

Symbolon



Peter Orban / Ingrid Zinnel / Thea Weller

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Peter Orban • Ingrid Zinnel • Thea Weller
SYMBOLON • The Deck of Remembrance

Pocket Edition

© 1994 / 2014 AGM-Urania / Königsfurt-

Urania Verlag GmbH

D-24796 Krummvisch b. Kiel, Germany

www.tarotworld.com

Printed in Germany

ISBN 978-3-03819-402-6

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SYMBOLON

Symbolon is a game of remembrance. It allows us to remember things hidden deep inside which have been prevented from surfacing over years and decades.

For those who prefer a psychological approach, you might say the power inherent to the images helps raise the unconscious into the higher levels of consciousness. In this sense, the game is also a form of therapy.

This—and the way in which questions are asked—distinguishes the game from any other played with a deck of 78 cards. It does not try to be an oracle which divines or predicts the future as a way of making it present. Rather, it has the power to summon the past into the present.

Maria Szepes sums up the game and provides its possible motto when she writes: “The bloodhounds of karma are hard on our heels. They bring an object we once discarded. And no matter how hard we try to flee, it is only a question of time before they place

this object at our feet”. But to avoid having to resort to the “blood hounds of karma” (shocking us and arousing a tremendous fear of their “wild chase”), we have developed this game as the tool necessary to integrate the object successfully back into our lives.

The name itself—“Symbolon”—already suggests this idea. A *symbolon* is an object broken into two parts which subsequently want to be reunited into a single entity.

Of course, at the moment, the two fragments of the *symbolon* are separate. The game would like to bring the pieces back together.

THE INNER PERSONAE

The underlying idea is straight-forward: it assumes that the individual has not (yet) become the person he or she would like to be: we all consist of various personalities which are separate from each other in spirit and consciousness. The game even supposes that

we are split by these “inner personae”, each having its own personality and motives, its own energies and fields of activity, each one displaying its own consciousness. They even refer to themselves as “I”.

Most of these inner personae are unknown to us. They lead a dark existence in the chambers and corridors within us where, without rhyme or reason, they shape or “transform” our lives. If you would like to know more about the subject of “inner personae”, we can suggest Peter Orban and Ingrid Zinnel’s “Drehbuch des Lebens” and “Personare” (both published by Rowohlt), and the book “Symbolon” (Hugendubel Verlag).

In short, the game depicts inner personae and their actions and motives. It explains the persona which is presently dominant, those you need to familiarize yourself with, and those wanting to become familiar with you. Each card (except the last) represents a particular inner persona and a theme which needs to be raised into conscious.

Some of these personae have already been described within various areas of psychology. Examples are “the young child in you...” (THE MOTHER, Cancer), “reason tells me I should ...” (THE SERVITOR, Virgo) or “that’s your defiance telling you ...” (THE DEFIANCE, Cancer/Aries), and so on. Other personae may not have been dealt with sufficiently, and have been described only in myths and fairy tales. These include THE SPITEFUL TROUBLEMAKER (Aries/Aquarius) and THE VAMPIRE (Aries/Scorpio). Nevertheless, they exist within each living soul.

ASTROLOGY

Our game is not just about making inner personae conscious. It also comprises a “picture book” of astrological aspects. Each possible astrological constellation in the horoscope is illustrated by the cards as an expression of deep, spiritual activity. Let’s say, for instance, that someone’s horoscope has the moon in

Capricorn. He or she will choose the card representing “Cancer” (= Moon) and “Capricorn” in its combined form “Cancer/Capricorn” (= THE ICE QUEEN) and concentrate on the picture for a while.

Or someone’s Mars squares Neptune. “Aries/Pisces” (= Mars/Neptune) is selected—**THE ABOLUTE FOOL.**

All you need to know are the following identity relationships between the zodiac signs (Aries to Pisces) and planets (Mars to Neptune):

Zodiac sign **Aries** and the planet **Mars**

Zodiac sign **Taurus** and the planet **Venus**

Zodiac sign **Gemini** and the planet **Mercury**

Zodiac sign **Cancer** and the **Moon**

Zodiac sign **Leo** and the **Sun**

Zodiac sign **Virgo** and the planet **Mercury**

Zodiac sign **Libra** and the planet **Venus**

Zodiac sign **Scorpio** and the planet **Pluto**

Zodiac sign **Sagittarius** and the planet **Jupiter**

Zodiac sign **Capricorn** and the planet **Saturn**

Zodiac sign **Aquarius** and the planet **Uranus**

Zodiac sign **Pisces** and the planet **Neptune**

Due to the discrepancy between the number of zodiac signs (12) and planets (10), Venus and Mercury have been allocated 2 signs each. The planet Venus corresponds to Taurus and Libra, and Mercury is coupled with Gemini and Virgo. All this is old hat to the experienced astrologer, but the difference here is that with our cards you will find two pictures. The fact that Mercury (star sign Gemini) has been combined with Mercury (star sign Virgo) may at first seem paradoxical and arouse your suspicions. And seasoned astrologers are going to cry foul: “How can you do that when it’s the same Mercury? The planet has the same position in the horoscope and is therefore unable combine with itself”. What’s more, if the planet represents both signs, how do I know when it is the Virgo-Mercury and not the Gemini-Mercury? The same goes for Venus.

“Exactly right”, we say, “and at the same time wrong”. Imagine someone’s horoscope has Gemini rising. The corresponding Mercury would then have a predominant Gemi-

ni theme. No matter what Mercury's position might be, the Gemini influence would be much stronger than that of Virgo. Now let's imagine that the very same Mercury which ruled in those few hours of Gemini rising were in Virgo. We would then arrive at the combination (Gemini) Mercury and (Virgo) Mercury, which is represented by the card THE STRATEGIST.

This demonstrates the possibility of having Mercury-Mercury and Venus-Venus combinations. These combinations also occur in the horoscope, although the astrologer probably doesn't think about them. No other book on astrology presents the reader with this constellation.

However, we would like to stress again that these are not combinations of planets and star signs but "inner personae". Each of us has a "MEDIATOR"—a GeminiMercury—responsible for communication and contact (and for acting out roles). And we all have some sort of "manager" who looks after the daily business of conforming to conventions

and is devoted to the essentials in life: Virgo-Mercury (THE SERVITOR). They are two very different people.

You would be wrong, however, to think that each card you select has to appear in your constellation.

Now imagine you have selected the card “Moon/Uranus” (DELIVERANCE). The relevant questions to ask are: Where do I start? Where should I break out? What relationship has now become unnecessary? It’s not about asking whether your Moon is somewhere in Aquarius (the 11th house), nor whether Uranus is in Cancer (the 4th house). Questions like these defeat the purpose of the game.

TWO FUNDAMENTAL WAYS OF PLAYING

The cards can be used as a way or remembering:

- A) Without Using Astrology**
- B) Using Astrology**

Both forms have the same background idea: they want to make you remember, to help you find a symbolon and reunite the pieces. But the two games are distinct in character and should be played quite separately. It is important for a player to be clear about the variation he or she is going to play.

Variation A: Without Using Astrology

This variation requires *no knowledge of astrology* on the part of the player. It is not even necessary to learn how zodiac signs and planets are used, although both do appear on the cards and their use will probably become familiar to you in the course of time.

You can interpret a card just by choosing one and concentrating on it. This brings the symbols to life. That means relating them to yourself in one way or another. Let's assume that you have chosen DECEPTION (Virgo/Pisces) with its illustration of a travelling showman. The modern form of the travelling showman roams the streets of our large

cities today just as he did the market places 500 years ago. Using three shells (today he uses matchboxes), he tricks the onlooker into seeing an “X” for a “Y”. You could call him a real charlatan who likes to take everyone for a ride. And this is what the card tells you. In reality, the pea is not beneath any of the shells because he has already caused it to disappear: you cannot win. You might have chosen the card and concluded: “Aha! I’ve been tricked; someone has set me up”. This means you have missed the path of remembering and now find yourself on the wrong track. The card—like all cards—wants to evoke a memory of something concerning you; something happening *inside you*. The questions you should ask yourself are: “Who am I deceiving? Who am I trying to fool?” This transforms it into a memory card.

If I look for the swindler in the world outside, the card will become a motif for my projections and lose its healing affect. I would be using the card to delude myself. I am tricking myself (and then in this sense

the card is right again—but I don't recognize the fact).

The card insists you remember something: there is someone inside you who deceives, tricks and cheats—including yourself.

Of course, the trickster might be somewhere in the world outside. You could even discover that you are being deceived by your spouse or a good friend. The outer world is only a mirror, however, for your own inner world. So the magic solution reads something like this: Your husband deceives you only as a reminder to you that you are also deceiving him. If you do not want to be deceived anymore, remember your own trickster. Deceptions in the outside world cease of their own accord once you become aware of them.

Why? Because they are no longer needed. This is the only way to make sense of the card. There is something you don't want to know about yourself which always causes you to look for the deceptions in the outside world. You are happy just to project your own ideas onto the world. You are fleeing.

All this can be understood without explanation or a specialized knowledge of astrology.

But if you have come across this card and are still unsure about what it means, you might like to look it up in the book. Read the explanation and decide for yourself what sort of deception could be meant. The answer will come to you in a flash: it was something known but banished from consciousness. You didn't want to accept it was you who deceived yourself or the other person. But the card shows no mercy, and now it hurts to know. You're the phoney!

You say nothing, although something needs to be revealed and explained. It's now up to you alone to decide whether to reveal yourself or continue the deception. It should come as no surprise, however, if DECEPTION returns to haunt you in future games. It will turn up often.

Why does this happen? Because every time you deceive another person you are deceiving yourself, and this is unacceptable to

any game of remembrance. The muses won't let you get away with it. Each new act of deception makes you look all the more foolish.

The idea behind Variation A—and it should feature in your questions—leads you to ask: What is there about myself that I can learn from the theme of my question? What is it supposed to remind me of? Which of my personae are currently active within me?

The cards have a clear direction of movement beginning in the world outside and leading to your inner personae. They are your guide to the descent within: a reminiscence. It is vital to keep this approach in mind when framing your questions. It prevents many of them becoming pointless.

Some types of questions not worth asking are:

- A) When am I going to meet the woman (or man) of my dreams?
- B) How can I get a promotion (or when will I be promoted)?
- C) What can I do to stop my wife (or husband) making me so jealous?

- D) Is this the right university course for me?
- E) Will I win my litigation (or how can I win it)?

These sorts of questions are futile because I am hoping to find an answer (and make a prediction) in the world outside. Oracles are the responsibility of Pythia. This game is dedicated to Mnemosyne, the Goddess of Memory and Mother of the Muses.

The above questions are all expressly concerned with not *remembering*. They are all about easy solutions and trying to outsmart destiny. *Symbolon* is not the game for that. You don't see the dentist about athlete's foot. The game does not "understand" these questions. The answers would make no sense to you even if it could. We need to frame the questions in a way that gives the muses something to work on. Otherwise, they might just lean back in their chairs and answer in resignation: "You don't want anything from us". They too need to be satisfied with the ques-

tions. So the next step is to rephrase them in terms of our new (inner) approach.

- A) Which inner persona prevents me from finding a compatible husband (or wife)? Or you could ask: Why do I only ever dream of finding a partner? Why is no partner ever enough to stop me from dreaming of another? Perhaps even: What should my dream remind me of that never becomes real?
- B) Which inner persona obstructs me in my job? Or: Why do I feel the need to advance in my profession? What force drives me to do it? Which inner persona is helping me? And once I have asked these questions, I should immediately pose another: Which inner persona is obstructing me?
- C) What does ‚jealousy‘ mean to me? What does my partner want to remind me of through (infidelity) flirtation? Or perhaps: Who is inside me causing such jealousy? What is the motive feeding this jealousy?
- D) Which theme of mine should be studied by doing this course? Or: What would my

inner personae like to achieve through study? Which inner persona wants to study this subject (and which one does not)? Which subject would serve to remind me most of myself (and which one would not)?

E) What is the real (inner) idea behind the legal action? Who within me is taking the action? Or you may ask: What do I need to learn from it?

What we notice is that all of these questions relate to ourselves, that each response provides us with information about ourselves as opposed to the world we live in.

This is an essential component. The idea is to discover something about yourself.

Questions D to E from the first group are futile for another reason: people ask them as a means of getting advice about the world, and they want the answer in just one word. Symbolon refuses to provide a yes/no response. No single card is up to the task. The problem here is that the likelihood of “yes”

and “no” existing within the soul is about the same as for those words “Good” and “Evil”. The soul has its own landscapes; it has mountains, seas, valleys, and cities inhabited by creatures which are just like you. Its two great dualities are not “yes” and “no” or “Good” and “Evil”. Its main axis of polarity courses between the foundations of “forgetting” and “remembering”. Either I am aware of the infinite inner dimensionality or I am not. The more accessible I am to myself, the more I become. The less accessible I am to myself, the less there is of me in existence: the less I am.

It is absurd to try to mold the soul into a yes/no pattern—as absurd as the subjective bias occasionally displayed by the left hemisphere of our brain.

You should always choose the card with your left hand as the Goddesses of Memory have no time for rationality and would never respond from the left hemisphere (they would rather surface from the depths of the right hemisphere).

The right hand is linked to the left hemisphere and takes overall control for the outer world, whereas the left hand (governed by the right hemisphere) is responsible for what takes place within us.

Selecting the card with your left hand brings you in closer contact with your inner world.

Variation B: Using Astrology

The easiest way to play is like this:

I want to know the meaning of my square aspect of Sun and Uranus. I find the card THE FALL (Leo/Aquarius), look at it and read the corresponding text. It's as easy as that.

The second approach is more elaborate. As before, I choose a constellation from my horoscope. For example, we could take Venus and assume it is in the fourth house and Aquarius.

First I need to find the two cards depicting Venus (Venus is one of the "major" cards in the game). This leads me to Taurus/Venus (THE LOVER) and Libra/Venus (THE PARTNER). I need both cards because my Venus

has two themes. If I were interested in the Moon, for instance, I would need only one card as THE MOON represents one theme.

Venus is about two inner personae who occupy one position; they need to be considered in relation to one another. She relates to my “attractiveness” on the one hand, and on the other, to my “partnership needs”. Both are in the fourth house and within the realm of Cancer (4th house = Cancer = Moon).

I now place the card representing the Moon (THE MOTHER) in a lower position alongside the two Venus cards. This represents the fourth house. But I still need to find the combinations for Venus and the Moon. I do this by placing the counterparts of the Moon to one side below the two Venus cards. They are THE TWO FACES OF EVE (= Taurus/Cancer) and THE FAMILY (= Libra/Cancer). We find already that a mild conflict has been set in motion by these cards. It may well suit Libra/Venus (MY PARTNER) to start a FAMILY (Libra/Cancer), but Taurus/Venus (THE LOVER) is standing at the mirror unable to

make up her mind: Do I want to be a mother or a lover (THE TWO FACES OF EVE)? Should I go out or stay home and cook the children's dinner? One of these possibilities remains as a longing (or as guilt) even after the decision has been made.

I find myself eventually in a position where I am ready to add the zodiac sign (Aquarius) to Venus (4th house). I may now take THE JESTER and place it beneath THE MOTHER, thereby giving rise to three new cards:

FAREWELL (Taurus/Aquarius)

DELIVERANCE (Cancer/Aquarius)

SEPARATION (Libra/Aquarius)

These three cards alone tell me that the inner persona (Venus) has a secret longing to be free and unattached. That's the peculiar reason why this inner persona is always breaking off a partnership *although she herself feels attracted to family and motherhood*.

Each paradox cuts Venus to the quick, and she—this inner persona—expects me to perceive the paradoxes and learn to accept

them. I cannot make them vanish into thin air. I would only succeed in repressing them. But a paradox has to attach itself to me from outside, whether by causing me to deceive my partner (whilst maintaining the relationship), or by making it the task of my partner to deceive me (and so on).

Now we understand what it's all about: the inner personae urge me to become more familiar with my own motives. They remind me of someone in myself who seeks to "deliver"; that I should integrate this someone into myself as a member of an inner ensemble. And that is what the word "remember" means—a reintegration of "members" into the ensemble.

Explanations of this kind, however, do not solve the problem completely as my Venus squares my moon. I can therefore use the same scheme to keep adding cards to the spread. My moon is the card THE MOTHER, which is in square aspect to Venus (square = Saturn) of the seventh house (= Libra/Venus) in star sign Taurus (THE LOVER). She wants to do here what my Venus cannot do in the fourth

house. She would like to be mothered by others (or mother someone else). That's why they are hostile to one another: you could describe them as "inner enemies".

Enough for the time being. The less we use set terms and phrases, the easier it is for you to muster the courage to find your "own".

THE CARD SEQUENCE

Tarot's major arcana (at the very least) are numbered. Their sequence describes your path of development. Even the minor arcana have a specific order.

But it's not as simple when it comes to inner personae. Of course, there are influences and varying intensities, but they have no set order or numerical sequence to illustrate which one is active at any particular time.

We have created a sequence for the card descriptions to make them easier for the reader to find. Once again, these comprise three sections:

SECTION 1.

These cards describe the individual persona as a pure archetype (rarely encountered in reality). The sequence corresponds to the zodiac signs, proceeding from Aries to Pisces.

Some readers may like to consider these cards as the “major arcana” depicting “vital secrets”. They appear in the following sequence:

1. THE WARRIOR (Aries)
2. THE LOVER (Taurus)
3. THE MEDIATOR (Gemini)
4. THE MOTHER (Cancer)
5. THE EGO (Leo)
6. THE REGULATOR (Virgo)
7. THE PARTNER (Libra)
8. THE SEDUCER (Scorpio)
9. THE PREACHER (Sagittarius)
10. THE MASTER (Capricorn)
11. THE JESTER (Aquarius)
12. THE ANGEL (Pisces)

SECTION 2.

Here we find those great realms of human existence which may combine at any one time to form inner personae: Ying and Yang,

Anima and Animus, the feminine soul aspect and the masculine soul aspect, left and right cranial hemispheres, man and woman, and sun and moon.

Contrary to all norms in our society, we have commenced with the feminine archetype. The reason why is because it is more hidden, more deeply repressed than the relatively flat-chested and simply woven masculine ego. Anyway, it is appropriate to begin a game designed to evoke memory with the very figure who needs to be evoked and has to perform the act of remembering.

The Moon Cards

13. DEFIANCE (Cancer/Aries)

14. THE TWO FACES OF EVE (Cancer/Taurus)
continuing to:

23. SLEEPING BEAUTY-SLUMBER (Cancer/
Pisces)

The Sun Cards

24. THE BATTLE (Leo/Aries)

25. THE QUEEN (Leo/Taurus)
continuing to:

33. RETREAT (Leo/Pisces)

SECTION 3.

This section combines every persona except the Sun and Moon. They are also known as “minor arcana”, which should not in any way suggest they are of lesser importance than the other cards (a single combination of cards from the “minor” arcanum could radically transform your life!). Once again, we use the order of the zodiac:

Aries Cards

- 34. EROS (Aries/Taurus)
- 35. THE STOCKS (Aries/Gemini)
(Aries-Cancer and Aries-Leo are numbers 13 and 24) Continuing to:
- 42. THE ABSOLUTE FOOL (Aries/Pisces)

Taurus Cards

- 43. THE GOLDEN GIRL (Taurus/Gemini)
and so on until the last card.

Uranus Cards

- 78. THE QUESTION OF THE GRAIL
(Uranus/Pisces)

**INTERPRETATION
OF
THE CARDS**

1. ARIES—MARS

THE WARRIOR/THE DOER



The principle of the doer is that of energy wishing to express itself from the inside towards the out. For this reason, power training (current) is a popular method of expressing the topic that this person may choose. In centuries past, such people often found their form of expression in being a warrior.

This card is now calling for you to realise that the period of contemplation is over ... the time has come to act, to take action. Only then can the knot be cut. Think of Alexander the Great!

2. TAURUS—VENUS

THE LOVER/THE MISTRESS



The mistress is a type of sacrifice that has come to a stagnancy in time. You can't find a way out of aged stories that belong to the past, or out of lost hopes, or dispel feelings that have not yet ended. You sit and wait for things to be-

come as beautiful, peaceful, harmonic and wonderful as they once were. But this will not happen—but still you hang on, and so become trapped.

Today's card intends to tell you: There is, at present, no solution, there is nothing you can do. That's all (However, just between you and I ...—this moment will pass!)

3. GEMINI—MERCURY

THE MEDIATOR



The subject of the mediator is neither exhausting nor self-centred. It is neither affirmative nor negative. It is simply neutral. Right now, you feel an emptiness inside. And in order to hide that stagnation you prefer to constantly move superficially. You run hither and thither searching for a kind of mobility that just isn't within you at present.

Today, this card attempts to tell you to simply remain neutral. But look out for someone (perhaps a good friend) with whom you may talk about this stagnation.

4. CANCER—MOON

THE MOTHER (also, the child!)



This card asks you to care for at least one of three persons. This can be:

1.: the moon as a memory of your mother, the person who brought you into this world.

2.: The moon is also the persona of the small child within you. For their entire lives every one of us carries inside his or herself, the child that they were at birth.

3.: The moon is the persona of the mature (motherly) woman inside you. Each woman has this persona inside her that needs realization, and each man desires (among other things) a home in which he feels snug and warm.

This card wishes to remind you that one of these three figures feels under-nourished. Think about how to feed it!

5. LEO—SUN

THE SERVITOR/THE EGO

(also, the father!)



This card is about our “way” (through life) or about my “behaviour.” Or simply about my “vitality.” The sun is the director giving you, (the main character in the film of your life), stage directions.

The sun also explains how you, as a human being, should act upon this advice. The EGO is either too big, too strong and carries things to excess, then needing correction from the outside, or the Ego is very small and weak, and suffers from this until it finally learns to accept itself—as that what you are.

This card says: Either you are too big at the moment, or too small. Either you tread on someone’s toes—or you allow others to tread on yours. You want to remain an “alpha person”, or to become one. Both are causes of heavy stress!

6. VIRGO—MERCURY

THE REGULATOR



Another name for this character is “intellect,” its orientation being rationality. That means that this person conserves all he has learned and all that can be learned, all that books or education can teach us. This is neutral knowledge and has no gender. But seriously: Knowledge here becomes an end in itself as only my mass of knowledge gives me ground to believe in my existence. Just as the pretty maiden who measures what she is worth in degrees of her attractiveness (card Taurus), so the intellectual discovers his meaning and importance in his knowledge. It is only his knowledge, so he believes, that will lead to his being noticed.

This card challenges you to set your sights lower, and confront your powerlessness!

7. LIBRA—VENUS

THE PARTNER



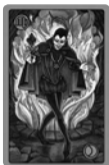
This touches upon one of the most important areas of human life: Our search for a partner. This topic has two problematic aspects. One being the fact that there may be no partner in sight. Thus, I continue with my search.

The other being that the partner I am presently with is no longer the right one, or is becoming difficult, resulting in my need to continue with my search.

This card says: End this search! Allow yourself be found! Perhaps you've already made a find, but you just don't want to admit it.

8. SCORPIO—PLUTO

THE SEDUCER/THE IDEA



This touches upon one of the most difficult matters in human life: the subjunctive (the tense of possibility) with all its beautiful images of how things should really be! My life, my partnership, my appearance, winning the lottery, foreigners ... and so on. Many people are so entangled in a whole net of such images that they can no longer differentiate between desire and reality. They lose touch with their reality, build castles in the air, and fill them with expectations.

This card wants you to ask yourself who you blame for putting you in this mess, where your expectations don't materialise, and how little this helps you!

9. SAGITTARIUS—JUPITER

THE PREACHER/THE SEARCH FOR MEANING



There are times in life when one looks for its meaning. (No, you don't understand it, but you still ask yourself, "What is all this really about?") "Where does all this lead to?"—and nowhere

is an answer to be found. You could become a little melancholic.

Now is the right moment in time to recall all who have preceded you, your parents, your grandparents, your great grandparents, and so on. Only they have answers to these questions.

This card tells you: Every insight into those who came before us, enriches the soul. Each of these people, smiling at you from afar, makes the gloom disappear.

10. CAPRICORN—SATURN

THE MASTER/THE OLD WISE MAN



An uncomfortable character. Alone and old in a cold mountain realm. He is dressed in warm clothes. Now is not the time to open up. Now is the time to understand that there are higher

forces. This is the reason for the reawakening of this cold being.

This card wants to tell you that you will now be touched by “fate.”

Approach it, and fate will be gentle, run from it, and things will become difficult. The choice is yours!

11. AQUARIUS—URANUS

THE JESTER/THE RELEASER



This inner character can help liberate you from a constricting and unwanted situation into freedom. That's why it is here! Is this way easy? Never! Can you flee? Never!

This card intends to make it clear that you need to free yourself of something. This will be accompanied by labour pains. There will be no solution without pain. (Think of a thick plaster that is removed in one jerk!)

12. PISCES—NEPTUNE

THE ANGEL/THE SEARCH FOR SALVATION



Many people are on their road to enlightenment (for example, each Zen Buddhist). He seeks salvation, perfection, completion, nirvana. Every one of these terms, promising the ultimate path of deliverance deep inside us, describe something that is still far from us. Buddha, Jesus, Zoroaster and many more have achieved this goal and can be role models (although Jesus' crucifixion is a bit off-putting?). Well, of course we start small! (the fourth chakra. Dextrogyrating. Wouldn't that be something!)

But this card is cruel: You're fooling yourself!
Time to stop dreaming!

13. CANCER/ARIES—MOON/MARS

THE DEFIANCE



When the small child (from the Cancer card) feels unjustly, badly, or even angrily treated, it can immediately change its behaviour into “defiant child” mode! It is then no longer defiant, it becomes **DEFIANCE** personified! For this condition that you find yourself in, that is working within you, there is no cure. You can't even help yourself.

This card says: It is OK, be defiant! The more you accept that, the sooner the small child (inside you) can stop it.

14. CANCER/TAURUS—MOON/VENUS
**THE TWO FACES OF EVE/
THE TWO SOULS**



This card shows a wife (and mother) and a mistress. So—what's happening here? (If you are a woman:) Would I rather be the first one or the other? (If you are a man):

Do I prefer a wife (and mother) or rather a mistress? The answer is: There is no answer! You are in the middle of a conflict—and you want both (or want to be both)! But this won't work.

This card says: Both belong to you. Each in her place. Each in her time! Both are very close to you—but not to themselves. This you have to accept.

15. CANCER/GEMINI—MOON/MERCURY ARTICULATION/TALKING

THINGS OVER



There are emotions (Cancer) and there are words (Mercury). Combining both results in the “talking cure” (as psychoanalysis was formerly known): You talk about the things that move your soul.

This sounds rather simplistic and yet is very difficult for those who have no experience with it.

However, this card is simple, it says: Find someone with whom you can talk to about all that burdens you emotionally. It need not be an expert who charges you for his services. A good friend will suffice ...

16. CANCER/LEO—MOON/SUN

THE INCOMPATIBILITY



With this couple, the one says “stop,” the other “go.” The one wants to have his or her cake, the other to eat it. In brief, both persons depicted on this card are completely incompatible at first glance. You are already very close to one of them and vehemently argue his or her point. Now you face a real dilemma.

This is why the card says: There is also other point of view. Another side of the coin. For the moment you’ve overlooked it, and this makes you one-sided. That is not healthy!

17. CANCER/VIRGO—MOON/MERCURY THE CARING



This card shows a woman caring for a child. Looking after a child.

As our cards only touch on questions that arise within you, from the innermost depths of your soul, this card worries about your soul too, and it hints at the fact that you should care more for your soul! Care for yourself! And for nobody else!

18. CANCER/LIBRA—MOON/VENUS

THE FAMILY



Here again, something definite is indicated. The moon, that is, the whole range of your emotions, needs so much more comfort as a form of security. The Libra of a person, the zenith of the partnership between two people, wants to bind and tie. A bond that cannot simply be dissolved on a whim when times get tough.

All in all, this card indicates: The time for evasiveness, the time of “maybe”, the time of two-ness wanting unity. A third. A man and a woman and a “YES” together form a family. Everything will be fine!

19. CANCER/SCORPIO—MOON/PLUTO

THE ABORTION



No, this card does not literally mean that an unborn child needs to be aborted, or has already died. But symbolically it says that you have sacrificed parts of your soul's vitality for an idea or a concept (which are both, naturally, without a life of their own). Twenty years ago, when communism suffered a global collapse, the German news magazine *Der Spiegel* published a cartoon depicting Karl Marx. He innocently looked at the readers and said: "I am really sorry, it was just one of my ideas."

This card intends to say: For which noble idea (noble? Ideas like these are always noble!) were you prepared to sacrifice parts of your vitality?

**20. CANCER/SAGITTARIUS—MOON/
JUPITER**

MNEMOSYNE



In Greek mythology, the goddess Mnemosyne was responsible for memory. Seen this way means that she is also responsible for everything that has been forgotten inside you. And when this character approaches you, it is high time to recover something from the chamber of forgetfulness that sits in each soul.

Therefore, this card is saying: Something that moved you emotionally in an earlier time wants to resurface into your consciousness again. Go out and look for it!

**21. CANCER/CAPRICORN—MOON/
SATURN**

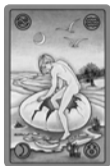


THE ICE QUEEN

Something inside you has hardened. Emotions you once felt have gone cold and have closed up. You have developed a kind of “protective shield against feelings,” a fortress of ice.

The task of this card is: Do not blame the world and do not blame your partner (or your children) for this hardening. You are the cause!

**22. CANCER/AQUARIUS—MOON/
URANUS**



**DELIVERANCE/
THE DELIVERY**

A protecting cover has been cracked. The egg no longer gives you comfort and protection and the time of childhood is over. The time to become an adult has begun, (even if you've only just become 48 years old).

This card says: You should now give your soul (with its mature experience) wings. This is—as Plato said—the most important thing that can happen to a soul.

23. CANCER/PISCES—MOON/NEPTUNE

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY



This card shows a fairy tale figure full of longing to be saved. She sleeps and dreams continuously (as can be seen in the symbolism in the clouds).

This card wants to make one thing clear: You are not really here. You are dreaming. Now is the right time to find the difference between a dream which will never become reality and the reality you are trying to escape from, or from which you hide your head in the sand.

24. LEO/ARIES—SUN/MARS

THE BATTLE



We have already had a card that asked you to act—to cut a knot! (The DOER) This new card wants to remind you that—at times—it can be necessary to fight. No, not with a sword or an AK-47.

But you have identified your opponent, he has provoked you intensely—and there is no other way but to fight.

This card wants to say: You need to get angry, you need to get rough. You do not even need to win (although everybody hopes that you do). You know that half of the battles are lost anyway. Again: The goal here is not winning, but fighting.

25. LEO/TAURUS—SUN/VENUS

THE QUEEN/THE EMPRESS



We are used to the fact that there are men and women. We like to call men ALPHA and women BETA. However, there are also ALPHA women, and logically, their husbands can only rank BETA. This naturally confuses the order of things. What should be up is down, what should be down is up. So what?

The task of this card: You will meet a woman who is alpha inside. This makes you, for the moment, beta. Or are you in fact this alpha woman? So what?

26. LEO/GEMINI—SUN/MERCURY

THE ACTOR



It looks as if, at the moment, you are acting out a role. And are you possibly doing this in order to finally play an important part in your life. But both are only theatre! And you're scared. Either you fear that you will be

found out, or that you are a bad actor.

This card can show you: looking at the whole world, all of us play only minor or no parts. We are all just small humans and can do nothing against the great forces of the heavens. This allows us to repeat the pre-formulated lines of the drama we play for the umpteenth time.

Well, but where am I in this? In the prompter's box!

27. LEO/VIRGO—SUN/MERCURY

THE AILING KING



The position of the Sun in my life always represents the place that the King (or the Ego) wants to take in my life. But there are times when the usually healthy king feels unwell and weak.

Then he prefers to go back to bed, pull a blanket over himself and play “the ailing king,” so that everyone will make an allowance for him.

What does the card want? You are allowed to feel weak! You are allowed to be powerless and forceless! You are allowed to be ill! You may even groan!

28. LEO/LIBRA—SUN/VENUS

THE WEDDING/

THE MARRIAGE



This card is about—who would have thought it!—love. (Or its little sister, infatuation). And, as always when the two sisters play their tricks (the most beautiful game in the world, by the way) it also talks about how I make it my happiness, my well-being, and my love someone else's task. This puts quite some stress—on this other person: I burden him or her with the responsibility for my own happiness.

So what is this card really about? Nobody in this world can make me—permanently—happy. But other people can help me to find happiness and love inside myself. This is a small, but very important difference.

29. LEO/SCORPIO—SUN/PLUTO

THE MAGICIAN



Sometimes a person tries to create a sort of homunculus at all costs. An artificial being. I want to summon these spirits by the power of wishes, with affirmations—in brief, with the weapons of the mind, in order that they serve me. Of course, this is pure idiocy, but such idiocies can be quite costly.

This card says: At the moment you've got stuck in the ruts of your idea. Be careful that you do not waste your entire (psychological and—in some cults—also material) wealth on this straw man.

30. LEO/SAGITTARIUS—SUN/JUPITER

FORTUNA



The Roman goddess “Fortuna” today is little more than another name for the pouring of the cornucopia. We never know who pours it, but whatever is poured brings us fulfillment and abundance for a while. Is

this meant as material abundance (for example, as a university degree or a win of the lottery)? Sometimes certainly. But more often a state of abundance of the soul is indicated. The soul widens, it grows wings.

Does the card attempt to warn you of something? No, it doesn't. You encounter it in the verses of the poet: “A shiny luck freed itself from the heavens and attached itself, with large and outspread wings, on my flowering soul.” (Rilke: *First Poems*, 1913)

31. LEO/CAPRICORN—SUN/SATURN

THE BURDEN



A burden is something heavy. Something that you must bear. A subsequent payment of taxes, a disease (of you, your partner, your cat and so on), a failure and so on. Often we refuse to see it as something that we have to carry. We loudly complain or ask a lawyer. We can do this but we should be aware that this makes the burden twice as heavy.

This card is easily understood: This is your burden, so bear it! Can you do something to make it lighter? Of course you can. Say: “It is my burden”. Nobody else is responsible for it. Nobody else is to blame. I will bear it!

32. LEO/AQUARIUS—SUN/URANUS

THE FALL



The sun is a symbol for my EGO. This EGO wants to become or remain king. Uranus is the fool, a symbol for “the liberation from ... or the delivery of ...” If both forces go hand in hand, the following rule applies: The

larger my EGO becomes, the more painful it will be (due to the height) when the fool finally pushes me from my throne. And he will do it, because he must! It is his job.

Keep in Mind: Someone or something will trip you up, betray you or make sure that you lose your job. Does this apply to the whole of your life? Certainly not.

But it will hurt you nevertheless—a lot.

33. LEO/PISCES—SUN/NEPTUNE

RETREAT/THE WITHDRAWAL



Sometime the card you draw can be so easily misunderstood that we (and happily so) are led down the wrong track. That is the case with this card. Many people read something into it such as “discovering my Buddha nature” or even “enlightenment” and so forth. The truth is far more trivial. A person has withdrawn from the world. You can do this through meditation, alcohol, (some) hashish, morphine etc. But does this really enlighten you (provided that we know what this means)? This man may have been told by his Zen teacher: “Do nothing ... simply be ... let everything go ... don’t be attached to anything ... look at the wall without looking” or something along these lines.

The card wants to say to the man on the cushion: “There is nothing to do. Find out how you do this. Act now by not acting. And find the sound of one hand clapping.”

34. ARIES/TAURUS—MARS/VENUS

THE EROS



This image wants to remind you of the topic (and your issue with) sexuality. Each card that is contained in this deck carries the secret message “Deal with ...” (in this case) “... your sexuality”. Something has happened?

Perhaps you have not expressed your sexuality for some time or maybe you have been using it excessively in order to distract yourself from other things, etc etc. There may be as many sexual issues as there are people in this world. Each has their own problems with it! Here and now we are talking about your own, personal Eros. What does he have to say to you? What does he want? Never forget that the ancient Greeks and Romans venerated Eros as a god.

And so, of course, he still is—so why should one not have an issue with him once a while?

35. ARIES/GEMINI—MARS/MERCURY

THE STOCKS/THE PILLORY



We know that Aries (or Mars) is somebody who causes things to happen. He causes pain! Sometimes physically and materially (for example, in form of a slap in the face). Sometimes he is joined by someone, (Mercury) who loves to communicate, that is, someone who talks. The combination of both result in talk that hurts. Such gossip can lead to somebody else being publicly denounced and shamed.

The card wants to say: You will now either become the victim of a rumour—or the originator of one. Meaning that you are also the one who spreads these rumours.

36. ARIES/VIRGO—MARS/MERCURY

THE GUILT



This card wishes to point you towards a guilt that you have closed your eyes to. No, not a guilt in the legal sense, but a guilt that is working inside your soul and one which is shy of light. To make matters worse: You have received this guilt as the virgin conceived her child.

This card says: This guilt exists ... can you undo it? No!

But you do need to admit that you have done "it." That it is your fault, that you are to blame. If not, the guilt will increase.

37. ARIES/LIBRA—MARS/VENUS
DISAGREEMENT/

THE QUARREL



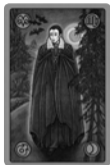
Here, two truly great forces fight each other—as shown by the card. One side harbours a massive anger inside (look how tense the hands are), the other side simply wants to sustain harmony.

And all this unites inside you—simultaneously. And both need to be attended to and to be seen. War and peace.

The card only says: war and love! How can that work?

38. ARIES/SCORPIO—MARS/PLUTO

THE VAMPIRE



Do vampires exist? Not in this world! (Just as there are no angels!) But there are people who, in their psyche, want to dominate another person (or have power over him or her). And it is a very special power that someone has over you or that you (if things run bad) have over another person.

This card wants to indicate the following: Life is far too precious to bind it up with another person (or something of value), so that you should avoid doing so “with every fibre of your being.”

**39. ARIES/SAGITTARIUS—MARS/
JUPITER**

THE CRUSADER



At times, you feel as if you have to go to war for a certain idea, ideology, or religion. All totalitarian groups want to aggressively purify the world from “wrong ideas” (from the wrong faith and so on).

Even if you are no sectarian preacher, you should pause for a moment and ask yourself: For which idea would I be willing to go to extremes, even resort to violence?

40. ARIES/CAPRICORN—MARS/
SATURN

THE PREVENTION



This card embodies someone who pushes the gas pedal while pulling the hand brake at the very same time. Banging your head against a brick wall can also be tricky—because in most cases, it will be your head that will break first.

This card recommends that you learn what you can achieve—and what you can't. Please also be aware of the following: There is something that is far bigger than you. It is called fate.

41. ARIES/AQUARIUS—MARS/URANUS
**THE SPITEFUL TROUBLEMAK-
ER/THE POISONED
DWARF**



This card stands, more often than not, for misunderstanding. It should really be called “The Dancer on the Nose of the World”! Why? Because this Rumpelstiltskin really is responsible for bringing about mayhem. No, not really chaos but rather just a great confusion. While at work, this is the being that causes you to drop your cup of hot coffee on the blouse of your boss’s wife behind your back.

So why this card? Because you need to learn to fly. It’s all about a little (or a lot) more freedom.

42. ARIES/PISCES—MARS/NEPTUNE

THE ABSOLUTE FOOL/

THE PURE FOOL



We see depicted here a be-draggled knight who leans against a tree and dreams of how he will be the knight in shining armour saving a multitude of kidnapped maidens from the dragon.

His Spanish name is “Don Quichotte,” or the dream dancer. This is his longing to come from nowhere and to show everybody what he can do. Daily he dreams of how, neglecting all danger to himself, he frees maidens from the clutches of despicable people, or how he, as the imprisoned maiden, will be freed by a knight in shining armour.

This card says: What you are asking for is just another pipe dream. There is nothing more to say on the matter.

43. TAURUS/GEMINI—VENUS/ MERCURY

THE GOLDEN GIRL



Deep inside yourself, in a chamber of your soul, exist, and this is valid for everyone, feelings of inferiority and doubt, especially of reduced self-worth. No, you are not the golden girl, but she is a shining example for you. You feel rather the opposite, like Cinderella or Calamity Jane. So you think that it should not be a problem for yourself to be similarly self-confident, a darling of the world, just like the golden girl. Yes, right now you feel inferior.

This card says: You can only do one thing with these feelings. You must permit them to exist. The more you regard them as a part of your life, the sooner they will crawl back into their chamber.

44. TAURUS/VIRGO—VENUS/MERCURY CLINGING/THE ADHERENCE



In ancient Greece, there existed a certain attitude of mind towards life called (and not without malice) “pleonexia” by the old philosophers. This means “the insatiable desire to have more.” Right now, this attitude has you firmly in its grip which is not only the “desire to have”, but has its emphasis on the “MORE.” And in particular more of what you already have.

But this card does not advise you to stop this philosophy (it would not work anyway) but it says: Look at the windows of the room (on the card). They do not only keep all others outside—most of all, they keep you locked in!

45. TAURUS/LIBRA—VENUS/VENUS
**THE GILDED CAGE/THE
GOLDEN CAGE**



This card wants to tell you something about partnership. Either, it says, you are living inside a very comfortable cage at the moment or outside of it as a very friendly guard. In both cases, we talk about a kind of possession. Yet this pleases you as, apparently, you are feeling good, you have everything in your cage. Even the guard feels well, as long as what's in the cage doesn't revolt. However, "You belong to me" is the sentence that imprisons two people.

This card says: One person will stay only as long as the doors to the cage are wide open and the other person only once he throws away the lock and key.

46. TAURUS/SCORPIO—VENUS/PLUTO
THE MARIONETTE/

THE PUPPET



The confusing thing about this card is not that it shows you (no matter whether you are male or female) hanging on strings as if you were controlled by someone else, but that the person who holds the strings is also you! You are so obsessed by a material idea—by beauty, wealth, fame, in brief, by any kind of success which makes you appear brilliant and shiny—that you would do anything to turn yourself into this idea. Unfortunately when you do this, you lose your way! You dance to another's drum.

This card says: Find your own music, your own drum! Dance your own dance!

**47. TAURUS/SAGITTARIUS—VENUS/
JUPITER**



**MATTER AND
SPIRIT**

This deals with “spirituality” as a commodity. Right now, you are buying (from a guru, a cult, a religious community, in brief, from one of these used car salesmen) something which you believe you desperately need for the salvation of your soul (and you keep asking yourself how you could have managed for so long without it).

This card wants to say: You can acquire spiritual things—but you can never purchase them! Find out what the difference is.

**48. TAURUS/CAPRICORN—VENUS/
SATURN**



**RESPONSIBILITY
FOR CREATION**

Fact is: The world does not need you! She can easily do without you! But you can't do without her! At times we act as if we can deal with the world just as we please.

If you do so, however, you impoverish your soul which is also a part of the world.

This card says: Imagine—just for a moment—that the world isn't there to serve you, but you exist to serve it. What could you do for it, in your part of the world, in just one minute?

**49. TAURUS/AQUARIUS—VENUS/
URANUS**

THE FAREWELL



During our lives, we repeatedly arrive at places in time where we have to say farewell. To people, to animals, to things, to jobs, to apartments, to habits.

This card says: A farewell is on the cards. Find out to whom or to what. Take some time to ponder this point and to prepare for it—and then act.

50. TAURUS/PISCES—VENUS/NEPTUNE

THE GARDEN OF SPIRITS



If you go to a “New Age” bookshop, you feel like you are entering something between a wonderland (as in the Alice of Lewis Carroll) or an Ikea’s children’s paradise: It teems with books about fairies, angels, unicorns, goblins and other special topics (I have a book from angel Raphael in front of me). Are these creatures real? Of course they exist! Do they share our planet with us? No. They dwell in the soul of the book buyers who enter this shop. And nowhere else!

This is what this card hints at: You made your home in a castle in the air. You are entitled to do this. But right now you need to care just a little for the real world. Just a little.

51. GEMINI/VIRGO—MERCURY/ MERCURY



THE STRATEGIST

Right now, you are intensively living inside your head. Trying to analyse matters and to grasp them rationally. At times, this is very important, as sometimes the world could do well with more rationality. Yet sometimes you also attempt to rationalise things with your intellect, simply to avoid recognising that there is also something else involved. In our image, this “something else” lies below a table.

The card says: There is something dark beside the real world and you try, by reason, to get to the core of this evil. This won't work. Don't run away! Simply look at it!

52. GEMINI/LIBRA—MERCURY/VENUS

THE VANITY FAIR



Again, we are dealing with matters of partnership. Two people, who are a couple, present themselves! If you look closely, they are just actors. They act! They only pretend to be in a partnership! They are play-acting for themselves, their partners and the on-lookers. Being something that they are not. Superficially they are a couple, but there is no depth to it.

This card poses the question: What has become of each of you? Just when were each of you left behind? Or where in the past did you get stuck—so that now so little is left?

53. GEMINI/SCORPIO—MERCURY/PLUTO

THE PIED PIPER



There are people who possess a mysterious power. One likes to follow them. They might be football players, rock stars, actors, gurus, cult leaders and other propagandists. They cast their line (which is generally called charisma and is measured on the Valentino scale) in order that you might fall for them lock, stock and barrel. Some blow a pipe or sing songs for the same reason.

This card intends to tell you: You've fallen for someone's line. He or she is a pretender. He or she shows you the secret of their success in order to make you believe that you can do the same! But it is just like the used cars he or she also deals with: They break down as soon as you've left the premises. Can you protect yourself? No! You first need to buy some of these cars before you stop of your own accord.

54. GEMINI/SAGITTARIUS—MERCURY/ JUPITER



MASTER AND DISCIPLE/MASTER AND PUPIL

Whoever wishes to learn, needs a master and an apprenticeship. You will find them both when the time is right. Sometimes you need 5 apprenticeships in a row. So what! Sometimes you are even prepared to regard your wife (your husband) or your children as the master. Both can without doubt fulfil this vision.

This card wants to say: In the end, you are both—master and pupil. You receive from the one and hand out to the other. In this way, you remain in the flow. In other words: Now really is the time to share what you have received. If not, you will suffer a kind of spiritual congestion.

**55. GEMINI/CAPRICORN—MERCURY/
SATURN**



**AFFLICTION/
THE AILMENT**

This card indicates that you cannot continue in this haste and rush. You have reached the 10 miles per hour zone of your life both physically and psychologically. You should now adapt to this speed, or rather, this slowness. Even if you don't, you'll still be treading water.

This is precisely what this card tells you: Life has many different speeds. Just as there are many different kinds of weather. The wise person adapts to the weather and the speed without complaint. Do not be afraid: The plaster will eventually be removed.

**56. GEMINI/AQUARIUS—MERCURY/
URANUS**



**DREAMING
JOHNNY/LITTLE
JOHNNY HEAD-IN-
AIR**

There are people whom you generally regard as half-wits, who drop one clanger after another (or rather, they almost intentionally throw the clangers!). This is the wonderful world of mistakes that is represented here. (As the employee said to his boss whom he had invited for dinner: "... and do bring your plentiful wives ..."—instead of beautiful wife.). No, there is nothing you can do about it. It is like the weather. You can get cold and wet.

This card says: The topic now is that you should steer a little more towards freedom. "But I do not want to be free ...," you say. If so, this will hurt still more.

57. GEMINI/PISCES—MERCURY/
NEPTUNE

THE SILENCE



Behind the two people stands an angel. He presses his finger against his lips and (very quietly) whispers to both Gemini: “Be quiet, I don’t want to hear a word!”

In other words, there is nothing to say! One no longer knows what one aimed at, or if one did at all. It is an unpleasant phase but it won’t hurt. Sometimes you feel ashamed in front of others, maybe one should have said something ... If there wasn’t still a small amount of fear that this phase will soon pass (and that all will not remain as silent as it is now) one could almost enjoy this time.

The card says: It is better to remain silent right now.

58. VIRGO/LIBRA—MERCURY/VENUS
EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE



RELATIONSHIP/
THE ROUTINE IN
RELATIONSHIPS

She does the washing, he cuts the wood. What can I say? That is the way life is in a relationship once the seventh year is over. And also, outside of a relationship, when life just moves on alone. No ups and downs. Simply routine.

This is exactly what this card indicates: Manage your everyday life. Accept it, as the philosophers say, as practice. Practice for what? For life!

59. VIRGO/SCORPIO—MERCURY/PLUTO CASTIGATION/THE MORTIFI- CATION



What first appears to be a religious exercise (just think of the Dan Brown movies), appears far simpler when viewed within the real world. Yet you also chasten yourself to pacify your troubled conscience. This card is always based on a moral conflict.

This card wants to say: What you have done needs to be atoned for. You are not permitted to feel well. It may be better to bring about this condition yourself, in this way you can determine the dosage and duration. Find out what you've "done"—what makes your conscience ache so much—and then say: Yes, I have done it!

60. VIRGO/SAGITTARIUS—MERCURY/
JUPITER

THE INQUISITION



In this card, we encounter the contradiction between confidence and intellect, between faith and reason. And the guilt one feels when one leaves the path of faith and opts for the path of reason.

Both are so difficult to reconcile. How can I prove that God exists? How can I believe in Him when I am so full of doubt?

This card says: Both exist, doubt as well as faith, science and mysticism, physics and metaphysics. Whoever tries to unify the one with the other is making a mistake. They are both equally valid mental potentials and can stand well beside each other with neither being accused or blamed for anything.

**61. VIRGO/CAPRICORN—MERCURY/
SATURN**

THE FEAR



Each person's life is finite. Yours and mine as well. But the thought of this finality frightens us and we develop a vague yet very strong fear. The fear of death. Similarly, and along similar lines, lies the fear of the dark and the fear of fate. (Look at the being in the background of the card.)

This card simply wants to indicate that there is a fate, that there is death. You encounter the first one every day, the second one when your final day has come.

**62. VIRGO/AQUARIUS—MERCURY/
URANUS**



**THE FURIES/
THE ERINYES**

In Greece, the Erinyes were goddesses who acted whenever someone had committed an outrage against his or her parents. This was the case with Oedipus and also with Orestis. In brief, they were deities of vengeance who appeared whenever father or mother had been harmed (or, as in the case of Oedipus, even killed) with criminal intent. They also safeguarded that parents were honoured.

The message of this card therefore reads: You do not give your parents the special place in your soul that they deserve. Now is the right time to correct this blemish.

**63. VIRGO/PISCES—MERCURY/
NEPTUNE**



**DECEPTION/
THE ILLUSION/
THE DECEIT**

The image shows people who are being fooled by a trickster. He deceives them. He pulls the wool over their eyes by appealing to their greed. He manages this by letting them win two minor sums so that they lust for larger sums of money and risk a higher bet.

This card says: Either you are fooled right now or you try to fool others. And it is not really clear which of both variants will be better for the salvation of your soul.

64. LIBRA/SCORPIO—VENUS/PLUTO DISASTER/THE DOOM



A couple—handcuffed to each other—are imprisoned deep inside a cave. The cave here is a metaphor for this couples perception of how a perfect partnership should be. Be it that you don't live up to your partner's ideas (regarding your partnership) or that your partner can't live up to yours. Each of you is imprisoned in the hell of the other's making. Because that is clear in this partnership, hell is always built by the other.

In addition, this card wants to tell you that you have been fooled by a beautiful image—and that you are now imprisoned in this image. Keep in mind that your partner cannot be responsible for implementing your happiness. And you are not responsible for his or hers!

65. LIBRA/SAGITTARIUS—VENUS/ JUPITER

THE SYMBOLON



Again we have a card about partnership: Two people—holding hands—climb up a stairway to a temple together. At first glance, this appears romantic, but it is only a silly New Age postcard image. You believe that you have already gone a long way in your partnership. And yet you have not even reached the beginning. What has become of the physical side of love? The pure and simple sex, for example.

This is exactly the question this card poses: Why don't you start from scratch in your old relationship? You will never reach the temple of "spiritual partnership" unless you've walked the dark and lonely vales before.

66. LIBRA/SATURN—VENUS/SATURN SADNESS/THE MOURNING



A woman (it can also be a man) is mourning. This is what the card is about. Does it indicate that somebody will leave you? Not necessarily. It is far more likely that there is some sadness remaining from a previous relationship. It maybe because this has ended or that your partner has left you and you still wrangle with this.

This card wants to say: You are still sad and there are tears in your eyes. There is someone that you haven't said goodbye to yet. So do it now.

67. LIBRA/AQUARIUS—VENUS/URANUS THE SEPARATION



This card challenges you to let go something—especially if it is something that has accompanied you for many months or even years now. You fly into freedom and the other (perhaps even a material thing, such as a smoking habit, alcohol or even a subscription to *Playboy*) is left behind and calls after you: “Please stay, it was so nice!”

So this card talks about an increase in freedom. It emphasizes: One character in your life has become old. Now is the time to lovingly let it go.

68. LIBRA/PISCES—VENUS/NEPTUNE

THE TWO KING'S CHILDREN



Some people dream for many years about an ideal partner and do not know that they will never find him or her because they are Two King's Children. Two King's Children? What does this mean? Take, as an example, the daughter who has always been called "my little princess" by her daddy or the boy who is firmly at his mother's side because he always knew that someone had to save her (as he did). And who, because of this, could never allow another woman a chance. All that remains are dreams!

The card wants to say: When you are a man, free yourself from your mother. When you are a woman, finally free yourself from your father. (And yes, it doesn't matter if the parent concerned has been dead for 20 years.)

**69. SCORPIO/SAGITTARIUS—PLUTO/
JUPITER**



THE BLACK MASS

What does a Black Mass do? It evokes something! Something is said as if it were an oath. This takes as given that you are firm and certain that you are doing the right thing and that there will be nothing that can lead you astray. And of course your pledge is a blessing for the world or for another person.

However, this card says: You only swear something when you do not believe it yourself. To take an oath also means one is stuck in his or her own opinions. Ask yourself: Which opinion is it? And what is an opinion anyway?

**70. SCORPIO/CAPRICORN—PLUTO/
SATURN**

THE DEPRESSION



At present part of your life appears to have frozen. Possibly we could even talk about a “petrification of your soul.” In addition, there is a certain matter that you don’t want to touch—you are afraid of the consequences, but they are already there!

The card wants you to make the first step. Stand up and look around in this “chamber of memories lost.” It contains the secret that you yourself have hidden there. As soon as you find the courage to confront it light will appear at the end of the cave. You can already see it on this card!

**71. SCORPIO/AQUARIUS—PLUTO/
URANUS**

THE PHOENIX



A strange bird, as old as humanity. One says that it will rise from its ashes and bring new life with it. You can see that the lower ground of the card is still dark, and yet the flight of the Phoenix already carries the light.

This card says: Whenever something has just been destroyed in your life, this may be the requisite in order that this bird may once more liberate itself and take off. Once you have looked at the ashes for long enough, it will stir. This card knows: It already has done.

72. SCORPIO/PISCES—PLUTO/
NEPTUNE



THE FALSE HALO/ THE HALO

You are now falling for a dark angel's lie who wears a disguise of bright feathers and a coat of light. This is why you wish he or she might accompany you. Yet he or she is a hypocrite.

This card asks you not to interfere in the business of angels. They are just too big for us small people. They can govern their own affairs. That is none of your business. We humans can sort out our own problems. By ourselves!

73. SAGITTARIUS/CAPRICORN—
JUPITER/SATURN

THE CONFESSION



There is a burden on your soul. It helps to share this burden with another person. Acknowledge it, or even make a confession. It is often the case that behind such a burden lies a personal guilt.

(For example, you have promised something that you have not kept.)

Admitting this guilt means reducing the burden.

This card contains the knowledge that there can only be absolution after your confession! Never before!

74. SAGITTARIUS/AQUARIUS—JUPITER/ URANUS



THE QUANTUM LEAP/THE QUAN- TUM JUMP

Sometimes it is the case that old stuff is so worn that it is no longer worth clinging to. Then, it becomes not simply a case of liberating yourself, but also taking a leap into the unknown. A jump out of the old. The problem is that you never know if you'll land safely at the end of the jump. There is no certainty that you won't end up under a bridge with a bottle of schnaps.

The card says: No, you can never know where you will land. If you ask other people who have already risked this jump, five years later they will tell you: At first it was awful, but later it was the best thing that ever happened to me. But can you rely on that? How should I, or the card, know?

75. SAGITTARIUS/PISCES—JUPITER/
NEPTUNE

THE PYTHIA



In ancient Greece, the Pythia was the most important female oracle. People from all over the country made a pilgrimage to Delphi. She was always drugged (due to fumes that arose out of a cleft in the ground) and usually mumbled incomprehensible sounds as an answer to a question. A priest who stood behind her translated these mumblings into words. (And, more often than not, will have added his own moral sermon.)

This card wants to enlighten you: At the moment you are gnawing over a message that has reached you in a mysterious way, it worries you. You shouldn't take this literally—see it as a symbol. Symbols point to something that lurks in the background, and need to be understood.

76. CAPRICORN/AQUARIUS—SATURN/
URANUS



CAPTIVITY/THE IMPRISONMENT

At the moment you find yourself, spiritually, in a kind of prison. Something is keeping you there: It is the decision you have to make between responsibility and freedom. However, the fact remains that you are unable to make that decision. Whatever you choose, you lose.

This is why the card says: The impossibility of making this decision is intentional. You have to shake the bars long enough for a third thing to dawn on you. The door behind you, leading to your cell, was never locked!

77. CAPRICORN/PISCES—SATURN/
NEPTUNE

THE MOIRA



The Moira (plural: Moirai), in ancient Greece, were the primal mothers of all gods of fate. If facing them, there were only two ways to act. The first was to feel helplessness, and curse their deeds (and then to run away as fast as possible); the second, to admit that fate exists, and that its judgements make sense, even if we don't always understand them.

This card says this even more precisely: Fate is a fact! It is enormous! A thousand times bigger than you. You cannot influence it! There is only one reaction to fate that could help you! Agreement and respect!

78. AQUARIUS/PISCES—URANUS/
NEPTUNE



THE GRAIL QUESTION

The Holy Grail is a Christian myth. It has a deep symbolic power and works upon the souls of men. But it cannot be grasped by intellect. Never!

This card says: The question you have just posed cannot be answered. (Did you really ask a question?) There is presently no answer. This question cannot be answered. This is a fact.

Despite this you can stay calm.

