

May you find a path that fills your heart, and sanctuary wherever you go.





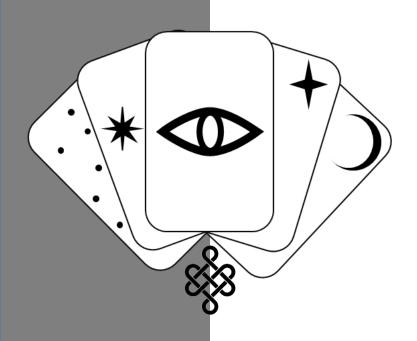


Bright Blessings, and Safe Travels!

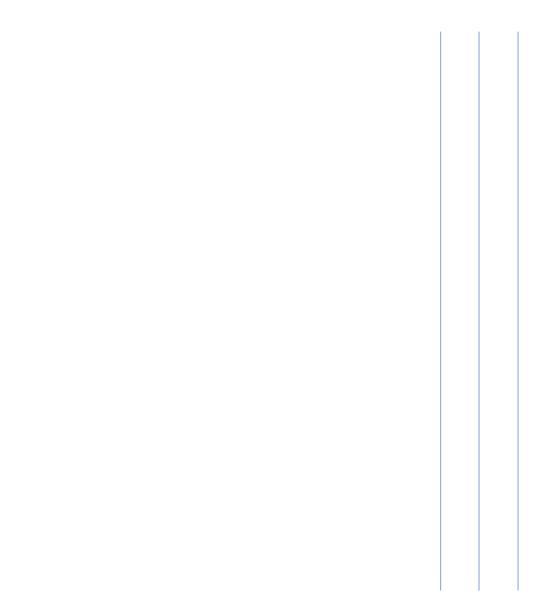
Cartomancy Cartomancy

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Divination By Cards



By Ryan Robinson



Three Card Tarot Spreads



What is Cartomancy?

Cartomancy is one of the most popular divination tools in modern times. It is probably best known through the use of Tarot.

Like all divination, cartomancy can be used as a tool for selfexploration and development. Some psychologists use cards as a complementary care therapy; claiming that the exploration of the inner self leads the individual to greater freedom.

There are three major types of deck in cartomancy. The most commonly known is Tarot which has only two major examples, in the English speaking world the Waite-Smith and Thoth decks, each with 78 cards. The next most common type of deck is Oracle, which has nearly infinite variations but generally between 26 and 39 cards in a deck. Finally, you have Lenormand, with a single accepted deck of 36 cards.

This booklet is designed to stand alone and requires no other reading. However, the Divination booklet provides additional context on the subject.



Shuffle Up and Deal

Cartomancy is one of the most popular forms of divination in the West at the turn of the 21st century. A major reasons for this is the ease of starting. At the beginner level, cartomancy is as simple as taking a deck of cards someone likes, shuffling it, laying one or more on a table, and looking up their meanings.

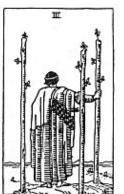
The main way that cartomancy increases in difficulty is by using more cards. Spreads that lay more cards on the table require interpreting and relating more information at once. However, the information remains static and you can be looked up at leisure. While many regular readers will learn the card meanings, this is often through constant reference rather than deliberate study.

Another way that cartomancy readers grow in skill is through increased intuition. This is similar to any other skill used repeatedly, including types of divination. With regular use as a tool to gather and understand information as well as attention to your results any form of divination can help develop and hone intuition.

There is a rich history and many detailed theories behind cartomancy in its various forms. However, at the end of the day, all you *need* is to grab a deck and the interpretation guide that goes with it...



THE HERMIT





Single Card Tarot Draw

Single card draws are a keen way to gain insight and sharpen intuitive skills.

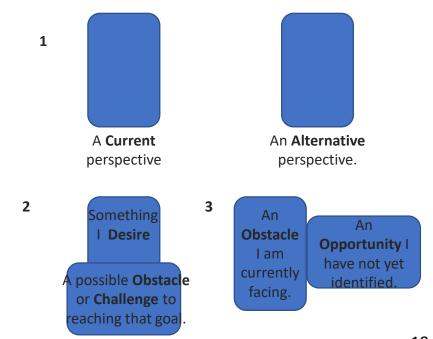
Single card draws are technically simple; they provide a set amount of information to be remembered or looked up.

However, they are intuitively demanding because they don't provide context outside specific intent.



Two Card Tarot Spread

Each additional card in a spread provides greater input for interpretation. The meaning of the additional card is the most direct way the reader gets additional information. The card's relationships to one another also provides information. Knowing there will be a relationship between them helps define the intent of each even before the cards are drawn.



Spreads and Inversions

The least complex versions of cartomancy rely on interpretation and intuition based on card meaning and the relationship between the meanings of those drawn cards. However, some cartomancers draw additional types of position information from their cards.

The most common version of position information is the use of spreads. As each card is drawn it is placed into a predefined location. Each of these locations provides specific context to the card and how the drawn cards relate to one another.

Another relatively common type of positional information is the use of card inversions. If a card is revealed in the upside-down or inverted position the meaning is modified or reversed entirely. In some spreads, certain card positions may be oriented to negate the ability to be inverted.

Runes

There are numerous types of runes in use for divination. The most common of these are the Futhark, or Norse runes, frequently used by Heathens. Ogham sticks or symbols have also appeared as part of various Celtic-based practices, including some Druidry. There are other modern inventions by various authors. Many types of symbols and sigils can be used for runes, and individuals can and often do create their own.

The simplest use of these rune sets is to use them like a set of cards. Each rune has an individual meaning to be interpreted, and the relationships between these meanings create a message for intuitive work. At their core, rune sets are the same as Oracle decks.

The major difference between rune sets and other types of oracle cards is that rune sets are typically carved or crafted to create token or chip-like devices. These are generally made out of wood, bone, stone, or any other hard, solid, natural material rather than cardstock. However, these tokens are still used in many of the same ways as cards. Further, there are versions of almost every rune set that have the symbols drawn on cardstock, often with the benefit of additional reference information being shown alongside.

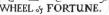
Runes may be read in simple draws or spreads like other types of cards. However, some uses of runes move towards scattering-style divination. It is because of this use that they are typically designed as chips or tokens; the increased durability allows them to last longer when being scattered. In scattering divination the position relationships are important, like a spread, except those relationships aren't as pre-defined and arise from the object positions during interpretation. While it is more difficult to scatter cards, it is still possible.

A Word of Caution

In general, when receiving divination from others; it is best to treat it as if you were simply receiving that person's advice.

Throughout history, people have used the trappings of divination to perpetrate fraud and cons. If you receive readings from another purely for entertainment and enjoyment many of these concerns are not a consideration. However, for those who are seeking spiritual guidance and advice, there are serious considerations that must be made about how, when, and why to pay money. Individuals experiencing grief or other times of high stress are particularly likely to become targets of unscrupulous manipulation. Worse yet are those who use this type of relationship for other types of personal gain. These are often harder to notice because there is not a clear financial aspect to the transaction and these relationships involve other significant aspects of trust.

As a rule, learning how to do divination for yourself is a far safer path. Relying on others as teachers and advisors in methods and skills reduces the ability of those people to shape your future against your will.



Cartomancy as Divination

All divination methods can be simplified to a general three-part formula; some source of intent (typically the question/questioner), a randomizer, and a translation or decryption method. This is most obvious in interpretation-heavy methods like cartomancy. Other similar types of divination are dowsing, I ching, astrology, pendulum, tea-leaf reading, and palmistry. In each case the intent, randomizer, and translation aspects of divinization are explicit.

The explicitness of these components in interpretation-heavy divination methods increases their accessibility for newer practitioners. It also makes the components easier to substitute for alternatives if someone is searching for options best suited to them. When searching for a type of divination suited to a practitioner there are several considerations.

One of the major tensions when selecting a new deck is between complexity and consistency. This is demonstrated by the most common practices of cartomancy. Complexity generally reflects how difficult a divination method is to learn. However, it also gives a more general application. Consistency is the level of variation within that method of divination.

At 78 cards Tarot decks are by far the most complex type in cartomancy. Lenormand and Oracle have less than half that number of cards and a similar number of cards to one another. This makes them similarly difficult to learn; a similar level of complexity. However, while Oracle and tarot are read with single cards, Lenormand is read using combinations of cards. This increases the complexity of Lenormand, but these combinations are still derived from only 36 individual card meanings rather than 78 completely independent items. This is why Lenormand and Tarot have so few variations compared to Oracle which substitutes entire decks to suit different types of situations and subjects.

The low level of variation between decks is what makes Tarot and Lenormand consistent. The nearly infinite variants of Oracle, few if any of which have transferrable knowledge to any other deck, means such decks have no consistency. Meanwhile, Tarot has only two major variations, and learning either means that a practitioner has only a few details to discover with any other deck of that type, most of which are encoded visually in the art of the cards presented to the user. Lenormand is the most constant, with little card or art variation must only really be learned once. **04**

Authority, Solitude,
Authority, Solitude, Loneliness, Isolation, Aloofness, Ego, Arrogance
Public Affairs, Society, Culture, Teamwork, Fame, Social Networks
Difficulties, Problems, Mountain Obstacles, Impairment, Hurdles, Struggles, Challenge
Choices, Many Opportunities, Crossroads Travel, Separation, Hesitation, Decisions
Dwindling, Deficiency, Depletion, Destruction, Defect, Flaw, Disease
Love, Amicability, Romanticization, Forgiveness, Reconciliation, Softness, Charity
Key Words

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Lenormand

Secrets, Knowledge, Education, Information, Research, Studies	Document, Email, Speech, Conversations, Expression, Information, Communication	Male in Querent's Life (Male Friend, Partner, Family Member), If the Querent identifies as Male - The Querent, Masculinity	Female in Querent's Life (Female Friend, Partner, Family Member), A Female Querent, Femininity, If the Querent identifies as Female -	Sensuality, Sex, Virtue, Morality, Ethics, Wisdom
Book	Letter	Man	Woman	Lily
Selfishness, Self Care, Trickery, Suspicion, Cunning, Caution	Power, Leadership, Dominance, Influence, Short temper, Strength of character, Boss	Hope, Inspiration, Optimism, Spirituality, Dreams, Progress to Goals	Change, Transition, Movement, Recurrence, New Cycle, Yearning	Loyalty, Friendship, A Follower, Devotion, Obedience, Support
FO.	Bear	Stars	Stork	Dog
Luck, Lightheartedness, Small Happinesses, Opportunity, Being Untroubled, Comedy	Departure, Farewell, Distance, Voyage, Travel, Journey, Adventure	Home, Establishment, Safety, Tradition, Custom, Privacy, Conservation	Growth, grounded, past connection, personal growth, spirituality, health	Confusion, Unclarity, Misunderstanding, Insecurity, Doubt, Hidden Secrets
Clover	Ship	House	Tree	Clouds
	Luck, Lightheartedness, Small Selfishness, Self Care, Trickery, Book Happinesses, Opportunity, Fox Suspicion, Cunning, Caution Book	Luck, Lightheartedness, Small Happinesses, Opportunity, Being Untroubled, Comedy Departure, Farewell, Distance, Voyage, Travel, Journey, Bear temper, Strength of character, Boss	Luck, Lightheartedness, Small Happinesses, Opportunity, Being Untroubled, Comedy Departure, Farewell, Distance, Voyage, Travel, Journey, Adventure Home, Establishment, Safety, Tradition, Custom, Privacy, Tradition, Custom, Privacy, To Goals Luck, Lightheas, Self Care, Trickery, Suspicion, Cunning, Caution Book Dower, Leadership, Dower, Leadership, Dowinance, Influence, Short temper, Strength of character, Boos Hope, Inspiration, Optimism, Tradition, Custom, Privacy, Tradition, Custom, Privacy, To Goals	Luck, Lighthe artedness, Small Happinesses, Opportunity, Being Untroubled, Comedy Being Untroubled, Comedy Departure, Farewell, Distance, Voyage, Travel, Journey, Adventure Home, Establishment, Safety, Tradition, Custom, Privacy, Conservation Growth, grounded, past Connection, personal growth, Stork Connection, personal growth, Stork Conservation Change, Transition, Change, Transition, Change, Transition, Change, Transition, Cycle, Yearning Cycle, Yearning

History of Cartomancy

The history of cartomancy is tied to the history of playing cards for obvious reasons. Playing cards are believed to have been invented during the Tang dynasty in China, around the 9th century AD. By the 11th century, playing cards spread throughout the Asian continent. The oldest surviving cards in the world are four fragments dated to the 12th and 13th centuries. The earliest European mention of playing cards appears in a Catalan language rhyme dictionary from 1371.

Forms of cartomancy appeared soon after playing cards were first introduced into Europe in the 14th century. The earliest cards were hand-painted, and the number of decks produced is thought to have been small. It was only after the invention of the printing press that mass production of cards became possible. These decks were printed between 1418 and 1450 in what would become modern-day Germany, but they were still hand-colored. Only after 1450 would stencils allow colored printing.

The earliest cartomancy used standard decks of playing cards. This continued to be the most popular form of cartomancy through the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. Through the 20th century, tarot became popular as a form of cartomancy is in English-speaking countries.

Throughout history, other forms of cartomancy decks have existed, but the difficulty of crafting new decks to print has made such specialized decks relatively rare and expensive. The relative ease of printing new decks during the late 20th and early 21st century also lead to an explosion of Oracle decks.



Key Words

Key Words

Claiming Tools

Most practitioners have a variety of habits and rituals around beginning to use a new tool. At one point it was common practice that an individual should not purchase their own Tarot deck and it should be a gift. Few individuals continue to hold to this idea. However, a common belief remains that a new deck should undergo some sort of "cleansing" or "attunement."

Cleansing may involve some combination of moonlight, sunlight, salt, smoke, invocations, selenite, or any number of other things. Always be aware of the materials your tools are made of when planning cleansing – for example, you would not want to "cleanse" a Tarot deck with exposure to fire or water.

Attunement generally involves personal exposure, invocations, and possibly some sort of ritual. This may also involve introduction to beings (spirits, deities, etc) with which the individual works and expects to interact with through the tool.

Some practitioners find that they need or want to do "maintenance" as they continue to use the tool. This often involves additional cleansing. This may be on some schedule or as needed. (Often after a significant event.) Re-attunement is also a possible form of maintenance. This may include personal ritual or focused study.

Many practitioners believe that their tools have or take on some level of (semi)intelligence themselves. Scientifically, this may be an expression of the well-documented human tendency towards anthropomorphizing; attributing human qualities to non-human things. However, this also fits comfortably within the Pagan tendency towards Animism, the sense of our tools as thoughtforms, or as channels to spirits and esoteric sources of knowledge.

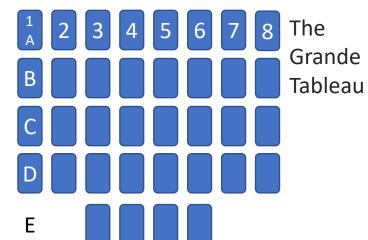
Reading Lenormand

Divination with a Lenormand deck is performed by laying out a spread or a grid of cards. A spread is usually done with 3 or 5 cards laid out left to right. A grid is usually an equal number of rows and columns, with a minimum of three cards in three rows (3x3). There is also the Grande Tableau, a specific arrangement in which the whole deck is laid out in four rows of 8 cards and one row of four cards.

Unlike Tarot, where each card carries its own independent meanings, Lenormand is read through card relationships. While a single tarot card may be drawn, a Lenormand spread uses at least two cards. In a two card spread, the first card serves as the subject while the second is a modifier to that card.

For linear spreads the most direct reading is constructed like a sentence. Each card represents a single word or short expression. Alternatively, each pair is read as the word or phrase to assemble into the larger sentence.

Another way to read spreads, and the way grids are read, is that the central card of the reading is the key. It may describe the person the reading is done for, or hold central information, such as the core of the question, a situation's essence, answer, or outcome. From that core, various aspects can be drawn from each row, column, and diagonal.



Lenormand History

Marie Anne Adelaide Lenormand, also known as Marie Anne Le Normand, was a French bookseller, necromancer, fortune-teller and cartomancer. She lived from 1772 through 1843 and achieved considerable fame during the Napoleonic era. She was highly influential on the wave of French cartomancy that began in the late 18th century, and in France she remains considered the greatest cartomancer of all time.

After her death Lenormand's name was used on several cartomancy decks. This included a deck of 36 illustrated cards known as the Petit Lenormand, or simply "Lenormand cards." This deck is commonly used for divination in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Central Europe, the Balkans, and Russia.

This deck is modelled one published around the beginning of the 19th century 1799 called Das Spiel der Hoffnung (The Game of Hope) designed by Johann Kaspar Hechtel of Nuremberg. The cards were intended to be laid out in a 6 x 6 grid and used for a board for a game of chance. The original printing also had regular playing cards depicted on them, so it could double as a standard German 36-card deck.









Daily Draws

A common practice for cartomancy readers is to pull a single card each day for meditation. Many approach it as daily devotion to whatever spiritual or divine connections the practitioner has. At its most basic, this is a way of keeping familiarity with tools sharp; which is its own devotion to practice.

Practitioners do these daily draws for a variety of reasons. Some believe them to be predictive, giving insight into what may happen throughout the day. They try to use the information to forearm themselves against future events. A variation of this is to approach daily draws as useful ideas to remember throughout the day. Rather than providing insight into the encounters or events to prepare for, this information is the tool that will be needed.

Another major variation is that these represent lessons to be considered during the day. The day's events may be directly related to the idea represented or not. But, by considering the events in relationship to the drawn idea, the practitioner seeks to gain new insight into an aspect of their life or practice by examining it from the given perspective.







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Tarot History

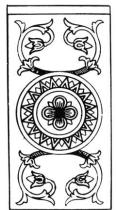
The two most common tarot decks used in the English-speaking world mostly are the Waite–Smith and the Thoth. Worldwide, there is a third common Tarot deck used for cartomancy; the French playing card pack of Marseilles Tarot.

The tarot deck is well documented from the mid-15th century in various parts of Europe. First known as trionfi and later as tarocchi or tarocks, this deck of cards was used to play games such as Tarocchini. From Italian roots, tarot playing cards spread to most of Europe.

In the late 18th century, French occultists made elaborate but unsubstantiated claims about the history and meaning of these cards, leading to the emergence of custom decks for use cartomancy. The earliest evidence of a tarot deck cartomancy is an anonymous manuscript from around 1750. This text documents rudimentary divinatory meanings for Tarocco Bolognese cards. During the 1780s Antoine Court and Jean-Baptiste Alliette (Etteilla) would popularization the tarot cartomancy in Paris, using the Tarot of Marseilles. Around 1900, French tarot players abandoned the Marseilles tarot in favor of the Tarot Nouveau.

The Waite–Smith tarot deck is widely popular and highly influential for cartomancy. This deck was illustrated by Pamela Colman Smith based on the instructions of academic and mystic A. E. Waite; both members of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. These cards were originally published by the Rider Company in 1909.

Between 1938 and 1943 Aleister Crowley devised the Thoth deck with Lady Frieda Harris, also members of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn.



Marseilles

Ace of Coins

ACE y PENTACLES

Waite-Smith

Ace of Pentacles



Thoth Ace of Disks

Oracle

The use of any deck starts out as oracle. The primary difference between Lenormand or Tarot and forms of oracle is simply the how accepted set versions of these decks have become.

Different cartomancers and publishers have built on the nearly infinite variety of ideas, symbols, and configurations. This mean such decks have no consistency; so few if any Oracle decks have knowledge transferrable to any other deck. The benefit of this variability is the ability to refine decks to speak more clearly and directly.

Because of this Oracle decks tend to be relatively simple – with far fewer cards than a standard Tarot deck, for example. Where Tarot decks are intended and expected to speak to a variety of situations and events, Oracle may substitute entire decks to address different types of situation or subject.

Another use of Oracle is to overlap with other areas of knowledge a reader may have. Oracle decks may center on crystals, runes, chakras, astrology symbols, or other areas of occult interest to encode information. Systems like Tarot also lean on these points of reference, it is one of many references and each is relatively lightly used. By contrast, an Oracle deck will lean heavily and deeply into these alternative systems.

The Major Arcana

(Waite-Smith)

	(Traite Simon)	
00 The Fool	08 Strength	16 The Tower
Beginnings	Self-Love, Unconditional	Unwanted Change,
Fresh hope, taking chances	Love, Self Respect, Courage	Ruin, Disgrace, Upheaval,
new paths and adventures		Violence
01 The Magician	09 The Hermit	17 The Star
Focused creativity, turning	Internal Search for Clarity,	Renewal, Hope, Inner
vision into reailty,	Quest for Personal Truth,	Clarity, Miracles, Faith,
inspired action	Spiritual Illumination	Being in the Spotlight
02 The High Priestess	10 Wheel of Fortune	18 The Moon
Secrets, Mystery, Intuition,	Good Fortune,	Unseen Problems,
Self-Trust	A Turning Point,	Voluntary Changes,
Sell-ITust	A Gamble, Luck	Intuition
03 The Empress Fertility, Creation, Abundance	11 Justice Cause and Effect, Win-Win Solutions, Truth Emerges	19 The Sun Material Happiness, Joyous Outcome, Success
04 The Emperor Respect, Leadership, Strategic Planning	12 The Hanged Man Wisdom, Self-Sacrifice, New Perspectives	20 Judgement Clarity, Final Decision, Wake-Up Call, Life's Purpose
05 The Hierophant Traditions, Conventional Expectations, Conformity	13 Death Big Changes, Endings, Rebirth, Transformation	21 The World Completion, Reaching a Goal, Learning a Lesson, Emigration, Travel
06 The Lovers Partnership, Deep Love, Choices, Duality	14 Temperance Balance, Harmony, Patience, Self-Control, Moderation	
07 The Chariot	15 The Devil	
Action and Change,	Addiction, Greed, Envy,	
A Journey,	Materialism, Obsession,	
A New Vehicle	Lust	

The Major Arcana can be viewed as a series of repeating cycles within a larger cycle. These cards do not relate nearly as directly to the numerical associations as the Minor Arcana.

Reading Tarot

Tarot reading is done by looking at the meanings of individual cards in a spread. Each spread provides a question or type of information a card in that position provides. The cards then provide a set of information for that position. The range of cards gives a wide variety of responses each can provide.

Like common playing cards, tarot has four suits each of which has 14 cards: ten numbered cards from one (or Ace) to ten, and four face cards (King, Queen, Knight, and Page). This set of cards is called the Minor Arcana. The meaning of each card is determined by its suit and value. The values of the cards is associated with numerology. The suits are related to their own symbolism, with Cups (water, emotions), Wands (fire, spirit), Swords (air, mind), and Pentacles or Coins (earth, physical concerns). In addition to the Minor Arcana, a separate 22-card trump suit called the Major Arcana. Each of these cards has its own independent significance.

The Tarot de Marseille, the oldest of the three decks, remains essentially a playing card deck. The Minor Arcana cards generally have a simple number/pip structure rather than story-like images.

The Waite – Smith Tarot was deliberately designed to be more intuitive and easy to grasp. It included numerous story-like elements, including leaning heavily into "The Fool's Journey" and a significant amount of easily recognized Christian iconography.

The Thoth tarot instead leaned into alchemy and Jewish symbolism, particularly Kabbalah. Its relationships are less linear than the others. Instead, it relies on more esoteric concepts like the Kabbalah Tree of Life with its complex symbolism and web of connections.

The	Minor	Arcana
The	Minor	Arcana

(Waite-Smith)

mind communication external conflict

spirit momentum passion/drive fire

physical money success earth

water

Cups Femotion feelings internal conflict

Each of the minor arcana suits has a category of items it relates to. Within each category the number describes a type of experience, event, situation, etc.

Swords

Pentacles Wands

	(waite-Smi	tn)		
New ideas Clarity	Avoidence Solitude	Sorrow Grief	Sanctuary Healing	Defeat Disagreement	Transition Uncertainty
Inspiration Potential	Planning Decision	Exploration Foresight	Harmony Celebration	Action Conflict	Victory Admiration
New Opportunities Gifts	Balance Responsibilities	Teamwork Collaboration	Control Stability	Isolation Despair	Giving Receiving
Openness Connection	Sharing Togetherness	Friendship Merriment	Stubborness Apathy	Sadness Mourning	Tenderness Caring
beginnings, rebirth, and fresh perspectives. Potential, opportunity, change. Spring, dawn.	New cycle in its first stages, but more time is needed to develop. partnership, planning and meditation. Union, harmony, opposites.	Plans are executed and progress is indicated. Collaboration and a need for help development and creativity Growth, creation, groups. Autumn, dusk.	Manifestation, stability, peace, stillness, stagnation, disappointment.	change, instability and conflict. Dealing with the uncertainty and disruption leading to necessary evolution.	Harmony, Realignment, Reconciliation right of passage and the power of joining forces towards a common goal. Help has arrived, and difficulties are overcome through empathy and guidance. positive messages; companionship and help on the journey of life.
Ace	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six

9.000	for patience or a warning to examine	Opportunities	***************************************	Defense	Dishonesty	
Seven	where we put our faith. Delusions or the necessity of waiting for the right time to act.	Illusions	Pause	Conviction	Greed	
Eight	Achivement, Change, Advancement Action and momentum, taking an active role in the situation. A return to growth.	Walking away Letting go	Hard work Diligence	Great Hope Movement	Fear Self-limitation	
Nine	Attainment, Transition, Materialization completion of the work that has been underway. finishing touches and the joy of completion. take stock of lessons learned.	Contentment	Enjoyment Abundance	Guarded Resilience	Worry Anxiety	
Ten	Culmination, Completion, Rest end of a cycle.	Happiness Fulfillment	Security Family matters	Exhausted Retreat	New dawn Suffering	
Page	Earth is the slowest of the elements, and in this case, the least experienced; There is work to be done and much to learn. These are the characters who are new in their field, or innocent by nature.	Possibilities A Message	Manifestation Desire	Curiousity Excitement	Vigilance Examination	
Knight	Air gives emphasis on communication and movement. Some suit elements, such as air and fire, move quickly while earth moves slowly but deliberately.	Following your heart	Patience Conservatism	Bravery Inspired action	Assertiveness Focus	
Queen	Water flows by nature, but will be affected by the suit. Emotion and intuition are guiding, with the suit telling us how this insight is applied.	Compassion Intuition	Generosity Nurturing	Confidence Ability	Honesty Logic	
King	Fire and leadership. This is the director, the researcher, and the business person. Fire must have fuel to burn, the King may not be the one doing the work, but they are the one holding the power.	Calm Diplomatic	Reliable Disciplined	Wisdom Vision	Integrity Morality	

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