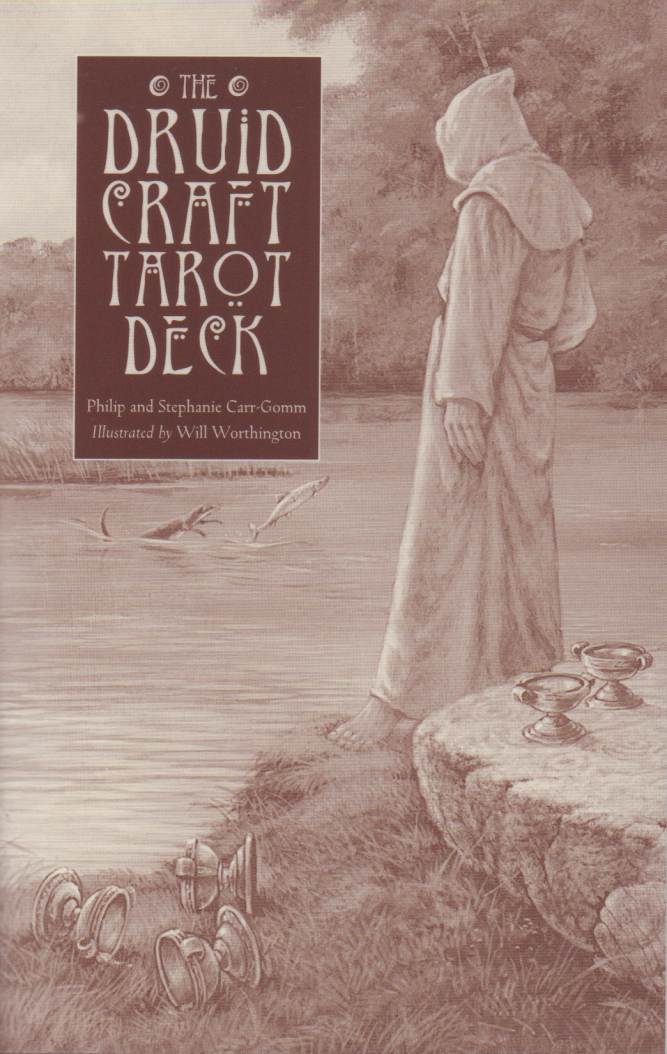


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INTRODUCTION

Human memory creates tradition just as cellular memory creates the new leaves on trees and the colour of our eyes. Imagine a tradition of almost eighty pictures, fertile with symbolism, calling to you from a world just beyond the everyday – reminding you of who you are, and of who you might become. This is the Tarot.

The Tarot deck of seventy-eight cards can be used for divination, but it is capable of so much more than this. Through its rich imagery it provides an ideal vehicle for exploring those philosophical, psychological and spiritual questions that are concerned with the purpose of our existence in the world: *Who are we, and why are we here?* The Tarot offers a path to self-knowledge, and places in our hands a tool that can help us look beneath the surface of everyday events to discern underlying causes, deeper patterns, deeper meanings.

DruidCraft: The Meeting of Wicca and Druidry

Over the centuries, the Honey'd Isle, or Merlin's Enclosure, as Britain was called, has given birth to two powerful streams of magical spirituality – Wicca and Druidry. Both seek to strengthen our connection with the natural world, while deepening our knowledge of ourselves and the mysterious universe which we inhabit. Although the ways of the Wiccan and the Druid were – and still can be – quite distinct, many people now find that they can combine the teachings and practices of both traditions, following a path that some refer to simply as the Old Ways, but which can also be called DruidCraft ('The Craft' being an alternative name for Wicca, or Witchcraft).

It is possible to combine these two ways because they often draw from the same sources of ancestral wisdom and ancient story, and hold many features in common, including a reverence

for the earth, the celebration of eight seasonal ceremonies, the use of a magic circle, and the four elements of Earth, Air, Fire and Water. In addition, both systems have flourished in modern times, strongly influenced by the Western Magical Tradition.

Both Druidry and Wicca are living spiritualities that have grown and changed over the centuries, and although much of their teaching has been forgotten, much has also been remembered, revived or reformulated for use in the modern age. Contemporary Druidism and Wicca are the result of an evolution of ideas and practices, and the same applies to the Tarot: our knowledge and use of it has evolved over time.

A key phase in the development of all three systems occurred in the nineteenth century, with the appearance of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, which succeeded in synthesizing many of the disparate strands of the Western Magical Tradition. The teachings and practices of this Order influenced the Ancient Druid Order (and, in turn, two of its members – Ross Nichols and Gerald Gardner – who went on to become seminal figures in modern Druidry and Wicca).

The teachings of the Golden Dawn resulted in the creation of three of the most influential modern Tarot decks: the Smith-Waite (Rider-Waite) deck, the Thoth deck, conceived by Aleister Crowley, and the Builders of the Adytum deck, developed by Paul Foster-Case. A quantum leap in the understanding and application of the Tarot occurred thanks to the stimulus of the Golden Dawn, and so we have drawn on this in *The DruidCraft Tarot Deck* for its intrinsic worth, and for its historical connection with the evolution of Druidry and Wicca.

Sources of Inspiration

In addition to Tarot lore deriving from the Golden Dawn stream, we have drawn on the growing body of Tarot understanding based on Pagan traditions – particularly Celtic and Druidic – which can be found in more recent decks, in particular The

Merlin Tarot, The Arthurian Tarot, The Sacred Circle Tarot and The Celtic Wisdom Tarot. The fact that so many decks find the combination of Paganism and the Tarot fruitful is in itself a manifestation of the way in which traditions evolve and grow: both the Tarot and Paganism are enriched by their meeting.

Two further strands of inspiration inform *The DruidCraft Tarot Deck*, and they stretch much further back into the past, linking us to the world of the ancient Druids and, at the same time, to ideas found in the Tarot: the teachings of Pythagoreanism, and the old tales of the Bards.

Pythagoras and Numerology

We know that, in the past, folk magicians (whose lore has fed into Wicca) used the Tarot. The ancient Druids, however, didn't use the Tarot as we know it, although they were known for their interest in divination. But we can follow a clue, given by classical authors, that may well connect the numerological symbolism found in the Tarot with the ancient Druids.

A number of writers living at the time of the ancient Druids reported that they taught Pythagoreanism, which included the mystic science of numbers. Since Pythagoras was the father of numerology, and claimed initiation into the Egyptian Mysteries, it is possible that as we study the numerological meanings inherent in the Tarot, we are hearing voices from the distant past – not only of Druid sages, but of Egyptian priests and priestesses.

The Life of Merlin and the Tales of the Bards

The Bards of old, steeped in Druid wisdom, used the power of images in order to remember their stories and paint pictures in the minds of their listeners. Many of these images would have conveyed the same archetypal ideas that the Tarot depicts (R. J. Stewart, in *The Merlin Tarot*, suggests that some of the

images found in twelfth-century texts on the life of Merlin could be considered as early Tarot images). It is quite possible that the Tarot began life as part of a sacred oral culture – as pictures not on card, but in the minds of storytellers and their listeners.

The Story of Ceridwen and Taliesin

One of the old tales that has most influenced modern Druidry and Wicca is that of Taliesin and the Goddess Ceridwen, who lived in Wales, in the mountains of Snowdonia. Ceridwen had two children: a girl, who was beautiful, and a boy, who was ugly. She decided that although her son didn't have good looks, he could at least have wisdom.

In the books of the mystical alchemists known as the Fferyllt, she found a recipe for gaining that wisdom in the form of an elixir which had to be prepared in a cauldron. She chose an old blind man and a boy, named Gwion, to tend the fire beneath the cauldron. But just as the elixir was ready, its vital first three drops were tasted accidentally not by her ugly son, but by Gwion. Ceridwen chased after him, but he escaped by turning into a hare, so she transformed herself into a greyhound. When she was about to catch the hare, Gwion turned into a fish; Ceridwen then gave chase as an otter and, once again, was about to catch Gwion when he turned into a bird at the last moment, so she changed into a hawk. Gwion made one final transformation just before he was caught, changing into a grain of wheat, only this time he was eaten by Ceridwen, who had turned herself into a hen.

Nine months later the Goddess Ceridwen gave birth to a baby boy, whom she placed in a leather bag and set adrift on the ocean. The bag floated into the mouth of the river Conway and was found by a man called Elphin, who became his foster father. Elphin named the child Taliesin, meaning 'Radiant Brow'. Taliesin grew to become the finest Bard in the land.

The Alchemical Wedding – The Great Rite

Encoded in this story is an entire curriculum of teaching showing us how we can find and fully express our creative selves in the world. At the heart of this process lies the dance of God and Goddess, the interplay of masculine and feminine forces, depicted by Ceridwen and Gwion in this story. A number of scholars, including Robert Graves and the composer Michael Tippett, have found the chase between the two main characters in the story to be both spiritual and erotic, with their final union resulting in the creation of an enlightened being.

Through the story of Taliesin, and the study of other ancient tales, and from an understanding of the symbolism and purpose of the ancient stone monuments in Britain, we can discern among the roots of Druidry and Wicca the ancient archetypal concept of God and Goddess uniting in love to create the world. Many Druids and Wiccans view the interplay of these two forces to be central to creation, often referring to them, or their source, as God and Goddess.

The theme of two forces that cyclically unite and separate is central to the Tarot too: in the Major Arcana we see them depicted as The Lord and The Lady, and as The High Priestess and The High Priest. We see them uniting in The Lovers, and we see their union occurring in a deeper way in The Fferyllt. We see the necessity for separation in The Tower and Death, and the results of union in Rebirth and The World. In addition, The Magician, Justice and The Star also depict the theme of two forces or worlds, and the ways in which they interact.

Now we can see that the relationship between the Tarot and DruidCraft is not only historical, through influences such as the Golden Dawn and Pythagoreanism, but philosophical. They share the same fundamental metaphysical understanding of life, which is why it feels such a natural development to introduce symbolism from the story of Ceridwen and Taliesin into both the Major and Minor Arcana.

The Cycle of the Seasons and the Mystery of Time

Out of this shared metaphysical understanding comes the belief that from the union of God and Goddess, depicted within the 'Inner Mysteries' of the Major Arcana, the universe is born into the world of time and space, depicted in the cards of the Minor Arcana (the 'Outer Mysteries'). Here, the pip cards travel from the moment of the year's birth at the Winter Solstice through the journey of the seasons, while the court cards depict the sixteen different personality types that the soul can use to function in the outer world.

To explore this further, try placing the twenty-two cards of the Major Arcana in a circle to depict the life and journey of the soul. Then create a circle of the forty pip cards around it to depict the life and journey of the earth around the sun. And there you can see two circuits: of the inner and outer worlds, of Self and Circumstances, of Soul and the World. Then create a third circle of the sixteen court cards between them, and you will see the sixteen personality types delineated by the Tarot – the sixteen ways through which the inner and outer worlds can meet within the human being.

By laying the cards out in this way you can see how your everyday consciousness functions within the second ring of sixteen cards. You can turn inward to the circle of twenty-two cards to explore the inner life of your soul, or outward to the circle of forty cards to explore the events and progress of your life in 'time'.

Understood in this way, the Tarot becomes more than simply a tool to divine the unfolding pattern of our lives in the outer world. Rather, it offers us the opportunity to observe the workings of our own soul and the ways in which this affects, and is influenced by, the workings of the world. We experience the truth expressed by the poet Novalis when he said:

'Visible and Invisible, two worlds meet in man.'

THE OUTER MYSTERIES

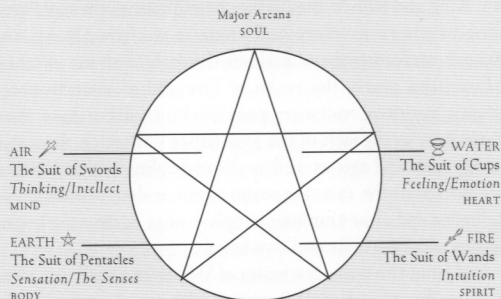
THE MINOR ARCANNA

The seventy-eight cards of the Tarot are divided into two groups: the fifty-six cards of the Minor Arcana and the twenty-two cards of the Major Arcana. Most books on the Tarot begin by explaining the Majors, and then the Minors. The problem with this approach is that the Major Arcana images, and the ideas they convey, are so powerful that it is often hard for us to then give the same attention to a study of the meanings of the Minor cards. And even the names, 'Major' and 'Minor', suggest – quite wrongly – that the Minors should indeed come in second place.

The bird which signifies the Druid is not the eagle, or some other large and impressive bird, but the wren – the smallest and humblest of birds, known as *Druï-en* in Welsh. This serves to illustrate the idea that the smallest, or apparently least significant, has great meaning and power, and so we have decided to follow *Druï-en*'s example, presenting the apparently smallest and 'humblest' cards first: the sixteen court cards, followed by the forty pip cards, which together make up the fifty-six cards of the Minor Arcana. In reality, both the Major and Minor Arcana are vital and integral to the Tarot working as a system, and we can legitimately study the cards in any number of different ways. But if we pause to look at the meaning of the terms 'Minor' and 'Major' Arcana, we learn that they come from the Latin, and mean the 'Lesser' and 'Greater' Secrets. This hints at the idea of the Lesser and Greater Mysteries of the ancient Pagan Mystery schools in which the candidate entered first the Outer, or Lesser, Mysteries, and only then entered the Inner, or Greater, Mysteries.

Both Druidry and Wicca are Mystery Schools – traditions that involve initiations of increasing depth as the candidate moves from the Outer to the Inner Mysteries – and for this reason it makes a great deal of sense to approach the Mysteries of the Tarot in the same way. By developing your knowledge of the cards' meanings using the sequence presented in this book, you may have a very real sense of slowly penetrating to the heart of the Mysteries. In this way the journey of learning about the cards becomes part of the journey of your own spiritual development.

The Relationship of the Major and Minor Arcana to the Self



The Minor Arcana is organized into four suits, which correspond to the four traditional elements used in Wicca and Druidry, astrology, alchemy and the Western Magical Tradition: Earth, Air, Fire and Water. Minor Arcana cards that appear in a reading may indicate people, events,

learning or challenges, but they can also relate to the needs and expressions of the four aspects of the human being associated with the elements, while cards from the Major Arcana often relate to the development and experience of the soul through life.

The Court Cards

Imagine four tribes, four families, converging from four different directions to arrive at the mead-hall of Tara, or at the great circle of Stonehenge, or for a celebration in a forest grove or beside a coven hearth. Each family of mother and father, son and daughter, comes from one of the cardinal directions: north, south, east and west. This gathering of sixteen people represents sixteen personality types – sixteen facets of that single mysterious entity: the human being.

The Sixteen Personality Types of the Tarot

From the north, the realm of Earth and of Pentacles, come practical, earthy, sensuous people: the older and younger man, King and Prince, mediating these qualities through masculine psyches; the older and younger woman, Queen and Princess, mediating these qualities through feminine psyches.

From the south, the realm of Fire and of Wands, come dynamic, intuitive, visionary people who mediate these characteristics – as do each of the four tribes – through the qualities of youth and age, as well as the masculine and feminine.

Then, from the east, the realm of Air and of Swords, come intelligent and clear-thinking people – once again, two young and two old, two male and two female.

And from the west, the realm of Water and of Cups, come sensitive, heartfelt people – again, with youth and age, the God and the Goddess manifest in their beings.

Just as each family has members who are young and old, male and female, so each of us possesses the qualities of age and youth, mature wisdom and childlike innocence, and masculinity and femininity too. The modern paths of Wicca and Druidry regard an acceptance and development of all these qualities in ourselves as one of the goals of the spiritual quest, and working with the sixteen different court cards can help in this process.

Finding the Court Card that Represents You

Take the sixteen court cards and lay them out in front of you. Imagine them as these four tribes, four families, that are gathering. Try placing them in a circle, with the Cups family to your left, the Swords to your right, the Pentacles on the top of the circle, and the Wands on the bottom arc. Look at the images of these sixteen people, and then (without thinking too much, thus allowing yourself to be guided by your intuition) just ask yourself which best represents you at the moment. You might then find it interesting to read the description of this card in the book, to see if it offers an accurate sketch of your character, or an insight into an issue you are currently dealing with. You could do the same for other people: your partner, family and friends.

Regardless of which card you initially picked, if you find that – on reading the descriptions – one of the other personality types seems to describe you accurately, you might sometimes wish to use this card as the ‘anchor’ or ‘significator’ to represent yourself in a reading, taking it out of the deck before shuffling and placing it in the position indicated in a spread. Try this from time to time, but remember that if you do this your deck will be short of this card, and your spread might need to show the card in another position – either to indicate you or perhaps to indicate another meaning.

Character Types and Ways of Interacting with the World

If you place The Fool in the centre of the circle, to symbolize your Essential Self or Soul, the sixteen court cards can then be seen to represent sixteen different facets of this one core self. From a psychological perspective we can see these as different character formations, personae or sub-personalities, or we can see them forming a scheme similar to that of astrology: instead of twelve sun-sign types, we have sixteen Tarot personality types (which can be related to the sixteen types described by

14 one of psychology's most insightful personality tests: the Myers-Brigg Type Indicator).

One or two of the sixteen types will tend to most accurately reflect our personality, but the other cards will show us aspects of ourselves that are latent – ones which await development, or are repressed by us. These latent qualities might seem quite alien because they are living in the shadow-side of our psyches at present. Another equally fruitful way of looking at these sixteen types is to see them less as distinct character or personality types, and more as styles of interaction that we adopt with others and the world – the games we play as our unconscious needs and aims are mediated by our conscious minds.

As you study each one in turn, reading its meaning, tuning in to the image, or learning more about it from other books, you will build an awareness of these sixteen types and will be able to identify people as being representatives. Your partner, for example, may be dynamic and fiery – a King or Queen of Wands; your daughter, on the other hand, may be a deeply sensitive and emotional person, like the Princess of Cups. In addition to identifying yourself and others, try to see if you can locate all the types within your soul. At this time in your life, or perhaps for all of your life, you will be a Prince of Swords, for example, but try to uncover parts of yourself that are like the other characters too. In this way you are developing your self, elaborating your being. To aid this process, you might choose one card a week, and over the next sixteen weeks try to develop each card's positive qualities in your being by inviting it to become your teacher and ally.

How to Interpret the Court Cards

When using the court cards in a reading, they can either represent you, another person or a particular event. Which of these three interpretations you should apply depends upon

their position in the spread, and their relationship with the other cards in the reading. This will take some practice to learn, and in the meantime the interpretations in the book can guide you. But learning the meanings of all sixteen cards is easier than it might first appear. 15

The key lies in knowing the characteristics, associations and meanings of the concepts of Male and Female – one of the central themes of the Tarot, of Druidry and Wicca, and of alchemy and Taoism too. These concepts include – but go beyond – gender: the Taoist ideas of Yin and Yang are perhaps the best known and best articulated. In Wicca, these same characteristics are often labelled as coming from the God and the Goddess. As you develop an increasingly clear understanding of the differences between the two forces, you will be able to see them as manifesting through eight of the court cards respectively: the male energy through the four Kings and four Princes, and the female through the Queens and Princesses.

A further level of interpretation will become available to you when you consider the differences between youth and age. The sixteen cards can, again, be seen as two sets of eight – the youthful Princes and Princesses, in distinction to the older Kings and Queens. The qualities of youthful exuberance can be both charming and innocent, but also immature and inexperienced, while the qualities of adult maturity can bring both wisdom and consideration, but also cynicism and disillusionment.

Now you can look at any of the sixteen cards and interpret them in the light of their gender and age. Once you apply a third category of interpretation, you will have a very good grasp of each card's meaning.

This third category is the foundation-stone of the Minor Arcana (and also forms the building blocks that lie at the heart of Druidry and Wicca). Each suit represents one of the

16 four traditional elements: Pentacles for Earth, Cups for Water, Wands for Fire, and Swords for Air. The psychologist Jung, drawing on ideas that originate deep in the past, at the very roots of the Western Magical Tradition, developed a way of categorizing personality types based on these four elements: Earth represents personalities that are practical and sensuous; Water, those who are sensitive and emotional; Air, those who are analytical and logical; and Fire, those who are intuitive and dynamic.

It is no surprise to learn that he was fascinated by alchemy and religion, which is why his thinking has helped the development of modern-day spirituality and has influenced Druidry and Wicca, both of which have strong alchemical themes running through them.

The Pip Cards

In addition to the sixteen court cards, the Minor Arcana contains forty pip cards, numbered one (Ace) to ten in each of the four suits. Here we see the sixteen different personality types operating in circumstances and situations, and sometimes in qualities of life, rather than in the character and psychology of particular individuals. The characteristics of each element are combined with the qualities of the numbers one to ten, to create forty different combinations. The meanings associated with the numbers are derived from the esoteric discipline of numerology, which was central to the teachings of Pythagoras, and from an understanding of numbers as archetypes, an idea explored by the psychologists Carl Jung and Marie-Louise von Franz.

Pamela Colman Smith was one of the first artists to paint individual scenes for each of the pip cards, based on A. E. Waite's and her own knowledge of the Order of the Golden Dawn's teachings on Tarot symbolism. Both modern Druidry and Wicca have strong links with this stream of the Western

Magical Tradition, and for this reason many of the images for the pip cards offered in *The DruidCraft Tarot Deck* are based on her designs. 17

The Court Cards and the Three Keys of Interpretation

If you apply the understanding of gender, age and element to the court cards, you will have all three keys necessary for a full interpretation of the sixteen cards. Try picking up the Princess of Cups, for example. Look at the card for a moment, and then think of the three levels: she is female, young and from the suit of Cups, and thus associated with the element of Water. Put the qualities of youthfulness, of the feminine and of water together, and you have it! Try another card – the King of Pentacles. He represents a personality type made up of the characteristics symbolized by the masculine, age and Earth. Suddenly it becomes easy, and you can go through each card doing this. Just remember, however, that although a card may indicate a person of that age or gender, this may not always be the case: the King of Pentacles could represent a young woman, for example, who has the characteristics of this personality type.

Once you understand what each card represents as a character type, it will be easier to understand how, in certain positions in a reading, these may represent events. Falling in love, for instance, might be represented by the Princess of Cups, with its associations with youthful innocence, openness to feelings and qualities of feminine nurturing.

With time, you will be able to expand and develop your understanding of the meaning of each card beyond the information we have presented here. Whereas we have given the pip cards and Major Arcana cards 'messages' to convey their essential meaning, we have not done this for the court cards, since they primarily represent personality types, whose characteristics are best described by the keywords.

Similarly, three keys are needed to interpret the pip cards: a knowledge of the meaning of each of the four elements; a knowledge of the numerological meaning of the numbers one to ten; and a knowledge of certain traditional meanings that have accrued to the pip cards over time. Applying the first two keys to decipher the meaning of the Five of Cups, for example, you simply need to combine the numerological meaning of the number five with an understanding of how this would be mediated through the element of Water. But in addition, it would prove helpful to study the traditional interpretations offered for this card, found here and in other books.

To begin your exploration of the pip cards, you may wish to lay out all forty cards in a circle, with the Pentacles at the top of the circle, the Swords on the right-hand side, Wands on the bottom arc, and Cups on the left-hand side. Each suit should be laid out in sequence from one to ten. By looking at the images you will see that they follow the progress of the seasons, and therefore of the eightfold wheel of the Druid and Wiccan year. The Swords represent spring, the Wands summer, the Cups autumn, and the Pentacles winter. The Aces fall at the solstices and equinoxes, and the Sixes at the cross-quarter festival times of Imbolc and Beltane, Lughnasadh and Samhain.

Although one way to present the pip cards here would be to follow this sequence of Swords through to Pentacles for each number, to echo the seasonal movement from spring to winter, we have instead chosen to use the traditional sequence of Wands, Cups, Swords and Pentacles, since this offers another level of meaning. Fire (Wands) is seen as generating the initial impulse, which then moves to Water (Cups) for emotional depth, and on to Air (Swords) for intellectual development, before being realized in the world in Earth (Pentacles).

To fully appreciate the meaning of any of the pip cards, read both the upright and reverse meanings given, and consult the table below for the keywords associated with the number of the card.

Listed below are the keywords associated with the Minor Arcana.

The Princesses	<i>Potential, beginnings, exploration, study</i>
The Princes	<i>Action, impulse to serve, journeys</i>
The Queens	<i>Creativity, compassion, awareness, nurturing</i>
The Kings	<i>Social responsibility, power, success, accomplishment</i>
The Aces	<i>Gifts, beginnings, potential, promise</i>
The Twos	<i>Relationship, choice, experience</i>
The Threes	<i>Creativity, expression, synthesis, fulfilment</i>
The Fours	<i>Structure, security, stability, the material world, limitation</i>
The Fives	<i>Crisis, transformation, health, challenge</i>
The Sixes	<i>Balance, integration, union, harmony</i>
The Sevens	<i>Magic, spirituality, research</i>
The Eights	<i>Abundance, manifestation, diligence, harvest</i>
The Nines	<i>Completeness, idealism, leadership</i>
The Tens	<i>Culmination, beginning</i>



PRINCESS OF WANDS

KEYWORDS *Enthusiastic • Energetic • Inventive*



Meaning Your outgoing side • A dynamic person who will inspire your involvement in creative projects • An initial interest in a project or relationship • A communication relating to the beginning of a venture • A faster pace of life.

Reverse meaning A confused or indecisive individual • Disrupted communications or delayed journeys. • Reconnecting to your sources of energy • Resolving difficulties that are causing confusion or blockages • A child who has literacy problems or difficulties such as hyperactivity or attention-deficit disorder.



PRINCESS OF CUPS

KEYWORDS *Sensitive • Tender • Imaginative*



Meaning An opportunity to follow your dreams • The beginning of a project • Good news • The arrival of a new soul in the world – the birth of a baby • The beginning of a loving relationship • A sensitive, loving and imaginative young person.

Reverse meaning Romantic desires may have clouded your reason and intuition • Emotional confusion • If you feel yourself being drawn into a new relationship, make sure you're centred, clear-headed and calm • You may not be heeding the advice of your intuition • Listen to your heart and to Nature.

PRINCESS OF SWORDS

KEYWORDS *Inquisitive • Objective • Aloof*



Meaning May represent you, someone you know or with whom you are communicating • Someone with good communication skills and verbal diplomacy who enjoys intellectual challenges and team sports • Good conversation • A new impulse to learn and grow • A fresh viewpoint.

Reverse meaning Detachment • A tendency to survey life from a distance, seeing life as a curiosity to be observed, rather than as an activity in which to joyously participate • The disparagement of others • Prying into or spying on others' lives.



PRINCESS OF PENTACLES

KEYWORDS *Studious • Self-reliant • Good-natured*



Meaning Potential for a new creative phase – try meditating on the seeds of your creative project that lie in the past and on your vision of them in the future • Happy news about a family member or friend • Good news about money, investments, property or work (likely to be relatively small sums or gains).

Reverse meaning After a period of study or effort, reward yourself with some well-earned relaxation • Relaxation can turn into laziness and an avoidance of the effort required in getting back to work – balance work with play • Small financial losses.

PRINCE OF WANDS

KEYWORDS *Passionate • Eager • Rebellious*



Meaning Enthusiasm for new ideas • Enjoying travel and adventure • Relishing challenges and meeting new people • A need to work on reliability, attention to detail, commitment • May indicate moving house, putting ideas into action, or meeting interesting people.

Reverse meaning Lacking energy to put ideas into action • Reckless or thoughtless behaviour • A liar, a bully or a heartless lover

• Someone unable to control their temper • Avoiding passion, excitement and adventure • Journeys may be delayed • Endless procrastination.



PRINCE OF CUPS

KEYWORDS *Idealistic • Empathic • Romantic*



Meaning Someone following their heart must try to avoid the pitfalls of illusion and glamour • A conflict between the heart and the need to take action • Inviting others to a social or artistic event • Offering your help to others • An impending journey over water.

Reverse meaning Deception, hiding, or emotional dishonesty • If you are hiding something from yourself or from others, it

may be time to 'come out of the closet' • Becoming overly concerned with your own feelings • A strong connection to the world of dreams • Artistic or poetic inspiration.

PRINCE OF SWORDS

KEYWORDS *Intelligent • Articulate • Impetuous*



Meaning A radical change in your lifestyle or your routine: new friends may appear, or a whole new life may open up for you • Impending air travel.

Reverse meaning You may need to take care that you are not reacting inappropriately to a situation – you may need to step back and slow down • An aggressive and destructive person, or someone who is simply deluded • Someone who is not to be trusted – a con-man or someone who will abuse confidences or any money you entrust with them • The disruption of travel plans.



PRINCE OF PENTACLES

KEYWORDS *Practical • Realistic • Sensuous*



Meaning A practical, patient and methodical approach to a project may be needed • These qualities may need to be used in order to improve your health through exercise and nutrition • An impending overland journey.

Reverse meaning Someone who is preoccupied with material ambitions, and too focused on acquisitions or on their own health • An obsession with exercise, sport or body-building • Tiredness and apathy • A necessary turning within – a period of introspection and apparent inactivity to unearth the 'gold' hidden deep in the self.

QUEEN OF WANDS

KEYWORDS *Dynamic • Confident • Strong-willed*



Meaning A calling to voluntary or charitable work, or to working with the powers of the land – particularly those related to the ‘fire in the earth’ of dragon, or ley, lines.

Reverse meaning A destructive person who limits the freedom of others, and whose behaviour is ruled by jealousy, possessiveness and manipulation • Your plans and ambitions may be thwarted at present – possibly by someone who is jealous of you, or because you are being overbearing or manipulative • Learning how to use one’s own will-power skilfully and without guile.



QUEEN OF CUPS

KEYWORDS *Loving • Maternal • Intuitive*



Meaning May signify you, your mother, a therapist, or a woman who inspires love in you, and stirs the depths of your emotional nature • The profession of acting or the world of theatre and film • Work in the field of relationship counselling and healing.

Reverse meaning An inability to find healing can lead to emotional dependency and manipulateness • Failure to find happiness • A difficult companion who seems to be impossible to help • The danger of alienating yourself from others through your emotional insecurity.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

KEYWORDS *Independent • Graceful • Analytical*



Meaning A need to be objective • An intellectual endeavour • Success in communications, exams, writing, politics or debates.

Reverse meaning Your experience of sorrow may have hardened your heart • Rather than gaining wisdom, you may have become overly critical • Denying yourself intellectual development or career success • You may still draw wisdom rather than bitterness from your experiences • Deceit, loneliness, or difficulties relating to divorce, separation or death • Work is needed to achieve discrimination and decisiveness.



QUEEN OF PENTACLES

KEYWORDS *Generous • Patient • Pragmatic*



Meaning You may need to care for your body, your finances or possessions, or your land or property • Your relationship with the land and the earth • Perhaps you need to treat yourself to some sensual pleasures.

Reverse meaning Difficulty trusting in yourself and in life • The ability to flow with the natural rhythm of the earth and her seasons may have been lost – embrace the eight seasonal festivals and spend time outside • Obsessive materialism – develop greater trust in your own self, and try to attune to the rhythms of Nature and her seasons.

KING OF WANDS

KEYWORDS *Resolute • Enquiring • Optimistic*



Meaning A windfall or negotiations, particularly involving financial arrangements associated with marriage or divorce • Property settlements, charities, trusts, or arts-project funding • A need to express ideas, make important decisions, set goals, or seek a guiding vision.

Reverse meaning A person or attitude in which the fiery dynamism and other qualities of the King have become tempered • Someone who uses their will to manipulate others • An individual whose inner fire has been dampened by difficult experiences • A warning against the dangers of obsessive behaviour.



KING OF CUPS

KEYWORDS *Tolerant • Sincere • Compassionate*



Meaning A spiritual, therapeutic or cultural project • Music and the performing arts, publishing, artistic endeavours and exhibitions.

Reverse meaning A partner may be confused and unable to commit • Someone who is unable to control powerful currents of emotion • Someone who has failed to use their creative abilities, and whose love of fantasy has turned into escapism – in extreme cases, this can result in alcoholism or drug abuse • You may need to take steps to avoid depression or self-destructive behaviour.

KING OF SWORDS

KEYWORDS *Intellectual • Decisive • Discriminating*



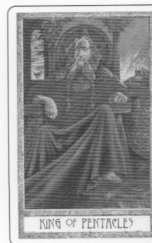
Meaning Positive and helpful advice – particularly legal or financial • A need for intellectual honesty, justice or discipline • You may need to make a decision based on facing facts – and possibly making a sacrifice.

Reverse meaning The corrupt and heartless use of power • An unscrupulous person who deliberately withholds information from you • Communicating in a hurtful, scheming or slanderous manner • Negative financial or legal advice • Dissatisfaction with authoritarianism, resulting in militancy or political protest.



KING OF PENTACLES

KEYWORDS *Responsible • Steadfast • Productive*



Meaning You may experience an improvement in your finances or material circumstances • The steady progress and success of a business, project or career • A traditional, established organization or profession.

Reverse meaning The steady dependability of the King turns into inflexibility or obstinacy • Complete rejection of materialistic values, or corrupt use of them • An inability to be successful with finances • In relationships, a need for security can turn to jealousy • Failure to truly listen to others • Insufficient funding for a project.

ACE OF WANDS

KEYWORDS *Conception • Birth • Initiative • Creative energy*



Meaning The gift of creative energy is within your grasp • The qualities of the element of Fire – enthusiasm, energy, vitality, intuition – may all be enhanced in your life • Taking the initiative • The completion or fulfilment of a project or creative endeavour • Conception or the birth of a child.

Reverse meaning You may be feeling blocked or lacking in energy • You may be frustrated by the feeling that creative fire is eluding you • You might be aware of a sense of barrenness, rather than potential, but this will pass.



ACE OF CUPS

KEYWORDS *Love • Inspiration • Fruitful dreaming • Blessing*

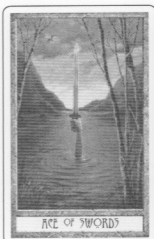


Meaning The beginning or deepening of a relationship • Creative inspiration • Time to open yourself to the many warm and nurturing relationships with which you are blessed • The gift of the Holy Grail – the blessing, inspiration and love of the Goddess.

Reverse meaning Creativity and deeper feelings may elude you at this time • Feeling drained of energy or lacking inspiration • You might reject an offer of friendship, or distance yourself from something that will disturb you emotionally; this could have a positive or negative effect.

ACE OF SWORDS

KEYWORDS *Clarity • Success • Clean break*



Meaning The opportunity to cut yourself free from outdated or negative attachments • The beginning of a phase of productive intellectual work • Triumph in legal or academic fields, or in literature or science • A clean break that heralds a new beginning.

Reverse meaning You may have cut yourself off from someone or something with insufficient attention to your emotions, or you may feel cut off in this way by someone else • Judgements may go against you, or your efforts in a certain direction may not succeed, but now is not the time to force things.



ACE OF PENTACLES

KEYWORDS *Financial gain • Material benefits • Deep peace*



Meaning Material benefits • A job offer, promotion or salary increase, or an inheritance or windfall • A new contract or a career change could augur well • In a relationship, a situation that is well grounded: secure, peaceful and enduring.

Reverse meaning There is a danger of greed in which the good fortune of becoming wealthy no longer serves your true interests • Financial loss • You may need to let go of your attachment to money, or look deeper for the true source of wealth, which lies in the depths of the soul.

TWO OF WANDS

KEYWORDS *Creative tension • Doorway • Exploration*

Meaning The energy and potential of a partnership • Allowing the relationship between two ideas, projects or feelings to unfold and open up new areas of possibility • Although you are satisfied that you have everything you need, you may also long for more • You may be searching for deeper meaning, or contemplating taking a journey.

Reverse meaning The sudden release of tension • A miracle may occur, a sudden unforeseen change – probably joyful – or a decision may be made in a moment that resolves a long period of tension.



TWO OF CUPS

KEYWORDS *Love • Healing • Meeting of hearts • Reconciliation*

Meaning The power and experience of love • Creative blessings that result from the meeting of hearts • A romantic relationship, or any meeting of hearts, minds and souls • The union of opposites or polarities • Using the power of love to heal, to engender co-operation or to effect reconciliation.

Reverse meaning The happy course of a relationship may be temporarily or permanently disrupted. You should perhaps avoid making any decisions yet – love and relationships need to be lived through, whatever direction they take us in.

TWO OF SWORDS

KEYWORDS *Dilemma • Opposition • Procrastination*

Meaning You may bring about a temporary reconciliation. Eventually, the storm clouds will break and the conflict will be resolved • You may be struggling with a dilemma • A need for diplomacy, negotiation and integrity • Knowing when to confront, when to decide, and when to placate, calm or compromise.

Reverse meaning Conflict may be required, but acting on impulse should be avoided • You may feel torn in two, but the tension might soon be resolved • A sense of lies and deceit, but the truth will out soon • An inclination to disturb what you feel is an artificial truce.



TWO OF PENTACLES

KEYWORDS *Balance • Trust • Playfulness*

Meaning A need to seek balance in your life requires trust and playfulness rather than concentration or caution • Material wealth and practical matters • Juggling two or more jobs, homes or demanding relationships • Juggling a number of factors in your life may be a joy for you, rather than a burden.

Reverse meaning You may be in danger of losing money, energy or goodwill • Difficulty finding balance in your life, or in setting goals or being self-disciplined • Crossing the line that separates being carefree from being careless.

THREE OF WANDS

KEYWORDS *Enterprise • Confidence • Realizing goals*

Meaning Your hard work begins to bear fruit, particularly in business, communications, writing or invention • A good time for long-term planning or bringing three factors together in order to launch a project • Favourable financial returns • Productive ideas • Realizing long-term dreams and goals.

Reverse meaning If your dreams or plans haven't materialized, ask yourself if they would have been for the greatest good • The death of a dream may allow a new one to be born from its ashes • You could be turning away from the future in order to examine the past.



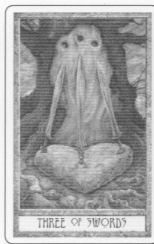
THREE OF CUPS

KEYWORDS *Celebration • Friendship • Gifts*

Meaning A time for celebration • There may be a specific event such as a marriage or birth • Take the time to enjoy the pleasures of friendship • Joy and energy • Receiving help or gifts • The end of a difficult or exhausting period in your life • Success in the arts.

Reverse meaning Even pleasure and celebration can be overdone – perhaps you have partied enough for a while • Maybe you are in danger of spending too much money • You may need to pay attention to your inner needs, to see what it is that is driving you towards excess.

THREE OF SWORDS

KEYWORDS *Heartache • True growth • Wisdom from suffering*

Meaning Suffering can lead to greater wisdom • Heartache, out of which can come healing and emotional maturity • The potential for true growth and transformation • We can learn and grow from conflicts and difficulties, rather than feel victimized by them.

Reverse meaning Old wounds may be mending • Finally conflict may be resolved and peace restored in an atmosphere of healing • Let go of sorrow, or clear the air in a dispute, accepting your part in the quarrel • A warning of chaos or difficulties • You may be in denial over feelings of jealousy or sorrow.



THREE OF PENTACLES

KEYWORDS *Increase • Craft • Skill • Appreciation*

Meaning Work flourishes as you build on previous efforts • The skilled use of matter and intelligence to create works of beauty and value • Financial rewards or appreciation following a long period of apprenticeship • Work may still need to be done but support is at hand.

Reverse meaning Laziness or fear of taking action may impede the completion of a project • Unemployment or a difficult employer • A need to focus on excellence rather than on simply finishing • Something hidden may be undermining your efforts, but unearthing these concealed dynamics could be fruitful and enlightening.

FOUR OF WANDS

KEYWORDS *Hearth and home • Harvest • Celebration*

Meaning A situation of ease, comfort and deep satisfaction • Reaping the rewards of hard work • Acquiring a new home or making home improvements • Successfully launching a new project or completing a phase of work • Celebrating achievements • Your dynamism or energy may be frustrated or limited by your home, your routine or your life. Try to accept and enjoy your circumstances.

Reverse meaning Delays, or a break in your work • You may have forgotten how truly blessed you are; spend a while thinking about all you've achieved • Relax and take pleasure in life.



FOUR OF CUPS

KEYWORDS *Fallow period • Stagnation • Limitation*

Meaning Lacking inspiration or excitement • Time to lie fallow, to allow your creative juices to replenish • Beware of ignoring a gift or opportunity through indifference or laziness • Feeling stuck in a rut – this may pass in due course • Developing a structure out of a world born of imagination and feelings.

Reverse meaning New opportunities, which you're likely to welcome • You may be keen to enter a new period of your life • Fears of losing security are without foundation • A dread of being alone • Inappropriate relationships • Staying in a relationship that needs to end.

FOUR OF SWORDS

KEYWORDS *Retreat • Rest • Solace*

Meaning You may have been through a period of conflict or intense work, and now you are seeking solace and respite • Time to focus on spiritual practices that revitalize the soul • You may need to reassess where you stand, and organize your future plans • Rest or convalescence • The value of meditation.

Reverse meaning A period of isolation ends • Becoming active again following an illness • With care and attention you can emerge successfully from financial losses, illness or personal difficulties • An ability to channel material from the Otherworld back into this world.



FOUR OF PENTACLES

KEYWORDS *Building wealth • Rootedness • Security*

Meaning Financial planning • Building a business • Using the power of Earth wisely will ensure a strong foundation • A preoccupation with accumulation may be to protect yourself from feelings of inner loss and inadequacy • Loss of compassion • Withholding affection in relationships • Greed and miserliness • A sense of safety, security and inner strength.

Reverse meaning Lower your defences and open yourself to deeply buried feelings • Letting go of unneeded possessions • It's never too late to start sharing your wealth • Delays and setbacks in practical or financial matters.

FIVE OF WANDS

KEYWORDS *Creative conflict • Playful struggle • Competition*

Meaning You may find yourself in conflict with others, although it might not be serious – yet • A tussle with work colleagues or friends, or a power struggle or battle of wits • A playful situation, or a sexual relationship involving fiery, wild activities.

Reverse meaning Inner conflict or suppressed anger, resulting in an inability to act or make decisions • An outer conflict may

have seriously escalated • A challenge is being posed: *How should I act? What should I do?* • It could be a good time to explore the possibilities for mediation.



FIVE OF CUPS

KEYWORDS *Sense of loss • Unnoticed opportunity • Inheritance*

Meaning A sense that something has been taken against your wishes • Disappointment, bereavement or betrayal • You may have acted in anger and are realizing the consequences • Fear of desertion seems to have materialized • Shifting focus from your losses to the gifts that life offers • Legacies and inheritances.

Reverse meaning Time to move forward • Changing your perspective shows you that

there are still cups filled with the elixir of life • It's possible to conclude unfinished emotional business • Friendship may be restored – wisdom comes with time and experience.

FIVE OF SWORDS

KEYWORDS *Defeat • Blame • Communication breakdown*

Meaning You may be involved in a quarrel and feel as if you are losing the battle • Perhaps you've been subjected to humiliation, abuse or malicious gossip • Use of underhand tactics • You may be blaming someone (or they are blaming you), or jealousy and envy may be surfacing • Some things need to get worse in order to get better.

Reverse meaning A sense of despair, remorse or regret following a defeat • Reparation or reconciliation • Catharsis • Spiritual renewal • Try burying the hatchet and working through your deepest feelings or anguish.



FIVE OF PENTACLES

KEYWORDS *Loss • Dissolution*

Meaning Material hardship or a crisis (caution is needed in making this interpretation) • Dissolution and coagulation – the process of breaking down, or loss, is as necessary as the process of building up, or gain.

Reverse meaning A turning point • Emerging from a difficult period such as a bankruptcy or a spell of unemployment • Possible reconciliation • If your relationship is based on mutual support as victims of difficult circumstances, the foundations will start to dissolve as things improve. Try to base the relationship on more solid ground.

SIX OF WANDS

KEYWORDS *Victory • Success • Fame • Leadership*

Meaning Success achieved through being a skilled leader • Praise or rewards received are the result of an ability to inspire others • You may be asked to take on a leadership role, or be looking for this in others • Co-operation and harmony within a family • Successful legal or property transactions, or promotion at work.

Reverse meaning You may have lost a leadership role, or feel unable to accept such a

position due to a lack of self-confidence or defeatism • Arrogance and pride may have disturbed relations at work • Conflict or betrayal in financial dealings or at work.



SIX OF CUPS

KEYWORDS *Integrating memory • Reunion • Exchange*

Meaning Integrating your past with your present • A reunion with an old friend or lover, or a re-established relationship • An exchange of gifts or feelings • A heartfelt exchange between you and your surroundings • Developing a deep affinity for Nature • Deeper connections with your sense of home.

Reverse meaning The release of old wounds and difficult memories • Clinging to someone

or an event that has ceased to be of value to you • Sometimes attending to the past is vital if we are to grow and learn, but at other times we need to let go of past events.

SIX OF SWORDS

KEYWORDS *Journeying • Solace • Healing*

Meaning The conflict and difficulties often associated with the suit of Swords have either ceased or are in abeyance • Comfort, solace and the promise of renewal • Now might be a good time to plan a retreat or holiday • A journey in consciousness, aided by ritual and meditation techniques, can be healing and enlightening • A journey to re-forge bonds can open up the possibility for renewal.

Reverse meaning The pain of confronting a long-standing situation • Difficulty maintaining peace • Refusal to consider different perspectives or to take an actual journey.



SIX OF PENTACLES

KEYWORDS *Generosity • Patronage • Gifts*

Meaning Giving or receiving benefits • Generosity, or financial or other assistance • Balance and fairness • A benefactor may have entered your life • Someone who is generous but restrained in their giving (though justly so) • Good job prospects and a good social life.

Reverse meaning Rejecting an offer of money or other assistance due to pride • Feeling that you deserve more than you've been given • Should you be more generous or sharing? • A risk of theft or loss through gambling, speculation or extravagance • Maybe you need to be more cautious, or less proud or selfish.

SEVEN OF WANDS

KEYWORDS *Struggle • Challenge • Overcoming obstacles*

Meaning You could be engaged in a struggle that challenges your supremacy or leadership, or simply your judgement, but you will probably find it exhilarating • Every problem solved strengthens our abilities or character • Confrontation, competition or rivalry • An inner conflict • The ability to view the situation from a clear vantage point.

Reverse meaning You may be struggling with other people's objections to your actions • Feeling overwhelmed, anxious or embarrassed • Extreme difficulty with coming to a decision – uncertainty may impede success.

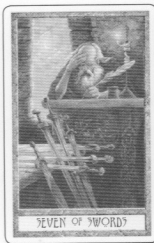
SEVEN OF CUPS

KEYWORDS *Seduction • Illusion • The Grail Quest*

Meaning Knowing the difference between the imagination and the physical • Difficulty choosing between ideas and possibilities • You may be faced with a number of propositions, but be cautious – they could evaporate • Exploration of potential may have turned into daydreaming • Greedily taking any opportunity to satisfy desires.

Reverse meaning Making a mature decision not to satisfy your immediate desires, but to work towards a goal that will bring rewards later • Losing touch with reality • Realistic plans based on common sense and a clear vision of the goal.

SEVEN OF SWORDS

KEYWORDS *Insights • Strategy • Research*

Meaning New ideas challenge old assumptions and great progress is made • Using intellect, wit or charm to gain an advantage or recover something that has been lost, but care must be taken not to start believing the 'ends justifies the means' • Strategic planning or research • Espionage, deceit or escape.

Reverse meaning Dishonesty or deception may be revealed • Acting with caution for fear of being caught • The use of words to cheat or deceive • Counsel being sought • Stolen goods being returned • Returning to the scene of a previous incident, possibly to assist someone.

SEVEN OF PENTACLES

KEYWORDS *Bearing fruit • Harvesting • Clearing*

Meaning You can take a break to enjoy the results of your hard work • A relationship, project or business that you've been nurturing may now be able to grow by itself • If the harvest isn't yet ready, the card counsels patience and a trust in the natural cycles of growth • Clear unnecessary clutter from your life • Take stock of a situation before moving forward.

Reverse meaning Dissatisfaction with a job or project • Insufficient reward for the work or energy that is being put in • Feeling exhausted, since there never seems to be enough time • Feeling impatient, worried or melancholy.

EIGHT OF WANDS

KEYWORDS *Speed • Synchronicity • Accomplishment*

Meaning You have either achieved your goal or are moving swiftly towards its accomplishment • You may hear exciting news or take a journey • Falling in love • Excitement about a new project or idea • You may be streamlining your life or your business • Rapid communication or negotiation • Try to attune yourself to the natural flow or rhythm.

Reverse meaning The end of an infatuation or loving relationship • Jealousy and conflict bringing confusion and uncertainty to a relationship • Projects or journeys could be delayed – a shift of attitude may be all that's needed.



EIGHT OF CUPS

KEYWORDS *Letting go • Seeking a higher purpose • Moving on*

Meaning A relationship, work project or creative endeavour may have fulfilled its purpose • Visualize the future as you give thanks for the past • The goals you've been working towards may no longer satisfy you • You may need to take a holiday to recharge and rededicate yourself to the core purpose of your life.

Reverse meaning You might have considered leaving a situation or relationship, but the time to leave may not have come • Fear of intimacy or commitment • Resisting spending time alone • Emotional exhaustion.

EIGHT OF SWORDS

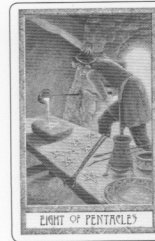
KEYWORDS *Restriction • Potential for liberation*

Meaning You may feel as if you are the victim of circumstances, or of another person • Confusion, fear and loneliness • Potential for completion • Your sense of being trapped may stem from your beliefs or attitude – just as the mind imprisons, so it can set us free • The hardest situations in life often offer the greatest spiritual rewards.

Reverse meaning Breaking free of restrictions • A time of limitation and feeling trapped may be passing • Quarrelling in a relationship • A warning against spiteful gossip • Clearing away obstacles and making progress in life.



EIGHT OF PENTACLES

KEYWORDS *Steady progress • Training • Apprenticeship*

Meaning A time for slow and steady work to fulfil a vision • Focus on one step at a time, rather than the final goal • Developing skills, undergoing special training or working with a sense of quiet satisfaction • Taking pride and pleasure in your abilities.

Reverse meaning If you seek success but aren't prepared to put in the effort required, you will only reap frustration and possibly jealousy as you see others succeed around you • You may feel that you're in the wrong job • Perhaps you should explore your goals and decide whether further training is needed.

NINE OF WANDS

KEYWORDS *Final challenge • Caution*

Meaning You may have emerged from a struggle but are worried that worse is to come – remain cautious • Fear and conflict ultimately spring from within • Having been wounded, you may isolate yourself as a means of defence • Difficulty accepting your achievements, strengths and talents • Recovery from an illness • Open up to wholeness and healing.

Reverse meaning Feeling isolated • You may be trying to ward off a problem that refuses to go away • Perhaps you need to try a different approach to this situation • Physical neglect • A lack of energy • Delayed success.



NINE OF CUPS

KEYWORDS *Contentment • Achievement • Realization of dreams*

Meaning A time for enjoyment and celebration • A rewarding emotional life • Someone may be missing from your life or you may feel strangely lonely • Having been through difficulties in the past, now close relationships and warmth abound • Inspiration and creativity • Any obstacles will be easily handled • Make sure you appreciate your blessings.

Reverse meaning Something hidden or suppressed may be revealed – this could lead to the resolution of a complex situation • Superficial or unhelpful attachments may be released • Celebration plans could encounter difficulties.

NINE OF SWORDS

KEYWORDS *Sorrow • Anguish • Mental cruelty*

Meaning Mental anguish and suffering • The torment faced at the end of a relationship, or following a bereavement or separation – this period will come to its natural completion and you will enter a brighter phase • A sharp mind can wound unintentionally.

Reverse meaning You may be struggling with feelings of shame or oppression – how you respond to this is up to you • Emerging from a period of difficulty and finding yourself in an improving situation • A deliberate exploration of your deepest fears may allow you the opportunity for real transformation.



NINE OF PENTACLES

KEYWORDS *Gain • Pleasures • Living your ideals*

Meaning Receiving an unearned income • No longer needing to work to earn a living • Luxuries, hobbies and pleasures • You may be keen to succeed – both materially and spiritually • Affirming your values • Enjoying the benefits of a successful and full life on your own • A productive, active and settled life, in which you are self-assured and spiritually aware.

Reverse meaning You may have lost your way or forgotten your priorities • Perhaps you lack discipline and have abandoned projects • You may have all you need physically, but are restless and unsatisfied.

TEN OF WANDS

KEYWORDS *Demands • Burdens • Overwork*

Meaning Carrying the weight of responsibility or obligations on your shoulders • The demands made upon you could result from initiatives that you set in motion impulsively • You may be too busy to relax and enjoy the results of your efforts • Uncomplaining acceptance of your perceived burden • Delegation • Reassessing priorities and values.

Reverse meaning The opportunity to free yourself of burdens • Collapsing under the strain • A conscious change of attitude and behaviour • A more balanced and rewarding time awaits you.



TEN OF CUPS

KEYWORDS *Happiness • Love • Fulfilment*

Meaning A promise fulfilled • Dreams really can come true; you can be blessed with good fortune, success, and a warm, loving family • Rainbows appear after it has rained – the storm is over and the indications are that the positive situation will endure • Loving and permanent relationships • Happiness – spiritual and emotional blessings.

Reverse meaning Problems at home or in a relationship • Children may be leaving home • A dream may be dying – everything needs to die to make way for the new, and for rebirth to occur.

TEN OF SWORDS

KEYWORDS *Nadir • Betrayal • Unmerited hatred*

Meaning At this moment of nadir things can only improve • You may have been betrayed or slandered, or subjected to unmerited hatred or malicious acts • Just as darkness precedes the dawn, so this difficult time can be a precursor to happier times • Consider how you react to what is happening around you.

Reverse meaning An opportunity for liberation and change may not last long, so act quickly • The ultimate battle is with an aspect of your inner condition, and now is the time to work with it consciously – perhaps with the clarity of your renewed strength and insight.



TEN OF PENTACLES

KEYWORDS *Blessings • Prosperity • Legacy*

Meaning You may be in receipt of a legacy, or are creating one – either for your family or the wider community • Prosperity • Suitable conditions for making new investments • Even difficult circumstances can carry hidden benefits • The chance to count our blessings – and discover that they're too numerous to count.

Reverse meaning Turning away from a family situation or legacy • An urge to gamble or act recklessly • Quarrels or family feuds • You could have financial issues to resolve with official bodies • Struggling with demands made upon you by relatives, friends or organizations.

THE INNER MYSTERIES

THE MAJOR ARкана

We have seen that the outer mysteries, represented by the Minor Arcana, take us on a journey through time and space. The pip cards represent the events, circumstances, challenges and experiences of being in the world; the court cards represent people, or characteristic styles and ways of relating to this world.

The Inner Mysteries, represented by the Major Arcana, take us beyond time and space to the realm of the soul. Here we transcend our normal experience of time, to enter a dimension that is both *being* and *becoming* – that is somehow eternally present, yet at the same time changing, in process.

The Quest for the Grail and the Process of Individuation

The path of the soul's evolution is evocatively depicted in the Major Arcana and often termed 'The Fool's Journey' by writers on the Tarot. This process of the maturation and development of the individual soul was termed 'individuation' by the psychologist Jung, while the mythographer Joseph Campbell referred to it as the 'Hero's Journey'. Alchemists call it the 'search for the Philosopher's Stone', and mystics the 'Quest for the Holy Grail'.

In DruidCraft we undertake the Quest for the Grail in order to experience growth and renewal, but follow it back to its pre-Christian source as the cauldron of the Goddess. One of the key teachings shared by Druidry and Wicca is that of reincarnation – and the cauldron in the old tales was the cauldron of rebirth. You will see the cauldron on the Death card in this deck, symbolizing the power of the Goddess to renew life in her depths.

If you create a circle with the cards of the Major Arcana, placing The Fool in the centre, and starting with The Magician and finishing with The World, you can trace The Fool's Journey, which can also be understood as the path of initiation.

The Fool's Journey

• THE FIRST SEVEN CARDS: *developing awareness and building character*

The Fool, as the soul starting out on its quest, is often termed 'innocent' – just as Gwion Bach, the candidate for initiation in the story of Ceridwen, means 'Little Innocent'. In the first cycle of seven cards (I to VII), the initial impulse and direction of the 'will to be', portrayed in The Magician, enables the soul to grow through its relationship with the masculine and feminine, their father and mother, but also the God and Goddess, and all that these two polarities represent – as articulated by The High Priestess and High Priest, and The Lord and Lady. By the time the card of The Lovers is reached, a certain degree of integration between these two aspects of the self is achieved, and at The Chariot, the 'Self-in-the-World', the personality is capable of success and achievement in the outer world. This first cycle of seven cards is often equated with the development of consciousness and awareness – the building of character, competence and maturity.

• THE SECOND SEVEN CARDS: *opening to the powers of the subconscious*

The second cycle of seven cards, from VIII to XIV, Strength to The Fferyllt, leads us into an exploration of the subconscious. We begin by internalizing the strength we gained with The Chariot, to develop a relationship of trust with the powers of the instincts, of the natural world, and in particular with the animal realm, whose inhabitants can act as guides into the mysterious realm of the subconscious, or Underworld. From a shamanic perspective, the first cycle initiated us into the Middle World;

50 this second initiates us into the Underworld, and the third into the Upper World, or the realm of the superconscious.

After Strength we encounter our human otherworldly guide, or inner Wise Person, in the form of The Hermit, who leads us towards an exploration of the mysteries that guide the workings of time and destiny, in The Wheel. We explore The Wheel in more depth with Justice, who guards the web of life, and through whom we can experience its intricacies and the role of choice, and right action in the world. And then we reach The Hanged Man. We take a step out into the unknown and allow ourselves to suspend judgement and understanding. We stop striving and wait. The reward for our patience is Death – the experience of initiation and transformation. Finally, we achieve a harmony between the subconscious and conscious minds, symbolized in The Fferyllt card in the mixing of the two fluids.

• THE THIRD SEVEN CARDS: *the path to illumination*

The third series of cards, from xv to xxi, Cernunnos to The World, represents the search for enlightenment. The Fool has developed their personality, explored their subconscious, and now moves towards the goal of the individuated self, represented by The World. Cernunnos as the first card fits perfectly when understood from the perspective of DruidCraft. By integrating the raw power of the instincts and of desire, an experience of illumination occurs, symbolized by The Tower. This may result in difficulty in the outer world, as did Gwion's illumination from drinking the elixir, but ultimately it leads to developing the qualities associated with the powers of The Star, The Moon and The Sun. This gives way to an experience of Rebirth, culminating in the sense of joy and wholeness depicted by The World.

The Three Degrees in Druidry and Wicca

Looking at the Fool's Journey in three cycles of seven phases can help make sense of the complex symbolism we find in the

cards. These three cycles can be seen as representing the three 51 phases of our life: the first towards our twenties, in which we develop our personality; the second towards our forties, in which we mature; then the final phase in which we turn towards matters of the soul. But the three phases can also be seen as representing the three degrees of initiation and training that exist in many expressions of Wicca and Druidry.

Now lay out the cards in three rows of seven. By doing this you will be able to observe not only the sequence of each row, but also the often highly significant relationships that exist between the equivalent cards in the other two rows.

In the first row, from The Magician to The Chariot, the Bard (the first Druid grade) or first-degree Wiccan decides to work with the powers of the self, and comes into relationship with the masculine and the feminine, the God and Goddess, and, in achieving a degree of integration, establishes himself and their creative work in the world.

In the second row, in the Ovate grade of Druidry, or the second degree of Wiccan training, the initiate explores the Underworld and the mysteries of time and of Nature, to achieve a deeper sense of integration between the conscious and subconscious, and the masculine and feminine qualities of the self.

In the Druid grade, or third Wiccan degree, ideally the powers of sun, moon and stars are integrated in a process of renewal that results in an even deeper experience of inner union, symbolized by the figure of the hermaphrodite shown in The World.

In each case, the initiate moves towards the central image of the union of the two principles, whether we call these the God and Goddess, Yin and Yang, or the masculine and feminine. The movement from The Lovers, to The Fferyllt, to The World, signifies ever-deepening levels of integration – the process symbolically depicted in the Great Rite of Wicca, or the Mystical Marriage, 'coniunctio', or Alchemical Wedding of alchemy.

It can be helpful to view the soul's progress as a linear progression from one state to another. There are developmental stages in an individual's life, and the spiritual quest is based upon the idea that we can evolve and grow. One of the purposes of initiation is to stimulate this process. A problem arises, however, when we understand the human being only from the perspective of linear time. It is true that we are changing beings, but it is also true that we are changeless. We are not only in the process of Becoming – we also exist in a state of Being, which is independent of time.

In working with the Tarot we need to be able to view the life of the soul from both points of view. By laying out the Major Arcana cards in sequence we are acting with the mind of the scientist, and we are viewing the soul in the process of becoming. It is equally important to act with the artist's mind, which captures different insights with its non-linear, serendipitous approach to the world, and which may give us the opportunity to view the life of the soul as it is in the eternal present.

Our lives are not best described as a march of progress towards greater wisdom and integration. Our lessons are not always learned in the same sequence, and each of us experiences the challenges depicted by the Major Arcana in our own unique way. Good biographies read like stories; great artists can capture a sense of their subject's childhood and old age in one expression – in one picture. For this reason it can be fruitful to think about *The Fool's story*, rather than *The Fool's journey*, and to see the Major Arcana as a mandala that conveys a picture of the soul's landscape rather than as a map that depicts its territory.

Mandalas and Meditation

Pick up the cards again, and place The Fool in the middle of a clear workspace to represent the core essence of your soul. Then place the rest of the cards around this core, not in a

linear progression but as you feel moved to place them. By doing this you are creating a mandala – a pattern that may speak to you about your inner life in ways that would not be revealed if you felt constrained by a predetermined sequence. This mandala can become the basis for meditation and soul-work. The bard and storyteller within you might sense a narrative forming; the artist within you might sense the elements of a picture stirring.

All the cards merit contemplation and meditation, but the Major Arcana images in particular can provide powerful starting points for this type of work, since they portray such significant archetypes.

The Purpose of the Spiritual Quest

A key to understanding the purpose of the spiritual quest, and the journey portrayed by the Major Arcana, can be found in contemplating three cards: The Fool, The Hanged Man and The World. Laying them out side by side, you can see how the relationship between them is signalled by the position of their legs. The Fool begins his quest in the world, trusting that all will be well as he steps off the cliff into the world of matter. About halfway through his journey he surrenders to something greater than himself, and is turned upside down, but still he trusts, as we can see from the serene expression on his face. Finally, at the end of the journey he is home again, standing this time not on a cliff, but on the world itself. The Fool has become a complete being, uniting both his masculine and feminine consciousness, symbolized by the body of the hermaphrodite, and by the two wands, one held in each hand. His/her stride has become a dance – a joyful celebration of the knowledge that, in the words of T. S. Eliot:

*'The end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started,
and know the place for the first time.'*



0 THE FOOL

• THE MESSAGE •

*Trust in your inner knowing.
Life is an adventure – a journey
of discovery to be enjoyed.*

KEYWORDS *Innocence • Freedom • Potential • Trust
• Play • Openness • Courage • Optimism*

Meaning *A Journey of Discovery* Youthful optimism • A new beginning • Confidence, faith and courage as you face a new project or phase • Taking a risk and trying something new or unconventional • You can be serious about life, but enjoy it too • To gain wisdom, combine openness and optimism with an awareness of your innate divinity – trusting in the ultimate goodness of life.



KEYWORDS *Foolishness • Naivety • Irrationality • Gullibility*

Reverse meaning Hold The Fool upside down and you see The Hanged Man – freedom can become a limitation if not used wisely • Lack of direction • A fear of freedom, and feeling trapped by routine • Beware of being naive or gullible and getting out of your depth • Time to take on adult responsibilities • An opportunity to explore your potential.



1 THE MAGICIAN

• THE MESSAGE •

*Open yourself to the power of
Awen and Nwyfre, of inspiration
and life-force, and let it flow
through you and into the world.*

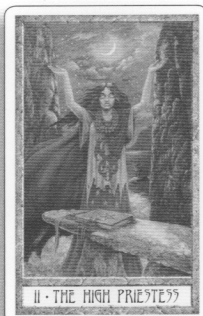
KEYWORDS *Creativity • Inspiration • Direction • Willpower
• Life-force • Flow • First steps • Empowerment*

Meaning *Realizing Your Dreams* Time for action • Use your willpower and your focus to take the first steps towards achieving your purpose • Stay focused and open to inspiration • Doubt and preoccupation with self inhibit the flow of energy • Trust and let go of worries about your life to allow creative energy to flow.



KEYWORDS *Blocked flow • Lack of will • Confusion of
purpose • Abuse of power*

Reverse meaning You may feel blocked, or that projects just aren't taking off • If life isn't flowing the way you want it to, this may be for a purpose • The Magician's ability to use communication to solve problems and be creative is being denied in your life • Focus on clear communication to release any blockages and open you to a new phase.



II

THE HIGH PRIESTESS

• THE MESSAGE •

Present yourself before the Mysteries of Life and before the Goddess or Her Priestess in humility and with reverence. Open to the stillness and the depths within you to gain strength and wisdom.

KEYWORDS Depth • Intuition • Dreams • Inner wisdom • Gateway to initiation • The unconscious • The Divine Feminine

Meaning *Entering the Stillness* The High Priestess seems to bar our way forward – don't be in a rush to move onwards • Balance the power of decision-making and action, as seen in The Magician card, with the power of reflection and depth • True passivity is strong and fertile, and shouldn't be mistaken for weakness or inertia • Be open to your dreams and intuitions.



KEYWORDS Illusion • Delusion • Deception • Ignoring inner promptings

Reverse meaning You may be withdrawn from the world and need to reconnect with those around you and with everyday life • False relationships or false hopes resulting from not taking the time to be still • Remember the quiet calm of The High Priestess, and the ability of The Magician to act in the world, and see if you can access both functions within you.



III

THE LADY

• THE MESSAGE •

Open yourself to the fertile nurturing power of the Goddess. This power will fill you with passion and the ability to be creative and to enjoy a life of abundance and sensual delight.

KEYWORDS Fertility • Passion • Creativity • Sensuality • Nurturing • Motherhood • Beauty • Happiness • Healing

Meaning *Opening to Love, Trust and Abundance* Sexual or motherly passion • Following the feelings and sensuality rather than the intellect • Marriage or pregnancy – this may manifest as a new relationship or new cycle of stability and abundance, or the conception of an idea or desire • The warm, caring attributes of motherhood – whether of actual children or of ideas, relationships or projects.



KEYWORDS Repressed feelings • Rationality • Lack • Creative blocks • Poverty • Infertility

Reverse meaning You may need to take a calm, rational approach to any challenges in your life • Suppressed feelings, particularly sexuality • Problems of impotence or infertility – this may not be a physical issue, but rather blockages that disrupt your ability to be creative and effective in the world.



IV THE LORD

• THE MESSAGE •

Take control of your life and offer clear and firm boundaries to those who depend on you. Lead your life by being true to your values and you will accomplish great things.

KEYWORDS *Masculine power • Fatherhood • Leadership • Protection • Boundaries • Accomplishment • Order*

Meaning *The Structure Needed for Success* The Lord's strong will, rational thinking and adherence to principles must be tempered by The Lady's passion and feeling • A father figure, employer or authority figure, or government or official body • You may be called upon to act responsibly and in line with your values • If you are in a position of leadership, don't be afraid to act with clarity and integrity for the greater good.



KEYWORDS *Loss of authority • Lack of clarity • Power struggles • Indecision • Dictatorship • Weakness • Lack of self-worth*

Reverse meaning An overly harsh or judgemental nature • A 'petty dictator' who acts unfairly and tyrannically because they feel inferior. If this applies to you, look at ways to raise your self-esteem and integrity • Before we are powerful, we must experience disempowerment.



V THE HIGH PRIEST

• THE MESSAGE •

There is a value in discipline and routine to maintain the connection between your spiritual and your worldly life.

KEYWORDS *Tradition • Education • Religious doctrines • Search for inner meaning • Routine • Conformity • Initiation*

Meaning *Tradition and Guidance* The outer ceremonial and legal procedures of marriage • Your desire for marriage at a deeper level – follow your passion and intuition, and the wisdom and counsel of others • Major religions and churches • Formal knowledge, education and academic establishments • A need to conform to orthodox ideas and conventional approaches • The significance of a teacher or mentor.



KEYWORDS *Rebellion • Eccentricity • Rejection of codes or values • Unsound advice*

Reverse meaning Originality of ideas • The impulse to renew and change outmoded religious or educational systems • A need to reject the values imposed by parents or religious leaders • The gullible acceptance of an unorthodox cult and its demands.



VI THE LOVERS

• THE MESSAGE •

*At every moment you have a choice.
Love is at the heart of life.
All Creation is born out of love.*

KEYWORDS Love • Fulfilment • Union • Choice • Surrender

Meaning *Love Requires Surrender, and Surrender Requires Choice*
In the Past position this card can indicate an excessive preoccupation with a past love • In the Future position it may signal that you will find a lover • The process of union, liberation and ecstasy • At every moment in your waking life you have choices: some simple, some profound. Through engaging these dilemmas, you develop maturity and depth of soul.



KEYWORDS Jealousy • Indecision • Destructive love
• Romantic problems • Separation

Reverse meaning A disturbed relationship, destructive love or difficult marriage • Romantic or sexual problems • Romantic immaturity, separation from a loved one or unrequited love • A union of souls that can only exist in the inner world • The inability to choose between lovers • General indecisiveness or the risk of bad choices being made.



VII THE CHARIOT

• THE MESSAGE •

*Maturity and wisdom come from
courageously engaging the difficulties
and challenges of life. The art of
success lies in knowing when to
surrender and when to take control.*

KEYWORDS Triumph • Success • Mastery • Control • Will
• The developed ego • Overcoming obstacles • Fame • Journeys

Meaning *Successful Engagement with Life* Success and the qualities required to attain it • Prominence or fame in a chosen field • The control needed to develop the personality and to master difficulties and circumstances • Be aware of the dangers of rigidity when yielding is required • Complementary forces.



KEYWORDS Weakness or misuse of will • Loss of control
• Delay • Failure • Unmerited success

Reverse meaning There is a danger of the personality becoming a mask – a crisis may be necessary to turn it into a channel for the soul • Don't rely too strongly on your own willpower or force of personality to control a situation • True power lies in deepening our experience and understanding of the polarities of yielding and penetration • Delay or interruptions to travel • A project may fail or achieve unmerited success.



VIII STRENGTH

♦ THE MESSAGE ♦

You will find the Wild Wisdom that sings in the depths of your soul.

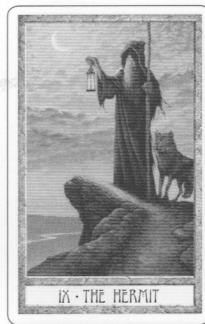
KEYWORDS *Unconditional love • Courage • Faith • Power with awareness • 'Wild' wisdom • Compassion*

Meaning *The Meeting of the Wild and Civilized Selves* A generous and wise person in your life • You could be entering into a deeper relationship with the forces of life and of Nature • Honour and celebrate your sexuality in a way that causes no suffering • We can develop mature strength of soul and character by handling conflict with compassionate awareness, trust and love.



KEYWORDS *Fear • Loss of hope • Lack of courage • Torment from within • Inability to integrate passions*

Reverse meaning Difficulty integrating your passionate and instinctual nature may lead to you feeling weak or a failure • We learn by our mistakes and can only develop strength if we are aware of its opposite condition • Take time to explore your feelings and thoughts.



IX THE HERMIT

♦ THE MESSAGE ♦

Turn away from the distractions of the outer world, and seek guidance. In silence and solitude discover new depths, and refresh your soul at the source of all life.

KEYWORDS *Guidance • Retreat • Caution • Withdrawal • Meditation*

Meaning *An Inner Call* You may be feeling the call to begin meditating or to take a retreat • A teacher, counsellor or wise person, or an inner guide • Draw energy and wisdom from the five senses – we don't need to wait for loss to make us turn within • Don't be tempted to make important decisions, for now is a time to withdraw from the distractions of your everyday life.



KEYWORDS *Loneliness • Isolation • Fear of old age • Imprudence*

Reverse meaning You may be searching for a relationship and feel lonely, or fear spending your old age alone • Feelings of betrayal or being let down by someone to whom you turned for guidance • A midlife crisis – the Hermit offers to guide you through the dark regions of your soul and of consciousness.



X THE WHEEL

• THE MESSAGE •

You can see the patterns in your life and the wider pattern in the cycles of Birth, Life, Death and Rebirth. Harvesting the seeds of destiny, you continue to sow seeds of love.

KEYWORDS *Reaping rewards • Synchronicity • Harvest • Prosperity • Inevitability • Progress • Completion*

Meaning *Trusting in the Process of Life* One season or cycle in your life may be coming to an end, and a new one may be beginning • Trust in the process of life • Relax and release some of the control you exert in your life or relationships • Wisdom comes when we no longer behave reactively but are aware of the themes that are woven through our lives.



KEYWORDS *Resistance to change • A time of difficulty • Strengthening of will • Letting go*

Reverse meaning You may be reaping the results of past thoughts or actions, and the result is uncomfortable – trust that life will eventually bring you happiness and fulfilment • Act with integrity despite adversity • Resistance to change – try letting go and trusting • If you are passive, this may signify the dawning of a new, more determined phase.



XI JUSTICE

• THE MESSAGE •

With clarity and discrimination, poised between Past and Future, the decision is made with compassionate understanding.

KEYWORDS *Discrimination • Balance • Poise • Choice • Decision • Judgement • Clarity • Fairness*

Meaning *Time for Making a Decision* It could be time to make a decision, or a choice, but not out of reaction • Act with the honesty and integrity demanded by Justice • You may be called on to be true to yourself – to your own nature • Being called to account for your actions • Litigation • Making decisions which involve weighing up arguments and exercising discrimination • Is now a time for severity and discipline, or for mercy and acceptance?



KEYWORDS *Imbalance • Unfairness • Injustice • Dishonesty*

Reverse meaning You may need to look at imbalances in your life • Perhaps you are being dishonest, either with yourself or with others, or with both, or you are acting unfairly • It's possible that you are being treated unjustly or unfairly, or that an unjust judgement has been made in your legal affairs.



XII THE HANGED MAN

• THE MESSAGE •

Go deeper now, and let go of your striving. True freedom and independence are found through surrender.

KEYWORDS *Reversal of values or attitudes • Patience
• Surrender or sacrifice • Peace • Independence*

Meaning *Peace, Understanding and Patience* The seeds of inspiration may soon be harvested in a period of successful creative activity • You could experience deep feelings that seem to have little to do with your everyday circumstances, as your inner awareness and sensitivities develop • Letting go of expectations in order to discover more about a particular situation • A radical reversal of values or attitudes.



KEYWORDS *Inability to surrender • Denial of parts of the self
• Lack of self-awareness or intuition • 'Victimhood'*

Reverse meaning *Acting from selfish or ulterior motives • You may be trying your best, but feel vulnerable so are not acting with full awareness and integrity • Feeling like a martyr or victim • Feeling ungrounded or bored • Your priorities and your attitude to life may be adversely influencing your situation.*



XIII DEATH

• THE MESSAGE •

*The old and unnecessary wants to die.
What passion! The new prepares to
open like a rosebud at the dawn
of a new day.*

KEYWORDS *Clearing away the old to make way for the new •
Precursor to transformation • Intense passion • Initiation*

Meaning *Initiation and Transformation* The core structure of initiation involves an experience of death followed by an experience of rebirth – you may be at just such a moment of initiation • We often have to die to our old ways of thinking, feeling or behaving before we can open to our new life.



KEYWORDS *Avoidance or fear of change • Weariness •
Stagnation • Pessimism • Depression*

Reverse meaning *Life often seems so threatening that we feel we must cling on to those few rocks of stability, even if deep down we know it is time to move on • Stagnation and pessimism • Fear may be ruling your life, and fatigue or depression could result • You may feel that your life is stuck in some way • The more unconscious your resistance to change, the more likely you are to experience inertia and lethargy.*



XIV THE FFERYLLT

• THE MESSAGE •

Allow inner and outer, masculine and feminine, to blend within you to give birth to your Creative Self.

KEYWORDS Fluency between worlds • Creativity • Harmony
• Peace • Alchemy • Magic

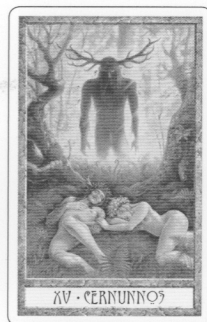
Meaning *Harmony and Successful Creative Endeavour* You may be in a position to restore harmony among competing factions • Maintaining a feeling of deep peace may be sufficient at this point • The waters of inspiration and contentment flow freely between your conscious and unconscious selves – there is nothing in particular that you need to do.



KEYWORDS Going to extremes • Wildness • Imbalance
• Fragmentation • Quarrels

Reverse meaning You may be involved in arguments, or feel restless and frustrated • Extremes of behaviour • Now is not the time to make decisions, but rather to seek harmony and greater communication • Creative projects may be impeded as a result of you not being in tune • More work is needed to prepare the ground for inspiration and manifestation.

XV CERNUNNOS



• THE MESSAGE •

The dragon of Nwyfre awakens powerfully within you. Great progress is possible, but take care to integrate and channel this force.

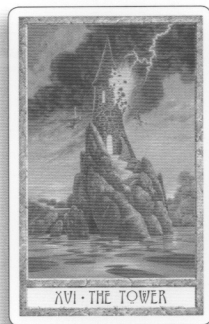
KEYWORDS Potential for abundance and liberation • Mastery of life-force • Obsession • Materialism

Meaning *The Call to Awaken to Responsibility* As you learn how to be successful and creative, explore your sexuality and free yourself from inhibitions and repressions, take care not to become consumed by these activities • Beware of denying the world, with its greed, materialism and rampant consumerism, which threatens to destroy the planet • Time to accept responsibility for our life and the way we live it.



KEYWORDS Abuse of power • Succumbing to temptation • Spiritual blindness • Breaking loose

Reverse meaning Feeling trapped in difficult or limiting circumstances, but not fully 'awake' to the situation. A period of intense unhappiness may eventually lead us to change our lives or break free from the situation • An abuse of power • Breaking free from a materialistic world-view.



XVI THE TOWER

♦ THE MESSAGE ♦

You are blessed with Awen. Fury may precede grace, destruction may precede creation. The work of liberation, deepening and illumination progresses.

KEYWORDS *Sudden illumination • Revelation • Destruction preceding creation • Release of tension • Liberation and awakening*

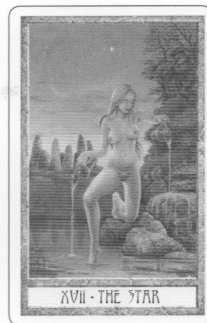
Meaning *Change and Inspiration* A time of great change – either inward or outward • Old structures, beliefs, frames of reference, are swept away to make way for creativity and inspiration, and the next step on your path. • A flash of insight or illumination.



KEYWORDS *Protection from full release • Avoidance • Imprisonment*

Reverse meaning A situation in which too much openness to the forces of change and illumination could be damaging • An inability to finally break free from a limiting situation or beliefs • An innate wisdom that is protecting the soul • Avoiding the possibility of truly breaking free • Feeling imprisoned or confined • Some disruption or change may be afoot, which will eventually prove beneficial.

XVII THE STAR



♦ THE MESSAGE ♦

Inner and outer are connected in perfect harmony. All you need to do is be. Intuition flows like a bright stream.

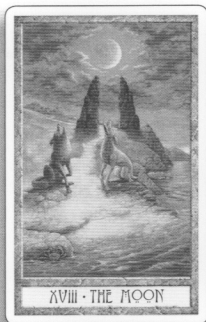
KEYWORDS *Intuition • Hope • Optimism • Healing • Openness • Calm • Bright prospects*

Meaning *Confidence and Tranquillity* You may develop a calm, clear confidence in the future • If you are in need of healing, you may find it helpful to tune in regularly to The Star's bright yet tranquil energy • Inner feelings of positive self-esteem, well-being and vitality • Inspiration • You may be the recipient of much love at this time • Nakedness – simplicity, naturalness, freedom, authenticity.



KEYWORDS *Low self-esteem • Loss of innocence • Losing touch with intuition • Waste*

Reverse meaning When the waters of life don't flow, we feel disconnected and our intuition or inner compass seems unable to get us back on track • A sense of losing or wasting energy • Remember that the waters of life are always there for you – to heal, refresh and inspire you.



XVIII THE MOON

• THE MESSAGE •

*Fear is a powerful teacher and ally.
If you can walk through the gates of
fear you will arrive at the realm of the
Goddess, who will bless you with
inner vision.*

KEYWORDS *Psychic awakening • Dreams • Deep revelation
of feminine mysteries • Withdrawal • Facing fears*

Meaning *Change, Imagination, Creativity* A difficult emotional journey ahead • Any loneliness or confusion you feel will pass as this phase reaches its natural completion • Becoming aware of material from the unconscious – although upsetting, this could help your creative process • Let yourself be guided by trust and you will pass through your fear to emerge stronger • Imagination, fantasy, vision and creative work.



KEYWORDS *Confusion • Fantasy • Depression • Substance
abuse • Hidden difficulties*

Reverse meaning Serious problems resulting from disturbances in your psyche • You or others may have been telling lies • Involvement in a relationship that is plagued with fantasy • If you need to make important decisions or binding commitments, be very careful.



XIX THE SUN

• THE MESSAGE •

*You are free to express the radiant
essence of your being. Joy and creation
flow from you like the rays of the sun.*

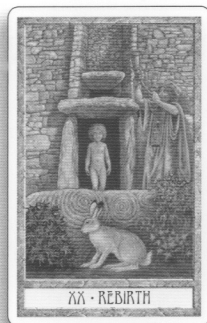
KEYWORDS *Happiness • Contentment • Success • Energy
• Wonder • Lucidity • Optimism • Joy • Freedom • Fruition
• Creative expression*

Meaning *A Creative and Joyful Phase* Projects that have been developing may now come to fruition, and you will have the clarity and the focus to make a success of them • Full creative potential being realized in the world • Liberation from everyday worries and constraints • Freedom to be yourself.



KEYWORDS *Lack of clarity • Vanity • Arrogance • Failure
• Disappointment*

Reverse meaning Being dazzled by our own charm or abilities • The lucidity and clarity that The Sun should bring can be obscured • You may find yourself failing – not through lack of ability, but through an over-concern with yourself or your appearance • Your success may be delayed, but in due course you will succeed.



XX REBIRTH

♦ THE MESSAGE ♦

You hear the call and awaken to the new light of day. You have entered the darkness and drunk of the cup of silence. You have chosen life and emerge reborn.

KEYWORDS *Following a call • New directions • Renewal
• Transformation • Decision-making*

Meaning *The Power of the Call* You may have heard the call of your vocation, your mission in life, the spiritual path you are seeking, or simply the call of a new direction you need to take • Rebirth into a life that is more fully your own • You may have come to a crossroads in your life, and a decision is required that will take you in a new direction.



KEYWORDS *Denial of an inner call • Stagnation •
Procrastination • Fear of change*

Reverse meaning You may be aware that you need to make changes but you don't know how – or you may fear the consequences • A period of stagnation • Hesitating to commit yourself to a change may lead you to feel as if something is somehow dying within you – action, therefore, should probably be taken soon.

XXI THE WORLD



♦ THE MESSAGE ♦

*Dancing, I am Life. Whole,
I am One.*

KEYWORDS *Completion • Fulfilment • Success • Abundance
• Achievement • Ecstasy • Union of inner and outer life*

Meaning *The Dancer Knows She is Complete* Great success • A sense of deep and satisfying fulfilment • A pleasing sense of completion combined with the joy of achievement, and of feeling 'on top of the world' • Serenity and contentment • The completion of a long phase of work – time to celebrate! • A phase of spiritual and personal development may be finished • You can stop striving and open up to the blessings of life all around you.



KEYWORDS *Stasis • Delay • Restriction*

Reverse meaning The World reversed is The Hanged Man • You may find the completion of your work delayed, or that you have to go over some work again • You may simply feel stuck and unable to move forward • Inevitably, movement and completion will follow restriction and stasis.

SAMPLE READING

THE HEXAGRAM SPREAD

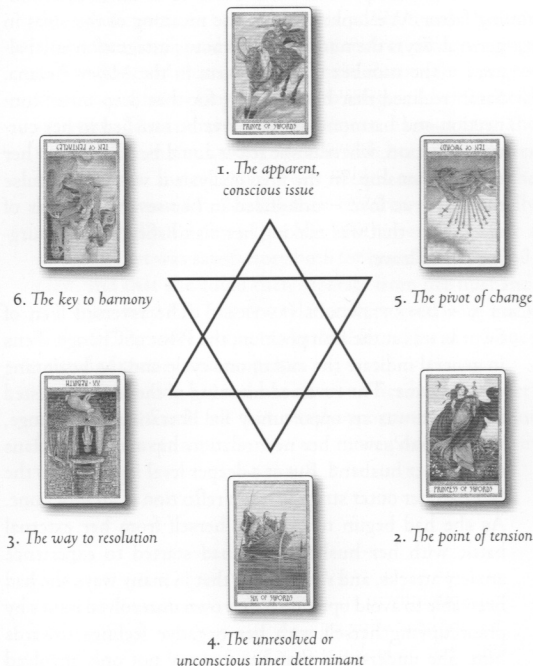
Sarah was in the process of leaving her husband of seventeen years, to start a new life in a new relationship. She had not yet left the family home, but felt that this would be the inevitable outcome. Although the separation was proving acrimonious, Sarah was excited about the change that was occurring in her life, and as she shuffled the cards she asked for insight into her relationships. The cards she chose were as shown opposite:

OVERVIEW Looking over the whole spread, the preponderance of Swords, which often indicate conflict or relationship difficulties, showed what a challenging time Sarah was going through. This impression was reinforced by the fact that half the cards were also reversed. Significantly, the two cards which were not Swords fell in the two positions that point the way towards achieving resolution and harmony.

Cards 1 and 2 • PRINCE OF SWORDS/PRINCESS OF SWORDS Sarah immediately identified the first two cards as herself and her husband. She experienced him as a taunting and aggressive Prince of Swords and, in identifying herself as the Princess of Swords, she came to the realization that she had always considered him to be utterly different to her, whereas now she could see that they often behaved like siblings locked in rivalry. Her friends told her that she appeared distant, and she could see how this provoked her husband into acting spitefully in an attempt to gain her attention. She had begun the reading expecting insights into her new relationship, but on looking at the first two cards she realized that

its focus was all too clearly on the one she was extricating herself from. 77

Card 3 • REBIRTH (REVERSED) The third card offered a way in which she could move forward. It is always important to read both the upright and reversed meanings for any card, since elements from either interpretation may be relevant to the situation. The reversed meaning of Rebirth indicates



procrastination and the feeling that something is dying inside. Sarah realized she had been feeling this way for years, but had been hesitating in making a decision to change. The upright meaning reinforced her sense that now was the time to make a firm decision about her relationships, and the direction she should take.

Card 4 • SIX OF SWORDS The fourth card drawn was the Six of Swords, in the place of the unresolved or inner determining factor. We looked first at the meaning of the sixes in general. Six is the number of harmony, integration and balance – the number of The Lovers in the Major Arcana. Sarah realized that her yearning for that deep inner connection and harmony would never be satisfied in her current situation, whereas she felt it could be achieved in her new relationship. In the final analysis it was this impulse towards true love – unfulfilled in her seventeen years of marriage – that was making her dissatisfied, and was urging her to leave.

Card 5 • TEN OF SWORDS (REVERSED) The reversed Ten of Swords was at the fifth position, the Pivot of Change. Tens in general indicate the end of one cycle and the beginning of a new one. The reversed meaning of the card suggested that there was an opportunity for liberation and change, which Sarah saw in her new relationship and in her plans to leave her husband. But at a deeper level it pointed to the fact that her outer struggle was a reflection of an inner one. As she had begun to extricate herself from her external battle with her husband, she had started to experience anxiety attacks, and she realized that in many ways she had been able to avoid opening to her own unresolved issues by preoccupying herself with her negative feelings towards him. She understood that her journey not only involved

moving from one relationship to another, but also offered her the opportunity to become a whole person in her own right, rather than being totally dependent on someone else for her sense of well-being.

Card 6 • TEN OF PENTACLES (REVERSED) The sixth card, the reversed Ten of Pentacles, at first seemed hard to interpret. The overall sense of accepting the end of one cycle to open to a new one – conveyed by all the Tens – was clear, but the significance of the card in this position only became clear when Sarah read both upright and reversed meanings and understood that one of the main reasons for her procrastinating for so long had been to safeguard her financial situation. She realized that the key to harmonizing the situation lay in not locking swords with her husband over her finances. Instead, they both needed to focus on the legacy they would be leaving their children – emotionally and financially. By doing this, she felt they could achieve a situation that was satisfactory both for herself and her children, and that she could then separate from her husband, and enter fully into her new relationship, freed from many of the feelings of resentment that had found focus in issues related to money and property.

By looking beyond her own and her husband's personal needs, Sarah felt that a real opportunity existed for both of them to enter a new and more positive phase in their lives.



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The Druid Way

If you are interested in learning more about Druidry, we can send you details of the training course offered by *The Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids*. See www.druidry.org or contact OBOD, PO Box 1333, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1DX, England; Tel/Fax: +44 (0)1273 470888; email: office@druidry.org

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