

# Teknebrae Tarot

*"In our seldom-heard subconscious are depths that our waking selves rarely reach. Let us be explorers of a different kind! Let us delve into the depths of our light and shadow, finding the smooth and rough boundaries of our mind."*

The Teknebrae Tarot is a Cyberpunk Tarot deck following the Rider-Waite-Smith tradition (Often shortened to RWS). Like my Neon Moon Tarot before it, it offers full illustrations in a limited color palette for each of the 78 cards and is set in a gritty futuristic technical world. Robots, cyborgs, AI, enhanced cybernetics, loose flowing clothing and a diverse cast of characters populate this deck and bring its setting to life. In this booklet I've additionally included card titles based on (but not a 1 to 1 match with) their Golden Dawn titles.

This booklet provides card themes and meanings for your own clarity. If you have a stronger association with a card that contradicts the meanings given here, then go by your own interpretation. Above all, this book is meant to be a helpful guide, not a dictator.

If you are reading with inversions, the term "Well-defined" in this booklet may be considered an upright card, and "Ill-defined" may be considered an inverted one.

Tarot decks appeal to different people for different purposes. Some just like having an artistic collectible. Others use them for card games like Tarrochini. Some use them for occult purposes and divination. Others use them for self-reflection and self-improvement work. Whatever your usage is, my hope is that this deck will serve you well.

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## Major Arcana

The Major Arcana represent the strongest archetypes in Tarot. In a reading they could be considered spirit, major life events, karmic influence, and the larger plot points in our lives. The Major Arcana tell the tale of the Fool's Journey and as it cycles its way through the cards, so do our own personal stories.

## **0 - Fool - Spirit of Aether**

*"What a wondrous thing it is to begin without knowing, to explore without fear, to trust in the universe and yourself as a part of it. I'm going out to see the world and I don't quite know when I'll return!"*

**Well-defined Themes** - Creation, potential, innocence, beginnings, growth, spontaneity

**Ill-defined Themes** - Recklessness, wasted potential, distraction, fear, lack of awareness

Associated with the element of Air, the Fool bears zero as their number, not as a lack of value but as a placeholder for any conceivable value. It is the universe prior to the Big Bang, life before conception, an empty canvas. They represent infinite potential within us all and kick off the Fool's Journey across the Major Arcana. This Fool card was modeled more on a Marseille (Another Tarot tradition pre-dating the RWS system) depiction and thus more closely resembles the harlequin madman archetype. The patch on the Fool's arm is the dog encouraging their forward momentum. Their backpack takes the place of the knapsack and suggests that the Fool has what they need to begin. Behind them, a cityscape opens up representing the difficulties to come. This is a card of new beginnings, opportunity, and adventure. It encourages an open and curious mindset and a faithful leap forward into your endeavor. Trust in yourself and begin your journey!

## **01 - Magician - Magus of Power**

*"I'm ready. I may not trust this city but I do trust myself. Whatever comes, I know I'll handle it as best I'm capable, and I am quite capable indeed."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Capability, competence, concentration, communication, manifestation, power

**Ill-defined Themes** - Tricks or illusions, removed from reality, distractions, hampered communication

The Magician is associated with Mercury, the messenger of the gods, and is likewise a card linking above with below, the heavens with the earth, the spiritual and the material. They have tools from each of the suits within reach, signifying that they have everything that they need to manifest their will into being. Their white outfit

symbolizes purity, and the infinity symbol formed from a snake above their forehead symbolizes their unlimited potential as well as their connection to the spiritual. Each of the elements are also represented on their shirt, showing their capability with each of their tools. This card suggests that we have what we need to make our aspirations a reality. We have the competence needed, we have only to look at our first step and take it, then take the next, and so on. The journey is underway and we are well prepared for it.

## **02 - High Priestess - Priestess of the Silver Star**

*"My eyes do not work as yours do, yet I see all the more clearly. Much that lays hidden to you is felt instinctively by me. I can feel the boundaries of this world and I can see the truth beyond them."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Intuition, the subconscious, a period of self-reflection, internal change

**Ill-defined Themes** - A shallow view, ignoring your intuition, secrets, withdrawal, lacking spirituality

The Priestess is linked with the Moon and the subconscious. Behind them are the twin pillars of Boaz and Jachin representing mercy and severity. On their chest is a cross symbolizing their divine rulership. The crescent moon halo represents the intuition and subconscious. Their arm has the letters of TORA, representing the Greater Law. The Priestess' face is partially hidden by their veil, suggesting that only through the application of willpower and bridging of the conscious and subconscious will they become known. This card is associated with the subconscious and intuition and calls on us to make use of these. The High Priestess sees the hidden and uses their wisdom to see their way through the world. The answers we are after will come from within, we may just need to tap into our inner self.

## **03 - Empress - Descendant of the Mighty Ones**

*"Our lives do not grow greater in the shrinking of others but in finding ourselves free from our own unhealthy restrictions. We reach beyond where we think we're capable and find ourselves more than we expected to be. We grow together, and we rise together. We help each other be more than we could have been alone."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Growth, beauty, nurturing, relationships, empathy, love, nature

**Ill-defined Themes** - Vanity, emotional damage, self-hatred, creativity blocked, dependence

The Empress is a card of growth, beauty, and nurturing. In her hair are twelve stars, representing her ties to both the zodiac and the twelve planets. She is surrounded by growing wheat, symbolizing her link to nature and abundance. On her chest is the symbol of Venus, associated with love, beauty, and creativity. Her clothing is patterned with pomegranates, symbols of fertility and growth. She is a nurturing source of stability that allows growth, encourages creativity, and supports relationships and love. This card encourages empathy, nurturing, creativity, beauty, and connection with the senses. It suggests abundance around us. We may be nurturing or mothering someone else or may be receiving that energy ourselves. It is possible we'll be bringing a creative idea forth and manifesting it into the world. The Empress suggests that we act with empathy and love towards ourselves and others.

#### **04 - Emperor - Ruler Among the Mighty**

*"Stability provides a break from the anxieties of chaos. Within structure we get space to breathe and grow. As we provide this safety for each other, we allow each of us to develop our own talents and gift our abilities back to each other."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Fair leadership, authority, structure, life experience, self-discipline, logic, systematic problem solving, self-sacrifice

**Ill-defined Themes** - Failing to meet goals, an overly dominant or controlling figure, rebellion against rules and structure, cruelty and violence

The Emperor is associated with Aries and Mars. He is linked with Chesed, the fourth sephiroth on the Tree of Life, which in turn is associated with Jupiter. The Ankh on his lapel represents the symbol of life. On his wheelchair is a depiction of the world, representing his rulership and dominion. Behind him are tall city buildings taking the place of mountains associated with his solid foundation and resistance to unnecessary change. The Emperor card suggests that we need to be a source of stability for others, or perhaps that we need this energy for ourselves. We may be providing for and protecting others. This card encourages leadership, order, organization, and expertise.

## 05 - Hierophant - Magus of the Eternal

*"You say that you don't have all the answers, I say that neither do I. What I have is knowledge which helped when it was shared with me. I give it to you in the hopes you might find it similarly useful."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Tradition, rules, regulations, learning, mentorship, wisdom, conformity

**Ill-defined Themes** - Blind obedience, bureaucracy, rebellion, challenging authority, controlling mentors, over-reliance on structure and tradition

The Hierophant is a spiritual teacher and mentor associated with Taurus. Its right hand is raised in benediction, with two fingers pointed towards heaven and two towards earth. Behind it is a papal cross associating it with religion and authority. On its torso the two keys represent the unlocking of mysteries as the Hierophant teaches, and the balanced energies of the conscious and subconscious minds working together in the pursuit of higher understanding. The Hierophant's triple crown links to their triple roles of priest, teacher, and king. With its roles combined, the Hierophant offers the teachings to a higher path. Below them are two followers who are being instructed by the Hierophant's teachings. The Hierophant card represents institutions, mentorship, learning, and spirituality. It is a trusted guide and mentor. This card suggests that we follow an established way of doing things and listen to those with more experience than ourselves. Trust the knowledge of those with expertise and experience with a subject.

## 06 - Lovers - Children of the Voice

*"If nothing else, the most valuable thing we did in this life was to love."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Choice, consequences, relationships, love, connection, attraction, desiring union

**Ill-defined Themes** - Unequal and strained relationships, lacking self-love, lacking relationships, imbalance, internal conflict, misaligned values

Associated with Gemini, the Lovers card is not just about romantic love, but about union and connection. It is the connection between people, with oneself, with spirituality, and with other people in general. The snake wound around one of the skeletons represents the temptation of sensual pleasures. Behind, an angelic being looks

upon the union of the two skeletons. In the RWS, this angel is Raphael and denotes healing. The Lovers card is about meaningful relationships and choices. It calls on us to be trusting and open, with others and with ourselves. This card asks us to make choices in life that align with our higher selves. Act as the person you aspire to be, for our choices have far reaching consequences for ourselves and those closest to us.

### **07 - Chariot - Monarch of the Triumph of Light**

*"Though fate may vary, my path is ever onward, and I will steer its direction as well as I can. This is no time to be stuck and still."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Overcoming adversity, self-discipline, control, success, victory, courage, goal achievement, contemplation  
**Ill-defined Themes** - Conflict, recklessness, lack of focus, opposition

The Chariot card is associated with the zodiac sign of Cancer. It calls for forward momentum and action. The Charioteer commands two sphinxes (represented on the visible wheels) through force of will alone. Their vehicle is marked with a symbol of the moon, showing that the Charioteer is higher minded than their emotions and subconscious. Their hood is marked with a laurel wreath and star, signifying success and spiritual evolution. On their neck is a square showing their strength of will. Behind the Charioteer is a flowing river, signifying their need to be adaptable and flow with the events of life to maintain momentum. In the car's roof are stars aligning their higher mind with the divine. The Charioteer's success is intentional, directed, flexible, and determined. Where the Lovers card asks us to make decisions in accordance with our values, the Chariot pushes us to act on those decisions. This card encourages us forward on our path. Your objective is set, you just need to apply yourself toward it, and do so with willpower and determination.

### **08 - Strength - Descendant of the Flaming Sword**

*"Oh the world may be in rough shape, and I have shamefully little control over it. But I can control how I attend to it, and how I react to it. I may not be a master over everything, but I can be a master over myself."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Compassion, passion, influence, courage, self-acceptance, inner resilience  
**Ill-defined Themes** - Self-doubt, low energy, lack of passion, reckless actions, mindlessness

Strength shows a calm woman in front of a lion symbol. The lion, and her fanged mask, represent raw passion, emotion, desire, and animal instinct. Through their calm acceptance and love the person is able to tame and control the creature. Their coat has a flower pin showing the beauty in their acceptance of their feared inner beast. The lemniscate on the other side of their coat is the infinite potential realized through acceptance of and mastery over the lower self. This card is associated with Leo and fire, power and emotion, passion and energy. It asks us for self-knowledge, self-control, and a calm, enduring courage in the face of difficulty. Trust that you can overcome the obstacles before you. Keep confident and be determined.

### **09 - Hermit - Prophet of the Eternal**

*"In the journey of solitude I found wisdom, and so I brought it back with me to share. Let my illumination be all of ours."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Insight, illumination, soul-searching, wisdom, knowledge, delving into one's untapped wisdom

**Ill-defined Themes** - Isolation, being self-absorbed, withdrawal, ignoring others, being out of touch

The Hermit is associated with Virgo, isolation, wisdom, and personal development. It implies wisdom through inner soul-searching and connection with the self. With their self-discovery, the Hermit has attained a higher awareness of themselves and the world. They hold a staff signifying their power to help guide them. The lantern floating aloft is their inner illumination, the star behind it linked to the wisdom implied with the Seal of Solomon. The hourglass necklace they wear is a reference to Father Time, and the wisdom that time can bring (Some Tarot decks depict the Hermit card as Father Time as well). The Hermit has journeyed far and undergone much while alone, finding a new perspective in the process. However the Hermit's journey is not completely solitary, as they return to share their discoveries afterwards. The Hermit's knowledge of the self gives knowledge of the world. As within, so without.

### **10 - Fortune - Monarch of the Forces of Life**

*"A wheel turns and so it is like a life. It goes through cycles and is ever changing. Yet it rotates around a center. Our situations may change*

*around us but we may persist through them. In chaotic times you may find peace within your own center and persist."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Change, optimism, adaptability, self as the stable center in chaotic times, unexpected opportunity, life cycles

**Ill-defined Themes** - Bad luck, powerlessness, stress, cautiousness, helplessness, resisting change, breaking out of cycles

Fortune, or the Wheel of Fortune, is associated with Jupiter and is a card about life's events, luck, and chance. As the wheel turns, fates change, and around it nothing is fixed. The four Hebrew letters are YHVH (Yod Heh Vau Heh) which are the unpronounceable name of god, and around that are TORA/TAROT. The Egyptian god Typhon and Anubis are both present at the bottom left and right of the wheel. Anubis is a mediator between the living and the dead, and associated with air, and life force exiting the material world. Typhon is associated with salt, death, and stagnation, and is life force entering the material world. The top figure is partially hidden behind the wheel, but has a headpiece of a sphinx, associated with sulfur, heat, explosiveness, knowledge and strength. The alchemical symbols on the mid-wheel are of mercury, sulfur, water, and salt, and represent developing power. At each of the corners are the four fixed signs of the Zodiac. They signify a stability around the churning movement and unstoppable change of this card. This card reminds us that neither good nor bad times are forever. The wheel turns, empires rise and fall, stability and instability churn around each other and the cosmic dance continues. Time moves ever onward and while we cannot control it, we can control ourselves and how we react to events.

### **011 - Justice - Descendant of the Lords of Truth**

*"When law is a weapon used against only those without power, it is oppression. My justice brings accountability and consequence for all. My justice brings peace. My justice is compassion. My justice is ethical. My justice is truth."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Fairness, truth, cause and effect, integrity, consequence, law

**Ill-defined Themes** - Unfairness, dishonesty, retribution, corruption

Justice is associated with Libra. This card represents just law and order, cause and effect, action and consequence. Her scales hover above her intuitive hand and are balanced as a symbol of her



impartiality. Her sword is double edged, representing both action and consequence, and points upwards, showing the logic and clarity of her decisions. She has a partial helmet over her eyes, again showing the impartiality of her judgements. Justice warns of consequences for unjust actions and decisions having long-term effects that echo outwards through time. It calls for us to be held accountable and take responsibility for our actions, and to be truthful with ourselves and others about the effects of those actions. Act in alignment with your higher self and for the good of others.

### **012 - Hanged One - Spirit of the Mighty Waters**

*"Pause, breathe, and find your center. Surrender to the power of something greater than yourself."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Redemption of a transgression, letting go of guilt, giving to others, sacrifice in pursuit of self-fulfillment, new perspective, surrender

**Ill-defined Themes** - Self-punishment, guilt, self-sacrifice in detriment, stalling, indecision, delays

The Hanged One is associated with the element of Water. It is a card of surrender, self-sacrifice, new perspective, and meditation. The Hanged One's right leg is bound while the left is free. This card is one of self improvement through surrender, suspension, redemption, and the repair of one's spirit and emotions. It may be time to take time out and re-align yourself with the actual state of things. This is a good time to set projects aside for the moment and try to see things from a fresh perspective. Reflect, surrender, and don't resist a shift in the way you see things. You may need a break or some time away from what you've been up close and active on before you can see things more clearly. Try not to rush ahead right now. Take time to reassess your place and your path.

### **013 - Death - Sovereign of the Gate of Death**

*"The air gasps, the sky darkens, the rider is here, the end harkens."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Transformation, change, letting go of that which doesn't serve you, crisis, difficult personal growth

**Ill-defined Themes** - Resisting change, stagnation, unresolved issues, feeling trapped or stuck

The Death card is about endings and new beginnings, transformations, and change. Death's typical white horse representing purity, strength and power is represented by a motorcycle in this card. On their cloak is a white five-petal rose that denotes purity, beauty, immortality and change. Smaller symbols on the cloak are skulls of the commoner, a bishop, and a crown. Together, these imply that death spares none, regardless of their station, situation, or wealth. In the background between tall buildings is a sunset on the horizon, reflecting the sun's nightly death and rebirth. Associated with Scorpio, this card is grim but is ultimately about self transformation, death and rebirth, endings and new beginnings. You may need to let something go so that you can continue on. In letting go of something from the past that you've been hanging on to, you are able to move into the future. This may be a painful time of becoming something different, but it is necessary and should not be feared. Change is coming and it cannot be deterred.

### **014 - Temperance - Child of the Reconcilers**

*"Though these times bring us clashing extremes, uneven footing and difficulties, we can yet find our own place, clarify our vision, and create our own peace."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Balance, moderation, tranquility, purpose, calm, coordination, patience

**Ill-defined Themes** - Imbalance, conflict, excesses, stress, tension, impatience, haste, competition

Temperance is associated with Sagittarius and is about re-integration of opposites, balance, calm, tranquility, moderation, and patience. It is a clear view that takes in the whole picture instead of narrowly focusing on a part. The robot figure holds aloft two cups that transfer water between them. The many levitating pieces behind them are reminiscent of wings of the angel found in the original RWS card. On their torso is a triangle enclosed in a square, symbolizing humanity bound by earth's natural law. They have one foot in the water and one on the ground, showing the balance of staying grounded and needing to be in the flow of events. The water winds its way in a path to the background of uneven mountains, symbolizing life's flowing journey through difficult times. The crown above represents the higher-minded path this card takes. This card asks us for our patience, moderation, and a measured approach even in chaotic times. It is a centered flow

despite obstacles and stress. It is stability in insatiable times. It tempers extremes and finds tranquility.

### **015 - Devil - Sovereign of the Gates of Matter**

*"Your indulgence feels good, it brings you comfort and quiet. You shrink within it and it consumes you. Soon there is little of you left and your indulgences have replaced the person you once were."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Restriction, attachment, overly focused on the material, sexuality, shadow self, oppression, addiction

**Ill-defined Themes** - Compulsion, addiction, feelings of being trapped, detachment, aggression and dishonesty, independence, release

The Devil card is associated with Capricorn. Its horns are symbolic of the primordial nature of the figures in the card. It has bat wings linking it with a shadow self and spiritual vampirism that sucks the soul from its prey. In its eye is an inverted pentagram, representing a sort of spiritual death brought about by a preoccupation with the mundane. In front are two figures chained loosely together. The figures have horns, showing that their forms have become more and more like the devil that has them trapped. Their chains at first glance seem to be keeping them in place, but are loose showing that they can still be removed. Below are flames that consume them. Associated with Capricorn, physical pleasure, material focus, and addiction, the Devil is about the things that keep us restricted and spiritually stunted. Material things that we let get the better of us, as well as those things that are dangerously addictive for us to be around. It can be a card of greed and materialism, or something as simple as a lustful attraction. We may be giving in to pleasures and dependencies that keep us from our higher self. Our shadow self runs amok and we shrink within it. We need to acknowledge and be consciously aware of these dangerous behaviors so that we may work on freeing ourselves from their negative influence and the hold they have on us.

### **016 - Tower - Sovereign of the Hosts of the Mighty**

*"Every empire turned to ruin, every institution reduced to dust. Some of the things that crumble, crumble for the better, but that is of little comfort to those caught within the structures that tumble."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Destruction of stability, re-alignment of a fundamental understanding, a time of crisis and turmoil, difficult

emotions, a sudden reversal of fate, destruction of institutions, false premises leading to their own downfall, upended expectations  
**Ill-defined Themes** - Fight and conflict, fear of change, remaining in a toxic situation or environment, prolonging difficult times and situations, repeating cycles without learning from them

Associated with Mars, the Tower card is one of difficult and sudden structural changes. Lightning representing a sudden burst of energy or insight strikes out at a tower symbolizing institutions, assumptions, organizations, and/or ideas. The Tower that was built on these false premises or shaky foundations crumbles and falls apart in flames. There are twenty-two points of flames representing the ten points of the Tree of Life and the twelve signs of the zodiac. The Tower itself can also represent destruction in an ego-death event. Flying away from the tower is a dove and falling away from the tower are two figures, symbols of active and passive love. The two figures are figures desperately trying to escape the situation, not knowing what fate awaits them. The top of the Tower has a crown, representing destruction of the illusion of material creation and energy flowing down from the universe through the crown chakra. The Tower is a card of forced and abrupt change, often to systems or institutions or deeply held beliefs. The change is implied to be both necessary and irrevocable. Afterwards a new and better system will need to replace that which has crumbled.

### **017 - Star - Descendent of the Firmament**

*"In the darkness of night I can still find comfort in the beauty of the stars."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Inspiration, fulfillment, joy, love, encouragement, hope, purpose

**Ill-defined Themes** - Loss of hope, skepticism, disconnect, joylessness, lacking fulfillment

The Star is associated with Aquarius and is about hope, joy, purpose, and renewal. A figure pours from two containers to provide nourishment for the earth. The water on the ground spreads into five rivulets, representing the senses. One foot is on the ground representing practicality, the other in the water to represent intuition. Their nakedness is both vulnerability and purity. The largest star on their chest is their core essence, the others are the seven chakras. The plants marking their body represents fertility and growth. This is a card of hope, of moving

beyond difficult times and into a better future with a strengthened self. With the appreciation of a part of our new self, we can be inspired and work towards fulfillment of our dreams and goals. After the darkness and difficulty of previous cards, this one brings hope and renewal. This card is uplifting hope and movement towards our goals and dreams.

### **018 - Moon - Sovereign of Flux and Reflux**

*"This darkness brings out the wolves to howl and the dogs to feed. The hairs on the back of my neck stand up and I know I'm being observed, though I cannot say by what or from where. My path is unclear and yet, step by step, I keep moving. My fear wants me frozen in place, but I keep moving."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Illusion, deception, fear, anxiety, hidden self, subconscious, repressed memories or feelings

**Ill-defined Themes** - Depression, unhealthy mental states, confusion, directionlessness, repression, meaninglessness

The Moon represents the difficult qualities of the Moon. Illusion and deception, the dark night of the soul, and wandering without direction in the unknown. Associated with Pisces, it is a card of the subconscious, intuition, artistry, and emotions. The full moon reflects the light of the sun, unable to provide a light on its own but still beautiful and ever in flux. The moon card is about overcoming fear and trusting your intuition to navigate the unknown. The crayfish tattoo at the base of the figure's skull represents the early stages of consciousness. On either side, figures with a wolf and dog mask approach, symbolic of the tame and wild aspects of our mind. Despite being so dark, the path forward is lit by the moon, representing our intuition in dark times. Through the journey into the subconscious we can conquer that which holds us back and become transformed into a higher version of ourselves. This card can suggest deceit, a lost way, your shadow self, and other hidden or buried qualities.

### **019 - Sun - Sovereign of the Fire of the World**

*"We didn't ask for this life, but we are not here to shrink away and bury ourselves. Here we are, public and proud and visible enough to shine our light for others to see that they can be themselves as well. Our happiness is theirs, and theirs ours. Our light can change the world for the better."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Abundance, joy, success, confidence, illumination, positivity, simplicity, new perspective, clear sight

**Ill-defined Themes** - Lacking enthusiasm, pessimism, a difficult situation, joylessness, lacking perspective

The Sun is an optimistic card of success and positivity. A child representing joy, connection with the inner self, and freedom of the soul, embraces a robotic horse symbolic of purity and strength. Sunflowers in the foreground represent the four suits of the Minor Arcana and the four elements. Behind it all, the sun represents life on earth and it shines brightly with its rays extending outwards. The Sun card is one of joy, life, and illumination that energizes our life. It represents embracing your path and your self and having the clarity to share your best self with others.

### **020 - Judgement - Spirit of the Primal Fire**

*"The time for apologies and regrets is past. Stand before me and you will be judged on the life you have led."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Life changing experience, a major decision, absolution, spiritual expansion

**Ill-defined Themes** - Self-doubt, inner criticism, negative choices, blocked growth

Judgement is associated with the element of fire, and purification. That which is no longer useful to us is swept away and the new self remains. It is the realization of major change. A universal application of the realization of self that was present in the Sun card. The card depicts a biblical angel bringing about the end times. The many wings and eyes of the angel are silhouettes against the expansion of light behind it. The card is one of major decisions that alter our lives, answering our inner calling, life changing experiences, moving on from past situations, and embracing your best self as a positive part of the larger world around you. It suggests a significant moment, an evaluation of your previous actions and a calling of your higher self.

### **021 - World - The Great One of the Night of Time**

*"Here we are, at the moment where the future becomes the present. My past has led me here, and through all of these trials I have persisted. Change seems gradual from moment to moment but in looking back at how far I've come, I cannot help but find it staggering. I cannot help but find it beautiful."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Completion, integration, taking control of your own fate, enlightenment, accomplishment

**Ill-defined Themes** - Procrastination, short-cuts, being enslaved by the material, refusing to accept an end of something, lacking closure, not being able to finish a project, spiritual stagnation

The Universe card is the completion of the Fool's Journey and the accomplishment of a major milestone in our life. Associated with Saturn and the element of earth, The Universe asks for celebration of your achievement, contemplation of your journey, and accomplishment of your goal. The four fixed zodiac signs represent the mastery of the four elements, the four suits, the four seasons, the four compass points, and four corners of the universe. They guide the figure in the card on their journey, bringing balance and equilibrium at the completion of each cycle. The laurel wreath surrounding the figure is circular, symbolizing their cyclical victory and achievement with each iteration of the Fool's Journey. As they complete one journey, the next begins, and the iteration continues. Around them are twelve stars, representing the twelve signs of the zodiac, and the twelve months. This card suggests a sense of completion and wholeness, achievement and celebration. If you are not yet quite there, this card can suggest that completion of a cycle is imminent and that you are ready to make the last push to see it through. Though the cycles are never ending, this is the end of a cycle and deserves its moment of appreciation and gratitude.

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## Wands

Wands represent elemental fire. They are creativity, expansion, energy, passion, and action. They are fast movement, inspired creativity, and intense passion. Denoted in this deck as a symbol of a diagonal line from the lower left to the upper right.

### **Ace of Wands - Root of the Powers of Fire**

*"I understood a moment of divine inspiration and followed it to my passion. Here it is, a new adventure just waiting for me to get started!"*

**Well-defined Themes** - Potential, creation, energy, passion, discovery, opportunity, breakthrough

**Ill-defined Themes** - Recklessness, thoughtlessness, low energy, executive dysfunction, difficulty beginning

The Ace of Wands is an initial spark of creativity or a breakthrough that gets things moving. A sprouting wand of fire representing this creativity and insight hovers above a floating hand of superhuman inspiration. The hill lines in the background represent challenges that will be faced along the way, but the buildings on the left assure us of the eventual opportunities that await. This card suggests that you have the potential within you to begin following your dreams, it just needs a spark of inspiration to get the ball rolling. This Ace calls upon you to begin, and move towards this potential.

### **Two of Wands - Dominion**

*"We were caught up in our planning. So excited to start that exploring the details of our journey ahead became all-consuming. We charted and decided on our route forward and then, then we could begin the adventure!"*

**Well-defined Themes** - Planning, decision, discovery, travel, change, taking charge, moving forward, exploration

**Ill-defined Themes** - Lack of passion, unclear goals, lack of planning, impracticality, playing it safe, stagnation

The Two of Wands represents Mars in Aries. Mars is all about energy and assertiveness, Aries about exploration, and the number two represents a balance, so together these suggest that we are able to move forward from our position of stability and balance with confidence. On the back of the character's cloak is a globe representing their confidence and assertiveness over their realm of expertise. This character stands behind metal barriers within a safe area showing that the character has not yet left their place of balance and stability. The city in the background suggests challenges ahead. This is a card of making an informed and confident decision using the insight from the Ace of Wands, and with the decision made, preparing to move forward.

### **Three of Wands - Established Strength**

*"I set out, finding challenges both expected and unexpected, and I knew that with my preparation I was ready to meet and move beyond them. My journey was new and my heart was still fresh. I was ready for the challenges ahead."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Constructive work, Honesty, Integrity, Perspective, Success

**Ill-defined Themes** - Dishonesty, lacking fulfillment, Negative action, lacking perspective, unrealistic plans resulting in failure



The Three of Wands represents the Sun in Aries. This is a strong combination and so the card is very positive. Our hooded character stands with their back to us, three wand symbols on the back of their coat. The character stands facing the distance, a sign of their commitment to the plan ahead. They look past the stream of water and toward the display with mountains representing challenges, and three hover cars above them representing opportunities, movement, and progression. They have begun the journey sparked as an idea in the Ace and planned in the Two of Wands. The three wands themselves represent a unity of mind, heart, and action. With these energies aligned, we can make decisions with clarity and move forward constructively. The Sun in Aries is the beginning of Spring and so this card overall relates to birth, creation, being open, and virtuous beginnings. It calls on us to make decisions with integrity, to act with our positive traits aligned, and to work towards the higher good.

### **Four of Wands - Perfected Work**

*"We had accomplished much in our short time together. What better way to celebrate than with a ceremony of our loving union, and who better to share this moment with than our friends and family? We had already seen so much, now we were excited to explore even further together."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Accomplishment, attainment, conclusion of work, stability, security

**Ill-defined Themes** - Starting too many projects, taking on too much, imbalance, complacency, delays

The Four of Wands relates to the energy of Venus in Aries. It symbolizes settled matters, completed work, and rest after labor. This card represents the positive feelings of celebration after the successful completion of a task or goal. It is not just the completion of work but the fulfillment we derive from the satisfactory conclusion that gives this card its celebratory and attained feeling. After a period of laboring towards the finish line, we have succeeded, and now celebrate the task's end with our workmates, friends, and/or family. A loving couple celebrates with roses in their hands, and wreaths behind them are held up by four wands. This card encourages us to take joy in the goal achieved, to celebrate with loved ones, and to take a well-earned rest.

## Five of Wands - Strife

*"Many stood and each of those gathered thought themselves the most capable to lead the situation. Harmony could not be found as each had a different approach and none would give any ground. In the end, all we had to show for the gathering was a waste of everyone's time."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Conflict especially in the workplace or a relationship, competition, diversity of opinion, clashing points of view

**Ill-defined Themes** - Impostor syndrome, avoiding conflict too much, inability to work with others, inferiority complex, feeling overwhelmed by work

The Five of Wands represents the influence of Saturn in Leo, a difficult combination where one is limiting and cold, and the other is expressive and creative. The figures in the card are focused on the task but not the others and so we have too many different approaches to the same goal not working in unison and causing conflict and difficulty for everyone involved. Five flares are held aloft in the crowd that seems on the verge of a riot, but upon closer inspection none of the characters have come to blows. The characters are all dressed differently, showing their different approaches to the situation. This card can suggest a workplace conflict or too many people trying to express their own best way of dealing with a situation without listening to anyone else. We have a situation where competition is weakening the end result rather than strengthening it. People need to do their best to work cooperatively instead if they want to achieve what they're after.

## Six of Wands - Victory

*"Finally, success! After what felt like difficulties that were dragged on forever, we had at last moved past the challenges and found a way to our goal. We celebrated loudly, and publicly, and others happily joined in. For once it felt like we might be making our way to a better future."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Success, progress, public recognition, confidence, celebration, promotion

**Ill-defined Themes** - Self-importance, egotistic, fall from grace, lacking confidence, lacking direction

The Six of Wands represents the influence of Jupiter in Leo. The conflict of the Five of Wands has stabilized and on the other side of that conflict we have obtained balance and success. The central character in this card rides their motorcycle symbolic of progress

and strength while holding aloft a sprouting wand representing success and achievement. On their helmet, a wreath emphasizes their accomplishment. The many celebrating background figures cheer in victory, suggesting that we should be proud and welcome public recognition for this success. A goal has been achieved, and we deserve to bask in the spotlight. Be confident and proud of your victories, big and small!

### **Seven of Wands - Valor**

*"Caught by surprise but I kept my cool. Only one choice and it was to fight. I wasn't ready to just give up my spot, so ready or not I had to defend my place. Could I sustain against these odds? Only one way to find out."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Taking a stand, courage, challenge, strength, fighting for what you believe in

**Ill-defined Themes** - Defending an ill-considered position, giving in to others, stubbornness, lacking courage, fighting against the odds and losing

The Seven of Wands brings the influence of Mars in Leo. The balance and harmony of the previous card begins to waver. Opposition and difficulties emerge. Mars gives its warlike energy to the sign of Leo and so this becomes a fight to maintain what was achieved. This is a card about encouragement to stand one's ground and stand up for their place. Our central character is surrounded but still fights on against difficult odds. They wear different shoes, showing that they may not have been prepared for this conflict, or have an unclear place in it. Victory is not assured, but this card suggests that we must give it our all regardless. If victory is won, it will be through great difficulty and strain and it may require more from us than we think we can give.

### **Eight of Wands - Swiftmess**

*"Faster and forward and further ahead. Moving like lightning won't stop till I'm dead."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Insight, movement, communication, completion, action, speed

**Ill-defined Themes** - Impulsiveness, thoughtlessness, resisting change, procrastination, lack of communication, impracticality, slowness

The Eight of Wands shows the influence of Mercury in Sagittarius. This is a card of fast energy, like lightning. This is a card of great haste. Its nature is restless in combination with the strong influence of Mercury. Eight wands fly downwards from the skies directly towards their target. The wands are sprouting, however, suggesting good outcomes for their haste. The mountains in the background suggest challenges, but the river flowing into them suggests life and growth. This card suggests movement, action, and change. This card can imply that there may need to be a little reckless energy applied too fast to consider. An opportunity may not wait around, so to seize it you may need to rush yourself.

### **Nine of Wands - Great Strength**

*"I'd seen defeats but they never stopped me for long. I always got up, always found something in me to continue on. They sought my exhaustion, and I wasn't about to give it to them."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Standing your ground despite obstacles, flexibility, confidence in the face of adversity, pushing on past exhaustion

**Ill-defined Themes** - Being overwhelmed, lacking the ability to go on, feeling drained, lacking flexibility, inability to function, overcome with doubt, drained by obligations

The Nine of Wands is associated with the Moon in Sagittarius, representing persistent and powerful energy that achieves victory after opposition. Though injured, our character holds their position and faces oncoming challenges with determination and competence. This card is an ongoing form of strength that counts its success in the long term. It is inexhaustible energy, a continuous directed willpower. The subconscious of the moon becomes conscious, our latent powers become awakened and give us the power to continue on in the face of sustained opposition. Though we may feel exhausted, we carry on. We may need to look deep within ourselves to find our resources replenished, but we have depths that have yet to be reached and by tapping in we may find that we can survive and thrive through even the most dire situations. Eventual victory waits on the other side of this conflict, but needs our persistent strength to see things through.

### **Ten of Wands - Oppression**

*"It felt like I'd been giving more than I had for so long, I wasn't sure I had anything left. The end was finally in sight. I'd given so much of myself to*

*see things through that now I wondered what would remain of me once the task was complete."*

**Well-defined Themes** - An unwinnable situation, feeling trapped, being drained, blocked from a goal, needing to walk away, completion after great effort

**Ill-defined Themes** - Destructive self-sacrifice, self-harm, disconnect from emotions and yourself, abusive relationships

The Ten of Wands represents the influence of Saturn in Sagittarius, a pairing that is at odds with each other. The energy of this card is difficult and can be an indication of the difficulties of being stuck in a trying situation and feeling that there is no escape from it. Our character is overburdened with their many wands, their clothing worn ragged at the edges from effort over time. In the background, the city reminds them that their destination is near and their burdensome time is nearly done. This card can warn us of difficult situations making us become distorted versions of ourselves, lashing out with malice towards others. It can indicate that we are weighed down and burdened but that our burden will soon be over. You may need to put in some extra hard work to finish your goal, and you may already be exhausted and worn out from what you've already done. You may be taking on too much, trying to do too much with too little resources. It's possible you need to prioritize and assess what you can leave behind to see your goal through.

### **Page of Wands - Rose of the Palace of Fire**

*"The project calls to me, and I consider its execution. Whatever you think the outcome should be, I think you should prepare to be surprised with what I come up with."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Confidence, excitement, freedom, non-conforming, inspired, discovery, individualistic, impulsive

**Ill-defined Themes** - Vengeful, shallow, unruly, temperamental

The Page of Wands is dynamic and highly individualistic. He stands contemplating a wand growing circuits like a tree, taking the place of the sprouting wand in the typical RWS depiction. This character is able to find growth in difficult places. His passion for his ideas gives him the ability to move forward in unlikely circumstances, and perhaps achieve things that didn't seem possible. He is fierce and reactive. He has little patience for the mundane and chases after what inspires him in life. He has great enthusiasm that can attract

others. He has little fear, sometimes to his detriment, and charges forward in his endeavors without shame of failure or how he will be perceived by others. He can have a strong sense of justice and may become cruel, violent, or vengeful when he feels he or others have been wronged. In his worse qualities, he is overly temperamental and lacks the self-awareness to make his confidence as inspiring as the Queen in this suit. Nonetheless, in his best qualities, he is free from the restraints others attempt to impose on him and pursues his own path with an inspiring passion.

### **Knight of Wands - Monarch of the Chariot of Fire**

*"Work as you go, think as you go, and try not to fall behind. You can all sit around and debate the perfect approach and before you decide on anything I'll already have it finished and done."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Honesty, integrity, passion, energy, enthusiasm, adventure, loyalty

**Ill-defined Themes** - Overly hasty, scattered energy, arrogance, recklessness

The Knight of Wands is full of fiery forward momentum. They are filled with energy, enthusiasm, and drive for their goals. Their forward push in this card creates trails of fire under their wheels. Their helm is decorated with a salamander, associated with the element of fire. They hold aloft a sprouting wand, symbolic of their energy and enthusiasm. The Knight is deeply passionate and has a clarity of the direction they wish to move in. Their boldness can take them into the unknown and may let them get ahead of themselves. They may get in over their head or only see a project through to completion rather than making sure it is set up for sustained success. They can also have a problem of burning through their energy and falling short of their goal. In their better qualities their boldness and courage inspire others and their drive to take on the world can cause them to accumulate followers excited to move forward on their projects and goals. The Knight of Wands is an adventurer and pioneer, but not necessarily a leader. Those involved with the Knight can be left in the dust if they are not able to keep up, and may be abandoned alongside a project if it fails. Nonetheless, when a project needs forward momentum, enthusiasm, quick completion or an exploratory soul behind it, there is none better suited than the Knight of Wands.

## **Queen of Wands - Regent of the Thrones of Flame**

*"Don't be afraid to show me your true self, dear. We have flaws and we work on them, we have strengths and we embrace them, we have friends and we grow with them, and our lives are all the better as a result!"*

**Well-defined Themes** - Courageous, confident, powerful, beautiful, social, determined, goal-oriented, active

**Ill-defined Themes** - Quick-tempered, tyrannical, domineering, jealous

The Queen of Wands is courageous, determined, creative, and confident. They know themselves and face down adversity with ease. Their boldness inspires others and they often have devoted friends and followers as a result. They are outgoing and intelligent and make others feel just as capable as they are. The sunflowers on their chair represent the joy, life, and growth that they bring with them. They are bold and capable because of their knowledge and acceptance of their shadow self, denoted by the black cat at their feet. On the chair, lions facing opposite directions symbolize fire and strength. They hold a wand with a sprout emerging from it. If they are caught in their worse qualities, they can be tyrannical rather than encouraging, and they can burn themselves and others out, as their drive to see a goal to completion can be all-consuming. When they forget themselves, their temper can come out and damage their relationships. The queen in their better qualities encourages individuality, creativity, and ambition and inspires others into these qualities by their own strong example of them. You may need these qualities yourself, or someone in your life may be demonstrating them.

## **King of Wands - Sovereign of the Flame and Lightning**

*"You've all seen the vision of the work we do complete, now I ask you to help make it to be as magnificent as you imagined it in your dreams. Take pride in the work we do here, for I know it will become something which inspires the passion and imagination of others."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Honorable, leadership, entrepreneur, virtuous

**Ill-defined Themes** - Impulsive, ruthless, cruel, brutal

The King of Wands is pure fiery energy. They are able to use their charisma and visionary leadership to direct others to execute their creative vision rather than just manifesting it alone. They are determined, direct, and focused. Their fiery persona can be

aggressive, arrogant, or if pushed to extremes even violent and cruel. At their best, though, the King of Wands is able to engage others with the same enthusiasm for their creations as they feel. Their armor is decorated with a lion, a symbol of fire and strength. Their pocket has a patch of a salamander biting its own tail in a symbol of infinity and ongoing forward movement and the King's ability to sustain the creative drive for the long haul. We may need to embrace those qualities in ourselves or someone with those qualities may be entering our life or work.

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## Cups

Cups represent elemental water. They are emotions, relationships, and feelings. These are the companions, adversaries, and emotional systems of our worlds. Denoted in this deck as a symbol of a half circle.

### **Ace of Cups - Root of the Powers of Water**

*"It all comes down to love. The love we allow for ourselves and the love we're capable of with others. Everything else is background noise."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Creation, new relationships, new life, unconditional love

**Ill-defined Themes** - Vulnerability, repressing emotions, emotional numbness, disconnect from the emotional self

The Ace of Cups is the root of the powers of water. A dove descends towards the cup as a symbol of divine love moving through the subconscious and into consciousness. The cup has five streams flowing from it, representing the five senses. The cup overflowing is the abundance of emotion from within. The cup is decorated with a lotus, representing the awakening of the spirit. As an ace, this card is about the emotional seed of relationships, love, intuition, and spirituality beginning. It suggests opening yourself to opportunities for love, spirituality, and emotional awakening. It could be about letting new relationships begin or leaning into your spiritual side. Be compassionate and emotionally open with others and with circumstance.

### **Two of Cups - Love**

*"Difficult as things may get, I am grateful for you in my life. Whatever else happens, it's all been worth it to share what we have here and now."*



**Well-defined Themes** - Beginning of new healthy relationships, marriage, close friendships and partnerships

**Ill-defined Themes** - Break-ups, misunderstandings, disharmony, a schism in close relationships

The Two of Cups is the influence of Venus in Cancer. Venus is a planet of beauty and love and Cancer is a sign of support, healing and nurturing so the two are very well matched in this card. Two lovers look into each other's eyes while behind them is a Caduceus of Hermes, a symbol of exchange. The top of the caduceus is a flame, symbolic of the passion and fiery energy between the two figures. This is a card about the love between two people, and the connection they share. It suggests a relationship early on with the potential to grow into something fulfilling long-term. In addition to romance, this card can suggest the beginning of all kinds of harmonious relationships, including close friendships or business partnerships. It points to reciprocity, a connection where you give and receive in equal measure. This card shows two people that are very well matched for each other.

### **Three of Cups - Abundance**

*"We've shared our lives and enriched each other. Every challenge we face, we know we can count on each other for love and support. Our lives overflow with each other, and I wouldn't have it any other way."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Shared accomplishment, friendship, abundance of emotion, nurturing others, enjoyment

**Ill-defined Themes** - Extravagance, lacking shared goals, stagnation in relationships, disconnected communication

The Three of Cups is the influence of Mercury in Cancer. This is a card of celebration, friendship, shared success, abundant feelings in a group setting, and collaboration. It is about shared ties with those close to us. The abundance of feelings and the clear communication of them with those closest to you. Three cups overflow with plants and water, and beneath them are three figures embracing each other. Now is a good time to let your loved ones know how much you appreciate and respect them. Nurture and uplift each other. In a business sense, this may suggest a good time to collaborate with others on a common goal. This is a card of celebration and love within a group. This card represents an abundance of love given and received in a group setting with those we cherish.

## **Four of Cups - Blended Pleasure**

*"All these opportunities are wasted on me, at least for now. I want to embrace them but I have too much to consider. I have to cut through the chatter and figure out what's really important in my life."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Appreciation for what we have, stagnation of goals, boredom, materialistic goals, temporary pleasure

**Ill-defined Themes** - Avoiding opportunities and change, depression, stuck in comfort zone, stuck in discontent due to inability to face difficult changes

The Four of Cups represents the influence of the Moon in Cancer. The card is overall positive but there is a threat of affluence which grows bored with life and stagnates emotionally as a result. It could also be anxieties within a pleasurable experience, such as being aware that a good time must come to an end and so being unable to completely enjoy the good time when you are in it. It may also be a dissatisfaction with material success. Our character has before them plenty of cups but looks away towards the distance with uninterest in any of them. This card suggests a kind of passive attainment of happiness, that one may be comfortable but has no passion for what they are currently blessed with and there is therefore an inherent instability to the situation. This card might be telling you to put something on hold, at least for now. It is a pause, not a stop. This card may suggest that you need to focus and perhaps realign your energies to what you want in life, or to spend time figuring out what it is that you want.

## **Five of Cups - Loss in Pleasure**

*"Things aren't as bad as they seem. I think that if you're able to look past what you've lost, you may be able to see what you still have. The sting you feel from the loss could apply to what you have as well, someday, and I hope that, knowing that, you can appreciate it all the more."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Wallowing, lacking fulfillment, disillusionment, unrealistic expectations leading to disappointment, inability to attain a goal

**Ill-defined Themes** - A longer and more drawn out version of the above themes leading to longer term stagnation and depression

The Five of Cups shows the influence of Mars in Scorpio. While this combination would normally be a positive one, this card is one where the intensity of energy coming from Mars is amplified by its

placement in the fifth card, associated with Geburah, and so the fiery aspects conflict with the watery nature of this card. Expectations were perhaps not met or not realistic to begin with. The overall effect is that this card reflects a loss within pleasure. There may be unkindness in relationships with friends, coworkers, or lovers. Before our cloaked figure are three cups inverted. With their eyes cast down, they do not even notice the two upright cups next to them, so while the situation may not be as dire as they think, they can only see the downsides. In fixating on the negative, they are unable to see the positive. The results they were after were not as expected and now they are stuck in self-pity. This card may suggest that it's time to adjust your perspective and let go of the pain of a recent loss. The negative emotions are harming your state of being, and you need to deal with them so that you can be present for what you still have.

### **Six of Cups - Pleasure**

*"It's amazing that childhood seems so fragile but is so resilient. In times like this, they continue to play while we are all overwhelmed with worry. They're able to let go and be in the moment. Their joy shouts back at the looming difficulties of the world and even if just for a moment, they overcome it."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Pleasure experienced after difficult times that is transformative, a healthy relationship, healing, a return to happy emotions after a period of flatness or difficulty, childhood nostalgia, innocence

**Ill-defined Themes** - Mismatched relationships, out of touch with yourself, dwelling in the past, forgiveness

The Six of Cups shows the influence of the Sun in Scorpio. One youth gifts a cup of flowers to another, representing childlike appreciation and joy. Six cups in the card grow plants within them. In the background, a lone figure symbolizes the distance of adulthood to this card. It isn't a time to worry about adult difficulties, so try to lean into your childlike wonder. This card is the beginning of enjoyment, wishes fulfilled, and is related to a joyful pleasure. It is a card about pleasures that fulfill and bring a sense of wholeness. It could also be something as simple as a hug or compliment that validates something meaningful within yourself. It is not the complete fulfillment of emotion but rather the beginnings of that fulfillment, and as such it hints at what could be. This card can suggest more growth and cooperation in your existing

relationships. It can also signify a return to something in your life that gave you joy in childhood. Embrace your inner child and allow yourself to be playful again.

### **Seven of Cups - Illusory Success**

*"What was a coping mechanism that helped me get through the day has become the entire reason I wake up now. I saw so many things in it, so many different potentials and joys, and yet I've found myself without either of those in my life. Time to stop chasing my illusions and go after something real."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Addiction, choices, overindulgence, negativity, self-destructive coping habits, illusions

**Ill-defined Themes** - The same themes as above but drawn out over a longer period of time, or repeating endlessly because of inability to learn from mistakes

The Seven of Cups shows the influence of Venus in Scorpio. Venus lacks an outlet in this pairing for its sensitivity and emotions and so they get channeled through unhealthy means and excess. The meaning of this card can be quite grim, as it is excess indulged. It is the illusion of success, what appears to be meaningful robbed of meaning and enjoyment. The central figure on the card is detached and lifeless as they look at the many cups in front of them. The cups bear symbols of a snake, a dragon, a diamond, a castle, a woman, a laurel wreath with a skull, and a mask, and are said to be curses disguised as blessings, and present us with many choices and distractions. This is the card of self-destructive behavior, negative addictions and dark meaningless excess that brings no fulfillment. This card suggests that someone is lost to illusions and allure in their life, and these bring them no growth or joy. There may be opportunities and choices for this person but they will need to see things more clearly than they have been in order to make the right choice. Look beyond what is right in front of you and see the options ahead for what they are on a deeper level. Be careful of wishful thinking or escape into fantasy!

### **Eight of Cups - Abandoned Success**

*"I'd felt stuck and trapped for so long that feeling much of anything at all had become a memory. What I'd worked for brought nothing to me. Some situations do nothing but drag you down with them. So it was time for me to move on."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Lack of interest in others or self, denying ourselves pleasure, lacking effort, apathy, feeling empty, lacking motivation to do anything

**Ill-defined Themes** - Depression, emotional distress over a long period of time, suicidal thoughts, a flatness of emotion, feelings of pointlessness

The Eight of Cups shows the influence of Saturn in Pisces. Pisces here is suffocated by Saturn's influence and Mercury is at odds with Pisces as well. This is a card of depression and apathy that steals meaning from our lives. Something we wanted has lost our interest. Our figure faces away, the cups in their shadow stacked in such a way that one appears to be missing, symbolic of the lack of fulfillment felt in this card. This card can be about the hazy disinterest that steals meaning from our goals, or it may be that the goals we were after were not ones that would have brought us fulfillment to begin with. Perhaps we wanted the wrong thing, perhaps we chased something only to discover once we had attained it that it was meaningless. In any case, we must move on and not let the disconnection stagnate. Perhaps we need perspective or maybe we just need time and a different goal.

### **Nine of Cups - Material Happiness**

*"In my own small corner of this city I'd found my own fulfillment. Everyone else wants you working, living, or dying for them, to their advantage. I found a way to do it for myself. And it's been an absolute dream."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Wishes coming true, attainment of what you've wanted, fulfillment, contentment

**Ill-defined Themes** - Emptiness, lacking fulfillment, inability to succeed at your most valued goals, materialism, indulgence

The Nine of Cups shows the influence of Jupiter in Pisces. Jupiter and Pisces are very strong together. The emotional fulfillment touched on by the ace is now fulfilled, with the love, care and compassion from Jupiter magnified by Pisces. Jupiter is the planet of Chesed representing water in its highest qualities and Pisces brings out the passive qualities of the water. The number nine is also the number of the moon which further strengthens this pairing. Sometimes called the 'wish' card, this depicts wishes fulfilled, contentment, pleasure and happiness attained. The nine chalices behind our happy figure create an arch while she looks on with contentment.

## **Ten of Cups - Perfected Success**

*"Family felt like a distant word for us, but here we are now with something there isn't really another word for. Our lives were busy and full and chaotic and loving, and we wouldn't trade it for anything else."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Harmony attained, happy relationships, fulfillment, love, stability, comfort

**Ill-defined Themes** - Cyclical attainment of that which does not truly fulfill you, staying in a comfortable situation that does not nurture your growth or soul, struggling with relationships

The Ten of Cups represents Mars in Pisces. Ten Cups overhead form an arch centered on the main figures of this card. The family united here have emotional harmony and contentment together. They've found fulfilling love. This is a card of happy family (whatever your family may look like) and long term emotional fulfillment. There is a feeling of complete wholeness to it. This card suggests harmonious loving relationships with your chosen family. It may imply a happy future for a long-term romantic relationship or a general positivity in your relationships with others. Appreciate your accomplishments and your loved ones.

## **Page of Cups - Lotus of the Palace of the Floods**

*"Yesterday's greatest discoveries were once thought impossible, but here they seem common. So it is that I dream a little dream, and think up things others think impossible. Who is to say what will or won't come true with enough exploration behind it?"*

**Well-defined Themes** - New ideas, romance, kindness, curiosity, intuition, daydreaming, possibility

**Ill-defined Themes** - Creativity blocked, immaturity, shallow, indolent, doubt of intuition, disconnected

The Page of Cups is a kind romantic, a dreamer, a dancer, and an intuitive creative. They hold a cup from which a fish emerges, symbolizing creative inspiration from an unexpected source. The cup's jacket is covered in a floral pattern, signifying their creative beauty. This character can be overly dependent on others, and can be lost in their dreams, but they give back as much or more than they receive. They can be tender and kind and express an openness to inspiration. They invite you to be curious, exploratory, and to trust your intuition. They usually indicate the arrival of an

unexpected but pleasant surprise. This card invites an optimistic and curious approach to your situation. Don't be afraid to dream a little.

### **Knight of Cups - Monarch of the Chariot of the Waters**

*"My heart on my sleeve  
doesn't make a thing weak  
it's a strength you perceive  
nothing about it's naive."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Hidden passion, giving, creative, romantic, imaginative

**Ill-defined Themes** - Unrealistic, selfish, jealous, secretive, volatility

The Knight of Cups can be very intuitive when it comes to others, and often is very creative and artistic. They ride on a white motorcycle symbolic of power, purity, spirituality, and peace. The motorcycle does not wheel quickly upwards but instead seems to be going at an easy pace. The wings on the knight's helmet symbolize their beauty and imagination. The fish on their bike represent their creativity and consciousness. Their energy is both active and calm, like a carriage drawn inexorably over smooth terrain. They are romantic, mysterious and intuitive and somehow charming. They can sometimes make for a volatile personality, intense and unreliable, engaged mostly with themselves. They can be something of a tortured artist, a moody romantic who nonetheless has a big heart, a creative soul, and immense depths that even they are unaware of. When they are in a reading, it can suggest the need to give in to love, to search your depths, to follow your romantic and creative heart, and explore your dreams.

### **Queen of Cups - Regent of the Thrones of Water**

*"Tell me of your trials and your loves, I want to hear about what makes you come alive. To understand others is to hold for a moment their heart in yours, to make space for experiences outside of oneself."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Intuition, mature, caring, stable, communicative, meditative, calm

**Ill-defined Themes** - Co-dependent, disconnected, distorted understanding, overly-influenced by others, depression, loss of self

The Queen of Cups is in some sense a mirror, reflecting back beauty and understanding. Because of this focus on others, they may be

somewhat hidden themselves. They are understood on an emotional level but not necessarily an intellectual one. They have a mask and hood that obscures their face, referencing the difficulty in knowing them. The Queen's cup is turned away, showing that we know only the subconscious but not the conscious of them. The shells and fish decorating their cup and throne symbolize the unconscious mind, emotions, and spirit. The water at their feet represents emotion and perception, but their feet do not touch the water representing that while they are fully aware of their emotions, they are in control of them. The Queen of Cups is emotionally meditative and mature, having inner mastery over the emotional realm. They encourage a nurturing energy, compassion, and true expression of emotion. This cup can encourage listening and understanding, empathy and intuition.

### **King of Cups - Sovereign of the Waves and the Water**

*"I understand, and through that understanding I can see the heart of the issue. Integrity and compassion solve much of what's before us. Stay awhile here, let's discuss our options together."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Loving, generous, supportive, compassionate, intuitive, open, diplomatic, balanced

**Ill-defined Themes** - Fickle, overly emotional, unreliable, insecure, emotionally manipulative

The King of Cups is diplomatic, open, loving, balanced, and compassionate. The fish in water behind him swims in chaotic currents and on the other side a hovercraft in the same waters is stabilized in place, symbolizing his steadfastness despite disorder around him. The King indicates someone who is generous, supportive, and loving, but they can also be fickle, unreliable, or overly emotional when they are in their worse qualities. The King of Cups represents mastery of emotion, creativity, and the subconscious. This card suggests a balanced, calm, and mature approach to the current situation. It may represent maintaining awareness or control over your emotional state while retaining your dignity. The king is intellectual and emotionally aware, you should be as well. Be compassionate to both yourself and others.

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## **Swords**

Swords represent elemental air. They are thoughts, logic, and clarity, and the mental realm. These are our intellect, higher mind,



and mental systems of our worlds. Denoted in this deck as a symbol of a line with a smaller line crossed through it, moving from the upper left to the lower right.

### **Ace of Swords - Root of the Powers of Air**

*"Clouded thoughts and brain fog clear away in my meditation and for a moment I get an insight of my path ahead. What hadn't occurred to me before became clear and obvious. I now knew how to proceed."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Clarity, thought, breakthrough, insight, inspiration, vision

**Ill-defined Themes** - Clouded thinking, being overly aggressive, lack of will

The Ace of Swords is a mental breakthrough, clarity, sudden insight, and new perspective. It is the higher mind gaining clarity. The sword is upright, showing that its intellect is clear and its perspective is unclouded. The crown and wreath around the sword are symbols of success and victory, a positive sign for the insight gained. This card is about the 'a-ha!' moment of insight that allows a goal to be pursued with directness and clarity.

### **Two of Swords - Peace Restored**

*"I am not blessed with clarity on this matter, so I must pause and consider its many aspects. Whatever choice I do make, know that I make it with empathy, intellect, and intuition guiding me."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Balance, peace, weighing decisions, harmony

**Ill-defined Themes** - Hasty decisions, stalemate, confusion, stress, indecisiveness, lack of harmony

The Two of Swords represents the Moon in Libra. The character is blindfolded, showing that they may need more information to see the problem clearly, and to make an informed decision. The crossed swords above represent the balance that the character should strive for to make the best decision, considering all valid viewpoints. The moon above symbolizes intuition, and with the blindfold suggests our character will need to trust in theirs to make the correct choice. On their cloak are buttons with water and rocky islands, symbolic of the need to balance emotions and intellect for the current decision, as well as the obstacles ahead. This card suggests that perhaps we need to pause and reflect on the

circumstances, and try to gain more information before making a decision. Whatever decision is made, you should strive for harmony and balance in it. Try to consider with your heart, your head, and think of viewpoints you might not have otherwise.

### **Three of Swords - Sorrow**

*"Must every relationship end in pain? The greater the love the more the hurt. Now we are separated and the love I used to give to them has nowhere to go, it paces within me and churns itself into grief."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Pain over loss and separation, fears, longing, unhappiness, abandonment, melancholy

**Ill-defined Themes** - End of a close relationship, unresolved grief, long-term depression and sorrow

The Three of Swords represents the influence of Saturn in Libra. It is our past hurts that still negatively affect us in the present. In this card, a heart is assaulted by three swords piercing through it. These are the pains of word, action, and intent. This is a card of heartbreak and pain. There is an element of separation to the meaning, which may be a relationship that has fallen apart. It reflects our inner hurt over this separation and the sadness, grief, and disappointment that are the result. Try to find a healthy way to let out your emotions around this. You don't want them to be buried down and fester into something worse.

### **Four of Swords - Rest from Strife**

*"The pain had passed and with it gone, a calm enveloped me. I took a moment to stay and breathe in that calm, to find myself whole once more."*

**Well-defined Themes** - A break from conflict, unresolved conflict, recuperating from stress

**Ill-defined Themes** - Lingering conflict, unable to take time off from a stressful situation, Burn-out that you haven't recovered from

The Four of Swords represents Jupiter's influence in Libra. The difficulties of the Three of Swords are in the past and now it is time to rest and recover. Three swords pointed downward represent difficulties now in the past. Our character holds the fourth sword across their hands. As they meditate, they recharge their spirit. This card asks us to take time out from a stressful situation to recover and find our balance once more. It suggests time to recuperate and

heal from the stress of the past. Take time to yourself and make space to recover.

### **Five of Swords - Defeat**

*"In a conflict, there are many ways to win that still make you less than you were before."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Fear, betrayal, sabotage, tainted victory, turmoil, conflict

**Ill-defined Themes** - Reconciliation, difficulty dealing with the present because of a painful past, making amends, apologizing

The Five of Swords symbolizes Venus' influence in Aquarius. The two slouched characters in the background suggest that the situation is one where everyone has lost something in the conflict. Even for the victor of the situation, their success is tainted and tenuous. In a situation where all involved are lessened by the competition they've engaged in, the only solution is to lick our wounds and try to pick better battles in the future. The situation itself is a difficult one and we may be feeling mentally assaulted as a result. Slander or harsh words may have been involved. We should all be better than the situation that occurred and yet it has come to pass and the only thing left is to find a way to move on.

### **Six of Swords - Earned Success**

*"I've seen folks drowning in their past, so set in it still that they can't even see their present. My aim was to be someone different, to learn and let go and move on. There was good ahead of me and I intended to embrace it."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Intellectual clarity through life experiences, trial and error, transition, a new approach, change, letting go

**Ill-defined Themes** - Inability to learn from experience, repeating mistakes, thoughts clouded by emotion, overthinking a situation, unfinished business

The Six of Swords represents the influence of Mercury in Aquarius. Mercury and Aquarius are both air and so the card is highly intellectual and analytical. This is a card of trial and error and eventual success. It is passage away from difficulties in the past. Our character transitions away from rocky waters in the background to smoother ones ahead. The six swords in the boat with the figure and the child suggest carrying mental baggage from past situations into the future. But some behaviors are no longer useful once we

are out of the dangerous situation that spawned them and it could be time to let them go. They are the different ways we've tried and retried finding our way out of a difficult past. But as our character is moving on from the difficult waters, so too are we moving past the difficulties of the past. We have learned from our trials and grown from them. We now need to take our lessons learned and be open to our new and better situation ahead.

### **Seven of Swords - Unstable Effort**

*"I'd gotten what I wanted, yes. Very clever, very slick. But the way I did it left its mark in me and I knew I'd never be the same again. My victory left me lying to myself."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Self-doubt, distraction, negative thinking, sabotage, scattered mental state, deception

**Ill-defined Themes** - Appeasing others at our own expense, mental stress, lying to oneself, keeping secrets

The Seven of Swords symbolizes the Moon in Aquarius. It is an unstable idea of strength, perhaps an imitation of it built on faulty foundations that have no choice but to crumble when challenged. It suggests an untrustworthy character, demonstrated here with our central figure looking slyly to us with five swords in their arms. Maybe we are ourselves the untrustworthy character depicted, thinking we've outsmarted everyone else and feeling like we're victorious, but our victory is built on deception and so is corrupted from the outset. Maybe we've been taken advantage of by this character, and they've put us into a difficult position as a result. Perhaps the uncertainty of this card is an unstable success that is the result of our self-doubts eating away at the purity of our purpose. We may find achievement that crumples in our hands as those self-doubts keep us from truly living up to our potential. Overall, this card is one where our victory has been robbed either due to self-sabotage or the sabotage of ourselves by someone who isn't acting from a place of integrity. Watch out for deception, both from others and from yourself.

### **Eight of Swords - Shortened Force**

*"I couldn't see through the mask on my face, but I could have removed it at any point. I couldn't move due to the ropes binding me in place, but they'd be gone if I could only concentrate on freeing myself from them."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Indecision, too many choices, overthinking all options, wasted attention on details that don't matter, persecution complex

**Ill-defined Themes** - Inaction over a period of time, missing opportunities, delaying too long, listening only to your inner critic

The Eight of Swords represents the influence of Jupiter in Gemini. Jupiter wants to expand but the inquisitiveness of Gemini is keeping it too distracted to achieve this goal. Too many small things demand attention and split our focus. Our full power and potential are restricted and so we have wasted effort. There is an element of self-imposed restriction to this card, as though the distractions that are present are ones we've placed before ourselves. They keep us from achieving our potential and yet we have more control over them than we think. The character in this card is restrained and yet could reach any of the swords present and free herself if she could only commit to a course of action. She is trapped in place by her indecision. We may need to focus on only the important part of what is in front of us, and how to free ourselves of this situation. Rather than weighing every option and indulging every distraction, perhaps it would be best to cut away the extraneous and try to get out of our head. We have the resources we need for a solution, we just need the perspective to make use of them.

### **Nine of Swords - Despair**

*"Stress and anxiety were my food and drink, and I was a glutton."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Self-denigration, self-harm, anxiety, stress, nightmares

**Ill-defined Themes** - Self-hatred over a period of time that causes pain to everyone involved, self-destructive behavior especially mentally, self-sabotage as a coping mechanism, worry, turmoil

The Nine of Swords represents the influence of Mars in Gemini. Gemini is scattered and Mars dominates it with harmful thoughts and words used as weapons. Its nature is that of the unrestrained inquisitor; it may have intellect but it is only used as a means to injure and pierce. A line of inquiry is dropped the moment it is not useful in those means, and a new one picked up instead. There is a line of thought that expresses that the mind itself can be an obstacle to enlightenment, and this is the outcome of that idea. The intellect turns harmfully inward and consumes itself.

Sometimes called the nightmare card, this is one where dark thoughts and hurtful feelings keep us in a compromised position. Our character sits up, head in hands, nine swords descending into them in the background. This card needs us to break out of the loop of negative self thought, lest we become trapped in our own personal nightmare consuming itself endlessly.

### **Ten of Swords - Ruin**

*"Betrayal had seen the best of me destroyed. Shattered to pieces inside, I became a husk outside."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Painful learning experiences, growth through a difficult time, loss of stability especially material objects, betrayal, loss

**Ill-defined Themes** - Painful experiences that you aren't growing from, permanent loss, self-destructive behavior brought on by personal fears, difficulties repeating in a cycle

The Ten of Swords represents the influence of the Sun in Gemini. This card is the result of the malefic energies of both Mars and Saturn. If not dealt with, it can be the negative and fearful thinking which destroys the spirit. Those who are unwilling to deal with their inner demons find themselves consumed by them and can become the most denigrated versions of themselves as a result. The character in this card is destroyed by the sharp and difficult thoughts they are dealing with, the swords descending into their form, leaving them incapacitated on the ground. This is a card of betrayal and deceit that results in the ruination of our sense of self. This is a painful card but even it is not without something else lurking past it on the horizon. This card may represent rock bottom, but with a new cycle rising from the ashes of the ruins.

### **Page of Swords - Lotus of the Palace of Air**

*"With new ideas came new executions and applications of them. Think of all the things we could now do with all that we had learned!"*

**Well-defined Themes** - Clever, outgoing, aggressive, knowledge-seeking, curious

**Ill-defined Themes** - Vengeful, destructive, hasty, conflict-driven

The Page of Swords is enthusiastic and knowledge-seeking. They are passionate about their ideas, excited for new approaches and knowledge. They are good at initial excitement but need something

to sustain them. The clouds in this card dissipate around the sword held aloft by the page, showing that their intellect is their best route to clarity and victory. But the page looks distracted, facing away from it, demonstrating their inexperience and occasional hastiness. In worse qualities, they can treat the idea of something as though it were as valuable as the manifestation of something. In other words, they can be all thought and no action. But when in their element, they are intelligent, creative and transformative, facing down different challenges using their intellect as their most infatigable resource. When they appear in a reading it can suggest not to shy away from controversy, that a fight may be necessary to preserve yourself, that cleverness will suit you best, and that an adaptive, fresh approach may be necessary.

### **Knight of Swords - Monarch of the Chariot of the Winds**

*"The goal is set and I know what to do to get there. Keep up if you can, I intend to clear a path!"*

**Well-defined Themes** - Ambitious, intellectual, direct, creative, independent, questioning, quick-thinking, hasty

**Ill-defined Themes** - Restlessness, undeveloped ideas, scattered thought, impulsiveness

The Knight of Swords is intensely intellectual. They ride a white motorcycle, holding their sword aloft above the clouds. Storm clouds don't phase the knight; they keep on with their musings and distractions free of worry. Their intellectual pursuit is pure, enjoyed for the sake of itself. The Knight of Swords understands the world through an intellectual point of view and enjoys creation of new ideas and concepts. They may come across as cold and can be frustrating for those who want to dwell on a subject longer than the knight is willing to. The knight can be single-minded in pursuit of a goal, and is often quick to take action without planning properly. When the knight shows up in a reading, they can indicate that a driven and action-based plan is the right approach to a situation. Keep your eye on the goal and you can move through difficulties and obstacles just as the knight does.

### **Queen of Swords - Regent of the Thrones of Air**

*"Clear understanding involves cutting away the extraneous. Many out there wrap themselves in indirectness and fluff as an armor, but it is ultimately an illusion and worthless against a clear intellect."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Unbiased intellect, independence, decision making, directness, clarity, logic

**Ill-defined Themes** - Being overly-critical, cold, judgment that blocks understanding, emotional hang ups, clouded thoughts and unclear logic

The Queen of Swords is a mature and clear intellect. Her arm tattoo contains a cherubim, representing her softer side, and before her is a butterfly which represents transformation. Her sword is her razor-sharp intellect, her powerful analytical mind, and her ability to cut to the heart of the matter. The sky clears around her head, again representing her clarity of thought. The Queen of Swords knows herself and through her intellect is able to know others. She can gracefully flow from one situation to the next. She may indicate a need to get to the truth of the matter, to cut through extraneous details, and to precisely understand a problem in order to properly deal with it. This queen has little patience for fluff, gossip, or beating around the bush. She may come across as harsh or cold as a result, but in reality she is just direct about her boundaries and expectations.

### **King of Swords - Sovereign of the Winds and Breezes**

*"Full understanding comes from intellect, yes, but also from empathy and intuition. To master these qualities in yourself is to evolve mentally. You see the world more fully than you would otherwise. It hides less from you, and you understand it better."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Clear insight, quick work, transition, setting emotions aside and thinking logically, mental acuity, intellectual power, authority, truth

**Ill-defined Themes** - Uncaring, inability to express feelings, manipulation, abuse of power

The King of Swords is a flash of insight, quick work towards goals, mental sharpness, and decisive action. He descends towards his goals with precision and drive. The monarch butterflies represent transformation and verbal acuity. His sword is upright, held on his right side, the side of the rational mind, but tilted slightly to the left, the intuitive mind. The King is master of both, his flexibility with intellect and intuition guiding him to the truth of situations. A crescent moon behind further demonstrates this link to his intuition. The King of Swords symbolizes fast and precise intellectual prowess. His forward drive and intellectual might sets



him in an excellent position for achievement of his goals. When he arrives in a reading, you are encouraged to set emotion aside and make a choice based on your mental clarity. Don't spin in place balancing decisions, rather cut out the extraneous and use logic to plot a route forward. Make fair and informed decisions. If you lack the expertise to make such a decision yourself, this card may be encouraging you to seek someone with those qualities.

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## Pentacles

Pentacles/Coins/Disks relate to the element of earth. They are the finances, sustenance, and spirituality of the physical world. They are material and spiritual, health and growth. Denoted in this deck as a symbol of a circle.

### **Ace of Pentacles - Root of the Powers of Earth**

*"Before a seed sprouts, it must push its way up through the hard earth. Only after that do we get to see what wonderful growth it is capable of."*

**Well-defined Themes** - New work, financial opportunity, sustenance, tangible work, start of a new practical skill set, understanding of nature, constructive growth

**Ill-defined Themes** - Greed, exploitation, financial opportunity falling through, lack of spiritual harmony, overwork, lack of practical drive

The Ace of Pentacles is the Root of the Powers of Earth. It can represent a new opportunity in the realm of business, work, or finance. It may just be a new interest that has practical applications. This Ace may in some ways be considered similar to the Orphic Egg from which hatches all of life and existence. The upright pentagram is far from a dangerous and dark symbol. Historically, its five points could represent the five senses, the five wounds of Christ, the five virtues of knighthood, the five joys Mary had of Jesus, and spirit presiding over the four elements of matter, and protection from evil forces. Around the pentacle, plants grow. Like the pentacle acting as a seed from which nature and abundance sprout forth, so this card represents a seed of opportunity from which we may gain spiritual and material abundance.

## **Two of Pentacles - Harmonious Change**

*"To greet the storm in all its fury and navigate your way through, for that you need to let the chaos move around and through you, full well knowing that whatever comes, you'll manage it as best you can."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Learning to work within changing situations, everything in a state of flux, focus on the practical, finding calm in a chaotic setting, adaptability

**Ill-defined Themes** - Inability to let go, recklessness in practical matters, finances out of control, change that is to your detriment, disorganization

The Two of Pentacles represents Jupiter in Capricorn. It is harmony in the center of change. The background screens show swirling waters with hovercraft(replacing the ships in the RWS deck) navigating through them, yet the character in the forefront is untouched by the chaos of the background, maintaining their composure and integrity amidst the change. The character juggles two pentacles, an infinity symbol on their hood, showing that they are capable of handling everything thrown their way so long as they prioritize and manage their resources well. This card suggests that we are in ourselves the anchor point around which the chaos of our lives can gain stability. As the world outside changes, we can turn to ourselves to maintain our roles and responsibilities. Keeping things in a state of balance can be a juggling act but through careful and practical management of our daily affairs, we can manage our many responsibilities.

## **Three of Pentacles - Material Works**

*"Collaboration is how we've made it this far as a species. To learn and to teach are ways to build up our community, to make something of ourselves and the world around us."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Good omen for practical matters, reward for work, diligence, balance, following that which betters you, teamwork, learning

**Ill-defined Themes** - Conflict at work, lacking fulfillment in work, career stagnation or indecision

The Three of Pentacles represents Mars in Capricorn. This pairing is very good and results in a constructive relationship between the two. This card is about work, mentorship, collaboration, and balance. Our three figures work together on the project at hand.

This card has a sense of material constructiveness to it, but also shows the harmony of cooperative work. It asks us to embrace others in a working situation and work toward a goal. Some may need to follow while others lead, but all should endeavor to proceed with respect for each other and the work itself in mind. This card also suggests that one pursue work that is fulfilling for the heart, the body, and the mind all at once. A balanced and practical approach while working with others will result in reward.

### **Four of Pentacles - Earthly Power**

*"I worked hard for this wealth, why would I share my gains with anyone else?"*

**Well-defined Themes** - Material stability, confidence in work, a healthy foundation, financial security

**Ill-defined Themes** - Greediness, financial insecurity, materialism, inability to share yourself or your good fortune, coldness, rigidity

The Four of Pentacles represents the Sun in Capricorn. The result is a practical application of power and material benefits, but with a hint of authority to it. Our character has four pentacles representing their material pursuit, material gain, and established earthly power. The pentacle on their mask shows that they may be disconnected spiritually as a result of their materialism. They are tied where they are by the pentacles around them, and they are alone. This character has achieved much, but may be stagnating as they've placed too much emphasis on material reward. This person works hard and makes sound judgements to get their stability in place, but may be too focused on the reward and doesn't see the value of pleasure or self-improvement. This card may be suggesting that we need to focus on creating material stability for ourselves, but warns us of the trouble of making the accumulation of wealth our only goal. Money is a means to an end but when we look at it as the only end goal itself we lose sight of the larger goals of our life and suffer spiritually as a result.

### **Five of Pentacles - Material Trouble**

*"Bruised and battered and beaten by the world, we had no choice but to scramble for scraps."*

**Well-defined Themes** - A threat to one's material and spiritual security, worry that keeps you from your present moment, anxiety

over one's situation that makes the situation worse, difficulties made worse by dwelling

**Ill-defined Themes** - Inaction over a long period of time due to worry, anxieties that interfere with your foundations, lengthy instabilities drawn out over a long time due to one's negative thoughts

The Five of Pentacles represents Mercury in Taurus. It represents difficulty with monetary issues and anxiety that keeps us from our present moment. Snow sets in on our bleak couple as they try to gather the scattered coins on the ground. The structure in the background is stability and support that the couple are stuck outside of. It can be the possibility of warmth in the current moment that we're unable to appreciate as we stress over a situation in our head. The characters are so lost in their worry over security that they do not see the shelter behind them as an option. They are rightfully troubled over material loss and yet their situation is still sabotaged by their focus on the wrong thing at the moment. This card asks us to stop focusing on what we lack and stop only seeing what is wrong. Fixing our problems may seem an insurmountable task and yet giving up merely indulges our pessimism without improving our situation.

### **Six of Pentacles - Material Success**

*"I gave when I had the means to, and I received when I found myself poor. Each of these acts needs empathy behind it, to let go of one's ego and admit that we are not alone, and sometimes we need others."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Material and spiritual success, opportunity for profit, reminder of past success, financial growth

**Ill-defined Themes** - Reckless spending, greed, debt, financial and material struggle, poor financial control

The Six of Pentacles represents the Moon in Taurus. This card is one of success attained, but the moon's transitory nature implies that the success is a brief one. This card is about material prosperity and success, as well as philanthropy. Our crowned figure is successful and hands out coins to the two begging hands at the bottom. Behind them, six pentacles represent their material abundance. On his mask is a symbol of scales, representing fairness and equality. This card is a celebration of that which has brought us our success and also reminds us of the difficult nature of that success. Sometimes we are the needy, sometimes we have the

abundance to give. If you are in a position to give, it asks that you not turn a blind eye to your fellows and to share your wealth. If you are in a position where you need help, you may need to let your pride go and ask for that help. Charity and philanthropy are not hand-outs but are cornerstones of a functional society. Poverty is not a sin and affluence is not a virtue.

### **Seven of Pentacles - Success Unfulfilled**

*"So much work and for what? Gains that would be gone in a moment.  
There had to be a better way."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Perseverance, investment, gains over time, learning from setbacks, repeated failures resulting in discouragement, an opportunity that did not pan out

**Ill-defined Themes** - Staying on with a lost cause, stagnating in a losing situation, avoiding difficulty due to fear, not moving on from a failure

The Seven of Pentacles represents the influence of Saturn in Taurus. The pentacles are surrounded by growth but the figure onlooking seems to be discouraged. This card is about putting in the work and coming out with less reward than expected. There may be slight gains but it wasn't worth what you put into it. This may be a labor of love that wasn't meant to result in a lot of money, but oftentimes it is simply that things did not give us the profit we wanted. We may need to tend further to the situation and hope that it eventually produces the growth we're after. Maybe we need to save our energy for something else that will be productive. We might need to tend to things differently to get a different result. The inertia of this card is messing with our plans so try not to set expectations too high and don't be afraid to try something else.

### **Eight of Pentacles - Prudence**

*"Dreadfully boring work, this, but the payoff would be worth it in the end.  
Bit by bit I'll make my way."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Continuing with something you are working on, giving a project time and dedication, development of something fruitful over a period of time, patience, persistence, eventual material success

**Ill-defined Themes** - Rushing a project, focusing too much on details that don't matter, too much focus on one thing that leads to difficulties with other parts, hastiness, impatience

The Eight of Pentacles represents the Sun in Virgo, which is a very productive grouping. It is intelligence applied lovingly to the material, in particular through agriculture and craft. This is a card of hard work and organization paying off and blossoming into being. The character labors repetitively on their computer, eight pentacles rising above mountainous backgrounds showing their work paying off through difficulty and time. One's artful work and cunning result in success in material affairs. There may be repetition of tasks or work that requires concentration but this card suggests that we have the skill and artfulness to pull it off. Through our patience, planning, and dedication we bring our work to fruition.

### **Nine of Pentacles - Material Gain**

*"My road was long and difficult but my risks had paid off in the end and here I was, growing a secure and stable place for my loved ones. It may not have been what I expected, but it was all that I really needed."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Reward, improvement, material success after hard work, financial gifts, abundance, self-sufficiency

**Ill-defined Themes** - Financial success that leaves others poorer, reckless spending, impending material strain

The Nine of Pentacles symbolizes Venus in Virgo. This pairing is a harmonious one in this card as it brings Venus' association with love and money and Virgo's practicality and organization together to produce a material bounty. Our figure is surrounded by pentacles. Her shirt is patterned with grapevines showing her bounty. Her drone with a falcon logo symbolizes her intellectual self-control. This focus on natural bounty shows her healthy relationship with wealth, using it prudently and with practicality without being miserly. This card is about financial well-being, independence, discipline, and a healthy indulgence of one's wealth. This card suggests a healthy relationship with money and nature that leads one to financial security after hard work.

### **Ten of Pentacles - Wealth**

*"I looked back on a life of difficulties and achievements and saw that much of what I had now was helped along because of the support of others. So I resolved to use this power to bring out the best in others just as I had the opportunity to be my best self because of the contributions of my community."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Material wealth, financial achievement, wealth that brings stability shared with others, achievement of spiritual and financial success

**Ill-defined Themes** - Miserliness, greed, financial riches but spiritual emptiness, misapplication of one's finances, wealth achieved at the expense of others

The Ten of Pentacles represents Mercury in Virgo. Above our aged matriarch the ten pentacles are arranged in an arch, showing her wealth in finance and spirituality. Her family (and robodog) surround her on her throne. She has attained security and stability that allows her family to flourish. The overwhelming energy of Mercury in this card is exalted in Virgo. The organization of Virgo and the communication of Mercury result in an interplay of abundance and wealth. This isn't just a card of success for one's family to the detriment of others, rather this family is meant to be successful as a core part of their community. They bring abundance and security to their community just as the community has allowed for their well-being and security. Overall this is a card of great material success but with a warning that hoarding or sitting on that energy/money will cause us to spiritually stagnate. It calls on us to share our place of stability and security so that all of one's community is improved as a result. Build a legacy, not a hoarded stash.

### **Page of Pentacles - Rose of the Palace of Earth**

*"We'd been blessed with this growth, and we could do much with it to improve the lives of so many. Imagine all the possibilities ahead, if only we can keep this up!"*

**Well-defined Themes** - Benevolence, opportunity, productivity, accomplishments, growth, nature, empathy, support

**Ill-defined Themes** - Disconnect from self and nature, impracticality, barrenness, closed off, lacking growth, stagnation

The Page of Pentacles is a peaceful and nurturing figure that manifests growth anywhere they go. Behind them a circuit pattern emerges like tree branches, showing that they bring abundance to their surroundings. Their shirt is patterned with leaves, further showing the growth they bring. They examine the pentacle held aloft as though finding even more ways to bring abundance to their lives and others. The page suggests a new opportunity or blessing presenting itself. They are a benevolent and gentle person and are

not well versed with conflict. They can indicate domestic life, nature, and following one's true purpose.

### **Knight of Pentacles - Monarch of the Chariot of Earth**

*"Measure twice, cut once, so they say. I assessed my resources and my goal. The space between them became my planned path forward. It was a pretty simple philosophy, really. Figure out the work that needs to be done, then do it."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Hard-working, focus, building, responsibility, practicality, goal-oriented, competence, reliability

**Ill-defined Themes** - Stubbornness, emotionally distant, insensitive, boring, dull, out of touch

The Knight of Pentacles is a card of hard work, competence, reliability, practicality, and responsibility. The knight is the only one of the four knights that is not in movement, but instead looking at their pentacle as though planning their route ahead. This knight is careful and deliberate in their work. On their jacket is a plowed field representing their carefully-planned work. Their intentional, directed work brings them reward over time. The knight can indicate reward through careful planning and well-thought out, well-executed hard work over time. It suggests success after a period of methodical work, gradual progress and routine. Plan through the best approach and then stick to the work to achieve your goals.

### **Queen of Pentacles - Regent of the Thrones of Earth**

*"The world was troubled but we could yet find a way to bring comfort to it. In my home it would be different, there would be calm and peace and growth. In visiting me, I hope you feel embraced and welcomed."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Practicality, security, nurturing, loving, comfort, prosperity, compassion, growth, fertility

**Ill-defined Themes** - Lacking fulfillment, unhealthy, barren, cut off from emotions

The Queen of Pentacles is surrounded by plant growth, representing her connection with nature, renewal, and abundant growth. On her knee is a tattoo of a rabbit, linked to fertility and alignment with her purpose. She bears goat horns, symbolizing Capricorn, self-discipline, clarity of purpose, perception, and vision. She holds and considers warmly a pentacle, as though nurturing the growth and material success around her. This card is one of



sensual pleasure, material success, nurturing, vision, and growth. The Queen of Pentacles can be very domestic and enjoys being a homebody and taking care of others. This card can suggest that you focus on nurturing others and your home. What prosperity you have can be shared to benefit others. It can also suggest another figure with those qualities in your life, perhaps a literal mother or just a motherly figure who helps your growth.

### **King of Pentacles - Sovereign of the Wild and Fertile Land**

*"To create stability and security is to fight against the forces of entropy. Within these structures, those I care for can grow easily, without fear of where their next meal is coming from. And as I'm able to provide this for them, they further grow this place with their talents and character. This isn't just my home, it is ours."*

**Well-defined Themes** - Work ethic, patience, discipline, security, reliability, stability, support, wealth

**Ill-defined Themes** - Dull, predictable, lacking intelligence, materialistic, stagnation

The King of Pentacles is a stable and secure source of hard work and methodical growth. She wears pants patterned with grapes and vines, symbolizing her wealth and abundance. Her mask is adorned with horns associating her with Taurus. Behind her are structures that are the result of her success with nature and the material. The King of Pentacles is a card of wealth and success. She has a strong connection with nature and works steadily over time. This card encourages you to pursue the same qualities in order to see your goal through to the end. Use self-discipline and manage your affairs with both feet planted on the ground. Work methodically and put in the effort over time, and success will follow. This king has a strong ability to create and sustain wealth, something they focus on. Yet they do not do so simply to hoard wealth, but rather to create a stable and secure environment for them and their community. Their focus is on growth so they give back and lift others up.

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## Closing Remarks

My hope is that this book provides a helpful starting point and reference guide for the Teknebrae Tarot. If you'd like to find me online, I am at the following links:

**Etsy:** <https://www.etsy.com/shop/PixelOccult>

**Website:** [www.pixeloccult.com](http://www.pixeloccult.com)

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/PixelOccult>

**Email:** [James.Brothwell@tuta.io](mailto:James.Brothwell@tuta.io)

*“Against unrelenting oblivion, we whistled an imperfect tune. We knew that despite the difficulties of the world, we’d found the courage, in whatever small way we could, to try to leave it a better place to live.”*