

Most tarot decks have 78 card images.

The Viceversa Tarot has 156!

Each Arcana is an archetype, captured and frozen by the tarot artist as a moment in time and space, and then portrayed symbolically on the card. The Viceversa Tarot adds yet another dimension to the familiar cards. Rather than one image for each card, this deck offers two. As each card slowly reveals an alternate point of view, additional elements comes into play as the symbols morph and blend and contrast. The reading reaches to an unexpected depth that de-

fies logical interpretation.

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VICEVERSA TAROT



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VICEVERSA TAROT

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O Lo Scarabeo 2017

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INTRODUCTION



There is an expression: "On the one hand. . ." and "On the other hand.. It's a way we consider different sides of a situation and the possible ways of approaching it. On the one hand, buying a new car could eliminate the worry that we might be stranded if the old one breaks down. On the other hand, buying a new car could add a worry about making the car payment. Like putting weights on a jeweler's scale, we consider one side, then the other side, back and forth until a balanced clarity is achieved. In doing a tarot reading, we often choose a different card for each point of view. The Viceversa Tarot brings the "one hand" and "other hand" approach to each individual card.

Until fairly recently in the history of tarot, divination was limited to prediction or to sniffing out secrets: Will I get married? Will I prosper in my career? Who is blocking my progress? What is he really thinking? A psychological slant on divination is a more modern addition to the tarot toolbox, reflecting Western societal shifts. So, for example, rather than asking, "Will I get married?" we might ask the cards, "Am I ready to get married?" "What compromises would marriage bring?" "What would it be like to stay single?" We've added "why" and "how" to the old questions of "what" and "who." Looking

at things from only one point of view is far too limiting for our complex modern age. Technology has brought the "other hand" to our attention. We are evolving from a mindset that something must be either right or wrong, good or bad, now or never. That is two-dimensional thinking in a three-dimensional world. We are learning that big problems can't be solved by just looking at one side.

One might think that tarot is a two-dimensional tool. After all, the cards are flat. The images on the cards are static, set, and settled. A moment in time and space is captured and frozen by the tarot artist, and it is the task of the tarot reader to extrapolate meaning from the cards symbols. The Viceversa Tarot adds another dimension to the familiar cards. Rather than just one image for each card, this deck offers two. At first glance, it might seem to be simply the front view and the back view of the same scene, but it is so much more. Imagine a card lying flat on a table. The two-dimensional image is what it is — you read the card as a single concept. Now imagine a tarot card floating in the air before your eyes, turning slowly and revealing an alternate view. An additional element comes into play as the symbols morph and blend and contrast — an unexpected depth that moves beyond linear interpretation.

In a typical tarot deck, a card can be drawn upright or reversed (upside down), and many readers interpret upright and reversed cards differently. If you're familiar with the tarot, it may be tempting to use the Viceversa Tarot in a similar way: the front side being positive and the back side negative — in other words, the two sides contradicting each other. Instead, take a clue from the deck's title. The Latin phrase *vice versa* means "the other way around," not better or worse. For example, many of the cards show a daytime view and a nighttime view. The energies and metaphorical meanings of day and night differ, but one isn't better than the other. As with the Chinese concept of yin and yang, the two sides make up the whole. When you work with the cards, look for visual pairs such as these:

day	→	night
outside	→	inside
dry	→	wet
warm	→	cool
open	→	closed
dawn	→	dusk

Then consider more abstract examples of "vice versa" pairs:

active	—+	passive
conscious	→	unconscious
solar	—+	lunar
material	→	spiritual
temporal	→	eternal
personal	→	universal
known	→	unknown

Finding such pairs represented on the two sides of the cards is an exercise in expanding your symbolism vocabulary. You are like the Viceversa Tarot cards yourself. You have your outer self and inner self, your public face and private face, your light and shadow. These aspects make up the human spirit in all its complexity.



THE LANGUAGE OF SYMBOLS



The possible interpretations of a tarot card are limitless, for each of us has our own inner language of symbols to draw from. If you show a tarot card to five different people, you will get five (or more!) different ways to interpret it. The Viceversa Tarot is particularly rich in symbols, and in the descriptions that follow, some of these symbols will be explained, but always remember that your own interpretation is what counts most. You are the reader, and your wisdom and insight are uniquely yours. There is never only a single way to interpret a symbol. Let the suggestions offered in this book be a starting point for your own play with the symbols. Let your first thought about a symbol be a jumping-off point, not the end point. For example, let's say there's a bird pictured on the card. Your first thought might be "bird = freedom," and that's true, but don't stop there. What else could be meant by a bird being included on the card? Flight, perspective, detachment, music, fragility, nesting, alertness — really, the sky's the limit!

You will observe that many symbols appear more than once. Look for common symbols and discover what they mean in the context of each given card. For example, snakes are included on several cards, sometimes quite obviously and sometimes tucked away and subtle. Generally speaking, a snake represents wisdom, but the setting and story of the card will determine what kind of wisdom and how it is used. For your convenience, some of the symbols used in the Viceversa Tarot are listed at the back of this book.



USING THE CARDS



Most tarot decks have 78 card images. The Viceversa Tarot has 156! Considering how many possibilities for interpretation are present in a typical deck, doubling those possibilities may seem daunting at first. As we said above, vice versa means "the other way around," not better or worse. Keep this in mind as you work with the cards. To help you get into this mindset, the descriptions for the cards say "This Side" and "That Side" rather than "Front" and "Back."

Lets do a simple one-card reading. Shuffle or mix the cards in your usual way. Because there are images on both sides, you will need to determine what works for you when it comes to mixing the cards. Some people may find it distracting to see different card images rather than identical card backs. If so, try squinting or half-closing your eyes, "softening" your gaze rather than looking directly, or even closing your eyes altogether. Try looking to the horizon rather than down at the table — you'll still see the cards in your peripheral vision, so you don't feel out of control with the process. Use your imagination until you find a system that works for you. And then — this is the most important part! — stick to it. Changing your layout procedure is the easiest way to second-guess yourself, and second-guessing is death to intuition. As soon as

you start to question if you laid the cards out correctly, you have cast doubt on your ability to read them.

So, now that the cards are mixed, pull just one and lay it on the table before you.



1. Read the side that is facing you, without looking at the flip side. Consider the cards image as whole unto itself. Without looking up the interpretation in the book, just explore it slowly, noticing all the symbols (think back to the pairs mentioned above and add your own).
2. Now turn the card over and do the same thing with the other side.
3. Next, consider both sides. See what additional insights you can gain from comparing the two sides. Go back and forth until you feel you know the card well. It can be helpful to describe it out loud, as if you are telling someone else what it looks like.
4. Finally, read the descriptions in the book. Newcomers to the tarot often feel that their goal should be to get off the book as soon as possible and be able to read without referring back to it. If this is your feeling, acknowledge it and gently set it aside. First of all, there are no "shoulds" in tarot. The tarot police are not going to arrest you, and the tarot scholars aren't going to test you. Secondly, remember that tarot is a lifelong study. There is always something new to learn from tarot books. You may or may not agree with what is written, and that's a good thing too. When you form your own opinions about what a card means, you are affirming your own intuition, insights, and relationship with your own cards. Always look — really look! — at the cards first, and then read the book if you wish.

This one-card reading can be extended to multi-card readings as well. Choose your favorite spread, lay out the cards, and then do the above steps one by one for each card in the spread. If a problem's solution has been particularly elusive, try





disregarding the side facing up. Turn the cards over and only read the other side, interpreting them as what has been hidden from you or unknown thus far.

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THE CARDS: MAJOR ARCANA



The tarot has two parts, the Major Arcana and the Minor Arcana (the word arcana is from the Latin for mysterious or secret). The Major Arcana cards have titles as well as numbers, such as the Magician, Death, or the Moon. The Fool is part of the Major Arcana, yet its number is O (zero), indicating that it is outside the linear, numbered order of the other Major cards, which are sometimes collectively called the Fool's Journey. Getting a Major Arcana card in a reading can indicate significant events or soul-level work more than merely day-to-day concerns. Pay special attention to these cards when they appear.

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THE O FOOL



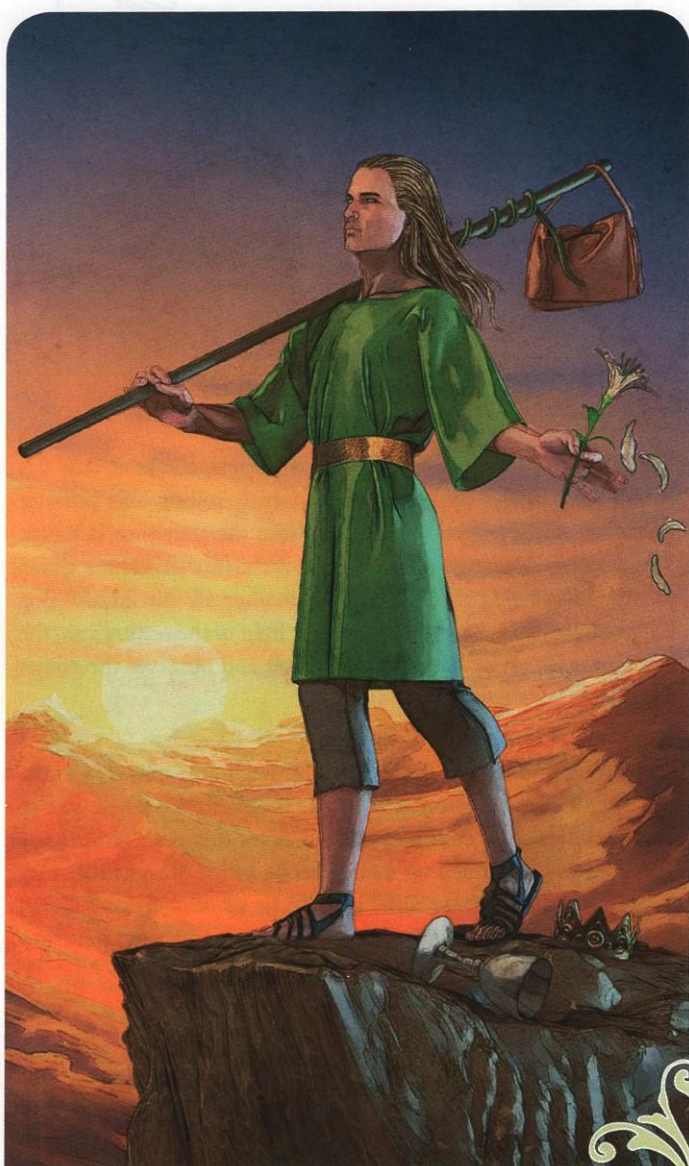
THIS SIDE

A blind youth stands at the edge of a precipice at sunset. Though the situation seems perilous, his attitude is serene — not because his eyes cannot see the danger, but because his inner sight tells him that all will be well. The country from whence he came is arid and mountainous, and yet he made it this far alone. Foolhardiness is the boldness to do what appears to be foolish. It springs from innocent trust in the inherent goodness of the world. The Fool travels light, and the small satchel contains only what he holds most precious. Some say that it holds the collected knowledge of universal memory.

When you get this side in a reading:

Rather than doing what seems reasonable, logical, or safe, the Fool epitomizes the idea of taking a leap of faith. Though success is the ideal outcome, its the leap itself that matters most. The Fool goes from experience to experience in a serendipitous way. Every turn along his path adds to his wisdom. Choose to be bold and foolish if you want to make progress on your own path.





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FOOL




THAT SIDE

Though the land he leaves behind is barren, the land that lies before him is green and welcoming. Gently rolling hills promise an easier journey once the descent from the precipice is made. The evening sky begins to scintillate with stars that shine down on the unseeing Fool. He is not alone after all: his faithful dog accompanies him. Bathed in the warm light of the setting sun, the dog keeps watch for his sightless master and observes the comet that blazes across the sky.

When you get this side in a reading:

Something good is on the horizon, though you may not know yet what it is. Where you are heading is better than where you've been, so don't be afraid to continue along this path. Trust your instincts and be guided by them, and be aware of signs that may seem portentous. These don't have to be as obvious as a comet — sometimes the smallest changes can be enough to alter your trajectory in a meaningful way.

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MAGICIAN



THIS SIDE

A Magician stands barefoot upon a stone terrace, his right hand holding a candle that burns at both ends. Held vertically, this is a physical impossibility, as fire only burns upward. But magic isn't constrained by such details. His left hand points to the ground, signifying the creed of ceremonial magic, "As above, so below." On the table before him lie the four tools of the Minor Arcana: Sword, Chalice, Wand, and Pentacle. The stone table itself appears to have no legs; it floats before the Magician as if supported by his will alone. The Magician exudes an air of calm power, as the firmness of his stance and gestures proclaim his confidence. Above the Magician's head floats a luminous lemniscate, the sign for infinity. In the sky behind him, a comet shoots through the Orion constellation.

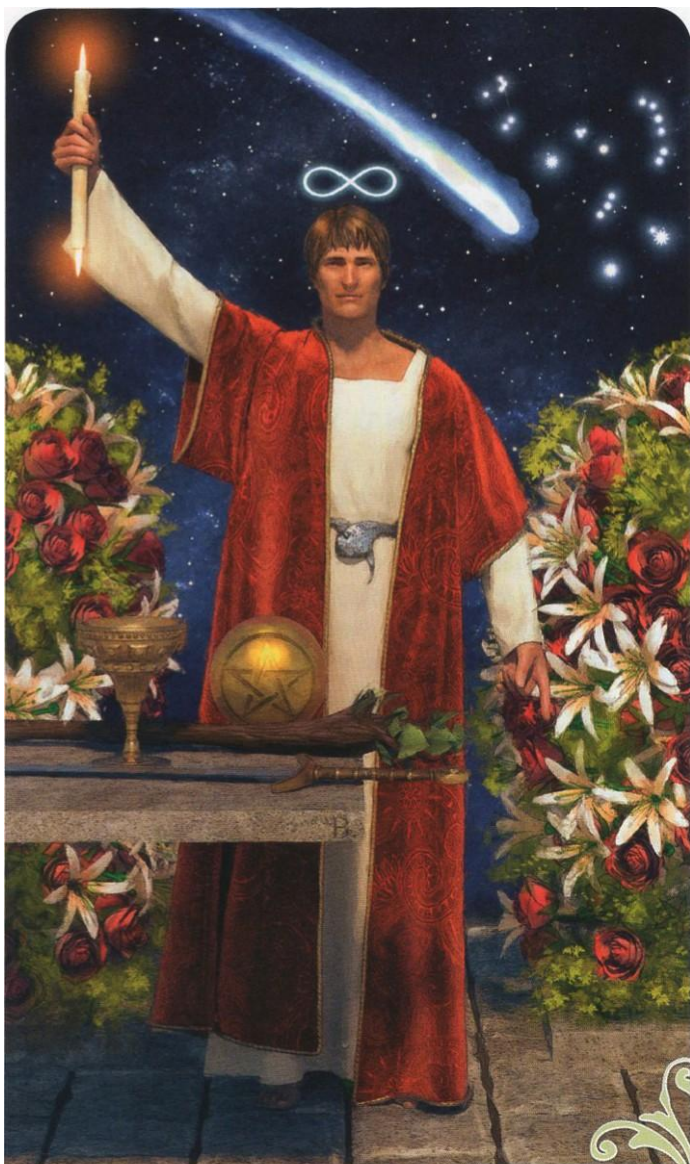
When you get this side in a reading:

Magic is the power to change reality by will. The Magician channels the natural forces of magic that are around us all the time. He isn't necessarily more personally magical than anyone else, but he has dedicated himself to honing his powers and honing his skills. He believes in his magic, and it is this belief that makes magic possible. This card says that you have all you need to make any desired changes in your life or excel at any undertaking. But you must believe it to make it real.



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MAGICIAN

THAT SIDE

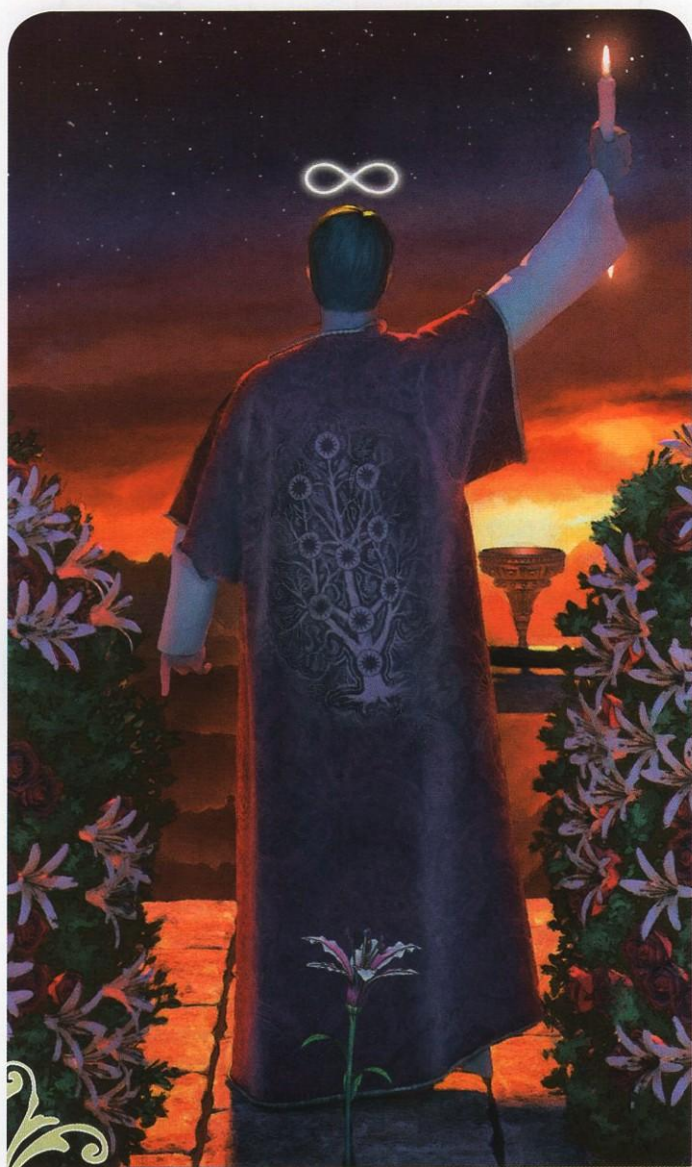
The Magician faces the sunset, in communion with the power of night meeting day. He acknowledges the darkness and the light, both within and without. In the shadows, the back of his robe is not red but purple, the color of the seventh chakra, the energetic seat of wisdom and enlightenment. The robe bears the pattern of the kabbalistic Tree of Life. Behind the Magician, a single lily pushes its way upward between the paving stones.

When you get this side in a reading:

This is a threshold time for your endeavor, a time when new creation is trying to push through. Deepen and pull your energy inward. One of the tenets of magic is "Keep silent." If you find your endeavors are stalling or not progressing at the pace you wish, move into the silent, dark space within you and focus. Magic requires concentration and freedom from distractions. The power is there, but you must bring it forth yourself.

THE

IX



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HIGH PRIESTESS



THIS SIDE

The High Priestess sits on her temple throne, flanked by two pillars, one black and one white. The marble floor has a black and white illusory pattern that seems to move and change depending on your perspective. The Priestess's simple white robe is blazoned with an equal-armed solar cross. All of these represent a balance of light and dark, positive and negative, with the High Priestess at the center of understanding. She points to the sacred Book of Knowledge in her lap, inviting the seeker to approach and learn — but not everything will be revealed. Half of her throne is veiled, concealing one of the sphinx carvings. The throne itself blocks the portal that leads to the inner temple. The initiate must prove worthiness before being admitted.

When you get this side in a reading:

True wisdom can only be found within. Established religions have their place, but when the High Priestess appears, trust your own guidance. This card indicates a time for silence, as with the Magician card. The intent here is not to focus your mind, but to open your spirit. Seek peace and stillness in which to hear the inner voice and the voice of your deity. When you are ready to know more, the veil will be lifted.



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HIGH PRIESTESS



THAT SIDE

The inner temple is forbidden to those who are not ready — and willing — to comprehend its mysteries. Two braziers burn with sacred fires beside a pool of dark water. A Knot of Isis symbol is carved on the back of the High Priestess's throne. She is the sacred feminine that connects the earthly spirit and the eternal soul. She brings mystical knowledge forth into the light of day, born in the deep moonlit waters of women's wisdom.

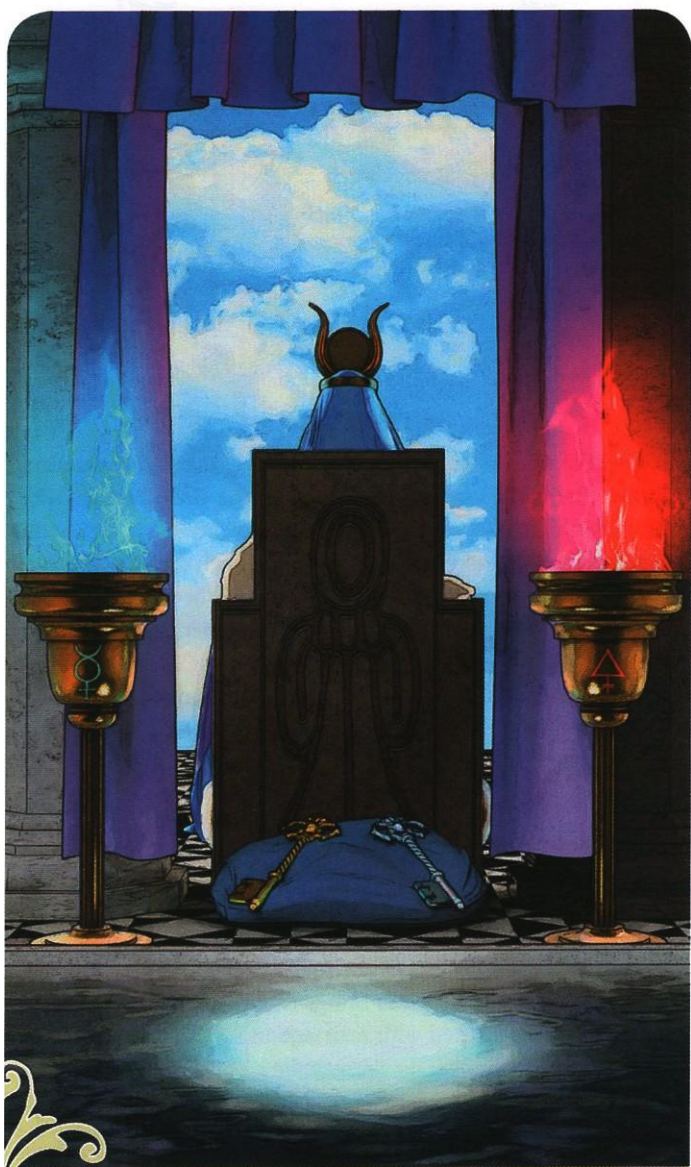
When you get this side in a reading:

You have passed through challenging initiation tasks and have been admitted to the inner temple. Take some time to reflect upon what you have recently learned. Sit with any fear until it dissolves away. The two keys of knowledge are now yours for the taking: the gold key of worldly matters and the silver key of mystical matters. You have proven yourself worthy of the Mysteries.

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EMPRESS

THIS SIDE

In a field of ripe golden wheat, the Empress sits upon her ancient throne. She is the essential female force, the Great Mother who brings forth life in abundance. The cracked clay at her feet holds vague suggestions of primal goddesses of birth and fertility. The Empress appears young, but she is older than the Earth itself. She wears the copper symbol of Venus between her breasts, for her heart is filled with womanly love. The Empress is crowned with a delicate wreath of myrtle leaves, and further crowned by twelve dancing stars and the planet Venus, which is the morning star and the evening star.

When you get this side in a reading:

The Empress brings abundance in every aspect of life, so her coming is a sign of good fortune. The context depends on you, for she is generous and desires only to give you what you truly desire and need. If it is money, your wealth will increase. If it is healing, you can expect improvement and increased well-being. And if its love you desire, the Empress brings that in abundance

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too. She is particularly associated with marriage and with children, but all fertility springs from her, in every realm.



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EMPRESS



THAT SIDE

The Empress is the bringer of life — and all life has an end. The wheat will be cut down, and the red roses of love will drop their petals. This knowledge doesn't take away from life's joy; in fact, it adds to it, if we live in gratitude for the present moment. Life and death are two sides of the same card. Behind the eagle shield, the sparrows nest is sheltered and asphodels bloom — the flower that blooms in the lands of death.

When you get this side in a reading:

The abundance the Empress gives so generously is still indicated on this side of the card, but it is tempered with a message to also think toward the future. Step back and take a look at the bigger picture as well as the present joys. If you want your happiness to last, take it seriously. Gratefulness is the door through which all happiness enters.



III

THE IV EMPEROR

THIS SIDE

The Emperor, clad in full armor, sits on his cube-shaped throne at the mouth of a cave. The throne is weathered, the rams' heads on either side worn smooth over the ages. Above his right hand floats an orb of pure gold, and in his left hand he holds a golden ankh. Between them, a sun face is etched in gold on his armored breastplate. The Emperor's crown is iron, bearing the symbol for Mars. Deep lines are etched on his face, which expresses both strength and care, for his responsibilities are great.

When you get this side in a reading:

The Emperor differs from his Empress in the dominion of their realms. She is the nurturer of life ever-renewing in an endless cycle, and thus, for her, the present moment is key. He looks toward the future, both immediate and long term. The Emperor builds things to last beyond his lifetime. When this card comes up, consider your legacy. How would you like to expand your influence? What do you want to leave behind?



IV



THE IV EMPEROR

THAT SIDE

The Emperor looks out upon the vista of his empire. Fair skies betoken good fortune, and high cliffs shelter the verdant valley below. From this vantage point, the Emperor keeps vigilant watch over all those in his care. He draws his power from the sources symbolized on his throne: the renewing energy of the sun, the alchemical soul-force of sulfur, and the embracing moons of the feminine power, embodied in his Empress.

When you get this side in a reading:

You bear your responsibilities well, and you can be justifiably proud of what you have accomplished. But the strictness with which you go about your duties is taking a toll on you. Not everything has to be set in stone. Leave some room for growth and change. If you are afraid to face the darker parts of yourself, you won't be able to help others with their own darkness.



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HIEROPHANT

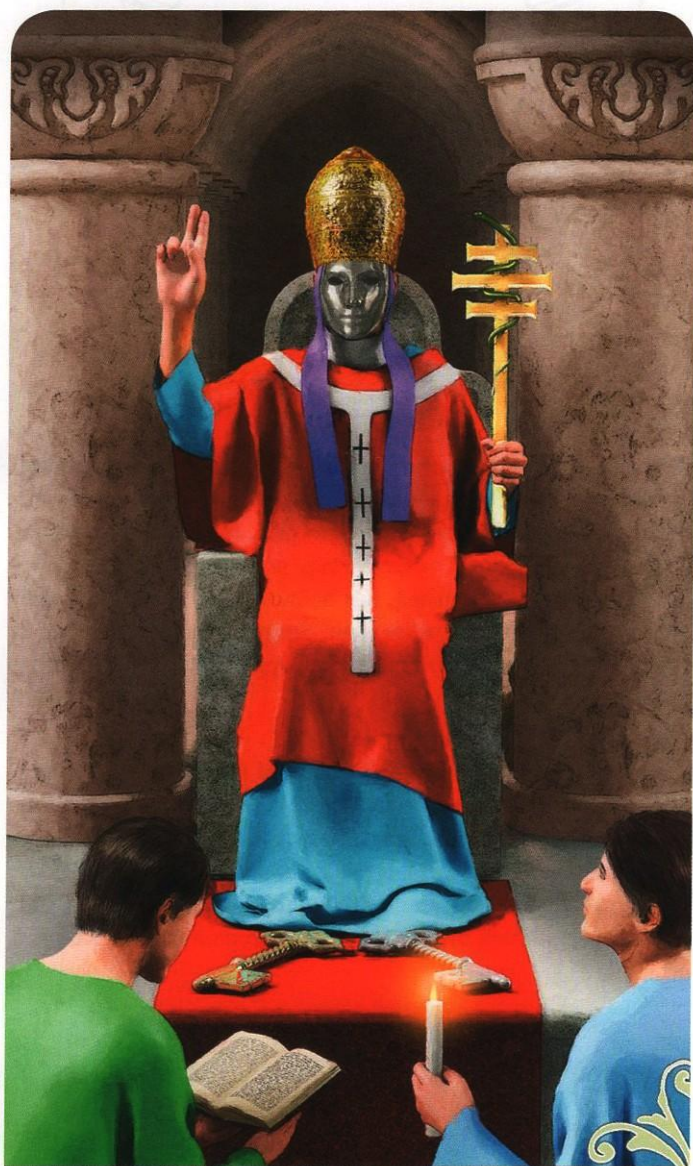
THIS SIDE

The Hierophant raises his hand in blessing as two acolytes approach his chair. The pillars of his temple are marble, stone of divinity and immortality. His seat is granite, stone of inflexibility and endurance. The Hierophant is a mortal man, but his face is masked below his golden papal tiara. Individuality doesn't factor into his role, which is to represent established religion. He is the conveyer of dogma, as the High Priestess is the conveyer of mysteries. Whereas the teachings of the Priestess are only for the initiated, the teachings of the Hierophant are available to all seekers. The two men who stand before him represent the desire for doctrine (scripture, the written word) and the desire for illumination (the candle). Notice that the man holding the candle resembles the Magician. When true illumination is found, the candle burns both upward and downward — as above, so below.

When you get this side in a reading:

Sometimes a call toward spirituality can be satisfied through religion, which offers a path that has been trodden by many people before you. The precepts of religion can be learned without the need for analysis or inner searching. If you are drawn to such a path — or already upon it — consider how you would feel if you questioned some of those precepts. Can you see the true face of the people whose authority you accept?





V



THE V HIEROPHANT



THAT SIDE

Carved on the back of the throne is the tetragrammaton pentagram, an esoteric design that combines the hidden name of God with symbols for man and the microcosm. Some interpret this as "the Word made flesh" or the divinity inherent in man. The base of the throne is unfinished, just as mortals are unfinished and always striving toward refinement. Sitting beside the base are a Paleolithic goddess figurine, a cloven apple, and a baby holding a key.

When you get this side in a reading:

The rigidity of the other side of the card has given way to freedom of thought and possibility. You've gone beyond merely questioning the precepts of religion — now you are ready to challenge them or rebel against them. If this isn't a situation where religious teachings are relevant, think of another situation in which you are being held back by "thou shalt" and reconsider your actions.



VI

LOVERS



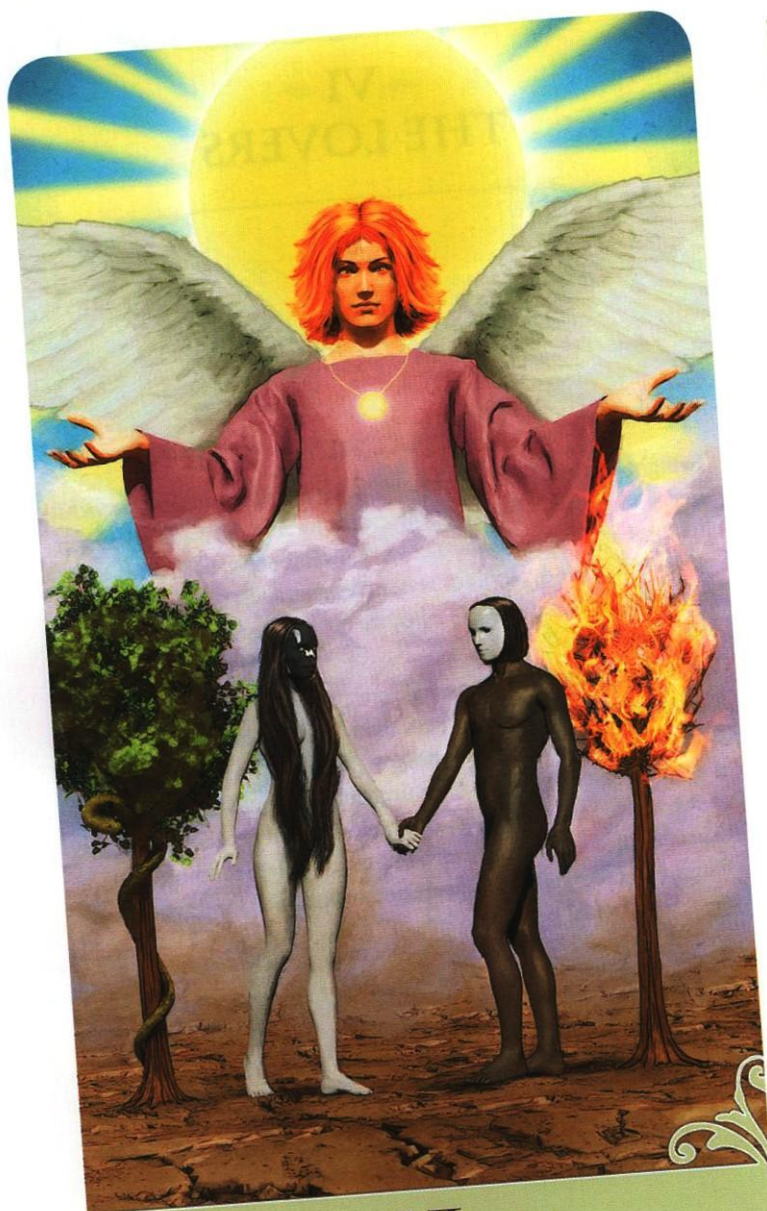
THIS SIDE

Between the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, the Lovers stand naked before an archangel. The woman and man present a yin/yang appearance of light and dark, each wearing a mask of the opposite hue. A serpent twines among the green branches of the Tree of Life. The Tree of Knowledge is the same type of tree, now ablaze. The serpent awakened the urge for knowledge in the woman, and when she passed it on to the man, their world of ignorant bliss went up in flames. And yet, from this burning tree comes the voice of the Divine. The choice between knowledge and ignorance always leaves us vulnerable, yet it is how we create our own earthly paradise.

When you get this side in a reading:

While this card does indicate a significant relationship, the symbols emphasize the idea of choice and of seeing things through another's eyes while making that choice. The Lovers step toward each other across the hot, cracked ground. If you are faced with a choice, know that it will be easier if your significant other understands and supports that decision. If that doesn't fit for you, have an internal dialogue with your shadow self to gain clarity about your choices.

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VI

LOVERS

THAT SIDE

Twilight descends upon the Lovers, who gaze out upon a peaceful green landscape. They appear ready to step forward into their life together. He bears the alchemical symbol for fire on his back, and she has the symbol for water. When united by Mercury, they form the hexagram that shines in the heavens: the Alchemical Marriage.

When you get this side in a reading:

The energy is much cooler here than on the other side and more balanced. The Lovers are alone now; the archangel is gone. There is a sense of calm rather than urgency. It should soon be easier to see where you are going, and how you will get there together. Consider how your elemental qualities complement those of your significant other, where they create an explosion, and where they come together in perfect union.



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CHARIOT

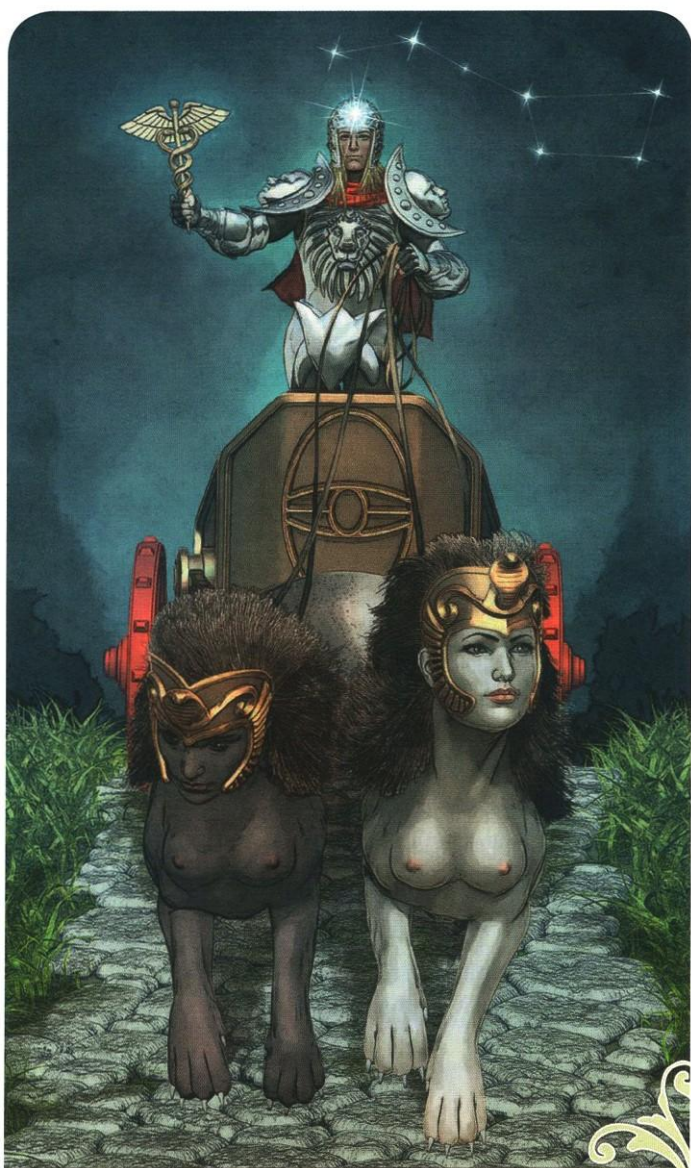


THIS SIDE

A warrior in silver armor rides upon a chariot drawn by sphinxes. In his right hand he holds the caduceus, through which he channels his will to drive the sphinxes forward. Without this guidance, they pull in opposite directions — positive and negative energies striving away from each other, like magnets. In the sky above the Chariot is Ursa Major, the Great Bear, also called the Plough among many other names. Sighting this constellation makes it easy to find the North Star, legendary star of guidance. The North Star shines from the charioteer's brow — he is his own star of guidance, navigating only by desire.

When you get this side in a reading:

It is time to take charge of your own destiny. The stars are aligned for you to step into a greater personal power and to make real progress in your life's journey. But you need to keep your eyes on the road and not be distracted by trivial concerns. Things are speeding up. It's an exciting time with great potential for success.



VII



THE VII CHARIOT



THAT SIDE

The charioteer's red cloak bears the sign of Cancer, ruled by the moon, which he also wears on his shoulder armor. Intuition, not logic, is where he finds the strength to continue forward despite obstacles, to shoulder on. Broken chains trail behind the Chariot's wheels, but the most striking image is the road — or the lack of road. As the Chariot charges ahead, the road falls away, into the vastness of a cosmic void. Or it could be that the path only exists at all in front of the Chariot, brought into being by the will and vision of the driver. In either case, the only way to go is forward, toward the light on the horizon, whatever it may be.

When you get this side in a reading:

The more mystical nature of your journey is demanding attention. If you have been focusing only on mundane details — how to get from Point A to Point B — the importance of this transition could be missed. Continue forward along your chosen path, but listen to your intuition more than your logic. Be aware of what was holding you back — you may not even have noticed that you are now free.



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VIII STRENGTH

THIS SIDE

The Empress, whom we last saw in her own card, sits in her sunny wheat field with a great male lion. She is smiling as they interact, and it's clear she is in no danger from her feline friend. The lion represents the untamed instinct to kill that comes from an abuse of power, what is called power-over. But here it is tamed by the Empress's feminine power-from-within. She sits at ease upon his flank and playfully opens his jaws, as we might tease a housecat into pretending to be fierce.

When you get this side in a reading:

You may have been holding yourself back or subduing your ambition for fear of overstepping or being "too much." The loving strength of the Empress is a balance to any leonine excess of ego. Don't be afraid to access your strengths and put them to good use. Lighten up a bit, don't take yourself quite so seriously. You can be powerful without being overpowering.



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VIII

STRENGTH



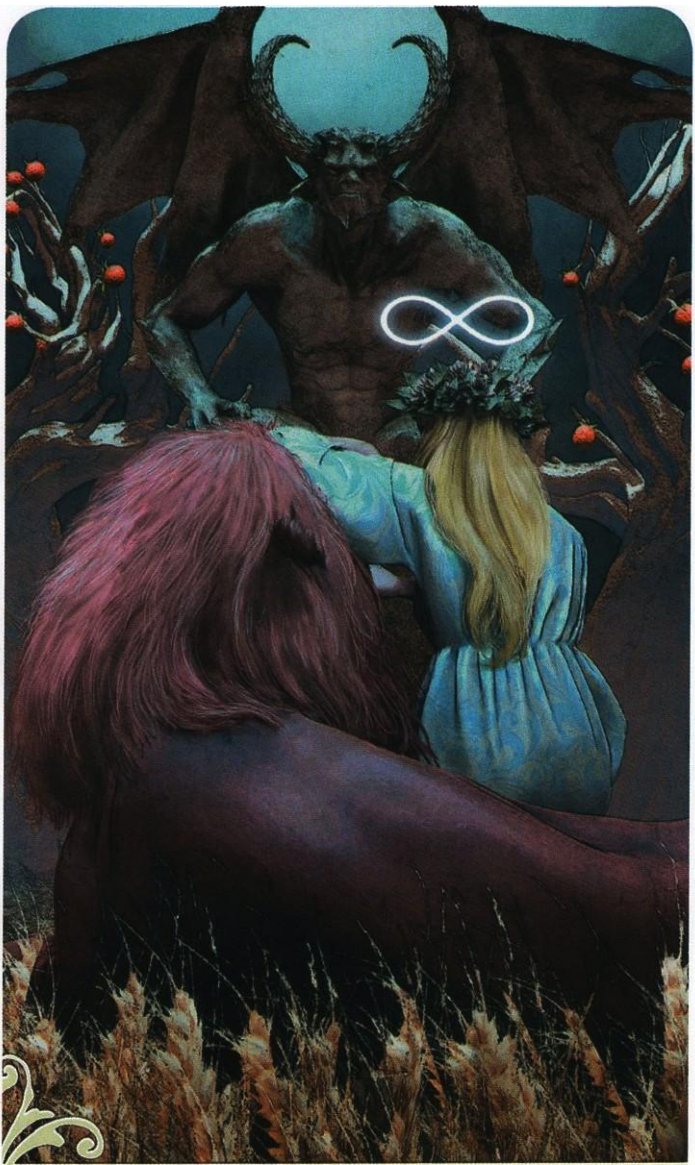
THAT SIDE

The Devil looms up before the Empress and her lion. The sunlight is eerily dimmed, as by an eclipse. In this muted light, the sign of infinity above her head grows with increased energy. She is the life force itself, and the strength of that can't be conquered by the power of darkness. She and the lion don't even bother to stand up — the Devil can threaten, but he can't destroy what refuses to be destroyed.

When you get this side in a reading:

Face your shadow self, your ideas about power and your reluctance to claim it. Release old chains of bondage to anyone who had power over you in the past. You don't have to repeat that pattern. Abuse doesn't always foster more abuse. Confront your demons.





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THE HERMIT

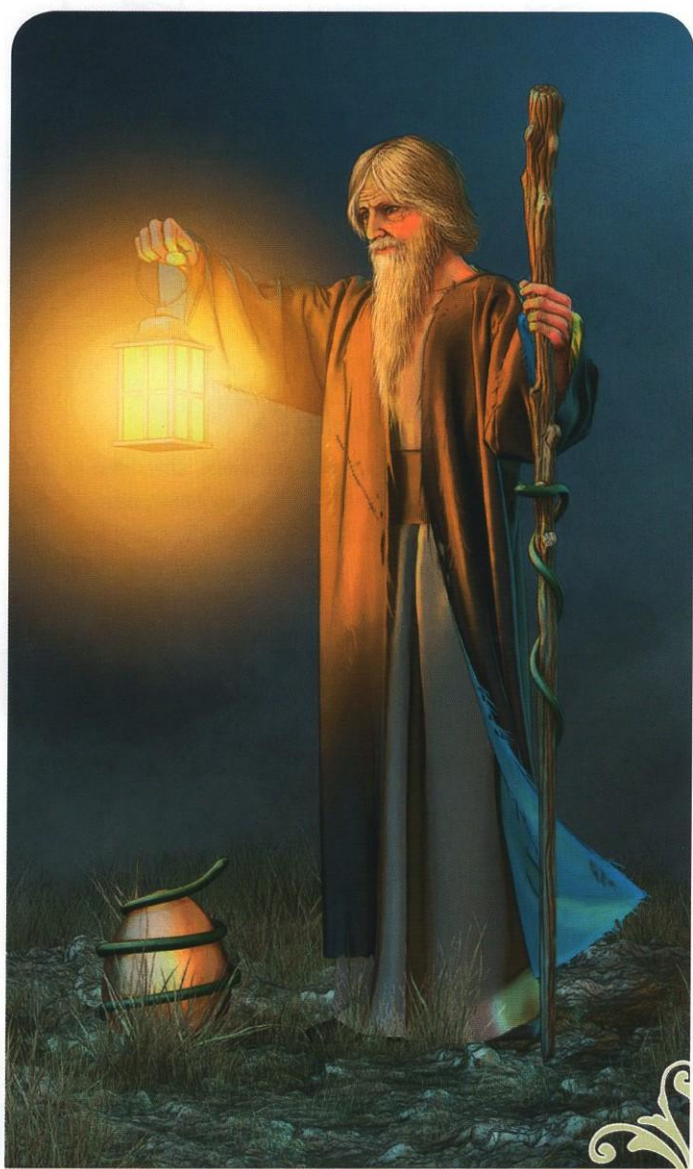


THIS SIDE

An aged Hermit lifts his lantern, which illuminates the immediate space around him, revealing the Orphic Egg, the mythic egg of creation from which the universe was born. The serpent on the Hermit's staff greets the Orphic serpent. The Hermit recognizes the spirit in matter, as the mystic and earthly snakes recognize each other as kin. His tattered robe is lined in blue, the color of spiritual peace. Whatever he shows to the outer world, as with other holy teachers in the deck, what he wears closest to his skin holds the clue to his true being.

When you get this side in a reading:

The Hermit is more than a sign that its time for some solitude. There is something bigger that needs to be addressed, aside and away from the trappings of the everyday world. The Hermit retreats to the mountains for two purposes: to gain perspective and to make it an effort for others to reach him. Be sure your interactions with people who break your solitude are meaningful, not trivial.



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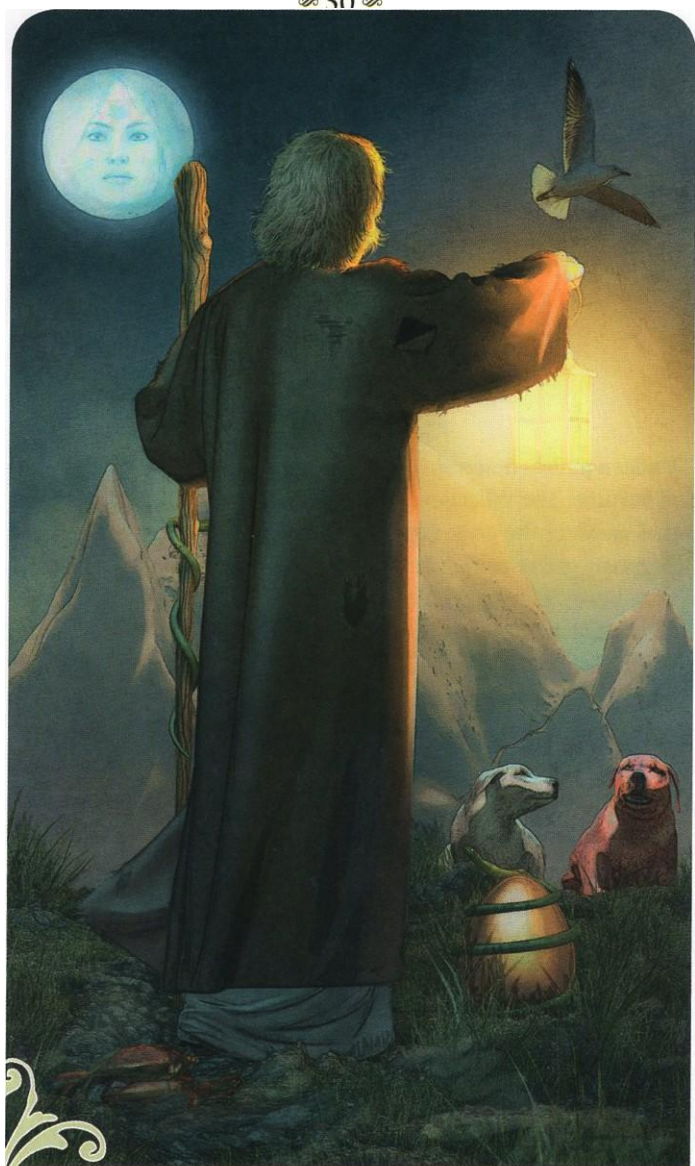
THE HERMIT

THAT SIDE

The Hermit's robe is more ragged at the back, shredded at the hem and ripped in several places. He has seen harsh times in his travels, which have damaged him more than he lets people know. This is the price paid for access to the great cosmic egg. When he is traveling, the Hermit's lantern lights a small area, just enough for him to keep his footing and attend to what is in his immediate sphere. But here, from the elevation of the mountaintop, he is bathed in moonlight. The lunar goddess opens his mind to what is unseen as well as what is seen. Her creatures the crab and the two moon dogs, seen in the Moon card, greet the Hermit as a friend.

When you get this side in a reading:

There is a lot going on under the surface, and secrets are starting to emerge. Some are things you have hidden from yourself and can no longer avoid. If you don't seek deepening experiences, they sometimes will come find you, as the moon crab and moon dogs have here. There are people who can live their lives without the pursuit of wisdom, but this card tells you that you are not one of them.



IX



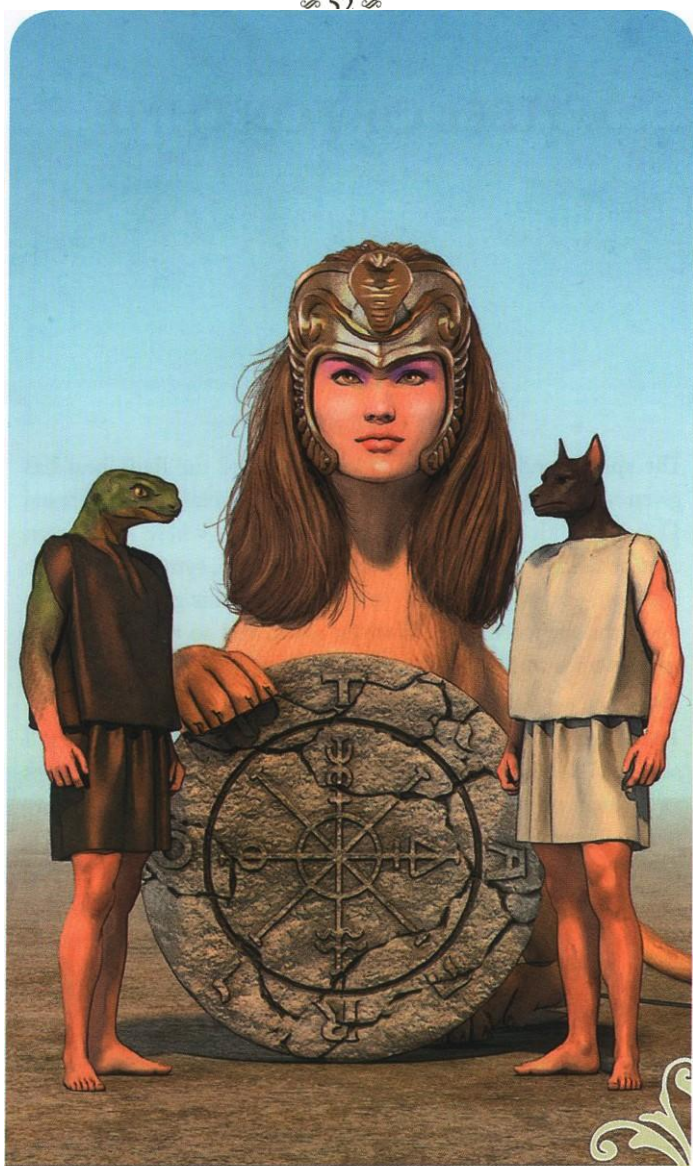
WHEEL OF FORTUNE

THIS SIDE

Under a pitiless desert sky, a sphinx rests her paw upon the Wheel of Fortune. The Wheel is carved with sacred and esoteric symbols that speak of the great Mysteries of life, death, and rebirth. TWO Egyptian gods stand beside the Wheel: snake-headed IYphon, who brings chaos and destruction, and jackal-headed Anubis, who accompanies the dead into the afterlife and beyond. Both are in Greek dress and have human bodies, denoting a union with the Greek god Hermes, who is also a guide of souls. Hermes adds discernment and intelligence to the powers of IYphon and Anubis, so that as our lives turn upon the Wheel we gain wisdom with each turning.

When you get this side in a reading:

The Wheel of Fortune cannot be halted in its timeless turning. To be born is to be on the Wheel. The two sides of this card show two approaches to this inalterable fact. This side speaks of the great Mysteries of the Wheel, which can be pondered for a lifetime — or many lifetimes — and still never be fully comprehended. The Sphinx guards the secrets of destiny. Acceptance of this brings peace. Struggling to understand what is beyond mortal understanding brings despair.



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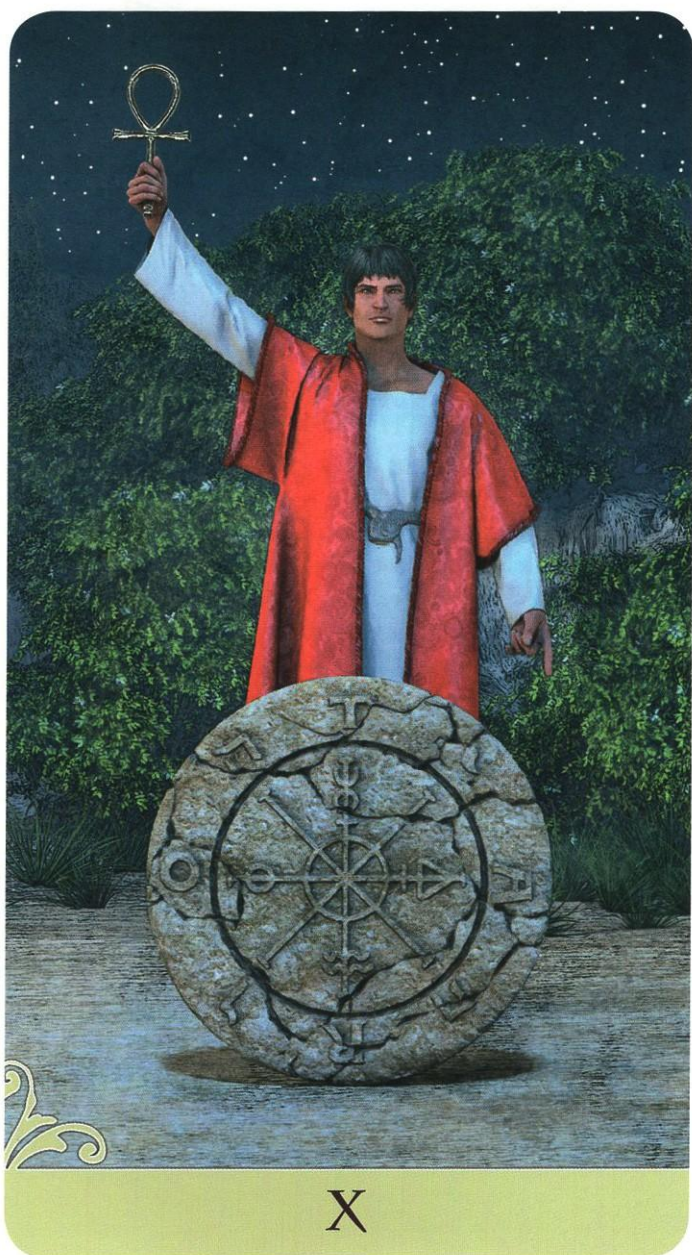
WHEEL OF FORTUNE

THAT SIDE

The sphinx and the two gods are gone, and the days heat has given way to the cool, starry night. The Magician (Major Arcana 1) stands with the Wheel. In his right hand, where in his own card he holds a candle, he now holds the ankh, symbol of life. His left hand points to the earth as before. With this gesture, he calls upon the life force to manifest on earth, and so it has: greenery springs up from the barren desert floor.

When you get this side in a reading:

The Wheel is the same, with its symbols of esoteric wisdom and secrets. The Magician is a master of these Mysteries, but he does not master the Wheel itself. Destiny is destiny. His message here is to remember that you are a soul on an earthly journey. You have chosen to ride the Wheel. Use your will in a positive way to influence events and circumstances to make the most of that ride. Study the Mysteries, which sparkle as points of light in the dark of night.



X



xl

JUSTICE



THIS SIDE

Justice sits upon her throne, holding a sword in her right hand and a balance scale in her left. She is blindfolded to prevent the subjective view in matters that should be decided only by law — human law or karmic law. She wears a diadem with a large solar symbol just over her third eye, symbolizing illuminating insight beyond mortal sight. The setting is the temple of Ma'at, Egyptian goddess of truth. Upon death, the soul comes before Ma'at, who places their heart on one side of her scale and a feather on the other side. If the heart is light, the soul moves on to the blissful afterlife. If not, the soul is thrown to the jaws of Ammit, the Devourer. The scales of Justice are the sign that her rulings are impartial and her only duty is to the truth.

When you get this side in a reading:

It is time to place your heart upon the scales of Justice. The situation demands the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. There is no plea bargain to be made with Justice — but remember, she is not cruel. She is the essential embodiment of fairness. Whatever needs to be done in the situation to make it fair, balanced, and ethically clean should be done now. Delay or deny this at your peril.

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JUSTICE

THAT SIDE

Carved into the back of the throne of Justice is an image of Ammit, the demon who awaits the heavy-hearted dead. Ammit has the head of a crocodile, the forepaws of a lion, and the hindquarters of a hippopotamus — three ferocious animals who are unstoppable in combination. Like Ma'at, Ammit is fair and just; she only devours those whose heart has determined that outcome. And yet, something has gone wrong. The scales of Justice have been thrown down and broken, and the sword of truth is trapped and overgrown. Without truth and justice, Ammit is free to devour whom she chooses, regardless of their guilt or innocence.

When you get this side in a reading:

Do not ever think that you can sneak around Justice. You may get away with it for a time, but inevitably the truth will out. It is far better to face it of your own free will than to wait and let Justice choose her time to cast the verdict. The situation is fragile and fraught with danger.



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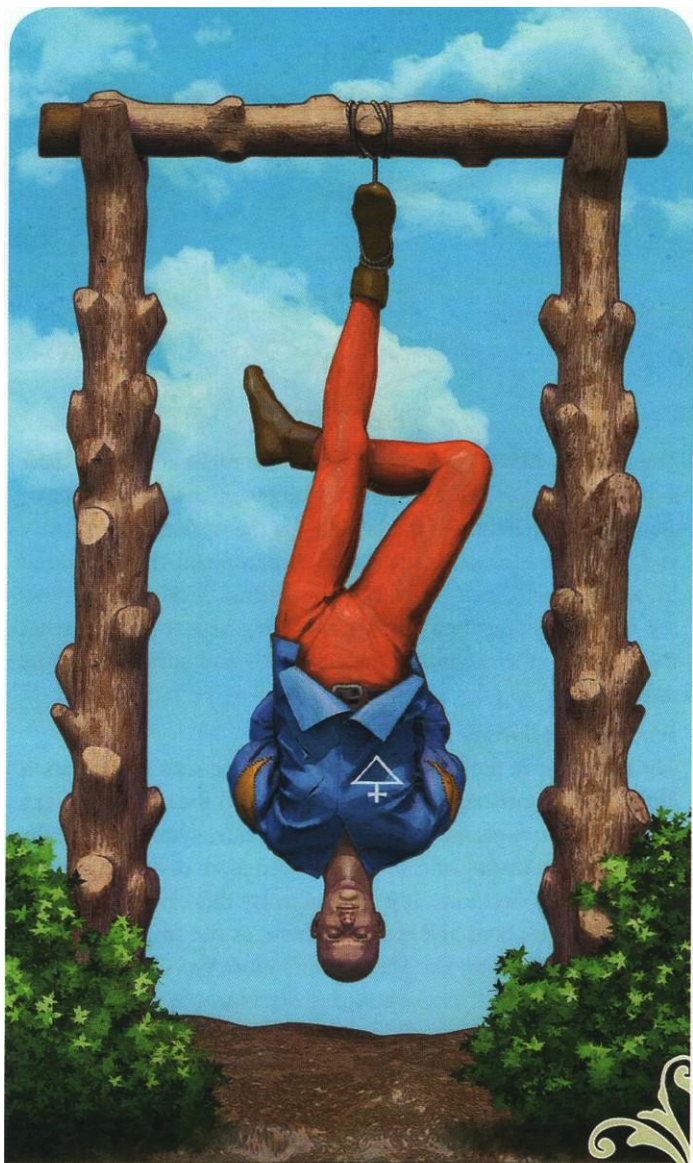
THE HANGED MAN



~ THIS SIDE ~

The Hanged Man is suspended from a simple hand-hewn gallows, perhaps made by himself. This is not a gallows of death, simply of suspension, and the Hanged Man is calm, his eyes open, his face serene. Rather than a rope around his neck, a loose knot anchors him to the crossbar, and (as we see on the other side) his hands are loosely tied behind his back. This is not an execution but a voluntary surrender. His attitude is one of grace, both physical and spiritual. He has given up control — temporarily — with no expectations other than to see things from a different perspective. When you get this side in a reading:

Because this is a Major Arcana card, it signifies more than just a mundane time-out or change of perspective on everyday situations. The Hanged Man has the alchemical symbol for sulfur (soul) on his tunic — but note that it is only right side up when he is upside down! The symbol isn't for him, it's for you. The Hanged Man demonstrates important soul work and indicates your readiness to undertake it. You may already be doing so but without awareness. It is time to bring to consciousness.



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THE HANGED MAN

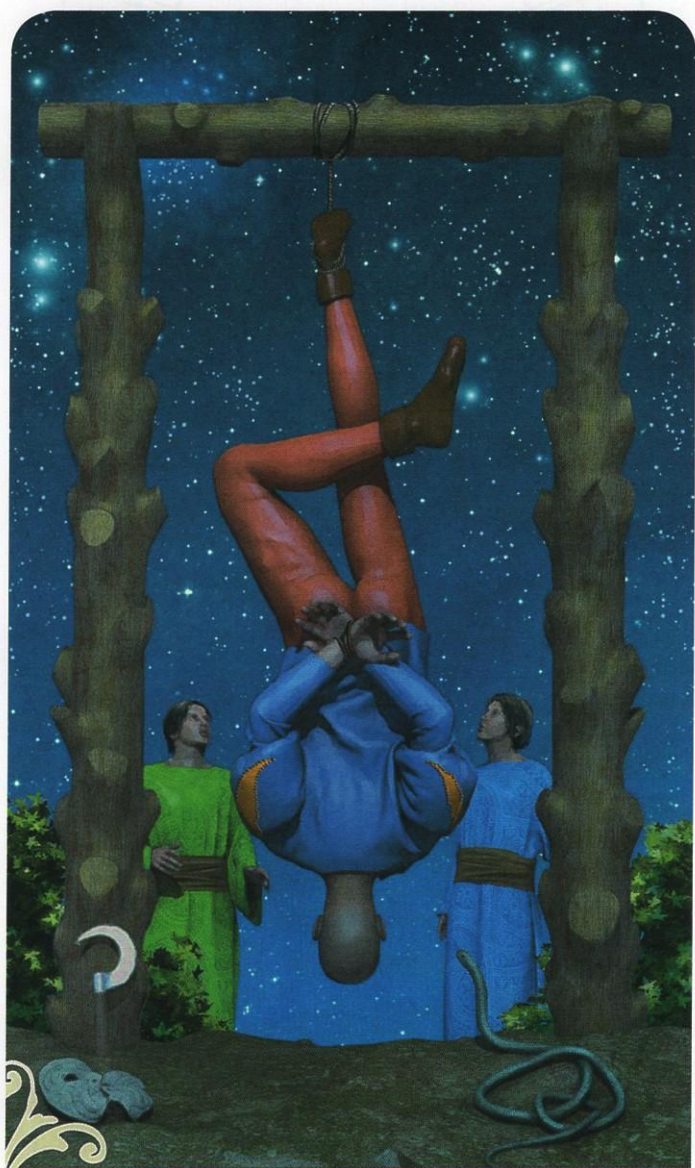


THAT SIDE

The Hanged Man's vigil goes on into the night — not the dark night of the soul, but the glittering night of cosmic awareness. -IWo men stand before him, marveling at the vastness of the heavens. They are the two acolytes of the Hierophant (Major Arcana 5), and this is the next stage of their spiritual development. Now the Hanged Man is their teacher, modeling how to give up what they know — the dogma of the Church — and surrender to the unknowable.

When you get this side in a reading:

The two sides of the Hanged Man card can be seen as exhalation and inhalation, metaphorically speaking. On the other side, ego and preconceptions are released. On this side, symbols enter the consciousness one by one, to be perceived more clearly by a mind emptied of expectations. It is helpful to lay this card side by side with the Hierophant and compare them, as the two acolytes are doing. The snake on the Hierophant's cross has come down to earth. Wisdom is no longer linked to doctrine; it is an attribute of contemplation. The mask is broken; illusions are shattered. What are you now ready to see?



XII



DEATH



THIS SIDE

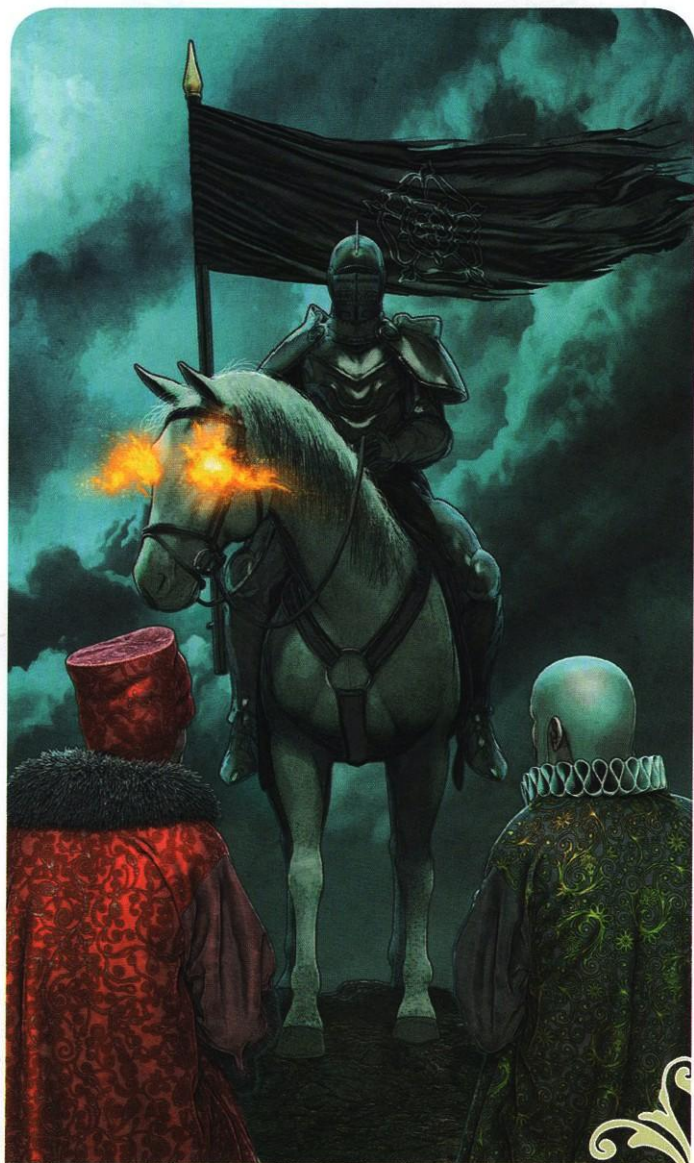
-IWo men kneel before Death, who comes in the shape of a knight upon a pale horse. Fire erupts from the horseS eyes. A ragged black flag bearing the mystical rose whips in the wind. Death brings a storm in his wake; towering dark clouds loom over the scene. We cannot see his true face, only the cold armor that contains his essence.

When you get this side in a reading:

This card is a fearsome sight indeed, but do not fear, for it rarely signifies an impending death. It is a reminder — a memento mori — that Death comes to everyone and everything. In fables, those who try to evade Death always fail. Something has ended or is about to end, and there is no escaping that. Release what no longer serves you and make way for the new.



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III

DEATH

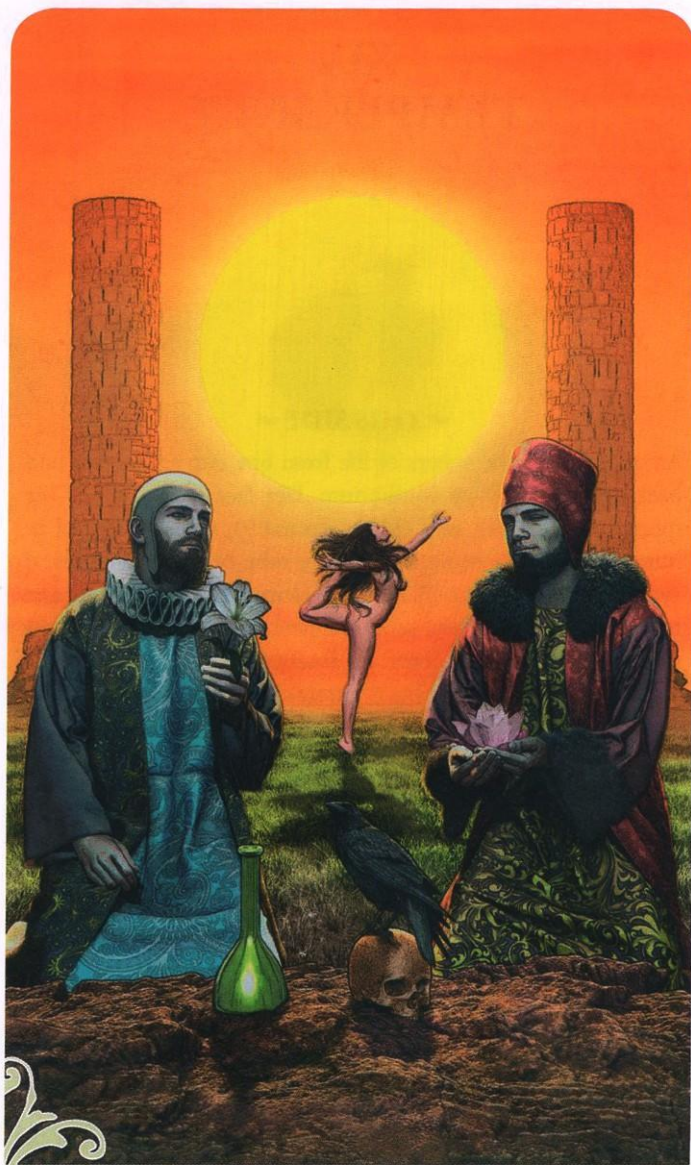
THAT SIDE

Here we look at the scene from Death's perspective and assess it as such. The two kneeling men are revealed to be a court alchemist and a wealthy merchant. The court alchemist's ultimate aim IS to master the art of transformation — to turn lead into gold, and mortality into immortality. The merchant's goal is to increase and protect his earthly riches. Now, in the presence of Death, they offer tokens that speak of another side of their natures. The alchemist holds a lily, symbol of purity; the merchant holds a lotus, symbol of spiritual awakening. The coming of Death makes them reconsider the priorities of their lives. They may do better in the future if Death passes them by — for now.

When you get this side in a reading:

Death comes for all, regardless of wealth or social station, and it's the same for the death of parts of our lives that no longer serve a purpose. When the time comes, the Reaper must reap. This card says you've been given a chance to prove yourself, and that the outcome will be positive. The alchemist's expression is hopeful, and the merchant is blissfully serene. Respond with grace to the inevitability of change.

XII



XIII

XIV

TEMPERANCE

THIS SIDE

An angel pours the waters of life from one cup to another and back again, in endless equilibrium. Her face is the face of the moon in the Hermit card (Major Arcana 9), with the disc of illumination on her brow. Her austere robe bears the alchemical symbols for two of the three prime elements: sulfur (spirit) and mercury (soul). The third prime element is salt, which represents the body and material form. Its absence here suggests that the alchemical process occurring is purely of spirit and soul. (Though the pronoun "she" is used above, the angel is androgynous or genderless. The physical body is not of concern here.) When you get this side in a reading:

The alchemical act of tempering a substance transforms and purifies it by bringing it into balance. The angel is tempering the life force itself, pouring from gold to silver, from sun to moon, from active to receptive, from day to night, from logic to intuition — there is an infinite variety of associations for the two cups — and then pouring back again to achieve balance. The angel asks: Where are you out of balance? What element needs increase or decrease? What is needed to restore harmony in your soul?



XIV



XIV

TEMPERANCE



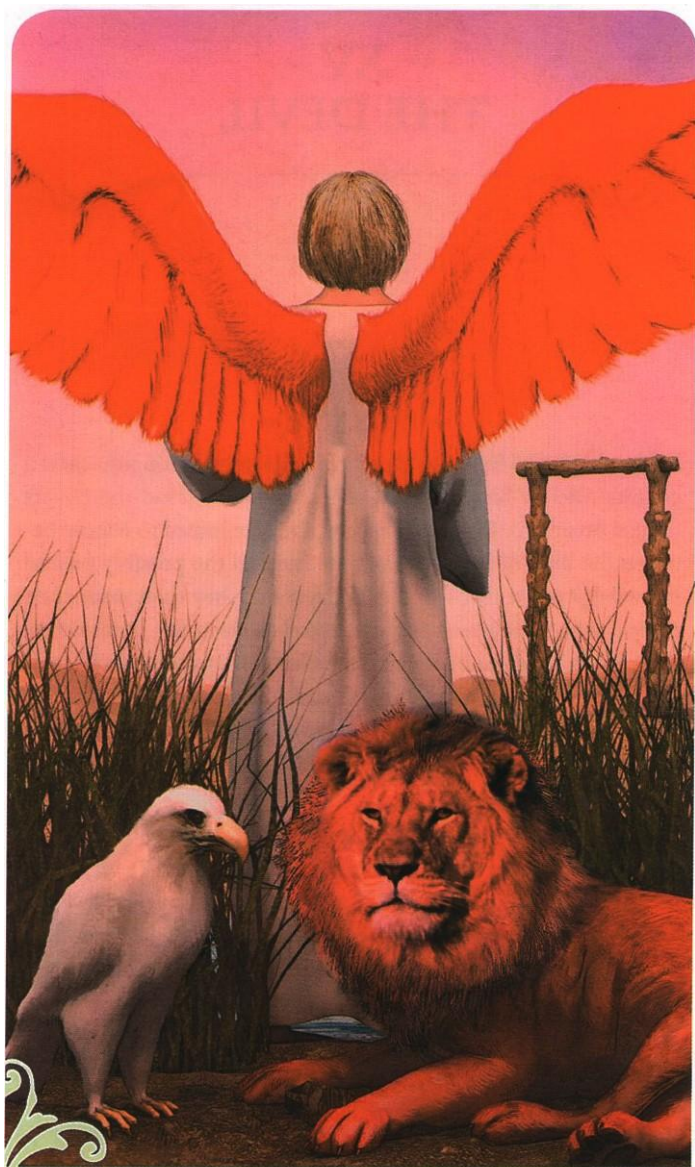
THAT SIDE

Across the river from the angel of Temperance stands the gallows of the Hanged Man (Major Arcana 12). The gallows is empty now — perhaps the Hanged Man was influenced by the presence of Temperance and no longer needed to remove himself from the mundane world. Or perhaps the gallows await the Hanged Man, and the angel of Temperance is the keeper of this transformational place. Behind the angel are a white eagle and a red lion, alchemical embodiments of the elements of water and fire. Temperance is the peaceable combination of opposites in perfect balance.

When you get this side in a reading:

From this viewpoint, you are looking toward the Hanged Man's gallows. The angel stands between you and the gallows, red wings spread wide. The eagle, the lion, the angel — all seem to be preventing you or at least cautioning you from undertaking an act of sacrifice. This is not the time to surrender your ego to a higher cause.

THE



XIV



~ XV ~

DEVIL



~ THIS SIDE ~

In the depths of hell, the Devil crouches atop a roughly carved pedestal. Below him, chained to the pedestal, stand the Lovers (Major Arcana 6). In their own card, they are forced to choose between the blissful ignorance of paradise and the possibly painful knowledge of the real world. Here, it seems they have made their choice, and somehow it has corrupted them to the point where they are in thrall to evil. The Devil himself is part human, part beast. His bat wings symbolize his dark essence and hatred of the light, and his horns and goat legs reveal his bestial nature. He is partly covered with dragon scales, which render him invulnerable to hellfire.

When you get this side in a reading:

It is time for serious self-examination. Are you the Devil in this scene or are you in bondage? The Devil comes out when we exert our power over weaker, more vulnerable people. If you have bullied or intimidated someone, or if you are keeping someone in a relationship against their better judgment, take a good look in the mirror. If you are the one who is bound, seek ways to break the chains. Your servitude may not be to a person or position — addicting and destructive habits are the Devil's tools as well.





XV



XV

DEVIL

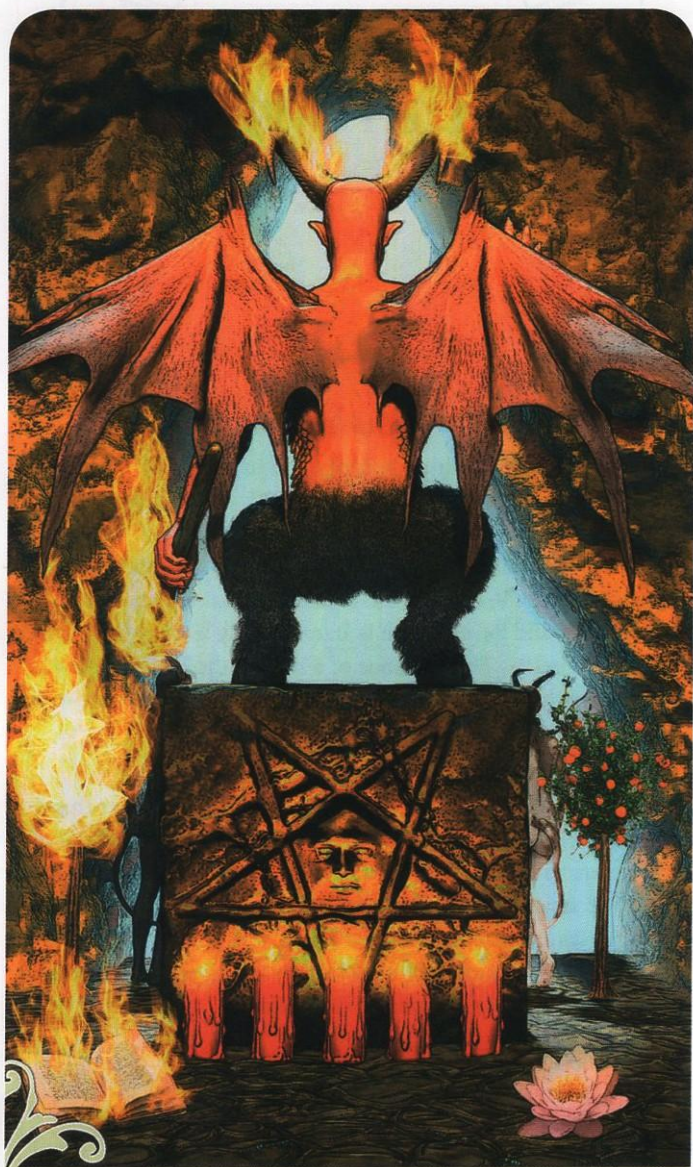


THAT SIDE

The scene is not changed much from the other side. The Devil is not changeable — he is what he is. It's a mistake to think that there's another side to the Devil, some loophole through which the clever can escape. He faces the hellmouth, awaiting the next arrivals. The back of his pedestal is carved with a diabolical pentagram, and five devotional candles burn before it. These are the tributes he demands from those who serve him. A book is in flames, for the Devil is the enemy of knowledge; ignorance is his closest ally. There is one sign of hope in this place of despair, and the Devil may not be aware of its presence behind him. A lotus — a flower that is born from the mud — represents the spirit that can rise even from the deepest inferno.

When you get this side in a reading:

The meaning is much the same as the other side, with the added message that the Devil's attention is elsewhere for the moment, so you have a better chance of making your escape. Seize the hope that rises before you.



XV



❧ XVI ❧ TOWER



❧ THIS SIDE ❧

Out of nowhere, a sudden bolt of lightning strikes a Tower and blasts its two occupants from its shelter. The king and his architect constructed and possessed the Tower, which in their conceit they thought to be indestructible. But their earthly roles are meaningless to the Eye of God. Whatever illusion they had about their power and permanence is burned away as they fall toward the waters below. The presence of a dove — the Holy Spirit — assures them that they have not been abandoned, but they are in no condition to believe it at the moment.

When you get this side in a reading:

There is no way to prepare for a Tower experience, other than to know its coming. Look for the weaknesses in your foundation. Where are you complacent? Where are you vulnerable? Do you have the inner and outer resources you need to deal with big change? Its good to be alarmed when you get the Tower card. Its both a wakeup call and a cautionary tale. Don't sugarcoat the message — the time for denial is long past.

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THE XVI TOWER



THAT SIDE

Looking at the Tower from the other side as the lightning strikes, we see that it was only a facade in any case, an empty shell. The two sphinxes of the Chariot (Major Arcana 7) swim away from the disaster, and the Chariot is wrecked upon the rocks. Each Sphinx is going in her own direction now, for there is no power of will to direct them. A great mask of vanity and delusion cracks and hangs precariously at the top of the Tower. From the chaotic pile of rubble grows one small green tree.

When you get this side in a reading:

We've seen the broken mask before, behind the gallows of the Hanged Man (Major Arcana 12). And here are the Sphinxes from the Chariot. How did they get to the Tower, set in the middle of its lonely sea? Look back over the events and choices that have led you to your present situation. Did you listen to your own inner guidance? Or did you thunder along the wrong road, oblivious to your destination? There is nothing for you here, but you can learn from your errors.





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WII STAR



THIS SIDE

A maiden kneels to pour water, sparkling with starlight, from two vessels. From the silver vessel she pours upon the earth, and from the gold vessel she pours into the pool of universal consciousness. Above her shines a great eight-pointed star radiating cosmic energy. Seven smaller stars add their radiance — they are the Pleiades, the seven sister stars, singing in celestial harmony. An Egyptian ibis takes flight from the acacia trees.

When you get this side in a reading:

The Star is a card of hope, even in the depths of despair. Come what may, the stars will keep shining. The ibis and the acacia are both signs of healing bestowed by the gods. Whatever your

THE

beliefs are, renew your faith and trust. Your destiny is written in the stars, and indeed, you yourself are made of stardust.



XVII



THE

WII

STAR

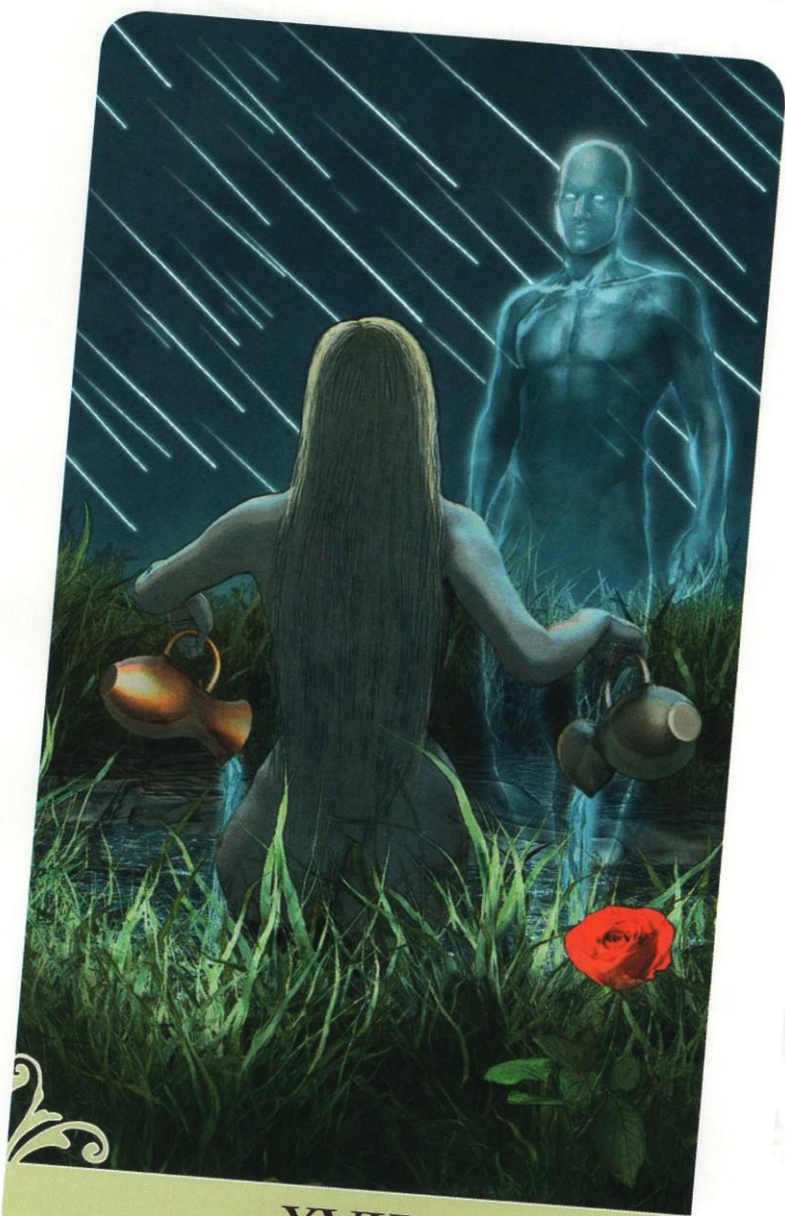


THAT SIDE

A sky full of falling stars announces the presence of the Cosmic Man, the fallen life force reborn through desire. He is an embodiment of Osiris, the resurrected god who is born from the acacia, the tree in which life and death are enclosed. At his coming, a red rose of passion grows among the water reeds.

When you get this side in a reading:

A breakthrough is coming, more powerful than you imagined or dared to hope. Everything is falling into place. Harmony is being restored. Your task now is to receive the flowing blessings with a thankful heart. When you heed the calling of your highest self, you can expect miracles.



XVII



THE Will MOON



THIS SIDE

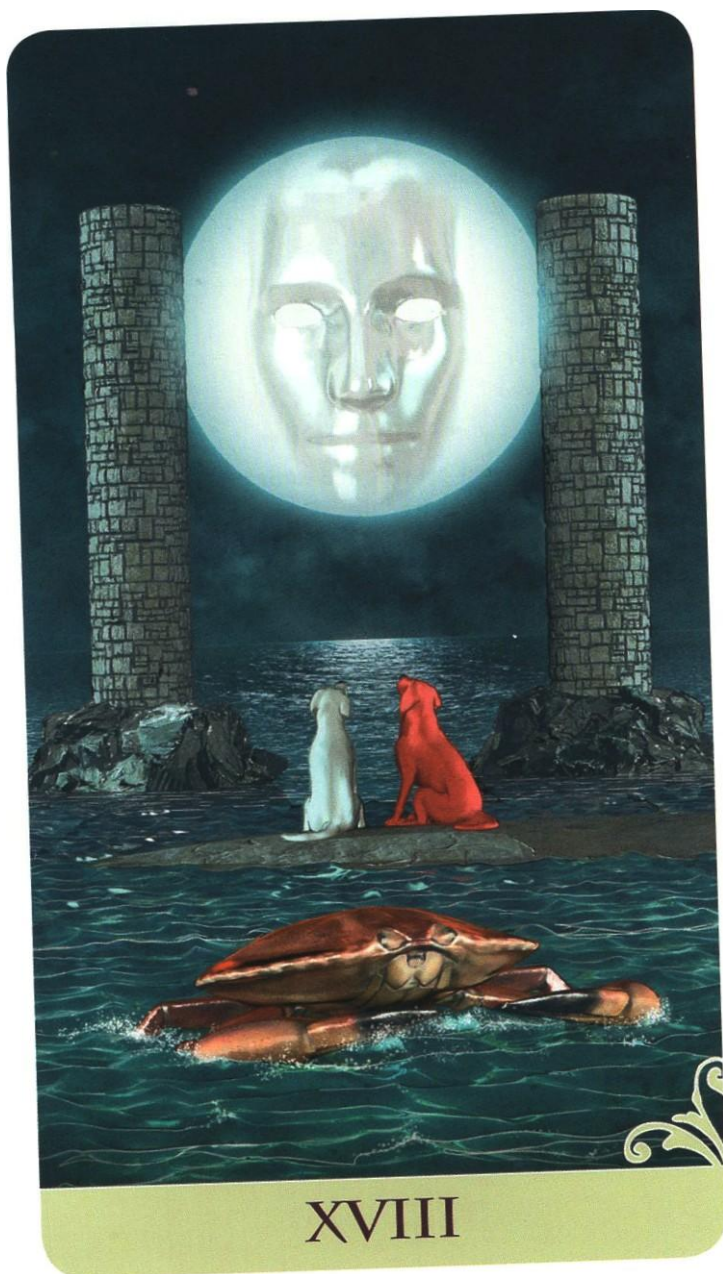
A pearly full Moon rises above the sea. Its face is masked, for its secrets are unknowable. The two towers of the Moon form a portal shimmering with moonlight. Windowless and mysterious, they seem to serve no purpose other than to frame the visage of the Moon. Two dogs, white and red, sit upon a partially submerged rock and moon-gaze. Drawn by the tidal pull the Moon has over watery creatures, a crab rises to the ocean's surface.

When you get this side in a reading:

Everything looks different by moonlight. More significantly, we look at everything differently by moonlight. The dark waters of the unconscious can't be navigated by reason or rationality. Your lunar awareness is heightened now. Harken to your dreams and encourage them; make a framework in your life that places importance upon sleep and the dreamspace. The Moon calls forth your intuition and your instinct — the white dog and the red dog — because there are things you need to know now that can only be known by moonlight.



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XVIII



THE Will MOON



THAT SIDE

The Moon has passed between the earth and the sun, putting the sun into full eclipse. The day sky fills with stars. Near the horizon, the constellation Cancer (the Crab) is seen. It seems to float above the head of the woman rising from the water, just as the crab rose on the other side of the card. The moon towers are shown to be open at the back, as with the Tower card, but there is no rubble, no sense of destruction here. These towers were intentionally built to both reveal and conceal — one side open, one side closed. The imagination has free flow in the place of dreams and visions.

When you get this side in a reading:

The cycles of the Moon are reflected in the cycles of women, and thus the Moon card is a card of feminine power. The woman here is the dark side of the High Priestess, offering an initiation of sorts — a choice between a bowl of phosphorescent sea

water and a glowing egg. Which are you most drawn to, and what does that tell you about your psyche? Remember, rational solar thinking has no place here. The moonshadow has turned day into night.





XIX

SUN

THIS SIDE

The Sun's stylized rays and benevolent face shine like a golden seal placed upon this happy scene. The Sun child, representing innocence and joy, wears a red tunic, a symbol of action in the world. His horse companion stands ready to bring this innocent joy wherever it needs to go. The child has known only goodness and, like the sunflowers, turns always toward the light. The Sun card is considered the most positive in the deck, for all life grows and flourishes in the warmth of the Sun.

When you get this side in a reading:

When the Sun card appears, it bodes well for any situation being considered. It doesn't matter if you have doubts or fears, success is still assured. The universe is working in your favor. If you've been waiting for the right timing for a new enterprise, that time has come. Let your joy loose in the world; let your light shine. All will be well.



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XIX

SUN



THAT SIDE

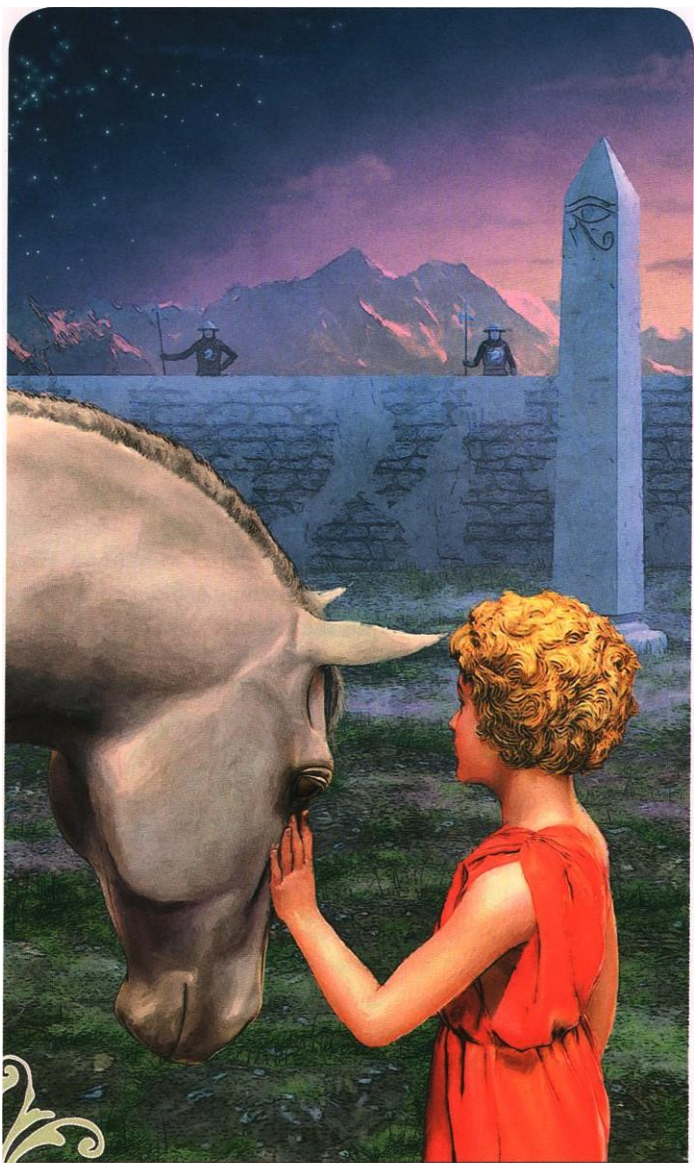
The Sun has set, and the sky begins to fill with stars, each one also a sun. As the darkness comes, the child and horse take comfort in each other and in the sure knowledge that the turning of the earth will bring the sunlight back again. An obelisk raised to the sun god Ra honors him as lord of all creation. A walled fortress stands at the border of the Sun child's garden, with armored guards standing sentinel. The land beyond the wall is mountainous and challenging, though beautiful. The ever-optimistic Sun child will still venture forth to spread the light.

When you get this side in a reading:

The Sun card is positive on both sides, with the difference here being that your doubts and fears are justified. It's good to be aware of challenges, to be on your guard. But again, as on the other side of the card, all will be well. Keep moving forward.

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Expand upon your plans to include contingencies for the darker times, but remember that morning will always come again.



XIX



XX JUDGMENT

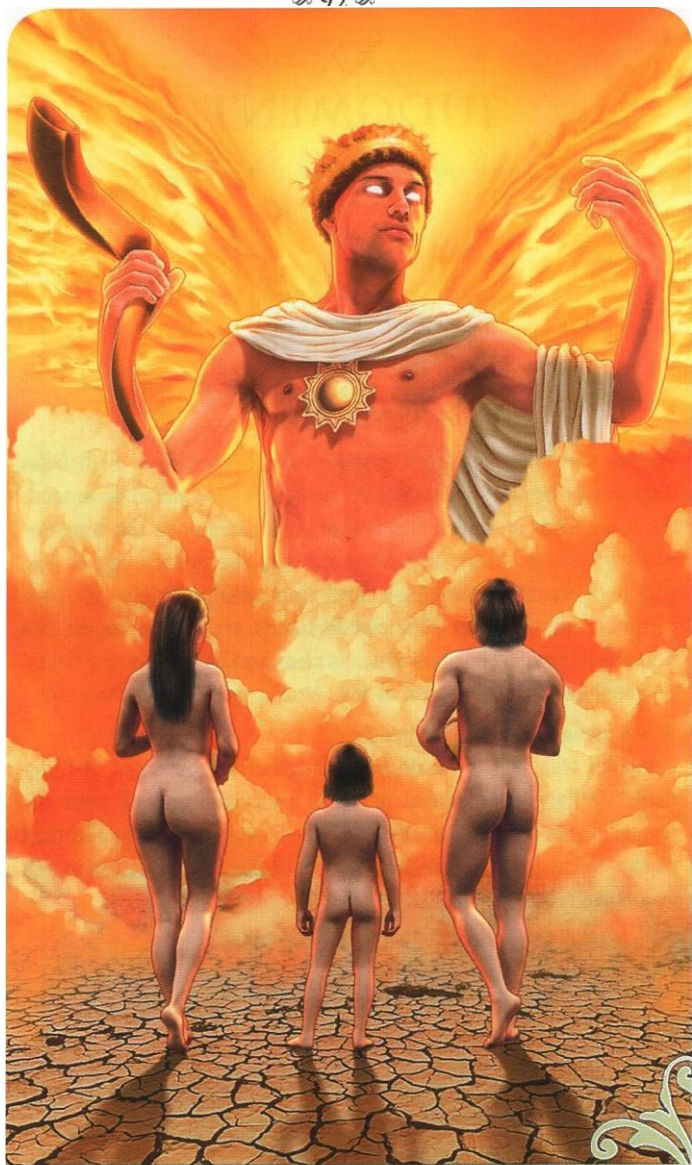
THIS SIDE

The day of Judgment is here, when all people must come naked and without shame before their deity and be judged according to their deeds. The angel of the resurrection appears in a blaze of glory, carrying the power of the sun that shines within him. His eyes see far beyond mortal forms and nothing is hidden from his sight. In his right hand he holds the shofar, the rams horn that is blown on the day of atonement. A woman, child, and man approach over the cracked and barren ground. Nothing grows here, and all matter is burned away in purification until only the spirit remains to be judged.

When you get this side in a reading:

A time of spiritual awakening has arrived. You are called to atone for your "sins" — in other words, to correct your mistakes where it is possible, to ask forgiveness, and to offer forgiveness to others. Atonement is not groveling or self-loathing, but rather, the acceptance of human failings and foibles. Judgment is related to Justice (Major Arcana 11) in that both deliver only what is fair, what has been earned, for better or worse. The Judgment card is a gift, because it is an opportunity to wash your spirit clean.

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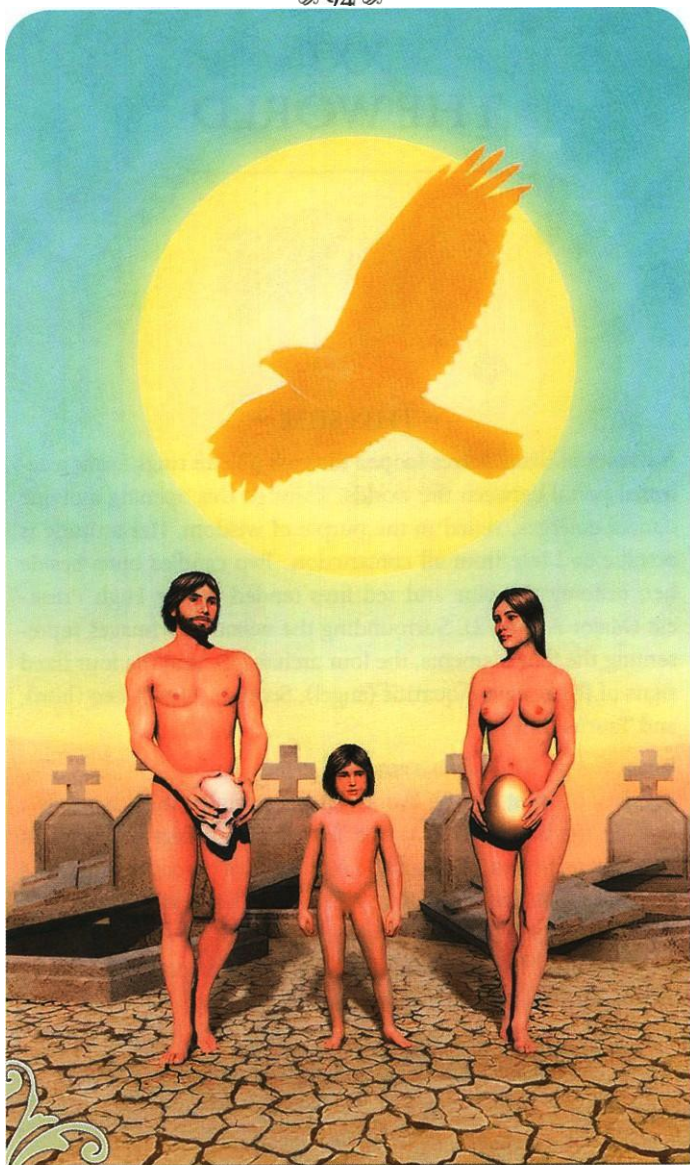
JUDGMENT

THAT SIDE

We see now that the three people have been called forth from their graves by the shofarg cry. As he comes forward to be judged, the man holds a skull to show that he understands the transitory nature of the flesh. The woman holds the golden egg of Isis, which contains the universe, and thus acknowledges her own primal creative power. The child's hands are empty, for he has nothing to prove. His conscience is clear and his innocence intact. Above them flies the falcon of fire, Horus, god of the rising sun.

When you get this side in a reading:

Consider this: What would you bring before the angel of Judgment? What might represent your understanding of your life so far? What would you offer as you move forward to the next phase? What is needed to let you be as lighthearted and innocent as a child reborn?



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XXI

THE WORLD



THIS SIDE

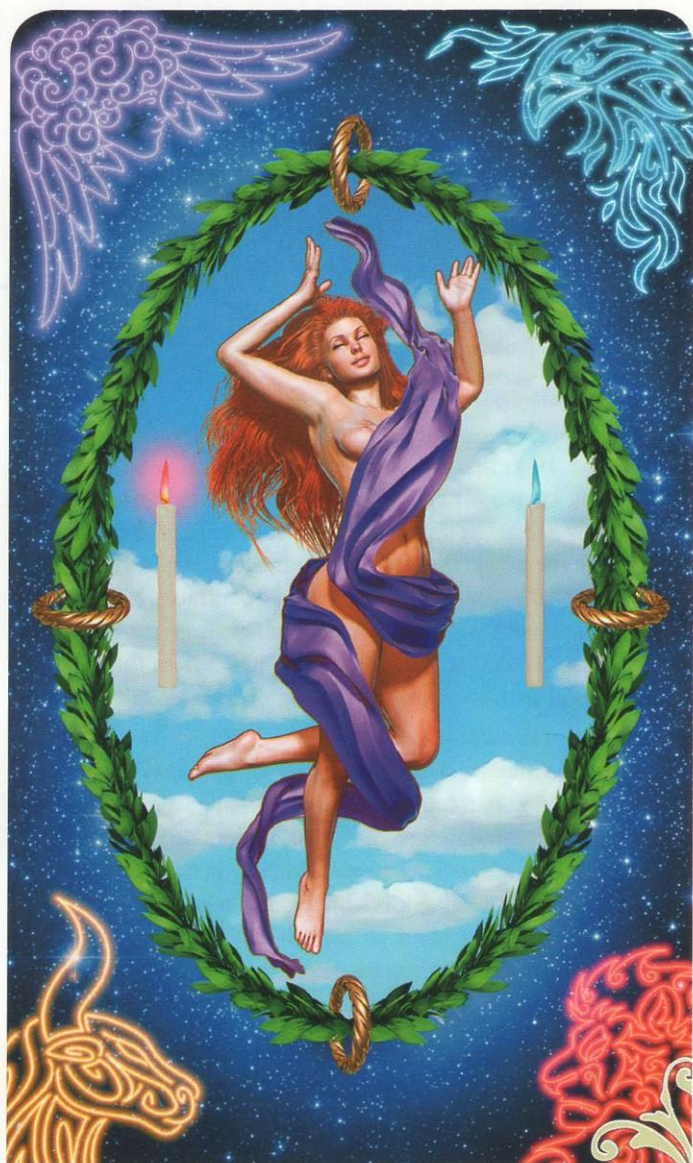
A wreath of laurel leaves looped through golden rings forms a celestial portal between the worlds. Through this opening a divine dancer emerges, veiled in the purple of wisdom. Her attitude is ecstatic and free from all constriction. TWO candles burn beside her, echoing the blue and red fires tended by the High Priestess (Major Arcana 2). Surrounding the wreath are images representing the four elements, the four archangels, and the four fixed signs of the zodiac: Aquarius (angel), Scorpio (eagle), Leo (lion), and Taurus (bull).

When you get this side in a reading:

The key concept for the World card is completion. It is the last card in the Major Arcana. The four divine beings are brought together to witness that a cycle has reached its conclusion. The dancer evokes the joy of the yogini from the Death card (Major Arcana 13), and her pose evokes the spiritual surrender of the Hanged Man. Life has triumphed, the soul is renewed. Take a victory lap and get ready to start the next cycle.

THE

4.



XXI



THE XXI WORLD



THAT SIDE

The golden rings link the laurel wreath with the ouroboros serpent biting its tail, symbolizing a circle without beginning or end. Apparently immobile but in eternal movement, the ouroboros represents the power that devours and regenerates itself, universal energy that is consumed and renewed continually. This is the cyclical nature of things, which recommences from the beginning once it has reached its end. The soul that dances through the ouroboros is united with the infinite, the perfection of eternity.

When you get this side in a reading:

If you are not feeling a sense of completion, it may be because you are thinking in terms of a continuum rather than a cycle. Its true that everything is linked, but its important to mark milestones. Eternal renewal relies on acknowledgment of what has been achieved or accepted, celebrated and released. Don't court exhaustion — of body, mind, or spirit — by hurrying onward. Everything is happening just as its meant to.



XXI



CARDS: MINOR ARCANA

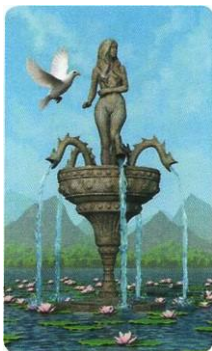


The Minor Arcana cards represent the human challenges, lessons, and relationships that form the daily patterns of life. The Minor Arcana cards are in four suits: Chalices, Pentacles, Wands and Swords. Each suit is made up of ten numbered cards (Ace through Ten) and four court cards (Knave, Knight, Queen, and King). Generally speaking, when you get a Major card in a reading, it has more significance than a Minor card. Majors may be about situations and energies that affect your life in a powerful way or that provide important lessons for your soul's journey. Minors are more mundane and offer advice (through symbols) about actions you might take or avoid taking.

OF CHALICES

6.

ACE



THIS SIDE

We behold a great fountain set in a tranquil lake. It is shaped like a chalice, with five sea serpents spilling water upon the lilies below. These streams symbolize the five senses and the five oceans of the world; the water lilies represent peace and enlightenment. A woman is sculpted as emerging from the heart of the chalice. The presence of a dove tells us that she is Aphrodite, goddess of love.

When you get this side in a reading: The Ace of Chalices represents the gift of love.

Chalices are the suit of emotions, visions, and dreams. The beautiful fountain and its goddess are a sign that the blessings of happiness are at hand. Nothing more is required from you other than to be ready to receive them with thanks.



THAT SIDE

By night, the scene has an unearthly beauty as both lake and lilies fade to soft blue and green hues. Its easy to imagine the quiet splashing of waters in the starlight. A prince on a white stallion comes upon this vision and is enthralled by its mystery. He has found an inspiration for his lifes quest for bliss.

OF CHALICES

When you get this side in a reading: The card is still positive on this side, bringing its gifts of love and beauty. The presence of the prince, though, cautions against being beguiled by fairy-tale romance. What is seen by starlight may prove quite different in the light of day. Beware of illusions, and don't promise too much too soon.

❧ TWO

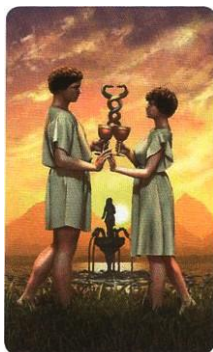


❧ THIS SIDE ❧ TWO

people stand together, blessed by Venus. They are so alike they could be two halves of the same person. Their simple white garments speak of purity and honesty — there is no artfulness between these two, only the truth of love. They mirror each other's attitude and gesture, and the chalices they hold are identical. Only

the entwined snakes differ: a silver lunar serpent rises from the woman's cup and a golden solar serpent from the man's.

When you get this side in a reading: While the Ace of Chalices warned against illusions of love under night's canopy, this card reassures you that you are seeing clearly when it comes to love. The two people have recognized their twin souls, and it is as if they have known each other forever. You can trust your feelings and your heart's calling. The signs are good for an equal and honest relationship.



2

❧ THAT SIDE ❧

The scene is the same, with the rising sun beginning to take back the night from celestial Venus. But the love goddess is still here — the fountain from the Ace of Chalices continues to pour its waters into the lily-strewn lake.

OF CHALICES

The lovers step toward each other in the morning light, open-hearted and unafraid.

When you get this side in a reading: The meaning on this side is much the same — recognition of a significant other, a trustworthy love, and the blessing of Venus. If you have been shy of speaking your heart to each other, it is safe to do so now. The sunrise betokens an awakening to new wonders, as well as signaling an auspicious time to go public with your relationship if you haven't already.

THREE



THIS SIDE As the evening mists begin to rise, a priestess lifts a chalice in sacred offering. She is unclothed except

for a silken veil that gracefully flows over her form. Two more chalices rest upon the grass, their waters splashing as if small tides are ebbing and flowing within. Pomegranates and grapes complete the offering — pomegranates for women's mysteries and grapes for divine ecstasy.

When you get this side in a reading: Whatever your spiritual beliefs, the expression of gratefulness is always appropriate. The priestess here is offering her cup of happiness to her deity in acknowledgement of blessings received. Practice saying "thank you" in as many ways as you can — in spoken words to friends and family, in actions that care for the earth, in prayer and rites of devotion. The more naturally this comes to you, the more you will find to be grateful for.



OF CHALICES

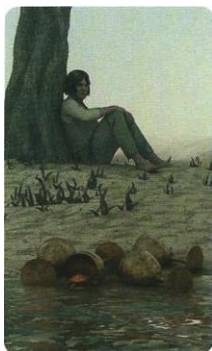
≈THAT SIDE≈

By day, the ritual continues. The two chalices on the ground correspond to the two maidens dancing in the meadow. The three women together represent both spiritual devotion and earthly delight. A flock of thirteen doves takes flight; thirteen is a number sacred to Venus, and the dove is her bird. Love is all around — celebrate it!

When you get this side in a reading: Gather with your friends just for the pleasure of their company. You don't need to have a special occasion to celebrate, as friendship itself is cause for celebration. If you have a spiritual community, you will find particular happiness with those people now. You might want to go to church or temple or just rejoice together in nature. As the poet Rumi says, there are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground.

OF CHALICES

FOUR

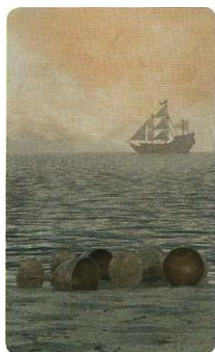


THIS SIDE

A young man sits on a sandy beach, his back against a windgnarled tree. His malcontented expression suggests that his emotions may be seething under a controlled exterior. At the waters edge lie four aged chalices, seemingly washed up on the shore. A crab shelters inside one of the cups. The atmosphere is bleak, oppressive, stagnant.

When you get this side in a reading: If things aren't going your way, or if life seems dull and meaningless, it's perfectly fine to just sit it out for a while. You don't have to accept every opportunity that is offered to you just because you are without direction at the moment. It's not a

time to compromise your dreams. Do your best to not sulk or take your emotions out on others. Like the crab, it may be best to just scurry off on your own until your spirits rise.



THAT SIDE

Looking out to sea through the young mans eyes, we see a ship outward bound, disappearing into the fog. The sad, empty cups abandoned on the shore are evocative of disappointed dreams and lost hopes. The young man has missed the boat.

When you get this side in a reading: Don't dwell on missed opportunities. You are in danger of letting your hurt feelings blind you to new offers and chances. Ennui can turn into depression, which perpetuates itself and can be difficult to shake off. Allow yourself to imagine something

OF CHALICES

wonderful coming over the horizon. Are you ready to accept a cup of happiness?

FIVE



5

THIS SIDE

A man kneels beside five cups — two upright and three spilled. A scorpion creeps from one of the fallen cups. The man's dark garb and deeply hooded face suggest a stranger on a matter of secrecy. Presumably he has crossed the bridge from his own land and arrived at this scene. His eyes are filled with sorrow and perhaps shock. This is not what he was prepared to encounter. Something has changed for the worse.

When you get this side in a reading: This card signals that a disappointment has or will shortly occur. Something or someone that you love will test your heart's resilience. You may

be inclined to keep your feelings to yourself, and this is probably a good idea as you come to terms with the situation and see it more clearly. Three of the cups have fallen, but two are still standing. This is not the end of the story by any means.



THAT SIDE

The stranger's cloak glimmers in the moonlight, though we can't see the moon itself. He remains immobile, the two remaining cups untouched at his side. The path forward is forbidding and perhaps discouraging for someone who is dealing with unexpected sorrow. A rose has been placed behind the stranger by unseen hands.

When you get this side in a reading: Turning back may be the wisest choice under the circumstances. The red rose signifies that love is near, waiting for you to turn back to it.

OF CHALICES

This might mean reviving an old connection with a loved one, or it could be a conscious return to a happier state of mind with your present love. Pick up the two chalices and consider with whom you will share.

SIX



THIS SIDE

A pretty maiden is enjoying a swim in the canal outside her home. She has no fear of the boy approaching her; she knows she is safe in her pleasant and prosperous town. She trusts that his intentions are honorable. They exchange greetings and shy flirtatious smiles. Six chalices filled with spring flowers symbolize the innocent delights of new love.

When you get this side in a reading: Whatever your age,

there was a time when you were optimistic about love, friendship, and close companions. Life has a way of tarnishing those shiny young hopes, but they are still within you. Immerse your heart in the sweet waters of trust and cleanse yourself of any bitterness or regrets. In so doing, you will attract kindred spirits with whom you'll make new happy memories.



THAT SIDE

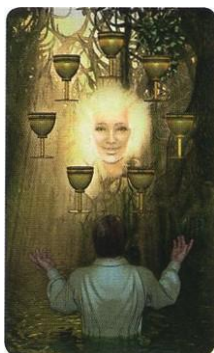
The young lovers have apparently lost track of time! The cozy town is golden with lamplight, and the starry sky is more brilliant than any they have seen before. Will there ever be another evening as beautiful as this? Maybe not, but still... Papa says its time to say good night.

When you get this side in a reading: Take advantage of upbeat

OF CHALICES

emotions to accomplish things on every level, not just the interpersonal. Work, study, or other responsibilities may seem unimportant compared to the rapture of love, but come down to earth long enough to keep the home fires burning. Don't be too carried away by the delicious giddiness of youth.

SEVEN



THIS SIDE A man stands waist-deep in murky swamp waters. Trees grow thick and tangled above his head, and water reeds seem to block his progress. He is caught in amazement at a wondrous vision before him. Seven golden chalices hang in midair, and in the center is the beatific face of an angel or spirit of light. What can this portend? Is he meant to

choose a cup? The man is paralyzed with confusion.

When you get this side in a reading: If you can't decide how to proceed, or are unable to choose between options, this card advises that you do nothing at present. A breakthrough will come and the choice will become much more clear — even obvious. Trying to move forward when things are murky is unwise and may lead to entangling yourself in a situation that is even murkier. Stay still; await further instructions.



THAT SIDE S

The dreaded swamp is revealed to be just a freshwater pond outside castle walls — and the man is revealed to be blind. Shelter and safety are nearby, but he has chosen to blindly flee into the unknown. His face is transfixed in utter horror. What does he see

OF CHALICES

with his inner sight? The angel is gone, but the cups remain.

When you get this side in a reading: Things are not as bad as you think they are. You are in a safe place, though it may be uncomfortable, so keep your wits about you. Slowly begin to look around for allies. Accept advice as it is offered. These things will help put you back in proportion so you can see exactly what steps to take next. In matters of love, avoid escalating an emotional situation through melodrama or blame.

abandoning are cracked, chipped, and dented. From the way they are stacked, it appears that one is missing — perhaps the hooded man is carrying it away with him under his cloak. A metallic sun and moon stare impassively over the scene.

When you get this side in a reading: When matters of the heart have proven too painful to persist, there is no fault in walking away. There are many kinds of emotional woundedness, and only you can know the best way to care for yourself. Do not let others judge you. The path forward may be challenging, but often the hardest part is making the decision to cut your losses and leave behind what is broken.



EIGHT



THIS SIDE

A cloaked and hooded man turns his back and walks away from eight golden chalices. He bears a pilgrim's walking staff, as if his journey will be long and arduous. The cups he is

8



THAT SIDE

A child sits upon a low stone, his head tilted in an attitude of reflection and concern. His simple white tunic and sandals are symbolic of purity and truth. Perhaps he is watching the

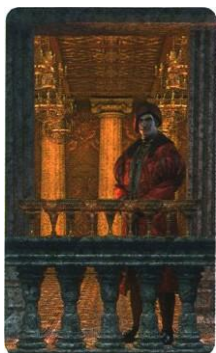


OF CHALICES

hooded man walk away, or perhaps he is the youthful spirit of the man himself, now lost to grief and disillusionment. A comet blazes across the heavens.

When you get this side in a reading: When you get some distance from present circumstances, you will be able to assess them more clearly, with less emotional baggage attached. Look at the root causes of your sorrow and loss. Don't take all the blame, but don't assign it all to others either. The comet signifies that this is an important milestone on your life's journey. What seems like an ending may be just the beginning.

NINE



THIS SIDE

A duke in gorgeous array admires his exquisite golden chalices. Each one is a masterpiece, and the collection

has taken time to acquire, which makes it all the more precious to him. All of his earthly possessions have been chosen with love, not greed. He pursues that which makes him happiest, rather than what will make him richen Beauty, and the pleasure that beauty brings to others, fills his heart with joy. Because his quest is blissful, bliss is what he finds.

When you get this side in a reading: This is known as the wishing card. It is a sign that you will get what you wish for — and yes, you need to be careful! More importantly, don't squander your wish. What will bring the greatest, deepest happiness to you over the long run? Not just fleeting pleasure, but joy after joy your whole life long?



9



THAT SIDE

As we look outward with the duke, the vista is even more beautiful than looking into his opulent ballroom. The calm sea reflects an ocean of stars, and the chalices on the marble balustrade

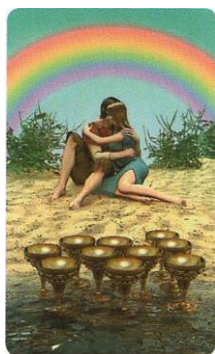
OF CHALICES

seem to be drinking in the starlight. An airy spirit glides past, holding a golden cornucopia, from which will pour whatever the heart desires most.

When you get this side in a reading: The news is good on this side of the card as well. The universe is acting in your favor now. Get clear about your hopes and goals so you can more easily see the path to their fulfillment. Don't limit yourself to small dreams; don't be afraid to wish for the stars.

OF CHALICES

❧ TEN



10



❧ THIS SIDE ❧

TWO lovers have found home in each others arms. Their clothes are simple, their feet are bare, they may be stranded on a desert island, but still, they are home. The rainbow arching over them is a sign of heavens blessing on their union. The nine chalices of bliss from the previous card are all here, and one more for good measure. Each chalice holds the sun, an affirmation of happiness from the Sun card, the most positive card in the deck.

When you get this side in a reading: If a loving partnership is what you most desire, know that it is within reach — but you must reach. If you are closed off to the approach of true love, it will never make its way home to you. Sometimes this closure is from fear, sometimes from anger,

sometimes from a feeling of unworthiness to be loved. Let this card be the beginning of healing for you and the ones you love.

❧ THAT SIDE ❧

The lovers on the other side may have eyes only for each other, but this sublime apparition sets a seal upon their hearts. The luminous lotus of spiritual rebirth and the fountain of Aphrodite symbolize that this is love beyond the ephemeral beauty of youth. This love was written in the stars.

When you get this side in a reading: The power of love and its healing blessings are growing stronger with each passing day. Old hurts will be forgotten as new wonders fill your world with

OF PENTACLES

joy. Perhaps this is a human love or perhaps it is a spiritual union with the Divine. Love is love is love, whatever form it takes. All will be well – you can trust that with your whole heart.

ACE

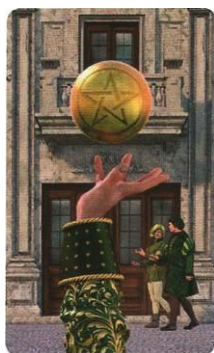


THIS SIDE An arm in rich green attire reaches toward a golden pentacle disc. The gesture can be seen in different ways: catching the disc as it falls, or tossing the disc upward, or even levitating it. However you view it, the well-dressed person controls the disc. The setting is a lush formal garden at the height of summer bloom. Gravel paths in the shape of a Venus symbol bring order to the garden.

When you get this side in a reading: The Ace of Pentacles represents the gift of good fortune. It is a cosmic "Yes!" in answer to any question, especially about money, career, material possessions, and other earthly concerns. Whatever you start now will grow rapidly and may prosper beyond your wildest hopes.



1



THAT SIDE

The person with the disc stands on a cobblestone street, facing a large and impressive stone building. Two prosperous gentlemen stroll by, engaged in animated conversation. They are smiling, and it seems that their discussion benefits them both. When you get this side in a reading: The general good fortune indicated on the other

OF PENTACLES

side gets more specific here. This is an auspicious time to make investments with other people or take on business endeavors in partnership. Cooperation, collaboration, or even just brainstorming with creative minds will open up new avenues of abundance for all concerned.

∞ TWO



∞ THIS SIDE ∞

A young jester dances on a pleasant seaside walkway. The two golden pentacles he juggles are energetically linked by a glowing loop in the shape of an infinity symbol. The ocean at his back is calm under a soft blue sky. A ship in full sail glides past the scene.

When you get this side in a reading: Life may seem like a

balancing act these days, but keep your good humor and you'll be able to handle it all with grace. The key is to only take on as many obligations as you can reasonably juggle at once, and finish with each before you pick up the next one. New opportunities are on the horizon; be ready to demonstrate that you can happily take them on and succeed.



2



∞ THAT SIDE ∞

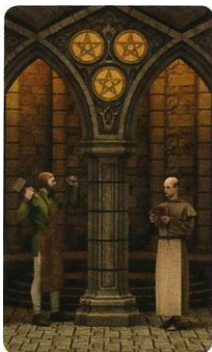
Noble gentry watch the jester as he performs for them. The sun is setting, and they may have come out on their balconies to admire the sunset or watch the ships at sea. The jester seems to be offering a pentacle to each group, as if he were conjuring the golden

OF PENTACLES

discs for their amusement. The infinity loop links the people as well as the pentacles.

When you get this side in a reading: People above you in a hierarchy may be unaware of your abilities. This is an auspicious time to audition, apply, or otherwise bring yourself to the attention of people who are in a position to advance your career. Let your light shine.

THREE



THIS SIDE

The scene shows the interior of a monastery, where a stonemason is working on a pillar. A monk holding a book stands nearby, observing the work with interest. The two of them represent two aspects of meaningful

creation: physical and spiritual. Both men are skilled in their craft and respect the gifts of others. The atmosphere of the monastery itself encourages good intentions for the work to be done, but the mason and the monk bring this attitude to whatever they undertake.

When you get this side in a reading: There are many roles in any large endeavor, and indeed, in smaller ones too. No task is insignificant — everything adds to the whole. Recognize the contributions of others around you and express your appreciation as often as possible. Receive appreciation in the spirit it is given and be proud of your part in the enterprise. You are uniquely needed.



3

THAT SIDE

Sunlight illuminates the beautiful stained glass windows, where a

OF PENTACLES

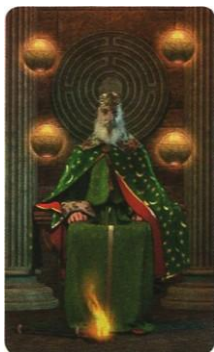
third man, dressed wealthily, is also watching the work in progress. He holds a foundation stone in his hands, carved with the alchemical symbol for fire, an upward-pointing triangle. Within the triangle is another triangle, symbolizing the fire within. At the base of the pillar is a distilling vessel used in alchemy. A rose has been placed in the vessels mouth.

When you get this side in a reading: This man is the financier of the project, but thatS not his only contribution. His biggest gift is enthusiasm, which will sustain the endeavor and serve as its foundation. Whatever you wish to build, find others with the same enthusiasm to build it with you. This may be in business, community work, the arts, or any other process that requires many willing hands and hearts. They are out there, looking for you.



OF PENTACLES

FOUR



4



THIS SIDE

A man sits in a bare stone chamber between two tall pillars. The moon and stars on his cloak proclaim him as a wizard; the green and gold motifs speak of earth-based skills. It seems that his power to manifest riches may have gone to his head — literally — for he wears a king's crown rather than a wizard's hat. Four glowing pentacles surround the labyrinth carving on the wall behind him. A flaming torch lies at his feet. When you get this side in a reading: Money is important, to be sure, but it doesn't make the world go around. There is a hollowness that results from a fixation on material goods, a hunger that will never be satiated. This wizard knew that once. He knew that the journey is more important than the destination, and that knowledge is its own reward. If you have dropped the torch of inner guidance somewhere along the way, go back and pick it up.

THAT SIDE

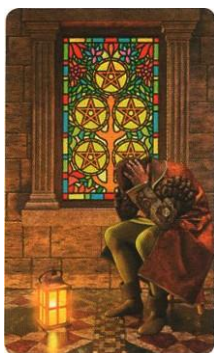
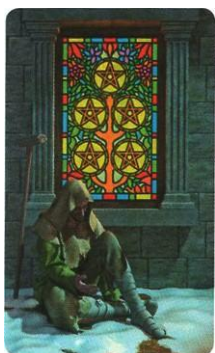
The wizard-king is sitting at a window, looking out at four tall towers set in an arid landscape. Though the symbols for the four elements — air, water, fire, earth — are carved above the window, the view is lifeless and limiting. The glowing pentacles reflect his preoccupation with money and worldly concerns, rather than the pursuit of wisdom that once fulfilled his life.

When you get this side in a reading: If all you think about is money, or work, or worries about money and work, the element of earth is out of balance in your life, as it is for this wizard. Explore how you can bring in water's love and beauty, fire's creative action, and air's fresh new ideas. Practicality must be

OF PENTACLES

alchemically blended with only go forward. The past cant be dreams, passion, and mended; it is what it is. Expand your inspiration. That is how awareness to find the help you need right now, for it is very close at hand. The wizards make magic. situation may be dire, but a pity party wont help matters.

FIVE



5

THIS SIDE A destitute man sits in the snow under a lighted window. His clothes are tattered and filthy; rags are wrapped around his legs and feet to keep them from freezing. A rough crutch leans against the wall. The beggar's attitude is despondent, defeated. The stained glass window above his head symbolizes prosperity and abundance — money literally growing on trees. This is so removed from the beggar's reality that he cannot even dream about bettering his situation. Listlessly, he tosses dice and broods over his bad luck.

When you get this side in a reading: Whether you were brought to this place through bad decisions or the whims of Fate, at this point you can

THAT SIDE On the other side of the window, a wealthy man holds his head in his hands. A lantern sits on the polished marble floor. The contrast between this man and the beggar could not be greater, yet both are in despair. The man who is well off materially may still suffer spiritually. Perhaps he is tormented by guilt for not sharing his good fortune with those less fortunate. Perhaps he is debating with himself. All the money in the world won't buy peace of mind if the heart is closed to compassion.

When you get this side in a reading: It is time for some self-assessment, especially in terms of how you use your time, energy, and money. Guilt serves no purpose and should be

OF PENTACLES

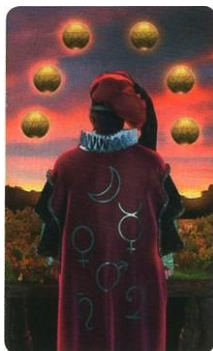
dismissed. Come to peace with hidden agenda of control or superiority. yourself by making amends. If Charity should not come with strings you are the one in need of aid, be attached. If you are in a position to give, aware that someone in your life do it generously and respectfully. No wants to help but doesnt know one wants to be patronized or in how to offer. Break the glass that emotional debt for accepting a favor. is separating you.



SIX



6



THAT SIDE

THIS SIDE

In this dreamlike image, a wealthy man looms over a village like a giant. Is it a real village, a miniature model, or just a depiction of how he sees his own importance? He is both proud of the little hamlet and protective of it. He needs to have it all under his control, but this may not spring from malicious or greedy motivation. His benevolent watchfulness is dedicated to the people. He truly believes that he sees the big picture like no one else.

When you get this side in a reading: Be careful that your charitable inclinations are born from compassion and kindness, not from a

The scene is much the same — still ambiguous. The merchant faces toward a sunset, and may be looking over a real village or a tabletop display. We can see that on the back of his robe are symbols for six of the seven Celestial Luminaries: Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. These correspond to the elements of silver, mercury, copper, iron, tin, and lead, respectively. The missing planet and element are the sun and gold, represented nonetheless in the golden discs.

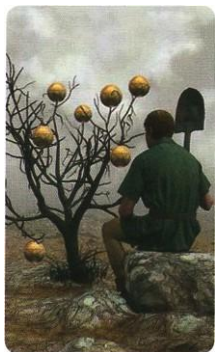
When you get this side in a reading: Your higher self is tapped into noble intentions now, and all should flow smoothly. Work with experts or a



OF PENTACLES

team to find the best way to use your resources for the greatest good. If you are the one in need of assistance, there are people in power who are ready to pitch in and support your endeavor. All the elements are coming together in their proper order.

SEVEN



THIS SIDE

In a grim, grey landscape, a gardener sits upon a stone and contemplates the tree before him. The small tree is bare except for seven golden pentacles. Sparse grasses fail to thrive at the tree's roots. The dry, rocky earth doesn't seem hospitable to fruitful growth. The gardener's attitude seems watchful or patient. The scene is quiet; clouds and mist block the sun.

When you get this side in a reading: You may be waiting for results from an endeavor or

hoping a situation will begin to thrive soon. Time will tell, but it's a good idea to have an alternate plan just in case. There is an optimal time for growth in an enterprise, and if you miss that timing, there is nothing to do but wait for the seasons to change and try again. Don't be caught unawares.



THAT SIDE

The gardener's face is haggard with disappointment. He no longer appears to be waiting patiently or hopefully — he is taking stock of his harvest, and the news is not good. Although some trees do lose their leaves before the fruit is picked, this tree looks quite dead. No more pentacles will be forthcoming. In the misty background, more starkly barren trees can be seen. As if to affirm the lack of life in this desolate scene, a skull is seen at the foot of the pentacle tree.

7

OF PENTACLES

When you get this side in a reading: This season's harvest is a loss, and its time to move on and try again. But take some time to do a post mortem on the enterprise before you begin. Using the symbolism of this tree, consider what the soil is like, where water can be found, how much sunshine you can expect. Learn from your mistakes and your next crop will be bountiful.

When you get this side in a reading: Excellence is achieved through dedication to refining your skills. Having meaningful work makes the pursuit of excellence a joy. If the task you undertake doesn't feed your soul, it doesn't matter if it feeds your belly. Ultimately it will become too arduous, whatever the reward. Take pride in what you do well and you will be rewarded in every way.

∞ EIGHT ∞



8

∞ THIS SIDE ∞

A man sits at his workbench, carving a golden pentacle with mallet and chisel. His face is serious as he focuses upon his task. The room has been built around a tree, with pentacles embedded in its bark. One gets the sense that these have been added over time. Trees often symbolize family, so it may be that the man is plying the craft taught to him by his father, who learned it



∞ THAT SIDE ∞

The man is seated in front of an open doorway, symbolizing his connection to the countryside that surrounds him. He is not hidden away in a solitary studio; his personal life is integrated with his work. A young boy watches with shining eyes. The great tree trunk is gone, and the pentacles are ethereal, spectral. The only tangible pentacle in the room is the one the man is creating in this moment.

OF PENTACLES

When you get this side in a reading: The father and son are part of a continuum of craftsmen, the boy being the most recent addition to the family tree of excellence. Consider your own heritage and your own legacy. What gifts have you inherited from your ancestors? What can you teach the next generations? What skills do you possess that should be preserved for the future?

OF PENTACLES

NINE



THIS SIDE

A woman stands at the entrance to her garden, smiling a greeting to the dove that has landed upon her hand. A placid rabbit rests at her feet. The garden is glorious with summer flowers; much love has gone into the making of this place. The woman's dress is covered with soft pink roses, as if she too were part of the garden's glory. Pink roses symbolize peace, not passion or romance. The gentle woman is content with her solitary days filled with beauty.

When you get this side in a reading: Finding peace in solitude is easier for some people than others, but it is necessary for all. Your home is your sanctuary, and this card encourages you to enjoy its benefits of renewal and wholeness. There is a difference between withdrawing out of fear or exasperation and withdrawing in order to come back to your true self.

Tend your own garden for a while and let other people tend theirs.

9



THAT SIDE

By moonlight, the garden's colors are subdued. An air of romance and mystery is added to the beauty of the scene. A young man can be seen in the topmost window of a tall tower. He is reaching out to his returning hawk, which stalls its wings and prepares to land. Both man and woman seem intent upon their birds, perhaps unaware of each other. Or perhaps the birds bear exchanged messages of love?

When you get this side in a reading: There is a good chance that your solitary retreat will be interrupted, perhaps just as you are feeling most sensitive and in need of seclusion. Remember that you have a choice — you

OF PENTACLES

don't have to be hunted as a hawk pursues a dove. Boldly choose to say yes or no to companionship, always trusting your intuition.

~ TEN ~



~ THIS SIDE ~

An elderly man sits outside in the sun with his affectionate dog companion. His cloak bears symbols for Venus and Virgo, denoting his love for his earthly vocation and his desire to be of service to the world. His face is lined with age, but most prominent are the crinkles of laughter around his eyes. As his life draws closer to its end, he is satisfied with his mortal path, its achievements, and its outcome.

When you get this side in a reading: Take a deep breath and release your worries. You've

done well, and your rewards are coming. You've earned your peaceful place in the sun, whatever stage of life presents itself now. Take stock of the things you value, both material and emotional. Give them highest priority to keep the blessings flowing — in both directions.



10

~ THAT SIDE ~

Now we can see more clearly how worn and weathered the old mans chair is. It is shaped like a throne but made of plain wood. Whatever power this man wields, it is tempered with humility. A young man and woman stand before him, their faces warm with affection. They are asking for his blessing. Love has brought the generations together, and love will see them through to a future that is prosperous in every way.

OF WANDS

When you get this side in a reading: The tower in the distance might be the same one seen in the previous card, and this young couple might be the two people from that card, having found their way to each other. The message here is to leave whatever tower you've constructed for yourself or let yourself be entrapped within. Be assured that what awaits you outside will reward you a thousand times over.

gauntlets, which strengthen his grasp and keep it steady.

When you get this side in a reading: The Ace of Wands represents the gift of energy. This is an excellent time to begin a new project or find renewed momentum for an existing endeavor. You have the strength you need to see it through, and there are allies and companions of like mind ready to work with you. Seize the opportunity and expect a blast of

ACE



THIS SIDE

A strongly muscled arm holds aloft a living wand, perhaps cut from the grove of trees nearby. A great bolt of lightning strikes a tree that stands alone atop a hill in the distance. The wand wielder is wearing leather wrist

1



inspiration.



THAT SIDE

A setting sun shines dimly through what appears to be smoke. Forested hills can barely be seen through the haze. High overhead, a red hawk glides upon the wind. When you get this side in a reading: Your initial impulses are good, but you run the

OF PENTACLES

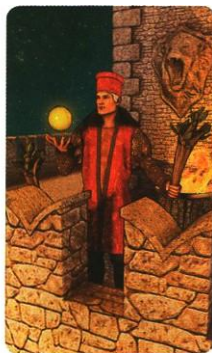
risk of losing sight of the big picture. Get some distance from your endeavor if you feel confused about or unclear of your purpose. There is no rush, and you won't lose momentum by stepping back for a brief time to get some needed perspective.

OF WANDS

♧ TWO



2



♧ THIS SIDE ♧

A wealthy nobleman stands upon the battlements of his castle, looking out upon the mountainous vista before him. The sun is setting, gilding the scene with glorious light. The man holds a living wand in his left hand, and another wand — this one in bloom as well as in leaf — stands at his side. The blossoming wand might be emerging from the stonework, or just leaning against the parapet. Either way, it seems to be yearning toward the sun. With his right hand, the man levitates a golden orb, which mirrors the sun's splendor.

When you get this side in a reading: The things you have set in motion are prospering. Observe the timing closely as you proceed. Recognize that time spent thinking and observing is just as important as taking active steps. There is nothing

that needs doing just now. You can be confident of your success.

♧ THAT SIDE ♧

The setting sun shines upon the face of the nobleman. His attitude is serious, determined, charged with purpose. There is a flaming brazier behind him; he intends to stay on the battlements as the night draws in. On the wall there is a relief carving of a roaring lion — though the stonework is so weathered it's hard to be completely sure what it is.

When you get this side in a reading: The nobleman is holding vigil in anticipation of an event or challenge to come. He is dedicating himself to the highest purpose and best outcome for all

OF WANDS

concerned. If you have been paying attention only to the logistical details of your endeavor, make a point of drawing upon your higher self, however you see that, to bring spirit and meaning to the enterprise. Think more about "why," not just "what."

When you get this side in a reading: This man is waiting for something to arrive, and he feels well prepared to meet it. It may be another person, an offer of some sort, an adventure — whatever it is, it is still some distance away but steadily coming closer. Whatever you are

THREE



3



THIS SIDE

A white-hot sun blazes down upon an arid scene. The unrelieved desert stretches far into the distance. A cloaked man faces toward the empty landscape, his scarlet cloak flowing over the ground. leafing wands stand to either side of him, and in his right hand he holds a wand that glows with fiery symbols. In his left hand he floats an elemental orb.

expecting or anticipating, are you ready to receive it? What needs to be taken care of to prepare yourself, your environment, your existing enterprises?

THAT SIDE

The cloaked man is revealed to be a handsome knight in smoky armor. His hair and beard are touched with silver, but he is still in the prime of life. The red of his cloak symbolizes his life force and virility. Though he is looking toward the desert, he has emerged from the forest. The

OF WANDS

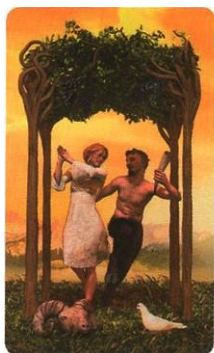
mystical orb he offers is half water, half fire, in a yin/yang pattern of balance.

When you get this side in a reading: This side gives some answers to the questions posed on the other side. Balance is important if (like the knight) you want to be firmly grounded and ready to take on the next adventure. The elemental orb symbolizes the balance between water (feelings) and fire (action). You are temperamentally inclined to prefer action, as evidenced by the fiery wand. Honor that strength, but give your whole self to the approaching opportunity.

forest and low mountains. The satyr holds a drinking horn; he is a companion of Bacchus, god of wine, fertility, and animal instincts. The woman's dress bears a pattern of spirals such as are found everywhere in nature, from seashells to galaxies. On the ground before them are a ram's skull and a resting dove.

When you get this side in a reading: The ram and the dove are symbols of lust and love, of aggression and peace, of persistence and cooperation. Both are needed if true passion is to be sustained over the long run. But this card isn't

FOUR



THIS SIDE

A young woman and a satyr dance together beneath a grape arbor. The landscape is peaceful in the morning light, with meadows giving way to

4



necessarily about relations — remember that Wands is the suit of action. For something to succeed at its highest potential, it's important to

OF WANDS

~FIVE~



5



celebrate it. Ceremony unites purpose with passion.

~THAT SIDE~

This side is much the same as the other side. The woman's legs can be seen beneath her dress as the sunlight streams through the delicate fabric. Her feet are bare. These details accentuate her carnal self, bringing her closer to the satyr's side of the equation. While the bright sunshine warms the front of their bodies, the back is cool and shadowed. The sun in the sky has the stylized look of the Sun card, rather than the more realistic suns in other cards. Is it actually sunny? Or is this a stage setting?

When you get this side in a reading: Forced merriment drains real enjoyment from the situation. This can throw the energy out of balance, into a sort of frenzy where inappropriate things may be said or done. If there is a party or other

celebration planned, make sure people really want to participate. Offer recreational activity; don't insist on it.

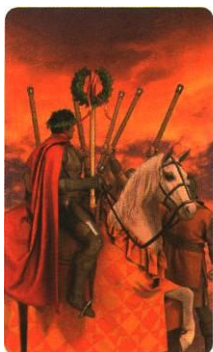
~THIS SIDE~

Two soldiers spar, both holding a battle staff in each hand. They are equally matched and armed — indeed, other than their tunic colors, they seem to be identical. Their stance is stolid, perhaps a bit slow or clumsy. This is not a fevered battle scene. The empty landscape doesn't appear to have anything worth fighting for.

When you get this side in a reading: If there is conflict happening, don't take it too seriously. One or more of the participants may merely be going through the motions to keep in practice or they may just like to fight. Healthy competition is

OF WANDS

❧ SIX



6



good for honing skills in the workplace, in art, in sport, and so on, but the keyword is "healthy." At the end of the day, part as friends.

❧ THAT SIDE ❧

The staves are tipped with metal, but they can be broken, as we can see from the splintered staff on the ground. The soldiers, too, are "tipped" with metal, but their helmets are their only armor, and their bodies are as vulnerable to breakage as their weapons. While the scene on the other side doesn't hold any special portent or seem ominous, on this side the presence of the erupting volcano tells a different story.

When you get this side in a reading: The healthy competition or intellectual sparring is becoming heated. There is danger of an explosion if the tension isn't dialed back. You might gently probe for wounded places in the situation, but beware of pushing too hard. There is unseen anger that needs an outlet or a timeout if that seems more appropriate. The endeavor is threatened from within.

❧ THIS SIDE ❧

A knight upon a white horse returns in triumph. He wears a laurel wreath upon his brow and another decorates his golden battle staff. The magnificent war

OF WANDS

horse steps gaily past people raising their own staves in salute and acclamation. A brilliant sunset fills the sky, as if affirming a happy conclusion to the knight's wartime achievements.

When you get this side in a reading: Success comes after a period of strife and striving. You can feel good about the praise and recognition you are given — you've earned it. It's not egotistical to take a bow for a job well done. If this situation doesn't describe you at this time, consider it to be encouragement. This is what you can achieve when you apply yourself with excellence and integrity.

☞ THAT SIDE ☞

Thick black smoke rises in the distance, perhaps from the battlefield or from burning homes that have been pillaged in the war. The people hailing the victorious knight are his loyal foot-soldiers. While he rides unscathed, high upon his war horse, his men are bloodstained, for they have done the actual fighting. Their battle staves are metal-tipped wood (as we saw in the Five of Wands), while the knight's staff is gold and purely ornamental.

When you get this side in a reading: In the flush of victory, people tend to overlook what roles were really

played in the endeavor. Mutual congratulation glosses over inequality of effort. Over time, resentment may come to the surface if recognition isn't given to those who deserve it. Financial rewards help, but over the long term, everyone needs to feel valued for their contribution to the success of the endeavor.

OF WANDS

SEVEN



7



THIS SIDE

A soldier stands smiling upon a low stone, holding a battle staff in his hands. His attitude is that of a conqueror, and the staves lying at his feet proclaim the surrender of his enemies. His cloak and ornamented tunic and belt show that he is a soldier of some rank — this victory may improve that standing and take him higher in his career. As the dust settles, he has good reason to smile.

When you get this side in a reading: The low stone is symbolic of a slight elevation in status, with an implied warning to not exaggerate its importance. Its a step up, but theres still a lot

left to achieve. That said, you can take pride in having succeeded thus far. Let that pride feed your ambition, not your ego.

THAT SIDE

The scene is much the same as the other side. Night has fallen, and the clouds part to unveil the shimmering stars. The thoughts may be more somber as he contemplates not just the staves of his enemies, but their helms and shields as well. The mood is more personal, less theoretical. Men like himself lost their trappings of strength and power — perhaps even lost their lives. The vastness of the night sky gives the soldier a sense of his own importance — or lack of it.

OF WANDS

When you get this side in a reading: A wise person learns from both his successes and his failures. Defeat is an obvious teacher — we learn about strategy, how to improve our skills, what was lacking in our performance, and so on. Learning from victory is more subtle. The lessons include humility, compassion, generosity of spirit, and gratefulness.

down to earth, not flying upward. Like thrown spears or arrows in formation, the wands are heading toward their target.

When you get this side in a reading: This card is a sign of something incoming, often a message or some information that will assist you in your

EIGHT



8



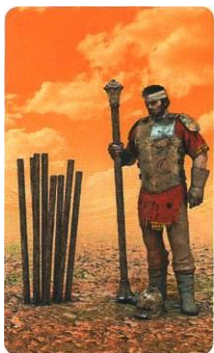
THIS SIDE

Unlike most of the Minor Arcana cards, this one does not tell a story as such — the wands simply appear as a portent on their own. Eight wands fly across a fair sky above a wooded landscape. Because the top of the wands is the part that is leafy, we know these wands are coming

endeavor. If you are waiting for news, you won't have to wait much longer. The card can also mean that things are speeding up. A blockage of some sort may have given way, so that events will unfold more quickly now. Don't be caught off guard.

OF WANDS

☿NINE



9



☿THAT SIDE☿

The same wands shoot through the air, going in the opposite direction. The fair sky of day has become a night sky blasted by lightning. Looking past the wands, we see Pegasus, the winged horse who brings lightning from Olympus to warn or to punish, according to the whims of the gods. The greenery that tips the wands may be shriveling and dying — or that could just be a trick of the light.

When you get this side in a reading: Something you sent out into the world is coming back at you. If you have been careful to only put out energy and activity that you would like to receive,

then you don't have anything to worry about. But if you have behaved unethically, whether through word or deed, fix it fast or Pegasus will fix it for you.

☿THIS SIDE☿

A brawny soldier stands triumphant, gripping his great battle staff. As in several other cards, the point of the battle is not clear and the conquered land is not particularly appealing. And yet, there is pride in the soldier's expression. Eight plain staves are stuck into the ground beside him, trophies from his emasculated foes. His armor bears a sun and a moon that look hand-etched, a self-made declaration of his power.

When you get this side in a reading: The war is over. You've done well. There are battle scars that you will

OF WANDS

❧ TEN



10



always bear, but on the whole, you've been lucky, and your skills have grown significantly through being tested again and again. Now is the time to look back and consider what it was all about. What have you been fighting for? Was the effort worth the rewards? What are the spoils of your victory and how will you enjoy them?

❧ THAT SIDE ❧

We see the soldier's reward now, the purpose and fulfillment of his quest. A woman beckons him to enter the dark cave with her — she is the same woman who dances with the satyr in the Four of Wands. The staves the soldier has collected are proof to her of his prowess, and he has come to claim his prize.

When you get this side in a reading: Your life force has been depleted by your hard work and fierce struggles. It must be restored. The seductive barefoot woman represents that primal force, and her cave is the womb of spiritual rebirth. Its time to remove your armor, lay down your defenses, and surrender to the purely animal need to feel alive in body and soul.

❧ THIS SIDE ❧

A poor laborer carries a large bundle of staves upon his back. He is bent low under the weight of his burden, but he must keep going despite his exhaustion. His destination is a manor house, not too far away. Rainclouds are sweeping in, and

OF WANDS

there is no time to lose if he is going to get the wood under cover before the storm breaks. The staves are not his property, just his responsibility.

When you get this side in a reading: This card is a sure sign that you have taken on too much and that it is wearing you down. Like the laborer, you may feel you have no choice in the matter, that you are indispensable and must persevere no matter the personal cost. Serious burnout will take much longer to recover from than just taking a break. Delegate some of your tasks and entrust some of your burden to others, or risk losing it all.

∞ THAT SIDE ∞

The poor man's misery is painfully evident as he trudges on with his load of staves. Behind him is an ancient weathered statue... of himself? How can this be? He passes it by, unseeing. It never occurs to him to look up to see the scenery or the stars. His whole existence is the path immediately before him

When you get this side in a reading: Though the scene is realistic in other ways, it is unlikely that anyone would erect a statue to this peasant laborer. The statue symbolizes how the man sees himself — captured for

all time in a subservient role. This is what happens when you refuse to share a heavy load. There is a thin line between being self-sufficient and being a martyr. Don't let a weakened identity be set in stone.

OF SWORDS

ACE



1



THIS SIDE

A gleaming sword is held aloft in the sunshine. The elemental symbol for Air is emblazoned on the crossguard. The person raising the sword is looking out over a lush and verdant valley with gently rolling hills extending as far as the eye can see. There is a sense that the person has found the promised land. The crown that appears in the blue sky proclaims dominion over the land and bestows the divine right to claim it.

When you get this side in a reading: The Ace of Swords represents the gift of clarity. A new idea is divinely inspired and will lead to success. Grasp the sword of truth and vision.

THAT SIDE

A sword is held aloft as evening falls over the land. The person raising the sword stands with his or her back to a cold and forbidding mountain range. Overhead an eagle carries a laurel wreath, symbol of supreme victory.

When you get this side in a reading: The meaning is much the

OF SWORDS

same on this side, with the added affirmation that your undertaking will be a success. The eagle is far-seeing and will be with you as you proceed, providing clarity and empowerment.

lightning strikes and clouds mass overhead. The woman is unmoved by these portents and stands her ground.

When you get this side in a reading: You need all your inner

❧ TWO



2



❧ THIS SIDE ❧

A woman sits upon a rock surrounded by a stormy sea. Fierce winds whip up the waves and blow the woman's hair and clothes. She is blindfolded and holds a sword in each hand. The weather is worsening as forked

focus now to deal with the situation. Tune out damaging distractions, including those you bring upon yourself. The red sword symbolizes self-defense on the material plane, while the blue sword stands for self-defense on the mental and

OF SWORDS

THREE



3



psychic planes. Both are necessary at this time.

THAT SIDE

We see now that the woman is facing toward the full moon. The clear shallows ripple gently around her. Before her, the ocean is calm and shimmers with moonlight. Through mental discipline, she has successfully tuned out the waves and storm clouds at her back. This is the state of her inner being — intuitive, introspective, open to messages.

When you get this side in a reading: Beyond the self-defense mentioned on the other side, this is a good time to enhance your peace of mind through meditation and other contemplative practices. Having such skills will enable you to ride out the storms with serenity until calmer conditions prevail.

THIS SIDE

A battered wooden shield adorned with a painted heart is propped up on stony ground, pierced by three swords. The

OF SWORDS

shield bears scratches that indicate many battles before the final death blows came. A shattered red rose lies on the ground, its petals crushed. A steady rain falls upon the desolate scene.

When you get this side in a reading: This is a card of heartbreak and betrayal. It only takes one sword to pierce the heart, and the emotions represented here are overkill. There may be deliberate cruelty or enjoyment in inflicting pain. You have fought well, but its time to stop. If you are the one who is stabbing at the heart-shield, recognize that the damage is done. You don't need to make it worse.

∞ THAT SIDE ∞

A knight sits bareheaded in the rain, contemplating the swordpierced shield. The rainwater is gathering in pools that encroach upon the scene, flooding the low-lying surroundings. Behind the shield, unseen by the knight, a blue chrysanthemum rises from the stones.

When you get this side in a reading: The knight may be the one whose sword is pierced, or he may be mourning a lost comrade — or perhaps regretting his own part in this action. Your circumstances will tell how to interpret his presence here. But clearly there is sorrow, betokened by his disregard for discomfort as the rain pelts down on him. The chrysanthemum is a funeral flower, representing both grief and hope for an afterlife. Earthly chrysanthemums do not come in blue, so this is a symbol of the spirits endurance.

OF SWORDS

FOUR



4



THIS SIDE

A aged king sits slumped on his gilded throne. His head is sunk upon his chest, and his grey hair hangs loose about his face. On the stone wall beside him, four swords are displayed. They are a symbol of force and power, but they have been put aside, taken out of active service. The king's rich clothing is tattered at the hem. There is a sense of a well-learned rest from conflict.

When you get this side in a reading: There is need for a respite now. Lay down your sword and let things calm while you replenish yourself for the next battle. If you feel too

debilitated to continue on with your endeavor, there is no shame in passing on the task to the next generation. It's far better to understand your limits than to harm the situation by persevering beyond your capability.

THAT SIDE

The king sits by a window that looks out upon a burning landscape. There is war and destruction in his land, but he does not have the strength to act. Four transparent swords hang suspended in mid-air, perhaps spectral weapons from past battles, perhaps a vision of the king's memories of past strength.

OF SWORDS

Behind the throne, a lizard moves from sunlight into shadow.

When you get this side in a reading: While the other side of the card suggests a rest or delegating, this side doesn't hint. It flatly says that you can do no more in the present circumstances. Mentally, physically, spiritually, you are exhausted. Let someone else put the fires out.

When you get this side in a reading: Victory has come at a price that may seem too dear for the rewards gained. Psychologically you may be feeling depleted, especially if the struggle has made you doubt your ethical center. Winning a battle you're not completely

FIVE



THIS SIDE

A warrior stands tall in a sunlit landscape, holding swords taken from his conquered enemy. He clearly finds satisfaction in the defeat of his foes. More swords lie at his feet, where an exhausted comrade has fallen to the ground. The battle is over and they have won, but the castle for which they fought is in ruins.

5



convinced is righteous only gives satisfaction in the moment.

THAT SIDE

Night has fallen. The warrior watches as a cloaked man walks away, toward a dark and forbidding land. The warrior has captured all the swords, but now what? The cloaked man leaves empty-handed, and the victor is

OF SWORDS

over-burdened with responsibility.

When you get this side in a reading: Assess how this side of the card makes you feel. Do you want to walk away from the situation, even if it means you give up what you have gained? Or do you want to move on to the next battle? Both choices present challenges and require courage.

A hooded ferryman sets out into open water, his humble boat bearing one passenger, who is also cloaked and hooded. Six swords are fastened to the outside

is veiled in mist and cannot be seen.

When you get this side in a reading: It is wise to remove yourself from conflict for a time at least. This may be an actual retreat where you can find healing and solace, or it may mean simply being silent and not engaging in debate or quarrels. You don't need to make a statement about it; just quietly withdraw.

The ferryman's expression is serious, and his eyes are fixed on

❧ SIX OF SWORDS ❧



6



❧ THIS SIDE ❧

of the little boat. The water is calm and shimmers with reflected starlight. The far shore

❧ THAT SIDE ❧

his destination. His hands tightly grip the steering oar as he guides his boat away from the dangerous

OF SWORDS

cliffs. The passengerS face is serene; her gaze is thoughtful. She wears a vivid green cloak, and in her lap she holds a great golden chalice.

When you get this side in a reading: You may not know exactly where you are headed in your present circumstances, but it is clear that going backward is not an option. This is a good thing, though it may not feel like it at the moment. The chalice represents love and the deepest desires of the heart. Hold these close and your journey will not fail.

night, bearing stolen swords. Two more swords stand upright, thrust into the ground — hes leaving them because taking everything would be too obvious and might raise the alarm. The armys tents glow with firelight, and armored sentinels stand guard, unaware of the thief who passes so close by in the rocky landscape.

When you get this side in a reading: Something sneaky is happening behind the scenes. It won't take much sleuthing to uncover it, and you can fix the situation quietly and discreetly if

SEVEN



THIS SIDE

A masked thief sneaks away from his enemyS camp in the

7



you wish. If you are the one who is acting unethically, you may not get away with it much longer. For

OF SWORDS

EIGHT



8



your own sake, set things straight as soon as you can.

THAT SIDE

As the thief makes his escape, we can see that the two standing swords appear to mark a place of battle. The helmeted skull of a soldier lies beside what may be a burial cairn. The skulls expression is one of anguish, as if giving forth its final battle cry.

When you get this side in a reading: The person who is acting in a sneaking or dishonorable way may not be fully aware of the harm he/she is doing. There is some history in the situation that will hurt more when the truth comes out. Its time for everyone to put their

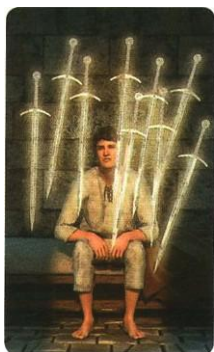
cards on the table, including any feelings of betrayal, past hurts, or failures.

THIS SIDE

A woman is bound, blindfolded, and left in an open mountain wilderness. She kneels among stones under a blue and windy sky. Eight swords stand behind her. Her attitude is passive and acquiescent. There is a sense that she is waiting to see what happens next, as if it were completely out of her hands. When you get this side in a reading: There is nothing wrong with remaining still if you're not yet sure which way to go. But don't be in denial about the situation. You can't stay where

OF SWORDS

NINE



9



you are forever, and refusing to look directly at your circumstances only prolongs the problem. Consider how you can find support to face your reality if you cant face it on your own.

THAT SIDE

From this point of view, we can see that the ropes that bind the woman are loose and she could easily escape them if she chose to do so. Moreover, one of the swords is within her grasp already, making her release even more possible. The gentle, rolling landscape before her speaks of freedom if she will remove her blindfold to see it. A large eagle flies toward her, symbolizing far-seeing perspective.

When you get this side in a reading: Don't wait for someone else to rescue

you. The situation is well within your capabilities. If you choose to stay where you are, acknowledge that it is a choice you make freely. Dont see yourself as a victim or place blame on others for your circumstances. If someone else is playing the victim in this scenario, the kindest thing is to let her/him summon the strength and intelligence to break free.

THIS SIDE

A young man sits upon his bed in a barren stone cell. Nine luminous swords float before his eyes. His bare feet are set firmly on the cold floor of his imprisonment. His hunched back and limp hands denote an attitude of hopelessness and despair, but he is bathed in golden sunlight.

OF SWORDS

When you get this side in a reading: You are caught in fear and negativity to the point of exhaustion. Its hard to tell anymore which troubles are real and which are mere phantoms. This mindset perpetuates itself as it seems overwhelming even to try to shift the energy. Apathy is insidious, and once it has hold of you, it takes a strong effort to push through.

❧ THAT SIDE ❧

Looking outward with the young man, we can see that his cellS window overlooks a beautiful sunrise. The swords are between him and this vision of beauty, yet the sunlight itself can still warm him. A shadowy figure stands nearby, watching the young man. Perhaps he means to help — or perhaps he is the young man himself, contemplating his own shadow.

When you get this side in a reading: The dark night of the soul is coming to an end. It may be that someone else pulls you from the fearful place, or you may be able to get enough distance from the situation to separate fear from reality. Either way, you can expect to make a

breakthrough. It will only get brighter from here on.

OF SWORDS

❧ TEN



10



❧ THIS SIDE ❧

In a desolate, darkening landscape, a knight lies pierced with many swords. Despite his heavy armor, one knight alone could never withstand such a brutal mass attack. There is a terrible finality to this scene. Even the air seems sucked from the atmosphere, as if the life force itself has been annihilated.

When you get this side in a reading: The game is over, and you have lost. There's no way to avoid this reality. Whatever you were working toward has come to an end. It may be a strange comfort to know that this is as bad as it gets — as with the Nine

of Swords, things will only improve from this point. For now, there is nothing to do but pick up the pieces and call it a day.

❧ THAT SIDE ❧

The knight, wearing only breeches, gazes upon his empty suit of armor, bristling with its onslaught of swords. The knight himself is unscathed. An eclipse of the sun lights the harsh scene with eerie lifelessness.

When you get this side in a reading: There are at least two ways to interpret this card: The knight is dead, and his spirit is looking at the scene of his death. Or the knight was not attacked at

OF CHALICES

all, only his empty armor. Either way, the symbolism speaks of the death of the ego, not the essence. Something has been killed, but its not the most

important thing. A solar eclipse is not the death of the sun. Follow the knights example and contemplate what is essential and what is ephemeral.



COURT CARDS



The court cards in a tarot deck represent particular people. They can be used to symbolize aspects of yourself or others you know and interact with. In this deck, the court cards are treated a bit differently than the other Minor Arcana cards. Rather than describing and interpreting the front and back of the card, we talk about the outer self and the inner self. One side of the card shows the public personality, the self that is shown to the world. The other side shows what may be hidden or more deeply private, revealed only to intimates and trusted companions. You may view these as the light self and the shadow self — but again, don't fall into the mistake of thinking one is positive and one is negative. Both sides are always needed to make up the whole, complicated portrait of a human being.

KNAVE



∞ OUTER SELF ∞ A young man clad in the court garb of a page stands at the edge of a quiet sea. His tunic bears a pattern of lotuses. Small wavelets splash softly against his long cloak, which is the color of the calm ocean behind him. He holds a silver chalice from which a fish is leaping. His attitude is gentle, passive, perhaps

subservient. This is a kind person. His heart is innocent and his intentions are pure. He holds the cup of love, but the fish symbolizes that this is spiritual love, not carnal — at least, not yet. This person prefers peace to passion for the time being. He is content to stay in the shallow waters of emotion for now.

OF CHALICES

INNER SELF

The young man, still standing at the shore's edge, gazes upon a multitude of stars. The ocean at night has deepened in color, as has the knave's cloak. A sea turtle surfaces in the dark water. This person's inner self and outer self are pretty much one and the same at this stage — the inner self is just a bit darker. He keeps his moodiness to himself, and

the more tender emotions that may be too vulnerable to the roughness of the world. The turtle offers a clue as to why. Sea turtles are old souls that have been swimming the dark waters for many lifetimes. When it feels threatened, it withdraws into its shell. For this person, it feels safer to stay in the shell. Over time, he may learn that gentleness doesn't mean weakness.



OF CHALICES

KNIGHT



type of quest — need to be willing to give as much in return.



OUTER SELF

A handsome knight travels through a beautiful seashore landscape. A high waterfall is seen in the distance. The knight raises a chalice in greeting as he passes. His white horse steps calmly through the shallow tide pools. This person is the classic knight in shining armor, the dashing prince who offers the cup of love. Water symbolizes emotions, and its an element hes very much at home in. The magnificent waterfall is his heart overflowing with love. His desires have the power to change the landscape and move anything in their path. Those who would travel his path alongside him — whether in romance or another

INNER SELF

The knights armor shines in the starlight, which glimmers upon the water that surrounds him. His chalice is lifted in offering and tribute to the constellation Orion. A crab has climbed from the tide pool onto a rock. The shadow side of the Knight of Chalices is found in his affinity with Orion, the Hunter. Like Orion, he needs the chase — or more precisely, the quest. He is the Grail Knight, whose quest defines his own worthiness to be loved. The crab provides a little warning: don't drop all your defenses until you see which way the tide is flowing.

OF CHALICES

QUEEN



OUTER SELF

A young queen sits upon a jade throne in the middle of a calm sea. She wears a simple silken garment over her bare skin, and she wears no crown or jewels. She gazes into the large chalice she holds in her hands. Jade is a gem of the heart; its qualities are peace, wisdom, and love. This queen is supported and sheltered by these qualities. She arranges her life in such a way that she can love freely and be loved in return. This is a woman who prioritizes a long and happy marriage or partnership where she can bare her soul in perfect trust. Her chalice is different in form than any of the other



chalices we've seen. Rather than a drinking cup or offering cup, hers is a vessel for scrying. Her psychic gifts feed her spirit. It is the one thing she does just for herself.

INNER SELF

The queen sits under the starstrewn night sky. Moonlight casts a silvery path on the water, though we cannot see the moon itself. The back of the throne reveals the myriad seashells that encrust it, which glow with unearthly luminescence. This queen has known heartbreak and loss, but rather than retreating into a shell, she has chosen to stay open to beauty and love, and to let pain transform into

OF CHALICES

compassion. Dwelling as she does on and with the sea, she is attuned to the tides and to the moon that commands them. Her dreams go deep, and she is often dream-bound long after awakening. A great blue heron is carved into the jade of her throne, symbolizing balance and self-reliance. The biggest secret this loving queen may keep is that she would be just fine on her own if she wanted to be.

♧ KING



♧ OUTER SELF ♧

A king in ornate robes sits upon a rocky throne under a starry night sky. He wears a great golden fish upon his breast. His right hand lifts a silver chalice, and his left hand holds a scepter topped with a bronze water lily.

His gaze is steady and perceptive — he seems to look into your heart, and perhaps your soul too. Everything about him speaks of a love of beauty and attention to symbolism. This is a wise and compassionate teacher, by avocation if not vocation. The fish necklace symbolizes the Piscean quality of sacrifice to a spiritual calling. The water lily scepter shows his authority is tempered by peace. The night and the dark sea are in keeping with the outer self he presents to the world: the vastness of the cosmos, the fathomless depths of wisdom.



♧ INNER SELF ♧

By daylight, the king looks out toward the open sea. Light

OF CHALICES

clouds blow in a soft blue sky. A smiling dolphin swims behind his throne. If the big secret the Queen of Chalices is keeping is a core of independence, the king's big secret is his playfulness. Most people may have the impression that he lives his life in a state of spiritual earnestness, even solemnity. He's actually quite joyous in his spirituality, happy in his love, and sometimes just plain silly. Those who are closest to him benefit from his lightheartedness, though those in the outer circle may know only his quieter ways of wisdom.

OF PENTACLES

KNAVE



OUTER SELF

A young nobleman stands under the night sky. Wildflowers grow at his feet, and a gentle green landscape is in the distance. He gazes at a glowing golden pentacle that floats before him. This is a person who is learning about the value of money and other forms of material wealth. He doesn't know yet how he wants to spend his life, but he can certainly see the fascination that wealth has for so many people. He is at home in the sensual realms of physical comforts, and it would be a shock to his system to do without them. To the outer world, he appears to be a youth who will settle down soon and begin to build his fortune.



INNER SELF

The knave looks toward the sunset, which gleams upon the jagged mountains before him. Clouds are gathering, but the scene is still beautiful. The knave's cloak bears a large rose emblem on the back. An empty golden cornucopia lies among the flowers at his feet. This is a person who wants to follow his bliss. He has turned his back on the cornucopia rather than filling it. He doesn't want to settle down and build a fortune — he wants to set forth and seek his fortune, whatever the risk.

OF PENTACLES

KNIGHT



OUTER SELF



INNER SELF

A knight in light armor sits upon his horse, which stands patiently, ready to do his masters bidding. The knight's helm bears antlers. His pose and attitude are relaxed. The horse is bedecked with two laurel garlands from past victories. A great double pentacle shield lies upon each flank, but no weapons are visible. The scene is hot and arid, the barren landscape stretching far in all directions. This is not a very dynamic person, but he is a reliable worker who is unlikely to do anything unexpected. If he wins any accolades, they will come from following someone else's orders or inspiring genius, not his own. To the world he appears to be friendly, content with his lot, and willing to help as needed.

Night has fallen, and the knight and horse are still immobile. The knight's posture seems more slumped and tired, and his horse is weary from waiting. The knight has a handful of wheat stalks tucked into his belt. What he hides from the world is a sense of failure, of having somehow missed his chance for greatness. He wonders if it's too late to make a turn in his life, head out into unknown lands again. The wheat is symbolic of more fruitful times, when the harvest of his life looked to be a rich one. Now these few stalks are a souvenir of what he has put behind him.

OF PENTACLES

QUEEN



OUTER SELF

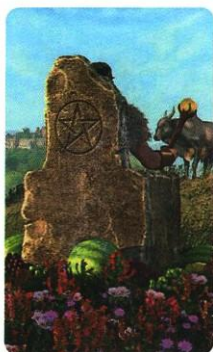
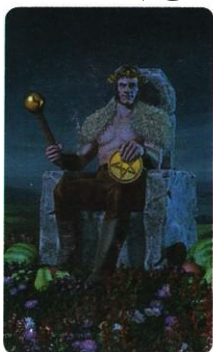
A queen sits upon a weathered stone throne, upon which twining foliage grows. A hawk sits atop the throne. The queen's green gown has a pattern of pink roses, and a scarf of vivid green drapes across her shoulders. Her crown is substantial, almost a helm, and bears antlers. Her expression is friendly, welcoming, and calm. The scene is lush with life as roses and wildflowers grow alongside lemons and heavily fruited apple trees. This is a woman who most people see as the ultimate earth mother. She is always ready to feed the hungry and shelter the wanderers. And she does it all with genuine love. Her strength comes from nature and its cycles of renewal. She is patient through the hard times because she knows that spring will always come again. Her

hawk symbolizes her ability to see the big picture as well as the details. Those who love her cannot imagine their world without her.

INNER SELF

From her garden, the queen looks toward the great castle city that is her realm. Her throne, which looks weathered and ancient from the front, looks battered and neglected from the back. A broken column has been hidden away behind the throne, and a hare takes shelter there. In her innermost self, the queen is a bit overwhelmed by all the things she has welcomed into her care. It is her nature to be generous, and she knows that help given grudgingly is a burden, not a gift. But her own support system can

SC KING OF PENTACLES SC



been weakened, even broken, if she doesn't nourish herself as well as others.

OUTER SELF

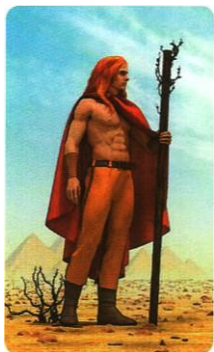
A king sits upon a polished granite throne on a summerS evening. His garments are all made from animals — leather and suede, rawhide lacing and sheepskin. He is surrounded by fruits and flowers, and there is green fertile landscape as far as the eye can see. But the natural world isn't his only concern, as shown by his golden crown, orbéd scepter, and pentacle. This is a man who has done very well for himself. His expression shows his satisfaction with his life and his work. He is the person you can turn to for a loan or for other practical help in a crisis. He doesn't judge the less fortunate. He knows that all

blessings flow in cycles, and it's a
 joy for him to be able to give.

♪ INNER SELF ♪ The daylight scene is much the same, for this earthy king doesn't have many secrets. He is straightforward in his thinking and in his deeds. An ox stands nearby, symbolizing steadfast strength and the ability to take on hard tasks. Another watermelon is tucked away behind the throne — perhaps he is saving it for himself, since there is enough for everyone. His castle is in the distance, across the rolling hills. Though there isn't much to learn from his inner self, we can learn a bit about his marriage. The Queen of Pentacles on her battered throne and her exhaustion from always caring for others before herself is a vivid contrast with the king's shiny throne, his abundance of food, and above all, his distance from the castle. He knows how to replenish and maintain his own well-being, so he can keep taking care of others in good health and good spirits.

OF WANDS

KNAVE



OUTER SELF

A brawny young man stands in a desert landscape, holding a tall staff. His upper body is bare, save for battle gauntlets and a fiery red cloak. His attitude is confident — he is sure of himself and fearless. His bare chest symbolizes a declaration of his strength and a challenge to other knaves to match (or best) it. This is a person who is undeniably attractive, but he may lack social graces, or even fail to understand



why they are important. He doesn't mind taking the hard way through a situation, rather than smoothing the path. Like the thorny plant at his feet, he can be prickly and irritating in close quarters.

INNER SELF

Night has fallen, and the knave now stands under a brilliant canopy of stars. Constellations draw his attention and demand contemplation of cosmic mysteries. A phoenix rises

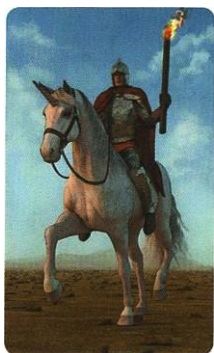
OF WANDS

∞ OUTER SELF ∞

screaming from his campfire. This is a person whose inner self is secretly called toward things outside the mundane and the explainable. This is a soul who longs for magic and meaning, but his youthful self-consciousness may disguise that longing for fear of being mocked. He needs solitude to explore the inner realms, patient teachers to encourage him, and understanding friends who bring out his best qualities.

A knight in armor rides across a dry and barren landscape. His steed is a unicorn, and the knight rides bareback, holding the reins lightly. The unicorn steps jauntily, its eyes full of wisdom and love. The knight holds aloft a flaming torch, though the day is bright and hot. This is a person who is happiest when he has a cause he can pour his passion into. His spirit is restless; he likes to be on the move, looking for the next adventure. This knight is perfectly capable of falling in love at first

∞ KNIGHT ∞



sight, giving his whole being to

OF WANDS

QUEEN



passion, and then moving on. The unicorn consents freely to carry him without the need for saddle or harness, because they are kindred spirits — charismatic, untamable, beautiful in their boldness. When he finds his soulmate, there will be no need to tie him down — he will give himself freely and completely.

INNER SELF

The knight and unicorn face the wild lightning with no hesitation or faltering in their progress. The torch casts a golden glow to counter the white-hot flashes before them. They show no sign of fear — or even caution. The real shadow side of this knight is

his appetite for drama. Facing down the lightning will make a great tale to tell (if he survives it). Let others have their small, safe lives. This is a person who needs the extra fire of excitement to feel truly alive.

OUTER SELF

A queen in fiery garb sits upon a throne of woven branches and roots. She holds a living wand in her right hand. Behind her a dense forest forms a protective wall. The queen's eyes are closed as she turns her focus inward. Her upright posture and bare feet on the earth denote a channeling



OF WANDS

of powerful energy. This is a woman who can work magic. She knows how to work with nature's life force that is all

that while the forest is at her back, the vista before her is open. A magnificent sphinx dominates the scene. The throne seems to

♧KING



around us, as well as prana, cosmic energy. When she chooses, she draws friends and lovers like a magnet. Others may try to emulate her allure, but her power comes from genuine warmth and charm that can't be faked.

♧INNER SELF ♧

The back of the throne emphasizes its organic quality — it was not built, it grew. Looking outward with the queen, we see

have been placed to overlook this statue. The queen is pulled toward the unknown and (perhaps) unknowable. Her outer life casts out energetic strands that connect her to many people and things, but at her core she needs silence. Her inner life is as twining and complex as the vines on her throne, and she requires deepening time to think it all through.

OF WANDS

∞ OUTER SELF ∞

A king sits upon a throne that is partly made of natural wood burls and partly of rough-hewn staves. The king holds aloft a plain wooden stave of the same sort. He is dressed in court garb, other than armored greaves on his legs. A spotted salamander, symbolic of fire, rests at his feet. Like the Knight of Wands, the King of Wands thrives on supporting righteous causes and giving his energy where it is needed. This is a person who gets things done. Hes a man of action. Although he may have worldly wealth, you might not know it from looking at him or the way he lives. He doesn't have much patience with details that could slow down his process, so he lets others handle the small stuff and the aesthetics. Other kings may have fancy scepters or rods of authority. This king has a stick, and it does the job just fine.

∞ INNER SELF ∞

At night, the kings salamander companion has become a gigantic snake, coiled around a green tree beside the throne. The snake does not appear to threaten

or alarm the king; they abide in silent communion, respecting each otherS power. The symbolism of serpent and tree often speaks of choosing knowledge over ignorance. Because this is a nighttime setting, this king may have hidden concerns about things he has always taken as settled. He may find himself questioning old values and beliefs, political or social attitudes, and such. Serpent wisdom can be unsettling, as it touches on ethical and moral integrity.



OF SWORDS

KNAVE



∞ OUTER SELF ∞ A fierce young man, whose expression seems combative, tightly grips a shining sword, ready to strike. He hovers in midair, lashed by the cold winds that blow the clouds aloft. The landscape below is jagged and sharp, and his feet are bare, suggesting vulnerability, though his outer demeanor projects toughness. This is a person who may not know how to compromise or listen well to others. Swords are the suit of communication and thought, but this knave doesn't have the mental discipline yet to achieve

clarity in either. He may get himself into situations that require someone else to rescue him. A few of those experiences will educate and humble him, at which point his potential for brilliance can be fulfilled.

∞ INNER SELF ∞ When we aren't able to see his aggressive facial expression, the knave seems slight and easily blown off course. His grip on the sword seems defensive, even desperate. The landscape below can be seen more clearly as ice and snow, beginning to melt here

OF SWORDS

and there. Dark clouds approach to blot out the blue sky. This is a person who worries about being able to cope, to keep up with those he admires and wants to learn from. Hes almost ready to ask for help, but requires patience and guidance to find a safe landing spot.

the elemental symbols for air in front and water behind. Air stands for intellect and water for emotion. This is a person who puts emotional concerns in the backseat, which is why we can't see his face. His first impulse is always to argue and to rush in to take over an endeavor, certain

KNIGHT



OUTER SELF

A knight in armor rides among storm clouds, his steed rushing forward in a mode of attack. The knights cloak and the horse's trappings are dull red, the color of dried blood. The trappings bear

that he knows best. His horse symbolizes a barely tamed nature, still wildly impulsive. Until he learns control, he could be a danger to himself and others. He is a fighter, not a lover.

OF SWORDS

INNER SELF

While the outer self seems intent on war, from this point of view we see that the knight is actually following a flight of swallows. They lead him toward breaks in the storm clouds and a lightening of the sky. Swallows are a symbol of instinctive return to the home of the heart. They also symbolize freedom, something this knight cherishes. If he can feel a sense of freedom in matters of the heart, he will reveal more about himself. When he allows himself to admit what he wants and pursue it wholeheartedly, he won't fear to show his true face.

OUTER SELF

Arrayed in silver armor, a queen sits upon a roughly carved granite throne. Its massiveness contradicts the airy surroundings — how can something that commands such gravity dwell among the clouds? The queen's unflinching gaze holds an answer — the power of her intellect can defeat any obstacle, even the laws of gravity. The eagle wings on her breastplate and the pale blue of her mantle proclaim her the mistress of the skies. This is not a woman who suffers fools lightly, and her patience can wear thin quite quickly. But this doesn't

QUEEN



OF SWORDS

♣KING



♣OUTER SELF ♣

mean she has no heart. She is loyal unto death to those she loves, and once you are admitted to her inner circle, she is a true friend and ally. Unlike the Knight of Swords who hides his emotions under a closed helm, the Queen takes on the world face to face.

♣INNER SELF ♣

Behind the throne, we see the essence of the queens inner strength. The great crystals clarify, illuminate, and affirm her spiritual connection as well as her

♣INNER SELF ♣

intelligence and will. It is not enough for her to conquer — she also wants to understand. The crystals are the symbol of her ethical center. They are also the keepers of her memories. She will hold a grudge until amends are made, but she will remember a favor forever and pay that debt if the time comes.

A king in full armor stands immovably in an arid landscape, his falcon at his feet. Unlike the Knave, Knight, and Queen of Swords, he is firmly grounded, not upheld by the winds and

OF SWORDS

clouds. His sword is also grounded, its point in the solid earth. A butterfly is emblazoned on his breastplate, and his purple cloak emphasizes his majesty. His expression speaks of wisdom as well as strength. This is a man who has learned how to master his temper through long years of self-discipline. He thinks things through rather than acting impulsively. He is well-respected as someone who can always be trusted . to tell the truth, whether its what you want to hear or not. His idea of evil is to betray the trust of those who believed your word. He will never break an oath, and he is not likely The king faces a darkening storm that to forgive an oathbreaker.

blows toward him. Clad in metal, he will draw the ferocious forked lightning, which is why he drove his sword point into the ground. He believes the energy will move through him, rather than destroy him. Behind the king, a scythe stands in readiness, its sharp point also grounded in the earth. This is the darker side of the kings immense self-confidence — the risk that he will make a martyr of himself by believing only he can save the day. He doesn't know how to accept help or even admit that he needs it. Understanding this flaw will allow others to tactfully give help without weakening his steely pride.

SYMBOLS

☞ Acacia tree: Overcoming death. Resurrection.

☞ Amphora: The vessel of cosmic energy.

☞ Apple: A symbol of Venus. Knowledge freely chosen.

☞ Armor: The defenses of the ego. ☞ Asphodel: Flower that grows in the underworld. Spirit that survives in the darkness.

c.a Bird: Intuition that enables vision from above.

☞ Black stone: Material where spirit is entrapped.

☞ Blindfold: Turning toward inner vision, blind to material distractions.

☞ Blue: Spirituality, soul, celestial wisdom.

☞ Candle: Illumination of the human endeavor.

☞ Cave: A place for initiation ceremonies, rebirth, descent to the underworld.

☞ Chemical marriage: Recognizing in the other ones own hidden self. The birth of the Sacred Hermaphrodite.

☞ Child: Innocence. The birth of the conscience of man.

☞ Columns: Guardians of the sacred places and the mysterious kingdoms. They identify the road towards the unknown and the subterranean.

☞ Comet: A falling star is portentous. It announces the beginning of a new cycle or a new world opening up.

☞ Crab: Connected to the moon, symbol of the chthonic forces.

☞ Crown: Power and worldly ambition.

☞ Cube: Matter that has been shaped. Control, stability, limitations.

☞ Dog: Instinct, loyalty, vigilance.

☞ Double eagle: Alchemist symbol of change and rebirth.

☞ Dove: The bird of peace, the Holy Spirit. Sacred to the goddesses of love: Inanna, Ishtar, Astarte, Aphrodite, Isis.

☞ Eight-pointed star: The principle of universal renewal.

☞ Falcon: Solar masculine principle.

∞ Five-petaled rose: The fleeting sweetness of life, purity of spirit. A Rosicrucian symbol for love that outlives death.

∞ Flames: Necessary destruction of all that is old, purification.

∞ Galaxy: The cosmic cycles through which our earthly journeys travel.

∞ Gold: Solar, incorruptible, alchemical fire. Worldly concerns.

∞ Horus: The falcon god, bringer of the rising sun.

∞ Ibis: The bird that is the incarnation of Thoth, god of the word, creator and healer.

∞ Iron crown: Power in the material world

∞ Keys (gold and silver): Two approaches to the initiatory faith, conscious and unconscious.

∞ Knot of Isis: Protection on the journey through the unconscious.

∞ Lemniscate: Figure-eight symbol of the infinite

∞ Lightning: Otherworldly illumination. Symbol of the direct presence of God.

∞ Lily: Purity, spiritual aspiration.

∞ Lotus: Enlightenment, beauty, rebirth.

∞ Mask: What is hidden. The hidden part of the teaching.

∞ Myrtle crown: Sacred to Aphrodite, a symbol of good fortune in marriage.

∞ Orb: Dominion of the world.

∞ Orphic Egg: The origin of everything.

∞ Ouroboros: A serpent or a dragon that bites its tail, forming a circle without beginning or end. The totality of Everything, the infinite, eternity. Cyclic time, immortality, and perfection.

∞ Palm frond: A sacred plant that honors gods and heroes.

∞ Pomegranate: Feminine mysteries, the underworld, fertility. The sacred fruit of the mystic female divinities.

∞ Poppies: Sleep and oblivion. ∞ Purple: Supreme wisdom.

∞ Red and blue: Bipolarity, fire and water, spirit and matter.

∞ Red and white: Passion and purity, instinct and intuition.

∞ Red lion: The devouring beast. Instinct.

∞ Red wheels: Action, driven by passion.

∞ Right and left hand: Symbolically, the right hand is active and the left hand is receptive.

∞ Rose: Passion, sacred love, the beauty of the material world.

∞ Ruins: The temporal nature of human creation.

∞ Rune R (Raido): Ride, journey.

∞ Scales: Weighs acts, words, and thoughts.

☞ Shaved head: Monasticism, spiritual dedication.

☞ Shiva lingam: A tantric and mystic union. Symbol of aggressive strength. (Appears on the front of the Chariot.)

☞ Sickle: A crescent-shaped lunar symbol of the cycles of death and rebirth.

☞ Silver and gold: Equilibrium, harmony. Processes of purification and transformation of solar and lunar energies.

☞ Silver: Intuition, the moon, alchemical water.

☞ Skull: The transitory nature of things.

☞ Snake: Wisdom, the willingness to seek knowledge. Chthonic forces.

☞ Sphinx: Hidden wisdom, the enigma.

☞ Storm: Inevitable change that clears the air.

☞ Tetragrammaton: The sequence of the four Hebrew letters that compose the name of God. The Supreme Amulet.

☞ Third eye: Sight beyond mortal sight.

☞ Tree: The connection between the worlds, above and below.

☞ Venus (goddess): The goddess of love, beauty, sex. A symbol for womankind.

☞ Venus (star): The morning star, who awakes the sleeping.

☞ Wheat: Fertility. The child born from the sacred union between the sky and the earth.

☞