



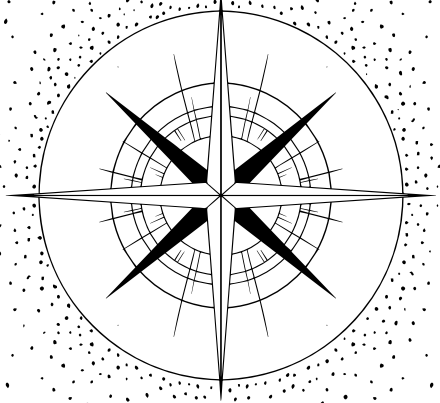
ORIENS TAROT GUIDEBOOK



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Special thanks to T.D.Cloud for
putting my thoughts into words
and to the wonderful Auriel
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I couldn't have done this
without any of your help and
assistance and I am thankful for
your love and friendship.

INDEX

INTRODUCTION

History of Tarot	03
Purpose of Tarot	04
Bonding with Tarot	05
Reading with Tarot	06
Interpreting Tarot	07
Spreads	08

MAJOR ARCANAS 13

Animal Inspiration	14
The Fool	20
The Magician	22
The High Priestess	24
The Empress	26
The Emperor	28
The Hierophant	30
The Lovers	32
The Chariot	34
Justice	36
The Hermit	38
Wheel of Fortune	40
Strength	42
The Hanged One	44
Death	46
Temperance	48
The Devil	50

The Tower	52
The Star	54
The Moon	56
The Sun	58
Judgement	60
The World	62

SUIT OF WANDS 64

Animal Inspiration	65
Ace of Wands	68
Two of Wands	70
Three of Wands	72
Four of Wands	74
Five of Wands	76
Six of Wands	78
Seven of Wands	80
Eight of Wands	82
Nine of Wands	84
Ten of Wands	86
Page of Wands	88
Knight of Wands	90
Queen of Wands	92
King of Wands	94

SUIT OF PENTACLES 96

Animal Inspiration	97
Ace of Pentacles	100
Two of Pentacles	102
Three of Pentacles	104
Four of Pentacles	106
Five of Pentacles	108
Six of Pentacles	110
Seven of Pentacles	112
Eight of Pentacles	114
Nine of Pentacles	116
Ten of Pentacles	118
Page of Pentacles	120
Knight of Pentacles	122
Queen of Pentacles	124
King of Pentacles	126



SUIT OF CUPS 128

Animal Inspiration	129
Ace of Cups	132
Two of Cups	134
Three of Cups	136
Four of Cups	138
Five of Cups	140
Six of Cups	142

Seven of Cups	144
Eight of Cups	146
Nine of Cups	148
Ten of Cups	150
Page of Cups	152
Knight of Cups	154
Queen of Cups	156
King of Cups	158

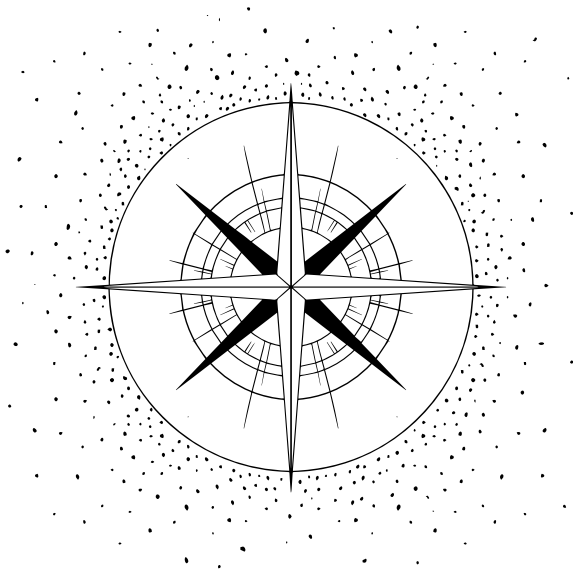
SUIT OF SWORDS 160

Animal Inspiration	161
Ace of Swords	164
Two of Swords	166
Three of Swords	168
Four of Swords	170
Five of Swords	172
Six of Swords	174
Seven of Swords	178
Eight of Swords	180
Nine of Swords	182
Ten of Swords	190
Page of Swords	192
Knight of Swords	194
Queen of Swords	196
King of Swords	198



Tarot reading is a personal experience,
relying heavily on interpretation by the diviner.

This guidebook was written to assist in your
readings. Feel free to disregard and follow your
own heart and voice in your journey of discovery.



THE HISTORY OF TAROT

Tarot cards had their humble beginnings during the mid-15th century throughout many parts of central and southern Europe. Using a standard 52-playing card deck and the addition of 22 pictorial—or trump—cards, aristocrats would play various games that toyed with ideas of aristocracy and nobility. Players enjoyed these games for their ability to mix and match different entities in amusing settings: a lowly Fool with the Queen of swords resting beside a Tower, for example.

Over time, however, players began finding much deeper meaning in the cards. Certain cards appeared at certain moments in their life to convey profound messages. The standard 52 card deck became known as the Minor Arcana, and the 22 trump cards, the Major Arcana. So it was in the mid-18th century that Tarot formally split off from the world of playing card games and became a divination tool of its own.



THE PURPOSE OF TAROT

Today with its esoteric qualities, Tarot card decks can serve many purposes such as helping you to find love or making important business decisions. While there is no wrong way to use Tarot cards, we find that using them to enhance our own intuitive abilities tends to provide us the most accurate answers to our lives. Going through challenging times such as a break up, the loss of a loved one, or a job termination, we can use our Tarot cards as an invaluable source of guidance along with our own natural intuition to discover profound answers.

As we pull a card and set it into our field of awareness, deep emotions and energies meet us to illuminate how our current struggles relate to what we've drawn. For example, pulling the Lovers card may bring up the sadness of a lost partner we have never fully grieved. Pulling the Four of Wands, on the other hand, may remind us of all the hard work we have done at our job and why we should be proud of ourselves. Using our own intuition in this way, Tarot cards serve to gently poke and prod at hidden areas of the soul that need to be brought into the light.



BONDING WITH YOUR TAROT

Bonding with your Tarot deck is an important step to take before starting your readings. As you look through your deck, see how pictures, colors, and themes are conveyed to communicate profound messages. Take time to feel yourself melding with the unique artistic style of the images, and become one with the vibration of the deck in your hand. It should feel like an extension of your own soul. You can also practice techniques on a daily basis to help you unite with the energy of your Tarot cards. Some of our recommended practices include:

- Keeping your deck safely stored with you at all times,
- Placing the cards under your pillow as you sleep, or beside you on a nightstand
- Performing blessings and rituals with your deck resting on a sacred altar
- Incense burning, sage smudging, and crystal charging over your deck
- Practicing card readings on a regular basis to build a connection with your deck.



READING WITH TAROT

Once you are ready to perform a reading, it is important to appropriately shuffle the deck. Remember that your Tarot cards should be treated delicately and with respect, so avoid bending the cards in any way that could cause strain to it. Instead, lay out your cards face down on a table or altar, spreading them around gently, feeling their energies underneath your fingertips.

Cutting the deck in its entirety before or after shuffling can also be a good way to be sure the cards are in a completely unique order. It's important that the universe has complete control of how the cards are arranged, so don't overthink it. **Use your intuition.**

Be sure to clearly set your intentions and question to the deck. Stay completely mindful and present of your actions, the words you say, and even the speed at which you move your hands. All these energies will be imparted into the reading, so be very conscious of what you are providing to your cards.

Check out page 8 - 11 for instructions on how to lay out different spreads.



INTERPRETING THE CARDS

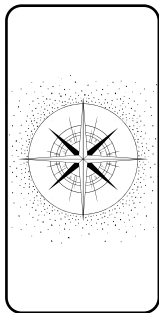
Whether you've pulled one card, or a set of cards in a spread, it's best to begin with a preliminary scan and weigh your general feeling. Do you feel mostly positive about the cards drawn, or do you sense a more difficult message coming through? Taking the time up front to check in with your intuition can greatly improve the overall quality of your reading.

After your initial scan, you will then want to read the cards individually for their specific meanings. If you are just starting out, it's best to use the guidebook as a reference. Once you have read each of the card's meanings, then it's time to put all the pieces together and discover what beautiful message the Tarot has to give you.

Over time, you'll learn the meanings of each card on your own and how to rely more on your own intuition to find deeper understanding. Each reading will be different, so don't worry if some messages come to you very clearly while others are more difficult. That's the nature of the cards.

SINGLE CARD SPREAD

Simple questions, Daily/Yearly/Monthly card



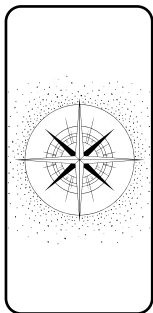
Set your intentions.

The single card spread is personally one of my favorite ways to do a Tarot reading. This is because it is one of the most direct ways of consulting the Tarot. This reading can also be used as a daily card or a monthly card, or as your Tarot card of the year. Having daily/monthly/yearly readings could help provide you with the intuition and messages you need to hear.

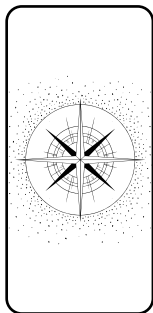
Just like any reading, it's important to set your intentions and make your questions clear. Ambiguous or close ended questions often lead to unclear or misintepreted readings. If you find that your question is complex in nature, you can always draw more cards to ask for clarification. You can also try another spread that may be more effective in answering your question.

THREE CARD SPREAD

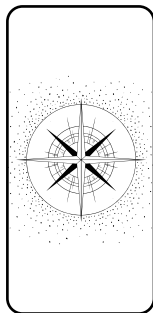
For more thorough answers, Beginning/Middle/End



Past/Situation



Present/Action



Future/Result

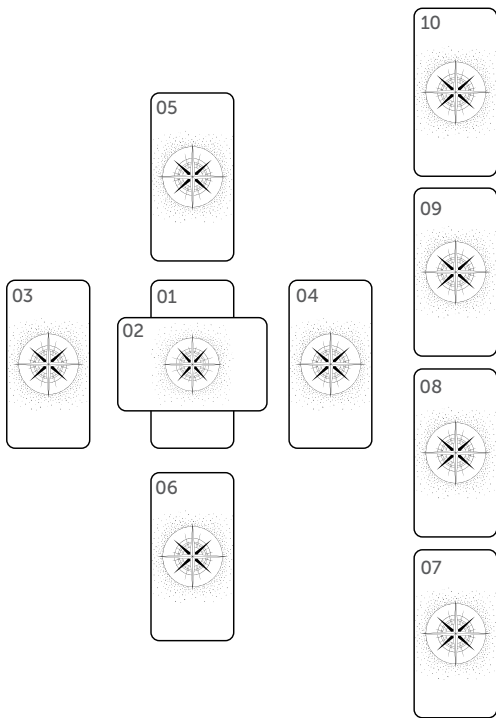
The three card spread is a simple and versatile way to use Tarot. You can use the cards to denote past, present, and future, or, situation, action, and result. If you're doing a reading involving your relationship with others or a job, you can interpret the first card as yourself, the second as the person/job that you're looking for insight into, and the third as the relationship between you both.

To do the three card spread, you can cut your shuffled deck into three piles and then reassemble it before pulling your cards. You can also spread the cards out face down and move them around before picking, rather than splitting the deck.

Pull three cards off the top of the deck or three cards that call to you from the shuffled spread, and position them to be read from left to right. Be sure to rely on your intuition to select the cards and try to not overthink during the selection process.

CELTIC CROSS SPREAD

Suitable for questions that require complex answers



01: Present

02: Challenge

03: Past

04: Future

05: Goals

06: Internal Influence

07: Action

08: External Influence

09: Advice

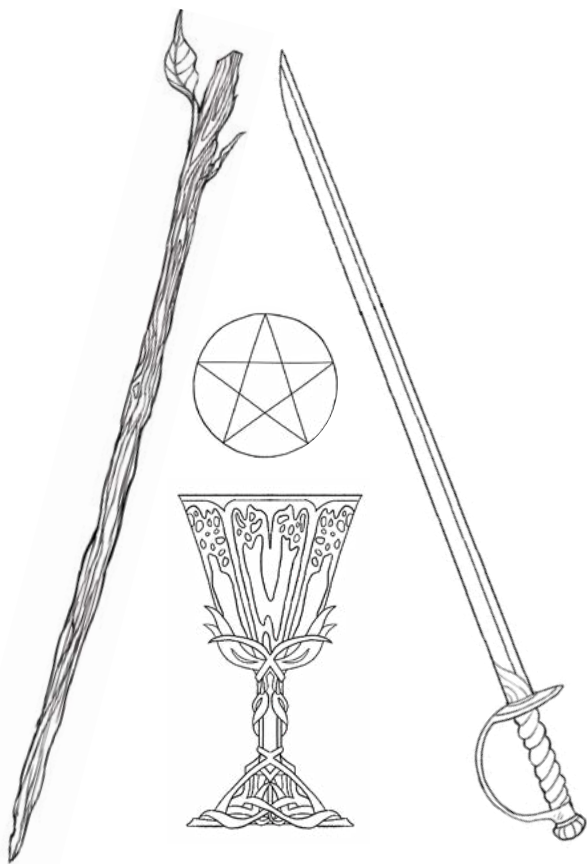
10: Result

The Celtic Cross uses ten Tarot cards, laid out in the pattern shown on the left. This is one of the most commonly used spreads due to its ability to provide a generous amount of information from the reading. There are several variations of this spread, so if the example provided does not suit your needs, feel free to look up for other variations that could better assist you

The Celtic Cross Tarot Spread can be broken down into two sections with cards 1 - 6 as the section that represent all the happenings in your life internally and externally. Cards 7 - 8 are used to provide the context to the situation and how it can affect you and how you can change it if desired.

To lay out the celtic cross spread, shuffle and cut your deck as you normally would. The cards can either be laid face-up, or they can be laid face-down and flipped as they are being read. Lay a card in the center of the table, then another on top of the first, but at 90 degrees (or crossing it). Then, place cards 3 - 6 around this first pair and then place cards 7 - 10 on the right of the surface, starting from bottom to the top.

- 01: Present** - Your current situation or state of mind.
- 02: Challenge** - The challenge or problem you face.
- 03: Past** - Events that led up to the current situation
- 04: Future** - What's likely to happen next.
- 05: Goals** - What you would like to accomplish.
- 06: Internal Influence** - Your subconscious feelings.
- 07: Action** - Recommendation on what to do.
- 08: External Influence** - Influences beyond your control.
- 09: Hopes/Fear** - Your desires and worries.
- 10: Result** - The final outcome based on current actions.





THE MAJOR ARCANA

The Major Arcana is the representation of a life's journey towards enlightenment. It tells a story of ups and downs, of trials and exultations and lessons learned both painfully and gratefully. The main character of this story is represented in the one unnumbered card out of twenty-two: The Fool. It is through his journey that we learn the lessons imparted by the teachers he meets (the other Major Arcana) and the hardships and obstacles he encounters (the Minor Arcana).

When one of the Major Arcana is drawn in a spread, it serves to contextualize the reading and the lesson within. When a spread is comprised of predominantly Major Arcana cards, a life-changing event with long-lasting effects is underway. It is more important now than ever to pay attention to the lesson at hand if you desire to move onto the next step of the journey. If the majority of the Major Arcana cards are reversed, take heed that you may require more practice and time at your current stage of growth before you are ready to move onto the next.

ANIMAL FUN FACTS

The Fool - Baby Sea Turtle

Whether hatchlings are male or female depends on the temperature in the nest. Warmer temperatures produce females and colder temperatures produce males. When they emerge from the nest, they rely on the natural light from the horizon in order to reach the water.

The Magician - Spiny Bush Viper

Spiny bush vipers are native to central Africa and are found in the Democratic Republic of Congo, southwest Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya. They tend to inhabit rainforests, swamps, and woodlands where they can use their prehensile tail to hold onto branches or hang upside down.

The High Priestess - Wolf

Wolves are the largest members of the dog family. This keystone species plays a unique and crucial role in the way an ecosystem functions. They have been known to track and trace their prey for hours well into the night.

The Empress - Black-necked Stork

The Black-necked Stork is the only species of stork endemic to Australia. Its beautiful dark feathers have an iridescent green-and-blue sheen. Black-necked Storks bond for several years. The species was found to inhabit a large portion of eastern New South Wales in the past, but is now extinct throughout much of this area.

The Emperor - African Elephant

Elephants are the largest land mammals on earth. They can live up to 70 years and are some of the most emotionally complex animals on the planet. African elephants are slowly evolving to become tuskless due to decades upon decades of violence caused by the trading of ivory around the world.

In the 1970's there were 1.3 million elephants; now there are only an estimated 400,000 left. While elephants once spanned much of Africa, today most are kept in conservation to protect them from hunters and other human-related dangers.

The Heirophant - Scottish Blackface Ram

The blackface ram is an old breed of sheep with origins dating as far back as 800AD. They are very hardy and can put up with cold, wind and rain. Their wool was used by monks in the twelfth century for their own clothing and it continues to be used to make cloths in the modern era. The origins of the breed are uncertain, but we do know that it was developed on the Anglo-Scottish border.

The Lovers - Leafy Seadragons

Native to the waters off south and east Australia, leafy sea dragons are closely related to seahorses and pipefish. As with sea horses, sea dragon males are responsible for childbearing. From the moment they hatch, leafy sea dragons are completely independent and only grow to the size of a teacup. Listed as near-threatened, sea dragons face capture by divers wishing to keep them as pets.

Chariot - Harpy eagle

Harpy eagles are magnificent predatory birds and can carry off prey as large as fourteen pounds. Harpy eagles are monogamous and pairs may mate for life, usually breeding once every two years and living in enormous nests that they continually add onto over the course of their lives.

Justice - Horned owl

Despite its regal appearance, horned owls are one of the most common owls in North America, found in deserts, wetlands, forests, grasslands, cities, and almost anywhere that isn't the Arctic or tropics. Their large eyes

boast thousands of rod cells, giving them incredible night vision. Adept hunters, horned owls are capable of turning their heads 180 degrees and have special feathers around their faces that direct sound to their ears, allowing them to pinpoint prey from far away.

The Hermit - Lynx

The lynx belongs to a species of four short-tailed cats that predominantly live in the forests of Europe, Asia, and North America. Most species of lynx, despite being hunted extensively for the commercial fur industry, are not at risk of extinction or endangerment. The Eurasian lynx has seen declined populations due to extensive poaching. Today it is thought that there are around 45,000 Eurasian lynx roaming in the wild, and the IUCN has classified the species as near threatened since 2002. The Iberian lynx, however, is one of the most endangered felines in the world, and as of 2013 possibly fewer than 300 remained in southern Spain.

Wheel of Fortune - Egyptian beetle

Scarab beetles are part of a large group of insects and can be found on all continents except Antarctica. They commonly inhabit farms, grasslands, forests, and deserts, but tend to avoid areas with extreme temperature fluctuations. These creatures have been used since antiquity to denote items of importance, most likely due to their metallic, gem-like carapaces and their associations with divinity and royalty.

Strength - Caribou-Reindeer

Caribou (or reindeer depending on where one is located) are large members of the cervine family and typically live in northern regions in North America, Central Europe, or Asia. They have wide, fur covered feet that help them stay warm and move through rocky or snowy terrain. The hooves have a hollow like shape with sharp edges. These characteristics allow their hooves to act as

snowshoes during the winter and allow them to swim through strong currents. While most species of caribou are in good standing, the woodland caribou are an endangered species, mostly due to habitat loss.

The Hanged One - Silver Eye Bird

Common only to New Zealand, the silvereve bird is a small, green bird prevalent among forests and cities alike. The silvereve bird uses webs to create their nests and are characterized by the iconic ring of silver around their eyes. These birds were first recorded in New Zealand in 1832 and as there is no evidence that it was artificially introduced, it has been classified as a native species. Its Māori name, tauhou, means 'stranger' or more literally 'new arrival'.

Death - Axolotl

Axolotl are a unique species of salamander found exclusively in the waters of Xochimilco near Mexico City. Unlike other salamander breeds, axolotls live permanently in water and retain some of their tadpole anatomy in a phenomenon known as neoteny. Axolotls are very physiologically fascinating creatures and are commonly used in experiments regarding the regrowing of limbs and cell research.

Originally an apex predator in their environment, the critically endangered axolotl now suffers from the introduction of large fish into its lake habitat, but the main thing threatening the species revolves around the draining and contamination of much of the waters of the Xochimilco Lake complex.

Temperance - Purple Rock Crab

The purple rock crab, also known by its Latin name as *Leptograpsus variegatus*, is a species of crab found in Australia, South America, New Zealand, and numerous islands in the Pacific Ocean. The crab lives in upper

intertidal rocky zones and is often spotted running along exposed rock, hiding in cracks or under boulders. They are one of the largest shore crabs and therefore boast very powerful claws.

Devil - Praying Mantis

The praying mantis is a common insect known and named for its prominent, blade-like front legs that hang down in a position reminiscent of prayer. Female mantis are famously known to consume their male counterparts before and after mating, and humorously enough, this rarely seems to stop males from following the call of nature regardless.

Tower - Lionfish

Lionfish are native to the Pacific Ocean and have recently appeared on the eastern coast of the United States after escaping from private aquariums. In North America they are regarded as invasive animals because they have no natural enemies and can easily eliminate native species when competing for territory and food.

The Star - Jellyfish

Jellyfish have been around for millions of years, even before dinosaurs lived on the Earth. They are found in almost every ocean on the planet and can even exist in the lowest depths of the ocean. Jellyfish come in many colors ranging from pink, blue, and purple, and some are even known to be bioluminescent.

The Moon - Rabbit

Rabbits are found in most environments on the planet and are a common prey animal. They are very social creatures and live in groups beneath the ground, digging extremely intricate tunnel systems called warrens where they live and raise their young. Rabbits are also well known for their rate of reproduction. Female rabbits are can give birth to up to 14 baby rabbits in a single litter.

The Sun - Capybara

Clocking in at a startling weight of up to two hundred pounds, the capybara holds the record for the world's largest rodent. They are semi-aquatic mammals found throughout much of northern and central South America, and are closely related to guinea pigs. Though considered to have a stable population overall, in some areas capybaras are severely threatened by people who hunt them for their skin, and some local populations have been wiped out completely.

Judgement - Cicada

Cicadas are found only in the eastern half of the United States. They live a relatively long time depending on if they are annual or periodical cicadas, and their lifespan tends to range from 4 to 17 years with periodical cicadas living the longest. Oftentimes mistaken for the more harmful locust, a group of cicadas is known as a plague or cloud.

The World - Koi

Koi fish predominantly come from Eastern Asia where they symbolize a bevy of positive ideals like wealth, prosperity, love, success in business and life, and good fortune. They come in a variety of colors and can be white, black, blue, red, cream, and yellow. These fish have very long lifespans, and some—if cared for well—have been known to outlive their owners. The oldest koi in history, Hanako, lived to be 226 years old. Most koi, however, only live 30 to 40 years.



THE FOOL

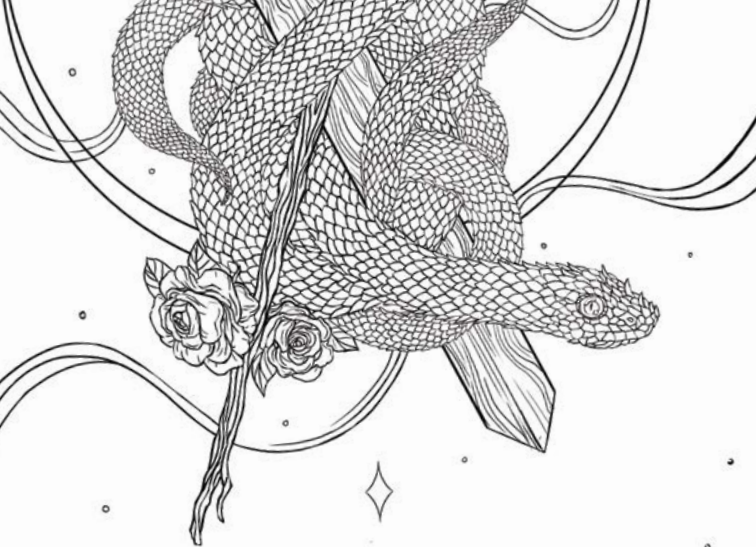
Upright: Freedom, Spontaneity, Idealism

Reversed: Recklessness, Irrationality, Hopelessness

A sea turtle chips away at its egg shell and enters the universe, unaware of all the wonders that lay before it. Due to their long lives, sea turtles commonly represent good luck and patience. They endure the many highs and lows and live to face new challenges. Similiary, The Fool represents the start of a journey. Even though the future is uncertain and the path ahead may be rough, he faces the horizon excitedly. Like the young sea turtle, you are at an important junction of your life and at the start of a new path. Take it and see where it leads.

When upright, The Fool signifies someone who is a dreamer, their head frequently lost in the clouds. You may have new things you wish to do or new opportunities you wish to explore. This is your time to take a leap of faith. Even though the path ahead is unclear, remain optimistic and persevere. Focus on your end goal and trust in your vision. The potential for success is infinite.

When reversed, The Fool can show some hesitation about taking the precipitous first step. Indecision, self-doubt, and anxiety may be preventing you from moving forward. Trust yourself. It may be best to postpone any decisions in question until the way becomes clearer. Conversely, this position can also signify recklessness and the fallout that follows. Temper expectations and take heed that living carefree doesn't mean living in spite of consequences. Step back, take a look at the bigger picture, and act accordingly.



THE MAGICIAN

Upright: Resourcefulness, Logic, Influence

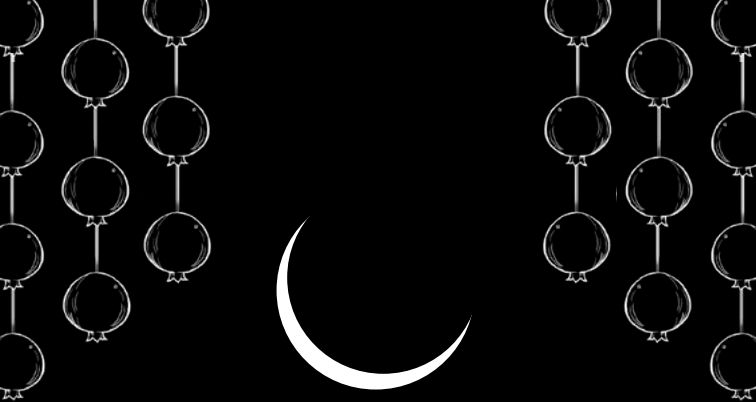
Reversed: Uncertainty, Conniving, Trickery

A pair of snakes wind together tightly, forming a complex knot around a sword and wand, with one head pointing up and the other pointing down, connecting the spiritual and material realm. The white lilies above symbolize purity and the red roses below reflect knowledge that comes from worldly experience. Though typically regarded as duplicitous creatures, snakes are symbols of opportunity, necessary transitions, and healing. They are also seen as guides that encourage us to fuel positive change in ourselves. The sword and wand they're wrapped around represent the physical and spiritual ways to utilize our potential. The Magician reminds us that we are well armed to tackle new opportunities, and with our notable intellect and logic, we can use these tools to shape our destiny.

When upright, the Magician signifies that the user is about to experience a wave of positive outcomes. You're at a point in your life where you're overflowing with creative potential. If you're in need of change or if you're looking to make some improvements in your life, you're already equipped with the tools, and/or abilities you need to make things happen. Use your keen mind and intense willpower to help manifest the change you want to see in your life. You could also be introduced to someone whose own skill and intellect will impress you. It could be someone you know or someone you meet for the first time. Never turn down an opportunity to learn more and gain a better understanding of the world and people around you.

When reversed, the Magician represents doubts weighing heavy on the user's mind. You might be feeling less than your stellar self, or you're second guessing your own abilities. These thoughts could put a damper on your drive and make you feel cynical about what your future might be or where you're headed. In spite of the heaviness you feel, you can still craft positive outcomes for yourself. But while you're under this dark cloud of doubt, be wary of seemingly trustworthy people who might try to manipulate you for their own gain. Keep a level head and allow yourself to move at a slower pace with those who you're getting odd vibes from. The truth will eventually come to light.

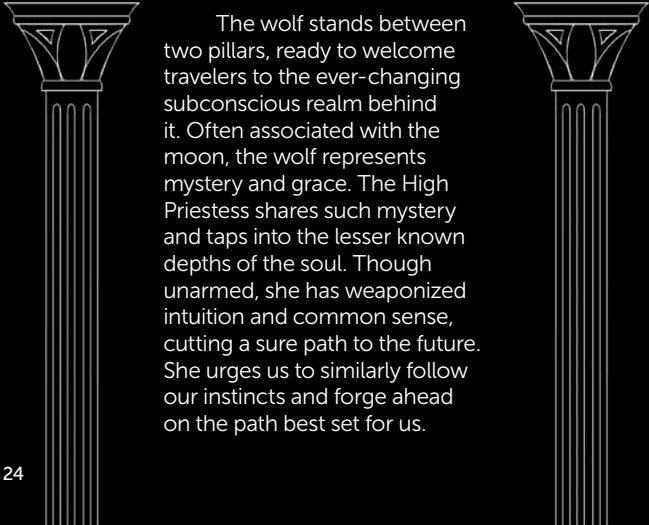




THE HIGH PRIESTESS

Upright: Mystery, Unattainability, Spirituality

Reversed: Duplicity, Repression, Isolation

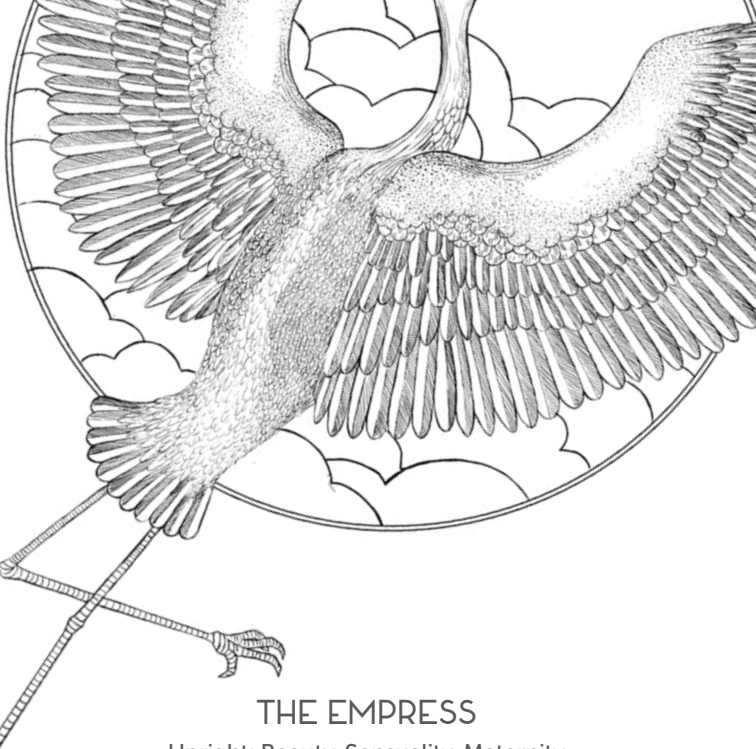


The wolf stands between two pillars, ready to welcome travelers to the ever-changing subconscious realm behind it. Often associated with the moon, the wolf represents mystery and grace. The High Priestess shares such mystery and taps into the lesser known depths of the soul. Though unarmed, she has weaponized intuition and common sense, cutting a sure path to the future. She urges us to similarly follow our instincts and forge ahead on the path best set for us.

When upright, The High Priestess indicates that the user has reached the bridge that connects the physical realm and the subconscious. There is a decision to be made, and your gut instinct wishes to chime in. Listen to what it has to say, especially if you're feeling any doubts about a situation that you're in. This inner connection is also important when trying to parse through recently discovered information. Maybe you're debating about whether a position is right for you, or you've come to learn some good news and need to weigh the pros and cons. Regardless of the reason, stand on this bridge and connect with yourself. Having this moment of reflection will help provide answers that could elude you otherwise.



When reversed, the High Priestess suggests that the user's inner voice is muffled and stifled. Something is weighing you down. Whether that's an outside force or an internal dilemma is for you to find out. Take the time to cut through the noise and reconnect with yourself. Whatever weight is bearing down on you will only continue to hinder you in the future. This position also represents secretive energies. There are individuals in your life who have their own motives that aren't immediately clear. Try not to let these hidden agendas fester. Seek them out and engage them in open, honest conversation.



THE EMPRESS

Upright: Beauty, Sensuality, Maternity

Reversed: Dependence, Suppression, Overbearance

The stork spreads its wings and dances among peace lilies, a powerful symbol and celebration of all that is feminine. Storks are regarded as symbols of new life, rebirth, and purity. They are often seen as figures that something is on the way — be it a child, a burst of inspiration, or even a new project. The Empress, in all of her elegance, reminds us to embrace the softness within us, and by nurturing this gentle spirit, we can welcome a wealth of new opportunities and possibilities.



When upright, the Empress encourages the user to nurture hope and welcome the future with a warm embrace. Take a moment to appreciate the beauty in your life. Watch as it evolves into something even more breathtaking.

Your future looks promising, filled with new opportunities and positive changes. With all these changes, be careful not to get swept away. Share your joy with others and bask in the love. This position also states that it's time to connect with yourself on a deeper level. Your intuition is trying to reach out to you. Listen to whatever it's trying to say and trust yourself. Your instincts will guide you in the right direction.

EMBRACE THE SOFTNESS WITHIN US, AND BY NURTURING THIS GENTLE SPIRIT.

When reversed, the Empress signifies that it's time for the user to spend some time alone. There are many reasons for this, but take this as a sign that you need to stop and recharge. You're on the brink of burning out or putting yourself on an unhealthy path. Don't neglect your own needs in an attempt to satisfy others or chase creative pursuits. You're draining yourself, and in spite of how good it feels to be needed, your willpower is a finite resource. Think of this downtime as a reward for your loving spirit and give yourself some time to heal. This position can also signify that someone in your life is trying to send you important signals. You might need to spend time with someone or give them a little space. Be alert and read the signals well to understand their true meaning.





THE EMPEROR

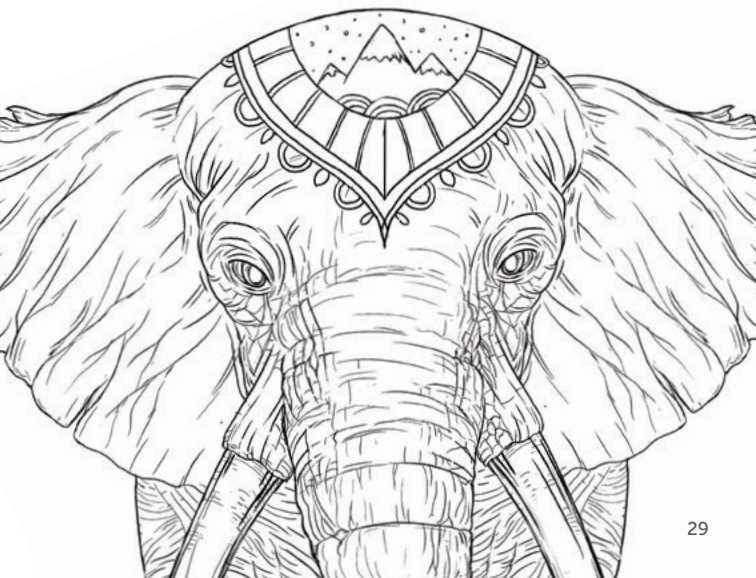
Upright: Practicality, Authority, Paternity
Reversed: Inflexibility, Tyranny, Stubbornness

The elephant stands firm with an unwavering stare. It doesn't fear conflict or challenge as it assesses its next move. Elephants are rich with symbolism, but they're often associated with knowledge, authority, and structure. They are practical creatures that form close ties to each other and travel with certainty to ensure their collective survival. The Emperor reminds us to embrace our practical natures and act with a level-head. However, we must be careful that our idea of what's right doesn't make us stubborn and cold-hearted.

When upright, the Emperor suggests that the user is entering a more structured time of their life. This is a time where you're buckling down and making some changes. During this period, you will value logic more than emotion. You'll approach life with reason rather than whimsy. This position highly encourages you to embrace practicality if you haven't before. However, be careful that you don't let yourself get swept away in a sea of reason. Conversely, you are in a place to accept a new leadership position. Accept your new responsibilities with grace and a level head. Be mindful of those you oversee.

Your expectations for success might be difficult for others to achieve. Use your keen mind and learn everyone's strengths. Be flexible and encourage everyone to succeed.

When reversed, the Emperor implies that the user has suffered from a lapse in judgment. You have either abused your power, or you've been subjected to someone else's harsh authority. If you're in the wrong, put aside your logic for the time being and reflect on what you've done. Coming clean in this situation will help clear the air, though forgiveness might be slow. If you are the victim, your best course of action is to keep calm. Whereas the other person has gone off on a tirade, allow yourself to be the definition of cool, calm, and collected. Stand up for what's right if the opportunity presents itself. Otherwise, keep your sights forward and let the situation come to its natural end.

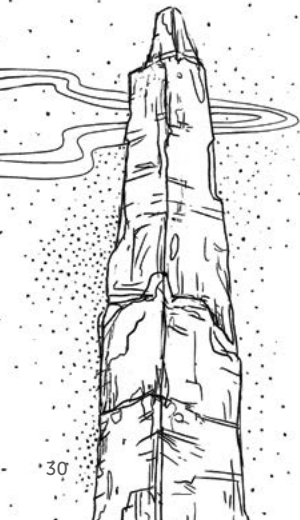


THE HIEROPHANT

Upright: Tradition, Conformity, Institutional
Reversed: Rebellion, Reversal, Unconventional

A ram stands poised between two pillars, yoked in a triangle. Though rams are aggressive creatures, they symbolize stability, structure, and eternity. This specific ram is a hearty breed that can survive in a number of exposed environments; their ability to survive may seem unthinkable, but they understand their dominion well, far better than most, and can therefore thrive. The Hierophant is likewise able to find stability in his dominion over the conscious, subconscious, and super-conscious. Though seen as a beacon of tradition, the Hierophant is knowledgeable and can flow well with change. We are reminded to find knowledge in all places, to uphold our values and follow our morals, but remember that change is inevitable.

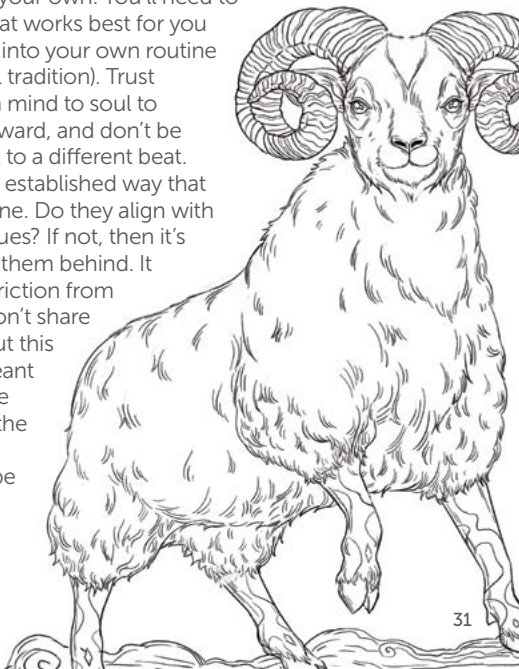
When upright, the Hierophant tells the user that their current placement in life is or should be steeped in established tradition. There is stability in the tried and true, and if you're about to start a new phase in your life, you should keep in mind that keeping to established rules and methods will yield success. Now is not the time to strike out on your own and try something different. Even if you feel like you're needlessly retracing your own steps, try to seek new understanding based on the structures in your life that are



already in place. You could glean some new information from a seemingly familiar perspective. While you may feel restless, know that filling the mold will provide answers that you may or may not actively be seeking. Be passive but perceptive. There are guiding forces working in your favor.

ADAPTATION IS KEY TO A FRUITFUL LIFE.

When reversed, the Hierophant suggests that the user step away from the status quo. If this is your first time breaking from tradition, it can seem scary. If you've been bursting at the seams waiting to be free, now is your time to let loose. No matter your level of experience, you're ready to separate from the herd and strike out on your own. You'll need to find a path that works best for you and soon fall into your own routine (and eventual tradition). Trust yourself from mind to soul to carry you forward, and don't be afraid to walk to a different beat. Question the established way that things are done. Do they align with your own values? If not, then it's time to leave them behind. It may lead to friction from those who don't share your views, but this is how it's meant to be. Choose your path to the best of your abilities and be confident in what comes next.



THE LOVERS

Upright: Unity, Relationships, Duality

Reversed: Conflict, Interference, Misinterpretation

Two seahorses float intertwined in an embrace peacefully among the seaweed. Seahorses symbolize the patience, protection, persistence, and generosity that goes hand in hand with relationships of every kind.

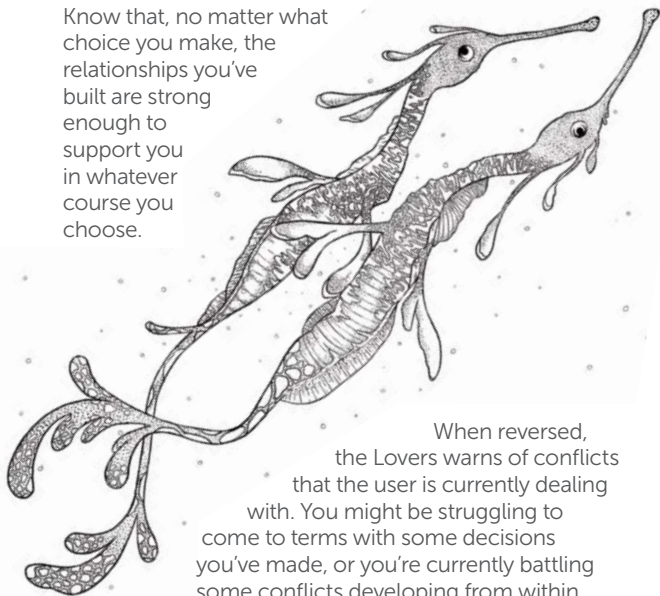
Whether it's romantic, platonic, or familial love, this is a sign of complete and utter security in a relationship.

The Lovers reminds us that we should try to maintain the relationships that bring us joy and for us to seek harmony within ourselves. Just as the seahorses navigate the ocean depths together with care, so too should we employ careful consideration in our relationships.

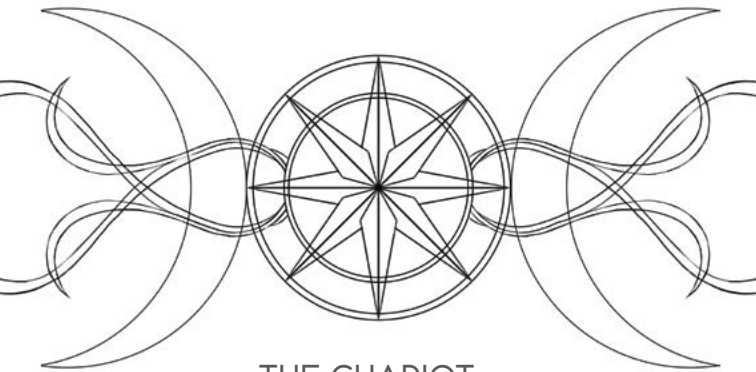
When upright, the Lovers represents a romantic tie, close friendship, or even a familial connection where love and compassion flow freely. However the relationship presents itself, the connection between those involved is absolute and something that should be valued. Though you may not have achieved a perfect harmony just yet, you're paving the way by "communicating" with your mind, body, and soul to learn and understand yourself better. As you build your relationship with yourself or others, a major choice may be approaching. This choice could put a spotlight on a developing dilemma or conflict that you'll need to consider carefully. The easiest answer won't always be the best solution for you. Examine what options you have in front of you and make your choice with confidence.



Know that, no matter what choice you make, the relationships you've built are strong enough to support you in whatever course you choose.



When reversed, the Lovers warns of conflicts that the user is currently dealing with. You might be struggling to come to terms with some decisions you've made, or you're currently battling some conflicts developing from within and without. These conflicts can affect your life domains, including work, school, personal and interpersonal relationships, and more — if they haven't already. You're suffering from a communication breakdown that could be affecting you and/or those you are in a close relationship with. Now is the time for some mindful consideration. Being honest with yourself and others is the best way to go forward, and the solutions you may come to might not be easy. You might have to accept responsibility for something you've done, or you might have to end a relationship. Don't despair. Though certain matters can be painful now, just know that you are sowing the seeds for a nurturing future.



THE CHARIOT

Upright: Victory, Self-Confidence, Progress
Reversed: Powerlessness, Aggression, Moderation

A harpy eagle proudly surveys the world around it from upon its perch. Harpy eagles are very deadly and very commanding creatures, and this nature only empowers their symbolism of strength, ferocity, and alertness. Because of their status as an endangered species, they understand all too well what it means to forge their own path and continuously fight the good fight. The Chariot reminds us that we must take a proactive stance in overcoming our personal obstacles. We can plan our future steps and express our feelings about a situation, but it's only through action where we can change the course of our lives.

When upright, the Chariot demands the user take action to see their goals to fruition. This is not a card of passivity—don't rest easy on your laurels when there are steps to be taken and challenges to be won. Just as the heroes of yore set out on their journeys to test themselves against fate, so too should you embrace the struggles ahead. There will be challenges, but you'll be ready for them. Whether the journey is metaphorical or

literal, forge bravely on! Your path is set, and though the way is not entirely clear, it is yours to conquer. At the end of it all, you will gaze upon your victories as if they were the armor of defeated foes resting upon trophy poles.

ONLY THROUGH ACTION, WE CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF OUR LIVES.



When reversed, the Chariot suggests that the journey ahead, fraught with obstacles and challenges, may be too much for the user to contend with at the moment. Now is not the time to run headlong into danger. Take a moment to think about your situation and review your plans. Amend them if necessary. You might feel brave enough to tackle your troubles alone, but you would do well to tread carefully. This position can also imply that the user has lost steam in an ongoing venture. Evaluate where along the way you began to lose motivation and think about what you're trying to achieve. Perhaps you need to take a different direction to get back on track.

JUSTICE

Upright: Equity, Fairness, Balance

Reversed: Injustice, Unaccountability, Dishonesty

The great horned owl stands tall and regal upon its perch of balanced scales. It resides over its court as an unbiased judge for all who may enter its halls. Justice represents such a firm and focused way of living, balancing fairness and intuition with truth and logic. It is important to be firm and focused in life, and at times, it's best to make decisions firmly and impartially. However, Justice reminds us that there are spiritual consequences, both good and bad, to every action we take.



When upright, Justice represents cause and effect, order, and fairness. It is telling the user that the fruits of their actions will soon flourish. If you acted with good intentions, then rest easy, knowing that the truth will soon be made apparent. If not, then you will soon be held accountable. This position also symbolizes a search for the truth. You're being urged to pause and think carefully about your current situation. There's an important detail just out of sight, and finding it will help pave the way for your future. Trust in your intuition and your logic to help you make the right decision when the time comes.

When reversed, Justice suggests that the user has done something they know is morally wrong. You have a choice to make: come clean and make amends, or continue to hide the truth. Justice, regardless of orientation, is a card built on consequences. The truth will come to light either by your own hand or by its own accord. Similarly, this position can also imply that the user has refused to take accountability for something they've done. Blaming others won't assuage you of guilt or fault. Reassess the situation and work to understand where you've gone wrong. Don't let it ferment and fester. If you're in the midst of making an important decision, understand the potential for future consequences. Don't go into things hastily. Seek to make balanced decisions, especially if the fallout affects those around you.





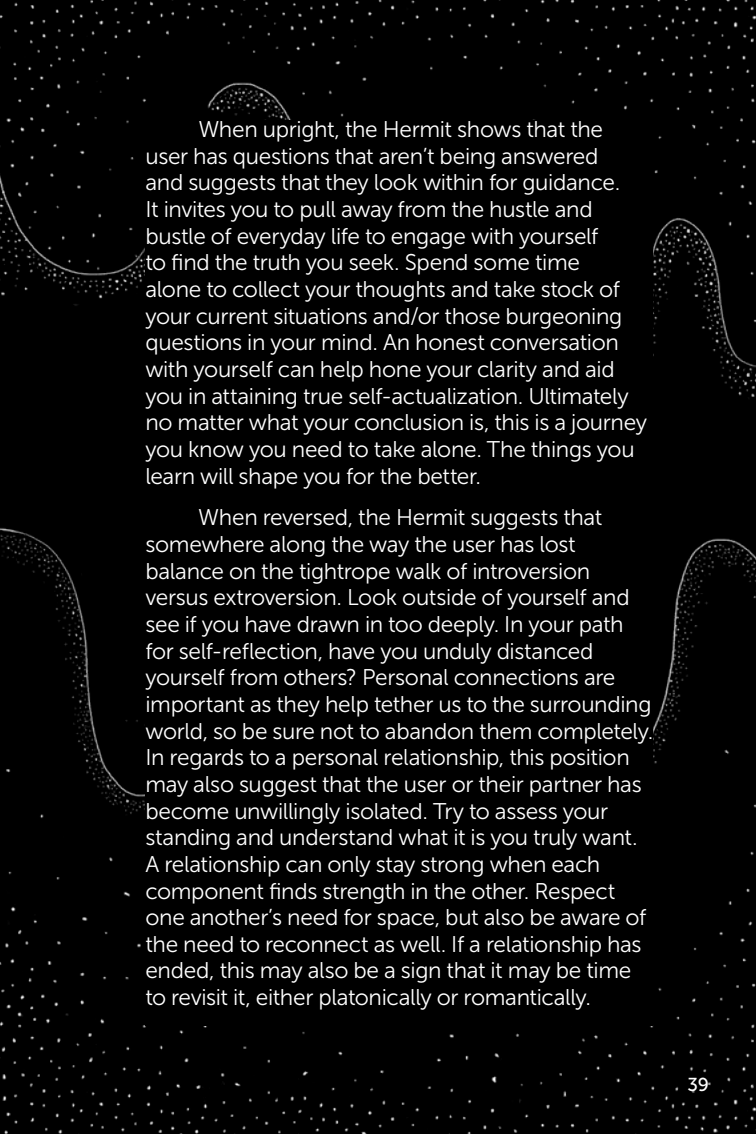
THE HERMIT

**Upright: Solitude, Self-Reflection,
Contemplation**

Reversed: Loneliness, Anti-Social, Phobias

The lynx sits atop a mountain peak and pensively assesses the world in silence. Solitary by nature, it walks its path confidently, and with great sight and awareness, it will be able to see the many directions it can take as it travels. Lynxes symbolize many things, but chief among them are confidence, independence, peace, and patience. Though the lynx walks with grace and certainty, it knows that its ever present compass is there for added guidance, should it be needed. The Hermit reminds us not only to find solace in solitude but to find strength in it as well.





When upright, the Hermit shows that the user has questions that aren't being answered and suggests that they look within for guidance. It invites you to pull away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life to engage with yourself to find the truth you seek. Spend some time alone to collect your thoughts and take stock of your current situations and/or those burgeoning questions in your mind. An honest conversation with yourself can help hone your clarity and aid you in attaining true self-actualization. Ultimately no matter what your conclusion is, this is a journey you know you need to take alone. The things you learn will shape you for the better.

When reversed, the Hermit suggests that somewhere along the way the user has lost balance on the tightrope walk of introversion versus extroversion. Look outside of yourself and see if you have drawn in too deeply. In your path for self-reflection, have you unduly distanced yourself from others? Personal connections are important as they help tether us to the surrounding world, so be sure not to abandon them completely. In regards to a personal relationship, this position may also suggest that the user or their partner has become unwillingly isolated. Try to assess your standing and understand what it is you truly want. A relationship can only stay strong when each component finds strength in the other. Respect one another's need for space, but also be aware of the need to reconnect as well. If a relationship has ended, this may also be a sign that it may be time to revisit it, either platonically or romantically.



WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Upright: Cycles, Destiny, Serendipity

Reversed: Upheaval, Misfortune, Setbacks

A scarab rests in the center of a wheel with its wings outstretched, ready to catch the winds of fate and take flight towards its destiny. Four arrows point outward from the center, symbolizing the directions fate can take us in. Scarabs, on their own, represent coming to an unavoidable crossroads and that you will always find enlightenment should you daringly travel the uncertain paths of life. The Wheel of Fortune reminds us that fortune will unfailingly point us in the right direction, even if the reasons why and the methods aren't entirely clear yet.

When upright, the Wheel of Fortune states that the user will experience a wave of change. If you're currently undergoing hardships, good things are inbound. If you're experiencing your own slice of good fortune, it will soon come to a peaceful end, and things will return to "normal." Try to appreciate (or find the silver lining in) where you are now and understand that all states are transitory. Have faith in the universe's nature to provide, but be aware that karma has a tendency of making itself known. Deal honorably and faithfully with others. If you don't, you'll find yourself paying for it later. Also, be prepared for a change in the winds to strike soon. Something unexpected may be on its way.



When reversed, the Wheel of Fortune can be a sign that the user's luck is about to take a sizable hit. Fortune will not favor you in the days ahead, so be mindful of what led to your present circumstances. Prepare to take responsibility for them if you overstepped your authority. Be mindful of any lessons that can be learned from these hardships and use them to take back control. Changing one's destiny starts from within. This position may also be a sign that the user has become stuck in their ways. Resisting change can do more harm than good, so be open to new ways of thinking or behaving. Resist stagnating for the sake of maintaining the familiar. Fortunately and ironically, this position may also signify that the user has arrived at the end of a negative cycle.



STRENGTH

Upright: Bravery, Compassion, Control

Reversed: Self-Doubt, Weakness, Reactionary

A reindeer stands regally from within a wreath made of oak leaves and acorns rising on either side. Its large antlers frame a diamond, which is nestled between and uplifted by prongs. Because oaks are hearty trees with long lifespans, they are commonly associated with longevity, wisdom, strength, and even divination. The diamond, in a similar fashion, represents richness of one's self and fills the spirit with positive energies. The reindeer draws from these kindred forces to reinforce its wise spirit and unwavering endurance, both of which will be used during the journey of its life. Strength reminds us that sometimes our inner power can be a far greater force than anything physical.



When upright, Strength suggests that the user possess great inner strength and control over their willpower. You will need to rely on your own perseverance, tenacity, and determination to pursue your goals and to overcome hardships. Others may underestimate you, but the results will speak for themselves. You don't need to prove anything to anyone other than yourself. Seek to control situations by entering them with your head held high. Also, this position encourages users to temper their outward reactions and impulses and to channel them into something more constructive. Gut reactions will not serve you as well as careful consideration right now. Leave impulse behind and embrace patience and planning. Now is not the time to be hasty.

OUR INNER POWER CAN BE A FAR GREATER FORCE THAN ANYTHING PHYSICAL.

When reversed, Strength suggests that the user has lost touch with their inner strength. Doubt has taken its toll on your confidence, and you may be finding it hard to commit to a course of action when you aren't sure what it might lead to. Take time to get back in touch with yourself. Understand what has given rise to these feelings of doubt, and take steps to bolster your energy levels until you regain what was once lost. This position can also imply that the user has become prone to outbursts and leaping without looking where they might land. Try to conquer these feelings before you end up doing or saying something you will regret.





THE HANGED ONE

Upright: Confinement, Perspective, Sacrifice

**Reversed: Discontentment, Disinterest,
Empty-handed**

A silver eye bird hangs precariously from a branch. Its wings are extended, but it doesn't try to take flight—it can't. The red strings of fate hold it in suspension, one foot interlocked in the tangles while the other hangs free. Its wings are looped with threads that pull them in opposing directions. The Hanged One is held tight but doesn't struggle against the ties that bind it. It reminds us to be aware of situations that limit us and keep us from living to our full potential.



When upright, the Hanged One suggests that the user was moving forward and has lately found themselves struggling to keep going. This position arises to remind us that occasionally the best way to progress is to stop moving entirely and surrender to the whims of the universe. Don't try to push past the blocks—you'll only succeed doing more harm than good. The universe is telling you to slow down, to pause for a moment, and look at things from a different angle. Use this as an opportunity to check in with yourself. You may realize you've gone about things in the wrong way. Sometimes being 'stuck' doesn't mean stagnation. There is more than one way to move forward, so take the time to see things in a new light. It may surprise you what comes of it.

THE HANGED ONE IS A CARD OF
SURRENDER. TAKE PAUSE, REFLECT,
LET GO AND LISTEN TO YOUR INTUITION.

When reversed, Hanged One implies that the user is resisting surrendering to the forces that hold them in place. Taking on more and more and pushing harder and harder won't make things easier. Take a moment to truly consider what it is that is keeping you from letting go. Maybe outside circumstances have compiled against you, locking you in place against your will. Gridlock isn't easy to swallow, but it's necessary to understand exactly why you are headed in the direction you're going. If you've been treading water for a while, this position can be a sign that the end is nigh. In the case of a relationship or decision, you may have found yourself stuck in one spot, afraid to progress for fear of the unknown. You will never be 100% ready to take the leap, so why not hold your breath, close your eyes, and take it today anyway?



DEATH

Upright: Endings, Change, Transition

Reversed: Resistance, Limitation, Dependency

A pair of axolotls swim through the vastness of space, tails intertwined, noses meeting to connect a spiral that showcases the cyclical nature of life, death, and everything in between. Axolotls are known for their regenerative capabilities. Limbs can be replaced and portions of their body regrown entirely. Change is endemic to their nature, and they accept it, using it to better themselves and return stronger than ever. Death may seem, at first blush, to be an ominous card to draw, but it represents an ending to current situations and a new stage in life. Death is not always the end. It can be a new beginning so long as we're not afraid to embrace the change.

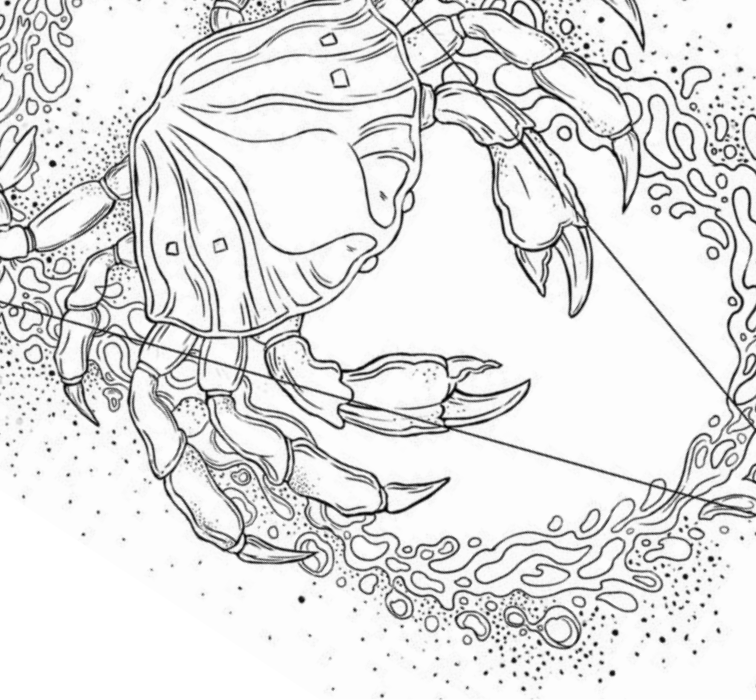


When upright, Death reminds the user that their season of change is coming. Perhaps you are undergoing a great transformation or saying goodbye to a particularly long and meaningful chapter in your life. New possibilities are on the horizon, and there is no need to be fearful of what comes next. You're entering the next step on your journey, and even if it is abrupt or unexpected in how it arrives, try to go into it with optimism. Change can be a cleansing, healing force. Let go of unhealthy attachments and walk forward with your head held high.



EVERY ENDING IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A NEW BEGINNING.

When reversed, Death suggests that the user is on the cusp of a transition that will truly change their lives but is holding onto what they have now. Perhaps there is something in the past keeping you from letting go and allowing this next stage to come. The way to meaningful change isn't always clear, and it's okay to be nervous about that, but you are beginning to stagnate. Locked up in limbo, you don't know where to go or what to do to move on. Remain positive and tell yourself that changing is okay. It may take some time to believe it, but the better the mindset you fall into, the faster you'll find yourself out of the rut your inaction has put you in.




TEMPERANCE

Upright: Tranquility, Balance, Self-control

Reversed: Imbalance, Excess, Overflow

The rock crab holds its claws to the sky, connecting the earth with heaven as solidly as it navigates the waters that lie between both. Above its head sits a triangle nestled within a square, symbolic of the way humans are bound to the earth and natural law. Temperance reminds us to be moderate and to seek balance in all things. Life is full of twists and turns, and only by remaining grounded will we find the path that will lead us where we need to go.



When upright, Temperance calls on the user to remain present, to assess their reactions, and to seek the middle ground. Resist the urge to be highly opinionated or favor one extreme over the other. Work to stay patient and present. Follow a more moderate path; try to see all points of view and be a guiding voice of reason between them. This position also suggests combining elements to find better balance. Work in new mediums and try to combine different elements in your life to yield something greater than the sum of its parts. Synthesis can be the key to discovering a new workflow method, and there's no telling just how far it'll take you if you run with it.

When reversed, Temperance suggests that the user has fallen off the moderate path somewhere along the line. Reel yourself in before outside elements force you to do so. Be critical of your current circumstances. Are you happy? Are you balanced in all things? If not, it may be time to make a change. This position can also suggest that the user is in need of self-healing. Moderation isn't just to keep you walking the straight and narrow path, it can also be helpful in maintaining inner health as well. Slow down and try to find gratification in the pursuit of moderation. It may surprise you how much good it can do.

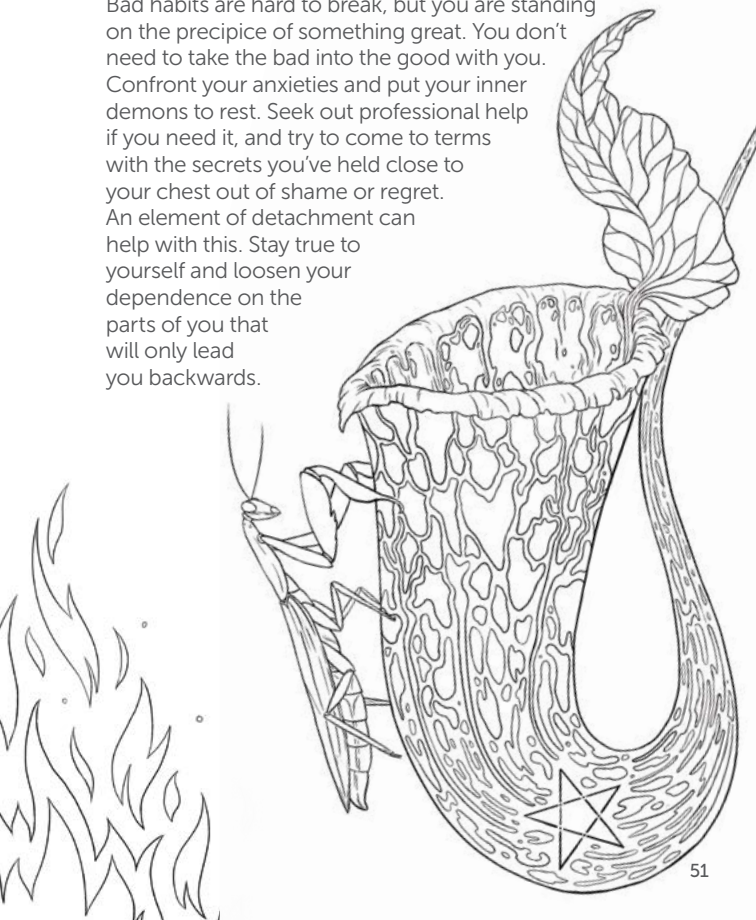
THE DEVIL

Upright: Temptation, Vices, Self-destruction
Reversed: Freedom, Detachment, Reclamation

A praying mantis climbs up the curve of a pitcher plant while escaping the raging flames. Danger is ever present and growing larger by the moment, but the mantis simply moves higher, approaching the plant's supposed safety. Pitcher plants are known to lure insects into its bell with slopes too sheer to climb; the nectar at the bottom is a sweet pool in which the unsuspecting victims drown. Just as the mantis consumes its mate upon copulation and the pitcher plant its victims, so too does the Devil tempt others into his arms, spelling their downfall with silken words and the promise of lethal pleasure. The Devil reminds us to be mindful of news and opportunities that we come across. They just might be too good to be true.

When upright, the Devil implies that the user is shrouded in a negative energy that threatens to undermine them in every way. There is a demon on your shoulder whispering in your ear, and it's hellbent on getting you to succumb to every bad impulse that crosses your mind. Not only are these impulses dangerous, they're also holding you back from becoming a better version of yourself. You've been locked in place, and it may be hard to find your way out. Do not fall victim to the evils of instant gratification as they will absolutely lead to long-term negative consequences. Take care to harbor healthy amounts of attachment towards friends, family, and new relationship partners. If you are experimenting in new fields or with new experiences, be careful that you do it only with those you trust. The devil in your ear wants to lead you astray—don't make it's job easier by giving in to what you know is wrong.

When reversed, the Devil suggests that the user is on the cusp of positive change. Now is the time to cast off the shadows still clinging to you and enter into this new stage without burdens. This is a time for soul-searching and self-discipline. Bad habits are hard to break, but you are standing on the precipice of something great. You don't need to take the bad into the good with you. Confront your anxieties and put your inner demons to rest. Seek out professional help if you need it, and try to come to terms with the secrets you've held close to your chest out of shame or regret. An element of detachment can help with this. Stay true to yourself and loosen your dependence on the parts of you that will only lead you backwards.





THE TOWER

Upright: Ego, Catastrophe, Revelations

Reversed: Survival, Rebuilding, Intact

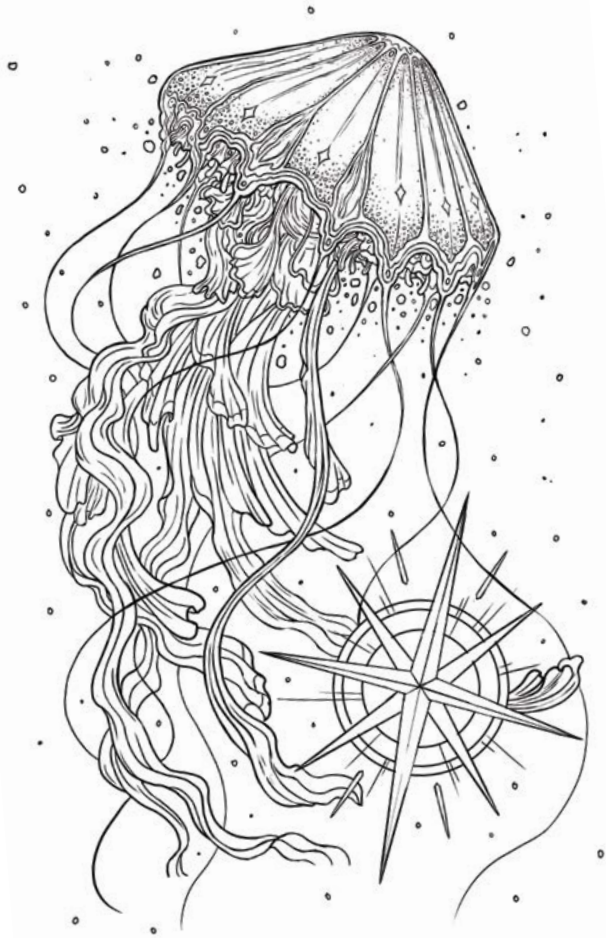
The lionfish prowls the depths, brilliant and beautiful among the reefs. Its poisonous spines and bright colors warn others to stay away, but even those that flee don't always manage to escape this hunter's attention. The lionfish is an invasive species, a creature with no natural predators. The appearance of one can spell disaster for an ecosystem, wearing away at its foundation until only ruin remains. Appropriately, they symbolize hidden peril. Likewise, the Tower denotes the terrible power of chaos lying in wait. We are reminded that, no matter where we are in life, we are never safe from the sudden and unavoidable difficulties that life can throw our way.

When upright, the Tower warns the user that something unexpected and notably unpleasant is going to happen in their life. The timing of this event can be less than ideal. Your foundation is shaky and crumbling, but even among destruction lies the prospect for good. When fire tears through a forest, seeds are sown for the next generation. Surrender to forces at work in your life and start thinking about where you can go once the ground stops shaking. There is a revelation at hand. Hold onto those still in your life for support if you need it, but ultimately, you're the key to walking away with your head held high.

CALM YOURSELF, THIS TOO SHALL PASS.

When reversed, the Tower is warning the user that an unexpected change will come from within. A personal transformation is nigh, and to reach it, you may have to undergo a drastic shift of faith and perception. This may manifest in a crisis of confidence or a complete questioning of the truths you once held in high esteem. For some, this can become a full on existential crisis, but at the end of the tunnel lies a newly enlightened you. Though this realization can be unpleasant, take comfort in knowing that you've avoided (or, rather, narrowly avoided) a disaster coming your way. Take this silver lining and your new enlightenment and carefully build your future. This position can also imply that the user is delaying a necessary change, rejecting it out of fear or concern when it would be better to let the chaos come. It can be scary to surrender to something so absolute. Just try to remember there is purpose in the pain.





THE STAR

Upright: Hope, Rejuvenation, Positivity
Reversed: Pessimism, Despair, Discouragement

The jellyfish hovers with a compass rose, floating through the sky and guiding its followers into the future. Though they are seemingly simple creatures, jellyfish are truly remarkable, capable of great feats of evolution that defy comprehension. They flow gracefully through the water, even down to the inky depths of the ocean, and symbolize protection, caution, sensitivity, and trust. They carry with them a great spiritual power. The Star reminds us that in order to maintain hope for the future, we must continue to be as free and flowing as a jellyfish and adapt to our surroundings in a stellar fashion.

When upright, the Star signifies a time for large personal growth and discovery. If following the Tower, your hardships are finally at an end. Cast off the old and welcome in the bright and beautiful new. It's time to usher in a new era of positive change and inner development. Make plans for your future and start working on personal projects or revisit those that may have been lost along the way. Use this new energy and change to distance yourself from the past and reconnect with things that might have fallen by the wayside. Also, use this time to give back to others. Take some of what has been given and share the bounty with those in need.

When reversed, the Star isn't as optimistic. There has been a loss of faith that has permeated every aspect of your life. Hardships have begun to sprout up seemingly without reason, and your bitterness towards your sour luck has begun to wear you down. This will be a trying time for you, and you will become detached from yourself. It's possible that you will suffer from a loss of passion and creativity if you haven't already. It's time to refocus on what is important in life and nurture it. Emphasize self-care as you reconnect with yourself. Persevere through these difficulties, and relief will come in its own time.

THE MOON

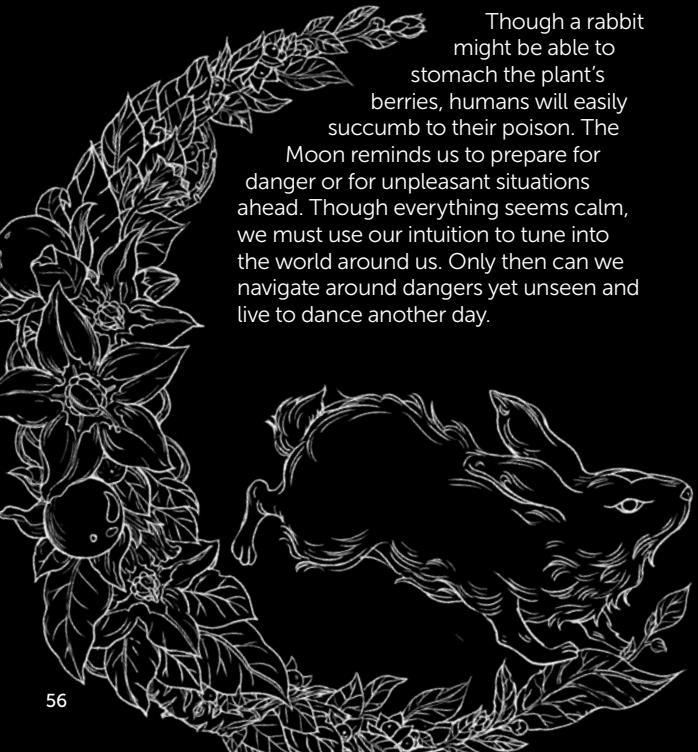
Upright: Obfuscation, Anxiety, Ignorance

Reversed: Reveal, Turnaround, Disillusion

The rabbit dances through the night sky under the moon's watchful eye atop a crescent sprig of belladonna. Rabbits are commonly associated with luck, but they also represent longevity, vulnerability, perception — and a need to plan thoroughly. The belladonna, a pleasant looking plant once used as a beauty product, harbors a dark secret.

Though a rabbit might be able to stomach the plant's berries, humans will easily succumb to their poison. The

Moon reminds us to prepare for danger or for unpleasant situations ahead. Though everything seems calm, we must use our intuition to tune into the world around us. Only then can we navigate around dangers yet unseen and live to dance another day.



When upright, the Moon signifies that the user is besieged by anxiety. Be careful when making decisions right now. You might not be in the right headspace, and pertinent information won't be readily available when you need it. Deeply ingrained fears are starting to make themselves known, and you may feel as if you're out on your own. Don't let these fears consume you. Threats feel larger than they truly are. If something from your past is disturbing you, it's time to confront it. There's a chance that what's bothering you isn't as oppressive as it initially seems. Seek support in others if you need stability. Take a deep breath and tread carefully. The time for haste has passed. Caution and intuition are the most trustworthy guides in your corner now.



When reversed, the Moon shows that the user is going to let go of their fears and anxieties. Secrets and lies will soon be brought to the light, and any confusion you're experiencing at this time will be cleared. You are about to overcome intense personal struggles, but don't celebrate just yet. Your recovery will not be easy nor will it be smooth. The path to the future isn't entirely clear right now, and people or other circumstances will try to further obscure your vision. By the same token, this position is telling the user that they're currently steeped in falsehood. Perhaps you're lost in a world of make-believe, trying to pretend that your circumstances aren't what they actually are. Or someone has led you astray. This is the time to come to terms with your reality and make changes to free yourself from these illusions. A better future awaits you, but you have to leave deception behind.




THE SUN

Upright: Positivity, Prosperity, Joy

Reversed: Pessimism, Unrealistic, Exasperation

The sun basks the capybara in a warm glow as it nestles into a bed of sunflowers. The capybara is a master of its environment and finds harmony in nature. It trusts in nature and its surroundings to provide for it. The sunflower overflows with positive symbolism, such as loyalty, lasting happiness, and good fortune, to name a few. The Sun reminds us to indulge in happiness. If something brings joy, we are meant to cherish it. The situation may not last, but the memories and impact will carry on within us forever.



When upright, the Sun is a sign of the great positive forces working in the user's favor. You might be feeling lighter lately and filled with a sudden zest for life. And if you're not feeling this way now, know that good vibes will soon be coming your way. Slow your pace and simply enjoy the moment. Bask in the good company around you, and spend some pleasant time by yourself. Life can, at times, be difficult and feel unforgiving. If you're currently going through hardship, harness this energy to move forward in a positive direction. You'll find that the path ahead isn't as dark as it once seemed, and the light building within you will guide you towards prosperity in no time.

When reversed, the Sun is indicating that the user is feeling trapped in negativity and may be struggling to remain positive. It's hard to summon the energy to be enthusiastic when nothing feels worth the effort. Daily life can take its toll on a person, so be sure to ground yourself. Reconnect to the youthful energy of your inner child; pick up a hobby or project you've cast aside; reach out to a friend you haven't spoken to lately. Find what brings out the light and nurture it until it shines. Keep in mind the path you wish to travel. If you haven't decided on where to go, take this time to plan your next steps. Be sure to take stock of every option to ensure that the best route is taken.



JUDGEMENT

Upright: Rebirth, Awakening, Composure
Reversed: Accusations, Self-loathing, Criticism



The cicada lifts its shed shell to the heavens as a wreath of trumpet vines heralds the offering through the gate. Cicadas have long been regarded as a symbol of rebirth, immortality, and living one's life carefree and openly. They live their life largely underground, rising from the soil to shed their skins and emerge as fully formed adults. Judgement reminds us to grasp moments of rebirth without fear. There is always something grander in store for us should we shed our past selves and embrace what lies ahead.



When upright, Judgement calls on us to rise up and embrace the spiritual awakening at hand. A life-changing decision may be on the horizon, and you must be the one to make it. Rely on your intuition and intellect to guide you, and be sure to keep in touch with your inner self to arrive at the right conclusion. Any choice you make will have long-lasting consequences, so it may be smart to seek outside help in weighing pros and cons. Find support in people you trust, and take comfort in the knowledge that absolution will greet you once the decision is made.

SHED YOUR PAST SELVES.
SOMETHING GRANDER AWAITS AND
IT'S TIME TO GRASP THIS MOMENT
OF REBIRTH WITHOUT FEAR.

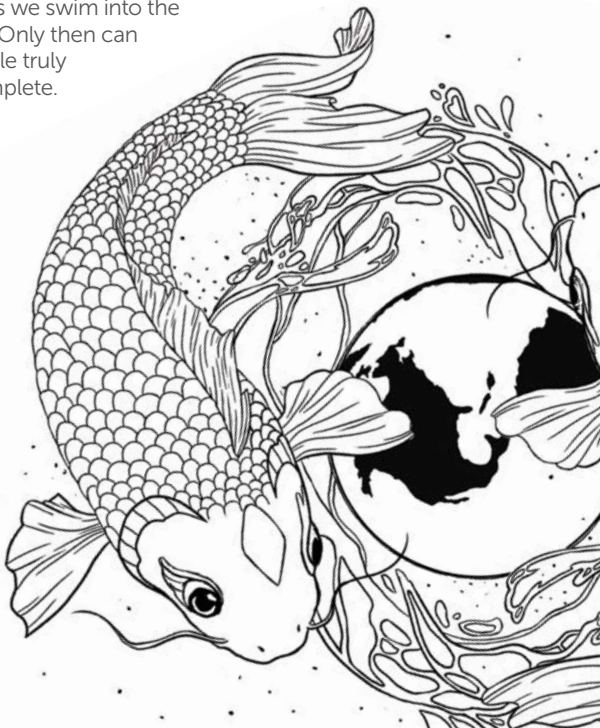
When reversed, Judgement usually signifies that self-doubt has taken root in the user, trapping them in a quagmire of inaction. The world is calling out to you, urging you to rise up and make a choice — but while you hear it, you fear what such a choice may require of you. Perhaps the journey seems too daunting, the effort too immense. You can't silence the call to action no matter how hard you try, and this card is just a reminder that you need to silence your inner critic and do what must be done. Doubt has no place in your journey. Take steps to pull yourself out of the mud and move forward. You won't accomplish anything while hiding your head in the sand.



THE WORLD

Upright: Fulfillment, Completion, Masterpiece
Reversed: Incompletion, Stagnation, Displeasure

A pair of koi swim around a floating earth, their eyes looking both forwards and backwards, paying homage to the past while seeking out the future. In many cultures, koi and goldfish have symbolized prosperity and good fortune. The World reminds us that there is a natural order to the universe and that new beginnings are precipitated by successful completion of past challenges. Like the koi, it is best to keep the past in mind as we swim into the future. Only then can the cycle truly be complete.



When upright, the World usually symbolizes the completion of a grand leg in the journey of life — perhaps a graduation, a promotion, a wedding, or the birth of a child. Something has occurred that has left you with a great sense of closure and accomplishment, and if not, then you are very, very close to crossing that finish line. Reflect on your journey thus far and appreciate the steps you have taken to get to this point. Be sure to tie up any loose ends appropriately and fairly. There are many lessons you've learned along your path. Remember them well and apply them for the future.

When reversed, the World suggests the user is seeking closure in some aspect of their life. This may refer to a past relationship, an unsatisfying experience, or the realization that something has changed in you that cannot be undone, and you are struggling to come to terms with

the reality of the situation. It's not easy to make amends with the past, but finding closure will ultimately lead to a sense of clarity that is drastically escaping you in the present. This position can also imply that while you wish to fulfill a larger goal, you aren't taking the necessary steps to make it happen. There are no shortcuts that you can take to get there, and the sooner you realize that, the sooner you'll be able to move past this frustration and onto bigger and better things.





SUITE OF WANDS

The Suit of Wands serves as a representation of one's inner consciousness and the core beliefs, thoughts, and catalysts that make up one's personality. A roaring fire resides within all of us, but while fire can be cleansing, rejuvenating, and even creative, it can also be wildly destructive if left uncontained.

When upright, the Suit of Wands showcase the elements of the reader's personality that defines who they are fundamentally. Your passions, your dreams, your motivations — they are all laid bare to remind you of what is most important for future growth.

When reversed, wands imply that the fire has grown too large or too small, that the steady ground of reality has become unstable beneath your feet, and you have become lost to fantasy, egotism, impulsivity, and perhaps even a loss of direction.

ANIMAL FUN FACTS

Ace of Wands - Dragonfly

While modern dragonflies only have wingspans of around two to three inches, prehistoric dragonfly fossils show wingspans of over two feet long. Dragonflies are capable of hovering in place like a helicopter so well that they are even capable of mating mid-flight.

Two of Wands - Blue Jays

Blue jays are songbirds native to North America and are characterized by their sharp blue crests and iconic jay song. They are thought to be beneficial to ecosystems as their jay call alerts all surrounding animals to prospective dangers. They are even capable of mimicking the songs of predator birds in order to intimidate them.

Three of Wands - Sugar Glider

Sugar gliders communicate by leaving scent trails and can even vocalize and communicate via physical contact with other members of their colony. They prefer sweet foods like nectar, pollen, acacia, and eucalyptus tree sap but have been known to consume insects and spiders for added protein as well. Sugar gliders are bred as pets but enjoy a stable population in the wild as well.

Four of Wands - Bowerbird

The bowerbird is a bird dedicated to its courtship rituals. Male bowerbirds will build elaborate nests to attract mates and are known to perform intricate dances to better their odds. Nests can be woven and tented, and oftentimes the male will fill it with different accessories, like shells, leaves, flowers, feathers, stones, berries, and even bits of plastic.

Five of Wands - Blue Dragon/ Blue Glaucus

The blue glaucus's iconic bright blue color acts as camouflage against the dark depths of the ocean below while its gray-toned top blends with the color of the sky

through the water. This is an example of something called countershading and it helps the blue glaucous avoid both surface and swimming predators.

Six of Wands - Peacock

Male peacocks boast elaborate and ostentatious tail feathers that serve as a signal to peafowl that they would make a suitable mate. Surprisingly enough, a study in *The British Journal of Animal Behaviour* recently postulated that when a peacock fans its tail feathers during a mating dance, its feathers also quiver, emitting a low-frequency sound inaudible to human ears.

Seven of Wands - Tardigrade

Known as water bears or moss piglets, tardigrades are one of the hardiest creatures on the planet. They are known to survive temperatures below 1 K (−458°F or −272°C) while others can withstand extremely hot temperatures up to 420 K (300 °F or 150 °C). It has been postulated by scientists that even if all human life ended on Earth, the tardigrade would likely still survive— and thrive!

Eight of Wands - Peregrine Falcon

The peregrine falcon is not only the world's fastest bird of prey, but also the world's fastest animal at large, capable of flying at speeds of more than 300 km (186 miles) per hour. Following the banning of the pesticide DDT, a chemical that reduced the hardness of falcon eggs and made them susceptible to breakages, falcon numbers have stabilized out of the danger zone.

Nine of Wands - Horse

Horses have been domesticated for over 5,000 years and can sleep both standing and laying down. They can live to be over thirty years old. Horses viewed as “wild” are simply descended from escaped European horses that have gone feral. Despite this fact there is fossil evidence that horses native to North America existed over 8,000 years ago.

Ten of Wands - Beaver

Beavers are the second largest rodent after the capybara. There used to be more than 60 million North American beavers, but due to hunting for its fur, its glands (for medicine), and keeping them from interfering with land development through dam creation, the population has declined to around 12 million.

Page of Wands - Red Panda

The red panda is very taxonomically difficult to classify. In the course of its study, the red panda has been classified as a relative of the giant panda and the racoon. These days, red pandas are considered members of a unique family—the Ailuridae. Red pandas are currently marked as endangered due to deforestation.

Knight of Wands - Dolphin

Dolphins are intensely social creatures with intricate communities. They hunt their prey using echolocation and some species of dolphin can produce up to 1,000 clicks per minute while hunting.

Queen of Wands - Chinchilla

Chinchillas are small rodents with incredibly dense fur, which is actually the thickest fur of all land animals with fifty hairs growing from a single follicle. Chinchillas were hunted nearly to extinction in the previous century because of the fur trade and are today still listed as critically endangered species.

King of Wands - Lion

Lions can sleep for 16-20 hours each day and only hunt once every few days, during which the female lions take charge and hunt the bulk of prey for the pride. The number of African lions in the wild is declining and they are at risk of extinction due to organized hunting. Over the last ten years their numbers have gone down by 30%.

ACE OF WANDS

Upright: Willpower, Inspiration, Urgency

Reversed: Dispassionate, Infertility, Hesitation

The dragonfly flits to and fro, skimming the waters of a pond to alight on a waiting reed. In many cultures, dragonflies symbolize courage, adaptability, and perseverance. They live their lives predominantly grounded, only enjoying the gift of flight towards the end of their lifespans. They make the most of it though, glinting in the sun as they scour the lakes and ponds. The Ace of Wands echoes this as a symbol of potential. Be energetic. Be motivated. Take every second you can get and use it to move forward.



When upright, the Ace of Wands indicates that the user has just opened up to a world of new possibility. There are many paths ahead of you, each pulling you in different directions. You may struggle to understand which to tread first. Listen first to your passions and let them be the deciding factor. If you've been waiting on a sign to guide you into a big decision, this is that sign! Listen to your instincts, but keep in mind that there are no guaranteed results. This position is one of potential, not certainty. Take steps to assure the best possible results in whatever venture you may pursue next.

**A NEW OPPORTUNITY ARISES.
REMEMBER, THE PATH TO SUCCESS
IS THROUGH DETERMINED ACTIONS.**

When reversed, the Ace of Wands represents uncertainty. There is potential on the way, and you may be aware that you are on the edge of epiphany – the only problem is you aren't sure yet how that epiphany will manifest. Take efforts to rein in the overabundance of energy fueling you. You're moving too fast, and it's making it difficult to see the bends in the road ahead. Slow down, define your goals, and think hard on the best way to reach them with the energy you've been collecting all this time. The user may become frustrated if there doesn't seem to be any easy direction to take. Focus on your passions and try to remain patient. Timing is key, and only focus will see this funk pass.



TWO OF WANDS

Upright: Discovery, Accomplishment, Planning
Reversed: Indecision, Mundanity, Shortsighted

A pair of blue jays flit through the open air, their beaks laden with twigs to build their nest. They work together to prepare for their coming brood. Blue jays are characterized by their brilliant plumage, their excited, chattering birdsong, and the fearless way they protect their territory. In folklore, blue jays are credited as the creators of the earth, building it up with dirt when all the world was water. Likewise, they've been termed as servants of the devil, carrying kindling to hell to fuel the fires down below. The Two of Wands represents two important paths that we can take, two facets of ourselves and of life. We are complex creatures with many, often conflicting traits. We must be mindful in the decisions we make and what sides of ourselves we show when interacting with others.

When upright, the Two of Wands emphasizes that it's time to move forward and make progress. This position builds off of the Ace of Wands by granting the user a clear course of action upon which to take their new burst of inspiration. You're about to discover a world of new possibilities. Explore your options and assess the tools you have at your disposal. Success is within reach, and you can quite possibly see it on the horizon. This may involve stepping out of your comfort zone. Take comfort in the fact that losing the familiar will give way to something better. You are within reach of the next stage in your journey. Hold your head up high and go forth with confidence.

When reversed, the Two of Wands suggests that the user has lost sight of how to proceed in regards to a project or general life direction. It can be easy to start out strong and then lose sight of the purpose behind your actions. Reconnecting with your inner self to evaluate what you want can help get you back on track. If there is a major decision approaching, try to ask yourself what it is you really want. What will make you happy? What will lead you to the best possible future? It's not always easy taking a step back to reassess, but until you realize what you actually want and what direction you want to go, you won't know what to do next. Don't be afraid to step into the unknown. While it's easy to survive within the familiar, focus on learning how to thrive, even if it takes you to places you've never been before.



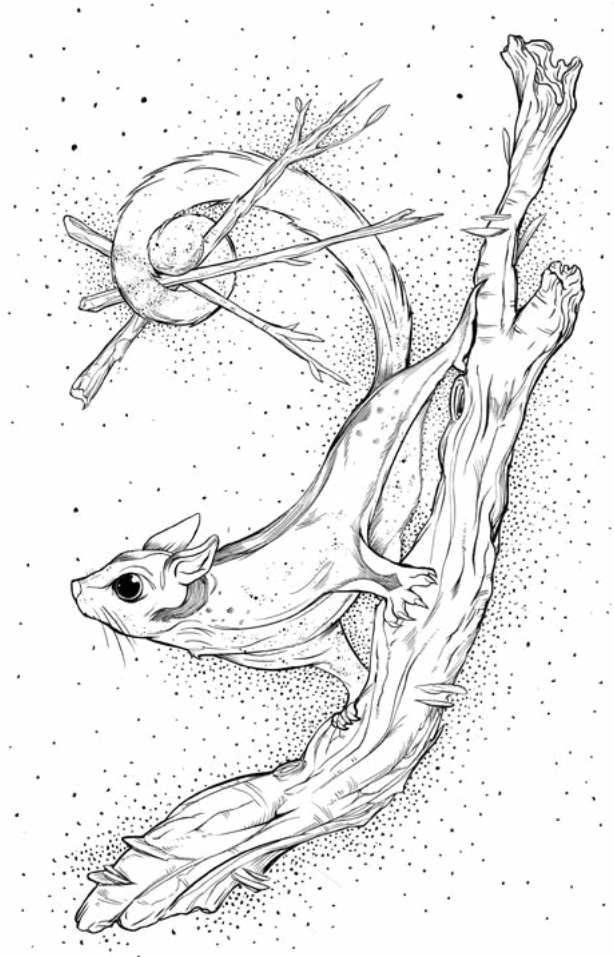
THREE OF WANDS

Upright: Productivity, Expansion, Effort
Reversed: Negligence, Setbacks, Restrictions

A lone sugar glider looks out at the world around it, clutching three twigs in its tail. It carefully assesses the dangers of where it's at as well as where it wants to go. The distance may be great, but it knows that so long as it can see the destination ahead, one great leap will carry it to safety. The Three of Wands reminds us that our goals are within reach should we have the bravery to pursue them.

When upright, the Three of Wands suggests that the user's plans for the future are well underway and progressing as we speak. You may be gliding along, the end point in sight, and wonder if now is the time to explore even more opportunities while on your current path. You've prepared well for this moment. Be aware of challenges that still remain ahead of you, but don't be afraid to expand your goals in the moment. The work you've done to get to this point will carry you further than you first intended, and now is the time to think big. Stay committed to the path and you may be surprised just how far you'll fly.

When reversed, the Three of Wands is here to inform you that while the path to growth and new heights are in front of you, you are keeping to your initial plans, too anxious to step outside of your comfort zone. Things may have taken an unexpected turn, delaying actions and progress. Perhaps you didn't prepare as well as you should have, and now plans are screeching to a halt against your will. Work to break down what needs to be done. Complete tasks one by one until they are finished, and take care not to overburden yourself. Lack of preparation got you into this mess, and renewed preparation will get you out of it.



FOUR OF WANDS

Upright: Surprises, Celebration, Vitality

Reversed: Transience, Unwelcomed, Privacy

A male bowerbird sits within his beautifully constructed bower, waiting for his mate to return to complete their courtship ritual. Renowned for their elaborate rituals, bowerbirds are the perfect symbol of commitment, hard work, and harmony. Male and female bowerbirds work together to raise their young,



and the strong monogamous bond they share is the foundation upon which their stable relationship is formed. Though the Four of Wands can symbolize marriage, all relationships – no matter the make up or type, monogamous or open, platonic or romantic – are celebrated equally in the graceful arches of the bower nest.

When upright, the Four of Wands is a celebration of joy, happiness, and the wonderful facets of life that seek to make everything worth it. It signals a time to celebrate with friends and family. This can range from a large, boisterous event to a small, intimate get-together with only those closest to you. So long as you feel secure and loved, there is no wrong way to enjoy this newfound sense of security your hard work has brought you. Be proud – you've accomplished a great deal and have earned this time to reconnect with what is most important to you. If you are still working on a major project, this is a sign that a great milestone is about to be reached. Take this as a sign that you've done a good job!

When reversed, the Four of Wands suggests that the user isn't in the same festive mood as others when it comes to celebrating a goal or achievement. You've done something to increase your inner stability, and while you are proud of yourself, you don't think it warrants telling others. Honor your hard work privately. Take pride in what you've accomplished, even if it seems minor. Conversely, this position may also indicate a crack in your foundation. There may be something going on with your family or friend group, something that has shaken the stability you once enjoyed. There is a transition at work here, and it won't be comfortable. Hold tight to what you can and retreat to the safe harbor of your inner foundations to find the stability you need.



FIVE OF WANDS

Upright: Competition, Rivalry, Conflict

Reversed: Reconciliation, Opportunity, Diversity

The *Glaucus Atlanticus*, or blue slug, meanders along the ocean's surface, letting the currents carry it wherever they may lead. Five stalks of coral impede its path, but still the blue slug keeps moving, pushing through adversity to see what lies beyond. Its path is not an easy one. The ocean is fickle, its waves treacherous. The Five of Wands reminds us that we must prepare for adversity no matter where we go. The road to moving forward is rarely as smooth as it initially seems.

When upright, the Five of Wands suggests that the user is up against competition or hardships that have slowed their progress to a crawl. Something is impeding your ability to move forward, and most likely, this tension comes from other people who are working towards goals similar to yours. Everyone wants their voices to be heard, and yet no one is listening. There are opinions that aren't being heard that may just provide the answers to the questions you seek. Strive to be the force that pulls instead of pushes. Be enthusiastic and encouraging throughout this transition. People are always stronger together than apart, and there's no limit to what you might accomplish should you stop fighting against everyone else's current.

When reversed, the Five of Wands suggests instead of external forces battering down on you, the conflicting and opposing forces at work are stemming from internal channels. You might be struggling to formulate an opinion on a contentious topic or fumbling through making sense of an immensely personal choice. Everywhere you turn you see new facets to the arguments battling away inside of you, and instead of clarity, these new perspectives just add another angle upon which to become overwhelmed. This position suggests that the user dislikes conflict and works hard to avoid it wherever they can. While helpful in some situations, this sort of behavior leads to these kinds of issues. You need to confront things head on and make a stand for what you truly want for yourself. Once you do, relief will be swift to follow.

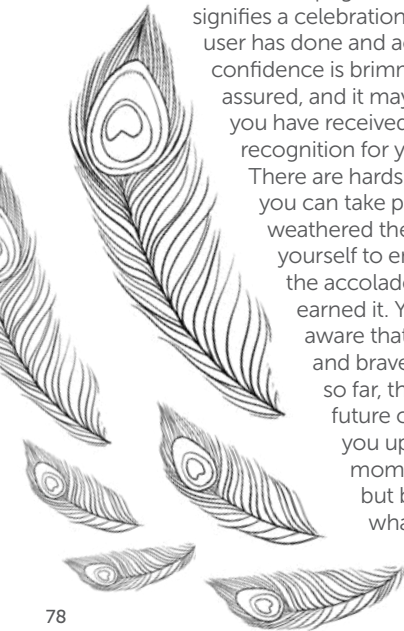


SIX OF WANDS

Upright: Victory, Self-Confidence, Progress
Reversed: Egotism, Treachery, Unsuccessful

A peacock sits front and center, its beautiful feathers on display for all to see. Peacocks are known for their presentation and ostentatious appearances. They advertise their feathers, staring back at the world with eye patterned spots the meet the gazes that are inexorably drawn towards them. The Six of Wands is a card built on spectacle and taking center stage, whether we receive a standing ovation or the hook depends solely on our ability to keep pride in moderation.

When upright, the Six of Wands signifies a celebration of everything the user has done and accomplished. Your confidence is brimming, you are self-assured, and it may even suggest that you have received or will receive public recognition for your accomplishments. There are hardships along the way, but you can take pride in the fact that you weathered them with grace. Allow yourself to enjoy the confidence the accolade bring you — you've earned it. You're advised to be aware that while you've come far and braved the storm admirably so far, there is still the chance of future challenges arising to trip you up. Savor the victory this moment has brought you, but be ready for what lies ahead.



the Six of Wands implies that the user may have accomplished something important but not received any attention from it. Perhaps no one noticed, or perhaps you've kept your accomplishments to yourself, not feeling it worthy of being brought into the public eye. You may be struggling with your confidence and feel you deserve no praise, even if you do. Try to look inside yourself to understand what success means to you. Come to your own definition and you'll find it easier to move forward. This position can also suggest the opposite extreme: the user may have accomplished something and reacted with arrogance or an elevated sense of entitlement. Temper your pride and do your best to rein it in. People will want to see you fall if you give them ample reason to, and you'll find your victories to be much sweeter if you embrace humility now. Stop alienating those who would otherwise enjoy seeing you succeed.



SEVEN OF WANDS

Upright: Perseverance, Competition, Resistance

Reversed: Vulnerability, Panic, Overwhelmed



The tardigrade wraps itself around seven stalks of seaweed, ready to weather anything that comes its way. Tardigrades are some of the hardiest organisms on the planet. They can be found on top of mountains, at the bottom of the ocean, in lakes, in stone, and in pretty much any environment on the planet – and even off it. The Seven of Wands reminds us to channel the tardigrade’s hardiness. Though you are surrounded by different obstacles and trials, you will overcome. You’re stronger than your troubles and can endure.

**WE CAN ENDURE MUCH MORE
THAN WE THINK WE CAN.
PERSISTENCE WILL LEAD TO SUCCESS.**

When upright, the Seven of Wands suggests that the user has accomplished something worthy of recognition, but once all eyes are turned to them, there is a high possibility that there will be naysayers and critics waiting for the chance to say their piece in return. You are about to undergo a harsh period of criticism, and much of it won’t feel deserved. Don’t be afraid to defend yourself, but be aware that the brighter you shine, the more people will want to see you fall. Part of the challenge of creating something amazing is proving to others that your success is deserved. Work hard, believe in what you’ve done, and know that this adversity will make you stronger.

When reversed, the Seven of Wands symbolizes external criticisms that carry enough weight to severely impact the user's ability to progress. Harsh criticisms and opposition have taken their toll on your spirit, and it may feel impossible to move past it. This isn't true — you can rise above this if you work to establish your position and refuse to change yourself just to keep others happy. Try to remember that you can't make everyone happy, and you will wear yourself down to the bone if you try. Stay true to yourself and keep your chin up. Being overwhelmed happens, but it's what you do to shrug it off that will reaffirm your dedication to the goals you've set out to accomplish.



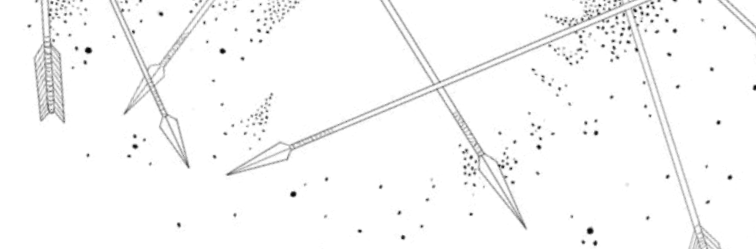
EIGHT OF WANDS

Upright: Action, Movement, Vigor
Reversed: Delays, Frustration, Regression

The peregrine falcon swiftly darts through the air, dodging the eight arrows racing towards it. This falcon is touted as one of the fastest in the world, capable of swooping down at incredible speeds to snag its prey with a grace and dexterity that few could ever hope to match. Falcons have long been believed to be apex hunters and symbols of rising above challenging situations. The arrows of adversity could never hope to catch up to the peregrine falcon, so long as it uses its natural gifts to stay ahead of them. The Eight of Wands reminds us to keep moving forward. You've left your troubles and hardships behind and are now heading towards a brighter future.

When upright, the Eight of Wands signifies that the user has overcome past adversity and moved forward into a new dynamic space where their energies can now be directed towards their goals once more.





The core trait of this position is dynamism: go with the flow, embrace the swiftness that life is granting you, and move forward, not back. Hone in on your goals and don't let yourself get distracted. This is a time for taking the bull by the horns and getting things done. Any ongoing projects are soon to be blessed with a spurt of creativity that will quickly see them through to completion. If you have new ideas, move them off of the backburner and strike while the iron is hot. The world is open to you – embrace the chance you've been given to explore what you've always wanted to explore.

When reversed, the Eight of Wands suggests that the user is charging on full steam ahead but hasn't taken time to consider exactly what their next step will entail. A degree of foresight is necessary to dive into things headfirst, and this is evidence that you aren't at that point yet. There may be a bit of 'magpie syndrome' at play here. It's easy to get distracted by every new idea that comes into your head, but it's impossible to give each idea its due.

Dedicate yourself to one, and don't allow detours until you've seen it through to the end. This position can also indicate future delays – be they in travel, projected deadlines, or scheduling issues – so be aware that enthusiasm alone won't help much when the rest of the world is at odds with your productivity. Take some time to plan accordingly. Getting things streamlined before you make the mad dash to the finish will only help future-you cross the finish line that much easier.

NINE OF WANDS

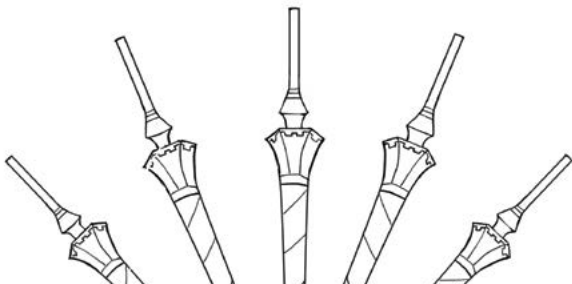
Upright: Resilience, Protective, Courage
Reversed: Defensive, Paranoia, Exhaustion

A horse rears up on its hind legs, backlit by the sun pierced with nine lances. The horse has longtime been associated with freedom, power, hard work, and the dogged determination required to work through adversity. The sun, a symbol of power and energy, has taken a few blows, but the horse rears up to show that it is ready to plow forward anyway. The Nine of Wands is a symbol of fighting through the weeds to get to the other side. Though it may be difficult, we must be strong in the face of adversity. We might be beaten up along the way, but we will emerge on the other side stronger than before.



When upright, the Nine of Wands tells us that the user has taken a few blows, encountered adversity in its truest sense, but still stands tall to take on what will come next. You may be feeling run-down and cowed by all that life has thrown at you, but just keep in mind that for every hurdle you clear, that's one more notch in your belt to carry with you from this day forth. Strength comes from confronting adversity head-on. It may feel daunting now, but so long as you keep pushing towards that finish line, you will come out stronger than you ever thought possible. You have people who can help support you if others try to kick you while you're down. Know who your friends are and send the rest packing. You have the tools to progress, don't hesitate to use them.

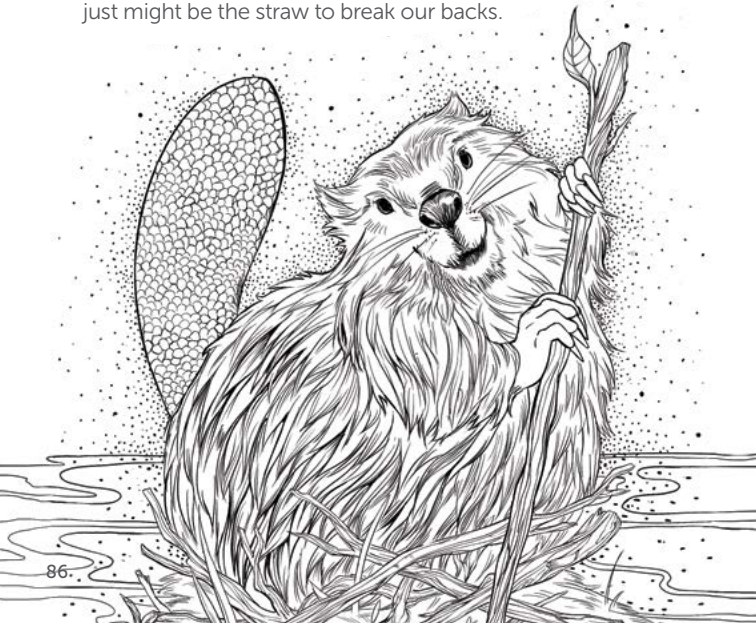
When reversed, the Nine of Wands suggests that the user has lost the will to stay strong. Life has taken a toll on you, beating you down again and again until you don't feel as if you can keep your head up any longer. The way forward may seem impossible to parse out, but you need to know that you are so close to the realization of your goals. Draw inwards for the strength necessary to keep going. You are resilient, resourceful, and capable. If outward support is sparse, take efforts to focus on what you can offer up on your own. Resist the urge to take on additional commitments and avoid succumbing to paranoia. When the world is at its most inhospitable, it's easy to believe everyone else is out to make it worse. Stay centered and focused on what you can do for you.



TEN OF WANDS

Upright: Burden, Exhaustion, Responsibility
Reversed: Accountability, Overburdened,
Reassessment

A beaver sits hard at work sorting through straw for ten sticks it has gathered for its dam. Persistent and competent, beavers symbolize diligence towards a task, no matter how heavy the burden might become along the way. The task ahead is a laborious feat, but in spite of this, the beaver knows that it must put forth the effort to continue its survival. The Ten of Wands reassures us that, even when our work is difficult and sometimes unenjoyable, we will bask in the rewards. It only asks us that we take care of ourselves in the process; while lost in the burden of our work, we never know what just might be the straw to break our backs.

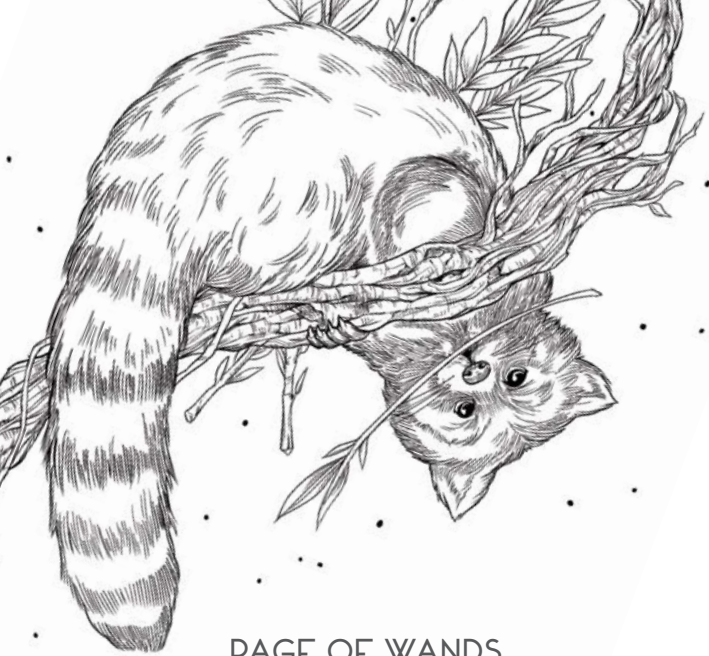


When upright, the Ten of Wands implies that the user has taken on a heavier workload or greater responsibility in recent days. This may have been a choice you underwent willingly, and though it makes the road ahead harder, know that it is just a temporary situation that will lead to greater rewards in the future. This is a card that encourages you to invest in the future through hard work. It doesn't always imply taking on more work – investing in yourself and your mental well-being by cutting down on jobs that overtax you can also lead to greater future payout. The last few steps in any journey are the hardest, but take solace in the fact that the end point is well within sight. There are rewards in taking on new burdens. Keep your perspective clear to understand what those rewards will be.

NO MATTER HOW HEAVY THE BURDEN, YOUR PERSISTENCE WILL PAY OFF.

When reversed, the Ten of Wands suggests that the user is overburdened with responsibilities that would be better handled if shared with those around you. You may be attempting to shoulder it all yourself out of a sense of duty, pride, or expectation. The weight is crushing you though, and this is a sign that you need to share the load. Ask for help from those around you; you may be surprised just how many of them are willing to carry the weight with you. This position can also signify that you need to 'trim the fat'. There may be duties, possessions, or expectations in your life that aren't serving any purpose. You've carried them along with you for long enough, and it's time to relieve yourself of their burden and let go. You may be surprised how far you'll continue to go once the weight has left your shoulders.





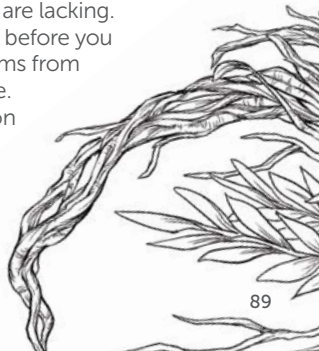
PAGE OF WANDS

Upright: Energetic, Exploration, Enthusiasm
Reversed: Passivity, Pessimism, Procrastination

A red panda stands firmly atop a branch, munching eagerly away at a sprig of bamboo. Red pandas spend the majority of their waking hours eating, bolstering their nutrient-poor diet with constant bouts of foraging. They are tenacious but solitary creatures who explore the world as they eat, nourishing themselves in body and mind. The Page of Wands is a symbol of restlessness, reminding us that we are always seeking to nourish ourselves with creative energies. Even if our attempts fail to yield anything of note, the steps we took along the way make the journey worth it.

When upright, the Page of Wands suggests that the user is ready and willing to accept a new journey without knowing exactly where it will take them. There is no ultimate goal in mind, but the excitement and enthusiasm to see what might come from it pushes the user into action. You may be feeling restless, overly energetic — creatively and spiritually — with little outlet. This is a sign that a new path is opening for you, and the restless energy you feel is urging you to take it when it presents itself. Curiosity should be embraced at this time, and if you feel hesitation or reluctance, consider seeking out a mentor or guide to help you on your way. Experiment if you need to, but feel confident in taking the step towards something new. You may be surprised where it leads you.

When reversed, the Page of Wands can imply several things. It suggests that there is ultimately a sense of restlessness and unease in the user that may have arisen over an idea that hasn't yet come to fruition or even following a project that never made it off the ground. There are ideas within you that haven't had the chance to shine the way you know they can. You may feel eager to get them out into the world, but there are obstacles in the way that you haven't properly accounted for. Failure is a scary thing, and it may be paralyzing you from moving forward. Try to turn inwards for the clarity you are lacking. Assessing what needs to be done before you try again can help prevent problems from repeating themselves in the future. There is a discovery on the horizon for you, one you know you need to make alone. Ground yourself and be prepared to redefine your goals if you need to.



KNIGHT OF WANDS

Upright: Riskiness, Adventure, Self-Assurance
Reversed: Volatile, Impulsiveness, Unfocused



The dolphin stands poised for action, a scepter tucked behind its flipper and a mantle of fiery kelp wrapped around its energetic body. In many cultures dolphins are symbols of energy, curiosity, passion, and creativity. The fiery essence of this passionate spirit is symbolized by the kelp mantle, and the scepter showcases its readiness to march forward, no matter the adversity that lies ahead. The Knight of Wands reminds us to take an active role in the shaping of our destinies, for only then can we be assured of the outcome.

When upright, the Knight of Wands is a symbol of active pursuit of an idea or goal. The user has foreseen the path ahead, worked hard to ready the necessary tools to get there, and is spurred into action by the passion and energy they've harnessed in the course of the preparations. Others will be drawn to your energy as well, so don't be surprised if you find yourself with company on this journey. For every step you take, your confidence will grow, but take heed that you don't fall victim to the 'act first, think later' mindset that this confidence can carry with it. The future looks good for you, but succumbing to impulsiveness can wreck even the most carefully laid plan. Temper your enthusiasm with patience, and know when to think before you leap.

When reversed, the Knight of Wands presents itself when the user is filled with an undercurrent of energy but isn't sure how to channel it efficiently. Something may be holding you back from taking the leap forward to explore a path the way you know you want to. Obstacles may be physical and metaphorical, but all of them are impeding your ability to harness and release the energy inside. Take a moment to reassess your goals and explore other options of pursuing them. Do you have to do it the way you originally planned? Also, take heed not to act impulsively in hopes of letting the energy out as quickly as possible. Spreading yourself too thin will do you no good in the long run, and that energy is always better spent on something targeted. Look within to find the best way to proceed. You don't want to do something you'll regret later just for the momentary satisfaction of saying you've done something at all.





QUEEN OF WANDS

Upright: Courage, Passion, Energy
Reversed: Fatigue, Demanding, Spite

A chinchilla sits below an orchid plant, clutching a tiny stalk between its small hands. Chinchillas are known for their soft, dense fur and inquisitive natures. They represent warmth and energy, and the orchids above its head signify love and delicate beauty. A strongly feminine card, the Queen of Wands reminds us that hard work can get a person far, but determination and mettle are necessary to cross the finish line. Relying on our inner dedication and prioritizing knowledge of the self are instrumental to seeing our goals realized.



When upright, the Queen of Wands represents the user's resilience in getting to this point and having their end goal in sight. This is a card that favors the bold, and so long as you stay bold, the future will favor you too. Connect with others and don't shy away from leading them as you progress. Attention will be given to you and is rightly deserved. Know yourself thoroughly, even the parts of you that you don't like to think about. Self-actualization takes courage to pursue, but it will be well worth the effort when it helps strengthen your convictions in the future. Express yourself and be as bold as you can be!



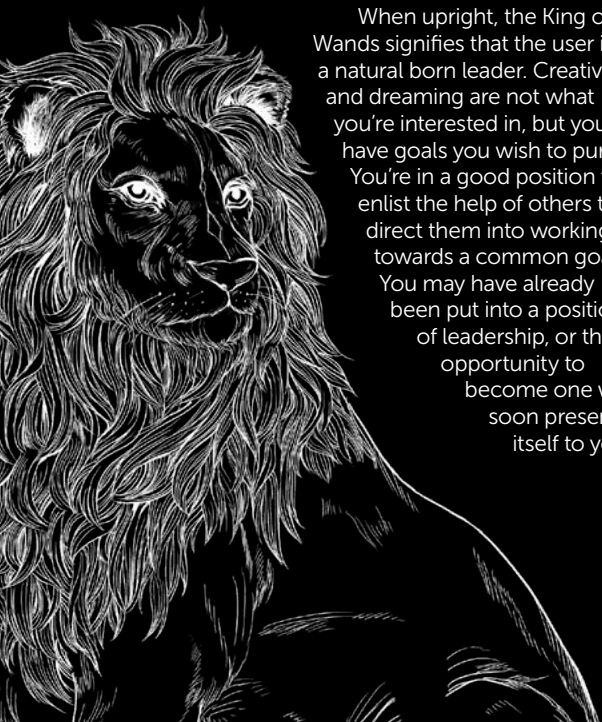
When reversed, the Queen of Wands tells the user that they have succeeded in reaching a place of self-respect and confidence. Self-actualization is a difficult bridge to cross, but you've succeeded and come out stronger for it, although along the way you seem to have drawn into yourself. Introversion is perfectly fine, and so long as you are being true to yourself, you should maintain whatever distance you need to keep the clarity you've fought so hard to find. If you find yourself lacking confidence, however, you may need to take steps to reclaim your boldness from wherever it's gone. Rediscover yourself from within and emerge when you're ready. The world can wait until then to see what you have to show it.

KING OF WANDS

Upright: Leadership, Leniency, Charming
Reversed: Arrogance, Forcefulness, Impulsive

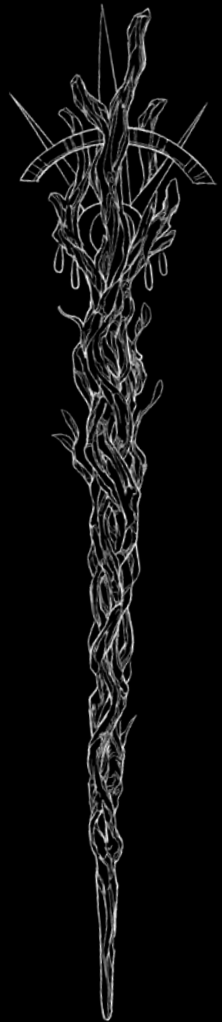
A longstanding symbol of power, leadership, and masculine energies, a male lion looks out over his dominion, king of all that he surveys. His staff is large and upright, representing the strength he employs to keep his kingdom running smoothly and without issue. He is confident in his abilities. The King of Wands reminds us to rely on our charisma and presence as we pursue our goals. Only then will others deign to follow our lead.

When upright, the King of Wands signifies that the user is a natural born leader. Creativity and dreaming are not what you're interested in, but you still have goals you wish to pursue. You're in a good position to enlist the help of others to direct them into working towards a common goal. You may have already been put into a position of leadership, or the opportunity to become one will soon present itself to you.



Channel your charisma and focus to be the best leader you can be. Don't be afraid of this responsibility; everyone who follows you does so because they believe in what you stand for. Take on challenges head on and don't waste time pursuing things you know won't yield results. The time for action is now, and you have all the tools necessary to make fortune work for you.

When reversed, King of Wands indicates that the user has been put into a leadership role and is not ready for the responsibilities that entails. You may still be a follower instead of a leader, and you struggle to relate to the people around you enough to present the strong foundation they look up to for guidance. Perhaps you struggle with delegation, believing only you can produce worthwhile results. Be wary of arrogance poisoning your efforts, and be open to what others have to offer, even if they are ranked under you. No one gets to where they are by blindly stepping on the heads of others. Be realistic, deal fairly with your followers, and understand that there is more to being a leader than telling others to jump and waiting for them to ask "how high?"





SUITE OF PENTACLES

The Suit of Pentacles represents the physical side of consciousness, relating largely to one's outer health, finances, and current state of being. If a reading is predominantly Pentacles, the answers you seek are largely centered around material things like work, finances, and tangible, materialistic pursuits.

When upright in a reading, the Suit of Pentacles relates the current state of material things, one's occupation, and the financial status of the reader.

When reversed, Pentacles indicate a negative fixation on such things, implying greediness, overworking oneself at work, an obsessive, miserly view on money, and a detrimental habit of neglecting the body in favor of material gain.

ANIMAL FUN FACTS

Ace of Pentacles -Glass Frog

Glass frogs have translucent skin that showcases their liver, heart and intestines when looked at from below. Bones in certain species are green or white in color, and it is thought that this is meant to help camouflage them from predators.

Two of Pentacles - Mountain Goat

A bit of a misnomer, mountain goats are not goats at all, but are actually closer related to antelopes or bovines than the typical goat. They can jump about twelve feet in one leap and are the largest mammal in high altitude environments. After the first 22 months of life, mountain goats can be aged by counting the rings on their horns.

Three of Pentacles - Ants

There are over 12,000 ant species worldwide and are some of the longest living insects in the world. The queen of a specific ant species is even known to live for as long as thirty years. Ants can be found on every continent except for Antarctica.

Four of Pentacles - Armadillo

There are 21 species of armadillo ranging from 6 inch long types to giant armadillos which grow over 5 feet long. Despite a common misconception, only one species, the three-banded armadillo, can roll itself into a hard armored ball to defend itself against predators.

Five of Pentacles - Polar Bear

Despite first assumptions, polar bears are not actually white. They have black skin and hollow, colourless hair. Their hollow fur reflects light and traps the sun's heat to help keep them warm. They are excellent swimmers and have partially webbed toes. Polar bears are under threat from hunting, habitat destruction, and worst of all, global warming.

Six of Pentacles - Meerkat

Meerkats are very community-oriented creatures that take turns babysitting the young, foraging, and watching for predators in shifts. They have excellent eyesight and the black spots around their eyes reduces sun glare and allows them to keep watch over large swatches of desert.

Seven of Pentacles - Raven

Thought to be one of the smartest animals, ravens are capable of communication, problem-solving, and are known to use tools to get to food. They can mimic human speech better than parrots if raised in captivity, and are known to mimic other bird species in order to attract prey and lower the guards of nesting birds in order to sweep in and devour eggs or vulnerable chicks.

Eight of Pentacles - Baya Weaver

Baya weavers are very social, community-oriented birds that fly in close formation and stick close to one another when foraging for seeds among the plains. They are most famously known for their elaborate hanging nests which they tend to build over water.

Nine of Pentacles - Cat

The first known domesticated cat lived over 9,500 years ago and was found in a gravesite in Cyprus. Agile and quick, cats have an interesting gait in that they step both right feet first, followed by both left feet, so they move half of their body forward at once. Only giraffes and camels share this walking technique.

Ten of Pentacles - Bowhead Whale

Bowhead whales are one of the longest living mammals on the planet. One individual caught off the coast of Alaska in 2007 was found to have a harpoon point embedded in it that dated back to 1880. Bowheads have begun to recoup their population but are still actively threatened by pollution and global warming.

Page of Pentacles - Cricket

Crickets are most known for their chirping, a sound caused by rubbing their wings together, not their legs. As the temperature increases, crickets chirp faster and faster, and if timed, one can even tell the exact temperature based on the number of chirps. Simply count the chirps during a 14 second stint and add forty to get the temperature in Fahrenheit.

Knight of Pentacles - Bumblebee

Experts in the act of flight, bumblebees flap their wings over 200 times a second. Their metabolisms are so high that they must eat constantly to stay alive, and it is said that a bumblebee with a full stomach is only forty minutes away from starvation, giving them a good reason to buzz around as busily as they do!

Queen of Pentacles - Alpaca

Alpacas are strictly herd animals raised for wool, and therefore do not exist in the wild. Well-cared for alpacas can live for up to twenty years, and their wool is considered hypoallergenic, flame-resistant, and water-repellant. For all their domestic uses, they can be a bit ornery to raise. Alpacas love to spit when annoyed and have great aim when doing it.

King of Pentacles - Bull


A common misconception for bulls is that they can be incited by the color red, famously wielded by bullfighters in Spain, but actually, bulls are red-green colorblind and antagonized by the movement of the cloth, not the color. Their aggression stems from the need to gain dominance over herds of cows for breeding rights, and they can be dangerous if not handled with great care.



ACE OF PENTACLES

Upright: Newness, Manifestation, Opportunity
Reversed: Lateness, Deficiency, Delays

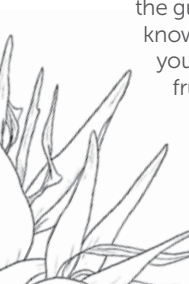
The glass frog rests on a pentacle surrounded by Bird of Paradise, ready to leap forth towards new opportunities. In traditional Chinese culture, frogs are associated with good fortune in wealth, while the Bird of Paradise symbolize joy and freedom, perfectly representing the Ace of Pentacles. This card indicates that opportunities are now ripe for the taking and success is not far ahead if you are willing to work for it.



When upright, the Ace of Pentacles represents new beginnings and opportunities. Something in your life is about to give way to new beginnings, be it a new job, a raise, your physical wellness, or something else material that you've been needing for awhile now. Prosperity is coming, and it's coming soon! But as with most things in life, this oncoming abundance comes at a cost. Success is not guaranteed but earned. Consider this a sign that you should begin planning new goals, and be ready to work hard to make them a reality. The stars are aligned and the world is your oyster; just take heed that you don't confuse opportunity knocking as a guaranteed win.

**DON'T FALL VICTIM TO HASTE,
DREAMS CAN DIE SWIFTLY IF GIVEN
LESS EFFORT THAN THEY REQUIRE.**

When reversed, the Ace of Pentacles suggests that the user is encountering obstacles as they try to move forward in life. A job opportunity may have fallen through or a promised raise never came to pass. This is very much a sign to not count your chickens before they hatch. Resist the urge to invest in something you can't pay for now under the guise of future earnings. Move only when you know the time is ripe for it, and when you know you can back it up. Try to bide your time and live frugally until the promised windfall comes to pass. You never know how long you might have to wait for it to come, and it's best not to be stuck out in the cold before it does.

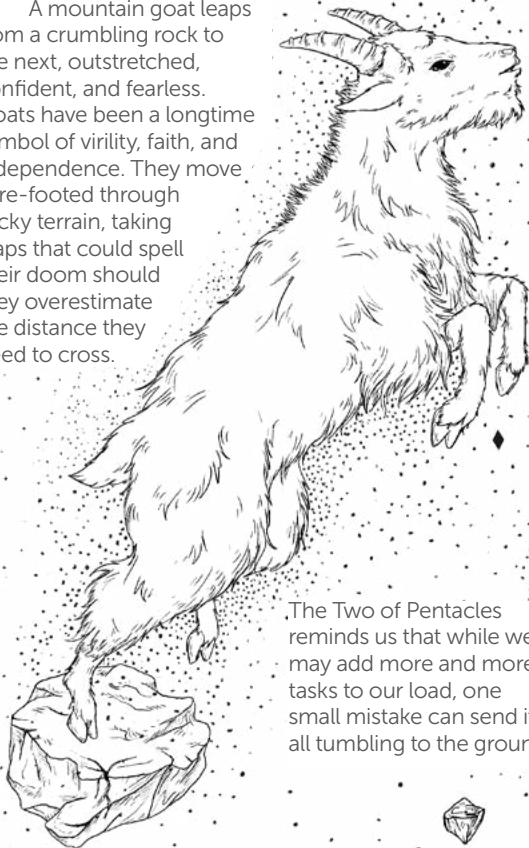


TWO OF PENTACLES

Upright: Hustling, Flexibility, Balance

Reversed: Overwhelmed, Resentment, Unorganized

A mountain goat leaps from a crumbling rock to the next, outstretched, confident, and fearless. Goats have been a longtime symbol of virility, faith, and independence. They move sure-footed through rocky terrain, taking leaps that could spell their doom should they overestimate the distance they need to cross.



The Two of Pentacles reminds us that while we may add more and more tasks to our load, one small mistake can send it all tumbling to the ground.



When upright, the Two of Pentacles signifies that the user is currently juggling many different responsibilities. Work life, family life, and all the little tidbits in between are roving around your head, and you are succeeding in keeping them all afloat. But that isn't to

say such productivity is permanent. Your energy won't last forever. Manage your priorities carefully and stay focused. Ask for help if you need it, and try to be flexible as life changes around you. You may be balancing work and family perfectly one week only for something to change the next. Be attuned to these changes and open to changing yourself to keep up with them. Balance is key to staying on top of things!

THE BEST WAY TO DO MANY THINGS IS TO ONLY DO ONE THING AT A TIME.

When reversed, the Two of Pentacles is telling the user that they are overburdened, over committed, and not handling the strain well. This is a wakeup call to get organized fast. Others may not have keyed in on your struggle to stay afloat, but that won't last forever. Take the time to create a to-do list, a budget, and to focus more on hammering out your responsibilities to keep them from piling up. If need be, drop some of the burden before it can drag you down completely.

This can also be a sign that aspects of your life have become unbalanced. You may be over-investing yourself in one part of your life over another, and the dissonance is catching up with you. Something has to give. Reassess your priorities before you're forced to give up first.



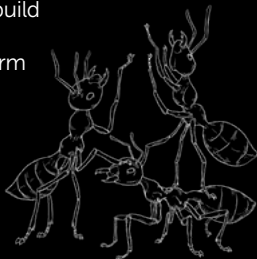
THREE OF PENTACLES

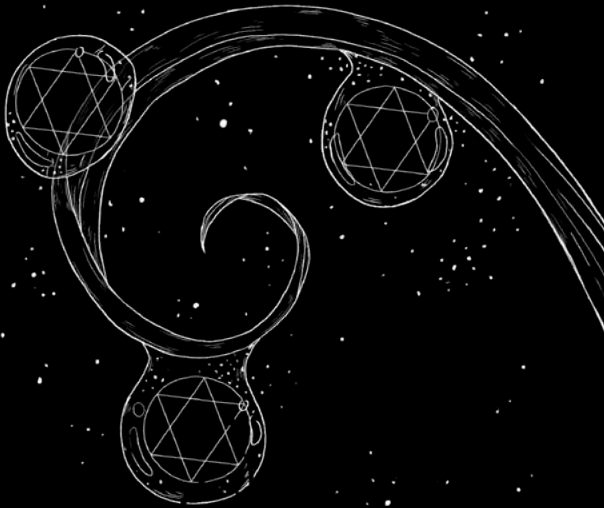
Upright: Collaboration, Selflessness, Achievements

Reversed: Superiority, Disorganization, Lackluster

Three ants stand beneath a blade of grass to collect the pentacles encased in drops of dew. Their collaboration and teamwork ensure that the job is done well. Symbolically, ants represent hard work, determination, loyalty, and camaraderie. Each ant has its duty within the colony, from a drone to a fighter to the queen herself. Alone, they can carry many times their own body weight, but together, they can do so much more. The Three of Pentacles represents collaboration at its purest form. We are stronger together than the sum of our parts, and everyone, from the novice to the journeyman, has something to offer the other.

When upright, the Three of Pentacles informs the user that there is value to be found in collaborating with others. Life is not a monolith. It's the differences in people that make humanity great, and through collaboration, we can succeed in building something bigger than anything an individual could accomplish alone. Share in discussions with people who differ from you. Seek out unique perspectives and work to integrate them with your own. You have a goal in mind that you are determined to seek, and take this as a sign that you cannot build the foundation alone. Utilize those around you to give it a firm starting point. You know what you have to do — let others help you make it a reality.





When reversed, the Three of Pentacles implies that the user is struggling to work well with others. Somewhere along the way, things have gotten out of sync, and you are having trouble making progress when the rest of the team doesn't jive well together. You may need to negotiate: discuss every person's role in the project and change things up if people aren't being used to their full potential. Revisit the drawing board and develop a more detailed plan. The way forward won't be easy to find if you don't know how to get there to begin with. This position can also suggest that you aren't being appreciated within your own team. Your efforts are going unnoticed and unrewarded, and you're becoming resentful of it. It may be time to seek other opportunities or try going it alone. Still, be sure to ask for help if you need it. The journey ahead is a difficult one, and going it alone will only add to that.



FOUR OF PENTACLES

Upright: Frugality, Affluence, Possessiveness

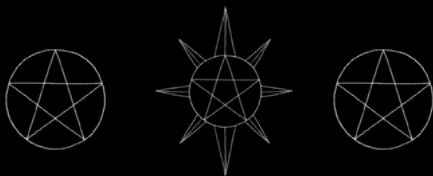
Reversed: Theft, Accountability, Change

An armadillo sits curled around a pentacle, its armored bands defending it from the outside world. While the pentacle is safe, the armadillo is stuck in place, unable to move for fear of what might become of its prize. The two spears of hay above its head represent the prosperity lying in wait outside the boundaries of the armadillo's protective sphere. They are out of reach, close by but inaccessible to someone who refuses to open up to what life may bring them. The Four of Pentacles reminds us that secluding ourselves provides protection, but it also alienates us from the rest of the world.

When upright, the Four of Pentacles asks the user to be critical regarding their relationship to money. There is a fine line between being frugal and being miserly. One brings economic relief when life takes a turn while the other places you in a state of anxiety, distrust, and paranoia. While this position can suggest that you've reached economic stability by remaining careful, conservative, and attentive, it usually implies that you've become unable to spend for fear of losing your fortune. Forgoing happiness entirely will not serve you well. Money should not be the focal point of your life and actions. Control can be had in other ways. Try to live within your means without punishing yourself, and remember that there is more to life than the pursuit of wealth.

When reversed, the Four of Pentacles implies that you have begun to second guess your priorities. You have come to the realization that money is not happiness, and material goods cannot make up for the lack of emotional stability that love can bring instead. Consider downsizing and refocusing on emotional bonds over material items. Conversely, this position can also indicate that you have been spending money faster than you can save it. You may be doing this to make up for a lack of happiness in your life, but you need to come to terms with the fact that bringing yourself closer to debt will only increase your stress. Greed brings instant gratification. Seek out meaningful relationships that will sustain you far longer, and seek the stability you crave in more productive ways. Focus on your environment first. Deep clean your room or tidy up a messy space. Start small and apply these changes to the rest of your life until you feel more in control.





FIVE OF PENTACLES

Upright: Poverty, Struggle, Despondency

Reversed: Triumph, Recovery, Security

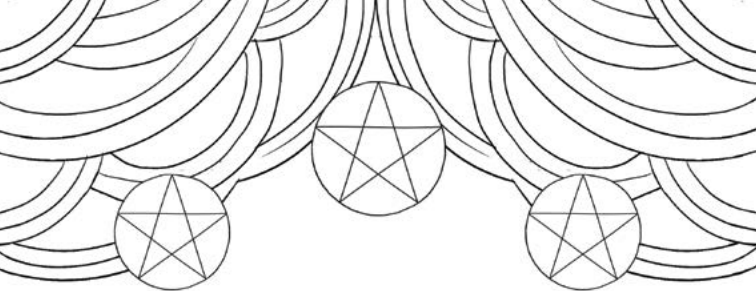
A lone, solitary polar bear stands on a rapidly melting ice cap beneath the blistering sun. It stares anxiously ahead as the ground disappears beneath it, unaware of the land nearby. The polar bear was once a symbol of strength and majesty, but as its habitat disappears, the future becomes murky and bleak. The Five of Pentacles reminds us that help is out there, even if it's hard to see. Even if the ice melts completely, the bear can swim until new ground is found.

THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE. ALWAYS.

When upright, the Five of Pentacles signifies the user is struggling to keep their head above water as their hardships compound. Hard times have hit, and it feels inescapable. You may have lost a job, a relationship, financial security, or something material. Whatever you've lost, you've taken hits to your pride on top of it all. Try to keep things in perspective, and don't let yourself succumb to despair. Despair can make everything seem like an enemy, even yourself. Look inside yourself for the positives of the situation. It may be hard to find them, but they are there. The sooner you find them, the sooner you can move on from this.

When reversed, the Five of Pentacles is the harbinger of an end to major hardships. New avenues of opportunity are incoming, be it a new job, a raise, or even just a helping hand from someone who cares. The knocks and bruises you took in your fall are beginning to heal. It may take time to recover completely. Wounds to the spirit always strike deep, and it will take conscious effort to work through the hits to your self-esteem. You may feel like you're lacking something, and it can lead to you becoming fixated on material wealth or objects. This can be healing, but also very easily damaging. Take note if it starts to become a problem, and seek comfort in family or friends to make up the difference. Put some faith into the universe to provide. You'll be surprised how often it answers back.



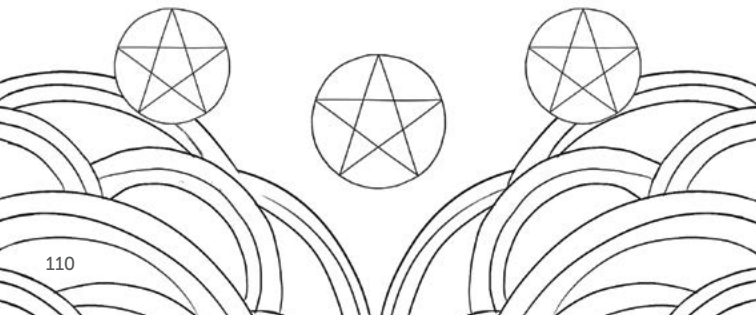


SIX OF PENTACLES

Upright: Generosity, Assistance, Support

Reversed: Subservience, Debts, Extortion

Three meerkats stand at attention within the opening of their burrow, keeping watch while their colony forages elsewhere. Every meerkat in a colony has a duty to fulfill, and though these watchmen can't eat right now, they know that their sacrifice allows for the rest to hunt in confidence, reassured that no danger will come their way. The Six of Pentacles rewards charity among its recipients, promoting community and the care that goes into nurturing it. Meerkats are pack animals, thriving when everyone does their due. Keep your hand outstretched and fairness in mind. When you need it, you will be rewarded in turn for your good deeds.



When upright, the Six of Pentacles suggests that the user may be in a position to be charitable with those less fortunate. Financial security has taken root, and charity is something you can engage in without fear of overextending yourself. Be free with your wealth and share your bounty. The universe gives back to those who hold out their hands. This position can also mean that you are the one receiving charity from a giving hand. Though accepting help can be difficult, put away your pride and accept it with gratitude. Know that they are doing you a good turn, and when you are back on your feet, you can return it in spades. Charity is an investment both spiritually and emotionally. Nurture those around you in good faith and allow them the tools to give back once they are in the position to do so.

When reversed, the Six of Pentacles suggests that the user has been negligent in giving back to themselves while giving to others freely. You may need to take a step back to administer some much needed self-care. There is no harm in rewarding yourself for all the good you've done. You deserve it! Take care though that your giving nature isn't being taken for granted. If you are struggling, don't overextend yourself. It can be easy to help others at the expense of yourself, but charity can turn to self-injury when you give more than you can safely give. Be mindful of the commitments you are making, and always keep in mind that charity is for others, not for self-reward. If you are in a relationship, one partner may be overly invested and the other under invested. Compromise is key to keeping things healthy.



SEVEN OF PENTACLES

Upright: Results, Patience, Review

Reversed: Distractions, Deferral, Aimlessness

A raven sits at its nest, watching over its eggs while looking out at the world beyond. Ravens are associated with memory, thought, and cunningness. They look to the future and invest in it as well, symbolized by the eggs tucked safely in the nest. While ravens can reflect the potential prosperity ahead, they can also function as omens of death and misfortune. The Seven of Pentacles reminds us to be wary of the future and all it can bring. Investing in ourselves can help skew the odds in our favor, but if we are short-sighted in our efforts, misery can just as easily follow.





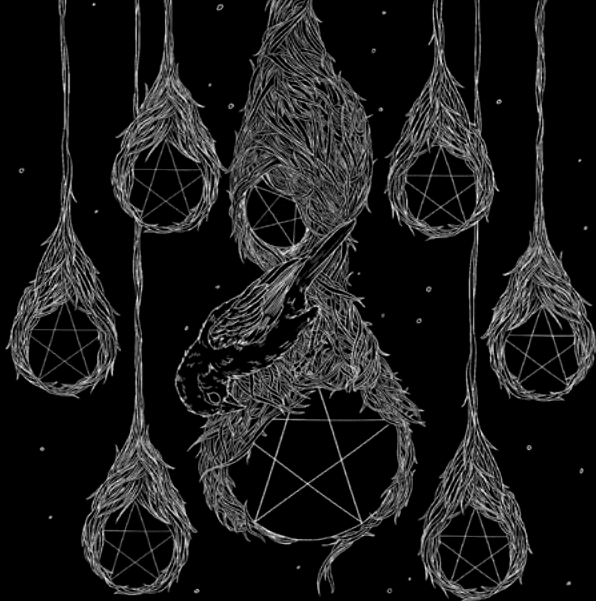
When upright, the Seven of Pentacles suggests that the user understands the importance of investing in the present to reap the benefits of a sustainable future. You are putting in the time and effort to lay down a strong foundation, and despite the toil and strain it involves, you know that you are giving yourself the best possible chance at making something great in the long run.

Always look at the bigger picture at hand. Find the parts you can bolster, and do it with confidence. If you have been doing this for awhile now, take comfort in the knowledge that the seeds you've sown are nearing bloom. Take a rest, be proud of your efforts, and push through any frustration you may feel. Good things take time to germinate. Have faith that you've done all you can to make it happen. Sometimes that's all you can do.



When reversed, the Seven of Pentacles implies that the user is experiencing doubts over past choices. Perhaps you've put your efforts into focusing on one thing when you believe you should have focused on another. You're stressed that you've wasted time, energy, and resources that could have been spent elsewhere. Take stock of what you've done and what you still need to do. If you feel you aren't reaping any benefits, it may be time to evaluate how you are spending your time. In terms of a relationship, you may be feeling that the once-stable ground you spent time building is now shaky. There are no guarantees in life or love. Think long and hard on if the relationship is worth continuing.





EIGHT OF PENTACLES

Upright: Trade, Reputation, Qualification

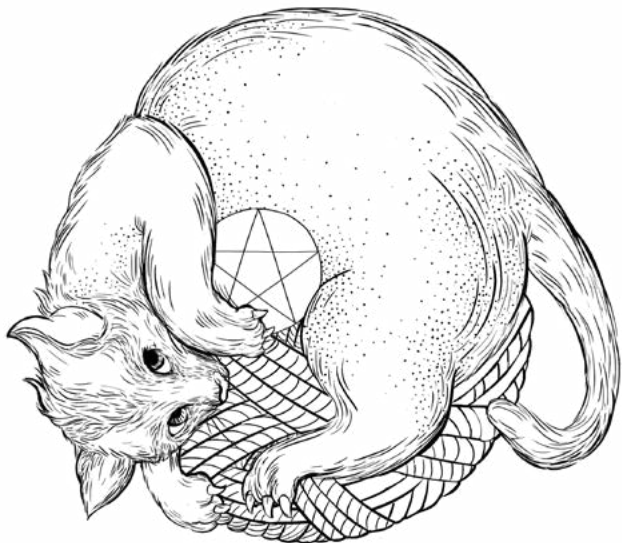
Reversed: Uninspired, Mediocrity, Listlessness

The baya weaver toils away at its task of encasing a pentacle in a woven nest. Its work is flawless, and the seven pentacles in the background showcase just how hard the weaver works in developing its trade. The Eight of Pentacles is a card that finds value in and rewards hard work. An expert is made by developing one's skills and never taking shortcuts. Just like the baya weaver, we too need to remember that hard work is its own reward. The more we practice, the better prepared we'll be for the jobs ahead.

When upright, the Eight of Pentacles suggests that the user is working hard to develop their skills. You have become fully focused on honing your skills with a determination that can only lead to future success. You may be considering supplementing your education through additional schooling or picking up some new books. You have a goal in mind of how to better yourself, and you know that only through practice will you succeed in becoming an expert. Self-improvement is always admirable. If you aren't currently taking steps to learn a new skill or hone an existing one, considering changing that. The time is ripe for it, and it's never a bad idea to improve in any areas that may need it.

**YOU ARE LEARNING. BE READY
TO COMMIT TO THINGS IN THE
LONG-TERM TO SEE THE
SUCCESS YOU'RE AIMING FOR.**

When reversed, the Eight of Pentacles can suggest that the user is focusing inward for personal development as opposed to the development of an external skill. You may be taking steps to change your perspective or state of mind. Pursuing spiritual betterment can be difficult, but you are determined and success is in the cards. Conversely, this position may suggest that you have become fixated on the idea of achieving perfection, and in this pursuit, you have lost sight of why you have taken steps to better yourself to begin with. Changing yourself for the better is an admirable goal, but becoming obsessed and rigid in your efforts will only cause future problems. Reassess why you are making these efforts. Try to focus on the right things and keep your goals realistic. Perfection is impossible.

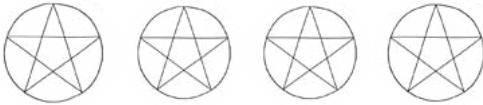


NINE OF PENTACLES

Upright: Rewards, Self-Control, Freedom

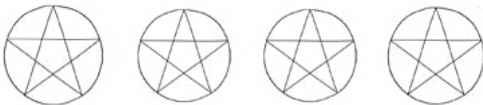
Reversed: Exploitation, Scams, Rejuvenation

A playful cat curls around a yarn ball while surrounded by pentacles framed by an ornate window. Cats are famous symbols for independence and luck, though they never fail to show love to those they favor. The Nine of Pentacles echoes the cat's nine lives. The pentacles outside of the window suggest that the cat has lived through a few of its lives getting to a place of security, but it still has many left to enjoy now that it has received the fruits of its past labor. We must take time to revel in the life we've worked so hard to achieve.



When upright, the Nine of Pentacles suggests that the user has worked hard in their life to achieve a sense of equilibrium. You may have honed your skills and applied for a better job. Maybe you've gone back for more education, and now the opportunities are rolling in. Abundance is flowing freely now, and this is your sign that it's finally time to enjoy the fruits of your labor. Treat yourself! Buy something you've always wanted and don't be afraid to pamper yourself with a massage or new outfit. Live freely with the security you've worked hard to attain.

When reversed, the Nine of Pentacles implies that you are struggling with your sense of self-worth. Doubt is rushing in, making you question whether you have anything to offer the world. Your skills may not feel like they're enough, and nothing you produce feels like it has any value to it. This may have led you to accept less for your labor than you're worth. Conversely, you may be focusing on bettering your self-worth by slowly opening up to self-care. It can be hard to spend money on yourself when you aren't used to it, but you are beginning to realize you are worth it. In either case, it is time for you to take a step back and realize that you are worth more than you're letting yourself have. Live within your means and understand where your limits are, but make sure that you take time to tune in with your self-worth.





TEN OF PENTACLES

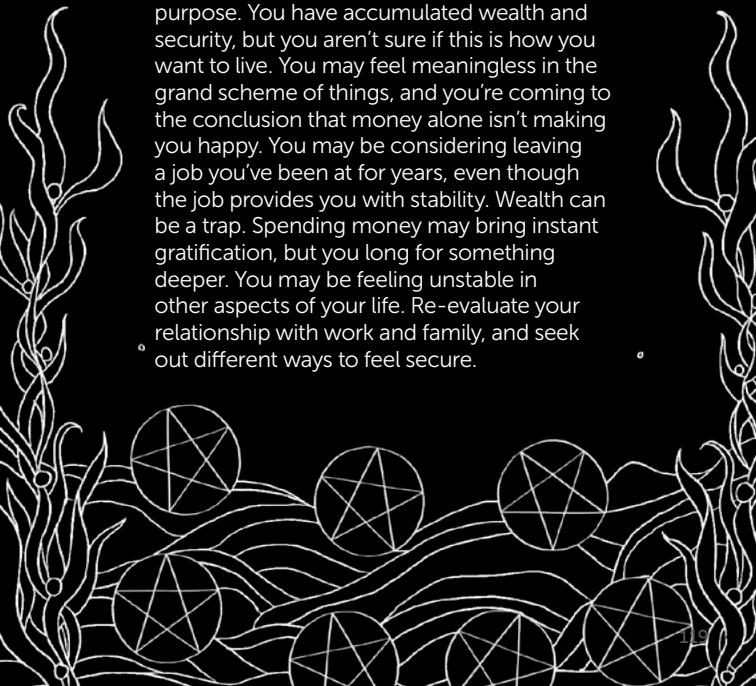
Upright: Permanence,
Inheritance, Culmination
Reversed: Finances, Bankruptcy,
Falsehood



A bowhead whale dives towards the ocean floor where eight pentacles rest, waiting to be claimed. Two more fall alongside the whale to signify the wealth still on the way, carried downward by the current. Whales are associated with compassion and knowledge of life and death. Their long lifespans allow them to gain clarity on what matters in life, and through their constant hard work, they are able to gain a level of prosperity that will remain with them long into the future. The Ten of Pentacles is a sign that a journey has come to an end. Success follows those who work hard and remain charitable. Just as the whale swims confidently towards its wealth, we should rejoice in the security we have worked so hard to earn.

When upright, the Ten of Pentacles signifies that the user is coming to the end of a project or journey. You've always looked at the bigger picture, and because of this, you've managed to keep focused and work hard. Your past efforts have paved the way to your success. Now you're able to reap the benefits of your long-term investments and live substantially on the rewards. Remain charitable; share your bounty with others. This position also suggests permanence in regards to your current prosperity, so use the newfound security to focus on other aspects of your life that you may have put aside.

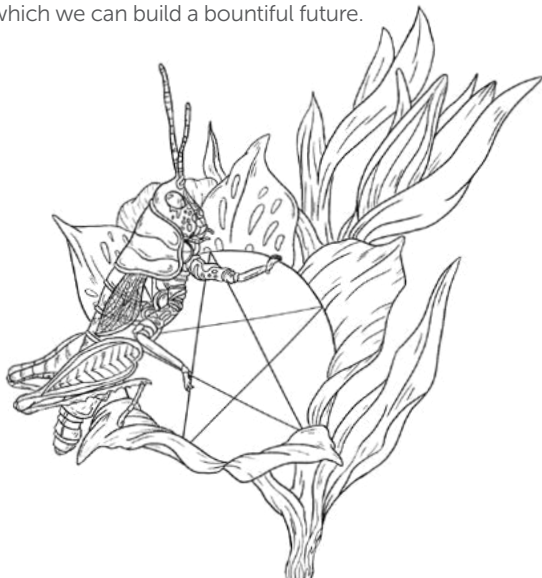
When reversed, the Ten of Pentacles implies the user is undergoing a crisis of purpose. You have accumulated wealth and security, but you aren't sure if this is how you want to live. You may feel meaningless in the grand scheme of things, and you're coming to the conclusion that money alone isn't making you happy. You may be considering leaving a job you've been at for years, even though the job provides you with stability. Wealth can be a trap. Spending money may bring instant gratification, but you long for something deeper. You may be feeling unstable in other aspects of your life. Re-evaluate your relationship with work and family, and seek out different ways to feel secure.

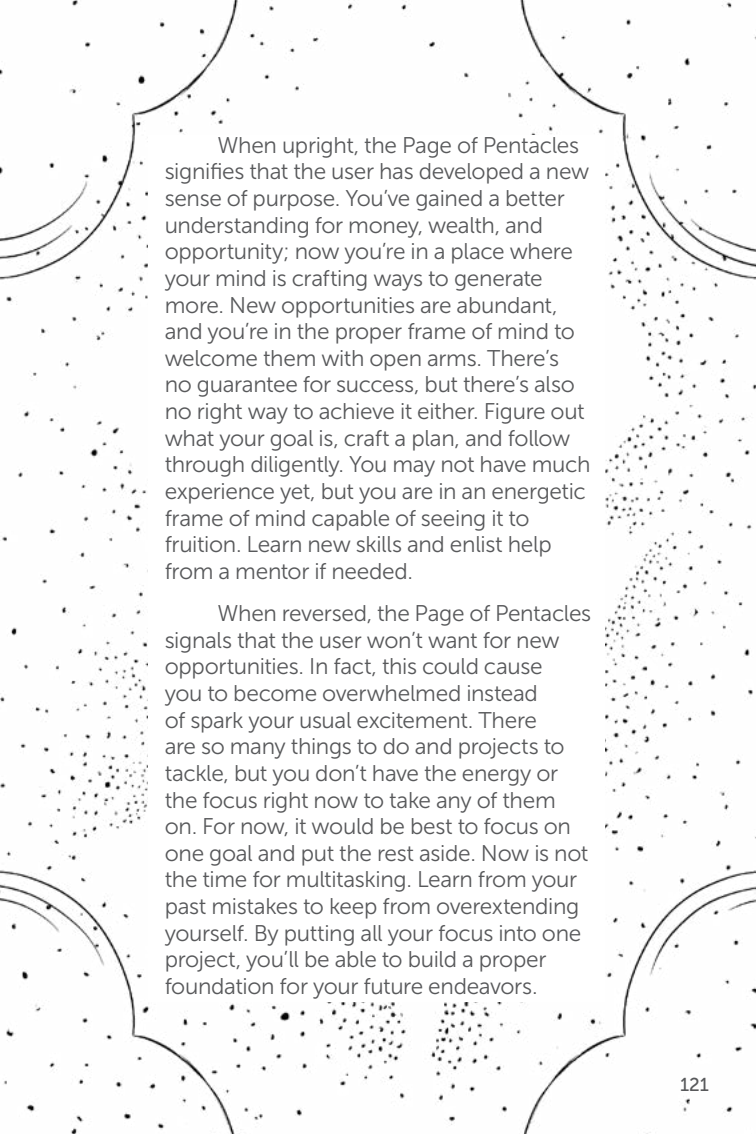


PAGE OF PENTACLES

Upright: Diligence, Enthusiasm, Consistency
Reversed: Procrastination, Frustration, Noncommittal

A cricket chirps quietly atop a pentacle nestled within the blooming leaves of a Peruvian lily. Crickets are overflowing with symbolism across many cultures, but most common among them are good luck, wealth, and manifestation. They also symbolize initiative — the inner drive that encourages us to push forward and take life into our own hands. The Page of Pentacles reminds us to emulate this positive influence. Choose a goal in life and put your heart and soul into pursuing it. With honest ambition, it's possible to create a solid foundation upon which we can build a bountiful future.



The background of the page is a black and white illustration of a starry night sky. Scattered throughout are numerous small, solid black dots of varying sizes, representing stars. Overlaid on this starry field are several large, stylized, white-outlined shapes that resemble clouds or the edges of a window. These shapes are positioned at the top and bottom of the page, framing the central text. The overall aesthetic is clean and minimalist, with a focus on geometric and organic forms.

When upright, the Page of Pentacles signifies that the user has developed a new sense of purpose. You've gained a better understanding for money, wealth, and opportunity; now you're in a place where your mind is crafting ways to generate more. New opportunities are abundant, and you're in the proper frame of mind to welcome them with open arms. There's no guarantee for success, but there's also no right way to achieve it either. Figure out what your goal is, craft a plan, and follow through diligently. You may not have much experience yet, but you are in an energetic frame of mind capable of seeing it to fruition. Learn new skills and enlist help from a mentor if needed.

When reversed, the Page of Pentacles signals that the user won't want for new opportunities. In fact, this could cause you to become overwhelmed instead of spark your usual excitement. There are so many things to do and projects to tackle, but you don't have the energy or the focus right now to take any of them on. For now, it would be best to focus on one goal and put the rest aside. Now is not the time for multitasking. Learn from your past mistakes to keep from overextending yourself. By putting all your focus into one project, you'll be able to build a proper foundation for your future endeavors.



KNIGHT OF PENTACLES

Upright: Efficiency, Responsibility, Persistence
Reversed: Impatience, Workaholic, Irresponsible

A bumblebee labors away atop a honeycomb, filling chamber after chamber with pollen that will one day yield golden honey. Flowers surround it to signify the process the bee goes through to accomplish its task. The bee must visit thousands of flowers to gather enough pollen to fill the combs, but it doesn't shy away from the work; it knows it is necessary. The Knight of Pentacles knows the value of hard work. Though the labor may be intense, it reminds us that only through continual effort will we be able to reap the benefits that follow.

When upright, the Knight of Pentacles exemplifies the hard work that goes into fulfilling one's dreams. You either know what you want out of life, or you're developing a plan. You may already have taken steps to begin the methodical approach to reaching your goals. Consistency is valued over speed, and you have taken the time to plan accordingly. It may be boring, but know that your approach will lead you to success.

When reversed, the Knight of Pentacles suggests that the user is struggling to find the discipline necessary for achieving their goals. There are too many ideas running through your mind, and you have come to the realization that you can't accomplish everything you set out to do. Self-development takes time and effort, but the task of changing yourself for the better needs to start here and now. Make a schedule, and plan accordingly. Keep in mind that discipline can be a framework that keeps you on track, but it doesn't have to be so rigid that you can't appreciate the occasional detour either.



QUEEN OF PENTACLES

Upright: Sensibility, Generosity, Practicality

**Reversed: Unhealthy, Disorganization,
Self-absorption**

An alpaca sits beneath a bright glowing pentacle surrounded by plants and flowers and ripe ears of corn. Nature is in full bloom, showcasing its fertile bounty as the alpaca watches with a gentle gaze. Alpacas represent deep trust and faith. They are caring and nurturing. The Queen of Pentacles reminds us to look at the gifts we've been given and to think hard on how we can nourish them to yield more in the future. There is much more goodness to be had so long as we work hard to bring it into existence.

When upright, the Queen of Pentacles is a nurturing symbol that reflects the work the user has done to contribute to the world around them through hard work, an integration of work and home life, and promoting security for yourself and those around you. You've achieved balance in many aspects of your life.

You are enjoying the prosperity that brings you, but know that you must work to maintain it. Take steps to deal fairly with others and to create a calm, nurturing space everywhere you go. Perhaps you have someone in your life already fulfilling this role for you. Seek to emulate them and do your best to share that energy with others.

When reversed, the Queen of Pentacles represents the user turning their nurturing spirit inwards to care for their inner self. Building up and maintaining your own lifestyle is very important to you right now, and you've done a lot of work to assure yourself that you are secure in all aspects of your life. You may be eating better, working out more, or otherwise investing in yourself to be the best you possible. Conversely, this position can also suggest that some part of your life has become unbalanced. One area may be receiving more attention than another. Seek to integrate all aspects of your life, and understand that prioritizing your responsibilities is paramount to achieving harmony. You may need to change your schedule or ask for help if you continue to struggle with this.





KING OF PENTACLES

Upright: Abundance, Status, Dependable

Reversed: Underqualified, Greed, Materialism

A bull rears up on his hind legs under the glow of a brilliant pentacle. The rays radiate outwards, illustrating dynamic energy, and the bull — a symbol of stamina, virility, strength, and determination — charges forward, eager to seek out wealth lying just beyond the horizon. The King of Pentacles reminds us that material success is imminent.

When upright, the King of Pentacles signifies that the user is on a hard fought path towards self-improvement and achieving a longtime goal. Developing ideas is just one part of the task; you are capable of leading others, laying the groundwork for new projects, and directing resources for the best possible outcome. Struggle is far behind you. Now is the time to embark on new ventures. A significant male figure will soon be playing an important role in your life. He comes off as wise and grounded, but don't count on him for tactful judgement. Learn what you can from him and benefit from his presence while he's around.



HARD WORK HAS
BLED INTO PROSPERITY,
AND IT IS NOW TIME
TO SAFEGUARD IT
FOR THE FUTURE.

When reversed, the King of Pentacles asks you to reassess how you engage with money. You may find that you've been having trouble keeping hold of the money you've been making or have been spending it quickly on luxuries or risky ventures. Self-discipline is very important right now. Work on holding back on these urges before it puts you in the hole. Conversely, you may be experiencing trouble with prioritizing things other than money. You may be dedicating all of your time and effort towards making money while neglecting the people around you. Seek to realign your priorities and temper your need to excel through less than honorable means. Try to break out of bad habits and attempt to do things differently if you're feeling stuck in your ways.

SUITE OF CUPS

The Suit of Cups relates to the inner self and one's connectivity with the emotional world that resides within us all. Readings that contain predominantly cup cards tend to indicate an emotional journey that may harken to one's romantic, creative, and interpersonal habits and where they reside along its path.

When upright, the Suit of Cups illustrate a fluency with the emotional world and one's habitual tendencies to think with the heart rather than the head.

When reversed, the Suit of Cups tends to indicate that there is a disconnect or dispassion at play within the reader that may be leading them astray.



ANIMAL FUN FACTS

Ace of Cups - Otter

Sea otters are known to carry stones with them at all times, both for recreation and for aiding in opening up the hard shelled abalones, sea urchins, clams, mussels, and crabs. They actually form attachments to specific stones and can be seen keeping them in an armpit when not in use. Some even keep their favorite stone throughout their life.

Two of Cups - Penguin

Penguins usually swim around 10 miles per hour and can dive to 800 feet into the water, though emperor penguins can dive an impressive 1,850 feet. This sort of diving is aided by their intensely dense bone structure. They are one of the few creatures able to drink seawater without issue and they have a special gland that allows them to expel out the excess salt.

Three of Cups - Quokka

Quokkas are members of the marsupial family and they are described as the world's happiest animal due to their bright smiles. It is a little bit of a misnomer, however, as children visiting their habitat on Rotte Island are routinely treated for bites and scratches after getting too close to them.

Four of Cups - Chambered Nautilus

Chambered nautilus are related to cephalopods but are much longer lived than their squid cousins, some species living up to 20 years old. They boast around 90 arms that let them latch onto fish, crabs, and dead animals that stray too close to them, and their eyes have been described as 'pin-hole cameras', their vision cycling between blurry or dim depending on how they focus their pupils. They track mainly through their sense of smell instead.

Five of Cups - Locust

Related to grasshoppers, locusts have a very storied history. Commonly associated with plagues and famines, locusts have been known to emerge in enormous swarms and feast on fields of crops, causing astronomical damage to the agricultural industry.

Six of Cups - Gulabi Goats

Gulabi goats are a unique breed of goat characterized by their long, hanging ears. They are a popular breed in Pakistan, and are actually made by crossbreeding four distinct breeds of goat: Rajhanpuri, Pateri, Kamori, and Beetal. They are very friendly and are commonly kept as pets as well as for milk and meat.

Seven of Cups - Narwhal

Commonly referred to as the unicorn of the sea, narwhals look like something out of myth and were hunted for their tusks in order to sell them as proof that unicorns existed. Their tusks are actually an enlarged tooth with sensory capability and up to 10 million nerve endings inside.

Eight of Cups - Cuttlefish

Cuttlefish are intensely curious and intelligent members of the cephalopod family capable of changing their color and texture at will to perfectly match their environment. They are completely colorblind. Scientists believe they are able to perform this feat of color magic due to them being able to see polarized light.

Nine of Cups - Royal Poodle

A royal poodle is the largest size of standard poodle available. They can grow to stand around 25 inches at the shoulder and weigh over sixty pounds when fully grown. Like all poodles, this particular type is hypoallergenic and very intelligent. Poodles were originally bred as hunting dogs and are fairly high energy as a result.

Ten of Cups - Fennec Fox

Fennec foxes are the smallest species of fox in the world and boast a pair of 4-6 inch long ears that aid them in hearing prey and predators. It also helps to dispel heat during hot days in the deserts where they make their home.

Page of Cups - Sardines

Sardines are members of the herring family and travel the ocean in large schools, feeding on plankton as they go. Named after the Island of Sardinia where they used to be readily available for fishing, sardines are most commonly caught for human consumption, but their oil is also used to produce paint, varnish, and linoleum.

Knight of Cups - Bird of Paradise

Birds of Paradise are most well known for the elaborate courtship dances performed by the males of the species, as well as the intricate and artful feather displays that gave them their heavenly name. It is believed that the absence of predators in their environment led to these birds evolving for ornamental purposes.

Queen of Cups - Snail

Snails can have lungs or gills independent of their environment, with some sea snails having lungs while some land snails have gills. Famously viewed as the slowest creatures on earth, the average garden snail has a top speed of roughly 50 yards per hour, as as they move they leave behind a trail of slime that reduces friction and allows them to crawl upside down.

King of Cups - Flamingo

Famously pink, flamingos are born whitish-grey and get their color from their diet. Pigments in their food are responsible for the red and pink colors of their feathers and come from the shrimps, algae, and crustaceans they consume.

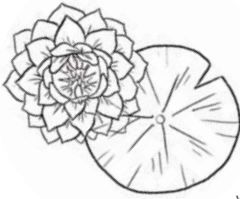
ACE OF CUPS

Upright: Beginnings, Socializing, Celebrations

Reversed: Emptiness, Infertility, Malice

An otter floats on its back, clutching a cup to its chest as it drifts peacefully along. Water lilies, symbols of enlightenment, rise from the mud beneath to bloom brightly and are surrounded by rich green lily pads. The otter is content where it is and is in no hurry to its destination. The Ace of Cups reminds us to find such happiness within ourselves. Like a peacefully flowing river, there is an abundance of goodness and new possibilities that fill us with the potential that courses through us all.





When upright, the Ace of Cups suggests that the user is ready to open up and embark on a new journey, be it creative, work-oriented, or within new relationships. It's time to create new connections with those we love or those we wish to

know better. Creative endeavors will progress smoothly right now, and taking the first step to pursue them will bring you closer to your end goal. You are experiencing a period where you're ready to let go of any emotional baggage that may be weighing you down. You're ready to see life with a new perspective. Take advantage of this social spirit, and let your emotions guide you in a new direction.

LISTEN TO YOUR INNER VOICE. BEING TRUE TO YOURSELF WILL BRING YOU AN ABUNDANCE OF JOY, HAPPINESS, AND LOVE.

When reversed, the Ace of Cups signifies that the user has been dealing with some emotional hardship or repressed emotions for a long time. You could have lost joy in something you once loved, or a connection you've forged has broken down and turned sour. Look internally to figure out where this disconnect happened. If you're struggling to express your emotions, try to take some time to reconnect. It's fine to stay private, but take care that you don't become repressed entirely in the process. It can be a scary thing to share your feelings with others. Trust in those around you. Live freely and feel freely, even if it takes some time to work up to it.

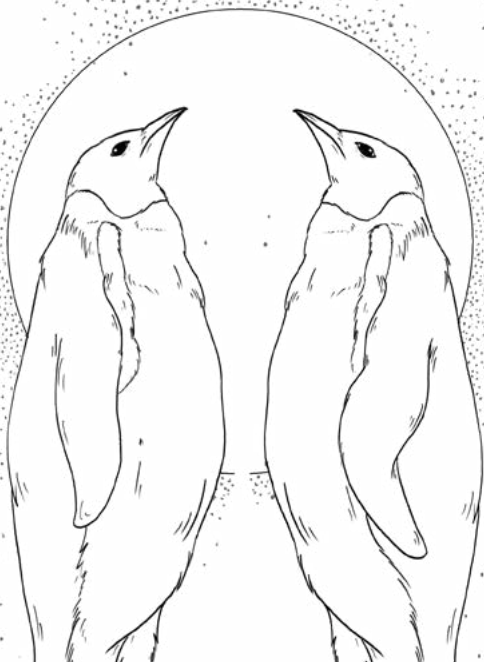


TWO OF CUPS

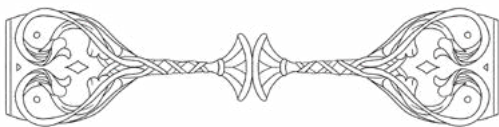
Upright: Partnership, Compatibility, Equality

Reversed: Arguments, Dominance, Breakups

Two emperor penguins face one another on either side of two cups. The gold and blue colors of the penguins' feathers echo the intrinsic dichotomy of the sun and the moon, but together they stand united to create a unified sky cycle. The Two of Cups is a card of reciprocation. Just as penguins mate for life and rear their young together, so too should we remember to reach out to those we love in our moments of need.



When upright, the Two of Cups signifies that the user has a very deep, meaningful connection with another person. This may be a new relationship or an older one that has only recently begun to reach new levels of connectedness. There is potential in it to develop into something truly special, something that will be a win-win for the both of you. In business, this could mean starting a new partnership with someone who will carry you to success. In a relationship, this may symbolize a connection that transcends the physical. Cherish these relationships no matter what form they come in; they are incredibly special and enjoy the comforts to be found in this new level of mutual respect.



When reversed, the Two of Cups suggests that the user is suffering from a sense of imbalance. Things might not be as peaceful between you and your loved ones, or the comfortable environment you've achieved at work is suddenly filled with unrest. No matter where this imbalance strikes, don't act too hastily and examine the situation before you. It would be best to tread carefully but keep the bridge of communication open. Be sure to take care of yourself during this rocky time. This position also encourages the user to focus on self-love. Learn the steps necessary to show yourself deep and unwavering love. If you find this to be a struggle, know that this takes time. If you are negative and cruel to yourself, you'll put those feelings out into the world in return. Strive to break the cycle and find fulfillment in yourself first before seeking it in others.



THREE OF CUPS

Upright: Reunions, Indulgence, Community
Reversed: Cancellations, Gossip, Isolation

Three quokkas emerge from green, leafy cups; their faces are cheerful and optimistic. Quokkas are incredibly social creatures. They live in large communities and assist one another with day-to-day survival and are known to approach humans readily. Their curious smiles grant them the name “the happiest animals on earth”. Even the yellow flowers they’re nestled in symbolize friendship, success, and happiness. The Three of Cups reflects the cheerful, friendly nature of the quokka and reminds us to celebrate the positive relationships in our lives.

When upright, the Three of Cups encourages the user to acknowledge the relationships they’ve built. Take some time to get together with those closest to you. Laugh, talk, share a meal, and recharge your creative energies with the love and support of those near you. This is a time for celebration, regardless of whether it’s for yourself or for someone else. You’re past your hardships and are in a period of heightened socialization. Who knows, maybe you’ll meet someone with a similar goal who wants to embark on a new project with you. Enjoy yourself either way, and take the time to be grateful for the deep friendships you’ve forged.

When reversed, the Three of Cups suggests that you are in a period of solitude and wish to go it alone right now. Your social batteries may be depleted, or you may have found yourself no longer clicking with your social groups. It’s very possible to feel lonely in a crowded room. Use this downtime to realign your focus, and if you are in the midst of a group project, this may be a sign to work independently for a while. Conversely, you may be guilty of overindulging. Perhaps you’ve been partying too late and too hard, and now, the effects are catching up with you. Take a break from the social scene for a bit. Focus on recharging what needs to be recharged before diving back into the fold.



FOUR OF CUPS

Upright: Apathy, Meditation, Weariness

Reversed: Enthusiasm, Awareness, Motivation

A chambered nautilus rests upon a chalice as three other cups stand before it. Long believed to be symbolic of the golden ratio, one of life's greatest and most profound mysteries, this sacred creature exudes a radiating golden aura as it ponders its ancient existence. The Four of Cups is a card of meditation and contemplation. Just as the nautilus pays no mind to the ornate richness of the chalice it sits on, we must keep in mind that opportunities are around us, so long as we pay attention to them enough to pursue them.

When upright, the Four of Cups symbolizes that the user is overall disinterested in the world around them. You see new opportunities coming your way, but you're constantly turning them away. You're at a point in your life where you're stagnant and apathetic, and nothing is catching your interest. Your motivation feels far gone, but they're merely tampered down for now. Carefully examine your current workload and turn down projects that don't coincide with your overarching goal. And keep an open mind. Even though you're feeling complacent or unmotivated, study the next opportunity that comes your way before dismissing it. Doing something new could be just what you need to pull yourself out of this rut.

When reversed, the Four of Cups suggests that the user's season of stagnation is coming to an end. You're finally leaving that rut behind, and it's time to start over fresh. A new wave of enthusiasm is overtaking you, giving you a long needed boost of energy to chase your goals. It's also time for some introspection. Take time to recharge yourself, but be mindful that you don't sequester yourself from those who care about you. You may need to reassess your current path to find excitement in it again, and if you are struggling in a relationship, try to open yourself up to your partner to share the feelings you are afraid to share. Be mindful of how your isolation can affect others, but ultimately you should take this time to focus on your inner peace of mind.

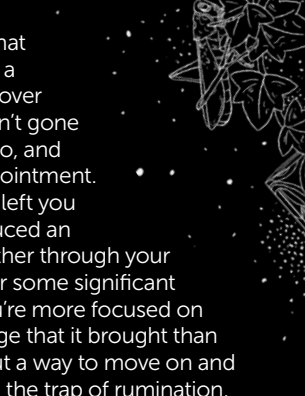




FIVE OF CUPS

Upright: Loss, Remorse, Disappointment
Reversed: Forgiveness, Release, Acceptance

Five locusts congregate around five sunken cups, voraciously eating away at the ivy around them. Locusts have oftentimes symbolized a famine brought down by the wrath of something greater than an individual. These swarms eradicate crops, leaving those affected with a heavy sense of despair and helplessness. The Five of Cups rings true with a similar tragedy, only coming to light when a situation has gone awry. However, it's how you move on from your unfortunate circumstances that determines the overall outcome.



When upright, the Five of Cups suggests that the user is embroiled in a situation that has gone over their head. Things haven't gone as you expected them to, and you're filled with disappointment. The situation may have left you feeling bereft or introduced an unwelcome change, either through your job, your relationship, or some significant domain of your life. You're more focused on the event and the change that it brought than you are with figuring out a way to move on and heal. It's easy to fall into the trap of rumination, but those thoughts are holding you back. You'll need to forgive yourself and look at the bigger picture. Your hurt and pain are valid, but remember that there are opportunities all around you. Life goes on, and it's time for you to do so as well. Look forward to a brighter future and step forward towards the happiness you deserve.

When reversed, the Five of Cups suggests that you've recently undergone a situation that set you back in ways you hardly expected. You are disappointed, worried about how others may react, and you may even be locked in a state of denial, refusing to acknowledge the mistakes that brought you to this point. You've realized just how impactful these past choices can be, but this position is a reminder that it's time to forgive yourself for them. The past is fixed in stone. You can't change things by regretting them for the rest of your life. Learn from your mistakes and allow yourself to move past the guilt with new perspectives to guide you into the future.

SIX OF CUPS

Upright: Nostalgia, Innocence, Simplicity

Reversed: Independence, Maturity, Focus

Two Gulabi goats sit in large cups, colorful flower crowns resting on their heads and sweet grass plentiful around them. One goat holds out a cup to the other, eager to share the love it holds for its sibling. Innocence and childhood reverberate through the space they inhabit; the sunlight is inviting, and there is nothing to fear. The Six of Cups reminds us to enjoy nostalgia, to learn from it and seek out the simplistic peace we once enjoyed as children playing among the flowers.





When upright, the Six of Cups suggests that the user has recently begun to revisit childhood memories and found comfort and happiness in the warmth they bring you. This may suggest that there is a chance to reconnect with old friends and significant figures from our past on the way. No matter how the reunion manifests, this position brings with it a level of harmony, reciprocity, and emotional wellness that stems from the comfortable warmth of nostalgia. If you're feeling out of sorts or run-down, it's possible that you're reflecting more out of longing for aspects of yourself that you no longer have. You may find yourself interacting with children or people who embody that youthful spirit more than usual. If so, seek to learn from them. You may be surprised with what you learn from a child's perspective.

When reversed, the Six of Cups is telling the user to step away from the past. Reflecting on fond memories from days gone by can be nice, but be sure that you don't stay fixed on that point in your life. Getting swept up by waves of nostalgia is keeping you from moving forward. Hard as it may be, you'll have to focus on the here and now and prepare yourself for the future ahead. Maybe you just feel disconnected from your childhood dreams, and the life you lead now may not be the one you envisioned when you were younger. Growing up is never an easy thing to do, but how we deal with it on a daily basis can help smooth that path. Our inner child is never too far away, and a healthy dose of silly, childish whimsy can help us reconnect and lessen some of the stress we face as we move forward to time's unwavering rhythm.

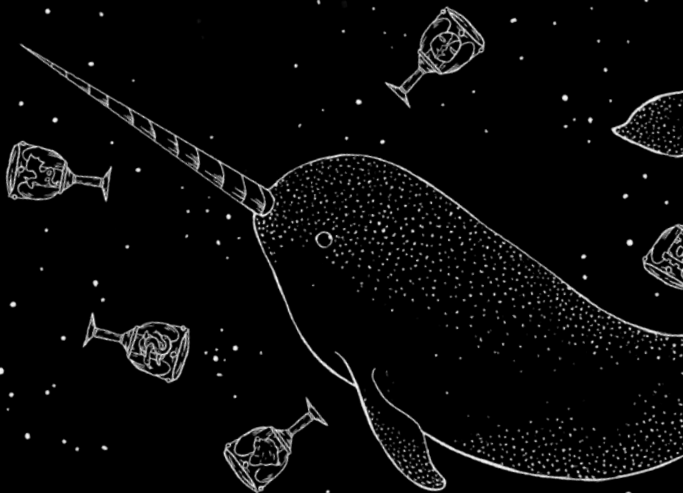


SEVEN OF CUPS

Upright: Illusion, Adaptability, Undermining

Reversed: Consequence, Malice, Slander

A narwhal swims deep into the ocean, its horn a vibrant rainbow that harkens to the old legends often attributed to this creature. In antiquity, narwhal tusks were traded far and wide as proof of the existence of unicorns. Even today they are commonly known as the unicorns of the sea, and their existence carries with it a mythical, illusionary aura that blends well with the symbolism of the Seven of Cups. Wishful thinking can lead to risk taking, but just as the cups in the illustration sink slowly to the bottom of the ocean, we should be wary that risks can carry with them unexpected consequences.



When upright, the Seven of Cups represents new opportunities and choices that have arisen in the user's life. You have found yourself surrounded by possibilities on every side, but an air of caution might be necessary as you begin assessing your options. If you are prone to wishful thinking or unrealistic daydreaming, you may find yourself misled. Carefully look at your options and see them for what they are. Read the writing on the wall and then examine the finer print. Not all of the options set before you are as bountiful as they may first appear. The dazzle and luster of a shiny new opportunity might try to drag you in, but use your keen mind to keep yourself focused. Be thorough and steadfast with your current commitments, and dedicate yourself to whatever choices you make right now.

When reversed, the Seven of Cups focuses heavily on the negative consequences of falling to temptation. The allure of opportunity might be harder to resist, but your stalwart spirit is needed now more than ever. Instead of going for the most popular choice, think of how each choice will impact you in the long-term. Opportunities with glitz and glam may only pave the way to ruin. Hastily formed relationships can lead to a lasting bitterness. It may be overwhelming to consider every option, especially if you can't tell just yet how it may turn out in the future, but rest assured that you have the inner tools necessary to make the decision. By the same token, this position represents owning up to any past wrongdoings and making amends.





EIGHT OF CUPS

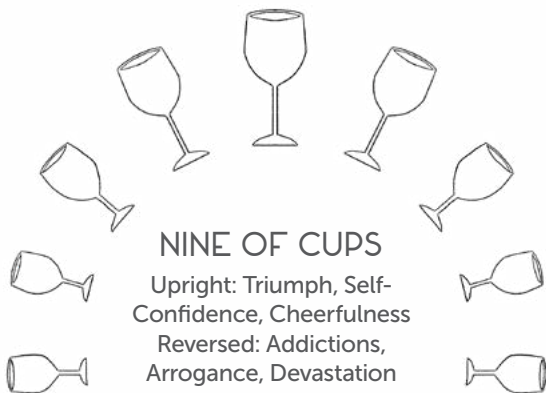
Upright: Abandonment, Escapism, Fatigue

Reversed: Stagnation, Monotony, Worthlessness

A cuttlefish expertly navigates eight sinking cups as it descends deeper into the inky depths of the ocean. Cuttlefish are experts in maneuverability. They live fast and die young, twisting and turning through obstacles as they avoid predators and seek out food from every crevice they come across. The Eight of Cups is a card of withdrawal. It reminds us that escapism is sometimes necessary to achieve our goals, especially if we believe it's the only way to get where we need to go.

When upright, the Eight of Cups indicates that the user is feeling compelled to walk away from a situation that isn't going the way they initially desired. You may be experiencing problems with your job or relationship. Things that used to bring you joy no longer elicit the same response. Something is missing, and you've come to the realization that this is not the sort of situation you can wait out. Don't hesitate to leave for something better. It may not be a popular decision, but you know it's what is best for you. Consider what makes you happy and move towards it. You won't find satisfaction by sitting stationary. Keep moving forward and don't look back.

When reversed, the Eight of Cups suggests that you are caught between staying or going, in regards to a situation currently making you unhappy. You need to deeply consider whether or not the situation is salvageable. Look within for the answer to this. You know what you want; is it possible to still reach your goals in your present position? If not, it may be time to move on. Commit to whichever course of action you decide to follow. Drifting along hoping for things to get better without actively working to improve them won't yield you the results you want to see. Concentrate on finding a path that makes you happy, and the rest will follow suit.



A royal poodle sits on a cushion with a jeweled collar around its neck and nine ornate cups arching above its head. Originally a hunting dog, poodles are incredibly smart, tactically minded animals that work hard to catch their quarry. This poodle is well-groomed, luxuriating in the comfort its hard work has earned it. The Nine of Cups asks us to enjoy the fulfillment our labors have yielded and to remember the work that went into making it all possible.

When upright, the Nine of Cups encourages the user that a desire will be met or that a goal will soon become a reality. All of your hard work is about to blossom into something prosperous, and you will be well rewarded for your patience. Enjoy whatever happiness you've recently found. Bask in the contentment. This position is also an invitation to luxuriate in life's bounty. Treat yourself to a new trinket or some self-care. Pamper yourself and take some time to count your blessings. As great as it all feels now, remember that this is a temporary state of bliss. Appreciate it while you have it, and make sure you do so to the fullest.

When reversed, the Nine of Cups suggests the undesirable end of your goals. Through hard work and faith, you managed to accomplish a goal, but the end reward isn't what you wanted or even expected. This will serve as a blow to your pride and current state of happiness. You could have been trying to chase emotional fulfillment, but soon found that, beneath it all, something intrinsic to your happiness was missing. Everything feels lacking, and it could be difficult to develop or maintain meaningful relationships during this time. This position asks you to do a bit of soul searching and pull yourself up from the abyss of despair before you're swallowed whole. Reexamine your approach. Were your goals unrealistic? Were you ruthless in your pursuit? Did you want more from yourself than you could give? Question yourself as a way to take meaningful steps to help you craft a more positive, beneficial plan, and do your best to abstain from indulgences that may prove unhealthy or distracting.





TEN OF CUPS

Upright: Harmony, Blessings, Teamwork

Reversed: Neglect, Separation, Infertility

A family of fennec foxes sit nestled in their den, content and secure beneath an array of glistening gilded cups. These cups symbolize the absolute pinnacle of fulfillment capable of being had. The foxes' world is safe and warm. They are able to live without fear, solely focused on the future of their family and what they might do to improve upon their already wonderful circumstances. The Ten of Cups reminds us to cherish the love in our life, no matter where it comes from. Emotional fulfillment is nourishment meant to be shared with those around us.

When upright, the Ten of Cups suggests that the user has achieved a remarkable, unparalleled sense of fulfillment from all angles. You are brimming with love and keen to share it with those you share a close emotional bond with, especially those in your circle of family and friends. Everything you should have is in clear and happy abundance, and you're about to reap the fruits of your previous endeavors. Be sure to appreciate this bounty of goodwill as you continue down your path.

When reversed, the Ten of Cups indicates that you are currently seeking a stronger level of connection from your relationships. You have an idealized version of a perfect relationship in your head, but your current reality does not live up to this at all. You feel disconnected and out of sync with those around you, and you may be suffering in communicating this feeling to others. What harmony and contentment you may have achieved has slipped away, leaving behind a new world of conflict and upset. Communication is the strongest foundation you have, and you'll have to start there first. Your relationships lack that solid start and will need a great deal of repair. Protect the flickering flame of love still inside of you and pace yourself. Things may seem hopeless, but once you lay the groundwork to repair these cracks, you'll find that your peace will return stronger in due time.





PAGE OF CUPS

Upright: Idealism, Engagement, Naivety
Reversed: Childishness, Obsession, Immaturity

A school of sardines emerges from a brimming cup, agile and in perfect synchronization. Sardines represent humility and salt-of-the-earth living. They spring forth from the cup to symbolize sudden opportunity and, through their united efforts, are able to pursue it immediately, twisting and turning through the ocean as if of one mind. The Page of Cups asks us to remain vigilant for the unexpected and to seize opportunities the instant they appear in front of us.

When upright, the Page of Cups suggests that the user has recently received important news seemingly out of the blue. You may not know what to do, but this is your moment to take hold of the opportunity set before you. This is your good omen for unexpected but pleasant surprises. Be hopeful, be open, and be quick to act before the moment is no more. This position also represents both your inner child and emotional maturity. Though at odds in concept, they are two sides of one coin. Your season of weariness is broken, and now is your time to shine radiantly. You have recently gained a better understanding of your emotional self or reached a new level of maturity.

INSPIRATION COMES WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT. NOW IS THE TIME TO EXPLORE THEM TO THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL.

When reversed, the Page of Cups suggests the user is suffering from emotional vulnerability. Obsession with your own personal image will taint how you interact with others, and you're feeling more guarded around those who you once relied on for understanding. Doubt is heavy in your heart. Perhaps you're hiding your creative ideas for fear that they might be stolen, or you're feeling dark feelings of jealousy and bitterness coil up inside of you. Examine your feelings in a clear and honest way before they overwhelm you. Remember that you're not alone in your fight and the people that you have always relied on are there to support you. If new opportunities come to you, examine them with caution and weigh the pros and cons before taking them. Nothing will come from quick action right now. The best thing for you is to piece yourself together, and things will eventually turn in your favor.

KNIGHT OF CUPS

Upright: Care, Romance, Artistry

Reversed: Heartbreak, Disappointment, Moodiness

A bird of paradise stands on the edge of a golden cup brimming with fruits, its head thrown back to sing its praise to the sky. Birds of paradise are resplendent symbols of freedom, creativity, romance, and charm. Their beautiful plumage echoes their rumored heavenly origins and invokes joyful visions of paradise. The Knight of Cups reminds use to be as vivacious and resplendent as these beautiful birds. In order for us to engage in a warm, charming way with those around us, we must keep in touch with our emotions and remain graceful even under the innumerable pressures of life.



When upright, the Knight of Cups implies that the user is about to receive good news or is about to receive an influx of inspiration. Whether you're thinking about pursuing romantic or creative interests, now's the time to bite the bullet and follow through. Move forward with your dream and remain open to exploring new passions as they emerge. Keep in mind that decisions you make now will come from your heart and not your head. How you feel will guide you into the next stage of your journey. Listen to your heart carefully and follow where it leads you. Remember that you can only achieve your dreams if you actively work towards it.

STAY TRUE TO YOURSELF NO MATTER WHAT, AND YOU WON'T BE LED ASTRAY.



When reversed, the Knight of Cups suggests that a wave of bad news is soon headed your way. Invitations may be withdrawn, proposals are in short supply, and disappointment will be prevalent. You may be too busy daydreaming about what the finished version of your project will be like instead of acting on it. Perhaps someone you're fond of turned down your romantic gestures. Temper

your emotions if you find they are preventing you from moving forward. Frustration and jealousy are one end of an extreme, but be mindful of avoiding the other end as well. Staring at the world through rose-colored lenses can also prevent you from making proper choices. Seek a balanced relationship with your heart and your head. Only then will you be able to begin moving forward.

QUEEN OF CUPS

Upright: Sensitivity, Empathy, Support
Reversed: Insecurity, Frivolous, Smothering

A snail rests atop a mushroom planted in a small glass cup terrarium. The snail moves slowly, but intent guides each careful movement. Snails represent a slow, gradual sort of intuition, a “look closely before you leap” sort of energy that grants it considerable foresight no matter where it intends to go. The Queen of Cups reminds us to think heavily on our choices and to act only when our inner self resonates with agreement. Move in concert with the world around you; the snail knows the scope of its world and, because of this, knows how to traverse it safely.



When upright, the Queen of Cups implores the user to rely on their highly intuitive self to guide them through the world. You possess great empathy, understanding, and emotional literacy. People may seek you out to help with their problems. Feel your way through your creative tasks and trust that you are in a highly intuitive state where letting your feelings guide you will lead to wonderful results. This position also represents treating yourself and others kindly and with great sympathy. You're more sensitive to the outside world than you might let on. Be aware and caring towards yourself and others. Try not to overthink things, and let your heart be your guide. It won't lead you astray.

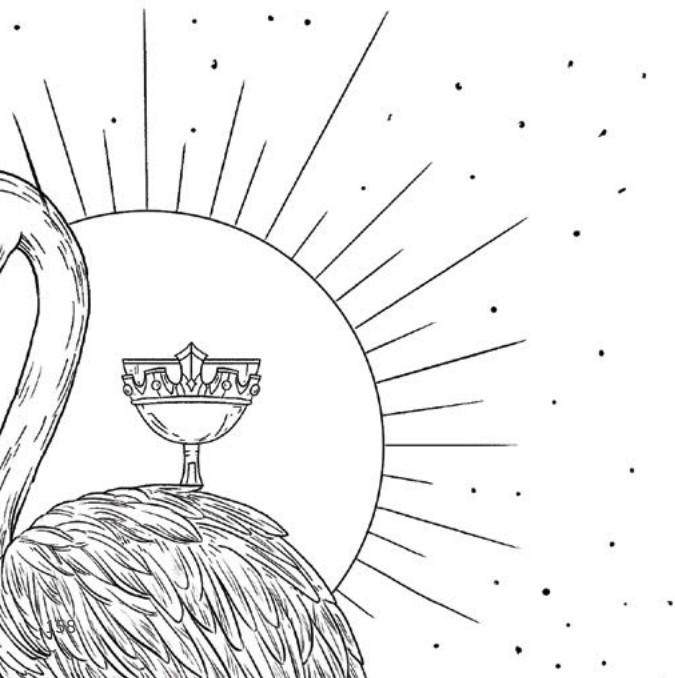
**LOOK CLOSELY BEFORE YOU LEAP.
ACT ONLY AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.**

When reversed, the Queen of Cups suggests that you need to draw your attention inside yourself to focus on your emotional well-being. Perhaps you've spent considerable time these days working to help others with their problems or insecurities. Now's the time to focus on yourself. Break away from unhealthy or codependent relationships that may be drawing too much on your emotional balance to stay afloat. Seek out space to replenish your reserves, and if you've been relying too much on your heart to guide you, take efforts to think through things logically before going forward. This position also cautions being aware of hostile feelings of jealousy, bitterness, or clinginess coming from you or those close to you. If you're the source, explore your inner feelings and work to reset things to a healthy balance. If it's from others, take a temporary time out to allow yourself a moment to breathe before tackling this emotional hardship. It's time to worry about yourself and let everyone else work through their own problems.

KING OF CUPS

Upright: Balance, Diplomacy, Compassion
Reversed: Anxiety, Manipulation, Ruthlessness

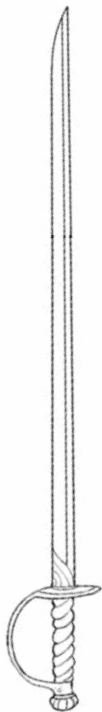
A flamingo balances easily on one leg with a golden cup resting evenly on its back. Behind it shines a tempered sun, radiating outwardly with power, serenity, and restraint. Flamingos represent composure and balance as well as vibrancy and outgoingness. The two energies create a stabilizing force that lends itself well to diplomacy and group thinking. The King of Cups reminds us to find balance in all extremes. Once that balance is achieved, there is no limit to the things that can be achieved.



When upright, the King of Cups represents a mastery over emotions, creativity, and the user's subconscious. The work you've done to cultivate poise and control is finally paying off, and it is now time to use this newfound balance to guide you away from drama and towards absolute success. When going into decisions, rely on your heart and head equally. Intuition can be bolstered with logic as support, and the more you rely on this combination to guide you, the more people will seek you out for guidance in their own lives. Act as a leader who cares about the success of a project but also the well-being of those who help you pursue it. Be compassionate to others and don't shy away from being a mentor or guide if the opportunity arises. You've worked hard to get to this point, and it's time for you to guide others down the path too.

When reversed, the King of Cups indicates that you are still working towards complete mastery of your inner self. Emotional upset and drama may still shake you up, and you may find that your own emotions are actively hamstringing your ability to remain composed in the face of adversity. Strive for equilibrium. Don't repress yourself, but work hard to temper your emotions when you feel a tantrum on the rise. This position may also symbolize a force in your life that is emotionally manipulating you. Carefully assess the people in your life to determine where this negative energy may be coming from. You don't deserve it, and it's time you take steps to break away from it in any way you can.





SUITE OF SWORDS

The Suit of Swords reflects the dichotomy between intellect and power and the double-edged sword that one must walk to find harmony between the two forces. This suit deals with the mental side of one's inner self, illustrating the current mindset one occupies and how it may influence future and present choices.

When upright, the Suit of Swords indicates the constructive and potentially destructive nature of change, force, and action. One may choose to be ambitious and seize the day by any and all means at their disposal, but failing to temper such actions may result in an upset that could prove catastrophic.

When reversed, the Suit of Swords imply this such upset, reflecting guilt, apathy, and abuse. If a reading is predominantly Swords, there may be several mental questions hovering over you, and some may even suggest danger if not handled properly.

ANIMAL FUN FACTS

Ace of Sword - Swan

Trumpeter swans are the largest native waterfowl in the United States and are one of the heaviest flying birds in North America. Their wingspan can reach up to ten feet in length, and they mate for life. Despite their beauty and grace, swans are incredibly territorial creatures.

Two of Swords - Betta Fish

Also known as Siamese fighting fish, bettas are incredibly intelligent and can be taught to perform tricks. In the wild, their colors are muted until they are agitated, but captive betta fish have been bred to display vibrant red, green, and royal blue colors.

Three of Swords - Swallow

Swallows are very common small birds that live all over the world. It takes a pair of swallows up to 1,200 journeys to build a nest. Much folklore surrounds the swallow. It is thought to be a good omen to see the first swallow in a year, and several Russian songs were written to celebrate their return after the long, cold winter.

Four of Swords - Sloths

Sloths are famously known for their lack of movement, to the point that their name is one of the seven deadliest sins. These creatures sleep up to 20 hours a day and move so slowly when awake that algae can grow on their fur. Primarily arboreal, sloths only come down from their trees once a week to use the bathroom.

Five of Swords - Manta Ray

A manta's wingspan can reach 20 or more feet across and they weigh as much as 3,000 pounds. The manta, unlike other rays, does not have a spine on its tail for defense. They have very large brains relative to their body size, and their only known predators are sharks, killer

whales, and human beings. They have a vulnerable status and their greatest conservation threats involve pollution, being hunted for medicinal ingredients, and entanglement in fishing nets.

Six of Swords - Anglerfish

Female anglerfish are the only ones with the protruding, dangling bit of flesh that serves as an illuminated lure. In contrast, males exist as parasitic mates. Once they have bitten into a female, the flesh around their body dissolves until only their testes remain.

Seven of Swords - Black Widow

Black widow spiders are venomous, but rarely fatal, a contrast to the usual reputation attributed to them. Male black widows also work hard not to become post-coital meals by seeking out well-fed virgins as mates. A female that has already eaten has no need to kill and consume a mate, and it is thought that a fatter mate likely yields more offspring too.

Eight of Swords - Mole

Despite being the size of chipmunks, moles are capable of digging 18 feet in just one hour, and despite common misconception, moles do in fact have eyes. They are practically useless due to being covered in fur, but they do exist. Mole saliva is paralytic and it is common for moles to paralyze insects and worms and store them in a part of their tunnel for later.

Nine of Swords - Centipede

The name "centipede" originates from Latin and translates into "hundred legs". Despite its name, most species of centipedes possess far less than that with most only having 15 to 30. As active predators, centipedes seek out and hunt prey. Their usual targets are insects, spiders, worms, and mollusks, but the larger species of centipedes have been known to eat frogs, small birds, and even bats.

Ten of Swords - Red Spiny Starfish

Capable of regenerating lost arms, red spiny starfish are definitely hardy creatures. Regeneration can take years though, and harm from infection or other predators is common. Starfish have tiny tubular feet with suction cups on them as well as an eye on the tip of each arm. Despite having five eyes, their eyesight is very poor.

Page of Swords - Cockatoo

Touted as the loudest members of the parrot family, cockatoos are endemic to Australia and Asia and are incredibly social birds. They have been witnessed to use tools to get to food, and unlike many birds, cockatoos are known to break specific branches to just the right size for the job at hand.

Knight of Swords - Vermilion Flycatcher

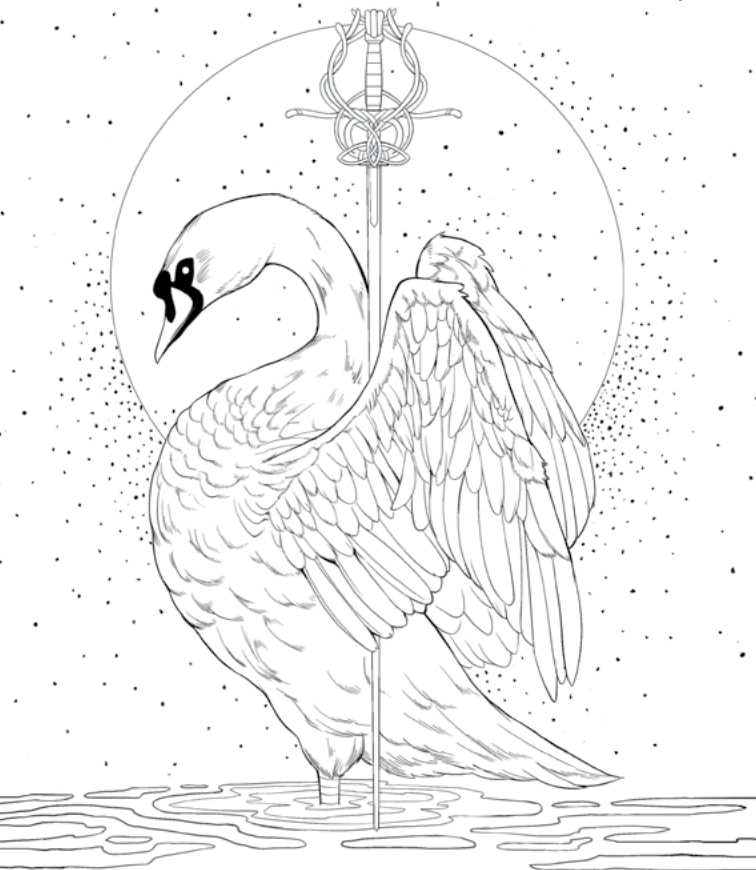
Vermillion flycatcher males court females by bringing them gifts of captured butterflies or other flashy insects. Flycatchers are endemic to the Southern US and Latin America but have a propensity to wander. Some have even been spotted as far north as Minnesota, Maryland, and British Columbia.

Queen of Swords - Hummingbird

Hummingbirds are the smallest of all migratory birds and have been known to travel alone for over 500 miles at a time. They are the only birds capable of flying backwards, and interestingly enough, are incapable of smelling. They seek out viable food sources based on color, of which they have excellent eyes for.

King of Swords - Crow

Crows are extremely intelligent birds that are known for their problem-solving skills. It has been witnessed that crows even teach other crows how to identify humans who have harmed them or been mean in the past so that they too can avoid them. A large group of crows is called a murder, adding to their mythos as bad omens.



ACE OF SWORDS

Upright: Breakthroughs, Intensity, Concentration

Reversed: Confusion, Destruction, Misinformation

A proud swan raises its wings as it stands within a shallow pond. A sword is tucked behind a wing, spearing the ripples in the water. Swans are often associated with the divine and are symbols of beauty, grace, and love. However, despite their majesty, they are proud creatures that will fight ferociously if provoked. While this swan is triumphant, the pierced ripple in the water at its feet signifies that the road ahead will not be an easy one. The Ace of Swords reminds us to be resilient through adversity and maintain a proud, unwavering spirit.

When upright, the Ace of Swords suggests that the user is about to embark on a significant breakthrough that will allow them to see the world through a new lens. This is a time of mental and intellectual potential for you, and it's imperative that you strengthen your mentality to prepare for what comes next. This is also a card of potential. New ideas are inbound, and opportunities to learn from are on the way as well. Take this as a sign to begin a new project or embark on a new journey. You are now on a path with great potential, but be warned: there is a dark side to this influx. Work hard to use your new abilities for the greater good. You have the energy and the willpower to evoke great change. It will be easy to fall into a selfish mindset, so be sure to temper your success with thoughts of how best you can benefit others.

When reversed, the Ace of Swords indicates that, while you are on the verge of a breakthrough, you don't feel ready to share the nature of it with others just yet. Mental clarity isn't as definitive as you'd like right now. If an idea isn't manifesting the way you'd like, then it's back to the drawing board. Making decisions can also seem like an impossible hurdle. Be a passive observer and allow your mind to clear. Draw inspiration from the world around you and only act when the time is right.

TWO OF SWORDS

Upright: Stalemate, Truce, Avoidance
Reversed: Indecision, Caution, Turmoil

A betta fish considers two swords intently, its focus completely dominated by its indecision. Beta fish are fierce warriors, symbolic of individuality, solitude, aggression, and defiant spirit. They must be housed alone to prevent fighting, and when they spot another of their kind, they are likely to flare up and attack instantly. The Two of Swords suggests a decision that can't be made easily. We are reminded to turn towards our intuition to determine the path we should take and to move only once we are committed to doing so.

When upright, the Two of Swords indicates that the user is facing a decision that they don't know how to approach. You are aware of all possible outcomes, and they seem equal in terms of positive and negative results. Make your decision only once your heart and your head agree. You can't rely on just one for this; equilibrium between logic and emotion are necessary if you wish to succeed in picking the best option. Be sure to look for additional information that might have escaped you initially. Do not postpone your decision for long. Difficult decisions are simply a facet of life, and you can't ignore the situation forever.

When reversed, the Two of Swords implies that you are caught between a rock and a hard place in terms of making a decision. You may be thinking it doesn't matter what you do, that both options will lead to negative consequences, and that it's impossible to pick the right choice. Perhaps you don't know everything you need to in order to make an informed choice, or there may even be too much information overloading you from every angle. Stop, take a breath, and close your eyes.

Look inwards for clarity. Lean on your intuition to guide you. When dealing with other people, this position may also indicate that you are reaching an impasse with a friend, loved one, or coworker, or have begun mediating between two conflicting sides in hopes of ending a growing feud. Remove the blindfold you've put on yourself and see things from a fair but objective angle. Compromise if possible, but if the situation is untenable, remove yourself from it for your own good.



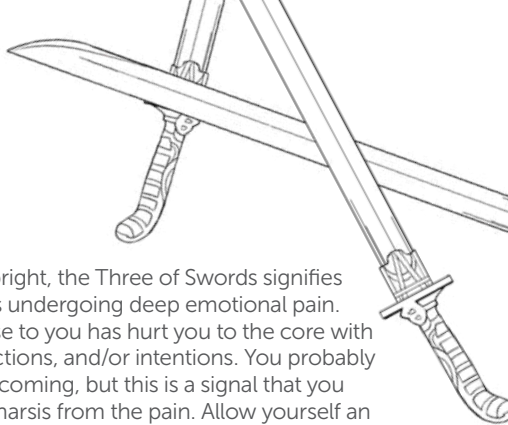


THREE OF SWORDS

Upright: Heartbreak, Division, Loneliness

Reversed: Optimism, Forgiveness, Repression

A swallow darts through the open sky, narrowly dodging three swords coming towards it. Historically, swallows have been linked to nautical travel. Swallow tattoos were common fare among sailors who used them to indicate just how long their journeys at sea had been. They are symbols of encountering and combating adversity and all the surprises life throws our way. The Three of Swords reminds us that life can be a painful thing, but there is always the hope that calmer tides lie just around the bend.



When upright, the Three of Swords signifies that the user is undergoing deep emotional pain. Someone close to you has hurt you to the core with their words, actions, and/or intentions. You probably didn't see this coming, but this is a signal that you must seek catharsis from the pain. Allow yourself an outlet to release the negative feelings clawing at your insides. Once you have found release, only then can you concentrate on how to move on. While pain is an important facet of life, you must be careful not to internalize it. If you find you are prone to being hurt by the words and actions of those around you. You may need to dig deep to find the root of where these wounds originate and take the steps needed to heal.

STORMS WON'T LAST FOREVER, AND NO MATTER WHAT, THE SUN WILL SHINE AGAIN

When reversed, the Three of Swords asks you to pay attention to how you treat yourself internally. You could be facing some hardship that is affecting you mentally and your emotions are in turmoil. Words have power, even the ones you only say inside your head. If you are prone to harsh self-criticism, find a way to curb the habit. If you are struggling to stand up to the harsh words of others, it may be time to thicken your skin. Life has not been kind in recent days, but working through the pain to identify the root of it will help you push past it and move on to bigger and better things. Nothing can change if you do not accept your situation and move on.

FOUR OF SWORDS

Upright: Recuperation,
Contemplation, Self-protection

Reversed: Collapse, Restlessness, Burn Out



A sloth hangs from two swords fixed in the sky above. Sloths are slow creatures, languid and unbothered by the world around them. They move only when they must, purposefully exerting effort to satisfy their fundamental needs and not much else. The Four of Swords is a card of meditation, contemplation, and recuperation. It reminds us that we don't need to spend every waking moment in a hurry to be productive. Sometimes, the best thing to do is slow down and appreciate a quiet moment.

When upright, the Four of Swords represents that it's time to take a break. You've recently hit a milestone in your journey towards your ultimate goal, and this is the sign that you need to recharge before setting out on the next jaunt. Even the most driven individuals need to slow down every now and again. If you've recently hit a rough patch in a relationship or at work, it's time to hit pause and recuperate from the blow. It can be a challenge to take a break from work and other people, but there are other things you can do while resting. Assess your progress thus far and focus on where you want to go next. You'll find that, once you come back from this break, things will be much more manageable.

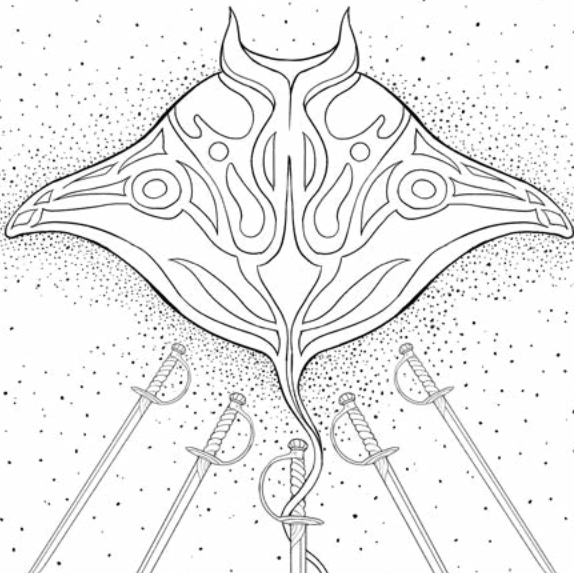
When reversed, the Four of Swords is a dramatic sign that you NEED to take time to rest. You are working yourself to the bone and giving too much of yourself to those around you. Life has kicked into overdrive and left you with precious little energy at the end of each day. If you don't take some time to relax soon, you will hit a wall and quickly suffer from burnout. While some of this stress may be accumulating from external sources outside of your control, you may actively be making it worse for yourself by tackling everything on your plate at once. You may be frustrated by a lack of visible progress as well. Slow down, take a step back, and breathe. Work will be there when you get back. For now, focus on giving yourself a much-needed break.

FIVE OF SWORDS

Upright: Defeat, Hostility, Stress

Reversed: Remorse, Reconciliation, Compromise

A manta ray swims swiftly away, its tail wrapped around a sword that trails behind it. Manta rays are harmless creatures and are often times confused with their barbed cousin, the stingray. It tries to swim away, attempting to evade the things it doesn't want to confront, but conflict rarely caters to one's desires, no matter how peaceful their natures may be. The Five of Swords reminds us that there is a winner and a loser in every battle we fight. Even if you win, guilt and regret linger. It'll take conscious effort to reconcile ourselves with these feelings. Be ready to confront the good, the bad, the ugly, and everything in between.





When upright, the Five of Swords represents the user's struggle with their emotions following a falling out or disagreement. Animosity colored this conflict with bitter, clashing emotions, and you may be feeling regret over the things you said and how you behaved. Victory isn't always sweet, and it can be just as bitter as losing. Now is the time to pick your battles carefully. Fighting with everyone you disagree with won't yield you much beyond burnt bridges and bitter rivals. Apologize when you're able and hold your tongue when you feel like lashing out. If you've suffered a defeat at the hands of another, accept it and stop ruminating. Be graceful in defeat and learn from your loss.

When reversed, the Five of Swords signifies the realization that you are fighting a losing battle. You may have fought this battle for ages now, but your opponent is headstrong and determined. Even if they feel that the battle has worn on too long, neither of you is willing to yield first. You may need to take the fall. Accept a gracious defeat and move on. Your energies would be better directed on more productive things. This position may also symbolize an old wound reopening. Something or someone from your past could be coming back to cause problems. Resolve your conflicts and try to move forward. You've lived through enough conflict and have earned your share of scars. Seek out situations where you no longer need to fight. Ask for forgiveness and apologize. Seek out collaboration in the future, not confrontation.



SIX OF SWORDS

Upright: Despondency, Healing, Guidance

Reversed: Instability, Resistance, Floods

An anglerfish swims through black waters as six sharp swords pierce through it, but despite the dangers clearly present, it still moves forward. The deep sea is an environment fraught with danger and inhospitable conditions. To survive in pure darkness, oftentimes one must provide their own light. The Six of Swords is a card of transition. It may be difficult to see the bright side when darkness encroaches from all sides, but this simply reminds us that tenacity can sustain you through even the bleakest of circumstances so long as you remain determined to keep your lantern burning until you see the light once more.

When upright, the Six of Swords suggests that the user is caught in a disinterested, listless state. Even though nothing is apparently wrong, nothing feels quite right either. You're disconnected from the world around you, but this will soon fade. You're headed in a new direction whether or not you know the destination. If you're coming out of a difficult period in your life, you may feel downtrodden and uninterested in things that you once found dear. Though it may not feel like it, you have survived this crisis, and you're on your way towards well earned peace. Reach deep and summon your faith. Things seem dark now, but you must stubbornly create your own light and march towards your brighter future.

When reversed, the Six of Swords implies that you're embarking on a turbulent journey. You're rocking the boat to create some sense of change. Things may be unstable for a time, and you will be slow to heal. No matter how long it takes to recover, you must give yourself time. You cannot rush your spiritual and emotional health. This position may also signify a spiritual transition. Like the pinned anglerfish, you feel stuck and frustrated by a lack of growth, especially on a spiritual level. Have faith and be patient. Look for the positives and find value in the progress you have made, even if isn't exactly what you wanted. Unfinished business from your past may also try to trap you and prevent you from moving forward. Resolve these conflicts. Only then can you truly be free of them.



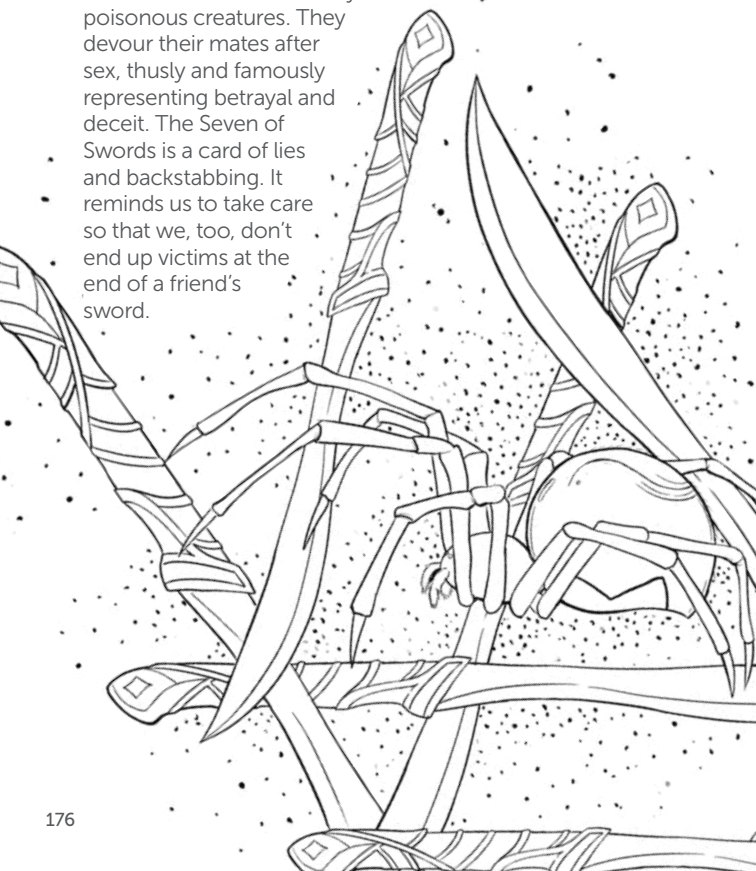
SEVEN OF SWORDS

Upright: Dishonor, Trickery, Betrayal

Reversed: Confession, Malevolence, Deception

A black widow spider carefully crawls along the length of a blade, her path sharp and her vision clear.

Black widows are incredibly poisonous creatures. They devour their mates after sex, thusly and famously representing betrayal and deceit. The Seven of Swords is a card of lies and backstabbing. It reminds us to take care so that we, too, don't end up victims at the end of a friend's sword.



When upright, the Seven of Swords indicates that the user is embroiled in a sticky web of lies, deceit, and betrayal. You may be the one sneaking around with bad intentions. If so, you have no guarantee of successfully getting away with it. Take heed and correct your course. If you are the victim in this situation, be wary of those around you who may not have your best intentions at heart. Prioritize yourself over others and, if necessary, consider taking some shortcuts to get closer to your ultimate goal. You may need to be selfish if a situation arises where you are asked to sacrifice one thing for another. Fleeing from adversity to protect yourself at this time will only yield short-term safety. Come to terms with the fact that you will eventually have to face whatever it is head on.

DARK SECRETS, POISONOUS THOUGHTS, AND UNSPOKEN GUILT WILL DESTROY YOU FROM THE INSIDE OUT.

When reversed, the Seven of Swords suggests that you are embroiled in a battle against imposter syndrome. You may feel that you are deceiving others about your skills, capabilities, and/or ability to handle the responsibilities you've been given.

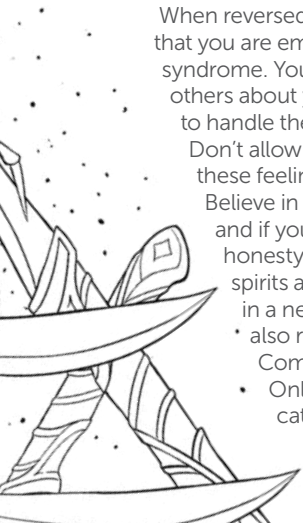
Don't allow yourself to become entrenched in these feelings, or they will consume you.

Believe in the faith that others have put in you, and if you can, reach out to others for some honesty and reassurance. It can help lift your spirits and/or help you seek your weaknesses in a new, constructive matter. This position

- also represents inner deceit at its core.

Come clean with what's bothering you.

- Only confession will bring you the catharsis you so desperately need.





EIGHT OF SWORDS

Upright: Restriction, Victimization, Entrapment

Reversed: Maturity, Freedom, Empowerment

A sleeping mole is nestled within a small burrow, held in place by eight jabbing swords that seek to keep it trapped where it lays. Moles are blind, living their lives underground in the dark. They symbolize self-imposed restrictions, but if the mole were able to see, it would find gaps large enough to slip through. Escape is possible, but only if one acts under their own volition. The Eight of Swords reminds us that we are able to escape our confinements so long as we open our eyes to see the gaps in the cell bars.

When upright, the Eight of Swords indicates that you're feeling restricted and trapped by your present situation. Perhaps your job may be draining you dry, a relationship you've entered has swiftly turned abusive, or other like situations. Your options may feel limited, but they aren't. Seek out new perspectives and rid yourself of unproductive thoughts and intentions. Once you realize which directions you can go, commit to a decision and understand that, even if you have no guarantee of success, attempting to find happiness elsewhere is better than remaining trapped in the hellish hole you're currently in.

When reversed, the Eight of Swords can represent either taking back control or advancement upon a situation of great oppression. The timing of this meaning is key. In its truest form, you're facing your fears and are ready to heal. You have recently overcome a great obstacle, and your time of prosperity is nigh. On the other hand, this position symbolizes that you are about to walk a very turbulent path or are surrendering to the pressure around you. Do not despair. You've come so far, and you've done more good than you might yet think. This path you're about to set on is merely a bump in your path, and once it passes, you will come out stronger than ever. Regardless of its timing, now is the best time to ask for help so that you can move forward in a healthy and productive fashion.

NINE OF SWORDS

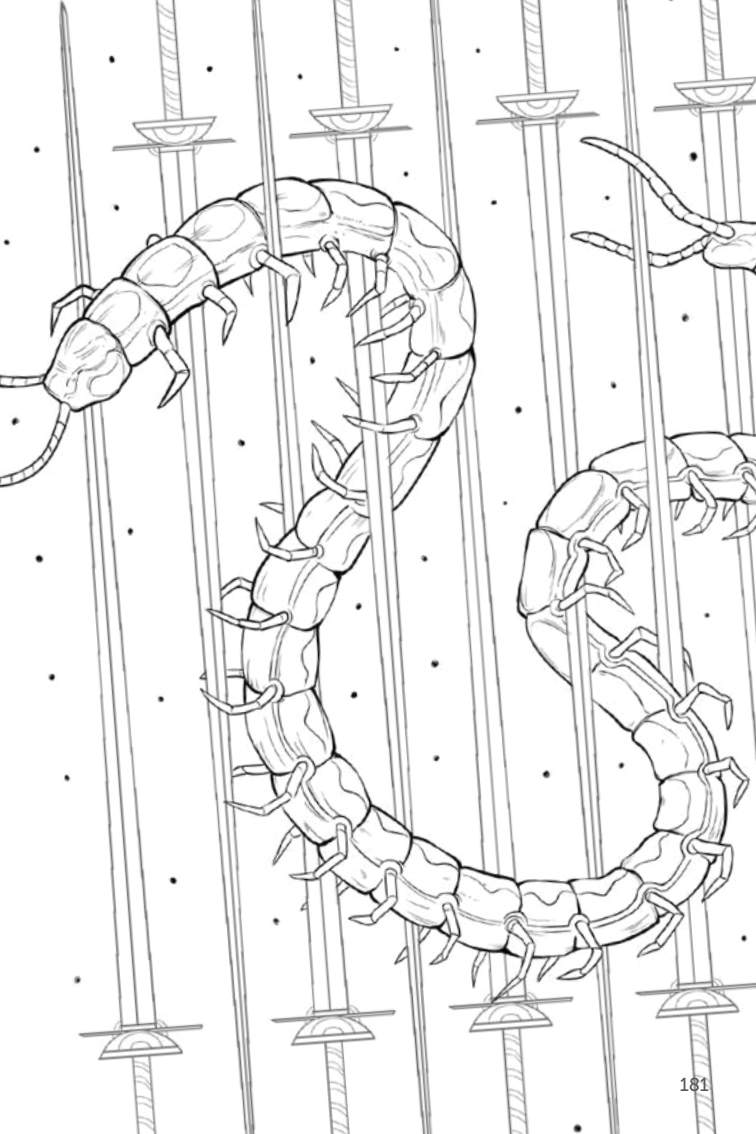
Upright: Depression, Nightmares, Anxiety
Reversed: Turmoil, Dependency, Improvement

A centipede skillfully winds its way through intersecting swords, narrowly avoiding certain doom. With their many legs and segmented bodies, centipedes signify deep fears that plague both the subconscious and conscious mind. Some are venomous while others are perfectly harmless, though it may be impossible to tell at a glance. The Nine of Swords tells us that we are entering a period of fear and anxiety, but through careful consideration, the danger may in fact be as tangible as a fading dream.

When upright, the Nine of Swords signifies the deluge of anxieties plaguing the user. You are fixated on everything that could go wrong. Obsessing over your anxieties is a double-edged sword. If you allow yourself to give in to fear, your worst nightmares may, in fact, just come true. Thankfully, much of the fear causing your sleepless nights resides only in your head. Try to replace negative thoughts with positive ones, and reach out if you struggle to remain optimistic. Lean on those you trust to steer you towards a positive solution. The best way to combat the monsters under your bed is to turn on the light.

When reversed, the Nine of Swords suggests that your negative thoughts and fears have permeated deeper into your subconscious, throwing you into absolute turmoil from within. You may have tried keeping these fears to yourself, but now is not the time to be alone. Seek out help and support to alleviate some of the tension weighing you down. If you've recently emerged from a period of intense fear and self-criticism, take this as a sign that you've successfully managed to work through your problems.







TEN OF SWORDS

Upright: Betrayal, Severance, Bitterness

Reversed: Despair, Recovery, Escape

A starfish raises its arms up as ten swords impale its limbs and center, piercing it through mercilessly. The swords are pierced through the top of it, implying that the attack came when it was least expecting it. The Ten of Swords signifies betrayal and deadly harm, but even in death, there is still serenity to be found. Starfish are capable of regrowing lost limbs, implying that, though the damage has been done, recovery is still possible.

When upright, the Ten of Swords signals a painful yet inevitable ending to a relationship, project, or endeavor you were once a part of. This ending came as a surprise, shaking you down to your foundations. You may be the victim of someone else's targeted attack, or you may be wearing the mantle of the victim in hopes of drawing pity and support from those around you. Break away from those mentalities as they will only encourage you to fixate on the negative. The worst has already occurred. All that's left is to move past it and seek recovery while becoming acclimated to your new reality.

When reversed, the Ten of Swords indicates that you are currently fighting an inevitable conclusion, and in doing so, you're only succeeding in making things worse for yourself. It may seem admirable to rage against the machine doing you harm, but at this point, it's better to bow out and let things end gracefully. Sometimes, you have to let them happen before you can move on. If you've recently suffered from a bad situation, this may be a sign that you are still holding onto the wounds from it. Find the root of your pain and take steps to seek out the release you never had while the situation was occurring. Pain and sadness are transitory feelings, and if they are no longer serving you, then this is the sign you need to take steps to free yourself from them for good.

PAGE OF SWORDS

Upright: Inquisitive, Liveliness, Fairness

Reversed: Relapse, Paranoia, Survival

A cockatoo stands firmly on the blade of a kris, the sword pointing in one direction while the bird faces the opposite. As a symbol of spirit, cockatoos are talkative, inquisitive birds. They are eager to take in the world around themselves, and they enact positive movement when they take flight. The Page of Swords reminds us to reduce wasteful actions, to keep our mental agility, and to avoid any conflicts that prevent us from flying freely.

When upright, the Page of Swords symbolizes passion, vigilance, and speaking out against injustice. The user is bursting with inspiration and enthusiasm, and they have great ideas for the future that they are chomping at the bit to begin working towards. Take this as a sign that it is time to explore new ideas and ways of thinking. You are capable of anything, and you should definitely act now while the excitement is still fresh. Communicate with others and explore new ways of getting your point across. Take heed that, though anything seems possible right now, things may still go wrong. Check in on your energy reserves so that you don't run out of steam halfway to the finish line.

When reversed, the Page of Swords implies that you are struggling to live your truth. This may be in general, or it may relate to expressing your true self in the public sphere. You may be a private person at heart, nervous to share your ideas aloud, but this is your sign that it might be time to break out of your shell. This position can also indicate that you are acting hastily; you may be promising more than you can realistically deliver. Rein yourself in and concentrate on completing one thing fully before moving onto the next. If you suspect bad news is on the horizon, don't fret. Your mind is still sharp, and you have tools at hand to best any hardship.



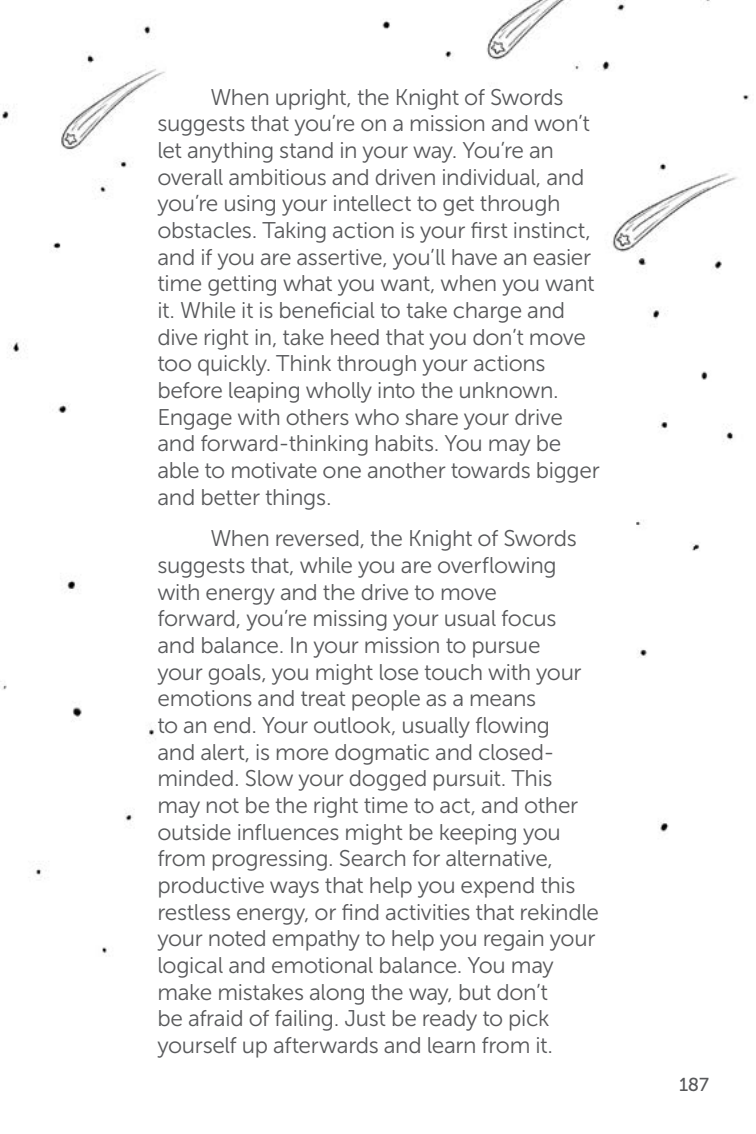


KNIGHT OF SWORDS

Upright: Ambition, Motivation, Forward-thinking

Reversed: Self-obsessed, Insincerity, Arrogance

A vermillion flycatcher darts through the air amidst a shower of shooting stars, a sword tucked behind its wing and its eyes locked on its prize. Flycatchers, as the name implies, are skilled hunters who take to the skies in search of small insects to eat. They employ skilled flying techniques and whirlwind darts to nab their tiny prey. The Knight of Swords speaks of great energy to push forward and the assurance of a keen mind. We are reminded to always look to the next goal and be ready to grab it the second it comes into view.

The page features a decorative background with several shooting stars (comets) and numerous small black dots representing stars. The shooting stars are positioned around the text, with one in the top left, one in the top right, and one in the middle right. The dots are scattered throughout the page.

When upright, the Knight of Swords suggests that you're on a mission and won't let anything stand in your way. You're an overall ambitious and driven individual, and you're using your intellect to get through obstacles. Taking action is your first instinct, and if you are assertive, you'll have an easier time getting what you want, when you want it. While it is beneficial to take charge and dive right in, take heed that you don't move too quickly. Think through your actions before leaping wholly into the unknown. Engage with others who share your drive and forward-thinking habits. You may be able to motivate one another towards bigger and better things.

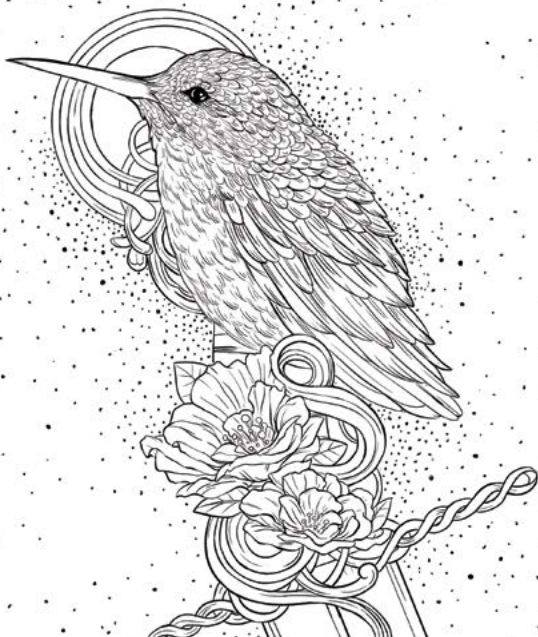
When reversed, the Knight of Swords suggests that, while you are overflowing with energy and the drive to move forward, you're missing your usual focus and balance. In your mission to pursue your goals, you might lose touch with your emotions and treat people as a means to an end. Your outlook, usually flowing and alert, is more dogmatic and closed-minded. Slow your dogged pursuit. This may not be the right time to act, and other outside influences might be keeping you from progressing. Search for alternative, productive ways that help you expend this restless energy, or find activities that rekindle your noted empathy to help you regain your logical and emotional balance. You may make mistakes along the way, but don't be afraid of failing. Just be ready to pick yourself up afterwards and learn from it.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Upright: Self-reliant, Sophisticated, Communicative

Reversed: Manipulation, Dysfunction, Resentment

A small hummingbird sits on the pommel of a sword, staring out into eternity. Flowers intertwine with the design of the sword's guard, symbolizing the marriage of truth and action as well as the versatility of nature. Hummingbirds are thought of as emissaries between the gods and mortals. The Queen of Swords reminds us to remain independent of outside influence and to communicate fairly, clearly, and kindly with those around us.



When upright, the Queen of Swords represents a synthesis between mental clarity and the intellectual power represented by the Suit of Swords. You have developed a level of maturity along your journey to enlightenment, and now it is time for you to utilize that and other skills when dealing with the world around you. You seek the truth in all matters, remaining receptive to all points of view involved. Don't put up with idle chatter. The Queen is self-actualized. Keep your head held high and your face pointed towards the truth, no matter where your journey may take you.



**YOU'LL CATCH MORE FLIES WITH HONEY
THAN VINEGAR. GAINING SUPPORT RIGHT
NOW TRUMPS GETTING EVEN.**

When reversed, the Queen of Swords indicates that you struggle to reconcile your intellect with your emotions. You may act without forethought and strike out with your temper guiding you, not your head. If embroiled in an issue, you let your emotions influence your view, allowing bias to obscure the truth of the matter. Reassess your relationships and be careful that those around you aren't dominating you. They may be tinging your vision and obscuring the truth in hopes of misleading you into their way of thinking. But, be careful in how you respond. The Queen of Swords reversed can also come across as cold and resentful. Someone in your life may be acting this way towards you, or you may be gaining a bad reputation as a cold-hearted person based on your recent actions. Realign your priorities and deal fairly with those around you.

KING OF SWORDS

Upright: Structure, Clarity, Integrity

Reversed: Irrationality, Cynicism, Aggression

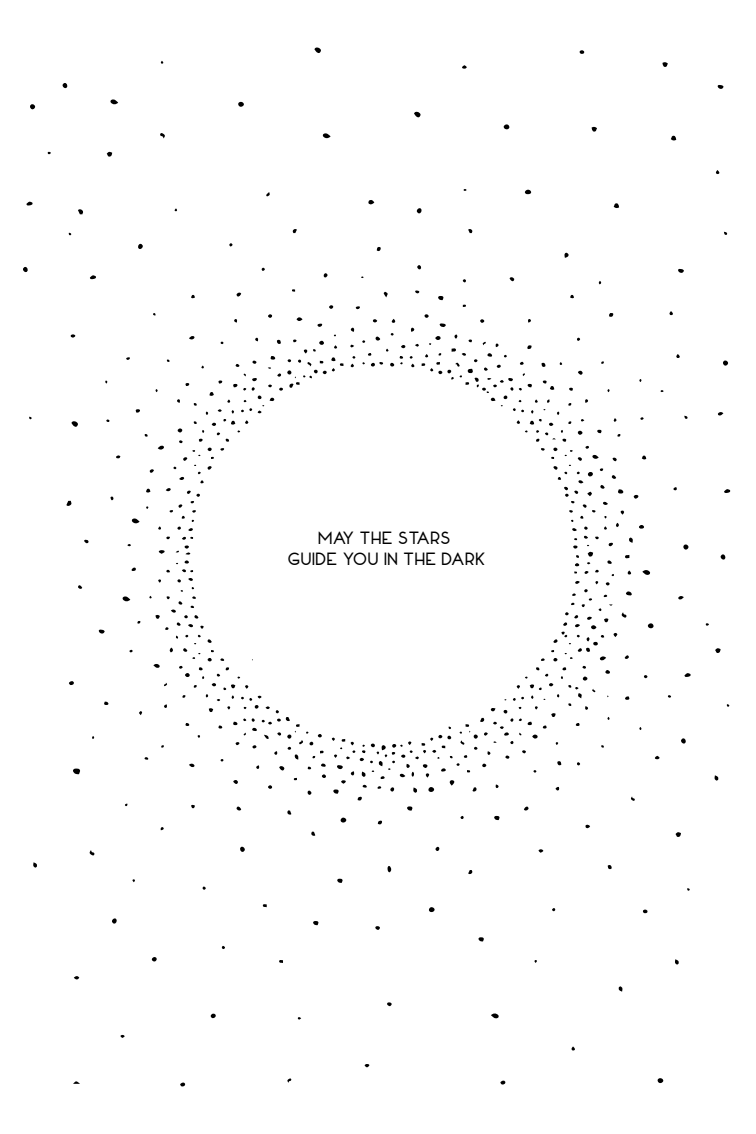
A crow stands proudly on the pommel of an ornate sword, looking forward to the future ahead of it. Crows are immensely intelligent birds that are capable of understanding commands, communicating with fellow crows, and utilizing tools to accomplish tasks. They represent mental fortitude and truth, and while some may consider them an omen of death, there is also an element of wisdom to them. The King of Swords reminds us to look to the future with logic as our guide. Only then will we make the best choices in the days ahead.



When upright, the King of Swords demonstrates that the user possesses great intellect and a clarity of mind that will allow them to make the best decisions possible moving forward. You have a good view of your present circumstances. Every facet is laid bare, and you understand exactly what needs to be done. Your emotions are in check and will not sway you from taking the most logical path. Be sure to research thoroughly before making decisions. Be impartial in your dealings with others and understand that people may turn to you for guidance. If you yourself seek guidance, this may be a sign to employ someone knowledgeable on the topic to give you the best possible chance at success.

NEVER LET YOUR EMOTIONS SUBDUE YOUR INTELLIGENCE, FOR LOGIC IS THE PRELUDE TO WISDOM AND STABILITY.

When reversed, the King of Swords represents subtlety. You are an authoritative figure, but your voice doesn't need to fill a room to be heard. You are confident, in control, and you know that you don't need to throw around your weight to get things done. Even so, take care that you don't misuse this power. Knowing you are competent is great, but using that competency to manipulate others will not serve you well here. Be humble, kind, and helpful. If you are prone to showing off your intellect and control, know that you will harm those who may otherwise seek to aid you down the road. This position may also indicate a lack of decisiveness. Many options lay before you, but you don't know which way to turn. Pause and look internally for answers. You are a rational individual, and your rationality shall be the key to finding the proper path for you.



MAY THE STARS
GUIDE YOU IN THE DARK



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