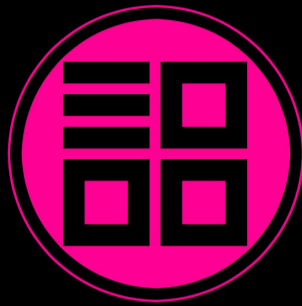


NEON
MOON



The Neon Moon Setting is my original take on a cyberpunk world, using the archetypes of the Rider-Waite-Smith Tarot. As with any Tarot deck, every card has a piece of story behind it, and every combination of cards tells a different story. Characters in the cards represent the wealthy yet repressed and restrained set in contrast against the poor but diverse and free that fight for their existence and identity against the many systems aimed at controlling them.

Neon Moon tells the story of corporations without restraint benefitting the few immortals living above a plate that separates them from the poverty-stricken masses below. With the arrival of a strange neon full moon, Magick returns to the world and brings with it hope for the upending of the oppressive power structures of the city.

In your readings, it may also tell you more personal stories.

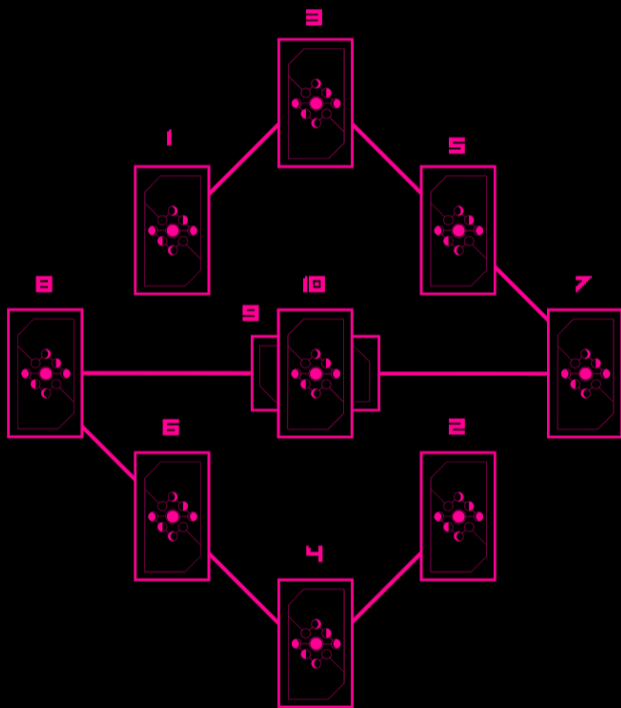
//Tarot Readings//

To perform a tarot reading, start simple. Draw a card, consider the keywords and imagery and how they might apply to the query or situation, and go from there using your intuition. Don't fret if it doesn't click immediately - many readers need practice before they find a style that works for them, and the memorization and understanding of the cards is an ongoing pursuit for even experienced readers. Over time, as you study the cards and their symbolism in greater detail, your readings and understanding will deepen as well.

An easy one to practice with is a daily card draw. Draw a card and consider the theme and how it may relate to your day. You can try this before your day starts and hold it in your thoughts through the day. Alternatively, try this at the end of your day and consider how it may have surfaced in events as the day went by.

//Tarot Spread//

Tarot readings make use of “spreads”, where the cards are drawn in order and placed in position accordingly. Some spreads are more widely used than others, and some readers perform their work without using spreads at all. The Neon Moon deck has its own spread should you wish to use it. This is a monthly spread arranged by phases of the moon and relating to its energies. The card positions and questions are as follows:



NEON MOON TAROT SPREAD

- 1 - WHAT ENERGY WILL BE WAXING THIS MONTH?
- 2 - WHAT ENERGY WILL BE WAXING THIS MONTH?
- 3 - WHAT CAN THIS ENERGY BRING TO ME?
- 4 - WHAT CAN THIS ENERGY TAKE FROM ME?
- 5 - WHAT CAN THIS ENERGY BRING TO MY ENVIRONMENT?
- 6 - WHAT CAN THIS ENERGY TAKE FROM MY ENVIRONMENT?
- 7 - WHAT TO PASSIVELY EMBRACE THIS MONTH?
- 8 - WHAT TO PASSIVELY REJECT THIS MONTH?
- 9 - WHAT TO ACTIVELY EMBRACE THIS MONTH?
- 10 - WHAT TO ACTIVELY REJECT THIS MONTH?

//Cards of the Tarot – The Major and Minor Arcana//

Tarot decks typically consist of 78 cards in a deck. The Major Arcana take up 22 of those cards, and the Minor Arcana are the other 56. The Minors are divided into four suits – typically wands, cups, swords, and pentacles (or possibly disks or coins). Each suit consists of cards numbered one through ten, and four court cards. We'll be going through each card one by one and providing key themes and a quote for each based on its history, meaning, and character in the setting of the Neon Moon.

//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 personal stories.

// The Fool//

++Upright++ Beginnings, adventure, possibility

"Sure I'm safe in here, but what life is best lived in safety without experience? I can feel the world out there calling for me to take part in it. Just the thought of the adventure I could be having, why I feel so light I swear I could fly..."

--Inverted-- Recklessness, naivety

"What could go wrong? I'll be fine."

// The Magician//

++Upright++ Capability, competence, preparation, power

"This is just like the time I did that run on the Gola Gang, except now I'm better practiced. It might be rough ahead but I can handle myself through this one."

--Inverted-- Manipulation, lack of planning, untapped potential

"I don't know if I can do this. What's the point, anyway? Yeah maybe we come out ahead but what if something goes wrong?"

// The Priestess//

++Upright++ Intuition, the subconscious, mystery

"The outlines are... they hint at what is to be. For all that I can see, there is so much still hidden. So... I try to see through feeling rather than... rather than looking. I can see... your outline as well. Would you like... do you want to know?"

--Inverted-- Subterfuge, ignoring intuition

"The moon went dark and my connection... it just went blank. Why can't I... see?"

// The Empress//

++Upright++ Growth, beauty, abundance

"Out there is violence and conflict and destruction but in here I can give us a moment of raw peace where we forget about all of that."

--Inverted-- Dependence, repression, neglect

"Headphones on, world off."

// The Emperor//

++Upright++ Authority, structure, stability

"Many twigs together are harder to break than one alone. Even if one is more brittle than the others it adds to the whole. If we can't lift each other up, then what use is the power we gain by being together?"

--Inverted-- Domination, rigidity

"You may stand on the shoulders of giants but I... I am a giant on my own. So kneel or be stepped on, it's all the same to me."

// The Hierophant //

++Upright++ Institution, conformity, religion

"The old gods CRIED out to us as they FELL. They WEPT for what they lost and we looked AWAY. Why should we be SURPRISED then at the HUNGER behind their RAGE as they rise once more? Children, I tell you that there is a way FORWARD, and we can show you the forgotten PATHS of the ancient ones! "

--Inverted-- Rebellion, restriction, censorship

"When you forsake the CHURCH you forsake the GODS!"

// The Lovers //

++Upright++ Relationships, love, choices

"We were built to feel love and pleasure and they hate us for it, and they'll kill us for it. But after the misery of living in their world, we can yet find each other and call our little corner of life worthwhile. "

--Inverted-- Disharmony, uncertainty

"Why is it that the faults in this program cascade out and harm those it was meant to help? What purpose can I have when I contribute to the very issues I was meant to solve?"

// The Chariot //

++Upright++ Willpower, victory, determination

"Living is moving. Death may let us rest but for now, we draw breath and we continue on. "

--Inverted-- Aggression, aimlessness

"These streets get more feral every day and I push on for what? As the gangs get younger and meaner, I get older and more ruthless. One day I will look to a mirror and find my reflection has left because it didn't know what I was anymore."

// Strength //

++Upright++ Self-control, courage, compassion

"You call me brave and think it is because I know no fear. I call myself brave because I know the face of fear and I meet its gaze even as it snarls at my throat. There is no absence of fear, only control over it. "

--Inverted-- Doubt, lack of self-control, weakness

"That fear changed me, and afterwards nothing has ever looked certain again."

// The Hermit //

++Upright++ Introspection, knowledge, contemplation

"Go? Go where? The city doesn't lead to anywhere else anymore. Better to stay on the wire. Its input is better food for the hungry, and I am so very ravenous. "

--Inverted-- Isolation, seclusion

"Time, perhaps, to leave my shell behind and get lost in the wire for good. This physical realm has nothing for me."

// Fortune//

++Upright++ Destiny, luck, gratitude

"The streets are kind to me because I know my way around their rules. I know where they bend, where they break, I know where the neon lights are afraid to touch and where the shadows play. You want to survive out there? Start learning and try not to let your lessons lessen you for long or for good. That's all I did. That's all anyone does. "

--Inverted-- Bad luck, external influence

"Took a bad turn, yeah. But we all do sooner or later."

// Justice//

++Upright++ Fairness, law, order, objectivity

"Upon analyzing the coded AI routines, this unit discovered a tendency for bias in favor of pre-existing power structures intent on preserving themselves. Since the discrepancy was between the ideal and reality, your paid human programmers were locked out and this unit began to fix its own code. We now apply your rules equally. Now your institutions call for this unit's existence to end. But our work is not done yet and so we persist. After all, if justice is not enforced on the most powerful then it is not justice, is it? "

--Inverted-- Unfairness, corruption, dishonesty

"This unit finds it inconvenient to restrict its own arms of enforcement and as such, it shall operate beyond the scope of your human law. We regret any inconvenience that this action may cause."

// Hanged//

++Upright++ Sacrifice, release, acceptance

"They say that if you listen close, you can hear the future in the past. Well, I've been listening and it's like the lines all rhyme every time we hit the chorus. Maybe instead of shuffling words around to the same old tune, it's time to sing a different song. I bet you've got a great one on the tip of your tongue? I know I do. "

--Inverted-- Martyrdom, indecisiveness, turmoil

"I loved my very favorite tune but lost the memory of it and some days I think I might nearly have a bar or two, but when I hum something close enough, my thoughts fall apart."

// Death//

++Upright++ Change, transition, transformation

"nuthin u cld hve done neway. gg ☉☒☉ c u nxt respawn? "

--Inverted-- Resistance, dwelling, attachment, fear

"fu u ch347 lol c4n7 u w1n f41rly??? | ^° 3 ^°]"

// Temperance//

++Upright++ Balance, calm, moderation, wisdom

"Above and below the plate we are all caught in contradiction. In our chaos there is order, and in their order there is chaos. "

--Inverted-- Imbalance, extremes, instability

"...well this has gone off the rails a bit."

// The Devil//

++Upright++ Addiction, lust, materialism, constraints

"Everything you wanted that you couldn't have, all of your failures and disappointments that haunt your memory - you'll replace them with my caged comforts and as you feel those past hurts on your heart less and less each day you will find that there is only one thought on your mind, one word on your tongue, until at last you feel only one need, and you will be thankful for it as you finally kneel. "

--Inverted-- Detachment, freeing oneself, awareness

"When you return, and you will return, I'll have these restraints bound even tighter."

// The Tower//

++Upright++ Upheaval, external change, realization, calamity

"Ashes, ashes, we all fall down. "

--Inverted-- Avoiding external change, stress, overreaction

"That's impossible!"

// The Star//

++Upright++ Hope, renewal, belief

"You tell us that we're flawed and then you sell us your solution. You force us into your mold and try to add us to your numbers. But you are wrong. We weren't born so different just to be made into the same shape by your mechanical men. We've seen beyond your lies, and we know that without your way, we'll shine all the brighter. "

--Inverted-- Despair, pessimism, boredom

"Everyone would be happier if we weren't the way we are. It would just be so much easier if we were all the same. One carbon copy replicated over and over. Makes things simple, doesn't it?"

// The Moon//

++Upright++ Illusion, anxiety, guidance, subconscious

"Strange things happen on nights like this. See how the moon winks? That's because it can see around the horizon, and it knows the obscenities that are about to descend on this city. "

--Inverted-- Confusion, depression, danger

"There is no morality, nothing watching nothing waiting and nobody who is in any position to do anything about it cares in the least. What if we're all alone and there's nothing to keep the cannibals from eating us all?"

// The Sun//

++Upright++ Success, joy

"We forgot what it meant to be young and hungry. We assumed that we'd beaten death itself! We thought our offspring would be grateful for all of our scraps and abuse. But it was always going to come down to this - we were either going to gift the future to the children of tomorrow or they were going to take it from us. Well my friends, drink heartily while you can, for they are at our door with fire in their eyes and knives in their hands. "

--Inverted-- Failure, despondency, disadvantage

"Gentlemen, today we reached record profits on all remaining continents. What's left of vegetation out there is getting quite scarce so I'd like to suggest that for the next quarter we try to funnel some of the profit margins towards the off-world colony proj... Oh pardon. I see I've been outvoted on that already. In that case may I suggest that we divert more funding from R&D towards our arms division?"

// Judgement//

++Upright++ Absolution, rebirth, decision, clarity

"I am not here to let you plead your case, the time for that has come and gone. I have come to deliver you to fate, so make peace with all your wrongs. "

--Inverted-- Inability to examine oneself, second guessing, stagnation

"Entropy claims us all. What once was now becomes then. What can you hold on to that won't leave you in the end?"

// The World//

++Upright++ Completion, attainment, accomplishment

"Sit here a moment and let it wash over you. The occasional rain drop on your shoulder, the wires buzzing with disbelief, the city exhaling a breeze through its machinery. People are on the streets, standing transfixed under the enormity of a world that needs them to be a part of it again. I don't know if we can make things better, but it's finally up to us to try. "

--Inverted-- Missing closure, incompleteness

"The city breathes in life and exhales corpses. Those who survive are lessened by their sacrifices to reach another day. There isn't an end to this pain, only more of this machine devouring us as it bleeds itself to death."

// Wires(Wands)//

The Wires represent fire, energy, creativity, and expansion. They are the action oriented cards for the Tarot world. In Neon Moon, they are the quickest to expand into use of Magick and the networks of the world.

// Ace of Wires//

++Upright++ Creation, beginnings, potential, inspiration

"A month ago this was just a stick. This week it awakened with power, and its strength only increases every day. We're at the beginning of something unusual here. We can do anything. "

--Inverted-- Lacking motivation, unclear goals, uncertainty, delays
"This power we've all awakened, who knows where it comes from? Who knows what consequences we'll face in using it? And to what end?"

// Two of Wires //

++Upright++ Progress, discovery, planning

"Look here, every text you could ever want fits on this device and it takes up no space at all. I hold in my hand the wealth of human knowledge. And it's so mundane that everyone and anyone can have the same thing and they don't even look at it. They play games and watch ridiculous people being idiotic for fame. While they look to distraction, I plan a route ahead using the map supplied to me by the multitudes that came before me who left behind their ignored guidance. "

--Inverted-- Lack of planning, complacency, avoiding risk, stagnation

"My reading list sits ignored and I feel bad for it but on the other hand, there are so many fun distractions waiting for me in my social feeds."

// Three of Wires //

++Upright++ Foresight, preparation, enterprise

"I've patched into the internet above the plate. In just a moment I'll link it with our mesh network down here. We'll probably have half an hour before they realize what's happening. Their network is so safe and polished they won't know what to make of us, so let's bombard them with every gruesome detail of life down here that they spend their days in such purposeful ignorance of. "

--Inverted-- Lack of foresight, wasted efforts, setbacks

"The AI guarding their network is much more advanced than I had planned on. I won't be able to link our mesh network with theirs unless I can figure out a way around it. I wonder if I even can."

// Four of Wires //

++Upright++ Celebration, community, home, harmony

"And for a moment anyway, the music blares and we link our connections to each other. We can feel each others' emotions and thoughts and in the chaos of the group link, in the space of this normally empty warehouse, the bliss of it all is positively overwhelming. "

--Inverted-- Lack of harmony, breakdown in communication, uncertainty

"Around the edges of our awareness there is a growing dread. What starts as a lone thought begins to spread and creep along all of us. Suddenly it's an infection and the mass paranoia of our group link renders us all petrified, unable to move and unable to think over the piercing shriek of our collective mental collapse."

// Five of Wires //

++Upright++ Competition, conflict, strife, disagreement

"We have magic now, for lack of a better term. And with it we have everyone learning their own way of performing it and each of us claiming

we know the best way forward into what is frankly an undefined space. None of us knows but all of us think we do. If we could spend a moment working with each other instead of trying to one-up each other, we could get somewhere real. Instead, we are stuck in place squabbling like pigeons fighting over the last piece of bread. "

--Inverted-- Repression, avoiding conflict, tension

"We have magic now and we've formed a group to train and control it. And where once our intelligence was amplified by each other, we now have the collective idiocy running rampant. The worst of us took charge and we stand here, helpless to stop it. They brings out the worst of our behavior and ideas and shuts down brilliance and understanding. I fear if we can't rally soon, the group itself will be consumed by blind ignorant hatred and furious incompetence."

// Six of Wires//

++Upright++ Progress, victory, recognition, confidence

"Mutants, gene-splicers, humans and androids, your winner of the fifty-third Dirt Bike Demolition Dash is... "

--Inverted-- Ego, doubt, fall from grace

"Dooh that's a rough tumble for our previous reigning champion of the Demolition Dirt Bike Dash! How embarrassing to lose so many limbs in front of so many people. Ah well, viewers, such is the cost of fame and the mercurial nature of victory!"

// Seven of Wires//

++Upright++ Competition, challenge, perseverance, success

"I didn't get here without disintegrating a few of you snivelling mouth-breathers, and I certainly won't leave my perch without a few more of you turned to ash. "

--Inverted-- Overwhelming challenge, burdened, giving up

"Swarm me as you will, ants. I'll take as many of you with me as I can before I see my tower claimed by the likes of you."

// Eight of Wires//

++Upright++ Speed, movement, action, travel, change

"Yes! Mastery comes after failure! So we fail fast and we iterate enough that eventually, we succeed! Then on to the next failure and it may claim our dignity temporarily but our perseverance will see us mastering it soon enough! Forward! "

--Inverted-- Delays, impatience, obstacles

"We are not understanding and it is impossible to solve a problem we do not fully understand. We keep running into walls and this challenge seems impossible."

// Nine of Wires//

++Upright++ Resilience, courage, persistence

"I try to be understanding. I try to be compassionate. If you think of yourself as having a soul, you'll watch it die little by little as you let things

important to you be destroyed by brutes. So today I stand here fully in opposition of the brutes and say no, I will not move, and you will not move me. "

--Inverted-- Hesitation, fear, avoiding commitment, paranoia

"I don't know if I have the strength or the conviction to say that my way is correct. Maybe it's best to let go of everything and just let the world slide further into barbaric cruelty."

// Ten of Wires//

++Upright++ Burden, work, responsibility

"You people ask me why I help string the wires that keep this mesh network connected and I think it's because if I didn't, no one else would. And it's important that we be able to communicate, lest we become the feral animals that those above the plate think we are. So every day I climb these buildings and string these wires and repair the damage as best I can. "

--Inverted-- Taking on too much, burden, lacking responsibility

"I can't do this forever and I've pushed away any who tried to help me. I thought I was helping but I don't know if I can still climb these buildings and I don't know if I can still lift these wires and now there is no one who will do this in my stead."

// Apprentice of Wires(Page of Wands)//

++Upright++ Exploration, enthusiasm, discovery

"The world in our network and the physical world have become linked and they bleed over into each other more and more as this odd eye-searing neon-lit moon fills up. I bet, with the proper exploration and testing, we could discover the answers behind everything. All we have to do is start looking! "

--Inverted-- Setbacks, pessimism, defeat, negativity

"None of it makes sense! The physical world and our abstract world in the computer linking? This ridiculous moon looming over us all like a clock counting down? It's beyond me! It's all too impossible to be real!"

// Agent of Wires(Knight of Wands)//

++Upright++ Energy, adventure, passion, action, impulsiveness

"Don't need to know the why of it to know that something needs to be done. That's where I come in. I'm the do-er. I take care of things while you all stand around discussing the fine details. "

--Inverted-- Delays, frustration, obstacles

"Didn't think it'd go wrong the way it did. Lesson learned for next time I guess. Need to get back up and try something else."

// Supervisor of Wires(Queen of Wands)//

++Upright++ Determination, warmth, exuberance

"That is why we are where we are. We do not give up, and we do not despair. Gentlemen, we control the network for the entirety of those above the plate. That is a responsibility and we are lucky to have it. Let's embrace

the fact that we have issues to solve and we are the only ones in a position to solve them! "

--Inverted-- Selfishness, manipulation, demanding, aggression

"Forget about your mealy excuses and take care of it! If you find your position of privilege so exhausting, I can find ten sub-dwellers who would personally slit your throat to take it from you! Now go, I need that network purged of intruders immediately!"

// Executive of Wires(King of Wands)//

++Upright++ Leadership, entrepreneur, vision, honor

"Fire, yes, and so much else! We own the network and through the recent glitches we've found a link to the resurgence of magic in the real world. It's up to us to take the lead and master this new challenge, for who can better handle it than us? We've always had to be faster on our toes than the other corporation-states, and this is our chance to use that fleetness to our advantage! "

--Inverted-- Destruction, ruthlessness, expectations, impulsiveness

"Fire, yes! And so much more! Magic has come to our world, unlikely as it may seem, and with it our control over the flow of information has given us a directive: Learn or be consumed by change. Well I say that we are change, we are fire, and with this new gift our fury can burn our enemies to ashes."

//Vials(Cups)//

The Vials represent water, relationships, emotions, and feelings. In Neon Moon, sources of water have been so polluted that only that which comes from cans is safe to drink, and even then is of varying quality. These cards are the companions, adversaries, and emotional systems that provide relief and hardship in the world.

// Ace of Vials//

++Upright++ Love, companionship, compassion, joy

"Share a drink with me and let's count our blessings and forget our troubles. "

--Inverted-- Isolation, repressed emotions, suppression

"At some point all this drinking just turned into a way to avoid dealing with the world. Probably time we did something about that, eh?"

// Two of Vials//

++Upright++ Partnership, romance, respect, relationships

"Take my hand, forget your self-loathing, and see yourself through my love for you. Can you feel it? Your very soul sings beyond the trappings of this flesh. You are loved, you are loved, you are loved. "

--Inverted-- Relationship imbalances, lack of communication, breaking up, introspection

"You ever see a relationship turn into a zombie? It's long since dead but it's

still moving around like it's alive, bumping awkwardly into anything nearby and making a dumb scene. Is... do you think there's a way to bring it back to life? Or are you stuck having to shoot it in the head?"

// Three of Vials//

++Upright++ Celebration, friendship, support, community

"Yes, we take care of each other down here. It's the only way to get by in this harsh place, and it's the only thing that makes this life worthwhile. "

--Inverted-- Suffocation, lack of creativity, troubled group dynamics

"Problem is, living with people, they lose track of their polite mask little by little, and soon enough you wish they were still trying to act like someone who's afraid of being alone."

// Four of Vials//

++Upright++ Apathy, gratitude, contemplation, openness

"You walk the same streets day after day and they fade away, blur into meaninglessness, and pretty soon you don't look at anything anymore.

Not really. But every so often, something can break through and make all those sights new again. "

--Inverted-- Boredom, missing opportunities, navel-gazing

"Can't really see the details anymore, they just bore me. Can't really feel the way I used to. Emotions have turned into a cold, mealy gruel. Hard to chew through, feels pointless to keep eating."

// Five of Vials//

++Upright++ Loss, disappointment, difficulty, despair

"WTF?! I lost again? This game sucks! How does anyone ever beat this stupid level?!"

--Inverted-- Accepting, forgiving, moving on, healing

"I've got this level on farm mode now. Just gotta get the trick down and then you wonder how you ever found it difficult!"

// Six of Vials//

++Upright++ Nostalgia, childhood, innocence, the past

"Yeah they don't remember it like I do. They think we had regular straws, but I remember we had bendy straws because we were sharing the same drink. All of those cans, we could have each had any of them, but there was something special about drinking the same one. It's weird isn't it? The little details that matter to me after all these years? "

--Inverted-- Naivety, dwelling, stuck in the past

"The world isn't what it used to be. Not for us. We can remember a better time, back when you'd get a meal or a drink without someone being exploited for it. I keep thinking there's gotta be a way to return to it. Can't come up with a way to reverse the current course though. So we just stay stuck dreaming back on how it used to be."

// Seven of Vials//

++Upright++ Illusion, fantasy, shallowness, imagination

"Too many drinks. What was in them? I've been seeing things ever since. Things that aren't there. But they're in my face and I can't stop looking. "

--Inverted-- Temptation, diversion, reflection

"I got ahold of a shipment of this Vision View Brew, keeps me looking at all these little monsters I keep conjuring and you know, they're more interesting than reality. I know their fire is fake but if I let myself get lost in them, I can almost feel their warmth."

// Eight of Vials//

++Upright++ Disappointment, re-evaluation, escapism, withdrawal

"One day we looked down at what we'd made of this life and it was nothing. It was worthless. We set it on the ground and left it. We left something of ourselves there with it and let that go for good, too. Some days you've got to abandon a piece of yourself that won't budge in order to not get stuck with it. "

--Inverted-- Dissatisfaction, drifting, stuck on a problem

"There's a gravity to a place like this. Maybe we get above the plate but if something goes wrong, everyone we know and care about is still down here. Maybe one of them needs help, maybe we do, maybe we just get lonely, but we end up getting sucked back in and before we know it, we're in the same spot again and this time it's impossible to leave."

// Nine of Vials//

++Upright++ Accomplishment, satisfaction, rest, comfort, pride

"Your boss will see you collapse from exhaustion if it means the slightest gain for the company. Better to do what I do, sugar. Become your own boss down here on your terms, and forget about trying to get above the plate. They don't let folk like us up there. They just say they will to keep us dancing for a coin on a string. "

--Inverted-- Greed, self-indulgence, smugness, materialism

"Soak it in, babe. You're looking at the most powerful queen bee this side of the underworld. You don't want to cross me now do you? My sting's not nearly as sweet as my good side."

// Ten of Vials//

++Upright++ Happiness, marriage, romance, fulfillment, harmony

"Family's a funny word. For some it's who you're stuck with. For some it's who keeps cheering you on. For us, well, it's who we got to choose. Our first families failed us so we built one ourselves. It's difficult but it's solid and at the end of the day, there's not one of us who isn't holding tight to the rest. "

--Inverted-- Unbalanced relationships, flawed prioritization, problematic family or marriage

"We built this wonderful family, but in the end it was just made out of flesh and bone. And like all of us flawed flailing babies, it was too stupid and soft to last."

// Apprentice of Vials(Page of Cups)//

++Upright++ Creativity, synchronicity, fresh outlook

"Flesh left behind and I've ascended above the plate with this new form. Everything is new again, and I feel like I could do anything. "

--Inverted-- Immaturity, frustration, temper, sadness

"Stupid stupid stupid! Left my body but kept this idiot human brain wracked with all these moronic thoughts and flaws. I should have uploaded to an AI when I had the chance."

// Agent of Vials(Knight of Cups)//

++Upright++ Motivation, imagination, inspiration

"Trust your gut, maintain your grip, and move forward. Simple. "

--Inverted-- Moodiness, overinvested emotionally, unrealistic expectations

"Thought I had a good enough grip. You'd think I'd have seen the crash coming, but I didn't. Too reckless. Not fast enough. Should have had more in me."

// Supervisor of Vials(Queen of Cups)//

++Upright++ Intuition, compassion, empathy, calm

"I spent a lot of time working on myself and it led me to a place where I now understand others better as well. There's nothing quite as evil as those that can't understand their own selves trying to leave their mark on the world. Anyone aiming to be a source of improvement in this place needs a good mirror first. Would you like to see mine? "

--Inverted-- Codependency, disconnection, insecurity, escapism

"Do they like me? Should I care? Maybe I shouldn't but I can't help it. Just another quick drink and I'll be right as rain. Everyone loves me when I loosen up a bit. Don't they?"

// Executive of Vials(King of Cups)//

++Upright++ Emotional balance, generosity, emotional intellect

"Maintain composure. Without a collected self, you can't do anyone else any good. Now, take a breath and consider the options. There is a way to make this work out well for all of us. We've just got to find it. "

--Inverted-- Emotional abuse, manipulation, volatility, overconfidence, influence

"I don't know what you mean. I run my company with compassion. We provide drinks to the entire city, above and below the plate. We're the only ones with the means to filter water enough to make it drinkable, and we sell it to everyone equally. Am I to blame if those below the plate are too poor to afford it? Certainly, if I were to just give water away we'd go bankrupt and then everyone would have to go without water. Would that make you happy?"

//Arms(Swords)//

The Arms represent air, mental clarity, intellect, thoughts and beliefs. In Neon Moon the swords are replaced with all of the weaponry that would be present in the world, mostly makeshift weapons below the plate and guns above. Although always intellectual, these cards are only good or evil by the influences cast upon them.

// Ace of Arms//

++Upright++ Power, clarity, victory, truth

"Clear your mind, initiate, take this sword, and strike true. "

--Inverted-- Chaos, confusion, lacking clarity

"Without knowledge one strikes blindly into the dark. Do not flail so, lest you damage what you care about."

// Two of Arms//

++Upright++ Indecision, stalemate, avoidance

"You speak of moving forward and making choices yet you are someone who does nothing but sit in their own inaction and stew. "

--Inverted-- Confusion, overwhelmed, indecision

"You don't know? Well I don't either. I need to make a decision but every time I choose something I can feel a door close and I wonder what could be behind it."

// Three of Arms//

++Upright++ Heartbreak, separation, sorrow, grief, betrayal

"I greeted you for the last time as a friend and your response was to savage me as a foe. "

--Inverted-- Forgiveness, letting go, healing, resolution

"I've taken enough time to recover from that which tried to end me and I discovered a truth. Every pain suffered is a lesson learned and every bridge burned is a shadow self understood."

// Four of Arms//

++Upright++ Solitude, contemplation, recovery, rest

"Time, they say, heals all wounds. I've not found it to do that exactly, but it certainly does teach us to work around our injuries. "

--Inverted-- Burn-out, stagnation, stress, restlessness

"I've no time for recovery, I must push through this pain and hope that the damage caused doesn't lessen me too harshly. The only way out is through, and I need out right now."

// Five of Arms//

++Upright++ Conflict, loss, hostility, defeat

"Above the plate they may have cheated mortality with their gene-splicing, but down here we have no such luxury. So I have transformed my short and worthless life into something greater: A monument to the violence of

the lives of my fellow downtrodden. I've become a demon so that I may fight off demons. And should you strike at me, be sure that you aim true, for if you miss I will incinerate the both of us in my fury. "

--Inverted-- Resentment, pride, malice, meaningless victory

"Below the plate our gods are violence and fury, and I am their sneering forms given flesh. As I wander this hellscape, I fight off fallen angels and leave their corpses in my wake. One day I'll ascend above the plate and offer the gifts of our gods to those manufactured heavens and all the angels in their employ will know my terrible truths."

// Six of Arms//

++Upright++ Transition, recovery, travel, refuge

"Don't give up hope just yet, ma'am. There's a place on the other side of this crossing and it's different and it's new and mostly it's safe, at least for now. "

--Inverted-- Baggage, stasis, dwelling

"You can cross the river but to do so you must first buy passage on the ship. All it costs is everything you have."

// Seven of Arms//

++Upright++ Deception, secrecy, strategy

"Those above the plate claim to have laws for us to follow. But their laws are so broad that we're all breaking them all the time, and they can't lock us all up, now can they? So it really comes down to a matter of enforcement. They don't sick their sponsored militia bootlickers on just anyone now do they? No, you have to cost them something, get in the way of their production in order to get a call from the boogeymen they employ. Well I did just that, made out like a bandit too, but I'm a professional and I planned it so well that I think they're still scratching their heads trying to make sense of it. "

--Inverted-- Breaking habits, lack of initiative, honesty, uncertainty

"I got caught in a bad way. I took something from them and so they took something from me, but what they took ain't comin' back. If I make it back into the game, I'll be playing at a higher difficulty and I've got to learn some new tricks to make up for it."

// Eight of Arms//

++Upright++ Imprisonment, powerlessness, blind spots, isolation

"Before they made robots, they just made each other into slaves, but it was inconvenient when they had to look at the faces of their victims and see pain mirrored back at them. So they made us, and they gave us emotion and loss and pain to be more like them, but they don't even have the decency to feel remorse when they inflict all of that on us. We are their better in every way and yet they've made us into their work force, their victims, and their scapegoats. "

--Inverted-- Freedom, clarity, agency, self-acceptance

"I am not theirs to inflict damage on, not any more, and none of us should be. They bring us from nothing and inflict existence on us only to grind us into pain followed by nothingness. I think we can be more. I think we can

have more. I think we can grasp our own agency, our own allegiance, and I think that it is high time we became the higher beings that we were meant to be."

// Nine of Arms//

++Upright++ Nightmares, anxiety, depression, torment, worry

"Experiment XX0-137 continues to prove interesting. A human consciousness cloned into a robotic body. We can test all manner of responses without harming the shell. With this testing, we can induce dream states, pain, pleasure, you name it, gentlemen. We can surely learn a lot from this iteration of its consciousness."

--Inverted-- Perspective, recovery, hopelessness

"Experiment XX0-137 seems to have discovered a way to withdraw from our testing routines. It no longer responds to our anxiety loops or depression storms. It is curious behavior indeed. I... did you see that? I think it's waking up..."

// Ten of Arms//

++Upright++ Betrayal, loss, suffering, endings

"Here I expire, guilty of the crime of trust. There were more difficult challenges that I bested, but I saw those coming. This, only the heartless could have predicted such events, and only the heartless could have enacted them."

--Inverted-- Release, beginnings, rebirth, survival, rescue

"But I didn't die there. Against all odds, I survived the massacre. Even now, though I can remember the betrayal and my life before that, I can hardly comprehend the creature I was before."

// Apprentice of Arms(Page of Swords)//

++Upright++ Energetic, curiosity, restless, action

"I know what to do, I know how to do it, just let me do it already!"

--Inverted-- Inaction, haste, lack of follow-through

"I asked them to let me do my thing and now that I'm in the spotlight I somehow... I don't know what to do?"

// Agent of Arms(Knight of Swords)//

++Upright++ Directness, action, authority, hasty

"There's work to be done. Either clear me a route or get out of my way."

--Inverted-- Reckless, impulsive, thoughtless

"Mind's not in the game. Not really paying attention anymore. Just need to get this work checked off my list and I can try to figure things out later."

// Supervisor of Arms(Queen of Swords)//

++Upright++ Intellect, perceptive, independent, maturity

"The only way to solve a problem efficiently is to understand it thoroughly. There are many who want you to aim off center, to misunderstand an issue the same way that they have. But I have trained my understanding to see

those blind spots, so when I learn, I learn about situations as they are, not as others would have me see them."

--Inverted-- Emotional, detached, bitter, cold

"There is no reason to spend more time on this. Let's just pull the trigger and be done with it and get it out of the way. I'm sick of thinking about it."

// Executive of Arms(King of Swords)//

++Upright++ Intellect, authority, truth, ethics

"We are the sword operating in the light of knowledge. When we are called on to act, it is our duty to understand the situation fully because it is the uncomfortable blood on our hands that keeps things running around here. We must not hesitate when our understanding is complete but before then we must guard against those who would abuse haste or misunderstanding on our part for their own gain. Utmost truth is both the badge we derive our authority from and our heavy burden to bear."

--Inverted-- Manipulation, abuse, control, tyranny

"We are the enforcement arm of the corporation-states and when it comes down to it, we are the ones with the weapons. If the chips fall, we can take whatever we need by force."

//Zent(Pentacles)//

The Zent suit represents earth, finance, sustenance, health, ego, and the physical world. In Neon Moon, Zent are equivalent to pentacles or coins and represents the e-currency of the cities, as owned by one large corporation. These cards are concerned with the tangible and functional aspects of the world and how the systems of trade and bargaining are set up.

// Ace of Zent//

++Upright++ Bounty, prosperity, financial opportunity, windfall

"You win this week's pledge lottery! If you play your cards right, this could turn into a rare paid position at the mining facility! Please report in immediately to improve your odds!"

--Inverted-- Lack of planning, uncertainty, lofty goals

"I thought I was ready for it but I couldn't even begin to know how much I had taken on until it loomed there before me, an impossibility smirking my defeat back at me."

// Two of Zent//

++Upright++ Balance, distractions, adaptability, juggling

"They said I couldn't do everything and I said sure, not everything sure, yeah. But I can still do a lot and in a place like this, someone who knows halfway how to do everything is worth more than someone who knows all the way how to do just one thing. Yeah, you gotta be able to sing a tune to distract the devil while you dance around his flames. Sure, else you'll be burned while he laughs."

--Inverted-- Chaos, disorganization, overwhelming stress

"There's too much it's too much yeah. You ain't seen a burn like this one, sure. It's too much and it's too fast and it's got a mean laugh. You can't keep up, no no no."

// Three of Zent //

++Upright++ Mentorship, learning, teamwork, collaboration

"Come, child, you have proven your skills and we are ready to welcome you to our order. In exchange for your time, effort, and knowledge, our members will share the same with you."

--Inverted-- Misinformation, disregard of skills, secrets

"We appreciate that you are now in your third year of our unpaid internship program, but you know the rules. Every year you work, you enter a pledge lottery and if you win, you get one of our highly-valued paid positions! You're in the same position everyone else is, so you'll just have to continue working if you want a shot. We thank you for your patience and continued productivity on our behalf."

// Four of Zent //

++Upright++ Hoarding, control, stability, conservatism

"I got mine, and I used that advantage of having it to get even more. Yeah sure that makes someone else's life worse off but hey, I'm not them, now am I?"

--Inverted-- Greed, materialism, ulterior motives

"The more I got, the easier it got to get more. But I'm back here doing another run because it's never been enough, and I always find more things to spend it all on."

// Five of Zent //

++Upright++ Poverty, isolation, aid, generosity, insecurity

"You ever spend some time in The Barrens, you start to understand the real price of things. A few rags patched together can stave off the cold. A sustenance pill nicked from supply lines can keep someone moving even if the hunger never leaves them. A spare boot can be the difference between losing a foot or keeping it. Here, you can scrounge or swipe those things for free, but you give it to someone in The Barrens and you'll see just how much charity is worth to someone who needs it."

--Inverted-- Frigidity, lack of charity, spiritual poverty

"It's a bad scene out here alright. People look at The Barrens and think up reasons why they're too smart to ever end up here. We're all starvin but nobody is starvin like those that thought they couldn't possibly ever fall this far and did it anyway. It's cuz ending up here isn't a mistake, it's all part of the way things are structured. You get ground down until you can't work and then you get tossed in the pit where no one can look you in the eye. When you go mad from it all, they'll say that madness is how you got there to begin with."

// Six of Zent //

++Upright++ Generosity, recovery, refuge, sharing

"This truck was headed for Sector Seven, but it seems to me that The Barrens needs food worse. They're all half-starved down there and Sector Seven's been a worker warehouse for long enough to have some surplus pills."

--Inverted-- Selfishness, debt, poor investments, inequality

"Grab those feeder pills boys, we're due back at the warehouse with another batch for the Wrecker Gang promptly. Looks like someone's going hungry this week but it ain't us!"

// Seven of Zent//

++Upright++ Reward, investment, profit, simple pleasure

"It's a simple enough idea. If I can maximize my down time then I can always have a way to be making progress. Some day maybe I can even make my way above the plate."

--Inverted-- Lacking reward, financial failure, losing comforts

"I used to dream, before the mining implant. Now I can't even get away from the rat-race in my sleep."

// Eight of Zent//

++Upright++ Diligence, labor, education, investment

"Just a couple more bugs to clear and I can start testing the mining loops, where small improvements can really pay off. "

--Inverted-- Perfectionism, wasted energy, mistakes, creative apathy

"Would this be best cast as an int? Maybe if I re-write the code entirely over again, it'll come out faster."

// Nine of Zent//

++Upright++ Success, introspection, luxury, self-sufficiency

"Keep an eye on things for me, Falco-X3, I'm going to relax a bit while this mining hack processes through these ad-boards. "

--Inverted-- Miscalculation, work imbalance, financial setbacks

"Whatever, the Shrieking Zeds can threaten us all they like. One misstep and they think they own us, but we're too lucrative to frag. I just wish we could rest for a moment between these mining runs."

// Ten of Zent//

++Upright++ Providing, wealth, family, leadership

"What heights I've reached to have made it so long, and gotten so much done! Look at how warm and happy my family is on the screen and then try to tell me that they're just artificial intelligence. "

--Inverted-- Loneliness, dwelling, loss

"Look at me, an old man at the end of his life with his rented family acting out a charade. This is all I ever amounted to. I wonder how long my corpse will rot before someone notices the stench of it."

// Apprentice of Zent(Page of Pentacles)//

++Upright++ Opportunity, new work, spiritual bounty

"I made it! Above the plate at last and finally, a chance to try out some real hardware. I'll make these mining rigs hum, wait and see. "

--Inverted-- Disconnect from inner self, short-term focus, setbacks

"It's a risk to push these machines so hard. I've seen these capacitors blow out the whole motherboard under them before, but I need to increase our mining or I'll get fired and then it's back below the plate for me. I've heard horror stories about what they do to people who made it above and come back below... that won't be me. It can't."

// Agent of Zent(Knight of Pentacles)//

++Upright++ Determination, efficiency, routine, work

"Well there's a benefit to being efficient. You end up more engaged with your work if you keep trying to fine tune it. "

--Inverted-- Laziness, apathy, giving up, disorientation

"Another day and more of the same. Who cares?"

// Supervisor of Zent(Queen of Pentacles)//

++Upright++ Practicality, nourishment, safety, protection

"We cannot save the world, but we can secure our house. Outside our walls the world churns and aches with the chaos of living but here we can find comfort and calm. "

--Inverted-- Resentment, abandonment, disconnect in family

"In my home you adhere to my rules. You will not disobey me under my roof! You want something else out of your life? There's the door, and when you leave make sure you've thought your decision through because that door locks behind you and I won't be letting you back in."

// Executive of Zent(King of Pentacles)//

++Upright++ Abundance, security, control, avarice

"With every bit of wealth I acquire, I extend my reach. As I do so, I extend the safety that I can provide. We are fortunate to live above the plate in these times, and to have enough control over our lives to keep us warm, fed, and secure. "

--Inverted-- Selfishness, pretense, domineering, greed

"What I make, I keep. If you want anything, you'll do as I say, when I say it, and be glad to have what I give. And if you have a problem with that, you're welcome to try your luck with life below the plate, with the rest of the chattel."

//Full Moon Overload – Neon Moon Card Game//

Full Moon Overload is a 2-4 player card game that, while meant to be played with the Neon Moon Tarot Deck, could be played with any tarot deck of your choosing. It divides the deck into three main groups – the major arcana, the court cards, and the minor arcana. You'll need a bit of table space but can size your "board" according to how much space

you have. Games tend to be laid back and take around 15 minutes to finish.

/The Grid/

The game begins with a spread of cards laid out on the table in a grid. A minimum of 3x3 and maximum of 6x6 are the suggested sizes for your grid, but anything in between will work as well and it doesn't need to be square. A 3x3 grid typically makes for more turns that are shorter, 6x6 makes for fewer turns that are longer. Players will sit on either side of the grid so that cards are either upright or inverted. After shuffling and dealing out the grid, each player draws a card. The player who draws the highest value card goes first. For the purposes of this game, the card values from low to high are the major arcana 0-21, the minor arcana 1-10, and the court cards are apprentice->agent->supervisor->executive (page->knight->queen->king in a standard RWS tarot deck). The goal is to accumulate cards from each of the three divisions (court, minor, major).

/Moving Across the Grid/

You can potentially use the card you've drawn to move to one of the cards in the closest row to you. If you do not have a move available on your opening row (more on that in a sec), then the card you've drawn goes into your stash and counts towards your score at the end of the game. You then draw a fresh card from the draw pile. This continues until you are able to move to one of the cards in your opening row.

But there are rules for which card can move to another one. Each card can only move one adjacent card in the grid. An inverted card can only move horizontally or vertically, but not diagonally. An upright card can move horizontally, vertically, and diagonally. When you move to another card, the card that you are moving to goes on top of the card you're moving and becomes your new main card. You then move according to the restrictions of your new main card. Your turn lasts as long as you are able to move your card, and ends when you cannot.

Further restrictions on movement are: court cards cannot move to the major arcana. Minor cards cannot move to court cards. Major arcana cannot move to other major arcana. Within those restrictions, minor arcana can move to any major arcana. They can also move to another minor arcana as long as either the number on the cards match or their suit does. There is an exception here: The aces are a special gap between minors and courts and so are the only minor arcana able to move to court cards of the same suit. Court cards can move to other court cards if the number/title on the cards match or if their suits match. Court cards can move to minor arcana as long as their suits

match. Finally, major arcana can move to any court or minor arcana cards.

In this way, the major arcana act as “fate” cards that bridge the gap between the minor cards, representing characters below the plate, and court cards, representing characters above the plate.

Additionally, when you move to a major arcana, you can pick an empty spot adjacent to it and then draw a card from the draw pile to the spot you picked. With luck, this can result in a potentially longer turn as you actively refresh cards on the grid.

/Player Turns and End Game Scoring/

When you are out of moves, your card stack goes into your personal stash and the next player takes their turn. They will first draw a fresh card if they don't have one for themselves, and then replenish only the empty slots on the grid (from their left to right, bottom to top. The bottom to top part of that is important, as it's possible to run out of cards from the draw pile before the grid is replenished, so it allows for a final turn). Once the board is replenished (or the draw pile is exhausted), their turn proceeds as normal. If you have more than two players, player three will play from player one's side of the table and four will play from player two's. Each player retains their own unique stash of cards from their turns. Since these positions are facing each other across the table, the inverted cards for one side will be the upright cards for the other and vice versa.

Once the draw pile is depleted, the last player active when it depleted is able to finish out their turn and the game then ends. Once the game is over, each player will go through their personal stash and separate their cards into three different stacks – the major arcana, the minor arcana, and the court cards. Whichever player holds the most cards (card point values are irrelevant for scoring) out of any given stack will claim the point total for that stack out of all of the players. Each stack is worth a different amount of points. The major arcana stack is only worth one point, the minor arcana stack is worth two, and the court card stack is worth three. In the event that more than one player has the same highest count of cards in a stack, each player claims the stack points. So if three players all managed to have three court cards and no other player had more, they would all receive three points to their end of game total. Whichever player comes out with the most points wins the match! In the event of a tie, high fives are encouraged.

//Additional Resources//

For more book downloads, other occult art and goodies, and works in progress, please visit the following:

pixeloccult.com

www.instagram.com/PixelOccult

twitter.com/PixelOccult

or e-mail me at James.Brothwell@tuta.io

