

LOST



HOLLOW

# Lost Hollow Tarot

*"Take, if you must, this little bag of dreams, Unloose the cord, and they will wrap you round." -  
Yeats*

The Lost Hollow Tarot is a fully-illustrated 80 card deck featuring an amalgamation of archetypes pulled from the Rider-Waite-Smith, Crowley-Harris, and Golden Dawn Tarot traditions. Each card was carefully researched, designed, and illustrated to allow for both depth of symbolism as well as quick precision in your readings, all while still depicting the grim elegance of its supernatural motif.

Each card is drawn in a red, black and white color scheme that keeps the whole deck unified in one consistent look and feel. The characters in the deck are a diverse cast that bring to life the varied beauty of the setting and its inhabitants. Every card meaning has a considered mediation between its different sources and as such you will see a melding of traditions.

Pips are fully illustrated with depictions of people and backgrounds like a RWS deck, but also contain symbolism and designs inspired by the Thoth deck, and titles inspired from both the Golden Dawn and Thoth. Meanings of cards follow the three sources, so where one differs from the other two, the more common meaning is applied. Cards ask you to read energy and themes and aren't tied to following specific gender expressions. The characters within are varied in their bodies, races, ages, sexual orientations, and genders (yes, even and especially the court cards, which despite their naming, follow no specific gender expression).

This book provides card themes and meanings for your own clarity. If you have a stronger association with a card that contradicts the meanings given here, then go by your own interpretation. Above all, this book is meant to be a helpful guide, not a dictator.

Here you will find all cards fully illustrated with a rich and diverse cast of characters. I've tried my best to depict them with beauty and grace, but also with just a hint of horror and the macabre. Despite the dark setting, the contents of

the deck read with the variety of light and dark themes and archetypes you'd expect from a Tarot deck. Bonus cards of Justice and Strength, each with their own unique artwork, let you choose whether you'd like them numbered according to the Rider-Waite-Smith standard or the Crowley-Harris/GD one. This brings the total card count up to 80.

Tarot decks appeal to different people for different purposes. Some just like having an artistic collectible. Others use them for card games like Tarrochini. Some use them for occult purposes and divination. Others use them for self-reflection and self-improvement work. Whatever your usage is, my hope is that this deck will serve you well.

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## Performing a Tarot Reading

Readings are often performed with multiple cards and there are a variety of different spreads you can use for different situations. A popular one to perform with a new deck is an “interview spread” and you can search the internet to find one that you like. This is a way of having a deck introduce itself. Some other useful spreads are:

**The One-Card Draw:** I use this one commonly on my Instagram feed. It provides a quick reading and I've found it useful for beginning readers as a practice to start memorizing card meanings. It's pretty simple, you draw a card and try to remember the meanings. Don't fret if you've forgotten something, there is a lot to remember in each card! If you need to, refer to online sources or this book(or the booklet) for a quick overview of each card. Once you're comfortable drawing single cards, you can expand into other reading styles from there, or start drawing additional cards and think of how they relate to each other in the context of your query.

**The Past/Present/Future Spread:** This is a three card spread, and again is pretty popular. Each card that you draw refers to a point in time; the past, the present, and the future.

**The Celtic Cross:** This is a solid spread that refers to different aspects of the querent's life and situation. It can provide a lot of information in a relatively concise format, but is involved enough that it takes some practice to get down. It is so popular that I've specifically designed the Lost Hollow Altar Cloth to be large enough to fit this spread on it.

Aside from spreads, you may also be interested in readings that use card inversions, and readings using elemental dignities. If you are just getting started, you may want to skip out on these until you've got the upright/well-defined themes memorized reasonably well. If you're up for it, though, you can use a couple of different styles to add more complexity to your readings.

Inversions are popular and simple, a card drawn upright contains what this book refers to as "well-defined themes", and a card drawn inverted refers to the "ill-defined themes". This deck's card backs are designed to mirror the upright and inverted draws so you are able to use that system should you desire.

The inverted/upright reading style is a way of doing readings that makes for a pretty streamlined experience, and is very common. But there is another reading style: elemental dignities. When reading in this way, you look to the element of a card and the elements of cards surrounding it to determine whether a card is considered well or ill-defined, and to what degree.

It can be a little daunting to read with dignities at first, but over time you may find that having the cards relate to each other in this way can provide extra depth to your readings.

Certain elemental combinations work well together, and others weaken each other. In the Lost Hollow Deck, wands are associated with fire, cups are water, swords are air, and pentacles are earth. Here is a general breakdown of elemental combinations and their effects on each other:

**Element + Same element:** Strengthens itself

**Fire + Air:** Actively strengthen each other

**Water + Earth:** Passively strengthen each other

**Fire + Water:** Weaken each other

**Air + Earth:** Weaken each other

**Fire + Earth:** Neutral

**Air + Water:** Neutral

For each card surrounding the one you're currently reading, you can take into account the elements of itself and its neighbors to tell whether it is leaning into its most well-defined features or if it has more of the ill-defined themes to it. A fire card surrounded by fire and air will be well supported in its well-defined themes, but a fire card completely surrounded by water will fizzle into mostly (or all) of its ill-defined tendencies.

Additionally, each card is densely layered with symbolism throughout that can give each reading incredible depth. Even as I go over a more detailed overview of the symbolism of each card, there is always more to read on each symbol and reference. Each card has links to astrology, the Tree of Life, and many varied mythologies. For some, Tarot reading is a lifelong learning process that uncovers more and more depth over time. So don't be overwhelmed if you don't have each and every detail memorized right away. Even the most experienced readers had to start from somewhere and build their expertise over time.

However you decide to read, and wherever you are starting from, try to do so in a way that makes sense for you! If you aren't ready for dignities or inversions or the astrological references, start without them. If you just want basic themes or you want to do readings one card at a time and stack more from there, go for it. I think that when you're first learning it can be easy to get frustrated, so try to focus on a way of reading that is fun for you and go from there. There's no use in trying to force yourself to learn in a way that will remove any enjoyment you get from the process, so if you're more comfortable starting with something simple and building proficiency from there, do it! Your Tarot journey belongs to you, after all, not to anyone else.

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## Major Arcana

The Major Arcana represent the strongest archetypes in Tarot. In a reading they could be considered spirit, major life events, karmic influence, and the larger plot points in our lives. The Major Arcana tell the tale of the Fool's Journey and as it

cycles its way through the cards, so do our own personal stories. For this deck, I've included the Crowley-Harris/GD cards of Strength in the Eleventh position (Lust in the Thoth deck) and Adjustment in the Eighth position (Justice in the GD deck). I've also included the RWS positions of Strength in the Eight position and Justice in the Eleventh position. Each of these cards has their own unique artwork but meanings and symbolism overlap. In your readings, you may want to include only one of these sets so as not to overlap cards. In this book I've included each card's name, numbers, Golden Dawn title, card title, and the element/planet/astrological associated with the card.

## **0 - Fool - Spirit of Aether - Air**

**Well-defined Themes** - Creation, potential, innocence, beginnings, growth, spontaneity

**Ill-defined Themes** - Recklessness, wasted potential, distraction, fear, lack of awareness

The Fool bears zero as their number, not as a lack of value but as a placeholder for any conceivable value. It is the universe prior to the Big Bang, life before conception, an empty canvas. They represent infinite potential within us all and kick off the Fool's Journey across the Major Arcana. In this deck, the Fool appears in each of the Major Arcana cards. The trees in the background represent the challenges that the Fool must navigate as they move onward. Below are white flowers representing purity. The Fool gazes at the butterfly in front of them, which represents both air and the transformation that will take place along the way. This is a card of new beginnings, opportunity, and adventure. It encourages an open and curious mindset and a faithful leap forward into your endeavor. Trust in yourself and begin your journey!

## **I - Magician - Magus of Power - Mercury**

**Well-defined Themes** - Capability, competence, concentration, communication, manifestation, power

**Ill-defined Themes** - Tricks or illusions, removed from reality, distractions, hampered communication

The Magician is associated with Mercury, the messenger of the gods, and is likewise a card linking above with below, the heavens with the earth, the spiritual and the material. They have tools from each of the suits within reach, signifying that they have everything that they need to manifest their will into being. Their white suit symbolizes purity, and the infinity symbol on their forehead symbolizes their unlimited potential as well as their connection to the spiritual. Their feet are on the ground, linking that spiritual higher power with their earthly manifestation. The ground and trees behind the Magician bloom with flowers, showing that their aspirations are beginning to blossom. This card suggests that we have what we need to make our aspirations a reality. Our capability is set, we have only to look at our first step and take it, then take the next, and so on. The journey is underway and we are well prepared for it.

## **II - Priestess - Priestess of the Silver Star - Moon**

**Well-defined Themes** - Intuition, the subconscious, a period of self-reflection, internal change

**Ill-defined Themes** - A shallow view, ignoring your intuition, secrets, withdrawal, lacking spirituality

The Priestess is linked with the Moon and the subconscious. Behind them are the twin tree-like pillars of Boaz and Jachin representing mercy and severity. The Priestess holds aloft a pomegranate linked with Persephone, abundance, and fertility. On their lapel is a cross symbolizing their divine rulership. The repeated crescent moons represent the intuition and subconscious. The background is dark and snow falls around, suggesting that when one is lost in darkness to trust their intuition, and linking again with Persephone's yearly trip to the underworld. Their blazer's buttons have the letters of TORA, representing the Greater Law. The Priestess' face itself isn't visible, suggesting that only through the application of willpower and bridging of the conscious and subconscious will they become known. This card is associated with the subconscious and intuition and calls on

us to make use of these. The answers we are after will come from within, we may just need to tap into our inner self.

### **III - Empress - Daughter of the Mighty Ones - Venus**

**Well-defined Themes** - Growth, beauty, nurturing, relationships, empathy, love, nature

**Ill-defined Themes** - Vanity, emotional damage, self-hatred, creativity blocked, dependence

The Empress is a card of growth, beauty, and nurturing. She bears a crown with twelve stars on it, referencing her ties to both the zodiac and the twelve planets. She is surrounded by growing plants, symbolizing her link to nature and abundance. With her horns and goat ears, she is something of a satyr or a faun of the forest. She is a nurturing source of stability that allows growth, encourages creativity, and supports relationships and love. This card encourages empathy, nurturing, creativity, beauty, and connection with the senses. It suggests abundance around us. Perhaps it would be a good time to go explore nature. We may be nurturing or mothering someone else or may be receiving that energy ourselves. It is possible we'll be bringing a creative idea forth and manifesting it into the world. The Empress suggests that we act with empathy and love towards ourselves and others.

### **IV - Emperor - Chief Among the Mighty - Aries**

**Well-defined Themes** - Fair leadership, authority, structure, life experience, self-discipline, logic, systematic problem solving, self-sacrifice

**Ill-defined Themes** - Failing to meet goals, an overly dominant or controlling figure, rebellion against rules and structure, cruelty and violence

The Emperor is associated with Aries and Mars. His horns represent this link. The number four is repeated throughout the card, symbolizing the link to Chesed, the fourth sephiroth on the Tree of Life, which in turn is associated with Jupiter.



Between the crow and his eye patch, he references Odin as a fiery, active authority figure. The orb with a maltese cross that represents his creativity and ability to govern is on his coat collar. The bees flying in front of him symbolize industriousness, order, structure, and leadership. The Ankh on his other side represents the symbol of life. Behind him are mountains associated with his solid foundation and resistance to unnecessary change. As with the Empress, he is a satyr/faun-like creature, and together they are two halves of rulership that allows for the best of those within it. The Emperor card suggests that we need to be a source of stability for others. We may be providing for and protecting others. This card encourages leadership, order, organization, and expertise.

## **V - Hierophant - Magus of the Eternal - Taurus**

**Well-defined Themes** - Tradition, rules, regulations, learning, mentorship, wisdom, conformity

**Ill-defined Themes** - Blind obedience, bureaucracy, rebellion, challenging authority, controlling mentors, over-reliance on structure and tradition

The Hierophant is a spiritual teacher and mentor associated with Taurus. Its right hand is raised in benediction, with two fingers pointed towards heaven and two towards earth. Its other hand holds a papal cross associating it with religion and authority. The two keys represent the unlocking of mysteries as the Hierophant teaches, and the balanced energies of the conscious and subconscious minds working together in the pursuit of higher understanding. The twin trees behind represent the pillars of obedience and disobedience. The Hierophant's triple crown is depicted as three sets of horns, and links to their triple roles of priest, teacher, and king. With its roles combined, the Hierophant offers the teachings to a higher path. The Hierophant card represents institutions, mentorship, learning, and spirituality. It is a trusted guide and mentor. This card suggests that we follow an established way of doing things and listen to those with more experience than ourselves. Trust the knowledge of those with expertise and experience with a subject.

## **VI - Lovers - Children of the Voice - Gemini**

**Well-defined Themes** - Choice, consequences, relationships, love, connection, attraction, desiring union

**Ill-defined Themes** - Unequal and strained relationships, lacking self-love, lacking relationships, imbalance, internal conflict, misaligned values

The Lovers card depicts the union of a multitude of different people, shown through a mirror that has shattered into pieces. In doing so, it shows the desire of unification arising from separation. Associated with Gemini, the card is not just about romantic love, but about union and connection. It is the connection between people, with oneself, with spirituality, and with other people in general. The sword archway that has shattered the mirror is also the gateway to the spiritual light of Kether. The swords create a duality from unity, and in doing so introduce a drive to unify once more. The Lovers card is about meaningful relationships and choices. It calls on us to be trusting and open, with others and with ourselves. This card asks us to make choices in life that align with our higher selves. Act as the person you aspire to be.

## **VII - Chariot - Lord of the Triumph of Light - Cancer**

**Well-defined Themes** - Overcoming adversity, self-discipline, control, success, victory, courage, goal achievement, contemplation

**Ill-defined Themes** - Conflict, recklessness, lack of focus, opposition

The Chariot card calls for forward momentum and action. The Charioteer commands two sphinx moths through force of will alone. Each moth has symbols for each of the elements, between them representing the fixed signs for each element and then mixing into each of the 16 sub-elements. On the Charioteer's hands are rings for each of these elements along with spirit/aether, and with each of these, the Charioteer has control over the direction in which they move in the world. Their armor is marked with a symbol of the moon, showing that the Charioteer is higher minded than their emotions and subconscious. Their crown is a laurel wreath and star, signifying success and spiritual evolution. On

their belt is a square showing their strength of will. Behind the Charioteer is a flowing river, signifying their need to be adaptable and flow with the events of life to maintain momentum. Above them are six-pointed stars aligning their higher mind with the divine. The Charioteer's success is intentional, directed, flexible, and determined. Where the Lovers card asks us to make decisions in accordance with our values, the Chariot pushes us to act on those decisions. This card encourages us forward on our path. Your objective is set, you just need to apply yourself toward it, and do so with willpower and determination.

### **VIII - Adjustment - Ruler of the Balance - Libra**

**Well-defined Themes** - Taking stock, karma, decisions and consequences, clear vision, balance, what gives life meaning

**Ill-defined Themes** - Imbalance, refusal to change, meaninglessness in life, lacking fulfillment

Adjustment (Thoth naming, GD/Thoth position) is associated with a long-term and less human-centric concept of justice. It leans towards cause and effect more than it does law and order. It is the order of the universe and nature. Associated with Libra, the card is about balance and equilibrium. The Harlequin figure is somewhat restrained, the many ties around them pulling this way and that, along with the ties on the branches implying a level of self-control and restriction is necessary to follow one's true will to bring harmony to one's life. The sword at the center of the card is double-edged, and represents the will of humankind as well as choices, free will, and cause and effect. It is the logical mindset necessary for balance. The scales in the background have the letters Alpha and Omega on them signifying the beginning and end of possibilities available to us. Adjustment asks for impartiality, logic, and self-control to maintain a healthy balance for ourselves and others. Without this balance, we may find ourselves in harm's way as the extreme of a choice we've made or action we've taken swings back upon us.

### **VIII - Strength - Daughter of the Flaming Sword - Leo**

**Well-defined Themes** - Compassion, passion, influence, courage, self-acceptance, inner resilience

**Ill-defined Themes** - Self-doubt, low energy, lack of passion, reckless actions, mindlessness

Strength (eighth position, following the RWS tradition) depicts a person calmly embracing a lion. The lion is raw passion, emotion, desire, and animal instinct. Through their calm acceptance and love the person is able to tame and control the creature. Their suit has a pattern of flowers showing the beauty in their acceptance of the feared beast of their self. The lemniscate overhead is the infinite potential realized through acceptance of and mastery over the lower self. This card is associated with Leo and fire, power and emotion, passion and energy. It asks us for self-knowledge, self-control, and a calm, enduring courage in the face of difficulty. Trust that you can overcome the obstacles before you. Keep confident and be determined.

## **IX - Hermit - Prophet of the Eternal - Virgo**

**Well-defined Themes** - Insight, illumination, soul-searching, wisdom, knowledge, delving into one's untapped wisdom

**Ill-defined Themes** - Isolation, being self-absorbed, withdrawal, ignoring others, being out of touch

The Hermit is associated with Virgo, isolation, wisdom, and personal development. It implies wisdom through inner soul-searching and connection with the self. The snows and mountains represent spiritual growth and mastery. With their self-discovery, the Hermit has attained a higher awareness of themselves and the world. They hold a staff signifying their power to help guide them, the end of which has a lantern with a six-pointed star of light emanating from within. The lantern is their inner illumination, the star linked to the wisdom implied with the Seal of Solomon. The three dogs coming from within the Hermit's cloak are a nod towards Cerberus, and the three qualities of the lower self that the Hermit has mastered, namely speech, thought, and action. The

Orphic Egg within the lantern is the manifested universe, but contained within oneself. The clock is a reference to Father Time, and the wisdom that time can bring. The Hermit's knowledge of the self gives knowledge of the world. As within, so without.

## **X - Fortune - Lord of the Forces of Life - Jupiter**

**Well-defined Themes** - Change, optimism, adaptability, self as the stable center in chaotic times, unexpected opportunity, life cycles

**Ill-defined Themes** - Bad luck, powerlessness, stress, cautiousness, helplessness, resisting change, breaking out of cycles

Fortune, or the Wheel of Fortune, is a card about life's events, luck, and chance. As the wheel turns, fates change, and around it nothing is fixed. The four Hebrew letters are YHVH (Yod Heh Vau Heh) which are the unpronounceable name of god, and around that are TORA/TAROT. The Egyptian god Typhon and Anubis are both present at the bottom of the wheel, with lightning from Jupiter (not pictured) striking Typhon. Anubis is a mediator between the living and the dead, and associated with air, and life force exiting the material world. Typhon is associated with salt, death, and stagnation, and is life force entering the material world. The top figure is cloaked but has a collar and wings reminiscent of a sphinx, associated with sulphur, heat, and explosiveness, but they also have a sword on their cloak signifying the symbol of the mind and willpower. The sphinx figure is also knowledge and strength. The alchemical symbols on the mid-wheel are of mercury, sulphur, water, and salt, and represent developing power. At each of the corners are the four fixed signs of the Zodiac, and as they are tied in place they signify a stability around the churning movement and unstoppable change of this card. This card reminds us that neither good nor bad times are forever. The wheel turns, empires rise and fall, stability and instability churn around each other and the cosmic dance continues. Time moves ever onward and while we cannot control it, we can control ourselves and how we react to events.

## **XI - Strength - Daughter of the Flaming Sword - Leo**

**Well-defined Themes** - Compassion, passion, influence, courage, self-acceptance, inner resilience

**Ill-defined Themes** - Self-doubt, low energy, lack of passion, reckless actions, mindlessness

Strength (eleventh position, following the GD/Thoth ((In Thoth this card is Lust)) traditions) depicts a person calmly interacting with the jaw and head of a lion. The lion is raw passion, emotion, desire, and animal instinct. Through their calm acceptance and love the person is able to tame and control the creature. Their suit has a pattern of flowers showing the beauty in their acceptance of the feared beast of their self. The lemniscate overhead is the infinite potential realized through acceptance of and mastery over the lower self. This card is associated with Leo and fire, power and emotion, passion and energy. It asks us for self-knowledge and a calm, enduring courage in the face of difficulty. Trust in your integrity and act with the inner strength and passion that arises from being true to your best inner self. Be comfortable and unafraid of who you are and act with the inner power that comes from this self-acceptance.

## **XI - Justice - Daughter of the Lords of Truth - Libra**

**Well-defined Themes** - Fairness, truth, cause and effect, integrity, consequence, law

**Ill-defined Themes** - Unfairness, dishonesty, retribution, corruption

Justice (RWS tradition) represents law and order, cause and effect, action and consequence. Her framing is similar to that of the High Priestess and the Hierophant, positioned between two trees representing law and structure. Her scales hover above her intuitive hand and are balanced as a symbol of her impartiality. Her sword is double edged, representing both action and consequence, and points upwards, showing the logic and clarity of her decisions. She has her cowl over her eyes, again showing the impartiality of her judgements. Justice warns of consequences for unjust actions and decisions having long-term effects that echo outwards through time. It calls for us to be held

accountable and take responsibility for our actions, and to be truthful with ourselves and others about the effects of those actions. Act in alignment with your higher self and for the good of others.

## **XII - Hanged One - Spirit of the Mighty Waters - Water**

**Well-defined Themes** - Redemption of a transgression, letting go of guilt, giving to others, sacrifice in pursuit of self-fulfillment, new perspective, surrender

**Ill-defined Themes** - Self-punishment, guilt, self-sacrifice in detriment, stalling, indecision, delays

The Hanged One is a card of surrender, self-sacrifice, new perspective, and meditation. Eighteen ropes center on the Hanged One's head, symbolizing the number of life and, with the halo of light behind them, represents the spiritual light that the Hanged One brings into the darkness. The halo has four rings, relating to the number of structure and manifestation as well as the four elements that make life in Malkuth. The ankh with the coiled serpent around the Hanged One's body are linked to both life and death, and purity of spirit. Again representing the light entering darkness is the triangle atop a cross that is on the Hanged One's leg, and further on the same leg we find the four elements. The Hanged One's right leg is crossed over the left, implying unconsciously landing in situations of learning rather than consciously seeking them out. This card is one of self improvement through surrender, bringing light to darkness, suspension, redemption, and the repair of one's spirit and emotions. It may be time to take time out and re-align yourself with the actual state of things. This is a good time to set projects aside for the moment and try to see things from a fresh perspective. Reflect, surrender, and don't resist a shift in the way you see things.

## **XIII - Death - Lord of the Gate of Death - Scorpio**

**Well-defined Themes** - Transformation, change, letting go of that which doesn't serve you, crisis, difficult personal growth

**Ill-defined Themes** - Resisting change, stagnation, unresolved issues, feeling trapped or stuck

In the Death card, our crow fills in for the traditional grim reaper. As with the death card itself, the crow is often associated as an ill omen and with loss and death. Like the grim reaper, the crow is often a stand in psychopomp that connects this world with the afterlife. In the background are skulls of the common people, a bishop, and closest to us is a skull that has lost a crown signifying royalty. Together, these imply that death spares no one despite their station, situation, or wealth. From the foremost skull sprouts a white rose, associated with purity, beauty, change, and the transformation from death to life, from end to beginning again. In the distance two dark forests clear the way for a sunset on the horizon, reflecting the sun's nightly death and rebirth. Associated with Scorpio, this card is grim but is ultimately about self transformation, death and rebirth, endings and new beginnings. You may need to let something go so that you can continue on. In letting go of something from the past that you've been hanging on to, you are able to move into the future. This may be a painful time of becoming something different, but it is necessary and should not be feared. Change is coming and it cannot be deterred.

#### **XIV - Temperance - Child of the Reconcilers - Sagittarius**

**Well-defined Themes** - Balance, moderation, tranquility, purpose, calm, coordination, patience

**Ill-defined Themes** - Imbalance, conflict, excesses, stress, tension, impatience, haste, competition

Temperance is about re-integration of opposites, balance, calm, tranquility, moderation, and patience. The non-binary angelic figure holds aloft two cups that pour a fiery water arc above their head. On the cups are icons for an eagle and a lion, associated with Leo and Aquarius. On their breast is a triangle enclosed in a square, symbolizing humanity bound by earth's natural law. They have one foot in the water and one on the ground, showing the balance of staying grounded and needing to be in the flow of events. The water winds its way in a path to the



background, symbolizing life's journey. On the coat's lapels are symbols for Sagittarius and non-binary. The water at the base of the card is the cauldron of mixed elements itself, and next to it is our crow on top of a skull, representing that which is filtered out during the alchemical purification process. The angel's halo is in seven rings, bringing to mind the rainbow on Crowley's Art card, representing the product of purification in the cauldron of mixed elements. This card completes the re-integration process started in the Lovers card. Where the Lovers began a division, here that split is unified into a whole once more. This card asks us for our patience, moderation, and a calm approach even in chaotic times.

## **XV - Devil - Lord of the Gates of Matter - Capricorn**

**Well-defined Themes** - Restriction, attachment, overly focused on the material, sexuality, shadow self

**Ill-defined Themes** - Compulsion, addiction, feelings of being trapped, detachment, aggression and dishonesty

The Devil calls back to the design of the Lovers card, but here shows all of the multitudes of peoples as bound and held aloft. The ropes lead back to the Devil's hands as though he is a puppeteer manipulating marionettes. The ropes form an inverted pentagram above the Devil's head. The Devil himself is a shadowy figure with the head and spiral horns of a markhor goat, a red third eye, and a red halo. Behind it are the flames that consume the addicts and thralls. Associated with Capricorn, physical pleasure, material focus, and addiction, the Devil is about the things that keep us restricted and spiritually stunted. Material things that we let get the better of us, as well as those things that are dangerously addictive for us to be around. It can be a card of greed and materialism, or something as simple as a lustful attraction. In some cases it can be about breaking away from work to engage in celebration of the material, but more often it is a card of letting material pursuits get the better of us. We may be giving in to pleasures and dependencies that keep us from our higher self. Our shadow self runs amok and we shrink within it. We need to acknowledge and be consciously aware of these

dangerous behaviors so that we may work on freeing ourselves from their negative influence and the hold they have on us.

## **XVI - Tower - Lord of the Hosts of the Mighty - Mars**

**Well-defined Themes** - Destruction of stability, re-alignment of a fundamental understanding, a time of crisis and turmoil, difficult emotions, a sudden reversal of fate, destruction of institutions, false premises leading to their own downfall, upended expectations

**Ill-defined Themes** - Fight and conflict, fear of change, remaining in a toxic situation or environment, prolonging difficult times and situations, repeating cycles without learning from them

Destruction sets the scene for the Tower card. Lightning representing a sudden burst of energy or insight strikes out at a tower symbolizing institutions, assumptions, organizations, and/or ideas. The Tower that was built on these false premises or shaky foundations crumbles and falls apart in flames. There are twenty-two points of flames representing the ten points of the Tree of Life and the twelve signs of the zodiac. Associated with Mars, the Tower itself can also represent destruction in an ego-death event. Flying away from the tower is a dove and falling away from the tower are two figures, one of which has the snake Abraxas coiled around them. The dove and serpent are figures of active and passive love. The two figures are figures desperately trying to escape the situation, not knowing what fate awaits them, surrounded by the divinity of the flames. The top of the Tower has the Eye of Shiva and a crown, representing destruction of the illusion of material creation and energy flowing down from the universe through the crown chakra. There are four side windows on the Tower, marked with each of the four elements that make up our physical, mental, and emotional bodies. The lower window has ten panes, representing the 10th sephiroth Malkuth. The Tower is a card of forced and abrupt change, often to systems or institutions or deeply held beliefs. The change is implied to be both necessary and irrevocable. Afterwards a new and better system will need to replace that which has crumbled.

## **XVII - Star - Daughter of the Firmament - Aquarius**

**Well-defined Themes** - Inspiration, fulfillment, joy, love, encouragement, hope, purpose

**Ill-defined Themes** - Loss of hope, skepticism, disconnect, joylessness, lacking fulfillment

The Star is associated with Aquarius and is about hope, joy, purpose, and renewal. The woman pours from her glasses to provide nourishment for the earth. The water on the ground spreads into five rivulets, representing the senses. One foot is on the ground representing her practicality, the other in the water to represent her intuition. Her nakedness is both vulnerability and purity. The largest star in the background is her core essence, the others are the seven chakras. Her two cups are marked as having the energy of the sun and the moon, for the energy of the gods and limitless potential channeled through her as love. The globe in the background is the universe containing Earth. The five butterflies are the souls freed of mind and matter, the number five being spirit. The Three roses are the fertility of the land brought to life by the nourishment from the figure. This is a card of moving beyond difficult times and into a better future with a strengthened self. With the new self is inspiration and fulfillment as we move toward our dreams and goals. After the darkness and difficulty of previous cards, this one brings hope and renewal.

## **XVIII - Moon - Ruler of Flux and Reflux - Pisces**

**Well-defined Themes** - Illusion, deception, fear, anxiety, hidden self, subconscious, repressed memories or feelings

**Ill-defined Themes** - Depression, unhealthy mental states, confusion, directionlessness, repression, meaninglessness

The Moon represents the difficult qualities of the Moon. Illusion and deception, the dark night of the soul, and wandering without direction in the unknown. Associated with Pisces, it is a card of the subconscious, intuition, artistry, and

emotions. From the watery depths is Khepra pushing the solar disk from the underworld toward the sky to bring light back to the world, and here represents our struggle of the conscious mind navigating the subconscious to confront what holds us back. Anubis returns in this card on the right as a guide for souls in the dark travelling between the conscious and subconscious worlds. On his hood is the symbol for Neptune which rules Pisces. On the left is the god Set, with the symbol of Mercury, which is in detriment in Pisces. Mercury is the logical mind at odds with the subconscious of this card. Set is a trickster god of war and chaos and often makes use of deception and illusion. Around the central moon are eight more phases of the moon, totalling nine moons to reference the ninth sephiroth ruled by the Moon card. The moon card is about overcoming fear and trusting your intuition to navigate the unknown. Through the journey into the subconscious we can conquer that which holds us back and become transformed into a higher version of ourself. This card can suggest deceit, a lost way, your shadow self, and other hidden or buried qualities.

### **XIX - Sun - Lord of the Fire of the World - Sun**

**Well-defined Themes** - Abundance, joy, success, confidence, illumination, positivity, simplicity, new perspective, clear sight

**Ill-defined Themes** - Lacking enthusiasm, pessimism, a difficult situation, joylessness, lacking perspective

The Sun is an optimistic card of success and positivity. A child representing joy, connection with the inner self, and freedom of the soul, embraces a white horse which is linked with purity and strength. Sunflowers in the background represent the four suits of the Minor Arcana and the four elements and above them a giant sun illuminates the card. The twelve zodiac signs line the Sun along with twelve rays extending out, showing the Sun's light brought to all in the universe. The crow at the center brings to mind the raven of some mythologies that brings the sun into the world, tricking it out of a box coveted by seagull in one version, or stealing the sun and hanging it in the sky along with the moon and the stars in another version. The Sun card is one of joy, life, and illumination that energizes

our life. It represents embracing your path and your self and having the clarity to share your best self with others.

## **XX - Judgement - Spirit of the Primal Fire - Fire**

**Well-defined Themes** - Life changing experience, a major decision, absolution, spiritual expansion

**Ill-defined Themes** - Self-doubt, inner criticism, negative choices, blocked growth

Judgement is associated with the element of fire, and purification. That which is no longer useful to us is swept away and the new self remains. It is the realization of major change. A universal application of the realization of self that was present in the Sun card. The card depicts a biblical angel bringing about the end times. The dead rise from their graves to greet the angel and the crow has now rejoined its flock. The background has sprawling mountains that symbolize the impossibility of avoiding judgement. The card is one of major decisions that alter our lives, answering our inner calling, life changing experiences, moving on from past situations, and embracing your best self as a positive part of the larger world around you.

## **XXI - Universe - The Great One of the Night of Time - Saturn/Earth**

**Well-defined Themes** - Completion, integration, taking control of your own fate, enlightenment, accomplishment

**Ill-defined Themes** - Procrastination, short-cuts, being enslaved by the material, refusing to accept an end of something, lacking closure, not being able to finish a project, spiritual stagnation

The Universe card is the completion of the Fool's Journey and the accomplishment of a major milestone in our life. Associated with Saturn and the element of earth, The Universe asks for celebration of your achievement, contemplation of your journey, and accomplishment of your goal. The four fixed zodiac signs represent the mastery of the four elements, the four suits, the four

seasons, the four compass points, and four corners of the universe. They guide the figure in the card on their journey, bringing balance and equilibrium at the completion of each cycle. The laurel wreath surrounding the figure is circular, symbolizing their cyclical victory and achievement with each iteration of the Fool's Journey. As they complete one journey, the next begins, and the iteration continues. The lemniscate above them is infinite potential realized. The flock of crows has likewise become a representation of infinity and are now speckled with stars like little crow-shaped cut outs that allow us to gaze into the universe, as though in completion of its personal journey it has rejoined the mythologies and constellations of the universe. This card suggests a sense of completion and wholeness, achievement and celebration. Though the cycles are never ending, this is the end of a cycle and deserves its moment of appreciation and gratitude.

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## The Hollow Court

The court cards are the second classification of cards. Each of the court cards represent four letters of the Name YHWH or Yahweh. Kings are the Yodh(Y) and fire, relating to the second sephiroth Chokmah. Queens are Hé(H primal) and water, relating to the third sephiroth Binah. Princes are Vau(W) and air, relating to the sixth sephiroth Tiphareth. Princesses are Hé(H final) and earth, relating to the tenth sephiroth Malkuth. These cards are often aspects of ourselves that we should lean into, but can also represent someone else in our life that we should be aware of.

### **King of Wands - Lord of the Flame and Lightning**

**Well-defined Themes** - Honorable, leadership, entrepreneur, virtuous

**Ill-defined Themes** - Impulsive, ruthless, cruel, brutal

The King of Wands is pure fiery energy. He is able to use his charisma and visionary leadership to direct others to execute his creative vision rather than just manifesting it himself. He is determined, direct, and focused. His fiery persona can be aggressive, arrogant, or if pushed to extremes even violent and cruel. At his best, though, the King of Wands is able to engage others with the same

enthusiasm for his creations as he feels himself. His wand is topped with a lion, and his tie clip is a salamander, both fiery creatures. The salamander is looped into a circular infinity, showing the King's ability to sustain the creative drive for the long haul. We may need to embrace those qualities in ourselves or someone with those qualities may be entering our life or work.

## **Queen of Wands - Queen of the Thrones of Flame**

**Well-defined Themes** - Courageous, confident, powerful, beautiful, social, determined, goal-oriented, active

**Ill-defined Themes** - Quick-tempered, tyrannical, domineering, jealous

The Queen of Wands is courageous, determined, creative, and confident. She knows herself and faces down adversity with ease. Her boldness inspires others and she often has devoted friends and followers as a result. She is outgoing and intelligent and makes others feel just as capable as she is. The sunflowers in the field represent the joy, life, and growth that she brings with her. She is as bold and capable as she is because of her knowledge and acceptance of her shadow self, denoted by the black cat at her feet. If she is caught in her worse qualities, she can be tyrannical rather than encouraging, and she can burn herself and others out, as her drive to see a goal to completion can be all-consuming. When she forgets herself, her temper can come out and damage her relationships. The queen in her better qualities encourages individuality, creativity, and ambition and inspires others into these qualities by her own strong example of them. You may need these qualities yourself, or someone in your life may be demonstrating them.

## **Prince of Wands - Prince of the Chariot of Fire**

**Well-defined Themes** - Honesty, integrity, passion, energy, enthusiasm, adventure, loyalty

**Ill-defined Themes** - Overly hasty, scattered energy, arrogance, recklessness

The Prince of Wands is full of fiery forward momentum. They are full of energy, enthusiasm, and drive for their goals. Their forward push in this card creates trails of fire under their wheels, and lightning overhead bursts forward. Their wheel is marked by a lion, linked with Leo and Fire. The Prince is deeply passionate and has a clarity of the direction they wish to move in. Their boldness can take them into the unknown and may let them get ahead of themselves. They may get in over their head or only see a project through to completion rather than making sure it is set up for sustained success. They can also have a problem of burning through their energy and falling short of their goal. In their better qualities their boldness and courage inspire others and their drive to take on the world can cause them to accumulate followers excited to move forward on their projects and goals. The Prince of Wands is an adventurer and pioneer, but not a leader. Those involved with the Prince can be left in the dust if they are not able to keep up, and may be abandoned alongside a project if it fails. Nonetheless, when a project needs forward momentum, enthusiasm, quick completion or an exploratory soul behind it, there is none better suited than the Prince of Wands.

### **Princess of Wands - Rose of the Palace of Fire**

**Well-defined Themes** - Confidence, excitement, freedom, non-conforming, inspired, discovery, individualistic, impulsive

**Ill-defined Themes** - Vengeful, shallow, unruly, temperamental

The Princess of Wands is dynamic and highly individualistic. She embraces herself and her animalistic side, noted by the tiger stripes on her otherwise naked body. She is fierce and reactive. She has little patience for the mundane and chases after what inspires her in life. She has great enthusiasm that can attract others. She has little fear, sometimes to her detriment, and charges forward in her endeavors without shame of failure or how she will be perceived by others. She has a strong sense of justice and can become cruel, violent, or vengeful when she feels she or others have been wronged. In her worse qualities, she is overly temperamental and lacks the self-awareness to make her confidence as inspiring as the Queen. Nonetheless, in her best qualities, she is free from the restraints others attempt to impose on her and pursues her own path with an inspiring passion.



## **King of Cups - Lord of the Waves and the Water**

**Well-defined Themes** - Loving, generous, supportive, compassionate, intuitive, open, diplomatic

**Ill-defined Themes** - Fickle, overly emotional, unreliable, insecure, emotionally manipulative

The King of Cups is diplomatic, open, emotionally balanced, compassionate, and loving. The fish amulet around his neck references his creativity, the cup represents his emotions. The fish swarm chaotically around him but behind him a boat is kept in place on the lake bed, symbolizing his steadfastness despite disorder around him. The King indicates someone who is generous, supportive, and loving, but they can also be fickle, unreliable, or overly emotional when they are in their worse qualities. The tattoos on his arms are of a peacock, representing his vanity and wisdom, and a crab, representing his nurturing and sensitive side, as well as a symbol for the goddess Isis of the sea. The King of Cups represents mastery of emotion, creativity, and the subconscious. This card suggests a balanced, calm, and mature approach to the current situation.

## **Queen of Cups - Queen of the Thrones of Water**

**Well-defined Themes** - Intuition, mature, caring, stable, communicative, meditative, calm

**Ill-defined Themes** - Co-dependent, disconnected, distorted understanding, overly-influenced by others, depression, loss of self

The Queen of Cups is in some sense a mirror, she reflects back beauty and understanding but in doing so can obscure her own image. She is understood on an emotional level but not necessarily an intellectual one. The moon behind her is related to the ninth sephira ruled by the Moon. She has a veil that obscures her face, referencing the difficulty in knowing her. On the crown is the fork of

Neptune, god of the seas and associated with third eye activation. The Queen's cup is turned away, showing that we know only the subconscious but not the conscious of her. The sea and fish behind her symbolize the unconscious mind, emotions, and spirit. Her tattoos are a shell, a receptive vessel for water, and a white lotus, symbolic of the ninth sephiroth again. The Queen of Cups is emotionally meditative and mature, having inner mastery over the emotional realm. She encourages a nurturing energy, compassion, and true expression of emotion.

### **Prince of Cups - Prince of the Chariot of the Waters**

**Well-defined Themes** - Hidden passion, giving, creative, romantic, imaginative

**Ill-defined Themes** - Unrealistic, selfish, jealous, secretive, volatility

The Prince of Cups hovers over a calm water in the rain, symbolizing that while he has deep emotions, he is not engaging with them, leading to his brooding and secretive qualities. He holds a cup with a coiled serpent within it, a reference to Mercury and intellect. While he is moody and hidden, he can also be very intuitive when it comes to others, and often is very creative and artistic. His energy is both active and calm, like a carriage drawn inexorably over smooth terrain. He is a romantic, mysterious and intuitive and somehow charming. His mixture of air and water can make for a volatile personality, intense and unreliable, engaged mostly with himself. He is something of a tortured artist, a sad boy romantic who nonetheless has a big heart, a creative soul, and immense depths that even he is unaware of. When he is in a reading, it can suggest the need to give in to love, to search your depths, to follow your romantic and creative heart, and explore your dreams.

### **Princess of Cups - Lotus of the Palace of the Floods**

**Well-defined Themes** - New ideas, romance, kindness, curiosity, intuition, daydreaming, possibility

**Ill-defined Themes** - Creativity blocked, immaturity, shallow, indolent, doubt of intuition, disconnected

The Princess of Cups is a kind romantic, a dreamer, a dancer, and an intuitive creative. They hold aloft a cup from which a fish emerges, symbolizing creative inspiration from an unexpected source. They wear a flowing rose-printed scarf, signifying their creative beauty. They can be overly dependent on others, and can be lost in their dreams, but they give back as much or more than they receive. They can be tender and kind and express an openness to inspiration. They invite you to be curious, exploratory, and to trust your intuition. They usually indicate the arrival of an unexpected but pleasant surprise.

### **King of Swords - Lord of the Winds and Breezes**

**Well-defined Themes** - Clear insight, quick work, transition, setting emotions aside and thinking logically, mental acuity, intellectual power

**Ill-defined Themes** - Uncaring, inability to express feelings, manipulation, abuse of power

The King of Swords is a flash of insight, quick work towards goals, mental sharpness, and decisive action. He descends towards his goals with precision and drive. The swallows encircling him symbolize Mercury, ruler of Gemini, and represent his clear communication. The moon represents his wisdom, and the monarch butterflies represent transformation and verbal acuity. His boots are the twin blades of Gemini, and upon them are symbols for both Gemini and the Sun. The King of Swords symbolizes fast and precise intellectual prowess. His forward drive and intellectual might sets him in an excellent position for achievement of his goals. When he arrives in a reading, you are encouraged to set emotion aside and make a choice based on your mental clarity. Don't spin in place balancing decisions, rather cut out the extraneous and use logic to plot a route forward. Make fair and informed decisions. If you lack the expertise to make such a decision yourself, this card may be encouraging you to seek someone with those qualities.

## **Queen of Swords - Queen of the Thrones of Air**

**Well-defined Themes** - Unbiased intellect, independence, decision making, directness, clarity, logic

**Ill-defined Themes** - Being overly-critical, emotionless, judgement that blocks understanding, emotional hang ups, clouded thoughts and unclear logic

The Queen of Swords is a mature and clear intellect. The severed old man's head represents her cutting away of the outdated and extraneous to make a clear decision. It is also pure intellect uninfluenced by the lower body. She wears a cherub mask to represent her fresh and unbiased perspective. Her sword is her razor-sharp intellect, her powerful analytical mind, and her ability to cut to the heart of the matter. Her head is surrounded by fifteen rays, associated with the eighth sephira Hod, ruled by Mercury, who rules Virgo, which the Queen in turn rules along with Libra. The sky clears around her head, again representing her clarity of thought. The Queen of Swords knows herself and through her intellect is able to know others. She can gracefully flow from one situation to the next. She may indicate a need to get to the truth of the matter, to cut through extraneous details, and to precisely understand a problem in order to properly deal with it. This queen has little patience for fluff, gossip, or beating around the bush. She may come across as harsh or cold as a result, but in reality she is just direct about her boundaries and expectations.

## **Prince of Swords - Prince of the Chariot of the Winds**

**Well-defined Themes** - Educated, intellectual, philosopher, creative, independent, questioning

**Ill-defined Themes** - Restlessness, undeveloped ideas, scattered thought, impulsiveness

The Prince of Swords is intensely intellectual. An educated philosophical type that enjoys asking questions more than answering them. The three moths pull

their attention chaotically all over the place, and their mind is scattered as a result. They tend to get distracted with thought exercises and move on without resolving them. Their sword creates and shapes their ideas, but the sickle associated with Saturn destroys the same thoughts shortly after they form. The eight points to their crown references the eight sephira Hod. Storm clouds don't phase the prince; they keep on with their musings and distractions free of worry. The Prince of Swords understands the world through an intellectual point of view and enjoys creation of new ideas and concepts. They may come across as cold and can be frustrating for those who want to dwell on a subject longer than the prince is willing to. When the prince shows up in a reading, they can indicate that you need to think more deeply on a subject and its consequences, that you might need to develop your intellectual viewpoint on a subject, or that you may need to quickly come up with a new approach.

### **Princess of Swords - Lotus of the Palace of Air**

**Well-defined Themes** - Clever, outgoing, aggressive, knowledge-seeking, curious

**Ill-defined Themes** - Vengeful, destructive, hasty, conflict-driven

The Princess of Swords is an intellectual fighter. Associated with Medusa, she tends to voice her opinion without thought for consequence, and can come across as intimidating as a result. She can be an angry person who has had to fight for every victory she has had in life, and as a result she leans towards conflict where she is naturally adept. She fights against fate to preserve her very identity. Since she is adept with conflict, it is possible that she will persist in this fight and eventually win. She is intelligent and creative and transformative, facing down different challenges using her intellect as her most infatigable resource. When she appears in a reading it can suggest not to shy away from controversy, that a fight may be necessary to preserve yourself, that cleverness will suit you best, and that an adaptive, fresh approach may be necessary.

### **King of Pentacles - Lord of the Wild and Fertile Land**

**Well-defined Themes** - Work ethic, patience, discipline, security, reliability, stability, support

**Ill-defined Themes** - Dull, predictable, lacking intelligence, materialistic, stagnation

The King of Pentacles is a stable and secure source of hard work and methodical growth. She wears a necklace of grapes and vines, symbolizing her wealth and abundance. Her mask is adorned with stag's horns, a reference to prudence, associated with the Hermit ruled by Virgo. Wheat grows around her feet, linked with the harvest, Virgo, Osiris, and fertility. Behind her is the result of her success with nature and the material, a growth of trees and a small forest mansion. The King of Pentacles is a card of wealth and success. She has a strong connection with nature and works steadily over time. This card encourages you to pursue the same qualities in order to see your goal through to the end. Use self-discipline and manage your affairs with both feet planted on the ground. Work methodically and put in the effort over time, and success will follow.

### **Queen of Pentacles - Queen of the Thrones of Earth**

**Well-defined Themes** - Practicality, security, nurturing, loving, comfort, prosperity, compassion, growth, fertility

**Ill-defined Themes** - Lacking fulfillment, unhealthy, barren, cut off from emotions

The Queen of Pentacles stands in front of a lush forest, representing his connection with nature, renewal, and abundant growth. He holds a rabbit, linked to fertility, and pets a goat with his other hand, symbolizing Capricorn, self-discipline, and ascension. He has the horns of a Markhor goat, which lives in mountainous regions and symbolizes his clarity of purpose, perception, and vision. This card is one of sensual pleasure, material success, nurturing, vision, and growth. The Queen of Pentacles can be very domestic and enjoys being a homebody and taking care of others. This card can suggest that you focus on nurturing others and your home. What prosperity you have can be shared to

benefit others. It can also suggest another figure with those qualities in your life, perhaps a literal mother or just a motherly figure who helps your growth.

## **Prince of Pentacles - Prince of the Chariot of Earth**

**Well-defined Themes** - Hard-working, focus, building, responsibility, practicality, goal-oriented, competence, reliability

**Ill-defined Themes** - Stubbornness, emotionally distant, insensitive, boring, dull, out of touch

The Prince of Pentacles is a card of hard work, competence, reliability, practicality, and responsibility. The Prince sits atop a bull's head seat with a disk underneath, representing Taurus and their material focus and practicality. They have an orbed cross representing the Great Work. Beneath them is a ploughed field representing their carefully-planned work. They grab tapestries bearing flowers and fruit on either side, showing that their intentional, directed work brings them reward over time. Behind them are mountains, showing that their labor is not necessarily easy, and a sun, linking the prince with dominion over agriculture. The prince can indicate reward through careful planning and well-thought out, well-executed hard work over time. It suggests success after a period of methodical work, gradual progress and routine. Plan through a best approach and then stick to the work to achieve goals.

## **Princess of Pentacles - Rose of the Palace of Earth**

**Well-defined Themes** - Benevolence, opportunity, productivity, accomplishments, growth, nature, empathy, support

**Ill-defined Themes** - Disconnect from self and nature, impracticality, barrenness, closed off, lacking growth, stagnation

The Princess of Pentacles is a peaceful and nurturing figure that manifests growth anywhere they go. They stand amid a barren section of forest, but the ground beneath them overflows with flowers and grass, showing that they bring

abundance to their surroundings. Their horns link them with Aries and renewal. Their crutches have diamonds near the base, representing the purity of Kether brought to the world with them. Their petal-surrounded yin/yang kneepad symbolizes renewal following the end of a cycle, and the fertile mother Isis. The princess suggests a new opportunity or blessing presenting itself. They are a benevolent and gentle person and are not well versed with conflict. They can indicate domestic life, nature, and following one's true purpose.

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## The Hollow Pips

The small cards represent the more common, day-to-day concerns of our lives. They are elements of ourselves and others in a more mundane setting. The Aces follow the organization of the court cards in their layout, as they represent the link between the court and small cards. The other small cards have their number and suit on the top and their card title on the bottom.

**Wands:** Wands represent fire, creativity, energy, passion, and fast movement.

### **Ace of Wands - Root of the Powers of Fire**

**Well-defined Themes** - Potential, creation, energy, passion, discovery, opportunity, breakthrough

**Ill-defined Themes** - Recklessness, thoughtlessness, low energy, executive dysfunction, difficulty beginning

The Ace of Wands is an initial spark of creativity or a breakthrough that gets things moving. A sprouting wand of fire representing this creativity/insight hovers in front of an overgrown landscape and sprouting trees, showing the possibilities growing forth from the initial burst of energy. The hills in the background represent challenges that will be faced along the way, but the structure on the left assures us of the eventual opportunities that await. This card suggests that you have the potential within you to begin following your



dreams, it just needs a spark of inspiration to get the ball rolling. This Ace calls upon you to begin, and move towards this potential.

## **Two of Wands - Lord of Dominion - Influence - Mars in Aries**

**Well-defined Themes** - Planning, decision, discovery, travel, change, taking charge, moving forward, exploration

**Ill-defined Themes** - Lack of passion, unclear goals, lack of planning, impracticality, playing it safe, stagnation

The Two of Wands represents Mars in Aries. Mars is all about energy and assertiveness, Aries about exploration, and the number two represents a balance, so together these suggest that we are able to move forward from our position of stability and balance with confidence. The crossed trees in the background take the place of the crossed Dorjes from the Thoth card. Our well-dressed character has the head of a globe alight with the fiery Mars energy that is their confidence and assertiveness over their realm of expertise. Mars and Aries together suggest that this card is one of a certain authority, or power over another (possibly the querent). The title of Dominion has been changed to Influence, as it is this card's influence over others that it derives its power from. Whether that influence is positive or negative depends on whether the card is well-defined or ill-defined (or upright/inverted if you prefer). This character's lapel pin is that of a castle, showing that the character has not yet left their place of balance and stability. The mountains in the background suggest challenges ahead. This is a card of making an informed and confident decision using the insight from the Ace of Wands, and with the decision made, preparing to move forward.

## **Three of Wands - Lord of Established Strength - Virtue- Sun in Aries**

**Well-defined Themes** - Constructive work, Honesty, Integrity, Perspective, Success

**Ill-defined Themes** - Dishonesty, lacking fulfillment, Negative action, lacking perspective, unrealistic plans resulting in failure

The Three of Wands is known as Virtue and represents the Sun in Aries. This is a strong combination and so the card is very positive. Our hooded character stands with their back to us, with a lotus image on the back of their clothing, associated with Isis and the power of creation. The three wands/trees highlighted are firmly planted in the ground and the character stands facing the distance, a sign of their commitment to the plan ahead. They have begun the journey sparked as an idea in the Ace and planned in the Two of Wands. The three wands themselves represent a unity of mind, heart, and action, which brings forth the title of the card as Virtue. With these energies aligned, we can make decisions with clarity and move forward constructively. The Sun in Aries is the beginning of Spring and so this card overall relates to birth, creation, being open, and virtuous beginnings. It calls on us to make decisions with integrity, to act with our positive traits aligned, and to work towards the higher good.

### **Four of Wands - Lord of Perfected Work - Fulfillment - Venus in Aries**

**Well-defined Themes** - Accomplishment, attainment, conclusion of work, stability, security

**Ill-defined Themes** - Starting too many projects, taking on too much, imbalance, complacency, delays

The Four of Wands relates to the energy of Venus in Aries. It symbolizes settled matters, completed work, and rest after labor. The card title has been changed to Fulfillment from completion to represent the positive feelings of celebration after the successful completion of a task or goal. It is not just the completion of work but the fulfillment we derive from the satisfactory conclusion that gives this card its celebratory and attained feeling. After a period of laboring towards the finish line, we have succeeded, and now celebrate the task's end with our workmates, friends, and/or family. Our skeleton friends in the image all dance together in the forest to show this celebration of achievement. This card encourages us to take joy in the goal achieved, to celebrate with loved ones, and to take a well-earned rest.

### **Five of Wands - Lord of Strife - Strife - Saturn in Leo**

**Well-defined Themes** - Conflict especially in the workplace or a relationship, competition, diversity of opinion, clashing points of view

**Ill-defined Themes** - Impostor syndrome, avoiding conflict too much, inability to work with others, inferiority complex, feeling overwhelmed by work

The Five of Wands is called Strife and represents the influence of Saturn in Leo, a difficult combination where one is limiting and cold, and the other is expressive and creative. Our five masked flames are trying to achieve the same task of maintaining the placement of the wands (the placement mirroring the Thoth deck positions) but are clashing with each other in the process and cracking under pressure. Each mask is focused on the task but not the others and so we have too many different approaches to the same goal not working in unison and causing conflict and difficulty for everyone involved. This card can suggest a workplace conflict or too many people trying to express their own best way of dealing with a situation without listening to anyone else. We have a situation where competition is weakening the end result rather than strengthening it. People need to do their best to work cooperatively instead if they want to achieve what they're after.

### **Six of Wands - Lord of Victory - Victory - Jupiter in Leo**

**Well-defined Themes** - Success, progress, public recognition, confidence, celebration, promotion

**Ill-defined Themes** - Self-importance, egotistic, fall from grace, lacking confidence, lacking direction

The Six of Wands is Victory and represents the influence of Jupiter in Leo. The conflict of the Five of Wands has stabilized and on the other side of that conflict we have obtained balance and success. Our character has six crossed trees sprouting leaves in the background, arranged in a pattern reminiscent of the Thoth wands. The sprouting leaves show the potential achieved in our success, and the eyes covering the trees suggest that we should be proud and welcome public recognition for it. The laurel wreath on our character's head and around their tie further shows off our success. Our goal has been achieved, and we

deserve to bask a moment in the spotlight. Be confident and proud of your victory!

### **Seven of Wands - Lord of Valor - Valor - Mars in Leo**

**Well-defined Themes** - Taking a stand, courage, challenge, strength, fighting for what you believe in

**Ill-defined Themes** - Defending an ill-considered position, giving in to others, stubbornness, lacking courage, fighting against the odds and losing

The Seven of Wands is Valor and brings the influence of Mars in Leo. The balance and harmony of the previous card begins to waver. Opposition and difficulties emerge. Mars gives its warlike energy to the sign of Leo and so this becomes a fight to maintain what was achieved. This is a card about encouragement to stand one's ground and stand up for their place. Our central character is surrounded but holds steady, even as their wand cracks with the pressures of the conflict. It can feel like fighting a losing battle but this card implies that we can stand our ground and be confident in our beliefs to make it through.

### **Eight of Wands - Lord of Swiftmess - Swiftmess - Mercury in Sagittarius**

**Well-defined Themes** - Insight, movement, communication, completion, action, speed

**Ill-defined Themes** - Impulsiveness, thoughtlessness, resisting change, procrastination, lack of communication, impracticality, slowness

The Eight of Wands is Swiftmess, showing the influence of Mercury in Sagittarius. This is a card of fast energy, like lightning. This is a card of great haste. Its nature is restless in combination with the strong influence of Mercury. Eight lightning bolts shoot downwards from the skies directly towards their target. They suggest movement, action, and change. This card can suggest that there may need to be

a little reckless energy applied too fast to consider. An opportunity may not wait around, so to seize it you'll need to rush yourself.

### **Nine of Wands - Lord of Great Strength - Fortitude - Moon in Sagittarius**

**Well-defined Themes** - Standing your ground despite obstacles, flexibility, confidence in the face of adversity, pushing on past exhaustion

**Ill-defined Themes** - Being overwhelmed, lacking the ability to go on, feeling drained, lacking flexibility, inability to function, overcome with doubt, drained by obligations

The Nine of Wands is Fortitude and is associated with the Moon in Sagittarius, representing persistent and powerful energy that achieves victory after opposition. While some arrows have landed in their attacks against our character, he faces the onslaught head on and burns each of the oncoming arrows as they approach. This is an ongoing form of strength that counts its success in the long term. It is inexhaustible energy, a continuous directed willpower. The subconscious of the moon becomes conscious, our latent powers become awakened and give us the power to continue on in the face of sustained opposition. Though we may feel exhausted, we carry on. We may need to look deep within ourselves to find our resources replenished, but we have depths that have yet to be reached and by tapping in we may find that we can survive and thrive through even the most dire situations. Eventual victory waits on the other side of this conflict, but needs our persistent strength to see things through.

### **Ten of Wands - Lord of Oppression - Oppression - Saturn in Sagittarius**

**Well-defined Themes** - An unwinnable situation, feeling trapped, being drained, blocked from a goal, needing to walk away

**Ill-defined Themes** - Destructive self-sacrifice, self-harm, disconnect from emotions and yourself, abusive relationships

The Ten of Wands is Oppression and represents the influence of Saturn in Sagittarius, a pairing that is at odds with each other. The wands in the background are trees crossed with lightning bolts on either side, arranged to mimic the Thoth card placement of wands/dorjes. The mirrored lightning striking shows the swift and violent energy striking out as if in frustration against the now prison bar-like background. The energy of this card is difficult and can be an indication of the difficulties of being stuck in a trying situation and feeling that there is no escape from it. Our character within cracks from the difficulties of this pent up energy at odds with itself. His crown shatters, showing that the potential greatness that could be is kept from becoming due to the situation. This card can warn us of difficult situations making us become distorted versions of ourselves, lashing out with malice towards others. It can indicate an unwinnable situation that is best left behind or even abandoned. Some situations and relationships are toxic and it is best to get out of them rather than to try to fix the unfixable.

**Cups:** Cups represent water, emotions, and relationships.

### **Ace of Cups - Root of the Powers of Water**

**Well-defined Themes** - Creation, new relationships, new life, unconditional love

**Ill-defined Themes** - Vulnerability, repressing emotions, emotional numbness, disconnect from the emotional self

The Ace of Cups is the root of the powers of water. A dove descends into the cup as a symbol of divine love moving through the subconscious and into awareness. The cup has five streams flowing from it, representing the five senses. The cup overflowing is the abundance of emotion from within. The cup forms from a fused pair of lotuses, representing opposites cancelling each other out and forming from a duality into a spiritual union and when applied to this overflowing cup, symbolizing the entirety of emotional and intuitive experience that the cups suit represents. The entwined lotus vines at the bottom stand in for the twisted snakes of the Thoth deck, and are linked to regenerative love. As an ace, this card

is about the emotional seed of relationships, love, intuition, and spirituality beginning. It suggests opening yourself to opportunities for love, spirituality, and emotional awakening. It could be about letting new relationships begin or leaning into your spiritual side. Be compassionate and emotionally open with others and with circumstance.

### **Two of Cups - Lord of Love - Love - Venus in Cancer**

**Well-defined Themes** - Beginning of new healthy relationships, marriage, close friendships and partnerships

**Ill-defined Themes** - Break-ups, misunderstandings, disharmony, a schism in close relationships

The Two of Cups is the influence of Venus in Cancer. Venus is a planet of beauty and love and Cancer is a sign of support, healing and nurturing so the two are very well matched in this card. Two lovers kiss each other in this card, and are loosely bound together as they embrace. This is a card about the love between two people, and the connection they share. It suggests a relationship early on, and just as the trees in the background are just starting to sprout leaves, so too is their relationship showing the early potential to grow into something fulfilling long-term. In addition to romance, this card can suggest the beginning of all kinds of harmonious relationships, including close friendships or business partnerships. It points to reciprocity, a connection where you give and receive in equal measure. This card shows two people that are very well matched for each other.

### **Three of Cups - Lord of Abundance - Abundance - Mercury in Cancer**

**Well-defined Themes** - Shared accomplishment, friendship, abundance of emotion, nurturing others, enjoyment

**Ill-defined Themes** - Extravagance, lacking shared goals, stagnation in relationships, disconnected communication

The Three of Cups is the influence of Mercury in Cancer and is titled Abundance. This is a card of celebration, friendship, shared success, abundant feelings in a group setting, and collaboration. It is about shared ties with those close to us. The abundance in the title is an abundance of feelings and the clear communication of them with those closest to you. Three glasses are raised in a toast to each other, and as such this card is a celebration and appreciation of each other. Now is a good time to let your loved ones know how much you appreciate and respect them. Nurture and uplift each other. In a business sense, this may suggest a good time to collaborate with others on a common goal. The Abundance in this card is the abundance of love given and received in a group setting with those we cherish.

### **Four of Cups - Lord of Blended Pleasure - Luxury - Moon in Cancer**

**Well-defined Themes** - Appreciation for what we have, stagnation of goals, boredom, materialistic goals, temporary pleasure

**Ill-defined Themes** - Avoiding opportunities and change, depression, stuck in comfort zone, stuck in discontent due to inability to face difficult changes

The Four of Cups is titled Luxury and represents the influence of the Moon in Cancer. The card is overall positive but the luxury that it is titled after is the threat of an affluence which grows bored with life and stagnates emotionally as a result. It could also be anxieties within a pleasurable experience, such as being aware that a good time must come to an end and so being unable to completely enjoy the good time when you are in it. It may also be a dissatisfaction with material success. Our masked character has before him plenty of cups but looks away towards the distance with uninterest in any of them. This card suggests a kind of passive attainment of happiness, that one may be comfortable but has no passion for what they are currently blessed with and there is therefore an inherent instability to the situation.

### **Five of Cups - Lord of Loss in Pleasure - Disappointment - Mars in Scorpio**



**Well-defined Themes** - Wallowing, lacking fulfillment, disillusionment, unrealistic expectations leading to disappointment, inability to attain a goal

**Ill-defined Themes** - A longer and more drawn out version of the above themes leading to longer term stagnation and depression

The Five of Cups is Disappointment and shows the influence of Mars in Scorpio. While this combination would normally be a positive one, this card is one where the intensity of energy coming from Mars is amplified by its placement in the fifth card, associated with Geburah, and so the fiery aspects conflict with the watery nature of this card. Expectations were perhaps not met or not realistic to begin with. The overall effect is that this card reflects a loss within pleasure. There may be unkindness in relationships with friends, coworkers, or lovers. The pentagram associated with spirit is inverted and before our cloaked figure are three cups inverted. With their eyes cast down, they do not even notice the two upright cups next to their head, so while the situation may not be as dire as they think, they can only see the downsides. In fixating on the negative, they are unable to see the positive. The results they were after were not as expected and now they are stuck in self-pity.

### **Six of Cups - Lord of Pleasure - Pleasure - Sun in Scorpio**

**Well-defined Themes** - Pleasure experienced after difficult times that is transformative, sexual fulfillment and/or a healthy relationship, healing, a return to happy emotions after a period of flatness or difficulty

**Ill-defined Themes** - Mismatched relationships, out of touch with yourself, unhealthy sexual expression, dwelling in the past

The Six of Cups is titled Pleasure and shows the influence of Sun in Scorpio. Six lotus flowers are loosely arranged in a hexagram around our central figure who bathes in the plentiful waters. This card is the beginning of enjoyment, wishes fulfilled, and is related to sensual pleasure. It is a card about pleasures that fulfill and bring a sense of wholeness. While it may be about a sexual theme, it could also be something as simple as a hug or compliment that validates something

meaningful within yourself. It is not the complete fulfillment of emotion but rather the beginnings of that fulfillment, and as such it hints at what could be.

### **Seven of Cups - Lord of Illusory Success - Debauch - Venus in Scorpio**

**Well-defined Themes** - Addiction, giving in to unhealthy emotions, overindulgence, negativity, self-destructive coping habits especially those involving sex and drugs

**Ill-defined Themes** - The same themes as above but drawn out over a longer period of time, or repeating endlessly because of inability to learn from mistakes

The Seven of Cups is Debauch and shows the influence of Venus in Scorpio. Venus lacks an outlet in this pairing for its sensitivity and emotions and so they get channeled through unhealthy means and excess. The meaning of this card can be quite grim, as it is excess indulged. It is the illusion of success, what appears to be meaningful robbed of meaning and enjoyment. The cups pour excess into each other and overflow onto the figure at the bottom, drowning them in their false riches. The cups bear symbols of a snake, a dragon, a diamond, a castle, a woman, a laurel wreath with a skull, and a mask, and are said to be curses disguised as blessings, and present us with many choices and distractions. This is the card of self-destructive behavior, negative addictions and dark meaningless excess that brings no fulfillment.

### **Eight of Cups - Lord of Abandoned Success - Ennui - Saturn in Pisces**

**Well-defined Themes** - Lack of interest in others or self, denying ourselves pleasure, lacking effort, apathy, feeling empty, lacking motivation to do anything

**Ill-defined Themes** - Depression, emotional distress over a long period of time, suicidal thoughts, a flatness of emotion, feelings of pointlessness

The Eight of Cups is Ennui, and shows the influence of Saturn in Pisces. Pisces here is suffocated by Saturn's influence and Mercury is at odds with Pisces as

well. This is a card of depression and apathy that steals meaning from our lives to the point that we no longer make an effort at anything. Something we wanted has lost our interest as soon as it was gained. The cups are broken and cracked and mostly empty. Our figure looks away, with their very arms disconnected from their body and their hands holding the cups disconnected again. The fulfillment our figure expected to find from the only flowing cups doesn't even touch them, and they are disconnected as a result. This card can be about the hazy disinterest that steals meaning from our goals, or it may be that the goals we were after were not ones that would have brought us fulfillment to begin with. Perhaps we wanted the wrong thing, perhaps we chased something only to discover once we had attained it that it was meaningless. In any case, we must move on and not let the disconnection stagnate. Perhaps we need perspective or maybe we just need time and a different goal.

### **Nine of Cups - Lord of Material Happiness - Happiness - Jupiter in Pisces**

**Well-defined Themes** - Wishes coming true, attainment of what you've wanted, fulfillment

**Ill-defined Themes** - Emptiness, lacking fulfillment, inability to succeed at your most valued goals

The Nine of Cups is Happiness, the influence of Jupiter in Pisces. Jupiter and Pisces are very strong together. The emotional fulfillment touched on by the ace is now fulfilled, with the love, care and compassion from Jupiter magnified by Pisces. Jupiter is the planet of Chesed representing water in its highest qualities and Pisces brings out the passive qualities of the water. The number nine is also the number of the moon which further strengthens this pairing. Sometimes called the 'wish' card, this depicts wishes fulfilled, contentment, pleasure and happiness attained. The nine chalices behind our happy matriarchal witch figure create an arch that overflows with her overall contentment.

### **Ten of Cups - Lord of Perfected Success - Attainment - Mars in Pisces**

**Well-defined Themes** - Harmony attained, happy relationships, fulfillment now edging into boredom, stability, comfort

**Ill-defined Themes** - Cyclical attainment of that which does not truly fulfill you, staying in a comfortable situation that does not nurture your growth or soul, stagnation within one's comfort zone

The Ten of Cups is Attainment and represents Mars in Pisces. Ten Cups overhead form an arch centered on the main figure of this card, overflowing and pouring down. Her children on either side and her lit up third eye combine with the Tree of Life halo grouping which shines light rays down from top to bottom. Five streams of light pour from the top halo, linked with the fifth sephira ruled by Mars. The cups are cracked inferring a sense of slight instability to this card. The family united here and the seemingly perfect success must break down to move the energies into the next cycle and so while this is the card of Perfected Success, it also has some conflict between fiery Mars and Watery Pisces. This is a card of happy family (whatever your family may look like) and long term emotional fulfillment. There is a feeling of complete wholeness to it, but with a hint of the transitory nature of life cycles.

**Swords:** Swords represent air, thought, logic, and the mental realm.

### **Ace of Swords - Root of the Powers of Air**

**Well-defined Themes** - Clarity, thought, breakthrough, insight, inspiration, vision

**Ill-defined Themes** - Clouded thinking, being overly aggressive, lack of will

The Ace of Swords is mental breakthrough, clarity, sudden insight, and new perspective. It is the higher mind gaining clarity. The sword emerges from the clouded background, with jagged mountains beneath it representing challenges on the road ahead. The crown of thorns combines with the hilt of the sword and a laurel wreath to symbolize its success and victory as well as higher awareness and clarity. The sword itself is upright, showing that its intellect is clear and its

perspective is unclouded. This card is about the 'a-ha!' moment of insight that allows a goal to be pursued with directness and clarity.

## **Two of Swords - Lord of Peace Restored - Peace - Moon in Libra**

**Well-defined Themes** - Balance, peace, weighing decisions, harmony

**Ill-defined Themes** - Hasty decisions, stalemate, confusion, stress, indecisiveness, lack of harmony

The Two of Swords is Peace and represents the Moon in Libra. Our central character's necklace forms a sort of crescent moon, showing the need to listen to intuition, and the hilts of the two daggers above her are similar to the symbol for Libra, showing the need for balance in this card. The background is active with petals, leaves, and twigs falling, showing that the peace inferred from the card is inherent to the character despite their environment, and not because of it. The daggers cross through the rose above them in symmetry, showing the balanced outlook of the card. The woman is placid but her eyes are obscured, showing that she lacks the clarity to resolve current issues long term. She may need more information to see the problem clearly, and to make an informed decision. This card suggests that perhaps we need to pause and reflect on the circumstances, and try to gain more information before making a decision. Whatever decision is made, you should strive for harmony and balance in it.

## **Three of Swords - Lord of Sorrow - Sorrow - Saturn in Libra**

**Well-defined Themes** - Pain over loss and separation, fears, longing, unhappiness, abandonment, melancholy

**Ill-defined Themes** - End of a close relationship, unresolved grief, long-term depression and sorrow

The Three of Swords is Sorrow, representing the influence of Saturn in Libra. At the center of the card is a rose being broken apart by the three swords, with a blood spatter in the shape of a heart. It is our past hurts that still negatively effect us in the present. There is an element of separation to the meaning, which may

be a relationship that has fallen apart. It reflects our inner hurt over this separation and the sadness, grief, and heartbreak that are the result. Try to find a healthy way to let out your emotions around this. You don't want them to be buried down and fester into something worse.

### **Four of Swords - Lord of Rest from Strife - Truce - Jupiter in Libra**

**Well-defined Themes** - A break from conflict, unresolved conflict, recuperating from stress

**Ill-defined Themes** - Lingering conflict, unable to take time off from a stressful situation, Burn-out that you haven't recovered from

The Four of Swords is Truce, representing Jupiter's influence in Libra. The difficulties of the Three of Swords are in the past and now it is time to rest and recover. Three trees in the background become swords pointed downwards, representing difficulties now in the past. Our character floats meditatively in the air, with the fourth sword laid resting across her arms. As she meditates, she recharges her spirit, represented by the rose in her third eye position on her mask. This card asks us to take time out from a stressful situation to recover and find our balance once more. It suggests time to recuperate and heal from the stress of the past. Take time to yourself and make space to recover.

### **Five of Swords - Lord of Defeat - Defeat - Venus in Aquarius**

**Well-defined Themes** - Fear, betrayal, sabotage, past hurt affecting our present, turmoil

**Ill-defined Themes** - A more drawn out betrayal that we aren't able to forgive or move on from, mental and emotional drain from previous pain in our lives, difficulty dealing with the present because of a painful past

The Five of Swords is Defeat, symbolizing Venus' influence in Aquarius. This is a card where something was resolved and we have not come out as the victor. The five swords form an inverted pentagram, representing the broken feeling of our spirit and potential feelings of dishonor after our defeat. The two slouched

characters in the background suggest that the situation is one where everyone has lost something in the conflict. Even for the victor of the situation, their success is tainted. The central character's intuitive hand is at threat of being lopped off in the sword-tagram, showing that there was potential betrayal that we did not see coming. In a situation where all involved are lessened by the competition they've engaged in, the only solution is to lick our wounds and try to pick better battles in the future. The situation itself is a difficult one and we may be feeling mentally assaulted as a result. Slander or harsh words may have been involved. We should all be better than the situation that occurred and yet it has come to pass and the only thing left is to find a way to move on.

### **Six of Swords - Lord of Earned Success - Success - Mercury in Aquarius**

**Well-defined Themes** - Intellectual clarity through life experiences, trial and error, rethinking different ways to approach a situation you've had difficulty with, a new approach, thinking things through and trying again

**Ill-defined Themes** - Inability to learn from experience, repeating mistakes, thoughts clouded by emotion, overthinking a situation

The Six of Swords is Success, and represents the influence of Mercury in Aquarius. Mercury and Aquarius are both air and so the card is highly intellectual and analytical. This is a card of trial and error and eventual success. It is passage away from difficulties in the past. Our character has a cross design across his chest, showing the integration of all that is. His necklace is a circle within a square, linked to the 'Magic Circle' or 'Destreza' of the Spanish School of Fencing that reflects the precision, mathematics, and geometry of their instruction. Six swords float downwards from our character, showing that he is beginning to let go of the mental baggage that he carried to this point, and that perhaps helped him to survive this far. But some behaviors are no longer useful once we are out of the dangerous situation that spawned them and it could be time to let them go, as our character does, lest we take their defensive lessons into situations that would be made worse by their activity. They are the different ways we've tried and retried finding our way out of a difficult past. But as our character is

emerging from the deep and dark waters, so too are we moving past the difficulties of the past. We have learned from our trials and grown from them. We now need to take our lessons learned and be open to our new and better situation.

### **Seven of Swords - Lord of Unstable Effort - Uncertainty - Moon in Aquarius**

**Well-defined Themes** - Self-doubt, distraction, negative thinking, self-sabotage, scattered mental state

**Ill-defined Themes** - Appeasing others at our own expense, mental stress, compromising too much of ourselves, being overwhelmed by our own thoughts

The Seven of Swords is titled here as Uncertainty and symbolizes the Moon in Aquarius. It is an unstable idea of strength, perhaps an imitation of it built on shaky foundations that have no choice but to crumble when challenged. It suggest an untrustworthy character, demonstrated here with our masked figure, who has over them a crown that is crumbling to pieces, showing that their perceived strength is a false one. Maybe we are ourselves the untrustworthy character depicted, thinking we've outsmarted everyone else and feeling like we're victorious, but our victory is built on deception and so is corrupted from the outset. Maybe we've been taken advantage of by this character, and they've put us into a difficult position as a result. Perhaps the uncertainty of this card is an unstable success that is the result of our self-doubts eating away at the purity of our purpose. We may find achievement that crumples in our hands as those self doubts kept us from truly living up to our potential. Overall, this card is one where our victory has been robbed either due to self-sabotage or the sabotage of ourselves by someone who isn't acting from a place of integrity.

### **Eight of Swords - Lord of Shortened Force - Indecision - Jupiter in Gemini**

**Well-defined Themes** - Indecision, too many choices, overthinking all options, wasted attention on details that don't matter



**Ill-defined Themes** - Inaction over a period of time, missing opportunities, delaying too long, prioritizing what doesn't matter over what does

The Eight of Swords is Indecision, the influence of Jupiter in Gemini. Jupiter wants to expand but the inquisitiveness of Gemini is keeping it too distracted to achieve this goal. Too many small things demand attention and split our focus. Our full power and potential are restricted and so we have wasted effort. There is an element of self-imposed restriction to this card, as though the distractions that are present are ones we've placed before ourselves. They keep us from achieving our potential and yet we have more control over them than we think. The character in this card is restrained and yet could reach any of the swords present and free herself if she could only commit to a course of action. She is trapped in place by her indecision. The swords before her are as varied as the many distractions our character has laid before her. So many different things are in the way that we are having trouble deciding what to do. We may need to focus on only the important part of what is in front of us, and how to free ourselves of this situation. Rather than weighing every option and indulging every distraction, perhaps it would be best to cut away the extraneous and try to get out of our head. We have the resources we need for a solution, we just need the perspective to make use of them.

### **Nine of Swords - Lord of Despair - Cruelty - Mars in Gemini**

**Well-defined Themes** - Self-denigration, self-harm, hateful thoughts directed inward that nonetheless harm others

**Ill-defined Themes** - Self-hatred over a period of time that causes pain to everyone involved, self-destructive behavior especially mentally, self-sabotage as a coping mechanism

The Nine of Swords is Cruelty, representing the influence of Mars in Gemini. Gemini is scattered and Mars dominates it with harmful thoughts and words used as weapons. Its nature is that of the unrestrained inquisitor; it may have intellect but it is only used as a means to injure and pierce. A line of inquiry is dropped the moment it is not useful in those means, and a sharper one picked

up. There is a line of thought that expresses that the mind itself can be an obstacle to enlightenment, and this is the outcome of that idea. The intellect turns harmfully inward and consumes itself. Sometimes called the nightmare card, this is one where dark thoughts and hurtful feelings keep us in a compromised position. Our character is trapped in her own nightmare, and cracks from the pressure of it. Nine rose petals fall, representing the cycle of returns in numerology, which is akin to the repetitive and cyclical nature of a negative thought loop that runs on repeat. The swords are already coated in blood, showing the pain and suffering of our spirit. On the figure's dress are splotches where poison has set in and eaten away, showing the harm that our thoughts bring to us. This card needs us to break out of the loop of negative self thought, lest we become trapped in our own personal nightmare consuming itself endlessly.

### **Ten of Swords - Lord of Ruin - Ruin - Sun in Gemini**

**Well-defined Themes** - Painful learning experiences, growth through a difficult time, loss of stability especially material objects, letting fear ruin opportunity

**Ill-defined Themes** - Painful experiences that you aren't growing from, permanent loss, self-destructive behavior brought on by personal fears, difficulties repeating in a cycle

The Ten of Swords is Ruin, representing the influence of the Sun in Gemini. This card is the result of the malefic energies of both Mars and Saturn. This is the card of reason divorced from reality. It is not just a card of great difficulty, it is a card of a mind working against itself. If not dealt with, it can be the negative and fearful thinking which destroys the spirit. Those who are unwilling to deal with their inner demons find themselves consumed by them and can become the most denigrated versions of themselves as a result. The character in this card is shattered by the sharp and difficult thoughts they are dealing with. The cross-sections on the daggers is associated with the energy of Saturn and finality. The astral form is disintegrated, and ruin is the result. This is a card of betrayal and deceit that results in the ruination of our sense of self. It can be financial as well as spiritual ruin. And yet as it is in the tenth position, the energy inevitably still must dissipate and move into the next cycle, and so even this

ruination is implied as temporary. This is a painful card but even it is not without something else lurking past it on the horizon. This card may represent rock bottom, but with a new cycle rising from the ashes of the ruins.

**Pentacles:** Pentacles/Coins/Disks relates to earth, the material and the spiritual.

### **Ace of Pentacles - Root of the Powers of Earth**

**Well-defined Themes** - New work, financial opportunity, sustenance, tangible work, start of a new practical skill set, understanding of nature, constructive growth

**Ill-defined Themes** - Greed, exploitation, financial opportunity falling through, lack of spiritual harmony, overwork, lack of practical drive

The Ace of Pentacles is the Root of the Powers of Earth. It can represent a new opportunity in the realm of business, work, or finance. It may just be a new interest that has practical applications. This Ace may in some ways be considered similar to the Orphic Egg from which hatches all of life and existence. The upright pentagram is far from a dangerous and dark symbol. Historically, its five points could represent the five senses, the five wounds of Christ, the five virtues of knighthood, the five joys Mary had of Jesus, and spirit presiding over the four elements of matter, and protection from evil forces. From the pentacle sprouts the roots of a flower, and then the flower itself grows over the mountain peaks in the distance. On either side, flowering trees form a sort of archway of growing plant life. Like the pentacle acting as a seed from which nature and abundance sprout forth, so this card represents a seed of opportunity from which we may gain spiritual and material abundance.

### **Two of Pentacles - Lord of Harmonious Change - Change - Jupiter in Capricorn**

**Well-defined Themes** - Learning to work within changing situations, everything in a state of flux, focus on the practical, finding calm in a chaotic setting

**Ill-defined Themes** - Inability to let go, recklessness in practical matters, finances out of control, change that is to your detriment

The Two of Pentacles is titled Change and represents Jupiter in Capricorn. It is harmony in the center of change. The background shows wind-swept grass and swirling waters yet the character in the forefront is untouched by the chaos of the background, maintaining their composure and integrity amidst the change. On their arm are two pentacles encircled by two snakes joined into one infinity symbol. The coiling serpents are the constant infinite motion and cycles of life. The character's crown has seven points relating to the seventh sephiroth ruled by Venus. This card suggests that we are in ourselves the anchor point around which the chaos of our lives can gain stability. As the world outside changes, we can turn to our self to maintain our roles and responsibilities. Keeping things in a state of balance can be a juggling act but through careful and practical management of our daily affairs, we can manage our many responsibilities.

### **Three of Pentacles - Lord of Material Works - Works - Mars in Capricorn**

**Well-defined Themes** - Good omen for practical matters, reward for work, diligence, balance, following that which betters you

**Ill-defined Themes** - Conflict at work, lacking fulfillment in work, career stagnation or indecision

The Three of Pentacles is Works, representing Mars in Capricorn. This pairing is very good and results in a constructive relationship between the two. This card is about work, mentorship, collaboration, and balance. Our three figures have the signs for Mercury, Sulphur, and Salt on their hats, and as such represent harmony and balance as they work together. This card has a sense of material constructiveness to it, but also shows the harmony of cooperative work. It asks us to embrace others in a working situation and work toward a goal. Some may need to follow while others lead, but all should endeavor to proceed with respect for each other and the work itself in mind. This card also suggests that one

pursue work that is fulfilling for the heart, the body, and the mind all at once. A balanced and practical approach while working with others will result in reward.

### **Four of Pentacles - Lord of Earthly Power - Power - Sun in Capricorn**

**Well-defined Themes** - Material stability, confidence in work, a healthy foundation, financial security

**Ill-defined Themes** - Greediness, financial insecurity, materialism, inability to share yourself or your good fortune, coldness, rigidity

The Four of Pentacles is Power, the effect of the Sun in Capricorn. The result is a practical application of power and material benefits, but with a hint of authority to it. In the background is a solid house atop a hill, representing the stability and security that results from material gain. Our character has four pentacles, and four points to their crown, showing their material pursuit, material gain, and established earthly power. The pentacle on their third eye position shows that they may be disconnected spiritually as a result of their materialism. This character has achieved much, but may be stagnating as they've placed too much emphasis on material reward. This person works hard and makes sound judgements to get their stability in place, but may be too focused on the reward and doesn't see the value of pleasure or self-improvement. This card may be suggesting that we need to focus on creating material stability for ourselves, but warns that we don't make the accumulation of wealth our only goal. Money is a means to an end but when we look at it as the end goal itself we lose sight of the larger goals of our life and suffer spiritually as a result.

### **Five of Pentacles - Lord of Material Trouble - Worry - Mercury in Taurus**

**Well-defined Themes** - A threat to one's material and spiritual security, worry that keeps you from your present moment, anxiety over one's situation that makes the situation worse, difficulties made worse by dwelling

**Ill-defined Themes** - Inaction over a long period of time due to worry, anxieties that interfere with your foundations, lengthy instabilities drawn out over a long time due to one's negative thoughts

The Five of Pentacles is titled Worry and represents Mercury in Taurus. It represents difficulty with monetary issues and anxiety that keeps us from our present moment. The five pentacles in the background form an inverted pentagram, representing the material winning over spirit. Heavy snow sets in on our bleak monster couple as they obsess over the scattered coins on the ground. The structure in the background is stability and support that the couple are stuck outside of. It can be the possibility of warmth in the current moment that we're unable to appreciate as we stress over a situation in our head. The characters are so lost in their worry over security that they make their situation worse. They are rightfully troubled over material loss and yet their situation is still sabotaged by their focus on the wrong thing in the moment. This card asks us to stop focusing on what we lack and stop only seeing what is wrong. Fixing our problems may seem an insurmountable task and yet giving up merely indulges our pessimism without improving our situation.

### **Six of Pentacles - Lord of Material Success - Prosperity - Moon in Taurus**

**Well-defined Themes** - Material and spiritual success, opportunity for profit, reminder of past success, financial growth

**Ill-defined Themes** - Reckless spending, greed, debt, financial and material struggle, poor financial control

The Six of Pentacles is titled Prosperity and represents the Moon in Taurus. This card is one of success attained, but the moon's transitory nature implies that the success is a brief one. This card is about material prosperity and success, as well as philanthropy. Our crowned figure is successful and hands out coins to one of two begging hands at the bottom. Behind them, six branches full of leaves represent their material abundance. This card is a celebration of that which has brought us our success and also reminds us of the difficult nature of that

success. Sometimes we are the needy, sometimes we have the abundance to give. If you are in a position to give, it asks that you not turn a blind eye to your fellows and to share your wealth. If you are in a position where you need help, you may need to let your pride go and ask for that help. Charity and philanthropy are not hand-outs but are cornerstones of a functional society. Poverty is not a sin and affluence is not a virtue.

### **Seven of Pentacles - Lord of Success Unfulfilled - Stagnation - Saturn in Taurus**

**Well-defined Themes** - Stagnation and difficulty with material affairs, fear affecting our spiritual and financial success, inertia, learning from setbacks, repeated failures resulting in discouragement, an opportunity that did not pan out

**Ill-defined Themes** - Staying on with a lost cause, stagnating in a losing situation, avoiding difficulty due to fear, not moving on from a failure

The Seven of Pentacles is titled Stagnation and represents the influence of Saturn in Taurus. The pentacles are arranged in the geomantic figure of Rubeus, a malignant omen that is associated with Scorpio in Mars. The hand holds and loses the pentacles while dead leaves fall around it and dried vegetation drips downward. This card is about putting in the work and coming out with little reward. There may be slight gains but it wasn't worth what you put into it. This may be a labor of love that wasn't meant to result in a lot of money, but often times it is simply that things did not give us the profit we wanted. We may need to tend further to the situation and hope that it eventually produces the growth we're after. Maybe we need to save our energy for something else that will be productive. We might need to tend to things differently to get a different result. The inertia of this card is messing with our plans so try not to set expectations too high and don't be afraid to try something else.

### **Eight of Pentacles - Lord of Prudence - Prudence - Sun in Virgo**

**Well-defined Themes** - Continuing with something you are working on, giving a project time and dedication, development of something fruitful over a period of time, patience, persistence, eventual material success

**Ill-defined Themes** - Rushing a project, focusing too much on details that don't matter, too much focus on one thing that leads to difficulties with other parts, hastiness, impatience

The Eight of Pentacles is Prudence and represents the Sun in Virgo, which is a very productive grouping. It is intelligence applied lovingly to the material, in particular through agriculture and craft. This is a card of hard work and organization paying off and blossoming into being. The hands are arranged in the ASL sign for Growth and around them sprout plentiful leaves and vines. The pentacles in the background are arranged in the geomantic figure of Populus, associated with common people and agriculture. One's artful work and cunning result in success in material affairs. There may be repetition of tasks or work that requires concentration but this card suggests that we have the skill and artfulness to pull it off. Through our patience, planning, and dedication we bring our work to fruition.

### **Nine of Pentacles - Lord of Material Gain - Gain - Venus in Virgo**

**Well-defined Themes** - Reward, improvement, material success after hard work, financial gifts

**Ill-defined Themes** - Financial success that leaves others poorer, reckless spending, impending material strain

The Nine of Pentacles is Gain and symbolizes Venus in Virgo. This pairing is a harmonious one in this card as it brings Venus' association with love and money and Virgo's practicality and organization together to produce a material bounty. Our matriarchal figure is adorned with pentacles aplenty and behind her are riches in the form of grapevines bearing grapes. This focus on natural bounty shows her healthy relationship with wealth, using it prudently and with practicality without being miserly. The hooded falcon on her shoulder is her intellectual self-control. This card is about financial well-being, independence,



discipline, and a healthy indulgence of one's wealth. This card suggests a healthy relationship with money and nature that leads one to financial security after hard work.

## **Ten of Pentacles - Lord of Wealth - Wealth - Mercury in Virgo**

**Well-defined Themes** - Material wealth, financial achievement, wealth that brings stability shared with others, achievement of spiritual and financial success

**Ill-defined Themes** - Miserliness, greed, financial riches but spiritual emptiness, misapplication of one's finances, wealth achieved at the expense of others

The Ten of Pentacles is Wealth and represents Mercury in Virgo. Above our aged matriarch the ten pentacles are arranged in the form of the Tree of Life, showing her wealth in finance and spirituality. She has two loyal white Borzoi dogs at her feet and behind her is her family. She has attained security and stability that allows her family to flourish. The tens of the suits in general are slightly imbalanced as they must break apart to start movement into the next suit, but here we have the completion of the cycle and no next suit to go to, so the energy must break up and start the very top of the cycle, and so the Ten of Pentacles is a more stable Ten card. The overwhelming energy of Mercury in this card is exalted in Virgo. The organization of Virgo and the communication of Mercury result in an interplay of abundance and wealth. This isn't just a card of success for one's family to the detriment of others, rather this family is meant to be successful as a core part of their community. They bring abundance and security to their community just as the community has allowed for their well-being and security. Overall this is a card of great material success but with a warning that hoarding or sitting on that energy/money will cause us to spiritually stagnate. It calls on us to share our place of stability and security so that all of one's community is improved as a result. Build a longer table, not a bigger wall.

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