



White Numen Tarot Instructional Guide



Instructional Guide



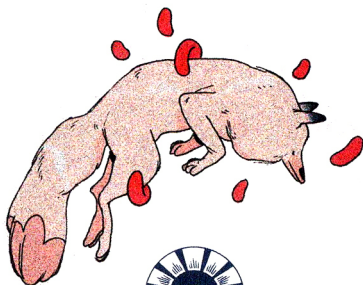




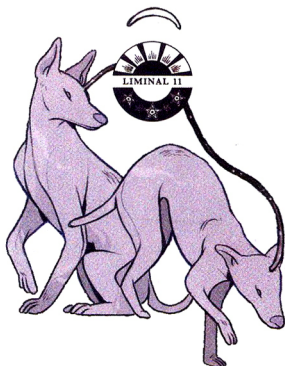


WHITE NUMEN

• A SACRED ANIMAL TAROT •
Alba Ballesta González



Edited by Darren Shill



First published in 2021 by Liminal 11

Images and text copyright © 2021 Alba Ballesta González

Bond of the Numen and *Path to the Sorcerer* spreads courtesy of Darren Shill

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

Graphic Design by Francesca Romano

Printed in China

ISBN 978-1-912634-18-7
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

www.liminal11.com

CONTENTS

~ 4 ~

Foreword
by David Orellana



~ 6 ~

Introduction

~ 8 ~

Major Arcana

~ 50 ~

Reading the Tarot

~ 32 ~

Minor Arcana

~ 52 ~

Spreads

~ 58 ~

Extra Cards



FOREWORD

The word *Numen* conjures the image of the primal gods, who in Millenia beyond comprehension were once our all.

Our ancestors knew how to tremble in the presence of that little abyss within the eyes of a beast. They knew how to recognize the bond with creatures radically different from themselves, whom they venerated, but at the same time whose death meant food, thus life. This ancient conflict reveals the connection between the sacred and the sacrificial, and how rituals of cyclic regeneration evolved. It also speaks to us about the origin of art.

As if condemned to poetry, the first inhabitants filled the walls of their sacred caves with silhouettes of bison, and later with hunting scenes, in an act of evocation.

Thus the word *Numen*, with the strength of a *magical word*, evokes an *image* of these revered beings.

As time progressed, this belief was displaced in favour of a new one. Beasts were domesticated, and humans went from painting *Numen* in the roof of the caves to painting them in the ceiling of all ceilings: the celestial dome. Gods started to adopt human forms and went to live in the sky. Meanwhile, the bull that observed us lonely upon the hill was returned to the woods, depriving us forever of the ancient bond that recognized our interdependent relationship; beyond the spilling of blood and into reverence.

Many years have passed since then, but the wound left by that disconnection is still wide open. Today there

exists a rising concern about our relationships with our environment, about the balance (more fragile now than ever) between the behaviour of humanity and all that falls from it, about our recognition of responsibility when we understand that we are sharing the world with other forms of consciousness. And that's how the artists of the caves used the tools of their times (their fingers, their soil, their natural pigments) to carve on the stone the dilemmas of their time. I think Alba is doing the same today. Taking her place amongst those who carry the same gift: trying to suggest to a path toward Truth.

This tarot deck is not different just in appearance. If we can open our eyes to the path of ancient self-knowledge suggested by these cards, we will uncover the deep wound that unifies us as species; that of being exiled from our own home, The World.

The image of the White Numen tries to symbolically close that wound, to help uncover a path before we say farewell. I think that within Alba's art there is always some of that severe kindness, that healing potential, but with *White Numen Tarot* she offers us the possibility of taking part with her in some kind of modern version of the Palaeolithic ceremonial that we need now more than ever.

As in every ritual, there is a broken circle that through our participation becomes closed. In our hands lay now those secrets; in front of our bare feet, the journey.

David Orellana

INTRODUCTION

My connection to the Tarot an unusual one.

I am very sensitive with regards to dreams. This is not something I control. If my dreams were a sea, you could say that I know how to float but not necessarily how to swim. I have powerful dreams every night; sometimes I help others or receive information, sometimes I get a glimpse of something that might happen the next day. It's not something I make a big deal out of because I think that these things have to come naturally to yourself, and by trying to force them you only send them further away. Just like reading the Tarot.

So, one night I dreamt about Tarot and I woke up with the urge of having one in my hands. A strange and new sensation! Then I became very interested in the symbolism and archetypes within it, so I started to study and develop my own deck with the core idea of the word *Numen*: a Latin word connected with divinity, here within the image of sacred animals from whom ancient religions evolved. So, I set about reinterpreting the Tarot's archetypes through this singular vision.

Archetypes are a very strong tool because our feelings come with ease when associating with them. We recognize our inner state in a very clear way. Just letting go and reflecting on these powerful images is enough to evoke insight.

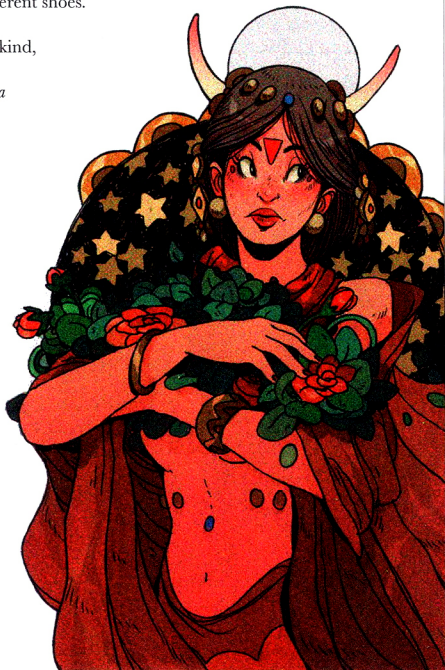
I hope you work with the *White Numen Tarot* without preconceptions, just observing and listening to your inner self. Let the archetypes, symbols and Numen

guide you, just as I work with my dreams: not pushing my emotions, just letting them come to me.

I hope this tarot provides a path that we may all take together. Each of us in our different shoes.

Be kind,

Alba



THE MAJOR ARCANA

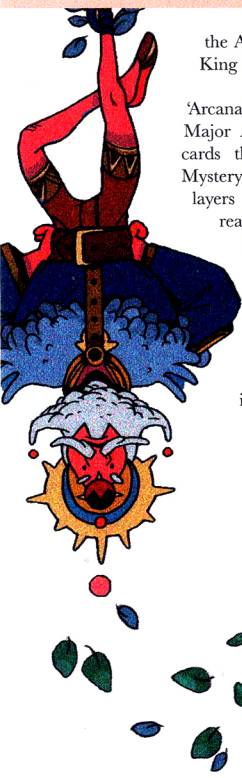
The Tarot is a continuation of an ancient path. Perhaps it began with the foretelling of the future by observing shifts in the weather or the behaviour of animals. It was there in the throwing of bones, reading of dreams and watching of stars. Where did the arts that tarot is built upon begin? We must look far into the past, because unlocking portents has been entwined with our nature since the earliest of days.

The oldest surviving tarot deck was commissioned by the Visconti family and created around 1420. The same Visconti whose relatives include Sister Manfreda, elected Pope by the heretical Guglielmitic sect, and the inspiration for The Papessa, later known as The High Priestess.

Tarot has flourished across the centuries in France, with decks such as the Marseille, and England, with the Rider-Waite Smith, leading to its position today as one of the most widely known and used oracles. Beautiful in all its glorious variations.

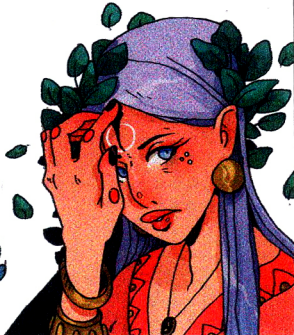
The cards can be divided into two main parts: Major Arcana, from The Fool to The World, and the Minor Arcana, from





the Ace of Wands through to the King of Disks.

'Arcana' means 'mystery', thus the Major Arcana can be seen as the cards that comprise the 'Greater Mystery'. Expect more symbolic layers when these appear in a reading. They speak to your inner journey or significant moments in your life. Reading any of the Tarot requires a connection to the intuition, but when it comes to the Majors we need to be prepared to swim in the deep end!





KEY WORDS: Adventure, Naïvety, Freedom

This is the beginning of all journeys. All that connects the Fool with her past life fits into her little knapsack. She is surrounded by the first beasts to have bonded with humans, tens of thousands of years in the past. Mutual comfort is derived from the company they provide across unmapped Nature.

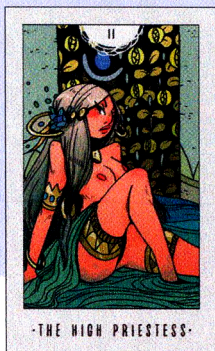
She is ready, yet too innocent; no caution, no fear. Unmoored, the earthly realm is no longer enough for her – leaving won't be easy but it's worth the risk. Her companions do not hold her back anymore, they stand with her, indifferent, confronting the wind. The challenges ahead are vast but it doesn't matter now. Good luck!



KEY WORDS: Knowledge, Skill, Power

Fully aware of his masterly capabilities, the Magician grasps the staff that holds the vast expanse of the sky above the earth. One hand high connecting to the spiritual world, one hand low connecting to all that is physical. Confidence overflowing, he leans back and scans the horizon for all he can learn.

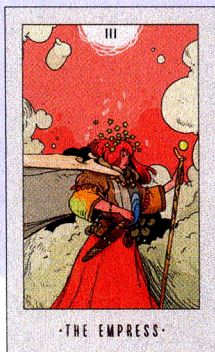
As he is a natural companion to spirits, the Numen gather around him. The birds look skywards, reminding him to raise his aspirations. The snake climbs upwards, willing them all to use their power to ascend.



KEY WORDS: Mystery, Self-Awareness, Vigil

The High Priestess sits between two columns at the threshold to the sacred temple. Guardian of both the spiritual realm and temple's knowledge. She is the keeper. She has the power to decide who enters or not. Crowned with the horns of the sacred bull, she silently asserts her authority.

The veil of the temple is decorated with pomegranates, symbol of the divine feminine and fertility. This separates the seen from unseen, the conscious from the unconscious. The High Priestess may not appear to discourage your trespass, but you would do well to remember which mysteries are forbidden. Show patience, look inwards and know thyself.



KEY WORDS: Femininity, Creativity, Strength

The Empress confronts the wind! The power of femininity opposing the old world. She is the nurturer of new concepts, growth and the change that a new generation inevitably brings.

In her left hand she holds a sceptre, revealing her control of the physical and the sexual. Crowned by stars, a symbol of the divine power of ideas – the pure creativity to modify the entire cosmos, the power a mother can hold bringing new life into the world.



KEY WORDS: Support, Discipline, Reliability

The Emperor represents tradition, the backbone of the state, the oak at the centre of the forest. He rules with discipline; his sword stuck in the soil represents a pillar, the trunk of a tree, firm and unyielding.

The Numen perched upon his arm acts as silent observer, both of the Emperor's actions and of his realm. Guardian of the Guardian.

The Emperor's self-sacrifice and determination are represented in the blood that is shed. Blood that evaporates into steam under the force of his fiery will. And the blood that flows feeds the ground, all the new things growing from past deeds. Pragmatic, responsible and stoic; the Emperor abides!



KEY WORDS: Consciousness, Religion, Sacred

The sacred temple's other entrance is guarded by The Hierophant. She holds the Papal Cross, symbolising religious authority. Three branches: the conscious, sub-conscious and super-conscious. The Latin root of 'religion' has been associated with '*re-ligare*', meaning to connect or bind. The Hierophant shows a binding to the sacred and the transcendent in all its ritualized forms – those ancient traditions around which a community passes its identity through time.

On either side of her sit two dogs. Guides, psychopomps and holy beasts. Because even those initiated teachers that lead others should realize where their power truly comes from.



KEY WORDS: Harmony, Sexuality, Comfort

The Lovers recline, blessed under moonlight. Power is exchanged and explored as one supports the other. Their polarized differences merging into union.

Snakes, symbolizing sexual energy, writhe beside the Lovers. Their bodies stretching away in unseeable distances. Do two snakes form a coupling, or does one creature encompass the World, each end reuniting?

Masculine, feminine, sexual or platonic – it matters not. Love is an endless force that embraces everything and every being.



KEY WORDS: Success, Determination, Control

Rising from countless depths a creature has emerged. Following light, currents and the impulses of nature. The mysterious charioteer, shrouded and covered beneath the canopy, has firmly established his place upon the beast.

The birds perch atop the roof like sails helping to direct. But with no reins to speak of, the charioteer appears to propel the creature forward with willpower alone, such is his mastery of the physical realm and the ego.



KEY WORDS: Compassion, Courage, Self-Control

She embraces the beast, bringing a much-sought reconciliation; gentle regret lingers on her face that this moment has been so long coming. A well-earned path of experience and self-knowledge has led to now, when what seemed other, feared, distrusted is now familiar and welcomed. Only through compassion and acceptance can these primal elements be recognized as truly part of the self.

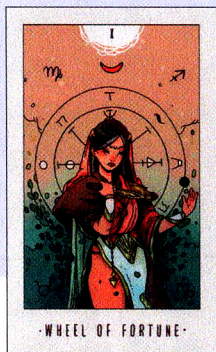
Now is the time that her passions serve her, rather she her passions!



KEY WORDS: Inner Journey, Wisdom, Solitude

The Hermit holds aloft the lamp which has guided him all the way here, to the Portal. Through this Portal he will not leave this world, but transcend it. Once a beast, now he is raised to walk upon two legs and has an almost-human appearance. He is accompanied by the spirit of the snake and the eagle – friends to those who abandoned the accepted ways of the world.

The Hermit's one remaining barrier to passing through the Portal are his antlers; for only by losing the last vestiges of his former life can he move forward. Only then can his journey inwards begin.

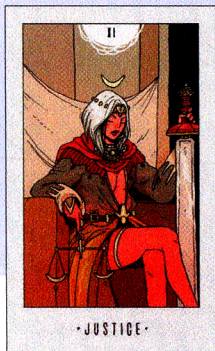


KEY WORDS: Karma, Life Cycle, Disoriented

Karmic law, represented here by the grand Wheel, is forever moving, forever changing. Spinning like the engine at the centre of the Universe.

She stands before it, as poised and as balanced as the pendulum that hangs from her waist. A passive void hovers above one hand and an active blade hangs down from the other.

Every effect has been led there by a cause. Even if the Universe continues to surprise us and appear as if it's a cascade of random events, truly nothing is random. Good, bad? She does not differentiate and cares little for intentions. For her it is only the drive of the Wheel, the turn of time, the twist of fate.

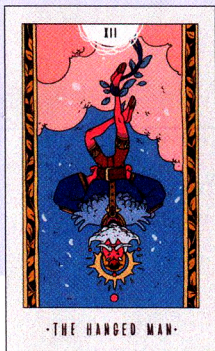


KEY WORDS: Truth, Severity, Responsibility

Justice is sitting before two columns, representing the essential balance of the duality which supports our moral system. She looks down with serenity, as she already knows what direction you're going to take. She does not fear her decisions that will result.

In the middle, hanging from the columns, there is a veil symbolising the mysterious nature of that duality. In one hand she holds a scale, with which she measures our acts (acts that always carry consequences), and in the other hand she holds a huge sword embedded into the ground, representing stability and the ability to make bold decisions.

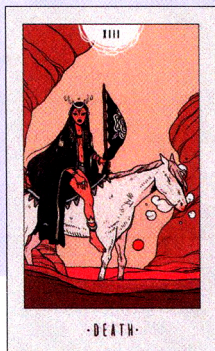
Justice may appear harsh, but remember: she is always fair.



KEY WORDS: Unknown, Patience, Redemption

Hanging upside down from a celestial branch the old man falls, finding his balance as he does so. One foot tied to the branch and one foot free. Is he there of his own free will or has a crowd thrown him into this space as a sacrifice or scapegoat?

The Hanged Man, thoroughly independent and his own master, cares little either way! He is resigned to this trial and the gifts it will bring. For no matter how challenging his predicament may seem, everything depends on the way you look at it.

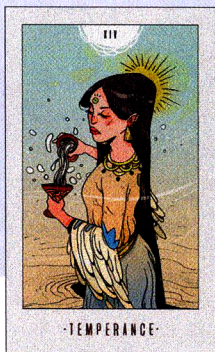


KEY WORDS: Peace, Fear, Resurgence

Behold Death! Behold Beauty! Two facets of the same experience. Death is a necessary mediator to complete the cycle of forgiveness. That's why Her expression is neutral; there is no aggression. She is a passive force that helps to pass the essential stages and allows for reconciliation with the past.

Under the red sun of dusk She comes to accompany you. Cloaked in mysteries, represented by her black robes and mounted upon her white horse, symbolizing purity and regeneration. Her presence announcing the necessity of a new day.

Death is not the end of life; rather, She presents the inevitability of the next stage, even if the transition may cause fear or sorrow at what is lost.



KEY WORDS: Harmony, Balance, Focus

Here all is in equilibrium. Half submerged, part human, part bird. With serene focus, the water flows from one chalice to another in an act of pure alchemy. With golden knowledge inspiring her thoughts and an awakened third eye, she instinctively sees where balance is sought.

Neither excess nor abstinence; neither harsh severity nor meek mercy. Seek the middle path, seek harmony.

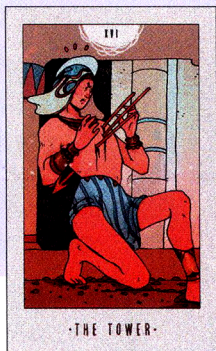


KEY WORDS: Temptation, Manipulation, Beauty

The bible describes Lucifer as the angel whose beauty surpassed the rest. The Fall took its toll, yet he remains more beguiling and seductive than the goat-beast as which he is sometimes depicted. And all the more terrifying for it.

The left eye is void of sight and bruised with experience. The right a black mass of creativity, inspiration and temptation. The reversed pentagram on his forehead represents desires that overcome reason.

With renewed strength and subtly new forms, the omnipotence of the devil adapts to each new age. The Devil confronts us with the terror of living alongside the evil of the world.



KEY WORDS: Revelation, Transformation, Chaos

Pierced from on high, in seemingly divine retribution, the unbeatable colossus falls. So assured, so confident, nearly to the point of arrogance, his assumptions of invincibility are now rudely shattered. The shock of being vulnerable is equal to the pain of the piercing arrows.

Towering columns, Babel-like in their expression of human hubris and vanity, remain standing – for now. But assumptions are questioned. Are we truly god-like? How firm are our foundations? When all is destroyed, how do we re-build? It is through The Tower that these questions will be answered.

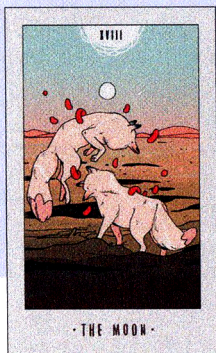


KEY WORDS: Inspiration, Spirituality, Tranquility

She rests pouring the water from her two jars; life seems to emerge directly from the water.

The earth and the water are related to the conscious and unconscious, the waking and the dream realms. Three paths of consciousness pour over into the unknown, two of them streams and a third represented by her skirt. By each path a bird watches, about to take flight with inspiration. Glowing with the gold of opportunity.

Here in this tranquil pool, shimmering with the stars above, is the space to heal, reflect and look ahead to new paths once hidden. Seize this moment of hope.



KEY WORDS: Subconscious, Melancholy, Delusion

The Moon rises above the far mountains. Dusk departs and the world shifts slowly from the conscious to the unconscious; from a state of knowledge to one of intuition.

On the plain below, under the ghost light of the sky, two sacred foxes as pale as the Moon are dancing to welcome the night. Does one leap, as if to catch its prey? Or does it float ethereally, defying the rational and the logical? A threshold is crossed, and now actions that are rich in improvisation and creativity take to the fore.

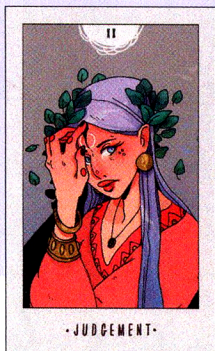


KEY WORDS: Movement, Development, Unstoppable

A young woman calmly leaps forwards, accompanied by a sky spirit on either side.

In her hand, the Sun appears in the form of a charm its light shining down to illuminate this half-shadowed world.

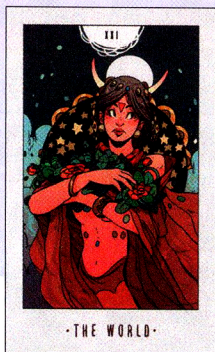
Just as ancient rituals were thought to bring the Sun afresh to the sky everyday, it is her joyous task to return the Sun to the sky and reawaken the world. An act of enlightenment both deeply personal and profoundly universal.



KEY WORDS: Inner Surrender, Self-Doubt, Resignation

As the mind is opened Judgement is revealed. The white ring between her eyes, representing the circular nature of time, has been broken in order for a profound shift in development to begin.

Something calls from the abyss within to the infinite beyond. Higher meaning, greater depth. A radical intimacy with yourself, your past, your nature. In this moment of scrutiny, now is the time to change, evolve, step up to the role that the universe always intended for you!



KEY WORDS: Accomplishment, Expansion, Reintegration

The World, in all her glory, beauty and abundance, represents an ending cycle. As the ancient Magdalenian Sorcerer, the human dressed in beasts' attire, she has mastered the lessons of the Numen. Transcending at the moment when all is complete.

The World is crowned with horns that encircle Sister Moon, the subconscious is embraced and all aspects of the self are brought unto one. The abundance in her arms shows all she has gained. The starry mantle is a sign of worldly illusions now penetrated and reality seen in truth.

Acknowledge the gifts that have been gained and the achievement hard won. Revel in this time of glory!

THE MINOR ARCANA

Just like traditional playing cards, the Minor Arcana is split into four suits: Wands, Cups, Swords and Pentacles. These run from Ace to 10, followed by Page, Knight, Queen and King. These last four are known as Court cards. In each suit you will find a common theme, all with elemental associations.

WANDS: Fire. Willpower, creativity, projects and actions.

CUPS: Water. Relationships, imagination and inner experiences.

SWORDS: Air. Thought and the intellect.

PENTACLES: Earth. Work, finances and the natural world.

There are also connections between the the numbers in each suit. For example, all the Aces often denote the start of something new – what that ‘something



new' is depends on the suit. These connections may appear complex, but actually they make learning the tarot much easier.

When a Minor Arcana card appears in a reading, it usually represents an everyday matter over which you have influence. Court cards often relate to people. That might be yourself, or perhaps it's someone else. Only your intuition can decide!





ACE OF WANDS: The tribe together grasps toward the wand of fire and all the creative, empowering and destructive ways it will affect their lives. An expression of primal will at the start of the endeavour.

2 OF WANDS: The young mage has the world in his hand but must first prove his potential. The two wands symbolize the sacred gate, the difficult path he is going to follow to initiate his power. He is ready to cross, but a snake around his neck slows him down – maybe he is not quite ready for this rite of passage...

3 OF WANDS: The wise mage pierces his three wands firmly into the ground, reflecting the confidence he has in himself and his powers now that achievements have been accomplished. His purposes are clear and he is ready for all the challenges ahead. A snake crawls around his feet, showing us that danger and unexpected events are always around.

4 OF WANDS: A mother leads her daughter to an ancient cult. For



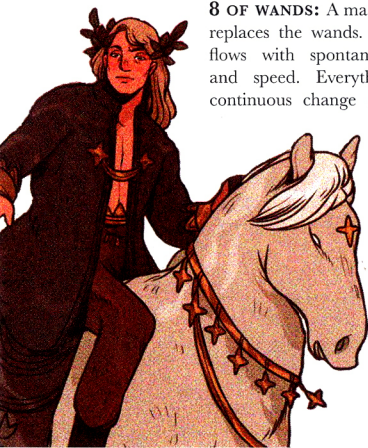
now they are within the structure they have created and the comfort it brings, but optimism met with care will be needed for the unknown path ahead.

5 OF WANDS: The sacred ceremony commences, with the initiate standing amidst four priestesses. Her wand opposes theirs – it is only through challenge and that the initiate's full potential will be realized.

6 OF WANDS: A young man moves at speed to secure the laurel of his victory. Recognize your successes, but do not lose sight of the balance between pride and humility.

7 OF WANDS: The battle has already begun. A true fight, or sparring in celebration of victory? Either way joy is taken in the conflict and progress is made.

8 OF WANDS: A mass of snakes replaces the wands. Everything flows with spontaneity, grace and speed. Everything is in continuous change and, whilst



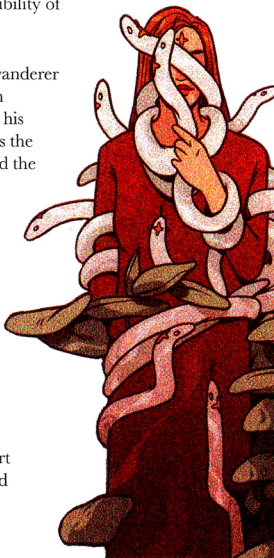
the direction is not yet clear, all will be grounded in the end.

9 OF WANDS: With lantern in hand the woman follows the path. Behind her, there is a descending mountain and in front of it there are eight wands embedded in the ground. Her fixed stare and ready wand express her determination. Regardless of whether the wands are a resource or an obstacle, she is ready to move ahead.

10 OF WANDS: Surrounded by snakes, yet calm. She has accepted the heavy load and is at one with her surroundings. Burdens can be lighter if we accept the responsibility of our acts.

PAGE OF WANDS: The wanderer has stopped to gaze upon the landscape, resting on his wand. The fire represents the seeking of knowledge and the creativity within. They travel in the desert with few resources, but with an inquisitive mind and the ability to conjure ideas at speed. The Page counters inexperience and adversity with ease.

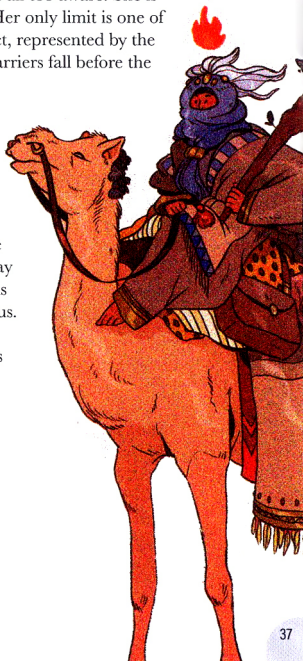
KNIGHT OF WANDS: This Knight of Wands embarks across the desert with a singular mind and



passion. He has on his head the feathers of a sacred bird, giving him the power of clairvoyance and revealing his path. However, even though the path is clear, all those resources he carries on his camel will be needed on his journey – he should be careful not to use them recklessly.

QUEEN OF WANDS: A Queen of truly astonishing power, of which she is all too aware! She is utterly unstoppable. Her only limit is one of potential inner conflict, represented by the star behind her. All barriers fall before the Queen of Wands.

KING OF WANDS:
The King stands against the gate, in a position of determination and leadership. The snake on his arm may display an inner battle, but his powers are tremendous. The inverted flame demonstrates both his mastery and ability to defend against all who are below him. A King of immense skill and energy.





ACE OF CUPS: From the Chalice of Life, knowledge pours onto the thirsting multitudes. As Rumi said, the truth is a crystal that fell from the sky and broke into thousand pieces. The Ace of Cups heralds the start of a significant emotional phase that will bring an element of truth into one's life.

2 OF CUPS: A joyful ritual of exchange. A magical union – possibly high in sexual tension, as symbolized by the snakes – consumes them now. A connection of depth is made!

3 OF CUPS: A circle of three is formed and their inner energy fills the cups of emotions. Here all is shared. This is the time to celebrate amongst friends! Seek support and show your love.

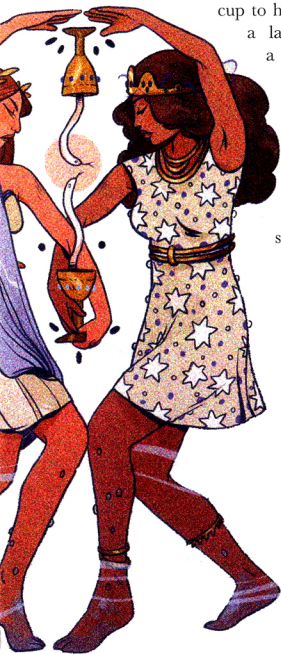


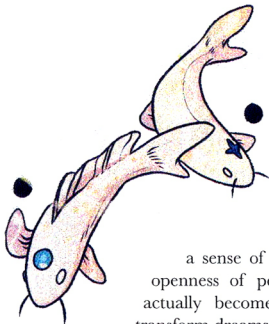
4 OF CUPS: A golden fish of opportunity and wonder emerges, yet the man stares forth with a look of disinterest. A change of perspective may be required to see those marvels that are already presenting themselves within your life.



5 OF CUPS: From the gentle spilling of her cups the river flows, yet as the final cup empties her labours seem to come to nought. All depends on balance and measure. Disappointment and defeat seem to overwhelm the day. Loss is felt, but life, just like the river, will inevitably flow on.

6 OF CUPS: One child offers a smoking cup to her brother, who holds a lamb. This represents a sense of nostalgia, especially childhood memories, in all its wonderful and melancholy ways. The sharing of gifts is an expression of selflessness and sacrifice.



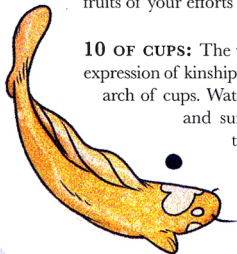


7 OF CUPS: Six fish swim around a cup, each one with the chalice incarnated into a gem on their foreheads – giving each one the power of transforming into the chalice. There is

a sense of the fantastical and wild openness of potential that may never actually become reality. How do you transform dreams into accomplishments?

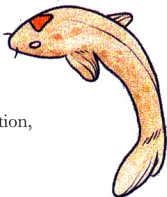
8 OF CUPS: The seven chalice-fish dance around an eighth fish transformed into a person. She allows herself to be courted by her past companion, ignoring the possibilities of the new path that has opened in front of her. Perhaps now, having evolved, it is time to move forward by herself.

9 OF CUPS: A man sits on a mound of soil with his hands resting on his knees. The abundance of the nine chalices sitting behind him is reflected in the pleasure of the two fish as they dive from cup to cup. The fruits of your efforts are there to be enjoyed!



10 OF CUPS: The young women dance in an expression of kinship and sheer bliss beneath the arch of cups. Water from the holy cup flows and surrounds them. Appreciate the the love, beauty and happiness that flows in your life!

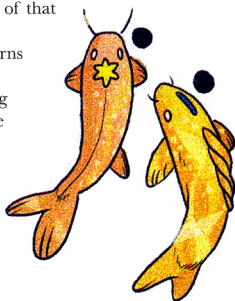
PAGE OF CUPS: Like a fish jumping from the ocean's surface, the Page of Cups rises above the sea. With graceful balance she extends one foot. Imagination, intuition, sensitivity – such are the playthings of the Page.

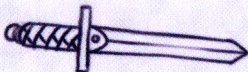


KNIGHT OF CUPS: The young Knight, sun behind her head, extends forth her cup. Passive, calm and free from commitment, she is in love with Love itself.

QUEEN OF CUPS: The Queen holds the chalice from which pours the world's water. Submerged, relaxed and in full grasp of her power, she is at one with the subconscious rather than the mundane and practical. Her third eye signifies exceptionally strong intuition – perhaps even psychic skills.

KING OF CUPS: The King looks at us in a questioning manner while water pours from his cup. The golden fish represent the spiritual awakening; they recognize the value of that natural spring and they pursue it. His golden horns show his mastery of the Numen, which is causing creatures to stir from the water. 'Strength in compassion' is the King's motto.





ACE OF SWORDS: Every one of those hands wants to reach the sword, but the one which finally grabs it will receive both a blessing and a curse. The Sword symbolizes determination and inner strength, and all the challenges for which they will be needed.

2 OF SWORDS: She is blind, testing her inner vision through the eyes of her bird Numen. The two swords represent the duality of her choices; she must juggle them, trusting only in the birds' guidance.

3 OF SWORDS: One man consoles his compatriot, who has been pierced by three swords. Was the source of the pain an enemy in plain sight, or was it treachery?

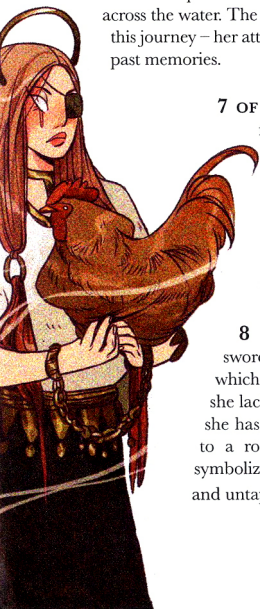
4 OF SWORDS: A woman reclines and reflects, and a sword opens the gate into her consciousness. The three swords are



suspended above through her calm thought and focus. Withdraw, rest and recuperation are of benefit.

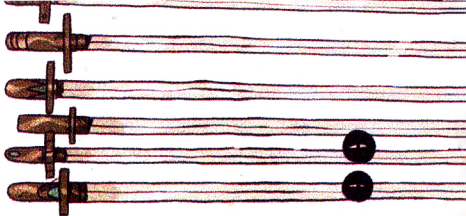
5 OF SWORDS: Three birds fly through five swords, trying to avoid the jeopardy around them. The swords form a lattice, like the bars of a prison cell. Escape is possible but carries its own danger.

6 OF SWORDS: The woman seeks a new shore but carries weight in her passage. Six swords pierce her boat. There is near-perfect silence as the boat glides across the water. The cranes are her guides on this journey – her attempt to leave behind her past memories.



7 OF SWORDS: Punishment for betrayal. His calm face and the relaxed hands make this execution seem like a mundane formality. Normative morality and the consequences of breaking its rules.

8 OF SWORDS: The swords form a cage through which she can easily pass, yet she lacks the sight to know that she has done so. She is chained to a rooster, the animal spirit symbolizing the passage of time and untapped empowerment.



9 OF SWORDS: The wind blows between the swords. Mental anguish. She is physically defeated, but with her last act of will she raises her arm to free the bird of her sorrows.

10 OF SWORDS: Impaled and resigned. Her acceptance is total and she departs her body as the sun starts to break the night. Calm can be found anytime, anywhere – even in moments of our greatest pains – if we are prepared for it.

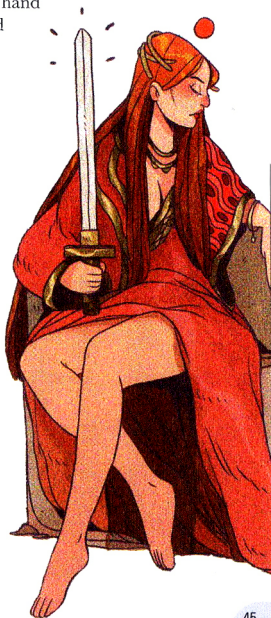
PAGE OF SWORDS: The Page faces the wind while holding her sword up, ready to strike. A powerful idealist. This card relates to assertiveness and the ability to hold firm to your true beliefs.



KNIGHT OF SWORDS: Strong in purpose, the Knight raises her sword against wind and straight into the sky. This Knight lacks fear but certainly not confidence! It seems like she is hailing us before an imminent battle. The moon, seen as a charm above her head, gives her strength and direction.

QUEEN OF SWORDS: As the day comes to an end, the Queen is ready to make her final decision. Her left hand raises a sword, straight and bold, as a symbol of her firmness and authority. She is ready to confront all the challenges ahead, but her face reflects the weight on her soul.

KING OF SWORDS: The King rests on a concrete throne whilst raising his sword in a sign of determination. At the same time, the other hand is resting gently on the white dog. The strength and flexibility of a true leader. The crescent moon up above his head shows us that his knowledge is not only rational but also spiritual.





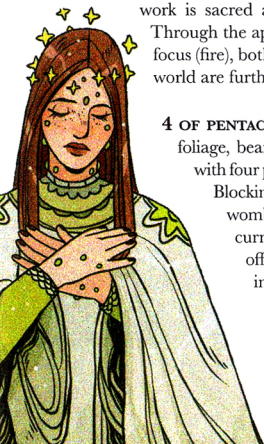
ACE OF PENTACLES: The hands grasp towards the great disk which rules over the world's material fates. Inner value in the everyday world becomes clear. New endeavours, financially and in home life, will prosper.

2 OF PENTACLES: Two opposing sacred dogs, half-buried, juggle with the entwined pentacles. A seemingly never-ending battle for balance. An agile and playful approach are required to juggle tasks.

3 OF PENTACLES: A young girl rests her hands over her chest, pausing and reflecting. The triangle, the pentacles, the beatified crown, the laurels – her work is sacred as much as it is physical. Through the application of craft (air) and focus (fire), both the material and spiritual world are furthered.

4 OF PENTACLES: Nestled deep in thick foliage, bearings lost, the girl lies rigid with four pentacles holding her down. Blocking her head, her chest, her womb, her sacral root. Life is currently grounded, yet sealed off from the energy moving internally.

5 OF PENTACLES:
Fallen in the snow.
The five pentacles float



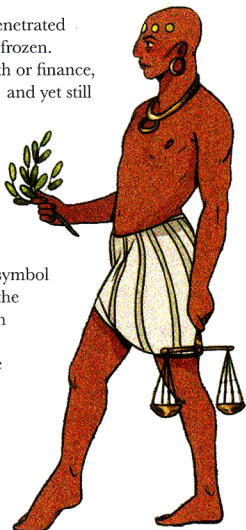
over her body, the cold has penetrated deep inside and her tears are frozen. Hardships, especially of health or finance, are felt to be suffered alone... and yet still she endures.

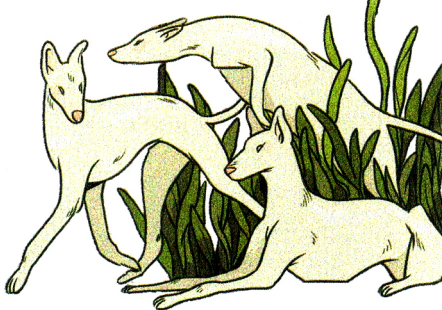
6 OF PENTACLES: A man moves forward in the sand, barefoot and unshrouded, with only his spirit guide for company. In one hand holds the scale, symbol of balance, and in the other the laurel branch. He is on a path of purification and initiation. The spirit and the initiate are in harmony, each giving to the other in order to cross the desert. Give, receive and grow.

7 OF PENTACLES:

A long-haired woman rests upon her staff. Fruits are scattered across the ground and the spirit of an ox is beside her. Her labours have been rewarded with a large harvest and she reflects on the cycles of life.

8 OF PENTACLES: A stranger, hidden behind a ritual mask and armed with a primitive weapon, sits beside the temple. Do they challenge us or do they call to us? Either path will require great work and will present equally great rewards.





9 OF PENTACLES: She dances alone with two birds. Twisting and spiralling, the floating pentacles and birds follow her path. Time seems to flutter with the capture and release of the birds. She has mastered both herself and her surroundings with surety and self-awareness.

10 OF PENTACLES: Half in the wild and half in the concrete realm of man, whose structures loom over the grass, the spirit pack emerges and moves towards humanity. This heralds both settling and domesticity, but also the arrival of magic and spirit within the everyday.

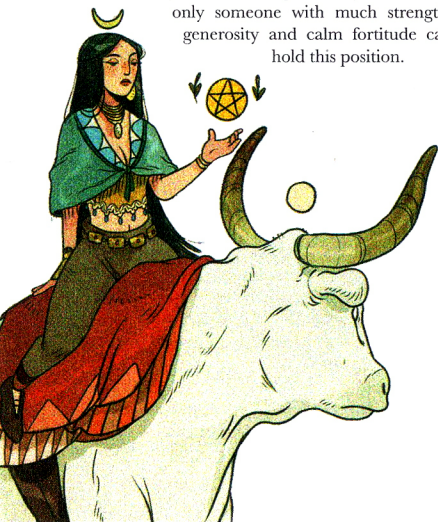
PAGE OF PENTACLES: The Page moves forward with a determined step, holding a disk in his left arm and a branch in his right. With his eyes concealed, he is studiously following his inner path.

KNIGHT OF PENTACLES: Grounded and deeply rooted. She has dominated the beast in a gentle manner. The astral and the earthly have formed an alignment as expressed through five elements: the

moon, the pentacle, the sun, the bull's horns and the moon charm above her head.

QUEEN OF PENTACLES: The Queen of Pentacles sits upon her throne in a defiant mode. Perhaps this is an expression of her vanity, or perhaps it is our own envy and admiration when looking upon her. As the plants that grow around her throne show, this Queen has an easy affinity with Nature. Healing is amongst her many talents.

KING OF PENTACLES: The King, a tired soul, has the responsibility of managing the realm's wealth. His reliable counsellor, a crow, is there to support. Envied by others but personally exhausted, only someone with much strength, generosity and calm fortitude can hold this position.



READING THE TAROT

There is no right or wrong way to read the tarot; there's only your way! With practice, your methods will change and your skills will most likely improve too. The best advice is to read the tarot often and be open to new ways of working with the cards. Be curious and don't be ashamed to borrow from others – the tarot community is all the stronger when we share and learn from each other!

But we all need to start somewhere, so here is a step-by-step guide for one way of reading the cards:

1. Prepare the cards. Cleanse and bless the cards before use. One such method is to leave them out under a New or Full moon, but you will find many other options with a little research. Choose a style that best fits your own path. Use an “interview” tarot spread to get to know your cards (there are plenty of variants online). These preparation steps can be seen as both activating the cards and helping you form a bond. Store them somewhere high up and slightly out of the way.
2. Choose your question with care. Phrase in a manner that best suits the tarot – avoid yes or no questions. Try to stick with ‘What?’, ‘How?’ and ‘Why?’ And ask as many follow-up questions as you like.
3. Select your spread. We are fortunate to live in a world where you can easily find so many different tarot spreads



online! Choose one that best fits the question. It is always worth learning a few simple, versatile spreads for when a friend needs urgent guidance. The 4-card spreads included in this booklet are good examples.

4. Shuffle. Let the querent shuffle freely in their own style. Try to guide and focus them on their question as they do so. What is the background to the situation? How are things currently? What are their hopes and concerns for the future? Ask them to visualize related people or places.
5. The cards are returned to the reader who fans them out. The querent selects the cards one-by-one, and the reader places them in the spread.
6. First look at how each card relates to its position in the spread, then see how they connect with one another. Do they reinforce or negate other cards? How does one lead to the next? Try to see the overall story or message before you.
7. Take your time, then speak. Let your message flow and evolve. If new perspectives come to you as you describe the cards, go with it.
8. Does the querent have any questions? If something has arisen as a result of the spread, maybe a simple one-card draw will help clarify. Resist asking the same question again.



SPREADS

Tarot spreads are the way in which the cards are laid out in a reading, with significance associated with each position.

This book gives an introduction to some simple spreads that will be great way to get you started. These are easy to memorize and versatile for all sorts of queries. You will also find two spreads that have been specially created for the *White Numen Tarot*. These are a little more complex, but they will really help you explore the unique power of Alba's deck.

A quick online search will uncover all manner of alternative spreads. And once your confidence begins to grow, why not try creating spreads of your own? Explore, experiment and enjoy!

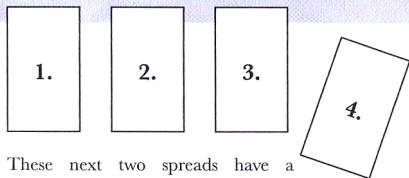
1.

ONE CARD SPREAD

Beginners start here

Whilst not a spread as such, nothing is quicker or simpler than shuffling and selecting a single card. Build this into a daily practice by drawing a card at the same time each day – this is a good practice to do in the morning to review the day ahead, or at night to look toward the next day. Return to your reading following day to repeat the practice and review your previous reading. Was your reading accurate, or could you perhaps have seen the card in a different light?

FOUR CARD SPREADS



These next two spreads have a similar layout. These are great, simple all-around spreads that are handy to use for all sorts of queries! The numbers on the illustration above show the order in which you draw the cards.

1. Past 2. Present 3. Future 4. Advice

When thinking about the future, be sure you have set a timeframe with the querent before they shuffle. Shorter timeframes tend to mean more specific answers. Help the querent think about the past, present and future while they shuffle the deck. If you're wondering how you're progressing as a tarot reader, look at your accuracy regarding the past when you do this spread!

1. Positive 2. Negative 3. Result 4. Advice

Every card in your tarot deck can be read as both positive and negative. This is always a useful spread to try with all sorts of queries, and it's also a great way to get to know the multi-faceted meanings of the cards. Having a positive card in the negative position usually means the negatives of the situation are fairly weak – and vice versa.

Note - the advice in both of these spreads will normally refer to the negative card or the outcome. To get the most from the advice card, think about where you felt uncertainty in the rest of the reading, and use your intuition to work out what fits best.

BOND OF THE NUMEN

This spread unlocks where the Numen appear and support in your life. Whilst relatively simple, it requires a slightly different approach in the way the cards are read.

The focus in this spread is where the Numen appear and how do they interact in the card. Do they give counsel? Do they support or perhaps obstruct? Not all cards contain a Numen. In these cases, this suggests a lack of their involvement in this realm and the card should be considered less significant. The one card that matters not if a Numen appears is the advice card. This is the Spirits' message to you. Heed well!

Consider this spread an activation of the deck. Henceforth, you can call upon the Numen for their advice in a one-card draw.



1. **AIR.** How do the Numen interact in the realm of the mind? Look carefully if the Swords suit appears.
2. **FIRE.** How do the Numen interact in the realm of the creativity, projects and willpower? Look carefully if the Wands suit appears.
3. **WATER.** How do the Numen interact in the realm of the emotions and relationships? Look carefully if the Cups suit appears.



4.



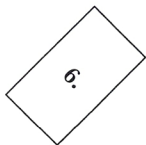
3.

5.

1.



2.



4. **EARTH.** How do the Numen interact in the realm of the practical matters, money and health? Look carefully if the Pentacles suit appears.
5. **SPIRIT.** Consider this your spirit ally. The Numen to which you have the closest kinship.
6. **ADVICE.** A message from the Numen to you at this moment in time.

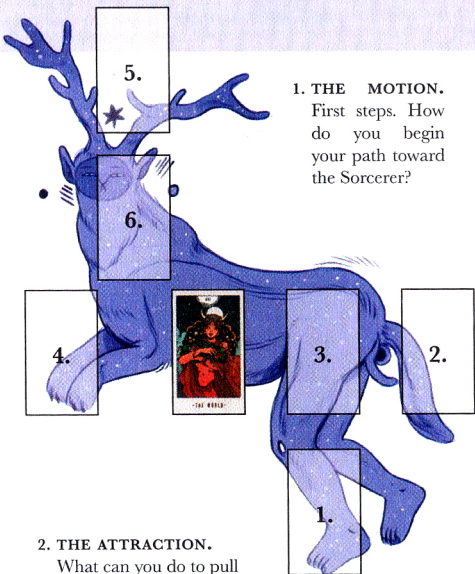
PATH TO THE SORCERER

One day in 1914, near the Volp River in Southern France, three brothers made the most astonishing discovery: a 65km network of caves containing magnificent paintings and engravings from the Magdalenian Period. Art that was about 45,000 years old! Amongst these incredible scenes of bison, stags, reindeer and mammoths was one picture more strange and primeval still, the 'Sorcerer'. Part man, part animal; a *therianthrope*. Was this the Horned God, a charm used to help aid the hunt, or a shaman? It's a question without an answer, but its power is undeniable.

In the *White Numen* deck, this figure – a final union of spirit and humanity – is an aspect of The World. Where the Numen have been external forces in all the Major Arcana leading up to this card, in The World they are internalized and fully integrated into the soul. This spread explores that connection on a personal level. What messages do the Numen have for you in order to reach that stage of development shown in The World? How do you become the Sorcerer?

Before shuffling, remove The World from the deck and place it to one side. Shuffle. There's no need to think of a time period; you may be close to this goal already, or have a lifetime's work ahead! As you shuffle and place the cards, be calm, be receptive; sense that helpful spirits are around you wishing to guide.

Place The World centrally, as shown, and the other cards sequentially:



1. THE MOTION.

First steps. How do you begin your path toward the Sorcerer?

2. THE ATTRACTION.

What can you do to pull the spirits closer to you?

3. **THE DRIVE.** The root desire that can be used to propel you along the path.

4. **THE CRAFT.** The skills you have that should be developed to help your growth.

5. **THE FIGHT.** What do you need to push aside on this path?

6. **THE IDEAL.** How does the union between spirit and querent express itself?

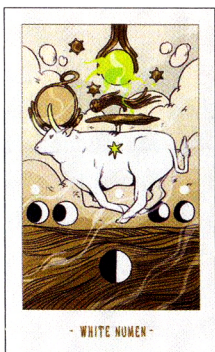
EXTRA CARDS



KEY WORDS: Void, Pending Loss, Corrosion

The two Numen face their own extinction. Two branches upside down, just about to burn into the sacred fire. The world is about to be spun upside-down, and yet they still guard their altar, which drowns slowly into the depths.

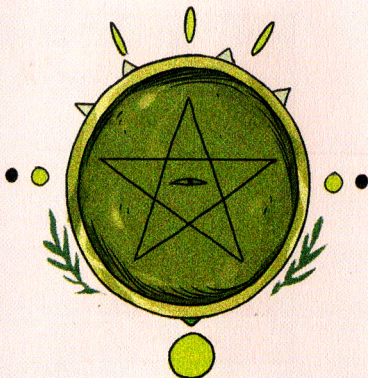
Once absorbed by the haze, their sacred nature shall depart – simple beasts once more. Still with the promise of a re-encounter of the divine. The Black Numen symbolize clinging on to causes that may seem lost. Distraction and confusion. A challenge to faith, with the knowledge that it shall return.



KEY WORDS: Creation, Starting Point, Divine Inspiration

The gods' father runs free across the virgin earth's plains. In apparent weightlessness, just like the bison in ancient cave paintings, it traverses the world making sure that all of Creation is in order.

Above him dimensions open and the power of the sun glows between his horns. The bronze stars and bird guide him as the morning breaks. The White Numen symbolizes creation through action. The perfect and divinely inspired path resulting from movement and momentum. Act, innovate, make the world anew!



www.liminal11.com

www.lmnm