

ENCORE TAROT



CIRO MARCHETTI

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INTRODUCTION

The Encore tarot was initially started back in 2012, a collection of my favorite cards from the various decks I had produced up to that point. All reworked in this sketch like pen and ink illustrative style which was quite distinct from the richer colored style of the decks from which they were chosen. The project originally intended as a personal exercise remained unfinished and unpublished for many years until it was revisited earlier this year. During this period, I had produced other decks which provided more options of “favorite” for me to choose from. This resulted in many of the earlier cards being substituted with some of these more recent options. Despite coming from various sources, these Encore cards share a visual commonality through their modified illustrative treatment and, I consider the resulting deck to have its own distinct personality

As with all my decks, my approach is to provide images that are easily recognizable to the majority of readers who are familiar with the Rider Waite Smith system upon which there are loosely based. However they embrace enough

variation, modification and additional characters and elements that they provide a base from which readers can go onto, then apply their own more personal interpretations. To serve as an example of this very approach, I reached out to three known readers with whom I have had the privilege to work with in the past, asking them to share their own thoughts and interpretations of the images. The results are not intended to be specific guidelines or an official summary of each card, but the personal perspective of these three readers. They are offered as a demonstration and an invitation for you to also allow the images to speak to you in your own way. One that will vary from reading to reading, based on the querant, the specifics of the questions being asked and the adjacent cards of any given spread.

*My thanks once again to Christiana
Gaudet, Mary Ellen Collins
and Mitchell Osborn
for their contribution.*

Ciro Marchetti 2019



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Fool

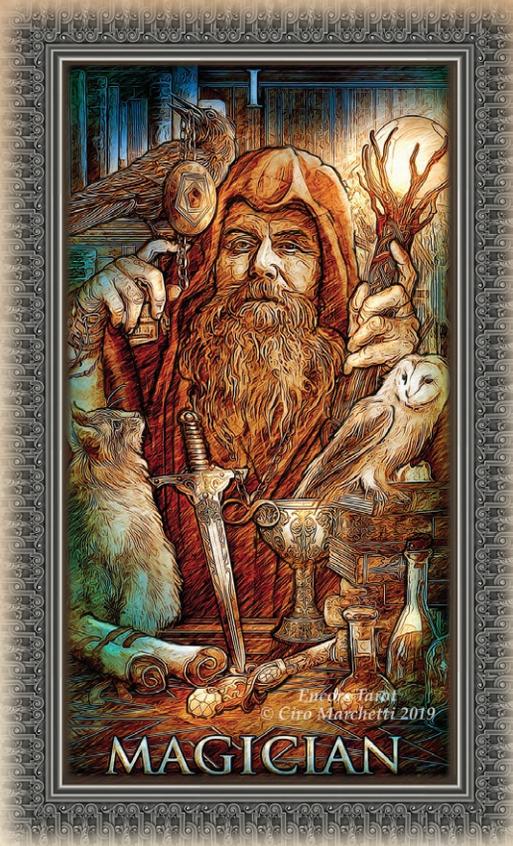
The star of the story told by tarot, the Fool, sets out on his journey, leaving the safety of his home behind. He has with him a faithful companion, and the Four Tools of Magic. He seems oblivious to all of that, focused only on his journey.

He reminds us to be the star of our own story, and to embark on our own journey with the innocence, joy, and faith of a child.

What might the mask hanging ominously overhead say to us? Should we cast off our own false masks and live more authentically? Does the mask

represent the judgement of others as we embark on our expedition?

The mask may speak to the shadow side of this card, where our behavior might be too risky, or too immature. Sometimes it is bold to laugh in the face of danger. Sometimes it's simply unwise.



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Magician

Our Magician, though an initiate learning to use his tools, is older, and brings to his practice the wisdom of his years. He reminds us that it is never too late to take an accounting of our tools, skills and abilities. The animals that surround him are teachers as well as companions. He may have some ability to control their behaviors, yet he also learns from them.

It is wise to remember that the Magician can also be a trickster – he can use his cunning nature to mislead and misdirect. He can close his mind to truth and stay focused on his own agenda to the exclusion of all else. When

well-dignified, this card reminds us of our own skills, tools and abilities, and implores us to put them to good use. When poorly dignified, this card asks us to be aware of closed-mindedness and deception that is perhaps our own, or another's.



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High Priestess

Dipping her toes into the waters of the subconscious, the High Priestess dances between the pillars of wisdom, between mercy and severity. Her face is cast toward the stars and the moon. She travels beyond the veil and into the underworld. She knows the secrets that await us all.

Though otherworldly, she represents perfection in womanhood – a perhaps unattainable goal.

She cautions patience and balance as she encourages us in our search for the spiritual wisdom that can only come from within.

Her shadow side is the guilt and shame that women are often forced to bear for simply being female.



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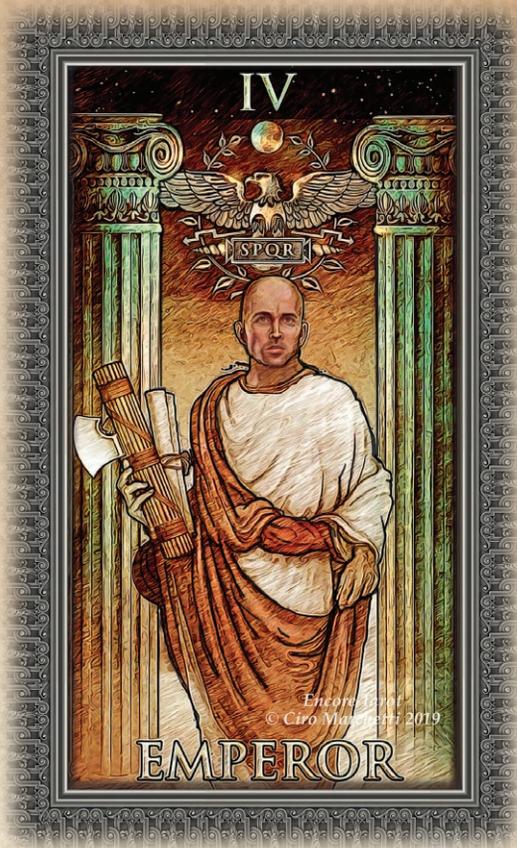
Empress

Surrounded by symbols of nature and fertility, the Empress is ready to create life. She stands in a doorway, perhaps representing the gateway to life, or to the safety and harmony of the home she treasures and nurtures.

The Empress asks us to find within us our fertility, and to be a fierce and loving mother to all we create.

In a reading she may reference motherhood, pregnancy, or even a message from one's mother in spirit.

The shadow side of the Empress is the stark reality that not all seeds bear fruit, and that not all who create life are equipped to nurture it.

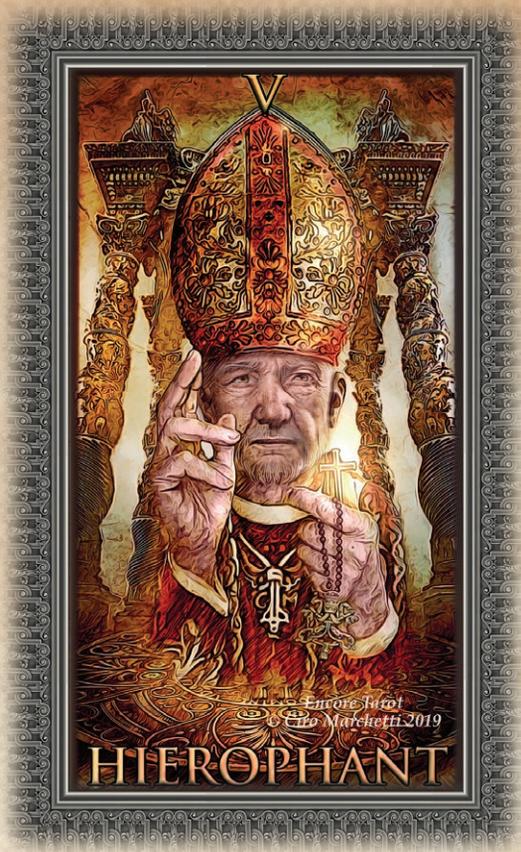


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Emperor

Here we see a Roman Emperor, perhaps a tip of the hat to the culture that gave birth both to tarot, and to the artist himself. The Emperor holds in his hand the symbol of the Roman Empire's power, the bundle of sticks with the ax blade known as the fasces. While ostensibly a symbol of unity, the fasces provides the root word for 'fascism'.

In this card we see both the stability and protection provided by good governance, and the opportunity for the abuse that comes from those who seek power for power's sake.



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Hierophant

Rome gave birth to the tarot, the Roman Empire, and the Holy See. Here the Bishop of Rome bestows a blessing.

Traditional dogma gives authority to create structures that can provide standards, comfort and aid. This card can ask us to build our own structures, or to seek the authority of those who can help us. Here we learn the power of sacred knowledge and ritual.

When tradition and dogma are used to oppress and limit rather than comfort and empower, the shadow side of this card becomes clear.



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Lovers

Gemini, and the element of Air, rule the Lovers. The birds, and the wings that surround the two characters remind us of Air, and also of the angel so often pictured in traditional images.

Cupid's arrow seems to unite the embracing couple, while at the same time divides the couple as they prepare to kiss. It is this dichotomy that makes the Lovers such a complex card; invoking thoughts of romance while cautioning the need for communication and good decisions.

So often, whether well-dignified or ill, the Lovers speaks of non-romantic relationships, asking us what we are integrating into our lives, and why.



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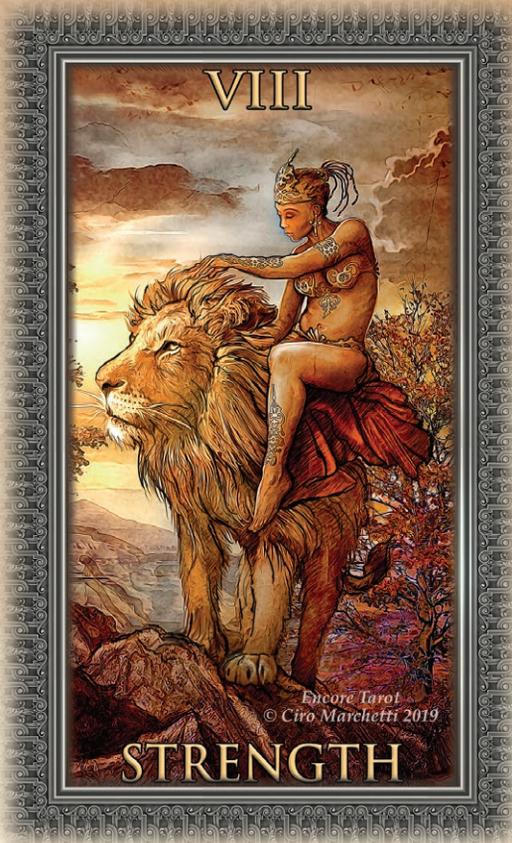
Chariot

The striking aspect of this image is that the wheels, and the horses, seem to be pulling in opposite directions, yet the charioteer, reins in hands, moves ever forward.

This card progresses the delicate balance of the previous card, the Lovers. Here, opposites are not only united and integrated, but are also mastering goals.

On a mundane level, this is often a card of travel and transportation. On a deeper level, this card beckons us to become masters of our own destiny.

When ill-dignified, we must ask ourselves why we are not stepping into the power that moves us forward.



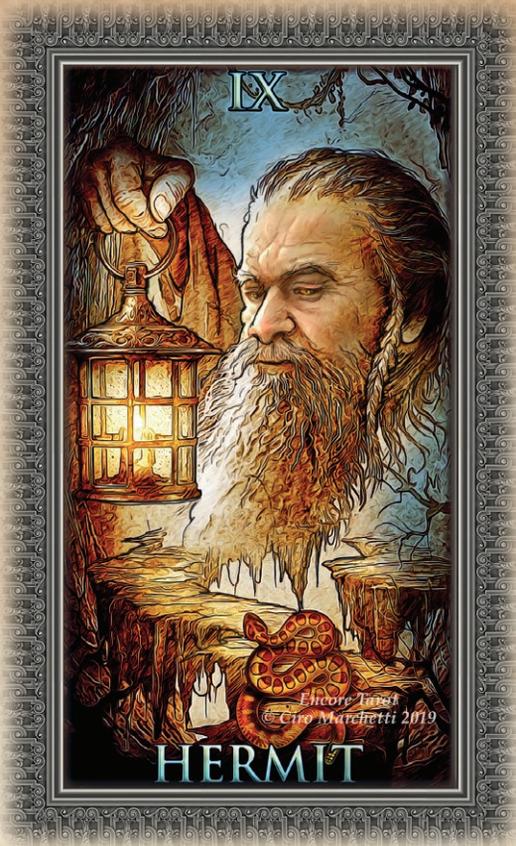
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Strength

To ride a lion seems a daunting task, especially without benefit of protective clothing, rein or bridle. Yet, the woman seems to express love, rather than fear or determination, while the lion looks forward in resignation, or even quiet contentment.

While this card may be an indication of our worthiness for a specific task, Strength reminds us of our need to control our baser instincts, and approach difficult tasks with compassion.

The shadow side of this card is expressed when we forget to do this; when we allow our fierceness to reign over our gentleness.



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Hermit

The Hermit's lamp, so prominently figured in this image, is both the lamp of wisdom and a timepiece. We see the treacherous path we must take to reach the wisdom and patience the Hermit has cultivated.

We know that to embrace the Hermit's attributes there can be no shortcut, and little solace or comfort on that lonely journey. There is no substitute for silence and study.

When we see the Hermit, we are advised to take time apart, to study, to learn and to contemplate. When ill-dignified, it may be time to emerge from our hermitage and enjoy frivolity in the company of others.



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Wheel

There is nothing in existence that is not subject to the cycles of nature. We, like the animals pictured in this image, like the planets that revolve around the sun, have no choice but to live within our life cycles, making the most of each turn of the wheel.

This image serves to remind us of our place on the planet, and of the things we can't control. It cautions us to pay attention to the patterns in our lives, and to nurture only the patterns that serve us.

When well-dignified, this card suggests that the wheel turns in our favor, and the wind is at our backs. When poorly dignified, there may be misfortune at hand.



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Justice

Justice is blind. In this image Justice is represented by two ladies, who remind us that there are always two sides to every argument. One holds scrolls, the other a sword. This reminds us that some arguments are settled with words and negotiations, and others are settled more violently. The yin yang symbol tells us that justice is about spiritual law, as well as the laws of government.

When we see this card, we may be dealing with attorneys or courts of law, or issues of fairness. This card can instruct us to do the right thing, and to keep to a moral code of conduct.

When poorly dignified, there is a sense of unfair treatment, or an undesired outcome.



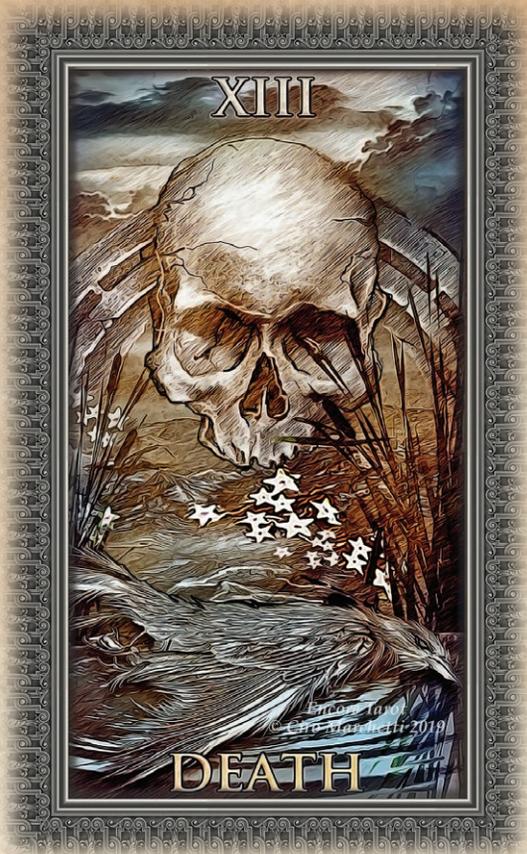
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Hanging Man

The Hanging Man is an acrobat, able to find both joy and contemplation in his uncomfortable position. In this image it is easy to see why this is the traditional card of yoga. We also see evidence of the element of Water, attributed to this card, in our character's ability to go with the flow. The hourglass shows us that time is suspended. We must be patient with our situation and find the joys and benefits inherent in it.

The Hanging Man asks us to consider what we control, and where we need to simply surrender to the situation.

When ill-dignified, the Hanging Man asks us to take control, or to look for over-controlling energies around us.



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Death

The one certainty in life is death. In this image we see a bird whose decay will fertilize the flowers growing by the shore. Just as the previous card, the Hanging Man, teaches us to surrender attempts to control what we cannot, Death reminds us that nature has the final control of all things.

When this card appears, we expect change. This could be a change of job, home, attitude or family situation.

Death ill-dignified speaks of stagnation and stubbornness. This asks us if we are being too stubborn, if we are stuck, or if we should dig in our heels and stay the course.



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Temperance

Here we see the ultimate expression of art, time and alchemy. We blend elements together to create something that is greater than the sum of its parts.

This card cautions patience while encouraging creativity. It reminds us that nothing is perfect, yet, with the right ingredients and the proper conditions, we can create something magical.

This card is, in many ways, the highest expression of emotional balance and well-being.

When ill-dignified, we may not yet have the proper balance or the correct conditions to create what we need.



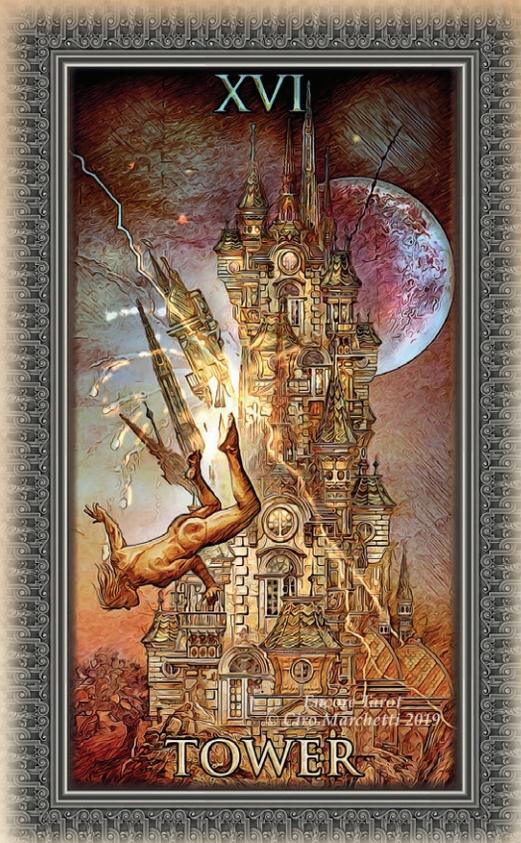
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Devil

We can't see the Devil's face, because he could be anything, or anyone. We can't see his hostages either, for the same reason.

The Devil is the gatekeeper of true spiritual awareness and enlightenment. We must see ourselves clearly and release our obsessions and addictions before we can proceed toward healing and actualization.

The Devil may appear to point out our own unhealthy behaviors, or the unhealthy behaviors of others. The ill-dignified Devil may suggest that our healing has already begun.



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Tower

This classic image shows the lightning that will ultimately destroy the tower completely. A victim is already falling, presumably to his death. Perhaps that lightning brings enlightenment. The tower must fall in order to build something more stable.

When the Tower appears, great, sudden change, often painful, may be unavoidable. Yet, the lesson is clear. That which is built on a faulty foundation cannot and should not stand.

When ill-dignified, the damage may already be done. The rebuilding may have begun. Or, the transition may not be as earth-shattering as we might have anticipated.

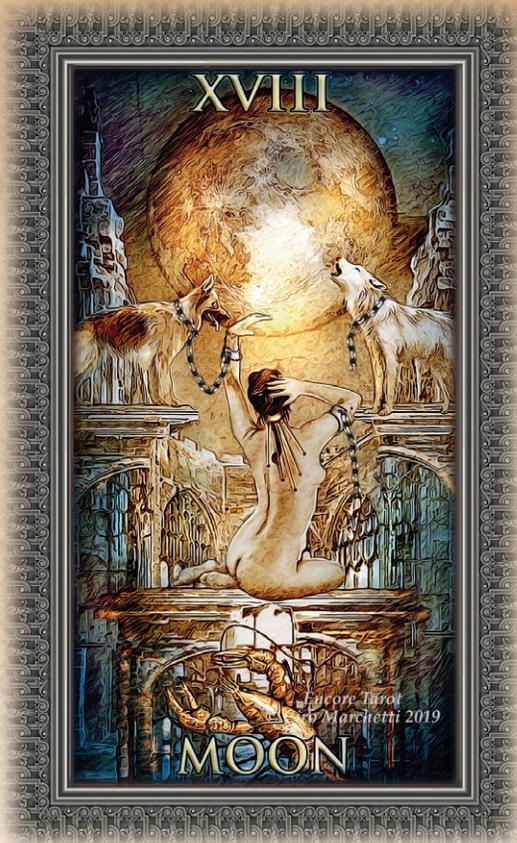


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Star

The Water-Bearer of Aquarius, who is the Star in tarot, isn't actually pouring water. Here we see that her vessels symbolize the pillars of the High Priestess. From them she bestows starlight, the healing light of heaven. We have confronted the Devil and survived the Tower. Now, we are ready for healing, abundance and fulfillment.

When we see the Star in a reading, we see the search for, or the realization of, that fulfillment. When the Star is ill-dignified, we may be unfulfilled, or in need of a great deal of healing. We may be refusing healing, or even unaware of our need.



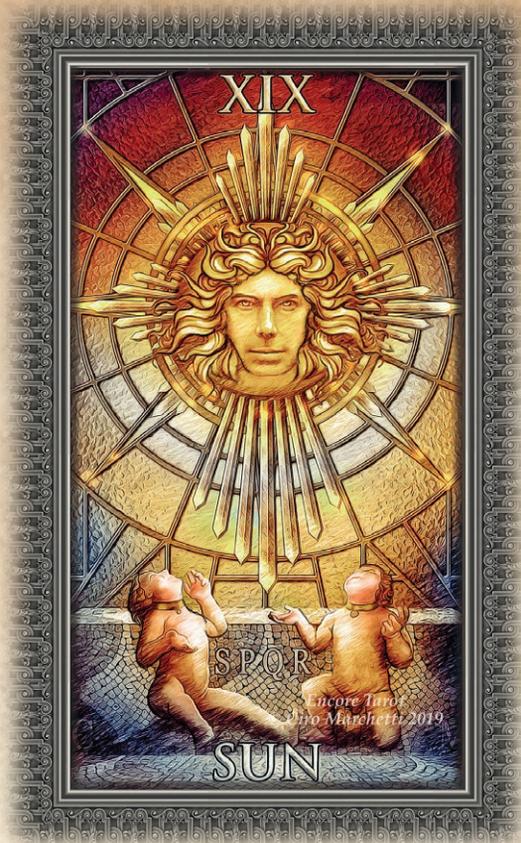
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Moon

The Moon has always been a symbol of spiritual power, mystery, confusion and insanity. The dichotomy of spirituality and lunacy is the central truth of this image. The dog, the jackal, the crustacean and the woman all seek the same enlightenment, and all face the dangers of that journey.

In a reading, the Moon may give a warning, or invite a quest. Nothing looks the same in the light of the moon as when viewed in the light of day. The path to enlightenment is fraught with danger. Yet, we are compelled to that journey.

The shadow side of the moon can indicate false imaginings and corrupted spirituality.



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Sun

Children frolic in the light of the sun, clothed in nothing but collars, which could be simple ornaments or a symbol of allegiance. The stamp of the Roman Republic is shown between the children. Perhaps this might remind us that the sun is the ruler of the solar system, and the source of all life.

This card instructs us to live in the light, and to let our own light be seen. We must be as the children, with no shame and nothing to hide.

In a reading, this card often represents happiness and encouragement. The shadow side of this card asks us to examine why we are hiding our light or refusing to find light in our lives.



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Judgement

An angel blows a triumphant horn as souls are raised up toward heaven. Symbolic of the Judgement Day in Christian lore, this card represents an ending, and an opportunity for new beginning. We are asked to look to our past to gain closure and release.

In a reading, this card can reference communication with angels, a wake-up call, or a need for closure. When ill-dignified, there may be a resistance to this process of healing.



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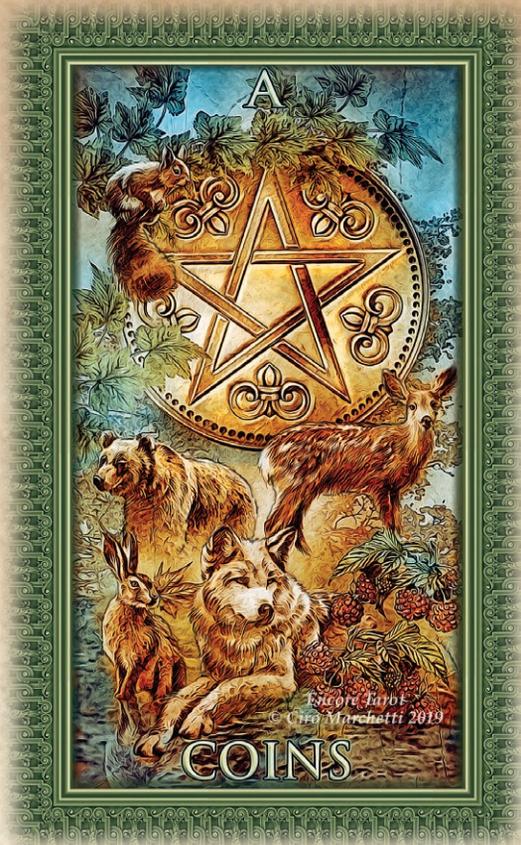
World

The Four Evangelists witness the emergence of a woman who symbolizes balance, beauty, light, and our planet itself. Here, we see all that is, ever was, and ever might be.

The World can speak to a completion and a success. It can ask us to see a larger picture, and to think in the macrocosm.

When we see this card, we may need to think about our own inner world, or our own place in the world.

When ill-dignified, our world may be turned upside-down. We may be hoping or waiting for something to be completed.

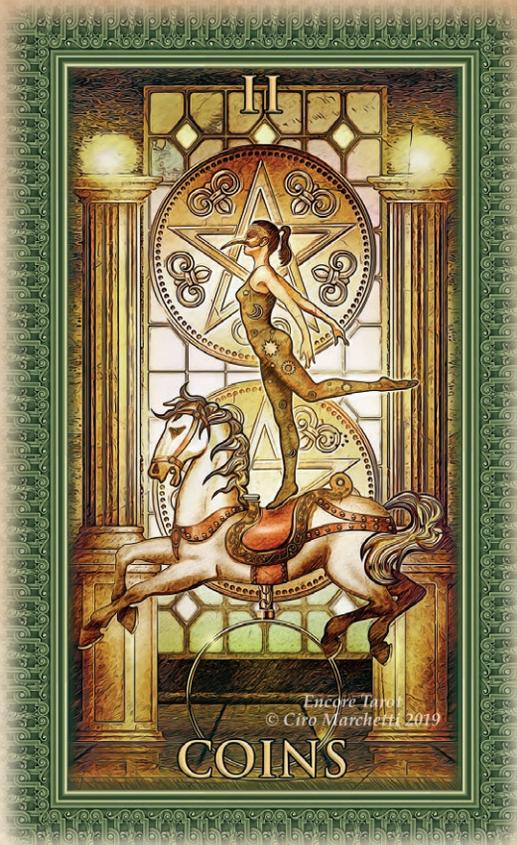


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Ace of Coins

Aces are usually about a beginning or start of something. This one is from the earthy physical realm. Sometimes an ace's energy can feel lonely, but actually we have many animal helpers in clear view on this card. It would behoove us to allow the animals of this world to assist with the new endeavor of our family, resources and perhaps our physical body.

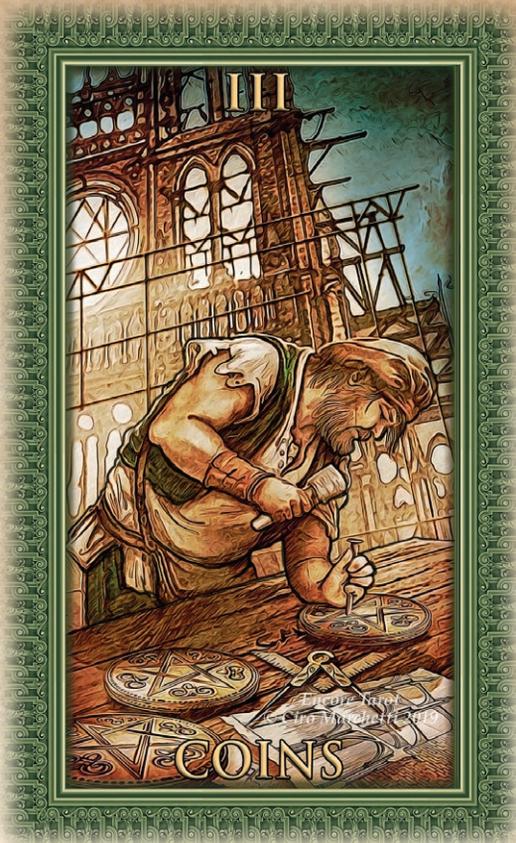
The challenge can be falling in to the trap of victimhood thinking that no one is there to help, when in fact it's all been set up and planned out waiting for us water and nurture the growth.



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Two of Coins

Our dancer on the Two of Coins looks to the left, often considered the past, for the lessons they have learned to maintain balance, especially when things start moving and shaking. Balance, strength & patience are key for us now. New partnerships, cooperation and help may appear at this time as well. Being open to receive help and a willingness to delegate work will benefit us in the long run. Now is not the time for our stubborn, cynical or greedy side to come out.



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Three of Coins

The assignment we've been wanting, and waiting for, has arrived. The looming unfinished structure behind our worker shows us just how much work there is to be done which fills us with excitement and hope. This reminder will help keep our 'nose to the grindstone' in the form of motivation.

Avoid letting others criticism feed into our cynical nature about the precision and quality of the work we are doing. Only share about your journey and process with those whom you trust to give honest feedback and guidance.

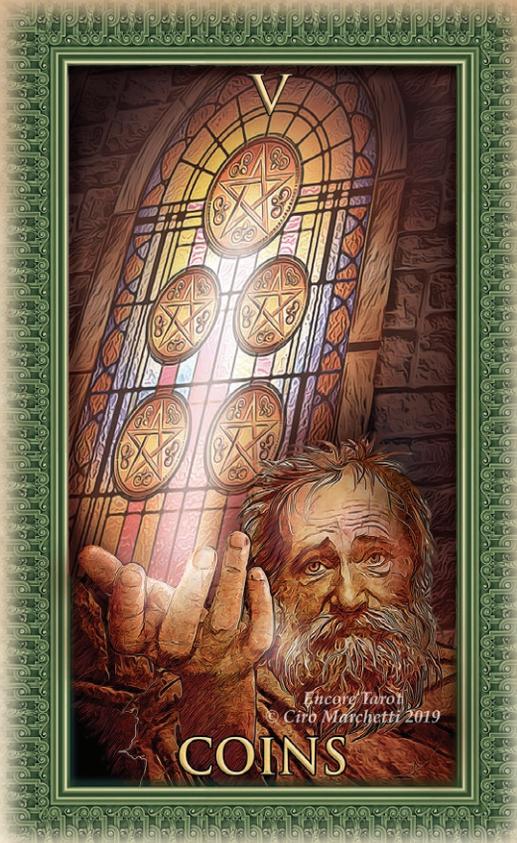


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Four of Coins

With the Four of Coins it appears we have all that we need. The harvest was solid and abundant. This is due to our shrewd business sense and wise planning. It would benefit us to continue to be practical, patient & disciplined with our resources and spending. All will be well.

We must not be greedy and fall in to the trap and belief that there is not enough to go around. If we find ourselves hoarding our money and resources out of fear, we will only reap in fear and potentially lose what we have worked so hard for.

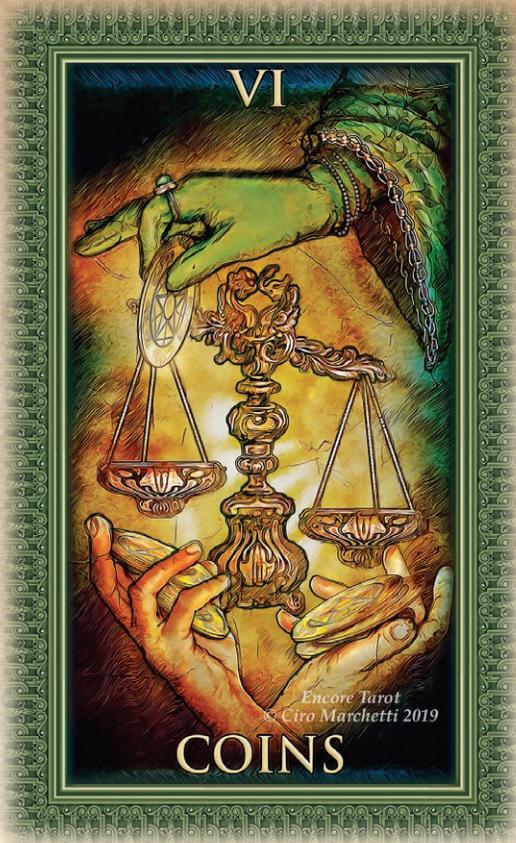


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Five of Coins

It's okay to admit it, it is a rough and difficult time right now. Our money, family, resources and perhaps even our physical body are all stretched to the limits. Reaching out for help at this pivotal point is not a sign of weakness but of strength and wisdom. Stability is just around the corner.

It will be better for us to avoid stepping in the role of victim as it can be a tough rut to break out of. Refusing to accept any changes can prolong us from getting back on our feet, balanced and centered.

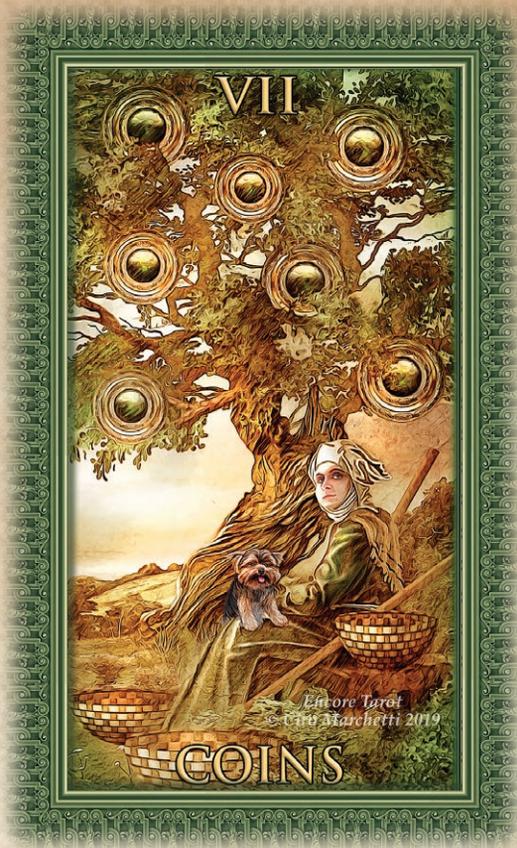


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Six of Coins

Our patience and persistence has paid off, balance has come in like a gift from a stranger. We must make sure to accept what is being given to us no matter the source in order for us to capture, receive and implement the true meaning and lesson. Then we can use what we have received and learned wisely to secure the abundance that is right around the corner.

If we fall for the materialistic trap of possessiveness and fear our wealth may dry up as we have not learned the deep lesson within the six of coins.

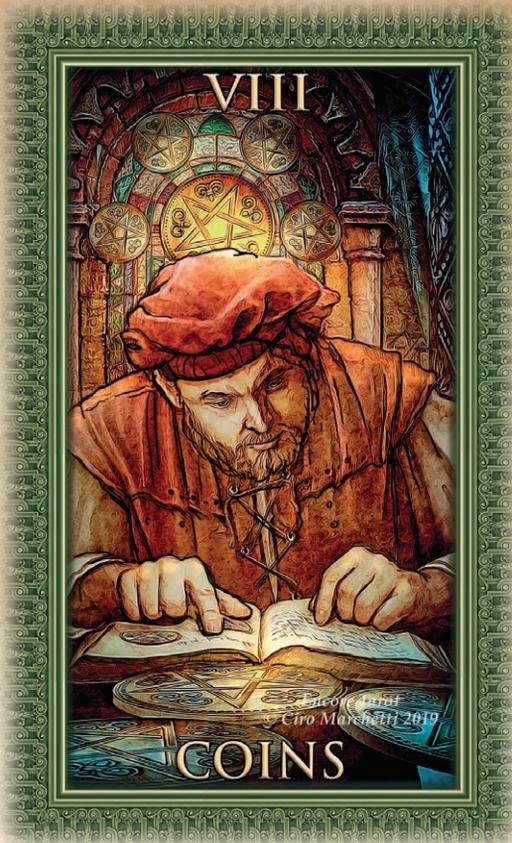


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Seven of Coins

Now is the time for us to take advantage of the 'easy picking' or 'low hanging fruit'. Avoid over analysis so we don't get paralyzed with fear of 'doing it right'. The baskets won't fill themselves and there is no time to rest just yet. If we enlist the help of our trusted friends or co-workers to get the job done we can celebrate and relax sooner.

Procrastination, over indulgence or indifference may delay the harvesting and allow the fruit to spoil. Also, resisting the change that has taken place can thwart our efforts to get ahead.



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Eight of Coins

The Eight of Coins show us that the real work begins now. It's time to stay focused and shut out any distractions. 'Burning the candle at both ends' may be a requirement to achieve the success we want. The work we have now won't last long but it will be worth it when we come to the end.

Obsessing over all the details and allowing our perfectionist to come out may stifle the flow of work and create an unhappy environment for everyone.

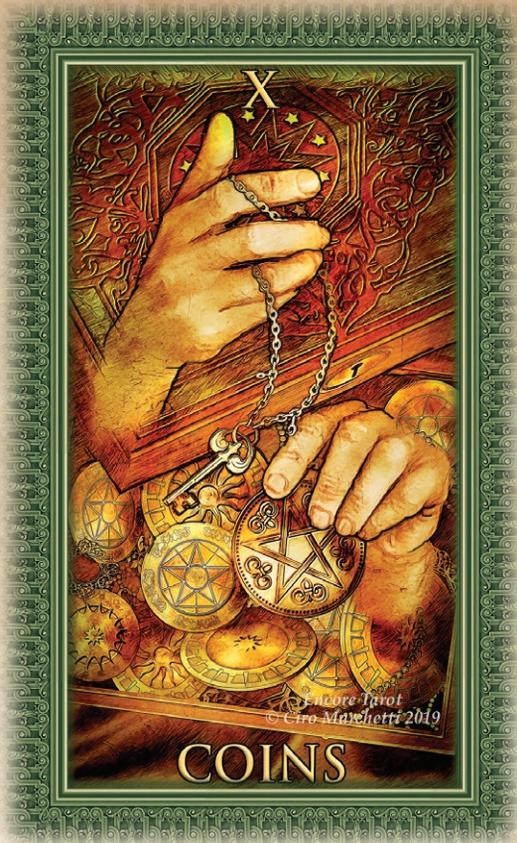


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Nine of Coins

We have arrived! All the hard work has paid off. We can ease across the finish line. It's time to enjoy the things we've acquired and take care of our family and friends.

Flaunting what we have gained over others, or forgetting where we came from, and all the work it took you to get here can be a big mistake and potentially cause us to tumble down the hill we just climbed.



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Ten of Coins

With the Ten of Coins we have reached stability with our money, resources, physical body and the material world around us. The work has been worth it and now we can start our next venture, but now we have changed for the better. We will be different in this new cycle.

Sitting too long on the 'wealth' or obsessing over what we have achieved may bring about stale unproductive energy which could make it difficult to begin again.

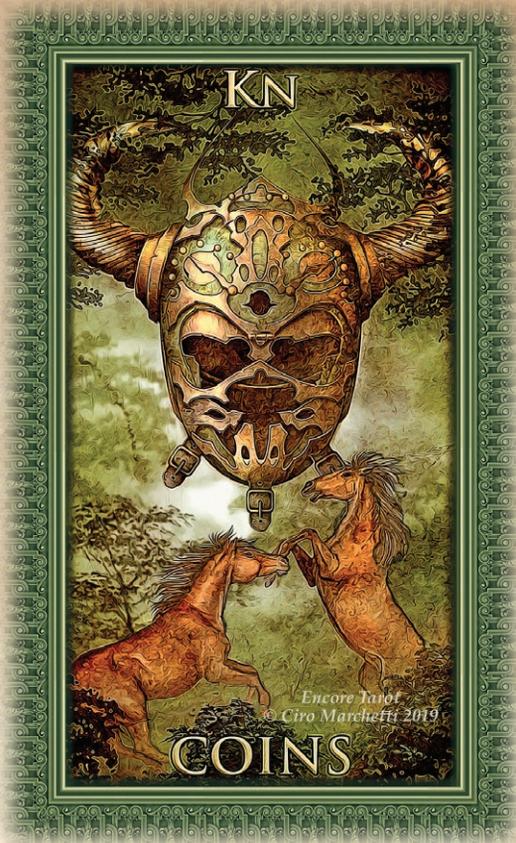


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Page of Coins

The Page of Coins appears to be calling us to learn something new. This page can teach us much about our resources as well as all things physical in our world. We are encouraged to surround ourselves with nature's most precious teachers, the animals of this world, for they have so much to offer and impart on us, if we just listen and learn.

The slow stubborn energy of this card can also be a downfall if we allow it to creep in as fear, procrastination or laziness.

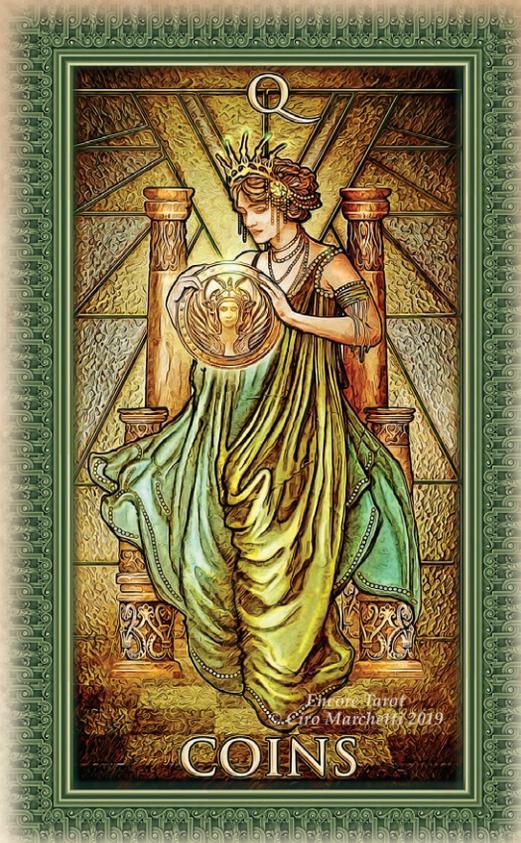


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Knight of Coins

The Knight of Coins is a slow mover, but a mover and motivator nonetheless. This card encourages us to gently take action in what needs to be done around our home, within our family, at our work and our bodies.

Keeping our momentum can be a challenge with this card as well as getting caught up in the details. One step at a time might be too slow but it's all we can do.



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Queen of Coins

Earthy, grounded and full of compassion, the Queen of Coins calls us to be as compassionate and responsible as we can right now without giving away our own personal self-care focus. She wants us to stay as grounded as we can in the near future. Her power, and ours, is truly within and generated from the path she has physically walked and experienced first hand.

Allowing our pessimism and rigidity to rear it's head could work to our detriment if we aren't cautious.

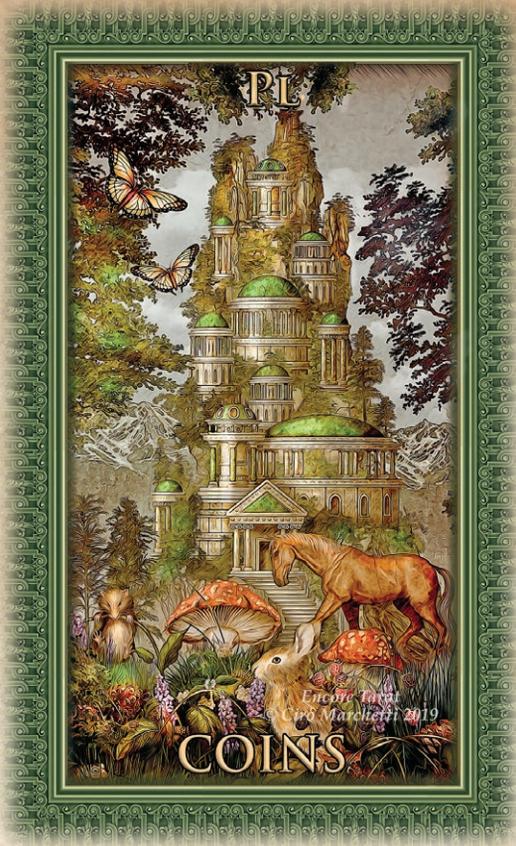


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King of Coins

The King of Coins pronounces that we have arrived. We have been through so much. We have accumulated all the things of this world and mastered them as well. Abundance is at our fingertips and we have proven this time and time again. Sharing our wisdom with others now would be a great way to give back to those watching and learning from us.

Thinking we have nothing left to learn, or do, can bring about loss and confusion of what to do with our resources. We are called to stay open to learning and growing.



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Palace of Coins

The Palace of Coins is truly a place of retreat for us. It calls us to rest, recuperate and regenerate our weary bodies. Enjoy the rest while you can, but staying too long can weaken us and might cause us to avoid taking the next powerful journey out there.



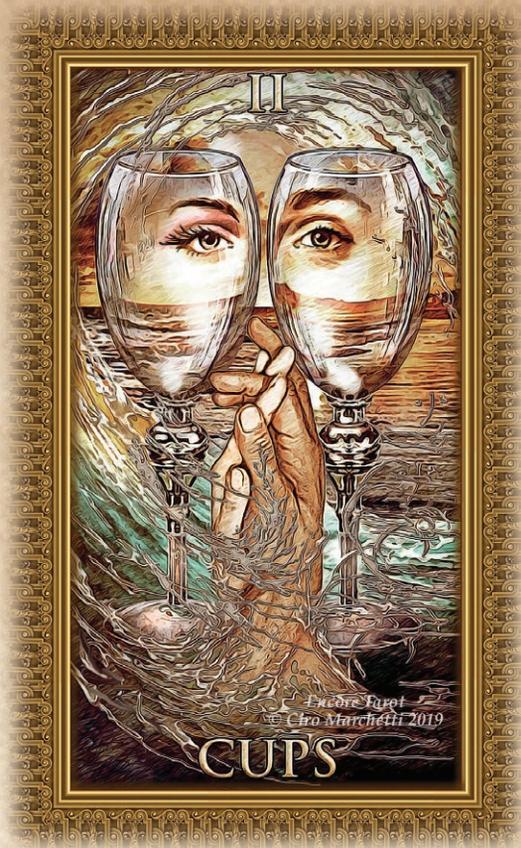
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Ace of Cups

Fish swim through a dreamy waterscape surrounding a beautiful crystal goblet emblazoned with the alchemical symbol for water. The Ace of Cups ushers us into the world of emotion, intuition, and relationships. Aces denote new beginnings; a new relationship or friendship, or a new stage in a relationship. Depending upon placement they can announce love, marriage, motherhood, or merely a surge of strong emotion. In reference to career we may find ourselves doing what we love or embarking on a new creative project.

The Ace of Cups reversed or ill-dignified can indicate emotional boundaries,

resistance to a new relationship, or not currently being in a relationship. Perhaps we are unable to show affection, or our emotional overtures are rebuffed.



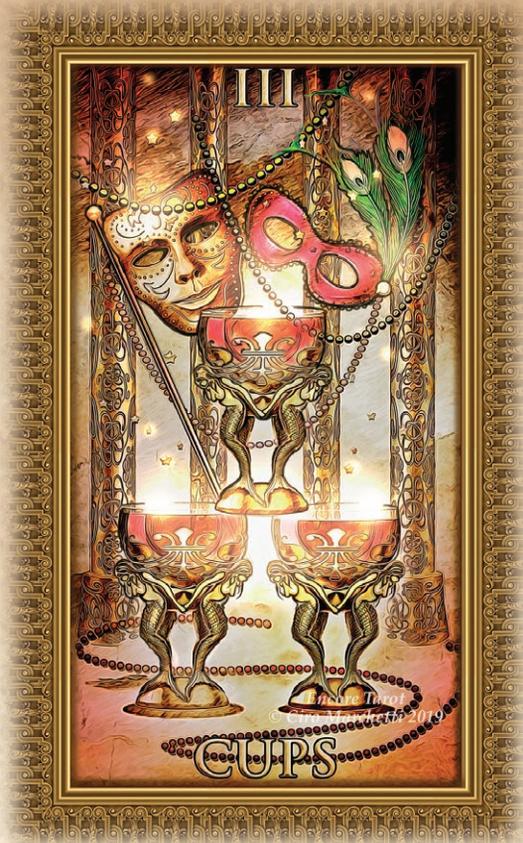
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Two of Cups

The duality of the number two shows up as partnerships or polarities, or as in the Two of Cups, may indicate a pair that have been matched in some way. There is frequently a feeling of balance and equality in the Two of Cups. Here we see two hands clasped together and eyes gaze at us through the clear goblets. At a glance it appears to be one person but further scrutiny reveals that there are two different people who have become united.

This card is sometimes perceived as a mini lovers card, indicating a relationship in the early stages. Whether romantic or platonic, the spirit of the Two of Cups may also show the possibility

for reconciliation if we have had a falling out with someone. When reversed, the Two of Cups may show that there is no current relationship, or that an attraction is ending.



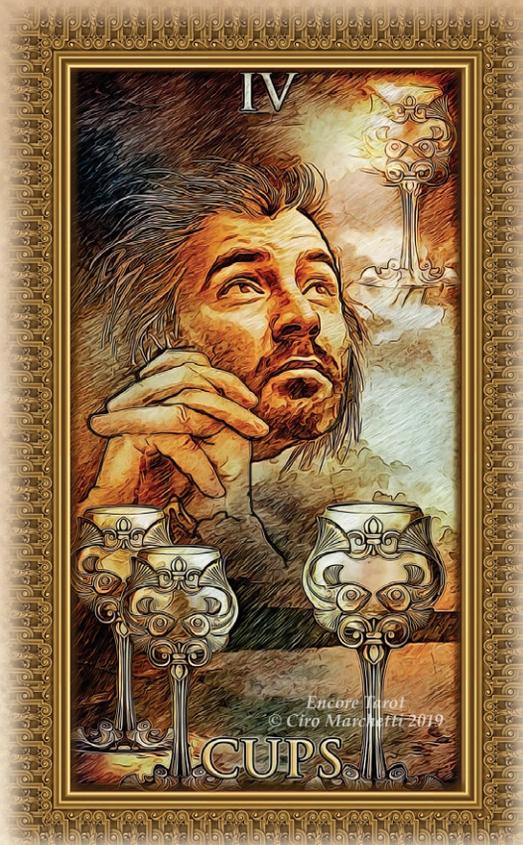
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Three of Cups

Happy, happy, joy, joy! When the Three of Cups appears, it's time to celebrate. Beautiful mermaid figurines grace three goblets, emphasizing the watery world of emotion. Three is a number for creativity; and in the suit of cups that energy is expressed by optimism and celebration with others whom we value. There is a strong sense of optimism. This card can represent comradery and gatherings of all kinds. It has particular significance in the world of the arts due to the theme of creativity as exemplified by the masks and the peacock feather.

Reversed or challenging placements of the Three of Cups may indicate wan-

ing enthusiasm for a current situation, rivalry, emotional conflict, or the loss of a friendship or community. There may even be a love triangle, especially if other cards point to this possibility.

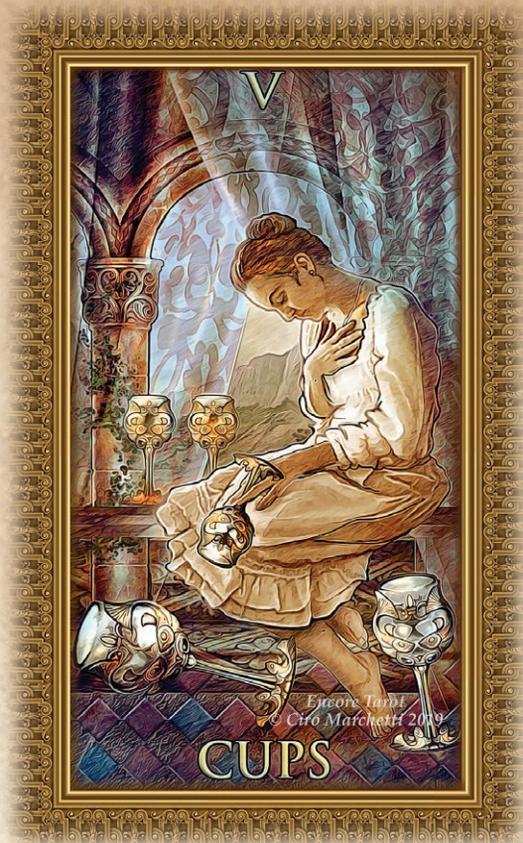


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Four of Cups

The Four of Cups will often reflect a mood of apathy, disengagement, and withdrawal. A man gazes off into the distance in contemplation. He has three lovely goblets before him, but he appears to be thinking about a fourth goblet that he does not have. Although four is a solid and secure energy, as expressed emotionally there may be a feeling of discontent or boredom with what one has. The grass may look greener in another pasture. Perhaps we take for granted that which we already have, or we might simply have the presence of mind to wait for the right thing to come along.

Turning the Four of Cups around in a reversal or when ill-dignified can indicate that we have made a choice, that our focus has shifted from internal to external, or that we may be reconsidering options we had previously rejected.

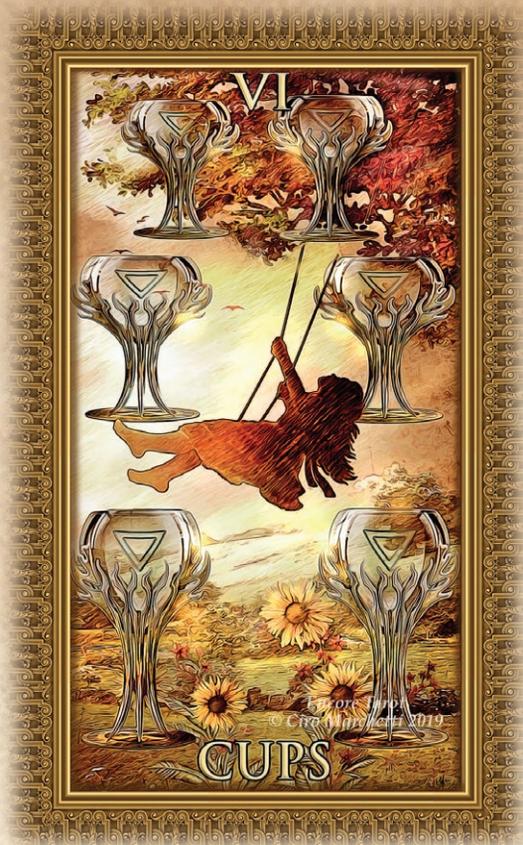


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Five of Cups

Head bent in contemplation, a woman holds one empty cup while two others have fallen to her side. There is an air of heartbreak, sadness, and regret. Because we are in the suit of cups, the sadness is often associated with the pain of lost love. This moment of change that is inherent in fives underscores the need to let go of something. However, the two cups that are standing and the manner in which she holds her hand to her chest can signify the hope of new possibilities. Once we have accepted our situation and processed our emotions, we can experience healing and renewal.

The hope as represented in the two standing cups is augmented when the entire card is read as a reversal. Renewal and recovery are now underway; we are no longer focused exclusively on regret and remorse.



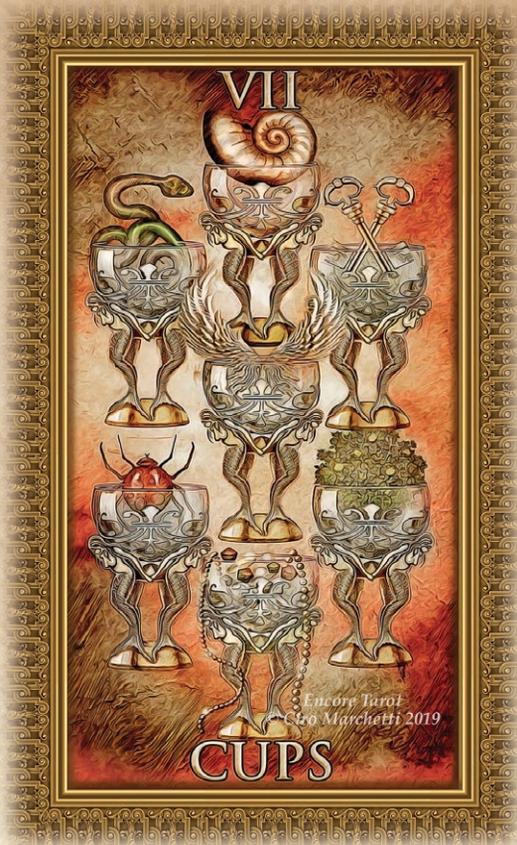
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Six of Cups

There is a beautiful, carefree aura to the Six of Cups and more than a whiff of nostalgia. The days of summer are fading like sunflowers into the warm, golden days of early autumn. Harvest is imminent. After a time of emotional uncertainty and loss, we now move into a resurgence of positive, almost youthful emotions that take us back to the innocent, carefree days of childhood. There is a sense of balance and well-being with the number six, so this card can signify emotional give-and-take that is satisfying for all parties.

The danger in the Six of Cups comes when we cling too tightly to the past.

When this card is reversed or poorly dignified, it may be time to let go. We may not be getting enough time for pleasure and recreation, or we may be inclined to live in the past.



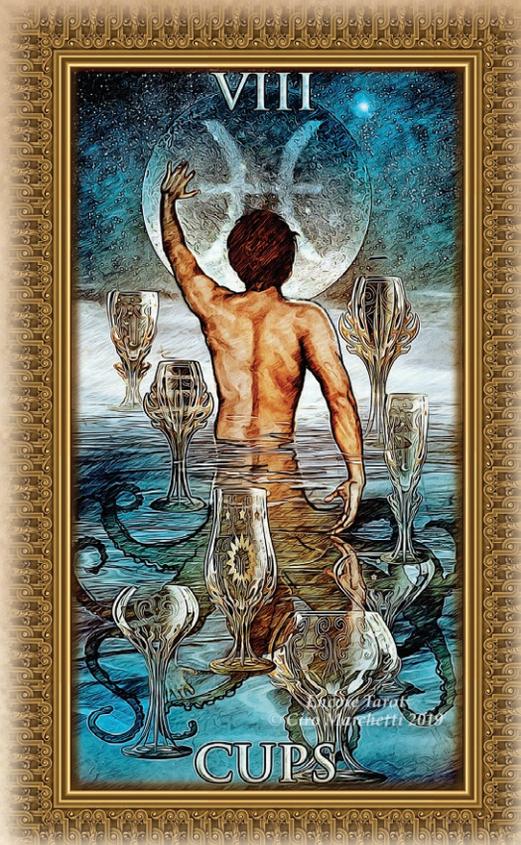
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Seven of Cups

When we choose the Seven of Cups, we are likely to be confronted by choices. Sometimes that can be a good thing and sometimes, not so much. Either way, you have decisions to make in the realm of emotions. This card may also indicate an abundance of creative gifts.

When reading the Seven of Cups, pay attention to the detail of the items in each cup. Does one in particular grab your attention? What does that mean to you? Say, for example, that you notice the keys. What do keys mean to you at this moment in your life? New opportunities? A door that needs to be locked and forgotten? The wings, on

the other hand, might represent anything from a sense of new-found emotional freedom to a hello from heaven. Depending on the context, we might also feel a sense of being overwhelmed with decisions, living in a fantasy world, or moving past the moment of deciding and into the field of action.



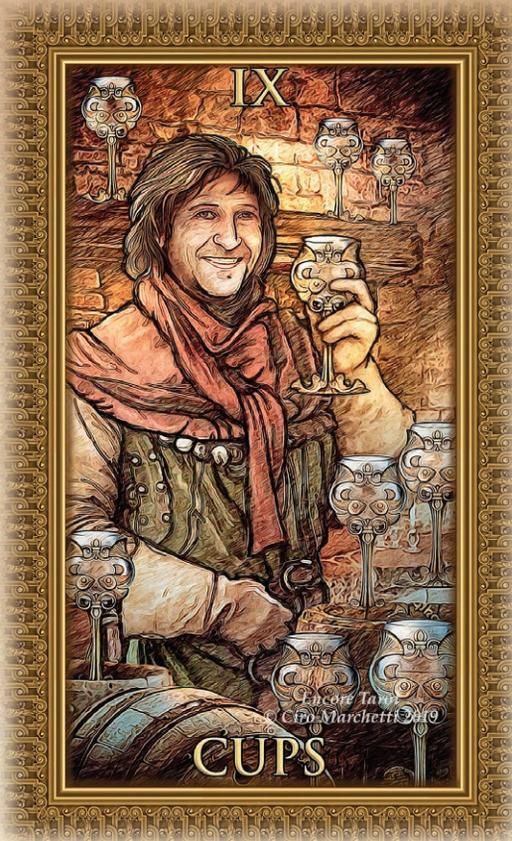
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Eight of Cups

Immersed in the dreamy sea of subconscious and emotion, we see a figure moving towards the moon, one hand extended as if to call for it. The moon is inscribed with the glyph for Pisces, a sign that heralds deep sensitivity. It may be that whatever has held us spell-bound emotionally has begun to shift and we are free to move towards whatever comes next. On a different note, this card may indicate that it's time to take a leap of faith because the cups we leave behind represent what we know, but we are clearly ready for a change.

Note the placement in the spread in context to other cards. This card has the ability to connect and clarify oth-

er cards. When it appears as a reversal, we may find ourselves trapped in an emotional situation or perhaps we are leaving something or someone behind which we are not fully prepared to abandon.



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Nine of Cups

The Nine of Cups signifies that moment when we say “Yes!” to the Universe and the Universe says “Yes!” back to us. Now that we have managed to achieve our dreams of love and emotional fulfillment, we can become expansive and generous towards others. We are emotionally self-reliant. We have enough of what we need, so much so that we are happy to share with others. The warm and convivial expression on the man in the Nine of Cups as he toasts to all things good is a hallmark of the energy of the Nine of Cups. It is a reward from the universe for having stayed the course. This card may also indicate an ambition to follow one’s heart’s desire.

The reversal can be read as unfulfilled dreams, a relationship or situation that is not emotionally satisfying, or a situation where we doubt our own feelings.



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Ten of Cups

One of the happiest cards in the deck of tarot, with the Ten of Cups we have arrived at a moment of deep emotional fulfillment and joy. A family of dolphins leaps gracefully over the stacked cups against a golden sky signifying harmony and joy in relationships, particularly those with loved ones and family members. Dolphins are symbolic of community as well as transcendence. Happiness lies through our stable relationships, no matter with whom they may be. When this card appears in a spread, it means we'll experience a level of emotional security and well-being.

Conversely, an ill-dignified version of this card may reflect that our dreams of emotional happiness, though trying to manifest, are blocked in some way. Look for delays or unexpected confrontations.



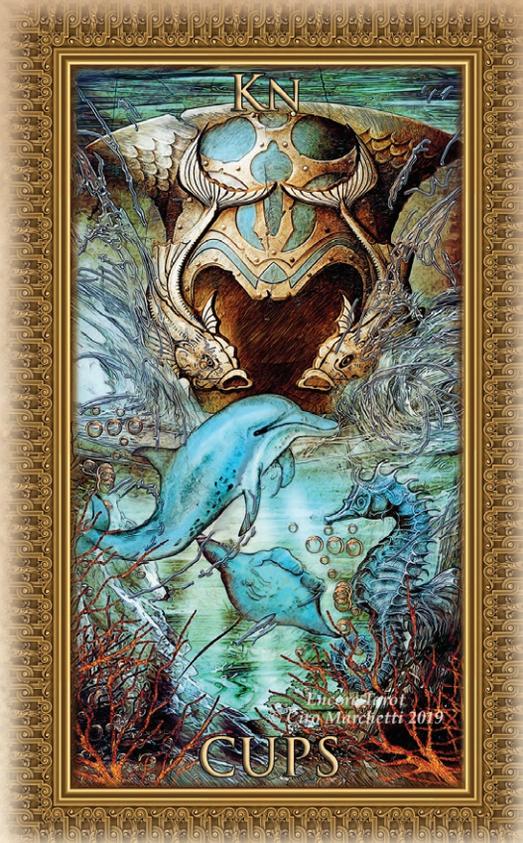
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Page of Cups

With the tarot pages come news, announcements, and the energy of youth and learning. In general, the tarot court cards can either represent people in our lives or a certain energy. To connect with their meaning in a reading, focus on a combination of their elemental association and their placement and function in the hierarchy of medieval court. We can expect that an announcement from the Page of Cups will concern of our emotional and intuitive side.

The fish swimming around our young page are like random emotions that are present but not yet focused

with the powerful intention that can eventually be realized in the rest of the tarot cups court. There is a gentle energy to the pink and blue of the sea anemones that speaks to the possibility of a birth; to determine whether that of a child or a relationship look the surrounding cards. A reversal of this card may denote inability to open up emotionally to a new situation.



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Knight of Cups

Knights go on quests and cups take us into the watery world of emotion and intuition. Appropriately the astrological correspondence is dreamy, intuitive Pisces. The Knight of Cups is the quintessential ‘knight in shining armor’; he can woo us and excite us with his flowery promises of romantic passion. This card can signify a period of transition or the advent of something emotionally significant in the life of the querent. The Knight of Cups is a good indicator that new possibilities with regard to personal relationships, love, or marriage are on the horizon.

When ill-dignified, the Knight of Cups can indicate someone who is liv-

ing in a dream world and who is unable to make good on his romantic proposal. He is heedless of the emotions of others and, once having made his romantic conquest, moves on.



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Queen of Cups

The Queen of Cups gazes dreamily at a golden goblet that, like her own inner knowing, seems to be illuminated from within. The hem of her elegant gown dips into the powerful waters of emotion. Our emotions can range anywhere from a still pool of calm reflection to turbulent passion, but because she is the queen, we know she is the master of this energy. The intuitive Queen of Cups feels everything quite deeply, but because she no longer allows herself to get caught in every little eddy and undercurrent of life she is at once compassionate but in control.

When the queen appears in a reading we may be entering into a profoundly emotional time which we will nonetheless handle well. A troubled or reversed queen is not in control of her emotions. She may play the part of a victim or indulge in unrealistic fantasies.



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King of Cups

Though his posture is casual, there is no doubt that the King of Cups owns the throne of passion and imagination. He reads others so well they may wonder if he is psychic and, in many cases, where the King of Cups is concerned, that is exactly the case. Though he is inclined to be a dreamer who believes in the good of humanity, as the king he may be a little remote. He serves well as an advisor or spiritual mentor. Seahorses adorn his throne and in the animal kingdom male seahorses are known for their unusual role in gestating and bearing the young, further enhancing the nurturing aspect of this king.

Ill-dignified, the king may place his own feelings above those of others. As with all tarot cups courtiers, he may be 'lost in his cups' through drug or alcohol dependency. He may be emotionally unstable or clingy and manipulative.



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Palace of Cups

Many of us visit the Palace of Cups every night through our dreams. Steeped in fanciful images and evocative of feelings – and even, at times, precognitive – our dreams allow us to detach from the deeply structured world of form and float free in the realm of imagination. Any environment that allows us to connect with our feelings and fantasies can serve. TV, movies and theater, a visit to a psychotherapist, music venues, or even amusement parks that take us back to childhood can be conducive to experiencing our emotions more deeply.

When ill-dignified, we may be living in a fantasy world. There may be too much of an emphasis on feelings and emotions, too much drama, or perhaps everyone is intoxicated.



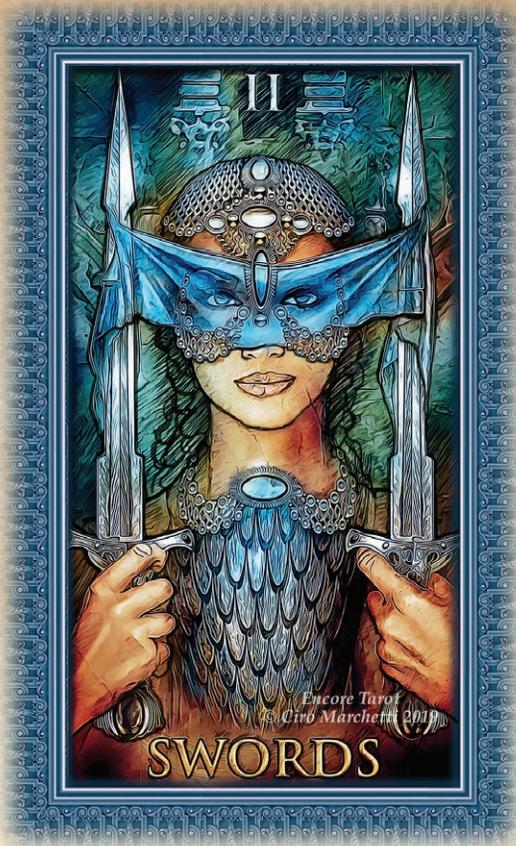
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Ace of Swords

The suit of swords corresponds to the element of air and reflects the qualities of thought, intellect and communication. We begin with the ace, which in a small way mimics the notion of creation in the world; the metaphysical notion that God created the world by speaking it into being. The words “A bon droit” which appear on the ribbon reflect the power of our thought to move us in the right direction rightfully and with good reason. It is the initiation of understanding.

When the ace of swords appears in a reading we may experience a revelation or new thinking. It may now be possible for the truth to prevail.

Perhaps we are now able to achieve mental clarity beginning with a new outlook. Depending upon the context of the reading, a reversed or ill-dignified ace of swords may point to difficulty in achieving understanding or clear communication.



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Two of Swords

A woman gazes out through a sheer blue veil, the corners held aloft on the tip of the swords she holds. What does she see? What does she know? The blue gem at her throat chakra would certainly give her the power to communicate and yet she remains mute. How long will she be able to maintain the balance between knowing and making her own thoughts known in the world? Delicate cracks are beginning to appear in her face, perhaps from the stress of indecision. The charade may not last much longer.

The tarot twos introduce the concept of duality and for the suit of swords,

that indicates issues associated with thought and intellect. Perhaps a decision needs to be made. Maybe we are willing to suspend judgement. We might be of divided mind, unable to resolve the irreconcilable due to a fear of upsetting the status quo. Reversal or placement as a challenge card may indicate that it is time to move beyond the impasse.



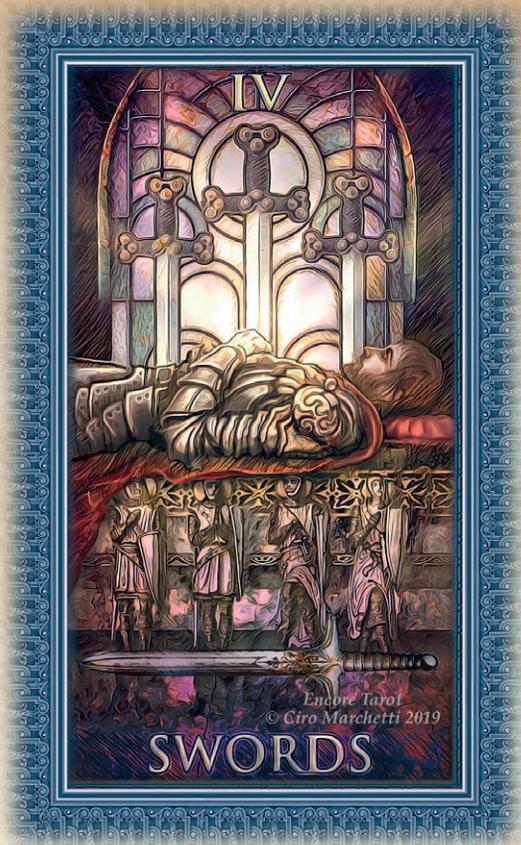
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Three of Swords

Clearly the mood is one of heart-break. When angels pause to weep, we know that a difficult situation is reaching a climax. There may be a romantic betrayal or we are not being treated well at work or in some other area of our lives. But the power of the creative 'three' energy combined with the intellectual acuity of the suit of swords indicates that perhaps a truth may soon come to light that will help to heal the pain; we may be able to learn a valuable lesson despite the heartache.

The gift of the three of swords is that although it serves as a harbinger of a painful situation, it generally indicates

that the storm clouds will soon clear – provided we have acknowledged whatever particular lesson of the heart. When the three of swords is reversed, look for denial or inability to cope in the face of the painful situation.



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Four of Swords

Now is the time to give your mind an opportunity to rest in a safe and secure place. The four of swords offers recuperation, retreat, and recovery after emotional or physical turmoil. This card may be a caution against being overly busy, admonishing us to take time to slow down and contemplate. We might be advised to handle mental stress by organizing our thoughts before we go back into battle.

A knight is at rest upon what appears to be a bier as though for a funeral. This might be a time of retreat or illness - or it might literally be a funeral. Perhaps it is the death of an old way of thinking. When ill-dignified or

reversed, the four of swords might explain what is lacking (peace of mind) or the ability to get much-needed rest. It may also indicate that the time for rest is over and it's time to swing back into action.



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Five of Swords

Ah, there's nothing quite like the challenging energy of change found in all of the tarot fives! There is a restlessness in the number five that desires to move past the status quo. On top of that we are in the heart of the suit of swords, which by their very nature are quite troublesome because while the power to reason gives humanity a huge advantage, our thoughts can create trouble as well when we dare to speak our minds.

How we interpret this five of swords depends upon our point of view and can be deduced from surrounding cards. Perhaps the man shown on the card has just spoken in our defense and his willingness to speak up about what

is right rather than what is easy will be a boon to us. On the other hand, this may represent someone who in his self-righteous manner of adhering to what he views as the truth ignores the need to be humane. This may be a moment where the battle has been won but it is uncertain as to whether or not the war can be won as well.

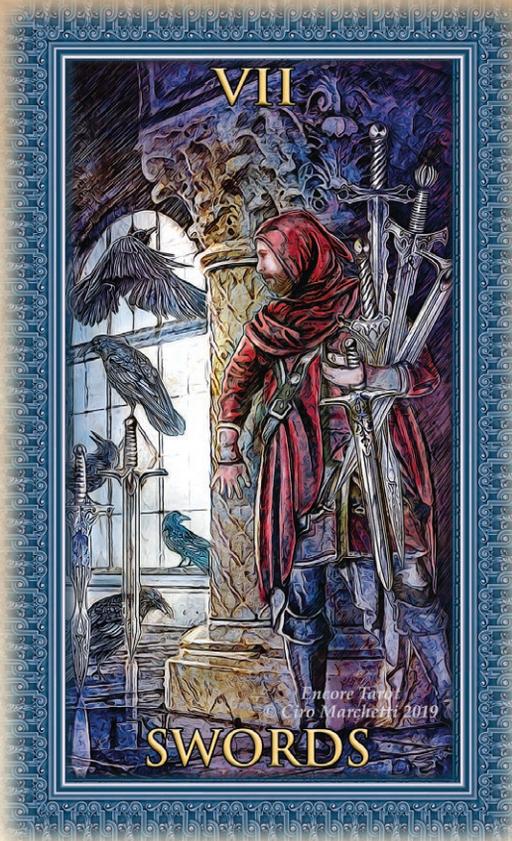


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Six of Swords

The journey is underway. We may have a way to go to realize our goal but we have committed to a certain path. A ferryman moves two women across calm waters under a peaceful crescent moon. In the background we see a city. Perhaps we have fled the sanctuary of a place or situation that no longer serves us. Now is a time of transition and renewed hope. The swords emerge as though from the watery depths of our psyche; they can signify either the uncertainty of our thoughts about the current situation or our dreams and desires that will move us forward to the next chapter in life.

When this card is reversed or appears in a position of challenge within a tarot spread, we may find ourselves in a position where we are unable to move forward. In fact, turning the card upside down makes the image appear as though the figures are trapped within the swords.



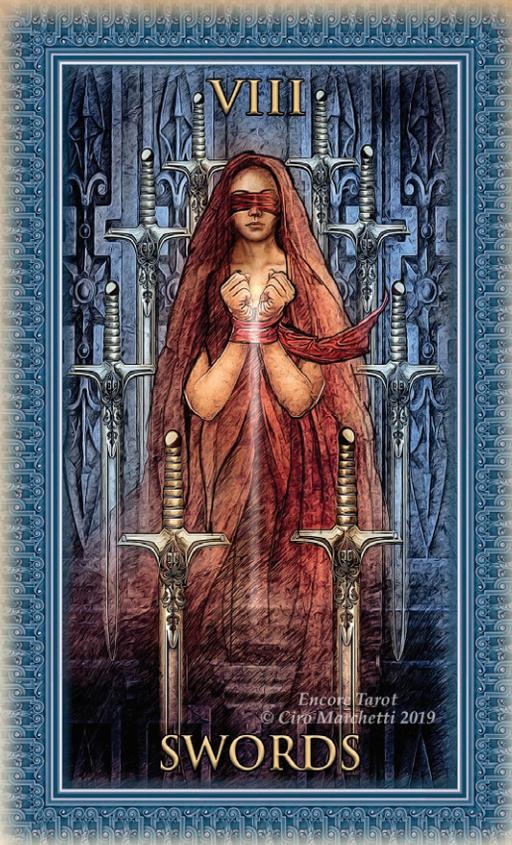
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Seven of Swords

The seven of swords traditionally depicts subterfuge and stealth. A lone figure lurks behind a column and while it appears that he has managed to gather up five swords, he is apparently considering the risks involved in taking two that he seems to have left behind. We may be in a situation where someone has not told the complete truth or has somehow managed to undermine us through stealth and conniving.

However, the seven of swords does not always mean that we have been deceived. It may simply indicate a need to play our cards close to our chest and employ diplomacy or even guile to meet our objectives. This might sim-

ply be a time to stop and gather our thoughts. Much depends on what question we have asked or in placement for this card. We must look also for the possibility of hidden things being revealed or remorse on the part of someone who has wronged us.



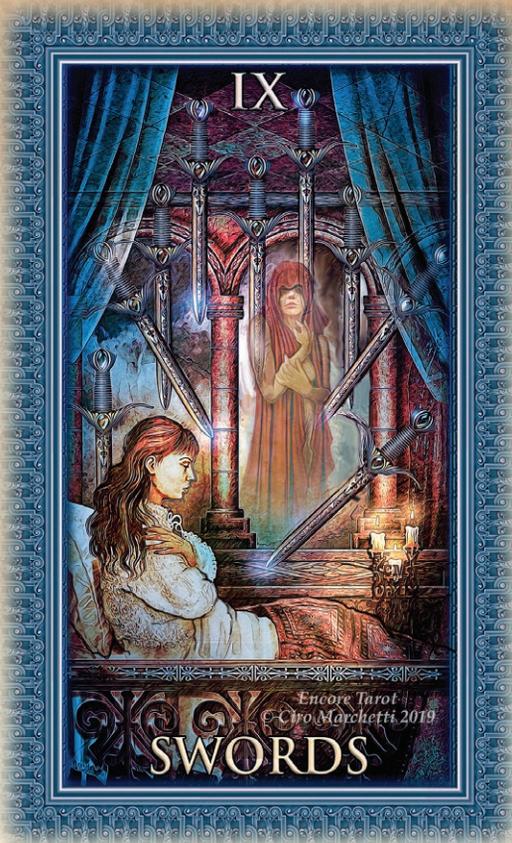
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Eight of Swords

The feeling in the eight of swords is one of being trapped. In our minds we go over and over all of the options, but nothing seems to bring us the answer we're looking for. Generally the situation is an unhappy one, yet we fear to leave it for whatever reason. Whether it's an unsatisfying job, an unhappy marriage, or simply a bad habit, we tell ourselves, "My hands are tied, I can't let go of _____". We don't realize that we have cast a spell of fearfulness and trepidation upon our own selves. Thus, we are the ones who have the power to break free. Close observation of this card will show that the bonds here seem to be loosely applied, insin-

uating that it might be easier than we thought to break them.

A reversal can indicate progress in the direction of removing self-limiting thoughts. Let go! Face your fears and move forward. To paraphrase Henry Ford, if you think you can or you think you can't, you're right!



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Nine of Swords

Why is it always the shadow of the worst possible outcome that haunts our thoughts at 3:00 in the morning? The coulda-woulda-shouldas of life torture us with visions of everything that might go wrong or that we should have done better or that we are not good enough to achieve. The sense of impending doom that often accompanies this card is actually a climax of our habit of over-thinking the situation that has begun to build in the previous cards, but the good news is that the advent of nine often indicates that we are either nearing the end of a cycle or already there.

The power in this card is in the realization that the worst aspect of this current situation is your own fear and anxiety in regard to it, thus giving us the ability to change. Depending on its placement, the nine of swords reversed could indicate either that a period of grief and mourning is coming to an end, or that we are not quite ready to let go of our worries.



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Ten of Swords

Something has ended or will soon end. The dramatic tension of fear and anxiety that has been building in the previous cards in the suit of swords has broken. Although we may have hit bottom or reached the end of a cycle, we are ready to fight our way past the pain of this ending and move into the new cycle. The figure in this card seems to be breaking free of the talons of defeat.

This card may indicate a time when illusions are cast aside and you are able to see a person or a situation for who and what they really are. Even though we might experience this as

a moment of crisis, the appearance of this card generally heralds a clearing of the old energy and the old way of thinking and the expectation of improved circumstances. Reversal of the ten of swords can indicate that either we have already begun the process of moving past this ending or we are not quite ready for it.



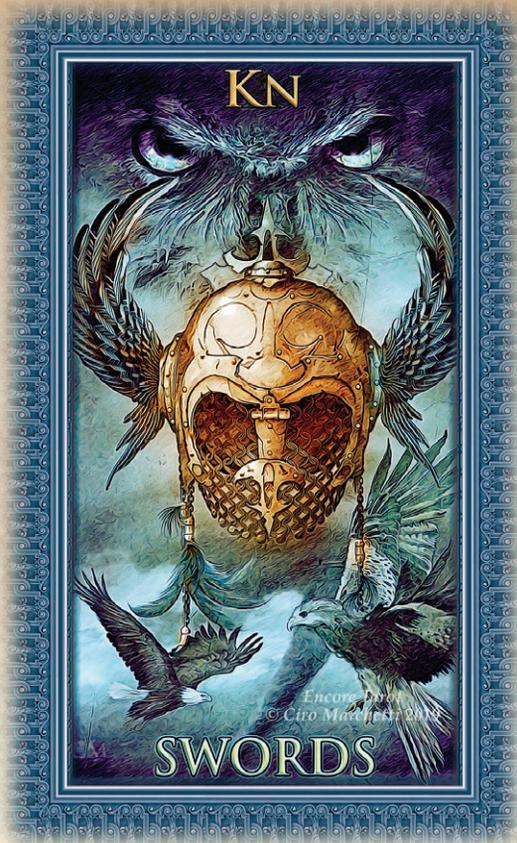
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Page of Swords

The court cards can either represent people in our lives or a certain energy. Either way, we can read their energy by focusing on a combination of their elemental association and their placement and function in the hierarchy of medieval court. Thus, pages are the lowest in rank and functionally, they make announcements or convey news. The elemental association of swords with air (thought and communication) signifies the advent of new thoughts and ideas.

We may be in the process of learning something new, or researching and investigating. If this card is a person, it depicts a youth who nonetheless can think on his feet. Our Page of Swords

does indeed appear quite youthful, yet very intent in his gaze. The birds that surround him may perhaps indicate his thoughts as he gathers them. Reversed or ill-dignified, this card may indicate that the time is not yet right for a new idea or plan of action, or the possibility that in our haste we may have jumped to a conclusion.



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Knight of Swords

Knights go on quests and typically they move things forward. Their energy represents the power and strength of early to mid-adulthood. The knight of swords is very focused, logical, and direct. Having cultivated the innate abilities of the page to think on his feet, he is now matured into a more strategic thinker and can deal with challenges quickly and effectively.

This knight would be a particularly good choice if you were preparing to 'do battle' in the world of words and communication. He can use logic and wit as effective tools. The focus here is on the helmet that we put on if we

want to make a strong statement or to champion a cause in the bold and incisive manner of the knight of swords.

There is a danger that the aggressiveness of the knight of swords can outweigh his ability to impose reason on a given challenge. This card may show up as a caution to read the fine print or to think before speaking or acting.



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Queen of Swords

The blue of this queen's gown echoes the blue energy of the throat chakra. You never need to wonder how you stand with the queen of swords; she will let you know exactly what she thinks in no uncertain terms. Traditionally this queen is a widow or divorced woman but in modern terms, she may simply be more inclined to speak her mind than most people.

One key for interpretation for any queen is to ask what keeps her on her particular throne. She may be compelled by a logical and analytical nature or may simply be the manifestation of someone who will research, analyze,

or communicate with extreme precision to master any given situation.

When the queen of swords is reversed or ill-dignified, look for someone who is not being completely honest, fair, or straightforward. A quick wit may become overly derogatory; a person who is normally unbiased may be overly judgmental.



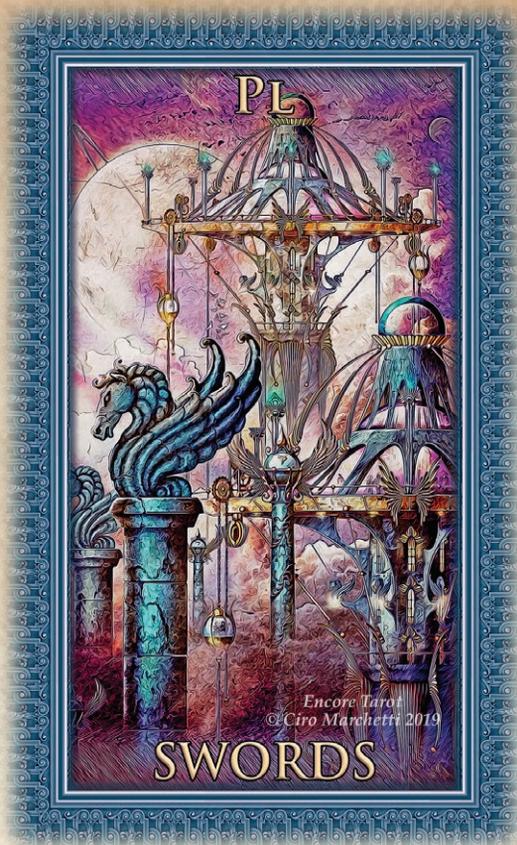
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King of Swords

Imperious in a purple robe, his throne seemingly held aloft by two fierce eagles, the king of swords has mastered the world of logic and communication. He has a strong affinity for ethical action and justice. He rules through intellect and logic rather than emotion. At his best manifestation, he strives for honesty, fairness, and accuracy. He is the impartial judge or the eagle-eyed editor looking to correct any flaw in the system. Like his counterpart, the queen of swords, he may be inclined to be a little aloof.

With the reversal of this card the scrupulous ethics of the upright king are either compromised or complete-

ly out the window. He may have an authoritarian air or be uncompromisingly harsh with discipline, or he may simply appear as a caution against the possibility taking an action that goes against one's own code of ethics.



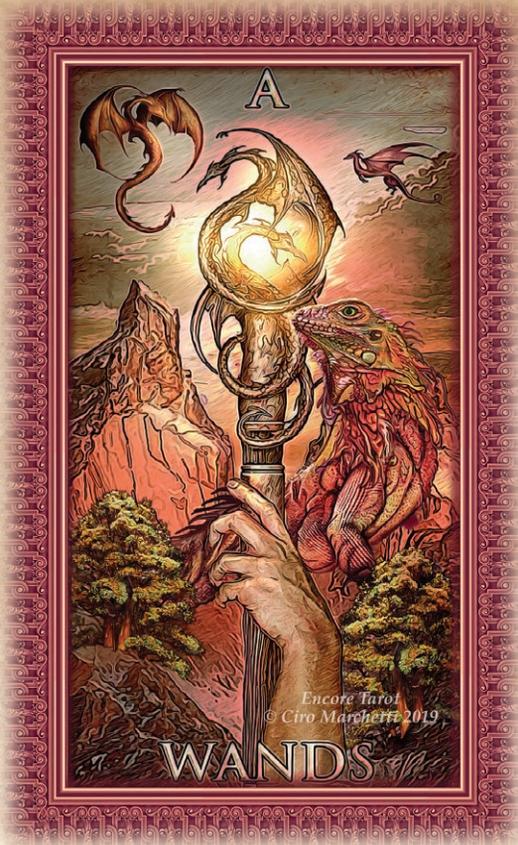
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Palace of Swords

Whether they be dreams or schemes, the palace of swords represents any environment which sustains and nurtures the pursuit of knowledge, thought, communication, or logic. Thus, we may find the energy of this card in a university, a newspaper, a think tank, or a theater. The internet itself is a huge palace of thought and communication. The machinery in this card appears intricate and mysterious, and yet there is a sort of whimsical air to it that pays tribute to the imagination (without which no human creations would be possible).

The palace of swords might remind us that it would be advisable to cre-

ate an atmosphere conducive to clear thinking. Conversely, when ill-dignified, there may be too much emphasis on thought and logic.



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Ace of Wands

This single wand emerging almost magically from the fiery earth brings about something new, something transformative and something spiritually fresh. We need to be prepared to 'take flight' with the energy of this card and the help of these beautiful creatures.

If we let any fear creep in it will only prolong our 'launch phase' of this new inspirational endeavor. Now is the time to be bold and brave.

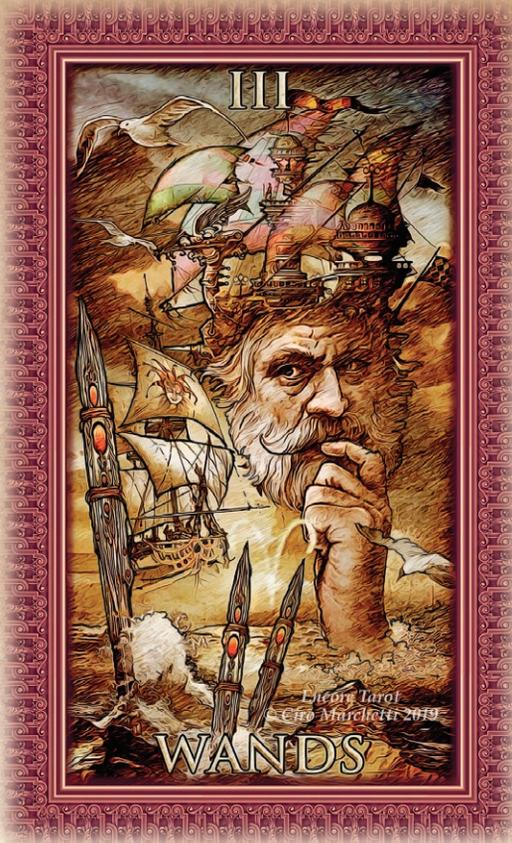


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Two of Wands

A choice, in the form of two boxes, is floating before us, and there is just ONE key. Does it fit both boxes or just one? We must trust our intuition on the decision. We also should prepare ourselves for a wonderful transformation. Be brave and unlock a box. By our direct nature in making a decision we will receive that thing we have longed for, hoped for and wished for.

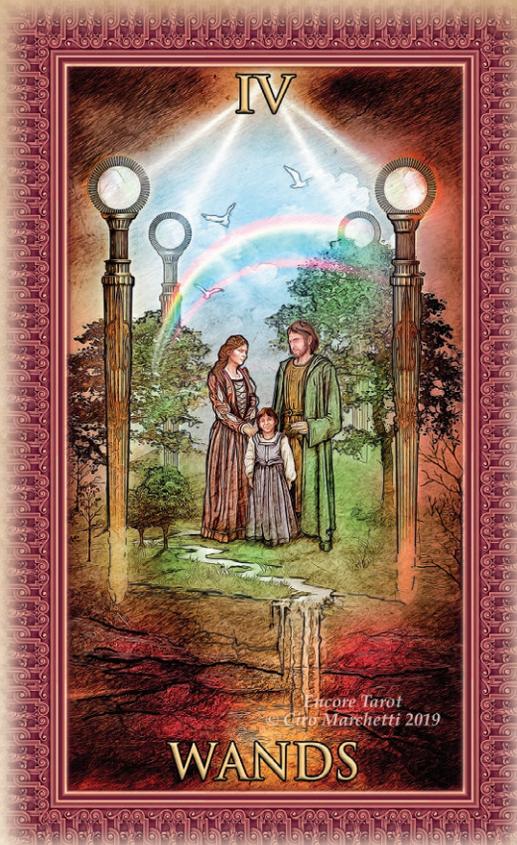
Making a selfish decision to keep both boxes even though they are locked may just hold us in limbo for an unidentified length of time preventing our hard work from paying off.



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Three of Wands

The Aries symbol floating in the middle of this scene reminds us it was our passion and willingness to take a chance that finally brought all our dreams to fruition. The crashing waves remind us of the emotional toll it may have taken. We need to remember that our emotional power is what helped attract and manifest this outcome. It will be important for us to remember we didn't do it alone. Avoid letting that 'lone wolf' mentality seep into your world.



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Four of Wands

Magically things abound in our safe secure world. We have created a peaceful home and core group of friends and, perhaps, a chosen family.

Living in a bubble of our own creation can feel good, but eventually we have to take flight and venture out into what many call 'the real world'. The adjustment can be harsh if we are not prepared. We must trust that our created fortress is 'within us' as well and we are safe.

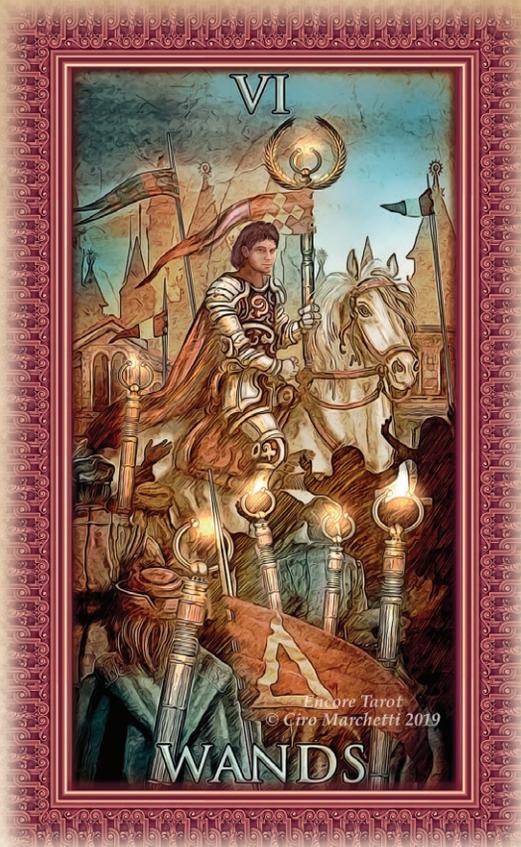


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Five of Wands

We may not realize that who, or what, we are fighting may be internal, or within us, not external or outside the self. This card can bring about lots of changes and often spiritual ones. With the right perspective on the situation it can and will most likely be amazing. The battle within us can be shortened by giving into these changes and allowing the natural flow of our journey to come forth.

If we keep fighting what feels like only external battles, as most of us still believe, then we will most likely stay trapped or stuck in a place of confusion and frustration.

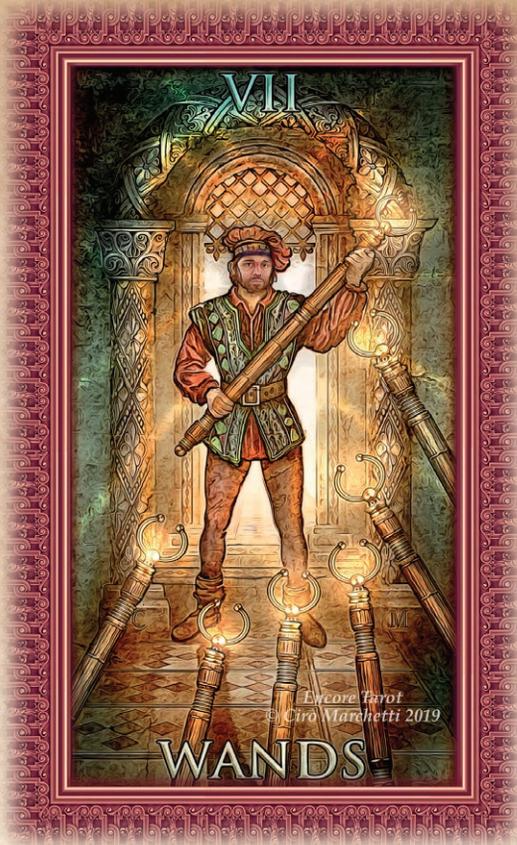


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Six of Wands

Victory is ours, so we must believe it. We've earned it. We fought hard and much has suffered as we have achieved our balance. Allow the accolades and praise to wash over us and receive it all with humility.

Falling in to the trap of our ego can lead to surprises that won't let us off very easily and possible even drag us back several steps.



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Seven of Wands

Surprise!! We didn't expect what is upon us but it's not as bad as it appears at first. If we take a breath, analyze the situation and proceed forward with clear thought and intent we can realize the benefits of the situation.

Jumping to conclusion and allowing our 'fight or flight' brain to take over may bring about set backs that won't be enjoyable at all.

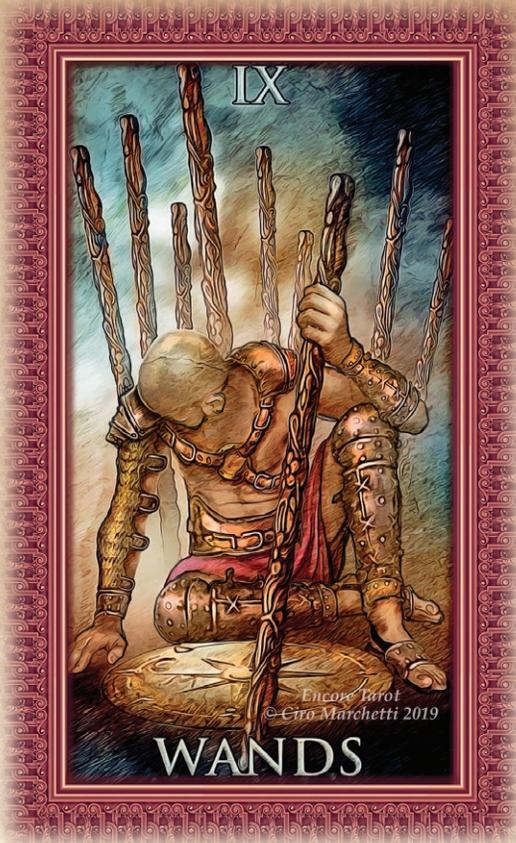


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Eight of Wands

Our success and reward for our optimism and perseverance is the clarity we have been given. Our head, like the eight wands, is above the clouds and fog and we can see for miles. It's time to make our decisions, create our next journey. It's time to make a move on what we have been planning.

This is not the time for us to be lazy or shrink back and retreat in fear. Starting over would be harder than the last time.

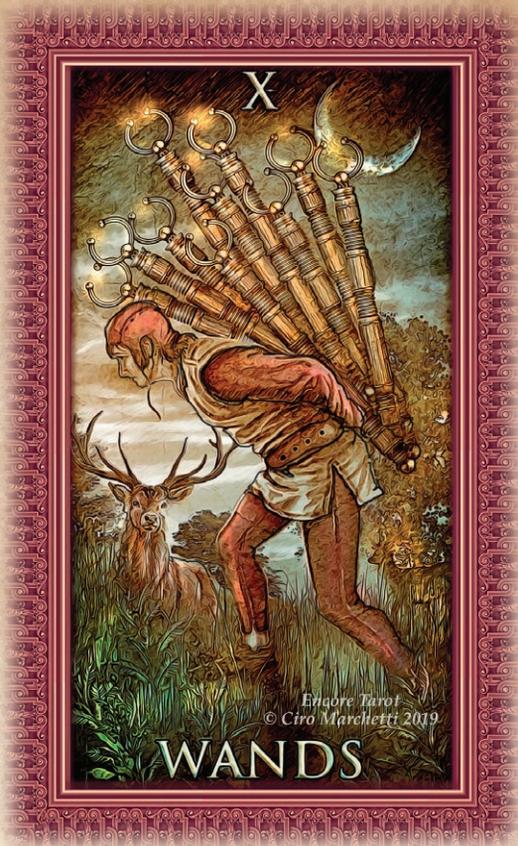


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Nine of Wands

Some of the hardest work we will ever do is the creative, spiritual and imaginative kind. Most people won't see what we are going through or how hard it's been. The Nine of Wands encourages us to keep going. We have just a little bit more to go before completion is achieved. We can do it.

We must avoid looking back or getting caught up in playing the victim at this point. It could break the motivation and drive we have to complete this task, project or important moment in life.



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Ten of Wands

It's a great time for us to rejoice in the completion of this most recent trek. It may not have brought about applause from many others, but the sun, moon & stars saw what we did. Even the animals of the fields are impressed with the load we carried. We are changed from having made it this far.

By not realizing the changes that occurred within us along the way can cause resentment for having had to carry such a burden. Retelling the stories of frustration and pain only solidify a negative narrative each time we bemoan and share it.



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Page of Wands

As our Page of Wands stares directly at us we can feel their intent nature almost as if they have a secret they want to share with us. And they do. Let us pull up a chair, grab our notepad and get ready for some transformational wisdom. They bring messages from beyond what we, in our physical world, can see, feel & touch.

Doubt in the message, or our ability to hear and trust it, can prevent us from progressing on our road to enlightenment.

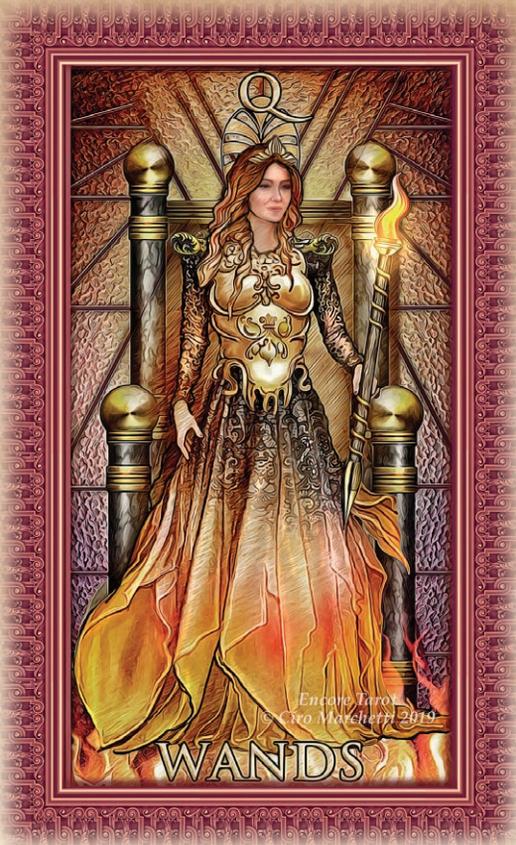


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Knight of Wands

Let the fire burn and transform us now. Things will move quickly for us now that the Knight of Wands has appeared. There is no time for us to hesitate. What is about to happen is powerful and we will never be the same if we choose to allow.

The fire may hurt at first, but it's only because of our resistance to it. Avoid letting the emotional energy squash the passion that has been sparked by this card.

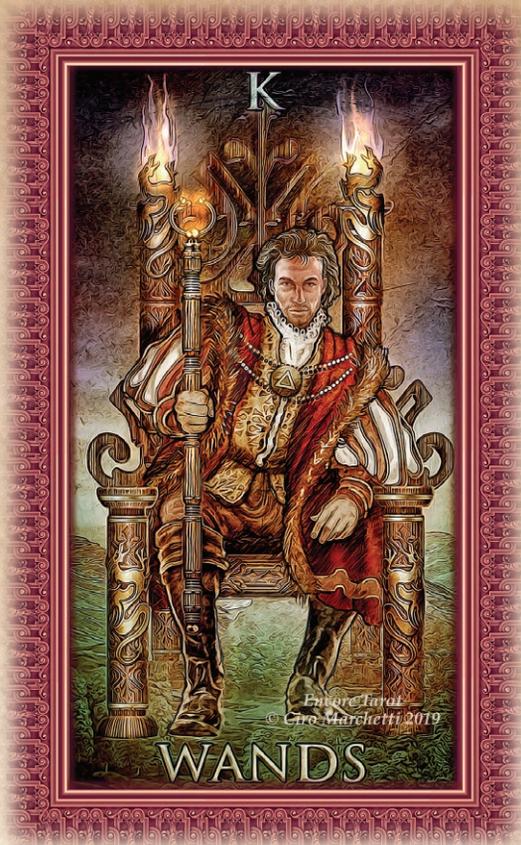


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Queen of Wands

OH!!! The passion of this queen. The Queen of Wands will ignite in us things that have been dormant but have been waiting to blossom, sprout and flourish. The power of transformation goes beyond ourselves, it has the ability to change all those around us if we let it.

We must watch out for our small self and the desire to put ourselves ahead of others. It can cause all kinds of challenges that will take away from our true purpose.

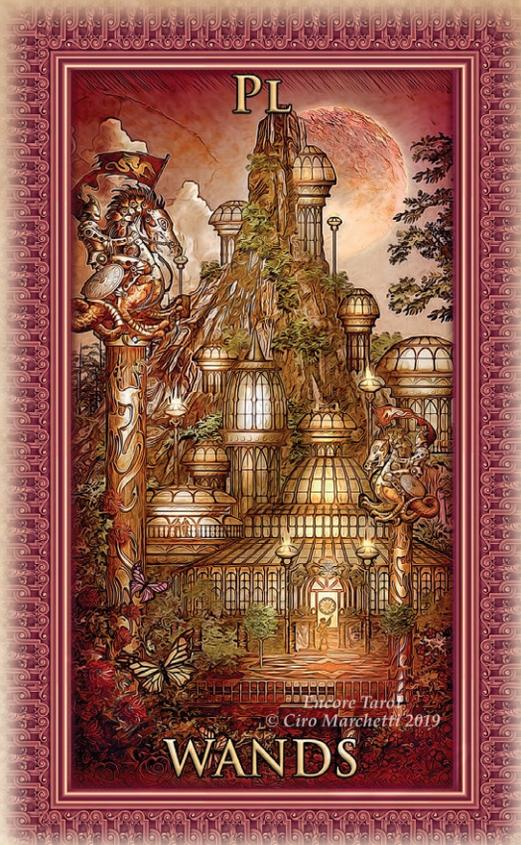


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King of Wands

Our King of Wands shows us just how many ‘incarnations’ we’ve had to live to become our truest self. He allows us to burn down any blocks we have around our heart. With his guidance we know we are ready for the next step in our life.

Believing we can dominate all those around us could be our biggest crutch. We must keep our gluttonous desires in check to prevent our ‘downfall’.



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Palace of Wands

Designed as a place of spiritual learning and healing, this Palace of Wands is where real transformation can happen. It provides a place of inspiration if we only accept it.

MEET THE READERS



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Christiana Gaudet

Christiana Gaudet has been a full-time tarot professional for more than twenty years. She offers readings, coaching, and mentoring by phone, webcam, and in-person from her office in Palm City, Florida, and during tours to the Northeast, and other Florida locations.

Christiana is a popular psychic entertainer on radio and television, and at parties and special events. She is a headlining speaker at festivals and conferences throughout the country, and a sought-after teacher of tarot, personal growth and healing, and esoterica.

Christiana's first book, *Fortune Stellar: What Every Professional Tarot Reader Needs to Know* is considered an industry standard for tarot professionals. The award-winning expanded Second Edition was released in December 2017. Her second book, *Tarot Tour Guide*, also in its second edition, is a beloved reference for beginners and experienced tarotists alike.

MEET THE READERS



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Mary Ellen Collins

Mary Ellen Collins is an intuitive and a life path messenger who has a personal mission to explore the world of spirituality and pass that information on to others. Mary Ellen combines her passion for metaphysics and her gift for communication to create insightful tarot readings to help her clients understand their current path in life and make informed and empowered choices.

She has been reading and teaching Tarot for over a decade and also works with an oracle based on the ancient method of divination known as lithomancy; the Crystal Oracle. Mary Ellen teaches tarot and crystal workshops throughout South Florida and has presented workshops at tarot conferences nationally as well.

<https://tarotbymaryellen.wordpress.com/>

MEET THE READERS



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Mitchell Osborn

Mitchell is a Psychic Medium, Animal Communicator, Tarot Card Reader & Mindfulness Transformation Coach. He's been working globally and professionally for over 10 years.

Mitchell works remotely via the internet as well as in person to help navigate his clients in identifying soul-level solutions for balance, harmony, wellness, enlightenment and growth, all to raise their personal vibration. He uses a humorous, direct and compassionate approach in his sessions and wants his clients and students to recognize the world of energy around them and be able to make their own confident empowered decisions from an intuitively informed centered and balanced place.

<http://www.mitchellosborn.com>

SAMPLE SPREADS



Lamplighter Spread by Christiana Gaudet

*“One does not become enlightened
by imagining figures of light, but by making
the darkness visible.” - Jung*

[https://www.christianagaudet.com/video-
blog/2019/12/7/a-sample-reading-with-encore-
tarot](https://www.christianagaudet.com/video-blog/2019/12/7/a-sample-reading-with-encore-tarot)

In the Lamplighter Spread each card represents a part of a lamp:

Card 1: The Darkness

What brings darkness, despair and misunderstanding to your life at this time?

Card 2: The Flame

What is the spark of hope and truth that will light your way and conquer darkness at this time?

Card 3: The Oil

What will fuel your flame and allow it to burn brightly?

Card 4: The Wick

What will be the path that brings the fuel to the flame?

Card 5: The Match

What will be your inspiration, a spark for your flame?

Card 6: The Lamp

What is the foundation for your flame, your light, and your hope?

What supports it, holds it together and grounds it?



A Sample Reading with the Lamplighter Spread and Encore Tarot

The Lamplighter Spread is an original spread I designed very early in my tarot career. It appears in my book, *Tarot Tour Guide*, copyright 2019.

This is an interesting spread because it is contemplative rather than predictive. Although it uses only six cards, you will very often have to spend a great deal of time contemplating how the cards fit into their positions, and what messages they have for you.

This sample reading is for a friend named Janice.

Card 1, The Darkness, is the Ace of Wands, reversed

This is very fitting. Janice is a creative person who has been feeling uninspired lately. She want to be a professional artist, but hasn't been focusing on her goals.

The synchronicity of the Ace of Wands reversed as 'darkness' is profound. Janice is not feeling her internal light, nor her creative spark.

Physically, she feels tired and drained. Emotionally, she feels unmotivated.

All of these things are her darkness, and they are keeping her in a dark place.

Card 2, The Flame, is the Four of Swords

Typically, we would not see this as a very inspiring card, or a card that could easily represent a flame. Yet, when I saw it, my eyes were draw to the rays of light that shine from the resting man's hands and heart. In those rays I saw the flame that Janice needs.

The Four of Swords usually indicates a need for rest and recovery. It feels counterintuitive to Janice that her lack of motivation and inspiration would

be remedied by rest and retreat, yet it seems that is exactly what she needs. Janice needs to give herself a break.

We can see that her inner fire still burns in her heart. She simply needs to give herself enough time and space to recover so she can let it shine.

Card 3, the Oil, is the King of Wands

It's so perfect that this King is her fuel. We can see the King of Wands as the highest expression of the Fire energy. The King of Wands is Janice herself. The King of Wands is her talent, and her desire to use her talent. The King of Wands is the end of the story which the Ace began. It is the proof that her talent can take her where she wants to go.

While she rests, she must hold this vision, and let let this vision fuel her.

The King of Wands is her vision of her own ability to nurture her inner fire and share that inspiration with the world.

While she rests, she must hold this vision, and let let this vision fuel her.

Card 4, the Wick, is the Hierophant

One of two Major Arcana cards in the spread. The wick represents the path she must take to achieve her goals.

Given that the Ace of Wands reversed and the Four of Swords can both indicate physical malady, and the Hierophant can indicate a doctor, some practical advice emerges here.

Some of Janice's feelings of malaise could involve a physical issue, or an emotional issue that has become clinical. Janice should seek out medical diagnosis and treatment as part of her path toward igniting her inner flame.

Beyond that, the Hierophant could indicate a particular structure for Janice's creative path. She might need to take lessons or go to school. Since the Hierophant can also be a business owner, this encourages her to use her talents professionally, and build a business.

Card 5, the Match, is Strength

Our only other Major Arcana card. This card fits perfectly, since Strength is associated with the element of Fire.

Strength speaks of a balance. Janice must consider that her inner beast both helps her and hurts her. There are ways that anger, and other sorts of wild emotion may hold her back. On the other hand, that lion can also represent her creativity and talent.

The part of Janice that is the gentle woman must learn when to reign in her emotions, and when to encourage her creative expression.

Then, she can ignite her flame and be on her way toward her healing and success.

Card 6, the Lamp, is the Nine of Swords

Here we come to understand what is, foundationally, causing the problem. Very often, the Nine of Swords can speak of depression, trauma or sadness. When adding this card to some of the others that appear here, we can see that there is something going on with Janice that is holding her back from her success and her happiness.

Her sadness, fear, worry or upset needs to be addressed, both medically and spiritually. She needs time to heal, and she needs to be proactive on her healing journey.

Ultimately, her pain will provide inspiration for the creative expression that brings her to her place of success and happiness. Now, she must acknowledge her pain and take responsibility for her healing.

SAMPLE SPREADS



*A Sample Reading with Encore Tarot
by Mary Ellen Collins*

Quick Reference Sheet - 4 Card Spread

Card 1 - Present Influence; Heart of the Matter

Card 2 - Challenges / Obstacles

Card 3 - Past Influences

Card 4 - Probable Outcome

Also refer to the Morning Routine Reading Practice template for practicing four-card readings.

Download from Website:

<https://benebellwen.com/about-the-book/holistic-tarot-supplements/>

3



1



4



2



This is a simple little spread effective for taking a quick look at any situation. It contains a few basic elements that are similar to the heart of the classic 10 card Celtic Cross spread.

For this sample reading we will ask the following question: “What do we need to know going into the new year?”

Card One – Present Influence, Heart of the Matter: Strength

How will we ride the lion of passion and power into the new year? The Strength card speaks to how we can best achieve self-mastery and as a card in the position of “Present Influence/Heart of the Matter” we could possibly read the question as “What do we need to know about achieving self-mastery as we move into the new year?” There is an air of competence about the rider sitting easily astride a lion who

calmly contemplates his kingdom. Note, however, that the lion looks to the left (traditionally perceived as representing the past). There is something we need to know about the past to answer this question.

Card Two – Challenge/Obstacles: Palace of Wands

The Palace of Wands can be seen as an environment created through force of will and passion. It is the result of what we create when we take intentional action. That seems appropriate because our question concerns our ability to master our drive to achieve. This card as a crossing card may indicate the danger of focusing entirely on the end result and to caution against worrying about how things will look to others. Relax and enjoy the creative process of manifesting abundance for the new year!

Card Three – Past Influence: Queen of Swords

The sphere of influence that is just passed or passing is represented by the Queen of Swords. The energy of this queen is that of a keen wit and analytical mind and one of her best traits (although at times daunting) is her unabashed honesty. Thus, we are well-advised to temper our communication with integrity because this queen demands nothing less. The advice appears to be that we need to think things through regarding any situation and play it straight. A phrase

that we can associate with the Queen of Swords is to thine own self be true!

Card Four – Probable Outcome: Nine of Cups

The Nine of Cups is one of the most positive cards in the tarot. It portends emotional fulfillment and a general sense of wishes granted. (Indeed, it is referred to traditionally as ‘the wish card’). It is also a nod to the fact that the achievement of self-mastery that we have been focused on through this reading will be accomplished without sacrificing our dreams.

Overview

Overall there appears to be a nice balance in this reading. Within our little spread of only four cards we have three of the four suits, a court card, and we enter the reading with a card from the major arcana.

We can answer the question “What do we need to know about achieving self-mastery as we move into the new year?” with the advice from the other cards. We shouldn’t worry so much about how things will turn out, but instead, we should relax and enjoy the process of creating our lives. We must also be true to ourselves and to our dreams by speaking our truth and ultimately, we are looking forward to a year that promises to be a happy one.

SAMPLE SPREADS



New Moon Manifesting Spread Mitchell Osborn

Video Link - https://youtu.be/QgWfW_ZYL28

Card 1 - The Seed

This is the inspiration to nurture.

Card 2 - The Soil

This is what to surround yourself with to nurture growth.

Card 3 -The Stones

This is what to find and discard.

Card 4 - The Sun

This is advice for the most beneficial progress.

Card 5 - The Bloom

This is the best manifestation of your current inspiration during this cycle.



Card 1 - The Seed - 10 of Wands

During this new moon phase take time to nurture the hard work you have already done and what you are planning to do, especially the creative, spiritual and imaginative work.

Card 2 - The Soil - Page of Cups

It will benefit you to surround yourself with learning and an emphasis on your emotions. You may learn about love and matters of the heart during this phase. This may lead to a better understanding of healing as well, yourself and others.

Card 3 - The Stones - 4 of Swords

Find and get rid of any desires to rest or relax, or any inclination to 'chill'. Now is a time to focus on work.

Card 4 - The Sun - 6 of Coins

The best advice right now is to find the balance in your life which will help you move forward. Be conscious of where you are spending your money or overworking physically.

Card 5 - The Bloom - Knight of Wands

The best outcome or 'bloom' is going to be movement or action, especially creative, spiritual or transformative. This also connects back to the first card in the suit of wands of what we are to nurture.

Layering the spread

This spread is very balanced in the suits with two wands, a cup, a sword and a coin. There are NO major arcana with no major changes or challenges leading us to surmise this particular new moon phase will be rather mundane or simple and easily achievable.

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