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# *Infinite Tarot: Muses*

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## The Muses

The Muses were the tutelary Goddesses of the arts and sciences in the Ancient world. They were honored generally and worshiped specifically by persons involved in the various arts that they governed, often being invoked for inspiration before a performance or other creative act. Although opinions in the Ancient world varied, the Muses are generally said to be daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne, the personified Goddess of Memory. Opinions also varied on the number of Muses, with certain regions holding that there were only three Muses, but the majority opinion held that there were nine. The Muses were believed to inspire people with the various skills that fell under their imperium, so that historians looked to Clio for inspiration, dancers to Terpsichore, musicians to Euterpe, and so forth. Unlike most other Deities of the Ancient World the Muses never fell from favor in society and have been venerated continuously up to the present day, although for most people they came to be thought of as symbols or spiritual personifications rather than Deities.

# I Melpomene

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Melpomene is the Muse of Drama. In the Ancient world this particularly referenced 'Tragedy' but in the modern sense Melpomene governs all forms of dramatic performance. She is the tutelary Goddess of all aspects of dramatic theater including writing, directing, acting, etc. Melpomene inspires everyone involved in 'serious theater.' Melpomene's work deals with the expression of deep emotion through storytelling.

In our understanding Clío is associated with Epistrophe or Yin energy and the Earth, and therefore with receptivity and inner nature. Her color is black. Historically the symbol of Melpomene is the Tragic Mask, of the type used by tragic actors in the Ancient World, and you will see her holding one in our picture.

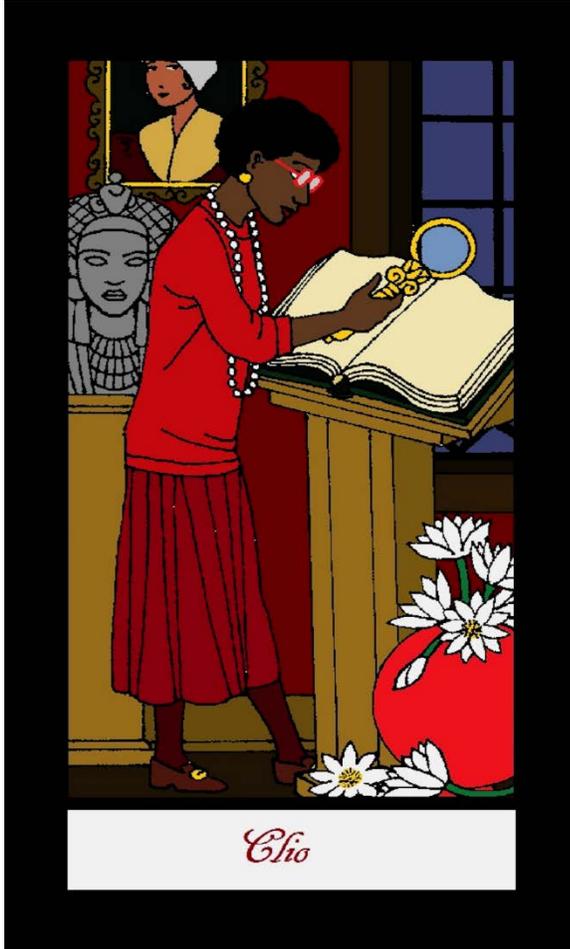
## Upright

When you draw Melpomene in a reading it means that the situation at hand involves deep emotions on all parts that must be acknowledged and honored. Everyone involved in the situation is reacting emotionally rather than mentally, and so you must be especially careful with your words and actions and mindful of the feelings of others involved.

## Inverted

When you draw Melpomene in a reading, but she is reversed, it means that emotions run high but are not clearly understood. There may be a lot of 'drama' going on whose motivations are not visible from the surface. Take time to try to see what is really going on in the situation and to gain clarity on your own feelings and the feelings of others involved -it may change how you see the situation or how you choose to go forward in it.

# II Clio



Clio is the Muse of History. Clio is the tutelary Goddess of historians and history writers and by extension artists of any sort whose primary work deals with history. Clio's name means 'Fame' and in the Ancient World history largely dealt with the lives of the famous, where more modern historians try to take a wider view of things. By extension Clio can also be seen as the Muse of archeology and archeologists and arguably of journalism dealing with current events that will become tomorrow's history. Clio's work deals with the preservation of memory through the arts and the use of the arts to both record and often to reshape memory.

In our understanding Clio is associated with the Root Chakra and the Planet Saturn, and therefore with issues of existence, self-preservation, and relationship to physical incarnation. Her color is red. Historically the symbol of Clio is a scroll or book, and you will see her consulting one in our picture.

## Upright

When you draw Clio in a reading it means that the situation at hand offer you positive attention, even fame. People will notice and applaud your efforts, and this attention will bring you advancement and good things.

## Inverted

When you draw Clio in a reading, but she is reversed, it means that your reputation may be in danger because of the situation in question. People may be jealous of you, may be gossiping or spreading false information related to the situation which can cause all sorts of problems if not addressed. If the situation is going badly and you do not know why, this will prove to be the reason.

# III Erato



Erato is the Muse of erotic and emotive writing, and by extension artwork. Erato is the tutelary Goddess of creators whose work is meant primarily to stir the feelings, especially romantic and sexual feelings. In this sense Erato governs everything from romance novels to pornography, from hearts-and-flowers to leather-and-lace. Erato's work is about expressing the deepest and most personal feelings and urges.

In our understanding Erato is associated with the Sacral Chakra and the Planet Mars, and therefore with sexuality, self-expression and creativity. Her color is orange. Historically the symbol of Erato is a cithara or guitar, and you will see her playing one in our picture.

## Upright

When you draw Erato in a reading it means that your emotions are strongly involved in the situation being asked about and that you have strong feelings involved. Sometimes this may indicate a romantic situation, other times simply a situation or project that you are passionate about. In all cases you should express that passion and follow your feelings.

## Inverted

When you draw Erato in a reading, but she is reversed, it means that you have been repressing yourself and holding back in the situation being asked about, and that you need to let go and express yourself whether in terms of speaking your mind or taking actions that you have been avoiding. This repression of self may have been taking a toll on your emotions, your nerves, or your health. Do not worry about what others may think but rather worry about being true to yourself and doing what you know to be right in the situation.

# IV Terpsichore



Terpsichore is the Muse of dance and dancers. By extension Terpsichore is also the tutelary Goddess of any system that uses bodily movement to achieve a specific effect, such as Yoga or Martial Arts such as Capoeira or Kalaripayat. Terpsichore's work is about expressing feeling or creating spiritual or physical effects through movement.

In our understanding Terpsichore is associated with the Solar Chakra and the Sun, and therefore with self-esteem and social relationships with others. Her color is yellow. Historically the symbol of Terpsichore is a lyre, and you will see one behind her in our picture.

## Upright

When you draw Terpsichore in a reading it means that physical movement is important to the situation. A visit to a particular person may be needed, or a trip, or maybe even a move. Sometimes, too, this may be a mental movement changing from one viewpoint to another in order to see the situation differently. In all cases a break or a change is needed to allow things to move forward.

## Inverted

When you draw Terpsichore in a reading, but she is reversed, it means that your situation is blocked or stagnant. Nothing is moving forward, and it will be difficult to make it move forward. This is because the change that is desired is also feared, and you are working against yourself subconsciously. Find where you are blocking yourself, deal with whatever the issue is, and the desired movement will follow.

# V Euterpe



Euterpe is the Muse of music and musicians of all sorts, though she is especially associated with woodwind instruments.

Euterpe is the tutelary Goddess of both writing music and performing it. Euterpe inspires anyone who plays any sort of instrument and governs all occasions where musical instruments are played such as concerts, recitals, elevators, etc.

Euterpe's work is about expressing emotion through pure sound, rather than with words.

In our understanding Euterpe is associated with the Heart Chakra and the Planet Venus, and therefore with emotion and attachment to others whether positive or negative. Her color is green. Historically the symbol of Euterpe is a woodwind instrument such as an aulos or a syrinx, and you will see her playing a woodwind instrument in our picture.

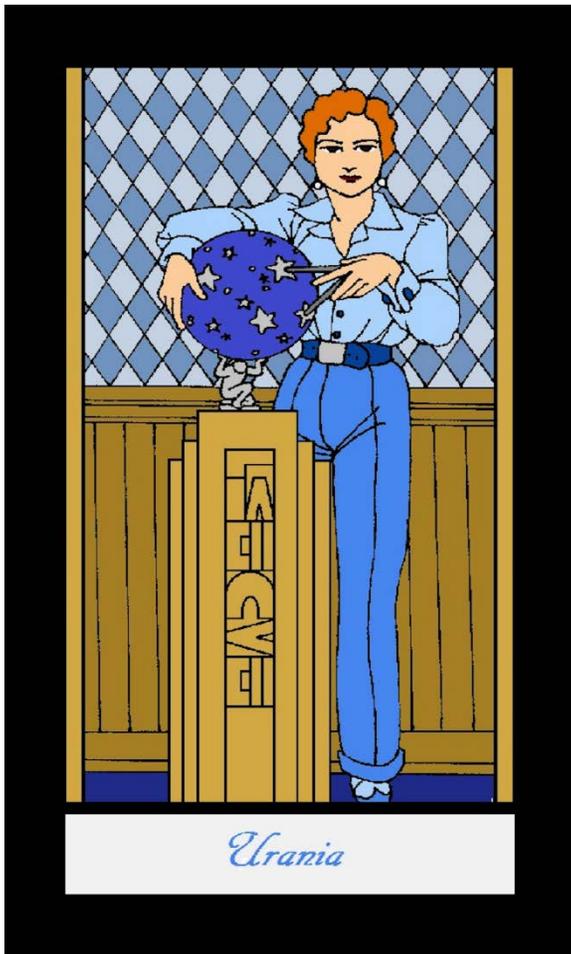
## Upright

When you draw Euterpe in a reading it means that you should follow your heart in the situation at hand. What do you really want to do? What would give you greater happiness? This should be your consideration in moving forward as opposed. Do not worry about what you 'should' do, or what others expect or desire for you to do, but rather focus on your heart and follow its dictates.

## Inverted

When you draw Euterpe in a reading, but she is reversed, it means that you need to set aside your immediate feelings in favor of what is needed in the situation in a practical. It may not be what you want to do, but you know what you need to do, and you should do it. Maybe it is saving money when you really want to buy something, maybe it is not saying something that you know will offend, maybe it is working when you would rather play. In any event, grit your teeth and do what you know you need to do.

# VI Urania



Urania is the Muse of Astronomy and Astrology. In the Ancient world there was no distinction made between Astronomy and Astrology with the observation of the heavens and interpretive prediction based upon observation of the heavens being considered merely different aspects of the same art. By extension Urania may be considered the Tutelary Goddess of not just Astronomers and Astrologers but of all forms of the diviners art. Urania's work is about interpreting and understanding the nature and will of the Universe to better understand yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

In our understanding Urania is associated with the Throat Chakra and the Planet Mercury, and therefore with communication of all sorts and with magical Will. Her color is pale blue. Historically the symbol of Urania is a globe and compass, and you will see her holding these in our picture.

## Upright

When you draw Urania in a reading it means that you are in tune with your Higher Self and are being guided by the Divine. You may not always know why, or where it comes from, but you have a sense for what is needed in your situations. Trust this guidance and follow it and you will find that you are more than happy with the results, for your sense of what to do is entirely accurate.

## Inverted

When you draw Urania in a reading, but she is reversed, it means that you are resisting Divine guidance. You know what you should do for Spirit is leading you, but you are not following. Perhaps you are not consciously aware of the guidance, or perhaps you are consciously aware and have rejected it. In any case you need to connect with your Higher Self and accept its guidance in order to move forward successfully.

# VII Calliope



Calliope is the Muse of 'serious writers.' In the Ancient World this meant writers of epic poetry, but by extension today it would include writers of short stories and novels which are the modern world's equivalent of epic poetry. Calliope's work is less about expressing emotion and more about storytelling, with the narrative being usually the dominant feature of the work.

In our understanding Calliope is associated with the Third Eye Chakra and the Moon, and therefore with clairvoyance, empathy, and insight into the situations of others. Her color is indigo. Historically the symbol of Calliope is a writing tablet, and you will see her holding an electronic tablet in our picture.

## Upright

When you draw Calliope in a reading it means that you may feel that you are working hard on the situations you are dealing with, even too hard, and might like to take a break but in fact the effort you are putting forth is exactly the right thing to do and you should not depart from it until you have achieved your goal. Stay the road and keep up the pressure and you will be pleased with the results!

## Inverted

When you draw Calliope in a reading, but she is reversed, it means that you need to pay attention to the situation at hand even though you might prefer to ignore it or make light of it. It might seem that whatever issues are before you can be skirted around or evaded, but they cannot be. Therefore it is important to confront these situations head on and take them seriously, lest they trip you up otherwise.

# VIII Polyhymnia



Polyhymnia is the Muse of liturgical writing, of prayers, chants, rituals, and religious music of all kinds. By extension Polyhymnia also governs artists and artificers in religious performance. Polyhymnia is the tutelary Goddess of everyone involved in bringing religious observances to pass from conception to performance. This includes both passive religious observances such as worship services and active ones like spellwork and manifestation. Polyhymnia's work is about expressing the wonder of existence and reverence for Deity, moving in accordance with Deity, and using this to recreate our world for the better.

In our understanding Polyhymnia is associated with the Crown Chakra and the Planet Jupiter, and therefore with the ability to receive Divine messages and attune to Divine energies. Her color is violet. Historically the symbol of Polyhymnia is a veil, and you will see her wearing one in our picture.

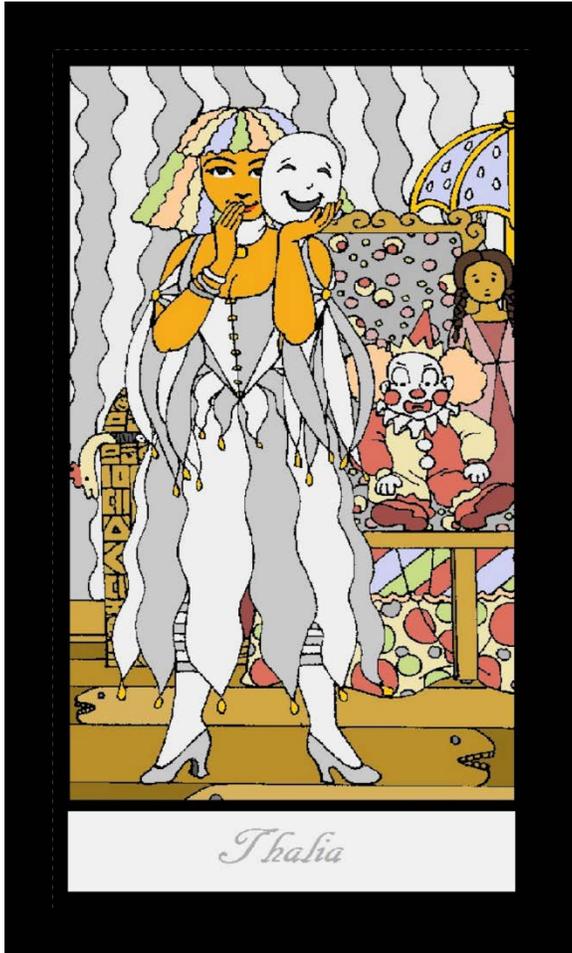
## Upright

When you draw Polyhymnia in a reading it means that you see clearly all that is before you and should trust your understanding. Whether it is the nature of a situation, or the motivations of others, or the outcome of your actions, trust your insight and you will be glad you did.

## Inverted

When you draw Polyhymnia in a reading, but she is reversed, it means that your vision is obscured. You try to understand your current situation but find it difficult to make sense of. You try to gain insight, but all is murky and unclear. Turn inside and seek Divine guidance whether from meditation or from divination, as this alone will provide you with accurate understanding of your circumstances.

# IX Thalia



Thalia is the Muse of comedy. Thalia is the tutelary Goddess of writers and performers of all sorts of comedy from physical comedy such as slapstick to deeply sophisticated comedic plays and movies. Thalia inspires everyone involved with any sort of comedy whether intended for children or adults, whether farcical or parodying. Thalia's work involves finding humor in all sorts of situations and conveying it to others by any means.

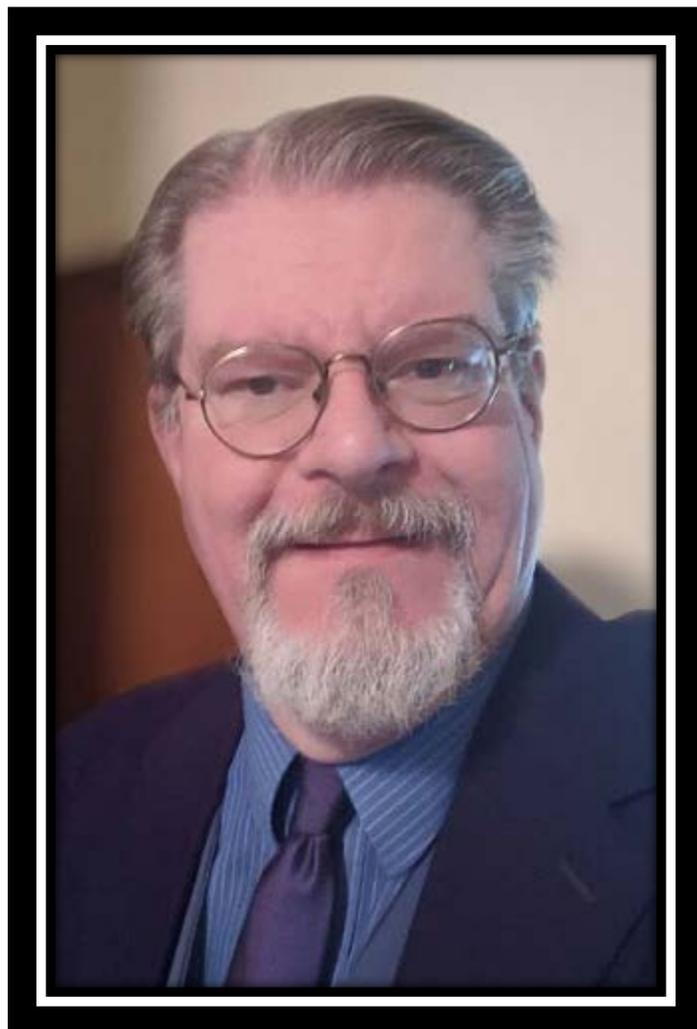
In our understanding Thalia is associated with Proodos or Yang energy and the Stars, and therefore with action and outward nature. Her color is white. Historically the symbol of Thalia is the Comic Mask, of the type used by comedic actors in the Ancient World, and you will see her holding one in our picture.

## Upright

When you draw Thalia in a reading it means that Things look good -rejoice! Appreciate the benefits of your current situation and you will find that there are many. You are in a happy and fortunate position and should count the blessings you possess. Even if things may look bad at first glance there is much good present if you look for it.

## Inverted

When you draw Thalia in a reading, but she is reversed, it means that the situation is not good. Beware of bitterness. Try not to take setbacks to heart. Things may not be as you desire them to be but do not let that harden your heart -remember that the present is not the future and laughter will return to your life.



Rev. Don Lewis is the First Priest and Chancellor of the Correllian Tradition, Co-Founder and Chairman of Correllian Educational Ministries and the Correllian Seminary Witch School. ([WitchSchool.com](http://WitchSchool.com)), Production Head for Magick TV ([MagickTV.com](http://MagickTV.com)), author of the Witch School book series, and a member of the Triad Union.