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THE FOUNTAIN TAROT



THE
FOUNTAIN
TAROT



THE FOUNTAIN TAROT

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NOTE FROM THE CREATORS

Humans have always attempted to manifest their highest spiritual selves through art, writing, relationships, music, and other means. The Fountain Tarot mixes classic symbolism with contemporary art, melding the past and present to express the divine.

The Fountain Tarot lives and breathes the universal and unnameable force of which everything and nothing are a part. It reflects an infinite consciousness beyond the cycles of birth and death, beginnings and endings. It is a return to the oneness of which we all sense that we are, and a removal of separateness.

Ultimately, The Fountain Tarot exists to make a difference in people's lives—in your life. We hope you find insight, beauty, and endless joy in this deck for years to come.

Jason [Ⓢ] AND
ISAAC

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A DAILY PRACTICE

Many of us crave a greater awareness of spirit, and a more consistent balance between our busy, daily lives and the things for which our hearts call. Integrating *The Fountain Tarot* throughout the day in quick draws or expansive readings can create space for reflection, connection, and peace of mind. Whether you are working at home, preparing for yoga, sitting in your office, or relaxing on vacation, the images and text allow you to focus your attention, open you to new possibilities, and bring clarity to your decisions and daydreams.

Tarot guides the ongoing conversation of your life by highlighting what's working, illuminating the dark corners, and identifying patterns that don't serve you. While the real tools are the joyous, chaotic, and ordinary experiences of your life, *The Fountain Tarot* is the mirror that reflects them, working *for* you and *with* you to shine brightly.

THE FOUNTAIN CARD

Our interconnectedness on this planet has never been more clear. Technology has given us near limitless access to knowledge—more than we could possibly comprehend. It has illuminated the interweaving and singular consciousness that sages, witches, and shamans have embodied for thousands of years. The Fountain card is this eternal context beyond human experience in which anything and everything can happen.

Though Tarot could not have anticipated this burgeoning connection and awareness, it now begs for its expression. The Fountain card represents this expression. Like The Fool, it exists outside of the 21 cards of the Major Arcana. Beyond the cycles of the earthly world, it reflects both solitary experience and timeless unity. It is the ether in which we navigate our imperfect lives, and the substance of life itself.

THE MAJOR ARCANA

The Fool's Journey

The Major Arcana tells the story of the unique human path to enlightenment that each of us can discover, told through the encounters of an innocent soul—The Fool. The Fool (0) meets 21 guides, each with a lesson and an action he must take. It is always significant when a reader or seeker encounters a card from the Major Arcana in a reading, and it can be helpful to view the meaning of that card in relationship to The Fool's journey. The three groups of seven cards teach mastery in particular realms:

The Physical: The Magician, The High Priestess, The Empress, The Emperor, The Hierophant, The Lovers, and The Chariot.

The Spiritual: Justice, The Hermit, Wheel of Fortune, Strength, The Hanged Man, Death, and Temperance.

The Ethereal: The Devil, The Tower, The Star, The Moon, The Sun, Judgment, and The World.

The Fountain (∞) represents reunion with and recognition as the divine.

THE MINOR ARCANA

While the cards of the Major Arcana (trump cards) speak to large themes and archetypal characters, the cards of the Minor Arcana represent the day-to-day experiences of life. They are the nuanced details, specific to the varied and sometimes complicated situations in which we find ourselves, and they deepen our understanding of the trump cards. Though they lack the gravity of the trumps, they contribute vital information to the reading, filling out the conversation, and revealing its breadth and reach. The Minor Arcana consists of four suits: wands, swords, cups, and coins. Each suit contains 14 cards, including pips (Ace through Ten) and court cards (Page, Knight, Queen, and King). These cards can represent moods, patterns, states of being, people, personality traits, or other attributes, all of which help the reader and seeker to focus the reading.

Pips & Court Cards

In addition to its meaning, each group of pips (Ace through Ten) and court cards (Page, Knight, Queen, and King) correspond with certain attributes or flavors. When reading and listening, consider these characteristics,¹ allowing their light to shine or dim depending on the other cards around them:

Ace - seed, potential, beginnings

Two - instincts, weighing choices, duality

Three - development, first steps, growth

Four - rootedness, stability, foundation

Five - instability, solving problems

Six - a challenge, regaining control

Seven - persistence, individuality

Eight - will, intellect, beating obstacles

Nine - integration, a return to Self

Ten - completion, a “turn of the wheel”

Page - a child, new stages, immaturity

Knight - a teenager, movement, loyalty

Queen - growth, nurturing, realization

King - motivation, leadership, passion

The Suits

The suits (wands, swords, cups, and coins) each correspond to a particular element and like the pips and court cards, have certain characteristics associated with them. Their essence is the backdrop and readings should be filtered through, or at least acknowledge and entertain, the energy of the suits present. Below, you will find some of the most popular associations with the suits:

Wands - (Fire) passion and will, goals and intentions, action, masculine energy

Swords - (Air) communication, mind and thought, logic, analysis and planning

Cups - (Water) emotions, intuition and relationships, spirituality, feminine energy

Coins - (Earth) health, body and physical experience, money, the senses, practicality

SAMPLE LAYOUTS AND SPREADS

Reading Tarot is not meant to be difficult. It can be as simple as clearing a space, pulling out your deck, shuffling, and asking a question. However, it is important to build your intuition around the cards so you are both open and able to make meaningful interpretations. The descriptions in *The Fountain Tarot* focus on personal development, but each card's meanings can be literal, physical, existential, or global. For example, how might the King of Coins signify an actual father figure, the values of a nation, or a career path, depending on the context? If you are a beginner, bring play to your learning. Choose cards randomly and say the first word that comes to mind, tell a story using the images, or ask seemingly mundane questions to explore the real essence of each card!

A *spread* is the format in which Tarot readings are given. Many variations exist based on what someone is asking and how much information they want, ranging from the simple to the deeply complex.

Quick Draw (1–2 Cards)

This layout is one of the easiest and most flexible to use. It can be used for general questions or for something completely specific. Some examples include:

1. (*Card of the Day*) Where should I focus my intention today?
2. How can I foster creativity and inspiration in my life?
3. How should I prioritize my to-do list today?
4. What does this particular relationship need right now?
5. Where am I getting in my own way?
6. How can I best use my skills and talents to serve the world?
7. How do I invite deeper love into my life?
8. Both of my choices are great. How do I decide?
9. (*2-card Draw*) What do I want? What do I need?
10. Should I do _____ right now?

3-Card Spread

This spread is perfect for simple questions or for larger general inquiries and can provide an expanded view of the question across time, form, or relationship. It can also be used for multiple people when attempting to gain individual direction on a shared question. The following are popular examples:

Situational

1. Past
2. Present
3. Future

Personal

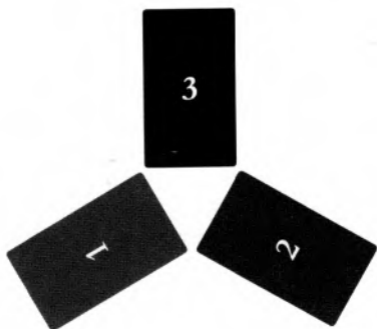
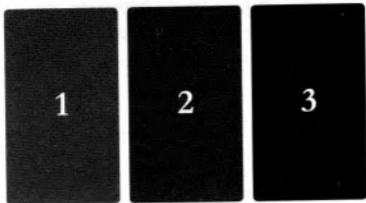
1. Mind
2. Body
3. Spirit

Relational

1. You
2. The Other Person
3. The Relationship

3-Person Reading

1. Person 1
2. Person 2
3. Person 3



5-Card Spread

This spread begins to incorporate more elements and is perfect for answering specific questions or beginning to flesh out the “world” of a particular situation.

The Fountain Tarot Spread

- 1. The Question:** what’s really being asked—clarifies the question and focuses the inquiry more specifically
- 2. The Context:** what led up to now—reveals what factors in your past played the most significant role in getting you where you are now
- 3. You:** your role in the situation—highlights what personal qualities or actions are needed in the current situation
- 4. Your Community:** who else plays a role—identifies who in your community is needed or will play a part in the current situation
- 5. The Potential Outcome:** the culmination—announces the result or action needed to answer the question

1

2

5

4

3

SAMPLE READING AND INTERPRETATION

There's no right way to interpret a spread. Each card's theme, archetype, or message paired with your intuition guides the reading.

3-Card Spread: Mind, Body, Spirit

Question: How do I become more creative?



1
Mind



2
Body



3
Spirit

Two of Wands: (Mind) - Twos: duality; Wands: Passion—Two Choices, only enough energy to develop one well, boldness, instinct

Queen of Coins: (Body) - Queens: realization; Coins: practicality—Generous Dedication, self-confidence, a unique way of being, resourcefulness

The Star: (Spirit) - Major Arcana: The Ethereal—All is Well, everything in its own time, commitment to what's important, persistent focus

Summary: You may be trying to do too much and you doubt your vision and skills. Mentally, you need to trust your instincts and be bold. Don't let the duality of the situation make you question your ability to succeed. Physically, though you worry about practicality, you need to embrace your unique way of doing things and commit to a path. Don't forget to access your resources! Spiritually, remember that things take time. Stay persistent and be open to guidance.

Clarification card: If the outcome still requires clarification, another card may be drawn to help direct attention or illuminate the main point.

Note: Cards from the Major Arcana usually carry more weight and influence in a reading.



MEANINGS AND REVERSALS

THE
MAJOR ARCANA



THE FOOL 0

Boundless Innocence

Suspended between spiritual and earthly existence, the beautiful Fool is the newly born soul embarking on a bright adventure. Free, clear-hearted, unformed, and open to discovery, he is joyfully oblivious to his surroundings. He needs the counsel of others and would be wise to listen when it is offered. With limitless possibilities before him, he is anxious with seeking and excited for what life is ready to teach. Though some find his quest absurd, he is not swayed. With an open heart, he is led by the inner voice of his true Self.

Meaning: a fresh start, new adventure and opportunities, deliberate emptiness so that one might receive things newly, childlike excitement, a willingness to step outside the norm for the sake of self-discovery and fulfillment

Reversal: flawed decision-making, poor choices, carelessness, gullible and naive



THE MAGICIAN I

Possibilities Revealed

As the first guide on the journey to enlightenment, the Magician reveals the raw symbols of the suits, the tools from which anything can be created: wands, swords, cups, and coins. The Magician advises that all new creations, if they are to succeed, require more than just skill: they require faith in the unknowable—a magical energy. He urges you to speak aloud what it is that you want—to will it into existence, releasing it from the world of mere hopes and thoughts. The Magician assures that through discipline and surrender, you become the connection between the earthly and the divine.

Meaning: a promising new idea or creation, willpower and discipline, taking appropriate action, possibility, imagination, self-confidence, freedom

Reversal: uncommitted, apathetic, disconnected, careless, blocked, irresponsible, deceitful



THE HIGH PRIESTESS II

Veiled Wisdom

The High Priestess will receive you if your desire is true and you are willing to explore your spirit, free of the need for answers or religion. True wisdom comes from quiet, solitary reflection and trusting your own personal experience of life. The High Priestess is veiled wisdom. She is the space between extremes where ideas and thoughts are uncovered, where they emerge and expand. Those who are brave enough to listen in her stillness will gain the strength and conviction they seek for future actions.

Meaning: private and personal exploration, quiet and deep knowing, mystery, strong intuition and instinct, spiritual evolution, secrets, a woman of interest

Reversal: vanity, lack of spiritual connection, poor intuition, shallowness, zealousness, ignorance



THE EMPRESS III

Abundant Creation

Standing in her lush, fertile garden, The Empress invites you to water your new creation with love and patience. The soil is rich, and if tended carefully and thoughtfully, the harvest will be abundant. As the ultimate mother, she will nurture you through the unique moments of each particular stage of growth—through the cycles of life, death, creation, and destruction. Relax into the safe glow of her embrace, and begin what there is to begin. Now is the time to act.

Meaning: bold creation, safety, maternal guidance and love, feminine power and beauty, patient nurturing, action, sensuality

Reversal: infertility, dissatisfaction, anxiety, uncertainty, infidelity



THE EMPEROR IV

Structured Control

A symbol of fatherly authority, The Emperor stands powerfully on his earthly foundation, manipulating an airy cube above him. With his head in the center, he uses his intelligence to create order and structure of his surroundings. Grand achievements are not built overnight; they require a mature coordination of foresight, planning, and bold fearlessness. The Emperor declares that now is the time for exerting control over the situation, defining limits, and showing confidence in one's abilities.

Meaning: structure from chaos, self-awareness, control and coordination, skillful execution, a confident leader, protection, virility

Reversal: misuse of power, ineffectiveness, a fragmented view, disorderliness, the small self, egotism, immaturity



THE HIEROPHANT V

Trusted Advisor

The Hierophant warmly protects the traditions and offers spiritual guidance and practical advice to the community. Though they are not his own, they have all been entrusted to him and he shares them freely with anyone who asks. He is the illuminating link between our most cherished beliefs and the actual living of those beliefs in our day-to-day lives. The Hierophant asks you to honestly assess how well your convictions translate to words and actions. He can be a stubborn teacher, but his counsel is worth considering. It will undoubtedly guide you toward inner harmony.

Meaning: a giver of wisdom, peace, and assurance; keeper of traditions; a pillar in the community; compassion; guidance; a search for the truth

Reversal: rigidity or stubbornness, fear of change, rejection of traditional beliefs, weakness, a potential liability, misguided assistance



THE LOVERS VI

Choosing Love

We all have unexplainable moments of knowing or recognizing our Selves in a person or a place intuitively. These moments of love are spiritual, like reuniting with a cosmic twin. They can restore balance and make us feel very happy. Unlike the title might suggest, The Lovers card is not primarily about passion or romance. When these moments of love occur, they are about a choice: follow your head, or follow your heart. Love is not always convenient, easy, or painless, but the possibilities that arise from saying “yes” can bring lifelong joy in many areas. Follow your heart and choose love.

Meaning: a choice, transformation, love, fulfillment of desires, a magical union, trust in one’s heart, harmony

Reversal: lack of trust in oneself, separation, analytical to a fault, flightiness, rigid plans



THE CHARIOT VII

Harnessing Forces

Surrounded by contradiction—left and right, black and white, day and night—the conquering hero of The Chariot brings focus, unshakable determination, and intense will to harness the host of opposing forces. Propelled by his concentration and protected by his confidence, he will conquer all difficulty (intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and physical); navigating the ruts of complexity and restoring balance.

Meaning: triumph over obstacles, steady resolve, renewed motivation, harmony, the inner search for truth, the struggle to untangle disturbance, a voyage or journey

Reversal: failure, unresolved conflict, collapse, dissolution of dreams, apathy, resignation



JUSTICE VIII

Fairness

Above all, Justice is about fairness. She is rational, logical, and objective—concerned only with what is needed right now for your life in reality, not in your mind. The outcome of the present situation may or may not be to your liking, but it will be fair. Her gaze stares directly through your eyes and into your heart, past the confusion. Balancing in her scales are the material and spiritual choices you have made, the naked consequences of your actions. Examine the motives of your life, identify the raw truths, and find clarity and balance.

Meaning: fairness, wisdom, adjustment of priorities, levelheadedness, responsibility for choices, creation or restoration of balance, objectivity

Reversal: bias, obstruction of justice, intolerance, a flawed conclusion, confusion, punishment



THE HERMIT IX

Quiet Observation

The Hermit withdraws into a silent forest to completely enter the world of his heart and mind. In solitude, time slows down and he can wander freely where his soul leads, listening clearly to the timeless voice that, too often, gets lost in chaotic, everyday life. Resolute and fearless, he searches for the things that hide in the shadows and the crevasses of his ego—the things that don't want to be found. He will, at times, be shocked and disheartened by what he uncovers but if he truly wants peace, he must be open to the truth he finds there.

Meaning: quiet solitude, a willingness to let go of fixed views for the sake of peace, reassessment, illumination, focused attention, introspection, silence leading to clarity

Reversal: carelessness, a broken compass, ignorance, hastiness, lazy attention to self, rigid patterns of behavior



WHEEL OF FORTUNE X

Unexpected Change

Wheel of Fortune reminds us that life is never predictable and that change is inevitable and necessary. It is impersonal: sometimes we are summiting the mountain and sometimes we are trudging through the valley. Either way, it is simply life. When Wheel of Fortune shows up in your reading, you are about to have a random encounter with chance and the outcome is unknown. Take it for what it is, without judgment or evaluation. In general, when this card is upright, the odds are in your favor; when reversed . . . not so much.

Meaning: unexpected change, good fortune, luck, happiness, unforeseen joy, resolution of a concern, forward movement

Reversal: bad luck, a harmful pattern of behavior, unexpected disturbance, reversal of fortune, failure



STRENGTH XI

Passion Tamed

All humans have both peaceful and fiery energies as part of their design. Left to their own nature, the fiercer qualities can get away from us, creating imbalance in our lives. The Strength card shows a woman caressing a lion—her savage side. She is not interested in ridding herself of it, but rather in turning its gaze, gently and with generosity, toward useful partnership. Combined with her peaceful energies (and mastered by her courage and inner strength), the fiery energies come to her assistance, fueling and propelling her objectives to unexpected heights.

Meaning: power through honoring all facets of the self, courage, self-discipline, respect, harnessed energy, transcendence, determination

Reversal: passions run amok, abuse of power, cowardice, helplessness, fragile convictions, disharmony, smallness



THE HANGED MAN XII

Surrender to Self

A pivotal card in the Major Arcana, The Hanged Man has willingly stripped and suspended himself upside down, allowing his view of the world to alter completely. In this spiritual doorway, he relinquishes his ego and mind and experiences a timeless glimmer of clarity and enlightenment: his true nature. Calm rests on his face as he merges with the Divine, peace that comes from surrender and trust. The realizations he acquires here will stay with him forever and cannot be unlearned.

Meaning: a change in perspective, a committed time of self-examination, sacrifice rewarded by clarity, renouncing old ways of being, surrender of “the known,” a search for Truth

Reversal: “business as usual,” valuing identity over growth, a need to be right, failure to commit to what matters



DEATH XIII

A Significant End

The time is finally here. It has been building for a while, but it's really happening: the death of something significant. A spectral horse appears, staring directly into your eyes. A cold silence descends as you stare back, knowing and accepting the inevitable. Though it seems imperceptible now, like the trees in winter forming this threshold, there will be new life. Things will be lost, sacrificed, and exposed, but you must embrace this purification fully: a new future awaits.

Meaning: a foreseen ending, an invitation to transform, a time for mourning, loss, acceptance as a means to release, embracing the inevitable

Reversal: paralysis, fear of change, resisting the inevitable, denial, adrift



TEMPERANCE XIV

Listening Within

We often look at options from an either/or perspective, but Temperance invites us to consider that *all* things are possible, even when they appear to be at odds. Life is not static and neither are our needs—they vary across a lifetime and across each situation. Through listening and awareness, the universe reveals what your soul truly needs, not just what your ego wants. It's not as complicated as you make it. If you can put your perceptions and impatience aside, you create space for alchemy.

Meaning: quiet awareness, patience, inner listening, harmony between physical and spiritual, conscious moderation, a peaceful melding of opposites, the “middle way”

Reversal: confusion, disharmony, polarity, excessive caution, competing interests, forced decisions



THE DEVIL XV

Bondage to Indulgence

The forces in life that genuinely move us forward are not always black and white. They are complex and powered by fearsome and sometimes dangerous energy. The Devil card is not about evil. It is about the forces of desire, indulgence, and abandon—natural human qualities that flow in both directions, resulting in either growth and freedom or bondage and addiction. The solution is extreme honesty with yourself and an assessment of what is actually needed. Surrender? Commitment? Restraint? The qualities themselves do not enslave us, only we can do that.

Meaning: a choice between indulgence and restraint, a loss of one's sense of Self, undisciplined behavior, a codependent relationship, limited by shoulds and doctrines

Reversal: removed obstacles, controlled energy, emancipation, a clear direction



THE TOWER XVI

The Inessential Destroyed

The top of a massive tower crumbles swiftly beneath the weight of its ostentation. It has grown ugly, complicated, and beyond utility, an insult to the balance that once was. Your soul craves equilibrium, and life itself is often the judge when ideologies, beliefs, or projects are given more importance (and more time and energy) than they are due. Change, though necessary, is often painful and this one will be felt for a very, very long time.

Meaning: unexpected devastation, beliefs and ways of being gone bankrupt, self-deception, loss of security, superiority, a release of pressure, fears realized

Reversal: trapped in a pattern, unwillingness to change, financial losses, delusional, servile, “same old-same old”



THE STAR XVII

All is Well

The Star invites you to rest and heal. She is a glimmer of hope, a light in the darkness, a compass to right your course, and assistance when you most need it. She is a glowing reminder from the universe that everything is in order and occurs in its own time. You are entering a stage of calm, so use it wisely to identify (and commit to) what's important, for the Star is a card of possibilities and potential futures. She will guide you even when you falter, but you must keep your eye on her light.

Meaning: a time of healing, hope, unexpected guidance, reconciliation between the past and the present, a very promising potential, the need for persistent focus

Reversal: self-pity, a setback, imbalance, apathy, despair, excessive pride



THE MOON XVIII

Surrender to Darkness

A vast ocean of mystery, danger, and illusion stretches out and swells over a pier. Above and below, shadows seem to wait and watch. The Moon is the world of the unconscious, and it can be both frightening and disorienting. There is nowhere to anchor and everything feels confusing and deceptive, though slightly seductive and familiar. Even time seems to be disappearing, but there is an urgency for you to move or risk being lost here forever. It's not too late to turn back, but if you truly want freedom, you will brave the current and surrender to the waves of cosmic intuition.

Meaning: a journey through your shadows, illusions, and profound truths; patient meditation; release; uncertainty; magical creativity and intuition; a warning

Reversal: instability, impatience, an unwillingness to be truthful, barren stillness, misplaced fantasy



THE SUN XIX

Absolute Joy

The Sun is pure joy and happiness. Like a child's heart, light beams in all directions. This is a moment of total completion, arrival, and connection to everything and everyone—a realization of unity and deep peace. It invites you to know yourself and the world newly, and to embrace the clarity felt deep within your gut. When The Sun enters your reading, you are standing confidently in both the earthly and the spiritual worlds. Relax and make room for wonder, curiosity, and appreciation.

Meaning: pure joy, invigorating renewal, perfect harmony, a deep knowing that all is well, a liberation from duality, lightness, inner light and discovery

Reversal: separation from oneself and others, an ambiguous future, limited advancement, loneliness, disconnection



JUDGMENT XX

Reconciliation

Coming to terms with our past changes us and fosters healing. It renews our ability to love purely, flow freely, and transcend our struggles. Judgment is a voice calling from deep within you—a distant, yet familiar, invitation. It requires intention and a significant act of bravery: uncovering and arousing the enshrouded memories of your past. If you accept the invitation, they will rise up fully exposed. Now is your best opportunity to face them, forgive them, and move on once and for all.

Meaning: forgiveness, rejuvenation and healing, an acknowledgment and release of the past, a definitive decision, an altered view, an invitation from within, new purpose

Reversal: disconnection, willful stubbornness, indecision, addiction, martyrdom, spiritual cowardice



THE WORLD XXI

A Cycle Complete

The World announces the completion of a journey. A master of this worldly experience, she has integrated her mind, body, and spirit to complete a cycle in her life as she prepares for another lap around. Through effort and grace, she has gained many skills and achieved a great feat: evolving from novice to expert. She has become a new being, moving with a sense of ease and satisfaction. Whole and complete, she has drunk deeply of her divine spirit and casts an ethereal glow.

Meaning: completion of a journey, a paradigm shift, mastery, peace of mind, ease, wholeness, certain success, observation of one's own perfection

Reversal: partial success, a disappointing outcome, lack of fortitude, a failed attempt, fear of one's own power



THE FOUNTAIN ∞

Be

The Fountain exists outside and beyond the cycles of birth, death, time, and form. It is the nameless, changeless source of which everything is a part. It is the waking from the dream of separateness and identity, and the recognition of one's Self as not only connected to all things, but *all* things—divine nature. When The Fountain appears in your reading, relinquish all illusion of control and remain quiet. It invites you to observe, master less, and to just be—effortless and indistinguishable from life. You are the voice and the breath of universes.

Meaning: oneness, a moment of cosmic clarity, fully awake, the end of seeking, enlightened being, surrender to that which you are, whole and perfect

Reversal: identification with a role or personality, fear (of being alone), mind-obsessed, separation from source, resistance to (or denial of) reality



MEANINGS AND REVERSALS

THE
MINOR ARCANA



THE WANDS



ACE OF WANDS

Passionate Energy

The Ace of Wands is a gift of fiery passion and enthusiasm. A hot flash of focused intention, this card is about will and determination, creating (or destroying) something to bring about transformation. Whether your interest is spiritual, mental, or physical, you will have the strength and the inspiration to move your goals forward. Like all aces, however, there is only a brief moment to seize this opportunity. Find your courage and make your move.

Meaning: strong beginnings, a burst of soul energy, new life, passions discovered, inspiration, bold steps forward

Reversal: dull motivation, thwarted plans, lazy spirit, uncertainty

TWO OF WANDS

Two Choices

The Two of Wands represents two choices. Both of the options are sound but you only have enough energy to develop one well. If you take too long to decide, you will lose the opportunity. When the Two of Wands appears in your reading, it tells you that you have enough information and that *now* is the time to act. Follow your bliss, trust your instincts, and pick boldly. It is true that you become the choices you make but first you must make the choice.

Meaning: a choice between equal opportunities, optimism, boldness, great energy, imminent fulfillment, a well-balanced person, “the world in your hands”

Reversal: sorrow, unexpected failure, adversity, fear, stagnation, excessive hesitation, hollow achievements, domination by others

THREE OF WANDS

Focused Effort

In the Three of Wands, a man exerts great effort to manifest his objectives. At times, he must push energy outward to shape his life and at other times, he must pull energy inward to harness its power and attract what he wants. Your strength and focus are producing the first glimpses of achievement, but the secret to your long-term prosperity lies in your ability to be patient, attentive, and most of all, nimble.

Meaning: focused effort, strength, foresight, business acumen, common sense, dedication, success

Reversal: negligence, naive expectations, disappointment, work unrewarded, failure in a business venture

FOUR OF WANDS

Unbridled Joy

The Four of Wands is cause for celebration! A project, phase, or rite of passage has been completed and the feeling is pure joy. Accomplishments are often completed with the help of others and in this case, the results are almost magical—bigger than anything that could have been created alone. More work lies ahead—new challenges, phases, and experiences—but for now, in this moment, take the time to enjoy your efforts and celebrate what you have done.

Meaning: unbridled joy, celebration, a shared achievement, a milestone, a breath between stages, satisfaction, a marriage or rite of passage

Reversal: ambivalence, disharmony, a postponed celebration, plans gone awry, dissatisfaction

FIVE OF WANDS

Competitive Chaos

The Five of Wands is a card of tension, stress, and egos gone awry. In a tangle of energy, five wands vie for control of an unstable situation. Each is strong in their own way, but the chaos and uncertainty have them all doubting their skills. In confusing situations, there are always multiple approaches. You must decide whether today is the day to move boldly beyond fear and fight, or whether to wisely withdraw from the struggle. There isn't a right approach; either could be the answer. You'll have to follow your instincts.

Meaning: competition, instability, a new or different direction is needed, desires vying for attention, harnessing chaotic energy in others or self, overcoming obstacles, standing strong

Reversal: inaction, complication, petty concerns, a need for strong principles

SIX OF WANDS

Hope and Motivation

A victory is won and balance is restored! People love their champions as symbols of hope, strength, and potential in themselves. Heroes love their admirers for the recognition and the energy to reach higher and higher. Whichever role you are playing, honor and value the other. This symbiotic relationship has the potential to move all of the parties forward but don't get too addicted. Inevitably, we must all triumph over our own individual battles. Today, however, enjoy the parade.

Meaning: great news, public recognition for a victory, an achievement from which to draw courage and inspiration, renewed potential, charisma and adoration, hope

Reversal: excessive pride, false praise, betrayal, fear, disloyalty

SEVEN OF WANDS

Unshakable Determination

A man is attacked in broad daylight by a gang with six wands. He is clearly outnumbered but a quiet certainty emboldens his confidence; he will stand and defend his ground. The encounter is unexpected, but what is more surprising are the faces he recognizes as some of his friends and colleagues. You may be in a situation where you feel opposed or betrayed but from this height, you have the advantage. Nothing can stop you from meeting this challenge head on.

Meaning: unshakable conviction, defense, determination, “taking the reins,” triumph against the odds, bravery

Reversal: acquiescence, hesitation resulting in loss, indecision, apprehension

EIGHT OF WANDS

A Rapid Force

When the Eight of Wands enters your reading, expect velocity, swift developments, and rapid conclusions. The long journey is almost over and it is inevitable that you will reach your destination. But stay alert. They say that the closer you are to home, the more prone you are to accidents. With some nimble handling of the controls, you will steer this train competently, quickly, and efficiently into the station.

Meaning: rapid movement or pace, an impending conclusion to events set in motion, nimble handling of a situation, singular purpose, mobility after stagnation, explosion of potential

Reversal: lethargy, delay, inertia, jealousy, an unsettled heart, overbearing conditions, strained relationships with loved ones

NINE OF WANDS

The Final Push

Nearly exhausted and a little doubtful that he will ever reach the top, a man exerts a final push in the hopes of completing what he started. With the Nine of Wands, success is certain; an unstoppable energy has been released. Accomplished achievers know this feeling well. Each new challenge brings wisdom, but it also exacts a toll. You are stronger for your efforts and now is the time to savor your achievement, replenish your energy, and consider what you have learned. New challenges lie ahead and your attention must stay keen.

Meaning: hitting the target, persevering against the odds, extreme exertion rewarded by relaxation, a last-minute surge, reflection

Reversal: impending setbacks, obstacles, adversity, wasted energy

TEN OF WANDS

Stagnant Energy

Success is wonderful, but if left unchecked, it can get away from you! In the Ten of Wands, a man balances responsibilities, promises, and tasks—all of which he knows intimately. For the moment, they are under control, but holding them has become a burden. You are expending a great deal of energy right now holding things together. What is the price? The original spirit and creativity that shone so brightly in you is fading quickly, swallowed by the tangle of obligations. It's time to use the lessons of those wands to fix the situation and restore balance.

Meaning: running idle, a burden that has crept up slowly, a time to reconnect with passions and motivations, taking on too much, not saying no, a lack of balance, maintenance at the expense of growth

Reversal: insincerity, cynicism, irresponsibility, blame of others

PAGE OF WANDS

Dramatic Enthusiasm

The Page of Wands is filled with childlike enthusiasm, energy, and fresh perspectives. Though she is happy and eager for adventure, one gets the sense that she is not yet comfortable in her own skin. What she lacks in confidence, she makes up for in theatrics—making her the center of attention. Her immaturity is obvious but with a little time and compassion, she will make some daring discoveries and accomplish some incredible feats.

Meaning: an enthusiastic youth, fresh ideas, a new beginning, optimism, naive risk, self-consciousness, an encouraging message

Reversal: a disloyal person, a messenger of bad news, indecision, instability, shenanigans

KNIGHT OF WANDS

Restless Spirit

The Knight of Wands is moved by passion and his actions are bold, dramatic, and impulsive. He is a young, determined seeker, not yet aware that the truth he seeks is inside of him. He is adored by others for his loyalty and charisma, which some mistake for confidence. Though he can sometimes be overbearing, he is in need of kindness. He is a pure and faithful ally, and will help move things into action.

Meaning: controlled action in the midst of rapid change, an adventurous spirit, impulsivity, enthusiasm, passionate persistence, fierce loyalty to friends and causes, a journey or change in residence

Reversal: conflict in a relationship, a bully, discord, narcissism, unreliability

QUEEN OF WANDS

Charismatic Compassion

The Queen of Wands is never low on energy, warmth, or generosity. Her playful enthusiasm usually makes her the center of attention at any gathering. Some people find her intimidating but to most, she is an inspiration. Despite all of the recognition, she is fiercely independent, guided almost solely by instinct. She is in love with life and her feisty spunk will ensure that any task is completed. She will not accept repayment for her gifts; her reward is watching others learn and grow.

Meaning: compassion, warmth and generosity, vivacity, a genuine concern for others, charisma, a person guided by instinct, gracefulness

Reversal: an overbearing personality, jealousy, self-doubt, untrustworthiness, unpredictability, inflexibility, passion to a fault

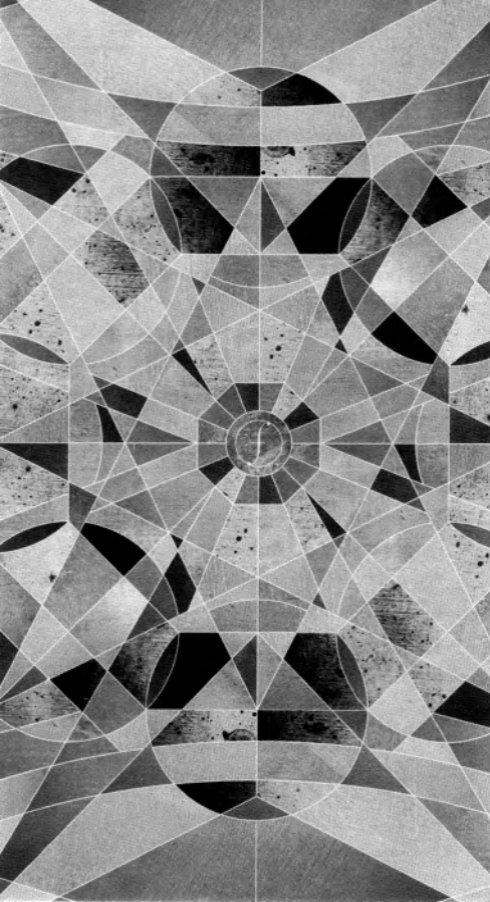
KING OF WANDS

Inspiring Possibilities

The King of Wands is a passionate leader who turns the impossible into the probable, while inspiring others to help him do it. Whether the goal is spiritual or physical, he will commit and push forward if he believes in it, motivating all those around him to act in the name of possibility. But beware: achieving the goal isn't necessarily his objective, being in action is what thrills him and life itself is his adventure.

Meaning: a champion of possibility, inspiration, a confident spirit, mature regulation of passions, life as adventure, a generous leader, expansiveness

Reversal: arrogance, immaturity, impulsiveness, impatience





THE SWORDS



ACE OF SWORDS

Powerful Clarity

As the root of the swords, the Ace brings a great deal of raw power and energy. A sword cuts through a web of scaffolding, holding up all the cloudy pieces of our identity: perceptions, conversations, facts, dreams, and ideas. When the Ace of Swords appears in a reading, it means that a rare opportunity for clarity is near. It will cut through these subjective realities, revealing a truth, an insight, or a new approach for which you have been waiting. Pay close attention to your words and thoughts. Knowledge does give you power but without a little reflection, it can quickly turn into delusion.

Meaning: mental clarity, a great force at work, a fresh approach, strength, longterm success, determination, ambition

Reversal: mental obstacles, excessive force, catastrophe, denial, shame



TWO OF SWORDS

Inner Conflict

There is a conflict between your heart and your mind, and the strategies you have in place are unsustainable, strained, and precarious. You are managing skillfully but will soon be exhausted. You must do something; it is not a position one can hold indefinitely. Though a stalemate may appear better than defeat, the issue can no longer be ignored. Pause, take inventory, and find your way through this struggle.

Meaning: wasted energy, failure to make a decision, denial of reality, a compelled choice, unsettling circumstances, repressed emotion

Reversal: a stalemate concluded, trickery, deception, dishonesty



THREE OF SWORDS

A Shattered Heart

In its cold and stormy environment, the Three of Swords indicates that you are taking your first, tentative steps into a particular area of life . . . and your heart is about to be abruptly broken. A piercing truth or occurrence is imminent and your life will not be the same once it has happened. It will hurt, but in retrospect, you saw it coming and if you're really being honest, it's accompanied by a sense of relief. Though it's little consolation in the moment, it's times like these that bring us our most profound growth.

Meaning: a painful truth revealed, a separation or loss involving love, betrayal, heartbreak, emotional numbness, personal growth through disappointment

Reversal: confusion, a refusal, an uncomfortable interaction, regret, unsettling suspicion, over-intellectualizing



FOUR OF SWORDS

A Quiet Space

The Four of Swords is often known as the meditation card. It indicates that you are in (or have just gotten over) a difficult time and you need to rest, reflect, and reconnect with yourself. When we are troubled, our minds play tricks on us, imagining hopeful escapes or tragic demises. Quieting your mind is an act of humility which allows you to enlist divine intelligence—your true voice. It won't make the problem go away but in the space of stillness, you can bring fresh perspective and invite new ideas to appear.

Meaning: a time to quiet the mind, respite from difficulty, recuperation, engaged listening, release, gratitude, a return to your center

Reversal: an increase in stress, harmful persistence, busyness and activity



FIVE OF SWORDS

Tainted Victory

In the Five of Swords, two glum figures stand in the background defeated, while the victor balances tenuously on his spoils. The smirk on his face reveals a prideful lack of humility while the distance between him and the others highlights the alienation he has created by winning. Victories get polluted when your personal integrity is compromised. Nobody actually wins in this scenario and the backlash can be horrible. Make sure you are paying attention to the whole picture. Broaden your vision and honor your principles. It will pay off in the long run.

Meaning: a tenuous victory, bullying, shortsightedness, profit at others' expense, manipulation, dishonorable behavior, humiliation

Reversal: cunning, ambiguity, meaningless achievement, weakness



SIX OF SWORDS

A New Beginning

The Six of Swords announces the end of a difficult situation and the beginning of a new future. A woman, with the assistance of a ferryman, bravely sets out for a new shore, escaping the dark and murky circumstances of her past. Her willingness to ask for help frees her from drama and allows assistance to appear, providing an opportunity for healing and comfort. Transitions can be disorienting, but trust that the worst of the obstacles have passed. It will all begin to make sense very soon as calm waters provide you with stability and safe passage.

Meaning: overcoming adversity, shedding of the past, an imminent beginning, a request for help that brings resolution, a return to harmony, travel or a journey

Reversal: old patterns of behavior that prevent progress, an impasse, stubborn self-reliance, a postponement of a decision or a journey



SEVEN OF SWORDS

A Questionable Risk

Like the intention of this thief, the meaning of the Seven of Swords relies on the circumstances (other cards) surrounding it. Depending on the context, his actions could represent dishonesty . . . or bravery. In any case, a risk is involved and he must deal with the unexpected. In tense moments like these, be conscious of your values and which ones you employ. There are times when you may have to grab the blades to succeed, but knowing your objectives and your motives will minimize the damage.

Meaning: deceit, betrayal, courage, an innovative risk, partial success, a potential loss

Reversal: good advice or counsel, justice, uncertainty



EIGHT OF SWORDS

Blind Fear

A woman finds herself in a truly difficult situation that she imagines to be impossible. There is a way out but she has closed her eyes—lost in mental bondage, concerns, and regrets. The Eight of Swords reminds you that life brings obstacles and adversity, but if you open your eyes, you recognize that your worst enemy is fear; the blindfold is transparent and the swords are illusory. When focus shifts to reality, it is time to acknowledge it—feel the pain, show courage, and move on. You must move on.

Meaning: mentally trapped, self-doubt, immobility, a seemingly impossible task, obliviousness to one's blindness

Reversal: release, trusting in oneself, freedom from regret, seeing beyond fear, courage




NINE OF SWORDS

Imagined Misery

A man wakes from a nightmare, still caught in the shadows of anxiety. His fears, concerns, and regrets point sharply at him like sinister foes. His thoughts have piled up in his sleep, steeped in worry and doubt, creating a very intimate brand of misery. He can feel the darkness closing in. The Nine of Swords challenges you to sift reality out from the imaginary. Irrational thinking, like dreams, can become cyclical. Deal with the facts and ground yourself in the rational—your peace of mind depends on it.

Meaning: imagined or inflated concerns, worry and anxiety, muddled thoughts, being overwhelmed, a crippling cycle, irrational suffering, sleeping difficulties

Reversal: logic, contentment, humility, diligence, rumor, doubt



TEN OF SWORDS

Final Release

A man crouches on his knees, surrendered, exposed, and pierced throughout his body. The sun (either rising or setting) hints at an ending and a new beginning. The Ten of Swords represents a conversation or a view in your mind that has grown very, very old—past the point of being useful. Rest assured, you (and others) have struggled with it long enough. Let it go. A conversation that was once about possibility has now become stale and lifeless. No one can force you to give it up, but surrendering this idea will create space for something new and it may just change your life.

Meaning: an end to an outdated way of being or thinking, surrender, betrayal, forgiveness (of self or others), liberation from the past

Reversal: momentary benefit, pride to a fault, self-righteousness



PAGE OF SWORDS

Bold Curiosity

The Page of Swords is one of those youths who's almost too smart for his own good—some whisper the word “prodigy.” Like a blur of information, he wants to know everything now. Others less insightful than him would be annoying, but he learns quickly and shares it all—logically, thoughtfully, and freshly. Though he is just beginning to find his own truth in the world, his vision is dead-on. He's got something to say and he's ready to say it, full of insight and confidence.

Meaning: a mental risk-taker, curiosity, strong insight, skill at uncovering what's concealed, eager confidence, intellectual innovation, important or unexpected news

Reversal: an inability to cope with the unexpected, a fraud, ill-preparedness, childish cruelty, vulnerability or weakness, unfortunate circumstances



KNIGHT OF SWORDS

Intellectual Agility

If Knights are heroic, restless, and fancy themselves invincible, the Knight of Swords is all of these things—amplified. Representing the adolescent spirit, his intentions are pure and passionate, but they can also be impulsive, quick-tempered, and (at times) careless. He loves a good mental challenge but he doesn't like wasting time. If an idea is practical, thoughtful, and well-planned, he will navigate the most tangled of obstacles to assist, achieving creative and rapid (but perhaps risky) success.

Meaning: bold solutions, analytic agility, rapid change, tenacious idealism, hasty action, cunning

Reversal: apathy, self-righteousness, thoughtlessness, arrogance, unreliable behavior, extravagance and trivia



QUEEN OF SWORDS

Sharp Grace

The Queen of Swords has seen it all, knows it all, and unfortunately, has suffered more than her share of sorrow. Fiercely devoted to those she loves, she will nurture ideas and conversations with crystal clarity, using reliable facts and candid (if not harsh) honesty. Careful to protect herself, she is not known for her warmth, but if it's answers you seek, she is the one to solve them. Don't waste her time or betray her; she will coolly cut you down—with poise and a smile.

Meaning: great wisdom distilled from joy and sorrow, power and grace, self-reliance, strict discipline, short-lived happiness, a harsh truth, guarded strength

Reversal: intelligence used cruelly, intolerance, pettiness, a gossip, deception, argumentativeness



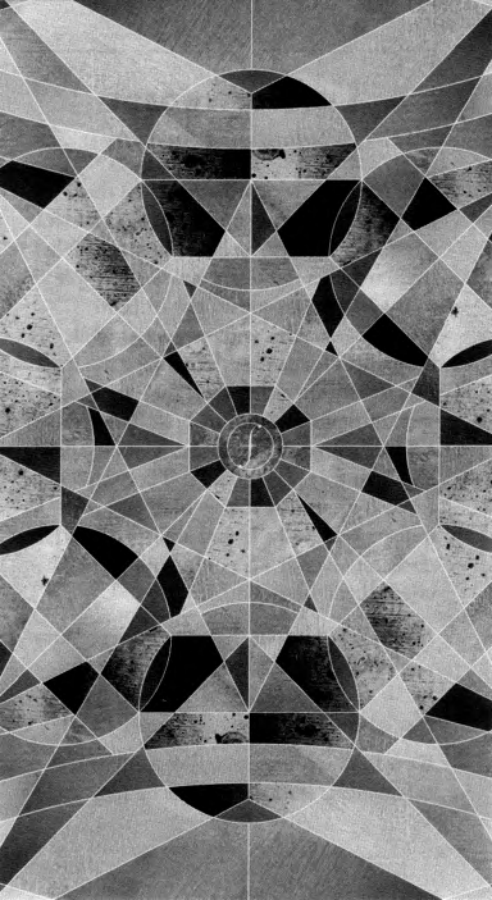
KING OF SWORDS

Wisdom and Integrity

The King of Swords has reached the height of his professional life. A powerful person of esteem, he has honed his ability to control his mind and holds all people to the highest of ideals. His brilliant intellect generates endless energy while his reputation for fairness earns him the trust of others, especially when they are faced with difficult decisions. Though viewed as cold by some of his closest relations, his ability to forecast results and consequences far into the future makes him an indispensable ally. If you are open to a fair decision (even if it's not in your favor), his counsel will be essential.

Meaning: wisdom that is both perceptive and intelligent, a fair decision, integrity, harsh and sound advice, one who has earned authority, analytical creativity

Reversal: selfishness, oppression, threat, callousness, stubbornness, scheming





THE CUPS



ACE OF CUPS

Emotional Connection

Two doves (expressions of the Divine) hold a cup overflowing and replenishing itself with water—the effortless equilibrium of giving and receiving. The Ace of Cups is a fleeting gift of emotional connection; the beginning of something beautiful. Whether the connection is spiritual or earthly, it is an opportunity for growth and for an expression of love. When this card graces your reading, take advantage of your moment at this wellspring.

Meaning: giving and/or receiving, empathy, a new emotional connection to others or to the Divine, overflowing abundance and nourishment, love and compassion, trust in your emotions, fertility

Reversal: unreciprocated emotion, dissatisfaction, instability, tainted happiness, false love, sterility



TWO OF CUPS

Cosmic Affinity

The Two of Cups is crystal clear. It represents a deep, powerful connection between two energies. It may be between potential lovers, friends, strangers, or a person and an experience. In any case, the recognition of synergy is unmistakable. When two spirits of this magnitude unite, the universe feels personal and there is no telling what magic might be created. Of course, this beautiful moment does require action. What you do with it is up to you.

Meaning: a soulful connection, simpatico, harmonious relationships of all kinds, a healing of a relationship, alchemy, love fulfilled, engaged intuition

Reversal: loss of balance, separation, a closed heart, apathy, misplaced passion, a misunderstanding



THREE OF CUPS

Rejuvenating Love

Three cups glow in the radiant warmth that can only be created by hearts that share a past. The Three of Cups is a spontaneous celebration—in the past, present, or future—that honors the bonds of family and intimate friendship. Though your solitary achievements have been many, now is the time to acknowledge your community and revel in the love of those who know and support you.

Meaning: the gift of family and close friends, a celebration, fulfilling love, unexpected joy, a healing covenant, a culmination, good fortune

Reversal: overindulgence, decadence, ingratitude, termination, lost contentment



FOUR OF CUPS

Blind Disillusion

A man slumps in a corner, brooding over his current situation. What once had satisfied him now brings boredom and discontent. He waivers between self-reflection and disillusionment but is dangerously close to melancholy. As he stewes in his emotions, his ability to see another option is clouded. If he can shake the self-pity, he will remember that he has options and the bounty around him will start to become obvious again. When the Four of Cups appears in your reading, quit focusing on the empty cups; possibility is closer than you think.

Meaning: disillusionment, self-reflection, listlessness, ennui, emotionally stranded, stagnation, imaginary problems

Reversal: taking action, seeing possibilities, impending new relationships and experiences, a breakthrough in self-awareness



FIVE OF CUPS

Befriending Grief

In the midst of dark clouds and an emotional storm, a struggle rages over spilled cups. The loss is real and irretrievable and to move beyond it, he must feel the sorrow fully and candidly. If he does not, he will lose himself in wallowing and exhaustion. In the Five of Cups, the tug toward disillusionment is strong, but being thoughtful and gentle in this moment will put the past in the past, where it belongs. The cups will fill again and the storm will pass. Feel the pain and keep one foot on solid ground.

Meaning: significant but only partial loss, despair, regret, flaws or imperfections, a possible end to a relationship

Reversal: a new experience of equilibrium, new partnerships, a hopeful future, a cheerful attitude, emotional growth



SIX OF CUPS

Joy Revisited

Two children share a moment of innocent love with each other as one gives a flower and the other receives it. The Six of Cups is a persistent memory of happiness from the past: the feelings, the sensations, and the warmth. It is a connection to a familiar person or object that renews this experience and revives a sense of joy. When this card shows up in your reading, it is a gentle reminder of your need to approach life with innocence. Beauty can be created in an instant, making everything feel alright—at least for a while.

Meaning: warm memories, simple pleasures, remembered joy, temporary relief, a pining for the familiar, an idealizing of the past

Reversal: a new beginning, a promising future, renewal



SEVEN OF CUPS

Lost In Choice

A woman stands literally caught in the misty bliss of her choices. The Seven of Cups shows an intimate and personal moment when too many choices are available. We fantasize about endless options but when they actually exist, our imaginations and emotions can begin to complicate the situation. It would be easy (and tempting) to remain in this daydream but to grow, you must commit to a choice and take action. It will undoubtedly change your course, but it will move you forward.

Meaning: wishing instead of doing, prolonging a choice, indulgence, muffling your inner voice through distraction

Reversal: determination, strong will, action, smart choices, a goal nearly realized, dealing masterfully with the unexpected, following your true self



EIGHT OF CUPS

Into the Unknown

In the Eight of Cups, a man walks away from his current reality toward a new dream. The cups of his old way of life have emptied and though he has acquired relationships, skills, and memories, he must abandon some of what he knows to create something new. Be confident that nothing of importance has been lost. The path forward is unclear, but to find the deeper satisfaction you crave, you must be certain of your decision, venturing through the haze of the foreign and the unknown.

Meaning: a search for new paths, a rejection of the material for the spiritual, disappointment, humility, walking away, fortitude, embracing the unknown

Reversal: “stuck in a rut,” rigidity, an inability to move on, hedonism, resignation, cynicism



NINE OF CUPS

Shared Happiness

A man sits with nine cups, inviting in anyone who wishes to share his joy and contentment. Often known as the wish card, the Nine of Cups is a moment of emotional fulfillment and satisfaction; a powerful card of giving and receiving. As he reflects back on the events and choices that brought him here, he gives thanks. As the phrase goes: “Joy shared is happiness returned.” You have been blessed and now is the time to welcome others to the table for an abundant feast.

Meaning: contentment, emotional satisfaction, success, a wish fulfilled, pervasive wellness, good karma

Reversal: snobbishness, selfishness, superficiality, corruptness



TEN OF CUPS

Loving Balance

Two people balance with each other harmoniously, a light shining brightly from the stillness of their hearts.

The Ten of Cups pays tribute to the struggles and victories of relationships but more importantly, to the trust and commitment within them. The Ten of Cups represents empathy, emotional maturity, and a willingness to build something with someone over a period of time—something that honors each of the participants. Considered a very favorable card relating to romance and home life, it is a gift in any reading.

Meaning: harmony with the people in your life, well-earned blessings, a contented home, abundant joy in relationships, interconnectedness, a wise and cultivated life, romantic fulfillment

Reversal: friction, disharmony, strained or lost relations, conflict, grief



PAGE OF CUPS

A Waking Self

A young child sits alone with a magical box. As he plays, he begins to imagine who he is as a person. Though the emotions may be immature and the thoughts naive, it is the dawning of spiritual awareness.

The Page of Cups can be as confusing to himself as he is to everyone else, but there is something new happening within him and he is doing his best to describe it. His ideas seem excessive and implausible, but they contain glimpses of truth that will illuminate his spirit.

Meaning: a message, childlike curiosity and joy, a new development, wonder, a sensitive and artistic youth, imagination, a pregnancy or birth

Reversal: deception, a bamboozler, immature love, distractibility, indiscretion



KNIGHT OF CUPS

Passionate Idealism

A young man sits dramatically in a fountain, caught somewhere between the innocence of childhood and the maturity of adulthood. Lacking much real-life experience, the Knight of Cups lives in his head and is passionately in love with concepts and ideas, mistaking them for real life. He has acquired some knowledge and he wants to share, but his need to impress and to be perceived as wise and poetic drives him to even more theatrics. Intensely loyal to friends and family, he vacillates between emotions as his ideals collide with reality.

Meaning: idealism, particularly around love and romance; unwitting self-indulgence; passionate (but immature) conviction; intuition; an impending opportunity; an invitation; moodiness

Reversal: trickery, a scam or gimmick, hypocrisy, selfishness, one who is unreliable, subtlety



QUEEN OF CUPS

Motherly Devotion

The Queen of Cups is the quintessential mother: warm, devoted, and compassionate. She anticipates your every need, knowing your thoughts and feelings almost better than you do. She has experienced many things; she knows the pain that escorts love and the failure that accompanies success. The Queen of Cups knows your depth and what you are capable of and more importantly, she believes in you. She is your biggest fan, encouraging your greatness and holding your dreams safely and eternally in her heart.

Meaning: a nurturing mother figure, genuine empathy, devotion, compassion, exceptional intuition, wisdom through experience

Reversal: passivity, helplessness, volatility, dependence, a repressive mother figure, punishment



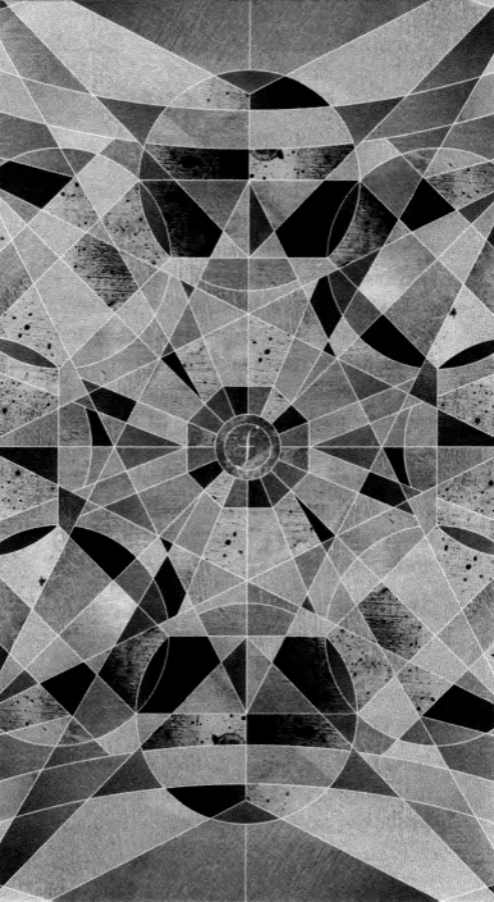
KING OF CUPS

Gentle Power

In a swirl of chaos, the King of Cups sits at ease, generating warm, kind, and gentle support. He values empathy and compassion above all things and the expression of humanity's greatness through arts and culture. His family and relationships mean everything to him, and he expects those around him to be sensitive to the experiences of others. He is the quintessential father figure: devoted, fair, and protective. When he shows up in your reading, he can bring others to your cause, appealing to their sense of loyalty and devotion.

Meaning: a warm father figure, empathy and concern for others, gentle power, inspired by art and culture, dignity and conviction, kind and compassionate, fiercely protective

Reversal: deceptive, distant, emotionally manipulative, overly sentimental, a pushover, explosive temper





THE COINS



ACE OF COINS

Earthly Abundance

A beautiful golden coin shines radiantly in all directions over a lush and verdant garden. As the foundation of the suit, Aces carry raw energy and bright potential. The Ace of Coins is the symbol of material and physical abundance. In a reading, it lifts and enhances all of the cards in its vicinity. It is a gift freely given but like all Aces, it is a momentary blaze of inspiration.

Meaning: material and/or spiritual abundance, nourishment, contentment, an opportunity to create something new, a reminder to stay grounded

Reversal: material pleasure to excess, wealth leading to unhappiness, spiritual poverty, anxiety, instability



TWO OF COINS

Precarious Balance

In the midst of a swiftly flowing current, a man juggles two desires successfully but his solution is temporary and unsustainable. Submerged under the water, his clarity is questionable at best. For now, he still has both coins but neither of them is securely in his palm. The Two of Coins invites you to look at where you are maintaining balance in your real-world affairs but getting exhausted. You can keep it up for quite a while but it might be time to consider relinquishing one of these goals for now.

Meaning: a struggle for balance, need for clarity, an impending choice, juggling instead of handling responsibilities, determination, cloudy reasoning, inefficiency

Reversal: too many choices, paralysis, inundation, absence of direction, a shaky foundation, inadequate discipline



THREE OF COINS

Expertise United

A dream is developing and taking root. Sometimes called the craftsman's card, the Three of Coins represents masterful elements coming together to create something unique and refined—either as a group of individuals or as characteristics within an individual. Inspiration, funding, and expertise are all falling into place, making the time of preparation well worth it and the success of the endeavor ensured.

Meaning: a coming together of the elements; masterful collaboration; a balance of inspiration, resources, and skill; thoughtful planning and implementation; craftsmanship rewarded; a cooperative venture; the best of what can be made

Reversal: wasteful of resources, egotism, incompetence, mediocrity, disorganization, prioritizing profit over craftsmanship, shoddy workmanship



FOUR OF COINS

Forgotten Joy

A once-whimsical idea, envisioned perhaps for fun, stands frozen and forgotten. There is plenty of money but the exciting plans that inspired saving in the first place have lost their joy and grown stagnant. Because Fours and Coins both represent stability, you can be sure that your finances are secure. However, a tight grip has restricted the flow of life, leaving you with a sense of immobility and emptiness. Your attention needs to shift to your rigid relationship with money.

Meaning: confusion regarding values, saving for the sake of saving, resistance to change, fear or paranoia, stagnation, a missed opportunity, loss of connection to others or to what really matters

Reversal: emotional freedom, clarity of values, connection to others, balance, nonattachment, generosity



FIVE OF COINS

Precious Misfortune

There are times in life when we are in great physical need and our egos get embarrassed. Two people huddle in the cold: hungry, alone, and afraid. They sit close to refuge but they do not receive it. As challenging as it may be, you must remember that adversity and exile are opportunities to accept your current reality, center yourself, and find strength. From a place of quiet, you can reassess what is truly important, learn what the moment is teaching you, and determine what resources are actually at your disposal.

Meaning: hardship in finances, health, or relationships; loss and instability; self-pity; an opportunity for spiritual strength; excessive pride; difficulties related to living outside the mainstream

Reversal: Renewed courage, impending opportunity or change for the better, peace of mind, evolution in spirit



SIX OF COINS

Giving and Receiving

At some point in our lives, we all need assistance. The Six of Coins speaks to the relationship we have with others surrounding our prosperity—or lack of it. United in an endless knot of connectivity, we must learn to give without judgment and receive without shame. Like a living thing, this balance requires nurturing. Pay attention to where you are in this equation and make space for what is needed. Harmony can be restored through awareness, action, and a generous heart.

Meaning: reciprocity, a change in circumstances, generosity, gratitude, stability, a gift, return of a favor

Reversal: a fractured relationship, selfishness, financial frustration, illusion, careless planning, envy, unstable finances



SEVEN OF COINS

Patient Resolve

With dirty hands and rolled-up sleeves, the farmer assesses his creation. He recalls the process that brought these seeds to maturity and the time, money, and effort it took to bring them to full growth. Your work may be nearly complete and you desperately crave the reward, but you must still acknowledge that work done well takes time and often has its own schedule. Something in your heart tells you that your fruits have not fully ripened. Be patient and keep working. Your wait is almost over.

Meaning: patient dedication, stewardship, assessment, thoughtful planning, a commitment rewarded, creativity, security

Reversal: hard work destroyed by impatience, a failed venture, financial casualty, vulnerability



EIGHT OF COINS

Artistic Pride

In the Eight of Coins, a craftsman focuses intently on completing a project, combining his heart, head, and hands. He is proficient at his job and he is committed to something more: the details that go unnoticed and that are seemingly insignificant to others. In other words, pure artistry. He has not been asked to improve by a customer or an employer; it is strictly for himself and for the love of quality and craft. When this card enters your reading, slow down, focus on the details, and enjoy the work for the love of it.

Meaning: a shift from competence to mastery, diligence, extreme focus, an openness to learning, a new opportunity, pride in one's work, self-discovery

Reversal: the bare minimum, poor discipline, exploitation, getting by, arrogance



NINE OF COINS

Individual Accomplishment

The Nine of Coins exclaims that for now, “life is beautiful.” This card represents the ever-increasing challenges you have mastered in life and the steps you have taken toward accomplishment. Nines are powerful cards of completion; it took time to cultivate this level of success.

Through discipline and hard work, you have gracefully and independently crafted a cherished environment and a stable life, filled with unpretentious style and quality. Take time to enjoy it and reflect.

Meaning: independent success, self-mastery, discipline, safety, a rich life, fulfillment

Reversal: instability, loss of security, deception, danger, self-doubt



TEN OF COINS

True Riches

From the green grass of youth, through the bricks and stone of middle age, to the garden of maturity, the rhythm of the years reveals the varied expressions of abundance in our lives. In the Ten of Coins, the raw energy of the Ace has been thoughtfully cultivated to completion: a manifestation of prosperity in all things financial and spiritual. It is a moment for both gratitude and reflection.

Meaning: abundance, prosperity, stability, devotion, family matters, a legacy or bequest

Reversal: chance, financial or emotional loss, a bad risk, unfavorable odds



PAGE OF COINS


Practical Excitement

A child runs out into the world, eager to test her curiosity and to find her way. Unlike other Pages, the Page of Coins is very practical. She is prepared, grounded, and anxious to get her hands dirty!

Enthusiastic and serious, she is a unique combination of qualities but above all, she is filled with awe and wonder, loving nothing more than an adventure or exploring a new idea.

Meaning: ready to get one's hands dirty, a practical approach to something new in regards to finances or health, well-prepared or trained, bold enthusiasm for discovery, youthful curiosity and awe, a message

Reversal: lacking foresight and follow through, impractical, opportunistic, immaturity, flighty, bad news



KNIGHT OF COINS

Methodical Victories

As a Knight, this card signifies action, idealism, and dedication. Unlike his quick and tenacious peers, the Knight of Coins is methodical, plodding, and practical—almost fussy. For him, gathering facts, details, and strong rationale keeps the unexpected at bay. Fighting is a waste of time. Though he may appear slow and uptight, he is consistent, dependable, and highly effective.

Meaning: favorable news regarding income, methodical and organized work, practicality, dependability, a serious but pleasant demeanor, possible travel

Reversal: carelessness, laziness, lack of motivation, stagnation, work problems, possible deceit



QUEEN OF COINS

Generous Dedication

The Queen of Coins is a self-confident, sensual woman surrounded by lush, natural beauty. Over time, she has crafted and refined her environment, making it her own. As a nurturing and protective guardian of the physical world, she loves beauty but only if it plays a functional role in her life and the lives of those she loves. Her counsel comes from a place of true compassion: “Trust in your own abilities and embrace your unique way of being in this world.”

Meaning: generosity, financial security, safe and sound, luxury, self-confidence, resourcefulness, dedication to family

Reversal: mistrust, wanting something for nothing, irresponsibility, lack of self-worth, gluttony, fear



KING OF COINS

Ordered Stability

Traditional values, practicality, and hard work have kept the King of Coins grounded and successful, giving him both material wealth and a respect for the rhythms of life—the ups and downs. This King hates risk and cares little for innovation or about what's popular. Instead, order and common sense rule the day. To those around him, his stubbornness is both a blessing and a curse. Whatever he puts his mind to will grow and flourish.

Meaning: tradition over innovation, self-reliance, practicality and caution, material and spiritual wealth, stubborn but dependable, skillful at business, a father figure

Reversal: overly materialistic, lacking balance between earthly and spiritual pursuits, foolish risk, reckless use of skills

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TAROT

For hundreds of years, Tarot was a game similar to Bridge played in Europe. The first cards, called *Tarocchi*, originated during the Italian Renaissance in the early 1400s.² These early decks were all hand-painted and often incorporated wealthy Italian family members into the card imagery. But with the invention of the printing press in the late 1400s, the game spread to the masses. Around 1650, the French Marseilles-style deck was published and inspired design for the next 250 years. Tarot's occult lore didn't appear in any significant way until the late eighteenth century when French mystics began to include divination. Popularity was heightened in the twentieth century by the creation of A. E. Waite's iconic deck in 1909, and by Carl Jung's use of the deck as a means for self-exploration in the 1930s. Today, Tarot remains a timeless tool for self-discovery and insight.

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Aquarian Tarot
Visconti-Sforza (The Golden Tarot)

In addition to the works cited in the notes, we found the following resources invaluable during our research:

McElroy, Mark. *A Guide to Tarot Card Meanings*.
TarotTools.com Publishing, 2014.

Moore, Barbara. *The Steampunk Tarot Manual*.
Woodbury, MN: Llewellyn Publications, 2012.

Notes

1. Thirteen. *The Tarot Reading Companion: Your Guide to Real Insight from your Tarot Readings*. Aeclectic Tarot, 2011.
2. Packard, Mary. *The Golden Tarot: The Visconti-Sforza Deck*. New York: Race Point Publishing, 2013.

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