

HANSON-ROBERTS TAROT DECK



Illustrated by
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Instructions by
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HANSON-ROBERTS TAROT

BY STUART R. KAPLAN

The complete seventy-eight card tarot pack is divided into two sections: twenty-two Major Arcana and fifty-six Minor Arcana cards. The twenty-two Major Arcana cards, also known as Triumphs, Atouts, and Greater Arcana, comprise twenty-one allegorical cards numbered from I to XXI plus an unnumbered card known as The Fool.

THE 22 MAJOR ARCANA CARDS ARE:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 0 The Fool | 11 Justice |
| 1 The Magician | 12 The Hanged Man |
| 2 The High Priestess | 13 Death |
| 3 The Empress | 14 Temperance |
| 4 The Emperor | 15 The Devil |
| 5 The Hierophant | 16 The Tower |
| 6 The Lovers | 17 The Star |
| 7 The Chariot | 18 The Moon |
| 8 Strength | 19 The Sun |
| 9 The Hermit | 20 Judgment |
| 10 Wheel of Fortune | 21 The World |

The sequence of the Hanson-Roberts Major Arcana follows the designation by Arthur Edward Waite who assigned number VIII to Strength and XI to Justice. By contrast, most traditional tarot decks designate VIII as Justice and XI as Strength.

Generally the Major Arcana cards represent the physical and spiritual forces of life—illness, death, storms, strength, power, religion, and love. The remaining fifty-six cards are called Minor Arcana or Lesser Arcana.

They are divided into four suits:

Swords	—	spades
Rods (Wands)	—	clubs
Cups	—	hearts
Pentacles (Coins)	—	diamonds

Each of the four suits contains four court cards and ten pip cards numbered 1 (ace) through 10. The four court cards in each suit are called King, Queen, Knight, and Page.

The Minor Arcana cards generally represent occupations, social position, and status.

The precise origin of tarot cards remains obscure. It is sometimes theorized that the tarot deck was created as a seventy-eight card deck. However, it might be that the twenty-two Major Arcana cards with their emblematic designs and the fifty-six Minor Arcana cards in their familiar four suits were originally devised separately and later were combined into one pack.

Italian Renaissance nobility of the mid-fifteenth century in northern Italy amused themselves by playing a game called *trionfi*, subsequently called *tarocchi*, using the earliest extant tarot pack.

THE ARTIST

The artist of the Hanson-Roberts Tarot deck was born on April Fool's Day—April 1, 1947—and grew up in Massachusetts. She won a scholarship to Dean Junior College and graduated in 1966 with a major in Fine Arts.

After graduation, Mary Hanson-Roberts joined a summer stock company and, finding her drawings more in demand than her acting, she became their poster designer. She also began freelancing on a part-time basis. While concentrating mainly on portraiture, she gained valuable experience in a variety of areas. One project, the design of a logo for Summerthing, a program sponsored by Boston's Department of Recreation, led to staff work as an illustrator on the Department's newsletter. There were also several small gallery shows and a commission to design a coloring book that was distributed to hospitalized children at Christmastime.

In 1977, the artist moved to Florida to try freelancing on a full-time basis. She produced a second coloring book that received favorable notice at the World Science Fiction Convention in Miami. Her work, becoming more oriented toward fantasy and occult themes, began to win recognition and awards at local galleries and shows.

At one of the shows, the artist met her future husband and they live today in Florida with

their two sons and a menagerie of cats. Ms. Hanson-Roberts is now primarily a magazine illustrator. In addition, she also prepares designs for books and film animation. She especially enjoys science fiction work, but her diverse interests recently led her to complete a series of paintings of the twelve disciples.

The Hanson-Roberts Tarot deck represents a major work of the artist. She devoted approximately eight months to the execution of the eighty-one pieces of art (seventy-eight face cards of the twenty-two Major Arcana and fifty-six Minor Arcana, plus top card, introduction card, and back design). The original artwork, approximately twice the size of the finished printed cards, was created with colored pencil.

The artist has long admired the work of Pamela Colman Smith in the Rider-Waite Tarot deck. The Hanson-Roberts designs provide added relevance to the work of Pamela Colman Smith while presenting a new dimension to the tarot through the special interpretations and artistic genius of Mary Hanson-Roberts and her magnificent illustrations.



THE 22 MAJOR ARCANA

0 • THE FOOL

A YOUNG MAN dressed in colorful garments is shown walking in an open field. In his right hand, and resting over his right shoulder, is a stick which symbolizes his desire and will. A bundle bearing his previous experiences is attached to the stick. In his left hand he holds a white rose to symbolize his spiritual desires.

Divinatory Meanings: Thoughtlessness. Folly. Extravagance. Lack of discipline. Immaturity. Foolishness. Inconsideration. Frenzy. Enthusiasm. Irrational insecurity. Frivolity. Delirium. **Reverse Meanings:** Faulty choice or a bad decision. Indecision. Apathy. Hesitation. Negligence.

1 • THE MAGICIAN

THE MAGICIAN stands before a table on which are the suit symbols of the Minor Arcana: a sword, a rod, a cup, and a pentacle. Above his head appears the figure eight, the ancient occult number ascribed to Hermes and the symbol of eternal life. Around him is a garden of lilies and roses. The Magician holds in his upraised hand the phallic wand of creativity—with his other hand he points downward. This dual sign suggests that all creation on earth is derived from above. The Magician possesses the ability of utilizing the diverse objects on his table for success in thought, word, and action.

Divinatory Meanings: Originality and creativity. Ability to utilize one's capabilities in order to accomplish a task. Imagination. Self-reliance. Ingenuity. Spontaneity. Self-control. Self-confidence. Flexibility. Masterfulness. Deception. Sleight of hand. **Reverse Meanings:** Weakness of will. Indecision. Ineptitude. Insecurity. Disquiet. Delay. The use of one's skills for destructive ends.

II • THE HIGH PRIESTESS

THE HIGH PRIESTESS is seated within the precincts of her temple. She holds on her lap a book of knowledge and esoteric wisdom. She is a large woman—suggesting challenge to masculine domination. She is the eternal feminine goddess of the ancient world, emanating both knowledge and wisdom into the life around her.

Divinatory Meanings: Wisdom. Sound judgment. Serene knowledge. Common sense. Serenity. Objectivity. Penetration. Foresight. Intuition. Comprehension. Perception. Self-reliance. Lack of emotion. Platonic relationships. **Reverse Meanings:** Shortsightedness. Ignorance. Selfishness. Passion. Acceptance of superficial knowledge. Poor judgment.

III • THE EMPRESS

THE EMPRESS IS SEATED upon her throne. In her right hand she holds a scepter of authority. She is surrounded by ripe fruit and grain. The

Empress suggests the symbol of feminine productivity and action. By effectively mobilizing all her capabilities, she can create meaningful and noteworthy developments in her life.

Divinatory Meanings: Feminine progress. Fruitfulness. Fertility. Mother. Sister. Wife. Accomplishment. Ability to motivate others. Practicality. Intuition. Marriage. Children. Feminine influence. **Reverse Meanings:** Vacillation. Inaction. Lack of concentration or interest. Indecision. Delay in accomplishment or progress. Anxiety. Infertility. Infidelity.

IV • THE EMPEROR

A REGAL MAN of middle age sits upon a throne decorated with rams' heads. He wears a crown of living leaves. A ceremonial scepter is in his right hand and with his left hand he holds a worldly globe of dominion. He exudes confidence and accomplishment.

Divinatory Meanings: Worldly power. Accomplishment. Confidence. Authority. Wealth. Stability. Indomitable spirit. Leadership. War-making tendencies. Male influence. Patriarchal figure. Father. Brother. Husband. Domination of reason and intelligence over emotion and passion. Strength. Attainment of goals. **Reverse Meanings:** Immaturity. Ineffectiveness. Lack of strength. Indecision. Inability. Weakness of character. Feebleness. Failure to control petty emotions.

V • HIEROPHANT

A PAPAL FIGURE with beard and mustache holds a three-tiered staff in his left hand. He wears the triple crown of papal authority. The crossed keys indicate the keys to his kingdom. He appears to give a blessing with his right hand to the two figures before him. The Hierophant possesses creative power throughout the divine, intellectual, and physical worlds. Behind him are two columns—one symbolizing law and order, the other the right to choose whether to obey or to disobey.

Divinatory Meanings: A tendency to cling to former ideas and principles even if outdated. Ritualism. Mercy. Forgiveness. Inspiration. Kindness. Compassion. Servitude. Inactivity. **Reverse Meanings:** Over-kindness. Foolish exercise of generosity. Susceptibility. Impotence. Unconventionality. Unorthodoxy. Vulnerability. Frailty. Renunciation.

VI • THE LOVERS

A YOUNG LAD AND MAIDEN stand together, hands clasped. Above them appears a winged angel who protects them. The Lovers represent all that is essential in the interaction of love and affection between human beings.

Divinatory Meanings: Love. Beauty. Perfection. Harmony. Confidence. Honor. Trust. Beginning of a possible romance. Deep feeling. Oblivious to possible consequences.

Optimism. Freedom of emotion. The necessity of testing or subjecting to trial. Struggle between sacred and profane love. A meaningful affair. **Reverse Meanings:** Failure to meet the test. Unreliability. Separation. Frustration in love and marriage. Interference by others. Fickleness. Untrustworthiness. Unwise plans.

VII • THE CHARIOT

A CROWNED CONQUEROR rides in a chariot drawn by two sphinxes representing negative and positive forces. The man bears a scepter in his right hand and wears a suit of armor emblazoned with facial epaulets on each shoulder. The faces may represent the Urim and Thummim, revealers of the divine will of God. The Chariot represents the material currents which carry man along toward his destiny.

Divinatory Meanings: Trouble. Adversity, possibly already overcome. Conflicting influence. Turmoil. Vengeance. Voyage or journey. Escape. Urgency to gain control of one's emotions. **Reverse Meanings:** Defeat. Failure. Losing something otherwise within your grasp at the last minute. Sudden collapse of plans. Conquered.

VIII • STRENGTH

A WOMAN GENTLY HOLDS the jowls of a massive lion who rests in her control. Above her head appears the eternal figure eight or cosmic lemniscate.

Divinatory Meanings: Strength. Courage. Fortitude. Conviction. Energy. Determination. Resolution. Defiance. Action. Confidence. Innate ability. Zeal. Fervor. Accomplishment. **Reverse Meanings:** Weakness. Pettiness. Impotency. Sickness. Tyranny. Lack of faith. Abuse of power.

IX • THE HERMIT

AN ELDERLY, BEARDED MAN wearing a heavy habit holds aloft in his right hand a lantern that represents the knowledge of occult science. Light emanates from the six-pointed star, symbol of creation and divine protection. The Hermit travels the path of initiation and knowledge. He is ready to assist others with counsel and advice. He is the guardian of time, dispensing wisdom and truth.

Divinatory Meanings: Knowledge. Counsel. Solicitude. Prudence. Discretion. Caution. Vigilance. Circumspection. Fear of discovery. Self-denial. Withdrawal. Regression. Annulment. Tendency to withhold emotion. **Reverse Meanings:** Imprudence. Hastiness. Rashness. Prematurity. Foolish acts. Incorrect advice. Immaturity. Failure caused by dullness. Overly cautious, resulting in unnecessary delay.

X • WHEEL OF FORTUNE

THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE contains eight visible spokes, each indicating a state of life, and four spokes are marked with alchemical sigils

of mercury, sulphur, water, and salt. The letters T A R O are interspersed with the four Hebrew letters I H V H for Jehovah. The serpent on the left descending the wheel is falling into misfortune while the animal on the right appears to be rising out of previous difficulties. At the four corners of the card are four biblical creatures, each with a book.

Divinatory Meanings: Destiny. Fortune. Fate. Outcome. Culmination. Approaching the end of a problem. Good or bad depending upon influences of nearby cards. Inevitability. The entire sequence of the Wheel suggests the course of things from beginning to end. Advancement for better or worse. **Reverse Meanings:** Failure. Poor luck. Broken sequence. Unexpected bad fate. Interruption or inconsistency due to unexpected events. Outside influences not contemplated.

XI • JUSTICE

A CROWNED FEMALE FIGURE holds the scales of justice and a heavy, double-edged sword which endows her with the ability to decide right from wrong. Justice is capable of the fair administration of manners and morals according to the best interests of the persons involved.

Divinatory Meanings: Reasonableness. Fairness. Justice. Proper balance. Harmony. Righteousness. Virtue. Honor. Virginity. The eventual outcome, whether favorable or not, will truly be fair for the person concerned.

Reverse Meanings: False accusations. Bigotry. Severity in judgment. Intolerance. Unfairness. Abuse. Bias.

XII • THE HANGED MAN

A YOUNG MAN HANGS from a tall cross by his right foot. His hands are secured behind his back. The man's eyes are open and he remains fully conscious and aware of his surroundings. The Hanged Man is depicted in a state of inertia. Although earthbound, he has attained some relief from the transition of life.

Divinatory Meanings: Life in suspension. Transition. Change. Reversal of the mind and one's way of life. The changing of life's forces. The period of respite between significant events. Sacrifice. Readjustment. Rebirth. Regeneration. The approach of new life forces.
Reverse Meanings: Unwillingness to make the necessary effort. Lack of sacrifice. Failure to give of one's self. Preoccupation with the ego. False prophecy. Useless sacrifice.

XIII • DEATH

A SKELETON CLAD IN ARMOR carries a black flag with a five-petaled white rose. He rides a white horse while kings, women, and children lie dead and ashen before him. In defeating the physical body, the skeletal knight prepares the way for resurrection of the soul. The skeleton represents changes in the present which will influence the events of the future.

Divinatory Meanings: Transformation. Clearing away the old to make way for the new. Unexpected change. Loss. Failure. Alteration. The ending of a familiar situation or friendship. Loss of income or financial security. Beginning of a new era. Illness. **Reverse Meanings:** Stagnation. Immobility. Slow changes. Partial change. Inertia. Narrowly avoiding a serious accident.

XIV • TEMPERANCE

THIS CARD DEPICTS THE VIRTUE of Temperance as a winged angel robed in flowing garments—pouring liquid from one urn to another. The essence of life flows between the two vessels, symbolic of the flowing of the past through the present and into the future. The triangle within the square on Temperance's breast represents the presence of spirit within the confines of reality. The angel of Temperance possesses moderation and self-restraint. She is secure and self-reliant.

Divinatory Meanings: Moderation. Harmony. Fusion. Patience. Management. Compatibility. Fortunate omen. Successful combination. Consolidation. Accommodation. The bringing together into perfect union. Accomplishment through self-control and frugality. **Reverse Meanings:** Discord. Disunion. Conflict of interest. Hostility. Inability to work with others. Impatience. Sterility. Difficulty in understanding others. Frustrations.

XV • THE DEVIL

THIS CARD SHOWS A HORNED, bat-winged demon with elongated ears. A pentacle is inverted on his forehead, signifying perversion of the five senses. The Devil is elevated on a pedestal. He holds in his left hand an inverted torch of destruction. His right hand is upraised in the sign of black magic. The Devil is the bearer of misery, disaster, and death. Two figures are tied by their necks to the base of the Devil's pedestal. This card indicates human suffering and desolation. However, the bondage suffered by the two figures could be broken by positive determination and willpower.

Divinatory Meanings: Subordination. Ravage. Subservience. Downfall. Lack of success. Weird experience. Bad outside influence or advice. Black magic. Unexpected failure. Inability to realize one's goals. **Reverse Meanings:** Release from bondage. Throwing off shackles. Respite. Divorce. Recognition of one's needs by another person. Overcoming severe handicaps. The beginning of spiritual understanding. The first steps toward enlightenment.

XVI • THE TOWER

A TALL TOWER with a crowned roof has been struck violently by a blast of lightning and fire. Only the top, the crown, is severed, signifying a clean break from the past. The flame is a symbol of a strong and dominating occurrence.

Two persons fall to the ground. The falling figures represent escape from the past and sudden immersion into new events. The card is variously called The Lightning Struck Tower, The House of God, The Hospital, Fire of Heaven, or The Tower of Babel.

Divinatory Meanings: Complete and sudden change. Breaking down of old beliefs. Abandonment of past relationships. Severing of a friendship. Changing of one's opinion. Unexpected events. Disruption. Adversity. Misery. Deception. Bankruptcy. Downfall. Loss of stability. Loss of security. **Reverse Meanings:** Continued oppression. Following old ways. Living in a rut. Entrapment in an unhappy situation. Inability to affect any worthwhile change.

XVII • THE STAR

A NAKED YOUNG MAIDEN pours the waters of life from her open palms. This signifies the stirring of new ideas and the precipitation of new concepts. Although the maiden appears complacent, her outlook remains one of aspiration and hope. Hovering in the sky above her is the Star of the Magi—surrounded by seven smaller stars. The eight-pointed stars of hope ascend above the maiden. A bird and flowers evidence the birth of life and promise.

Divinatory Meanings: Hope. Faith. Inspiration. Bright prospects. Mixing of the past and present. Optimism. Insight. Good

omen. Spiritual love. Astrological influence. Accumulation of past knowledge for use in the present. The proper balancing of desire and work, hope and effort, love and expression. **Reverse Meanings:** Unfulfilled hopes. Bad luck. Disappointment. Lack of opportunity. Pessimism. Conclusion of an unsatisfactory business experience or social friendship. Bullheadedness. Stubbornness. Imbalance.

XVIII • THE MOON

A DOG AND A WOLF howl at the moon, which cradles a face in profile and drops the moisture of intuition and psychic knowledge. Two ominous towers rise in the background. In the foreground a crayfish rises from a pond, signifying uncontrolled manifestations of the subconscious. This card suggests the presence of envy, deception, jealousy, and prejudice in daily life. It is a card of caution and danger.

Divinatory Meanings: Disillusionment. Deception. Twilight. Caution. Obscurity. Intuition. Bad influence. Danger. Ulterior motives. Insincerity. False friends. Selfishness. Deceit. Double dealing. Craftiness. False pretenses. Disgrace. Slander. Liable. An insincere relationship. Superficiality. Unknown enemies. **Reverse Meanings:** A minor deception recognized before damage is done. Trifling mistakes. Overcoming bad temptations. Realizing gains without paying the price. Taking advantage of someone.

XIX • THE SUN

A BEAMING SUN shines down upon a naked child astride a horse. Four sunflowers represent the four elements of earth, fire, water, and air. The sun's rays shine out and touch all the earth. From the sun's rays flow strong and positive solar energies which permeate all living beings and give rise to feelings of contentment and satisfaction. This card represents the fulfillment of love and friendship.

Divinatory Meanings: Accomplishment. Satisfaction. Contentment. Favorable relationships. Love. Joy. Devotion. Engagement. A happy marriage. Pleasure in daily existence. Warmth. A good friend. Sincerity. Pleasures derived from simple things. Achievement in the arts. Liberation. **Reverse Meanings:** Unhappiness. Loneliness. Possibly a broken engagement or marriage. Cancelled plans. Triumph delayed although not necessarily completely lost. Clouded future. Lack of friendship.

XX • JUDGMENT

THIS CARD DEPICTS a winged angel blowing a trumpet. Attached to the trumpet is a banner bearing the design of a cross. Below, a family rises from shallow waters. The woman is posed with clasped hands. This card suggests the revival and reawakening of the individuals concerned, and a call to atonement for that which

is past and present. The shroud of the past is cleansed away. The deeper our emotions and sorrows, the richer our atonements and joys.

Divinatory Meanings: The need to repent and forgive. Atonement. Judgment. The moment to account for the manner in which we have used our opportunities. Rebirth. Rejuvenation. Improvement. Development. Promotion. The desire for immortality. Legal judgment in one's favor. One should carefully consider present actions as they affect other persons. **Reverse Meanings:** Indecision. Delay. Disappointment. Failure to face facts. Divorce. Procrastination. Theft. Alienation of affection.

XXI • THE WORLD

A CLOTHED FEMALE FIGURE stands within the center of an oval wreath. She holds a thin wand in each hand, symbolizing the powers she commands. Her powers are a direct result of all the efforts described in the preceding cards and of the energy of conscious and subconscious concentration. In each of the four corners of the card appears a symbolic figure from the Apocalypse. In the upper left is a man or angel and in the upper right an eagle. In the lower corners are the figures of a bull and a lion—guardians of the truth. All that has taken place before now culminates in ultimate completion. The four corners of the card suggest the four elements of air (man), water (eagle), fire (lion), and earth (bull), which are balanced to form

the basis of life on earth and the composition of each day.

Divinatory Meanings: Attachment. Completion. Perfection. Ultimate change. The end result of all efforts. Success. Assurance. Fulfillment. Capability. Triumph in undertakings. The rewards that come from hard work. Admiration of others. The outcome of events in spite of other signs. **Reverse Meanings:** Imperfection. Failure to complete the task one starts. Lack of vision. Failure. Disappointment.



THE 56 MINOR ARCANA

THE SUIT OF SWORDS

(CORRESPONDS TO SPADES)

Swords generally represent courage, force, strength, boldness, authority, aggression, and ambition. These cards indicate activity, progress, and accomplishment for good or bad, or sometimes misfortune and disaster. This is the suit of leaders and warriors.

KING OF SWORDS

THE KING OF SWORDS is cloaked and wears an armored head cover. He sits in judgment, holding unsheathed the sign of his suit. A pouncing eagle is on the back of his throne. Behind him storm clouds gather.

Divinatory Meanings: An active and determined person. Experienced. Authoritative. Controlled. Commanding. A professional man. Someone proficient in his field. Highly analytical. Justice. Force. Superiority. A person having many ideas, thoughts, and designs. **Reverse Meanings:** Cruelty. Selfishness. Conflict. Sadism. One who causes unnecessary disturbance and sadness. A dangerous or wicked person. Perversity.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

THE QUEEN OF SWORDS sits upon her throne. The upraised sword in her right hand represents a quick-witted and capable person. Her countenance is severe and preoccupied. A stormy and desolate landscape is behind her. She is one who has suffered a great loss but bears up nobly under her misfortune.

Divinatory Meanings: Sharp. Intensely perceptive. A keen person. Quick-witted. May signify a widow or woman of sadness. A subtle person. Mourning. Privation. Absence. Loneliness. Separation. One who has savored great happiness but who presently knows the anxiety of misfortune and reversal. **Reverse Meanings:** Narrow-mindedness. Bigotry. Maliciousness. Deceitfulness. Vengefulness. Prudishness. A treacherous enemy.

KNIGHT OF SWORDS

THE KNIGHT OF SWORDS, a forceful figure dressed in full armor, rides horseback, brandishing his sword. He is the defender of good and opponent of evil—a symbol of chivalry and bravery. He is courageous and good at heart. He is the forerunner of activity.

Divinatory Meanings: Bravery. Skill. Capacity. The strength and dash of a young man. Heroic action. Opposition and war. Impetuous rush into the unknown without fear. A master in the art of action and warfare. **Reverse Meanings:** Incapacity. Imprudence. Dispute or ruin over a woman. Impulsive mistakes. Conceited fool. Simplicity. Disunion.

PAGE OF SWORDS

THE PAGE OF SWORDS wears a fur hat and a regal costume with flowing cape. He clasps an upright sword in both hands.

Divinatory Meanings: Vigilance. Agility. Spying. A discreet person. An active youth. A lithe figure. This card symbolizes a person adept at perceiving, discerning, and uncovering the unknown or that which is less than obvious. The quality of insight. **Reverse Meanings:** An imposter revealed. Illness is also possible. Powerless in the face of stronger forces. Lack of preparation.

TEN OF SWORDS

A PROSTRATE FIGURE is shown pierced by the swords of his suit.

Divinatory Meanings: Ruin. Affliction. Pain. Sadness. Mental anguish. Desolation. Tears. Misfortune. Trouble. Disappointment. Grief. Sorrow. **Reverse Meanings:** Benefit. Improvement. Temporary gain or profit. Passing success. Momentary advantage.

NINE OF SWORDS

A SLEEPLESS WOMAN sits bowed in despair, oppressed by nine swords.

Divinatory Meanings: Misery. Concern. Unhappiness. Miscarriage. Anxiety over a loved one. Worry. Despair. Suffering. **Reverse Meanings:** Doubt. Slander. Gossip. Shame. Suspicion. Timidity. Reasonable fear.

EIGHT OF SWORDS

A WOMAN, BOUND and blindfolded, is surrounded by the swords of her suit.

Divinatory Meanings: Crisis. Calamity. Conflict. Domination. Imprisonment. Bad news. Turmoil. Censure. Criticism. Sickness. Calumny. **Reverse Meanings:** Treachery in the past. Difficulty. Depressed state of mind. Disquiet. Accident. Fatality.

SEVEN OF SWORDS

A YOUNG MAN escapes with five swords, while two swords remain impaled in the ground.

Divinatory Meanings: New plans. Wishes. Fortitude. Perseverance. Endeavor. Hope. Confidence. Fantasy. Partial success. **Reverse Meanings:** Arguments. Quarrels. Uncertain counsel or advice. Circumspection. Slander.

SIX OF SWORDS

A FERRYMAN carries six swords to the opposite shore.

Divinatory Meanings: A trip or journey. Travel. Voyage. Route. Headstrong attempt to overcome difficulties. Expedient manner. Success after anxiety. **Reverse Meanings:** Stalemate. Unwanted proposal. No immediate solution to present difficulties. Confession.

FIVE OF SWORDS

A SOLDIER looks with disdain at two fleeing and unarmed adversaries.

Divinatory Meanings: Conquest. Defeat. Destruction of others. Adversaries may arise. Degradation. Revocation. Infamy. Dishonor. **Reverse Meanings:** Uncertain outlook. Chance of loss or defeat. Weakness. Possible misfortune befalling a friend. Seduction.

FOUR OF SWORDS

THE EFFIGY OF A KNIGHT in the attitude of prayer rests upon a tomb.

Divinatory Meanings: Respite. Rest after illness. Repose. Replenishment. Solitude. Exile. Retreat. Temporary seclusion. Abandonment. **Reverse Meanings:** Activity. Circumspection.

Precaution. Economy. Guarded advancement.
Desire to recover what is lost.

THREE OF SWORDS

THREE SWORDS pierce an enormous red heart. Rain clouds appear in the background.

Divinatory Meanings: Absence. Sorrow. Disappointment. Strife. Removal. Dispersion. Diversion. Opposition. Separation. Delay.
Reverse Meanings: Distraction. Confusion. Disorder. Error. Mistake. Incompatibility. Mental anxieties. Loss. Alienation.

TWO OF SWORDS

A BLINDFOLDED YOUNG WOMAN balances two upraised swords.

Divinatory Meanings: Balanced force. Harmony. Firmness. Concord. Offsetting factors. Stalemate. Affection.
Reverse Meanings: Duplicity. Falsehood. Misrepresentation. Disloyalty. Treachery. False friends. Lies.

ACE OF SWORDS

A LARGE SWORD rises in the sky, a wreath encircling the blade.

Divinatory Meanings: Great determination. Initiative. Strength. Force. Activity. Excessiveness. Triumph. Power. Success. Fertility. Prosperity. Deep emotional feeling. Love. Championship. Conquest.
Reverse Meanings: Debacle. Tyranny. Disaster. Self-destruction. Violent temper. Embarrassment. Obstacle. Infertility. Hindrance.



THE SUIT OF RODS

(CORRESPONDS TO CLUBS)

Rods generally represent enterprise, growth, progress, advancement, animation, invention, and energy. These cards also represent modest and humble persons. This is the suit of laborers and workers.

KING OF RODS

THE KING OF RODS bears a noble facial expression. He holds in his right hand a flowering rod. A lion is on the back of his chair.

Divinatory Meanings: This card denotes an honest and conscientious person. Mature. Wise. Devoted. Friendly. Sympathetic. Educated. A gentleman. Generally married.
Reverse Meanings: Severity. Austerity. Dogmatic. Deliberate. Somewhat excessive and exaggerated ideas.

QUEEN OF RODS

THE QUEEN OF RODS, seated upon her throne, is dressed in beautiful robes. She has long hair cascading across her shoulders. In her right hand is a long, flowering rod. With her left hand she holds a sunflower. A cat naps in front of her.

Divinatory Meanings: A sympathetic and understanding person. Friendly. Loving. Chaste. Practical. A person possessed of charm and grace. Capable of meaningful expression and love. Gracious hostess. Sincere interest in others. **Reverse Meanings:** Jealousy. Deceit. Possible infidelity. Unstable emotions. Fickleness. Resistance.

KNIGHT OF RODS

A HANDSOME YOUNG KNIGHT of Rods is clothed in golden armor with a dragon mounted on his helmet.

Divinatory Meanings: Departure. A journey. Advancement into the unknown. Alteration. Flight. Absence. Change of residence. **Reverse Meanings:** Discord. Interruption. Unexpected change. Quarreling. Breakup of personal relationships. Rupture. Discontinuance.

PAGE OF RODS

THE PAGE OF RODS holds a flowering rod. He cups his left hand to his cheek while he shouts across the barren wasteland. A sun disk is on his chest.

Divinatory Meanings: A faithful and loyal person. An envoy. Emissary. Trusted friend. A stranger with good intentions. A consistent person. A bearer of important news. **Reverse Meanings:** Indecision in proceeding. Reluctance. Instability. Difficulty in making

decisions. A bearer of bad tidings. A person who may break your heart. Displeasure.

TEN OF RODS

A MAN IS BURDENED by the weight of ten flowering rods that he carries toward a castle.

Divinatory Meanings: Excessive pressures. Problems soon to be resolved. Striving to meet a goal or to maintain a certain level or position. Possibly using power for selfish ends. **Reverse Meanings:** Difficulties. Intrigues. Duplicity. Treachery. A traitor. Deceiver. Subterfuge. Some losses will occur.

NINE OF RODS

A TALL FIGURE with an expectant look leans upon a flowering rod. A bandage unfurls from his forehead.

Divinatory Meanings: Expectation of difficulties and changes. Awaiting tribulation. Anticipation. Hidden enemies. Deception. Discipline. Order. A pause in a current struggle. **Reverse Meanings:** Obstacles. Adversity. Problems. Delays. Displeasure. Calamity. Disaster. Barriers to overcome. Poor health.

EIGHT OF RODS

A FLIGHT of eight flowering rods soars through the open countryside.

Divinatory Meanings: Swift activity. Sudden progress or movement. Hastily made decisions. Too rapid advancement. **Reverse**

Meanings: Thorns of dispute. Jealousy. Harassment. Discord. Delay. Stagnation. Domestic quarrels.

SEVEN OF RODS

A YOUNG MAN wards off six attacking enemies by holding a flowering rod in his hands.

Divinatory Meanings: Success. Gain. Obstacles and challenges met. Overwhelming odds are surmounted. Advantage. Victory. **Reverse Meanings:** Consternation. Anxiety. Embarrassment. Indecision. Hesitancy may cause losses. Uncertainty. Perplexity. Doubt.

SIX OF RODS

A LAURELED HORSEMAN carries a flowering rod decked with a wreath while a companion walks nearby.

Divinatory Meanings: Conquest. Gain. Triumph. Good news. Advancement. Expectation. Desires realized as a result of efforts. **Reversed Meanings:** Indefinite delay. Apprehension. Fear. Disloyalty. Superficial benefit. Inconclusive gain.

FIVE OF RODS

FIVE ROWDY BOYS brandish flowering rods as if in sport or combat.

Divinatory Meanings: Unsatisfied desires. Struggle. Labor. Endeavors. Violent strife. Conflict. Obstacles. **Reverse Meanings:** Contradictions. Complexity. Involvement. Trickery. Caution against indecision.

FOUR OF RODS

A GREAT GARLAND is suspended from four flowering rods. Two young maidens clutch nosegays. In the background is a moated castle.

Divinatory Meanings: Romance. Society. Harmony. Newly acquired prosperity. Peace. Tranquility. The fruits of labor. Rest after peace. **Reverse Meanings:** Loss of full tranquility. Unfulfilled romance. Insecurity. Tarnished beauty. Incomplete happiness.

THREE OF RODS

A CALM, STATELY FIGURE, possibly a merchant, stands at a cliff's edge watching as ships return from a sea voyage.

Divinatory Meanings: Practical knowledge. Business acumen. Strength. Enterprise. Negotiations. Trade. Commerce. Undertaking. **Reverse Meanings:** Assistance with an ulterior motive. Treachery. Diminishing adversity. Beware of help offered.

TWO OF RODS

A YOUNG MAN LOOKS from a castle wall across shore and sea. He holds a globe of the world in his right hand and a flowering rod in his left hand.

Divinatory Meanings: Mature individual. Ruler. Attainment of goals and needs. Boldness. Courage in undertakings. A dominant personality. **Reverse Meanings:** Sadness. Trouble. Restraint caused by others. Loss of faith. Surprise.

ACE OF RODS

A BEAUTIFUL FLOWERING ROD stands in the foreground against radiant sunlight. A castle is on a distant hill.

Divinatory Meanings: Creation. Start of an undertaking. Beginning. Invention. Fortune. Enterprise. Gain. Inheritance. Birth of a child. Beginning of a meaningful experience. An adventure. Escapade. **Reverse Meanings:** False start. Cloudy outlook. Unrealized goal. Decadence. Empty existence. Vexation. Cancellation of plans.



THE SUIT OF CUPS

(CORRESPONDS TO HEARTS)

Cups generally represent love, happiness, gaiety, and joy. The cups hold water—a symbol of pleasure and happiness. These cards represent passions and deep feeling. This is the suit of the humane person.

KING OF CUPS

THE KING OF CUPS, with a thick beard and mustache, clasps a great cup in his right hand. In his left hand he grasps a rod of authority and knowledge. He wears a regal crown and his vestments are rich and majestic. In the background are a ship and a porpoise.

Divinatory Meanings: Responsibility and creativity. Learned person. Professional. Businessman. Religious person. Scientist. A considerate person, kind and reliable. Lawyer. Liberal manner. Artist. Interest in the arts and sciences. Generosity. **Reverse Meanings:** Artistic temperament. Double-dealing. Loss. Scandal. Ruin. Injustice. Shifty in dealings. A crafty person without virtue.

QUEEN OF CUPS

THE CROWNED QUEEN OF CUPS holds a great cup in her two hands. She is richly and majestically robed.

Divinatory Meanings: A warm-hearted and fair person. Beloved and adored. Good friend and mother. Devoted wife. Practical. Honest. Loving intelligence. Gift of vision.

Reverse Meanings: Dishonesty. Possible immorality. Dishonesty. Unreliability. Vice.

KNIGHT OF CUPS

THE KNIGHT OF CUPS rides gracefully on his horse. He balances a great cup in his right hand and appears contemplative.

Divinatory Meanings: An invitation or opportunity may soon arise. Approach. Arrival. Request. Advancement. Attraction. Inducement. Appeal. Challenge. Proposal. Proposition. **Reverse Meanings:** Subtlety. Artifice. Trickery. Deception. Fraud. A sly and cunning person. A swindler.

PAGE OF CUPS

A YOUNG PAGE of Cups holds in his right hand a large cup from which appears a fish. Ocean waves swirl behind the page.

Divinatory Meanings: A studious and intent person. Reflective. Meditative. Loyal. Willingness to offer services and efforts toward a specific goal. A helpful person. A trustworthy worker. **Reverse Meanings:** Inclination. Deviation. Susceptibility. Temporary distraction. Seduction. A flatterer.

TEN OF CUPS

A YOUNG COUPLE EMBRACE while two children frolic nearby. The man's arm is raised toward a rainbow of ten golden cups.

Divinatory Meanings: Home. Abode. Happiness. Joy. Pleasure. Peace. Love. Contentment. Good family life. Reputation. Honor. Esteem. Virtue. **Reverse Meanings:** Loss of friendship. Pettiness. Unhappiness. Family quarrel. Rage. Combat. Strife. Opposition. Difference of opinion.

NINE OF CUPS

A ROBUST MAN stands before nine cups stacked on shelves behind him.

Divinatory Meanings: Success. Material attainment. Good health. Difficulties surmounted. Advantage. Well-being. Abundance. Victory. **Reverse Meanings:** Material losses. Mistakes. Imperfections. Misplaced truth. False freedom. Opposition. Differences. Disputes.

EIGHT OF CUPS

A CLOAKED FIGURE with a wide-brimmed hat is seen fleeing. Eight neatly stacked cups are in the foreground.

Divinatory Meanings: Discontinuance of effort. Disappointment. Abandonment of previous plans. Shyness. Modesty. Abandoned success. **Reverse Meanings:** Happiness. Effort continued until full success is attained. Festivity. Joy. Gaiety. Feasting.

SEVEN OF CUPS

STRANGE VISIONS ARISE from seven cups in the clouds before a magical man.

Divinatory Meanings: Fantasy. Unrealistic attitudes. Imagination. Daydreams. Foolish whims. Wishful thinking. Illusionary success. **Reverse Meanings:** Desire. Determination. Strong willpower. A goal nearly attained. Intelligent choice. Will. Resolution.

SIX OF CUPS

TWO YOUNG CHILDREN play with three cups filled with flowers. Behind them three more cups rest on a stone wall.

Divinatory Meanings: Memories. Past influences. Things that have vanished. Childhood passed. Nostalgia. Faded images. Longing. **Reverse Meanings:** The future. Opportunities ahead. New vistas. Coming events. Plans that may fail. That which will shortly arrive.

FIVE OF CUPS

A REMORSEFUL CLOAKED FIGURE stands by three spilled cups. Behind him two full cups remain and in the distance is a castle.

Divinatory Meanings: Partial loss. Regret. Friendship without real meaning. Marriage without genuine love. Imperfection. Flaw. Inheritance. Incomplete union or partnership.
Reverse Meanings: Hopeful outlook. Favorable expectations. New alliances. Affinity. Return of an old friend. Reunion.

FOUR OF CUPS

A YOUNG MAN SEATED UNDER A TREE contemplates three cups on the grass before him, while a fourth cup, held by a hand, issues from a cloud.

Divinatory Meanings: Disappointment. Weariness. Aversion. Disgust. Unhappiness. Bitter experience. Stationary period in one's life.
Reverse Meanings: New possibilities. New relationships. New approaches to old problems. New acquaintance. New knowledge.

THREE OF CUPS

THREE YOUNG MAIDENS in a garden hold aloft three cups, as if in celebration. Garlands of flowers surround them.

Divinatory Meanings: Resolution of a problem. Conclusion. Solace. Healing. Satisfactory result. Fulfillment. Compromise.
Reverse Meanings: Excessive pleasures.

Overabundance. Superfluity. Loss of prestige. Delays. Lack of appreciation.

TWO OF CUPS

A YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN bend over two chalices. Above them is a caduceus and a lion's head with great spiritual wings.

Divinatory Meanings: Love. Friendship beginning or renewed. Passion. Union. Engagement. Understanding. Cooperation. Partnership. Marriage.
Reverse Meanings: Unsatisfactory love. Troubled relationship. False friendship. Misunderstanding. Disunion. Crossed desires. Divorce.

ACE OF CUPS

FOUR STREAMS OF WATER spring from a cup and fall into a pond where water lilies float.

Divinatory Meanings: Great abundance. Fulfillment. Perfection. Joy. Fertility. Opulence. Fullness. Happiness. Productiveness. Beauty and pleasure. Goodness overflowing. Favorable outlook.
Reverse Meanings: Change. Alteration. Erosion. Instability. Sterility. Unrequited love. Clouded joy. False heart. Inconsistency.



THE SUIT OF PENTACLES

(CORRESPONDS TO DIAMONDS)

Pentacles generally represent material and financial matters: money, occupation, material gain, business development, and so on. These cards also represent deep sensitivity and involvement. This is the suit of merchants and tradesmen.

KING OF PENTACLES

THE DARK KING of Pentacles sits upon his throne. He holds a large coin blazoned with a pentagram in his left hand. He is dressed in rich robes.

Divinatory Meanings: An experienced and successful leader. A person of character and intelligence. Business acumen. Mathematical ability. Loyal friend. Reliable marriage partner. Successful businessman. Wise investment. Ability to acquire money and valuable possessions. **Reverse Meanings:** Corruption. Using any means to achieve the desired end. Vice. Avarice. Unfaithfulness. An old and vicious man. Peril. Danger. Thriftlessness.

QUEEN OF PENTACLES

THE QUEEN OF PENTACLES holds aloft in her right hand the great coin of her suit. With her other hand she gently clasps a rabbit of fertility. She is seated in a bower of roses and fruit.

Divinatory Meanings: Prosperity and well-being. Wealth. Abundance. Luxury. Opulence. Extreme comfort. Generosity. Security. Liberty. Magnificence. Grace. Dignity. A noble soul. A wealthy person who is both generous and charitable. **Reverse Meanings:** Untrusting person. False prosperity. Suspense. Suspicion. Vicious person. Responsibilities neglected. Fear of failure.

KNIGHT OF PENTACLES

THE KNIGHT OF PENTACLES wears a horned helmet. The coin of his suit appears with him.

Divinatory Meanings: A mature and responsible person. Reliable. Methodical. Patient. Persistent. Ability to conclude a task. Laborious. Organized. Capable. Dependable. **Reverse Meanings:** Stagnation. Carelessness. Inertia. Lack of determination or direction. Narrow-mindedness. Dogmatic views. Idleness.

PAGE OF PENTACLES

A PENSIVE MAIDEN is the Page of Pentacles. She holds the symbol of her suit.

Divinatory Meanings: Deep concentration and application. Study. Scholarship. Respect for knowledge. Reflection. Desire for learning and new ideas. A do-gooder. Bearer of news. **Reverse Meanings:** An unrealistic person. Failure to recognize obvious facts. Dissipation of ideas. Illogical thinking. Rebelliousness. Wastefulness. Loss. Unfavorable news.

TEN OF PENTACLES

AN ELDERLY, bearded man pets a dog while a young boy watches. Behind them a young couple embraces. A castle appears in the distance.

Divinatory Meanings: Prosperity. Home. Family. Riches. Security. Ancestry. Inheritance. Family matters. Safety. Dwelling. **Reverse Meanings:** Poor risk. Bad odds. Possible loss. Hazard. Loss of inheritance. Dissipation. Robbery. Gambling.

NINE OF PENTACLES

A WELL-DRESSED WOMAN stands in her vineyard with a bird perched on her arm. Three arches and a castle are in the background.

Divinatory Meanings: Accomplishment. Discernment. Discretion. Foresight. Safety. Prudence. Material well-being. Love of nature. **Reverse Meanings:** Threat to safety. Roguery. Danger. Storms. Bad faith. Possible loss of a valued friendship or a treasured possession.

EIGHT OF PENTACLES

A YOUNG MAN studies intently the workmanship of a large coin blazoned with a pentagram.

Divinatory Meanings: Apprenticeship. Craftsmanship. Quickness to learn. Candor. Frankness. Modesty. Handiwork. Personal effort. **Reverse Meanings:** Lack of ambition. Vanity. Conceit. Disillusionment. Usury. Hypocrisy. Flattery. Intrigue.

SEVEN OF PENTACLES

A YOUNG MAN LEANS TIREDLY on his hoe at the end of a day's work.

Divinatory Meanings: Ingenuity. Growth. Hard work. Progress. Successful dealings. Money. Wealth. Treasure. Gain. **Reverse Meanings:** Anxiety. Impatience. Uneasiness. Imprudent actions. Loss of money. Unwise investments.

SIX OF PENTACLES

A PROSPEROUS MERCHANT weighs money in a pair of scales and distributes coins to the needy.

Divinatory Meanings: Charity. Kindness. Philanthropy. Generosity. Gratification. Gifts. Material gain. **Reverse Meanings:** Avarice. Selfishness. Envy. Jealousy. Bad debt. Unpaid loans.

FIVE OF PENTACLES

TWO MENDICANTS IN A SNOWSTORM pass before a lighted window. One is lame and both are destitute.

Divinatory Meanings: Material trouble. Destitution. Loss. Impoverishment. Failure. Error. Mistress. Lover. **Reverse Meanings:** Reversal of bad trend. New interest in matters. Overcoming ruin. Lack of harmony in love or marriage.

FOUR OF PENTACLES

A CROWNED FIGURE, with a pentacle over his crown, clasps another pentacle with his hands and arms while two pentacles rest beneath his feet.

Divinatory Meanings: Love of material wealth. Hoarder. Usurer. Skinflint. Miser. Lack of generosity. Inability to share. **Reverse Meanings:** Setbacks in material holdings. Obstacles. Suspense and delay. Opposition to further gain. Spendthrift.

THREE OF PENTACLES

A SCULPTOR IS AT WORK in a monastery. He chisels three pentacles above a stained glass window.

Divinatory Meanings: Great skill in trade or work. Mastery. Perfection. Artistic ability. Dignity. Renown. Rank. Power. **Reverse Meanings:** Sloppiness. Mediocrity. Lower quality. Money problems. Commonplace ideas. Lack of skill. Preoccupation.

TWO OF PENTACLES

A JUGGLER BALANCES two pentacles on the shore of a turbulent sea.

Divinatory Meanings: Difficulty in launching new projects. Difficult situations arising. New troubles. Embarrassment. Worry. Concern. **Reverse Meanings:** Literary ability. Agility in handling matters. Simulated enjoyment. Enforced gaiety. Letter. Message.

ACE OF PENTACLES

A LARGE PENTACLE APPEARS in the sky surrounded by golden clouds and resting upon beautiful lilies.

Divinatory Meanings: The combination of material and spiritual prosperity. Perfection. Attainment. Prosperity. Felicity. Great wealth. Riches. Bliss. Ecstasy. Valuable coins or artifacts. Treasures. Gold. **Reverse Meanings:** Prosperity without happiness. Misused wealth. Wasted money. Greed. Corruption by money. Miserliness. Fool's gold.



THE TEN-CARD SPREAD

THE TEN-CARD SPREAD is one of the most popular and effective methods of using the tarot for divination. It is a slightly altered version of the Ancient Celtic Method described by Arthur Edward Waite in *The Pictorial Key to the Tarot*.

The person seeking an answer to a question is known as the questioner or querent. The questioner sits at a table opposite the diviner and both persons maintain a serious mental attitude. The questioner must clear his mind of all thoughts except the specific question to be answered. This question is stated aloud to the diviner while the questioner simultaneously

shuffles the face down deck. The person who handles the cards impregnates them with personal magnetism and thereby creates a rapport between the subconscious and the cards. The cards may be shuffled either hand over hand or by riffing (separating the deck into two parts and riffing with the thumb so the cards are well mixed). The shuffling must be done by the person seeking an interpretation or prediction—not by the reader, interpreter, or diviner. When the questioner is satisfied with the shuffling, he or she places the deck face down in front of the diviner. The cards are always viewed from the diviner's position.

Beginning with the top card as number one, the second card as number two, and so on, the diviner turns up the first six cards, one at a time, placing them face up on the table in the sequence shown in the diagram at right.

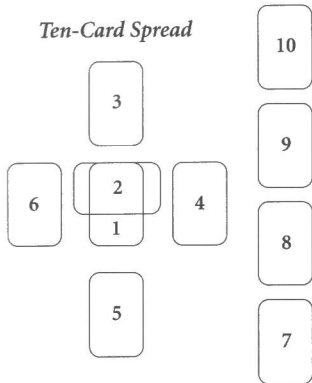
The diviner should turn the cards over from left to right thereby assuring that the cards continue to point in the same direction as when placed on the table by the questioner. The cards which face the diviner are said to be positioned for a strong, positive reading. The cards which face the questioner are said to be upside down or inverted and therefore have a weak, delayed, or even reversed meaning.

If the first card turned over by the diviner is upside down, the diviner should reverse the first card so that it is displayed upright. The

remaining nine cards should then be turned over from bottom to top in such a manner as to reverse the direction of each of these cards since the questioner may have mistakenly handed the deck upside down to the diviner.

Generally, if more than half the cards are reversed, the diviner may find a more consistent reading is obtained by returning any reversed cards to their upright position.

Ten-Card Spread



CARD NUMBER 1 • Present Position

Atmosphere in which the questioner is presently working and living. Shows the area of influence in which the questioner presently exists. *This card represents the questioner.*

CARD NUMBER 2 • Immediate Influence

Shows the nature of the influence or immediate sphere of involvement or obstacles which lie just ahead. *This card crosses the questioner.*

CARD NUMBER 3 • Goal or Destiny

The ultimate goal or destiny of the questioner. Indicates the best that can be accomplished by the questioner based on existing circumstances. This card may also represent the questioner's aim or ideal within the present frame of reference. *This card crowns the questioner.*

CARD NUMBER 4 • Distant Past Foundation

Represents the broad and basic events and influences which existed in the past and upon which the present events are based. *This card is behind the questioner.*

CARD NUMBER 5 • Recent Past Events

Shows the most recent sphere of influence or events which have passed or which are just passing. This card may represent distant past influences exerting pressure on recent events. *This card is beneath the questioner.*

CARD NUMBER 6 • Future Influence

Shows the sphere of influence that is coming into being in the near future in a broad sense. *This card is in front of the questioner.*

After reading the preceding six cards, the diviner proceeds to turn over the next four cards from the deck, placing them one above the other in a line to the right of the previous six cards, as shown in the diagram on page 45.

CARD NUMBER 7 • The Questioner

Shows the questioner in his present position or attitude within the surrounding circumstances. Attempts to place the questioner in proper perspective.

CARD NUMBER 8 • Environmental Factors

Denotes the questioner's influence on other people and his position in life. Reveals those tendencies and factors which exist with respect to other persons who may have an effect on the questioner.

CARD NUMBER 9 • Inner Emotions

Shows the inner hopes, hidden emotions and secret desires, fears, and anxieties of the questioner. Includes those thoughts which will come to the mind of the questioner in the future.

CARD NUMBER 10 • Final Result

The culmination and results which will be brought about from all of the influences as revealed by the other cards in the divination, provided events and influences continue as indicated.



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