself, expressing from the world of its manifestation before combining with the principles of the other numbers. The Page or Princess is the conceptual vehicle or container of its ultimate fulfillment in the world of form.

Wheel of the Seasons

Modern Western culture is enamored with youth and life and is fearful of death. Many believe that death is the end of everything. Western religions offer solace in the hope of salvation. Other cultures have viewed earthly life as the period of disenfranchisement, seeking ultimate freedom in the afterlife. The Lakota Sioux Medicine Wheel of the directions assigns the colors red, yellow, black, and white to the four directions. The alignment of color and direction differs by tribe. The Hopi Indians attribute colors to the directions and plant corn accordingly. For example, yellow corn in the east, blue corn in the south, and so on. The Pages or Princesses correspond to the four stages of life, the four seasons, and the four cardinal directions:

Spring—Childhood—East—Emergence

Summer—Youth—South—Celebration

Autumn—Middle Age—West—Harvest

Winter—Old Age—North—Metamorphosis



Keyword: Action

Significator: Pioneer

Reversed: The fire is quenched; you're blending in with the crowd

King of Wands

Father of Fire

The King of Wands is a ruddy-complexioned, red-haired man with a potentially fiery disposition. He charges headfirst into any endeavor and is the essential warrior archetype. He might be a corporate CEO, pilot, or army general. Astrologically, he is Aries, the Ram, a cardinal fire sign. His color is red and his planet is Mars. Symbols in the card include a crown, salamanders, staff, and throne.

Dream Spread

This king is impulsive, assertive, and needs to be first. He is the independent leader of the pack, and his life lesson is leadership. He goes headfirst into all his endeavors and his motto might be "Ready, aim, fire." Charge ahead and forge a trail. Start a crusade. Be a pioneer. Where do you need to be assertive? Where is your fire? Are you too impatient?



Keyword: Feelings

Significator: Counselor

Reversed: Emotional overflow or outburst

King of Cups

Father of Water

The King of Cups corresponds to Cancer, the Crab, a cardinal water sign. He is generally a fair-complexioned, blue-eyed blonde with an emotional disposition and a highly sensitive nature. His color is yellow-orange and his planet is the Moon. He is usually a priest, counselor, psychologist, or chef, and his life lesson is emotional unfoldment. Symbols in the card are a cup, crown, fish, ocean, and throne.

Dream Spread

He is nurturing, protective, sustaining, tenacious, and his feeling nature ebbs and flows like the restless tides of the ocean. Cancer, the Crab carries his house on his back and crawls in when threatened. Hidden feelings may build to the point of overflow. Health challenges may come from the stomach or solar plexus caused by holding onto feelings. Ask yourself: Where are you holding too tight? Where are you hiding out?



Keyword: **Balance**

Significator: **Judge**

Reversed: **Out of balance; desiring confrontation**

King of Swords

Father of Air

The King of Swords has a medium complexion with brown or sandy hair color and hazel-to light-brown or green eyes. He might be a lawyer, judge, or negotiator. He corresponds with Libra, ruled by Venus, and his color is green. His life lesson is justice. Sensitive areas of the body are the kidneys and adrenals. Symbols include a butterfly, crown, sword, throne, and tree.

Dream Spread

A mental and intellectual nature. A balanced mind is called for. He embodies the issues of judging or being judged. Where possible he seeks harmony and avoids conflict. Look at all sides of the issue, but decide. A lawsuit may be pending. Where do you need to make a decision? Are you being inconsistent? Where is harmony lacking? Where are you sitting in judgment?



Keyword: **Integrity**

Significator: **Banker**

Reversed: **A fall from grace; loss of respect; an unconventional approach**

King of Pentacles

Father of Earth

The King of Pentacles has a dark complexion with dark eyes and a sturdy build. He possesses a down-to-earth, practical disposition. He is just, fatherly, and practical. He corresponds to Capricorn, ruled by Saturn, and is usually an executive in big business or banking. He may also be a physician. His color is indigo and his life lesson is reverence and duty. The vulnerable area of the body is the knees, which he needs to learn to bend in humility. Symbols include fruits of labor, throne, crown, pentacle, and robe.

Dream Spread

The King of Pentacles is conservative, crystallizing, persevering, concentrated, and organized. He is ambitious and embodies the idea of the solitary climb. He is dependable, willing and able to climb the mountain. This King has a serious nature but may surprise you by being a great dancer. He is patient and persistent, and excels at using resources. Learn to cultivate mirth. How can this be of use or service to others? Are you honoring your traditions?



Keyword: Dominion

Significator:

Star of the show

**Reversed: Closed off
your heart; you may
be trying to do too
much and are
in danger of
exhaustion**

Queen of Wands

Mother of Fire

The Queen of Wands is usually red-haired with blue or light-brown eyes and creamy, possibly freckled complexion. She is highly strung with a potentially fiery disposition and is someone who likes to be on stage and the center of attention. She might be an actress, diva, prima donna, or movie star. Astrologically, she corresponds with Leo, ruled by the Sun. Her color is yellow and her place of vulnerability is her heart. This queen's life lesson is creative self-expression. Symbols include a black cat, crown, lion, staff, sunflower, and throne.

Dream Spread

The Queen of Wands is dignified, ardent, dramatic and flamboyant, self-determined, energetic, inspirational, and vivacious. She is outgoing, intense, and fiercely loyal to her loved ones. Home is where the heart is. Be confident, "fake it till you make it." Are you following your heart? Are you guilty of false pride? Is humility called for?



Keyword: Power

Significator: Healer

**Reversed: You could be
stung by your own
forked tongue**

Queen of Cups

Mother of Water

The Queen of Cups usually has a fair complexion, blue or pale-gray eyes, and blonde hair. She has a sensitive disposition that senses the moods and feelings of others. She may seem mild but will strike back if cornered. Astrologically, she corresponds with Scorpio, ruled by Pluto. Her color is blue-green and her life lesson is channeling her spiritual aspiration. Her sensitive areas of the body are the reproductive organs and womb. She holds the archetype of healer and may be an anesthetologist, psychologist, or body worker. Symbols include a cup, crown, ocean, stones, and throne.

Dream Spread

The Queen of Cups has a controlling, probing, cleansing, incisive, intense, and secretive nature. Still waters run deep. The Phoenix rising from the ashes of its former self. Cultivate positive direction of energy. Are you being vindictive? Are you willing to forgive?



Keyword: **Knowledge**

Significator: **Champion**

Reversed: **False sense of
freedom**

Queen of Swords

Mother of Air

The Queen of Swords has a medium complexion, usually with brown or sandy hair with hazel or brown eyes. Hers is a mental, intellectual nature possessed of strong opinions. She corresponds to Aquarius, ruled by Uranus. Violet is her color and her life lesson is spiritual rebirth. She may be an environmentalist, scientist, astronaut, computer programmer, or web designer. Symbols include a bird, butterfly, clouds, crown, sword, and throne.

Dream Spread

A mental pioneer who dislikes restraint and craves freedom. She is an individualist, altruistic, good at synthesis, idealistic, detached, scientific, rebellious, and revolutionary in her ideas. The Queen of Swords chafes at restraint. She is a staunch humanitarian and the champion of causes. Formulate and make your own decisions and choices. You know your own mind. Watch the ankles and circulation in the body. Where do you crave freedom? Are you avoiding commitment because of fear?



Keyword: **Worth**

Significator:
The purse strings

Reversed: **Insecurity
and financial
worries**

Queen of Pentacles

Queen of Earth

The Queen of Pentacles has dark hair and dark complexion with dark-brown or black eyes. She has a steady, practical disposition and likes to take things step by step and by the book. She doesn't like surprises. She corresponds to Taurus, ruled by Venus. Red-orange is her color. Her life lesson focuses on issues of security. She might be a banker, real estate broker, landholder. Symbols include a crown, rabbit, mountain, throne, pentacle, trees, and mountain.

Dream Spread

This Queen wants to build worth and security. Hers are established values. Her nature is sustaining, enduring, and acquisitive. Her roots are deep and she respects tradition. A practical, down-to-earth solution is best. Common sense versus risky speculation. Look for problems in the area of the neck. Are you stuck? Do you spend all your time tending to your possessions? Who's holding the purse strings?



Keyword: Perception

Significator:
Quest for adventure

Reversed: Narrow-
mindedness

Knight of Wands

Son of Fire

The Knight of Wands sports a ruddy complexion, red or sandy hair with hazel or light-brown eyes. Unable to sit still for long, he is always yearning for the next adventure. Astrologically, he corresponds to Sagittarius, ruled by Jupiter. Blue is his color and his life lesson is acquiring wisdom. He may be an explorer, astronomer, world traveler, athlete. Symbols include a horse, staff, armor, pyramids, and sand.

Dream Spread

This fiery knight is impulsive, jovial, optimistic, exploratory, versatile, friendly, outgoing, and highly intuitive. He loves travel and is the perennial gypsy. The Knight of Wands rejects dogma and creed. He excels at establishing connections. Cultivate tact. Take a trip and expand your horizons. Enroll in a course. Watch for stress in the hips and thighs. Where are you procrastinating?



Keyword: Belief

Significator:
Quest for the Grail

Reversed: Cut off from
feelings; a tendency
to be self-indulgent

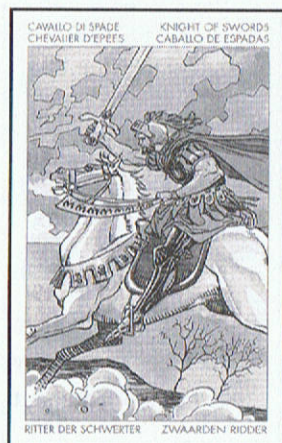
Knight of Cups

Son of Water

The Knight of Cups is usually fair-complexioned with blonde hair and blue or light-gray eyes. He is the dreamy and poetic type with the nature of the quintessential troubadour. He corresponds to Pisces, ruled by Neptune. His color is red-violet or fuchsia. His life lesson is cultivating faith. He could be a marine biologist, fisherman, or poet. Symbols include a horse, cup, water, wings, and mountains.

Dream Spread

He has a sensitive, moody nature, concealing deep inner pride. He is understanding, sympathetic, impressionable, and imaginative. This knight's emotions permeate his consciousness. Serve or suffer. Your emotions permeate and color your consciousness. Look for problems with the feet. What do you need to renounce?



Keyword:

Communication

Significator:

Quest for knowledge

Reversed: **Failed**

communication

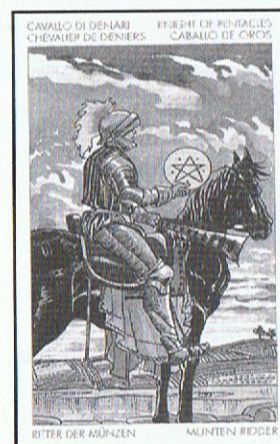
Knight of Swords

Son of Air

The Knight of Swords has a medium complexion, perhaps with freckles, brown or sandy hair, with brown eyes. Impetuous by nature, he is always looking for the next battle, whether it's a game of chess or a battle of wits. He corresponds to Gemini, ruled by Mercury. His color is orange. His life lesson is establishing relationships between things, ideas, and people. He may be a writer, newscaster, political satirist. Symbols include armor, horse, sword, wind, and storm clouds.

Dream Spread

He is witty, humorous, and a good communicator. The Knight of Swords has a highly geared nervous system and is always on the move. Here today, gone tomorrow. Slow down long enough to assimilate, "smell the roses." The lungs are the area of the body of watch. Where should you stay put? Are you trying to be in two places at once? Are you flitting about like a butterfly?



Keyword: **Perfection**

Significator:

Quest for perfection

Reversed: **Intolerance;**

don't sweat the details

Knight of Pentacles

Son of Earth

The Knight of Pentacles is generally dark-haired and dark-complexioned with dark-brown or black eyes. This knight stands his ground like the immovable force. His nature is tenacious and abiding. Astrologically, he corresponds to Virgo, ruled by Mercury. His color is yellow-green or chartreuse. His life lesson is service. He could be a nurse, bookkeeper, gardener, or a wine connoisseur. Symbols include armor, horse, open field, pentacle, trees, and vegetation.

Dream Spread

He is dedicated and loves fine craftsmanship. His nature is analytical, critical, and keenly discriminating. He is practical, adaptable, and pays attention to details. His motto might be "The devil's in the details." Look to the intestines and bowels as the vulnerable part of the body. Where is due diligence required? Are you paying attention to the important details? Are you missing the forest for the trees?



Keyword: Rebirth

Significator: Spring

Reversed: Resistance to change

Page/Princess of Wands

Daughter of Fire

The Page of Wands represents anything in its infancy. She often heralds a new birth. She corresponds to the season of spring when the rebirth of the year occurs. Her quadrant of the seasonal wheel is that of subjective self-awareness. Like the suit of Wands itself, her domain is the archetypal world. Symbols include boots, cape, hat and feather, mountains, and staff.

Dream Spread

New beginnings, opportunities, new ideas. Seeds of change are blowing in the wind. The messenger of change. Where do you need to create something?



Keyword: Emergence

Significator: Summer

Reversed: Denial; the garden withers for lack of watering

Page/Princess of Cups

Daughter of Water

In the Page of Cups the seeds generated by the Wands bubble up to the surface and begin to sprout. The Page of Cups holds the energy of summer and represents the youthful stage of life. Her quadrant on the seasonal wheel is subjective not-self-awareness, and her energy operates on the plane of the creative world. Her energy is flowering and unfolding. Symbols include water, cup, fish, and boots.

Dream Spread

Bloom where you're planted. Water and tend the garden you've planted. Make hay while the sun shines. Are you acting without regard for consequences?



Keyword: **Harvest**

Significator: **Autumn**

Reversed: **Imagined
slights; misdirected
hyperactivity**

Page/Princess of Swords

Daughter of Air

The Page of Swords represents the phase of life we call maturity. She holds the energy of the season of autumn. Her domain, the formative world of mental activity, and her quadrant on the seasonal wheel is objective not-self-awareness. Symbols include birds, clouds, hills, trees, and sword.

Dream Spread

The winds of change are blowing. Maintain a stance of heightened vigilance. Gathering of experiences, synthesis. Are you taking enough time to discern the value of your experiences or just speeding through at a frantic pace?



Key concept: **Material,
physical form**

Significator: **Winter**

Reversed: **An impractical
solution; the
proverbial "wild
hare"**

Page/Princess of Pentacles

Daughter of Earth

The Page of Pentacles represents the cycle of life we term old age. This phase carries the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of the entire cycle. This quadrant of the seasonal wheel is called objective self-awareness. This Page operates in the world of physical form and manifestation. Symbols include mountains, trees, and vegetation.

Dream Spread

Take time for rest and recuperation. Allow yourself a period of rejuvenation. Stop studying and start doing. Are you making time for practical applications of all you've learned?

EIGHT

A SYMBOL DICTIONARY

"Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar."

SIGMUND FREUD, *THE INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS*

Symbols are quite literally the stuff that dreams are made of. Any symbol dictionary is meant to be a guide. As stated before, the dreamer or reader (if you are doing your own Tarot spread) is the ultimate authority where meaning is concerned. It's your dream. The list which follows is not all-inclusive, but shows some common dream themes and symbols. Adding your own interpretation, that is, what does this person or object mean to you (or the person you're interpreting for), is vital to a meaningful understanding.

The symbol dictionary can be used in at least two ways. Decoding symbols in dreams, and gaining additional insight when a particular symbol stands out on a card in a Tarot spread, is one way. The symbol dictionary can also be used as a tool in free association, hypnosis, and active imagery techniques.

The major symbols in Tarot cards are listed along with the interpretations. Since symbols are a pictorial language, designers and artists of Tarot decks use symbols in cards to represent aspects of energies which the cards embody.

For example, the ibis bird in Star, the rainbow in Temperance, the dog in the Fool, and the flowing water in the High Priestess are all symbols in themselves.

Are you starring in the action or are you an observer? Are you dreaming in black and white or color? Observing rather than doing may indicate an emotional distancing from the subject matter being addressed in the dream. Examine the nature and personality of the person in the starring role.

Context Is Everything

The context in which a symbol appears is paramount, and remember you, the dreamer, are the ultimate authority on meaning. No one dream image can be taken in isolation. Don't take things out of context. Describe the symbol in detail. What exactly does it look like? How does it make you feel? What is happening?

Common Dream Themes

1. Flying and falling rank among the top themes and may showcase our expanded abilities while in the dream state.
2. Attending school or a class may show the lessons we're working on in life.
3. Feeling unprepared themes are popular and include exams for which you feel unprepared; or hurrying to catch a plane, train, bus, boat; and losing or misplacing something, especially keys, wallet, purse, or briefcase.
4. A sense of vulnerability is a common theme and usually is symbolized by being naked or improperly dressed in public.
5. Storms are a frequent symbol and suggest emotional issues that aren't being addressed at the conscious level.
6. Teeth falling out is another popular image and may hint that you're feeling guilty about a "biting" comment you made to someone the day before.

7. Trying to answer a phone or make a call is a frequent image and may suggest issues of incomplete communication occurring in waking life.

Symbol Dictionary

A

Accident: Dreaming of being in an accident is a common symbol when we feel "out of control" and at the mercy of external events.

Aisle: Are you making a grand entrance or walking down to make a vow or commitment? An aisle divides an area into two or more sections.

Alien: This represents an unknown or unexplored aspect of self. Context is paramount with this potentially highly charged information. *See also* UFO.

Ancestors: Our ancestors represent our bloodline, our inherited tendencies for good or ill. Dreaming of ancestors can mean tapping into a legacy from the past, DNA, or healing family issues. Examine your feelings about the people in the dream.

Angel: Divine Messenger, spiritual guide, a higher being. What is the angel doing in the dream? Does the angel speak to you?

Animals: Instinctual behavior. What is the animal? How do you feel? Birds are messengers of Spirit. *See also* Birds.

Bull: Strength, prowess, and stubbornness.

Cat: Resilience, "nine lives," nocturnal, hunter, Egyptian connection, independence, and mystery.

Centaur: Animal nature in the process of transforming; baser instincts may be the driving force in the situation.

Cow: Nurturing, wealth, and domestic urges.

Dog: Loyalty and unconditional love.

Dolphin: Guides to the spirit world and rescuers.

Dragon: An ancient symbol of Earth energy and the Kundalini fire. Dragons are sometimes a symbol of greed as they were said to hoard gold. Where does fire need to be breathed into the situation? How do you feel about the dragon?

Griffin: With the body and legs of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle this mythical beast symbolizes power, courage, and flight.

Horse: Generally represents the human body. Many myths link horses to the Sun and magical rides through the sky.

Mouse: What's hidden and opportunistic.

Owl: Can be a symbol of wisdom or death.

Pegasus: The original "night mare" symbolizing the spiritual quest and ability to rise above ordinary conditions.

Serpent: Snakes are symbols of both wisdom and sexual energy.

Unicorn: Ancient symbol of purity and unconditional love.

Apple: Apples signify both temptation and possible health related issues. Examine the context. Are you searching for the knowledge of good and evil? Do you accept the fruit or decline? *See also* Fruit.

Apron: An apron is donned for protection and signifies preparation to work. An apron is also a universal Masonic symbol of the Great Work of personal transformation. Are you tied to someone's "apron strings"? Are you tying someone else?

Archway: A transition to a different state. Which direction are you moving? Are you standing still under the arch? Examine the situation.

Armor: Armor protects us in battle. Where is the armor on the body? Are you wearing it? Is someone else? Is it shiny, rusty, serviceable? What do you need to protect?

Arrow: An arrow is an archetypal masculine symbol implying direction, seeking a target, and penetration. Is the arrow in flight? Pointing toward something? Are you "getting the point?"

Art: What is the type of art? Are you creating or observing? What are your feelings in the dream?

Astrological Signs: *See* Zodiac.

Attic: Symbolizes the highest level of the house and therefore the highest aspect of the mind. What is the condition of the attic? What is happening in the dream and what are your feelings?

Automobile: *See* Vehicles.

B

Baby: The generation of new ideas, creativity, and new beginnings. Babies sometimes represent a new project. Is the baby a boy or a girl? Yours or someone else's? How do you feel? *See also* Birth.

Background: Not in the "limelight," behind the scenes.

Backyard: The past, earlier growth and development. May connote a desire to return to a happier, more innocent time.

Bag: *See* Containers.

Ball: The round shape of a ball denotes wholeness and completeness. What does the ball look like? Are you playing a game? Is this a dance like a costume ball? Are you playing, dancing, or observing? What is the situation and what are your feelings?

Bank: A bank represents the safe storage of valuables. What's inside? What are the denominations of money? Note any numbers you can see.

Bar: Where alcohol is consumed and therefore indicates a state of confusion. Are you "under the influence" of some substance, person, or condition that is not healthy?

Barefoot: Reveals that we are vulnerable and unprotected. Being barefoot can also show a closeness to nature and a return to a childlike and trusting state.

Barn: A shelter for animals, storage, a more primitive kind of housing. What's happening in the barn? What's the condition of the building?

Basement: Symbolizes the subconscious aspect of our awareness, that which is hidden and underground. The basement is part of the foundation and is often a place where things are stored. What is the condition? Is the basement dark and damp or dry and well lighted? What's in the basement?

Basket: See Containers.

Bath: A common symbol of cleansing, immersion, and a healing process. Can indicate health issues, revealing what needs to be cleansed from our system. Examine the dream context and details for specific clues. Depending on context may be a financial play on words for "took a bath."

Bathroom: The place of elimination and cleansing. What's happening in the dream? What needs to be washed away in your life?

Battle: Signifies inner conflict which you may not be addressing at a conscious level. Who or what are you fighting in the dream? Did you win or lose? What are your feelings?

Beach: Usually connotes relaxation, escape, vacation from stress and responsibilities. Beach attire also portrays an uncovered and more vulnerable state. The theme of uncertainty and shifting tides is possible. Does the dream convey a pleasant theme?

Beard: Age and wisdom.

Bed/Bedroom: The place of both rest and sexual activity. Often a bedroom is a sanctuary and a place of retreat. What size is the bed? What does it look like? What is the condition? Made-up or messy? What's under the bed? Have you "made your bed" and now you must lie in it?

Bells: Bells toll for a purpose. Is that purpose shown in the dream? What kind of bell is ringing? Church bell? Dinner bell? Alarm bell? Is the bell silent? Does something "ring true" or not?

Birds: Birds are almost universal symbols of messengers from the spirit world. Their capacity for flight makes them natural couriers from humans to the higher planes. Birds denote flight, freedom, an aerial view, and an opening to the Higher Self. Is the bird caged, in flight, perched? What kind of bird? Raptor, high flying? Forest bird, water bird? What are your feelings? See the following list of specific birds.

Crow: Crows usually represent news of some kind. Traditions vary on whether the crow is the herald of good news or a harbinger of ill fortune. Examine the context.

Dove: A white dove is generally a symbol of peace and also the soul. White doves, sacred to Venus, are symbols of the Holy Spirit and Great Mother.

Duck: Ducks appear to glide effortlessly on the surface of the water, but underneath they are paddling furiously. Are you "ducking" an issue?

Eagle: A high-soaring bird who sees clear and far. Mythology says the eagle is the only bird unafraid to fly in a storm.

Hummingbird: An icon of joy and strength out of proportion to its size.

Magpie: Magpies are birds of power to Native Americans, but often equate with noisy nuisances to others.

Robin: The robin is generally seen as the harbinger of spring in certain locations. Examine the context for specific clues.

Swan: A swan is a symbol of the soul in many cultures. A white swan or black? The haunting sound of a dying swan, known as "swan song," is a phrase which implies an ending. What is occurring in the dream?

Vulture: Because they eat carrion, vultures, like the Egyptian god Anubis, are symbols of transformation. Vultures, like scorpions, are known to be good mothers, fiercely protective of their young. The vulture goddess, Nekhbet, was the symbol of Upper Egypt.

Woodpecker: In Native American tradition, woodpeckers are drummers and herald a message and perhaps a new rhythm.

Birth: Represents new beginnings of creative ventures. *See also* Baby.

Blanket: A blanket provides warmth, security, and protection but also serves to cloak or hide something. Is someone throwing a "wet blanket" on a fire or an idea?

Blindness: Blindness implies darkness and the inability to see. What are you unwilling to see in your life? Blindness can also imply ignorance or "being in the dark."

Blood: Blood stands for circulation, life, and sometimes sacrifice. Blood can represent the cycles of menstrual blood. Is there blood in the dream as a result of a wound or surgery? Is the blood flowing, clotted, or constricted? Bright red or dark in color? Possible health issues can be indicated.

Boat: A boat, or "barque" to the Egyptians, symbolized the soul moving through eternity. What does the boat look like? Are you steering or rowing the boat? Is someone ferrying you across a body of water? What is the body of water like? What are your feelings?

Body: Note the condition and action. Positions can be symbolic, but dreams of the body may also indicate health issues. What do they look like? What are they doing?

Ankles: Support.

Arms: Strength. Are they lifting? Carrying?

Chest: Protects the heart and lungs.

Feet: Understanding.

Fingers: What are they doing? Pointing? Beckoning?

Generative area: Creativity and vulnerability.

Hands and fingers: What are the hands doing? Grasping? Pointing? Praying? Clapping?

Head: Container of spiritual values.

Heart: Love.

Hips: Motive power and flexibility.

Knees: Humility, as in "bending the knee." Also climbing.

Legs: Moving ahead in life.

Mouth: Breath and creativity, but also the power of the word and nature of speech.

Neck: Can be a play on words for "pain in the neck," "stiff-necked."

Shoulders: Responsibility, as in "shouldering" a burden.

Stomach: What we take in to our bodies. Is it too much to "stomach"?

Throat: Represents the power of speech and the word.

Book: A book designates knowledge, discovery, and the unread pages of life. Describe the book. What are the circumstances? Is

the book a gift? Are you reading the book in a vast library? Does the book contain hidden knowledge?

Bottle: A bottle is designed to contain liquid. Describe the bottle. What's inside the bottle? Refreshment? Medicine? Poison? Is there a message in the bottle? Are you experiencing a "bottleneck?"

Box: See Containers.

Bridge: A bridge connects one reality to another and usually carries people and possessions over some potentially dangerous conditions. Bridges symbolize transitions to a different state, passage over danger, links, extensions, and support. What's happening? Describe the bridge and what's happening. Are you crossing or pondering your next move?

Bug/Insect: The kind of bug and your reaction are most important when this symbol appears. Butterflies and cockroaches are both insects. What's "bugging" you? How do you react to the bug? Fear? Interest? Revulsion? How many insects appear in the dream, one or many?

Building: Buildings of all kinds portray aspects of self. Describe the building and its purpose. Is the structure under construction? Is the building old and needing repair? Has the building been abandoned or is it full of people? Where are you in the building?

Boat/Bus/Coach: These vehicles carry groups on a fixed route determined by authorities. Are you a passenger or the driver? Where are you sitting in the bus, front or back, left or right? Where is the bus going? How do you feel about the journey?

Butterfly: Because of the stages from caterpillar through the metamorphosis of the chrysalis to the winged butterfly, these creatures are symbols of transformation, spiritual awakenings, and the joy and freedom of flight. Which state is it in? Is it a caterpillar, cocooned chrysalis, or winged butterfly?

C

Cabin: Typically a "hideaway," often secluded and nestled in the woods. Usually implies a vacation, retreat, or being in nature. A cabin can mean a temporary condition. How do you feel in the dream?

Cafeteria: Dreams involving food often signify spiritual sustenance. A cafeteria provides a menu of choices and alternatives. Are you hungry? What do you choose? How much? Do you eat the food? Do you enjoy the experience? Health issues are possible.

Cage: A cage implies both protection and imprisonment. What are the conditions? What does the cage look like? What's inside? Do you feel like a "bird in a gilded cage"?

Calendar/Planner/Date book: A calendar or place to record dates and appointments usually indicates issues of timing and perhaps a time frame for the issue at hand. Notice what's written or noted in the calendar. Which month, week, or day is highlighted? Are any numbers significant?

Candle: A source of illumination, a solitary light, beginning of enlightenment, romance. What does the candle look like? Is it lighted, or are you holding the taper in the darkness?

Cashier: Measuring the cost, being "checked out," taking stock, measuring. Do you have enough to pay for your order? Are you feeling short of resources or do you have more than you need?

Casket: See Coffin.

Castle: Castles were the homes of royalty or liege lords in earlier times. They are generally built of stone and their main purpose was fortification and strength. Castles imply fortresses, lofty thoughts, closing off, and perhaps lording it over others. Are you inside feeling safe or outside trying to get in? Are you walking on a rampart or a prisoner in the dungeon? Examine the details and context.

Cave/Caverns: Bears and lions use caves for shelter and hibernation. Caves and caverns are feminine symbols of protection and returning to the womb. There is also the possibility of exploring underground in unknown reaches of the earth and subconsciousness. What's happening? How do you feel?

Ceiling: See House.

Celebrities/Stars: Famous people ordinarily symbolize a "role" or characteristic. What "role" do they represent in your life? Are you "play acting"? Is this a character you admire or a role you'd rather not play?

Cemetery: Where the dead are buried. What's being buried? What is "dead" and needs to be laid to rest? Is there a new grave or an old marker? Is there a tombstone? What does it say? Names, dates? Look for numbers. Death in a dream (or a Tarot reading) almost always means change. Examine the context to learn what needs to change.

Chair: See Furniture.

Chains: Chains imply strength, restraint, "links" to something. What's the "weak link"? Are the chains strong or weak and rusty? What is chained?

Chalice: The wine cup used in sacred liturgy, the Holy Grail as a symbol of the spiritual quest. Is the chalice gold or silver, plain or ornate? What's inside? Are you drinking from the chalice, taking communion? See also Cups in Suits, Tarot.

Child: Children connote both potential and the past? What are their ages? What qualities do they portray? Are you the child, signifying an undeveloped or more innocent aspect of yourself? Examine context and feelings.

Chimney: Chimneys allow symbolic access to the spirit world as smoke from a fire rises toward heaven. Chimneys suggest ventilation, "up in smoke," and releasing "hot air."

Christmas tree: Noting time of year, past joys, happy memories. Is the tree lighted and decorated? Gifts? Examine your feelings.

Circle: See Shapes, Geometric.

City: Collective habitations expressing patterns of thinking and group consciousness. What is the city? What are your feelings about being there? Is it clean or dirty, crowded, confused, beautiful? Is the city name a potential play on words, e.g., Newark, Phoenix, Mobile, Hope, Marshall, etc.?

Class: Represents the school of life. What "grade"? What are the lessons? Are you graduating? See also School.

Cliff: A potentially dangerous situation or a chance to leap into a new adventure.

Climbing: Indicates moving to a higher level of consciousness. What are you climbing? Describe the circumstances and your feelings. See also Stairs, Path, Mountain, etc.

Cloak: See Clothing.

Clock (or other timekeeping mechanism): Often indicate waking concerns about running out of time, or worrying about deadlines. What time is it? Do you make it in time? Numbers on a clock may have numerological significance.

Closet: Closets contain hidden, seldom-used, or stored away items. What's inside? Are you searching for something? Are there "skeletons" in the closet?

Clothing: Attitudes "worn" and how you present yourself to others. What colors, designs, condition (new, dirty, work clothes),

circumstances, feelings? What time period in history? What are your reactions? Are the clothes appropriate to the situation?

Hat: Protection, but also covers hair and head, cloaks thought processes, and colors mental outlook. Describe the hat.

Coat, cloak: Signifies both protection and concealment and can indicate status? Are you wearing a rich fur coat or a worn and threadbare cloak? Are you proud or ashamed?

Pants, trousers: Typically masculine attire, pants may symbolize masculine authority. Are you wearing the "pants" in the family? Should you? Are you "caught with your pants down"?

Robe: Can indicate a regal garment of high office as in a judge's robe, or a cleric's robe. A bathrobe is also worn at home after cleansing (purifying) or to relax. What kind of robe is it, and why are you wearing it?

Scarf: Protects the vulnerable throat area. May indicate unspoken thoughts. May indicate health issues. What color is the scarf?

Skirt: Usually a feminine garment. Who's wearing the skirt and what does it look like? Does the skirt make you feel comfortable, vulnerable or stylish?

Shoes/Sandals: Because shoes cover our feet, which symbolize our "understanding," shoes indicate how we are coloring that understanding. Describe the shoes, sandals, or other footwear. Are they comfortable? Serviceable? Do they pinch? Are they too large or too small?

Undergarments: Feeling unprepared and vulnerable.

Clouds: What are they like? Stormy, cottony? Blocking the summer sun or passing over the harvest moon? Examine the context and your feelings. *See also* Weather.

Clown: Clowns can be perceived as silly, foolish, or playful and full of fun. Are you acting the fool or taking yourself too seriously? Do you feel like your life is a circus? Is the clown happy or sad?

Cocoon: The sheltered stage of metamorphosis, undergoing a stage of transformation. A cocoon represents both protection and vulnerability. A small percentage of those caterpillars who enter this stage survive. Have you closed yourself off?

Coffin: A container, usually a wooden box, for a corpse and burial or cremation. Death of the old; a "dead" state of mind. Is the container a plain wooden box or an ornate casket?

Colors: Equates with a spectrum of expression, the colors of the rainbow. What shades are the colors? Vibrant primaries or soft pastels? Does one color stand out in a dream that is otherwise monochrome? Your response to the color(s) is important. Is it pleasing or disquieting? The following lists specific colors:

Black: Black pigment contains all the shades of color, but a black night cloaks and hides the colors of day.

Blue: A cool color, sometimes meaning "feeling blue" or sad. Blue is also a healing color.

Gray: A neutral balance of all the colors, implying spiritual mastery. Gray can also symbolize depression or listlessness.

Green: Green ordinarily suggests growth and healing. Are you "green with envy," or looking for "green," meaning money?

Orange: The color of the sun.

Purple: The color of royalty and ritual. Often implies wisdom.

Red: The color of blood and battle and the life force. "Seeing red," waving a red flag in front of a bull. "In the red" means financial difficulty.

White: White light contains all the colors of the spectrum, but a white paper connotes potential.

Yellow: The color of the mind. Sometimes implies cowardice.

Columns: Columns hold up buildings and imply support and strength. What is their condition? What is the nature of the building they support?

Constellations: Which star group? What is your reaction? What else is happening?

Containers: Always describe the kind and appearance of the container; a box, a bag or basket, etc. Containers hold things and can keep them secret and hidden. Is the container open or closed? Locked? What's inside? Concealment or safekeeping? What are we keeping contained? The hidden aspects of the psyche. Shape? Size? Material?

Correspondence (Cards, letters, telegrams, e-mail): Communication with another aspect of self. What message is being delivered or not received? Can you read the letter or message?

Costumes: Costumes suggest an artificial situation, such as a play or a costume ball. Describe the costume and the period in history. Are you in disguise? Incognito? *See also* Clothing.

Country: Like cities, countries represent collective habitations expressing patterns of thinking and group consciousness. What is the country? Is it familiar or foreign? Describe the geography. Is the country mountainous, near an ocean, desert plains, or fertile valleys? What are your feelings about being there?

Court: The court embodies the principles of law and the offices that steward the realm. What's on trial? Are you being judged and sentenced?

Crib: Shelters new life and means protection. Is there a baby in the crib? Is the infant sleeping, crying, smiling? What are your feelings?

Cross: The cross has become the symbol of the Christian religion. Examine also for play on words. Are you feeling "cross"? At a "crossroad"? *See also* Shapes, Geometric.

Crossroads: A choice of directions, a parting of the ways. What are the circumstances? What is the nature of the road?

Crowd: Crowds represent collective or group states of consciousness. Are you being swept along by group thinking, lost in the crowd? Where in your life do you need to think for yourself and take a stand?

Crown: A crown is an earthly symbol of ruling authority. A crown can also be a reward. Spiritually the crown is the emblem of success on the spiritual path, the culmination of the journey. What are the circumstances?

Cup: *See also* Container; Suits, Tarot.

D

Dancing: Embodies the sense of joy, freedom, and celebration. Are you dancing with a partner, alone, or in a circle of friends? Are you observing, standing on the sidelines? Which direction are you twirling?

Darkness: Suggests that which cannot yet be seen, still in gestation in the womb, or not yet revealed. Darkness can also mean ignorance, as "in the dark," or fear of the unknown. Do you feel comforted or frightened by the darkness?

Dawn: Emergence, a new day or beginning, return of the light.

Dead Persons or Relatives: Dreaming of a departed loved one can be an important part of the grieving process. There may be a message from a deceased person as part of a dream. Those who have passed on may represent an unresolved issue from the past.

Death and Dying: Change and transformation; rarely, if ever, a literal death.

Dentist: Dentists and teeth are a common theme in dreams. We often regret a thoughtless remark coming from our mouths, and our subconscious processes our feelings. What's happening,

painful work or beautification? A better "bite"? Losing teeth, "biting" comments. Also possible health issues.

Desert: Barrenness, parched land, a mystical quest.

Directions: Can indicate where you are headed, or should be headed, in life.

Above: Spiritual reality.

Below: Subconscious reality.

Center: Where you are.

Front: Represents what's ahead, the future. Usually connotes that you feel in charge and in control.

Back: The past, or that you are not in control.

Right: Self-consciousness.

Left: Subconsciousness.

North: Wisdom and mystery.

South: What's hidden.

East: New beginnings.

West: Endings.

Disasters: As aspect of weather conditions in dreams, dreaming of natural disasters generally occurs during times of turmoil and transition such as an illness, loss of loved one or job, divorce. What needs to be resolved and healed is shown by context.

Diving: Plunging headlong into something. Where are you diving from and into what? Out of the frying pan into the fire?

Doctor: Members of the medical profession usually indicate health issues, but they are also authority figures. What is the situation? Are you being examined? What are the findings?

Dolphin: A spiritual creature and guide of souls in most traditions. What are the circumstances?

Door: Doors and doorways denote choices, new directions, and transitions. Is the door open, closed, revolving, or locked? What does it look like? Where does it lead? Do you have the key? Are you walking through or hesitating?

Dove: See Birds.

Dragon: The fiery energy of life, awaiting transformation. See also Animals.

Drinking: An aspect of nourishment and refreshment. What are you drinking? Why? Thirst? Celebration or drunkenness? What are your feelings? May also express health issues.

Driving: Driving (or riding) in a vehicle designates issues of being in control or in charge. Who's "at the wheel"? What vehicle? What are the circumstances? See also Vehicles.

Drowning: This indicates a sense of overwhelming circumstances in the waking life or loss of identity. What is weighing you down? Possible health issues with lungs.

E

Earth: Mother Earth, the collective, self-containment, wholeness. Can you see the "blue planet" from space?

Earthquake: An unstable foundation, shaking your "grounding." See also Weather.

Eating: What food is being consumed and in what quantities? Why? Circumstances? Possible health issues related to nutrition.

Eclipse: Generally of the Moon; something is overshadowed, temporarily blocked out. What is taking backstage in your life or being eclipsed?

Egg: Embodies potential, creativity, fertility, and the beginning of new life.

Elevator: Signifies a pronounced change of consciousness. Are you going up or down? Where is it? Feelings?

Eliminating: Shows the need for cleansing, releasing, purifying. What are the conditions?

Entrance: Entrances, like doorways, are common themes of transition. Entrance to what? Open or closed?

Escalator: Portrays moderate changes of consciousness. Are you going up or down? Where is it? What are your feelings?

Explosion: Designates violent destruction and emotional turbulence, bubbling under the surface. Portends the need to release pent-up emotion constructively.

F

Falling: Falling is a very common theme in dreams. This may indicate surrender to a situation, "letting go," or possibly a sense of failure, as in "taking a fall." Dreams of falling can mean feeling out of control, needing to be grounded. Sometimes people dream they are falling right before waking. This may be a transitional image.

Father: Father is the male authority figure, representing the animus in women. The context is important to interpret meaning. What are the feelings? Is the dreamer a child again?

Feather: In many cultures feathers are symbols of the soul and aspiring to flight and heaven. What kind of feather? Did you find it? Is it a gift? *See also* Birds.

Fence: Fences enclose spaces, indicating barriers and boundaries and issues of territory. Are you "sitting on the fence"? Did you leave the gate open?

Field: Equates with potential. Is the field plowed, fallow, planted, or ready to be harvested? How large is the area? How big is the potential? Describe and examine the context.

Fight: Represents inner conflict that needs to be resolved. Who is the opponent? Why are you fighting? What are your feelings?

Fire/Fireplace: Can express both anger and warmth. Is the fire comforting or threatening? Is the situation soothing or is the fire raging in the hearth?

Floating: A common theme. Floating can indicate a sense of buoyancy, hope, and support in a situation which increases faith and trust. Floating along might also suggest that you're avoiding the issue in waking life. Examine context and your feelings for clues of meaning.

Flood: Generally portrays an overwhelming and destructive emotional release. Feeling out of control in waking life. *See also* Water.

Flowers: Flowers embody beauty and the ephemeral nature of reality. They represent eventual blooming and fruition of the soul. Is the flower a bud, opening or fading? What kind of flower? What color? Wildflower? Cultivated? A state flower?

Chrysanthemum: Cheerfulness.

Columbine: Resolution.

Daffodil: Regard.

Daisy: Innocence.

Dandelion: Love's oracle.

Iris: Hope.

Lilac: Young love.

Lily: White lily is purity and wisdom; yellow lily is majesty.

Lily of the Valley: Happiness.

Lotus: The soul.

Marigold: Grief.

Pansy: Thoughts of others.

Poppy: Pleasure.

Rose: Red rose is desire; white rose is pure love.

Sunflower: Pride.

Violet: Love.

Flying: A common dream theme. Denotes freedom, aerial view, astral travel, moving in a higher level of consciousness under our own power.

Food: Nourishment. What is being consumed? What needs to be taken into the body? Possible health issues. The deepest roots of self, drawing from the Earth. What are your reactions?

Forest: Designates a sense of mystery and the unknown. Is the forest green and peaceful or does it seem dark and foreboding? Are you lost and frightened or walking on a path in a known direction. Do you feel soothed and inspired?

Forgetting/Anxiety about something: Common theme during life transitions. What have you forgotten?

Fountain: Stands for life-giving waters from deep in the Earth. Fountains are a symbol of the Great Mother since they nourish the Earth. What does the fountain look like? Is the water pure and clear or dirty? Is the fountain dry?

Front: See Directions.

Fruit: What is the fruit? Is it ripe or rotten? Who's giving it to you? See also Food.

Furniture: Furniture has a meaning similar to clothes and describes attitudes shown to others. What colors, time periods,

functions? Is the furniture from another time, appearing in the present? Are you dreaming of another time where everything reflects that time period? Identifying feelings is essential here.

G

Galaxy: Suggests the consciousness of the Creator and a more universal sense of perspective. Are you flying through space, viewing the galaxy from above? Are you looking at the Milky Way on a clear, dark night?

Games: May indicate the dreamer's approach to the game of life. What game are you playing? Who's playing? Is it fun or threatening? Are you winning or losing? Is it a game of wits or a physical game of skill?

Garbage: Illustrates what to get rid of or eliminate in your waking life. What is trash or rubbish and needs to be disposed of? Garbage symbolizes the refuse of spiritual work.

Garden: A place for the cultivation of growing things. May represent the innocent and idyllic state of Eden or Paradise. What does it look like? What's growing, flowers or vegetables? Is the garden small or large? Is it well-tended or overgrown? Are you the gardener?

Gate: An opening or entrance to a new reality or dimension. Is the gate open or closed? Describe the situation and your feelings. Can you see what's on the other side? Are you walking through or hesitating?

Gems: See Jewels/Gems.

Ghost: Usually signifies an aspect of the past which may be a lingering issue that needs to be healed. Generally a spiritual issue is indicated. Since not everyone can see a ghost, sometimes the issue is selective perception. What are your feelings?

Gift: A gift can signify a reward or something that comes with a cost. Are you giving or receiving? What is the value of the gift? Is the token unconditional? A gift usually equals a blessing. Who gives the gift and why?

Glass: See Suits, Cups.

Glasses: Enhances vision and enables us to see clearer. What do the glasses look like? Are you wearing them or searching for them? Are they broken, clean, dirty?

Gloves: Imply both protection and concealing something. Gloves also denote careful handling, using "kid gloves." Are you reluctant to get your hands "dirty"? What do the gloves look like, and why are they being worn? Garden gloves? White gloves? Rubber gloves?

God: To dream of God suggests issues of spiritual aspiration. Also may relate to authority figures. God is the ultimate creative principle. Examine the context for clues.

Graduation: Connotes passing tests and moving to a higher level. What level are you leaving? Is there a ceremony?

Grandmother: Represents both a female elder and caretaker. Is this a kind, wise figure or a mean-spirited person? Can hint at unfinished family business.

Grave: A place where the dead are laid to rest. What needs to be put to rest in your life? Is there an ending you are resisting? Also possible play on words, a "grave" matter.

H

Hair: Signifies growth and our conscious thought processes and everyday thinking. In some cultures hair embodies strength,

memories. Hair is also a reflection of our attractiveness to others. What does the hair look like? Beautiful and shiny or dirty?

Hallway: An indication of a transitional state between two situations. Note what happened before and where the hallway leads. How do you feel?

Hands: See Body.

Hat: See Clothing.

Head: See Body.

Heart: Love, our center, led by feelings. Possible health issues; examine context. See also Body.

Hearth: The place of security, safety, and warmth. Describe the hearth and home. What is the situation? How do you feel? Does the scene happen in the present time?

Heaven: The symbol of eternal reward for good behavior. Implies happiness and a reunion with departed loved ones. Describe the details and context.

Highway: Symbolizes the path you have chosen in this life. What does the road look like? Are you moving or standing still? Are you on the highway or observing from the side? Describe the surroundings.

Hill: Connotes upward ascent and climbing out of the present situation. A hill is a medium-sized obstacle compared to a mountain. Where are you on the ascent? Are you going up or coming down?

Hive: Suggests intense and well-ordered activity. A hive has a group or collective consciousness and is not the realm of strong individuals. Where are you not thinking for yourself?

Hole: A common symbol of opening to other worlds. In shamanic terms, a hole is an entrance to the underworld of emotions. A feminine symbol, describing the womb of the Earth.

Home: A very common dream symbol representing our psyche and habitual state of mind. The levels of the home reflect the levels of awareness and dreamer's mind—lower levels are subconscious, main floor is conscious awareness, and upper floors and attics indicate superconsciousness.

Horns, animal: Can represent a quandary, as in being on the "horns of a dilemma." Horns also express aggression. Cow horns are an ancient symbol of the Goddess.

Horns, car: A warning of some kind. Examine context for specific clues.

Horse: See Animals.

Hospital: Hospitals are places of healing. They imply the need for recuperation and show the passages of life. Possible health issues and healing. Are you or another patient on "life support"? What are the circumstances? Are you the patient? What tests are being done?

Hotel: A temporary lodging which indicates a temporary condition. Describe the hotel. Note room numbers and other details. Are you alone? Is the place familiar or strange?

House (not your home): Denotes the psyche and levels of the dreamer's mind that are being explored or perhaps under construction. What is the condition? Where are you in the house? The ceiling illustrates the upper reaches of mind and consciousness. What does it look like? Note the condition and color.

Hurricane: An emblem of an intense emotional storm. See also Weather.

I

Ice: Equates with frozen feelings; perhaps a "cooling off" period or a "cold shoulder." Are you walking on "thin ice"? Is the ice freezing or thawing? Are there icicles?

Iceberg: Suggests that powerful feelings are solidified and submerged below the surface. A much larger matter may be concealed than what is visible.

Identification/Driver's License/Passport: Symbolizes your identity and family connections. What is the situation? Lost? Someone else's identification? Unable to travel? May indicate a change in self-image.

Infidelity: May reveal needs that aren't being met in your waking life. What relationship issues need to be addressed? Rarely a literal significance.

Initiation: A new spiritual beginning; a new phase of spiritual unfoldment.

Island: Connotes isolation, removing attention from the physical, retreat, surrounded by water (emotions), and cut off from land (grounding influence). Describe the island and situation.

J

Jar: See Container.

Jaws: Opens a yawning gate to the underworld. At the conscious level you may feel consumed by overwhelming circumstances.

Jewelry: Value expressed in outer presentation; reward, treasure.

Jewels/Gems: The following list indicates specific stones and their dream significances.

Amber: Constancy.

Amethyst: Clarity.

Beryl: Courage.

Carnelian: Warmth.

Crystal: Purity.

Diamond: Abundance.

Emerald: Truth.

Garnet: Devotion.

Jade: The soul.

Lapis: Creativity.

Malachite: Balance.

Moonstone: Grace.

Onyx: Spiritual strength.

Opal: Prophecy.

Pearl: Wisdom.

Peridot: Illumination.

Rose quartz: Open heart.

Ruby: Passion.

Sapphire: Insight.

Topaz: Faithfulness.

Tourmaline: Calmness.

Job/Career/Work: Our role or duty; dharma. Quitting a job? Getting a new job? What are your feelings?

Journey: The spiritual path and the road of self-discovery. How are you traveling? Where?

Jungle: Symbolizes a dense, diverse, vibrant, and "primitive" kind of existence. Represents a teeming, natural state; survival issues. How do you feel? What does the jungle look like? Are you frightened or stimulated?

K

Key: Permits access and implies that a solution or opening is possible. Unlocking, opening a door means an answer is received. Is it missing? What does it look like?

King: A father figure, expressing masculine authority. How do you feel about this king? What is the situation? *See also* Court.

Kiss: An expression of affection. Mythologically, a kiss awakens new life, literally "breathes life into" something. A kiss is a transfer of power. Are you kissing a ring, a hand or foot? Examine the context of the kiss and your feelings.

Kitchen: A place of nourishment. What is the condition? What food is being prepared? Possible health issues with nutrition. Are you eating something you enjoy or dislike?

Knife: An implement that separates, cleaves, and penetrates. What does the knife look like? What's the action? Is there a wound? Where? Possible health issues if it's a scalpel. *See also* Body.

Knot: Binds together, ties up "loose ends," reveals a "knotty" problem. Is the knot being tied or cut? Is something being bound or secured?

L

Laboratory: A place of work, experimentation and potential transformation. May signify that personal growth work is underway. What's the nature of the experiment?

Labyrinth: Symbolizes walking the path of a quest. What are the circumstances? How do you feel? Are you lost, wandering afraid? Are you confident of the outcome?

Ladder: A ladder provides steps to move beyond the present level of consciousness. Are you going up or down?

Lake: A reservoir of feelings and emotions. A mirror with potential for deep reflection. What's the condition? Is the lake still or troubled? *See also* Water.

Lamp: A symbol of illumination and bringing light into the darkness. Describe the lamp. Is it casting light? Are you lighting the lamp or extinguishing it? Is the lamp a design from another period of history?

Letters: *See* Correspondence.

Light: Symbolizes awareness, illumination, and vision. How much can you see? What's the nature of the light? Relatively speaking, how much light is there?

Lightning: Represents a momentary flash of illumination. Sudden and temporary. A brief light in the darkness. Lightning purifies through destruction.

Lover: The male or female principle within ourselves that needs to be integrated; a consuming passion.

Luggage: Signifies attitudes we're "lugging." What "baggage" are you carrying that might need to be jettisoned?

M

Machinery: Denotes the inner workings of something and describes the state of affairs. What kind of machine? Is it functioning or does it need repair?

Makeup: A way to disguise our outer persona. Makeup covers, conceals, and enhances. Are you making believe? Masquerading?

Map: Indicates searching for the path, plotting a course, and finding the way. Can you follow the map or are you traveling in circles? Are you confused or finding direction?

Marriage: Marriage denotes the union of opposites and joining with another aspect of self. Who are the people getting married? What do they represent to you?

Mask: Can mean concealment, cover-up, or celebration. Masks are objects of power in many traditions. What does the mask look like? Why is it being worn? Is it frightening or playful? What's behind the mask?

Maze: A path to the underworld. Mazes are sometimes used as a form of meditation. *See also* Labyrinth.

Medicine: Suggests corrective measures. How does the medicine taste? What are the circumstances? Possible health issues.

Milk: Implies nourishment and may indicate unresolved childhood memories. Possible health issues related to nutrition.

Mill: A mill grinds something smooth, breaking down into smaller pieces. What in your life is providing "grist for the mill"?

Mine: Designates penetration into the depths of the earth to extract some valuable. What are the conditions? What is being mined?

Mirror: Self-reflection, what do I see? Describe the mirror. Is it broken or cracked? Dirty or sparkling clean? What is reflected that may need to be improved?

Mob: Connotes mass consciousness which is generally destructive. Where do you need to think independently? *See also* Crowd.

Money: Relates to financial concerns and expresses issues of worth and self-value. How are you investing your resources? Is the money available or locked up? Note the denomination, may be significant numerologically.

Monster: Portrays unnamed fears and repressed emotions. Where are you trying to slay the "dragon" of your outmoded self? What are you running from?

Months: May indicate a time frame or an association with that season or number.

Moon: The queen of heaven and of the night. The moon represents our shadow side. Is the moon waxing or waning? Are you howling at the full moon? Is it a harvest moon? Is the moon eclipsed?

Morning: Promises the return of light and hope and the early stages of a venture. *See also* Dawn.

Mother: Signifies nurture and protection, but also devourer and destroyer. Implied in mothering are the cycles of life and death.

Motion: Movement in a direction. Is the motion slow, fast, or frozen in place? Which direction?

Mountain: Stands for achievement, attaining the summit. Where are you on the ascent, base or peak? Suggests attaining a mountaintop experience, ascending to the spiritual realm.

Mouth: *See* Body.

Moving: Portends a change in life. Are you packing, moving, or unpacking? Are you moving to better or worse conditions?

Murder: Indicates the death of the old self. May also suggest repressed hostility. Dreaming of a violent murder may portray change without understanding. Who is the victim and who is the murderer?

Museum: A place where the collective past is on display. Usually reveals a family matter that needs to be healed. Identifying arti-

cles or displays in the museum shows what you need to pay attention to.

Music: Signifies issues of harmony or discord. What is the selection? What instrument? Do you know the title, beat, rhythm?

Musical Instruments: May show the need for harmony. Which musical instrument? Harp? Drum? Piano? Are you playing or listening? What are your feelings?

N

Nail: Suggests binding things together and attachment. Nails also denote piercing and wounding. May be plays on words such as "tough as nails," "hit the nail on the head," "getting nailed." Examine the context.

Nakedness: Represents a state of vulnerability, feeling unprepared, exposed and unmasked. Nakedness can also mean a transition to new identity. What are the circumstances and feelings?

Names: Expresses recognition of some identity; usually a quality or characteristic; play on words for a quality, to name a thing gives power.

Nature: Equates with our primordial instincts and perhaps presents a state where we are more closely connected to creation.

Needle: Signifies both mending, attaching, as well as piercing to the heart of a matter. Is the needle attached to a thread? What color? Conditions?

Nest: Symbolizes a sense of safety, sanctuary, home, and building security. Describe the nest. Are there birds? What kind? Have eggs hatched?

Night: Indicates the unknown and unseen, darkness of the womb and gestation. A waiting period. Night conceals what has not yet seen the "light of day."

Nightmare: A dramatic attempt of the psyche to get our attention. Repeated messages that have gone unheeded are often presented as nightmares. Mythologically, the "Night Mare" was a winged horse who brought visions during sleep. This myth was the origin of the winged steed Pegasus.

Noon: When the sun is overhead. The "lightest" part of the day. Things are clearly seen at "high noon." May also mean a time frame; noon is the "middle" of the day.

Numbers: Examine context and setting. The following are dream significances for each numeral.

One: Beginning.

Two: Partnership.

Three: Growth.

Four: Stability.

Five: Change.

Six: Balance.

Seven: Victory.

Eight: Rhythm.

Nine: Culmination.

Ten: Dominion.

Nurse: Nurses are emblems of healing or a desire to be cared for. Where is healing needed in your life? May show the capacity for healing.

O

Oar: Provides motive power to move through or across the water of our emotions. Are you rowing or being ferried?

Oasis: A fertile, life-giving center in the heart of a dry and barren land. May indicate that a rest is needed; take care of yourself. Possible health issues.

Obstacles: What is being prevented? Natural or human-made? What is the nature of the barrier?

Ocean: The ocean represents the collective unconscious, the waters of life and subconsciousness. What does the water look like? Color? Stormy? Calm? What's occurring? Are you in the water or traveling across? *See also* Water.

Office: Illustrates our station in life, career, profession; also implies organization and hierarchy.

Official: Generally signifies authority figures who control an aspect of your life. What are your feelings about the figure? Is the person wearing a uniform? What kind?

Old Man/Old Woman: Symbolizes the passage of time, closing of a cycle. Can indicate either wisdom or senility. Describe the behavior of the person.

Onion: Onions suggest peeling off layers of an issue one at a time; sometimes you weep.

Operation: Indicates a "cutting off" or removing an aspect of self. What's being removed and in what context? How do you feel about the surgery?

Orphan: Connotes fear of being unloved. The orphan reveals the wounded, needy child aspect of self being left behind or abandoned. Context is important. Are you the trusting child or the abused orphan?

Outer Space: Shows the desire and opportunity to explore the unknown and undiscovered aspects of self.

P

Packing, moving: Are you putting things away or packing up? Are you moving into better quarters or worse? Do you feel overwhelmed?

Paint: Paint, like clothing, reveals attitudes about self and how we show ourselves to others. Are you covering up or beautifying? Are you painting a wall or a canvas? What color? What are your feelings?

Path: A path indicates the direction your life is taking, indicating "the way" you are going. Are you alone? Do you feel afraid or exhilarated? Describe the path and situation. Does the path have defined borders or is it overgrown and difficult to follow?

Planets: See also Zodiac. The following is a list of the zodiacal planets with their corresponding dream significance.

Sun: Vitality.

Moon: Memory.

Mercury: Communication.

Venus: Relationships.

Mars: Energy and action.

Jupiter: Expansiveness.

Saturn: Responsibility.

Uranus: The unexpected.

Neptune: Sacrifice.

Pluto: Transformation.

Plowing: Expresses the activity of preparing to plant seeds. What kind of crop? What does the field look like? What equipment are you using? Are you plowing by hand or operating a large piece of farm machinery?

Plumbing: Portrays the inner workings of subconscious connected and flowing beneath the surface of the conscious mind. Is the emotional flow constricted? Leaky? Does the plumbing need repair?

Police: Represent discipline and authority. What needs to be policed in your life? Police or law enforcement personnel may sug-

gest that self-control is required. Where might you be overstepping your bounds?

Portal: Allows access into a new reality or dimension. Are you hesitating or walking through?

Pot/Cooking: What are you cooking and why? Describe the pot.

Pouch: See Containers.

Precipice: Standing on the brink of something, preparing to jump. What are you preparing to do that feels like a leap into the void? What are your feelings? Do you jump or hold back? Do you fall or fly?

President: Symbolizes the ultimate authority figure in America. What is the context? What is your attitude and response to this figure? What's happening in the dream?

Prison: Denotes constraint and severe limitation. Expresses feelings of being jailed or caged in. Reveals a desire to escape from a situation in waking life. Where do you feel trapped?

Purse: See Containers.

Puzzles: If a puzzle is presented, generally a solution to the problem exists, but you're still working it out. What clues exist that will help you solve the puzzle?

Q

Quarrel: Reveals inner conflict and turmoil. Who are you quarreling with and why? What are you avoiding in your waking state?

Queen: The symbol of feminine power. What is your attitude toward this figure? The queen is half of the royal marriage. The moon is queen of heaven and night.

Quicksand: Stands for a shifting and potentially dangerous situation, feeling out of control, no sense of firm foundation. Watch where you're headed.

R

Rain: Represents grief and emotional cleansing. Rain also means life-giving waters. Are you outside getting wet or listening to rain patter on the roof? Is it a storm or a gentle spring rain?

Rainbow: A universal symbol of promise and faith. The rainbow was the emblem of God's oath with humanity that the world would not be destroyed by water. A bridge between heaven and earth. Perhaps a sign that the situation expressed by the dream symbols will clear up.

Rape: A traumatic violation. Where do you feel violated in your life?

Restaurant: A place where nourishment is served. Are you choosing from a menu, eating your meal? What does the restaurant look like? Who are you with?

Right Hand: See Body.

Ring: A symbol of commitment. Describe the ring. Is it a simple band of gold or an ornate piece of jewelry with gems? Which one? The brass ring is a symbol of taking a challenge and winning a prize. Does something not quite "ring true"?

River: Portrays the passage of time. Are you on the bank, in a boat, or crossing to the other side? Describe the river and your feelings. How large is it? What is the color of the water? How strong is its current? Is it flooding its banks or is it only a dry riverbed?

Road: Denotes the highway of life and where you are in your journey. What's the nature of the road? Paved, dirt, wide or narrow? Are you moving along or standing by the side observing?

Roadblock: Places an obstacle in your path, requires a detour, a change of direction. Describe details. Is the obstacle a natural barrier like a hill or river or something artificial like a wall?

Robbery: Indicates the loss of valuables representing your identity and sense of worth. Where in your life are you experiencing feelings of loss?

Rod: A staff of power that can also be used as a weapon. Describe the rod. Fishing? Dowsing? Diving? Wizard's wand? What's happening in the dream?

Roof: Symbolically, a roof is the point of separation between super-consciousness and Creator. A roof also provides protection from the elements. Is the roof leaking? What is it made of? What's the situation? Are you inside or outside?

Room: Rooms indicate specific activities that take place in the different facets of our consciousness. Different rooms have unique purposes. What kind of room are you in? A classroom? Boardroom? Library? Greenhouse? Bedroom? Kitchen?

Running: Implies a sense of urgency about something. Are you running toward or away from? What's the situation? Are you frightened or exhilarated?

Rust: Something rusty generally has not been used in awhile. Is the article no longer useful or serving some purpose, or can the item be polished and made useful again? How do you feel about the rusty item?

S

Sand: Sand has been worn fine over ages of time. Can suggest the sands of time, slowly falling through an hourglass. A play on words for "shifting sands." Is the sand in a desert or on a beautiful beach? *See also* Beach *and* Desert.

Scale: Suggests weighing the merits of an issue and ascertaining differing values. Can you see the numbers on the scale? Are you concerned about your weight? Are you trying to make an important decision?

School: Indicates the learning experiences of life and suggests that all of life is like a school. Issues of peer pressure may be implied. What grade? Usually indicates transitions from one level to another. *See also* Class.

Seasons: Stand for the stages of growth and development and may indicate where you are in the cycle of expression of a project or your own growth. The following are dream significances of each of the seasons.

Spring: Symbolizes new birth and new beginnings.

Summer: The flowering aspect of any endeavor, when seeds planted in spring burst into bloom.

Autumn: The period of harvest when the flowers turn to fruits and the rewards (or failure of the crop) is reaped.

Winter: Represents the time of latency and quiet while things sleep and prepare for the next cycle of rebirth.

Seed: Holds the latent potential of a new cycle of expression and the promise of a new beginning. What kind of seed? Are you planting or placing seeds away for safekeeping?

Serpent: One of the most common dream symbols. Serpents and snakes have diverse meanings and context is critical. Serpents represent both wisdom and temptation. Kundalini is called "the ser-

pent energy" and holds the potential for spiritual illumination. Serpents also connote sexual issues. What kind of serpent? Cobra? Viper? Garden snake or poisonous? How do you feel about the serpent?

Sex and Sexuality: Often implies a need for integration of the energies of anima or animus. Perhaps an unmet need should be acknowledged.

Shapes, Geometric: These symbols may differ by person. Examine the feelings connected with the shape and the context of the dream. The following are specific shapes and their dream significances.

Circle: Completion and wholeness.

Spiral: Upward cycles of growth.

Square: Stability and feeling grounded.

Triangle: Spiritual aspiration.

Shell: An emblem of the voice of the sea. We place a seashell to our ear to listen to the ocean, the symbol of subconsciousness. Shells are also used as containers or cups. What kind, turtle or seashell? Is there something you need to listen to?

Ship: A ship carries the dreamer across the waters of subconsciousness. What kind of ship and what is the body of water? Are you traveling in the ship or waiting on the dock?

Shoes: Cover our feet and therefore symbolically color our "understanding." As articles of clothing, shoes affect the impression we make on others and affect our ability to "step forward." How do the shoes make you feel? Are they old or new, plain or fancy? Do you need to "watch your step"?

Skeleton: The underlying structure of reality. Your support.

Sky: Represents spirit and higher consciousness. What's the nature? cloudy? blue? stormy? Are you looking up, flying in a plane, watching birds? Remember "the sky's the limit."

Snow: Can mean purity, quiescence, and a pristine landscape. Snow can also indicate frozen feelings. Snow may indicate winter and the latent period of a project, suggesting a time of waiting is at hand. Describe situation. How do you feel about snow? *See also Weather.*

Space: Signifies limitless possibilities and boundless exploration. Space is a void, vacuum, representing journeying into the unknown and aspects of your self. *See also Outer Space.*

Spear: The sharp-pointed power of the hunter and warrior. What's happening in the dream? Are you wielding the spear or being attacked? What are the circumstances?

Sphinx: Hidden knowledge or secrets. Guardian of mysteries.

Spider: An ancient and varied symbol of both creator and destroyer, the archetypal weaver of fate. Is the spider spinning, catching, or killing? Are you fascinated or frightened? Grandmother Spider spun the world into existence in Native American tradition.

Stairs: Access to both higher and lower states of consciousness. Are the stairs winding, spiral? How many flights? Are you going up or down? Describe the stairs.

Star: Movie star or distant sun? Stars signify both beauty and remoteness. Famous people represent qualities and playing a role. Are you wishing on a star?

Stone: Implies things that endure. Stones mean foundation, patience, and endurance. "Upon this rock." A rolling stone, standing stone, or a stone circle?

Stones, Semiprecious: *See* Jewels/Gems.

Storm: May indicate the state of emotions. Is a storm brewing on the horizon? Are there feelings you aren't expressing? Examine what's happening for insight. *See also Weather.*

Subway: Subways run underneath cities on planned routes, traveling under the surface in the realm of subconsciousness. Are you traveling on the planned route or feeling out of control?

Suits, Tarot: The following list suit and dream significances.

Cups: A prize or recognition, receptivity. A container for liquid. What condition? Clear, smoky, full, empty?

Pentacles: Coin, the realm of material works, rewards for effort.

Swords: Truth, intellect, "cutting edge" symbol of authority; ritual tool of magician. Operations of the mind; that which separates and cleaves.

Wands: Activity, creativity, and enterprise; new ventures.

Sun: The light and energy of self-consciousness. What needs to be brought to the light of day? What issues should be revealed?

Swan: A symbol of the soul, a creature of air and water; signifying transformation. The story of the "ugly duckling" is a metaphor for self-acceptance and not falling prey to false identification. What color is the swan? *See also Birds.*

Sweater: An article of clothing that relates to attitudes. Sweaters cover up and warm. What does the sweater look like? What color and material? *See also Clothing.*

Swimming: Means moving through waters of consciousness under your own power. Describe the water; depth, color, conditions. How do you feel? Are you exhausted or exhilarated? Are you swimming toward shore or out into deeper waters?

Swimming Pool: Implies an artificially restricted consciousness. A swimming pool is a safer place to explore the emotions. How large is the pool? What does the water look like? How deep? Are you in the pool or standing by the edge?

Swords: See Suits, Tarot; see also Knife.

T

Tears: Like rain, tears represent the healing waters of the psyche. Who is crying in the dream (or reading) and why?

Teeth: Another very common dream motif; suggest biting words. Perhaps you spoke words you regret. Are you baring teeth or being attacked? Are you losing teeth (power)? Visiting a dentist? Teeth also signify cycles of change.

Telephone: Represents issues of direct communication with different aspects of the self. Is the phone ringing? Is it off the hook? Are you trying to call someone, looking for a number, answering a phone?

Temple: Can represent the body or a sense of the sacred. What is the context and what is happening? See also Body.

Threshold: Implies a breakthrough or setback. Are you going in or coming out? What does the threshold lead to?

Throne: Connotes the seat of power and ruling authority. Who is seated on the throne? How do you feel about the figure? Is the throne empty?

Thunder: Designates tremors in the "force," far-reaching emotions, and the "voice of the gods." What is the message? See also Weather.

Tides: Indicate the ever-changing and shifting cycles of life. Are the tides coming in or going out? High or low tide? Examine the context and other symbols.

Time: Generally a warning to prioritize, organize, and use your resources wisely. Timing is everything, time is running out. Is there a clock with a specific time? See also Clock.

Torch: Illumination or destructive fire, "torching."

Tornado: A violent, destructive storm. See Weather.

Tower: Represents wisdom, strength, and power, but also can be confusion and a closed mind. What does the tower look like? Is it approachable or does the structure seem impenetrable? Are you inside or out? What is the context?

Traffic Signs: Imply direction. What kind of sign? Stop, yield, one-way? Are you on a road or highway seeking direction? Does the sign cause a detour?

Train: A train travels on the surface of the earth by a planned route which is decided by others and authority figures. Are you a passenger or watching the train go by? Examine conditions and description.

Transportation: Are you "piloting" or driving? Are you a passenger on a public form of transportation with fixed route with no say as to direction or destination? How do you feel? What does the transport look like? Missing transportation relates a sense of a missed opportunity or a warning to prepare, a sense of not being ready.

Treasure: Illustrates gifts of the spirit, precious things, and possibly buried talents. Are you looking for treasure or finding something unexpected? What is the nature of the treasure?

Tree: Does the tree have leaves or are the branches bare? Is the tree healthy? Where is the tree growing? In a garden? In a field? Are there other trees? What are your feelings? The following list includes trees and their dream significances.

Ash: Grandeur.

Aspen: Tears.

Beech: Prosperity.

Birch: Gracefulness.

Cedar: Purity.

Cypress: Transformation.

Elm: Messages.

Hawthorn: The quest.

Maple: Reserve.

Mimosa: Sensitivity.

Oak: Strength.

Palm: Victory.

Pine: Compassion.

Spruce: Hope.

Willow: Sadness.

Trunk: A place for storage of what's not in use at present, a long voyage. What does the trunk look like? What's inside? Where is it stored? What's the purpose and situation? *See also* Container.

Tunnel: A passage through the earth. Shamanic tunnels are passages to other worlds and dimensions. Describe the tunnel and your feelings. Is it dark and forbidding or light and welcoming? Is there light at the end of the tunnel? Are you moving inside or contemplating entering?

Twilight: A shadowy time of uncertainty. The "darkest hour is just before the dawn." Is it morning or evening twilight? What are your feelings?

Twins: Portray a sense of duality, conflict, and also emergence. What's the mirror image or hidden aspect of something? Twins can imply a duplicity, and the idea of an "evil twin."

U

UFO: Contains "alien" aspect of self; potentially frightening and dangerous. Access to the unexplored and uncharted regions of consciousness. Context is paramount here as much highly charged material exists in this area.

Umbrella: Designates both a protective cover providing safety and something that limits contact with the waters of consciousness. Is the umbrella open or closed? Blown in the wind?

Underneath: Represents the past and what's beneath the surface.

V

Valuables: Represent our worth and how we value ourselves. Are you finding or losing something valuable? What are the valuable articles? Do the valuables belong to you or someone else? What are your feelings?

Vegetables: *See* Food.

Vehicles: Vehicles represent how we move through life, our physical body, and the ego. What kind of car? What is the condition? Are you driving or a passenger? Are you in the front seat or riding in the back? The following list includes some vehicles and their dream significances.

Automobile: The physical body or human consciousness.

Bus: Moves on a prearranged schedule.

Jeep: Travels off the beaten path.

Truck: A working vehicle.

Veil: Separates realities and creates a sense of mystery and anonymity. Describe the veil and context. What is the color of the veil and the material? Are you wearing a veil or removing one? Is the situation exotic like a belly dancer?

Violence: Generally indicates feeling out of control in waking life. Are you observing or participating in a violent act? Are there emotions you're repressing at a conscious level?

Volcano: A potentially dangerous eruption of feelings may be brewing. Pay attention to details and your feelings. Look for clues in the dream (or reading). How can you defuse the situation?

Vomiting: Indicates a desire (need) to eliminate something poisonous from your body or consciousness. Who is vomiting and why? Possible health issues.

W

Wallet: A wallet usually contains identification and money and therefore signifies our identity. Are you losing a wallet or finding someone else's? Do you look at the identification? Can you read a name or notice any numbers, like a phone number or an address? What else is happening?

Wands: See Suits, Tarot.

Washing: Indicates cleansing something, removing unwanted influences, and renewing. Are you washing clothes or yourself? Are you able to get things clean? Is the water clean? Possible health issues.

Water: The fluid nature of consciousness and the realm of the emotions. Water often appears in dreams (and readings) to indicate the condition of the emotions at the time. What does the water look like? Is it the ocean, lake, pond, river, creek, or stream? What are the conditions and how do you feel? See also Bathing, Swimming.

Waves: The movement of the emotions. Are the waves caused by the tides of the ocean or a storm on a lake? Are you feeling buffeted or gently rocked and supported? Women often experience dreams of a womb-like feeling of being rocked in water during pregnancy.

Weather: Indicates the condition of the emotional nature and possible storms in the waking life. Describe the weather. Is it lightning, thunder, sunny, rainy, stormy?

Wedding: Connotes a union of the opposite but complementary aspects of self. Are you the bride or groom? Are you being married or observing someone else? Is the occasion festive or troublesome? See also Marriage.

Well: Suggests the deep and hidden levels of consciousness existing within the Earth. A well is a source of spiritual nourishment and also a symbol of social interaction. What is being drawn from the well? Is the water pure or dirty?

Wheel: Represents change, cycles, movement. Like circles, wheels can signify eternity, motion, and the changing fortunes of our lives. Is the wheel on a cart or vehicle or a mill by the river? How many spokes? Is the wheel turning or still?

Window: Denotes our outlook. We can see and access alternate levels of consciousness through a window. Are you looking in or out? Is the window open, closed, or shuttered? What is the landscape or situation being viewed from the window?

Wine: Usually indicates a celebration of some sort. Is the situation a ritual or a banquet? Is the wine red or white? Is a sacrifice implied? Is the wine being spilled or consumed? Wine sometimes means blood.

Wise Man or Woman: Designates our higher self. Shamanically, a wise elder signifies a guardian spirit or perhaps a spiritual goal.

Wolf: Can have diverse meanings depending on the person and the context. Wolves often mean duality, the light and dark aspects of a situation. What are your associations to wolves? What's happening in the dream? Wolves can mean strength and loyalty, but also greed and viciousness.

Wood: A solid, raw material for building. Is the wood used for construction or firewood?

Worm: A symbol of decay and dissolution. Worms live underground in the dark, tunneling in the earth. Examine the context for more clues.

Wound: Represents unresolved hurts which haven't healed or a lingering fear of releasing a part of your old self. A wound can also be a symbol of initiation on the spiritual path. The location of the wound on the body can indicate the nature of healing required. *See also* Body.

X

X: Marks the spot and was the ancient way of "making your mark" when most people couldn't write. An X can also signify a crossroads and a decision point.

X-ray: Suggests penetrating vision and the ability to see through outer forms, perceiving the inner self. What is being X-rayed? Are you undergoing the procedure or looking at the film result? Possible health issues.

Y

Yard: A safe place to "play." Often connotes childhood feelings and issues of personal boundaries. Is the yard fenced? In the front or back of the house? Overgrown with weeds or well tended? Are there flowers?

Yoke: Implies both union and bondage. Are you yoking animals to pull a cart? Is this voluntary or unwilling?

Yule: A celebration of winter solstice. A burning yule log honored the longest night, shedding light in the darkness.

Z

Zodiac: The following list includes zodiacal signs and their dream significances.

Aries: Action.

Taurus: Determination.

Gemini: Curiosity.

Cancer: Sensitivity.

Leo: Pride.

Virgo: Discrimination.

Libra: Balance.

Scorpio: Desire.

Sagittarius: Exploration.

Capricorn: Ambition.

Aquarius: Independence.

Pisces: Compassion.

Zoo: A place of imprisoned instinct. Animals have been captured from their natural state and caged. What animals are caged? Describe the condition. Do you live in a "zoo"?

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Index

- Aces, 57, 80, 108–114, 151
- Aganippe, 4
- air (element), 58, 94, 111, 115–116, 119, 123, 127, 131, 135, 139, 143, 147, 154, 158, 162, 166, 180, 211
- Alexandria, library of, 15, 177, 207
- alphabet, 13, 15, 37
- Arcana, Major, 38, 42, 64, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105
- Arcana, Minor, 83, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147
- archetypes, 27, 31, 56, 83, 85–87, 93, 149, 152, 157
- Assurbanipal, 3
- autosuggestion, 21
- autumn (season), 151, 166, 208
- Bohr, Niels, 11
- Case, Paul Foster, 15, 221
- Cayce, Edgar, 6–7, 11, 17, 35, 221
- Charioteer, the, 91
- Christmas, 15, 45, 180
- Chuang Tzu, 3
- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor, 12, 22
- Cosmos, Key of, 105
- Court cards, 24, 149–151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167
- Crossroads Spread, 37, 44, 50, 68, 71, 184, 218
- Cups, Ace of, 110, 114
- Eight of, 138
- Five of, 126
- Four of, 122
- King of, 153
- Knight of, 161
- Nine of, 142
- Page of, 165
- Queen of, 76, 157
- Seven of, 51, 134, 160
- Six of, 130
- Ten of, 65, 71, 73, 146
- Three of, 118
- Two of, 67, 114
- Death (Tarot card), 4, 8, 11–12, 52–54, 58–59, 62–63, 97, 151, 172, 180, 183, 185, 200
- Delphi, 3
- Demeter, 4

- Devil (Tarot card), 63, 99–100, 163
 Dictionary, Dream and Symbol, 23,
 26–27, 29–30, 36, 169–219
 Dominant Image Spread, 37–39, 49,
 52
 dream, journal, 22–25, 36, 38–39
 dreams, big, 4–5
 and reincarnation, 7
 collective, 8
 grounding, 28, 36
 incubation, 28, 31, 46
 lucid, 8
 mental, 4
 past-life, 7
 physical, 4
 precognitive, 8
 recording, 23, 102
 remembering, 7
 shared, 9, 59, 62–63
 spiritual, 4–5, 30, 102, 128, 132,
 179
 waking, 1, 5, 8–9
 Dreamtime, 2, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31
 earth (element), 76, 87, 101, 108, 112,
 116, 120, 124, 128, 132, 136, 140,
 144, 148, 155, 159, 163, 167, 172,
 179, 187, 190, 193, 199, 206,
 213–214, 217–218
 Einstein, Albert, 3, 11
 Emperor, the, 88
 Epidaurus, 3
 fire (element), 78, 98, 109, 113, 117,
 121, 125, 129, 133, 137, 141, 145,
 152, 156, 160, 164, 172, 176, 180,
 186, 189, 212
 Fool, the, 16, 40, 83–84, 105, 170, 182
 Four Seasons Spread, 37, 45–46, 50,
 73–75, 151
 Freud, Sigmund, 16, 169
 Gift Spread, the, 37, 40–41, 50, 57, 74
 Hanged Man, the, 40, 96
 Hermit, the, 93
 Hierophant, the, 89
 High Priestess, the, 86–87, 170
 Higher Self, 26, 30, 32, 37, 52, 68, 74,
 175, 217
 Jesus, 3, 11
 John, Saint, 10
 Joseph, 10–11, 49, 221
 Journey, Fool's *see also* the Fool, 16
 Judgment, 32, 63, 78–79, 104, 154
 Justice, 95, 119, 125, 154
 Kings, Cups, 153
 Pentacles, 155
 Swords, 63, 154
 Wands, 152
 Levels of the Mind Spread, 37, 42–43,
 50, 66, 193–194
 Lincoln, Abraham, 11
 Magician, the, 85, 211
 mandala(s), 28
 Maslow, Abraham, 30
 Meditation Spread, 37, 39–40, 49–50
 Mitchell, Edgar, 3
 Moon, the, 38, 51, 61, 76–77, 86, 91,
 102, 140, 153, 182, 187, 200,
 204–205
 nightmares, 4, 40, 102, 201
 Oracle, dream, 3, 31
 Oracle, Tarot, 31
 Out-of-Body Experience, 8–9
 Overall Guidance Spread, 37, 42, 50,
 64
 past lives, 7–8
 path of return, 93
 Pentacles, Ace of, 112

- Eight of, 56, 140
 Five of, 128
 Four of, 124
 King of, 155
 Knight of, 163
 Nine of, 68, 144
 Page of, 167
 Queen of, 159
 Seven of, 136
 Six of, 132
 Ten of, 56–57, 148
 Three of, 57, 76, 120
 Two of, 116
 Plato, 27
 psychodrama, 28
 Pyramid, Life Issues, 31
 Pyramid of Consciousness Spread, 37,
 47–48, 50, 76, 78
 Qabalah, 15, 108, 120
 Quantum hologram, 3
 Queens, 150
 Queen, of Cups, 76, 157
 of Pentacles, 159
 of Swords, 58, 158
 of Wands, 156
 Rapid Eye Movement (REM), 5–6
 Shakespeare, William, 3
 sleep deprivation, 3, 5–6, 20–22, 28,
 31, 62–63, 102, 201, 208
 Sphinx, 10, 94, 210
 spring (season), 46, 97, 151, 164, 176,
 206, 208
 Star, the, 13, 26, 38–39, 50, 61, 63–64,
 76–77, 92, 101, 113, 156, 170, 183,
 210
 State of Being Spread, 0, 37, 40–41, 50,
 59
 Stevenson, Robert Louis, 12
 Strength, 68, 79, 92, 101, 117, 133, 141,
 145, 171, 175, 177, 179–180, 183,
 192, 196, 213–214, 217
 Suits, Cups, 110, 211
 Suits, Pentacles, 112, 124
 Suits, Swords, 111
 Suits, Wands, 109, 164
 summer (season), 45–46, 151, 165,
 182, 208
 Swords, Ace of, 57, 111
 Eight of, 53–54, 57, 139
 Five of, 127
 Four of, 76, 123
 King of, 63, 154
 Knight of, 57, 162
 Nine of, 143
 Page of, 65, 166
 Queen of, 58, 158
 Seven of, 135
 Six of, 40, 65, 68, 131
 Ten of, 147
 Three of, 71–72, 119
 Two of, 115
 symbols, cultural, 14
 dream, xi–xii, 2–4, 12, 16, 21–29,
 32, 35–36, 38, 40, 49–53, 55, 57, 60,
 62, 64, 71–73, 76, 80, 83, 92–93, 96,
 99–100, 108, 117, 125, 165–167,
 169, 206, 208
 personal, 23, 27, 29, 36
 Tarot, xi–xii, 2, 12–13, 15–16, 20,
 32, 35–36, 38, 52–54, 57–58, 71, 73,
 80, 169
 universal, 14, 16, 29, 175
 Temperance, 98, 170
 Tower, the, 64, 66, 71–72, 76, 97, 100,
 213
 Tree of Life, 108, 113, 116, 120, 125,
 128, 132, 136, 140, 144
 Tutmosis IV, 10

- visions, 9–11, 35, 50, 64, 72, 76, 100,
102–103, 115, 127, 134, 192, 198,
201, 218
- Wands, Ace of, 80, 109
 - Eight of, 80, 137
 - Five of, 71–72, 80, 125
 - Four of, 78, 121
 - King of, 152
 - Knight of, 160
 - Nine of, 76, 141
 - Page of, 164
 - Queen of, 156
 - Seven of, 133
 - Six of, 108, 129
 - Ten of, 145
 - Three of, 79, 117
 - Two of, 113
- water (element), 16, 31, 66, 86–87, 98,
101–102, 104, 110, 114, 118, 122,
126, 130, 134, 138, 142, 146, 153,
157, 161, 165, 170, 175–176,
189–190, 195, 197, 202–203, 206,
209, 211, 216–217
- winter (season), 46, 151, 167,
208–209, 218
- World, the, 3, 9, 13, 22, 35, 57, 62–64,
76, 96, 99, 105, 112–114, 122, 124,
130, 149, 151, 160, 164–167, 172,
175, 180, 206, 210
- Worlds, Four, 108



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