




Tarot Guidebook

Based on the tarot interpretations
of Arthur Edward Waite

Modified, expanded, and edited
by Philip Young, PhD



Introduction

Reading Tarot cards can reveal insights into your past, present, or future. The premise is simple: the Querent asks a question, and then the Reader draws the cards and interprets the results.

Tarot reading has been used for divination since the 1700s, and every Reader develops his or her method for interpreting the cards. There are some fundamentals, but Readers are encouraged to explore and develop their own approach.

The Deck

The Tarot deck contains seventy-eight cards: twenty-two Major Arcana cards and fifty-six Minor Arcana cards.

The Major Arcana cards represent the archetypical moments that everyone experiences on their journey through life. Everyone begins life as the Fool, and ends life as the Fool.

The Minor Arcana cards represent the actions, thoughts, feelings, and material struggles that we all encounter in our lives.

Four suits and fifty-six cards make up the Minor Arcana. Face cards consist of the Knave/Page, Knight, Queen, and King.

Each of the four elements belongs to a suit, represented by a specific object:

- Fire to Clubs/Wands/Staffs
- Water to Cups
- Earth to Coins/Pentacles/Disks
- Air to Swords/Spears/Arrows

And each element corresponds to an aspect of human life:

- Fire/Action
- Water/Emotions
- Earth/Work
- Air/Thought.

Spreading the Cards

A spread is a layout for the Tarot cards which provides a framework for the reading. Spreads often follow a predefined theme where the position of the cards is relevant to how they are interpreted.

There are numerous different types of spreads. Certain spreads tend to work well for different types of questions. This guide will provide a starter spread, but you can research and find spreads for every type of question. As you become more experienced, consider developing your own unique spreads.

Three-Card Spread

The past/present/future three-card spread is the best and most used starting spread. This simple spread is ideal for novice Readers. Cards are drawn and read in the following order: 1) Past, 2) Present, and 3) Future.



Past



Present



Future

1. **The Past:** This card symbolizes the Querent's past experiences that pertain to the Querent's question.
2. **The Present:** This card represents the Querent's current situation.
3. **The Future:** This card indicates a possible future goal the Querent should strive for regarding their question or issue. The Querent can shape the future based on their thoughts and actions.

Tips

Become familiar with your deck by putting your thoughts in a journal. Take a page to write about each card, starting with the Fool and going through all seventy-eight cards.

Look at the pictures and use the explanations in this booklet to connect each card with one of your life experiences. Since the cards are archetypal, you have experienced all seventy-eight at least once. Write your corresponding life experience with each card in your journal.

The explanations in this booklet refer to the card being “upright” or “reversed”. After shuffling, drawing, and turning over the cards, some may be upright while others will be upside down (or reversed). Reversed cards turn the meaning “upside down.”

Pay attention to the symbolism in the artwork; the symbolism enhances, and provides details, to the meaning of the cards.

Tarot cards are not deterministic and life is not fated. The future is never set. Querents can always alter their future by changing their course of action, changing their thoughts, or adjusting their feelings.

The Major Arcana

The Fool (0)



Meaning: The Fool represents a leap of faith, which is the action we take when we are born and when we die. And, many times throughout our lives. Therefore, as the Zero card, the Fool is the beginning and ending of the journey through the Major and Minor Arcana. We are the Fool. The Fool archetype is about curiosity and open-mindedness, going with the flow of life, and managing our way through the unknown.

Symbolism: A dancing warrior carries an arrow and a jug (of water or wine). The sun is shining brightly and a hyena looks up at him, watching his dance. The feather in the headdress further represents the carefree energy of the card. The mountains in the background represent future hardships and challenges.

Upright: optimism, a new beginning, curiosity, and potential

Reversed: foolishness, gullibility, and ignorance

The Magician (I)



Meaning: The Magician represents choices and creative problem-solving, and how we form a connection between imagination and reality. The Magician archetype is the first encounter for the Fool, indicating that we all must make crucial decisions on our life journey.

Symbolism: The magician, possibly a Sangoma, holds a wand in his hand (symbolizing the fire suit and creativity). On the table in front of him are the other symbols of the suits of the Minor Arcana: a bowl for water (emotions), a spear/arrow for air (thoughts), and an ingot of gold for earth (money/work). He uses all of them to solve problems and help others.

Upright: choices, problem-solving, diverse knowledge, solutions, and cleverness

Reversed: conning, mistakes, lack of understanding, and arrogance

The High Priestess (II)



Meaning: The High Priestess represents the knowledge and enlightenment that we attain by overcoming difficulties. The High Priestess archetype is the second encounter for the Fool, indicating that we must learn about our intuition, how to trust it, and when to seek guidance from others.

Symbolism: A young woman in ceremonial clothing is holding a sacred staff. She rests her arms over her pregnant belly, aware that life is both suffering and joy. Near her feet is the crescent moon, which symbolizes intuition gained from overcoming difficulties at a young age. She offers insight to those who come to her for advice.

Upright: divination, wisdom from experience, insight, and counseling

Reversed: gossip, bad advice, incomplete knowledge, and inexperience

The Empress (III)



Meaning: The Empress represents the feminine divine, the essence of creativity, abundance, and nourishment. The Empress archetype is the third encounter for the Fool, teaching us about the natural world, how to care for the world, what we need to thrive, and how to care for others.

Symbolism: A pregnant woman walks across the land; her fertility and the land's abundance are connected. Her wrap is filled with different colors and shapes to reflect the diversity of nature. The sun shines life-giving energy onto her domain. She prepares to eat a fruit to nourish her child, accepting the bounty of the land and perpetuating the cycle of life.

Upright: nurturing, abundance, the feminine divine, and caretaking

Reversed: hardships, scarcity, barrenness, and neediness

The Emperor (IV)



Meaning: The Emperor represents the masculine divine, the essence of command, order, and power. The Emperor archetype is the fourth encounter for the Fool, teaching us how to establish order from chaos, how to shape the natural world to our needs, and how to build civilization.

Symbolism: A regal and wise chieftain sits upon a throne decorated with rams' heads. His staff symbolizes legitimate power, and the ball in his hand represents command over earthly circumstances. His leadership and authority keep the land safe.

Upright: authority, the rule maker, order, stability, and the masculine divine

Reversed: abuse of power, cruelty, dictatorship, and narcissism

The Hierophant (V)



Meaning: The Hierophant represents wisdom attained through scholarship and exploring the world, the knowledge and potential wisdom we attain in our effort to make sense of life. The Hierophant archetype is the fifth encounter for the Fool, indicating that we need to go beyond intuition and emotion, and use intellect and experience to solve some problems. Or, we need to find someone with those qualities to help us.

Symbolism: A learned and spiritual man gives a blessing to people in search of spiritual guidance. He has a skull for a crown, indicating he has knowledge of life and death. He wears ceremonial clothing to reflect his high station as wise man who should be revered.

Upright: wisdom, authority, knowledge, doctrine, and advice

Reversed: arrogance, elitism, hypocrisy, and charlatanism

The Lovers (VI)



Meaning: The Lovers represents partnership, especially a profound connection with someone that is both intimate and romantic. The Lovers archetype is the sixth encounter for the Fool, indicating that we cannot fully experience life until we connect with someone deeply and intimately.

Symbolism: A couple receives the blessing of union or marriage from a divine figure. They face one another to see each other honestly, and interlock their hands to show their commitment to a life together.

Upright: commitment, status through union, connection, and soul mate

Reversed: jealousy, unfaithfulness, arguments, and separation or divorce

The Chariot (VII)



Meaning: The Chariot represents willpower and drive; the intense focus we need to establish our identities and stand out in important and useful ways. The Chariot archetype is the seventh encounter for the Fool, teaching us the importance of acting with intensity and having conviction.

Symbolism: A warrior rides in a chariot pulled by two Zebras. They cross each other and mix the black (negative) and white (positive) energy of life. It is the warrior's strength of will that controls the chariot and he is always ready to act and perform his duty.

Upright: victory, willpower, intensity, drive, and control

Reversed: anger, delay, indecision, and interference

Strength (VIII)



Meaning: Strength represents our fortitude to live life, overcome struggles, and persevere. The journey through life will require strength to live fully and completely. Strength, as an archetype, is the eighth lesson for the Fool, showing us that life is a marathon and not a sprint. We must all find the strength within that will help us survive and thrive.

Symbolism: A young female princess or priestess gently holds open the mouth of a lion. She and the lion have no fear of one another, symbolizing the intersection of consciousness and instinct. They care and support one another.

Upright: power, courage, compassion, and gentle strength.

Reversed: weakness, anger, abuse of power, and threat

The Hermit (IX)



Meaning: The Hermit represents our individual pursuit for personal truth in a world of competing truths. The Hermit archetype is the ninth encounter for the Fool, teaching us that sometimes we must detach from the flow of life to “discover ourselves”, bringing what we learn in isolation back into the world of social connections.

Symbolism: A mystic travels alone, with a lamp to guide the way in the search for truth. The mystic stands atop a mountain peak, showing the effort it takes to reach the peak of knowledge, and the lamp shines like a star in the sky.

Upright: introspection, discovery, wisdom, truth-seeking, and taking time away from society

Reversed: loneliness, escapism, depression, and being cast out

Wheel of Fortune (X)



Meaning: The Wheel of Fortune represents experiences and circumstances outside our control. The Wheel of Fortune archetype is the tenth encounter for the Fool, indicating that we exist in a dance between fate and free will. This card teaches the lessons of fate, the external world, and how others, with more power than us, force us to react.

Symbolism: A red serpent encircles the center piece that has the appearance of a compass. The four figures on the outside represent the symbols for the fixed signs of the Zodiac (Taurus, the bull; Leo, the lion; Scorpio, the phoenix; and Aquarius, the masked mystic). Each figure represents the elemental lessons the Fool encounters in his or her life journey.

Upright: what is inevitable, destiny, and the passage of time

Reversed: misfortune, powerlessness, and unpleasant circumstances

Justice (XI)



Meaning: Justice represents detached decision-making, logic, and the power of knowledge without emotional influence. Justice, as an archetype, is the eleventh teacher for the Fool, showing us the importance of objectivity and analysis for determining outcomes and making important decisions. Life can be fair if we act with integrity.

Symbolism: At the top of the card is an “all-seeing” eye, and the figure holds two objects in balance that must be weighed and judged. An arrow sits in front and in the middle of the figure, representing clarity of thought.

Upright: detached decision-making, fairness, consequences, cause and effect, and logic

Reversed: injustice, missing information, indecision, and bureaucracy

The Hanged Man (XII)



Meaning: The Hanged Man represents knowing sacrifice, when we realize we must accept a short-term difficulty for a long-term gain. The Hanged Man archetype is the twelfth encounter for the Fool, showing us the importance of devotion, surrender, and sacrifice. Forgiveness is also a message contained within this card.

Symbolism: A figure hangs upside down from a tree; he does not appear in distress, but more like a part of the tree. He makes his sacrifice calmly, as if he is relaxed while hanging upside down. The spider web is a symbol of the complexity of his decision.

Upright: knowing sacrifice, change in perspective, and patience

Reversed: helplessness, impatience, confusion, and selfishness

Death (XII)



Meaning: Death represents endings in the cycle of life, and the power of regeneration. Death, as an archetype, is the thirteenth encounter for the Fool. It reminds us that life is finite, which helps us strive to be better, not take experiences for granted, and see the importance of living a worthwhile life.

Symbolism: Cloaked in black, Death carries a scythe to cull the crops of humanity. The Sun is setting in the background and bones scatter the field. The sun sets on all people eventually.

Upright: death/rebirth, transformation, inevitability, and cycles

Reversed: arrogance, depression, hopelessness, and severe grief

Temperance (XIV)



Meaning: Temperance represents the balance and equilibrium that has the chance to develop with greater life experience. Temperance, as an archetype, is the fourteenth encounter for the Fool. This card indicates the need to step back, from time to time, to assess where we are, and determine if we are in or out of balance.

Symbolism: A woman holds a jug on her shoulder while another one rests at her feet. She stands in a pool while the water, flowing up and down from the jugs, weaves around her body. She is in perfect balance and harmony with life.

Upright: calm, well-being, balance, common ground, and harmonious action

Reversed: imbalance, disruption, anxiety, frustration, and pettiness

The Devil (XV)



Meaning: The Devil represents the consequences we face as our choices become more and more significant the further into life we travel. The Devil archetype is the fifteenth encounter for the Fool, teaching us that we are responsible for our lives and our choices. If we make selfish choices that harm ourselves and others, we will not enjoy the outcomes.

Symbolism: A demon sits in a tree watching two figures chained together whose choices have led to restrictions and limitations. They look up at him and wonder about their fate. Their hands are not bound, representing their free will to make poor choices as well as positive ones.

Upright: self-interest, temptation, consequences, and choice.

Reversed: unwise choices, lust, wanton abandon, and manipulation

The Tower (XVI)



Meaning: The Tower represents a sudden unexpected change that takes something we have built over time and quickly forces us to start over or reset. The Tower, as an archetype, is the sixteenth encounter for the Fool, teaching the lesson that life is a construct that can be “blown up” at any time, forcing us to make unexpected adjustments.

Symbolism: The tower explodes from the bolt of energy that strikes it, causing two figures to be blown out into the sky. Destruction of the tower represents a sudden and shocking change that reduces an established belief to rubble, disrupting people out of their comfort zone and into chaos.

Upright and Reversed: unexpected change, sudden catastrophe, and blowing things up

The Star (XVII)



Meaning: The Star represents hope, and a positive vision for the future. What do we see as our life purpose and how do we get to it? The Star, as an archetype, is the seventeenth encounter for the Fool, indicating that we all need hope and optimism about the future. We need to have dreams to enjoy this life.

Symbolism: A nude woman collects water from a pool. There are eight stars above her head. Seven represent the chakras of the body, and the eighth is her guiding star. By collecting the water, she gathers the nourishment and hope that water brings to an arid land.

Upright: hope, inspiration, promise, purpose, and faith

Reversed: doubts, confusion, delusion, and despair

The Moon (XVIII)



Meaning: The Moon represents the feelings we need to explore and express. The Moon, as an archetype, is the eighteenth encounter for the Fool, illuminating our deepest feelings so we can understand the emotional framework that gets reinforced, suppressed, and shaped by our family and closest relationships.

Symbolism: A hyena and jackal howl at a full moon as a lobster rises from the sea. Each represents the mystery and power of emotions and the connection of emotion to the moon and ocean.

Upright: dreams, positive emotions, intuition, and soul purpose

Reversed: delusion, nightmares, negative emotions, and despair

The Sun (XIX)



Meaning: The Sun represents revelation and the light of truth. The Sun, as an archetype, is the nineteenth teacher for the Fool, showing us the lesson of honest revelation and how we deal with clear truths in our lives. What do you learn when you see a situation or a person for what they really are?

Symbolism: A bright sun shines on a child wearing a ceremonial mask and standing on a zebra in front of a wall. The sun is drawn to show its dynamic energy, and the flowers represent abundance. The masked child symbolize the hidden potential in all children before they reach adulthood.

Upright: revelation, greatness, vitality, and truth

Reversed: excessive pride, arrogance, blocked action, and lies

Judgement (XX)



Meaning: Judgement represents significant and life-changing decisions, as well as the judgements from the world around us. Judgement, as an archetype, is the twentieth lesson for the Fool. This card teaches the importance and necessity of serious decisions at crucial times in our lives. Sometimes we get to make these judgements and sometimes they are made for us.

Symbolism: A god plays a drum while a family rises out of their coffins. He will pass judgement on their worthiness to enter a higher plane of existence or return to the earth for more lessons.

Upright: deciding for others, being judged, consequences, and closure

Reversed: prejudging, stereotyping, lazy thinking, and abuse of power

The World (XXI)



Meaning: The World represents the ending of a cycle to prepare for a new journey at a higher level of development and experience. The World, as an archetype, is the twenty-first encounter for the Fool, showing us that life is constantly changing and that we are meant to build on our experiences. In this ending is another beginning.

Symbolism: A figure stands within the wringed garland that represents the endless cycle and journey of life. Four images representing the four fixed signs of the Zodiac (Taurus, the bull; Leo, the lion; Scorpio, the eagle; and Aquarius, the head of a mystic) mark the four corners of the card and the balance of the four elements: earth, fire, water, and air.

Upright: fulfillment, completion, conclusion, the sum of your efforts, and success

Reversed: stagnation, failure, and final obstacle

The Minor Arcana

The Suit of Cups

The Suit of Cups is associated with the element of water, representing emotions, feelings, and relationships. Cups indicate what is happening in the heart rather than the head.

Ace

Meaning: Open your heart to a new relationship or reinvigorate an old one.

Symbolism: A divine being offers the cup of emotion to humanity. The small symbol of the heart indicates that love is the universal power that connects living beings.

Upright: new love, and strong emotions

Reversed: negative feelings, and emotional immaturity



Two

Meaning: Enjoy a mutual attraction and shared positive feelings with someone.

Symbolism: Two young people discover that they are attracted to one another. They offer to exchange cups. A divine sky beast blesses their connection.

Upright: attraction, and connection

Reversed: rejection, and unrequited love



Three

Meaning: Gather your closest friends and celebrate!

Symbolism: Three women dance in celebration. They raise their cups high to show respect for the blessings they have received and the friends they cherish.

Upright: celebration, collaboration, and sharing

Reversed: discord, and overindulgence



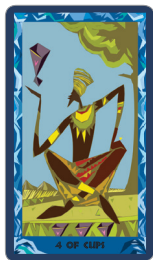
Four

Meaning: Find some time to meditate, or at least rest; your emotions need soothing.

Symbolism: A cup floats down from above as the man watches it coming to rest in his hand. He contemplates a new emotional issue.

Upright: introspection, and rest

Reversed: boredom, and restlessness



Five

Meaning: You have a disappointment you must accept; hidden possibilities have not revealed themselves yet.

Symbolism: A man stands outside the city. The three fallen cups indicate disappointment. The two cups that are upright remind him that all is not lost.

Upright: disappointment, regret, and sadness from loss

Reversed: resignation, letting go, and acceptance



Six

Meaning: Reach out to someone you care about and share a memory, or create a new one.

Symbolism: A mother gives her child a cup that holds a single flower. The child is excited and receptive. Both share and experience positive emotions from the exchange.

Upright: sharing, friendship, and happy memories

Reversed: greediness, hostility, and unhappy memories



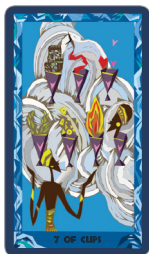
Seven

Meaning: You are facing an important decision; you need to know what motivates you to make the choice you want.

Symbolism: The figure looks at seven cups, each filled with different energy or objects, representing the motivations for an important choice that needs to be made now.

Upright: choices, opportunities, and motivations

Reversed: wishful thinking, overwhelmed by choices, and inaction



Eight

Meaning: You must let go of something or someone that was once emotionally important to you but no longer has any value; the relationship or situation is empty.

Symbolism: A hooded figure walks away from eight empty cups. It is time to leave those memories and emotions behind.

Upright: moving on, release, and letting go

Reversed: abandonment, denial, and bargaining for something now worthless



Nine

Meaning: Embrace and accept what truly makes you happy. Your fulfillment is most important right now.

Symbolism: A woman with crossed arms is satisfied with her life. The nine cups above her head represent the accumulation of positive experiences that fulfill her.

Upright: contentment, gratitude, and satisfaction

Reversed: dissatisfaction, arrogance, and selfishness



Ten

Meaning: Profound joy in relationship is what you need or need to appreciate (if you have it). Happiness with a partner is key.

Symbolism: A couple with two children raise their hands in celebration below a rainbow with ten cups. Family represents the fulfillment of partnership.

Upright: blessed union, mature love, and harmony

Reversed: disagreement, immature love, and disharmony



Page

Meaning: Emotions are strong but flowing wildly; they need to learn proper boundaries.

Symbolism: The figure is learning to balance the cup on his/her head. Holding the cup with the hand indicates a lack of mastery regarding emotions.

Upright: imagination, curiosity, and charisma

Reversed: confused, and emotionally stunted



Knight

Meaning: The warrior carries a cup with an important elixir or cure, to be delivered where it is needed, regardless of the challenges.

Symbolism: A warrior rides upon an elephant delivering a cup. He knows his responsibility and the goal of his quest.

Upright: romance, passion, and seeking what you love

Reversed: jealousy, possessiveness, and anger



Queen

Meaning: You need to act with conviction regarding a significant relationship.

Symbolism: A regal woman holds a cup above her head with two hands while one foot is touching the water. She is in touch with her higher and lower emotions.

Upright: nurturing, and emotionally supportive

Reversed: vindictive, passive aggressive, and overly sensitive



King

Meaning: Accept and embrace your responsibility for the care of others as your way to be empowered and lead.

Symbolism: A regal man sits on a throne of water with a cup in his right hand. He offers the cup as a source of life to his people.

Upright: responsibility, diplomacy, and wisdom

Reversed: guilt, narcissism, and cruelty



The Suit of Disks

The Suit of Disks is associated with the element of earth, representing prosperity, health, security, and stability. Disks deal with tangible possessions. Money may be the first thing that comes to mind with this suit, but the cards refer more generally to the material world and what we need to take care of ourselves.

Ace

Meaning: Time to plant a seed, start a new job, buy a new house, or move to a new location.

Symbolism: A hand emerging from a cloud holds a disk. The disk represents the start of a new endeavor or a seed to be planted and nurtured.

Upright: investment, manifesting, and getting started

Reversed: debt, blocked, and delay



Two

Meaning: Experiment and try different actions to get better results.

Symbolism: A dancer moves two disks around in the dance, forming an infinity symbol, representing the ever-changing actions in life.

Upright: routine, adaptability, and choices

Reversed: habit, stagnation, and indecision



Three

Meaning: Hard and consistent work is what is needed to learn, grow, and succeed.

Symbolism: Three disks hang in a tree while two figures wait for the tree charmer to play the music that will get the disks to fall to the ground.

Upright: hard work, dedication, and teamwork

Reversed: laziness, and incompetence



Four

Meaning: Be careful with your resources; it is a good time to save and be conservative with finances.

Symbolism: A merchant protectively guards the disk in the middle, while his feet rests on two of the disks, and the final one is in the headdress. He must protect what he has and use his resources wisely.

Upright: savings, and conservation

Reversed: hoarding, and miserliness



Five

Meaning: Be prepared to face material difficulty; struggling on your own.

Symbolism: A figure is lying on the ground and his clothes are worn; you can see his ribs from lack of food. He is suffering from material difficulty and illness.

Upright: perseverance, and persistence

Reversed: hardship, and rejection



Six

Meaning: Share your wealth and success; be grateful for what you have achieved.

Symbolism: A successful and wealthy woman distributes alms to the poor; she carries a scale to determine the fair amount to give each person in need.

Upright: charity, success, and generosity

Reversed: greed, and stinginess



Seven

Meaning: Time to consider how you will invest in your success; put resources back into what is already successful or start a new venture.

Symbolism: Six disks remain on the plant and a seventh, ripe one, has fallen on the ground. The figure tending the harvest must decide to sell the ripe disk or use it to plant a new garden.

Upright: abundance, opportunity, and long-term planning

Reversed: wastefulness, and limited success



Eight

Meaning: Use your skill and experience to improve your financial status and improve your security.

Symbolism: A craftsman is working on a disk, perfecting his trade. He is accomplished, evidenced by the seven disks behind him.

Upright: expertise, mastery, and craftsmanship

Reversed: obsolete, undervalued, and poor quality



Nine

Meaning: Focus on your purpose and use it to attain the wealth you desire; be your best to earn the most.

Symbolism: A regal woman has nine disks around her, representing her wealth and accomplishments. The bird on her elbow is also a sign of her success.

Upright: successful, financial independence, and empowerment

Reversed: workaholic, or wastefulness



Ten

Meaning: Seek or embrace the fulfillment that comes with a partnership that will help you both attain a great and safe life.

Symbolism: A family gathers in front of their village; the ten disks in the tree behind them show their wealth.

Upright: inheritance, and long-term gains

Reversed: obligations, missed opportunities, and burdens



Page

Meaning: Experiment; try new activities until you find the one fits your long-term goals.

Symbolism: A young figure holds a disk up high, representing a willingness to experiment and make mistakes in order to learn.

Upright: practice, and apprenticeship

Reversed: procrastination, and lack of ambition



Knight

Meaning: Time to take decisive action that leads to concrete results; find the solution and act on it.

Symbolism: A warrior, carrying a disk, rides on the back of a rhinoceros; he makes sure his gift will be delivered and his responsibility fulfilled.

Upright: reliable, goal-driven, and self-disciplined

Reversed: stubborn, and misdirected



Queen

Meaning: Get your life in order; assess your material life and fix anything that needs attention.

Symbolism: The queen sits back and assesses the coin in her hand; she manages the practical affairs of her kingdom.

Upright: stability, management, and providing

Reversed: instability, and desires leading to debt



King

Meaning: Use your wealth, status, and influence wisely; others look to you for leadership.

Symbolism: A successful man sits with a single disk in the center of his body. He leads through accomplishments and others seek his practical advice.

Upright: prosperity, and power

Reversed: corruption, dictating, and excess



The Suit of Spears

The Suit of Spears is associated with the element of air, representing intellect, logic, thought, and decisions. Since this suit deals with the mind, many of the cards reflect the dangers of negative thinking and poor decision-making. When these cards appear in a reading, they often provide a warning for the Querent.

Ace

Meaning: Time to make decision; consider a new way of thinking; or use logic regarding the situation or relationship.

Symbolism: A divine hand extends from the clouds with a spear pointed upward and a crown on the tip. The mind seeks new ideas that will lead to higher wisdom.

Upright: ideas, logic, and clarity

Reversed: ignorance, and misinformation



Two

Meaning: Be at peace with your decisions; do not look back or revisit decisions that brought you to this point.

Symbolism: A figure holds two spears above her head where they cross; she is blind-folded. She must make an important decision using logic; she cannot be deceived by appearances.

Upright: decision, and moving forward.

Reversed: self-deception, and obstinance



Three

Meaning: A situation or relationship is causing you heartache and you need to address the problem.

Symbolism: Three spears pierce a heart, representing sorrow and pain. The heart is intact, but wounded.

Upright: heartache, and sorrow

Reversed: heartbreak, and pity



Four

Meaning: You need a mental break; you need to disengage to “save your sanity.”

Symbolism: A figure is lying on the ground with four spears around him. He is at rest and needs to quiet his mind before moving on.

Upright: contemplation, and meditation

Reversed: burnout, and stress



Five

Meaning: There is a loss or defeat you must accept and work to overcome.

Symbolism: A warrior gathers the spears of the defeated enemies that are leaving the battlefield. There is a lesson to learn.

Upright: defeat, and argument

Reversed: despair, and distrust



Six

Meaning: You need to move from one “shore of thinking” to another; you are currently in-between and need to complete the journey.

Symbolism: A ferryman conveys a woman across a river. She is leaving the past behind to go to an uncertain, but hopeful future.

Upright: transition, and the old gives way to the new

Reversed: resistance, fear of the unknown, and forced change in thinking



Seven

Meaning: Time to take your ideas and thoughts elsewhere; you may need to do so quietly and secretly.

Symbolism: A warrior steals spears to sell elsewhere. He is looking back over his shoulder to make sure he is not going to be caught.

Upright: stealth, and secrecy

Reversed: deception, and theft



Eight

Meaning: Your own thinking and worry is trapping you; seek advice from someone trustworthy and accomplished.

Symbolism: A woman is bound and blindfolded, and surrounded by eight spears. She is trapped and restricted.

Upright: restricted, and trapped

Reversed: hopelessness, and victimhood



Nine

Meaning: There is a fear you need to face; this card also warns you to protect yourself from the cruelty of others.

Symbolism: A woman awakes from a nightmare; nine spears are on the wall behind her. She does not feel safe.

Upright: warning, and foreboding

Reversed: torment, and cruelty



Ten

Meaning: A warning card, telling you to accept that a situation, or relationship, is ruined and it's time to move on.

Symbolism: A warrior lies on the ground with ten spears stuck in his body; he has met a painful end.

Upright: ruin, and destruction

Reversed: escape, and last chance



Page

Meaning: Lots of ideas, but no focus. Great energy for generating new thoughts, but eventually choices must be made.

Symbolism: A young warrior has a spear, but does not know how to hold it properly, or throw it yet.

Upright: curious, and open-minded

Reversed: distracted, and unfocused



Knight

Meaning: Use clear-headed and logical thinking to achieve your goals; be decisive.

Symbolism: A warrior, with the experience and skill, throws his spear while riding his Zebra steed.

Upright: decisive, and mentally sharp

Reversed: fanatical, and brash



Queen

Meaning: The situation or relationship calls for detached and logical thinking; be strategic.

Symbolism: A regal woman sits upon a throne holding her spear like a staff, representing her clarity of mind to judge the concerns of her people.

Upright: strategic, and just

Reversed: insensitive, and cold-hearted



King

Meaning: You oversee the decision and do not need input from others; make your choice and inform others once you have decided.

Symbolism: A regal man sits on his throne facing his subjects, ready to explain to them the decisions he has made on their behalf.

Upright: visionary, and wisdom

Reversed: authoritarian, and intimidating



The Suit of Wands

The Suit of Wands is associated with the element of fire, representing passion, energy, willpower, and inspiration. The cards of this suit provide archetypes of human actions and reactions. The Fool takes his or her journey through this suit to make choices, seek adventure, and deal with challenges.

Ace

Meaning: You need to be inspired or excited; something or someone needs your spark.

Symbolism: A divine hand delivers the wand to humanity for inspiration.

Upright: inspiring, and spark

Reversed: uninspiring, and dull



Two

Meaning: You need to choose a direction and take steps to move forward.

Symbolism: A figure stands by the shore holding the world in his hand, thinking of the places he intends to travel to and explore.

Upright: choosing, and acting

Reversed: hesitating, and fear



Three

Meaning: The path is clear and you need to invest your time and energy to succeed.

Symbolism: A figure watches his ships come and go. The three wands show his growing success

Upright: adventure, and optimism

Reversed: delays, and broken promises



Four

Meaning: Gather friends and family around you and celebrate together.

Symbolism: Two figures dance inside the four wands celebrating their success in life.

Upright: socializing, and celebrating

Reversed: insincerity, and false pretenses



Five

Meaning: Conflict and competition are necessary to keep moving forward.

Symbolism: Five tribes challenge one another for the prize in the center. The competition strengthens them all.

Upright: competition, and conflict

Reversed: trouble-making, and aggressiveness



Six

Meaning: Victory and success are yours; be sure to act with dignity.

Symbolism: A figure rides triumphantly on an elephant while others gather to praise and support him.

Upright: victory, and desires fulfilled

Reversed: failure, and public humiliation



Seven

Meaning: You are right; hold your ground. Any lack of integrity will be your downfall.

Symbolism: A figure stands on a rock on the high ground and defends himself. As he is above all the others, he can succeed.

Upright: valor, and integrity

Reversed: treachery, and lack of conviction



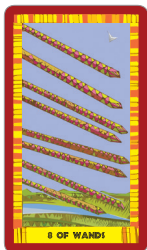
Eight

Meaning: Be focused and intense; let nothing distract you from your goal.

Symbolism: Eight spears fly in the same direction and at the same speed, aiming for the same target.

Upright: focus, and intensity

Reversed: frustration, and misdirection



Nine

Meaning: You have a duty to uphold; others look to you as a role model.

Symbolism: A figure stands in front of eight staves while holding the ninth. He represents duty and leadership. He will not fail.

Upright: loyalty, and discipline

Reversed: disloyalty, and undisciplined



Ten

Meaning: It is time to say "no" and set limits; you do not have enough energy right now.

Symbolism: A figure carries the heavy burden of ten staves. He needs to say "no" to any more requests. He has taken on too much.

Upright: obligations, and devotion

Reversed: burdens, and oppression



Page

Meaning: You have a lot of excitement, but you need to find some focus.

Symbolism: A young warrior takes a journey across open land in search of adventure.

Upright: enthusiasm, and creativity

Reversed: foolishness, and unpredictability



Knight

Meaning: You need to go on an adventurous quest; break out of your routine and explore.

Symbolism: A seasoned warrior rides atop a lion in search of adventure and a new quest. He knows how to use his instinct in a controlled and fierce way.

Upright: exploring, and leading the charge

Reversed: recklessness, and imprudence



Queen

Meaning: You need to show confidence; if not, fake it until you feel it!

Symbolism: A regal woman, who is also a warrior, inspires confidence in her tribe.

Upright: confident, and honorable

Reversed: insecure, and narcissistic



King

Meaning: Show others how it is done; lead by doing.

Symbolism: An older warrior has assumed the mantle of chief; he leads others by example and experience, surviving on the land and fighting for his tribe.

Upright: maverick, and independent

Reversed: selfish, and impatient



