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THE SACRED ROSE TAROT

Foreword

Inspired by the artistry of medieval stained glass windows and Byzantine icons, the artwork of Johanna Sherman provides a definitive link with the belief in the divinity of nature that prevailed during pre-Christian times. Thus, instead of using the lotus mandala of the Middle East, the Sacred Rose Tarot draws on the symbolic rose of Western iconography and the ancient Kabbalah, the Tree of Life, and the cosmos itself—time and space.

While preparing the 22 Major Arcana cards during the years 1978-1980, the artist expressed her viewpoints in private correspondence:

The purpose of the Sacred Rose artwork is to enable viewers to envision the obvious fragmentation of their existence, to recognize and foresee their own inner strengths and, despite the ever-present obstacles that arise in life, to transcend earthly existence.

The Major Arcana of the Sacred Rose Tarot deck presents systematic and symbolic pictures that reveal the experiences of life's progress and development. The symbolism on the cards is not meant to be either occult or mundane, rather it is nature-oriented. Red suggests passion and creativity; white represents purity and initiation. In the sequence of natural progression, initiation is the step prior to the act of creativity.

The feminine aspects of the Sacred Rose Tarot cards are spiritual and lunar; the masculine attributes are physical and solar. Meditation with the deck should be a simple and natural process because the artwork itself is natural and inspirational.

Johanna Sherman believes there should be neither mystery nor uncertainty in esoteric philosophy. Every person, regardless of background, strengths and weaknesses, should experience joy in The Sun card, wisdom in the mystery of The High Priestess, encouragement in the priestly Hierophant, and so on. The artist has sought to evoke spiritual inspiration through the imagery of each of her cards.

The beginnings of the Sacred Rose Tarot deck go back to the spring of 1977 when an unsolicited business card arrived at the offices of U. S. Games Systems, Inc. in New York. The illustrated card depicted several colorful prints including a surrealistic rendition of Pierrot, the pantomime character, dressed like a clown in floppy white outfit, and a young girl in pre-Raphaelite style awakening alone in the woods to the dawn.

While nothing in the designs of the prints suggested anything relating to tarot, the style and colors of each work, their earthy symbolism and the inspirational story that readily unfolded from each scene suggested that Ms. Sherman was an artist who might especially relate to tarot.

More than anything else, the work of Johanna Sherman depicts figures suspended in time and space, yet possessed of a fluidity that conveys spirituality and a variety of active emotions.

I wrote Ms. Sherman asking her to bring her portfolio to our offices. Much to my pleasant sur-prise, the artist was already familiar with tarot. At the age of sixteen she had presented a class paper on tarot to students of a creative literature class at a progressive high school in New York City. Her interest In tarot had been kindled by the use of a tarot deck in a British film entitled Dr. Terror's House of Horrors.

Johanna Sherman's approach to tarot is more intuitive than scholarly, and she experiences and lives the allegorical Imagery of each card.

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When I first met Stuart Kaplan, I found to

my amazement that the earliest tarot decks

he sold were to a store in New York where I purchased the first tarot deck l ever owned.

Our paths had crossed ten years earlier without my knowing it.

Johanna Sherman and I discussed the first tarot card she would paint and immediately we agreed on The Fool, our favorite. The earthy Fool stepping out into life was completed during the summer of 1977 and appeared in print for the first time in Volume l of The Encyclopedia of Tarot.

Encouraged by favorable response to The Fool, we discussed the possibility of her completing the remaining 21 Major Arcana cards. For the next six months the artist prepared various sketches and drawings which she brought to our offices for critique by both myself and George Bennett, Art Director of U. S. Games Systems, Inc. In July 1978, Johanna Sherman agreed to complete the full 78-card deck in two stages, the 22 Major Arcana followed by the 56 Minor Arcana.

The opportunity to see my own tarot deck in print was a personal dream come

true. I immediately set to work designing

my second card, Death. The Fool represented new beginnings and divine endeavors and it seemed appropriate that this untouched person, so full of hope and ambition, should be followed by Death, the

great transformer.

Once the deck was set in motion, it appeared that all of Johanna Sherman's intuitive knowledge and instincts about the symbolism of tarot fused and the imagery of each card emerged in dramatic and vivid colors.

The preparation of the Sacred Rose Tarot deck became an act of love and self-revelation for the artist. The cards reveal the deepest emotions of the

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artist while penetrating to the innermost feelings of the reader. Tarot helped Johanna Sherman come to terms with herself and, in turn, she has sought to bare the soul of the reader so that knowledge, understanding and transcendence to new levels of appreciation and existence become possible.

When the Major Arcana cards were completed in 1980, the original rendition of The Fool—the special card that had opened the door to Johanna Sherman's commitment to painting her own tarot deck—seemed somewhat out of place and perhaps des¬tined to remain by itself. For this reason, a new, slightly modified version of The Fool was prepared for inclusion in the Sacred Rose Tarot deck.

Johanna Sherman is a devoted practitioner of meditation and student of esoteric sciences. She is content to remain near family and friends, yet through the tarot she is willing to touch the emo-tions of other people. It is the hope of both the artist and myself that each card of the Sacred Rose Tarot deck will reach the heart of the reader and serve to clarify and enrich his or her life.

Stuart R. Kaplan New York

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Introduction

The pursuit of knowledge has many disciplines. One that has been studied for centuries is the set of 78 cards known as the tarot.

The tarot is one of the most fascinating mediums of self-knowledge. Like an ancient Rorschach test it opens the subconscious each time the deck is spread. Each symbol has a place in the collective unconscious and thereby the psyche of the individual(s) using the cards is stimulated. Whether used as a tool for self-development or as a focus for psychic projections, the tarot functions effectively within the realms of one's own mind, and, as the ancient and modern seers know, the greatest mystery is within.

The Major Arcana represents the ancient rite of initiation from the lower self to the higher self. The Minor Arcana symbolizes our desires, needs and hopes by the suits of Wands, Cups and Swords, respectively, with the integration of all elements taking place in the suit of Pentacles.

Back Design

The back design of the Sacred Rose Tarot deck comprises five mystic roses entwined in a lattice of branches and resting upon a bed of green leaves representing the fertility of nature. The roses are the western equivalent to the sacred lotus of the Orient.

Cosmic Rose (center) suggests time and space.

Red Rose stands for sacrifice.

White Rose is purity.

Blue Rose represents the impossible.

Gold Rose signifies absolute achievement.

The symbolic roses appear throughout the Major Arcana and the Minor Arcana of the Sacred Rose Tarot deck.

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The 22 Major Arcana

The following description of the 22 Major Arcana cards includes an explanation of the symbolism found on each card, the application of colors, which signify forces and abilities, and interpretations of each card for the purposes of meditation and divination.

0 THE FOOL

Description: The earthy figure of The Fool, dressed in peasant shirt and knee-length mountain pants, strides into timeless space, a half-smile on his lips. The rocks and earth blend in stained glass imagery while around him multi-colored flowers burst

through the rock crevices.

The white rose in The Fool's right hand represents physical purity and initiation. The purple bag over his right shoulder suggests Karmic lessons and their influence over his life. The butterfly symbolizes the power of divine metamorphosis. The white dog biting at his leg represents The Fool's basic nature that tries to hold him back; the animalistic nature of humanity might prove to be its downfall on the journey to spiritual enlightenment and development.

Beyond The Fool, the landscape, both fertile and barren, indicates the range of opportunities as well as dangers that lie ahead. The ladder pattern of the red straps on his legs suggests personal sacrifice; each strap represents one of the seven steps to universal consciousness, similar to the seven chakras of the Hindus. The zodiac belt bearing the sign of the balance, Libra, suggests the need for harmony, especially when viewed against the green background of productivity.

The Fool's hat with its red and purple balls suggests the power that results from the combination of creative passion and spiritual development. The red shirt reveals his love of adventure and the

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purple britches indicate power inherent in movement. The Fool passes through the kabbalistic Tree of Life and he is our guide into the eternal mysteries of the Major Arcana.

Divinatory Meanings: Innocence and divine spirit. Childlike enthusiasm. Great expectations. Visions of the young and dreams of the old. The cosmic journey despite earthly pitfalls and obstacles. Enthusiastic encounter with nature.

Reverse Meanings: Opposing elements. Obstacles. Naive attempts. Hindered development. Apathy. Madness. Foolish actions.

1 THE MAGICIAN

Description: The iridescent figure of The Magician rises above earthly concerns. He seems to float in time and space, complacent and in full control of his magical abilities. He is the manipulator and juggler of his destiny. A golden aura emanates from his physical being, indicating that he draws energy from the cosmos and also dispenses energy to those around him.

The red robe signifies creative passion and the purple tones reveal his inner power. The double nimbus above his head represents esoteric knowledge, the combining and flow of male and female energy. The talisman bag around his neck contains herbs for protection. The Magician deals with forces beyond the capabilities of most people, thus the need for the talisman.

The will and power of The Magician summons from the sparkling cosmos the four suit symbols—sword, wand, cup and pentacle—all tools of his trade. The magical paths of power emanating as rays from the upraised sword, include music, dance, ritual, herbology, astral projection, meditation, love and psychic development. The Magician nourishes and inspires the multi-colored roses that spring forth around him.

Enlightenment comes through use of The Magician's will. The wand at his upraised left hand draws fire and creative energy from above; the pentacle at his lower right formulates fire into the earth plane.

Divinatory Meanings: Manipulative intelligence. Creative will and the resultant power. Visualization of the future for personal ends. Elemental forces at work. Initiative. Skill.

Reverse Meanings: Perversion of nature's gifts and forces. Misuse of power. Misdirection. Effects derived from vanity, ego and self-indulgence. Gambling. Cheating. Loss of nerve. Illness.

Il THE HIGH PRIESTESS

Description: The imposing, almost supernatural figure of The High Priestess sits upon her earthly throne. She is majestic and untouchable.

The High Priestess represents the virgin aspect of spirituality and all who come before her are over-come with awe. In the three aspects of the female person, The High Priestess represents the virgin, The Empress is the mother, and The Moon or Woman of the Moon, is the crone.

The dark hair of The High Priestess suggests hidden knowledge and mysteries guarded by her superior nature. The golden sphere suggests complete knowledge, and her mercurial crown indi-cates communication, fluidity of thought, and knowledge.

The astral veil between the two pillars of the Tree of Life serves as a link between two concurrent forces. The High Priestess herself serves as the middle pillar, the balance between B (Boaz), the dark nature of water and earth, and J (Jachin), the celestial fire and divine spirit.

Above the head of The High Priestess is a gold triangle, formed by the green leaves of the Tree of Life and the top of the veil. The supernal triangle

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links the triad of Kether (the Crown or godhead) with Chokmah (Wisdom) and Binah (Intelligence).

The blue gown suggests the fabric of impossible endeavors that may be touchable and eventually realized. The gown becomes liquid as it touches the crescent moon, suggesting the fluidity of the enquiring mind and emotion. Eventually the gown trans-forms into the thin veil worn by the female figure of The World card.

Across the breast of The High Priestess is a solar cross that links earth (horizontal bar) with the heavens (vertical bar). The High Priestess points to the book of ail knowledge, for she is the teacher. The book on her lap rests among the purple folds of her gown; purple is the color of power and power is derived from the book of knowledge. Her feet rest upon the crescent moon, symbol of the divine nature of spirituality. Roses blossom everywhere and confirm abundant knowledge.

Divinatory Meanings: Spiritual aspect of knowledge. Intuition as a source of good judgment based on logic and knowledge, removed from the confusion of emotion. Aloofness. Instinct. Secrets.

Reverse Meanings: Emotional block. Distorted in-stinct and logic. Intuition not properly used. Preju-dice. Snobbery. Ignorance. Possibly an illicit actor love affair. Lust.

Ill THE EMPRESS

Description: The motherly figure of The Empress sits upon her throne and dispenses her authority. As a female figure, she represents fertility and is the mother of nature. She is powerful and feminine, kind and sympathetic. Despite her aura and powerful position, she remains accessible to all who seek her.

The twelve stars above her head represent the twelve signs of the zodiac, for The Empress is the queen of the universe and the earth mother. She holds a scepter in her left hand topped by the

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Mercurial orb and solar cross, both of which are similar to those worn by The High Priestess. Thus, the worldly power in her possession is reflected by the scepter with its long stem which suggests the male principle that sets it into action.

The throne of The Empress is made from trees, nature's elements. Two trees show in the distance. The Empress wears a blue gown to indicate the magnitude of the universe and her ability to accomplish seemingly impossible endeavors. She is pregnant—a symbol of motherhood to all. The rose at her breast confirms absolute achievement through inspiration, and the necklace with its seven visible pearls represents the seven spheres of power or the chakras of the Hindus.

The shield of The Empress is the sign of Venus with a fertile green on a purple background con-firming power and intuition. Her bare feet touch the crescent moon for affirmation in the subconscious. The red cushion of her throne provides comfort as she offers her physical energy.

The mysterious High Priestess has given up her virginal aspect to become the child-bearing Empress. Their natures are now combined and a child of divine nature will eventually be born of the union between The Empress and The Emperor.

Divinatory Meanings: Natural instincts blessed with fruitful attainment. Involvement with life in a favor-able and active way. The future indicates happiness. Fulfillment through charity. Unselfishness.

Reverse Meanings: Hedonism. Rash actions. Un-balanced instincts. The end result from wasted energies. Selfishness. Restraining emotions. Envy. Despair. Dissipation, Failure.

1111 THE EMPEROR

Description: The bearded figure of a powerful Emperor sits upon his throne against a background of fire. Above his head is an eagle, spirit of intellect,

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freedom, majesty and strength. The eagle also suggests Zeus and the hunter aspect of the godhead. In the three aspects of the male person, The Emperor is the hunter, The Hierophant is the provider of social order, and Death is the great and unequivocal transformer.

The Emperor wears a golden crown of seven rays or chakras indicating spiritual development that emanates from his use of intelligence. He is dressed in a purple robe signifying power. His scepter is topped with a fleur-de-lis signifying his involvement with nature; he is the fertilizer or catalyst. The thick, long staff of his scepter confirms his physical power.

The golden orb in The Emperor's left hand signifies the need for feminine intuition and the great value placed on the influence of The Empress. The Emperor wears heavy boots as a sign of aloofness and as protection from many unwanted forces that nature evokes from the ignoble aspects of himself. The Emperor sits upon a golden cube, the six sides of which represent the four elements of fire, water, air and earth, and the dimensions of time and space. Thus, his throne is the physical manifestation of creativity. The red glow in the background is a reflection of fire and confirms the Emperor's worldly power and masculine productivity.

Divinatory Meanings: Wisdom through worldly experience. Powerful creative energies. Action as the road to fulfillment. Wisdom. Self-discipline. Authority. Protection. Self-control.

Reverse Meanings: Lack of self-discipline. Lack or loss of control. Stagnation. Overconfidence. Self-delusion. Inquiry.

V THE HIEROPHANT

Description: The priestly, stoic figure of The Hiero-phant appears before a large star to command and to convey his blessed presence. The Hierophant

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possesses human frailty, yet he is able to rise above human indulgence and dispense laws and rules of social conduct as a guide to proper actions among people.

The Hierophant wears a triple gold crown en-lightened by the presence of solar power that flows through the creative, formative and physical worlds. He holds aloft a large scepter topped by a triple cross comprised of seven bars which refer to the seven sins and the seven virtues of humanity.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Planetary Sins Vices | Celestial Bodies | Planetary Virtues |
| Pride | The Sun | Power |
| Sloth | The Moon | Grace |
| Envy | Mercury | Ethics |
| Wrath | Mars | Courage |
| Lust | Venus | Love |
| Gluttony | Jupiter | Benevolence |
| Avarice | Saturn | Honesty |

Through his staff The Hierophant seeks to combat vice and to encourage goodness and virtue. With his gloved hand, The Hierophant gives the esoteric gesture of blessing, but the true nature of his power remains hidden.

A cross appears on the Hierophant's chest, similar to the one seen in The High Priestess card, but the vertical bar is longer and stronger, signifying the manifestation of the spirit here on earth.

Spiritual growth on earth brings social change. As needs change, environment and friends change. Thus, The Hierophant is necessary as a social force whose presence stabilizes the interaction of people and enables the implementation of laws and social order.

Divinatory Meanings: Social grace and blessings. Partnerships. Spiritual and social knowledge. Good advice. Stabilizing influence.

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Reverse Meanings: Social rules are broken. Weak-ness. Bad advice. Lies. Persecution. Prejudice. Snobbery.

VI THE LOVERS

Description: Beneath the angel Raphael a young man embraces two feminine figures representing Eve and Lilith. According to Hebrew folklore, Lilith was the wife of Adam prior to the creation of Eve. In ancient Semitic legend, Lilith was an evil female spirit or demon.

The blindfolded angel signifies springtime and the new dawn. The blue blindfold represents the realization of an otherwise impossible vision.

The young man is solar nature; he must choose between two aspects of lunar nature. On his right side is the figure of virtue whose left hand reaches out to the cosmos, decisive and active, signifying a sense of purpose and the struggle for divine womanhood.

By contrast, Lilith recoils from the cosmos. She rejects the possible union of two opposites which, in reality, is inherent in all people—mother and child, father and son, teacher and student. However, as an independent woman, Lilith holds great strength of will. Thus, the young man must choose between the two figures or seek to utilize a combination of the qualities inherent in both figures. Divine interven¬tion is not a factor.

Each of us in our own way is the young man striving for the realization of an impossible vision. We must make choices among many conflicting alternatives.

Divinatory Meanings: Selection. Choices to be made. Free will is the objective. Attraction. Decision. Evolution to a higher plane.

Reverse Meanings: Drastic event. Incorrect choice. Confusion. Guidance should be sought. Disasso-ciation. Quarrels. Indecision.

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VII THE CHARIOT

Description: A chariot is drawn by two sphinxes while the charioteer empowers them to reach beyond their limits. The charioteer is the controlling force and he is able to overcome the inherent ruling nature of the sphinxes and control them.

Across his shoulders the charioteer wears moon medallions, symbol of the inconsistent nature that he has conquered.

The sphinx represents the hostile nature of the earth mother. In Greek mythology the sphinx was a winged monster with the head of a woman and the body of a lion that destroyed all who could not answer its riddle: What walks on four legs in the morning, two legs in the afternoon and three legs in the evening? The answer is the human individual, who crawls in childhood, walks upright in adulthood, and hobbles with a cane in old age. These three phases of life correspond in the tarot to The Fool, The Emperor and Death.

The sphinxes are both positive and negative as evidenced by the colors white and black, respectively. The sphinxes also are the supreme embodiment of the enigma, guarding that which shall ever remain beyond the full understanding of humanity.

Thirteen stars appear above the charioteer, five to either side and three in the formation of a crown. All thirteen reduce numerologically to four, representing foundation, the firm base that is solid and under control.

The red wheels of the chariot symbolize fire; thus intellect and creativity are pressed into motion and direction. The blue rose set in a red pentagram between the two sphinxes suggests the creative nature of fire that rises from the heart chakra, or the impossible.

The charioteer grasps with his right hand a powerful rod topped with a pyramid mounted on a cube on a sphere; energy, foundation and completion are all accomplished through the solar self. The charioteer's self-discipline and control lead to his mastery and perfection of whatever he attempts. Divinatory Meanings: Forces within a situation are harnessed to work toward a desired goal. Triumph. Battles fought and won on the earthly plane result in glories on the astral plane and vice versa. Success. Self-assertion. Exploration.

Reverse Meanings: Working on only a single aspect of a situation. Misuse of energies. Refusing to face a situation. Cowardice. Tyranny. Defeat. Misfortune.

VIII JUSTICE

Description: Resplendent, blindfolded Justice, in her royal robe, administers justice with forceful decision and uncompromising righteousness. She is a feminine figure, with a triple crown, and is somewhat like The Empress transformed into a different role.

The purple blindfold signifies discrimination that is intuitive in nature. Her robe, comprising a combination of purple, red and blue, bears the colors of all essence and signifies power, sacrifice and realization of the impossible.

Justice bears a solar or physical crown of three bars side by side, signifying the creative, formative and physical worlds. Her abundant red hair signifies power and creativity in nature.

The upraised golden sword in Justice's right hand confirms inspired intellect; three red stones located at the top and ends of the hilt indicate fire. The inverted triangle formed by the hilt represents the blend of fire and water, confirming that emotional creativity leads to true justice. Thus, the figure of Justice can empathize and easily relate to the circumstances of other people.

The scales are shown with the red heart of humanity and the blue rose of the impossible in balance. Neither outweighs the other. However, it is wise to remember that the scales may tip to either extreme before settling into equanimity.

Divinatory Meanings: The absolute in all its force. Divine decree. Test. Ordeal. Lesson. Weigh all possibilities prior to action.

Reverse Meanings: Headstrong actions. Bitterness. Bias. Abuse. Bigotry. Complications. Unfairness. Frustration.

VIIII THE HERMIT

Description: Bearded, cloaked and possessed of an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, The Hermit travels his own path toward eternal enlightenment. The Hermit is not an ordained person, but rather a man of knowledge. Thus, he emerges as a perpetual seeker of the truth and a student and teacher rather than as a leader.

The red robe of The Hermit signifies personal sacrifice. The lantern with its exposed flame illumi-nates the path to inner knowledge. The crooked staff is an incomplete caduceus given to The Hermit for fighting and overcoming the serpents of knowledge. When the serpents are conquered, they become entwined around the staff as a symbol of erudite knowledge. Thus, the staff supports and protects The Hermit in his encounter with the serpents and afterward becomes a symbol of his accomplishment.

Beyond The Hermit are two Trees of Life. The Hermit departs from the physical or solar world and, after traveling across the barren ground, reaches the sacred roses and enters the fertile cosmos.

The austere Hermit is removed from the world we know into a path of separate reality. The Hermit is also a manifestation of The Fool on the path of austerity and the quest toward knowledge.

Divinatory Meanings: Inward journey. Meditation. Humility. Virtues sought and found. Self-knowledge. Student as teacher and teacher as student. Caution.

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Prudence. Search for truth.

Reverse Meanings: Stubbornness. Objection. False humility. Self-delusion. Untruthful responses. Fear. Timidity. Lack of communication.

X THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE Description: Before the watchful eyes of the sphinx, The Wheel of Fortune turns at the edge of the cosmos. The wheel represents agitation and inter¬action of time, space and thought. The abundant flora surrounding the wheel suggests everlasting life.

The Wheel of Fortune is purple to signify power and intuition, green to suggest nature and fertility, blue for intellect and the impossible, and pink to indicate emotions and sacrifice.

Ascending on the right is Anubis, the jackal-headed god also known as Hermanubis, a positive force of nature and bearer of constructive knowledge. On the left is the serpent Typhon, god of evil and destruction, the alter ego of the Egyptian god Set and bearer of destructive and forbidden knowledge. The wheel itself represents the divine intervention of the gods over which no one has any control.

The monkey at the base of the wheel suggests the base nature of humanity, which through its own natural instinct is mischievous, yet dexterous and lucky. The eagle at the left of the wheel suggests intellect, lofty accomplishments and glory.

The sphinx patiently watches. She knows and understands the forces before her that expand and contract, like the ebb and flow of the ocean tide, to reveal a myriad of possibilities.

Divinatory Meanings: Link with the universal flux. Destiny. Adaptability. Karma. Karmic lessons. Uni-versal law. Proper conduct. Good fortune. Gain after trial. Destiny with a beneficial outcome.

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Reverse Meanings: Self-delusion is now a refuge from lessons to be learned. Reality is confronted. A change for the worse. A very hard lesson. Improper action.

XI STRENGTH

Description: The powerful figure of a woman rides the back of a docile lion. Strength is at a distance from the Trees of Life as opposed to figures on many of the other cards who are flanked by the Trees. The long distance suggests that sometimes one must go beyond one's foundation to realize new goals.

The woman's hair is swept up in a whirl indicating unification of both spiritual and physical power. Above her head appears the double nimbus, a divine attribute indicating harmonious duality and interaction with the divine.

Strength is spiritual in nature whereas the lion is animalistic. Together they integrate their best qualities into a formidable force that neither could possess individually. The spiritual aspects are in harmony with the physical attributes, subduing the animal—discipline tempered with love. The lion is the glorious reincarnation of Leo from the physical world, the male aspect tamed and dominated by the female and spiritual aspect.

Surrounding the woman and the lion is a bountiful garden resplendent with the possibilities of positive force in both the spiritual and physical worlds. Divinatory Meanings: A test of equilibrium between the physical and spiritual worlds. Animalistic tendencies coupled with sacrifice, Attention to spirituality in order to dominate. Will power. Strength. Reconciliation.

Reverse Meanings: Failure of the spiritual test. Disparate forces. Nourishment is needed. Bad temper. Illness. Weakness. Domineering attitudes.

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XII THE HANGED MAN

Description: The figure of a man with a complacent facial expression hangs upside down with his hands clasped in meditation and prayer. He symbolizes one of the highest levels of mortal sacrifice and at all times is consciously aware of what he is doing and undergoing. The divine martyr feels no pain as he enters into the higher self,

The hair of The Hanged Man is almost electrified and appears to be attracted to the entrance of the cosmos. His face reveals no physical pain, but rather contentment and enlightenment, for he is part of the universe. His purple shirt suggests power and intuition. The red britches represent strong physical foundations.

In his clasped hands, The Hanged Man holds a red rose signifying supreme sacrifice through emotion and discipline. He hangs from his right leg by a thick, fertile, green vine that represents physical foundation. His left leg is free and crossed behind him to indicate spiritual freedom. The kabbalistic Tree of Life supports him and gives him the inner courage and discipline to sustain himself. Bountiful clusters of colorful roses flourish in the foreground, in the rolling fields and beneath the tall trees.

The Hanged Man card represents transformation in its emotional or water aspect. The physical body Is influenced by emotional desires and needs. Divinatory Meanings: Faith in one's own development. New and old beliefs put to the test. Good intentions, despite unconventional behavior. Sacri-ice. Suffering. Suspension.

Reverse Meanings: Defeat as the result of selfish-ness. False values. Lack of security. Pain. Falseness.

XIII DEATH

Description: The shrouded figure of Death holds a

large scythe. This is the only figure of the Major

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Arcana that is shown rising from the cosmos into the landscape. The Death card is one of the few that represents divine intervention. It is an earth trans-formation card.

The robe worn by Death is purple to signify the power of transformation. Death walks toward the solar side of the card suggesting that physical death is not necessary for the fulfillment of the spirit. The transformation of the physical body is not neces¬sarily the end of the spiritual entity or soul of a person who lives on in the astral plane.

Death holds the scythe in his left hand suggesting intuitive manipulation. His right foot is the first to touch the physical foundation of the fertile earth. The landscape is both fertile and barren; in Death's footsteps sacred flowers wither and die.

The ominous scythe is lunar and emotional in its curved design and solar or physical in its straight handle. The scythe signifies the climax of events. As the harvest symbol, it indicates that the process of growth has reached the end of natural evolution and the reality of change is at hand. The combination of lunar and solar aspects thus represents the passage of time. The scythe is a great transforming power.

Death is one of several cards that represent fatalistic circumstances and influences that neither the reader nor diviner can change. The other cards are VIII Justice (air), X Wheel of Fortune (time and space), XII The Hanged Man (water) and XVI The Tower (fire). These cards and their attributes are the result of divine intervention in an individual's life. Divinatory Meanings: Transition. Great change. The past is left behind. New experiences. New cycle of events.

Reverse Meanings: Inertia. Failure. Limbo. Depres-sion from stagnation. Change is needed.

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XIIII TEMPERANCE

Description: The robed figure of an angel pours a liquid that has been purified by the thought pro-cesses back and forth between two vessels.

The silver vessel is lunar and transient in nature and suggests a state of motion and fluidity including such time cycles as phases of the moon, days of the month, the seasons, and so forth.

The golden vessel is solar and physical in nature. It receives the liquid of emotion and confirms that time itself manifests change. Thus, one can be temperate in mind and action and eventually things will manifest themselves. Often a person has to wait until the right moment is at hand.

Temperance wears a red robe confirming the sacrifice of one's passions, the untamed and uncon¬trolled emotions. The green lining indicates fertile support of outward sacrifices. Temperance's bare feet suggest she is unafraid of contact with the earth and the cosmos.

The figure of Temperance has golden wings signifying the presence of the solar virtues of justice, victory and intelligence. The blending of these mobile attributes creates a powerful force. The angel is an etheric creature influenced by all-pervading thoughts. Thus, a person's own thoughts may interfere with or prevent an event from occurring. Self-conflict may cause resistance. The surrounding landscape is abundant and fertile, blossoming not only with roses, but also colorful flowers and green ferns, suggesting the variety that emerges from harmony. Like the woman in the Strength card, the figure of Temperance is also shown at a distance from the Trees of Life, suggesting a metaphysical emergence above and beyond one's self.

Divinatory Meanings: Patience and temperance are needed. An emotional situation requires clear

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thoughts. Cooperation. Observation. Understanding. Partnership. Moderation.

Reverse Meanings: Spiritual or emotional clash. Frustration. Stress. Forcing of an issue. Poor management. Discord.

XV THE DEVIL

Description: A horned creature is seated upon a throne of dead trees. He possesses the luminescence of knowledge applied to misused ends.

The Devil's crown of golden horns is lunar in nature, thus transient and emotional. The golden color of his horns is solar, which suggests physical and sexual properties. The point of ecstacy, instead of being spiritual, becomes purely physical.

The pentagram on The Devil's forehead is not inverted and thus indicates that the path to righteousness can be discerned from an understanding of illusion and its power. The pentagram also confirms that intuition can be spiritual in nature and that it is possible to find salvation by following one's intuition.

The wings of The Devil are purple, suggesting power and creatures of the night. His green body is fertile and creative in an evil context. The red face is vengeful. The goat-like legs suggest fierce strength in contrast to the regal legs of the lion. The flame on his forehead above the horns reveals knowledge that is illusory.

Whatever manifests in the Ether or within the power of the mind shall manifest itself here on earth. Thus, as you think, so you are; and as above, so below.

The Devil's hands are confined close to his body; the right hand points upward, the left downward. The fingers on both hands are spread in the kabbalistic blessing of knowledge which is the word of power. Although generally the esoteric gesture of blessing is formed by both hands almost touching,

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by contrast the hands of The Devil are separated above and below to signify malevolence.

The kneeling figures represent man and woman, possibly Adam and Eve. They are roped to each other, but only by one hand. Although they can sever their bonds if they desire, they willingly remain bound together by earthly and materialistic desires. Thus, for example, someone who dislikes a job remains miserable and quite likely makes everyone around miserable, yet doesn't quit the job. When one's emotions and anxieties run out of control, it is possible to cause self-imposed illness, misfortune and disease.

Man, shown at The Devil's left side, suggests lack of spirituality. Woman, at The Devil's right side, indicates frigidity and lack of feeling.

Divinatory Meanings: Obsession, Material indulgence. Miserable existence. Pressures caused by lack of consideration. Selfishness. Carnal knowledge. Forbidden knowledge. Difficulty in change. Reverse Meanings: Changing values. Stupidity. Test of spiritual beliefs. Knowledge of both good and evil, but preference for evil. Alteration.

XVI THE TOWER

Description: Two figures, representing Adam followed by Eve, plunge to their just rewards. The Tower they created is being destroyed by outside forces and no longer can they control the circum-stances that affect their lives.

The Tower card represents fire and transformation, the test of creativity and of an individual's intentions in life. The two falling figures are dressed in purple, the color of power. Nevertheless, the figures fall from grace because of the offense of their own ego, represented by the crown, which they falsely admired and worshipped.

The lightning bolt that strikes the tower represents the anger of beings beyond the normal influence of

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people—divine intervention through drastic enlightenment. The tower has three windows representing two physical eyes and, at the top, the all-seeing psychic eye, the third eye of intuition and the pineal gland.

The landscape is barren indicating that false gods created by human imagination are doomed to failure. Divinatory Meanings: Breakdown of values. Change. Disaster. Old ways are no longer of value. Unseen forces at work. Humbling events. Awesome powers that demand attention.

Reverse Meanings: Clinging to old ways and past values. Failing to heed the message of new forces. Entrapment. Destruction.

XVII THE STAR

Description: A female figure clothed only in nature's garlands rests in a sanctuary made from the entwined roots of the Tree of Life. Her unusual throne serves as a nurturing force. She remains unafraid in the dark night.

The Empress has been transformed into an iridescent figure who, confident despite the unknown, brings light and hope to everything around her. The golden strands of her hair are electrified, displaying her enlightenment and power.

With her right hand the figure of The Star waters the roots of the Tree of Life evidencing physical manifestation. With her left hand she pours spiritual manifestation and intuition into the cosmos of time and space.

The butterfly, found originally in The Fool card, now appears to rest on her right hand. Representing metamorphosis and life, the butterfly is the solar or physical manipulator. Consistent with the auspicious imagery of the card, the landscape is resplendent with multi-colored roses.

The atmosphere is heavy and ponderous, yet the stars are brilliant. The three yellow stars suggest

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magnanimity, intuition, intellect, spiritual philosophy and the formula for creation. The four orange stars represent pride and ambition; moreover, the number four is the number of earth with its four directions of north, east, south and west, and represents the earth's foundation and its tangible achievement.

There are seven small stars in total symbolizing seven levels of power of the Chakras. The single, large red star signifies passion, sacrifice, creativity and the id. The eight stars in sum represent the eight paths of power, eight being the symbol of regeneration. This card especially relates to the development of music, dance, ritual, astral projection, meditation, herbology, love and psychic development. The stars are combined to form a composite of all attributes that can be used as means toward worthwhile ends and improvement In outlook and position.

Divinatory Meanings: Hope. Attainable goals. Nurturing of future accomplishments. Guidance. Un-expected spiritual gifts. Good health. Beneficence. Reverse Meanings: Disappointment. Sickness. De-pression brought about by self-pity and feelings of hopelessness. Desperation.

XVIII THE MOON

Description: Set in a somber atmosphere of heavy tropical leaves and hanging shrouds, the figure of The Moon appears to be suspended in time and space in the posture of a dance. Although the dance is similar to the dance of death, she presses her left hand to her breast as if to control frenzy and ecstasy.

A thin web between the trees suggests entanglement and signifies self-initiated conflicts. The figure of The Moon wears a green robe, which normally indicates fertility, but in this instance, her power only serves to hold back the clinging crayfish which eventually is forced to return to its own environment. Thus, the scene illustrates deception and disappointment.

The lithe figure of The Moon has linked herself to the power of the overhead moon and now she is a crone. The purple hair that serves as a base for the reclining moon also suggests the power of thought that is not fully expressed.

The Moon itself sheds a large tear for it must go through the painful cycle of growing and receding and cannot control its effect upon nature. Change is not always easy and often causes pain and anguish. The barren ground with its empty crevices is a dramatic contrast to the colorful foliage and flowers found in many of the other cards. Yet hope pervades as seen by the presence of the cosmos at the bottom of the card.

Divinatory Meanings: Hidden changes. Dreams and intuitions of a foreboding nature. Lower astral traveler. Psychic development. Secrets guarded within the recesses of the soul. Deception.

Reverse Meanings: Emotions dictating what may be a great learning experience. Morbid or deep imagination. Meanness. Irrational behavior, Trifling mistakes.

XVIII' THE SUN

Description: A child and his reflection are sur-rounded by a resplendent garden. Flowers burst into full bloom beneath the rays of the friendly sun.

The boy with the blue garland represents mastery over the impossible. His reflection, wearing a rose-colored garland, indicates that accomplishments are possible through sacrifice and love. Both children are smiling. Together, the cosmic twins, the Blue Rose Child and the Red Rose Child, confirm that obstacles can be surmounted.

Nature is seen as young, innocent and childlike. The landscape is abundant—a garden of delights. Colorful flowers are everywhere. The red color of

the stone wall indicates the overcoming of obstacles that may be caused by emotional factors. The Sun is beneficent and resplendent; neither aggressive nor oppressive, and yet not meek or condescending. Divinatory Meanings: Obstacles surmounted. Opposites in harmony. Joy. Happiness. Attainment. Blessings.

Reverse Meanings: Inspiration is lacking. Need to apply new pathways. Disharmony of nature. Dis-appointment. Lack of friendship.

XX JUDGMENT

Description: A huge angel appears above two frail human figures. The angel's head and body are large because the angel possesses all-encompassing power.

The angel has traveled to the Tree of Life, walked among its many branches to savor its knowledge, and now, magnified by its experiences, is in a position to help humanity toward resurrection.

The golden wings of the angel suggest solar energy derived from the mind and serving as divine inspiration. Thus, material needs are satisfied through spiritual guidance.

The two human figures represent Adam and Eve. Both are faced with a new beginning. Eve, the spiritual, feminine aspect, faces her judgment. Adam, representing the physical, manly aspect, prays for forgiveness.

Eve's sin was to want to be like God and to want knowledge. Adam's sin was to disobey and be moved by his spirit into forbidden action.

Amid the dead matter of the earth, a child is reborn suggesting the benefits that derive from the fruits of one's labor. The child receives divine energy. Divinatory Meanings: Reunion of opposites. Physi¬cal and spiritual natures joined together. New beginning. Fresh outlook. New energy.

Reverse Meanings: Postponement of a project. Dis-association of forces. Scattering of energies. Lack of accomplishment.

XXI THE WORLD

Description: A young woman is clad in a blue veil woven from the fabric of the gown of The High Priestess. She was once The Empress but now she dances in happiness after the birth of her child.

The female figure is balanced on her right leg to signify physical ability. She holds two wands, one in each hand, that represent the phallic scepters of power and enable her to satisfy her needs. These wands are the same as the wand The Magician uses. Thus, spiritual forces using the elements transcend the physical world to create a new beginning and bring about completion.

Encircling the woman is a rose mandala of completion and, in a sense, a wheel of fortune and of time and space. The golden hair of the woman signifies inspiration. The branches of the Trees of Life are intertwined and meshed together signifying harmony. At the upper left is humanity who represents emotions and water. This emotional aspect is often represented by music.

The Eagle at the upper right represents intellect, writing and the element of air.

At the lower left the Bull represents the element of earth and physical death. The Bull also represents talent and sculpture.

To the lower right is the forceful Lion representing strength, creativity, painting and the element of fire. Divinatory Meanings: Wonderful, new directions will soon take place. A lesson well learned. Transcendence of previous natures. Growth to a new level. Success. Completion. Perfection.

Reverse Meanings: Insecurity. Lessons poorly studied or not learned at all. Stagnation. Repetition with a negative result. Imperfection.

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The 56 Minor Arcana

The Minor Arcana are grouped together by numerical values—thus all the aces are together, the twos are together, and so forth. One reason for this is that the student may find it easier to learn the cards when they are grouped by number rather than by sequence in suits. Furthermore, the cards of the same numerical value contain similar energies or aspects according to the specific number. For example, the four twos are ruled by the moon and the four threes are ruled by Mercury.

THE SACRED ROSE SUITS

The Powers of the Sacred Roses

The sacred roses are symbolic mandalas of the tarot suits, each rose mandala being complete and unique.

The Red Rose belongs to the suit of Wands—fire and the phallic energy of the creative world. The basic force is spontaneity and physical expression, with attributes of sacrifice and endurance, and it functions through action and potency. The level of awareness is the id, animal drive and the instinct of survival. The elemental force is visualized as a salamander.

The White Rose belongs to the suit of Cups—water, emotions and intuition, and the spiritual and feminine powers. The basic force of Cups is purity and innocence functioning through the spirit or soul. The level of awareness is the subconscious, with its hidden and unexplained emotions. The elemental force is visualized as a mermaid-like creature called an undine.

The Blue Rose belongs to the suit of Swords—air, intellect and analysis. The basic force is discernment, with the attributes of communication and aspirations for the impossible, functioning through

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thought. The level of awareness is the superego, which is the synthesis of the subconscious with the conscious. The elemental force is visualized as a feminine winged being called a sylph.

The Gold Rose belongs to the suit of Pentacles—the earth and regeneration. It symbolizes the integration of all forces of the self. Its basic force is material manifestation or substance. Attributes are absolute achievement, fulfillment and rebirth. The level of awareness is the ego and conscious reality. With this suit one works through the knowledge of right and wrong. The elemental force is visualized as a short, stocky, bearded man called a gnome.

THE ACES

The four Aces represent beginnings. Ruled by the sun, the Aces have the ability to bring enlightenment or to explode under their own energy.

Ace of Wands

A strong, forceful hand shoots out of the center of the red rose, holding a powerful wand of fire energy. This is the moment of glorious creation. The male aspect of nature is shown in all its majesty.

Creative ventures and physical action are initiated. Leadership potential comes with self-sacrifice. This is a card of power and activity. Sacrifice is required to produce creativity.

Reverse Meanings: Destruction of a creative venture. Consequences of actions not fully understood. Anger. Possibly the ending of a certain physical state—onset of illness, recovery from illness, etc.

Ace of Cups

A hand issuing from the white rose of purity offers a cup filled with blessings.

Overflowing with emotional renewal, this card portends the possibility of divine inspiration and future hopes. Messiahship or spiritual elevation is illustrated by the dove and the Eucharist.

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Reverse Meanings: Prostitution of values because of emotional weakness. The feminine nature of the card can mean depression or death of a female relative, depending on other cards in the spread.

Ace of Swords

A hand gripping a sword's handle juts out of the center of the blue rose. The sword's blade is entwined with thorns from the blue rose of the impossible. This can be a card of harsh reality or realization of the truth. The next step must be constructive action.

A new mental attitude begins. There is mental enlightenment after mental anguish. New outlooks and fresh awareness.

Reverse Meanings: Stagnation and destructive stubbornness. Depression. Anger. Obsession. Com-pulsion and addiction.

Ace of Pentacles

A hand blossoms forth from the center of the gold rose, holding a pentacle of power. The pentacle is surrounded with berries and leaves. Possibilities are bearing their fruit. Mother Earth is giving her rewards in this card of luck and fulfillment. All the forces within the individual are integrated.

Material and tangible results manifest. Absolute achievement of goals will be witnessed by peers. Reverse Meanings: Financial despair; resources unwisely used. Bad luck. Risks should not be taken.

THE TWOS

The four twos represent partnership. In meta-physics, the interaction of male and female prin-ciples is a vital energy factor. The four twos are ruled by the moon, the planet of emotions and intuition.

Two of Wands: Dominion

A man and woman face each other defiantly, each

holding a wand. They are standing on top of the

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world. Both are powerful and seek dominion.

A battle of opposing forces takes place, within oneself or with another. This card can be interpreted as power over others.

Reverse Meanings: Domination by others. Resentment leading to aggression.

Two of Cups: Love

A man and woman stand side by side, each holding overflowing cups.

This card signifies emotional partnerships based on feelings of friendship. Cooperation and under-standing imbue the situation.

Reverse Meanings: Troubled relationships in love, friendship or family. Division; divorce.

Two of Swords: Peace Restored

A blindfolded man and woman stand facing each other in a scene similar to those in which duels are fought for honor. These two individuals are now calling an emotional and mental truce.

Peace Restored is a card of differences reconciled. As the moon shines above, the need for change is still present. The waters of emotion can still rise. Reverse Meanings: Misinterpretation; falsehood. Tensions. Words should not be trusted.

Two of Pentacles: Harmony

A man and woman lean against each other for support. Each holds a pentacle, which has an unusual energy flow illustrated as a figure eight.

This card signifies partnerships working with the proper energy flow of a support system. Change and new projects require harmonious energies. Mood swings may threaten the stability of the project.

Reverse Meanings: Difficulty in handling situations. Discord. False support.

THE THREES

The four threes represent endeavors and are ruled by the planet Mercury. Their influences cover goals and obtainment of goals.

Three of Wands: Established Strength

A man stands majestically before us. He holds three wands, two in his right hand and one in his left. A halo of inspiration encompasses his head. The figure lays claim to his success.

Endeavors are realized; undertakings are accomplished with knowledge and business acumen. Benefits are reaped from organizations or enterprises.

Reverse Meanings: Carelessness. Obstinacy and arrogance. Help offered may be unreliable.

Three of Cups: Abundance

A woman dances through turbulent waters.

This card represents emotional endeavors being recognized and rewarded. It signifies good luck, healing and celebration and is an auspicious card for artists.

Reverse Meanings: Want and overindulgence of emotions. Unrecognized abilities. Pain.

Three of Swords: Sorrow

A heart is pierced by three swords. In the center the blue rose of the impossible can be seen.

This card represents intellectual endeavors. Communications are cut off, leading to quarrels and tears.

Reverse Meanings: Confusion. Anxiety. Mental imbalance. Professional help is needed.

Three of Pentacles: Works

A young man stands proudly before us holding the tools of his trade. Behind him are two trees, from the branches of which he has carved pentacles.

This card represents material endeavors. Skill and

ability are rewarded. A situation is handled with craftsmanship. A favorable new project is initiated. Gain is possible.

Reverse Meanings: Mediocrity. Delays in contracts. Failure because of laziness and scattered energy.

THE FOURS

The fours represent foundations and are ruled by

the planet Jupiter. Fours are building blocks.

Four of Wands: Perfected Work

Two young children play in a field of flowers. Four wands compose a structure of joy and merriment. The sun shines brightly, illuminating the colorful ribbons.

This card is considered the foundation of creativity. It heralds prosperity and joy. Real estate or new home is significant.

Reverse Meanings: Incomplete happiness.

Four of Cups: Blended Pleasure

On a moonlit night, four golden cups appear under a waterfall. Each contains a white rose, and a hand offers one of the cups.

This card is the foundation of emotions, the inconsistent nature of which is symbolized by the moon and waterfall. There could be boredom, ennui, lack of appreciation of gifts, and the familiarity that breeds contempt. Emotions are shown to be a weak foundation on which to base decisions concerning the situation.

Reverse Meanings: New possibilities. A change in attitude. Refusal to base life decisions on fickle desires. Premonitions; feelings of foreboding.

Four of Swords: Rest from Strife

A handsome young soldier sits in the moonlight. Four swords are placed with their points driven into the ground. Blood from previous battles flows from the four swords. The soldier is holding a blue rose of

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the impossible in his right hand. The mask of battle is placed on the ground by his left hand. Two cups are at his feet, one shattered.

This is a card of repose or rest from battle. It signifies an unpleasant situation buried, relaxation after anxiety, or convalescence after illness. Reverse Meanings: Caution; guarded activity. Will-fulness. Continued illness.

Four of Pentacles: Earthly Powers

A youth plays "king of the mountain" on top of four pentacles. The gold rose of absolute achieve-ment is a proud emblem of honor.

This card signifies material foundations. There is material success, status, power and glory, but gifts are hoarded because of efforts involved in their acquisition.

Reverse Meanings: Money spent too easily. Delays. Unwise investments.

THE FIVES

The four fives represent motivations and are ruled by the planet Mars. The fives deal with the purpose and actions involved in the situation.

Five of Wands: Strife

A man grasps the wands tor support. In a battle with negative forces, which are represented by the -other figure and the two hands, he seems deter-mined to stand his ground.

This is a card of ordeals, tests and competition, and could represent a lawsuit or self-assertion. Reverse Meanings: Love of competition. Trickery; fraud. An ordeal may change for the better.

Five of Cups: Loss of Pleasure

A woman stands in a restless sea of waves. As the moon lights her way, she spills the contents of two cups into the sea. She is unaware of the white rose blossoming from the fifth cup.

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This is a card of emotional motivations, loss, sadness, regret and failure to enjoy life. Disappointment with children and family life is unfounded. Reverse Meanings: Hope. Courage. Reunion.

Five of Swords: Defeat

A man kneels, impaled by four swords. The fifth sword hangs ready to strike. Blood streams into the ground before him. The blue rose of the impossible lies in a pool of blood.

This is a card of ill wishes, cruelty and degradation. Reverse Meanings: Weakness. Seduction. Empty victory.

Five of Pentacles: Material Trouble

A man dressed as a beggar reaches for the gold rose of absolute achievement, supporting himself with a staff. The rose could be real, or it could be an illusion.

This is a card of destitution, loneliness, poverty and loss of job or status, but the possibilities of survival are there.

Reverse Meanings: Charity. New courage. Opportunities.

THE SIXES

The four sixes represent adjustments and are

ruled by the planet Venus. The sixes deal with the ability to adapt to a situation.

Six of Wards: Victory

A proud man stands before us being hailed as the conquering hero. Dressed in robes and garlands of honor, he is offered homage for his action, as seen by the wands at his feet.

A task that requires hard work or "battle" is being presented. Adjustment of action and lifestyle and creativity bring well-earned success. Efforts are rewarded.

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Reverse Meanings: Fraud; trickery. Indecision. Laziness. Rejection of potential. Efforts ignored.

Six of Cups: Pleasure

A woman is supported by waves of emotion. She offers the six cups of emotional adjustments, cups filled with the white roses of purity. The possible reward of an additional rose tempts us.

Dreams and their offerings are now being presented, but the mature individual must be responsible for his or her emotions. Emotional adjustments must be made to fulfill desires.

Reverse Meanings: Clinging to the past. Future events should be anticipated.

Six of Swords: Earned Success

A man stands with his family. He is voyaging across water on a moonlit night. He travels away from five swords pointing downward. In his left hand he carries one sword into the future, and in his right he carries a fertile staff of knowledge.

When intellectual adjustments such as a change of consciousness are made, rewards are received. A journey of mind or body is undertaken with good results.

Reverse Meanings: Confessions; declaration that comes as a shock. Disillusionment; revelations. Stubbornness.

Six of Pentacles: Material Success

The world is seen as the balance or center of six pentacles. Two hands place and adjust the pentacles in their positions.

This card denotes the adjustment of funds re-quired to obtain substantial success and represents charity, generosity, gifts, helping hands, and shared prosperity.

Reverse Meanings: Bribes. Selfishness. Envy. Debts.

THE SEVENS

The sevens represent lessons and are ruled by the planet Saturn. They are cards of tests and represent what must be learned in order to change the situation,

Seven of Wanda: Valor

A man is fighting six wands, using a seventh wand as a club. He is called on to fight for his position. This is a card of strong action, strength and challenge. Self-reliance is imperative.

Reverse Meanings: Indecision. Anxiety. Cowardice. Hesitancy or procrastination causing losses.

Seven of Cups: Illusory Success

A youth looks toward cups offered, as a female face changes from kindness, to scorn, to aged disappointment. At the same time he grasps at whatever cups he can, struggling against hands trying to release his hold on the beloved bounty. This is a card of deceptive, destructive fantasies. There is indulgence of dreams, prostitution of talents, lies and wishful thinking, The lesson is to face emotional reality.

Reverse Meanings: Success through will and determination. Emotional discrimination is valuable. Set goals and follow through.

Seven of Swords: Unstable Effort

A clown sits holding his dunce cap. The moon shining overhead denotes fluctuation of energies. The clown reaches out to seven swords, two of which are upright, denoting courage, and two of which are pointed down, denoting disapproval. Three other swords are presented to him.

This is a card of intellectual lessons. Insufficient planning, unwise decisions or lack of perseverance brings failure. The card indicates an individual looking for the easy way Out, or a spy, betrayer or thief.

Reverse Meanings: Wisdom; counsel. Return of what is rightly owned.

Seven of Pentacles: Success Unfulfilled

A young man is scattering seeds in the blazing sun. This card deals with the lesson of material gain and what one needs to know before proceeding on an endeavor. Hard work, ingenuity and patience are indicated. A project's dividends are delayed. A certain endeavor probably will not pay off soon—more work is required.

Reverse Meanings: Worry. Anxiety over business transactions. Loss.

THE EIGHTS

The eights represent regeneration and the forces of male (positive) and female (negative) energies. Ruled by Earth, the conversion of negative into positive energy, regeneration, is also called trans-formation or transcendence.

Eight of Wands: Swiftness

A hand blossoms forth from leaves, releasing eight wands into the universe. A blazing sun/moon energy force is seen in the background.

This is a card of action regenerated, sudden action and hasty decisions. Its phallic nature could indicate a love affair or sudden marriage.

Reverse Meanings: Violence. Jealousy. Discord. Delay.

Eight of Cups: Abandoned Success

A woman sits before a basket of cups that she will abandon to the moonlit sea. She is disheveled, with wild hair and a mad look of despair on her face. This card indicates the need for emotional regeneration. There is dissatisfaction over gains and abandon¬ment of the old for the new. Disappointment with results of efforts or with the way children have turned out may be indicated.

Reverse Meanings: Joy; gaiety. Continued efforts result in happiness.

Eight of Swords: Shortened Force

A woman holds one sword in her right hand and rests her left hand on another. Six swords pierce her gown. The moon reflects itself, giving us an illusion of two moons or two emotional forces. The woman is blinded by her wind-tossed hair.

This card indicates the inability to see beyond the situation at hand. There are self-limitations, imprisonment, censure and conflict between intel¬lect and emotions. Mental exhaustion may lead to illness.

Reverse Meanings: Depression. Accident. Possible revelation and mental regeneration forthcoming.

Eight of Pentacles: Prudence

A young farmer plants a pentacle, while another awaits planting. The farmer has taken the fruit of the tree and regenerated its energy by planting for next season's crop.

Regeneration of substance produces tangible results. This is a card of skill, craftsmanship and a job well-done.

Reverse Meanings: Hoarding. Dishonesty. Wrong use of talents and skills. Laziness and too much prudence where more expense or risk should be taken.

THE NINES

The nines represent consciousness and are ruled by Saturn (the taskmaster) and Jupiter (expansion). They are cards of give and take, lessons and developed knowledge leading to a better life.

Nine of Wands: Great Strength

A muscular male figure is surrounded by eight wands. He is holding the ninth wand, which explodes with energy, veiling his facial features—he has become the wand.

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The strength of this card is the reserve for the given task. Preparedness results in eventual victory. Resilience and recovery from an illness are indicated. The card tells of consciousness of actions leading to great strength.

Reverse Meanings: Unpreparedness. Weakness. III health. Bending to the will of others.

Nine of Cups: Material Happiness

A young woman sits among nine cups. The faces of a handsome man and a beautiful woman on the moon's surface reflect ideals for the future. The cups are filled with the white roses of purity and emotion.

This card shows that emotional consciousness leading to proper utilization of energies may result in material gain. There is good fortune and complete success. All obstacles are surmounted. Self-knowledge and understanding of others and the ability to gain from the use of such knowledge and understanding are present.

Reverse Meanings: Manipulation leads to mistakes and losses.

Nine of Swords: Despair and Cruelty

A woman in anguish holds her hands up to her face. The full moon reflects its energy on the emotions of the woman while she is destroyed by the swords.

This is a card of consciousness and intellect. Martyrdom, loneliness, misery and disappointments are present. As the card of the unloved, it signifies rude awakening—all the suffering is self-imposed. The obsessive and compulsive personality faces its loneliness.

Reverse Meanings: Reasonable fear. Help is on its way. Wariness of others is essential.

Nine of Pentacles: Material Gain

A beautiful woman waters her garden. She is

Mother Nature herself giving life. The pearls around her neck are a clue to her other tarot persona, The Empress.

This card indicates conscious use of all abilities to produce a harvest. There is comfort, safety, fore-sight, discretion and wisdom concerning personal interests and where to nurture them.

Reverse Meanings: Loss of home or friendship. Bad faith. Thievery.

THE TENS

The four tens represent completion and are ruled by the planets of male and female energy, the Sun and Moon. The tens deal with the union of opposites referred to in tantra and alchemy.

Ten of Wands: Oppression

A man is forced down by the weight of nine wands. The tenth wand hovers over him, ready to leave its mark.

This card indicates completion of a creative work and its presentation for judgment. Living up to the creative nature in oneself is burdensome. There are excessive pressures and problems to be resolved. Goals are met at the expense of others' needs. Selfishness brings oppression.

Reverse Meanings: Intrigues. A person with no scruples. Losses.

Ten of Cups: Perpetual Success

Two hands offer joy. The four sacred roses illuminate the night sky in red, blue, gold and white.

This is a card of emotional completion and integration, and the subsequent gifts. Spiritual treasures and peace of mind are present. An emotional growth cycle is completed. A good life is in store.

Reverse Meanings: Anger. Discord. Unhappiness.

Ten of Swords: Ruin

A once lovely tree is now impaled with swords.

Blood gushes out of its wounds. The moon reflects

this act of horror as the barren landscape feeds off the vital liquid.

This is a card of mental death. The cycle of dissection and analysis is over. Failure, desolation, grief, paranoia and sorrow take over. There is the "death" of a situation--living death.

R Meanings: A gleam of hope or advantage.

Improvements.

Ten of Pentacles: Wealth

Out of the sky comes a radiant cornucopia. Ten pentacles are part of its bounty.

This card signifies material completion, abundance, security, real estate, ancestry, inheritance and a good retirement.

Reverse Meanings: Gambling losses. Robbery. Taxation. Disputed inheritance. Troubles in old age.

THE PAGES

The pages represent messages or messengers, the heralds of news. They can signify people or a state of mind or an identifying characteristic of an individual or situation. The pages' distinction is in their asexuality and innocence. The energies that they represent concern the reason behind an event, and their duty is to announce or be an effective instrument of information.

Page of Wands

A youth kneels before a lit candle, holding in its right hand a wand, and in its left hand the red rose of sacrifice. The trees of good and evil create an archway for the journey already finished or to be undertaken.

News of love or a lover is imminent. There is present a faithful, loyal friend or an active, dynamic personality with a strong, fiery temperament. A situation may require immediate action.

Reverse Meanings: Indecisive, unstable and theatrical person. Violent nature given to temper tantrums. Superficial and untrustworthy news or actions.

Page of Cups

A youth enters onto a carpet of blossoming flowers, through the doorway of the sea. In the youth's right hand a gold cup sparkles, and in its left hand a white rose of purity is carried on a velvet pillow.

This card signifies a meditative, loyal, spiritual and sensitive person who will be helpful. A reflective situation. News or knowledge of art or culture is brought.

Reverse Meanings: Insensitivity to others. A flatterer and deceiver. Selfishness.

Page of Swords

A youth stands barefoot on a mountaintop, a breeze blowing through its hair. We see the page of the blue rose of the impossible. The page's sword points down as a blue rose blossoms at its hilt.

This card signifies a person of sharp insights, grace and dexterity who would make a good spy. A situation requires subtle use of mental abilities. Reverse Meanings: A person with a cunning or devious nature. A con man. Unexpected news; surprises.

Page of Pentacles

A youth stands on a carpet of flowers, intently holding a pentacle. A gold rose of absolute achievement blooms at the youth's bare feet. The page has traveled from the mountains, the trees parting to make the journey clear.

This card signifies a solemn and scholarly individual, a hard worker. A situation requires knowledge or research. New ideas and opinions manifest. Reverse Meanings: An unrealistic person. Failure to recognize facts. Illogical thinking. A situation beyond normal control. Irrational news.

THE KNIGHTS

The knights represent action. They are the forces behind present and future actions. The knights can be individuals or situations.

Knight of Wands

Out of a fiery landscape a knight charges toward us, his horse wearing on its forehead the emblem of fire, the red triangle. The knight is ready to throw the wand of creativity into our hands.

This card signifies an impetuous person—unpredictable, active, alert, with a very sensual nature. There is the need to act quickly, without warn-ing. Alertness and creative thinking are essential. Reverse Meanings: Cruelty. Torture. A jealous individual with great anger. A situation that requires great caution. Immediate emotions should not be acted out.

Knight of Cups

On a starlit evening, the moon shines above a knight who has dismounted from his horse. He and his horse wear the emblems of their emotions, the crescent moon. He kneels in petition, offering a gleaming gold cup overflowing with emotions.

This card signifies a romantic dreamer, sensitive but unlikely to complete projects. Emotions are involved in a situation. A very appealing proposal is made.

Reverse Meanings: A hedonistic, lazy person. A liar. An emotionally unstable individual, perhaps a drug addict or schizophrenic. A situation dealing with vice.

Knight of Swords

Ona foggy night a determined knight mounted on a dark horse emerges from the mist. Symbols of the element of air, the blue circle adorn the knight and his steed. The knight wields a sword in his left hand.

This card signifies a strong, brave but dominating individual. He or she is skillful and clever, charismatic and persuasive. Do not cross this person. Ruthless undertakings may occur. Opposition and battle is imminent. Mental alertness is present. Reverse Meanings: An enemy or rival. Tyranny over others. Mental or emotional collapse from external pressures. A situation is better left to the experts.

Knight of Pentacles

A knight rests in the forest, his horse affectionately caressing him. Garlands of flowers adorn the horse's mane. The knight kneels in contemplation of nature's beauty. The knight and his steed wear symbols of the earth, the pentacle and the square.

This card signifies a mature, responsible individual, who is worldly and experienced and has made time to reflect on life's wonders. Dependable, methodical and capable, this person is the "salt of the earth." A situation requires slow, methodical handling. Truthfulness to oneself and others is involved.

Reverse Meanings: A greedy, narrow-minded individual. Bigotry. Laziness and carelessness. Failure as a result of these shortcomings.

THE QUEENS

The queens represent the spiritual force or order of things. The queens can be yourself, other individuals, or situations.

Queen of Wands

The queen sits dressed in red upon a wand throne. She wears silver jewelry denoting lunar influences. Her jewelry bears the emblem of fire, the triangle. In her right hand is a wand and in her left hand a red rose. both symbols of action through sacrifice.

This card signifies a person who inspires us in a positive direction. He or she is warm, affectionate, charming and also authoritative and determined. This person may be a patron or patroness of the arts.

One should take on the virtues of this person or be inspired to do so.

Reverse Meanings: A jealous, deceitful person who is treacherous. A person who creates obstacles. A situation that prevents creativity. Absence of inspiration. Fickleness. Resistance. An offence quickly taken as an excuse to break a promise.

Queen of Cups

A majestic queen sits upon a waterfall throne. She holds and wears symbols of her powers. The white rose of purity is in her left hand, and a covered cup containing intuition and its mysteries is in her right hand. Her crown is a crescent moon, her necklace a silver fish pendant.

She represents inspirational emotions, and is a sensitive individual given to dreams. She is psychic and reacts strongly to her surroundings. Being in touch with feelings is most beneficial in the present situation. Follow intuition.

Reverse Meanings: An immoral individual given to fantasies and capricious behavior. A degrading situation. Dreams, which will turn into nightmares, are unreliable.

Queen of Swords

The queen sits upon a whirlwind throne. Her right hand holds a double-edged sword; in her left hand is the blue rose of the impossible. Her symbols of office are the blue sphere and the winged insignias of flight. Her hair blows in the rushes of wind and mental energy that she generates.

This card signifies a woman who is perceptive and intelligent. Sharp and quick witted, she has benefited from her knowledge of human suffering. A situation calls for spiritual perception. Professional counseling or self-analysis may be necessary. Reverse Meanings: An evil-minded individual who preys on others' weaknesses. A self-righteous prude. A vampire. A situation that drains energy. Deceit. Gossip; unfair judgments.

Queen of Pentacles

The queen sits upon a throne of green leaves. She carries her symbols of office proudly. In her left hand is the gold rose of absolute achievement, in her right, a pentacle. Her crown is a gold cube, her jewelry is silver.

The queen represents the spiritual made material. This card represents a noble, warmhearted soul, a tower of strength with all the attributes desired in a wife and mother, A happy marriage or partnership is denoted.

Reverse Meanings: An insecure individual—fearful of failure, given to moodiness. A person who compensates for inadequacies by spending money. Someone who will marry for money. Material losses. Fraud and changeability.

THE KINGS

The kings represent physical nature. They can represent individuals, yourself or a situation. The kings show how things are or appear to be.

King of Wands

A fiery man of great magnetism sits upon a wand throne. He holds a wand in his right hand and a salamander in his left. A gold dish bears the symbol of the red rose of sacrifice. The king's emblems are the red triangle and a gold belt of power.

This card signifies a man of strong, admirable character who is passionate and courageous. He may be hasty at times, but is a good lover. A marriage or love affair may take place. Passion and courage come into play.

Reverse Meanings: A severe, dogmatic individual. Violent temper. A situation of cruelty and sadism.

King of Cups

The king sits upon a waterfall throne. In his right hand is an open cup, in his left hand an undine sits in a gold dish that bears the emblem of the white rose of purity. The king's crown is a crescent moon, as is his belt of power.

The King of Cups is a man of quiet power interested in human expression, such as the arts and sciences. His emotions run deep, and he is not what he appears to be. His use of intuition gives him power over others. Intuition or emotions are dis-played but not to their full power. Power is kept in reserve for future needs.

Reverse Meanings: A prima donna, given to mood changes and temperamental outbursts. A male chauvinist with double standards. A man unsure of his masculinity. A suspicious situation. Hidden facts; many truths hidden below the surface.

King of Swords

The king sits majestically upon a whirlwind throne. In his left hand is a dish bearing the emblem of the blue rose of the impossible and containing a sylph posed, ready for service. In his right hand is the double-edged sword of truth and of the mind. His symbol is the blue sphere; his belt of power is gold.

This card signifies an individual of great mental agility who is commanding, suspicious in nature. He or she could be a lawyer, judge, military person, or someone with the qualities of these professions. This card could represent a lawsuit or a situation that requires counsel, mental agility and logic. Reverse Meanings: A dangerous and wicked person who plays perverse mind games. An obstinate, calculating, cold and sadistic personality. A situation of extreme cruelty and danger. A lawsuit should not be initiated at this time.

King of Pentacles

A golden king sits upon his leafy throne. In his right hand is a pentacle and in his left hand is a gold dish bearing the emblem of the gold rose of absolute achievement. The dish holds a gnome smoking a Pipe, ready to serve his king. The king's symbols of Power are the gold square and belt.

The King of Pentacles is a person of unusual strength of character with substantial power in everyday affairs. As one of the "salt of the earth" he or she is practical, methodical and wise and is a good business person. This card can denote energies that are best applied to everyday and practical affairs. Hard work and organization pay off. Seek counsel from a person with worldly experience. Reverse Meanings: A brutal, materialistic person. Corrupt and vicious personality. Guard earthly Possessions.

intermix). The shuffling must be done by the person seeking an interpretation or prediction—not by the reader, interpreter or diviner.

When the questioner is satisfied with the shuffling, he or she places the deck face down in front of the diviner. The cards are always viewed from the diviner's position. Beginning with the top card of the deck as number one, the second card as number two, and so on, the diviner places the first six cards face up, one at a time, on the table in the sequence shown in the diagram.

Spreading the Deck

There are numerous methods of spreading the tarot deck. The Ten Card Spread is one of the most Popular methods in practice today.

The person seeking an answer to a question is known as the questioner. The questioner sits opposite the diviner and both persons maintain a serious mental attitude. The questioner should concentrate on the specific question to be answered. This question is stated aloud to the diviner while the questioner shuffles the face-down deck.

The person who handles the cards impregnates them with personal magnetism and thereby creates a rapport between his or her subconscious and the cards. The cards may be shuffled either hand over hand or by riffling (separating the deck into two Parts and riffling with the thumb so the cards

The diviner should turn the cards over from left to right thereby assuring that the cards continue to point in the same direction as placed on the table by the questioner. The cards facing the diviner are said to be positioned for a strong, positive reading. The cards which face the questioner are said to be upside down or inverted and therefore have a weak, delayed or even reversed meaning. If the first card turned over by the diviner is upside down, that card should be reversed so that it is displayed upright. The remaining nine cards should then be turned over from bottom to top in such a manner as to reverse the direction of each of these cards since the questioner may have mistakenly handed the deck upside down to the diviner. Generally, if more than half the cards are reversed, the diviner may find a more consistent reading is obtained by returning the reversed cards to their upright position.

The sequence of laying out the cards is as follows:

Card Number 1. Present Position. Atmosphere in which the questioner is presently working and living. Shows the area of influence in which the questioner presently exists. This card represents the questioner.

Card Number 2. Immediate Influence. Shows the nature of the influence or immediate sphere of involvement that lies just ahead. This card crosses the questioner.

Card Number 3. Goal or Destiny. Shows the ultimate goal or destiny of the questioner. Indicates the best that can be accomplished by the questioner based on existing circumstances. This card may also represent the questioner's aim or ideal within his or her present frame of reference. This card crowns the questioner.

Card Number 4. Distant Past Foundation. Shows the essential events and influences of the past on which the present events are based. This card is behind the questioner.

Card Number 5. Recent Past Events. Shows the most recent sphere of influences or events that have just passed or are just passing. This card may represent influences of the distant past exerting pressure on recent events. This card is beneath the questioner.

Card Number 6. Future Influence. Shows in a broad sense the sphere of influence that is coming into being in the near future. This card is in front of the questioner.

After the diviner has read the preceding six cards, he or she then proceeds to turn over the next four cards from the deck, placing them one above the other in a line to the right of the previous six cards, as shown in the diagram.

Card Number 7. The Questioner. Shows the questioner's present position or attitude within the surrounding circumstances. Attempts to place the questioner in proper perspective.

Card Number 8. Environmental Factors. Shows the questioner's influence on other people and his or her position in life. Reveals those tendencies and factors that exist with respect to other persons who may have an effect on the questioner.

Card Number 9. inner Emotions. Shows the inner hopes, hidden emotions and secret desires, fears and anxieties of the questioner. Includes those thoughts that will come to the mind of the questioner in the future.

Card Number 10. Final Result. Shows the culmination and results of the influences as revealed by the other cards in the divination, provided events and influences continue as indicated.

Persons reading the cards should bear in mind that the various meanings presented in this booklet are suggestive and not meant to be conclusive. During a reading, the diviner of the cards should freely permit his or her own conscious and subconscious thought processes to assign expanded meanings to each card in a manner most conducive to divination and meditation.