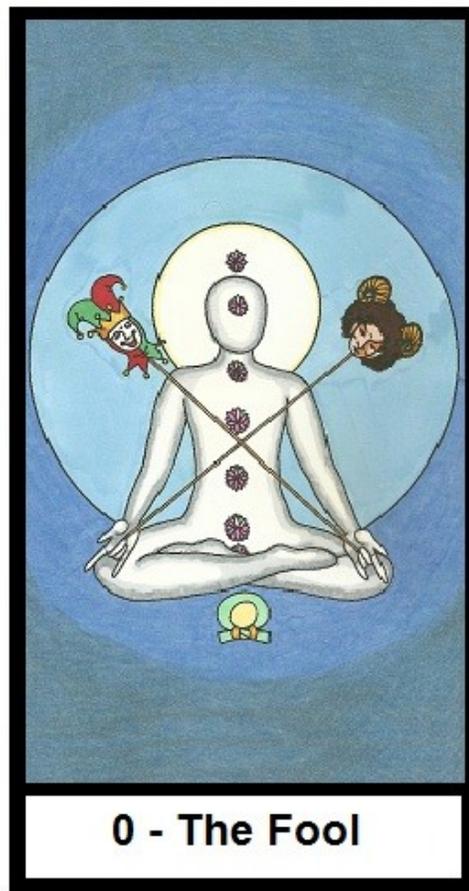


The Tarot of Hekate

One Hundred Card Tarot Deck



By Rev. Don Lewis



Dedication:

This work is dedicated to Rt. Rev. Virginia "Bitterwind" Smith, in gratitude for all of her teaching, hard work, and inspiration over so many years. Lady Bitterwind's unique vision has inspired me throughout my life, and many others as well. This work and many others could never have come into being without her.

FOREWORD

The Tarot of Hekate was a project of my youth, which waited nearly twenty years before seeing the light of day.

In my late teens and early twenties I did a tremendous amount of artwork for metaphysical magazines, almost all black and white pen-and-ink work. In some cases these illustrated specific articles, but that was rare. Mostly they were stand-alone drawings, usually published with small captions.

I had studied Tarot –my mother had given me my first deck (the Hoi Polloi deck- when I was nine years old) but Tarot was not one of my passions. However I was convinced by my altar-sister Virginia Bitterwind Smith that the artwork I was doing for magazines was sufficiently detailed and symbolic to be suitable for Tarot cards.

It was not easy to convince me of this, because making a Tarot deck was the farthest thing from my mind –but Bitterwind is a determined woman and once she sets her mind to something, it usually happens.

Of course I couldn't design a Tarot deck without making a more serious study of it –so I plunged into learning more about Tarot, and trying to reach my own, individual understanding of it. Along the way I became fascinated with Tarot, and it did indeed become one of my passions.

Although I had studied Tarot in a perfunctory way before, it was now through creating my own deck that I truly learned to understand Tarot. I highly recommend creating your own deck as the best way to learn about Tarot.

Influenced by Piers Anthony's Tarot series, Bitterwind insisted that the deck must have one hundred cards –numerologically nothing else made sense, she said. To accomplish this we created a fifth suit and eight additional Major Arcana cards based in part upon Anthony's ideas.

Bitterwind also supplied the idea of making the Minor Arcana more easily readable by tying them to clearly narrated stories, which illustrate each successive meaning. This has been common enough ever since the publication of the Waite-Smith deck a century ago (when it was a startling innovation) but it is rarely done to best effect, and is often missed or ignored as a mnemonic aide.

In addition I wanted the different suits to be set in different times and places, and to reflect different ethnicities. Consequently the images for the suit of Wands were inspired by renaissance Italy: the suit of Swords by feudal Japan: the suit of cups by Captain Cook era Polynesia: and the suit of Pentacles by ancient Egypt: the added suit of Lamps by classical Maya civilization. The Major Arcana drew from all times and places at the mythic level. Though today this is a rather common approach, at the time it was cutting edge.

Tying the card meanings to a coherent cosmological vision was also, and in my opinion still is,

cutting edge. Traditionally Tarot has been said to do this –to present a coherent vision of the universe in visual form- but this is often rather forced. Here the cosmological meanings are very clearly delineated.

One hundred drawings took a long time. You can see the improvement in my artwork from one part of the deck to another. The Major Arcana came first, with many of the images actually predating the decision to make a full deck.

I decided to name the deck after my Patron Goddess, Hekate, Whose name is sometimes associated with “Hecatomb” or One Hundred. Later, when I was publishing the Wheel of Hekate magazine, I decided to use the image of the Wheel of Hekate (an ancient Mandala used to help induce trance) for the design on the back of the cards.

The cards are black and white because the methods of reproduction available to me at that time did not allow for easy reproduction of color artwork. The drawings were done in black magic marker on white typing paper, to allow for easiest xerography.

I hope to produce a color version at some point in the future.

In addition to metaphysical artwork I had also done a great deal of science-fiction themed artwork for Gemini Press, owned by my friend Jackie Janoski. Jackie proved very interested in the idea of publishing a Tarot deck. As the cards were completed I would make careful copies of each, and send the originals off to Jackie. I later lost touch with Jackie without anything ever having been done with the deck, and so far as I know the original artwork is long lost. Luckily I had had the good sense to make copies. Even so, the copies would not see the light of day for twenty years.

The artwork for the Tarot of Hekate first appeared in public as part of a clip art CD published in 2005 AD, without attached meanings. This is the first time that the meanings of the Tarot of Hekate cards have ever been published.

I think that you will find the Tarot of Hekate to be both interesting in itself and helpful in reaching a clearer understanding of other Tarot decks. I have found that many of the insights I had in making the Tarot of Hekate have helped give me a clearer insight to other decks, as well as to symbolism and allegorical mythology in general.

Let us now examine the one hundred cards of the Tarot of Hekate, beginning with the Major Arcana.

Major Arcana

The traditional Tarot has 22 Major Arcana cards, numbered 0 - 21. The Tarot of Hekate adds eight additional cards: Magic, Soul, Mind, Heart, Body, Time, Past, and Future. This gives the Tarot of Hekate a total of thirty Major Arcana, numbered 0 – 29.

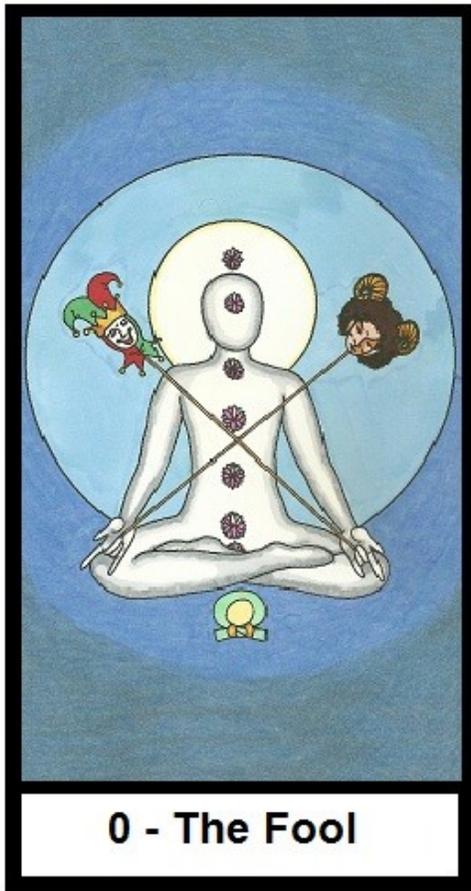
These thirty Major Arcana cards are further divided into three Decans of ten cards each. The First Decan deals with the creation of the universe. The Second Decan deals with the nature of incarnation and life in the physical world. The Third Decan deals with the transcendence of the physical world and the Enlightenment of the Soul.

- 0 The Fool
- 1 The Magus
- 2 The High Priestess
- 3 Magic
- 4 The Empress
- 5 The Emperor
- 6 The Hierophant
- 7 The Lovers
- 8 The Chariot
- 9 Strength

- 10 Hermit
- 11 Soul
- 12 Mind
- 13 Heart
- 14 Body
- 15 Time
- 16 Past
- 17 Future
- 18 Fortune
- 19 Justice

- 20 The Hanged Man
- 21 Death
- 22 Temperance
- 23 The Veil
- 24 The Tower
- 25 The Stars
- 26 The Moon
- 27 The Sun
- 28 Enlightenment
- 29 The Universe

The Major Arcana



0 - The Fool

Meaning: The Fool represents unmanifest potential. The unmarked slate –that state where all things are still possible, because nothing has been done yet. The Fool can go in any direction because s/he is still at the very start of the journey, and has yet to select its direction. This is the moment of decision where one can either trust oneself and the Universe, or give in to self-doubt. It is said that there are ultimately only two real powers in the Universe, Love and Fear, and the Fool could be said to represent the moment of choice between them.

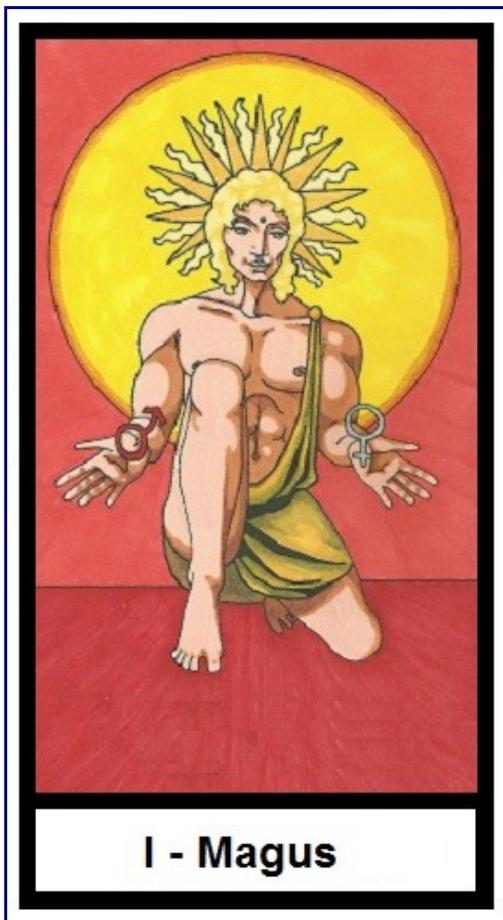
Cosmology: In Cosmology the Fool represents Primordial Deity: Deity before creation. Before creation Deity existed in a state of chaos –the seeds of everything which would later exist were within Deity, but without form or order. Not unlike the subconscious mind, or an unfocused dream. Deity was neither feminine nor masculine, neither fully spirit nor matter, but indeed was all of these things at once and none of them. Only at the moment of creation did these things become separate and focused.

Symbolism: The Fool is presented as a body of light, neither male nor female but having the potential to be either, or both. S/he sits in the lotus position, as if in meditation, contemplating

the universe of options, and the ability to explore all of them. The Chakras, or energy centers, are marked by lotuses –symbol of spiritual growth and enlightenment. This represents the fact that the journey the Fool is about to embark upon is one of spiritual growth. The Fool holds crossed wands tipped with masks. The masks are of two images commonly associated with the Fool –the Jester and the Horned God of the forest. These represent both that the Fool is beyond the bounds of ordinary being, and also the Polar Opposites through which the Fool will express itself in incarnation: for while the Jester and the Horned God are the same energy they represent it in very different ways, the Jester more tame, the Horned God more wild. This pairing of complementary but opposing powers simultaneously propel the universe forward and keep it steady: Yin and Yang. Finally, the Fool is shown above a Shen symbol. The Shen symbol represents eternity and reminds us that while creation may go forward through the interaction of Polar powers, Primordial Deity always remains at the very heart of existence, as the Higher Self of all being.

Numerology: The Numeric value of the Fool is Zero or Zed, and traditionally it is thought of as standing outside of the other Major Arcana cards. It is the first card of the Major Arcana, but it is also thought of as the last card of the Major Arcana, signifying a return to source. Zero of course represents a state of nothingness or blankness –an absence of numerical value. Zero is utterly neutral, representing the mid-point between positive and negative. Zero can also be thought of with the symbolism of the circle: considered the “perfect” shape, and representing wholeness. In this sense the Fool might be considered to represent both emptiness and wholeness –a perfect description of Primordial Deity.

Advice: In a reading the Fool tells you to trust yourself and have faith in your own judgment. What you have chosen, or what you choose, is the correct choice and will be successful. Believe in yourself, trust in Deity, and go forward. Even if success seems improbable, even if everyone else derides you as a Fool, have faith in your own judgment and follow it. Leave fear and doubt behind, and begin your journey by taking the first step. Trust yourself and move forward with your desire, you will be successful.



I - The Magus

Meaning: The Magus represents action and the ability to create and to do. The Magus represents one's ability to work one's will in the world –to bring about ones desires through physical or magical means. The Magus represents the ability to Manifest –to shape the physical world through sheer will, mind over matter. The term Magus means magician, and the Magus uses the internal powers of the Soul to shape the external world into what he wants it to be. We all do this unconsciously, all of the time. But the Magus uses his will consciously to affect the world around him.

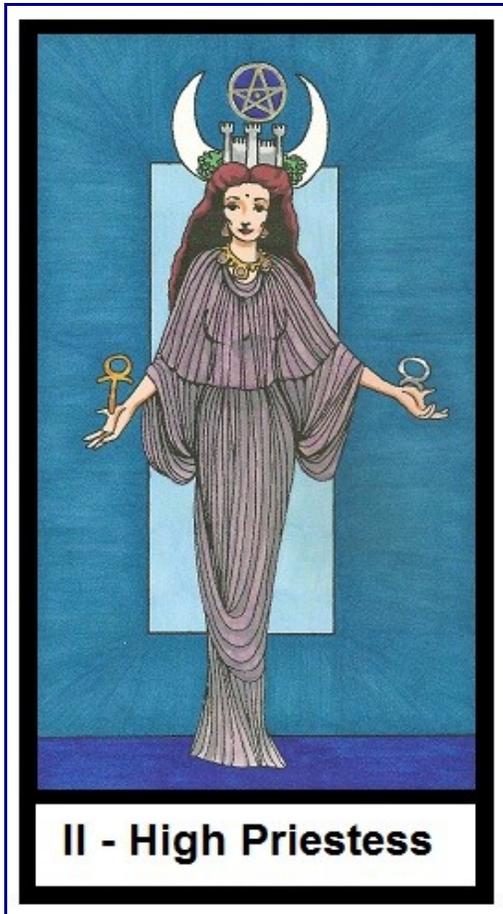
Cosmology: In Cosmology the Magus represents Yang –the God. The Magus is the first creation from which all else descends. When Primordial Deity (The Fool) had existed in formless chaos long enough to desire form and focus, S/He created the God/Magus, separating the Yang and Yin elements of chaos into the worlds of matter and spirit. The Magus is matter –which exploded from Primordial Deity in light and fire as the Big Bang at the dawn of being, before ultimately cooling into all that exists in the physical world.

Symbolism: The Magus is presented as the Sun God, Lord of Creation –The Yang essence. Around his head is a Solar Halo indicating his association with the sun, light, and fire. He crouches on the edge of being, ready to spring into full manifestation. In his right hand he holds the symbol of Mars, representing the masculine Yang essence: the cross of matter over the orb of spirit. This represents the material world which has been created out of Primordial Deity. In his left hand he holds the symbol of Venus, representing the feminine Yin essence:

the orb of spirit over the cross of matter. This represents the spiritual world which remains as Goddess.

Numerology: The Numeric value of the Magus is One. This is the first card of the Major Arcana, the first card of the Tarot deck as a whole. Associated with the Sun, the number One represents individuality and the self. Unlike any other number, One is separate and self-contained –all other numbers representing groups. One has a very strong self-image and perceives itself quite clearly –though its perception of others can be a bit hazy. Number One focuses upon itself and its own needs and desires. One represents the ego, and the will –both aspects of the Magus.

Advice: In a reading the Magus means that the Querent has all of the ability necessary to make their will manifest in the world. Their desire, whatever it is, is within their reach. Whatever they desire to do they can, and unless counter-indicated by other aspects of the reading, should do. Any tools or help needed to achieve their desire are present and available to them. The Magus means that the Querent need only act to be successful –failure coming only through inaction.



II - The High Priestess

Meaning: The High Priestess represents the spiritual and psychic aspects of a person –the soul, the Higher Self, the ability to commune with Deity. The High Priestess also represents the unconscious, the unseen, and the unrealized. Often our unconscious beliefs and expectations do more to shape our lives than our conscious hopes and dreams –the unconscious can in fact be in opposition to the conscious and can cause “crossed wires” which trip us up when we try to create the life we think we want, not realizing we are unconsciously working against it. In both cases –whether to commune with Spirit or to work with our subconscious- we must turn inward and look within ourselves.

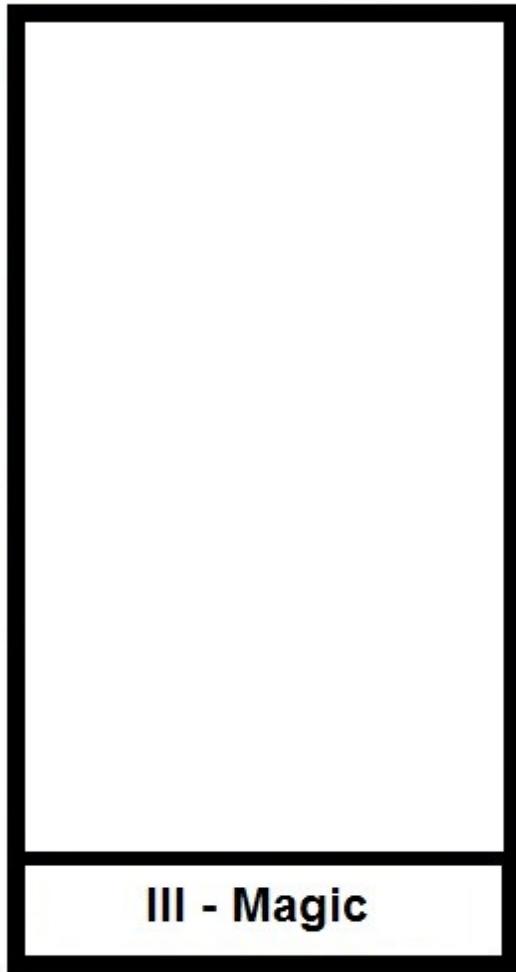
Cosmology: Cosmologically the High Priestess represents Feminine Aspect of Deity -the Goddess. When Primordial Deity (The Fool) created the God (Magus), all of the physical, material aspects of chaos went into the God. What was left was still Deity, but with a radically changed awareness. These were all of the spiritual, emotional, magical aspects of chaos –the Yin essence as the God is the Yang. This is Goddess. Primordial Deity is expressed through both Goddess and God, Spirit and Matter. Just as God (Magus) is the active, fiery, physical aspect, so Goddess (High Priestess) is the emotional, watery, spiritual aspect. Both aspects are equal, but neither is complete without the other.

Symbolism: The High Priestess is shown as a beautiful woman in a flowing gown. In her right hand she holds the Ankh, symbol of life. In her left hand she holds the Shen, symbol of

eternity. Upon her head she wears a mural crown –that is, a crown in the form of a city wall. The mural crown represents strength and endurance, but also that her realm is a place apart and separate –enclosed beyond the Veil. A wreath of leaves encircles the Mural crown, and behind it is a crescent Moon. Above this is a pentagram –ancient symbol of magic and the spirit world.

Numerology: The number of the High Priestess is Two. Two is a number which is dedicated to working with and helping others. Two experiences itself through its relationships and interactions –which is not to say that Two does not stand on its own. Two has a rich inner life, but most enjoys that inner life through sharing it. It is even so with Spirit. The awareness of Goddess is no longer that of Primordial Deity (The Fool) but is reshaped by the creation of the God (Magus). Goddess sees Herself differently than Primordial Deity because of Her reaction to the creation of material existence and her desire to interact with it.

Advice: In a reading the High Priestess card means that the Querent should seek spiritual guidance. The needed answers will come when sought in this manner, but the Querent must look away from the physical situation –preoccupation with which may in fact be obscuring their judgment- to see what is going on underneath. The needed answers or advice can only be found within, so the Querent must look inward, whether through prayer to Deity or to Higher Self, meditation, or psychic messages.



III - Magic

Meaning: The Magic card represents the transcendence of spirit over circumstance. Through Magic, all things can be achieved: all things can be overcome. Magic differs from the Magus card in that with the Magus the person may rely upon their own ability to advance, whereas with Magic a helping hand from the Universe advances the Querent.

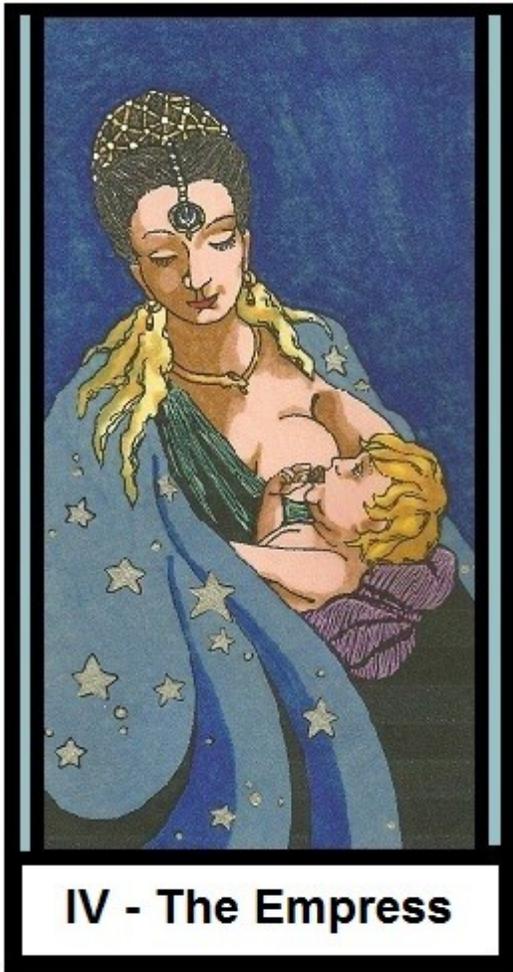
Cosmology: When Primordial Deity (The Fool) had created God/the material world (Magus) from Itself, the remaining aspects of Primordial Deity becoming Goddess/the spiritual world (High Priestess), these two powers –spirit and matter- existed separately and in opposition. But Goddess desired reunion with God, and at length She achieved this through Magic: She separated off parts of Herself which became Souls, and sent these into Matter. Thus Goddess and God were re-united by the entrance of Soul into Body. This is the meaning of the Magic card –the entry of Spirit into the physical whether in an existential sense as the Soul itself, or in the moment as a miracle in one's life.

Symbolism: The symbolism of the Magic card is the color white. No image graces the card because the meaning of the card is beyond image. Inscrutable and enigmatic, the plain white image represents the unknowable mystery of magic. In color theory, white represents the

complete absence of all other colors –a void of sorts. This is the void which Magic transformed into a living universe when Goddess and God united. Paradoxically in light theory, white represents the equal presence of all colors at once -the equal potential to be anything. These two meanings taken together -complete absence and complete presence- well define the Magic card.

Numerology: The number of the Magic card is Three –the number of magic. If One experiences being through itself, and Two experiences being through interaction with others, Three experiences being through action. Three is the number of motion, of creativity, of luck. Three is the number of expansion. Three is traditionally considered the number of the Divine, and the number of greatest good fortune.

Advice: In a reading the Magic card means that Deity will take a direct hand in the situation to help the Querent. No matter how unlikely the Querent's desire, Deity will assist them towards it. The Magic card foretells lucky circumstances, fortuitous "coincidences", unexpected opportunities and assistance. In other words, the Querent should have faith and advance forward, even if the odds seem against them –because unexpected events will help move them toward their goal.



IV - The Empress

Meaning: The Empress is the card of fertility, growth, and material prosperity. With the Empress all things grow and multiply. This is a card of well-being, and success. The Empress is also a card of happiness and contentment. The Empress represents the self-confidence and generosity which comes from having everything you want and need. It is a card of fertility in all its forms -fecundity, creativity, and fruitfulness of all sorts.

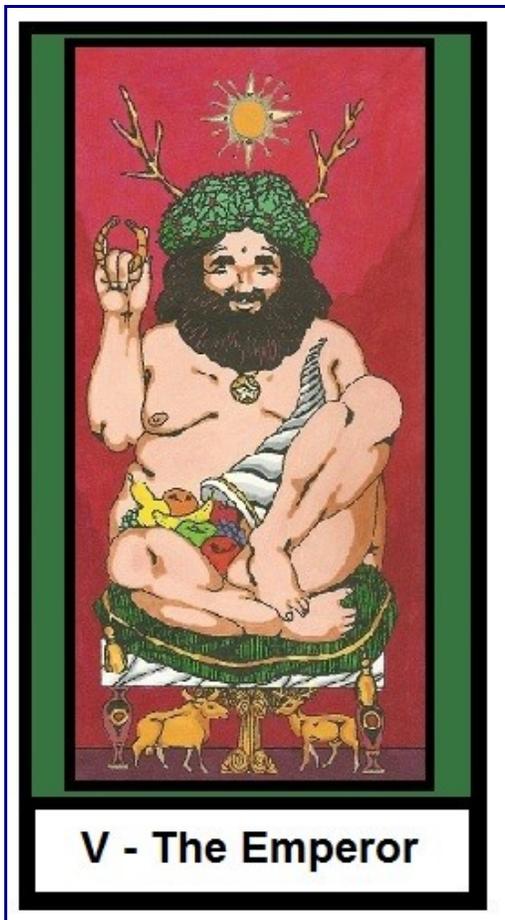
Cosmology: The Empress represents the Goddess as Earth Mother. The Maiden Goddess (High Priestess) has united with the Young God (Magus) to form the ensouled universe –the world as Soul–in–Matter. She is now the Mother Goddess –the spiritual source and sustenance of physical life. No longer separate from Matter as the High Priestess was, the Empress has become the Nous or Soul of Existence, giving life to matter. The Empress is the spirit of the living universe and the Earth (and everything else which exists) is Her body.

Symbolism: The Empress is shown as the Universal Mother suckling Her child. The child is the physical world, which takes its sustenance from the spiritual world. The Empress wears a cloak of stars capped by a collar of fluffy clouds, in keeping with Her role as Queen of Heaven. The jewel on her forehead bears the image of the trident, indicating Her forms as

Maiden (High Priestess), Mother (Empress), and Crone (Hierophant).

Numerology: The number of the Empress is Four –the number of material manifestation. This is the first numerological division between the seventy-eight card Tarot and the hundred card Tarot, for in the seventy-eight card Tarot the number of the Empress is Three. Here however the number of the Empress is Four, and this indicates a difference in view, for Four is the number of creation, manifestation, and stability –which we consider quite appropriate for the Universal Mother. Four is the number of the Elements, and thus of physicality. Four is the number of the directions, and thus of establishment and endurance. Four is the number which brings spirit into material form. Four is the number of physical pattern and of physical being. Four is also the number of learning –the reason for physical existence- and of effort –the effect of physical existence.

Advice: When you draw the Empress in a reading, it indicates prosperity, success, and an abundance of comforts, both emotional and material: an enviable position to be in. The Empress indicates success and expansion, but also pleasure and contentment –the Querent will not only be successful in a situation indicated by the Empress, but happy as well. The Empress also indicates a somewhat protected position, not unlike a child in its mother's arms. The Empress can also indicate mental, financial, and if appropriate to the question, physical fertility and definitely indicates the fruition of any situation it refers to.



V - Emperor

Meaning: The Emperor represents the cycles which govern the material world and each person's life. The Emperor reminds us that all things follow a natural cycle of growth, fruition, death, and rebirth. This is the cycle of Yin and Yang, Proodos and Epistrophe –for as soon as a thing reaches the extreme of one, it must begin moving back toward the other, even as the Earth moves from Summer to Winter and back to Summer, even as the Soul moves from Life to Death and back to Life. The cycle can be small and subtle or large and dramatic, but it is inherent in all things, for “All which is Below reflects that which is Above.”

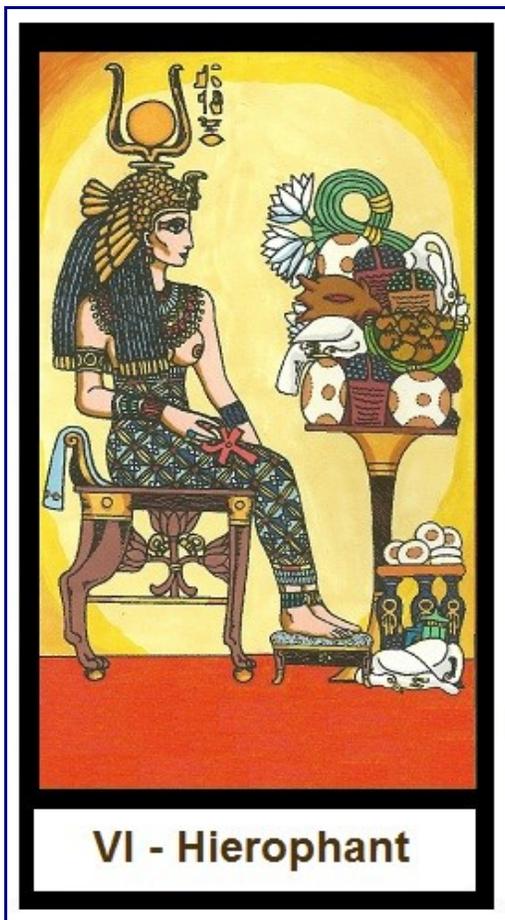
Cosmology: If the Empress is Mother Nature, the Emperor is Father Time. The Emperor is the God as Lord of the Dance of Life: of Space and Time, of the cycles of Life and Death, the Wheel of the Year. It is thus that the Soul (Empress) experiences matter –through constant rebirth, spiraling cycles of evolution and growth. In this sense the God is the Lord of the Gates of Life and Death, the Goddess in her forms as Lady of Life (Empress) and Lady of Death (the Hierophant) being his eternal lovers between whom he must alternate with the cycle. Thus while Goddess is the essence of life, it is the God who carries life forward through the operations these cosmic cycles.

Symbolism: The Emperor is shown as Lord of Midwinter –stout with the bounty of the past harvest, and holding a cornucopia symbolizing abundance. He is crowned with holly as Lord of Midwinter, and bears the antlers of the Horned God Cernunnos. A solar disk above his

head indicates his solar association –for he is the Old God just as the Magus was the Young God. In one hand he holds a torc –a horseshoe-like necklace which symbolizes spiritual initiation. The Emperor is seated on a marble throne beneath which is a relief showing the Tree of life as a stylized phallus, to either side of which are a bull and a stag –both totems of the God. Just as the Fool had twin emblems which might be described as civilized (the Jester) and wild (the Horned God), so too the bull might be thought of as civilized (being a domesticated animal) and the stag as wild.

Numerology: The number of the Emperor is Five. Five is the number of the Pentagram, the ancient symbol which represents the four elements –Air, Fire, Water, and Earth- plus the fifth element which empowers them all, Spirit. Thus Five represents incarnation of Spirit through Matter, as well as ascension of Spirit over Matter through consciousness. For Five is the number of mind, of awareness, of reason. Five is the number that discovers, that invents, that gathers knowledge and applies it to change its environment. Finally Five is a number of motion, of constant movement. Altogether Five is the number of surmounting and making use of physical cycles and condition –of making tools from what one finds, to better ones world.

Advice: The Emperor reminds you that whatever situation you are in, it must in its time change. If you are in a bad situation, take heart for things will improve. If you are in a good situation, lay something back for future times. This is a card of looking to the future and preparing for change. The Emperor says to be prudent and plan for the changes which are bound to come, so that you can take best advantage of the natural cycles of things.



VI - Hierophant

Meaning: The Hierophant is the Teacher, and represents learning –especially in the sense of “life lessons”. “Hierophant” was the title of the Initiating Priest in the Eleusinian Mysteries, which revolved around the mystery of life after death, and the knowledge that the soul is eternal. As Teacher the Hierophant represents learning about oneself, about ones situations, about Deity. The Hierophant gives insight and Higher Knowledge. However teaching is a two-edged sword. What is learned enriches the learner, but the process can be difficult. Life lessons can be liberating and transformative –but they can also be painful if we fight them. Thus the Teacher is both benefactor and task master, and can sometimes be harsh. No wonder then that this is one of the cards with the widest varieties of interpretation in traditional decks –everything from Divine guidance to being crushed by external authority.

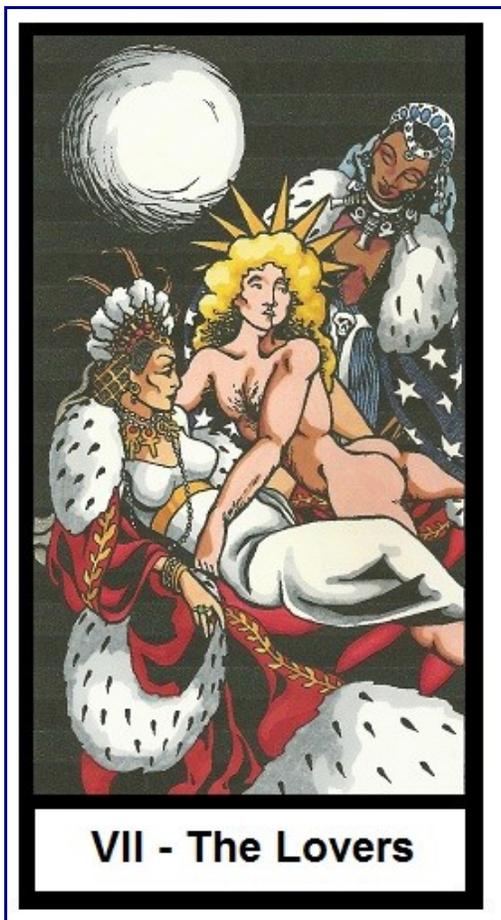
Cosmology: Cosmologically the Hierophant is the Crone –Goddess of Death and the Spiritworld, and all the knowledge and magic which lies beyond this life. When Goddess (High Priestess) sought to reunite with the God (Magus) she sought the advice of the Crone –in this sense her own higher self, the part of Primordial Deity underlying both Goddess and God. The Crone told the Goddess that “To Rise You Must Fall”. That is to say, you cannot run without walking, you cannot know without learning, you cannot achieve without working. In this case the Goddess (High Priestess) could not achieve her goal of reunion with God (Magus) except by entering into the physical world herself (Magic), by creating the many Souls and sending them into bodies. This is the secret of the Hierophant –everything worth doing comes with a price of some kind, even if it is only the doing of it. That is why the Crone

is the most feared aspect of Deity.

Symbolism: The Hierophant is shown as the Goddess Isis, and is so identified by the Hieroglyphs near her head which read Aset Ur or “Great Isis”. She could also be interpreted as a Queen or Priestess in the guise of Isis for a religious ceremony. The Hierophant wears the Nekhebet Crown, and elaborate headdress in the shape of a vulture worn only by Egyptian Queens. Surmounting this are the disk and horns, a symbol of the Goddess Hat-Hor also worn by Queens and by Isis when syncretically identified with Hat-Hor. The Hierophant wears an ornate kalisiris gown, and a broad usekh collar as well as many bracelets and anklets. She sits upon a throne decorated with carvings of lotuses, and uses a footrest, which indicates her exalted status. In one hand she holds the Ankh, symbol of life. Before her is an offering table piled high and surrounded by rich offerings of food and drink. Whether she is receiving these offerings or making them is an open question.

Numerology: The number of the Hierophant is Six. As Five is a number of movement, so Six is a number of stability and of peace. Six is a number of seclusion, just as a part of Primordial Deity remains secluded and intact at the heart of Yin (Goddess) and Yang (God), impervious to the changes which have occurred since creation. Six is also the number of the home in whose seclusion people rest and rejuvenate, and of the Temple in whose seclusion communal worship is offered. In short Six is the number of a sacred space set apart from the world at large. Co-incidentally this is also the meaning of the Egyptian word “Aset” (Isis), a sacred enclosed space –notably in the sense of the Womb of Creation.

Advice: When the Hierophant comes up in a reading it tells you that you have something to learn from the situation being asked about –a “life lesson” if you would. The situation offers you a better understanding of yourself and/or others. But like all life lessons, this one can be either easy or hard depending upon how you handle it. When we resist life’s lessons they can be extremely hard and painful –indeed, however hard is necessary to break through our resistance. Therefore if you draw the Hierophant you must make it a point to be open to the lesson Spirit has to teach you through the situation at hand, and try not to resist it. Indeed, it is well to pray and ask Spirit to teach the lesson as gently as possible, while yourself being as receptive to the lesson as you can. In this way the Hierophant will be better able to teach the lesson without trauma, for the lesson itself cannot be avoided.



VII - Lovers

Meaning: The Lovers represents a choice between equally attractive alternatives. One is beckoned in two directions at once, and must make an active choice of which possibility to pursue. Neither choice is necessarily the “right” choice, nor is one necessarily better than the other –they simply lead in opposite directions. It is like having come to a fork in the road – either direction goes somewhere, it simply a question of which place you wish to go to. This therefore is the card of choice. Everything in our lives is the result of choice –even when the choice we have made is not to choose. All manifestation –all being- begins with choice, then takes its form. When our choice is clear, our lives manifest in a straight-forward way: when our choices are not clear, our lives manifest in messy and muddled ways. Therefore the Lovers ask us to be conscious in our choosing.

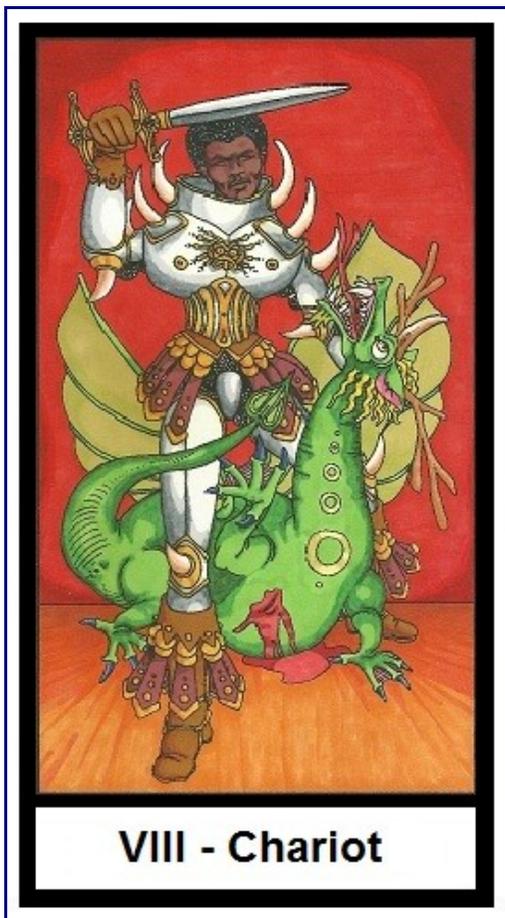
Cosmology: Cosmologically the Lovers indicates the choice which faces each person: Involution Vs Evolution. The path of Involution carries us further into the material by focusing on external and worldly pursuits: the path of Evolution carries us into the spiritual by focusing on internal and mystical pursuits. The first path is the way of the God (Yang) and the second path is the way of the Goddess (Yin). Paradoxically each path ultimately leads to the other, for when either force has gone as far as it can, it perforce doubles back and becomes the other. For the path of Involution though worldly and physical ultimately leads to internal ponderings of the experiences one has had: while Evolution though internal and spiritual ultimately leads to universal concerns and awareness of the Oneness of all things. This of course is the final mystery of the Lovers: the realization that ultimately spirit and matter/Yin and Yang/Goddess

and God, are merely opposite sides of each other, and Both are really One (Primordial Deity – The Fool) –all choices ultimately lead us back to the Unity of existence, by however circuitous a road our Soul may need.

Symbolism: The Soul goes constantly between Involution and Evolution, Spirit and Matter. This expresses itself in many ways, but especially in the cycle of Death and Rebirth. In the act of making love to the Goddess of Life, the Sun King (representing the Soul) is surprised by the Goddess of Death. Even so Death comes for the Soul in the very midst of the love of life. It should be noted that while the Sun King's face expresses surprise, even alarm, both Goddesses are quite serene. The Lady of Death comes for the Sun King as calmly and politely as if she were cutting in on a dancing partner. Only the Soul, caught in the middle, is shocked. Here the God (Magus/Emperor) experiences the cycles of reincarnation through an eternal tryst with life and death. Life and death are richly dressed and jeweled, while the Sun King is naked, except for a Solar Crown. This image could also be expressed as the passage of the Earth between Summer to Winter, or any cycle of inward-turning Involution and outward-turning Evolution.

Numerology: The number of the lovers is Seven. Seven is the union of Three and Four, in this case representing Spirit (Goddess) and Matter (God) so here again we have a theme of Spirit-in-Matter. Seven represents the movement of Spirit in ones life, whether consciously perceived or not. All things originate from Spirit and Spirit is constantly expressed in every life –and when we are conscious of this we can work with Spirit to create the life we want. The aspect of conscious awareness of the Union of Spirit (Goddess) and Matter (God) is what makes Seven such a universally sacred number. The difference between conscious awareness of Spirit in our life and being unaware of Spirit is the difference between Evolution and Involution. The Evolved Soul works consciously with Spirit, the Involved Soul sees only the limited issues temporally before it –a part of existence equally valuable and necessary to resolve such issues.

Advice: In a reading the Lovers indicate the importance of conscious choice and of being clear in what one wants to happen in the situation being asked about. Often the person may be having difficulty in choosing what they want, or may be unclear on how they actually feel about the situation. Self-examination may help them to clarify their feelings and desires, and then make a clear choice. In any event, the Lovers indicate that a choice is necessary, and no progress can come to the situation until a choice has been made.



VIII - Chariot

Meaning: The meaning of the Chariot is forward movement. The Chariot represents success, power, advancement. Historically the chariot, whose use predates the actual riding of horses, was humankind's first means of rapid transportation. Moreover the introduction of the chariot revolutionized warfare and gave those who possessed them an incredible edge in battle. Consequently the Chariot represents overcoming enemies or obstacles as well as progress in any endeavor.

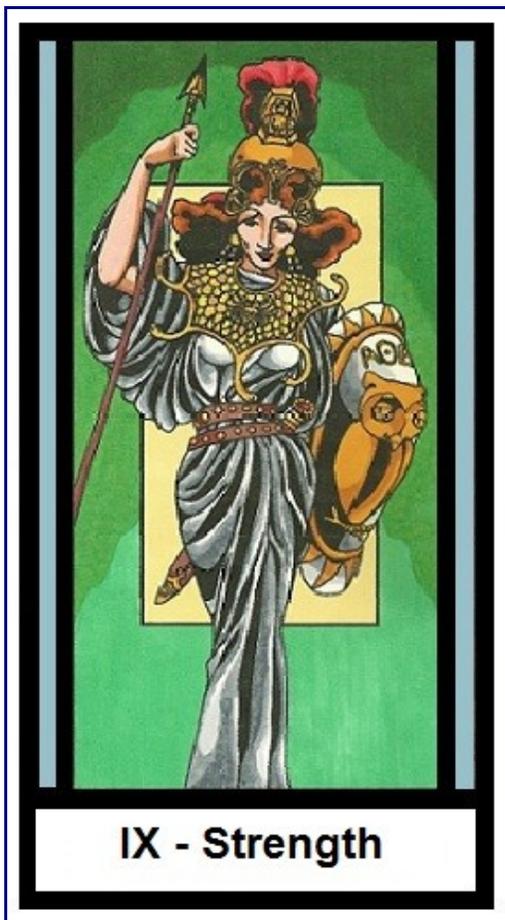
Cosmology: If the Lovers represent a choice between two polarities, the Chariot represents the first alternative from which the Lover must choose. This is the path of external action and worldly reward. It is the Yang path, the path of the God, which plunges into the physical world and carves out a niche there. The Chariot represents worldly action and accomplishment, ambition and achievement among and affecting other people. Indeed, this is the path of learning from others. It is a social path that leads the Soul out of itself and into external interaction and the pleasures and rewards which are the fruit of that interaction. Of course the external path is also one of conflict which can lead to defeat as well as victory –but this too is a way of learning from others.

Symbolism: The Chariot is shown as an armored Knight, fighting with a dragon. Unlike many Chariot cards there is no vehicle shown, for the Knight moves forward under his own power. The Knight is heavily armored in what can only be parade armor, so extravagant that it might be as much a hindrance as an aid. Upon his chest is the Gorgons head, symbol of the Crone

Goddess and of Primordial Deity, representing the power that comes to each of us through our connection to Deity. It is to be noted that the pose more resembles a dance or a tableau than an actual fight, and that the dragon isn't really putting up much resistance. This is because the dragon represents the universe. The universe wants us to be happy and takes its apparent form from our beliefs, expectations and desires. For the Knight the universe has taken the form of challenges to be overcome. But these challenges fight back only as hard as his own Higher Self wants them to. Mythologically the Knight may be presumed to be the Greek hero Perseus who, having slain the Gorgon and taken her head, then rescued the maiden Andromeda from a dragon.

Numerology: The number of the Chariot is Eight. Ruled by Mars Eight is the number of ambition, passion and determination. Eight is a number of action, and is capable of extreme focus and drive. What Eight wants it invariably pursues, and often obtains. Eight has a go-for-broke, never-turn-aside attitude which can lead to great success or great failure, but never mediocrity.

Advice: The Chariot represents moving forward. When this card comes up in a reading it means that the Querent should definitely take action in the situation, and can expect to be met with success. The Querent should take action with confidence, even in the face of opposition or apparent obstacles –as these shall be overcome. This is a card of success and advancement.



IX - Strength

Meaning: The Strength card represents inner strength, as opposed to outer strength –a point that is usually made in the artwork associated with the card. Strength represents the spiritual depth and resiliency that allows people to deal with difficult situations and rise above them. This is the strength that is built through self knowledge and self discipline, as opposed to muscles and sinew. Unlike the Chariot which represents outer strength in motion, the Strength card is an essentially passive, introspective strength –the rocks that the water crashes against as opposed to the water itself.

Cosmology: Cosmologically Strength represents the Lover's second alternative, which is the path of spirituality and internal growth. If the Chariot is the external achievement among other people, Strength is the path of internal achievement which can be shared only with the self. This is the introspective path of meditation, self examination and transformation, and ultimately conscious mastery of magic and the arts of manifestation. If the Chariot brings movement and accomplishment in the physical world, Strength brings inner development and internal growth. It is the Yin path, the path of the Goddess, which delves into inner truths and consequences, and whose reward is in the heart and soul rather than in the world.

Symbolism: Strength is shown as the Goddess Athena, wearing her magical Aegis and armed with spear and shield. Unlike many Strength cards which show a Maiden wrestling with outside forces, Strength here is shown alone and victorious, having overcome all previous challenges and having the power to overcome all future challenges. There is no external

opponent because the challenges she overcomes are internal conflicts within the self, not external fights. Upon the Aegis is the Gorgon's head, symbol of the Crone –and of primordial Deity- representing the power which comes from within. On her shield is the Owl, totem animal of Athena and symbol of wisdom –for the strength which overcomes internal conflict is closely allied to wisdom. In Greek mythology Athena is the guide of Heroes who leads them on to discover hidden depths of strength and courage and to become greater than their everyday selves.

Numerology: The number of the Strength card is Nine. Nine is the number which represents the fullest expansion of being before returning to source and beginning anew. Nine is thus a number of mastery and completion. Nine is also “Three times Three”, thus an ultimate number of magic –Three representing magic, here amplified by itself. Nine is a compassionate and introspective number, more concerned with interior than exterior workings. Having encompassed the fullness of being, Nine seeks to understand the nature of being, and thus looks within. Nine understands that everything has a place, and is generally tolerant and easy going in nature.

Advice: Strength, as its name suggests, indicates the ability to withstand any challenge. When the Strength card comes up in a reading, the Querent may face challenges or obstacles, but should rely upon their own strength to withstand these. This is not a card which indicates a good time to move forward with a situation, but rather a time to stay still, rely upon ones strengths, and adopt a defensive mode.



X - Hermit

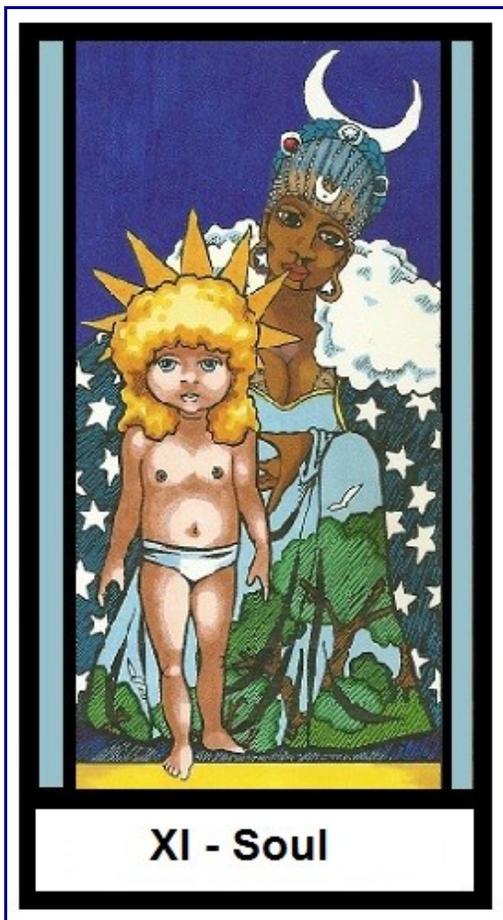
Meaning: The Hermit represents the pursuit of knowledge, truth, and inner growth. The Hermit is the unquenchable thirst for life and expansion which powers existence. The Hermit seeks the answers to all questions, the mastery of all arts, the enjoyment of all experiences. Rejecting all imposed boundaries and limitations, the Hermit seeks not only to know all things but to be one with all things –nothing less can answer the insatiable hunger within.

Cosmology: If the Lovers represent a choice between the Chariot and Strength, the Hermit represents the traveler on the path –either path for both are paths of learning which frequently cross and overlap. Indeed, everyone must ultimately travel both paths fully to be complete. The Hermit is the student –the Soul- who learns from its journeys the lessons it needs to grow and evolve. Eventually the Soul will encompass all knowledge through its travels in its many lifetimes, when it will transcend these paths altogether.

Symbolism: The Hermit is shown in the guise of the Goddess Quan Yin, Lady of Mercy. Unlike many Hermit cards which show the seeker as an ascetic, we show the Hermit as one enriched by her learning and empowered by it. She is richly robed and jeweled in a manner that befits one who can access the powers of the Soul. In her hands the Hermit holds a ball of light –energy called and shaped at her command. Around her are the symbols of the four suits and also the four elements, representing her desire for and eventual mastery of all knowledge. Such knowledge can only be gained experientially, and so the Hermit is shown in motion, her draperies aflutter in the breeze of her own movement.

Numerology: The number of the Hermit is Ten. Ten is the number of new beginnings and new cycles. Having completed the first cycle (1 – 9) and returned to “1” ($10 = 1 + 0 = 1$) a new cycle begins (10 – 19). Our first nine cards speak of cosmic origins and cycles, which set the stage for the Souls journey. Now we see the journeyer, the Soul itself. In the next series cards the parameters of the journey shall unfold. As the Soul is a microcosm of Deity, it is in a sense a new beginning of Deity’s own journey. In this it shows that the journey is never truly completed, it only begins again in new circumstances –cycles within cycles. When one reaches a moment of perfection, new conditions must perforce occur for stagnation is a thing Deity views with abhorrence.

Advice: The Hermit advises self-reliance. The Querent has all the knowledge and ability needed to handle the situation at hand, and does not need outside help or advice –indeed, the Querent is better off without outside help or advice since their own understanding of the situation and how to deal with it is superior to any outside view. Others may not know as much, understand as deeply, or may even misunderstand the situation. Consequently the Querent should rely upon their own unique perspective, and trust it.



XI - Soul

Meaning: The meaning of the Soul card is that Spirit has created a physical situation for its own purposes. Whatever the situation in question, it has not come about randomly or casually, but has been specifically set in our path by Spirit. More specifically the situation has been brought about by our own Soul, for purposes of its own learning and growth. Consequently the situation must not be viewed solely in terms of its physical characteristics, but in terms of what it offers the Soul –which is the key to its true nature.

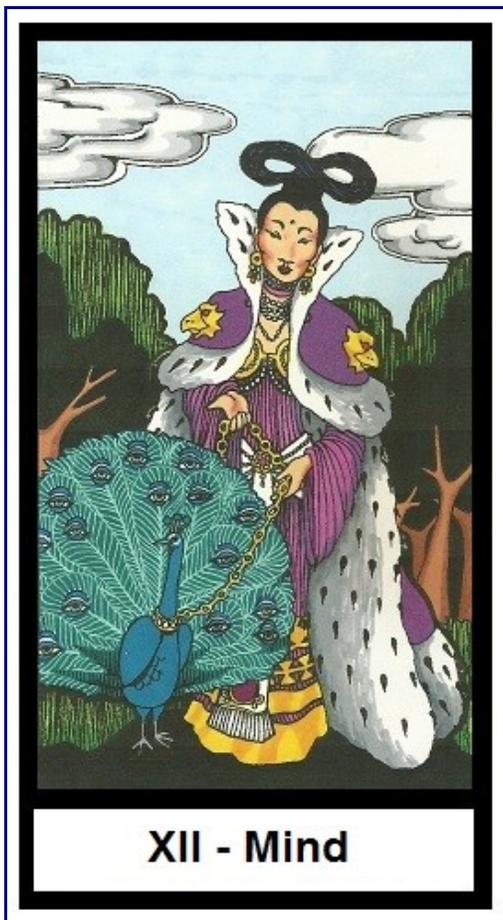
Cosmology: The Soul is the higher self whose influence is always present in the life, regardless of whether it is understood or not. The needs and purposes of the Soul guide the life in many ways, creating the Lessons we encounter –though how we react to these and whether we in fact learn the needed lessons is a function of the lower or conscious self. The Soul, pre-existing the life, creates the spiritual contract which sets the parameters of the life, and when the life has ended carries forward the persona and experiences as part of itself. The journey of life therefore cannot be considered without first considering the needs of the Soul from which the life originates.

Symbolism: The Soul steps forward in the guise of the baby Sun God, guided in his first steps by the Mother Goddess. The Goddess is robed in the world, and cloaked in stars, her crown the crescent Moon –shown on its side to indicate that it represents all phases of the Moon. This represents both the Soul's origin in Deity, and the similarity between the Soul's birth from Deity and the Universe's creation from Deity –both constitute an intentional isolation

of an aspect of Deity, an involution of a portion of the Divine Spirit, for the purpose of exploring physicality. The birth of each individual life from the Soul is similar in character.

Numerology: The Number of the Soul is Eleven. Eleven reduces to Two ($1 + 1 = 2$) but because it is a double or Master Number, it is not normally reduced as such. The Number Eleven is the Master Number of the Psychic. Eleven connects to others on a spiritual level, often unconsciously, and reacts to their ideas and desires. Because of this Eleven is also a Number of communication, and of dealing with and influencing the public. Eleven has a natural ability to work with and to sway others, based upon its spiritual rapport with them.

Advice: The Soul card tells us that the situation in question has an important spiritual lesson for us, one required by our higher self. Because of this the physical conditions or outcome of the situation, while perhaps of great emotional importance to the Querent, are not as important as what is learned from the situation. Such lessons cannot be avoided, although they can be ameliorated. The Querent must make an honest effort to be open to the lesson offered, and seriously examine their thoughts and feelings about it. Through self-examination we may find that our thoughts and feelings about the situation are either inaccurate, outdated, or in conflict with each other. This card indicates a need for a clearer understanding, and if that understanding can be had, the lesson becomes much easier.



XII - Mind

Meaning: The Mind is the means by which we understand the world. The Mind allows us to question, to learn, to extrapolate. Without the Mind to order our experiences, it would be impossible to learn from them. In this sense it is to be understood that we are not speaking of the physical organ of the brain, but of the Mind in the sense of the Mental Plane. Thus the service of the Mind in organizing experience and perceptions is performed in a spiritual as well as a physical sense, benefiting the Soul as well as the individual life.

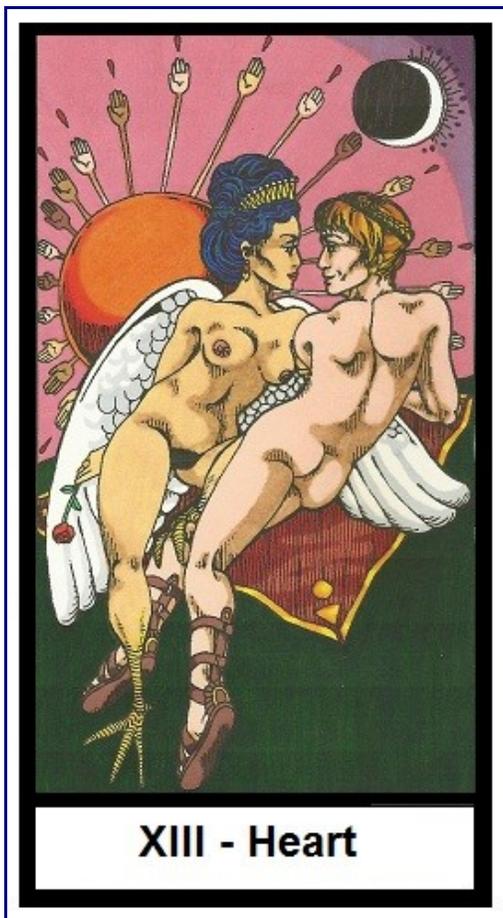
Cosmology: Cosmologically the Mind is the meeting place between the higher (spiritual) and lower (physical) selves. The Mind is the means by which we comprehend our physical existence, and the tool we use to understand it. We use the Mind interpret the senses, and to expand upon them through abstract thought. We also use the Mind to explore and comprehend the spiritual, and to expand our understanding of all things in all ways. From our physical perspective we are acutely aware of the importance of the Mind to the lower self, but it is no less important to the higher self, being the means by which physical experience is organized and digested by the Soul. The Mind might be said to be a door which, when fully developed, opens in all directions.

Symbolism: The Mind is shown as a peacock bearing many eyes in its tail. This represents the egocentric nature of the world of perception and involution –the narrowing down of the cosmic nature of the Soul to the much smaller view of the individual life and its concerns. The eyes represent the idea that the mind (in the sense of the Mental Plane) is essentially an

information gathering and processing tool. The Soul, regally dressed and bearing the symbol of eternity in her coiffure, holds the chain of the Mind, as the perceptions of each all-too-temporal life go to the enrichment of the Soul, which is eternal.

Numerology: The Number of the Mind is Twelve, which reduces to Three ($1 + 2 = 3$). Twelve is the number of months in a year, the number of both the western and the eastern Zodiac: it is the number of the Olympian Gods and of the Christian apostles. Twelve is often interpreted as a number of completeness. More specifically Twelve is the solid, physical structure of Four given motion by the magic of Three. It represents structure in motion –evolution, growth, expansion. Twelve is a number of moving forward in a solid, grounded way.

Advice: The Mind card indicates that the Querent does not know everything they need to know about the situation in question, and should make an effort to gather more information. The means of learning more will be there, but the effort will have to be made. This could be through questioning people involved in the situation, or through other kinds of researching. In any event the information that the Querent currently possesses is not enough to make an informed decision or take appropriate action, and a closer and more detailed look must be taken.



XIII - Heart

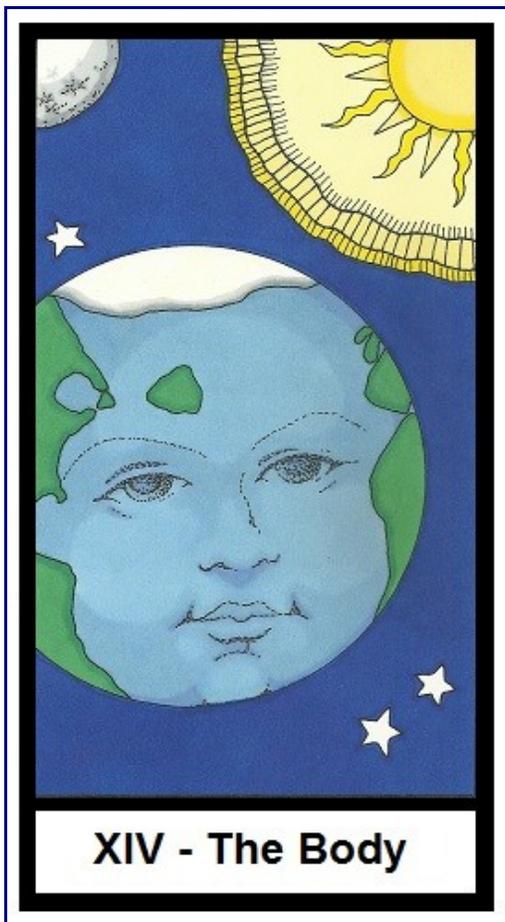
Meaning: The Heart card refers to those things which draw you strongly, regardless of your mental opinion. Urges which motivate you, regardless of reasoning or judgment. These urges can be good or bad (though in many cases the judgment is highly subjective). It may be the purchase which is beyond your budget, the sundae that blows your diet, the lover who is all wrong for you. On the other hand it may also be the urge to take a chance on something new despite uncertainty, the willingness to risk loss for possible gain, the desire for adventure. In short, it is a good bit of what makes being alive fun.

Cosmology: By Heart in this case we mean the sensual and emotional world –the world of motivations and attachments which are not mental or spiritual but physical and instinctual. These are the unconscious drives, the inherent nature. These can be changed, but only over time and with effort. For example, it is human nature to take what we need or want –but we have learned over time to respect ideas of “yours” and “mine”. Still, even after millennia the urge to simply take remains strong in some. The same is true for sex –even people who choose a celibate lifestyle must still deal with the physical sexual drive, which can be controlled but cannot simply be shut off by the mind at will. These things are simply conditions of life which must be dealt because they are beyond our power to eliminate, regardless of our mental affectations. We cannot simply choose not to eat for example –we can follow ever so strict a diet, but if we simply stop eating, we die.

Symbolism: The Soul is shown here as the God, enjoying the company of the Goddess. It will be remembered that the God spends half the year with the Goddess of Life, and half with the Goddess of Death, even as the Earth spends half the year in summer and half in winter. Here the Goddess is in her form of La Reine Pedaque, the Birdfoot Queen –indicating that she is the Goddess of Death. From the earliest times birds have been associated with the Goddess of Death, who is often shown with avian elements. And many people have regarded birds as messengers from the spiritworld, able to cross back and forth between the worlds at will. The God is drawn to the Goddess of Death and her realm of spirits even as he fears her power to end his life –only when in her embrace does he realize that the Goddess of death is the same Goddess as the Goddess of life, only in another aspect, and that in the spirit realm life does not in fact end, but rather goes on to new adventures. Thus that which he has feared becomes in fact his benefactor.

Numerology: The Number of the Heart is 13, which reduces to Four ($1 + 3 = 4$). Many people have a superstitious fear of the Number Thirteen. Others regard it as sacred. Similarly, some people fear their desires while others honor them. Reduced to Four, Thirteen is a number of learning from situations. Thirteen is the number that lets us balance the desire for the sundae against the circumference of our hips. The number that lets us balance our pleasure in outside attention against our desire to maintain an existing relationship. The number that tells us to pay the rent before we buy a new TV. It is a number of self knowledge and self control – as well as the innate desires which defy control. Thus it is the edge we walk between what we are and what we want to be, what we are born and what we make of ourselves: Of being versus becoming, and the difference between these two. This is ultimately the great challenge of life.

Advice: The Heart card says that the Querent is very strongly drawn to the situation in question, or an aspect thereof, and that this pull can perhaps be controlled but not ignored. The draw is visceral rather than mental, and may cause the Querent mixed feelings about the situation. The Querent may fear the strength of their desire, and that fear is based in the idea of loss of control. The Heart card indicates obsession –which can be either an obsessive desire, or the obsessive repression of desire. However the Heart cannot be controlled, and the desire in question cannot simply be turned off.



XIV - Body

Meaning: What is done in the situation in question will have effects in unforeseen quarters. Unknown or unexpected connections exist here which may be brought into play by the Querent's actions or inactions. Previously unknown allies or enemies may be brought into the situation unintentionally.

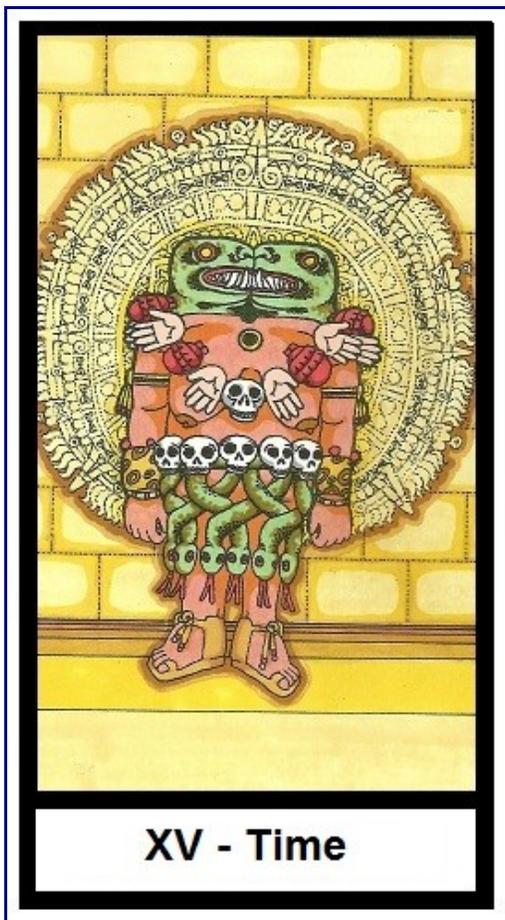
Cosmology: Of the Seven Planes of Existence, the highest four (Divine, Monadic, Soul, and Astral) are represented by the Soul card: just as we often lump them altogether under the term "Soul" or "Higher Self" in ordinary speech. The Mental Plane is represented by the Mind card, and the Emotional Plane by the Heart card. This leaves the Physical Plane to be represented by the Body card. Clearly our most direct experience of the Physical Plane is through our body, but the card represents much more than just our individual body, for all things are linked in existence. Clearly all the cells and organs of our body, though they have a separate existence within the structure, are still part of the single integrated whole. The parts of this integrated whole of the body can survive outside of it, under natural circumstances. Oberon Zell's much quoted Gaia hypothesis tells us that the Earth is the living body of Deity, and all things on it, though they have their own specific existence, are also part of the larger and integrated whole, which has a consciousness of its own. The parts of this integrated whole of the Earth cannot survive outside of the Earth under natural circumstances. What is true for our own body, and for the Earth, must also be true for the Universe as a whole – though galaxies and stars and planets may have a separate existence of their own, they must also be part of a larger and integrated whole. All of these things are the body of Deity, through

which Deity is incarnate in the world of matter. They constitute, as the old saying goes, “worlds within worlds”. What this ultimately means is that everything is connected physically as well as spiritually, and that an action in one place can have unexpected results in another because of these connections –the famous “Butterfly Effect” the metaphor whereby the flapping of a butterfly’s wings in one hemisphere creates a hurricane in another.

Symbolism: The image of the Body card is of Gaia, the living Earth, here representing the living Universe –or as some would have it, “Multiverse”. In keeping with the ancient Hermetic maxim “As Above, So Below” the living Universe, the living Earth, our own living body, and the smallest particles of being all reflect each other and move to the same universal Plan. Thus the smiling face of the living Earth represents both Mother and Child both individually and as a pattern wound through all existence.

Numerology: The Number of the body is Fourteen which reduces to Five ($1 + 4 = 5$). Fourteen is Seven times Two, which is spirituality in partnership, and reducing to Five indicates motion and communication. Thus we see reflected the partnership of spirit and matter in motion = a perfect description of the body.

Advice: The Querent’s actions or inactions (which can be determined through other cards) can produce unexpected results in the situation at question. Unforeseen consequences, unknown friends or enemies may become involved. Because of this the Querent should act with care, and avoid if possible taking any action that they might be embarrassed by or unable to justify later. Attempts at secrecy will be unsuccessful.



XV - Time

Meaning: The present circumstances are transitory in nature, and cannot be looked upon as a long term situation. Whatever is done here, while it may be highly effective or beneficial in the moment, will not be of lasting importance. This situation is like writing on the sand at a beach –it will be wiped away by the next wave. Consequently the immediate affects of the situation are what must be considered, rather than any hoped-for long term consequences, as these will not materialize.

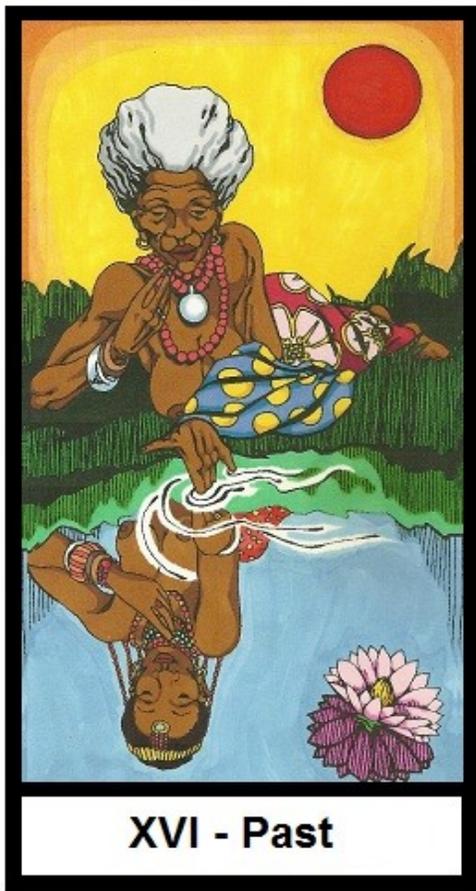
Cosmology: It is said that time eats its own children. What this means is that all things change –nothing in the physical world is immutable –not even the apparently ageless seas which sometimes dry out, or the seemingly eternal mountains which are worn down by the millennia. Consequently it is foolish to measure ones life solely by a posterity which is by definition uncertain. It is always wise to look to the future of course, but not to the exclusion of the present –for the future can always take an unexpected turn rendering even the most carefully laid plans meaningless. Indeed, metaphysics teaches that time itself is an illusion -an arrangement of the Soul for ordering its experiences in understandable ways- and that the only true reality is the NOW.

Symbolism: At the center of the card is the famous image of Coatlicue, the Aztec Mother Goddess whose name means “Serpent Skirt”. Coatlicue is portrayed as the mother of the Moon and stars and of the Aztec Patron God Huitzilopochtli, or sometimes Quetzalcoatl. According to myth the Goddess was a Temple Priestess who became pregnant after picking

up a sacred object –variously a Jadeite amulet or a talisman of Quetzal feathers. The result was the virgin birth of Huitzilopochtli or Quetzalcoatl, depending upon the version. In either event the new child –born fully grown- destroyed all of its elder siblings who were transformed into the aforementioned celestial bodies. Thus the old was transformed by the new. This image shows the Goddess with her skirt of serpents, and a serpent head as well –either one serpent shown in double-profile, or two serpents representing the androgynous nature of the creator Deity. About her throat are a skull, human hearts and severed hands, referring to the Aztec’s notorious practice of human sacrifice –which they believed gave life to the universe. Behind the Goddess is the famous Aztec calendar stone, representing the Aztec calendar and its cyclical idea of time.

Numerology: The Number of Time is Fifteen, which reduces to Six ($1 + 5 = 6$). Interestingly enough Fifteen is the number of the Mesopotamian Goddess Ishtar, and reduces to Six, number of the Greco-Roman Goddess Venus, which suggests a deeply sensual sub-current to the idea of Time. Certain ancient Greek philosophers held that Passion (Eros) was the origin of all things, and certainly Tantric devotees, Wiccans, and many others who work with energy would agree that the energy of the universe has a decidedly sexual aspect. If we view Time as the Now Moment, with past and future being tools to regulate the perceptions of its effects, rather as an immutable linear progression, then the passions (strongly held emotions and beliefs) which shape that Now ultimately create both past and future as well as shaping the present. Most often these passions are unconscious, but the adept can harness them to transcend the illusion of linear Time, reshaping it according to will.

Advice: Though the Querent can expect to be successful in the short term, the achievement of their desire in the situation at question will be of short duration, and will not last. Any such success will be transitory in nature, and new circumstances will shortly come into play. Consequently the Querent must focus upon the situation as being a temporary configuration of circumstances soon to change rather than a situation offering long term benefits or deficits.



XVI - Past

Meaning: The Past card indicates that the past has a hold on the situation at question, and is limiting it in some way. This could be in the form of patterns or habits with their origin in the past, or inaccurate or negative expectations or belief systems based upon past traumas. These must be overcome in order to have success in the situation. Whether these past influences are affecting the Querent or another person or aspect of the situation can be established by other cards.

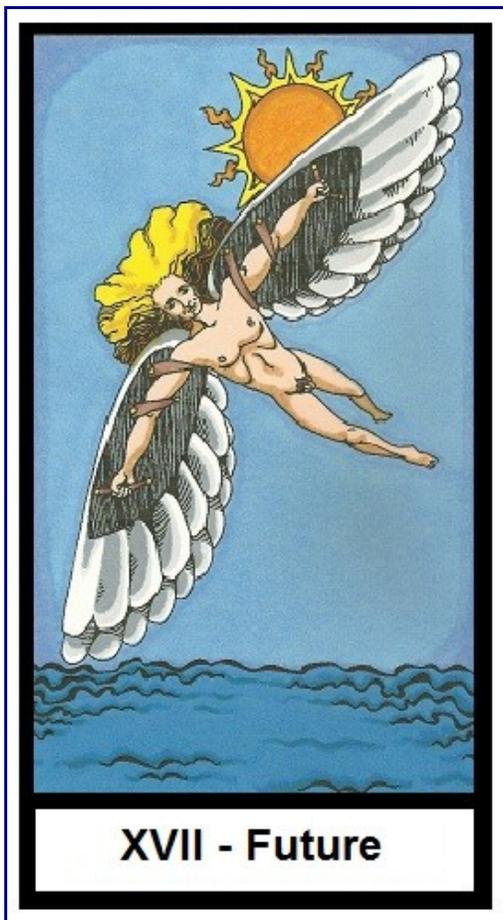
Cosmology: The future is in many ways the product of the past. Our experiences, and the circumstances which shape our lives, connect in an inexorable chain leading us to the present. This chain of events would seem to be immutable. But is it? If Time is illusory in nature –simply a device which the Soul uses to organize its experiences- then the past can be as variable as the future. This approach to Time –the idea that a variable past and future radiate from the Now Moment if only the adept can transcend the limitation of the concept of “Time” –allows a very different view of things “past”. Healing of past situations, even changing of past situations become possible to the adept. But only if the adept can overcome their ingrained belief in the immutability of that past.

Symbolism: An aged lady lies at the side of a pool, looking into the clear water. There she sees reflected not her present but her past as a nubile maiden. Is this a memory brought back by circumstance? A vision? Wishful thinking or regret? Or is she performing some act of Chronomancy, using magic to change her past? Only the lady herself knows. A lotus grows

out of the water indicating that whatever the lady is doing is contributing to her spiritual growth: this is because it is said of the lotus that it has its roots in mud (the body), grows up through water (emotion) and blooms in air (spirit). A similar analogy might be drawn about Time itself: that originating in emotion it grows through action to bloom in physical expression.

Numerology: The Number of the Past card is Sixteen which reduces to Seven ($1 + 6 = 7$). Sixteen is Four times Four –a number of ultimate physical manifestation and form. It is also Eight times Two, passion and focus doubled. Reducing to Seven gives an overall spiritual effect. Thus we see Sixteen as form or structure resulting from passionate focus and desire, within an overall spiritual context.

Advice: This card suggests the need to throw off past influences, break past patterns, or discard outmoded belief systems. It may indicate the need to heal past traumas. This card indicates that the past is limiting the situation in some way, and that this limitation must be addressed and overcome. Other cards can help to show whether the past is influencing the Querent, another, or some other aspect of the situation. If it is the Querent who is being held back by the past, self examination and self healing are required. If another person or aspect, the Querent may need to find a way to convince them that the past need not be the future.



XVII - Future

Meaning: It is said that the future is what we make it –and metaphysically speaking this is especially true. Although we are given certain things to work with by the Universe, what we do with them is largely up to us. Especially when we understand the nature of the astral plane as the matrix of physicality. Because it is the interaction of the Soul and the individual lifetime through the medium of the astral which creates the conditions of the given life, becoming consciously aware of that interaction and consciously shaping life through the astral gives us a much greater conscious control of our lives. Thus the future cannot be viewed as something which happens to us, but rather as something we build, consciously or unconsciously, in tandem with our Higher Selves or Soul. Consequently it is especially important that we be aware of our true desires, conscious or unconscious, and the role they play in shaping the future.

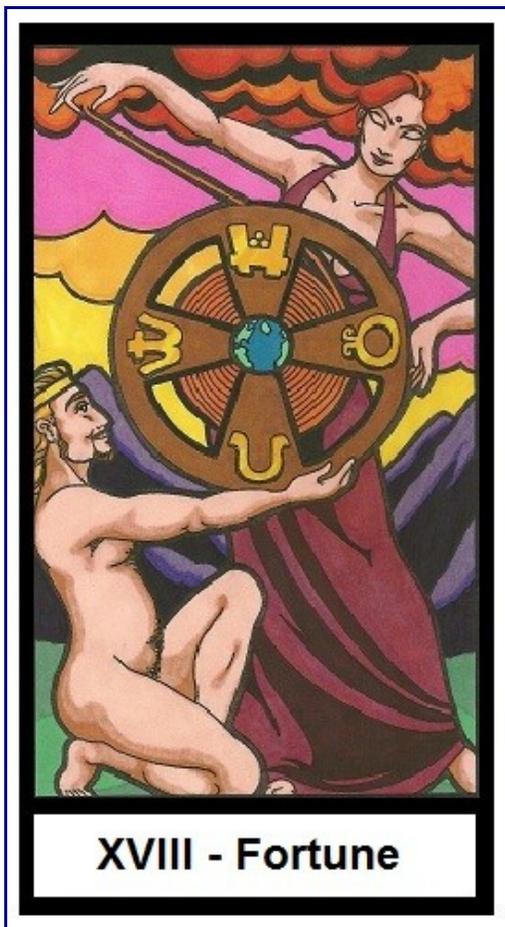
Cosmology: Just as the concept of “past” is not so immutable as it first appears from the point of view of an adept, so too the concept of “future” is not as straightforward either. Metaphysics teaches us that time is quite complex, and not at all the straight line that the conscious mind likes to make of it. The analogy is sometimes made that Time is like a multi-lane highway, with numerous parallel versions of itself which we cross between unconsciously all the time –a process which for the adept can become conscious. Another analogy likens Time to a flower –each event being like the center of the flower, its possible outcomes radiating out in all directions like petals. What this means is that different aspects of our soul can experience different versions of the same life, different outcomes of the same

decisions. It is theoretically possible for us to experience every possible outcome of each decision through different aspects of our soul. In this way we must view the future not as a straight line, but more in the image of a constantly expanding nervous system pushing forth in all directions at once.

Symbolism: In Greek mythology the inventor Daedalus and his son Icarus were imprisoned in the Labyrinth which Daedalus had built for the Cretan King Minos. To escape Daedalus constructed artificial wings using feathers and wax. Using these wings the two men escaped from the Labyrinth, flying out over the Aegean sea. There their fates differed because of free will: Daedalus charted a sensible course of flight, and successfully escaped to land: his son Icarus got carried away and decided to fly unwisely near the Sun, which melted the wax in the artificial wings, causing him to plummet to a watery death. We are all given free will, but we must consider the consequences of our choices, even the unexpected ones.

Numerology: The Number of the Future is seventeen, which reduces to Eight ($1 + 7 = 8$). Seventeen combines the energies of One and Seven, or individuality and Spirituality, emphasizing individual expression of the spirit and the singular destiny which each person creates. Eight indicates the passion which shapes that destiny, and which can carry us to safety like Daedalus, or to disaster like Icarus. Altogether this is a Number of highly personal focus and the power of conscious or unconscious manifestation.

Advice: It is to be noted that it is not indicated whether the figure in the picture is Daedalus or Icarus. When this card is drawn it does not indicate success or failure, but rather the importance of the querent being conscious of their own desires in the situation. Self-examination and self-awareness are advised. This card warns of the importance of being clear in what you desire and how you feel about it. Hidden beliefs or emotions may act as “crossed wires” and cause you to manifest a future different from what you consciously think you want. Inner clarity is extremely important to get the result desired.



XVIII - Fortune

Meaning: If the Hermit represents the Souls' journey through many lifetimes, and Body, Mind, Heart, Soul, Time, Past and Future represent the tools that the Soul uses to experience those lifetimes, then Fortune represents the first of the rules which govern that experience. That is that each life is subject to many forces not under its direct conscious control: Acts of Fate which can help or hinder what the conscious mind desires, or even refocus a life altogether in new and unintended directions. However, while the conscious mind may have no control over these, the Soul does –and uses these forces to further its purposes in the life being led. The machinations of Fate may cause us to develop areas of ourselves, learn lessons, or interact with people or situations in ways which our conscious mind would never choose, but which our Soul requires. Thus the deeper meaning of the Fortune card is not merely that things happen which we do not plan, but rather that nothing which happens is an accident –but rather a fulfillment of the needs of the Soul.

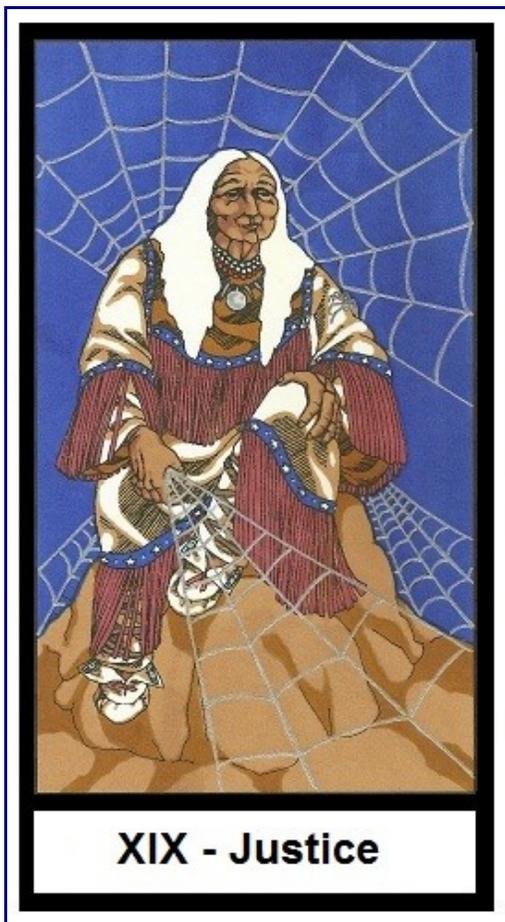
Cosmology: Fortune represents what Spirit gives us in the form of Fate, before each life. This is the total potential of the given life, created by the Soul through the Astral and often termed a "life contract". How much of this astral life contract is expressed during the life is the result of the conscious mind and its choices. Not all aspects of the life contract will be acted upon, but all are possible. In some cases different aspects of the life contract will be acted upon in different probabilities: or alternate versions of the same lifetime. Although the life contract is established before birth, it is in a state of constant revision throughout the life,

because of the constant and usually unconscious interaction of the mind and the Soul through the astral. It is through this constant interaction that the tools discussed in the previous cards are made use of.

Symbolism: The Rota Fortuna, or Wheel of Fortune, is a very ancient symbol associated with the Goddess Tyche/Fortuna, Mistress of Fate. The Wheel of Fortune is often thought of as a spinning wheel, drawing upon the symbolism of the Three Fates who spun out the fate of all living things like thread –though the invention of the spinning wheel was actually much later than the first use of this symbol. In the Vangelo delle Streghe we are told that the God (Time/Space) turns the spinning wheel of the Goddess (Spirit/Nature). Here we see the God turning the wheel, while the Goddess spins out fate from her own hair, representing her essence. Thus we see that the Goddess/Spirit creates fortune from herself, through the engine of the God as Time/space.

Numerology: The Number of Fortune is Eighteen, which reduces to Nine ($1 + 8 = 9$). Eighteen is also 9×2 , giving still greater emphasis to the Nine vibration inherent in the Number. Nine is the number of furthest extension before a new beginning, and the presence of One and Eight add a personal emphasis and passion to this making Eighteen a number of intense desire for or enjoyment in experiential existence: The desire to do everything which is doable, know everything which is knowable, be all that being can encompass. Thus it is a particularly appropriate number for Fortune.

Advice: In a reading the Fortune card represents a gift of Fate –unexpected good luck, assistance, or advancement. This suggests that the querent will advance in their situation for reasons other than their own effort. The querent can expect good luck and unexpected favorable resolutions to situations in question.



XIX - Justice

Meaning: Just as Fortune is the life contract established before birth and revised throughout life, so Justice, or Karma, is the effect of how that life contract is used. It is often held that Karma is the equal reaction of every action, however it is truer to say that Karma is the result of “attachment”. This is why Karma is often symbolized as a web, every string of the web vibrating whenever another string to which it is attached -directly or indirectly- is touched. We form such attachments through emotional and intellectual ties to actions or situations we have been involved with. We carry them from one life to another, sometimes building up long chains of attachments. These attachments draw us back to the same situations which caused them, and thus create unconscious patterns in our lives. Thus our life contract is not entirely voluntary, but is shaped by our attachments, or Karma, which force us into the familiar patterns we are attached to. Only by learning the lessons of these attachments and releasing them, can we move beyond them.

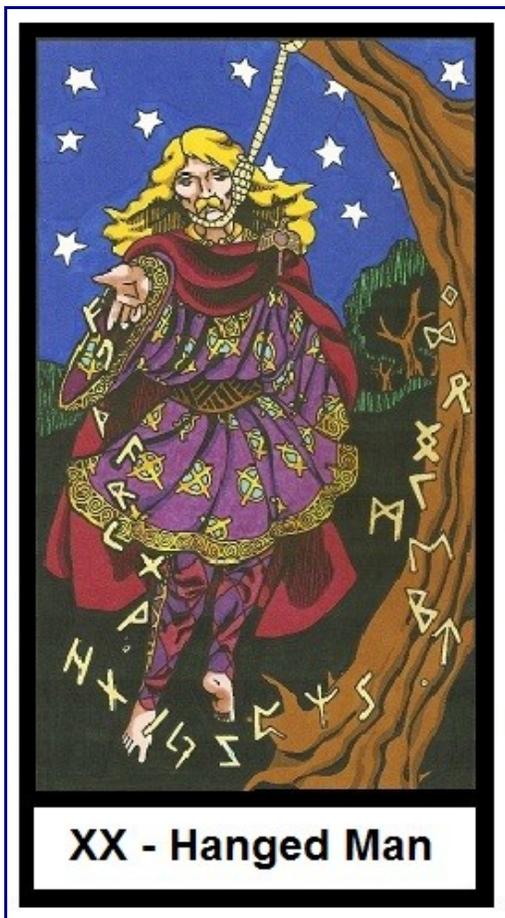
Cosmology: Cosmologically Justice means that we must deal not only with the things we desire to create and do, but with the effects created by them. Thus when Goddess and God became separate, Goddess could not simply take God back into herself, but had to enter into him as the many souls. Similarly we cannot simply undo a thing we have done because we do not like its effect, but must enter into that effect and learn the lessons it offers in order to release the attachment. These attachments are the mechanism that the Soul uses to learn the lessons it requires of life, by making sure that they cannot be avoided. It is often thought that this means a given Karmic situation must be repeated physically one or more times in

order to release it, and granted it usually is, but every level of the being is equally important and Karmic attachments can in fact be healed and released from other levels of the being than physical if the person is sufficiently spiritually advanced to do it.

Symbolism: In the Cherokee mythology one version of the creation story says that it was Grandmother Spider who set the universe to order. She spun a web across the sky and traveled upon it, bringing the Sun to the world. The stars were bits of the Sun's fire which Grandmother Spider set into her web at intervals. It was she who invented weaving, pottery, and other useful arts. Each day she would carry the Sun across the sky on her web, from which vantage point she could see all things. Grandmother Spider was a figure in the mythology of many Native American peoples. Here she is shown as a grand old lady, sitting amidst the web of the universe, which glitters with the stars she has set into it.

Numerology: The Number of Justice is Nineteen, which reduces to One ($1 + 9 = 1$). This places a strong focus on the self and the consciousness. The presence of Nine emphasizes diversity of experience. Thus Nineteen speaks to us of the impact of experience on the self and the self's awareness. In terms of Karmic attachment Nineteen illustrates the idea the experiential Karma and the idea that it is the self which carries the Karmic patterns forward by forming attachment to them. The number Nineteen might also be interpreted as the showing the self integrating but transcending over its experiences, which might be regarded as the ultimate purpose of Karma.

Advice: In a reading the Justice card means that you can expect to receive back from a situation as much as you are willing to put into it. Thus hard work will be rewarded with success in equal measure. Justice represents a situation in which the querent's efforts are not wasted, though they may take time to reach fruition. But with the Justice card the querent should trust that hard work will eventually pay off. Of course Justice also says that nothing more will happen in the situation than the querent makes happen.



XX - The Hanged Man

Meaning: The Hanged Man represents a situation in process. It may seem like a period of waiting period, but it is actually a necessary stage of the development in the situation. And though it may appear that there is no movement and things are held in stasis, developments are actually taking place below the surface of the situation. It is really a period of inner growth and developing self knowledge, but this will usually not be evident until after that growth has already been accomplished.

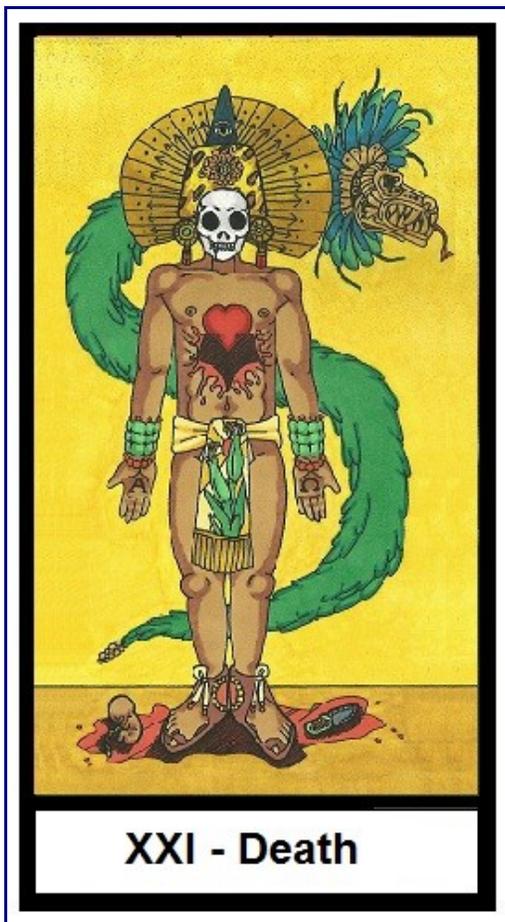
Cosmology: Cosmologically the Hanged Man represents the long process of life and death by which the Soul perfects itself. It is a tedious and often painful process, even by the standards of the Soul, but it is a necessary schooling which must be done. Only by living many lives can the Soul advance through experiential learning and growth. The Soul might wish to hurry this process, but nothing can be substituted for it.

Symbolism: The Hanged Man is shown as the God Odin, who hanged himself from the Tree of Life, Yggdrasil, for nine days and nights to gain the magic of the Runes. The deeper significance of this is that in hanging himself this way Odin made a sacrifice of himself to himself. The God is shown hanging from the tree, but not as one dead but rather almost levitating. He wears a tunic decorated with solar symbols, and his cloak is fastened with a brooch in the form of the solar eagle. His trousers are in a checkerboard pattern, representing the constant interplay between the forces of life and death. From his hand he scatters the sacred Runes which he has gained out into the world. The Runes were the first writing system

for the Germanic languages, and thus set Germanic people free to share information in written form, so that Odin's sacrifice was made to himself it benefited all his people.

Numerology: The Number of the Hanged Man is Twenty, which reduces to Two ($2 + 0 = 2$). Two is the number of partnership and is also a number of introspection –partnership with ones own spirit. Here Two represents the need to look beyond oneself, or perhaps rather within oneself, to 0 –the Number of the Fool, or Primeval Deity: The interaction of the conscious mind and the Spirit. By thus accessing the spiritual powers of the Soul, we can see far beyond the limits of our conscious mind.

Advice: The Hanged Man represents a situation which will require the passage of time before it can move forward or be resolved. This will take time before it occurs, and it cannot be rushed. At the same time the querent will learn much about their own nature from the situation –what truly matters to them, how they truly feel about things. Though they will have to wait before they can progress, this waiting will bring them deeper self-knowledge and insight into themselves.



XXI - Death

Meaning: In the Tarot, Death represents change in a situation, not usually physical death. Consequently the fear with which many regard the card is unjustified. The change represented by Death may be either good or bad depending upon the individual's perspective, but it will be a significant change in any event.

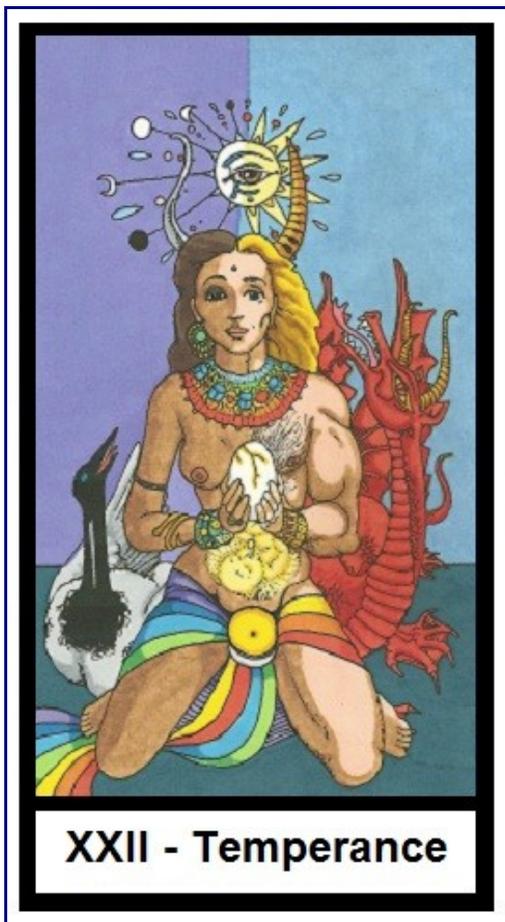
Cosmology: In a manner of speaking Death is the engine which drives the universe –even more than Birth. For Birth without Death would create but not evolve. Without death there is no change. Death clears away the old so that the new can take shape –and fertilizes that new growth with the debris of the old. Indeed, since energy cannot be destroyed but only change shape, death must be viewed as the agent of that change rather than as an ending of any sort. Death makes possible all new beginnings, all transformations and evolutions –it allows the Soul to take sequential new shapes, evolving its skills continually in a way that would not be possible otherwise.

Symbolism: The Death card is represented by the Aztec God Quetzalcoatl, lord of regeneration. The God is shown with the face of a skull, and his heart has been ripped out of his chest. The Aztecs would offer the hearts of living victims to their Gods in the belief that this served to maintain the universe –here the symbolism is that death sustains life by constantly transforming the spirit and its many lifetimes, so that the universe is never stagnant. Quetzalcoatl wears an elaborate headdress, and his loincloth is ornamented with ears of corn, representing the idea that death feeds new life. On his hands are the symbols Alpha and

Omega, representing the Beginning and the End, and symbolizing that our existence is in the spiritworld before and after death. The feathered serpent, the theophany or animal form of Quetzalcoatl, rises up behind the image of the God.

Numerology: The Number of the Death card is Twenty One, which reduces to Three ($2 + 1 = 3$). Three is ultimately a number of movement and transformation, and emphasizes that Life and Death are a cycle which serves to move all things forward. Twenty One is also three times seven, which represents spirit (7) in expansion or motion (3). Thus Death must be seen as a card of growing the spirit and expanding it through incarnational experience.

Advice: The Death card tells us that current circumstances will change drastically. Whatever the current influences on the situation in question, drawing the Death card indicates that these will be altered and transformed. The querent should be prepared to move with this change and adapt to it, as there is no way to prevent or avoid it.



XXII - Temperance

Meaning: Temperance is the card of Alchemy –that is bringing disparate elements together to create an integrated whole. This card symbolizes resolution of opposites, transcendence of limitations, widening of vision. Temperance is a card of conscious personal and spiritual growth and expansion, and ultimately represents the process of embodying spirit in the physical world. Through Temperance we seek to perfect ourselves and expand our spiritual consciousness.

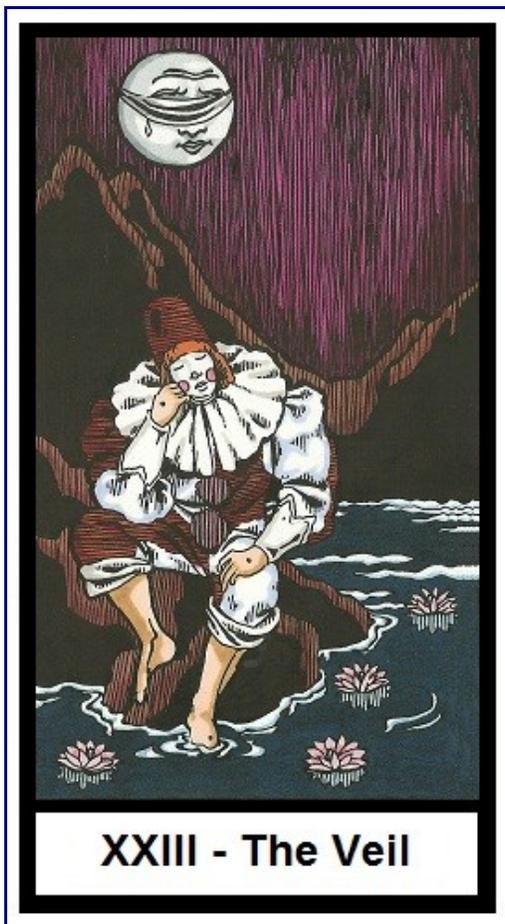
Cosmology: Temperance is the card of the soul perfecting itself through experience. As the Soul leads many lives it draws upon the experiences of these lives to gain new skills and abilities and ever-deepening knowledge. Through attachments formed by Karma/Justice the Soul is drawn to repeat certain experiences or patterns many times, until a deep understanding is formed. In time the Soul gains greater facility with life and death and individual lives have much more conscious control of their experiences, and manifest more and more of the Souls nature into the physical. It is this process of growth which Temperance represents. If the Death card can be said to be Involution –or the narrowing of the Divine consciousness to a pinpoint of focus in order to learn a specific lesson- then Temperance is Evolution or the widening of consciousness until it realizes its oneness with the Divine.

Symbolism: Temperance is shown as the Divine Androgyne, Goddess and God united in one. The left side of the figure is feminine, the right masculine, and they meet in the middle. S/He is crowned with disk and horns –a cows horn on the left, a goats horn on the right,

representing both domesticated and wild power. On the disk is the Utchat Eye which represents the omniscience of Deity. S/He also wears an Egyptian usekh collar decorated with scarabs, symbolizing the God Kheper and the ability to manifest form at will. A baby is seen in the God/dess' abdomen, representing generative power. The God/dess' kilt is fastened with a brooch representing Sun and Moon conjoined. S/He kneels between a large goose on her right side and a dragon on her left –at center she holds an egg which has just begun to open. Is it a goose egg, or a dragon egg? There is the question –and the answer can only be shown through the experience.

Numerology: The Number of Temperance is Twenty Two, which reduces to Four ($2 + 2 = 4$). Twenty Two is also Eleven times Two. Four is the Number of stability and physical manifestation, while Eleven is the Number of metaphysical ability –thus both together emphasize bringing spirituality into the physical. With this is the vibration of Two, which is obviously a dominant influence in the number Twenty Two, which is the number of introspection and partnership –here emphasizing the partnership of spirituality and matter.

Advice: The Temperance card suggests that the querent or the situation in question involves bringing together a variety of components in order to forge a new creation. This might be a new situation, a new group or alliance, a new project or company, or any number of things – but it will be more and different than any one of its component parts. This is not merely a growth, but a change: a new beginning for the situation.



XXIII - The Veil (Devil)

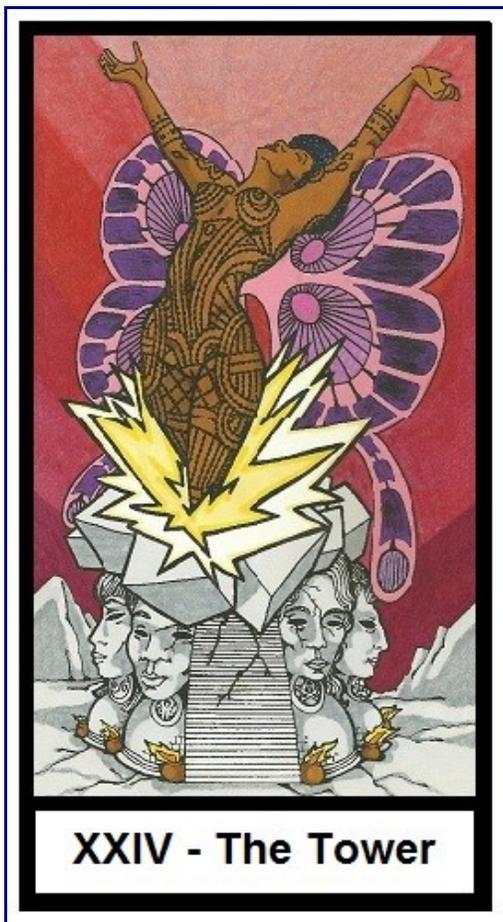
Meaning: The Veil card is a card of not being able to see the forest for the trees. When one is deep in involution, that is when one's consciousness is narrowed to a very specific point of focus -as the Soul's consciousness is during physical incarnation- it is sometimes very difficult to see the very thing you are seeking to understand. This may be because you are too close to the situation, and have no objectivity regarding it. It can also sometimes be because the situation is so new to you that you have no way to understand it. In any event, with the Veil card whatever understanding you think you have is apt to be either wrong or incomplete in some important point.

Cosmology: The Veil is the means by which each rebirth is made a new experience. The Veil excludes the Soul's previous experiences and knowledge from the physical mind, so that each new birth is truly a new beginning. The Veil roughly corresponds to the Soul's position in the Seven Planes -those Planes which the Soul has traversed and mastered are easily understood, those yet to be experienced are not easily perceived. The higher planes not easily perceived include the Astral and Soular Planes where the Soul's experiences are stored. More advanced Souls who are farther into experience of the Astral Plane have more access to their Souls powers and previous experiences and often remember these spontaneously. This is called being "Born Old". Others must work hard to access the information of the higher planes.

Symbolism: The “Devil” is shown as a harlequin sitting on a rock in a dazed or dreaming state. His true identity as the God is obscured by his costume, which gives him instead the aspect of a clown. He has one foot on land and the other in water. The water here represents emotion and the subconscious. Although solid ground rises all about him, and lotuses representing spiritual growth and wisdom bloom above the waters, the Devil is oblivious to all but his dream. In the sky above the Moon is blindfolded and sheds a tear, for while the God is enslaved to his dream (matter) the Goddess remains veiled from him. Thus the image represents delusion and fantasy.

Numerology: The number of The Veil card is Twenty Three, which reduces to Five ($2 + 3 = 5$). Five is the Number of communication and exchange, while Two is the Number of partnership and Three of movement and expansion. Thus the Veil card is revealed as being all about external communication and working with others. At first these concepts may seem incompatible with ideas embodied in The Veil card –but when we consider that a primary aspect of The Veil is the illusion of separateness (from Deity and from each other), and that such separateness is the prerequisite of and primary reason for communication, the meaning becomes clearer. The Veil is the mechanism by which Involution and its attendant illusion of separation from the Universal Whole is possible.

Advice: The Veil card means that you are not seeing clearly –accurate understanding of the situation in question is obscured, as if by a veil. With the Veil card an effort is required to see the situation as it really is, rather than as you would have it be, or as you fear it might be. Part of the problem is having an accurate view of yourself. The Veil card suggests that you may be harboring illusions about yourself and your role in or feelings about the situation. Examine your feelings and try to get some emotional distance from the situation or look at it from fresh angles. You may find that things you thought you knew about the situation are very different when viewed from a distance.



XXIV - The Tower

Meaning: The Tower represents a breaking free of situations which have been previously held back. Limitations and barriers which have restricted growth or movement will be broken loose. This freedom may come suddenly, and may be quite unexpected –and the changes may not at first appear to be what is desired. However the changes are for the best. The querent will have no control over these changes, however they can control their reaction to them, and thus how they experience them. If the changes are resisted, they are likely to be more intense and potentially traumatic. If the querent accepts and adapts to the changes, the process can be much easier.

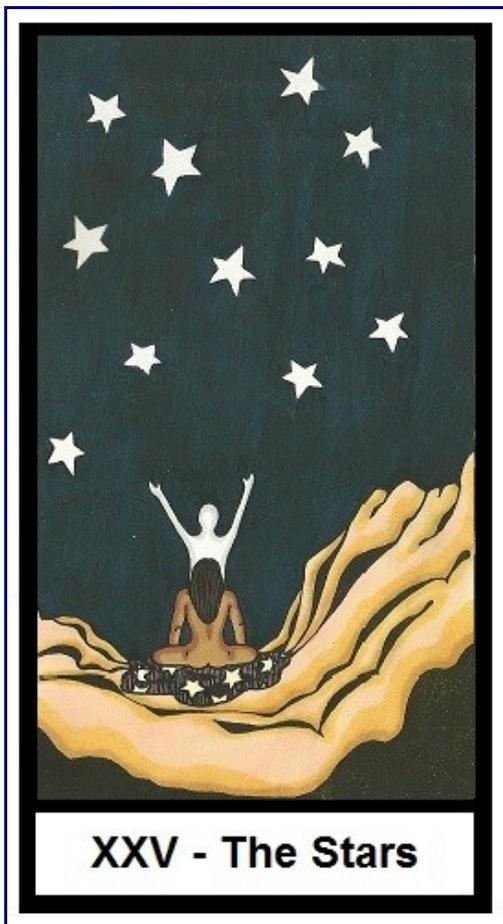
Cosmology: The Tower represents the Soul's liberation from old forms, and the explosive growth which follows. In this the Tower corresponds to the Alchemical term Nigredo. In Alchemical though Yin / Yang opposites are subjected to pressure and reduced to a Nigredo – a residue which results from the destruction of their old forms. From this residue, which is at once putrification of the old and fertilization of the new, arises the Cauda Pavonis, or Peacock's Tail –a colorful explosion of new forms which represents the beginning of spiritual enlightenment. In Alchemical thought it is said that there can be "No Generation Without Putrification" –that is to say, new growth cannot occur until old forms are cleared away. For the Soul this means that the many attachments created through many lifetimes must be healed and released before it can achieve enlightenment.

Symbolism: The image of the Tower shows the Soul breaking free of the tower it has built for

itself, like a butterfly from its chrysalis. That this tower is built from the experiences of many lives is shown by the different stone faces which form it –one Asian with the Yin Yang symbol, one African with the Tiet (Knot of Isis) symbol, one European with the Pentagram, and one Native American with the Jaguar. The Soul is shown as a beautiful woman. She has the wings of a butterfly representing transformation, and she reaches out exultantly in her joy at being free. Her naked body is covered with tattoos representing the marks left by her experiences in her many lifetimes, how these have enriched her and shaped her character, and how she carries forward the best of them into eternity.

Numerology: The Number of the Tower is Twenty Four, which reduces to Six ($2 + 4 = 6$). The Six influence is increased by the fact that Twenty Four is also 6×4 , or 12×2 . Six is the Number of Venus, of pleasure and comfort and accustomed habit –all the things which constitute the Tower from which the Soul must ultimately break free. Six represents the comfort and attachment which the Soul has for the Tower before liberating itself.

Advice: The Tower card tells us that change is immanent and that conditions in the situation at question will shortly be very different than they have been. This change should be expected quickly, and is often a near total change in the situation. These changes are needed because the querent has outgrown the old conditions -though the querent may not be consciously aware of this. It is important not to resist the changes which come, but to embrace them and adapt to them, because resisting the change will make it a harder experience.



XXV - The Stars

Meaning: The Stars represent calling upon the powers of the Higher Self, or Soul. This is done by looking within oneself –by turning to the Soul for self knowledge and inner guidance. Because the Soul has a much less limited perspective than the conscious mind, it can offer answers and insights which the conscious mind cannot. It is largely a matter of quieting the conscious mind enough to be able to listen to the Higher Self.

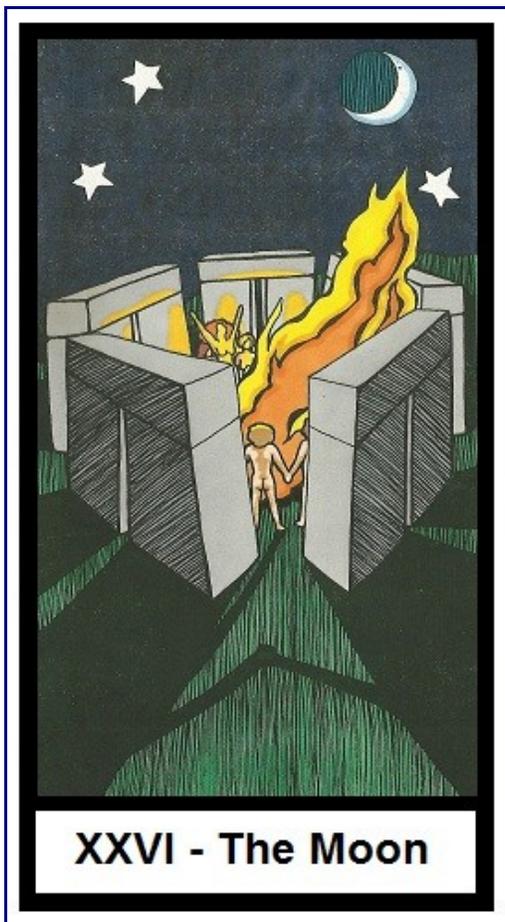
Cosmology: The Soul moves through the cycle of Death and rebirth, perfecting itself through the Temperance of many lifetimes' experience, in order to transcend The Veil and achieve liberation from the Tower of its experiences. The Stars, the Moon, and the Sun, all represent paths by which the Soul may pursue this goal. Severally they are introspection (The Stars), religions (The Moon), and service (The Sun). These first of these, The Stars, represent self examination and self healing. Examining and releasing ones attachments, so that one may move forward freely. This is a necessary aspect of the Souls development without which it cannot find liberation, for it would remain attached to previous experiences and patterns.

Symbolism: The Stars are represented by a Vision Quest. The Vision Quester sits nude in a small valley, resting upon a blanket itself patterned with stars. His spirit reaches up from his body toward the sky and the glittering stars above, as if it would be one with them –which indeed is the point of the card, for the spirit is part of the universe (Deity) and longs to feel at one with it again. The Soul's return to unity with Deity, enriched by its experiences in the

physical, is the point of its journey. The Stars (inner understanding) lead the way back to Deity.

Numerology: The Number of The Stars is Twenty Five, which reduces to Seven ($2 + 5 = 7$). The influence of the Two and the Five show partnership (2) in communication (5) between Soul and Conscious Mind –the relationship of oneself to one's Higher Self or ones Spirit Guides. Twenty Five is also 5×5 again emphasizing that this card represents communication above all, albeit internal communication. The Seven is of course the Number of Spirituality and Spiritual growth which is the keynote of the The Stars.

Advice: The Stars is a card of Spiritual guidance. The querent is advised to meditate upon the situation in question. Inner guidance is needed, and is the only real answer. Seeking external answers will not help. The querent must come to terms with what they really feel and think about the situation. If the person is spiritually active then they should seek guidance from their Spirit Guides. This is a card well defined by that phrase from the Charge of the Goddess: "if that which you seek you find not within yourself, you will never find it"



XXVI - The Moon

Meaning: Where The Stars represent knowledge of self, The Moon represents knowledge of Deity. Traditionally the Moon represents the unseen parts of the self, sometimes referred to as the subconscious but also the superconscious –the spiritual and emotional parts of the self not readily accessible by the conscious mind. The Moon card refers to the quest to bring these unseen parts of the self into conscious control –which as we have seen is the key to conscious manifestation and magic. This can be accomplished through the practice of religion, philosophy, and other established spiritual paths of a transformational nature. It can also be accomplished through other more personal forms of spiritual practice such as meditation, prayer, and spellcraft.

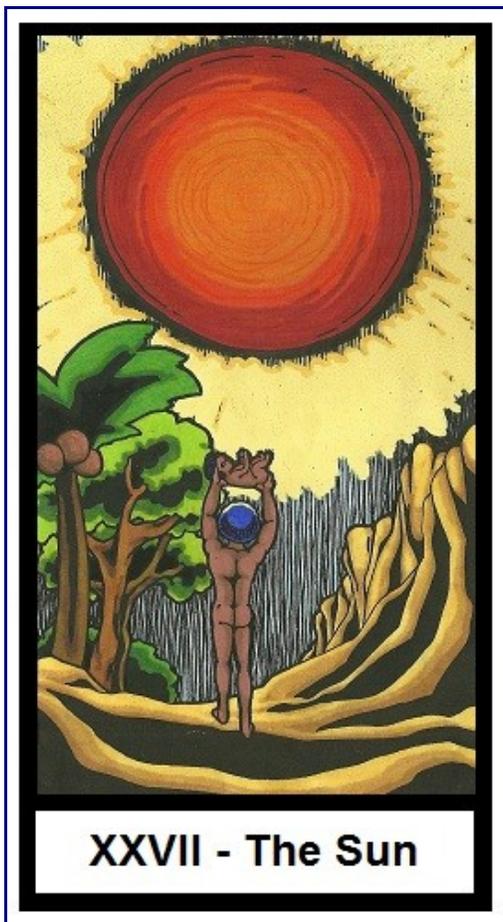
Cosmology: The Stars represent the study of the self: the path of introspection, self-knowledge and self-healing. The Moon represents the study of ones relationship with Deity/the Universe: the path of communion and alignment with our Higher Self and through it with All Things. This leads us ultimately to the understanding of the Hermetic maxim “As Above, So Below”: that all things reflect each other because All is One. In this way we learn that understanding ourselves and understanding the universe are not only related pursuits but interdependent. This is most commonly expressed through religion and philosophy, and is the major goal of each. This is the second of the three paths which the Soul uses to perfect itself in the cycle of incarnation.

Symbolism: The Moon is represented by a worship ritual. Within a stone circle of dolmens a

group of Witches gather around a bonfire to worship the Goddess of the Moon. The High Priestess can be seen invoking the Goddess with upraised arms. The crescent Moon above shines down upon them, bathing them in its light. And just as the Moon reflects the light of the Sun, so too the light of the bonfire paints the image of the dolmens across the dark landscape.

Numerology: The Number of The Moon is Twenty Six, which reduces to Eight ($2 + 6 = 8$). Twenty Six is also 2×13 . Thirteen is the number of Lunar months in a year, and is closely associated with spiritual and psychic abilities –an influence here doubled. Thus we have the expansion of spiritual knowledge. As for Two and Six these are numbers of the inner self and of inner peace –cultivation of which is certainly a major aspect of spiritual practice. Eight is the Number of determination and passion. Thus we see a focus on the inner self, spirituality, and focus –all the qualities of a transformative spiritual path.

Advice: When The Moon comes up in a reading it suggests that the querent should seek out an answer to their situation by spiritual means. Depending upon the person this could be through prayer, through meditation, or through magic. The situation must be approached on a spiritual as opposed to a physical level, and spiritual intervention is required on the part of the querent. Whereas The Stars indicate a need for spiritual guidance, The Moon indicates a need for spiritual action.



XXVII - The Sun

Meaning: The Sun represents success, achievement, being in a good situation. Just as the physical Sun brings light and warmth to create a favorable circumstance for plants and animals to thrive, so the Sun in the Tarot indicates a favorable circumstance for the querent to thrive: situations will be prosperous, goals will be achieved, emotions will be positive. It is a card of success and happiness, suggesting excellent circumstances for the querent.

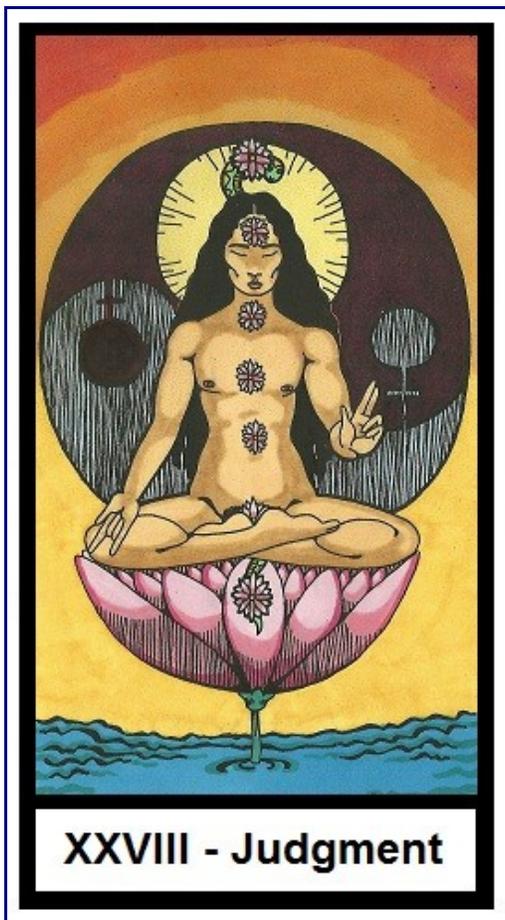
Cosmology: If The Stars represent knowledge of the self, and The Moon represents knowledge of Spirit, then The Sun represents knowledge of the application of spiritual knowledge in one's life. Because we are each a manifestation of Deity, we can access the creative powers of Deity through our Soul when we have created a proper alignment between our Higher and Lower Selves. This allows us to take a conscious role in the creation of our lives and our experiences. How much of a role we are able to take depends upon how successful we are in aligning with our Higher Self and unblocking our energies. One goal of incarnation is a perfect alignment of Higher and Lower Self which will allow full manifestation of the powers of the Soul in the physical world. The Sun represents the development of this ability to consciously create one's life, and then apply this ability to the further development of the Soul itself.

Symbolism: The Sun is represented by the Blessing of a newborn. A father holds his newborn child aloft toward the Sun, invoking both the blessing of the universe upon the child and acknowledging the relationship between the Universe and the child which is summed up

in maxim “As Above, So Below”. To one side the land is lush and verdant, to the other side lies desert –father and son are directly between the two extremes. The extremes of landscape indicate the way in which conscious manifestation can transform ones experience of life from desert to oasis.

Numerology: The Number of The Sun is Twenty Seven, which reduces to Nine ($2 + 7 = 9$). The influence of Nine is further shown by the fact that Twenty Seven is 9×3 –thus the expansion of Nine. Nine is the furthest extent of expansion before returning to One ($10 = 1 + 0 = 1$) and beginning again. The influence of Two and Seven emphasize partnership and spirituality. Thus here we see the furthest extension of spiritual growth through experience of being.

Advice: When The Sun appears in a reading it indicates that the querent will be successful either in terms of their general situation or in terms of achieving a specific goal. The Sun indicates success, prosperity, acclaim. With this card the querent can be assured of positive influences and beneficial situations.



XXVIII - Judgment

Meaning: Judgment represents the achievement of a long standing goal or the completion of a journey. A quest will be completed, a dream accomplished, a goal realized. This is not the accomplishment of a passing fancy, but rather of a long term goal, finally brought to pass. For this reason Judgment may have the quality of an ending, as the querent may have been working toward this goal for some time. Having successfully achieved the goal, the next question becomes “What now?”

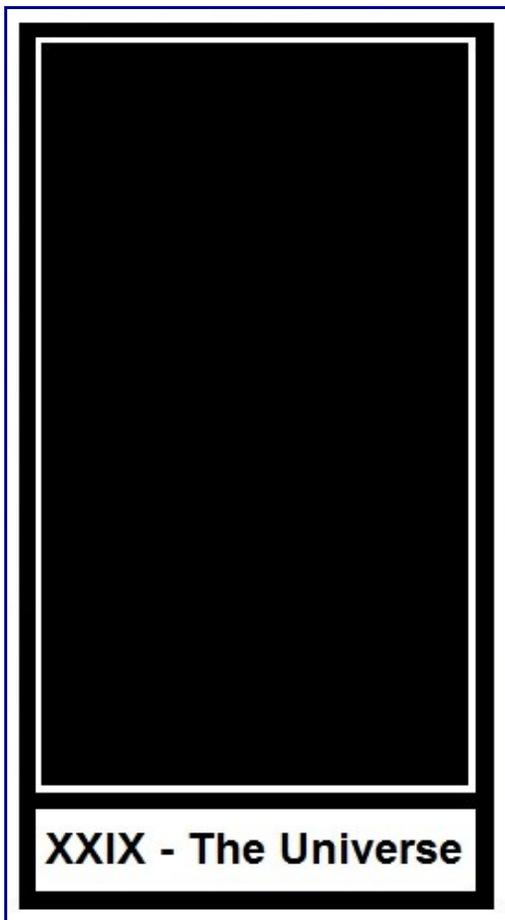
Cosmology: Cosmologically Judgment represents achieving “Enlightenment” or the state of being a spiritual master or saint. Most religions recognize such a state, though what it means to each one varies –but in all cases it represents a spiritual awakening and advanced spiritual state. Thus Taoist sages, Hindu saints, Buddhist Boddhisattvas, Christian saints, Metaphysical Adepts, Greco-Roman Demi-Gods, etc... will be seen to reflect the same basic concept. This is the level of spiritual actualization which precedes transcendence of incarnation and union with Deity. Everyone eventually reaches this level, but some take longer than others and all must come to it in their own way. To paraphrase the Blv. LaVeda, we can all take as long as we need, because Deity has all the time in the world.

Symbolism: Judgment is represented by a Boddhisattva in a posture of meditation. However this Boddhisattva will immediately be seen to reveal his true nature as the Fool from card 0. This is because the advanced Soul reflects the character of Primordial Deity very clearly. Like the Fool the Chakras of the Boddhisattva are marked with lotuses, and he sits in the lotus

position upon a giant lotus which rises from the waters of manifestation. The Kundalini serpent curls upward through the Chakras, visible above and below the figure. Behind is the image of the Yin Yang, with its symbolism of masculine and feminine polarity spelled out through the symbols of Mars and Venus. With his right hand the Bodhisattva makes the Mano Cornuta, a symbol of generative power, pointing downward into the physical, while with his left hand he makes a gesture of blessing pointing upward toward spirit.

Numerology: The Number of Judgment is Twenty Eight, which reduces to One ($2 + 8 = 10 = 1$). Ten represents the beginning of a new cycle by virtue of reducing to One –beginning. Two and Eight here represent the passionate partnership between Soul and Deity, which is experiencing a new beginning through Judgment. One emphasizes the focus upon the self and perfection of the self achieved through self-examination and meditation (The Stars), spiritual transformation (The Moon), and putting ones spirituality into action (The Sun) which have made liberation possible.

Advice: The Judgment card indicates that the querent will achieve what they have wanted or worked for. A long term goal is accomplished successfully. The effort that was formerly put toward achieving this goal will no longer be necessary. This may necessitate the querent's re-examining their life in the wake of their success, in order to move on. Otherwise success may lead to stagnation. The situation which has long taken their attention will be successfully completed –new goals and new directions will be needed to take its place.



XXIX - The Universe

Meaning: The Universe card represents the world and all that it has to offer. This card indicates extremely positive influences and extremely fortunate circumstances in whatever part of a reading it appears in. Happiness, success, prosperity, luck –all are indicated by the Universe card. The Universe offers an extremely fortunate situation, which offers all that one might desire from it.

Cosmology: The Universe represents the completion of the Soul's journey: reunion of the Soul and Deity. What lies beyond this point: a new beginning and new adventures. It must be understood that this reunion with Deity does not in any way lessen the Soul, but rather expands it. The Soul is not "consumed" by Deity nor "absorbed" by Deity, but rather comes fully into its Oneness with Deity. It is not the ending of a road but rather an opening into wider worlds. Indeed, the Soul does not so much reunite with Deity as come fully into the realization that it has never truly been separate –has itself been God along. The illusion of separation has simply been the Divine Consciousness being so tightly Involved that it lost sight of itself.

Symbolism: The symbolism of the Universe card is the color black. In this it is a direct reflex of the Magic card (3) which is white. In both cases the solid color indicates processes which are beyond our knowledge and understanding. As the Magic card might be regarded as a White Hole constantly creating matter, so the Universe card might be thought of as the obverse Black Hole, constantly consuming and transforming matter. And just as it is thought that a Black Hole is merely the other side of a White Hole, so too the Universe is merely the

other side of Magic –reunion with Deity merely the other side of creation/separation.

Numerology: The Number of The Universe is Twenty Nine, which reduces to Eleven and thence to Two ($2 + 9 = 11 = 2$). Eleven is a Number of psychic and magical power, while Two is a Number of partnership and service. Two must also be regarded in this sense as the Number of Goddess and God as opposite halves of the Universe: Yin and Yang. Thus the nature of The Universe is revealed here as one of magical duality and partnership –the eternal interaction of the Divine Whole through its inner forces, which appear separate but are in reality only sides of the same coin. Thus we see that All is One and Many at the same time.

Advice: The Universe card indicates that the querent can expect very positive conditions in whatever part of the reading the card appears in. The Universe indicates happiness, success, good fortune: Whatever can be desired from the situation is likely to be there for the having. The Universe is among the best possible cards in any position, and indicates a near ideal situation.

Minor Arcana

In a traditional Tarot the Minor Arcana consists of four suits, which correspond to the four suits of the playing cards. These Four Tarot Suits are Wands, Cups, Swords, and Pentacles. In the Tarot of Hekate there is also a Fifth Suit, Lamps. The four traditional suits correspond to the Four Elements that are associated with the physical world: Wands/Fire, Swords/Air, Cups/Water, and Pentacles/Earth. The suit of Lamps corresponds to Spirit, which is thought of as the Fifth Element that underlies the other four.

In the traditional Tarot the Elemental arrangement of the Minor Arcana suits tends to take a different sequence from what we see in some other systems, such as modern Wicca, however the Elements are often found in different sequences in different disciplines, owing to the differing times and places in which these systems originate. Despite being ordered differently, the ideas behind them remain the same. The Elemental sequence commonly seen in Tarot is Wands, Cups, Swords, Pentacles.

Where the Major Arcana tells the story of the Soul's journey through incarnation, the Minor Arcana speaks to issues of everyday life, with Wands corresponding to plans and ambitions, Cups to romance and family, Swords to structure and limitations, and Pentacles to money and business. The added suit of Lamps corresponds to spirituality.

In addition each of the Minor Arcana suits tells a particular story, illustrating the meanings of the cards in the suit and making them easier to remember. The protagonists of the stories are: Wands: Marina (Sea), Cielo (Sky), and Montagna (Mountain); Cups: Aina (Land), Makani (Wind), Ahi (Fire), and Wai (Water); Swords: Natsu (Summer), Aki (Autumn), Fuyu (Winter), and Haru (Spring); Pentacles: Bakhu (Dawn), Heru (Day), Manu (Dusk), and Kekui (Night); Lamps: Chak Ek (Venus). The idea that each suit contains a story has been around for some time, but here the stories take center stage in elucidating the meaning of the cards.

In traditional Tarot decks the Minor Arcana Pip Cards were illustrated much like playing cards, with the image consisting of the number and kind of objects indicated by the card -for example the Three of Cups would show three cups, or the Eight of Swords would show eight swords. More modern Tarot cards illustrated the Pip Cards with scenes, but included the requisite number of objects in the scene -for example in many decks the Eight of Swords shows a woman bound and blindfolded, and also surrounded by the titular eight swords. In illustrating the Pip Cards for the Tarot of Hekate I chose not to follow this practice, because it seemed rather contrived to me -and also unnecessary as the name of the card is emblazoned right at the bottom. I did not see why there needed to be six cups in the picture when the card said Six of Cups right on it. This gave me a great deal more freedom in composing the images for the cards. I did however follow the traditional practice of including the suits' title objects in the Court Cards.

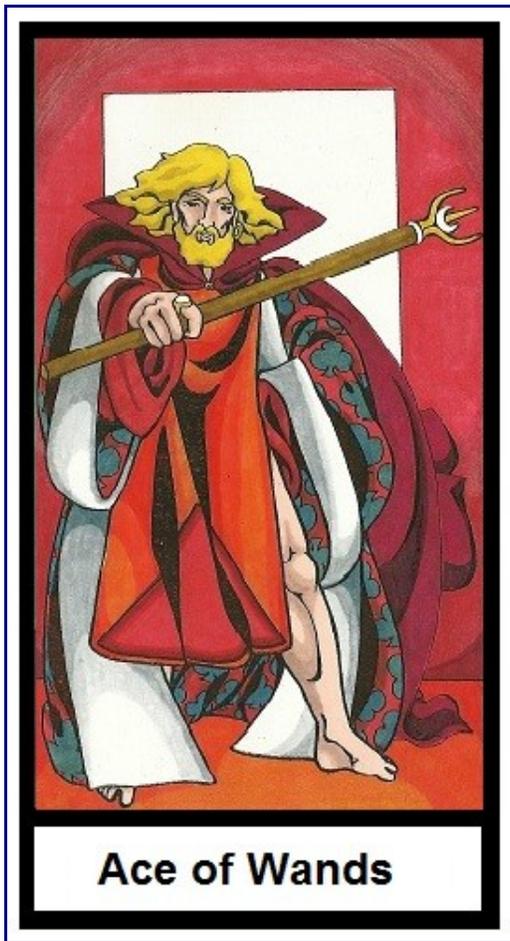
The Court Cards of the Minor Arcana differ from those of playing cards in that there are four Court Cards rather than three -one for each of the four elements, plus the Ace for Spirit. Thus you will see in the text that I interpret the meaning of the Court Cards elementally rather than numerologically.

The characters portrayed in the Court Cards do not represent the same characters portrayed in the Pip Cards. For the most part the Court Cards are portrayed as a royal or noble court of the respective era. The King of Wands is a renaissance King: The King of Swords a Japanese Daimyo: The King of Cups a Polynesian King: The King of Pentacles a Pharaoh: And the King of Lights is a Maya King who has become a mystic.

As for the Ace, it represents the essential character of each suit, and in this is outside both the story portrayed in the Pip Cards as well as the figures portrayed in the Court Cards. In this the Ace somewhat echoes the nature of the Fool in the Major Arcana.

Let us now move forward to examine the cards of the Minor Arcana.

The Suit of Wands



Ace of Wands

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number One, the Ace of Wands represents the essential nature of Fire: passion, action, transformation. This is a strong, determined energy with great focus and drive. It represents the ability to manifest, to create one's desires on the material plane through the application of focus and effort.

Narrative Meaning: The Ace of Wands is a European man brandishing a wand in front of him. He wears a number of fire symbols including upward-pointing triangles from both eastern and western traditions. His robe is patterned with trefoils representing leaves from the standard "Clubs" suit of playing cards, which corresponds to the Tarot suit of "Wands".

Divinatory Meaning: The Ace of Wands indicates a focus on long-term plans, goals, and desires: Hopes and dreams that you truly want and feel passionate about and focus on with an intent to bring them to pass. These are goals so strongly felt, so keenly desired that they can be adhered to for long periods of time.

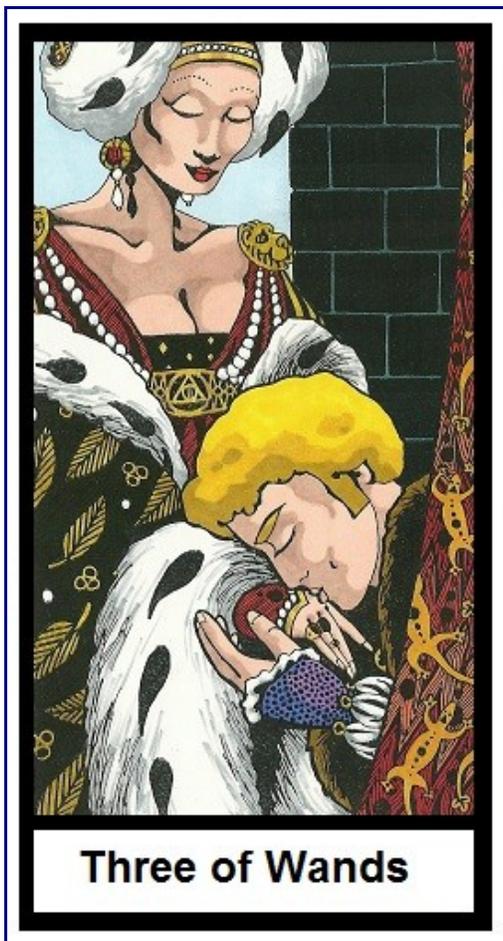


Two of Wands

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by Number Two, this card represents the element of Fire in private relations with others. It indicates passionate desires and material ambitions for the present or future: goals, plans, and hopes.

Narrative Meaning: Young Lord Cielo stands on the battlements of his castle staring off into the horizon and dreaming of a bright and splendid future. Although he is only a minor nobleman Lord Cielo has high ambitions and full of hope he sets off to seek his fortune in the royal court.

Divinatory Meaning: The Two of Wands indicates a new beginning, or new directions within existing situations. It can mean starting out on a new path, a new project, or applying new ideas or new approaches. In all events the Two of Wands indicates fresh ideas and experiences that are different from what has gone before.



Three of Wands

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by Number Three, this card represents the element of Fire in public relations with others. Meetings, relationships, or communications with others who can be of help in manifesting ones desires or plans. Moving forward materially through the help of others.

Narrative Meaning: At the royal court Lord Cielo is presented to the young Queen Marina. The Queen is deeply impressed with the handsome and courteous young man, and her favor quickly elevates him in court society.

Divinatory Meaning: Receiving help or advice from another person in a better position than yourself. This person's help or advice will be good and should be accepted and made use of.

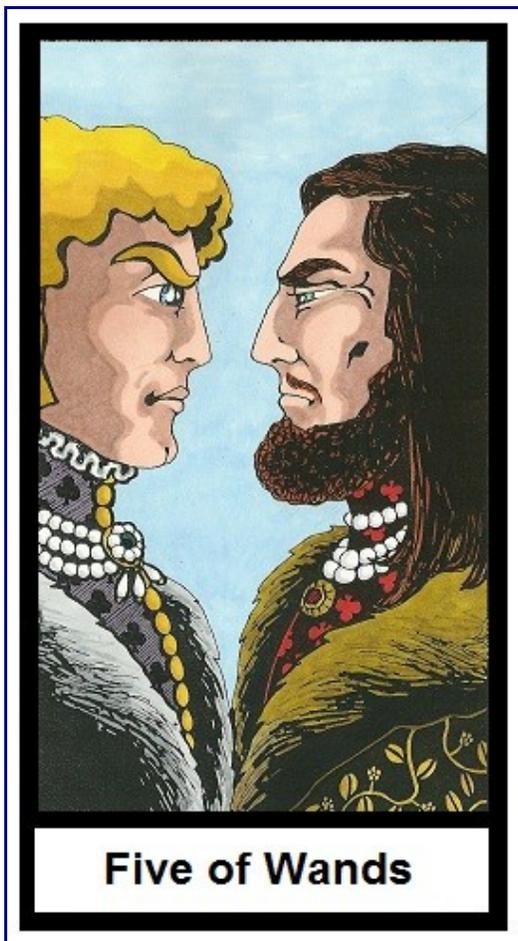


Four of Wands

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by Number Four, this card represents the element of Fire at its most stable. A stable fire burns brightly, gives much warmth, and attracts much attention. This is a card of success, celebration, and celebrity.

Narrative Meaning: Queen Marina is so enamored of Lord Cielo that soon she takes him for her husband, despite his relatively lowly origins. Now King Cielo, ruler of a kingdom and husband of a beautiful and adoring Queen, all of the young man's dreams and ambitions have been fulfilled.

Divinatory Meaning: Achievement, accomplishment of a goal, getting what you have wanted and worked for: happiness, celebration, exultation in your success. Being exceedingly pleased with having successfully completed your desire.



Five of Wands

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Five, this card represents the element of Fire in motion. Left to its own devices fire dances and leaps in all directions at once, quickly expanding as long as there is fuel –regardless of whether its effects are constructive or destructive. This card similarly represents undirected movement and resultant conflicts.

Narrative Meaning: Although he is now King, Cielo has many enemies, first among whom is Queen Marina’s cousin Prince Montagna. Next in line to the throne after Queen Marina, and Prime Minister of the realm, Montagna regards Cielo as being an unsuitable interloper and despises him. For his part King Cielo knows and enemy when he sees one, and the two men are quickly at loggerheads on every subject.

Divinatory Meaning: Conflict, either internal, external, or both. Several possible courses of action are in contention, and it is difficult to settle upon which one will go forward.

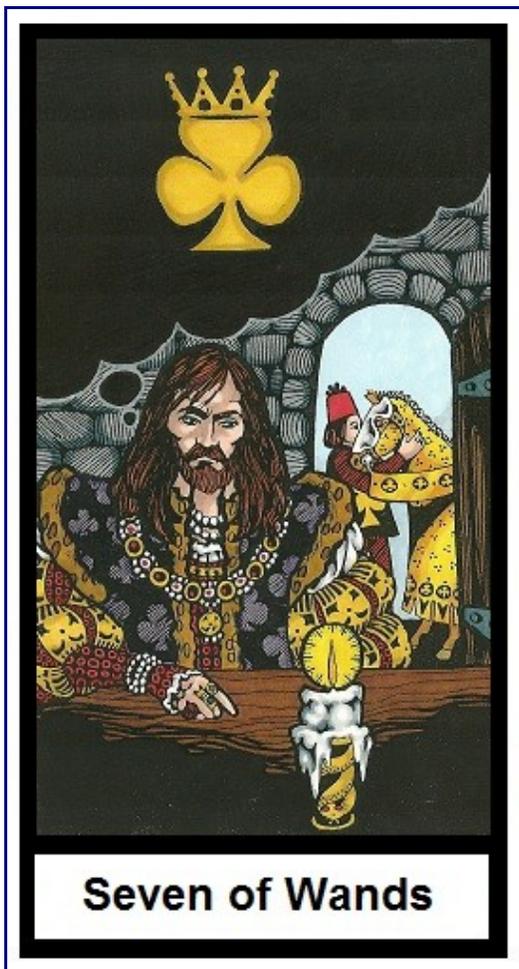


Six of Wands

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by Number Six, this card represents the element of Fire helped along by fate. It represents worldly success and achievement, getting what you desire, accomplishment.

Narrative Meaning: As King and Queen Cielo and Marina receive obeisance from all of their nobles. It is a personal triumph for Cielo when his enemy Prince Montagna must pay him homage.

Divinatory Meaning: Victory, success, achievement of your goal: getting what you have wanted and being happy with it. Being in a position of having what you have desired.

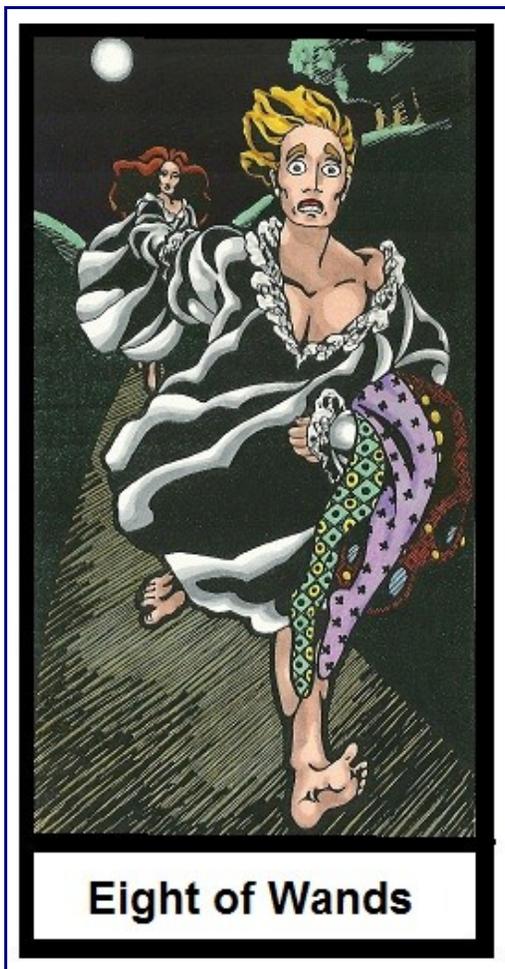


Seven of Wands

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by Number Seven, this card represents the element of Fire dealing with obstacles. In this case the obstacle is the effort necessary to achieve or maintain one's goals and desires. The obstacle can and will be overcome, but only through effort.

Narrative Meaning: Feeling angry and humiliated by Cielo, Prince Montagna plots a daring strategy. Though he knows it will not be easy, Montagna plans to seize his cousin's throne. It will take a lot of planning, courage, and stealth, and the risks are great should he be caught, but Montagna knows he can succeed if he goes at it correctly.

Divinatory Meaning: Success as the result of hard work. What is desired will be achieved, but it must be worked for. The effort of accomplishing the goal will be felt, but it will be successful.

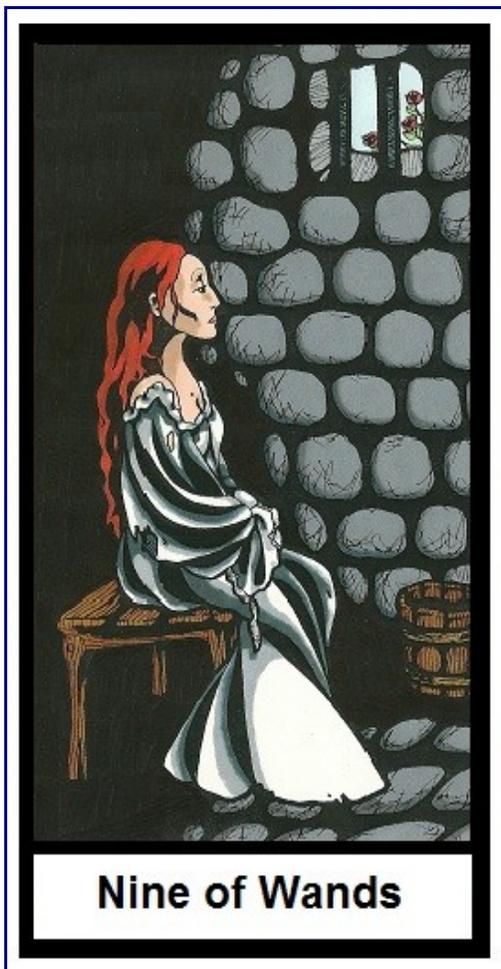


Eight of Wands

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Eight, this card represents the element of Fire in extremity. Fire in extremity is sudden, fast moving, and transformative, therefore this card represents speed and transformation and transformation of circumstances.

Narrative Meaning: The rebellion comes quickly and seemingly without warning. With nowhere to turn a terrified King Cielo and Queen Marina flee from the royal palace without even taking time to dress.

Divinatory Meaning: Sudden changes, unexpected happenings, surprises. Things will move very suddenly, and may take unexpected directions.

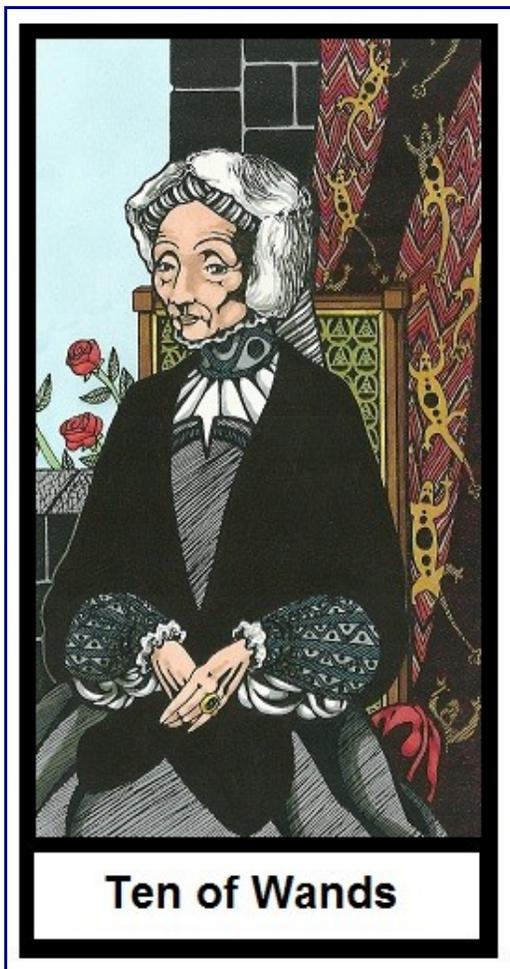


Nine of Wands

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Nine, this card represents the element of Fire in its greatest skill. When fire is applied steadily over a long period it transforms without destroying, as in cooking or the firing of pottery. This card is all about slow but steady transformation, and the patience needed to allow that transformation to happen.

Narrative Meaning: Captured, Queen Marina is deposed and Montagna now becomes King. After executing Cielo, Montagna imprisons Marina for many years. Though she hopes for an eventual release, and dreams of regaining her freedom, Marina can do nothing but count the days of her imprisonment.

Divinatory Meaning: Waiting. The time is not yet right to take action, patience is required, one must wait and bide ones time. Nothing can be done to move the situation forward at this time. One must simply wait and allow things to unfold.



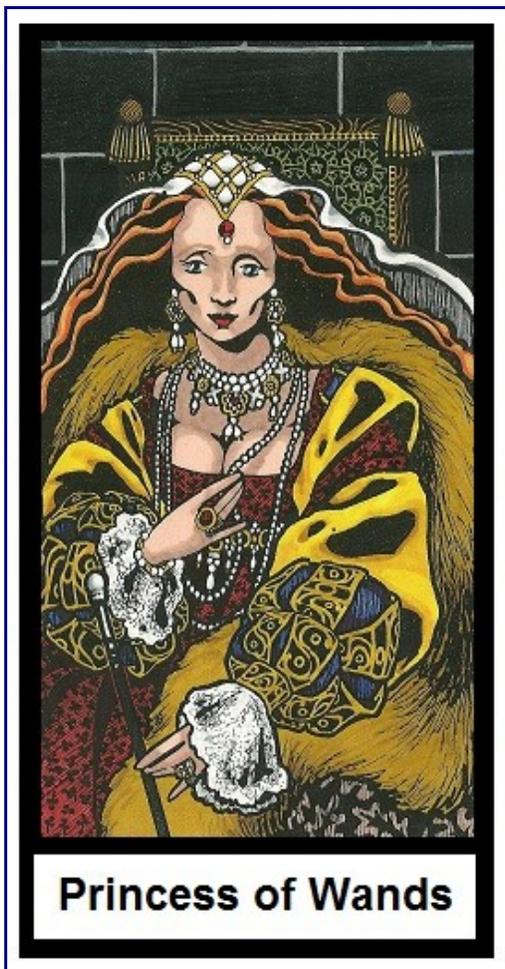
Ten of Wands

Ten of Wands

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Ten, this card represents the element of Fire in its ultimate fulfillment. That greatest fulfillment of Fire is the destruction of the old to make way for the new, removing or transforming one state of being so that another can emerge. This represents that change about to happen.

Narrative Meaning: After many years imprisonment the former Queen Marina is at last set free, now too old to pose any threat to the new King, Montagna's son. Widowed, childless, with no hope of ever regaining her kingdom, Marina lives on waiting only for death to come.

Divinatory Meaning: Present situations are almost ready to pass over, new beginnings are almost at hand but not quite. We are on the brink of change, dealing with the last aspects of our old situations before new conditions unfold.



Princess of Wands

Elemental Meaning: The Princess of Wands represents the Element of Fire influenced by Earth. Earth is fertile but immobile, fire is passion and manifestation: Together they represent the potential for action not yet realized. All manner of actions are possible here, but they have not yet been acted upon.

Narrative Meaning: The Princess of Wands is a talented and intelligent but sheltered woman in the opening stages of her life. Her resources are great, her opportunities will be many, but what she will do with these remains unseen as she has yet to emerge upon the stage of life.

Divinatory Meaning: A situation whose time has not yet come, but which will come soon. All is nearly ready, but it is just not time yet for this to play out. This situation is simply not yet ready to advance.



Prince of Wands

Elemental Meaning: The Prince of Wands represents the element of Fire influenced by Air. Air is thought and imagination, fire is action and ambition: Together they represent an explosion of imagination in all directions. Unfortunately trying to expand in all directions at once usually leaves us unable to give enough attention to any one direction to make it feasible.

Narrative Meaning: The Prince of Wands is an ambitious but unfocused young man. Full of good ideas and enthusiasm, he rarely accomplishes anything because he is on to something new before the finishing his last project: consequently he never seems to actually accomplish anything. If only he would focus on one project to completion he might become as great as he thinks he already is.

Divinatory Meaning: Although there is much desire and much energy expended in this situation, there is not enough focus for these to create the desired effect. Efforts will be wasted unless greater focus is brought to bear upon the situation.



Queen of Wands

Elemental Meaning: This card represents the element of Fire influenced by Water. Water is fluid and reactive, Fire is ambition and passion: together they represent the ability to exert influence without seeming to. Just as Water can carve out great canyons or wear down mountains over centuries without appearing to do anything in the moment, so to this card represents the ability to accomplish what we desire without appearing to exert ourselves.

Narrative Meaning: The Queen of Wands is a wealthy and powerful woman. Although as wife of the King she has relatively little formal power, her actual power is immense. She is mature, intelligent, and capable, and plans for all eventualities –but her main focus is what she desires in the present rather than the future.

Divinatory Meaning: Being in a strong, secure position, and able to arrange things pretty much as we desire them: Setting things to order, having our own way, being in control of our environment. Having the influence to get what we want, especially from behind the scenes or through informal channels.



King of Wands

Elemental Meaning: This card represents the Element of Fire influenced by itself. That makes for fiery, passionate, and focused energy. Fire is transformative in nature and makes long-term changes to everything it touches, and this card deals with long-term transformations of people and situations through focused thought and effort.

Narrative Meaning: The King of Wands has great foresight and prepares for situations far in advance. He lays out his plans and carefully nurtures their development for months or years to successfully bring them to pass. The King of Wands anticipates all eventualities and prepares for situations before he encounters them, and so is rarely caught off guard.

Divinatory Meaning: This card indicates a focus on long-term plans, goals, and ambitions. Desires, projects, changes that require long range planning and sustained effort are indicated, as well as the ability to stick to our plans once we have set them.

The Suit of Cups

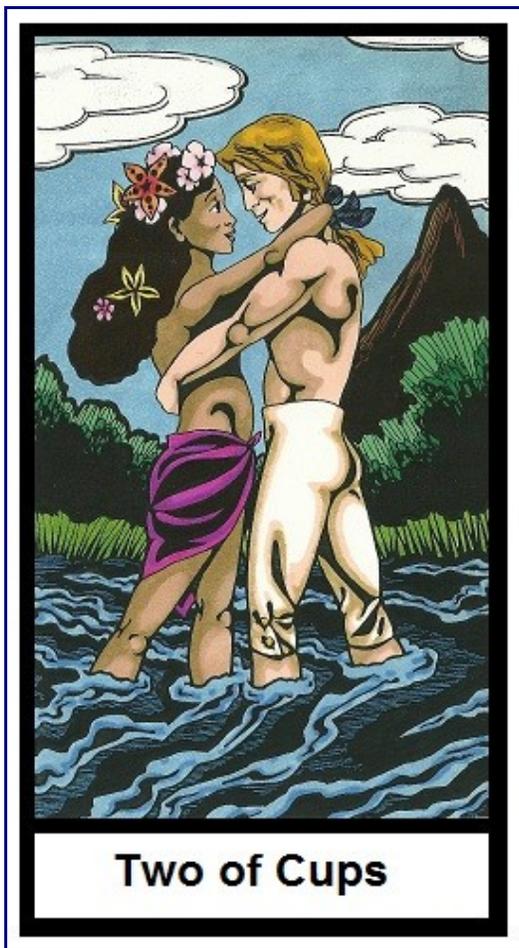


Ace of Cups

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number One, this card represents the essential nature of Water: A fluid, Water is happiest when it can flow free following its fancy and shaping itself to whatever it encounters. Water represents the emotions, which also desire to flow free and which naturally shape themselves to all that they encounter. This card represents the joy of free-flowing happiness and the pleasure of following our own heart.

Narrative Meaning: The Ace of Cups is a woman carrying a chalice. She wears symbols of water including the downward-pointing triangle of western tradition and the crescent of eastern tradition. Her robe is patterned with stylized hearts after the suit of “Hearts” in standard playing decks, which corresponds to the Tarot suit of “Cups”.

Divinatory Meaning: Happiness, pleasure, emotional satisfaction -sometimes romance. The Ace of Cups symbolizes all positive emotions and positive emotional relationships, and when it appears in a reading it indicates a happy and positive situation.

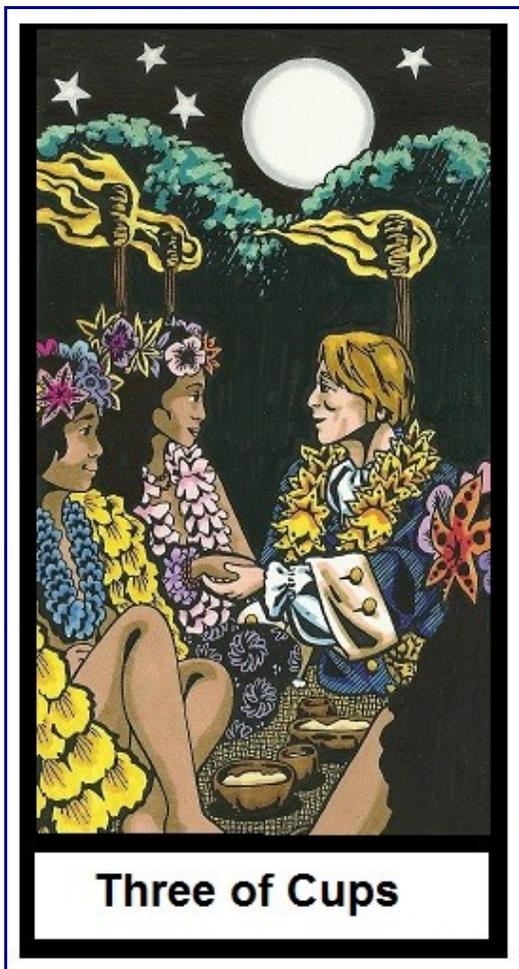


Two of Cups

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Two, this card represents the element of Water as expressed in private relationships with others. Water represents emotion, which is reactive in character. Water shapes itself to all it encounters, flowing around rocks and boulders, streaming down gullies and ravines according to whatever path is easiest, effortlessly surrounding creatures and plants within it. In private relationships this represents romantic love, wherein two people shape themselves to one another.

Narrative Meaning: In the eighteenth century a young sailor on shore leave in the Pacific meets the beautiful Aina, daughter of the local King. They are immediately drawn to each other, for each one represents adventure and all that is exotic to the other. Smitten, Aina gives the sailor the name Makani.

Divinatory Meaning: A romantic relationship or other partnership involving strong emotions. A romantic partner, friend, or family member will be a very important influence in our situations.

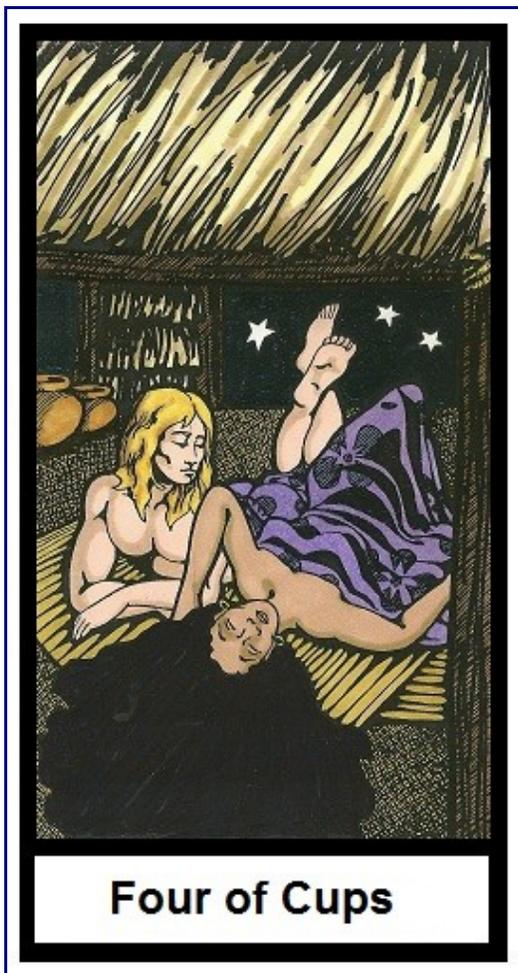


Three of Cups

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Three, this card represents the element of Water expressed in public relationships with others. The fluidity of Water here shapes itself not to one other, but to many. This card represents platonic love, friendship, and social intercourse.

Narrative Meaning: Aina and Makani fall in love and spend all of their time together. Makani enjoys the company of Aina's family and friends as well, and they are happy to see the young couple so much in love. Aina's father throws a feast for the couple, and even Aina's former suitor Ahi attends and shares in the general joyousness.

Divinatory Meaning: Happiness shared with others, a joyful group or environment that increases our own happiness: celebration, enjoyment, festivity.

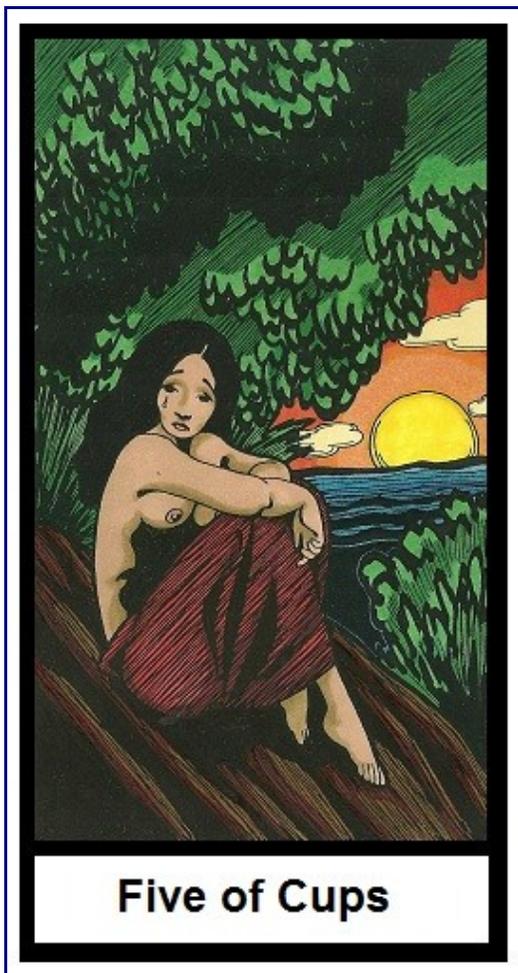


Four of Cups

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by Number Four, this card represents the element of Water in a state of stasis. Though Water can remain within a confined space like a lake or a cup, it is never truly immobile –even in freezing it expands. Every movement changes it and it will always seek every opportunity to ripple, flow, or escape altogether. Still waters run deep, with currents and eddies far below the surface and often invisible from the surface. So too here, stability hides a restlessness that long for new opportunities and experiences.

Narrative Meaning: Although Aina loves Makani and is content with him, Makani himself is restless. Makani dreams of the great wide world and of all the places that the ocean can take him. Though what he has in Aina is good, he is anxious for more and cannot remain content.

Divinatory Meaning: A situation which while good in itself, is not all we desire it to be: wanting more than is present, restlessness in an otherwise good situation. It is important not to loose sight of the good things that we actually do have because we desire so strongly things we do not have.

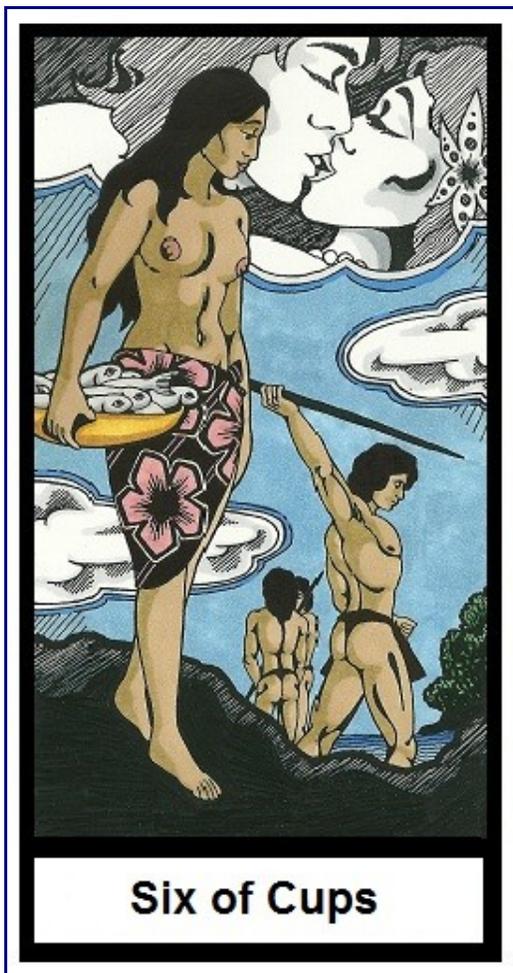


Five of Cups

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by Number Five, this card represents the element of Water in a state of change and transformation. Water represents emotion, and the emotions often react badly to change –out of fear of the unknown, uncertainty about the future, or pain because of having to release something that we feel attached to. Thus this card carries the connotation of sorrow, or loss of something that has been loved or desired –even though that loss may actually be for the best.

Narrative Meaning: When his shore leave ends Makani returns to his ship, leaving Aina behind. Alone now, Aina is miserable and dejected. As happy as she had been with Makani, Aina is equally unhappy now that he is gone. She feels as if the Sun is setting upon her life.

Divinatory Meaning: Unhappiness, a feeling of loss, grieving for a situation which has not turned out as desired: A desire for things to be different than they are.

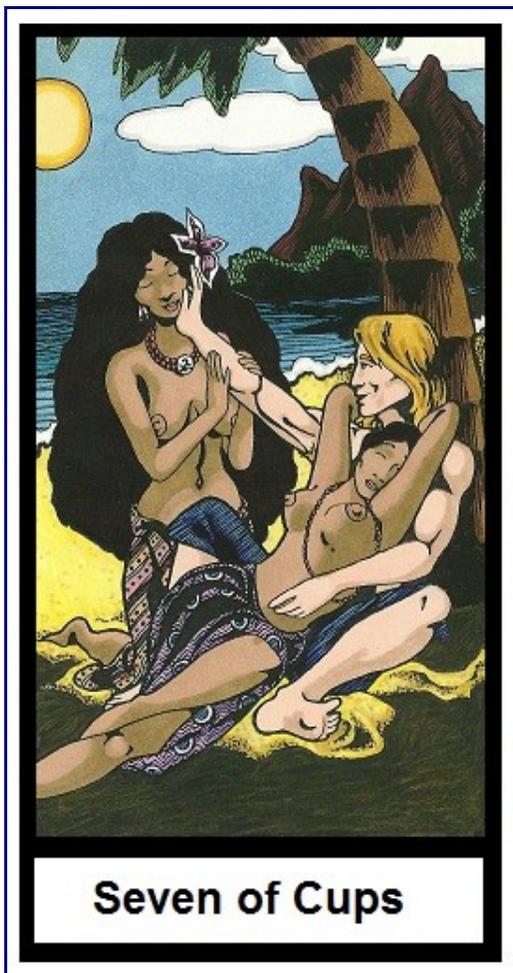


Six of Cups

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by Number Six, this card represents the element of Water given a Gift of Fate. Here that gift is to flow back upon itself and revisit familiar courses. It is truly said that we can never step into the same river twice, yet at the same time all water will in the course of time evaporate, rising to the clouds only to eventually precipitate and thence flow was water once again. This card brings the echo of the past into the present, returning us to people, places, or patterns we have previously known.

Narrative Meaning: For some time Aina lives with her sorrow, eschewing the company of others and feeling sorry for herself. Then one day Aina happens to see Ahi fishing. Ahi had hoped to marry Aina before Makani came to the island. Now Aina and Ahi begin to see one another again.

Divinatory Meaning: Influences from the past, people we have known, situations or places which have been important in our past, will influence our future. People from our past may reappear in our lives; situations from our past may seem to repeat.



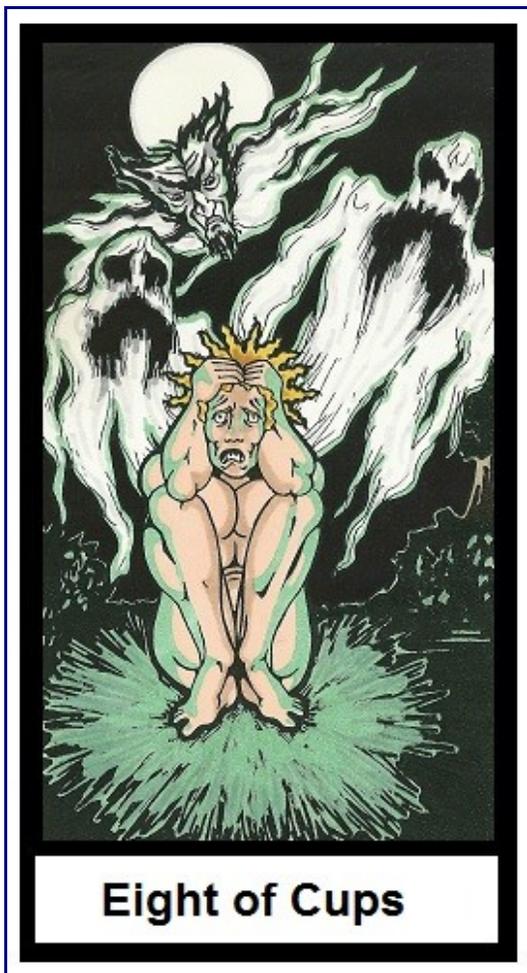
Seven of Cups

Seven of Cups

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by Number Seven, this card represents the element of Water crossed by obstacles. Water is reflective, and its surface often hides what lies beneath, mirroring instead the illusory image of whatever is above it. This card too represents illusion, with the surface appearance of situations obscuring their true nature.

Narrative Meaning: Free from his relationship with Aina, Makani now abandons himself to the pleasures of the flesh and attempts to sate his appetites with many partners. Although this distracts him from his regrets, they remain below the surface and return when he is alone.

Divinatory Meaning: Illusion, internal crossed wires, lack of self knowledge which leads to pursuing the wrong goals, not knowing what we really want.



Eight of Cups

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by Number Eight, this card represents the element of Water in extremity. Because the surface of Water so often reflects what is above it, what is actually under the water can be a source of fear for us. Even though there may be nothing to be afraid of, not being able to see what is there can cause us to imagine all sorts of dangers, and exaggerate whatever real dangers may be present. This card represents that exaggerated fear of the unknown, and the tendency to imagine situations we gear as being worse than they really are.

Narrative Meaning: Far away now, Makani is haunted by memories of Aina and the happiness he had shared with her. Unable to return to her, or to find equal happiness with another, he is tormented by his imagination. The happiness that was and might have continued, the misery that is, the fear of what may yet be prey upon his mind.

Divinatory Meaning: This card indicates seeing problems as being worse than they are, or even imagining problems that do not exist. Backing away from or withdrawing from a situation because of exaggerated or imaginary fears.

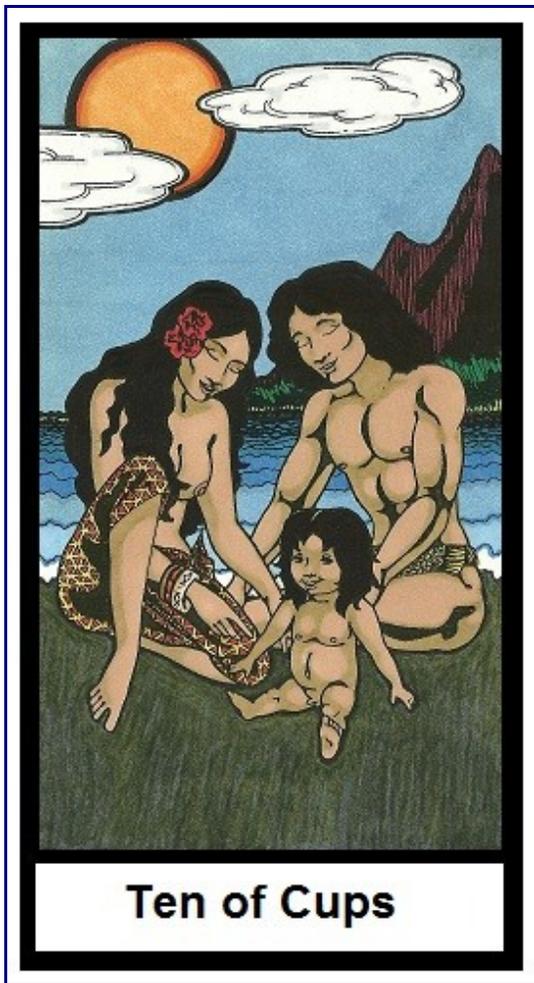


Nine of Cups

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by Number Nine, this card represents the element of Water in its greatest strength. Water is reflective and fluid by nature, shaping itself to whatever it encounters. Though we are rarely aware of it, the outer physical world shapes itself to the inner spiritual world in much the same way. With this card our physical circumstances will shape themselves to whatever we focus on –so we must be careful to focus on what we truly desire.

Narrative Meaning: Happier with Aki than she ever was with Makani, Aina has learned much about what she does and does not really want. The adventure and novelty that Makani represented now pale beside the joy she finds in her relationship with Ahi. Her fondest wish is now realized, and she is pregnant with a child who will be born into a truly loving home.

Divinatory Meaning: This card is both the best card and the worst card in the deck at the same time. It is called “The Wish Card” and it indicates that whatever it is we are wishing for, we will get. Obviously therefore, it is important for us to be clear on what we are wishing for. Important, too, to remember that this does not mean only what we consciously wish for but rather whatever it is we are placing our focus on. With this card it is important to focus on what we desire, not on what we fear or what we think limits us –because whatever we focus on will manifest.



Ten of Cups

Ten of Cups

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by Number Ten, this card represents the element of Water in its furthest extension. The furthest extension of Water is through precipitation and irrigation, through which it nurtures all manner of life outside of itself. This card represents that aspect of nurturing and sustaining love that brings light and life to our world.

Narrative Meaning: Aina and Ahi play with their son Wai at the oceans edge. Aina no longer wonders about the world over the water, she is happy in her own world where she is valuable and needed. The little family love one another and rejoice in their life together, and the passage of each day brings new sweetness to them.

Divinatory Meaning: Happiness, joy, satisfaction. Having all that you desire in a situation.

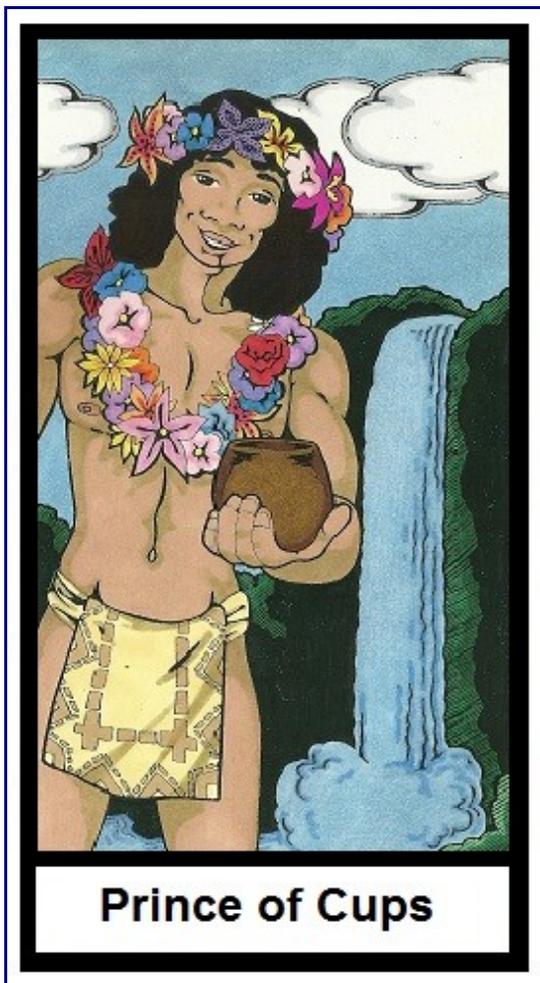


Princess of Cups

Elemental Meaning: The Princess of Cups represents the element of Water influenced by Earth. Water by its nature is free-flowing and reactive. Earth by its nature is solid and deep. Both nurture and sustain life. Together they make mud, a sticky paste that clings to everything –but is also very fertile and can be used under the right conditions to make many practical things.

Narrative Meaning: The Princess of Cups is deeply emotional and can be easily overwhelmed by her feelings. It is exceedingly difficult for her to rise above these feelings, or to have any sort of distance or perspective on her situations. Her emotions are strong and passionate, rising and crashing like waves on the rocks. However these same deep emotions can be the source of great creativity and drive if enough distance can be achieved to direct them in positive ways.

Divinatory Meaning: Moodiness, restlessness, strong emotions that disrupt. Holding on, consciously or unconsciously, to bad situations. A need to address or release the source of dissatisfaction.

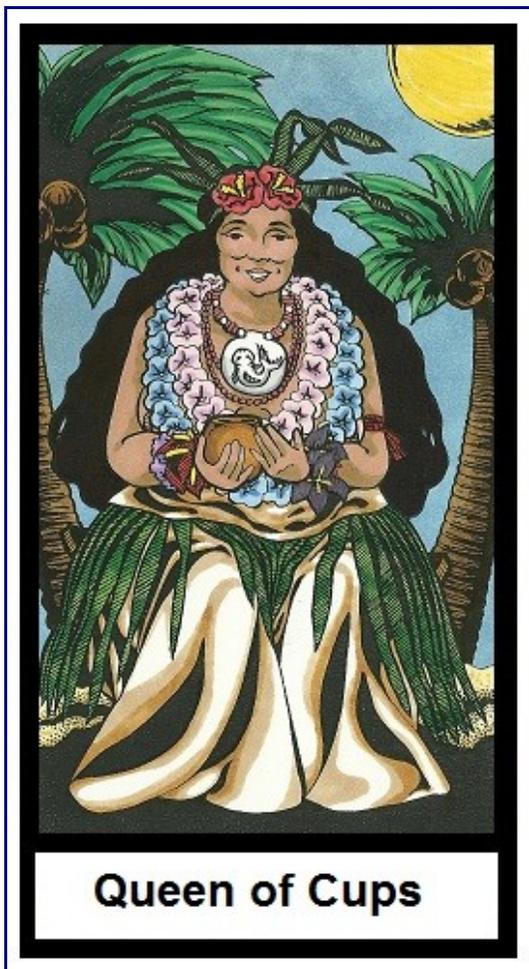


Prince of Cups

Elemental Meaning: The Prince of Cups represents the element of Water influenced by Air. Water is emotion and creativity, while Air is mind and intellect and communication. This card represents the communication of emotion and creativity in positive ways: artistry, music, media, social skills and networking, getting our message out into the world in whatever way we can!

Narrative Meaning: The Prince of Cups is handsome, confident, and well-spoken. He is very persuasive and tells wonderful stories. He is an artist and can paint and carve like a master. Everything he touches the Prince of Cups makes beautiful, and everyone he meets is won over by his fine words and fascinating ideas.

Divinatory Meaning: Creativity, communication, self-expression. This card represents the importance of expressing ourselves and getting our message out into the world. The things we have to say, the way we see the world, need to be shared with others and doing so will bring success.

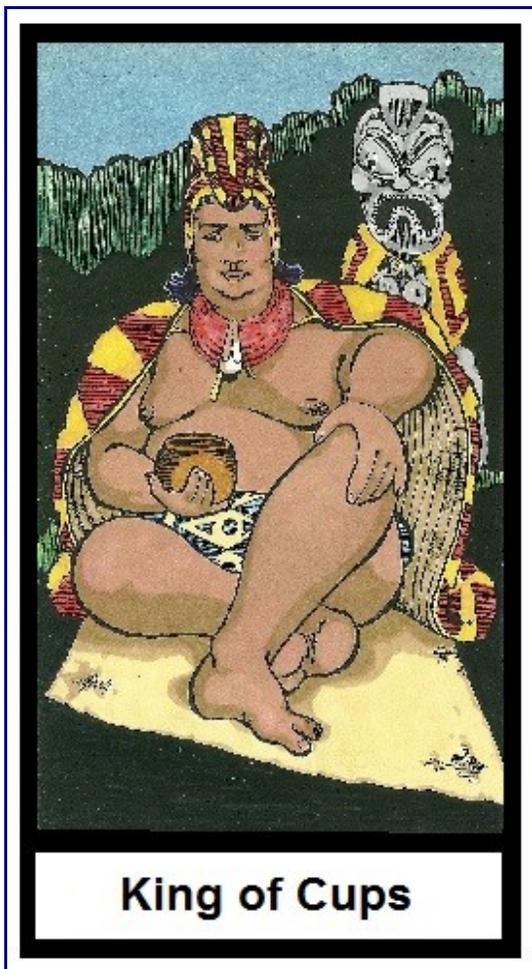


Queen of Cups

Elemental Meaning: The Queen of Cups represents the element of Water influenced by itself. Water is fluid and motile, but it also can run deep: It can be beautifully clear or amazingly muddy: it can be warmed to boiling or frozen to ice. For these reasons it is considered to represent emotion and reaction. This card represents the more positive qualities of emotion: love, compassion, joy.

Narrative Meaning: The Queen of Cups is a warm and loving woman, a devoted wife, a caring mother, a nurturing friend. She is a happy woman who is pleased with her life, content with her family and friends. Relationships are of paramount importance to her, and she will give her all for any person whom she loves or cares about.

Divinatory Meaning: Happiness, emotional satisfaction, being in a joyful and fulfilling position in life. Being surrounded by love, pleasure, and good things.



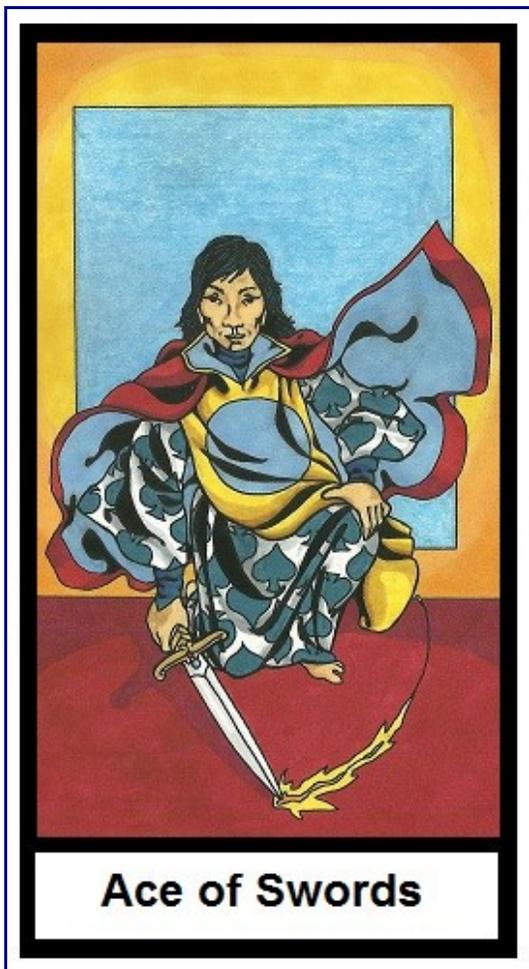
King of Cups

Elemental Meaning: The King of Cups represents the element of Water influenced by Fire. Water and Fire are opposites, and holding them in balance is not an easy task. This card represents the importance of balancing the opposing forces of mind and emotion, and how much can be achieved when head and heart are in balance.

Narrative Meaning: The King of Cups is a steady and well-balanced individual who knows his own mind and heart. His desires and beliefs are clear and well aligned, free from internal contradictions or “crossed wires”, and as a result he is able to effectively manifest what he wants.

Divinatory Meaning: The ability to experience and express emotions without being dominated by them. The ability to enjoy your immediate situation without losing sight of longer term goals or other considerations.

The Suit of Swords



Ace of Swords

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number One, this card represents the essential nature of Air. Air is mind and thought, and its essential nature is discernment and analysis. Through the mind we examine and come to understand a situation or thing, and whether it is good for us, or bad for us. Thus this card represents the ability to assess our situations and make judgments accordingly.

Narrative Meaning: The Ace of Swords is an Asian man holding a sword. He wears a number of symbols of Air including the upward-pointing divided triangle of western tradition and the circle of eastern tradition. His robe is patterned with “spade” designs from the standard “Spade” suit of playing cards, which corresponds to the Tarot suit of “Swords”.

Divinatory Meaning: A decision. The Ace of Swords indicates an important decision either already before you, or coming soon. In any event the decision is not yet made, and in making it you should consider what you truly desire from the situation, rather than what is practical or expedient.

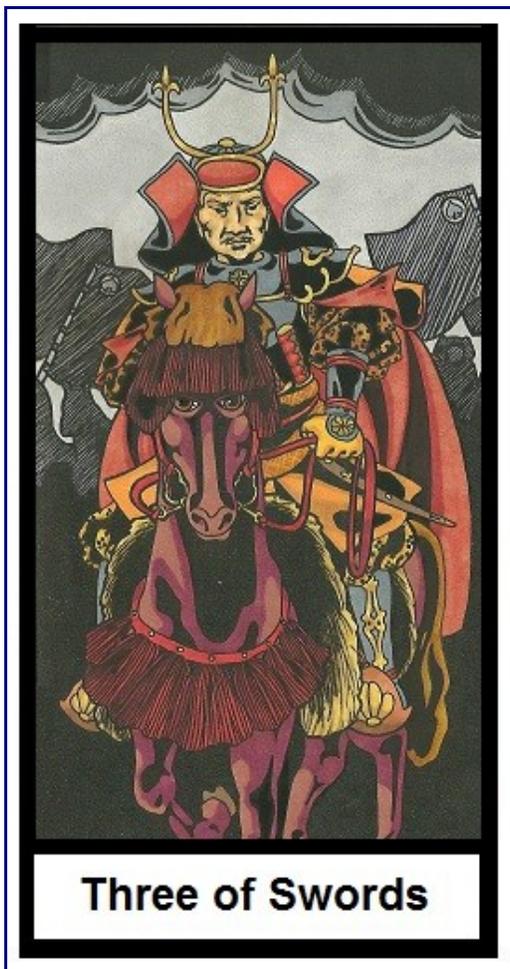


Two of Swords

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Two, this card represents the element of Air in private relationships with others. Air is thought and intellect, and the sort of relationship indicated by this card is more mental and less emotional: It may be an alliance drawn for a specific purpose, or a friendship based upon common interests or goals, or even a love founded upon intellectual rather than emotional attractions.

Narrative Meaning: During the Japanese Shogunate two powerful Daimyo, or feudal lords, maintain an uneasy alliance. Based solely upon political necessity, this alliance benefits both men in the ever-shifting world of feudal politics, and brings peace and prosperity to their respective territories. Although the two Daimyos, Lord Natsu and Lord Aki, work together and publicly honor each other, both are motivated solely by self interest and neither trusts the other.

Divinatory Meaning: An alliance between two equal parties, each with their own agenda. This can be a good relationship, but each partner is seeking their own ends and is more devoted to those ends than to the relationship. Neither partner will remain in the relationship longer than their immediate needs are met.



Three of Swords

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Three, this card represents the element of Air in public relationships with others. Air is thought and mind, and this card represents the application of thought to relationships and making changes as a consequence. With this card relationships are assessed, adjusted, and changed in some way. That change may be a new kind of relationship, a geographic adjustment, or even an ending.

Narrative Meaning: After some time the alliance between Lord Natsu and Lord Aki falls through. Lord Natsu attacks Lord Aki, and a war ensues between their two realms. Despite their many years of working together, nothing can now repair the rift between them.

Divinatory Meaning: A broken relationship. Can be the end of a romance or other partnership, or can indicate a fundamental change in the nature of the relationship.



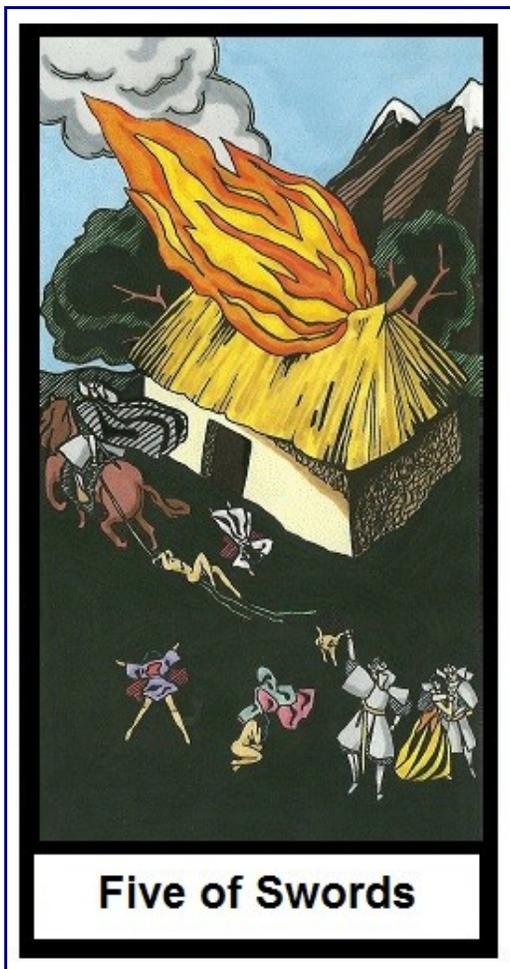
Four of Swords

Four of Swords

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Four, this card represents the element of Air in a state of stability. Since Air is thought and thinking, this card indicates a period of introspection and self-examination –a time secluded from other interests or distractions in which we can look at ourselves.

Narrative Meaning: Lord Aki is severely wounded in battle. Brought home to his castle Lord Aki is tended by his wife, Lady Fuyu. Lord Aki soon dies of his wounds, leaving Lady Fuyu a widow.

Divinatory Meaning: A time-out period, a space of inactivity and rest, reflection. This may be imposed by circumstances, and in any event is needed –time to think, to reflect, to prepare. Take this time to ready yourself before moving forward.

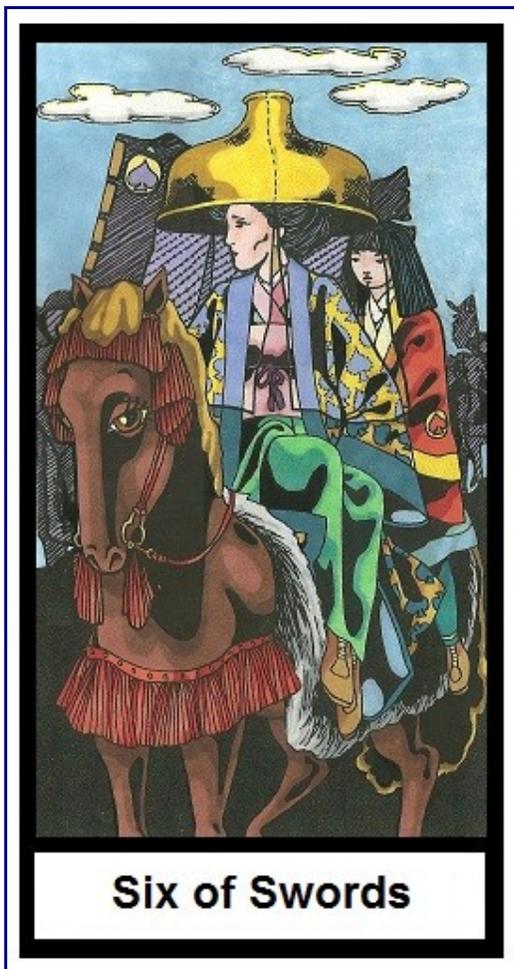


Five of Swords

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Five, this card represents the element of Air in a state of change and transformation. Air represents mind and intellect, and when changes mean that things do not go as we have expected or planned, we often feel upset or oppressed by circumstances. This card represents the pain and sorrow of not getting what we think we want, and the feeling that things are wrong because of this.

Narrative Meaning: Lord Natsu's soldiers sweep over Aki's realm burning villages and laying waste the crops. The people suffer greatly as Natsu's army advances on the capitol.

Divinatory Meaning: Feeling put-upon or oppressed by the actions of others, feeling held back or held down. Resentment.



Six of Swords

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Six, this card represents the element of Air given a gift of fate. Air blows as wind freely around the world, flowing around anything that would obstruct it. This card represents that same ability to move from one place to another, or from one idea to another, despite any potential obstructions.

Narrative Meaning: Taking her young son Haru, Lady Fuyu flees with a small band of devoted supporters to her father's realm where they will live in exile.

Divinatory Meaning: A journey. Either a physical journey from one location to another, or an internal journey from one state of being to another.



Seven of Swords

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Seven, this card represents the element of Air facing obstacles. Air is mind and thought, and this card represents the ability of thought to overcome obstacles. By thinking things through and planning accordingly, obstacles can be overcome in ways that mere desire or even hard work could never accomplish.

Narrative Meaning: Some years later Haru, now a young man, determines to take back his father's realm with backing from his mother and grandfather. With a small core of supporters Haru makes war on old Lord Natsu and tries to raise the realm against him.

Divinatory Meaning: Attempting to do something against the odds, an ambitious goal which looks as if it cannot be accomplished. In fact, it can be done, but will require a great deal of focus and hard work. Pursue it only if you are willing to work as hard as the situation shall require of you.

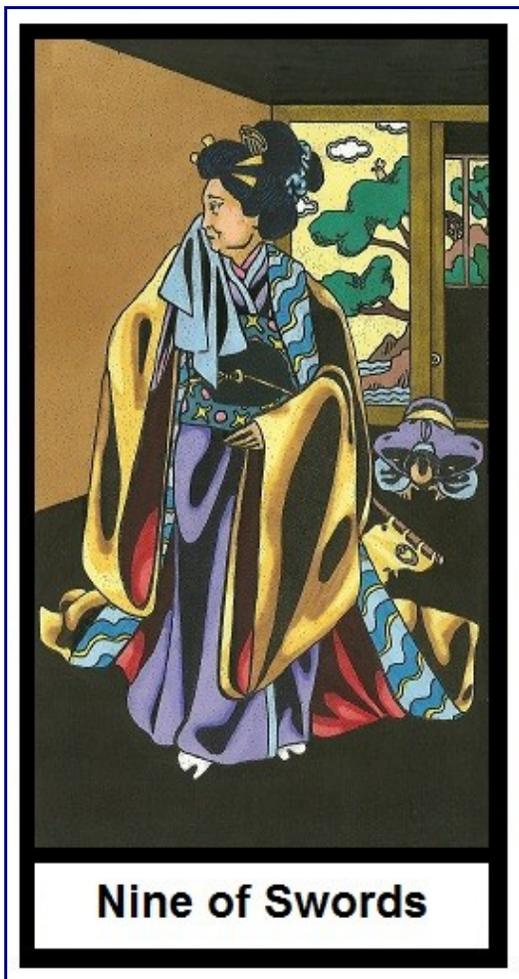


Eight of Swords

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Eight, this card represents the element of Air in a position of extremity. Air represents the mind, and the mind can be both its own best friend and its own worst enemy. This card represents situations in which the mind traps itself through predetermined assumptions, limitations, or behaviors –but which can be transcended once these prejudices are discarded and the situation is seen for itself.

Narrative Meaning: Unsuccessful in his attempt to take back his fathers realm, Haru is captured and imprisoned.

Divinatory Meaning: Feeling held back by a situation, unable to move, unable to effect the situation as you would wish, feeling trapped or imprisoned by circumstances. The situation is usually not as bad as it seems –you may be seeing all the walls but none of the doors. Try to step back from the emotion of the situation and look at it with fresh eyes, and you may see new solutions.



Nine of Swords

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Nine, this card represents the element of Air in its greatest strength. Air is thought and mind, and the greatest strength of thought is its ability to overrule instinct and solve problems despite fear. This card represents a situation that instinct would tell us to run from, but which can be successfully handled if our fear is overcome and the situation squarely faced.

Narrative Meaning: Learning of her son's imprisonment Lady Fuyu knows that he is doomed. Beside herself with grief, the aged widow must face her greatest fear and endure the most difficult moment of her life.

Divinatory Meaning: That which you fear shall come to pass. Whatever your fear in the situation, you must face it. Do not attempt to avoid it, but deal with it head on and all will be easier. This is the card of the Night Mare, and like a bad dream it can only hurt you if, in trying to get away from it, you fall out of bed and hurt yourself.



Ten of Swords

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Ten, this card represents the element of Air in its furthest extension. Air flows ever on, over land and sea, between and around plants and animals and people –with very few exceptions it never becomes stuck in one place. So too this card represents the ability to move on, to let go, to release the past and embrace a new future.

Narrative Meaning: Haru is executed, ending his lineage and any possibility of his family's return to power. His soul will go on to another life. His mother and retainers must also find a new life, for all chance of regaining the old life is now gone.

Divinatory Meaning: Releasing a past situation in order to embrace a new one, letting go of that which is outgrown, endings which lead to new beginnings.



Princess of Swords

Elemental Meaning: The Princess of Swords represents the element of Air influenced by Earth. Air is mind and communication, while Earth is stability and fertility. This card represents a deliberately cultivated mind and manner, and the careful and skillful use of communication to achieve one's goals.

Narrative Meaning: The Princess of Swords is a highly cultured and well-educated courtesan, a professional entertainer of the sort who moved in high circles. Years of training have equipped her to use every word and gesture to greatest effect, while appearing perfectly natural and unaffected. Her practiced ability to put her audience at ease can cause normally cautious individuals to let down their guard with her, revealing information they would otherwise conceal, or accepting advice they would reject in normal circumstances.

Divinatory Meaning: The skillful and tactical use of communication. Communications around this situation will be and should be careful and precise, well thought out. Use care in communication and be sure that what you are communicating is what you really wish to convey.

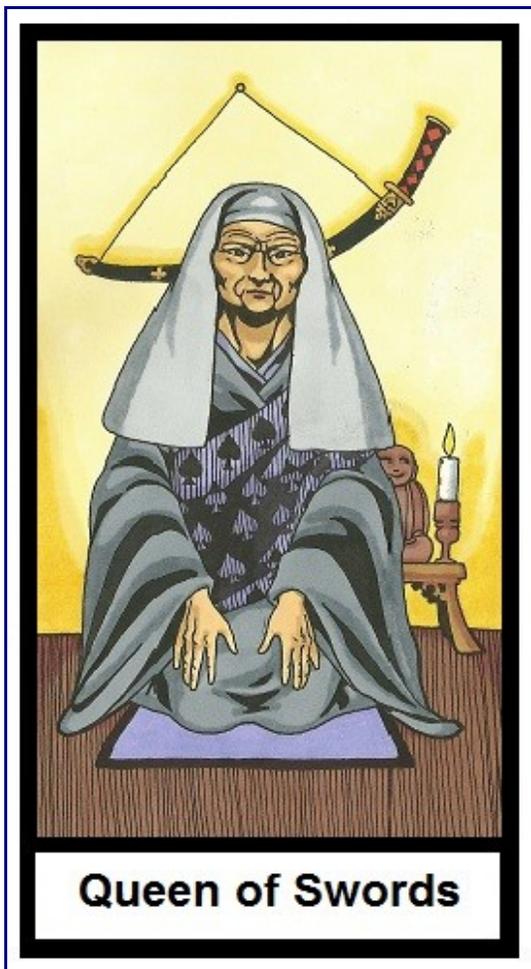


Prince of Swords

Elemental Meaning: The Prince of Swords represents the element of Air influenced by itself. Air is thought and mind –and here the mind eclipses all other aspects of the being. Self-image and mental concepts such as duty take precedence over self-interest, comfort, or even survival, as the person strives to reach an idealized state of being no matter the cost to the physical self.

Narrative Meaning: The Prince of Swords is an armed warrior in the flower of his youth –lithe and strong, dedicated and fierce, he is a man with a purpose. Dedicated to duty and honor the Prince of Swords fights for his Lord and will lay down his life if need be for his people. Sacrifice and self-denial are his companions, courage his staff and duty his God.

Divinatory Meaning: Doing what is right for oneself without regard for others. When the Prince of Swords appears, it often means that you have been giving too much weight to the needs or opinion of others, to the detriment of your own needs or feelings –“giving away the farm” as it were. You must think of yourself first here, and place your needs highest in your own agenda.

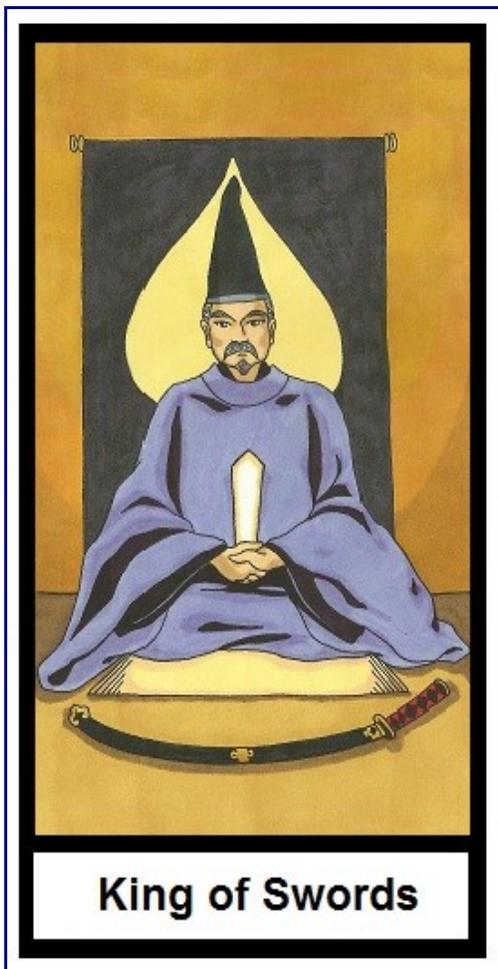


Queen of Swords

Elemental Meaning: The Queen of Swords represents the element of Air influenced by Water. Air represents mind and Water is emotion and reaction to circumstances. This is a card that represents the mind's reaction to situations, and the lessons learned from experience. Water shapes itself to all things, and the mind shapes itself to experience creating patterns of behavior based upon the outcome of past experiences. The Queen of Swords represents the effects of past experience upon future behavior.

Narrative Meaning: The Daimyo's wife, noble by birth and resolute by nature. Losing all through war and her husband's death, she clings to the glories of her past and allows these to overshadow all possible futures except the potential to regain what has been lost. She bears her hardships with courage and refuses to give up or release her desire for retribution.

Divinatory Meaning: Learning from past experience. Past patterns do not always repeat, but here they will. Learn from the past and apply the knowledge to the future. If you have been in a similar situation before, what did you do? If what you did before worked, do it again. If what you did before did not work, you should not try it again but seek a new strategy. What has happened in the past can be expected to be reflected in the future.



King of Swords

Elemental Meaning: The King of Swords represents the element of Air influenced by Fire. Air is mind and thought; Fire is passion and manifestation. Together these represent a strong mind fully engaged. This card is marked by clear understanding, good judgment, and a keen grasp of ideas and situations.

Narrative Meaning: The King of Swords is a noble Lord, who rules with justice and honor. A wise and courageous leader, good husband and father, he leads his people well and presides over a stable and prosperous territory.

Divinatory Meaning: Good judgment. The ability to make good decisions, to rely upon your own good sense. Do not follow the opinions of others in this situation –your own judgment is best and should be listened to.

The Suit of Pentacles

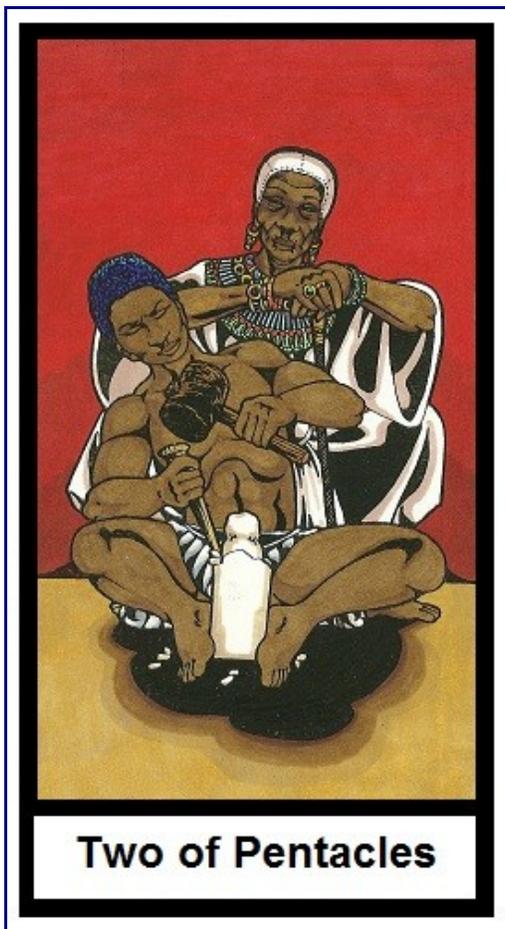


Ace of Pentacles

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number One, this card represents the essential nature of Earth. Earth represents physical manifestation, and its essential nature is abundance and prosperity. It is the produce of the Earth that sustains all life, and allows for all physical well-being. So too this card represents well-being, sustenance, and prosperity.

Narrative Meaning: The Ace of Pentacles is an African woman wearing a pentacle necklace, her arms raised in prayer. She wears symbols of earth including the downward-pointing divided triangle of western tradition and the square of eastern tradition. Her robe is patterned with lozenges after the suit of "Diamonds" in standard playing cards, which corresponds to the Tarot suit of "Pentacles".

Divinatory Meaning: Money, prosperity, stability. The Ace of Pentacles represents a strong, stable situation in which one has all that one needs. It can also sometimes represent the achievement of a goal.

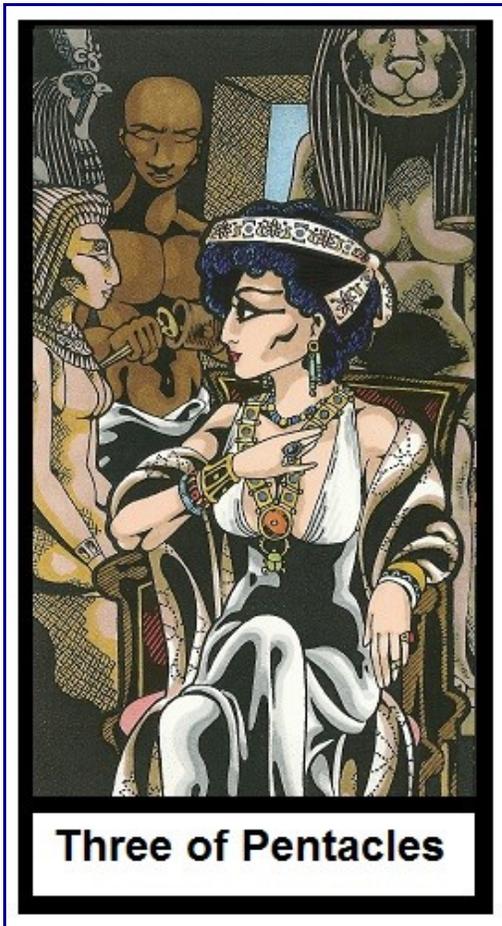


Two of Pentacles

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Two, this card represents the element of Earth in private relationships with others. Earth represents manifestation and making things physical. Therefore this card represents learning how to craft and create, to manifest and fashion in the physical world. We learn by doing, and so this card represents practicing this through action of many different kinds in many different ways.

Narrative Meaning: Apprenticed to old Master Bakhu, Heru is busy learning the art of the sculptor. It is a demanding art and requires constant practice and great effort, but Heru puts his whole being into the effort and becomes very good.

Divinatory Meaning: Being very busy, learning, striving, seeking after a goal. Being so busy that you have little time for anything but the task at hand, and may feel a bit like the proverbial “chicken without a head”.

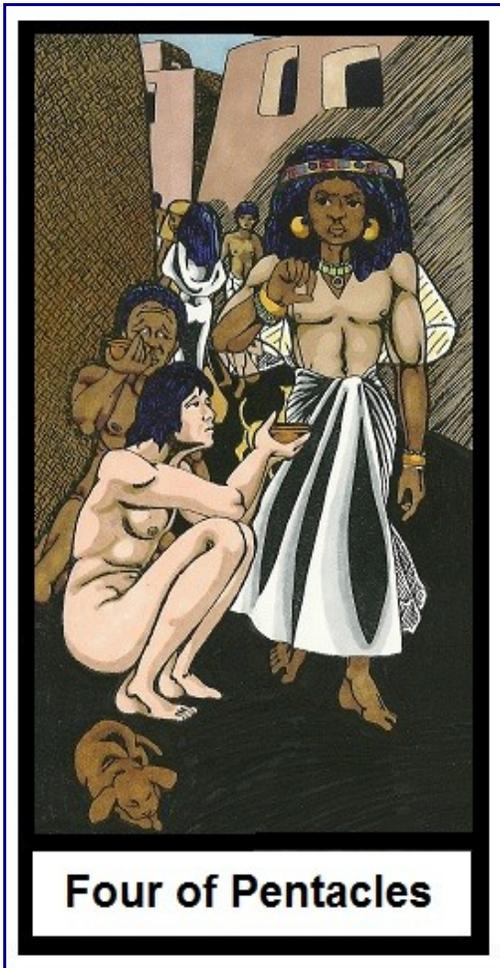


Three of Pentacles

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Three, this card represents the element of Earth in public relationships with others. Earth represents physical manifestation and integration. This card represents receiving help or instruction that allows us to advance or to better create our desires.

Narrative Meaning: Established now as a sculptor in his own right, Master Heru becomes very successful. His studio is busy and he has many projects and commissions, for his skill is great.

Divinatory Meaning: Learning from our situations, gaining knowledge or skill from what we are doing.

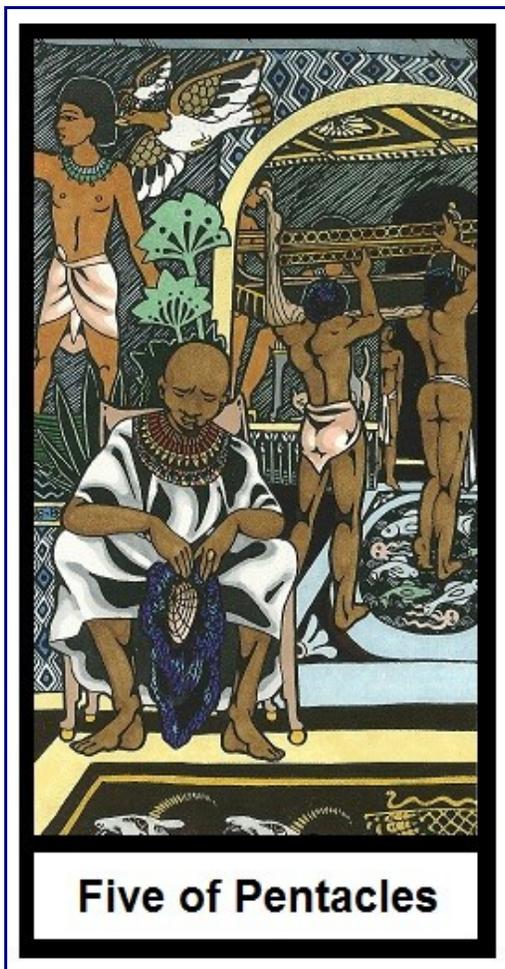


Four of Pentacles

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Four, this card represents the element of Earth in a state of stability. Earth represents solidity and pattern, so in a stable state Earth is stone. This card represents a situation in which things are firmly set: an unwillingness or inability to allow movement.

Narrative Meaning: Now a successful and prosperous artisan, Master Heru is highly conscious of his social position, and believes that this will stay the same forever. He has no time for lesser folk and scorns the beggars who congregate near the city gate.

Divinatory Meaning: Stagnation, lack of movement, feeling blocked or held back in our situations.

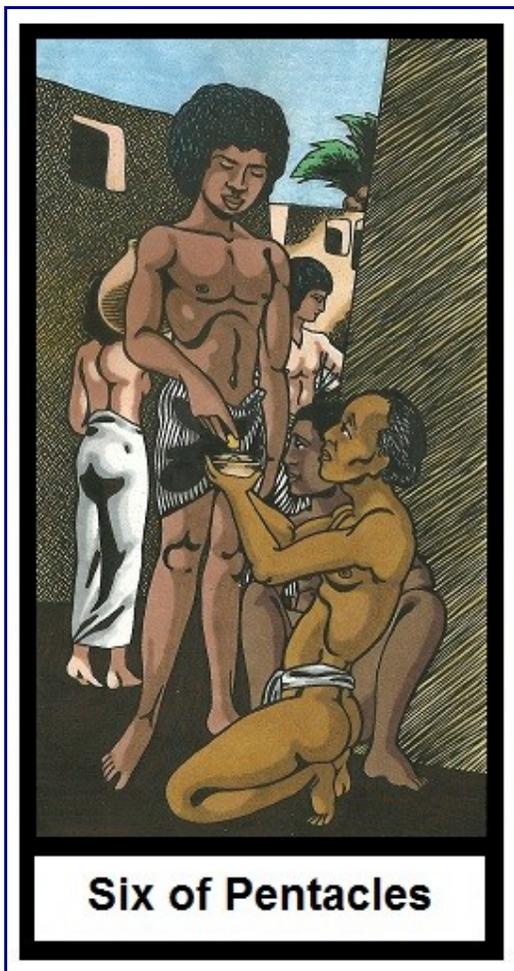


Five of Pentacles

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Five, this card represents the element of Earth in a state of change and transformation. Earth as a rule does not like to move, and greets change with trepidation. Often it interprets change as loss, even when that change can be equally seen as the potential for gain. This card therefore represents fear associated with loss or change.

Narrative Meaning: Although he has been successful, Master Heru's lifestyle has far exceeded his income. His creditors close in upon him, seizing his possessions to satisfy the debts he owes them. Soon he loses all that he has worked so far to gain.

Divinatory Meaning: Worry about financial situations, fear of a lack of material security, loss.



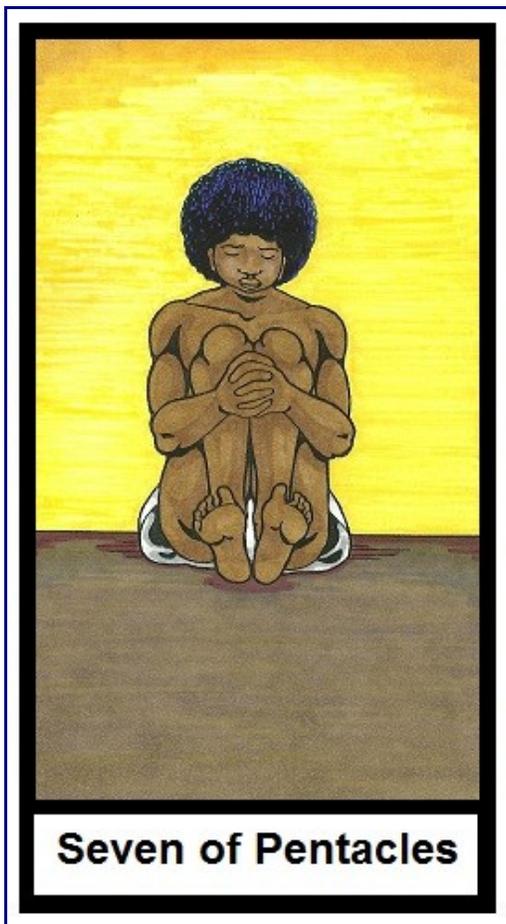
Six of Pentacles

Six of Pentacles

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by Number Six, this card represents the element of Earth given a Gift of Fate. Earth nurtures the seed that the plant may grow: this card represents receiving that nurturing, being helped, aided, cared for by another.

Narrative Meaning: Now that he has lost everything, Heru looks upon the beggars at the city gate differently, realizing that his own position is not so very different. Conditioned by his own suffering, Heru's heart is moved to compassion and even though he has much less to give Heru now offers what he can.

Divinatory Meaning: Receiving help from another, especially unexpected help

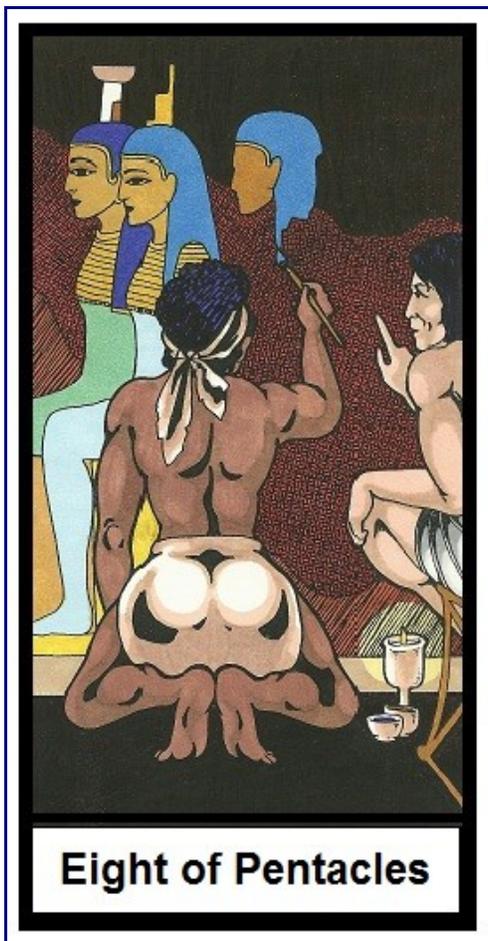


Seven of Pentacles

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Seven, this card represents the element of Earth faced by obstacles. Earth is abundant and fertile, with ever so many channels for that fertility to manifest. Here the obstacle is not lack of possibility but rather a plurality of possibilities that make it difficult to choose between them, as all are potentially equally good.

Narrative Meaning: Finally stabilizing his life again, Heru considers his options for the future. Shall he return to sculpting or has he ruined himself too thoroughly? Shall he learn a new art? Shall he consider commerce or manual labor instead? Heru has many possible paths to consider and spends long hours weighing the pros and cons of each.

Divinatory Meaning: Being uncertain as to our direction, reassessing our plans and reconsidering our circumstances. Weighing many different options, which are made harder to choose between by being all equally good.

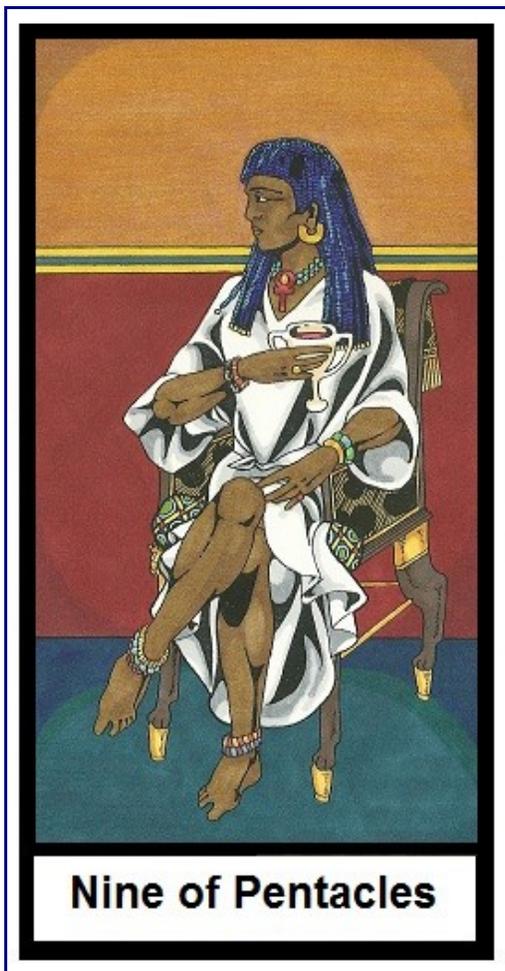


Eight of Pentacles

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by Number Eight, this card represents the element of Earth in extreme situations. In this case that extremity is the perfection of skill. Earth is solid and enduring, and here our knowledge is solid and our work enduring –we have learned all that we can and now may apply it as needed.

Narrative Meaning: Unable to return to his former profession, Heru now apprentices himself to a painter, Master Manu. Painting is not as prestigious a profession as sculpting, but being less expensive is much more in demand. Heru applies himself as assiduously to learning the art of painting as he once applied himself to learning to sculpt, and soon becomes quite good.

Divinatory Meaning: Perfecting our skills and abilities, mastering our craft, having the knowledge and know-how needed to successfully handle our situations.

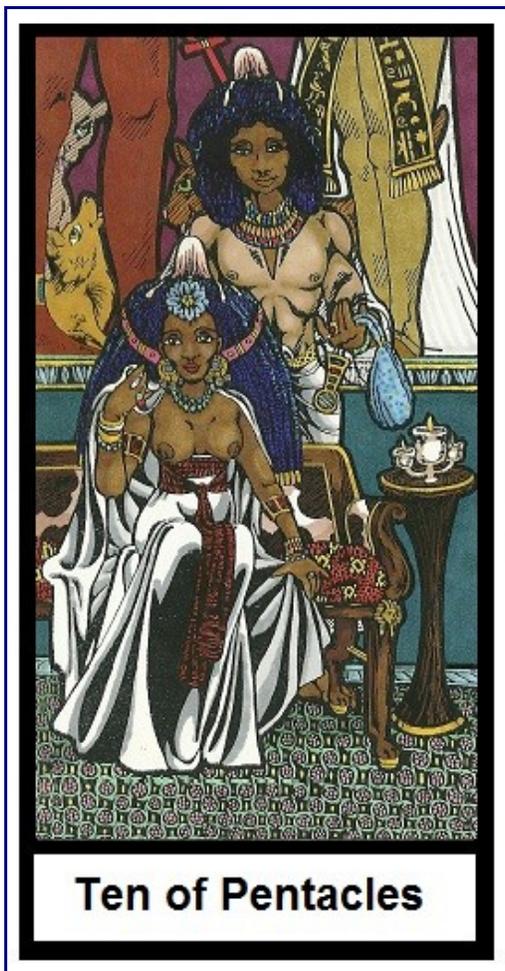


Nine of Pentacles

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Nine, this card represents the element of Earth in its greatest strength. The greatest strength of Earth is the fertility and abundance of the land, and its ability to sustain the lives of the many creatures that live upon or within it, no matter what the season. This card represents an individual with all of the strength, creativity, and abundant resources that they need for any situation they face.

Narrative Meaning: Now a Master Painter, Heru has returned to a position of prosperity and social prominence. This time he is older and wiser, and makes much better decisions. With a secure income and an improved understanding of his strengths and weaknesses, Master Heru is now truly secure in his life.

Divinatory Meaning: Being complete in oneself, self-sufficiency, having all one needs, being able to do all that is necessary through our own skills without help from the outside. This does not mean that help is not available, only that it is not needed.

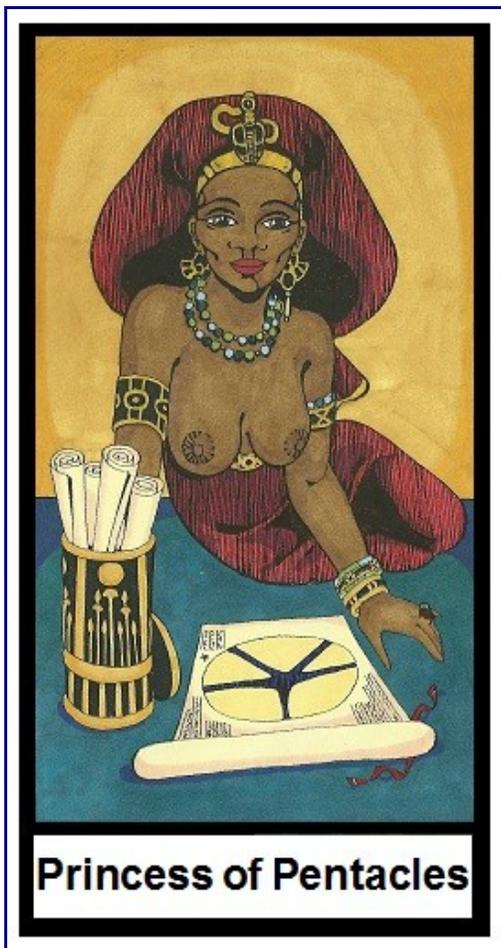


Ten of Pentacles

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Ten, this card represents the element of Earth in its furthest extension. Earth represents the ability to manifest in the physical. Here that ability to manifest and create what is desired has fulfilled the individual's desires and created a circumstance of happiness and prosperity for them.

Narrative Meaning: Having returned to a position of success and prosperity, Master Heru completes his happiness with a marriage to the lovely Lady Kekui. Together they establish a loving and well-ordered home, and live happily together for many years.

Divinatory Meaning: Success, stability, a solid base, support from others, especially family

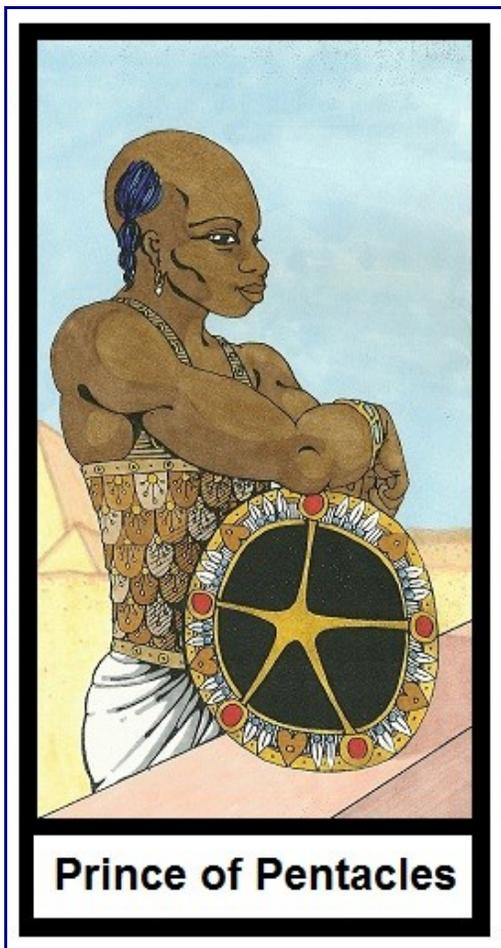


Princess of Pentacles

Elemental Meaning: The Princess of Pentacles represents the element of Earth influenced by itself. Earth is a very fertile element, but it is also the most fixed, motionless element. When Earth moves it is extremely powerful, but getting it to move is extremely difficult. This card represents situations in which potential is great but movement is difficult –situations in which whatever is desired could be done, if only the situation can be set in motion.

Narrative Meaning: The Princess of Pentacles is young and beautiful, intelligent and highly educated. She is cultured and cultivated, erudite and well mannered. However the Princess is so concerned with etiquette and proper behavior that she refrains from publicly employing many of her skills, preferring to appear a decorously inactive noble lady rather than revealing herself a passionate and capable young woman.

Divinatory Meaning: Although we have all of the skills, abilities, and resources we need to accomplish our goals, we may still find ourselves holding back either because we lack confidence or fear what others may think of us.

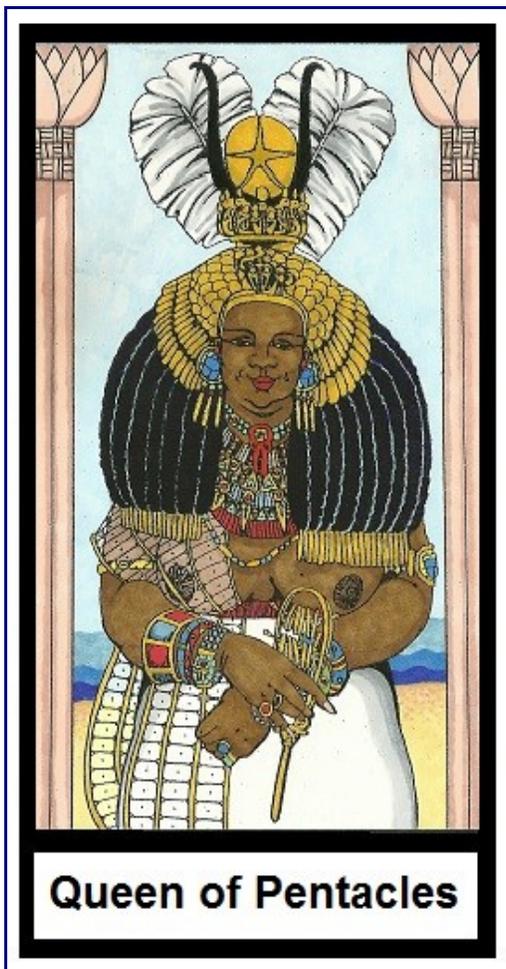


Prince of Pentacles

Elemental Meaning: The Prince of Pentacles represents the element of Earth influenced by Air. Earth represents being steady, patient, and well grounded. Air represents ideas and intellect. Together these indicate a slow and steady mind that takes its time to learn fully and understand completely all that it encounters –and never takes action without due preparation and laying a secure groundwork.

Narrative Meaning: The Prince of Pentacles is a cautious and steadfast young man. He is mature and sensible, patient and prudent, taking all the time he needs to fully develop his situations. The Prince does not rush into things, but lays a careful and well-researched groundwork for all his actions, so that when he does act he is well prepared and usually successful.

Divinatory Meaning: The Prince of Pentacles represents slow but steady growth. This card tells us that our situations are developing slowly but surely, and that patience and time are needed to allow things to come to fruition.

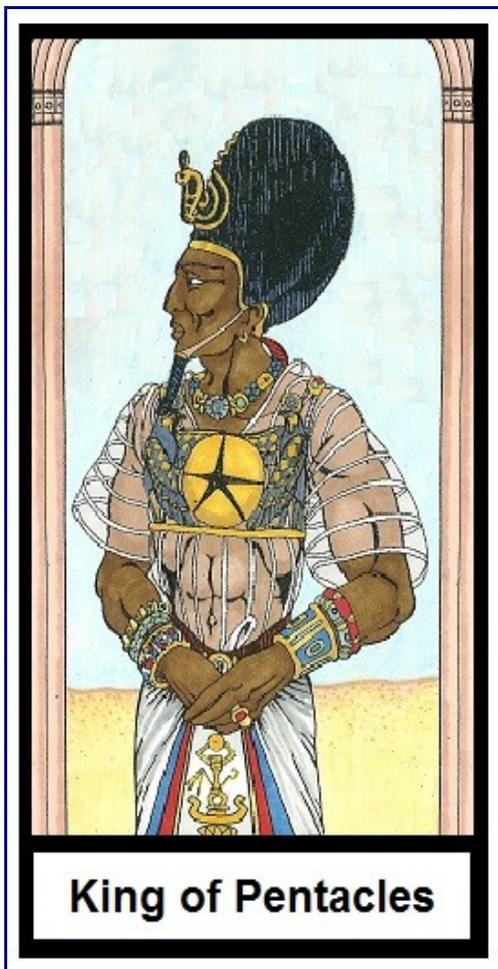


Queen of Pentacles

Elemental Meaning: The Queen of Pentacles represents the element of Earth influenced by Water. Earth is manifestation and water is fluid and ever flowing. Thus this card represents the constant, ongoing manifestation of our desires into reality. Abundance, prosperity, and good fortune are all manifested here.

Narrative Meaning: The Queen of Pentacles is a prosperous and powerful woman. She is secure in herself and enjoys the pleasures that her status and wealth bring to her. Whatever she desires is at her command, yet she is generous with her riches and with her favor, always ready to assist others who are in need of her support.

Divinatory Meaning: One who has all she needs and more, prosperity, wealth, generosity, one who shares good fortune and in sharing increases her own.



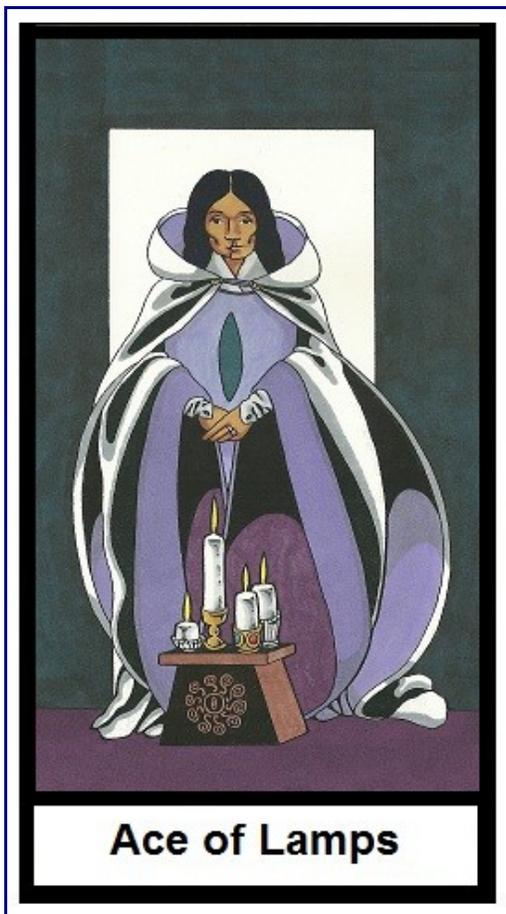
King of Pentacles

Elemental Meaning: The King of Pentacles represents the element of Earth influenced by Fire. Earth is fertile, nurturing, and enduring. Fire is passionate and creative. Together they represent the ability to create situations that are not only successful in the moment but also in the future –situations that sustain and support us. The King of Pentacles not only enjoys prosperity, but creates it through his own efforts.

Narrative Meaning: The King of Pentacles is an insightful and intelligent man who can size up his situations easily and extract from them every possible benefit. Resourceful and inventive, no situation can resist his efforts to entice prosperity from it, and he generally gives back as much as he receives, enriching not only himself but everyone he deals with as well.

Divinatory Meaning: The King of Pentacles represents the ability to make money and achieve prosperity through our own efforts. This card indicates the ability to see potential, and to act upon that potential in such a way as to create the maximum benefit from situations.

The Suit of Lamps

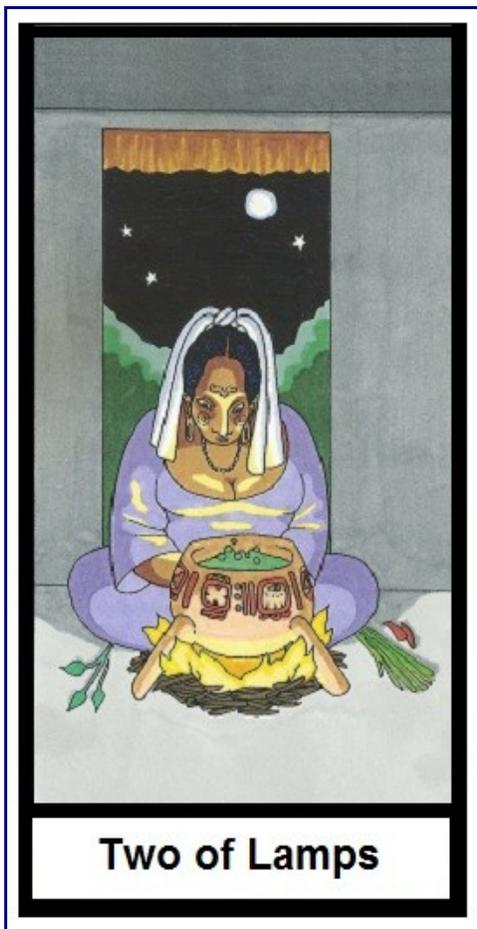


Ace of Lamps

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number One, this card represents the essential nature of Spirit. The essential nature of Spirit is simultaneously imminent and transcendent – both internal and external at once. It encompasses all things and unites all things from within. Thus this card represents the inner nature of all things and Spark of Life that unites us all.

Narrative Meaning: The Ace of Lamps is a Native American person of androgynous gender, before an altar set with many candles. Standing with hands clasped, the Ace wears a voluminous robe and cloak with no symbols relating to the western elemental system or to the standard playing cards, but with the eastern symbol for spirit emblazoned upon tabard and sleeves.

Divinatory Meaning: This card represents empathy and the ability to see situations from other people's point of view. When this card comes up we should make an effort to place ourselves in the other person's shoes and see our situations from their perspective, and by doing so may actually see the situation more clearly than we do from our normal perspective.

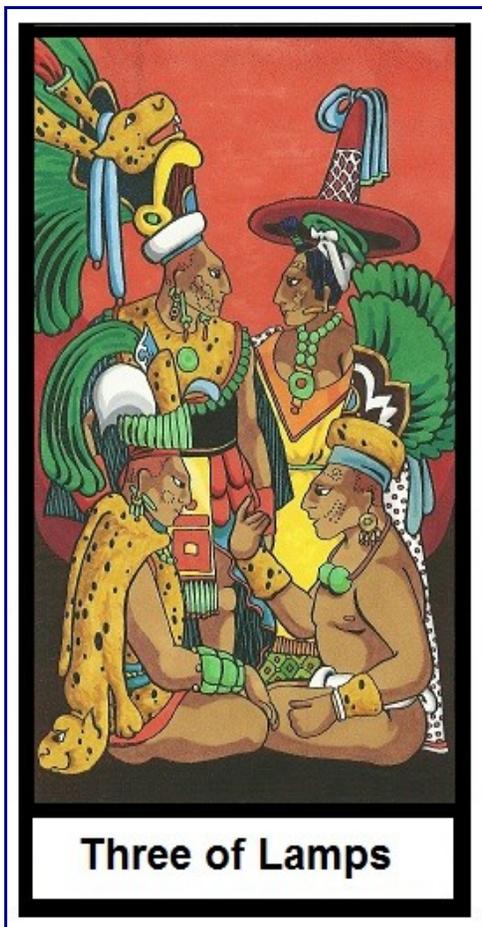


Two of Lamps

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Two, this card represents the element of Spirit expressed in private relationships. Left to its own devices Spirit moves always to the good and is in a constant state of growth and expansion. Just as the Spirit is constantly growing and expanding within, its natural inclination is to expand without as well. The natural result of the growth of Spiritual energy within us is the desire to help others grow as well –to be of service to the world and Her creatures, and to make a better world for all beings.

Narrative Meaning: Lady Chak Ek is a Witch/Shaman in the Yucatan peninsula during the height of the Maya culture. Chak Ek studies the mysteries of spirit and works to help others understand these. She practices herbal and magical healing, dream interpretation, and performs magic for people high and low in station.

Divinatory Meaning: This card represents using our knowledge and abilities to assist other people. When this card comes up it means that we should make a decided effort to reach out and offer help to others with their situations, rather than passively watching events unfold. This card urges us to offer advice, friendship, or even material aid as the best possible course of action to take in our situation.



Three of Lamps

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Three, this card represents the element of Spirit expressed in relationships of a public nature. Just as the private expression of Spirit comes in helping other individuals, so the public expression of Spirit comes in working to help society and the world as a whole. This card calls us to become involved in causes greater than ourselves, to give our lives to some great work whose goal is the betterment of the world around us.

Narrative Meaning: Lady Chak Ek is much called upon by the local Prince and aristocracy, as well as the ordinary people of her region. She uses her magic to advance their many causes and to aid them in health and sickness, joy and sorrow, peace and war. She is a vital figure in her community to whom all turn for help, and whose magic is a major force in the social fabric of their lives.

Divinatory Meaning: This card indicates the importance of living our highest ideals in daily life, and working to implement those ideals in the world. When this card comes up we are asked to put our beliefs into practice, and to conform to our own higher principles. This card calls us to "be the change we want to see" and to effect our situations by ourselves expressing the behaviors we hope to see from others. If we are in need of prosperity we should be all the more generous: in need of compassion we should be all the more compassionate: in need of love we should be all the more loving. With this card we must be

the mirror of our own desires.



Four of Lamps

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the number Four this card represents the element of Spirit at its most stable. Because constant growth and expansion are the nature of spirit, it is never truly still. Even when Spirit appears to be still, it is moving below the surface and seeking new avenues for growth. No matter how blocked Spirit may be, it is always trying to grow. Consequently the most stable state for Spirit is one of steady expansion.

Narrative Meaning: Although she is quite successful, Chak Ek has not yet mastered the greatest abilities of magic, and longs to do so. She has prayed upon this matter, but not received the answers she needs. She knows that there is more that has remained hidden from her, and desires to learn it –but the doors of knowledge will not open to her.

Divinatory Meaning: This card indicates the importance of gaining additional information about our situations. It is important for us to research and learn more about whatever we are involved in, because we do not have enough knowledge at present to function at the level we desire. This card may indicate that we simply need to know more about what is going on in our situations, or that we need to actually acquire specific skills in order to better deal with our circumstances.

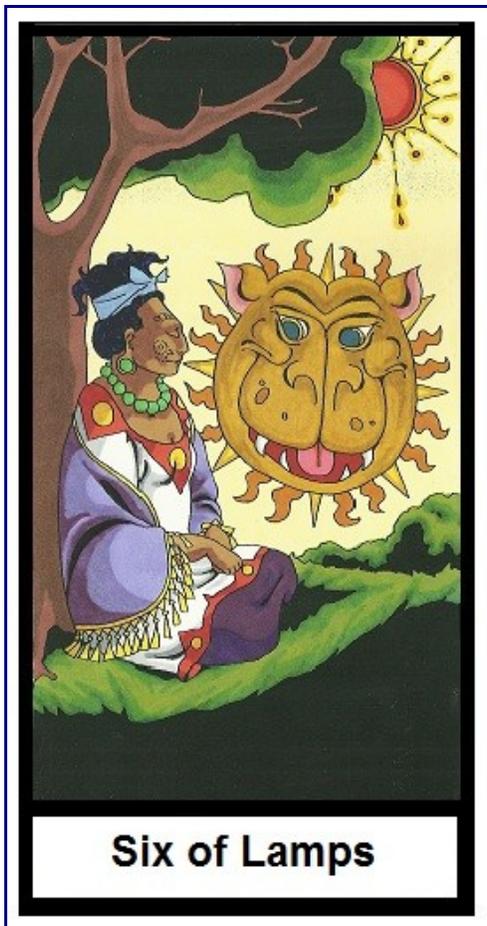


Five of Lamps

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Five, this card represents the element of Spirit in a state of transition. The nature of Spirit is not only constant growth but also constant adaptation. No matter what circumstances it is presented with, Spirit can adapt to them – nothing is too great for Spirit. Constant adaptation is also constant change, and Spirit is eternally reassessing and renewing itself, constantly growing and changing in reaction to new experiences and circumstances.

Narrative Meaning: Lady Chak Ek comes to feel that she is blinded by her daily life, and must step away from it if she is to have the greater spiritual growth she desires. To do this, Lady Chak Ek decides that she must undertake a vision quest to receive guidance from the Spirits. Lady Chak Ek gathers a few supplies and leaves her home to go into the wilderness and seek deeper knowledge. She turns her back on all that is familiar in order to seek her own inner self.

Divinatory Meaning: This card tells us that we need to step back from our present circumstances in order to fully understand them. We need more emotional distance and perspective than we presently have, and that we should withdraw from the situation at hand. Because we are so emotionally involved in what we are doing we are not seeing it clearly, and cannot see it clearly as long as we remain involved. Only by stepping out of the situation will we be able to have clarity about it and know how best to proceed.

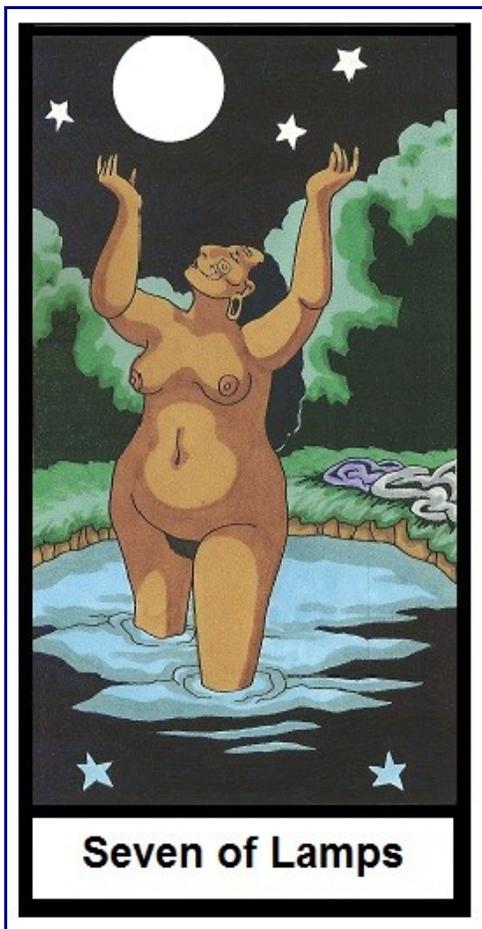


Six of Lamps

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Six, this card represents the element of Spirit given a gift of fate. The gift of fate associated with Spirit is sudden advancement in understanding and ability. Often such advancements have actually been building under the surface of our consciousness for some time, but they explode upon our conscious mind as if from no-where and often can totally reorder our thinking and way of understanding the world.

Narrative Meaning: After long meditations Lady Chak Ek receives her vision. Lady Chak Ek is told that although she is very successful in using magic as a tool in the outside world, to gain higher spiritual knowledge she must also use it as a tool of inner healing and transformation. Lady Chak Ek is told that she must purify her inner self if she is to reach the fullest potential of her outer self: that inner blockages and limiting belief systems have held her back from the greater spiritual understandings and magical abilities that she has desired.

Divinatory Meaning: This card represents sudden breakthroughs or realizations about ourselves and our circumstances. Situations that may have languished in confusion will suddenly become clear, emotions or behaviors whose origins we have not understood will suddenly come into focus for us. This is a card of sudden understandings.



Seven of Lamps

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Seven, this card represents the element of Spirit dealing with obstacles. Because Spirit is the inner nature of all things, it can overcome all external challenges in one way or another. However internal blockages can limit the expression of Spirit and greatly decrease its ability to function in any given lifetime. Such blockages occur because of emotion and spiritual traumas we suffer, fears and limiting belief systems. Having their origins within the being, such blockages can only be overcome from within as well.

Narrative Meaning: In her meditations Lady Chak Ek works to heal her inner wounds and release inner limitations, freeing herself from all that has bound her. In doing this she releases all of the energy that has been trapped in these things, making herself whole again. She then bathes in the sacred spring to purify herself and fully release all that has formerly held her back.

Divinatory Meaning: This card indicates that we have hurt feelings, anger, or fear about the situations we are dealing with, and that clinging to these is making our situations worse than they need to be. This card tells us that we need to release and let go of whatever we may be holding on to in order to move forward. We need to purify ourselves. Only when we have forgiven and let these limiting emotions go can we expect our situations to move forward.



Eight of Lamps

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Eight, this card represents the element of spirit in extremity. The extremity of Spirit is self-transformation and renewal. Like a snake shedding its skin or a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis, Spirit periodically leaps forward and totally transforms itself and its circumstances, taking on new forms and patterns.

Narrative Meaning: Her inner wounds healed, her soul made whole, Lady Chak Ek is now open to higher levels of magic and spiritual illumination than ever before. Her personal growth greatly accelerates and she learns skills that she formerly only dreamed of.

Divinatory Meaning: This card indicates that we need to make a new start, scrap whatever we have been working on and try something else. What we have been doing is not working and will not work, but a new direction will be much more successful.

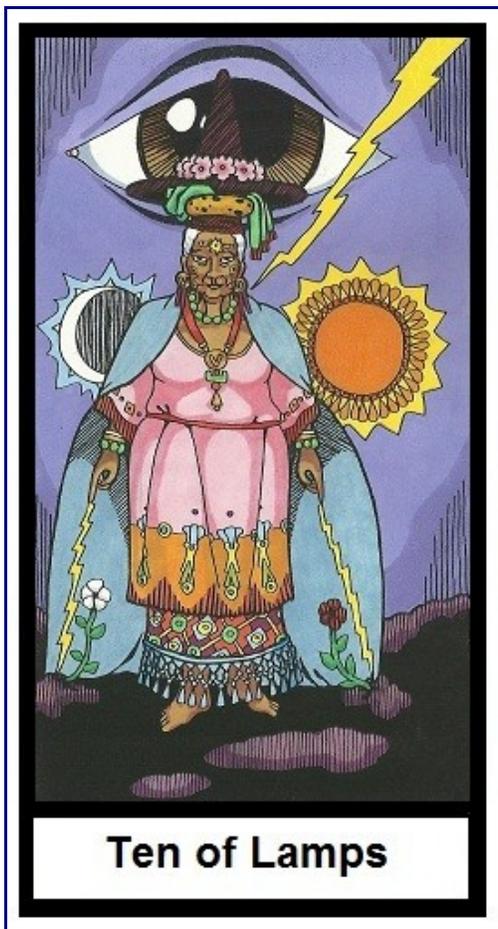


Nine of Lamps

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Nine, this card represents the element of Spirit in its greatest strength. The greatest strength of Spirit is Magic –the ability to consciously manifest the things we desire from within. This is both the most natural and the most difficult skill in the world –we all do it unconsciously in every moment, but learning to do it consciously can be very difficult.

Narrative Meaning: Chak Ek is now a more powerful Witch than ever before, and has mastered skills she once only dreamed of. Chak Ek can bend both time and space to her will, and manifest nearly everything she desires. Though her personal journey continues with ever-unfolding understanding of her Higher Self, there is little that she cannot create.

Divinatory Meaning: This card tells us that we are over-thinking our situation and need to relax and let things unfold rather than trying to control how they develop. Stop trying to figure it all out and allow it to be what it is –the shape the situation takes naturally may prove to be a surprise but will be what is truly needed.



Ten of Lamps

Numerological Meaning: Ruled by the Number Ten this card represents the element of Spirit in its greatest extension. The greatest extension of Spirit, of course, is the unity of all things. This is both the origin and destination of all existence, as well as its constant inner nature. This card indicates a realization of this spiritual unity, and a consequent ability to see all sides of any given situation.

Narrative Meaning: Arriving at the Great Realization at last, Chak Ek becomes one with all things and fully embodies the powers of Spirit –she sees the true nature and inner workings of the universe and embraces these as part of the oneness of all things. Enlightened by this experience Chak Ek now knows that all things are possible and all things are One. This knowledge transforms her understanding of magic, and of existence itself, and she carries it forward with her.

Divinatory Meaning: This card represents joining together with others. What we desire cannot be done alone, but is easy a part of a group. Support is there if we look for it, and many hands make light work. Do not try to go it alone, but seek out allies and work together and all will be accomplished as we desire.



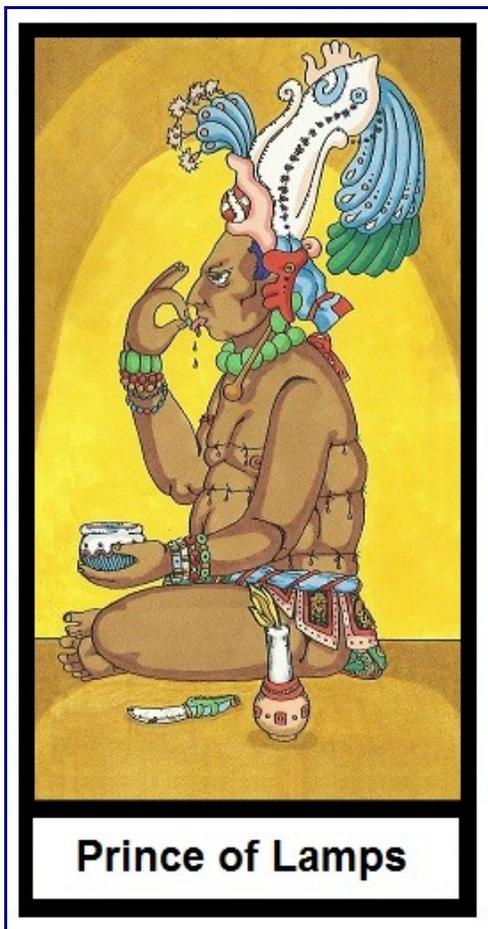
Princess of Lamps

Princess of Lamps

Elemental Meaning: The Princess of Lamps represents the element of Spirit influenced by Earth. Spirit is ethereal and motile in nature: Earth is solid and grounding. Earth pulls the creative force of Spirit into the physical and channels it in practical directions, toward concrete material goals.

Narrative Meaning: The Princess of Lamps is a Sorceress, who experiences her spirituality by channeling spiritual energy into creating her real-world goals. The Princess of Lamps uses magic to shape her life on a daily basis, forming and reforming her goals through the application of the magical arts.

Divinatory Meaning: This is a card of applying spiritual tools to real-world goals: mediation and divination to achieve greater understanding of our situations, magic and manifestation to create the things we desire. With this card no other tool but spirituality will adequately help to move our situations forward, and only by engaging spiritually can we advance.



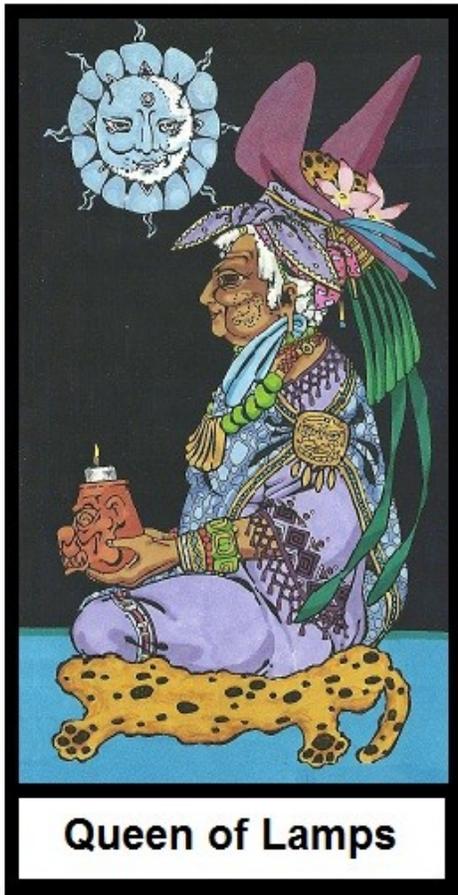
Prince of Lamps

Prince of Lamps

Elemental Meaning: The Prince of Lamps represents the element of Spirit influenced by Air. Air is mind and thought: Spirit is all-encompassing potential. This card represents people who primarily experience their spirituality in terms of ideas and mental understandings, and who tend to see intellectual understanding as more important than any other aspect of the being. This mindset is often typified by self-denial and asceticism.

Narrative Meaning: The Prince of Lamps is an Ascetic who experiences his spirituality through self-denial and mortification of the flesh, in order to exult the inner self. The inner-self and abstract understandings of the nature of existence are all that matter to the Prince of Lamps, who does not seek to express his spirituality in this world but rather wishes to leave this world behind.

Divinatory Meaning: This card says that the thing we desire is actually bad for us, and that we should seriously consider seeking another goal or direction. It is a card indicating the need to disengage and change direction.

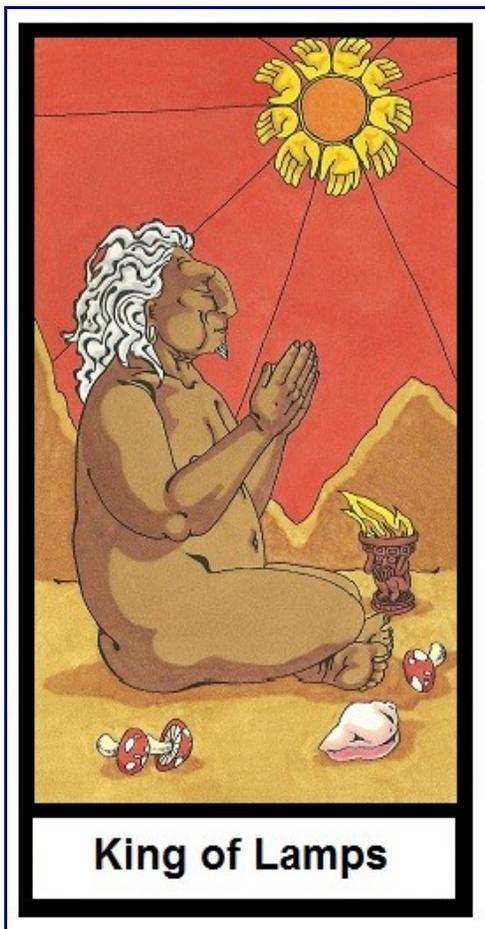


Queen of Lamps

Elemental Meaning: The Queen of Lamps represents the element of Spirit influenced by Water. Water is fluid and reactive, shaping itself to all it encounters: Spirit is the inner nature of all things. This is the card of one who works to be in tune with the inner nature of things, who moves in synch with the energies of the universe, and who attunes herself with the Flow of the Universe.

Narrative Meaning: The Queen of Lamps is a Witch, who experiences her spirituality through connection to all things and the practice of manifestational magic. The Queen of Lamps works to move in sync with the universe so that the things she desires to manifest come into being more easily by virtue of being aligned to the natural flow of creation.

Divinatory Meaning: This card tells us that in order to move forward we must attune ourselves to existing conditions –conditions exist in our situation that will help to carry our goals forward if we take advantage of them and adapt our goals to them. Instead of pushing our ideas forward we must look for the opening that already exists and fill it.



King of Lamps

Elemental Meaning: The King of Lamps represents the element of Spirit influenced by Fire. Fire is passion, ambition, and focus: Spirit is the inner nature of all things. This is the card of one whose ambition is to know and understand the inner nature of all things, and whose focus is on accomplishing that understanding. This is the card of inner focus, inner learning, and inner growth.

Narrative Meaning: The King of Lamps is a Mystic, who experiences his spirituality through inward meditation and focused spiritual disciplines. The King of Lamps works to grow inwardly through the practice of spiritual exercises and whose ultimate goal is spiritual perfection.

Divinatory Meaning: This card tells us that we need to apply greater self-discipline in order to achieve our goals. We need to pull ourselves together, focus our energies, and set specific goals and schedules in order to build what we desire in an incremental but steady fashion.

Conclusion

I knew when I began it that the Tarot of Hekate was a major undertaking, but little did I imagine that it would take decades to complete and publish. I don't know how I would have

thought about it if I had realized. For many years the project was forgotten. The original black and white artwork is all lost. The current pictures exist only because I photocopied all of my work in those days – though the newly completed color versions are, in effect, new originals since the deck was not originally in color. It really makes one mindful of how life can work in unexpected ways.

I hope that you find the hundred card Tarot of Hekate interesting, and that it adds to your understanding of Tarot as it added to my own.

Blessings always
Rev. Don