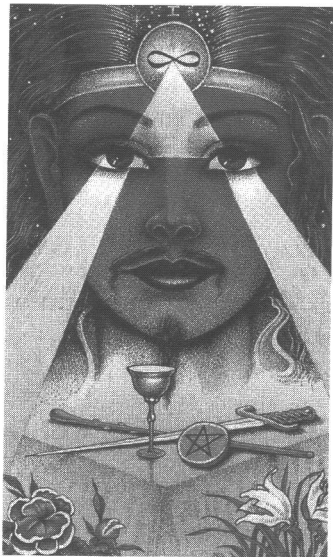


*Norbert Lösche*

# *Cosmic Tarot*



  
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## Introduction

The Tarot springs from very ancient knowledge whose beginning is lost in the shadows of time. One root of this ever-green plant reaches back into ancient Egypt while another stretches back to oldest India. Some sources suggest its seed of origin was in the legendary lost Atlantis.

In the West, the Tarot first appeared in the 15th century at the noble courts of northern Italy and then later in France. These cards always appeared as beautiful handpainted single decks. Because of their cost, these elegant „mystical books with floating pages“ were restricted to the rich and noble. This elitism changed, however, with the invention of the printing press, and the Tarot became accessible to a larger audience.

Although it has sometimes been damned as the work of the devil by the churches and even forbidden by governments, the Tarot has remained an important part of esoteric wisdom over the centuries. The first writings to link Tarot and occultism appear at the end of the 18th century (Court de Gebelin and Etteila). The Tarot has grown in seclusion until modern times, and now it is blossoming into a cherished flower offering expanded awareness.

In our times the search for transcendent meaning and self-redemption has replaced the old mystical religions of a distant god. The Tarot's age-old knowledge is always quiet and reserved, yet it welcomes the seeker like an old friend. The Tarot with its dynamic concept of constant change offers a doctrine for the New Age and thus becomes a reliable guide in this chaotic world of shifting social values.

In creating this new Tarot, my intention is to make the old knowledge accessible and understandable to everyone by using as few secret symbols as possible.

In this way people can grasp the meaning without knowing the old secret doctrines of astrology, cabalistic numerology, and the tree of life. Although it is not my intent to explore these doctrines in this short booklet, interested readers will find at the end some information of the range of literature and other Tarot titles published by AGM AGMüller and URANIA VERLAGS AG.

Aachen, March 1988

Norbert Lösche

# The Tarot's Structure

The Tarot has 78 cards; they can be grouped under two headings:

22 cards in the Major Arcana

56 cards in the Minor Arcana

The 22 cards of the Major Arcana are numbered from I (The Magician) to XXI (The World). One other card, The Fool, is numbered with the zero.

The 56 cards of the Minor Arcana are divided into four elements:

The suit of wands (clubs)

= element of fire

The suit of cups (hearts)

= element of water

The suit of swords (spades)

= element of air

The suit of pentacles (diamonds)

= element of earth

Each suit is subdivided into court cards (king, queen, prince, princess) and into numerical cards (ace through ten).

# The Major Arcana

## 0 The Fool

*A colourfully dressed fool dances at the edge of a cliff.* Meaning: wisdom of innocence, originality, annulment of reason, frivolity, without discipline, ecstasy, delirium, madness, foolishness.

## I The Magician

*With his mental power the Magician rules the four elements: fire (wands), water (cups), air (swords) and earth (pentacles).* Meaning: elementary knowledge, determination, skill, juggling, initiative, agitation, disgrace, immaturity.

## II The High Priestess

*The High Priestess protects all secrets in nature with her power.* Meaning: mystery, hidden knowledge, intuition, initiation,

the unconscious, mental power, silence, superstition, presumption, superficial.

## III The Empress

*A beautiful woman with a crown of stars amidst a fertile landscape.* Meaning: feminine wisdom, feminine power, sensuality, beauty, culture, abundance, boredom, lethargy, temptation through earthly things.

## IV The Emperor

*A powerful emperor sits on his throne. The insignia of power are in front of him.* Meaning: masculine power, shaping of the material world, rulership, will, severity, stability, power and its danger, force.

## V The Hierophant

*A church leader with his followers celebrates in a temple.* Meaning: intellectual leadership, initiation, occult powers, secret knowledge, religion, humility, false guru, hypocrisy, theoretical knowledge, hierarchy, disbelief, distrust.

## VI The Lovers

*Two lovers, surrounded by birds and flowers, stand at the shore of a lake.* Meaning: union, love, blend of opposites, tantra, understanding of the cosmic dance, harmony, discernment, decision, enticement, temptation, doubts.

## VII The Chariot

*Unterneath a canopy of stars, a man in his chariot, pulled by two fast horses.* Meaning: triumph, mental and physical balance, commitment, dynamic, examination, hard work, obstacles, failure.

## VIII Justice

*A kind but severe woman guards the justice, represented by a scale.* Meaning: justice through knowledge of a higher order, union of opposites, balance, virtue, kindness, dignity, fairness, law, selfishness, lack of principles, injustice, prejudice, lack of harmony, stubbornness.

## IX The Hermit

*A hermit lives in the mountains. At his feet, a light in form of a lantern.* Meaning: seclusion, solitude, wisdom, cleverness, distance, discernment, self-control, discipline, awareness, autonomy, guidelines, reliability, alienation, loneliness.

## X Wheel of Fortune

*The world is a mandala. The zodiac turns around the centre. The planets are arranged to represent the tree of life. In the four corners there are the symbols of the four elements.* Meaning: realization of the cosmic order, application of higher laws, dance of energies, constant changes, as above so below, turning point, search for the centre, out of control, seeking for power.

## XI Strength

*A mysterious woman holds a magic cloth which mirrors a lion.* Meaning: energy, enjoying the dance of life, strength, creative energy, mastery, wildness, transfor-

mation of energies, determination to live, strife for power, vice.

## XII The Hanged Man

*A young man hangs with one foot from the branch of a tree. His hands are folded as a symbol of inner concentration.* Meaning: overcoming obstacles through devotion. Changes, prudence, peace of mind, widened consciousness, insight, sacrifice, renunciation, self-deceit, selfishness, loss.

## XIII Death

*The skeleton stands on a plain, together with his scythe and a black bird. Behind him, the rising sun.* Meaning: the end, transition, transformation, a boundary was reached, giving up the existing, time elapses, separation, release, settlement, stagnation, sorrow.

## XIV Temperance

*A beautiful woman celebrates the ritual of temperance by pouring water into water.* Meaning: harmony, mental equilibrium, the middle path, improvement, union,

rejuvenation, patience, coordination, carelessness, indecision.

## XV The Devil

*A terrible demon oppresses prisoners in his reign of evil.* Meaning: victory of materialism, black magic, occult powers, dependence, slavery, passion, egoism, perversion, wrong proportions, overcoming of own fears, perception of the inner demon.

## XVI The Tower

*The eye of God shoots out lightning bolts. One of them sets a tower on fire. Two people and a crown tumble down into the deep.* Meaning: forced change, breakdown, ruin, fight, catastrophe, destruction, breaking up of constricting convictions, arrogance, intolerance, disappointment, chance for a new start, liberation, enthusiasm.

## XVII The Star

*It is night. A nude beauty and a flamingo stand at the border of a lake. A mighty star*

*shines in the sky.* Meaning: beauty, inspiration, hope, brilliance, clarity, to give and take, unconventional, dreams, phantasies, resignation.

### **XVIII The Moon**

*Attracted by the forces of the moon, a crayfish crawls out of a lake.* Meaning: the unconscious, hidden mental power, to forget oneself, salvation, mercy, great love, darkness, secret, drunkenness, hysteria.

### **XIX The Sun**

*The sun shines upon a beautiful landscape where, surrounded by trees and birds, a child is sitting in the grass.* Meaning: light, openness, completion, warmth, favourable relationship, satisfaction, energy, idealism, devotion, passion, home country, harmlessness, lack of criticism, arrogance.

### **XX Judgement**

*Three trumpets sound out of the cosmos and wake up the dead.* Meaning: break-

through, transformation, waking up the latent powers, forgiveness, disillusionment, stuck to the old path, settlement.

### **XXI The World**

*Surrounded by the four symbolical beings, the world dances the eternally magical dance.* Meaning: synthesis of the elements; the cosmic dance, unity, success, understanding, perfect application of what was previously learnt, forgetting the centre, fear of devotion, restricted views, inertia, selfishness, lack of commitment.



# The Minor Arcana

## WANDS

**Ace.** *A wand sends out its energy as a symbol of the element fire in its original form.* Meaning: origin, beginning, source, birth, creativity, blind power, inheritance, identity, self-realization.

**Two.** *A young man in a confident posture stands between two wands.* Meaning: dominion, superiority, authority, success by understanding the opposites, hesitation, contradictory events, sadness.

**Three.** *A young woman performs a magic dance behind three blooming lotus flowers.* Meaning: virtue, growth, success through self-confidence, dreams become true, manifested will, activity, joy of discovering, prevention of confrontations.

**Four.** *A dancing girl carries out a harmonious movement. Four white roses flourish between four wands.* Meaning: completion, rise, clarification, peace, joy of life, fiery love, guilelessness.

**Five.** *Two men in a fight. They use wands as weapons.* Meaning: strife, confrontation, argument, support, concentrated energy push, blockade, dilution of efforts.

**Six.** *A young man, kneeling like a victor, holds a wand in his hands. A lion wearing a crown lies beside him.* Meaning: victory, forces in balance, success, hope, good news, anxiety.

**Seven.** *A man stands in front of a fence and defends himself in a heroic posture.* Meaning: valour, action without planning, negotiation, contest, strife for success, courage, worry, agitation, perplexity.

**Eight.** *A young man jumps up high.* Meaning: swiftness, movement, activity, enthusiasm, new solutions, haste, serious problems, doubt, remorse.

**Nine.** *A strong man with a powerful glance in his eyes. There is a lion behind him.* Meaning: strength, self-determination, revealed passions, new self-confidence, „tense“ times, delay.

**Ten.** *The world burns; a person sinks into the flames.* Meaning: oppression, last effort, stubbornness, burden, intrigue, difficulties, link between strong oppositions, fulfilling of great wishes, new standard of life.

**Princess.** *A tempestuous young woman wearing a golden tiara.* Meaning: spontaneous, energetic, willing to accept risks, impulsive, passionate both in love and anger, superficial, disloyal, unstable, cruel.

**Prince.** *A young man with a shield which reflects a lion.* Meaning: strong, righteous, noble, humorous, impulsive, friendly, proud, committed, romantic, pretentious, intolerant, judges with prejudice.

**Queen.** *A strong, beautiful woman. A wand emerges from a bouquet of white roses.* Meaning: honourable, energetic,

friendly, kind, strong will, impatient, stubborn, down to earth, domineering, revengeful.

**King.** *A man with a domineering look, a luminous wand and a tulip.* Meaning: vivid, strong will, looking for adventures, conscious of his responsibility, creative, generous, ascetic, hard, impetuous, fanatic.

## Cups

**Ace.** *An overflowing cup represents the element water in its original form.* Meaning: abundance, satisfaction, joy, fertility, fulfillment, change, instability, unsettled.

**Two.** *Surrounded by flowers, two lovers kiss.* Meaning: love and its uniting power, union, harmony, strong links, sympathy, contradictory feelings, unresponded love, false relationship.

**Three.** *A couple united in harmony at a lake shore.* Meaning: abundance, exuberance, comfort, bliss, healing, happy end,

physical pleasure, excessively emotional, confused emotions.

**Four.** *A young man beside a lotus flower pond.* Meaning: exuberance, uncertain feelings, weariness, decaying joy, refusal, insight, reflection, new possibilities, anticipation.

**Five.** *On a stormy weather day, a depressed woman is sitting in a dark room.* Meaning: disappointment, regret, sorrow, remorse, inheritance, new relationship, discovery of inner sources, return.

**Six.** *Two lovers in an intimate attitude sitting in the reed.* Meaning: effortless harmony, joy, satisfaction, nice memories, recovered joy, renewal, chance, remembrance, longing, uncontrolled emotions.

**Seven.** *A man lies on the floor, tortured by restless dreams.* Meaning: illusion, day-dreams, ruin, imagination, delusion, illusory success, testing of wishes and fears, productive power of phantasy, dreamwork.

**Eight.** *A sad man sits on the beach, the wreck of a boat behind him.* Meaning: res-

ignation, giving up projects, excessive modesty, interruption, reason before feeling, new point of view, strong needs.

**Nine.** *The sun shines. A young man approaches a beautiful woman.* Meaning: happiness, wealth, material advantage, success, physical well-being, imperfection, indifference, lack of sensitivity.

**Ten.** *A woman with a blue scarf is sitting at the shore of a lake.* Meaning: perfect success, satiety, calm, satisfaction, oversaturation, wishful thinking, without aim, disturbances after the climax.

**Princess.** *A young woman with a lily holds her hand over a cup in a protective gesture.* Meaning: sentimental, pensive, thoughtful, quiet, tender, romantic, kind, gentle, dreamy, sensitive, unconcentrated, indolent, insecure.

**Prince.** *A young man with a scorpion on his arm. Apparently it is very difficult to judge him.* Meaning: mysterious, inviting, challenging, skilled, plenty of imagination, searching, tricky, unscrupulous, clever, cunning, inconsiderate.

**Queen.** *A beautiful woman at the lake shore. She holds a fan decorated with two fishes.* Meaning: graceful, beautiful, kind, noble, dignified, tolerant, mediating, poetic, subjective, vicious, unreliable.

**King.** *A humanitarian man in his palace. The sea is far away.* Meaning: friendly, polite, humane, gifted, gentle, emotional, longing, enthusiastic, eager, attracted by the secret and the uncanny, indolent, dishonest, melancholy, easy to influence, hurting, tending to excesses.

## Swords

**Ace.** *A brightly shining sword as symbol of the element air in its original form.* Meaning: power, triumph, conquest, mental power, many-sided, ambiguous, suppressed thinking.

**Two.** *It is night. At the lake, a girl with a cat in the moonshine.* Meaning: balance through understanding, peace, calm, fa-

miliarity, ambiguity, vagueness, contradictory thoughts, two-faced, disloyalty.

**Three.** *In a dark courtyard, three people dressed in black stand in front of a rose pierced by three swords.* Meaning: sorrow, merciless, separation, alienation, grief, error, conscious insight, decisive realization.

**Four.** *Four travellers rest in an oasis. They left their swords on a carpet in front of them.* Meaning: truce, calm after a conflict, interval, retreat, agreement, concentration, mental work, mental challenges.

**Five.** *A man lies in the desert, detained by five upright swords which pierce roses.* Meaning: disgrace, weakness, blame, late insight, acceptance of the unavoidable, clear perspective, new knowledge.

**Six.** *A dancer harmoniously moves on a plain. Six swords „lie“ at his feet.* Meaning: science, deserved success, achieved balance, intelligent behaviour, explanation, change in the way of thinking, new mental orientation, conscious association.

**Seven.** *In a full-moon night, a woman walks into the unknown. Seven swords disappear in the sand.* Meaning: uselessness, attempt, vain effort, inconstant behaviour, tolerance, unclear intention, advice, the own way, consciously defining a goal.

**Eight.** *Two people, both captive amidst eight swords, are nevertheless separated and do not talk to each other.* Meaning: disturbance, interference, limitation, conflict, blame, resistance, problematic thoughts, mental prison, delimitation of the own ideas, great mental tasks.

**Nine.** *During a war, a man falls to the ground struck by a sword. Another sword hits the serpent of life.* Meaning: despair, sadness, failure, negative thoughts, fear, acceptance of the reality, self-realization, brilliant ideas.

**Ten.** *Total madness has taken possession of the person.* Meaning: ruin, destruction, defeat, mental confusion, desolation, overwhelming thoughts, the lowest point was

reached, acceptance of the unexpected, new mental horizons.

**Princess.** *A charming young woman with a sword that emerges from a flower.* Meaning: conscious, skillful, practical abilities, observing, powerful, serious, severe, tricky, frivolous, vulnerable, aggressive.

**Prince.** *A young man with a sword and a book.* Meaning: brave, fast, foreseeing, agile, inventive, clever, courageous, a loyal friend, belligerent, daring, destructive, conceited.

**Queen.** *A mature, conscious woman with a flower and a white bird.* Meaning: conscious, concentrated, severe, graceful, attentive, quick perception, advising, good at repartee, cunning, cruel.

**King.** *A man with a dominating look, a sword and a white falcon.* Meaning: powerful, daring, authoritative, sharp-witted, superior, reserved, narrow-minded, stubborn, tyrannical, mean.

## Pentacles

**Ace.** *A disc with a pentacle as the symbol of the element earth in its original form stands firmly on a plain.* Meaning: wealth, riches, fertility, perfection, dowry, personal talent, personal task.

**Two.** *A young man celebrates a magic dance on the beach.* Meaning: changes, attraction between opposites, harmonious change, cheerfulness, new complications, excitement, news, message, contradictory chances, contradictory tasks.

**Three.** *Three men are building a house.* Meaning: work, material foundation, effort, skill, reputation, perseverance, obstinacy, fame, narrow-minded, weakness, mediocrity.

**Four.** *In his country house, an elderly man in a domineering posture.* Meaning: power, love for material prosperity, legacy, gift, great talent, clinging to property, avarice, obstacles, pride.

**Five.** *Five people walk through a gloomy landscape of ruins.* Meaning: worry, torture, chaos, poverty, effort, tension, need, idleness, immorality, belief in the future, reconciliation.

**Six.** *A man spreads out his arms on top of a rock. Six pentacles appear above him.* Meaning: success, stability, gifts, right timing, generosity, kindness, indulgence, desire, envy, jealousy.

**Seven.** *A depressed man walks through a sombre region.* Meaning: failure, bad business, hard work - little success, hazardous speculation, inventiveness, own points of view, good business.

**Eight.** *A woman looks down at a rose which is surrounded by eight pentacles.* Meaning: wisdom, reason, skill, humbleness, cleverness, fulfilling work, ambition, vanity, greed.

**Nine.** *A beautiful woman in the middle of her riches. She holds a key in her hand.* Meaning: gain, growth, popularity, property, abundance, material wealth, waste, diversion, threatened security.

**Ten.** *A luxuriously dressed man holds a white bird in his hand.* Meaning: riches, wealth, security, home, safety, inheritance, family affairs, happiness, developed talents, lively habits, venture, danger, loss.

**Princess.** *A strong young woman with flowers in her hair amidst a beautiful landscape.* Meaning: young, strong, promising, careful, communicating, fond of luxury, spoiled.

**Prince.** *A self-confident young man. There is a bull on a cliff behind him.* Meaning: persistent, inventive, reliable, ready to help, solid, true, methodical, pensive, practical, patient, indolent, stubborn, apathetic, limited, merciless.

**Queen.** *A graceful and calm woman in front of her palace at the border of the lake.* Meaning: good-hearted, gentle, quiet, benevolent, friendly, rich, zealous, domestic, striving, with strong roots, submissive, impersonal, phlegmatic.

**King.** *The friendly king on his throne. In the background there is a capricorn on top*

*of a rock.* Meaning: a capable business person, diligent, patient, talented in mathematics, wealthy, prudent, tender, epicurean, greedy, stubborn, corrupt.

## How to Read the Cards

Choose a quiet place and a time when you won't be interrupted. Shuffle the cards thoroughly and then spread the deck out face-down in a row on a smooth surface (a satin cloth is best). From this row, draw each card as you concentrate on the question being asked.

### One-card Draw

To answer a single question, concentrate for a short time and then draw one card out of the row of shuffled cards.



## Three-Card Spread

Draw three cards from the shuffled row and place them in the following order:



**Card 1** is the here and now, the situation of the questioner. It represents the power presently at work.

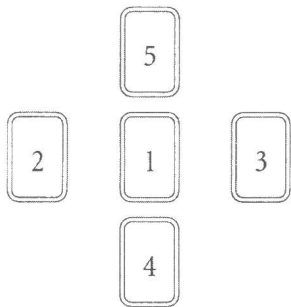
**Card 2** is the past situation of the questioner. It represents past powers and influences.

**Card 3** is the future situation of the questioner. It represents coming influences.



## Five-Card Spread

Draw five cards from the shuffled deck.  
Lay them out in the following order:



**Card 1:** the present, questioner, theme.

**Card 2:** the past, past influences, positive or negative completion to card 1.

**Card 3:** the future, coming influences, positive or negative completion to card 1.

**Card 4:** the reason behind the question (probably unknown).

**Card 5:** the development, potential, possibility.

## Seven-Card Spread

Draw seven cards from the shuffled deck.  
Lay them out in the following order:



**Card 1:** the present, questioner, theme, starting point.

**Card 2:** the momentary obstacles, problems, distractions.

**Card 3:** the present tendencies of development.

**Card 4:** the influences of the recent past.

**Card 5:** the influences of the distant past.

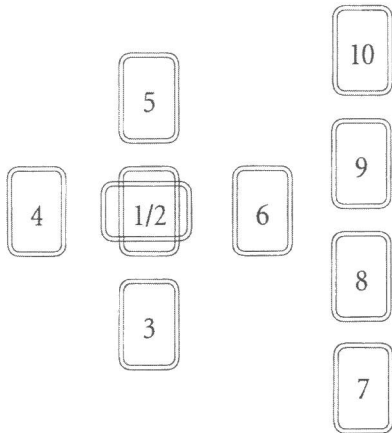
**Card 6:** the near future, a combination of cards 1 to 5.

**Card 7:** a summary, a point of view that will become meaningful.

## Ten-Card Spread

This old method of spreading the cards is sometimes called the „Celtic Cross“. It gives an extensive picture of the state of a person or a situation.

Draw ten cards from the shuffled deck. Spread out in the following order:



**Card 1:** the present, questioner, theme, starting point.

**Card 2:** the momentary obstacles, problems, distractions.

**Card 3:** the motivation or reason to ask the question (probably unknown).

**Card 4:** the past, decreasing influences.

**Card 5:** the potential, chances, possible development.

**Card 6:** the future, increasing influences.

**Card 7:** the person of the questioner, previously unknown aspects (in connection with card 3).

**Card 8:** the surroundings of the questioner, how the questioner or the situation is perceived by others.

**Card 9:** the hopes and fears of the questioner.

**Card 10:** a summary or an aspect that will become meaningful.

## Other Ways to Spread the Cards

In various literature you will find other systems to spread the cards. Some systems use up to fifteen cards. This booklet describes only the most common systems. Through practice you will find the system that suits you best. If you are a beginner, become familiar with the pictures of the Tarot before you attempt to lay out large systems.

## Using the Tarot Cards

It is important to trust your own intuition when using the Tarot cards. After you state a question and spread the cards, contemplate them carefully before you read their meanings. What you feel and think when contemplating a card is more important than clinging to its explained meaning.

The words should serve to stimulate your own intuition. The Tarot is not static.

The same card may have a different meaning in response to another question or in another context. The Tarot will support you in your search for an answer. The answer is found not in the card, but in you.

As you look inside yourself, remember that whatever lies close to your heart should be handled not only seriously, but also lovingly.

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