



Booklet by Misha Brackeen & Jennie Stevens

Nothing is created in a vacuum. The people we live, eat, sleep and breathe alongside dictate and shape our lives for good or ill.

My work and my inspiration are no exception. This deck is the culmination of all my relationships to date—the discussions, disagreements, workshops, classes, friendships, and mentors—a reflection of the many people who encouraged me with love.

Thank you all—but especially Charles, my husband and champion—for the belief that I could do difficult things and bring this deck to fruition.

Thank you for being Team Kaitlund.



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Table of Contents

Reading Tarot	1	The Star	23
<u>Major Arcana</u>	<u>6</u>	Strength	24
The Fool	7	The Hermit	25
The Magician	8	The Lovers	26
The High Priestess	9	Judgement	27
The Hierophant	10	Justice	28
The Empress	11	<u>Minor Arcana</u>	<u>29</u>
The Emperor	12	Cups	30
The Tower	13	Coins	46
The Chariot	14	Swords	62
The Devil	15	Wands	78
Death	16	<u>Oracle Cards</u>	<u>94</u>
The Hanged Man	17	Soul	95
Temperance	18	Self	96
Wheel of Fortune	19	Dragon	97
The World	20	Unicorn	98
The Moon	21	Unicorn and Dragon	99
The Sun	22	The White Stag	100

Reading Tarot

There is no wrong way to read tarot cards. As you handle the cards, look for the ways that you enjoy the most. Many enjoy selecting cards without looking at them, using card spreads or layouts to assign a question or meaning, then looking at the card for a suggestion. You can simply ask a question and pull a card straight from the deck if you like.

We have chosen to use “one” instead of “you” in the card descriptions, as the question you ask may involve another person. Feel free to mentally replace “one” with whichever pronoun makes readings more enjoyable.

Reading a Card

Each card has three descriptions: an upright reading, a reversed reading, and a general meaning that encompasses both upright and reversed. A card may represent a person, group, or situation in the past, present, or future. When looking for a solution, considering the card's suit can give an extra layer of meaning to the reading.

The cards are grouped together as Major Arcana (about stages and cycles in life), Minor Arcana (the suits of Cups, Coins, Swords, and Wands), and the Dracō Nouveaux deck-specific Oracle Cards (about

introspection or spirituality).

Each suit in the Minor Arcana represents a different layer of life: Cups are centered around the emotional layer of life; Coins address the external seeds we sow, and harvests we reap: education, career, health, or other physical pursuits; Swords are the intellectual layer: problems to be solved, and battles to be fought with logic and strategy; and lastly, Wands represent the flow of creativity as it may manifest in any situation.

The artist has included six Oracle cards, complementary to the Major Arcana, that embrace the heart of the deck: introspection and self-development enabling inward and outward fulfillment and stewardship for the common good.

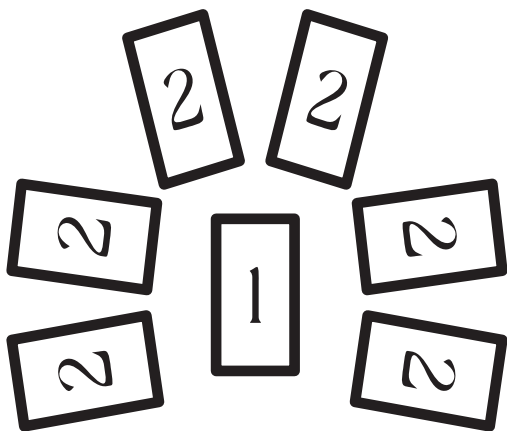
Tarot Spreads

Although you can ask a question, and pull a random card: you can also look up traditional tarot spreads, like the Four-Card Tarot Spread, or the ten-card Celtic Cross Tarot Spread. We've included some fun new card layouts designed by Jennie Stevens to get you started.

Card layouts are optional, just like everything else in tarot—so feel free to invent your own spreads!

The Goddess

A spread about energy flow



1. The Goddess / Querent

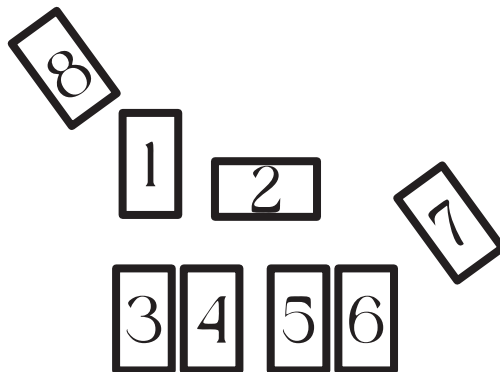
Can place the High Priestess, Empress, any Queen, or a different card that represents the individual querent.

2. The Crown

Card direction indicates energy flow. Cards facing the querent represent energy flowing inward; cards facing away represent energy flowing outward. Note how these energies feel upright or reversed based on perspective.

The Unicorn

A spread answering the call for guidance



1. The Head - Outlook
2. Back - Foundation
3. Leg - Conscious
4. Leg - Subconscious

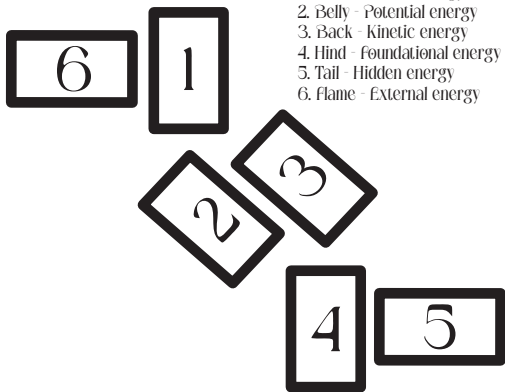
5. Leg - Obstacle
6. Leg - Strength
7. Tail - Past influences
8. Horn - Outcome

The Dragon

A spread about connection

Detailed Reading

1. Head - Internal energy
2. Belly - Potential energy
3. Back - Kinetic energy
4. Hind - Foundational energy
5. Tail - Hidden energy
6. Flame - External energy



2 Person Reading

Querent 1

Querent 2

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Main perspective | 4. Main perspective |
| 5. Past influence | 6. Past influence |
| 2. Current Connection | 3. Current Connection |

Major Arcana

The twenty-two cards in the Major Arcana are traditionally included in the Raider-Waite-Smith Tarot deck. Starting with The Fool, they symbolize the phases and cycles of life.

The Raider-Waite-Smith deck has a set numbered order for the Major Arcana, which is: The Fool, The Magician, The High Priestess, The Empress, The Emperor, The Hierophant, The Lovers, The Chariot, Strength, The Hermit, Wheel of Fortune, Justice, The Hanged Man, Death, Temperance, The Devil, The Tower, The Star, The Moon, The Sun, Judgement, The World.

The Draco Nouveau Tarot Deck uses an order that puts each card with its counterpart. The order chosen for the Draco Nouveau Tarot Deck is:

- The Fool & The Magician
- The High Priestess & The Hierophant
- The Empress & The Emperor
- The Tower & The Chariot
- The Devil & Death
- The Hanged Man & Temperance
- Wheel of Fortune & The World
- The Moon & The Sun
- The Star & Strength
- The Hermit & The Lovers
- Judgement & Justice

The Fool

The Fool is less about foolishness and more about newness to the journey. In a reading, the Fool is the main character journeying through the Major Arcana. His tail is in his mouth in the way a child sucks its thumb. His body forms the infinity symbol, reminding us that newness is part of the cycle of growth.

Upright

The Fool is innocent, but not naive. Although inexperienced in the next phase of life, be optimistic. Beginning anew is not failing the last phase of one's life; life consists of infinite cycles of newness. Newness means progress. Have some childlike joy in daily living, and enter this cycle of life confidently, knowing that skills and resources will be acquired along the way.

Reverse

A little nostalgia or childlike joy is good, but clinging to childish behavior will cause the same maddening cycles over and over. Being oblivious to or ignoring the desires and needs of others will stunt the growth of careers, relationships, and personal development. Adhere to logic, politeness, and professional decorum, even when emotions and personal desires are strong.

The Magician

The Magician fills in the gaps of the Fool. The Magician possesses items from each Minor Arcana suit: a cup, a coin, a sword, and a wand; in this deck, he also has a supportive friend in the unicorn. These represent the emotional, physical, intellectual, and creative assets and skills; as well as a family and community support everything one may need for any endeavor.

Upright

One has all the skills and assets needed to accomplish a great feat. Now is the time to put those assets and skills to work on one's current quest. Move forward confidently.

Reverse

Why hesitate? The skills and assets are all there, yet it is difficult to take the plunge. Take a close internal look. Lack of confidence or fear of failure should never hold one back.

The High Priestess

This card is about following one's own intuition. The card has a strong connection to feminine power and leadership. The faun priestess and the dragon are crowned with horns of power, authority, and strength. The bare trees in the moonlight indicate winter: a season of quiet reflection. The priestess's left hand—the hand of resting, taking, absorbing, holding—touches the dragoness, furthering the symbolism of connecting with internal wisdom, already possessed.

Upright

This card is strong encouragement to trust one's instincts. There are many voices echoing all around; it is imperative to check in with one's own inner voice. Speaking openly in accordance with one's intuition gives others freedom to follow and let their inner voices harmonize as well.

Reverse

When the night is dark, one can feel lonely yet crowded. One may feel ridiculed for spiritual choices, or choices made that relied on one's intuition. Keep sacred things near to the heart, and share only sparingly. Knowing someone for a long time does not make them worthy of precious truths.

The Hierophant

The dragon on the card has a tail that bears resemblance to the three-bar cross, symbolic of spiritual authority. This card is about a spiritual leader or spiritual organization. While the High Priestess is about sacred introspection and relying on the self, The Hierophant is about external leadership and spiritual followers.

Upright

The Hierophant is called to provide a safe space for others to grow into their own spirituality. Relied upon for wisdom and intuition, the Hierophant may feel wearied by others' needs. This card often manifests when a bond is forming; affirming that the relationship is where one is meant to be at this time: whether relying on a wise friend, supporting a friend in need, or supporting a spiritual community.

Reverse

A reversed Hierophant is a sign that something has gone wrong in a spiritual relationship. Perhaps a leader has gone astray. Perhaps the Hierophant needs to create distance with someone whom they previously helped. Organizations designed to help others can easily grow toxic, lose grasp of their purpose, or burn out those who contribute more than others. Perhaps one is treating a person or organization with more reverence than is healthy.

The Empress

The Empress is flooded with symbolism: the empress and her dragon are crowned with feminine horns. The wings enfold, protect, and nurture. The sun's symbolism of summer (a season of intermittent work and rest, and abundance) is overlaid with a chrysanthemum motif, adding joy, longevity, and the simultaneous joys and griefs of motherhood—a motif echoed in the Empress's crown. The Empress' breast is bare, as if she has been nourishing an infant. The card has many possible facets: abundance, luxury, outward control, motherhood, sensuality, fertility, outward creativity, external and internal self-care, and more; but they all tie into the empress' incredible ability to connect seemingly unrelated dots.

Upright

This card upright indicates someone who is a master of their own fate, and perhaps the fate of others: she brings beauty, bounty, and connection. In career, relationships, community, finances, and external pursuits, now is the time to bring forth ideas and plans into the real world: to widen the scope, by connecting oneself (and others) with beauty, creativity, and people who will bring lasting happiness.

Reverse

The Empress in reverse is awry. Someone is perhaps clingy, micromanaging, a busybody, or has tied their own self-worth to how much they can do for others. This card acknowledges a need to release control or concern over others' actions. Self-worth should never be tied to other people. Filling one's own cup is prerequisite to happy relations with others.

The Emperor

While the empress rules with consideration for all, the emperor has a singular goal, a high ambition. His pursuit of his plans is single-minded, methodical, systematic, and accomplishes much. This card also has many facets: focus, working toward goals slowly or quickly, ambition, outward recognition and progress, paternal guidance, making plans for worst-case (and best-case) scenarios.

Upright

The Emperor is a reminder to narrow the focus. Rather than focusing on a group, focus on a single person at a time; rather than focusing on the big picture, focus on the next step. Teach children and mentees how to respect and be respected.

Reverse

The Emperor in reverse can be a tyrant who abuses power, or whose intense focus has become a weakness. Tyranny, rigidity, or the systems or people upholding them need to be scrutinized for inequity or unfairness. Perhaps the focus, routine, or ambitions have become too narrow, cutting off important things; marginalizing groups or individuals, destroying efficiency, losing sight of actual goals, or neglecting relationships.

The Tower

This card is about core values and beliefs, specifically those that one has tied to one's identity. It is imperative to remember that one lives and grows like a tree, and if one surrounds oneself with set-in-stone beliefs, it can choke growth to death. This card bears a burning tower, because the card always marks upheaval.

Upright

This card speaks of a choice to be made, the tower is burning: flee the tower and become a better person, or cling to beliefs that finally reveal themselves as incomplete at best, and wrong at worst. Maybe it's just a reality check, or maybe core beliefs need to be scrutinized, but either way, accepting the truth will change everything.

Reverse

One has already made a choice, whether intentionally, or unconsciously. Clinging to beliefs that harm oneself and others is like staying in a burning building while wisdom—represented by a sphinx—looks on, horrified. Take a deep look at the root of the emotions that cause one to cling to beliefs that cause internal or external dissonance.

The Chariot

While the Tower looks at past experiences and emotions that build beliefs, the Chariot looks at the future. Forward motion is the heart of this card: it never looks backward, only at what lies ahead.

Upright

One must look in all directions as one moves forward. The dragons look to the right and left to assess all potential paths and upcoming obstacles without slowing their pace. Plan for the best case scenario, as well as the worst case scenario.

Reverse

One is the master of one's fate, but only so long as choices are made mindfully. Beware of coasting along, enjoying the scenery, at the expense of planning for the future with intention. Assess both the expected outcomes, and possible unexpected outcomes.

The Devil

Unlike its frightening name, the Devil card is not in fact, about the devil. It is a card about feeling entrapped, or liberating oneself from entrapment—most likely by material concerns, as noted by the golden ring and golden chains around the necks of the unicorns.

Upright

One feels enslaved. Acquiring or maintaining an expensive or laborious standard of living are the most likely causes. Alternate entrapments may be: addictions, romantic or other relationships, organizations, projects, or career may also contribute to feeling entrapped. Scrutinize desires for indulgence, escape, keeping up appearances, or feeling weighed down by expectations.

Reverse

The collars on the unicorns are already unlocked, all it takes is a bit of effort to leave the chains behind, breaking cycles of overindulgence, addiction, codependancy, or anything that causes one to feel trapped. Freedom may come as independence financially, in relationships, or in leaving or regaining one's power in an organization or situation.

Death

Another card whose somber name leads to frequent misrepresentation. The Death card always marks change, and occasionally a period of grieving. That change is usually the closing of an old chapter, and the beginning of a new one. When the Death card represents a person, it's usually a person who brings change to others.

Upright

Upright, Death is like closing a book after reading a satisfying ending. The end of an era after all the important things are done. Perhaps it is a farewell to a lesson learned, a job, a relationship, or place. Occasionally (but rarely) it is death itself, at the right and proper time.

Reverse

In reverse, Death warns that living in the past is not living at all: one must stop resisting change. It manifests to acknowledge a period of grieving, and to remind that grieving does not, or perhaps should not overtake life. Beware of ghosts and regrets; think about them, feel them, lay them to rest; then prepare for the next cycle of life.

The Hanged Man

This card is about staying in one place by choice. When it represents a person, the person is someone content where they are and what they are doing; whether in a bad way or a good way.

Upright

Upright, this card invokes patience, and reminds one to cheerfully stay put, despite any discontent. The itch to move on may be directed at work, relationships, or one's current home. But here and now is the right place to be, despite outward pressure or inward urges.

Reverse

In reverse, the card invites one to look at what keeps one stagnant: hesitation rooted in fear, tradition and routine that have gone unscrutinized, stubbornness, or low self-worth based on others' words; the expectations of others, among other possibilities.

Temperance

Practicing temperance is both finding the middle-ground between extremes, or using both extremes to create a desired outcome. While the Hanged Man is about being in the same spot, Temperance is about exploring those extremes.

Upright

This card indicates that one is either successfully using extreme measures to counteract extreme situations; or successfully finding the middle ground where one belongs. Temperance upright represents a well-balanced person who rarely shows extremism; or wields extremism skillfully to accomplish personal goals, or mediate for others.

Reverse

Either someone or something is swinging back and forth like a pendulum, or stagnation occurs because extremes go unstudied. A person represented by Temperance in reverse is either avoiding picking a side (in a bad way), wildly inconsistent, or backlashing from previous beliefs or behaviors.

Wheel of Fortune

A sphinx, symbolizing wisdom, omniscience, and change, sits atop the Wheel of Fortune. The four figures represent the four elements together: a symbol of harmony. The Wheel symbolizes the eternal ups and downs of this life, the coming and going of literal and metaphorical seasons, and the turns of good luck and bad luck that accompany life.

Upright

Upright the Wheel marks a pleasant season of life. Perhaps it is a time of good luck, abundance, or joy or merely a peaceful one. A reminder that this pleasant season will end, so take full advantage of the here and now: save for a rainy day, enjoy the moment, relax, and do so with the knowledge that such a good season won't last forever.

Reverse

In reverse the Wheel acknowledges hardships, with a simultaneous reminder that unpleasant seasons don't last forever. Snow melts, grief becomes more bearable, hardships pass, the work will be done—so keep hope, and enjoy moments of respite as they come, until this era ends.

The World

Similar to the Wheel of Fortune, the World card includes symbols of all four elements together, harmony and balance in motion. As the Wheel of Fortune represents the motion of moving through life's ups and downs, the World represents the core ways we stay balanced and complete despite the highs and lows.

Upright

Needs are met, life is balanced—inner to outer, self to others, work to life. Prepare to sustain this balance through future cycles. Everything needful is present, continue the routines and systems that support this balance, even if it feels difficult.

Reverse

The appearance of balance is there, but one feels incomplete or disconnected. In finances, relationships, work, or other pursuits, feeling this way despite completing goals and experiencing success and love is a sign to reflect inward for the real root of this discontent.

The Moon

Often marking the unseen-the subconscious, unseen, hidden, disguised, or psychic realms-the Moon card reminds us to look for things that we cannot see, sometimes in oneself or in surroundings, or it will tell us what season these unseen things are in.

Upright

The moonlit world is often eerie, with unseen but powerful shadows. A warning against illusions, half truths, hidden changes, subconscious beliefs waxing more powerful. Decisions made in this season may be made on inadequate information: patience and scrutiny is advised.

Reverse

In many cards, reversed is the worse scenario: however, the moon card in reverse heralds a season of waning for the unseen things: illusion or unidentified dissonance is forced out of hiding. Truth may be painful or frightening, but at least it can be addressed.

The Sun

Just as the Moon card is about the unseen, the sun card is about the world we can see and touch. Always a positive card. When the Sun represents a person, it is usually a cheerful, open person.

Upright

The Sun upright speaks to good health, plenty of energy, talent, skill, and enjoyment to share with others. One may be called upon to share such talents for the benefit of many. Needs will be met, and goals accomplished as long as communication is clear.

Reverse

This is assurance that there are no hidden agendas, no other shoes waiting to drop, no assassins in the shadows. The Sun card lovingly beckons one's inner child to come out to play in the sunshine. Any obstacles or dangers will be clearly seen.

The Star

The unicorn transfers nourishment from the water to the earth, simultaneously nourishing the World Tree, and the dragon dwelling in it. The horn in the water firmly places the Star card (in this particular deck) within the water element of emotions, the creative layer of life represented by the suit of wands, and the realm of thought expressed by the dragon.

Upright

The unicorn wears a collar as if it has just escaped misfortune. The card acknowledges the difficulties survived. A season of healing, nourishing oneself, and therefore others has arrived. Emotional, creative, and intellectual healing and success are in the midst of arriving.

Reverse

Past difficulties make the present feel too good to be true. There is a sense of anxiety about the future with this card. Trusting oneself or others may feel difficult or impossible. Healing (physically, emotionally, financially, in relationships, or otherwise) cannot be rushed.

Strength

Strength is not always what it appears to be, and largely comes from within. Strength and courage are the most accessible when difficulty, danger, and fear are present. This card primarily addresses fears and issues surrounding confidence. While the Star indicates a season of rest and healing, the Strength card urges one toward immediate action despite danger.

Upright

The faun maiden is small and unarmed compared to the sharp claws, teeth, and fire of the dragon. There is real danger, yet she persists. She is crowned with her own horns of courage and confidence. This card arrives to validate the need for immediate action with confidence in oneself.

Reverse

A decision requires real courage and immediate action. Confidence is gained by addressing feelings of inadequacy, unworthiness, and the unkind voices in one's head and the situations that put them there. Take action despite the fear.

The Hermit

The Hermit isolates herself within her wings. This card is about isolation and introspection.

Upright

Creating distance between oneself and the world is sometimes the right choice. Sometimes introspection, muting outside voices, or simply retreating to reconnect with oneself is healthy. When representing a person, the Hermit upright should be left alone to center themselves.

Reverse

Self-isolation is good at times, but not at this time. One may find that loneliness is easily cured by real interactions. Perhaps the isolation was or was not necessary, but regardless, further isolation will only be destructive. When representing a person, the Hermit reversed marks a need to pull an isolated one back into the world.

The Lovers

While The Hermit card addresses isolation, the Lovers represent connection, mutual desire or partnership of a mature nature sometimes sensual or romantic, other times platonic or professional.

Upright

This card upright signifies a healthy relationship where both parties are getting exactly what they want and need. A relationship or partnership that is fulfilling here and now.

Reverse

In reverse, this card describes a partnership or relationship that is no longer mutually beneficial. Perhaps a neglected relationship needs some tender care. Perhaps a business partnership or other relationship is coming to an end.

Judgement

The knight has slain a mother dragon, only to realize her wrongdoing too late. She decides to protect and raise the dragon's egg. When this card represents a person, it is a person who is causing harm to themselves and others, but now has the wisdom and judgement to change.

Upright

Hurting oneself is the root of many problems. This can happen through self-deprecation and not taking responsibility. Self-deprecation comes in many forms: harsh thoughts, self-doubt, feeling unworthy. The enemy of good is rarely evil—it is usually perfectionism. Treating one's self with kindness will be rewarded with growth. Blaming situations or other people, or acting oblivious to harm one causes, is self-harm in the end.

Reversed

With current understanding and growth comes the realization that one has caused harm. The past cannot be undone, but with new knowledge comes the responsibility to make amends, and forgive oneself for too-quick judgements. One has judged the situation and is willing to apologize, and do what one can to mitigate the damage one has caused.

Justice

This card represents justice, cause and effect, consequences, fairness, and law (or rules). Upright or reversed can be both good or bad for the querent. While one is their own judge within the Judgement card, Justice is an external force.

Upright

This card notifies one that opportunities for injustice have or will arise. One can be assured that justice will be met in short order, or that the opportunity to make a difference in defending justice will be available and should be, or will be, followed through with. This will be difficult for whomever has caused the wrong, even if that person is oneself.

Reverse

Injustice, bias, or unfairness have been afflicted on one or many. Justice may be delayed, difficult, or not met in the traditional avenues. It is important to examine oneself, to make sure that one is not the perpetrator, or make amends if so.

Minor Arcana



The Minor Arcana fall into the four suits: Cups, Coins, Swords, and Wands. Each suit has its own focus, and each one represents a layer of the human state of being: emotional, physical, intellectual, and creative, respectively.

The numbers (Ace through Ten) often have patterns across all suits: Aces often indicate a beginning stage, fives a season of adversity, eights momentum, Tens a culmination or

ending. The Court cards (Page, Knight, Queen, and King) have a special significance in readings, usually representing people in the querent's life. For tarot connoisseurs, the Queens and Kings of the Dracō Nouveau Tarot, may be a refreshing alternative to more traditional decks.

Cups

The suit of Cups is all about emotions: wants, fears, needs, old and new. Emotions are the water within the lake of human consciousness: they surround and connect everything: sense of self, every manner of relationship, past experiences good and bad, and future goals and aspirations. Cups remind us to acknowledge, understand, and feel our emotions rather than intellectualizing or ignoring them and allow them to flow like water around and through us, until they are exhausted and we are left refreshed and free of them as burdens.



Ace of Cups

The water dragon in this image has found the fountain—the source and beginning. The lotus bears more symbolism than petals: enlightenment, wisdom, beauty despite (or perhaps because of) the mud, and the cycle of birth, life, death, and rebirth. Resilience and detachment from worldliness, rising above the murky waters to bloom on the surface.

Upright

An external endeavor deeply rooted in emotions begins. This endeavor could be a new relationship of some sort: a spiritual or emotional journey; or an endeavor related to work, creativity, health, or finances. Upright, it tells of deepening intimacy or emotional awakening. It reminds one to trust intuition, foster creativity, and open the heart to affection, growth, or whatever the new journey brings.

Reverse

An internal endeavor to release repressed emotions begins or needs to begin. One most likely already knows what lies beneath the surface; however, expressing that outwardly has not happened. The card calls for emotional pressure to be released however serves one best: perhaps through hard conversations, privately via journaling, screaming into a pillow, or confiding in someone.

Two of Cups

Regarding partnership of all types, especially the emotional aspect. It can also refer to an individual or organization who is (or may become) part of a whole.

Upright

A sound and joyous partnership or unity. This could be a personal partnership or merger in business; family-oriented romantic commitment or adoption; two existing things blending together to form one whole.

Reverse

Unity is (or perhaps feels) endangered: in family, business, or community. Lines of communication are severed, causing resentment to grow. One must reopen that line of communication first, and listen deeply to find the remedy.

Three of Cups

A celebration of (or reckoning with) important emotional bonds.

Upright

Relationships going right: at work or home, with friends, family, loved ones, or colleagues. There's a sense of celebration, gathering, or emotional connection with others. It may be a sign that recognition, gatherings, or deepening relationships are in one's future, or a sign to gather simply to celebrate being together.

Reverse

Relationships going wrong: at home or work, with friends, family, or others. This may be destructive gossip, scandal, short-lived relationships (romantic or otherwise), or a period of tension. In a financial reading, it may be a sign that one is spending too much on social events.

Four of Cups

A card about contemplation and missed opportunities. Usually accompanied by a reminder that grounding oneself takes contemplation. Emotional problems require emotional solutions. Ignoring the problem makes things worse eventually.

Upright

Vague dissatisfaction lingers shapelessly like fog; there's no real reason for unhappiness or disquiet, and yet . . . Refusing to reflect on the source of these emotions will restart the cycles of restlessness. The source of malcontent needs to be identified: career, relationship, or creative accomplishments feel empty when other opportunities are missed or neglected. Be aware of possibilities that hyperfixation may cause one to miss.

Reverse

Dissatisfaction is no longer vague; one has contemplated and identified missed opportunities or become disillusioned with goals or projects that were previously prioritized. If change is the cure, make the change. If change absolutely must be postponed, remember the joys, put wishing on hold, and beware of envy. But when one identifies the source of malcontent, good things come with the sunrise.

Five of Cups

The water dragon spouts a torrent of water, symbolic of an onslaught of emotions. The dragon has lost what was held in four of her cups, but seems unaware that she still has one unspilt, balanced precariously on her shoulders.

Upright

This card often marks a season of grieving or torrential emotions brought on by loss. Perhaps it is a material loss—financial, career, death or perhaps emotional—a breakup, or disappointment in a career or person. Regardless, one must go forward hoping for the best. The card urges one to dwell in self-pity for the shortest time possible before moving on.

Reverse

Some losses are recoverable, some losses change life forever; but emotional healing can happen either way. One is ready to move on and change. Practice gratitude to self and especially to others. Acceptance and emotional healing prepare one for new opportunities.

Six of Cups

Two young dragons pass a cup back and forth. The cup has a sense of security or nostalgia, for better or worse.

Upright

Upright, the card heralds nostalgia. Returning on an emotional level to a past relationship or location that invokes memories. If one is feeling stuck, analyzing feelings about the past is exactly the thing to clear emotional and creative blocks.

Reverse

Nostalgia is one thing; living in the past is another. Resist urges to dwell on past places and people. Focus on living life in the present, and working toward the future. Dwelling in the past sometimes has its roots in anger and hurt, so dealing with those emotions can help one move forward.

Seven of Cups

Seven signifies infinite possibilities; and emotions in decision making. This card is about protecting one's emotional energy, or hesitating in the face of multiple choices and paths; usually just before the moment of decision.

Upright

Many options are available; examine emotions regarding possibilities. One may choose confidently, knowing that all the skills and resources to succeed at each one individually are present. One can do anything, but not everything. A gentle warning against engaging in too many endeavors at once.

Reverse

Decision anxiety leads to analysis paralysis or overcommitting. Although weighing the pros and cons is important, choosing will serve better than further analysis. Conversely, spreading oneself too thin "like butter over too much bread" is unsatisfying.

Eight of Cups

This card tends to arrive at the end of a cycle, and is about forward momentum causing one to leave things behind or get stuck in a rut.

Upright

It has been an uphill labor to get this far. The card acknowledges much progress made, and a willingness to move forward despite obstacles. Pursuit of freedom, peace, or the next quest in one's adventure is worth it, despite perceived losses or separations.

Reverse

One's original goals are losing their sparkle upon drawing near, and may prove to be a sidequest rather than the destination. A situation where personal ideals are sacrificed to practical necessities or fears may derail momentum into the wrong direction and trap one in a rut. Leaving something behind invokes feelings of disappointment, fear, or even heartbreak. The feeling of never being enough will not go away by achieving one's goals. Introspection is needed to embrace what will truly bring long-term happiness.

Nine of Cups

Like most Nines, Nine of Cups deals with the subconscious patterns. Nine of cups in particular deals with emotional completeness or lack thereof well below the rippling surface seen by others. While the Ten of Cups has a sense of togetherness, this card has a sense of solitude.

Upright

This card marks great emotional satisfaction. This may be an abundance of internal positivity via emotional healing, healthy priorities, or more likely, healthy boundaries. This may also be from external progress toward one's goals. The card's sense of solitude may note that this satisfaction comes from a solo endeavor that goes uncelebrated or unknown by others, or perhaps that one's greatest satisfaction may come from solitude itself.

Reverse

In reverse, there's a sense of emotional incompleteness. Although there may be external causes, such as inadequate attempts at material endeavors, it may also be a sign that one needs more solitude perhaps a break or a boundary. However, even when solitude is needed, do not be afraid to ask for help.

Ten of Cups

Emotional completeness or lack thereof; but while the Nine of Cups has a sense of solitude, the Ten of Cups has an element of this happening in togetherness, community, or society.

Upright

Emotional completeness or celebration with loved ones and colleagues. Perhaps there is harmony at one's home, work, hobby, social, or religious organizations. This card may serve as a reminder that one should embrace and celebrate oneself or others for their accomplishments. It may be an acknowledgment that one is feeling connected, safe, and secure with dear ones.

Reverse

Emotional incompleteness involving others. It may be that one is feeling overlooked, taken for granted, used, excluded, or emotionally distant. There may be disharmony at home or work; with tensions or hostility between colleagues or loved ones. In reverse the emotions that tie groups together are frictional or weak.

Page of Cups

This card bears a sense of emotional newness. New ideas and emotions, or a lack thereof. There is a sense of immaturity surrounding a person or season represented by the Page of Cups, for good or for bad.

Upright

Upright, the page is overflowing with creativity, ideas, and sometimes unrealistic daydreams. One must validate these ideas (currently rooted in emotion) in facts before acting on them. Now is the time to convert daydreams into practical plans. Research is the first step to making dreams come true. There's a sense of being awestruck with a person, place, or thing.

Reverse

In reverse, the page's immaturity shows as a lack of confidence: insecurity in work or relationships. Perhaps a sense of childishness in dealing with (or avoiding) problems: denial regarding emotions or pursuing external goals or relationships; vacillating wildly in emotions or decisions; tantrums, escapism, or simply neglecting the inner child.

Knight of Cups

The knight rides forward bearing a cup-a messenger taking a token to a foreign kingdom. The card is about mediation and diplomacy. The knight as a person is either a diplomat or an astute observer of emotions.

Upright

The upright Knight of Cups is an idealist. He's charming, aware of others' feelings, and an ideal diplomat or mediator. The card may be a reminder to attempt tactfulness and diplomacy before considering more drastic measures. Or it may be a reminder to pursue paths emotionally that draw one in.

Reverse

Although aware of others' feelings and normally capable of tact, the knight is currently unable to mediate or act with diplomacy. Perhaps one is overwhelmed, moody due to health or recent events, or avoiding conflict or decisions. Perhaps things are not as they appeared: disillusion or disappointment in career, relationships, or other pursuits. Or one may be putting up a facade of some sort.

Queen of Cups

The Queen of Cups is ruler of the subconscious emotions, and unseen or unspoken things.

Upright

The queen has mastered the subconscious: she understands that all emotions need to be deeply felt in order to be released, and that repressed emotions inhibit clear decision-making. She knows when to call a professional, to delegate, or to deal with things herself. Though the Queen of Cups mainly deals with the emotional layer, the card also speaks to the queen's ability to confidently make decisions, as she understands many moving parts, especially unseen ones, for self and others.

Reverse

Unseen elements desperately need to be addressed. Although she's aware of the past's influence on the present, there are obstacles to clearing things up. A queen protects her kingdom, enforces boundaries, and prioritizes time for personal well-being for herself and others. The fallout from one who is unable to do so extends beyond one's self.

King of Cups

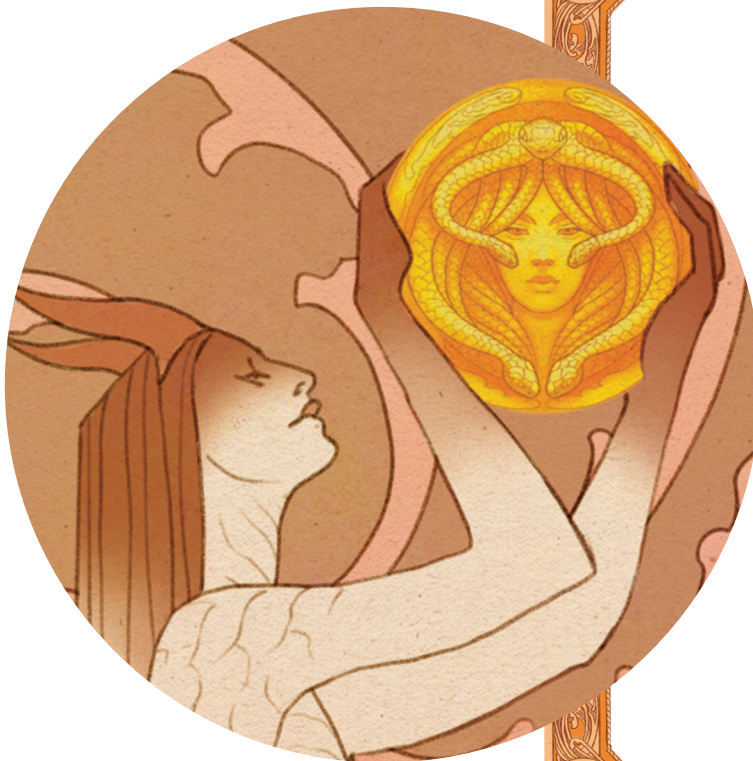
This card is about emotions that are on the surface, and whether or not they ought to be there.

Upright

The King of Cups rules by bringing emotions to the surface. While the Queen of Cups rarely needs emotions (of herself or others) publicized in order to be dealt with: the king requires treaties, alliances, apologies, affection, grievances, commitment, or other emotions to be put in words. If a thought surfaces often, the root emotion needs addressing.

Reverse

In reverse, the King of Cups becomes someone who rehashes the emotions and situations repeatedly: usually aloud, usually to anyone who will listen (sometimes even if the emotions or situations belong to others). When this card appears in reverse, the constant deluge of negativity is affecting external situations: relationships, career, or other pursuits. Sometimes one desires validation more than honesty and solutions.



Coins

The Suit of Coins (also called Pentacles) addresses physical investments and returns, symbolized by the gold border. Investing time, money, effort, and other resources toward material goals, like finances, education, career, health, and other external pursuits.

The coin in this suit bears the face of Medusa, whose visage adorned the lintels of ancient Greek safe houses for abused women and children. Medusa—a beautiful woman who suffered after being ravished by Neptune—was turned into a gorgon by Athena, granting Medusa the power to turn any man into stone with a glance. Her face is a reminder of independence, protecting the vulnerable, investing in oneself, and a talisman to guard against those who would leave others desolate.

Ace of Coins

This card is usually about the early stages of investments, or the return thereof regarding the material layer of life: finances, education, career, health, and other external pursuits.

Upright

A new day dawns with new opportunities. With effort, diligence, and consistency, these opportunities can and will pay off. If seeking a sign to invest in a material endeavor (health, financial investment, career, education, etc.), now is the time.

Reverse

Perhaps one counted one's dragons before they hatched. Perhaps expectations are tainted with impatience. More likely, one has experienced a recent setback in finances, health, or another endeavor. The sun still rises; in time this setback will feel small.

Two of Coins

Two sphinxes, perfectly symmetrical in composition, symbolize wisdom and balance. This card is about balancing (and sometimes juggling) multiple priorities.

Upright

In this position, Two of Coins applauds one's success in staying balanced and prioritizing so many things at once. It is a kind reminder that the line between balancing so many things, and dropping the ball is thin. It is imperative to sever unnecessary burdens, and decide now which balls will bounce, and which will shatter, if dropped.

Reverse

Priorities are imbalanced. Health, relationships, or work may be succeeding at the expense of others. Overinvesting in one area, can cause negligence in others. Beware of neglecting the needs of oneself and others.

Three of Coins

Dragons work together to hold a pillar upright. The card primarily deals with individuals coming together for pursuit of a goal. As a person, the card represents someone in a relationship similar to apprentice and teacher, or mentor and mentee.

Upright

Upright, the card expresses positive teamwork toward material goals, such as education, creative, or business endeavors. Collaboration, apprenticeship, or deepening trust is displayed. The card may also be a mark that the time for taking on a mentor or apprentice has arrived.

Reverse

Perhaps teamwork has failed due to poor communication, delegation, or unclear expectations; ego, self-interest, or conflict may contribute. Collaboration only works with the right team members, with the right skills, at the right time.

Four of Coins

The faun stands guard at a gate set with three coins, tightly clutching a fourth coin in her hands. This tricky card can have different meanings depending on the querent's questions.

Upright

This card speaks to miserliness, possessiveness or to setting and holding boundaries. In a financial reading, it encourages one to save money with a warning against miserliness. In a relationship or career reading, it can point out one's possessiveness, a tendency to micromanage, or stinginess with time and resources or warn one against others with such traits.

Reverse

In reverse, the card says to open the gates and give more freely of time, money, possessions, and effort. It may be a suggestion that one would be benefited by letting go of a relationship or career; decluttering one's space; or passing on belongings, responsibilities, or activities.

Five of Coins

Like the fives of other suits, the five of Coins marks adversity. This time in the realm of the material: health, finances, education, career, or other external pursuits.

Upright

A long, exhausting hardship is upon one. If one is worried about conflict, the subject of the conflict is most likely an external factor, like money, health, career, or education. If one is not worried about conflict, the hardship could be loss of income, major illness or injury, or increase in expenses.

Reverse

Hardship is coming to a close. Recovery can be difficult, and one may bear new scars, but healing is underway. As this is the suit of coins, it may manifest as recovering from debt, physical healing, or other external setbacks; but do not rule out wounds to the emotional, creative, or intellectual self.

Six of Coins

A large dragon supports a smaller dragon and a coin in her claws. The card is ultimately about giving and receiving, and the balance between supportive relationships and independence.

Upright

The card suggests that one is in a position to support and give to others. It suggests generously giving of one's money, time, or other means. It also suggests gratitude and joy in receiving. Opportunities to give and receive should be embraced.

Reverse

In reverse, the card warns of power imbalance, pride getting in the way of generosity; extortion, growing resentment, or gifts with strings attached. The card may warn to accept gifts cautiously if at all, or to set boundaries and avoid overextending oneself financially or otherwise.

Seven of Coins

A joyous card telling us that the harvest is near. The dragon looks upon his growing hoard with the same expression of a farmer before the fruits of his labors have fully ripened.

Upright

The hard work is done, only a bit more patience is needed. One's labor and diligence has brought forth good fruit. Long-term growth (in endeavors or relationships) is gained through planning, effort, and consistency. One is on the right track, and needs only a bit more patience to harvest the fruits of one's labors.

Reverse

A bit more work is needed. Perhaps obstacles such as health, procrastination, impatience, or an investment is not paying off interfered financially or in relationships. The card acknowledges previous hard work, but cheerfully reminds one that the harvest comes. Dive back into the work and exercise patience, to protect the future fruits of one's hard work.

Eight of Coins

While the Seven of Coins cheerfully reminds us to protect our harvest with diligence, the Eight of Coins acknowledges both momentum and a sense of weariness or tedium.

Upright

One should be heartened in their journey. Though the going may be difficult, tedious, or overwhelming (depending on how far into the journey one is) the card reassures one that dedication towards a worthy goal will pay off in the end, and acknowledges all the hard work one has put in to gain such great momentum.

Reverse

One is on the cusp of giving up after investing much, and perhaps struggling or suffering along the way. As one reflects on whether or not to call it quits, remember the goal and how much progress has been made, and that momentum may be difficult to re-establish. Efforts toward long journeys deserve to be rewarded; and the rewards of one's efforts and investments are worth the personal sacrifice.

Nine of Coins

Like many Nines, there's an element of the subconscious self, in this case manifesting as independence. The golden dragon symbolizes leisure, luxury, and goals achieved.

Upright

Hard work has paid off, and now is the time to budget some money or time to indulge and enjoy life by doing things that one has always desired. The card may speak of success or independence; as it is the suit of coins, the primary assumption is financial independence, but can also be emotional independence, or independence gained after overcoming a learning curve.

Reverse

One has overindulged: perhaps overspending, overconsuming, or overindulging in leisure activities. Real luxury and leisure is not acquired through debt. A desire to maintain independence (or the appearance thereof) may inhibit one from making real progress toward financial, professional, or relationship goals.

Ten of Coins

A mature dragon caresses her grandchild. This card is about connections, harmony, and legacy—or lack thereof.

Upright

The card references loving and supportive connections: perhaps one's loved ones will appreciate and support one's goals, news, or choices. The time for commitment has arrived. Now is the time to build one's legacy or join with family or loved ones. The card marks long-term success.

Reverse

Connections are not harmonious: conflicts may arise over finances, inequitable contributions, or other issues. The card tells us there is a crossroad where one must choose: allow things to get worse, have hard conversations, plan actions to bring people together, or separate from unhealthy traditions.

Page of Coins

The faun's hands and feet are stained from her labors, symbolizing how grounded she is: hard work has brought her to the point where her plans and ideals align. She is firmly rooted to the earth, with stable and good foundations to begin a well-balanced lifestyle: with nature, her health, and her surroundings.

Upright

One has enthusiasm for a new endeavor in the physical layer of life: education, career, health, or finances. There is great potential, and much to learn. It may also be kind encouragement to pursue understanding the basics, or the core of the endeavor.

Reverse

In reverse, the card has a feeling of putting the cart before the horse. One should make sure that the reality aligns with the ideals. One should seek guidance, reflect carefully on tasks that feel "beneath" one, and work hard to make sure that one understands and has skill in the fundamentals.

Knight of Coins

Like most knights, the Knight of Coins refers to the work, responsibility, and consistency required to fulfill the ideals and plans of the page. Routine and diligence are at the heart of the Knight of Coins: chipping away at external goals a little bit every day. When referring to a person, the Knight of Coins refers to someone skilled at routine; or reversed, someone who needs more routine and diligence.

Upright

The time to put in the work is now. Routine is key to success, which may manifest as encouragement for one to establish routine immediately, no matter how small, or cling to the routine, even if it feels boring or futile. This card acknowledges that one's routine is the right one, and one should keep at it.

Reverse

Either routine is desperately needed, or desperately needs to be reassessed. A small routine is better than a routine that cannot be maintained, and perfectionism is destructive. The routine may be stifling creativity, or adhered to despite internal or external detriment.

Queen of Coins

A card about practicality, consistency, and fairness regarding resources.

Upright

The Queen of Coins wins over her subjects with her honesty, practicality, and consistency. She always prioritizes needs, things that improve life in the long run, and luxuries in that order. She fairly distributes resources and time to those in her care. The card encourages one to prioritize, be mindful of equitable distribution, and be transparent in one's dealings.

Reverse

In reverse, the queen has let one or more of the many coins she juggles slip. Perhaps prioritizing expenses went awry, or a person who normally gets a fair distribution of resources was overlooked or shortchanged. One has the responsibility to make things right as soon as possible; and to be transparent about the mistake and restitution.

King of Coins

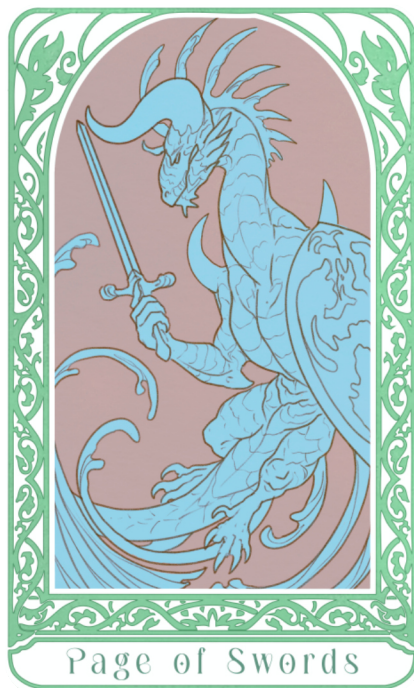
The King of Coins lets money flow freely, for good or for bad.

Upright

The King of Coins is a master of cash flow. His income is comfortable enough that he doesn't have to count every coin, and can be generous without endangering his own well-being. A reminder that the coins symbolize more than just money: health, time, and creativity are all material resources along with money. Generosity with these resources is encouraged as well.

Reverse

When the King of Coins is reversed, money and resources are flowing too freely. Perhaps one is giving too much of their time, money, creativity, or other material resources. This card encourages one to budget material resources wisely. Perhaps one needs to learn (or relearn) how to stick to a budget or calendar.



Swords

The Suit of Swords represents the intellectual layer: battles to be fought, problems to be solved, and challenges to be overcome with decisive, calculated action. Although situations and problems may be creative, financial, legal, romantic, or emotional Sword cards tend to indicate a logical, research-oriented, intellectual action to be taken. Many sword cards carry a sense of speed or suddenness. When a card from the Suit of Swords is representing a person, it often indicates someone with a sharp intellect or clever tongue—whether for good or for bad.

Ace of Swords

Framed by wings, a dragon's tail holds an upward-pointing sword, an incomplete wreath, and a crown. Upright, a dragon dives downward, bearing the tokens of intellect, power, and near-complete victory—like a bolt out of the blue—marking sudden clarity. The antlered crown in this deck points toward the White Stag Oracle card, relating to education and mentorship, and new-if temporary-life paths.

Upright

An incoming bolt of inspiration cuts straight to truth. This could manifest as: deceptions being destroyed, a new perspective, or justice coming to fruition. One may be on the receiving end of such perspective, or have the responsibility to share that clarity with others. Someone wiser or more experienced may enrich one's endeavors.

Reverse

Contemplate more before acting on one's plans, which are inadequate at this time. Perhaps the plan needs more development, or is so deeply flawed, one may need to start over. Judgement may be clouded by missing information. Invest time and intellect to clarify goals, focus on only the next step, and seek the truth.

Two of Swords

This card is about choices, especially when one hesitates in deciding. All choices feel equally bad or equally good. The card also displays an element of balance needed in partnership.

Upright

A stalemate manifests, with no end in sight. Current information may be inadequate or unavailable; the full truth may be hidden due to neglect or malfeasance. Seek the full truth before jumping to conclusions or taking sides. Contemplate carefully where information may be missing. Conversations go a long way.

Reverse

In this case, the choices feel equal but overwhelming. The stalemate is perpetuated by too much information. Analysis paralysis may set in, or this may be a situation with no winning. Work-life balance, successful mediation, or balanced accounts may not be possible. Accept reality; rely on communication, and pro-con lists.

Three of Swords

The Three of Swords always denotes a period of grieving and heartbreak. An unusually emotional card for the Suit of Swords, it asks one to face the facts, despite the heartache.

Upright

Upright, some manner of heartbreak is acknowledged (usually in the present or future): separation, loss, or trauma. This can manifest in human relationships-breakups, death, or distance-or mark loss in a professional or financial sense. Prioritize the practical while you wait for the heartache to fade.

Reverse

In reverse, the card is about heartbreak or sorrow in the present or past, and asks one to do what is needed to move forward. Perhaps one is clinging to grief, because letting the grief pass feels like losing all over again; perhaps one needs to make or accept an apology; or perhaps one needs to cut off harmful influences and situations once and for all. There is a call for speedy decisive action.

Four of Swords

Either caused by circumstances very good or very bad, the Four of Swords is a moment of rest and introversion.

Upright

Newfound free time is or will be upon one. Sometimes tragically: perhaps loss of a job, or the passing of a loved one who required much care. Sometimes in a good way: retirement, graduation, or divorce. Or perhaps one needs to make that free time for oneself or others. Let logic guide how and when to acquire more space and rest: perhaps from individuals or projects to see things more objectively.

Reverse

If one does not rest, the body will force one to do so. In reverse, the card warns to guard against burnout, too much isolation, or things that contribute to poor health (stress, lack of sleep, lack of nutrition, dehydration). Use logic to prioritize one's well being, family well being, and external commitments in that order. Remove emotions interfering with accepting help and prioritize what help one needs.

Five of Swords

This card is about combativeness and the aftermath of battle. The contemptuous victors have taken the swords of their competitors.

Upright

Whether a poor loser or a poor winner, emotions regarding winning (or being right) have become more important to one than the more logical choice of mutual progress. Inequity or hard feelings may exist even when the conflict is ended. This conflict may manifest as hostility, defensiveness, or intimidation. The card encourages one to suppress ego, cultivate collaboration, and reassess conflicts and their outcomes.

Reverse

Logic has finally brought the realization that continuing combative discourse (no matter what the emotional root) is less efficient than compromise or resolution. With this clarity comes a desire for closure, or for the conflict to end: breakup or reconcile; quit, clear the air, or release hard feelings; resolution or severance; regardless, the right choice will bring relief.

Six of Swords

The woman on the boat propels herself forward. Among the many meanings of the number six, the two called forward by this card are a sense of duty, and incompleteness. The Six of Swords is a card about transitions that feel incomplete, unsatisfying, or sadly necessary.

Upright

One is ready to move on, the emotional work has been done. The card acknowledges past struggles: unhealthy jobs, relationships, spending, etc. It reminds that one has learned a lesson, and that moving on (even if heartbreaking) is the logical choice. Take physical action to make moving forward viable.

Reverse

In reverse, the card still emphasizes that moving forward is the logical choice; but acknowledges hesitation, obstacles, or sometimes a sense of running away or escaping. Perhaps one has already moved on physically, but needs to complete the transition by doing the emotional work. Confront the emotions and hard conversations that are causing these three things.

Seven of Swords

The dragon takes flight with four swords, leaving only three behind. This card addresses deceptions and half-truths, and also identifies a calculated sense of scheming or underhandedness. This card's goal is to protect one's intellectual energy.

Upright

It is up to oneself to urgently address any scheming or deception in oneself, or in others. The solution does not lie in creativity, but in detailed, calculated data or actions. Facing one's deceptions can be hard. Seek out the root emotion causing the urge to deceive, and move forward with compassion as one attempts to change.

Reverse

Despite someone's efforts to conceal, scheming, deception, or half truths are coming to light immediately. Commit to honesty, especially when it is difficult. Confessing one's own faults and taking accountability will reveal itself as the most logical course of action if one deliberates on it. Intuition may have already warned about the actions of others coming to light; calculate carefully what courses of action are available.

Eight of Swords

The card is about misdirected intellectual momentum creating limitations. The woman is nude, symbolizing feeling defenseless or powerless. In this deck, the woman is mid-transition: from clinging to a sword as if to hide herself, to grasping the sword's grip, so that she can wield it.

Upright

The long-term momentum of one's thoughts disguises limiting beliefs as facts; the captive woman sees only the bars of a cage-not swords she can wield. Objectively look for emotions, beliefs, memories, or other limiting thoughts. Use logic and intellect to identify and fight against these ghostly internal monsters keeping one from realizing potential.

Reverse

One has already started to recognize patterns that keep one trapped: emotions, beliefs, memories, or the words of others echoing through one's mind. One can make external and internal changes with great wisdom: if one but wields the sword, instead of clinging to the blade. Hiding behind a sword is no defense compared to wielding one.

Nine of Swords

This card bears incorporeal swords, and a lover who is not on the physical plane. Despite the fact that the swords do not pierce the skin, they can still cause pain and anguish, representing overthinking, and self-inflicted mental suffering.

Upright

The card alerts us to self-inflicted distress, a downward mental spiral, or all of one's mental power being burned away by overthinking. Use intellect to identify patterns causing overthinking. The card encourages one to do what it takes to be mentally present, and prepare for the future one desires.

Reverse

In reverse, the card demands that one get help: a professional, a loved one, a colleague. One cannot stop the cycle of suffering alone. Identifying and analyzing patterns in one's thoughts, words, and behaviors can help to make changes for the better, but may be easier with assistance.

Ten of Swords

The Ten of Swords is a card about one's lowest point. The dragon, clearly stabbed from behind, gives this card the impression that the harm was sudden or unforeseen, sometimes (but not always) with a sense of betrayal. Unlike the Nine of Swords, where one wearily struggles through overthinking, the ten has stopped struggling and wallows in emotional self-pity.

Upright

What's done is done. Acceptance will open the door to the next right step: perhaps it is time to end a relationship, release what no longer serves, or to confront painful truths about oneself or others. As with all swords, there's an element of seeking and facing the facts and in this case, cutting self-pity short so one can make strategic decisions.

Reverse

In reverse, the card acknowledges that one has chosen to let go, and end the season with grace. Healing, recovery, renewal, empowerment, and a more healthful lifestyle are on their way. One should use one's intellect to seek these things, rather than relying on immediate desires or convenience.

Page of Swords

The Page of Swords is the card of ideals and plans regarding an intellectual aspect of an endeavor. Curiosity, exploration of ideas, asking questions, and intellectual interest are hallmarks of this card.

Upright

Upright, the page is a useful person who asks lots of questions, seeks to satisfy their curiosity, and has the ability to make excellent plans with enough information. The card encourages one to be flexible when things change, ask questions, explore ideas, and communicate clearly.

Reverse

In reverse, the page is a person who is unproductive; perhaps derailed by curiosity, or hasty to dismiss new ideas due to impatience or cynicism. The advice for one in this situation is a call for thinking before speaking and self-reflection: cultivate patience, and (more especially) balance when it comes to exploring new ideas.

Knight of Swords

A person represented by this card is proactive, and values truth and efficiency over their pride. Like many Sword cards, there is a sense of speed, and sharp and decisive action for good or for bad.

Upright

Logic translates into efficient action: perhaps in a thousand small tasks, or in large ambitions. The card bears logical and decisive action, determination, and focus. It may be a card about optimizing one's actions for desired results. Perhaps one has a budding connection with someone or something showing admirable intellect.

Reverse

Efficiency has turned into something ugly: impatience, ruthlessness, unethical or illegal pursuit of a goal. This may manifest as disorganization, bullying, overwhelm, coercion, possessiveness, intense arguments, or ruthless pursuit of goals. Patience, listening, and reminding oneself of what provides lasting happiness is needed.

Queen of Swords

The Queen of Swords seeks and delights in knowledge, and can wield it well.

Upright

The Queen of Swords has a thirst for knowledge. She loves things like facts, data, news, history, law, and cause and effect. She is a great person to have on one's side in a chaotic time. This card may encourage one to seek a specialist to solve a problem, or to become the specialist needed. Develop one's attention span, memorization skills, and deep dive into a subject.

Reverse

The dark side of the Queen of Swords is that she fixates on negativity: atrocities, calamities, and preparing for the worst case scenario. The queen in reverse urges one to take preventative steps or actions, yes; then to stop catastrophizing and dwelling on negative possibilities outside one's control. The Queen of Swords also encourages one to stop negativity spirals as soon as possible, and perhaps limit oneself's exposure to depressing information.

King of Swords

The goal of the King of Swords card is to bring one into alignment with prioritization guided by logic, positive mentorship, and advice.

Upright

The King of Swords is master of his own intellect. He is astute and prioritizes perfectly. There is a sense of mentorship with this particular King of Swords: both accepting advice from wise, carefully curated advisors, and offering wisdom to those who ask, in a way that they can understand and apply it.

Reverse

In reverse, the King of Swords has let emotion or convenience guide his priorities. He is perhaps struggling with mentorship: choosing convenient (rather than wise) advisors, misunderstanding or partially understanding their advice; or perhaps being a poor mentor by going too fast, or choosing a communication style that the pupil cannot understand.



Wands

The unicorn horns symbolize the wand: the magic of creativity. The Suit of Wands is the creative flow: at work, at play, in hobbies or personal self expression. Cards from Swords and Wands can both be about problem solving, but where the Suit of Swords leans towards using law, logic, intellect, and systematic analysis; the Suit of Wands leans toward more mysterious and less measurable tools like creativity, thinking outside the box, social interaction, and a carefully curated palette of passionate people and emotion.

The dark side from the Suit of Wands tends toward tunnel vision, fixation, creative block, self isolation, and other plagues that are especially common to creatives and their work.

Ace of Wands

This card is the unsprouted seed of future creative efforts. It marks the birth of an idea or opportunity for growth, or any activity that taps into the part of the brain that flows with creativity; it may manifest in one's hobbies, career, financial, or spiritual life.

Upright

The time to act is now. The project that inspires passion is the one to work on; motivation will guide. More planning is unnecessary right now, because the next step is already obvious. Trying the new thing is the right choice; even if the choice is a temporary endeavor, one is left with a new skill, or new direction.

Reverse

There are many possible meanings of this card reversed. Most indicate that an idea or opportunity has presented itself, but one is delayed by hesitation or obstacles. Hesitation may be overcome by introspection. Obstacles may be overcome by taking the next small step, and avoiding analysis paralysis.

Two of Wands

This card is about long-term planning in any aspect, but especially endeavors that require creative mental space. The unicorns form a circle, reminding us of the passing of time, bearing both their horns (symbolizing creative thought) and spears, referencing the suit of Swords for the logical, intellectual side of such plans.

Upright

The time has come to make future or long-term plans. What one wants is already obvious, but it is important to document what steps need to be taken along the way. Best-case and worst-case plans are worth exploring.

Reverse

There has been some sort of failure regarding long-term planning; perhaps plans were not made at the right time, were not executed due to distraction or obstacles, or fell apart due to unforeseen or unavoidable factors. It is time for a second try.

Three of Wands

The Three of Wands portrays three unicorns together in a salute. Perhaps drawn together by ethos or creed, or a militant structure. It can mean a castle wall, or a solid foundation, a place to support and keep one safe or to keep one captive.

Upright

Upright, the Three of Wands describes a safe space and supportive network to try new things. Wands, mostly dealing with the layer of creativity that connects things, tends to lean toward a creative project or business, but can also describe a safe relationship, workplace, or timing for any pursuit.

Reverse

When the Three of Wands is reversed, the rules that may have kept one safe, are now a limitation or even a prison. Perhaps a relationship, friendship, workplace, or other person or place is creating an external obstacle. The limitations could also be internal: self-defeating beliefs, fear of failure, overwhelm, or rigidity may be holding one back.

Four of Wands

Four alicorns represent human connection: friendship, family, community, or the world at large. The use of alicorns (rather than the unicorns in this suit) represent the wings of light-heartedness, joy, and celebration.

Upright

The time for public connection, celebration, or rest has arrived. The joy of accomplishment should be celebrated with loved ones. This may be a call to rest and celebrate oneself, or to celebrate and give rest to a loved one. It may simply mark a season of rest with loved ones, such as vacation, holidays, or joyous gatherings like weddings, births, or other celebrations.

Reverse

Valuable connections go uncreated or remain shallow, perhaps because one has been too secretive in their accomplishments or relationships. Greater communication or public commitment to an endeavor (or relationship) is needed. Perhaps joining or supporting loved ones grows difficult—financially, emotionally, or physically.

Five of Wands

A card about conflict and competition. The five unicorns can be pointing to conflict or competition in many aspects: people (in relationships, career, or community); or as Wands is the suit of creativity-competing ideals, beliefs, or priorities. It can be a tricky card to read.

Upright

Conflict and competition are draining one's creative energy. Creativity is overwhelming if there are too many competing ideas. A sense of anxiety about competing or choosing may arrive especially with internal conflict or competition regarding priorities, ideas, or mixed feelings. When this card speaks of external conflict or competition, it calls one to solve the problem with creativity.

Reverse

A vague card when in reverse, resolution is the only constant. It may be a premonition that creative drains will resolve with little or no effort, or that one may need to put in great effort to end conflicts. One may need to resolve miscommunications, or to reduce competition anxiety for those within one's stewardship. It is equally likely to be encouragement to compete aggressively as it is to warn one not to get involved.

Six of Wands

Our dragon rides her friend the unicorn in a victory parade. The card speaks to accomplishment, with or without fulfillment.

Upright

The work has been put in, and the investment has been made: the investment most likely required creative thinking or action. There may or may not have been success in the originally desired or predictable way, but the outcome is fulfilling and satisfying nonetheless. Perhaps due to receiving recognition, a healed relationship, or a reward.

Reverse

There is no payoff despite investment. The investment most likely required creative thinking or action: time, money, emotion, or effort. Perhaps there was success or accomplishment (or perhaps not), but the desired payoff is not there emotionally, physically, or otherwise. Lack of recognition, unhealed relationships, or promised rewards going unpaid.

Seven of Wands

This card always acknowledges success, and warns of opposition or competition taking one by surprise. The unicorn wears the seventh wand on his brow, defending against a dragon who is trying to steal away two of his other wands both violently with her fire, and slyly with her wingtips.

Upright

Hard work is starting to pay off. As success becomes more obvious, be mindful of envy and competition that strike when one is unaware. Use imagination to find one's weak points, and prepare. Perhaps data supporting one's viewpoint from opposition, preparation for a worst-case scenario, or simply reminding oneself to establish and maintain clear boundaries. This is not a time to give in, no matter how hot the fire, or lengthy the battle.

Reverse

One is succeeding, but there is a sense of weariness from constant opposition. Identify all external and internal sources of opposition. While upright calls on one's imagination for preparation, reverse sometimes (but not always) suggests that one's imagination may be the culprit of feeling constantly criticized, or in constant competition with others. It may be acknowledgment that conceding after fighting the good fight is acceptable, and may help others learn from their mistakes.

Eight of Wands

The alicorn designates this card as one of momentum, flight, speed, or travel. Like all Wand cards, it speaks to the creative layer marking ideas or change in the way one interacts with the world.

Upright

A burst of creativity, speed, or travel is upon one. Sudden progress, commitment, advancement, or a beneficial change of scenery is happening. It may feel sudden, but this movement is a culmination long in coming; it is also one of momentum, and will carry forward into the future.

Reverse

Reversed, there can be two possibilities: too much speed, or too little. Perhaps sudden progress has left one underprepared: this could be oneself, a partner (romantic or business), or other loved ones or community members. Perhaps the progress has been too slow, and opportunities have been missed; or perhaps the card is simply acknowledging one's impatience.

Nine of Wands

This card bears a unicorn with a broken horn, symbolic of finality. The card has to do with final stands, last stretches, and the stage just before the last leg of the journey. Usually an endeavor that has used a great deal of creative energy, such as a relationship (romantic, business, or otherwise), a creative project, a business endeavor, or a hobby.

Upright

This card encourages one to hold out just a little bit longer. The card can be recognition of one's resilience and grit, or it can be offered as comfort to one who is weary at the last leg of the journey. When the card represents a person, it is a person who is long-suffering, patient, determined, or stubborn in a good way.

Reverse

The card warns against investing in sinking ships. One may feel reluctant to abandon an endeavor that has received such deep investment, but cutting losses may be more beneficial in the long run. When this card represents a person, it is someone who stubbornly clings to things that are not working perhaps out of delusion, fear, or reluctance.

Ten of Wands

A cycle of struggle has been completed. Although one has survived much like the unicorn who has been pierced—there is much that can be easily lost, if care is not taken.

Upright

The card congratulates one on overcoming much and accomplishing a worthy endeavor; however, with this accomplishment comes increased responsibility. Prepare immediately to have systems that maintain that hard-earned progress.

Reverse

A cycle of struggle has been survived; and although there seems to be relief in one aspect of life, overwhelm has struck. It is urgent that one delegates, offloads, reduces commitment, or abandons low-priority tasks.

Page of Wands

A bold dragon has taken hold of the unicorn's horn; although she has lofty goals that would uplift her unicorn friend, these ideas are currently in the hypothetical realm. When the card represents a person, it's usually a creative or spontaneous person.

Upright

Although our dragon has lofty ideas that will uplift many others, she has not yet made those ideas a reality yet. The upright card has a sense of spontaneity, thus making the page a herald of pleasant surprises, or encouragement to dive right into a good idea even if it feels like a whim.

Reverse

In reverse, the card has restless disappointment regarding creativity left to wilt. Ideas staying immaterial due to obstacles, or necessary skills going unlearned, unpracticed, or inexperience in general. The card calls one to pursue (or support another in pursuing) skills and experience to bring ideas to life.

Knight of Wands

The faun knight wields a unicorn horn (representing a wand) as a weapon. While pages are heralds of ideas, all knights take action.

Upright

An upright Knight of Wands uses her creativity to take well-balanced and holistic action. Confidently moving forward in the right direction with energy and enthusiasm. Like the Eight of Wands, there's a sense of spontaneity and travel. However, where the Eight of Wands is a small piece of the grand puzzle, the knight is a mover and a shaker, making big, obvious strides in life's journey.

Reverse

In reverse, the knight is overconfident, leading to arrogance or impulsivity. This may manifest in career, finances, wasting opportunities or money; or in relationships by moving too quickly, or in an impulsive fight or breakup.

Queen of Wands

The Queen of Wands is all about connection via creativity. There is a sense of surprise within this card, for better or worse.

Upright

The queen is at her best: solving problems in surprising ways, thinking outside the box, and pulling in solutions or passionate people to assist. There is a sense of unexpected connection—concepts that seem unrelated or odd, people who others may not see the potential in—but the Queen is right. Go forward with confidence in oneself, or the person or solution that embodies these attributes. She may herald a creative surprise in one's life, internal, or external.

Reverse

In Reverse, the queen struggles with routine and focus. Although she is diligent, something will inhibit her greatest skill: health, overwhelm, or her advice ignored. One should make sure that they are not ignoring advice from the queen, or perhaps one's own intuition about problem-solving. The sense of surprise that accompanies this card is not always good when in reverse.

King of Wands

The King of Wands feels like he's winning when his main focus is making progress—main focus, not necessarily priority. However, boredom or overwhelm can strike at any minute.

Upright

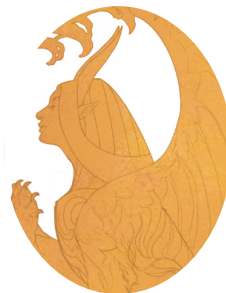
The King of Wands thrives when his current passion is making rapid progress. He also knows that his best work operates in cycles, due to his tendency to over-focus, leading to boredom or burnout. He wisely rotates through a half-dozen or less projects that make his heart sing. Even if it's just a tiny bit of progress every day, he understands that little by little, a dragon builds its nest.

Reverse

The King of Wands is prone to creative tunnel vision and burnout. He may have one main goal, but his penchant for boredom requires more than one important or passion project or activity to keep his spark. Although mainly about passion projects and life-calling, this tendency can extend to small things also: leisure, foods, wardrobe choices, or routines. The king's current main focus may not be the wisest priority at this time.



Oracle Cards



Oracle Cards are less traditional than other tarot card curations. The more traditional Rider-Waite-Smith deck depicts coins marked with a five-pointed star or pentacle, representing the five elements: water, earth, fire, air, and spirit. These oracle cards lean toward that fifth element of spirit: the internal journey that makes a person who they are.

Soul

The sphinx is said to be all-knowing, seeing past, present, and future-truth, free of opinion. While the Self card deals in the outer layers of personality, the Soul card is about the unchangeable milestones in life's journey: rediscovery of purpose, acquisition of skills and knowledge, then the doing.

Upright

Some souls are born knowing what to do: gracefully and efficiently passing through quests, acquiring skills and resources. Other souls take time to rediscover that purpose. This card may be a sign that one is on track: perhaps one knows (or has rediscovered) that purpose; or is faithfully following quests that will make sense later; or is already engaged in their metaphorical final battle or their life's work.

Reverse

One is resisting the soul's journey or has not yet found it. Knowing that the soul's journey will be clearer when looking back does not make the present less difficult. Every life improves one's soul and uplifts others. What would one have pursued if outside influence had not interfered?

Self

Self is a complicated creature; while the Soul card deals with the unchangeable aspects of one's being and journey, the Self card deals with the changeable outer layer. One's sense of self is often just a collection of ideas clinging around one: words, actions, and inactions of others plus all the small stories one tells oneself.

Upright

One urgently needs to become extremely aware of one's beliefs and words about oneself. Personality is just a collection of habits, and can change at any time. Are the words of others changing one's beliefs about oneself? Analyze the source of the habits or descriptions informs one's personality.

Reverse

One's identity is in upheaval. Perhaps accident, injury, or change has taken away something that one believed was intrinsic. An intellectual losing aspects of brain function, a kind person losing ability to serve others, someone realizing their legacy does not belong to them. Know that one's identity is so much deeper than how one interacts with the world.

Dragon

The dragon is specifically about one's perspective on the shadow self-the attributes one dislikes about oneself.

Upright

One needs to explore and embrace the shadow self with loving compassion and forgiveness. Although change is needed, change without self-compassion is self-abuse. One must forgive and love the person one was as a child, last year, yesterday, and this morning; in order to be happy.

Reverse

It may be shocking, but things one believes are flaws need to be reassessed. Adults often teach children desired behaviors, rather than right and wrong. Analyze motives that adults may have had, when they said certain traits were undesirable. One may find freedom in knowing that the person one is, was always meant to be.

Unicorn

The unicorn is about the light self-the aspects one admires in oneself.

Upright

Even if others overlook one's skills and good attributes, have confidence and lean into those good attributes, with faith that everything will be right in the end. It may be a mark that one is suppressing or neglecting one's positive skills and attributes; one often values skills one does not possess, the card reminds one not to undervalue one's own skills.

Reverse

People praise attributes that are convenient to them. It is time to reassess one's good attributes that do not serve or protect oneself. It may be hard to overcome, but reassess good traits gone bad with extremeness: from kind to pushover, from honest to caustic, from steadfast to stubborn. One should be sure good attributes are actually good for oneself and help achieve one's goals, and uplift and protect others.

Unicorn and Dragon

This card is about duality. Every coin has two sides, and so does every positive and negative attribute.

Upright

A long battle against cruel and unforgiving internal and external voices has been won. One can finally talk about their strengths with confidence, and weaknesses with compassion instead of self-loathing. Self-acceptance is acknowledging that weaknesses and strengths are two extremes of the same attribute. This card acknowledges all the hard work that has been put in to find balance.

Reverse

There are many beautiful facets of one's personality, but they are imbalanced. One has commendably acknowledged some faults, but unfortunately is choosing to be cruel to oneself or to deal with faults later. Now is the time to assess if strengths have become too extreme: has humility become self-deprecation? Has steadfastness become stubbornness? One should be as kind to oneself as one is to others.

The White Stag

Limited special edition card (not included in all decks)

This card is about unexpected moments of intervention. Folklore characters often follow the white stag into magical places along their journeys.

Upright

Keep an eye open for signs, mentors, and acquaintances that point oneself down new paths. It may be hard at first, but the White Stag can be the new trajectory one seeks: even if that relationship or situation is fleeting, it will grant the skills and tools necessary for one's grand quest.

Reverse

One is ignoring clear signs that should be honored and followed like a guiding star. Remember that the White Stag does not guide one home, it guides to the battleground, or to a quest that teaches skills and grants resources needed for what lies ahead.