



*Dreams  
within  
Dreams*

THE GUIDEBOOK

*dreams  
within  
dreams*

*guidebook*

*first edition print*

*created by jade trinh*



*“At any moment, you have a choice,  
that either leads you closer to your  
spirit or further away from it.”*

*- Thich Nhat Hanh*

*introduction*



## *dream journaling*

*If you often have dreams and don't remember the details when you're awake, I highly recommend you to keep a dream journal. The moment you wake up, jot down any details you remember: people, colors, smells, tastes, animals, sounds, words, etc. It doesn't have to be full sentences either. Make note of the date as well. That way, you can always go back to review and interpret your dreams and decipher its meaning.*

*Perhaps you'll notice a theme or pattern?*

### *simple dream interpretation spread*

1. *What happened in this dream?*
2. *What details do I need to look closer into?*
3. *What does the dream mean?*
4. *What do I need to do with the dream's messages?*
5. *Advice on moving onward*



*major  
arcana*

*the big picture & significant moments*





## *0. the traveler*

*Life's an adventure. What awaits you along the journey? The young rabbit may be a little naive, but they are excited for new beginnings. A white rabbit generally symbolizes good luck, hope, and longevity.*

*Keywords: new beginnings, wanderlust, innocence*

*Reversal: naivety, too trusting, beware of rushing, watch where you're going, reckless*



## *1. the magician*

*Sometimes we forget how talented or capable we truly are. The Magician here is holding a wand, burning brightly, and looking up with eagerness and a little bit of hesitation. On a wooden table, lies tools needed to do what needs to be done. Once you start working, don't hold back!*

*Keywords: potential, manifestation, skill, alignment, creativity, willpower*

*Reversal: off track, self-doubt, lost, illusion, deception*



*2. The High Priestess*

## *2. the high priestess*

*The High Priestess knows all. Nothing can go past her eyes. She sits in between everything – good and evil, negative and positive, dark and light. She holds a book of knowledge and signifies spiritual wisdom. Perhaps it's time to listen.*

*Keywords: secrets, mysteries, connection to the spirit world, intuition*

*Reversal: lack of understanding, blocked inner power, repressed feelings*



### *3. the empress*

*The Empress is everything. She knows her worth and understands her time and presence is a privilege to those she chooses to spend her time with. She is not in any rush and people go out of their way for her. She brings blessings and abundance to those who are worthy. She is seen here resting and being still with the beauty of nature.*

*Keywords: abundance, nurturing, self-expression, universal knowledge, beauty of nature, motherhood*

*Reversal: dependence, lack of self-reliance, overbearing, creative blockages, missing connection with nature*



## *4. the emperor*

*The Emperor may seem stoic, but rest assured, he is observing with strength and wisdom. He represents vast experience and the patience needed to rule with practicality and structure. He sits on a throne along with flowers as well. There is softness in strength and force as well.*

*Keywords: ambition, discipline, structure, leadership*

*Reversal: controlling, abuse of power, rigidity and no room for flexibility, coldness*



## *5. the teacher*

*The Teacher (The Hierophant) represents tradition and knowledge. He is seen here standing in ceremonial attire, but is still approachable. He is not sitting but standing on steps. Tradition may seem intimidating or even infuriating, but there is always room to ask questions – and room especially for your own interpretation of things.*

*Keywords: tradition, ethics, societal norms*

*Reversal: rebellion, questioning, new approaches, mix things up*



## *6. the lovers*

*Protected and blessed, two people are embracing one another with love and gentleness. Also, the two look similar and mirror each other. In addition to love with another, this portrayal also represents the importance of truly loving oneself. Arguably, the strongest power out there is unconditional love; to love yourself unconditionally is powerful.*

*Keywords: connection, love, romance, passion, partnerships*

*Reversal: frustration in love, distrusting, unreliability in relationships, unrequited*



## *7. the chariot*

*The chariot is pulling you towards a direction. There are ropes to guide the griffin, but the hand is gripping onto the chariot instead. Do you know where you're going or are you passively sitting by? To the cultures that often reference the griffin, this creature is referred to as a divine guardian and it can be symbolic of enlightenment, independence, wisdom, strength, vengeance, and loyalty.*

*Keywords: know where you're going, focus, goals, overcoming challenges*

*Reversal: aimless, focusing on the wrong things, disorganization, opposition*





## 8. strength

*Sometimes, we struggle with strength – especially in the face of fear or when we get in our heads or even when we hold ourselves accountable. The person here is seen half asleep while a white tiger is wide awake. Strength is a process of trust. The white tiger symbolizes power, awe and fear, and more than just beauty and majesty. In some cultures, white tigers are thought to ward off evil spirits.*

*Keywords: inner power, courage, confidence*

*Reversal: vulnerable, doubt, arrogance, fear, avoidance*



## *9. the hermit*

*Does being a hermit mean complete isolation? Not necessarily. In fact, the Hermit is here to remind us about the importance of being in our own space – even if it means to simply relax in the bathtub. Also, notice that there are candles all around. Candles may symbolize a protective space. It also represents the light amid the darkness of life, bright future, vitality of the sun, or uncertainty of life and transience.*

*Keywords: self-reflection, soul searching, introspection, solitude*

*Reversal: loneliness, hiding yourself*



## *10. wheel of fate*

*Is there one wheel of fate or are there many? What does it mean to do what you're meant to do? The personification of destiny and universal order appears across many cultures, such as the Norns in Norse mythology, and Maat in ancient Egyptian religion. The threads of fate in this depiction are inspired by an ancient Chinese legend, where the Red Thread of Fate is considered invisible and ties all those whose lives will intertwine*

*Keywords: flow of life, cycles, lessons, fate, progress*  
*Reversal: delays, stagnation, disruption*



## *11. justice*

*What is the difference between law and order and fairness? Justice is here to ensure that the fairest decision will be made. A blindfolded person is holding up a sword and the scales to demonstrate authority and balance.*

*Keywords: truth, honesty, law, cause and effect*

*Reversal: lies, corruption, prejudice, unfairness*



## *12. the hanged one*

*The Hanged One is upside down and can be seen with spiders and its web. When things feel stagnant, it's like you can't move, no matter how hard you try. Now, is it necessarily a bad thing? Spiders symbolize patience and persistence. The spider's ability to spin webs may also mean balance, interconnection, evolution, and transformation.*

*Keywords: let go, pause, new perspectives, you are where you're meant to be*

*Reversal: stalling, stuck, resistance, re-evaluation*



## *13. death*

*Death doesn't have to be so scary, now does it? Are we afraid of death or are we afraid of the unknown?*

*Here is a skeletal figure, dressed in a white and blue robe. Nuestra Señora de la Santa Muerte is a personification of death and is associated with healing, love, safe passage to the afterlife, prosperity, good health, fortune, and protection. Like her, death is so much more.*

*Keywords: endings and new beginnings, rebirth*

*Reversal: fear of change, refusal to move forward, resistance*



## *14. temperance*

*A creature with horns and dark wings is looking at its reflection in the lake. Who looks back? The element of water has been associated with rich meanings, ranging from being the source of life to intuition and dreams.*

*The creature looks at itself in a different light in the water. Temperance is here as a gentle reminder in finding balance in your life. Too much of anything can be bad for you.*

*Keywords: balance, peace, patience, moderation*

*Reversal: neglect, excess, lack of balance*



## *15. the devil*

*Inspired by Lilith, this interpretation of the Devil sits on her throne confidently with judgment in her eyes. She sees everything: the good, the bad, the ugly, and the beautiful. Behind her are mirrors, some are shattered. Who do you see when you look at her? Or in the mirrors behind her? Is it a warning or a reminder? Or both?*

*Keywords: desire, addiction, bad intentions, restrictions, playfulness*

*Reversal: release, freedom, restoring control, detachment*





## *16. the tower*

*A person is looking up at the tower, contemplating. In this depiction, the tower is not on fire, but rather the few moments before the fire. While we may not always know what is coming up next in life, sometimes we just get a feeling that something is coming. What you do when the tower is here is up to you.*

*Keywords: chaos, unexpected major life event, revelation, spiritual awakening, uncomfortable but necessary release*

*Reversal: disaster avoided, rebuilding, reflection*



## *17. the star*

*Why swim when you can fly? Why not both?  
Humpback whales are magical creatures and are often related to spiritual matters. They signify the ability to move forward, important communication, and to not lose sight of what is yours and what you want from life. This whale is flying towards a specific star while the lights are dancing in the sky.*

*Keywords: healing, hope, faith, renewal, direction*

*Reversal: despair, pessimism, boredom, lack of inspiration*



## *18. the moon*

*Inspired by Isis, the goddess of life and magic. The Moon here is shown twice - the full moon offers an opportunity to reflect, given that it is about endings, not beginnings. The waning crescent moon encourages you to evaluate old habits and relationship. It also is a reminder of the importance of reflection - especially when things are hidden on purpose.*

*Keywords: illusions, deception, fear, subconscious, dreams, hidden secrets*

*Reversal: illumination, overcoming obstacles, clarity*



## *19. the sun*

*Inspired by the sun god in different cultures, the sun is shining brightly behind the figure. The sun represents life, but it's also known to typify energy, power, positivity, and clarity. The sun is a natural force that's outside of our control, but it also illuminates the world around us. Sometimes joy and success is all around us, but we get wrapped in the messiness or busyness of life. Find happiness where the sun shines.*

*Keywords: happiness, success, joy*

*Reversal: burnout, negativity*



## *20. judgement*

*Judgement, also known as karma, appears here as a large reflection in the sky. Is it a mirror? Or is it a portal? When Judgement comes, who judges you and where do you go? What goes around comes around.*

*Keywords: reckoning, judgment, rebirth, blessings*

*Reversal: difficulties, doubt, lack of self-awareness*



## *21. the universe*

*A door opens to a vast sky filled with planets and stars. Our universe is so much more than what we may know, and it is an expanse of light and all the interconnectedness we cannot see. This represents a sense of wholeness and completeness. It will be necessary to celebrate and give back to the world, to learn and to share.*

*Keywords: fulfillment, celebration, completion, accomplishment*

*Reversal: lack of success, detour, incomplete, lack of vision*

# bonus cards



## 22. *deja vu*

Are the same things happening and happening again? Like, you already know what's happening? This is a good time to unpack the feeling of *deja vu*.

*Keywords:* avoidance, ignore

*Reversal:* solution, action-oriented



## 23. *the nightmare*

What embodies a nightmare for you? Why is this a nightmare for you?

*Keywords:* anxious, fear

*Reversal:* facing fears, tackling the problem

*minor  
arcana*

*the little details*



### *ace of wands*

You got a spark! It glows and burns intensely. Now, will you run with it, or will you have no idea what to do with it?

**Keywords:** creativity, empowerment, passion, energy, motivation

**Reversal:** uninspired, creativity blockage, no passion or interests

### *2 of wands*

Are you allowing enough time to look ahead? Or are you planning a bit too much and you need to take a little bit of a risk?

**Keywords:** planning, making decisions, new perspectives, waiting

**Reversal:** fear of change, playing safe, bad planning

### *3 of wands*

Are your plans moving ahead? This fairy is considering her future as she gazes at the riveting body of water and nature below.

**Keywords:** looking into the future, rapid growth, expansion

**Reversal:** lack of ambition, obstacles, losing control, frustrations

### *4 of wands*

There's a reason to celebrate! There are good things to come, but more importantly, a necessity to appreciate the good in the present.

**Keywords:** joy, home, community, appreciation

**Reversal:** lack of support, feeling unwelcome, lack of community

### *5 of wands*

Conflict is normal. But when conflict happens, what comes after it? The way we approach conflict varies greatly.

**Keywords:** disagreement, conflict, competition, tension

**Reversal:** avoiding conflict, resolving dispute

### *6 of wands*

Be proud! You are being cheered on! The elf is riding a majestic unicorn, which signifies freedom, joy, magic, and life.

**Keywords:** moment of victory, achievement, public recognition

**Reversal:** lack of support, delay in success, excess pride

### *7 of wands*

The wands are closing in – is it getting too close where it makes you feel trapped? Or is it close enough to be snug as a defensive barrier?

**Keywords:** defense, protectiveness, protecting your space

**Reversal:** surrender, defeat, giving up

### *8 of wands*

There is a necessity to make a quick decision as they fly at high speeds and progress towards a change this coming quickly.

**Keywords:** progress, quick changes, sudden decisions, movement

**Reversal:** delays, loss of momentum, hastiness

### *9 of wands*

When reality hits you hard, it is incredibly tempting to just give up.

But will you? Taking your time to get back up is fine too.

**Keywords:** persistence, getting close, almost there, last stand

**Reversal:** exhaustion, tired, giving up

### *10 of wands*

Sometimes, life gets so hard and you carry so much burden that you just want to destroy everything – like the sea monster here.

**Keywords:** burden, overworked, burn out, heavy responsibilities

**Reversal:** breakdown, doing too much, not receiving help

### *page of wands*

The man looks like he's grasping onto fire magic, trying to focus. When we have a new idea, there's excitement to start looking into.

**Keywords:** fresh ideas, excitement, exploration

**Reversal:** impatient, distracted, hastiness, uninspired

### *knight of wands*

You are ready to get things done but be sure to pay attention to your surroundings before rushing in.

**Keywords:** progress, travel, looking forward, action being done

**Reversal:** insecurity, fear of being authentic, frustration, reckless



### *queen of wands*

Pele is the goddess of volcanoes, fire, and the creator of the volcanic landscapes known today as the Hawaiian Islands. Like fire, she represents ambition, and leadership and just as flames offer warmth and light, she too offers generosity.

**Keywords:** confident, leadership, determination, ambition, generosity

**Reversal:** vengeful, selfishness, insecurities, pushy

### *king of wands*

The phoenix represents rebirth, life, growth, virtue, pride, regeneration, and survival. It is also seen as a noble bird that was able to judge the character of human beings and confer blessings to.

**Keywords:** leadership, risk taker, vision, optimism

**Reversal:** domineering, unachievable, powerless, ineffective

### *ace of coins*

A gold coin glimmers behind the clouds. There is a new opportunity on the horizon!

**Keywords:** new opportunity, potential, unexpected offer

**Reversal:** lost opportunity, missed chance

### *2 of coins*

There is a need for a delicate balance. As you're dancing through life, make sure you're not taking on too much.

**Keywords:** flexibility, balance, adapting to change

**Reversal:** overwhelmed, lack of organization, lack of resources

### *3 of coins*

Collaboration may not always be easy because of differences, but no one can deny the importance of a united team.

**Keywords:** teamwork, planning, building, collaboration

**Reversal:** disorganization, group conflict, competition

### *4 of coins*

Be careful! Don't get stuck in keeping things to yourself for too long.

Know when to give back and open yourself up.

**Keywords:** savings and investments, materialism, frugality

**Reversal:** giving, spending, openness to finances

### *5 of coins*

Adversity can appear beyond the loss of life and can remain stagnant or frozen as the snow. But does it have to be?

**Keywords:** loss, lack of resources, worries, insecurity

**Reversal:** recovery, clarity

### *6 of coins*

Have you been giving too much? Or not enough? Or perhaps your boundaries haven't been firm with someone you really care about?

**Keywords:** sharing wealth, generosity, firm boundaries

**Reversal:** lack of boundaries, debt, selfishness

### *7 of coins*

A beautiful, large tree has given birth to pears, but is it ready to be picked and eaten?

**Keywords:** hard work, investment, long-term reward, perseverance

**Reversal:** little to no success, lack of vision, poor management

### *8 of coins*

You know there's hard work ahead, but are you distracted? Was a mistake made by poor planning or rushing?

**Keywords:** skill development, diligence, high standards

**Reversal:** no effort, perfectionism, avoiding work, lack of quality

### *9 of coins*

You've put in the hard work! It is time to treat yourself and take a moment to appreciate the flowers and animals.

**Keywords:** success, thriving, maturity, growth, luxury, indulgence

**Reversal:** superficial, dependency, bad decisions, setbacks

## *10 of coins*

Family and long-term stability is depicted by a woman using incense to pray to her ancestors at their altar.

**Keywords:** abundance, security, happiness in home and family life

**Reversal:** loss, failure, family drama

## *page of coins*

When laying down the foundations necessary, you may achieve your goals in the long run

**Keywords:** goal oriented, studious, dependable, developing a plan

**Reversal:** irresponsible, procrastinator, underachiever, unfocused

## *knight of coins*

Like the centaur, you're on your way but is mindful to take your time getting to your destination.

**Keywords:** realistic, responsible, practical, slow and steady

**Reversal:** work without reward, overworked, no initiative

## *queen of coins*

Lakapati, the deity of fertility and agriculture in Philippine mythology, is trans, symbolizing the balance of everything. She also represents prosperity and is grounded and secure.

**Keywords:** practicality, comforting, generosity

**Reversal:** neglectful of self, overly ambitious, imbalance

## *king of coins*

Turtles are frequently depicted in as easygoing, patient, and wise creatures.

Due to their long lifespan, they are an emblem of longevity and stability in many culture. Like this turtle, you are successful in supporting yourself with everything you got.

**Keywords:** successful, stability, family focused, wealth, business, security

**Reversal:** materialistic, obsessed with wealth and status, corruption



### *ace of swords*

A sharp sword glimmers against the night sky. Did you learn something new? A new idea popped up in your head?

*Keywords:* breakthrough, new idea, focus, concentration

*Reversal:* confusion, destruction, blocked ideas

### *2 of swords*

We often weigh choices unequally and by finding balance, any direction has the potential to be the right direction.

*Keywords:* decisions, partnerships, balance, truce

*Reversal:* indecision, difficult choice

### *3 of swords*

Daggers protrude through the heart, representing suffering and the long journey through grief in order to heal. How to begin anew?

*Keywords:* suffering, grief, heartbreak

*Reversal:* healing, forgiveness, recovery

### *4 of swords*

It is important to rest and restore your energy. If not, this can lead to mistakes in your work and life.

*Keywords:* restoration, rest, meditation, rejuvenation

*Reversal:* burnout, exhaustion, restlessness, insomnia

### *5 of swords*

Despite a mighty reward, there may be still significant loss and turmoil. Is it worth it?

*Keywords:* winning at what cost, hostility, stress

*Reversal:* revenge, regret, cutting losses, reconciliation

### *6 of swords*

The boat is leading towards the future, to change, and leaves behind stories on the shore that must be let go to move forward.

*Keywords:* moving forward, leaving behind, transitional period

*Reversal:* resisting transition, unresolved issues

### *7 of swords*

The assassin represents stealth and strategy; a reason to be suspicious.

Well, actually, is the assassin you or another person?

*Keywords:* suspicious, deception, trickery, strategy

*Reversal:* rethink approach, choosing to do better

### *8 of swords*

It's difficult to escape our thoughts, but a new perspective is in reach.

To move forward, a change in perspective is needed.

*Keywords:* sin your head, imprisonment, internal struggle

*Reversal:* new perspective, self-acceptance

### *9 of swords*

The swords appear in the teeth of a monster haunting its victim. Your anxieties loom over you, causing a sense of hopelessness.

*Keywords:* sleepless, hopelessness, anxiety, troubles

*Reversal:* reaching out, hope, strength

### *10 of swords*

An angel falls towards pointed swords. There is nothing to stop their fall as the end is their collapse. But there is room to recover and heal.

*Keywords:* ultimate betrayal, painful endings, collapse, failure

*Reversal:* going up from here, can't get any worse, recovery

### *page of swords*

There is an energy of passion and enthusiasm and as their curiosity leads them to learning and growing educated about the unknown.

*Keywords:* curiosity, energetic, talkative, restlessness

*Reversal:* all talk, manipulation, lack of ideas, broken promises

### *knight of swords*

The knight symbolizes ambition, drive, and determination. Instead of a horse, the large serpent represents a creative life force.

*Keywords:* confidence, quick thinking, seize the moment, sharp

*Reversal:* disregard of consequences, arrogance, impatience



### *queen of swords*

With fierce determination and skill, Queen Amanirenas led her people and Kingdom of Kush to the successful defense against Augustus Caesar and the Roman Empire. She shows up here to give a nudge in the right direction when it comes to strategy.

**Keywords:** fierce, independent, constructive criticism, logic and reason

**Reversal:** rude, harsh, overly critical, lack of empathy, poor communication

### *king of swords*

The Ky Lân is a mythical creature known as the Vietnamese unicorn. The unicorn symbolizes peace, mercy, good fortune, intelligence, and goodness.

**Keywords:** intellectual power, authority, ethics, truth, self-discipline

**Reversal:** abuse of power, lack of integrity, cruel

### *ace of cups*

A goldfish watches as a cup pours a source of water into another. There will be new beginnings and love, compassion, and luck.

**Keywords:** intimacy, feelings, compassion, new possibility

**Reversal:** anguish, cold, bad news, emotional loss, blocked creativity

### *2 of cups*

Two people hold onto each other as teacups pour out their contents.

This represents a new partnership or connection between a pair.

**Keywords:** partnership, unity, connection, closeness, mutual respect

**Reversal:** separation, rejection, tension, mismatch, imbalance

### *3 of cups*

Are you enjoying your friends' company? Are they enjoying yours?

**Keywords:** friendship, community, gatherings, social events

**Reversal:** imbalanced social life, isolation, gossip, loneliness



### *4 of cups*

Your eyes may be closed, with dissatisfaction and apathy with your surroundings. But, you might be missing something.

*Keywords:* apathy, contemplation, boredom, dissatisfaction

*Reversal:* clarity, awareness, moving forward, taking action

### *5 of cups*

There's a sense of loss; a situation not being represented as expected.

*Keywords:* loss, grief, sadness, disappointment, mourning

*Reversal:* acceptance, finding peace, moving on

### *6 of cups*

Two people look out towards a sea of butterflies, reminiscing on the past. Are you appreciating the past or stuck in the past?

*Keywords:* memories, familiarity, comfort, playfulness

*Reversal:* leaving home, independence

### *7 of cups*

The woman has options all around her, but she is focused on her reflection. There are options, yes, but where does she go from her?

*Keywords:* abundance of options, opportunities, choices, daydream

*Reversal:* bad decisions, no good options, feeling trapped

### *8 of cups*

A mermaid beckons the stars as she reaches her hand out towards the moon and galaxies. Empty chalices lie discarded behind her, representing letting go, looking forward towards truth.

*Keywords:* let go, leave behind, search for truth

*Reversal:* stagnant, avoidance, fear, afraid to move forth

### *9 of cups*

A person dances in the wake of spilling cups, representing success, and the enjoyment of their achievements. There is a feeling of being fulfilled in the presence of abundance.

*Keywords:* wish fulfillment, success, recognition, achievements

*Reversal:* underachievement, shattered dreams, something's missing

## *10 of cups*

There is a sense of domestic bliss and home as the family enjoys their time together, with a sense of completeness and satisfaction.

**Keywords:** happiness, reunion, domestic harmony, homecoming

**Reversal:** familial conflict, separation, isolation, unhappiness

## *page of cups*

Sometimes, the unexpected inspiration comes to us from the unconscious, perhaps in ways that we may not truly understand.

**Keywords:** surprising insight, creative opportunities, curiosity

**Reversal:** creative blocks, emotional immaturity, doubts

## *knight of cups*

Under the sea, a merperson is swimming alongside a large koifish, which symbolizes love, friendship, and peace. Is this a love offer?

**Keywords:** romance, imagination, beauty, following the heart

**Reversal:** unrealistic, jealousy, disappointment

## *queen of cups*

Yemaya, the ocean mother goddess, represents compassion and a nurturing mother. But she does not only show motherhood as there is a sense of leadership in wisdom. Follow your intuition and remain observant.

**Keywords:** compassion, nurturing, wisdom, perceptiveness

**Reversal:** codependency, ignores issues, worries



## *king of cups*

A giant sea dragon imposes its presence above the sea, mountainous lies behind it. It bears control of the sea, strength, and empathy.

**Keywords:** control over emotions, diplomatic, empathy

**Reversal:** manipulation, withdrawn, selfishness, repressed

## *dedication*

*Dedicated to my inner child. I adore them.*

## *gratitude*

*This is my very first independent tarot deck so it was nerve-wracking to do. However, it would not have been possible without an amazing team (Connie & Cici!) and backers who believed in this project. It means the world to me to be able to share this body of work with you. Thank you so much!*

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