

# 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/Staves
- 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.

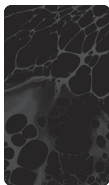
# Spreading the Cards

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.

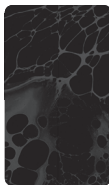
There are numerous different types of spreads. Certain spreads tend to work well for different types of questions. This guide will provide a starter spread, but you can research and find spreads for every type of question. As you become more experienced, consider developing your own unique spreads.

# Three-Card Spread

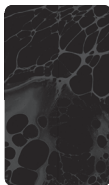
The past/present/future three-card spread is the best and most used starting spread. This simple spread is ideal for novice Readers. Cards are drawn and read in the following order: 1) Past, 2) Present, and 3) Future.



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 archetypical, 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.”

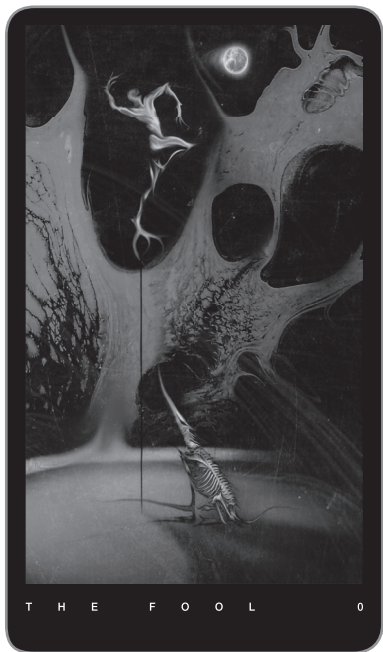


Pay attention to the symbolism in the artwork; the symbolism enhances, and provides details, to the meaning of the cards.

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:** The figure is dancing and leaping through the air while a skeletal animal watches from below. The dancing energy represents the Fool's carefree nature and exuberance for life.

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

**Reversed:** foolishness, gullibility, and ignorance

# The Magician (I)



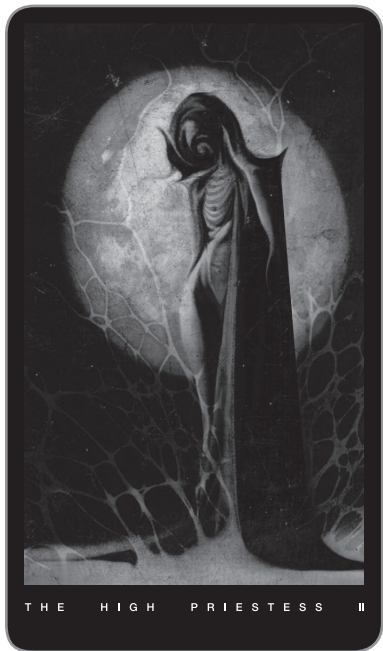
**Meaning:** The Magician represents choices and creative problem-solving, and how we form a connection between imagination and reality. The Magician archetype is the first encounter for the Fool, indicating that we all must make crucial decisions on our life journey.

**Symbolism:** The hooded figure uses his magical power to bring light into the darkness. The light is necessary for the figure to solve problems, fix what is broken, and make rational choices.

**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 female figure stands in front of a full moon with half of her body exposed and the other half covered. Her face is a swirl of black and white energy. These visuals symbolize her connection to the light and the darkness, to positive and negative energy.

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

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



# The Empress (III)



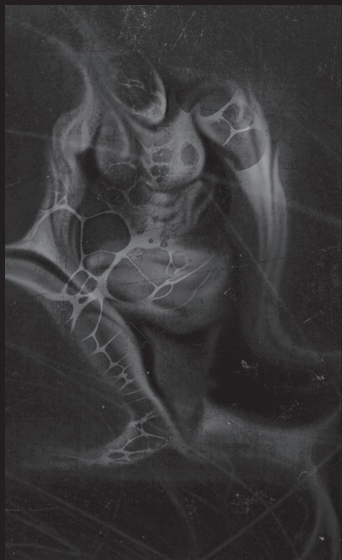
**Meaning:** The Empress represents the feminine divine, the essence of creativity, abundance, and nourishment. The Empress archetype is the third encounter for the Fool, teaching us about the natural world, how to care for the world, what we need to thrive, and how to care for others.

**Symbolism:** A female figure prepares to swallow the light in order to nourish her child. Even in darkness, the light is necessary for life. She does what is necessary to grow and protect her unborn offspring.

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

**Reversed:** hardships, scarcity, barrenness, and neediness

# The Emperor (IV)



T H E E M P E R O R I V

**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 powerfully built figure rises through the darkness, displaying physical strength and mental fortitude.

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

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

# The Hierophant (V)



T H E H I E R O P H A N T V

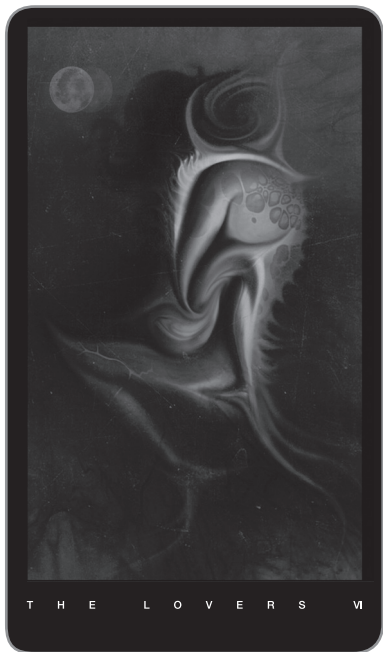
**Meaning:** The Hierophant represents wisdom attained through scholarship and exploring the world, the knowledge and potential wisdom we attain in our effort to make sense of life. The Hierophant archetype is the fifth encounter for the Fool, indicating that we need to go beyond intuition and emotion,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

**Symbolism:** A figure whose head is bursting with so much knowledge and power that he has to use both hands to contain his wisdom until he can fully process what he has learned and will share with others.

**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.

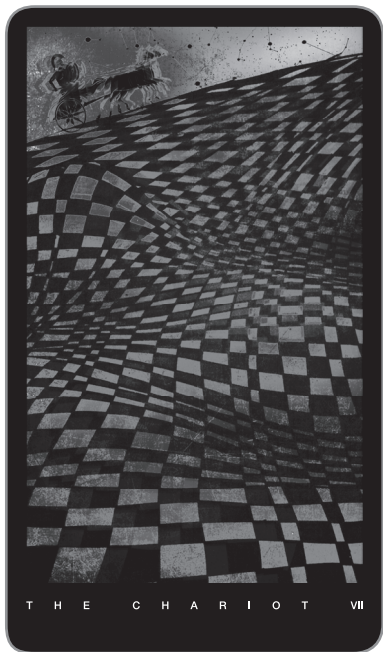
**Symbolism:** Two figures embrace one another, merging their energies together in a sacred and sexual union.

**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 a chariot across uneven terrain pulled by black and white stallions. They traverse the landscape going ever higher, undaunted by any challenges.

**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 powerful female figure connects and sustains the energy from above with the energy from below. She is a conduit between the two.

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

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

# The Hermit (IX)



T H E H E R M I T 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 lone figure reaches the highest peak of knowledge, bathed in the bright light of personal and eternal wisdom.

**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 celestial alignment is coming into place to activate the wheel, a moment of recurring destiny that is part of the cycle of the universe.

**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:** An ancient being with a cycloptic eye, holds light and darkness in each hand while tears fall; it weeps over the imbalance between the two energies, which continually demand reconciliation. The celestial being can never rest.

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

**Reversed:** injustice, missing information, indecision, and bureaucracy

# The Hanged Man (XII)



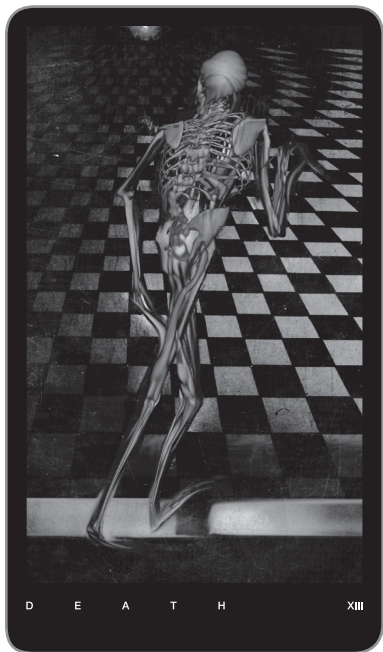
**Meaning:** The Hanged Man represents knowing sacrifice, when we realize we must accept a short-term difficulty for a long-term gain. The Hanged Man archetype is the twelfth encounter for the Fool, showing us the importance of devotion, surrender, and sacrifice. Forgiveness is also a message contained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

**Symbolism:** A figure hangs upside down from a structure so he can see the pure light of universal power and knowledge. He realizes his small place in the vastness of the cosmos.

**Upright:** knowing sacrifice, change in perspective, and patience

**Reversed:** helplessness, impatience, confusion, and selfishness

# Death (XIII)



**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:** A skeletal figure walks into a tunnel which will transition her from life, to death, and on to another life.

**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:** Energy rises and descends to mix and merge. A half-moon and full moon represent the flowing cycle of lunar transformation that repeats endlessly.

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

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



# The Devil (XV)



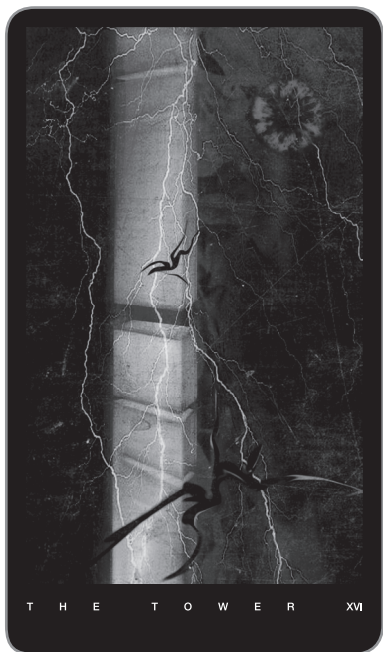
**Meaning:** The Devil represents the consequences we face as our choices become more and more significant the further into life we travel. The Devil archetype is the fifteenth encounter for the Fool, teaching us that we are responsible for our lives and our choices. If we make selfish choices that harm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

**Symbolism:** A dark figure walks the land searching for souls to collect and corrupt. The moon has a dark energy around it, indicating the negative influence of the figure.

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

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

# The Tower (XVI)

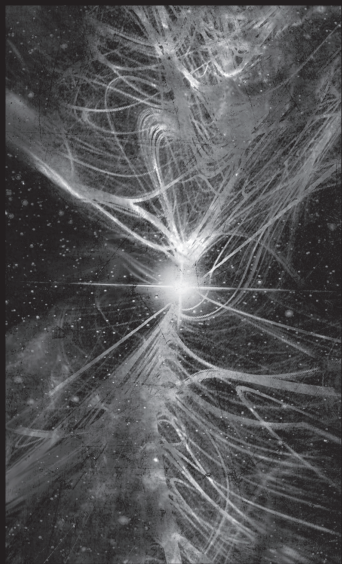


**Meaning:** The Tower represents a sudden unexpected change that takes something we have built over time and quickly forces us to start over or reset. The Tower, as an archetype, is the sixteenth encounter for the Fool, teaching the lesson that life is a construct that can be “blown up” at any time,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

**Symbolism:** Figures fall from a monolithic structure as energy rips through the atmosphere around the tower.

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

# The Star (XVII)



T H E S T A R

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 beautiful star lights the sky, sending energy tendrils out into the cosmos, strings of hope that pierce the darkness.

**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.

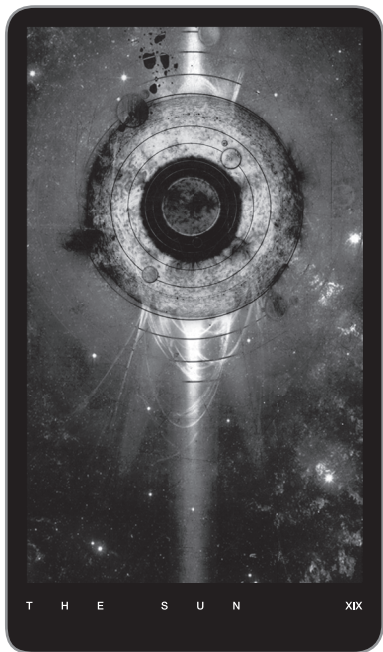
**Symbolism:** The phases of the moon represent the changing emotions humans experience as part of numerous cycles, both monthly and yearly.

**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 dying sun prepares to consume its solar system and emits the last of its light, creating space for a new sun to form in the future.

**Upright:** revelation, greatness, vitality, and truth

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

# Judgement (XX)



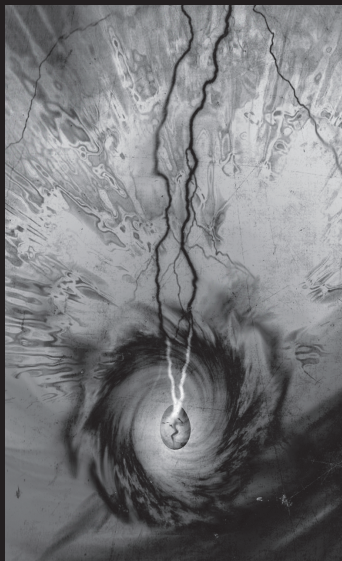
**Meaning:** Judgement represents significant and life-changing decisions, as well as the judgements from the world around us. Judgement, as an archetype, is the twentieth lesson for the Fool. This card teaches the importance and necessity of serious decisions at crucial times in our lives. Sometimes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

**Symbolism:** A hand reaches up from the ground into another world, seeking to be welcomed. If the judgement is not in its favor, it will be destroyed.

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

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

# The World (XXI)



T H E W O R L D 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 cosmic egg is struck open by bolts of energy, which releases the gestating universe inside, representing an ending and a new beginning.

**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.



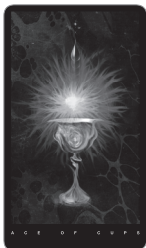
# Ace

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

**Symbolism:** A single cup, with energy hovering above the rim, prepares to catch water droplets, which will fill the cup with power.

**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 energy figures intertwine and the female/male symbols link in a burst of energy above them. They each bring a cup to the relationship.

**Upright:** attraction, and connection

**Reversed:** rejection, and unrequited love



# Three

**Meaning:** Gather your closest friends and celebrate!

**Symbolism:** Three cups form a small pyramid while a single burst of light hovers in the distance; it shows the way through the darkness.

**Upright:** celebration, collaboration, and sharing

**Reversed:** discord, and overindulgence



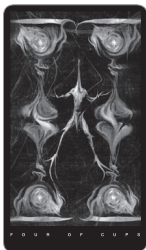
# Four

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

**Symbolism:** Four cups form a perfect balance around the figure in the middle, offering a safe container that will provide protection.

**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 figure reaches for five cups, three are upside down and two are upright; the landscape is barren. There is more adversity than hope, but all is not lost.

**Upright:** disappointment, regret, and sadness from loss

**Reversed:** resignation, letting go, and acceptance



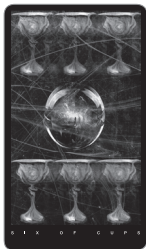
## Six

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

**Symbolism:** A figure walks toward an energy pulse, inside a sphere, surrounded by six cups. There is positive energy with all six cups upright.

**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:** A female figure stands on seven cups, considering the choices she must make, before moving into the vibrating energy in front of her.

**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 figure runs across water under an orb of light; he is running from something and running towards something.

**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:** Nine cups form an almost perfect triangle, and energy expands out into the darkness from the power and joy of these cups.

**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:** Ten cups form the full and perfect pyramid; the energy illuminates the entire card.

**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:** A merman floats in the dark matter, open to all feelings and 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 figure rides a horse that is walking on water; they are on a quest to find their passion and purpose.

**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 female figure has octopus tentacles at the bottom of her card and a cup balanced on her head, representing her ability to manage many different 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 powerful male figure has half a face of flowing water; he is able to understand the needs of others and takes his responsibilities seriously.

**Upright:** responsibility, diplomacy, and wisdom

**Reversed:** guilt, narcissism, and cruelty



# The Suit of Spheres

The Suit of Spheres is associated with the element of earth, representing prosperity, health, security, and stability. Spheres 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.



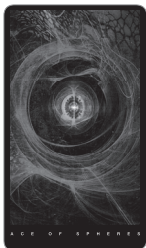
# Ace

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

**Symbolism:** A single sphere illuminates the darkness lighting the way to new goals.

**Upright:** investment, manifesting, and getting started

**Reversed:** debt, blocked, and delay



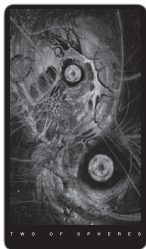
# Two

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

**Symbolism:** Two spheres revolve around one another, churning energy in the darkness.

**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 spheres function as wheels on a cycle that allows a figure to both rise above the mundane and travel the darkness.

**Upright:** hard work, dedication, and teamwork

**Reversed:** laziness, and incompetence



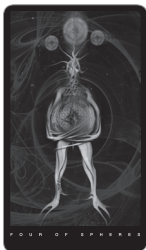
## Four

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

**Symbolism:** A figure clutches a single large sphere, representing what he has. Three spheres hover above him, indicating unrealized potential.

**Upright:** savings, and conservation

**Reversed:** hoarding, and miserliness



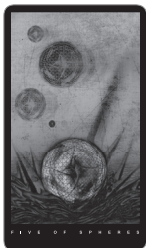
# Five

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

**Symbolism:** One of the five spheres crashes into the darkness while the other four continue their flight.

**Upright:** perseverance, and persistence

**Reversed:** hardship, and rejection



# Six

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

**Symbolism:** Six spheres hover in the darkness; they represent the accumulated potential of the figure in the darkness, while two palms press against the card showing his fate.

**Upright:** charity, success, and generosity

**Reversed:** greed, and stinginess



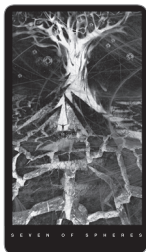
# Seven

**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:** Seven spheres drop from a tree, exhibiting the abundance of energy hovering over a volatile landscape.

**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 powerful figure expertly juggles eight spheres, showing his mastery of the process.

**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:** The single sphere is the product of eight rings of energy; the energy is ethereal at the top and grounded at the base.

**Upright:** successful, financial independence, and empowerment

**Reversed:** workaholic, or wastefulness



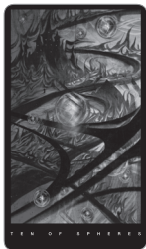
# Ten

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

**Symbolism:** Ten spheres move over the landscape of the dark realm, showing the abundance of energy and the power of interconnection.

**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 figure with a single sphere for a head uses the energy to light his way through the darkness.

**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 figure is merged with his steed above a sphere embedded in the landscape. It is a source of power that needs his protection.

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

**Reversed:** stubborn, and misdirected



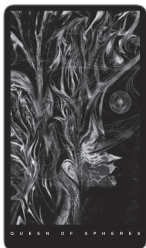
# Queen

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

**Symbolism:** A woman with intricate energy flowing through her head and into the darkness above meditates on the sphere approaching her.

**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 male figure with an intricate web of energy above his head contemplates the sphere before him.

**Upright:** prosperity, and power

**Reversed:** corruption, dictating, and excess



# The Suit of Swords

The Suit of Swords 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 single sword floats in the darkness; its sharp blade is a source of light.

**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:** Two black swords provide balance for a figure that relies on them for support.

**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 swords appear around a figure split in two, revealing a source of light that can only be released by the separation of the whole.

**Upright:** sorrow, and heartache

**Reversed:** heartbreak, and pity



## Four

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

**Symbolism:** Four swords hover above a meditating figure who is resting and contemplating.

**Upright:** contemplation, and meditation

**Reversed:** burnout, and stress



## Five

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

**Symbolism:** Five swords line the top of the card with the one in the middle replacing the head of the figure, leaving the whole being unbalanced.

**Upright:** defeat, and argument

**Reversed:** despair, and distrust



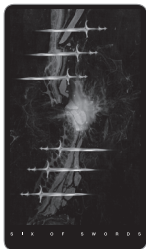
## Six

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

**Symbolism:** Three swords above pointing west and three swords below pointing east provide balance to the energy of the in-between.

**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 figure holds a sword behind his back, either stealing it or keeping it secret; the remaining six swords make the disappearance of one harder to notice.

**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 female figure is bound between eight swords, four on each side, representing restriction and the trapped mind.

**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:** Nine swords hover above a figure clutching its head in anguish; there is fear and worry present.

**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 prone figure lies beneath ten swords descending upon it; there is no hope of escape.

**Upright:** ruin, and destruction

**Reversed:** last chance, and escape



# Page

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

**Symbolism:** Half of the face of the figure is swirling away as he either loses the integrity of his shape or is coming into his form.

**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 rides his steed, which is rearing above a single sword, which will help him on his quest.

**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 female figure flows in and out of existence as a symbol of the ever-flowing energy of thought.

**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:** The wise face of an elder hovers above a single sword; he is the symbol of decisiveness.

**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 spark of light illuminates the darkness at the tip of a magic wand.

**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 carries one wand while approaching a second one, which represents a new adventure.

**Upright:** choosing, and acting

**Reversed:** hesitating, and fear



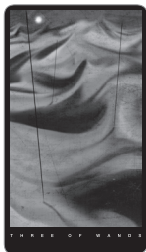
## Three

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

**Symbolism:** Three staffs mark the safe passage across the desert sands to your goal.

**Upright:** taking off, and adventure

**Reversed:** delays, and broken promises



## Four

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

**Symbolism:** Celestial stairs mark a clear path up into the sky and towards your guiding light, and celebration.

**Upright:** celebration, and socializing

**Reversed:** irresponsibility, and insincerity



## Five

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

**Symbolism:** Figures battle one another as a test of strength and courage.

**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 stands triumphant as six wands light up around him to mark his victory.

**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 in the center of the vortex lights the way for others and keeps the dark matter from consuming everything.

**Upright:** valor, and integrity

**Reversed:** treachery, and lack of conviction



## Eight

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

**Symbolism:** A figure races down the path using the bright energy trail to light her way, so she can run at top speed.

**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 remains steady in the face of adversity, resolved to set an example for others.

**Upright:** loyalty, and discipline

**Reversed:** disloyalty, and undisciplined



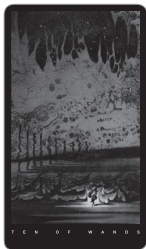
# Ten

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

**Symbolism:** Ten wands casting shadows on the other side of rough terrain let the figure know that the journey will be difficult.

**Upright:** obligations, and devotion

**Reversed:** burdens, and oppression



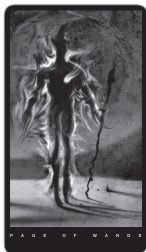
# Page

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

**Symbolism:** A figure carrying a wand is alight with energy he has not yet learned to contain.

**Upright:** enthusiasm, and creativity

**Reversed:** unpredictability, and foolishness



# Knight

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

**Symbolism:** A warrior rides a stallion filled with energy to take him through the darkness.

**Upright:** adventuring, and exploring

**Reversed:** reckless, and foolish



# Queen

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

**Symbolism:** A powerful woman displays her energy confidently as a beacon in the darkness.

**Upright:** confident, and honorable

**Reversed:** insecure, and narcissistic



# King

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

**Symbolism:** A powerful figure burns with black fire, symbolizing command of all forms of energy.

**Upright:** maverick, and independent

**Reversed:** impatient, and selfish



