



# **Tarot Home Study Course**



**Textbook and Workbook**

**Comprehensive Beginner's Tarot Course  
using the Waite-Rider Tarot Deck**

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## Items You Will Need

To properly use your Tarot deck, you will need to have or purchase the items listed below. We describe each item and, for most items, list some places you can purchase them.

### **Waite-Rider Tarot Deck and Box or Bag**

You can find this Tarot deck in most local bookstores, or from Barnes and Noble online at <http://www.barnesandnoble.com>. You will want to store your Tarot deck to protect it, after it's keyed, in a box or bag made of all natural materials. You can make your own bag, use an old cigar box or buy a Tarot box. You can buy Tarot boxes from 13 moons: <http://www.13moons.com>.

### **Book of Shadows**

You will want to purchase or make a Books of Shadow for recording readings. It's preferable to use a new book, not one that has already been used for other purposes. For recording readings, some people use a 3-ring binder and fill it with copies of the Tarot reading template provided in this course. Other people use blank books. To protect your Book of Shadows you may want to put some kind of picture (dragon, tiger, hawk, etc.) or symbol on the front and back covers.

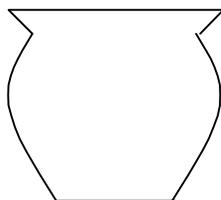
### **Wisdom and Protection Candles**

You will need to purchase 2 white, sky blue or sun yellow candles to use for Tarot readings. The candles should match in color and type. We prefer taper candles, which are easy to snuff out.

### **Firebowl and Firebowl Materials**

You will need a working Firebowl to key your Plate, which you will need to key the cards in your Tarot deck. You can find Firebowls at Pier 1, Wal-Mart or other retail stores (also online). Your Firebowl should be:

- Made of brass, cast-iron, ceramic or a hard hardwood
- 4 to 6 inches in diameter
- 4 to 5 inches deep
- A shape that is easily held with one or both hands
- Light enough to carry in one hand if necessary
- Stable when placed on a flat surface
- Slightly curved-in and flared back out at the top rim to promote "columning" of incense or smoke (see the drawing below)



In addition, you will need the materials that go into your Firebowl, which include:

- Ground fire clay or clean, fine sand. Non-scented cat litter, which is ground fire clay, works well for this as long as it does not have chemicals or deodorants in it. You will need enough to put 1-2 inches in the bottom of your Firebowl as an insulator to protect the Firebowl itself, your hands and any surfaces from the heat.
- Self-starting charcoal, which can be purchased from religious supply stores or online. The round charcoals with bowl-shaped depressions in the middle are best. The pie shaped depressions don't work as well. Do not use barbeque charcoal!
- Wooden or paper matches. Use only wooden or paper matches to light your candles and charcoals. The scent and energetic side-bands associated with butane and other petroleum products change the fire-bands you're working with.
- Finely chopped or shaved wood chips or tree bark. This is used to insulate the charcoal from the tree resin or incense and to facilitate the burning of the materials in your Firebowl.
- Pine resin. You can collect pine resin yourself, or purchase it.
- Finely ground or rubbed sage. If you collect sage, you can grind it in a blender or coffee grinder.
- Sun Yellow candle (Sun Yellow is bright yellow with no hint of orange or red).

You can purchase a Firebowl starter kit, which contains 2 oz. of sage, 1 oz. of wood shavings, 1 oz. of pine resin and 5 charcoals for \$5.00 (including shipping) from the Esoteric School at <http://www.shamanschool.com/courses/tarotcourse.html>.

### **Chalice**

You will need a Chalice to key your Plate, which you will need to key the cards in your Tarot deck. You can find Chalices at Pier 1, Wal-Mart or other retail stores (also online). Your Chalice should:

- Be any goblet-shaped drinking cup that has a stem for easy handling.
- Have a good-sized bowl. The bowl can have patterns on it as long as the patterns are not too deep.
- Be made of only one material. Avoid combinations of material, such as glass and metal. Glass and ceramic work best, although you can also use Chalices made of silver, pewter or copper. Some people prefer clear glass because you can see what is in the Chalice, and other people prefer Water Blue Chalices since we often use Water Blue in working with the Chalice. Wood Chalices do not work well because they have too much air element in them.

To key your Plate using your Chalice, you will also need:

- Rain, spring or distilled water. Tap water will not work!
- Sea salt or crushed rock salt that is non-iodized (table salt will not work because some of the minerals and crystal structure inherent in salt have been destroyed during processing)
- Pure cotton cloth

### **Plate**

You will need a Plate, which we will teach you how to key, for keying your Tarot cards. The Plate, known in magical circles as a Shield or Pantacle, is the tool used to handle earth energies. It is known as a Shield because it is often used magically to shield various operations against outside interference. You can find Plates at Pier 1, Wal-Mart or other retail stores (also online). Your Plate should:

- Be made of wood, ceramic or porcelain. Glass or metal will also work.
- Be colored with earth tones or have plant-based designs in earth tones. Be sure that the patterns are not carved very deeply into the Plate.
- Six to ten inches in diameter, which is slightly larger than a salad plate. You should be able to hold it easily by placing your thumbs in the center of the Plate and the rest of your fingers on the edge.
- Be round in shape for even energy flow and slightly dished in the center.

### **Sun Candle**

A Sun Candle is a bright yellow candle that has no hint of orange or red in it. You can use either a pillar or taper candle.

# Rules of the Road

## The Ethics of Magical Practice

Rules of the Road are the set of Universal ethics, which must be followed for safe and effective magical practice. The Rules of the Road are not the same as morals (what our culture teaches us is right and wrong) or ethics (what we personally believe to be right and wrong), as both morals and ethics change over time. Particular morals or ethics may or may not agree with the Rules of the Road.

To practice magic safely and effectively you must know and abide by the Rules of the Road since, as far as we know, the Rules of the Road operate whether you know of them, believe in them, or agree with them. Additionally, normal scientific physical laws and principles must be followed. The Esoteric School follows Rules of the Road in all of its course materials and we suggest you do the same.

### Two Major Rules:

1. Whatever is done to the environment or to other beings in the environment brings similar effects upon the doer.

This is often called the Law of Karma. The Universe doesn't care why some action was taken, or whether the doer is trained in magic or aware of the Rules of the Road. Although many different teachers have stated this law in many different ways, including the Golden Rule, it is especially important for magicians. A magician's acts are consciously and willfully directed, and are therefore more powerful than the acts of untrained or unfocused people. So the effect of this law in relation to a magician's acts becomes much more powerful. This applies to both constructive and destructive acts.

*Note:* While many religious and other practices consider that Karma can carry from lifetime to lifetime, it is our experience that the Universe operates under a system of "pay as you go." In other words, the effect of any act upon the environment (or upon beings in the environment) comes back to you within a relatively short period of time – within hours to days.

2. The magician judges the "goodness" or "badness" of his or her own acts, whether they are conscious or unconscious acts, on the basis of what the Universe reflects back on him or her. The same is true of judging others, entire communities, states or nations.

On a practical level, one can judge one's compliance with the Universe's standards of right and wrong, or good and bad, in terms of one's level of health, soundness of social relationships, luck with appliances, and sufficiency of food, clothing and shelter. If your "luck" seems consistently bad, then you're probably acting contrary in some way to the Rules of the Road, regardless of what your intentions are.

Ethical Laws of the Rules of the Road

These ethical laws will give you a more detailed standard by which to measure your acts, or the acts of others, to determine whether they are in accordance with Rules of the Road. Judge any act of magic by these laws before doing it.

1. Do nothing that will harm another being unless you are willing to suffer like or greater harm. Note that what the Universe considers harm may be different from what our culture teaches as harm.
2. Don't bind another being unless you are willing to be likewise bound. This applies to many love spells and some kinds of healing rituals.
3. Never use magic for show, pride, or vainglory. Using magic to show off, to prove a point, or from a place of injured pride usually results in side-bands (undesirable side effects) to the operation that will bring very undesirable backlash from the Universe.
4. Never set an extremely high price for the use of magic (especially divination, healing, or spells) based on your having special knowledge. With some operations that take significant man hours, such as divination, it appears by our observation to be appropriate to charge the same fee as any other professional might charge per hour in your local area.
5. Don't use any special word, symbol, incantation, or spell unless you understand thoroughly and completely its mechanics, content, and intent! Be very wary of using other people's operations if you wish to avoid "frying" yourself, either figuratively or literally!
6. Never do a spell without first doing a divination to determine a) if you should do it, and b) exactly what needs to be dealt with. Modern American social values and overt appearances of a situation are not trustworthy guides for a magician wishing to avoid bad karma. In other words, there may be hidden factors in the situation, which cause the doing of a spell to be against Rules of the Road.
7. TAKE YOUR TIME, THINK IT THROUGH, AND DO IT RIGHT!

## Charging the Sun Candle

Charging the Sun candle is a way to create sacred space and clear “junky energies” from a room. You will want to charge your Sun candle for every Tarot Reading. To clear space in a room, charge the Sun candle and leave it burning in the room for 30 minutes (or during your entire Tarot reading). To clear multiple rooms, use multiple Sun candles or charge one Sun candle and leave it burning in a room for 30 minutes, then without blowing out the candle, carry it to another room and say the charge verse again. See the video clip on charging the Sun candle for more details.

1. Place an unscented Sun yellow candle (pure yellow, not too orange) in the room or space you want to clear. Have wooden matches handy to light the candle (don't use a lighter). If you don't have wooden matches, paper matches will do.
2. Stand in the south with the candle to your north.
3. Light the candle and wait for the flame to settle into a working flame (a tall, strong flame). Make sure the flame isn't dampened or flickering excessively.
4. Hold your hands above and around the flame, and say the charge verse below in a voice of command. If there are multiple people in the room, change the word “my” to the plural forms “our”, and the words “Spirit” and “Aim” to “Spirits” and “Aims.”

Child of Wonder  
 Child of Flame  
 Nourish my Spirit  
 Protect my Aim

5. When you are done with the Sun candle, blow it out (don't snuff it out).

## Keying Your Plate

To properly key your Tarot cards, you will need a “keyed” Plate. Keying is a magical process used on magical tools that:

- Clears out junky or impure energies.
- Attunes the tool to the user which makes the tool incompatible to other people.
- Aligns the molecules in the tool so that the energies flow only in certain directions.

A keyed plate will protect your Tarot cards while you key them. To key your Plate, you will need to:

1. Load and charge your Firebowl.
2. Load and charge your Chalice
3. Follow the steps to key your Plate.

Follow the steps below to key your Plate, and then read the instructions for storing and maintaining your Plate.

### How to Load and Charge Your Firebowl

Charging the Firebowl programs it for a specific purpose, such as cleansing a space, person or object. Since magic is a precision science, charging your Firebowl for certain operations makes it much more effective. Charging states the intended purpose and programs it into the tool. Charging is not an invocation or prayer to spirit-beings or deities, just a program.

You don't have to key a Firebowl before you use it (keying aligns the energies in a tool and personalizes it for your use). The Firebowl keys itself every time you light it. You won't need to charge your Firebowl for every operation, but you will need to charge it to key your Plate. Before charging, load the Firebowl with the proper materials.

#### How to Load the Firebowl

1. Fill the bottom of the Firebowl with 1-2 inches of sand or clay.
2. Place a block of unlit self-starting charcoal in the center of the bed of sand or clay.
3. Have your wood shavings, sage and resin ready to put onto the charcoal after it is lit. Make sure your pine resin is broken into small pieces that can be easily added onto the wood shavings.
4. Light your Sun Yellow utility candle with wooden or paper matches.

#### How to Charge the Firebowl

1. Stand or sit in the South facing North with your loaded Firebowl in front of you.
2. Light the charcoal from the flame of the utility candle. It will begin sparking within seconds. If the charcoal is old or damp, you may need to use tongs to hold

it over the flame for several minutes. Also, with old or damp charcoal, you may want to light the top of it in the center of the bowl-shaped depression so that the materials you put on top will burn more easily.

3. Once the charcoal is lit, place it back into the center of your Firebowl and blow Sun Yellow, pulled from the utility candle, into it.
4. Add wood shavings to the charcoal, then pine resin, then sage as needed until the Firebowl is producing a good column of smoke.
5. In a voice of command, charge the Firebowl with the verse below, blowing Sun Yellow into the charcoal before you start, between each line and after you complete the verse.

Fire and Air where you are cast,  
 Let no spell nor adverse purpose last,  
 Not in accord with me!  
 Cleanse this tool and cleanse its space,  
 Far from here send baneful trace!  
 Thus my will, so it be!

### **How to Load and Charge Your Chalice**

You can charge or program your Chalice for specific purposes, just as you charged your Firebowl. In fact, the verse is the same except for the first line. You can charge both keyed and non-keyed Chalices. Before you charge your Chalice, load it with the appropriate materials.

#### How to Load the Chalice

1. Fill the bowl of the Chalice halfway with pure water (rain, spring or distilled water).
2. Add a pinch of sea salt or crushed rock salt and swirl the water and salt clockwise (to the right).
3. Have your Water Blue color chip ready next to the Chalice.

#### How to Charge the Chalice

1. Sit in the South facing North with your loaded Chalice in front of you.
2. Breathe Water Blue into the water in your Chalice using your color chip as a reference, swirling the water clockwise as you breathe.
3. In a voice of command, say the verse below, breathing Water Blue into the chalice and swirling the water clockwise before you start, between each line and after you complete the verse.

Water and earth where you are cast,  
 Let no spell nor adverse purpose last,  
 Not in accord with me.  
 Cleanse tool and cleanse its space,

Far from here send baneful trace!  
Thus my will, so it be!

4. Remember to breathe Water Blue into the Chalice after you finish the last sentence of the verse.

### **How to Key Your Plate**

Once you've charged your Firebowl and Chalice, you're ready to key your Plate. Have your plate, charged Firebowl and Chalice and a pure cotton cloth ready.

Like most magical tools, your Plate needs to be keyed before you begin using it. Keying clears any impure energy from your Plate aligns all the molecules so the energy flows in a particular direction and personalizes the Plate to you so that other people cannot easily use it. To key your plate:

1. Feel the energy of your Plate before you begin by moving your palm back and forth above it.
2. Sit in the South facing North with all your materials in front of you.
3. Hold your Plate upside down (dished side down) in the column of smoke. Allow the smoke to drift onto the Plate for 15-30 seconds. If the Plate has been previously used by other people or for another purpose, it may take more time for the smoke to clear out the energies. Pull the Plate away from the smoke and see if the smoke sticks to it (little streamers of smoke will billow off the Plate if the smoke is sticking). If not, put the Plate back over the Firebowl until the smoke sticks.
4. Smoke the bottom of your Plate in the same way until the smoke sticks.
5. Dip one corner of your cotton cloth into the water of your Chalice. Use the wet area of the cloth to wipe the top of the Plate (the concave side). Start at the center of the Plate and begin wiping clockwise, moving your cloth outward in a spiral. Wipe with pressure and intention until the top of the Plate has been wiped.
6. Without stopping or lifting the cotton cloth from the Plate wipe the rim of the Plate, then turn the Plate over and continue wiping the back of the Plate in the same direction. Do not change directions once you reach the back – the wiping should be in one smooth continuous stroke. When you turn the Plate over you will be wiping in a counter-clockwise direction. You may want to have another person watch you to ensure that you do not change directions. If you change directions when you start wiping the back, your Plate may actually split in half during intense magical operations. You could end up with two very thin but completely round Plates.
7. Using a dry corner of your cotton cloth repeat the wiping procedure remembering to wipe with steady pressure and intention.
8. Test the energy of your Plate again and notice any differences.

### **Storing and Maintaining Your Plate**

Unlike the some other magical tools, your Plate will stay keyed without being wrapped in a natural material. If you ever travel with your Plate you may want to wrap it to prevent anything from hitting it. Striking, hitting or dropping your Plate will unkey it. You can use your Plate for everyday use but make sure that if you wash or dry your Plate you use the same wiping motions as you did when you keyed it. This will ensure that you don't unkey it. Do not wash your Plate in the dishwasher.

## Keying Your Tarot Deck

Once you've keyed your plate, you're ready to key your Tarot deck. Be sure you are using the Waite-Rider Tarot deck, the easiest deck to begin with. Because your Tarot deck is like any other magical tool you will need to key it. Keying your deck ties it not only to your own energies but also to the Universe itself. Before you can begin the keying process you will need to put the deck in natural order. The natural order is as follows (with the first card listed being face down on the top of the deck):

- 2-10, Page, Knight, Queen, King, Ace of Wands
- 2-10, Page, Knight, Queen, King, Ace of Swords
- 2-10, Page, Knight, Queen, King, Ace of Cups
- 2-10, Page, Knight, Queen, King, Ace of Discs
- 1-21 of the Major Arcana with the Fool (0 or 21) being the last card

Once you put your deck in natural order, you're ready to key it.

### How to Key Your Tarot Deck

To key your Tarot deck:

- Sit in the South facing North. Place your keyed Plate and Tarot deck (in natural order) in front of you.
- Place matching candles of Sun Yellow, White or Sky Blue on either side of the Plate.
- Light the right candle (Wisdom) with a wooden match. Keeping the match lit sweep it down in an arc over the Plate to light the left (Protection) candle. Again, keeping the match lit sweep it up in an arc over the Plate to the flame of the right candle again. This creates a connection between the two candles (see diagram below).

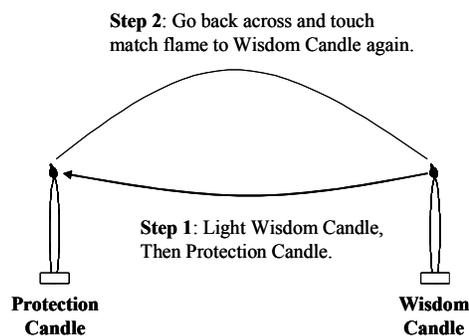


Figure 19.2

- Take the first card from the top of the deck, the 2 of Wands, and place it face up and upright on your Plate.
- Look at the card, taking in the overall color of the card, the flatness of it and the dimensions of it. Don't focus on any particular detail.
- Keeping your gaze soft look into the scene and begin asking questions about it. For instance, ask "What time of day is it?" or "Is that a town in the background?" or "Is that an ocean or a lake?" You aren't trying to get answers to your questions.
- Keep asking questions until you suddenly see the card "window." In other words, the card becomes clearer, more alive, three dimensional, more colorful or brighter. You get a sense of real understanding or relationship with the card – it feels as if you are looking into the scene through a window.
- As soon as the card windows it is keyed. Take it off the Plate and put it face down next to the Plate.
- Continue the same process with each card in the deck. You may want to key only a certain number of cards at a time since this process can be tiring.
- If you come across any cards that don't window, it may mean that you have issues about that card. Put that card aside and try again at another time.

Once all of your cards have been keyed, you are ready to move onto the next section – Introduction to Divination and the Tarot.

## **Introduction to Divination and the Tarot**

Before you begin using your Tarot deck to do readings, it's good to find out a little more about the art of divination (of which the Tarot is a part) and the Tarot. In this section, we introduce you to both. Read on!

### **Introduction to Divination**

Divination is the means of obtaining information by psychic or magical means that is not readily available to the five senses of the body. In other words, divination helps us obtain information that we can't get by the usual means of seeing, hearing, touching, tasting or smelling. It's also information that we can't get through our normal channels of research such as calling on experts or doing research in the library.

The major purpose of divination, in magical practice, is to direct our "fates." In other words, we use divination to discover the influences, energies and probability lines that are active in our lives. With this information we can more accurately and knowingly exert control in our own lives. In exploring the future with divination of any form you need to thoroughly understand two factors:

- The future is not set or pre-destined. The future may be changed at any time before it happens.
- Divinations of the future, particularly of a specific future event, are only probabilities based on the assumption that the current influences in our lives will continue unchanged. Any change in the present will change the future.

Therefore, if you discover some unpleasant or unwanted future event through divination, you can do some research to find out which events lead up to the unwanted event. If you change those events, the unwanted event either will not happen at all or will occur differently than you saw in your divination.

### **Direct and Indirect Forms of Divination**

There are two forms of divination: direct and indirect. Direct methods of divination provide a visual field onto which the mind can visually project the desired information, which is gathered by non-visual senses. This method causes psychic or unconscious perceptions to manifest into the five senses so that we can understand them. Direct methods of divination include the Water Bowl, Chalice and Firebowl. Direct methods are more susceptible to our own energies, beliefs and thoughts because we must translate the psychic or unconscious perceptions into images, words, sounds and sensations.

Indirect forms of divination provide no visual field but must be interpreted through symbols. In addition, with indirect forms of divination you are not part of the divination itself, nor is the information translated by your mind. Indirect methods of divination are less susceptible to input from our minds since the information is directly accessed from the Universe. The Tarot, I-Ching and Runes are forms of indirect divination. The pendulum can be used for either direct or indirect divination. The Ouija board is not a safe form of divination since you are inviting another being to take control of your body –

you are in danger of being possessed! Also, the entity that answers your questions may not have your best interests in mind and may not even have the knowledge or experience to answer your questions at all!

### **The History of Tarot**

The people who created the modern Tarot, all of whom were members of the Order of the Golden Dawn, designed the Waite-Rider, Morgan-Greer and Thoth decks. Arthur Edward Waite created the Waite-Rider deck (Rider was the name of the publisher) and Pamela Smith, also of the Golden Dawn, did the artwork for the cards.

Lloyd Morgan and William Greer disagreed with Waite's approach, arguing that the Waite-Rider deck was too austere, too mental and too intellectual. They created the Morgan/Greer deck by adding fancy symbols, such as vines, to the top half of all the cards in the Waite-Rider deck.

Aleister Crowley, who created the Thoth deck, disagreed with all of them saying, "You're all nuts. Everyone out in the world is all involved in all this mundane level stuff, and none of them are up to the point of starting the Tree of Life. They need to deal with their baser things. So, a pox on both your houses! We ought to work with the reverse Tree to throw them into that. If you haven't the sense to recognize that then it be on their own heads. If they get caught in the pit then it be on their own heads." For example, the 7 of Sics is called Failure in the Crowley deck even though when it's upright it doesn't mean failure. It is how the majority of our culture deals with the issue of how our garden grows (or how well we are prospering or doing).

The underlying symbology and concepts found in the Tarot go back thousands of years. For instance, in the early Christian Church, around 600 AD, the priests had little memo cards with pictures on them. The gypsies also used similar cards. The old emerald tablets in Egypt also had pictures of Plates and discs. These concepts are very old.

However, the modern Tarot is brand new, revised by the Order of the Golden Dawn to work more intimately with the Tree of Life and for spell work. It's a development of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and is, in our estimation, the major advance in magical practice within the last 2,000 years. The Waite-Rider, Morgan-Greer and Thoth decks were created by magicians for magic. These decks and only these decks can be used for:

1. Straight divination
2. Spell work (these decks are especially designed for spell work)
3. Working the Tree of Life (for doing a great work)

There are no other decks on the market that are designed for and capable of serving all three of these functions. Before these decks the Tarot could only be used for divination. For instance the Aquarian deck is a beautiful tool for divination if you are used to working with Zen or Hindu concepts, but it's virtually useless for spell work and has no relationship at all to the Tree of Life.

The word Tarot is a disguised word. It was originally spelled “Rota,” which means wheel, because the deck represents all phenomenal experience, the wheel of life. We use the Tarot as a living form that is tied into the existing Universe. In essence, the Tarot is a simulacrum of the Universe.

Forget everything you have previously learned about the Tarot from books and other sources. Don’t try to memorize the meanings of the cards because the meanings are in the cards themselves. The Tarot was originally an oral tradition so the idea of writing down the meanings of the cards in some ways defies the tradition. We have provided you some written meanings as a guide to get started but you should also strive to see the meaning of the cards as they pertain to specific readings. We will review the meaning of the Major Arcana cards because the labels on these cards have archaic meanings that differ greatly from modern meanings.

### **Signifiers**

A signifier is a card that stands for someone or something. The signifier in a Tarot reading poses the question that we want answered. We tie our Tarot readings to specific issues and questions by using keyed signifiers. Most people who use the Tarot today do not use signifiers. If you want to do a reading on a person, you’ll need to choose a signifier for them using the guide below. We choose signifiers for people based on chronological age and sun sign.

<b><u>Air:</u></b>		<b><u>Water:</u></b>	
Gemini:	♊	Cancer:	♋
Libra:	♎	Scorpio:	♏
Aquarius:	♒	Pisces:	♓
<b><u>Fire:</u></b>		<b><u>Earth:</u></b>	
Aries:	♈	Taurus:	♉
Leo:	♌	Virgo:	♍
Sagittarius:	♐	Capricorn:	♎

### **Signifiers for People**

Page	Conception to teenager
Knight	Teenager
Queen	Adult female
King	Adult male

Although these guidelines are useful for picking signifiers you can’t always judge a person by their chronological age when picking signifiers. You also have to consider how they act and behave. A person may be only 9 years old but may act with such great responsibility that you may want to use a knight, queen or king as their signifier. In the Crowley deck the page has both a male and female card – the prince or princess. The adult male is signified as a knight in the Crowley deck because Crowley said that there are no adult males – males never reach maturity.

## **Major and Minor Arcana Cards**

The Tarot is comprised of Minor Arcana cards in four suits and Major Arcana cards, which are not in suits. The four suits of the Minor Arcana are Wands, Swords, Cups and Plates, which match the four elemental tools. Minor Arcana cards are the numbered cards in each suit (ace through 10) plus the court cards (page, knight, queen and king).

Major Arcana cards are all the other cards in the deck and are related to but not tied to a particular suit. They represent principles, concepts or ideals while Minor Arcana cards represent the many ways that those principles manifest in the everyday or mundane world. The ideas expressed in the Major Arcana cards are not taught in our culture so we have lost touch with them and we have no foundation for them. Therefore, we have to be careful not to apply present day meanings to these past time symbols.

## **Meaning of Major Arcana Cards**

### **1. The Magician**

Power and control. The person has individually learned and surmounted the four elements and controls the use of them by intellect and will. The Magician (or Magus or Magi) is adept at what he does. Also includes use of magic and magical spells either by oneself or by other people. High-level magic. Complete balanced use of magic. Hard magic (as opposed to the more psychic, intuitive “soft magic”). Knowing the procedures so well that you can produce the result over and over. Being open and available to using all forces that are available. Can be using other people's force since the magician, like Aikido masters, can boomerang and use other people's force. They don't even have to create their own. Can also indicate a spell that needs to be done and has not been done. Can refer to a spell done to someone, good or bad, especially if it's in past or present life (can refer to a past life spell that is following a person from lifetime to lifetime). Magi indicates a level of self-containment. Intentional miracle working and deliberate creation would fall under the Magi. Working with angels and totem spirits would come under Hierophant or Hanged Man. Working with tools, magical groups, teaching or studying magic and synchronicity would all come under the Magi. Most decks (other than Thoth and Waite-Rider) depict use of a quartz crystal rod – which is an infinite energy tool and includes the energy of all four elements.

**Reverse:** Can refer to spell-work done against a person or persons, particularly in past or present lines, or the refusal to use magic when it is called for. It can also refer to the inappropriate use of magic.

**Observations:** Can indicate the actual doing of magic or a strong intention about magic or a mock-up of magical spell or ritual. An ability to focus personal power, to know and work within the framework of Rules of the Road. To be unwilling to play codependent games. To avoid being the victim. Operates well on mundane and higher levels, but would appear to those on the mundane level to be operating outside of normal cause and effect realities. May seem unpredictable by normal social standards, or may seem like miracle working.

## **2. High Priestess**

A magic card. Can refer to a female magician or her use of magic. Women's power card. In the Crowley deck, the Princess and Queen of Discs are also women's power cards. Intuition and religion. Operates on emotional rather than intellectual planes. Religious social values or scripting, such as religious do-gooders. People who pray for others without having sought permission or without being asked for help. This card may be used as a signifier if someone is proficient in magic, especially a female. Refers to the magical level, higher than mundane, except in the case of religious fanatics. Psychic abilities or soft magic may be different from hard magic. Comes more from a religious base than from ritual magical training.

Lesser figure of the emperor, like the empress but on the personal level. Magic done a lot more on the emotional/intuition level rather than on the hard magic plane. Can often substitute for the Magi, if the Magi is tied up in the reading. Can be spell work that has been done or needs to be done.

**Reverse:** Negative religious values, religious dogma, and rigid adherence to rules and morals and use of these opinions to actively influence others. Negative spell-work against others, more from a psychic or emotional base than from magical training. Although certain heavily women's power-based traditions could have the Priestess Reversed show up to indicate negative spell-work. Religious or psychic persecution often coming from a mask of piousness or "Holier than thou" attitudes. In tribal systems and Wicca, witchcraft of a negative base or women's power used in negative ways. Bleeding deacons, false piety, megalomania.

## **3. The Empress**

Natural government or planetary ecology. Natural laws (laws of the Universe according to Grandmother, the spirit whose body is the Earth-system). It may also refer to how things are working on the next level up from man. It represents world change or the growth and maturing of Grandmother's world or system – it can either be upright or reversed, but does not imply positive or negative valuation as regards these changes, but shows how the person is relating to world change. Female law in the tribal systems, like the High Priestess. It is the ideal archetype of womanhood, Mother Nature. More fair than right. Laws protecting nature, totem spirits, gods and goddesses of Greek mythology, Native American traditions, and values we have from Earth religions are all under the Empress. The Empress is also the laws of nature according to Grandmother, the body of knowledge contained in the Earth, and the spirit whose body is Earth. In addition, all beings who work in this system belong under Empress, including the Winds, the Old Ones, dryads, lawn vaetirs, and elementals.

**Reverse:** Being at odds with natural law. Degenerative or decaying systems that are at odds with natural order. Pollution and waste or abuse of natural resources. Any endeavor, which is inherently opposed to a healthy environment.

**Observations:** The Empress is concerned with laws that govern natural species, the animal, plant, and mineral kingdoms. Local landform spirits, the spiritual ecology of the Earth. The concept of the female quality of passivity and nourishment.

#### **4. The Emperor**

Relates to man's government or laws. Concerns of human-mundane government. Relates to how other people see you from social structure base. Also relates to issues of conformity and non-conformity. Mundane level affairs, such as legal or governmental issues. Male-related issues. Social values as seen from a male oriented base. Supremacy of male values, such as in Roman and English tort legal systems. Not concerned with issues of intrinsic fairness, but an unyielding system of contrived and strict standards for behavior. Authority figures such as judges or police, and their activities. Rigid code of ethics based on "An Eye for an Eye and a Tooth for a Tooth." Certain male systems ruled by Mars and Aries that are deemed acceptable by man's law such as "War is an acceptable means to procure peace." The belief that the taking of life is an acceptable means of administering justice. Can signify legal systems, court systems. Male power in the sense of power over others.

**Reverse:** Problems with the law, with authority figures, with governmental officials, tax problems, confinement or imprisonment, fines, summons, or lawsuits. Property, business, or investment losses, where legal problems may be the underlying cause. Problems with father image or male image.

**Observations:** Social scripting in a male-dominant system, such as "my right to protect my interests at any cost." Not willing to listen or recognize other's values. The need to be right and to be spiritually closed or operating mostly in the mundane. It asks the question, "Would you rather be right or happy?" On the spiritual level: adherence to a structure of fairness such as the laws of Solomon, which well illustrate a point, but may not be workable in reality. (The story of Solomon offering to cut a baby in half whose ownership was in dispute.) This level of laws is the highest that the Emperor can go – anything higher would be captured in Justice. Ruling classes – nobility. Courtly manners and mannerisms. Elegant male show-off behavior. Noblesse-oblige, and also chauvinistic behavior.

#### **5. The Hierophant**

The Hierophant is issues of spiritual fairness and mediation. Traditionally, the early popes of the Catholic Church up to 1100 AD took the position of the Hierophant, who was a just go-between for the people and God, making sure that communication existed, when necessary. A bridge between lower and higher levels. He was not necessarily representing God to man, nor man to God. He was merely bridging. If the people had a problem, and God didn't seem to be around, it was up to the Pope to say: "Hey God, the people have a problem. You and the people have something to work out." Or go the other way and say, "You need to get in touch because there are these problems." We don't care what the book of the law is. We care what's fair here. The closest thing in our culture to the Hierophant is the federal strike mediator or a couple's mediator. Does not take sides, does not get involved, no attachment. Beyond a certain point he doesn't care

what the law is. He cares that management and labor talk to each other and work out an agreement, making sure there is communication if it is called for. Also deals with ordinary agreements, issues of fairness, arbitration, and what we agree upon as spiritual beings.

In working with day greetings and endings, and exit rituals, we are learning to be the Hierophant. In changing the weather we are negotiating as the Hierophant. A shamanic or magical principle about communication. Being sure that communication happens when it's needed, forming a bridge between lower and higher levels, between communities. Has a lot to do with the role of the Shaman – lack of communication between people and God, like Neale Diamond Walsch and *Conversations with God*. Very little to do with the emperor, but actual fairness and what works, not what is right according to man's law. What will be a way out of this dilemma that really works, how can we all win? A level of appreciation, respect and fairness. Deals with communication between mundane and spiritual ecological systems. On the mundane level, it is an indicator of one's willingness to deal fairly with others in marriage, with children, parenting, teaching, counseling, or anywhere you deal with agreements, truth, or higher-level concepts of law or truth that are being introduced on a lower plane. We tend not to make ground rules, so to study good ground rules, test with the Hierophant. Hierophant is like owl it can see the hidden and the truth. The Hierophant gets to the true motivation.

**Reverse:** Engaging in a lot of spiritual unfairness, lack of negotiation, lack of mediation, unwillingness to communicate fairly. Fixed stubbornness, and unable to see another's point of view.

### **6. The Lovers**

Don't use the Lovers for intimate personal relationships because it won't work, but you can use it for higher spiritual relationships, such as karmic relationships, destined relationships or soul mates. Lovers indicates primarily a spiritual relationship that we planned when coming into this lifetime, or strong spiritual ties and connections that we have from other lifetimes. Can also be relationship and balance to the overall higher aspect of community (not the normal social structure). Use the Two of Cups for intimate personal relationships. Lovers is the higher octave of Two of Cups.

This card is the Western/European magical equivalent of the Tai-Chi, the Yin/Yang symbol. This relates to how the spirit, within itself, is connected with both sides of its nature. Integration of masculine and feminine sides of oneself, or the integration of the dark side and the light side. Internal balance. In therapy and psychology, they refer to the anima and animus, the internal balance of our male and female sides. Are we missing critical information with regards to this balance, often shifting in polarity? Balance between forces of male and female. Most mundane level love relationships are not balanced. How integrated are you as a spirit? How schizophrenic are you as a spirit? This relates to how the spirit is integrated in itself, in its entirety.

### ***7. The Chariot***

Someone who is in full control of their power. He can move the lions and is in control of the situation. The charioteer constantly directs and drives, and is constantly making choices. Have you ever seen a chariot race? With the chariot there is nothing holding the team together except the lines that the charioteer holds. It is up to the charioteer and the training of the horses to keep the team together. Otherwise they would split and wreck on perfectly level ground. The issue here is one of personal power and control. How well is the spirit handling being responsible for its own fate. The charioteer has to constantly be paying attention to control the direction of the team and the chariot. Basically this is a Shaman's card or a high level ritual magician's card. We're talking about the focus being on personal power – no issue of fate or luck. I am responsible for what befalls.

Chariot and strength are similar, the major difference being that when you've used strength and studied it, you've come into the charioteer, having full control of your power. Being able to balance all the forces and control the situation. Won't let the craziness of the world influence your decision making. Card about personal power and control, and how well spirit is handling it's responsibility of forming it's own path, fate or destiny. Maintaining attention, much like Temperance and Star, but here it's equally in the physical and spiritual world. It's definitely the bridge between the two. It's how you are able to stay focused in all realms, no matter what's going on. Can use Chariot to test how insane people are being, or how well a business is being handled. How well are forces being handled, especially in terms of performance.

**Reverse:** A person out of control. Today, people are Chariot reversed often directly at one's own loss.

### **8. Strength (Lust)**

Strength with balance. The lion of the will is being tamed by intellect. The lady and the lion. Strength is a matter of will under intellect. Crowley said, "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law: Will under intellect." Crowley uses the Lust card in place of Strength because too deep of an emotional involvement can turn Strength into the negative aspects of Lust. Applies to what the person is doing with their own strength as a spiritual being. Relates to the person's own control of their will, control of their temper, control of their energy and their intellect. Control and direction. Perseverance that comes from a higher place. Using control, discipline, timing and forbearance to further principle in life, relative to the silliness and craziness in the world. Cannot be swayed from positions of appropriateness. Not force.

### **9. The Hermit**

Classically every single adept, whether magical, shamanic, or mystic, would retreat to quiet places to seek understanding. Going out in the world and playing the devil for a while: making agreements, being in the community and having jobs to gain experience and knowledge. But the Hermit is a wisdom seeker, pursuing enlightenment, asking questions like, "What does this knowledge mean?" or "How does it all fit together?" The Hanged Man is seeking the knowledge, and the Hermit is contemplating out what it

means. The Hermit is more in control than the Hanged Man. It does not refer to isolation without reason. If one is in this kind of a phase, it is proper for them to be withdrawn. Properly or intelligently seeking wisdom and understanding. Disengaging from activity to gain a properly balanced perspective. Working with angels or totem spirits.

When you have your experience (Hanged Man) and you intuitively learn from it, it's the Hermit. It's not about isolation, but more about where you are in yourself, living in the higher part of yourself, or living far more in your understanding. It can mean a withdrawal from life that is chosen and highly intentional. It's disengaging from activity to gain a proper balance. Can also be monastic, going on a retreat, studying retreat or meditation. A good way of testing whether something has sunk in or not. Does the person really own it? If they own it, the Hermit is upright, if not Hermit is reversed. Could also be a signifier for higher-level schools and university, particularly if it's not just about information, but higher understanding.

**Reverse:** Maybe the person should go into seclusion to seek some solitude and try to figure things out. Closing down to wisdom, failure to be spiritually open. Spiritual blindness. People who cannot trust themselves or go inside themselves.

### 10. Wheel of Fortune

The environment of the Universe, which is one step up from the World, and as high as we can go from our perspective. The overall Universe and the direction it's turning. The spiritual world and everything in it. The relationship of this world to the laws of the Universe and the relationship of spirits on this level to higher-level deities. It can indicate astrological influences in operation and how they are affecting conditions and beings on this planet (but not on a personal level, which would be the World card). Represents the higher level of "As above, so below." Nothing in this card is personal or mundane! It's very much a relationship card, like the Lovers card. If you want to look at a principle and you want to relate the mundane to the higher levels, this is a good bridge card to use. Use this as a signifier to represent the higher level of the mundane.

**Observations:** How all things affect all other things. The forces operative in karma. Nothing to do with mundane level fortunes, but as a spirit. How am I relating to the medicine wheel, the great wheel of fortune? What am I contributing to the medicine wheel?

### 11. Justice (Adjustment)

What is just according to the law. An issue of the law. Justice is not what is fair here. What does the law say? Justice is a matter of the book. The old Hebrew would say, "Not even God is above the law. He may have written the law, but not even God is above the law." Justice relates to universal law, not issues of whether it is fair or unfair, but issues of how things are going relative to universal law. Is the person as a spiritual being doing justice to things in terms of universal law? You can use it relative to lawsuits because it's a matter of the book – what is the book of the law? How are your actions being judged by others? There is another card for fairness.

Adjusting your position. This is what is just according to the law, consistent with Rules of the Road. Not about what is fair, but what is ordained, strictly referring to higher laws and the connection to higher laws and principles. Nothing to do with what one thinks about things, opinions. It also talks about the operational laws of the Universe, and how they work and interrelate. If you study Justice, you will never backslide. Once you are clear and you see what is involved with Justice, you will not go back to where you once were. Justice can also be an indicator around mundane issues, particularly what is appropriate and inappropriate with regard to them – legal matters, etc. Justice will show what connects to higher law. If you're not sure whether you would be serving or breaking Rules of the Road in a mundane issue, apply Justice to it.

**Reverse:** A major spiritual injustice according to universal law.

### **12. The Hanged Man**

This relates to the myth of Igrasill, the Tree of Knowledge, and Oden, who hung himself on the tree for four days to ask questions. Thirst for knowledge – he has knowledge, but he wants more. Major questions about knowledge. The Hanged Man is very heavily associated with the spiritual side of air. Is the person seeking knowledge as a spiritual being about some major issue? Or are they avoiding it? Confronting major issues of knowledge as a spirit. Introspection. It depends on using one's experience; not going to the gods for an answer. Knowledge being information, what you know from your experience. Working with angels or totem spirits.

Has a lot to do with what we do when we do homework – going out into the world and verifying the things that we are learning and studying. This is a good intro into a question circle. This is the higher octave of air, powder blue. The process of questioning. The use of intention in an alert way, seeing more, rallying one's perceptions, training one's perceptics to take in more. Question: Is a person really seeking spiritual knowledge, or are they just game playing? If Hanged Man is reversed second carded by the 8 of wands, then that person is not playing upright with you – they don't really want new knowledge. May want to impress you with what they know. So open mindedness comes under Hanged Man. Honesty is also a part of Hanged Man. Seeking the truth and gaining it from your experience. There is a great level of commitment in the Hanged Man. Ready to go anywhere. Playing full out, not holding back.

**Reverse:** Incorrect way of going about getting knowledge. Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results, which is insanity. Not paying attention to the lesson.

### **13. Death**

Death has very little, if anything, to do with physical death. Death traditionally in magical and mystical circles is a major, usually a sudden, unexpected ending and beginning. Not just an ending, but an ending, which becomes a new beginning. Sometimes it can be expected. We're talking about something major happening in the spiritual realm, to the being as a spirit. It may be making some real positive shift or some real negative one, depending on how it shows up in the layout. It's sunrise, there's wealth

and everything here. It's a complete cycle. All endings are beginnings, all beginnings come from endings. It may or may not affect the physical level. Transformation and changes of cycles. When it is upright it may be more in control of the person, or at least they may be more aware of the process, and perhaps more in tune and in agreement with it. The changes will be more beneficial.

Physical death would be Ace of Discs reversed second carded by Tower, or Sun reversed by Death. All the different kinds of cycles we live in. It can be used to tell how you deal with change or whether you see change as positive or negative, how comfortable you are with change, or to study your ability to complete cycles. May be transformation, rebirth or starting over. Being aware of the cycle of things. Understanding the principles of “As above, so below” would come under the death card. The law of signatures, things that represent things, seeing the equivalency of things, would come under the death card. Knowing when to let go, walk away, not repeating the same things over and over again. Understanding the cycles and what they are showing you, getting the lesson.

**Reverse:** The person may be caught by surprise, or less able to deal with the situation. The changes may appear to be more disruptive and damaging.

#### 14. Temperance (Art)

The idea of Temperance is balance being maintained. He's walking the tight-wire, and you notice that his balance is internal. He's got his emotions in balance and they are being held in place, basically by a combination of intellect, will and feeling. He's got to be constantly focused on keeping that balance and making little motions to adjust, just like the guy walking the tight-wire in the circus. It implies a certain level of self-observation and vigilance, not from a place of apprehension, but desire for something higher and the wish to be impeccable. He's got to really pay attention to and concentrate on what he's doing. It's the next step up, above the Moon, mid-way up the path. Maintaining balance with a lot of use of the will. Constant alertness. Making constant choices on a spiritual path. It's a spiritual choice card, similar to Two of Discs and Three of Swords on the mundane level. It is the higher octave of Three of Swords. A balance between the spiritual and material, but with a lot of tension. The water is flowing between the cups, but it's kind of choppy.

This is where we have begun to set our intention in terms of that relationship (air, fire, water) and maintaining it. One of the laws of Tarot says that a small change in the present produces a larger change in the future. When we are at the level of Temperance and walking the tightrope, we are making small adjustments, which produce larger changes in the future. Acts of power are ruled by Temperance. Attention, or holding of intention, is also ruled by the law of Temperance. You have to let go of something lower to gain dominion over something higher. Willingness plays an important part here. Will is maintaining the energy to be able to observe our behavior. Higher octave of all choice cards – all the twos. There is a tendency to have yellow orange and powder blue reactive during this time. Temperance is also akin to the 7 of swords – do I keep my energy, maintain it, and conserve it? To go forward, I have to stop doing things which steal my energy, which trap my attention, or by living the causes and values of other people.

### **15. Devil**

The Devil has very little, if anything, to do with the Christian Satan. You notice that the pentagram is upside down. One of these designs draws from the tip and puts out through its feet. If you reverse it, as it is here, it's drawing from the lower levels and broadcasting to the upper levels. The chains around the two beings are loose. Those people aren't bound except by their own choice. From a magical and mystical construct, materialism doesn't have to drag you down. In the ancient writings from India, the Upanisheds, there are repeated verses that say that there are two major errors. One is to become totally materialistic. At that point these chains become clamped and you get weighed down by materialism. The other error is to become overly concerned with spiritual things and to negate the material. Of the two, according to the Upanisheds, the second is worse. The reasoning being that you can get totally in materialism, but bodies don't last forever, and you are forced to deal with the spiritual side of things periodically. But you can get totally involved with the spiritual so much that you get out in the void and there will be nothing to ever force you back, and you can become totally isolated. That way lies the pit. The Devil relates to how the being, as a spiritual being, is handling its agreed-upon contracts in the material. It's a good contract card for long-term contracts like house mortgages. That's an agreed-upon contract or burden in the material. Basically we're talking about how the being as a spirit is handling the contracts it makes through having a body. If it's upright then I'm handling it fine. If it's reversed then I'm mishandling it. I may be getting too spiritual, or may be getting too materialistic. The Devil has no relationship to evil in any context in our culture. He is depicted as the Goat of Mendes. "Mendacious" comes from this. It means to not tell the truth, to hedge, the trickster in Greek mythology.

Be careful if you have a lot of social, religious scripting. How we spiritually work in the material world – how do we create our effect in the material world as a spiritual being? How we are able to deal with the material world and maintaining our spirituality. The Navajo Beauty way helps us enhance the Devil card and deal with our contracts spiritually. These are contracts we have made, so commitment and impeccability are keynotes here. How we are able to manifest in the material world and how we deal with our materialism has to do with how balanced we are between spiritual and material. We came to enjoy world plane stuff, otherwise, why take on bodies? Can also do with higher-level contracts, particularly those that cover a long span in our lives, and holding to Rules of the Road. i.e. buying a house. You have to show up over a long time. Devil is different from Emperor in that Emperor always stays on the material plane, whereas the Devil, like Hierophant, is always on the higher and lower. If you are just signing a contract, then it's emperor, but if the contract has to do with honoring your birth vision and spiritual contracts and showing up, then it's Devil. Devil contracts lead us back to the spiritual contracts and commitments we made before we got into a body. Something of Heyoka, trickster, in both Devil and Fool (see goat in devil card). Money being the root of all evil is a trick on humanity.

### **16. The Tower**

The tower is very heavily materially oriented from a spiritual direction – it stands on the earth but stretches to the stars so it covers the whole gamut. The Tower is talking about

sudden abrupt chaos in the material realms, caused by spiritual forces outside of one's control. The lightning strike comes from outside the picture. The Tower talks about complete material disorganization or chaos, caused by spiritual forces beyond one's control. When the Tower is upright, there could be natural disasters, one may be able to deal with, and the changes that would come about would be an improvement. It isn't an issue of karma, on the mundane level, except that we happen to be in the area. If it's reversed, the change will be very destructive and you'll have a terrible time trying to pick up the pieces. If it's upright, it's going to be a natural chaos function. But the change can create an improvement over what has been and would be a productive change. Everything is falling apart, but it's not of your doing, just ride with it. If it's reversed, maybe it's something you've bought into, maybe you got crossways with Deity, or it may be a reflection of breaking Rules of the Road or matching that type of energy. If it's upright, it's not karmic, but if reversed, it may be. The severity is not indicated by upright or reverse. Deity-level change. Changes in the outer world. Major upheavals in the material world that are violent or drastic. This card has shown up a lot in the last years, tying in with world change and galactic change.

### **17. The Star**

Next above Temperance is the Star, which is again an issue of balance. But this person has attained to a point spiritually where the balance is automatic, and instead of just having it internal and walking the tight wire between getting caught up in things and not, this person doesn't have to pay the same kind of attention. It comes from a higher place inside. As a spiritual being they are in balance and this reflects out into their external world. They can make the spiritual-material interchanges; the emotional-mental balances are there for them. The Star is a balance card, where conscious attention has now been acquired through past efforts, and the balance is maintained as a part of the process of inner work. The effort and attention that were needed in Temperance are not needed here. The spiritual path has become a central part of the person's being, there is more of a sense of relaxation in efforts made. There are no roads or paths in the card, they are no longer needed. Higher path schools.

By this level, it really shines. There's a definite sense of glowing – you are very visible and people want to be with you. People want what you have in a real way. There's a huge level of spiritual attainment, the balance is much easier, and instead of it being an internal issue, it is a radiative issue, you are definitely affecting the outer world a lot. You are constantly learning to shift your focus in and out (not in terms of self-absorption, which would be Moon reversed or 8 Cups reversed), but it is a true valuation or sense of self projected into the outer world. This is the beginning of true flow of manifestation. In other Esoteric School courses, we discuss the five-pointed star – if you want to communicate to the lower level of the mundane, put the point of the star down. If you want to project up, point the star up. This is the point where we can start to project what we have to guide others. In Star, we really have it – and we can't give it away unless we have it. It takes a lot more to cause you to fall off the path. The economy of energy here is noticeable – you are beginning to relax and enjoy life.

### **18. The Moon**

As a spiritual being, crawling out of the sea of emotion and embarking on the middle way, spiritually. The Moon is the beginning of the spiritual journey. Not the straight and narrow path, it's pretty zig-zaggy. It's an issue of the being falling back into a bunch of emotionalism or beginning spiritual progress. We're either progressing or falling back, always. You have the little being crawling out of the waters of passion and embarking on spiritual progress and growth on a spiritual path. The Moon speaks of transformation of the emotions from lower levels of passion, greed, and neediness to a higher level of compassion and understanding. Here the being is more open and able to give from the heart, without expectations and manipulation.

This card comes out of the 8 of Cups (the lower octave of the Moon), which is a man walking out of a swamp, many rivers and waters, going to higher ground. He's just made his choice to leave the baser level of emotions and go to higher things. The Moon is where he's headed for. This is where we crawl out of turbulent or chaotic emotion, the living in drama, and we embark on the middle road (reference to the Tree of Life). The Moon is rather capricious, so the path is not straight and narrow. It has a lot of perils, we face our issues, and we have to confront our fears. We're just starting to consider letting go of self-absorption and craving something higher. A lot of people know there's something higher, but what is it? The Moon relates to the hidden, the subconscious, so it isn't so available or easy to see. It is the beginning of being open to intuition, the heart, all the water things, and letting go of expectations and manipulation.

**Reverse:** Falling back into emotionality and passion, de-volving spiritually, instead of evolving. Not being willing to go on our spiritual journey, wanting to be comfortable, wanting to be safe, not wanting to take risks. Using feelings as coercion tools on others. Issues of controlling others with emotions.

### **19. The Sun**

Spiritual-level health or ill health. Growth potential. Spiritual level nourishment, basically it is an environment card – how is the person's environment affecting them on all levels. It can apply to how the person is using their health and growth. If you want to work with just physical level health of the body, use the Ace of Discs. The emotional level health would be Ace of Cups. When there are issues that clearly affect spirit, mind, and body – these would be signified by the Sun. Fulfilling our birth vision (which could also be represented by the Devil for spiritual contracts), and the level of communication and allowing that we are capable of. This is a good card for spell send backs because it brings the Sun into the situation. The reason we use our sun signs as signifiers is because it indicates how we press ourselves out in the world (or express ourselves), so it makes a verifiable indicator of who we are. It is the spiritual expression of who we are. The Sun also means how do I give back to the environment? How can I contribute? How can I demonstrate? How can I be a living example of higher principle? A radiative principle. How I affect my environment.

## **20. Judgment (Aeon)**

With Judgement the spirit is accessing its entire life path and judging itself according to its own experiences. It is not related to being judged by outside sources, which would be Justice or Adjustment (in the Crowley deck). It relates to the spirit's own judgement as a spiritual being. The spirit is raising the ghost of its past and passing judgement. That's how I'm dealing with my condition as a spiritual being, based on my past. What kind of judgments have I passed on my own past experiences? How good is my judgement as a spirit? We'll raise the ghosts of the past, and we'll re-judge it the last day, the last trump, when everything gets judged. Spirit reviewing itself between lifetimes, and being fully aware of the folly and correctness of our own behavior in the situations of our lives. Evaluation of spirit of it's own appropriateness of it's own experience. If it's right side up, the person, as a spiritual being, is integrating its past experience and using good judgement as a spirit, regardless of what our social system says. This does not imply anything about judgement from outside, it's our own judgement as spiritual beings, and how we're relating to our past, in passing those judgments. How much are we paying attention to what we know as a spirit from the past? Connected to sun yellow and powder blue. When I use Judgement properly, it's compassion, in which I can shift, choose and change. If the card is upright, it refers to the integration with your past experience, which implies a balance, and your ability to manifest is very high.

**Reverse:** Its judgement as a spirit is terrible and it's probably: A. Making wrong judgments about what it's done and not done, and: B. Not using its past experience as a basis for present time judgement. It means we're not paying attention to what we know as a spirit, not using our spiritual judgment. We are caught up in judgement about ourselves and ignoring what we know from our past experience, or we are way off track, being wild, being mechanical, making wrong connections or understandings to things, not being sound spiritually, being ineffective spiritually and mentally.

## **21. The World (The Universe)**

The World card relates to the world's environment. What is the world's progress doing? How is the world turning today? Harmonic convergence indicates that the wheels of the world and the universe are suddenly matched. World and galaxy. The wheel of the galaxy turns at a different rate and on a much larger scale. The wheel of fortune relates to universal change, while world relates to changes on this planet. The Tarot, as far as putting a lot of things together, is the major advance in magical practice in the last 2000 years because it gives you the tools to handle anything at any level. The world is the material physical world also, and how someone relates to it, or how their world affects them. This card doesn't have a lot of personal use unless you are studying higher order laws, such as how the Universe is put together, in which case you might also use Fortune. This card relates to galactic level things, astrology, and how the planets interrelate. It also refers to how well we are doing with relation to the extra-terrestrials hanging around and messing with us. This card is also useful in representing our current situation of being in danger of using up our natural resources – use it in readings to find out how this will affect our commerce and our governments. In readings, the World indicates higher conditions that are affecting the situation or at stake – but it's not personal. It can also indicate a person going through a major astrological change.

## **22. The Fool**

The first and last card on the Tree of Life. Just above the aces at the bottom of the tree. The last step on the tree is the Fool. Medieval court jester – most knowledgeable in the court or the most apparently stupid. Could get away with saying most anything at the court because of his all-over knowledge and perspective. Had to see everything that went on. Has a balanced perspective which has become inherent, and which aids him in the starting of any spiritual endeavor. Can afford to be optimistic, because he knows the pitfalls. His balanced perspective is maintained through the spiritual realms. Can be a spiritual novice or an adept, but mundane level is balanced in order to do so. Happy – everything in balance – so things can go either way. He has everything under control. Waite: Doesn't have to worry about the cliff he seems to be stepping off – he knows he won't fall.

Has to do with spiritual mastery. He fits into any world. He knows the pitfalls of mundane life and spiritual life. Can represent the novice or the adept – question of whether you are high on the mundane level and starting on your spiritual adventure, or high on the spiritual level and helping others on their spiritual path. Joy and happiness are part of the Fool's dominion. Letting go, appreciating, does not have to be concerned with balance, gratitude. Having personal power and maintaining control in the real sense, care for others without caring – a shamanic type place of it's all OK. Not getting caught up in all the worldly concerns. In a reading, the Fool will often represent the higher choice in the reading, or the highest possibility. It also has to do with spiritual stability and openness, that proverbial empty cup, being available, capable of experiencing and learning more, being poised, being nimble. The Peaceful Warrior and Socrates are great examples of the Fool. Playing the Fool in anything where you know exactly what you are doing. Stalking and warriorship come under the Chariot, the Fool and the Hierophant.

**Reverse:** Foolish – crafty – deceiving – spiritually bankrupt – a con artist with a golden tongue. Capable of playing the devil's advocate. A false prophet. Spiritual obsession or mania-confusion about one's spiritual path. Refusal to see one's spiritual side or acknowledge spirit. Arrogantly atheistic. It is not spiritual materialism, which would be the Devil card.

**Observations:** Mundane and/or spiritual stability and awareness, openness of heart, speaks from the heart, has an empty cup, capable of learning and experiencing more, nimble and poised. Love of life without taking life too serious.

## **Meaning of Minor Arcana Cards**

### **WANDS**

General: Ideas, Knowledge, Intellect, Rational Thought, Reason, Mental Processes.

**2 Wands:** Choice between 2 ideas, deciding what ideas will work in the world. Thinking about choosing, thinking about changes. The process of being discriminating. Making up

one's mind. What you go with. Has chosen one idea about the world. **Rx:** Choosing without integrity. Not keeping one's will consistent with one's integrity.

**3 Wands:** Positive ideas, having your ideas available to you. Planning one's way, a stable base of ideas from which to go out into the world, planning for the future. The resolution of making a choice. Can be travel by land. To begin a journey.

**4 Wands:** Coherent ideas, harmonious ideas with others. Celebration or harmony of ideas. Concepts that create harmony and balance with oneself or with others. All the ideas working together. Ideological and physical harmony. Multi-signified. Can be marriage – mental or ideological aspect.

**5 Wands:** Differences of opinion, arguments, quarrels, ideas that are in conflict, testing your ideas or beliefs against those of other people. One's own ideas that are not compatible with other ideas one has. Mental strife. Excess thinking or worry that causes mental agitation. Resolving adverse beliefs or ideas in conflict.

**6 Wands:** The power of one's thinking. The sharing of ideas, concepts or beliefs. Victory of ideas. Planning for major undertakings where a lot of concepts have to work together for a specific cause. Cause oriented belief structures. Use of public opinion to further one's cause, aim or goal. Crusading with a winning idea, holding a superior idea.

**7 Wands:** Hanging onto one's own ideas, taking responsibility for one's knowledge. Standing firm on one's beliefs or convictions. Standing in one's truth. Using one's knowledge base to test the validity of ideas that one meets with on one's path. Use of new ideas to deal with past convictions or ways of thinking. Using one idea to defend against others.

**8 Wands:** Incoming thoughts, new thoughts coming in. Challenge about being open to new ideas. Crowley = swiftness, inspiration. Ideas or thought and plans about travel. Communication, telepathy, networking. Thoughts about the relative value of different groups of ideas or plans. Being receptive to other systems of knowledge. **Rx:** Not open to new ideas or don't have any new ideas. The I'm right card.

**9 Wands:** Being complacent with one's knowledge. Everything you know supports your position. A mundane level scholar. Being strong in one's understanding of one's position, based on past experience. Defending your ideas, and making them work for you. Kind of like the VI but stronger. Courage of your convictions. Holding onto an idea while being of suspicious of others.

**10 Wands:** He's got his thoughts together, working at what he's doing. Taking responsibility for one's knowledge, having a lot of knowledge and being able to handle that appropriately. Proper use of knowledge. Has many ideas well organized and ready to implement. **Rx:** Using his thoughts oppressively or in a negative way, or not using his thoughts right. A pedantic person, being burdened by what you know, forcing one's

knowledge on others. Being suppressed by others' opinions. Manipulation, coercion, pushing knowledge on others, brainwashing. Think of the Spanish Inquisition.

**Page Wands:** New ideas, an alert mind, inquisitive, curiosity, young ways of thinking, wit, puns, frivolous talk, chit-chat. A plan about to materialize, playing with ideas, a play upon words.

**Knight Wands:** Active idealism or idealistic. Intense thinking, energetic plan making, compulsive communication, intense need to know, ambitious planning, putting one's plans or ideas into motion. **Rx:** Destructive thinking, failure to act on one's ideas, rash or immature thinking. Self-deception.

**Queen Wands:** Thinking as a woman in optimistic ways, practical knowledge, mature common sense. The point at which a plan begins to flower or bear fruit. Intuition or knowledge that comes through inspiration. Mature feminine ideas, rationality.

**King Wands:** Mature logical mentation. Plans that have come to completion. Mentally authoritative. Jurisprudence, legislative authoritative figures, judges, the epitome of fairness. A person who judges critically and fairly and can give us a sense of evaluation of where we stand. **Rx:** Judgmental, overly critical, interfering in areas of communication and free thought, contempt prior to investigation, narrow-minded.

**Ace Wands:** Lower octave of justice and hermit. Pure thought, rationality, the power of mind. The force of belief. The container of one's belief, the basis of one's whole ideology, the world of communication. Like the Winds of Knowledge.

## **SWORDS**

General: Wills, Desires, Drives, Enthusiasms

Reversed = Angers/Frustrations/Tempers

**2 Swords:** Making appropriate blind choices about what one wants. Choice of action.

**Rx:** Blind choices, unintelligent choices of action.

**3 Swords:** Balancing will, intellect, and emotion. The will controlling the emotions. A person's wants and desires are being controlled by their will. **Rx:** Heartbreak card.

**4 Swords:** Staying out of hassles. The "burying the hatchet" card. A new resolution.

Resting from strivings, taking time to smell the roses.

**5 Swords:** Resolution of open enmity and warfare. Going beyond. Being at peace.

Healing the wounds of the battle. Ability to use one's powers. Picking up after battle, getting it together to move on after conflict. **Rx:** Not gathering up one's energies or failure to get in touch with one's energies. Open enemies, open enmity and warfare.

**6 Swords:** The genius card. Talent. Can be travel by water. Change in regards to what one wants, change of desires, journey card. Sharing one's energies. Sharing talents and

abilities from past lives, bringing them with you into this lifetime. Reconnecting with former powers and abilities. Beginning a journey armed with/based on desires and enthusiasms. **Rx:** Not in touch with these talents or this potential.

**7 Swords:** Keeping your power. Maintaining energy, life force. Being able to complete projects. Achieving goals. Gathering up needed desires and enthusiasms and leaving behind unnecessary ones. **Rx:** Jealousy or envy. Someone stealing something from you is envious of what you have. Giving away your power. Loss of energy or power.

**8 Swords:** The freedom card. Challenges of the will, of your power. Can be power struggles, coercion, manipulation, power over others. Being bound up but needed to be. Self-restraint. Being restrained by others or by outer conditions, where taking action is not called for. Holding back. Keeping still (also 4 swords), but with some difficulty or conflict. “Endeavor to persevere.” **Rx:** The need to be right. Surrounded by desires and drives and unable to see the open path do to blinding thinking.

**9 Swords:** The bank card. Nightmares. Buried angers and frustrations. Compulsive behaviors or tendencies. Being aware or dealing with “bank” issues of buried anger, fear or grief. Dark emotions with a lot of charge.

**10 Swords:** The proper use of power. The benevolent leader. Can mean hidden enemies. Taking responsibility for one’s power, dealing well with issues of ambush or self-destruction. Issues of aggression, total power corrupts totally. **Rx:** Ambush, other’s anger, betrayal, hidden enemies, self-undoing, suicide, playing the victim. Action or activity based on denial, action stimulated by resentment, taking action based on resentment, action based on 9 swords (buried compulsivity).

**Page Swords:** Brand new desires, enthusiasms with lots of potential. Childlike enthusiasm, new initiating activity, new enterprise, budding will.

**Knight Swords:** Enthusiasm, aggressive, drive, activity. **Rx:** Active angers and frustrations, could be from an idealistic base. Zealously not using action the right way. Strongest destructive card in the lower Arcana. Very harsh. Immature, angry, vindictive, jealous.

**Queen Swords:** Highly active, mature woman. Ambitious. Unstoppable. Opposes distractions, fierce, determined, willful. **Rx:** Lacking in those qualities, or filled with pride, disdain, envy and malice.

**King Swords:** Action that has come to completion, mature, resolute, strong leadership qualities, powerful male influence, strong willful authority figures, highly engaging social activators, political and legislative visionaries. **Rx:** A man’s anger. Foppish, given to decadence, lacking in leadership qualities, avoiding responsibility, headstrong and bullish, tenaciously holding to stagnant ideologies or beliefs, overly assertive and overcome with self-importance.

**Ace Swords:** Pure will, life force. The whole embodiment of one's will projected onto the background of human interreaction (i.e. the typical forces that we deal with in the world that maintain social and cultural archetypes – for example, the whole criminal system based on an eye-for-an-eye and tooth-for-a-tooth). It's the energy that maintains that in the realm of living. It's the projection of the Winds of the South into our lives. **Rx:** Anger and frustrations.

## CUPS

General: Emotions, Gut Feelings, Serenity, Love, Reversed = Depression, Dissatisfaction

**2 Cups:** Signifier for emotional involvement of partnerships. The love card. Reuniting, coming together. One on one intimate emotional sharing. **Rx:** Emotional ambush.

**3 Cups:** The family, friendships, community. Multi-lateral emotional sharing.

**4 Cups:** A new emotional experience is coming. Your family is in place and supportive. Emotional conservatism. Resting from emotional activities, emotionally satisfied. **Rx:** Being emotionally extreme or unstable, needy.

**5 Cups:** Good present-time base to contemplate past emotional losses. Being able to look at past emotional problems. Letting go of old hurts and disappointments. **Rx:** Not learning from past emotional losses, caught up in past losses, not free of them. Issues of grief, disappointment, past hurts, sorrows, particularly for creating harmony. One sees oneself as a martyr. Could also be justifying for “hanging onto” old stuff as payment for past misdeeds, like a cop-out.

**6 Cups:** Child-like emotional innocence, making positive emotional exchanges, maybe with children. Children in the garden card. Issues of self-esteem around childhood. Getting one's fair share emotionally. Free and innocent emotional exchange, no hidden agendas. **Rx:** Betrayal, but usually where a child is concerned, like child abuse.

**7 Cups:** Emotional optimism. The Addiction card. Achieving a good emotional balance or sense of self. Appreciation. **Rx:** Not letting go, sliding into addiction, misuse of the “goodies” in life.

**8 Cups:** Emotional fulfillment. Starting the transform and want something higher. Walking away from things that no longer serve. Crawling out of the mud, so to speak. Lower octave of the Moon card.

**9 Cups:** Positively emotionally stable about something. Having your emotions make you feel protected and not being emotionally vulnerable. Being surrounded by a strong emotional support team or group. Higher belief, faith, trust. New emotional outlook. Creativity. All ducks in a row relative to the emotions.

**10 Cups:** Emotional attainment. Radiance. Joy. Satisfaction. Orgasm. Can be marriage – emotional. **Rx:** Disappointment, lack of attainment, apathy, disgruntlements.

**Page Cups:** About child's feelings or new feelings. Fantasy, imagination in the deeper sense of the spirit behind it, the feelings that illuminate it. Ingenuity, innocent wanting but not desire (which is fire), the childlike free flowing loving and caring and appreciation of all that is. A person who is fresh, uninhibited, innocently caring and expressive of their feelings without inhibition. **Rx:** Spiteful, emotional excess, self-centered, self-important display of one's feeling in a dramatic outpouring.

**Knight Cups:** The Holy Grail card. Spiritual attainment, goal setting and pursuing of visions and quests where the attainment is humanitarian and basically selfless (for example: a youthful Mother Teresa), a harbinger of social justice, very outspoken, very active campaigning for higher cause. **Rx:** Active negative emotions. Arrogance, aggressive emotional display, megalomania, championing causes for the wrong reason (for example: pro-choice versus pro-life).

**Queen Cups:** Emotional nourishment, the energy that cements the family together, mature clear visionary womanhood. A lady who understands freedom and puts principle before personal need. Has great empathy for family and community, and is emotionally responsive and comfortable with self. **Rx:** Emotionally deplete, womanhood that has been stripped of its power and fulfillment, the crone who has lost her sense of vitality and purpose.

**King Cups:** Peaceful captain of his ship, a place of serenity, purpose, a leader who inspires humanity to be all it can be, a person of great stature and dignity who walks his talk and lives his dreams, inspires others to go the distance. An adult who has embraced the emotional side of life and lives full in spirit. **Rx:** Avoiding one's emotional responsibility, limiting one's flow of feelings, discomfort with male expression of female principle, at odds with the feminine side of life.

**Ace Cups:** Emotional grace. Emotional health. The outpouring of grace and virtue into the phenomenal world. The flow of empathic, magnetic forces that bind all of humanity together. The field of dreams. The picture of paradise that was painted in the movie "What Dreams May Come." The highest sense of attainment that lures humanity to walk the path of virtue. The lesson that stands behind our experiences, particularly that of sickness versus health, that reminds us that spirit is all that we are. **Rx:** Powerful unstable emotions. Disbelief in the world of spirit, refusal to acknowledge the limitations of the world of mind, and the folly of living outside of the flow of feelings.

## **DISCS**

General: Materiality, Physical Health, Money, Stability, Practicality.

**2 Discs:** What is important to you in the material world. Juggling. Making appropriate choices on the material plane.

**3 Discs:** Agreement about what we are going to work on – practical foundation for a relationship. Signifier for money issues in partnerships. The planning card – of future jobs, creations, building homes. Career plans.

**4 Discs:** Hanging onto what you have materially – material conservatism. The home card. Foundation card. Current. What you have created. Old job you've been doing. An old home (versus 3 discs might be a new home).

**5 Discs:** Issue of abundance and poverty on the material level. Sacrifice: the people could go into the church and get warm or be nourished, but they are on a mission or a quest, and don't need to satisfy their immediate requirements. Willingness to explore not having material things or being OK with giving up material abundance for one's own reasons. Struggling with concepts of how one deals with materiality, Minor Arcana of the devil. Issues of scarcity or abundance.

**6 Discs:** Material level of the hierophant (issues of fairness). Getting your fair share, doing well financially. Weighing and carefully disbursing material and physical resources.

**7 Discs:** Contemplations about one's material growth. Issues of how you "grow your garden." How do you do in life? Issues of success and failures. Always about issues of self-image and linked to the material world. Contributor to the Devil card. Practical and rational contemplation of material and physical resources.

**8 Discs:** Career card. How are you manifesting it? Making money, job or work. Making a living. **Rx:** Impractical handling of affairs.

**9 Discs:** The lady of the castle, role of mother, lady in the garden. The female who cares for and nurtures the physical aspect of the home and garden. She has a falcon in her hand, which implies status. A falconer was not a peon. The party card. The entertainment card. Women's role. Putting on/taking off the dog. Showing off. Being appropriate in the mundane world. How well do you fit into your environment? Related to the Strength card.

**10 Discs:** Having it all. Also the marriage card – physical. The material aspects of home, family and marriage.

**Page Discs:** Brand new start on material plane. A new endeavor past the planning stage, the gathering of resources to begin again. The desire to own material things that drives us. The beginnings of appreciation of the value of being capable in a material world, appreciation of resources. A fresh look at some of the foundation principles of life, such as money, ownership, property. Page/Tower: in a past life, could be a marriage. **Rx:** Indulgence, wasting of resources, aggressive petulant abuse of the physical world.

**Knight Discs:** Pure achievement. A champion for environmental causes and issues, a person who prefers to use their force in the world of form. Highly capable people who become business leaders, often characterized by aggressive competitive winner take all

views in world affairs. **Rx:** Wasting of resources, overly competitive and deceitful business practices, ownership of material things that feeds one's self-importance.

**Queen Discs:** Women's power card. The nourishing side of materiality. The woman's champion and connection to Grandmother's energies, the old image of matriarchical religious practice (lower octave of the Empress), the champion of Athena, campaigning for women's rights, the mature aspect of the Lady of the Garden card (9 discs), the nourishing force behind the dynamic interaction of the male/female principle. The epitome of the Queen of England role in world affairs (that position is an archetype structure) **Rx:** Some disempowering source from the female side of things. Turning one's back on causes and conditions of community affairs, not willing to accept one's role in taking responsibility for maintaining societal integrity. Abuse of one's role with regards to society and personal relationships.

**King Discs:** Men who understand the balance between personal freedoms, supremacy of the individual, and the rights and needs of state and community. The diplomat. The statesman. The champion of the League of Nations. Belief in the Navajo principle that says, "It's OK for someone to starve as long as everyone is starving. Seeing the bigger picture. The essence of the role of the King of England, stately behavior that transcends the ego. The lower octave of the Fool. **Rx:** Over-indulgence, me first, abuse of the system, the lower octave of the Emperor Rx (absolute ownership is the key to my sense of power and control), abuse of status.

**Ace Discs:** The physical health card. Also the wealth card. The principle that stands behind the Navajo Beauty Way. Physical health that comes through having it all (meaning that all of the parts are in contribution to the whole – nothing is left out). Says that I understand value and significance, and that I honor commitment, service and demonstration. This card brings service into the field of possessions, where the principle of Thanksgiving assures the flow that says, "What goes around, comes around." Anything in the world that is complete and has all its parts. **Rx:** Fragmentation, misapplication or misunderstanding of the principles of health and disease. Seeing the trees instead of the forest, applying band-aid therapies instead of seeking the cause.

## **Meaning of Numbers in the Tarot**

**Two:** Choices

**Three:** Paths, or a foundation.

**Four:** Bringing in a new force or condition or influence.

**Five:** Resistance (can be the new energy of the four)

**Six:** Reward

**Seven:** Achievement

**Eight:** Obstacles or challenges.

**Nine:** Completion

**Ten:** The one – the fullest principle on the material plane of the element.

**Page:** Anything new. Novice. To be attempted.

**Knight:** The aggressive teenager. Idealistic. The true aspirant. Visionary. The highest point of energy, but not maturity. Undercurrent of the Fool.

**Queen:** Anything nourishing, sustaining, benevolent. Mature but not the completion. Feminine principles.

**King:** Mature to the old age stage.

**Ace:** Over all the suits. One's whole use of knowledge; embodiment of emotionality; use of will, pain or anger; physical health or material success. It's like dealing with the winds.

### **Possible Situation Signifiers**

World:	Same, the overall planetary environment
Fortune:	The overall Universe environment, physical and spiritual
Empress:	America (every country has an overall personality which can be translated into a signifier. For example, Mexico might be King of Swords and Germany might be Emperor.)
Emperor:	President
Queen of Discs:	Denver (as with countries, each city has an overall personality which can be translated into a signifier. Denver is the "Queen City of the Plains" and is a commercial and money center. Pittsburgh might be the King of Swords, and New York might be the King of Discs.)
Ace of Discs:	Money/the Economy/Body Health
Ace of Swords:	Spirit Vitality
Ace of Wands:	Mental Health
Ace of Cups:	Emotional Health
Aces in General:	May indicate the general positiveness or negativeness of the environment relative to the subject's well being.
Emperor:	The President, Contracts
Sun:	General Health (Spiritual, Mental, Emotional, and Physical)
Justice:	Legal Matters, Lawsuits, Legislation
Devil:	Large or Long Term Material Contracts, Birth Vision, Spiritual Contracts
8 Discs:	Job/Work/Business (use as job in multiple signifier)
6 Swords:	Travel by Water/Talent
9 Swords:	Compulsions
10 Swords:	Hidden Enemies

- Magician: Knowing magic, consciously and knowingly done magic, good for determining whether to do a spell or other magical operation, or whether one is under directed magical attack.
- Priestess: Religion/Subconscious Magic, inadvertent (non-conscious) magic, usually resulting from some moral or religious beliefs giving rise to emotional brooding or praying (may create some really negative effects on one, no matter how unaware or well intentioned the doer may be) and not seen as magical working by the perpetrator. May also indicate “doing it to oneself” on a basis of unrecognized moral or spiritual values.
- 10 Discs: Marriage – Physical, Family, Home. NOTE: In Tarot, marriage, family and home are not single things – they are a result of harmony of emotion, thinking, and material cooperation, hence there is a separate card for each.
- 10 Cups: Marriage – Emotional, Family
- 4 Wands: Marriage – Mental
- 2 Cups: Lovers/Relationships, intimate emotional or passionate couple relationships, these being. Tarot-wise, of the mundane or worldly existence, even though they do affect people’s spiritual conditions.
- 3 Cups: Friendships, emotional sharing among friends.
- Hanged Man: Higher Level or Esoteric Schools
- Star: Spiritual Schools
- 8 Wands: Travel by Air
- 3 Discs: Career Plans
- \*Note: Marriage signifiers also apply to family situations.

## **Celtic Cross**

### **About the Celtic Cross**

The Celtic Cross, also called the Gnostic Cross, is a type of Tarot reading that gives you a character sketch or personality profile of the person you are reading. The Celtic Cross is like a photograph or stop action picture of a person, a cross section or slice of their life. This type of reading is useful for people, animals or any kind of animate beings but not for situations. The Celtic Cross does not answer specific questions – the 12 Card reading, which we'll cover in the next section, is better for that. It can be useful to throw a Celtic Cross reading on someone to get a foundational idea of who you are dealing with before you throw a more detailed 12 Card reading.

### **Keeping Your Deck Random**

Once you have put your deck in natural order and keyed each card you'll want to shuffle it 50 times or more. When you split the deck to shuffle, turn half of the deck 180° so that the tops of the cards are at the shuffling edge. This, along with 50 shuffles, randomizes the deck. It's important to always keep your deck randomized from this point on, which means that you never deliberately re-sequence your deck between readings (we recommend that you shuffle your deck once between readings). If you ever re-sequence your deck you'll need to shuffle it at least 50 times again to put it back in random order.

Keeping your deck in random order allows your readings to utilize the laws of synchronicity, which state that a cause in the past creates a predictable condition in the present, which allows us to predict an outcome in the future. This is also called a cause-effect chain. When you re-sequence your deck you put limitations on it and prevent the laws of synchronicity from operating in your readings.

### **Choosing a Signifier**

As discussed previously, a signifier is a card from the Tarot deck that is selected to represent a person, situation or object. For Celtic Cross readings, the signifiers represent only people since these readings can only offer information about people, not situations. The signifier is chosen on the basis of a person's age, astrological sun sign and sex (for adults). Remember that maturity as well as chronological age must be taken into account when choosing a signifier. Here is a summary of signifiers for review:

#### Signifiers for People

Page	Conception to teenagers
Knight	Teenagers
Queen	Adult female
King	Adult male

If you do not know the person's sun sign you can use their basic elemental makeup and apparent age to select several possible signifiers. Then you can use your pendulum to pick the correct signifier. You can also put the possible signifiers on your Plate and put your output hand over each card. The one that is the hottest or has the most energy is the

correct signifier. Some people also use visual clues to pick the signifier – the card that appears the brightest or sharpest is usually the correct signifier. We use signifiers to orient the deck to the topic of the reading. If you don't use a signifier the reading may be meaningful but not related to your intended topic.

### **Materials Needed for Readings**

You will need certain materials to perform a safe and effective reading, whether it's a Celtic Cross or 12 Card reading. These include:

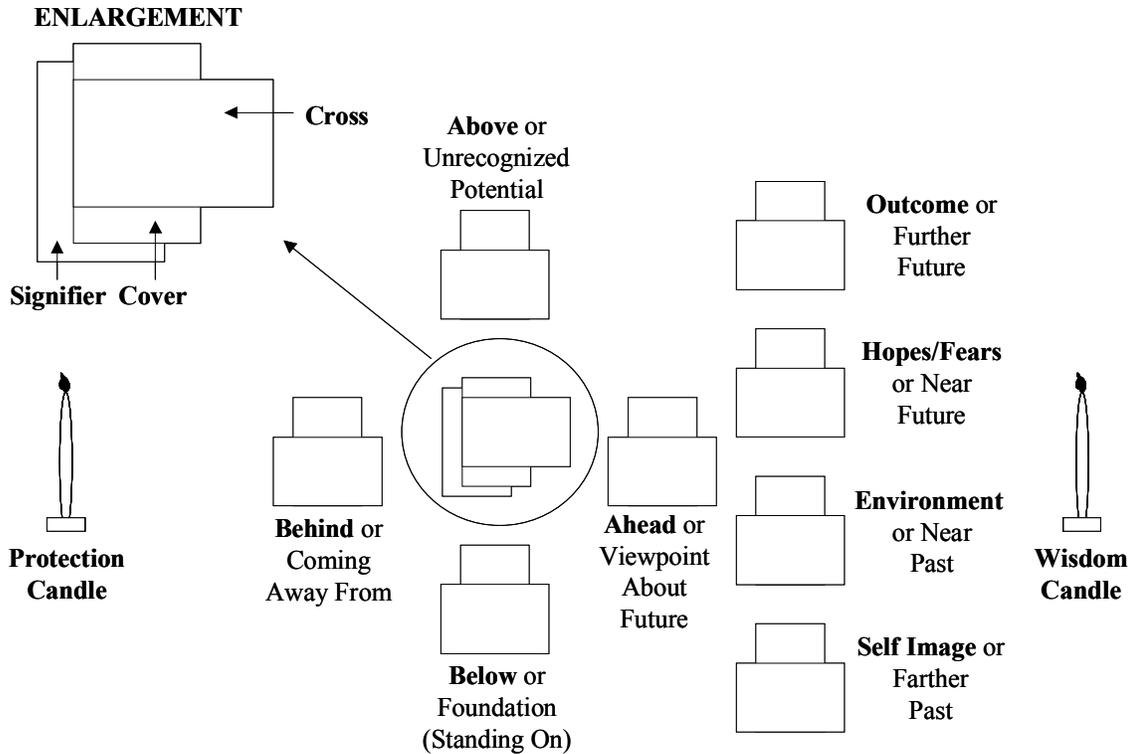
- Keyed Tarot deck
- Keyed Plate
- Sun Candle
- Wisdom and protection candles (2 candles) – White, Sun Yellow, or Powder Blue – the candles should be the same color
- Matches
- Book of Shadows to record reading
- Braided sweet grass (optional)

### **A Quick Note on Wisdom and Protection Candles**

The Wisdom and Protection candles protect your reading from outside influences and your own opinions and beliefs. Wisdom, the candle to the right of the reading, prevents you from controlling, coercing, or tampering with the reading. It also keeps your self-importance, beliefs or opinions about the reading out. Protection, the candle to the left of the reading, keeps the person being read or anyone else from tampering with the reading or hitting you energetically while you are doing the reading.

You can use White, Powder Blue or Sun Yellow candles. Wisdom and Protection candles are usually but not always the same color. Occasionally you may want to use Grass Green candles to ward off earthy influences. Water blue candles don't work well because they tend to stifle the air energies you need for wisdom and understanding in throwing and interpreting a good reading.

Any two candles in the same area will trade energies, which is why we light both the Wisdom and Protection candles from the same match – it creates a fire loop. You may notice the whole area in and around the reading gets brighter when you create the fire loop. This doesn't happen when you light the candles with separate matches.



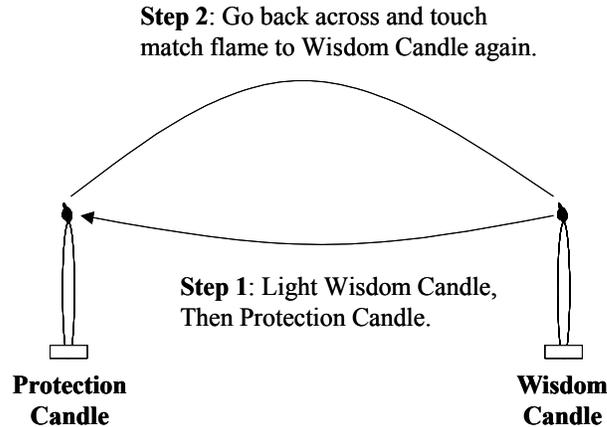
Reader's Position (South, facing North)

### Doing a Celtic Cross Reading

Refer to the diagram and instructions as you do your Celtic Cross Reading.

1. Sit in the South facing North. If you are reading for someone who is present they should sit opposite you.
2. Light and charge your Sun Candle.
3. Place your wisdom and protection candles on either side of the reading space as shown in figure above.
4. Make sure that your deck is properly randomized, that it has been shuffled at least 50 times if this is your first time to use your deck, and shuffled at least once between each reading.
5. Determine the appropriate signifier for the reading (the person's sun sign). Holding the person you are reading in your focus (not necessarily looking at them), turn cards over onto your Plate from the top of the deck (note that you will always use the same method of "dealing" cards) until you find that person's signifier. Set the signifier aside for a moment, and re-unite the cards on the Plate with the rest of the cards in the deck, being careful to put them back in the same direction they were in before you dealt them.
6. Move the deck off your Plate and place the signifier upright on your Plate. Look at the card intently, again holding the person being read in mind, until the card windows. This is called keying the signifier.

7. Place the signifier upright between the Wisdom and Protection candles, as shown in the figure.
8. Light a match from your Sun Candle, and first light the Wisdom candle (on your right), then your Protection candle (on your left), then go back across to your Wisdom candle to close the loop (see the figure below).



9. Watch the candles and wait for both to reach a tall working flame before proceeding. If the Wisdom candle is dampened, it indicates that you are pushing on the reading. Relax and breathe – don't focus on the outcome of the reading, just do it. If either the Protection candle or both candles are dampened or flickering it can indicate that someone else is pushing on the reading. Take one candle in each hand and simultaneously draw a lemniscate (infinity sign, a sideways figure 8) with each candle (one in front of the other) then set the candles back in place. The flames should return to normal.
10. If desired, light braided sweet grass on your Wisdom candle until it smokes and draw a circle clockwise, moving the sweet grass to your left through the flame of the Protection candle, out away from you and back through the flame of the Wisdom candle. Make 3 complete circuits. You may need to relight the sweet grass several times on the candles to keep the smoke going. This clears the space of junky energies.
11. If the person being read is present, ask them to, "Shuffle the deck at least 3 times or more until it feels right." Make sure they shuffle Las Vegas style, or end to end so that the cards have a chance to change their direction in the deck. If the cards "jam" while the person is shuffling it can indicate that the person is nervous. Ask them to breathe and relax. If the person is not present you will shuffle for them again, keeping them firmly in mind.
12. Once they are done ask them to cut the deck into three piles with their left (heart) hand and place the piles in a row on the reading space in front of you. If the person is not present you will do this step for them.
13. With your right (head or intellect) hand feel the three piles for heat or energy. Pick up the hottest pile or the pile with the most energy first, then the second hottest pile

below the first pile, then the last pile. Note: You may have to “push” a little fire energy out of your hand at the piles at first to feel the energy.

14. Deal the Above, Below, Ahead, and Behind base cards (cards on the bottom) in any order you like. Just remember the order in which you dealt them, as you will use the same order when you come back later to lay down the second cards.
15. Next, deal the vertical column on the right side of the reading (the time column) from bottom to top (always from bottom to top!).
16. Deal second cards onto the Above, Below, Ahead, and Behind cards in the same order you dealt the base cards.
17. Deal the second cards onto the vertical time column from bottom to top.
18. Place the Cover card over and to the right of the significier.
19. Place the Cross card as a second card over the cover card.
20. Place the rest of the deck on your Plate.
21. Record the reading in your Book of Shadows (or use the template at the end of this section) before you begin interpreting the reading. You will want to record the date, time, and full name of the person being read, the person’s sun sign, the significier used, and the question asked in the reading. You record the readings because you may inadvertently affect something (remember that your deck is tied into the Universe) so you want to have a record to go back to. A lot of people tape the reading or take notes.

### **All Based Cards Reversed**

If you throw a reading in which all the base cards are reversed, the reading is telling you that either the time isn’t right to do a reading or you have picked the wrong significier. To determine if you have the wrong significier, pick another significier (using the methods discussed earlier) and throw the reading again. If all the base cards are still reversed pick up the reading and wait 24 hours before throwing another one. In this case it could mean that the person you are reading is at a crossroads, where all probabilities are equal, so the reading would be meaningless until the person changes something.

### **Interpreting Your Reading**

You can interpret a Celtic Cross reading in any order, meaning you can determine the meaning of the pairs of cards in each position (above, below, etc.) in any order. People often start with the Cover and Cross cards since they summarize the positive and negative aspects of the entire reading.

To interpret the pairs of cards use this rule of thumb: The base card is always the general situation, where the second card is always the particular manifestation or specific details or refinement of the situation. For instance, if you had a 7 Swords Rx (reverse) base card seconded by a 5 Wands in the Above position, it would indicate that the person often unknowingly loses a lot of power arguing over or defending beliefs or opinions. The 7

Swords Rx indicates the loss of power or force while the 5 Wands indicates the way in which the person loses power (through arguing or fighting about beliefs and opinions).

Use the definitions below to interpret the meaning of each position in the reading.

- Cover and Cross: The Cover and Cross cards are the summation of the reading. If the Cover card is upright, it is the positive summation of the reading and the Cross card is the negative summation of the reading. If the Cover card is reversed, it is the negative summation of the reading and the Cross card is the positive summation of the reading. If you don't have time to interpret the entire reading for someone, look at the Cover and Cross for a summation. The Cover card can predict an actual event. The Cross card, if it is the negative summation, indicates factors that can block the positive aspects indicated in the cover card from working properly.
- Behind: The Behind position indicates what the person is leaving behind or wants to get rid of. It can also indicate the history or types of situations that happened in the person's past. There is no time factor in this position so the events could have happened yesterday or in a past life. This position can also indicate the window or condition through which the entire situation depicted in the reading has manifested.
- Below: The Below position is the foundation position, the point of departure, the take-off point for the reading. It tells you what the person is standing on, what forms the bedrock of his or her life. It's not the cause of the reading but the foundation.
- Above: The Above position generally indicates an unrecognized potential, which may or may not actualize. You can compare the cards in this position to the ones in the outcome position at the top of the time column. If the cards are similar then the potential is likely to actualize. The person may also have been worrying or thinking about the situation indicated in this position. The potential may or may not be useful. It hangs in the balance – it can be avoided or actualized.
- Ahead: The Ahead position is the future, as the person being read perceives it. It's their viewpoint, which may or may not be true. This position indicates how the person is looking at the future and what they think will happen. To see how accurate this is compare the cards in this position with the cards in the outcome position (at the top of the time column).

Time Column: The time column (on the right side of the reading) can be interpreted either as a timeline or a set of environmental and internal conditions that affect the person. You can read it either or both ways. The length of time depicted in the time column depends on your "reach" as a reader. The more you practice throwing and interpreting readings the farther your reach becomes. In the beginning you may have only a four-month reach between the far past (bottom card) and far future (top card). You can check your reach by comparing the events indicated with actual events in the person's life.

- Far Past or Self Image: This is the bottom position in the time column. The self-image is also the far past because our self-image is created from our history. When the base card in this position is reversed the person's view of themselves is wrong and the opposite is actually true. For instance, if the cards indicate that the person has a self-

image centered around weakness or lack of force, the truth is that the person could be forceful and powerful.

- Near Past or Environment: This position is the second position from the bottom in the time column. The environment always consists of the time period from the near past to the present. This position indicates how the person's environment is affecting them and whether they are relating positively or negatively to their environment. It indicates whether environmental factors are helping or hindering a person.
- Near Future or Hopes and Fears: This position is the second position from the top in the time column. If the base card is reversed it tells you the person's fears and that the person lives more in their fear than in their hope. An upright base tells you the person's hopes and that they are an optimist. Hopes and fears are mirror opposites of each other.
- Far Future or Outcome: This position is at the top of the time column. It indicates the net outcome of the reading **if nothing changes**. Remember that the point of doing a reading is to change anything that you don't like.

Though you always need to throw a complete layout to get an accurate reading, you don't always have to interpret every position. Start with the Cover and the Cross to see the summation of the readings, then move to the other positions. To make your readings highly reliable and effective always use a signifier and the wisdom and protection candles.

## **Celtic Cross Exercises**

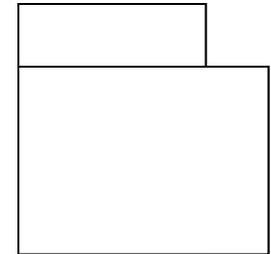
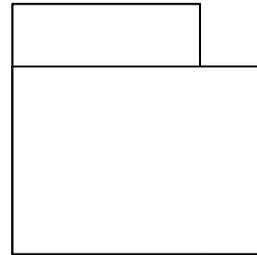
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2. Record your interpretations of the readings (either in your Book of Shadows or in the forms provided).

**Celtic Cross**

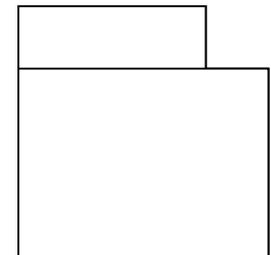
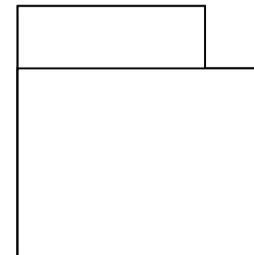
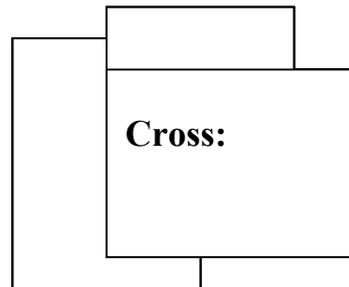
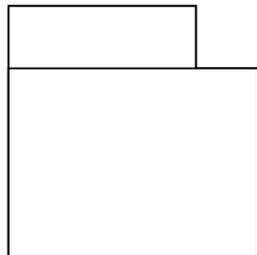
**Signifier:**

**Date:**

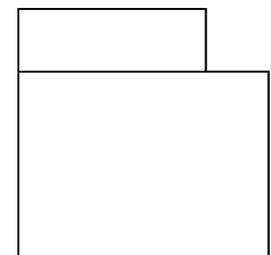
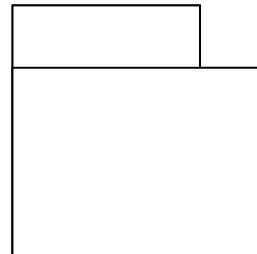
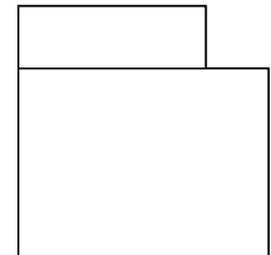
**Question:**



**Cover:**



**Sig:**



## **Interpret Your Readings**

Use the forms below or your Book of Shadows to record your interpretations of your readings.

**Name/Sun Sign:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
<b>Cover</b>	
<b>Cross</b>	
<b>Behind</b>	
<b>Above</b>	
<b>Below</b>	
<b>Ahead</b>	
<b>Far Past</b>	
<b>Near Past</b>	
<b>Near Future</b>	
<b>Far Future</b>	

**Name/Sun Sign:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
<b>Cover</b>	
<b>Cross</b>	
<b>Behind</b>	
<b>Above</b>	
<b>Below</b>	
<b>Ahead</b>	
<b>Far Past</b>	
<b>Near Past</b>	
<b>Near Future</b>	
<b>Far Future</b>	

# 12 Card Readings

## Applications of 12 Card Readings

The 12 Card reading is the second Tarot layout you will be learning. Unlike the Celtic Cross, which can only offer a personality profile, the 12 Card layout is suitable for reading people, situations, businesses, financial issues, relationships and other situations involving multiple people. While the Celtic Cross is a still picture snapshot of a person, the 12 Card is a moving picture that shows past, present and future. This allows you to track cause-and-effect chains much more effectively. The 12 Card layout is so flexible that you can use multiple-card signifiers to capture complex situations, expand certain portions of the reading to get more detail or move the reading back and forth in time.

## Possible Situation Signifiers

As with the Celtic Cross, selecting the right signifier is crucial to an accurate reading. Here are some possible situation signifiers that you might use in a 12 Card reading.

World:	Same, the overall planetary environment
Fortune:	The overall Universe environment, physical and spiritual
Empress:	America (every country has an overall personality which can be translated into a signifier. For example, Mexico might be King of Swords and Germany might be Emperor.)
Emperor:	President
Queen of Discs:	Denver (as with countries, each city has an overall personality which can be translated into a signifier. Denver is the “Queen City of the Plains” and is a commercial and money center. Pittsburgh might be the King of Swords, and New York might be the King of Discs.)
Ace of Discs:	Money/the Economy/Body Health
Ace of Swords:	Spirit Vitality
Ace of Wands:	Mental Health
Ace of Cups:	Emotional Health
Aces in General:	May indicate the general positiveness or negativeness of the environment relative to the subject’s well being.
Emperor:	The President, Contracts
Sun:	General Health (Spiritual, Mental, Emotional, and Physical)
Justice:	Legal Matters, Lawsuits, Legislation
Devil:	Large or Long Term Material Contracts, Birth Vision, Spiritual Contracts
8 Discs:	Job/Work/Business (use as job in multiple signifier)
6 Swords:	Travel by Water/Talent

9 Swords:	Compulsions
10 Swords:	Hidden Enemies
Magician:	Knowing magic, consciously and knowingly done magic, good for determining whether to do a spell or another magical operation, or whether one is under directed magical attack.
Priestess:	Religion/Subconscious magic, inadvertent (non-conscious) magic, usually resulting from some moral or religious beliefs giving rise to emotional brooding or praying (may create some really negative effects on one, no matter how unaware or well intentioned the doer may be) and not seen as magical working by the perpetrator. May also indicate “doing it to oneself” on a basis of unrecognized moral or spiritual values.
10 Discs:	Marriage – Physical, Family, Home. NOTE: In Tarot, marriage, family and home are not single things – they are a result of harmony of emotion, thinking, and material cooperation, hence there is a separate card for each.
10 Cups:	Marriage – Emotional, Family
4 Wands:	Marriage – Mental
2 Cups:	Lovers/Relationships, intimate emotional or passionate couple relationships, these being. Tarot-wise, of the mundane or worldly existence, even though they do affect people’s spiritual conditions.
3 Cups:	Friendships, emotional sharing among friends.
Hanged Man:	Higher Level or Esoteric Schools
Star:	Spiritual Schools
8 Wands:	Travel by Air
3 Discs:	Career Plans

\*Note: Marriage signifiers also apply to family situations.

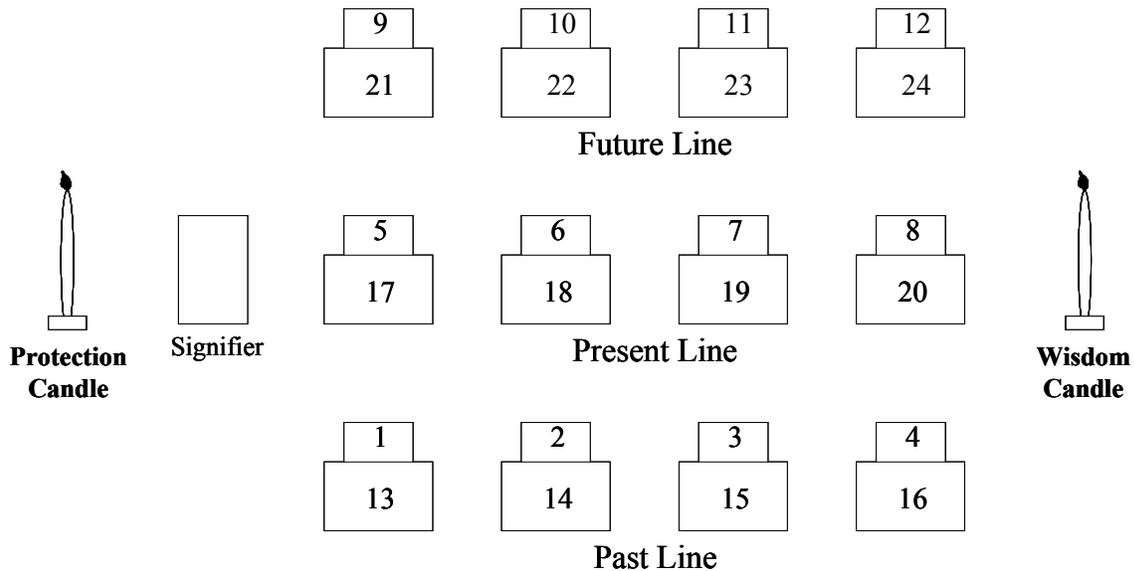
To pick a signifier for cities not mentioned above study the personality of the city and the elements that surround it, and then pick the card that seems appropriate. You can also make your own signifier by using pictures, logos, business cards, stationary, etc. Remember that if you pick the wrong signifier for a reading or the timing is not right to do a reading every base card will be reversed.

*Note:* From the point of view of the Tarot, marriage is strictly a mundane-level contract or arrangement.

When you place the signifier upright the reading will tell you all the conditions that favor it. When you reverse the signifier the reading will give you all the conditions that hinder or prevent a favorable outcome, or the problems you may encounter.

## Doing a 12 Card Reading

Before starting your reading record the date, time, signifier and question you want the reading to answer in your Book of Shadows. This helps to set up your intention for the reading. You may want to use the template provided at the end of this section.



### Reader's Position (South, facing North)

1. Sit in the South facing North. If you are reading for someone who is present have them sit opposite you.
2. Light and charge your Sun Candle
3. Place your Wisdom and Protection candles on either side of the reading space as shown in the diagram above.
4. Make sure that your deck is properly randomized (that it has been shuffled at least 50 times if this is your first time to use your deck, and shuffled at least once between each reading).
5. Determine the appropriate signifier for the reading. Holding the subject of the reading in your focus, turn cards over onto your Plate from the top of the deck (note that you will always use the same method of dealing cards) until you find the signifier. Set the signifier aside for a moment and re-unite the cards on the Plate with the rest of the cards from the deck, being careful to put them back in the same directions they were in before you dealt them.
6. Place the signifier card upright on your Plate. Look at the card intently, again holding the subject of the reading in mind, until the card windows. This is called keying the signifier.

7. Place the signifier upright between the Wisdom and Protection candles and next to the protection candle, as shown in the diagram.
8. Light a match from your sun candle and light first the Wisdom candle (on your right), then your Protection candle (on your left), then go back across to your wisdom candle to close the loop (the same as you did for the Celtic Cross).
9. Watch the candles and wait for both to reach a tall working flame before proceeding. If the Wisdom candle is dampened, it indicates that you are pushing on the reading. Relax and breath – don't focus on the outcome of the reading, just do it. If either the Protection candle or both candles are dampened or flickering, it can indicate that someone else is pushing on the reading. Take one candle in each hand and simultaneously draw a lemniscate (infinity sign, or sideways figure 8) with each candle (one in front of the other) then set the candles back in place. The flames should return to normal.
10. If desired, light braided sweet grass on your Wisdom candle until it smokes and draw a circle clockwise, moving the sweet grass to your left through the flame of the Protection candle, out away from you and back through the flame of the Wisdom candle. Make 3 complete circuits. You may need to relight the sweet grass several times on the candles to keep the smoke going. This clears the space of junky energies.
11. If the person being read is present, ask them to "Shuffle the deck at least 3 times, or more until it feels right." Make sure they shuffle Las Vegas style, or end to end so that the cards have a chance to change their direction in the deck. If the cards "jam" while the person is shuffling it can indicate that the person is nervous. Ask them to breathe and relax. If the person is not present you will shuffle for them, again keeping them firmly in mind.
12. Once the person is done shuffling, ask him/her to cut the deck into three piles with the left (heart) hand and place the piles in a row on the reading space in front of you. Again, if the person is not present, you will do this step for him/her.
13. With your right (head or intellect) hand feel the three piles for heat or energy. Pick up the hottest pile or pile with the most energy first, then the second hottest pile below the first pile, then the last pile. Note: You may have to "push" a little fire energy from your hands at the piles at first to feel the energy.
14. Deal all the base cards in the order shown in the diagram. Deal the base cards in the past line from left to right, then the present line from left to right, and finally the future line from left to right.
15. Deal second cards onto the base cards in the same order.
16. Make sure that the two candles are in line with the present line – it ensures that your reading is adequately protected.
17. Record your reading into your Book of Shadows or in the template provided at the end of this section.

## **Interpreting Your Reading**

In contrast to the Celtic Cross, which gives you a still picture snapshot of a person's personality profile, the 12 Card is a cause and effect reading that moves from past to future. Because of this, 12 Card layouts are interpreted from past to present to future. The present line is a result of the past line and the future line is a result of the present line.

To interpret your reading start in the past and look for flow lines that move forward in time. The lines do not necessarily flow horizontally from left to right, or vertically from bottom to top. Instead, lines flow by suit (Wands, Swords, Cups, Plates) and direction of base card (upright or reversed). In addition, the past and future lines do not all represent the same period of time. For instance, some pairs of cards indicate events much further in the past and others indicate events in the near past. The cards indicate the conditions from the past that are created in the present, but do not tell you anything about how far in the past it is. The same is true of the future line. As with the Celtic Cross reading, your reach or ability to read events in past or future grows with experience. Your reach may start out as a week or two then expand to include months and years. There is no advantage to having a reach too far into the future because all probabilities equalize when one gets a certain amount of time into the future.

Flow lines are established according to whether the base cards are reversed or upright and on suit. Flow lines must either have all reversed base cards or all upright base cards. Reverse base cards can never flow to upright base cards and vice versa. Flow lines can move laterally (i.e. from a pair of cards in the past line to another pair of cards in the past line) or vertically (from past to future but never from future to past). Sometimes flow lines skip the present and jump directly to the future and other times flow lines simply stop. A flow line may move from past to present and then stop (if the condition indicated has somehow been transformed in the present, for instance).

Here are some basic rules to help you establish flow lines by priority (the list starts with the highest priority).

1. Connect base cards of the same direction and suit from past to future. For instance, a 10 Swords upright in the past to a 5 Swords upright in the present to a 2 Swords upright in the future.
2. Connect Major Arcana base cards (all upright or all reversed).
3. Connect the upright base card of one suit to an upright base card of a different suit that has a second card with the same suit as the first base card. For instance, you can connect a 10 Swords/2 Wands with a 3 Cups/5 Swords. Even though the base cards don't have the same suit, there is still the theme of Swords running through both pairs of cards.
4. In two sets of cards, both with base cards of the same direction, connect the second card of the first set to the base card of the second set if they are of the same suit. For instance, you can connect a 3 Discs Rx/2 Wands to 10 Wands Rx/8 Swords. The Rx is how you indicate a reversed base card when you record your reading.

5. Connect a Major Arcana base card with a Major Arcana second card (as long as the direction of the base cards match).
6. Connect cards by meaning or context. For instance, you can connect the Fool and the 2 Discs because the Fool is the higher octave of the 2 Discs.
7. If you cannot use any of the above rules to create a flow line, the lowest priority would be to connect the reversed base cards or the upright base cards.

Here are some general guidelines for interpreting cards and flow lines.

1. Major Arcana cards in the past line indicate a time further in the past than Minor Arcana cards, and usually indicate conditions from a past life. If you have pairs of cards of the same suit and direction in the past line, for instance, the Major Arcana cards would precede the Minor Arcana cards in the flow.
2. When creating flow lines always check the context and meaning of the cards to see if the line makes sense. The flow lines always tell a story.
3. The upright flow lines often indicate the factors that favor the topic your reading on (a positive outcome) while the reversed flow lines often indicate the barriers or problems you may encounter.
4. When interpreting pairs of cards, the base card is always the general situation, where the second card is always the particular manifestation or specific details or refinement of the situation. For instance, 10 Discs Rx/5 Wands indicates that a person is prevented from “having it all” by conflicting ideas and beliefs (either the persons own or those of people around them).
5. Remember that the future is not set. It is the result of the conditions in the past and present if all things remain the same. Remember the principle, “a small change in the present creates a larger change in the future.”
6. The court cards (page, knight, queen, or king) may indicate a person affecting or creating a situation (when it is the base card) or a person being affected by something (when it is the second card). A court card may also indicate a principle – it can also be both a person and a principle simultaneously. If the card indicates a person the picture will look life-like and real. If the card indicates a principle it will look flat and generic.
7. To do a good reading you must create “stories” from the different flow lines. Start by connecting the cards to create the flow lines. Interpret the pairs of cards, jotting down the meanings if you want. Then translate it into smooth English and see if the story makes sense. You may need to check with the person you are reading about their background, history or the conditions in their lives for verification.

## **12 Card Exercises**

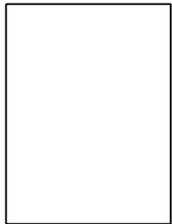
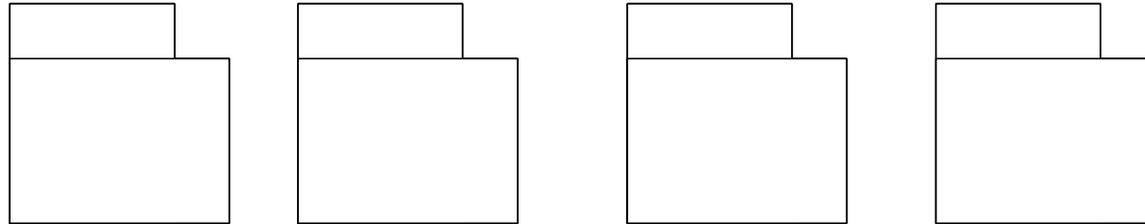
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2. Record your interpretations of the readings (either in your Book of Shadows or in the forms provided).

**12 Card**

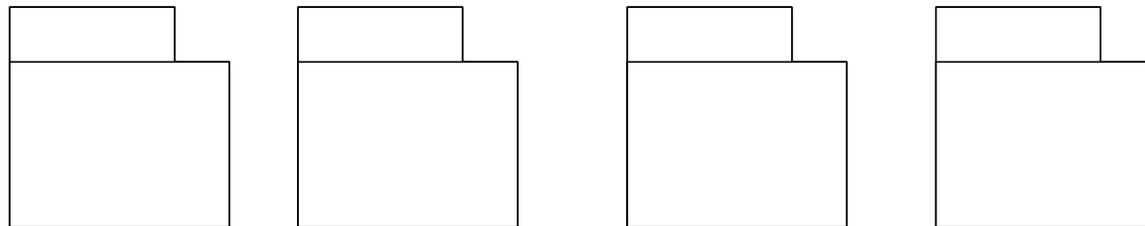
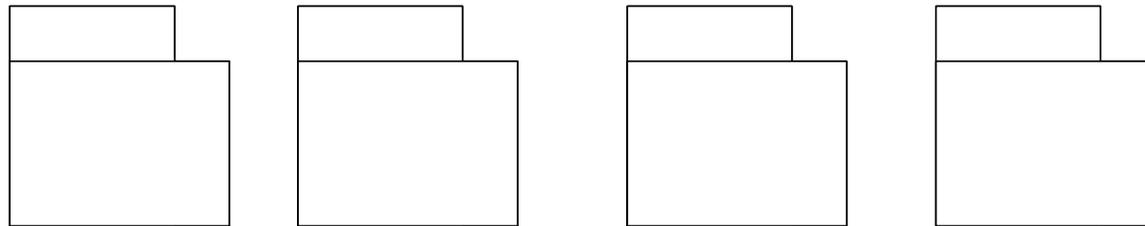
**Question:**

**Signifier:**

**Date:**



**Sig:**



## **Interpret Your Readings**

Use the forms below or you Book of Shadows to record your interpretations of your readings.

**Name/Sun Sign:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
<b>1 – Past Line</b>	
<b>2 – Past Line</b>	
<b>3 – Past Line</b>	
<b>4 – Past Line</b>	
<b>5 – Present Line</b>	
<b>6 – Present Line</b>	
<b>7 – Present Line</b>	
<b>8 – Present Line</b>	
<b>9 – Future Line</b>	
<b>10 – Future Line</b>	

<b>11 – Future Line</b>	
<b>12 – Future Line</b>	

**Name/Sun Sign:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
<b>1 – Past Line</b>	
<b>2 – Past Line</b>	
<b>3 – Past Line</b>	
<b>4 – Past Line</b>	
<b>5 – Present Line</b>	
<b>6 – Present Line</b>	
<b>7 – Present Line</b>	
<b>8 – Present Line</b>	
<b>9 – Future Line</b>	
<b>10 – Future Line</b>	
<b>11 – Future Line</b>	
<b>12 – Future Line</b>	

# Multiple Signifiers

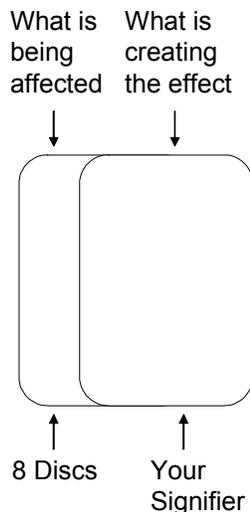
## About Multiple Signifiers

You can use more than one card in your signifier to specify in detail any situation, person or relationship you want to read. These are called multiple signifiers. You can use as many cards as you want to build a picture of what you want to read. You can also make your own signifiers using pictures, symbols, lists, cutout shapes or written descriptions. If you're going to build a complex signifier it's best to use as few Tarot cards as possible since you want the cards to be available in the reading itself. The position of a card or item in the signifier layout determines the effect it has on the reading. Cards on top of and to the right of other cards are affecting the cards below. The sections below describe the various ways you can position signifier cards.

## Two Card Signifiers

Use two card signifiers when you want to find out about the relationship between two people or two situations, such as, between two people, between a person and a situation, or between a person and an aspect of herself. In two card signifiers the first card is placed in the normal position and the second card is placed on top of and to the right of the first card. You need to key each card you use as a signifier separately.

The reading will show the effect that the second card (on top of and to the right of the first card) is having on the first card. For instance, if you put your own signifier in the first position and the 8 Discs (signifying your career) on top of and to the right of your signifier, the reading would tell you how your career is affecting you. If you put your signifier on top of and to the right of the 8 Discs, the reading would tell you how you are affecting your career.



You can use the same procedure to find out how one person is affecting another in a relationship. Put the signifier of the person who is having the effect on top of and to the right of the signifier of the person being affected. If you want to know how Jim is affecting Charlotte, put Jim's signifier on top of and to the right of Charlotte's signifier. If both people share the same signifier you can either use the signifier card and a photograph, or two royalty cards of the same suit. For instance, if both people are Queen Swords you can use the Knight Swords or King Swords for one person and Queen Swords for the other person. As long as the card will key you can use it for the signifier. If you are keying the Knight Swords for a woman, the Knight may begin to look like a woman when the card keys. If the card will not key then you will need to use another card or symbol for the signifier.

You may need to do a base reading on the original signifier before adding the second signifier. The base reading will tell you the factors associated with the first signifier. When you add the second signifier and do another reading, any new factors or lines will tell you the effect created by the second signifier.

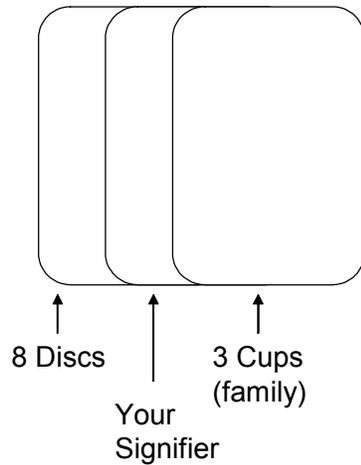
For instance, if you do a reading on a person that has no Cups cards in their reading you may want to find out what factors have created this emotional depletion. You can do a reading with Ace Cups on top of and to the right of the person's signifier to find the causes and conditions that created the situation.

*Remember:* When using more than one signifier you need to key each signifier individually on your Plate.

### **Using Three or More Card Signifiers**

If you want to do a reading on a complex situation you might need to use three or more cards as signifiers. For instance, with a two card signifier you can find out how you are affecting your career. If you now want to find out how your family is affecting you and how you, in turn, are affecting your career, you can add a third signifier for your family. The 8 Discs (for your career) would be at the bottom, your signifier would be on top of and to the right of the 8 Discs, and 3 Cups (for your family) would be on top of and to the right of your signifier.

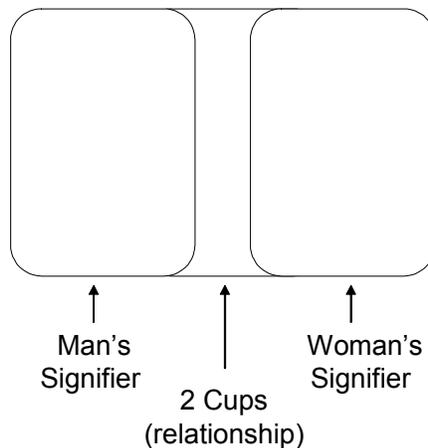
The three signifiers will give you a reading that includes many factors (your career, you and your family). Do a reading with each new signifier you add.



In this case you would do a base reading on 8 Discs to find out what's going on in your career. Next you would add your signifier and do another reading. Any new factors or lines in the reading will tell you how you are affecting your career. Finally, you would add the 3 Cups and do a third reading. Any new factors in this last reading will indicate how your family is affecting you and how that is, in turn, affecting your career.

For instance, if the 6 Discs Rx appears in the base reading it tells you that you are not being fairly compensated in your career. If it appears again in the second reading, you know that it refers to your career and not necessarily your effect on your career because it was a factor in the first reading.

Three card signifiers are also useful when you want to determine the effect of two factors on one situation. For instance, you can use three card signifiers to determine the effect two married people have on their relationship. In this case the way you lay out the signifiers would be different. Place the relationship signifier (2 Cups) on the bottom, then place one person's signifier on top of and to the left of the 2 Cups, and the other person's signifier on top of and to the right of the 2 Cups. Make sure that at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the 2 Cups is still showing.



You will also need to do base readings. Read one person's effect on the relationship first, then the other person's effect on the relationship and finally the effect of both people on the relationship. If you just want to find out the effect both people have on the relationship without separating each person's effect you won't need to do base readings.

If you wanted to find out how the relationship was affecting both people you could use the same signifier layout as above but, put the 2 Cups on top of the signifiers for the two people.

For even more complex readings, you can use a square pattern to accommodate four people with a fifth person or factor on top of all four cards. You can build as many people into the signifiers as you want – just make sure to build it up vertically or to the left. If you build cards out to the right it indicates sequence of effect (i.e. this person affects this person, who in turn affects this person). Remember that you must key each signifier separately and that a card automatically becomes unkeyed when you put it back into the deck. Also, when you get into complex signifiers try to use as few Tarot cards as possible. Use other types of signifiers to keep the Tarot cards available for the reading itself. Here are some other relational signifiers to consider:

- Your signifier on the 8 Discs on the Devil: How you affect contracts or contractual type jobs and work
- Ace Discs on your signifier: Find out where health problems are coming from. Do this if the Ace Discs or Sun keeps coming up reversed in your readings

### **Expanded or Blow-Up Readings**

You can also use multiple signifiers to expand, magnify or blow up a pair (or stack) of cards in a Celtic Cross or 12 Card reading. You can expand a stack of cards that you don't understand or want to get more details about. For instance, if you want to find out more about a certain pair of cards in a 12 Card reading:

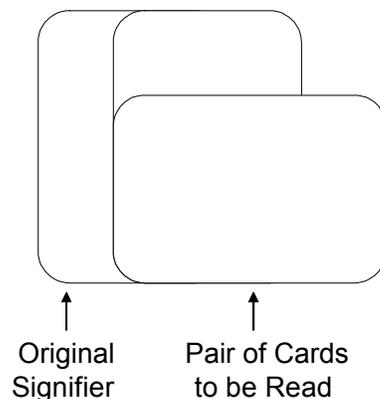
1. Blow out your candles (assuming they are still lit from the original reading).
2. Pick the stack you want expand out of the reading and place it on your Plate.
3. Put the rest of the cards back into the deck.
4. Place the stack of cards on top of and to the right of your original signifier (and be sure to record a new reading in your Book of Shadows).
5. Relight your candles and follow the procedures for a regular reading.

The reading will give you information specifically about that stack of cards (its past, present and future) and how it affects your original signifier.

The time line of the stack of cards in the original reading, now part of the signifier, will give you the timeline of the expanded reading. For instance, if the stack of cards came from the past line of the original reading, the expanded 12 Card reading will give you information from the far past, past and present as related to the original reading. If the

pair of cards came from the future line of the original reading, the expanded reading will give you information about the present, future and far future. If the pair of cards came from the present line of the original reading, the expanded reading will have the same time line as the original reading.

If you are expanding the outcome cards from a Celtic Cross reading, say at the top of the time column, the present line in the expanded reading is equal to the far future in the Celtic Cross (see the figure below for signifier card placement). This is also a quick way to do a progression (or move the reading into the future) on a Celtic Cross reading. We'll talk about progressions in the next section. Note that you can only expand readings using the 12 Card layout, though you can expand stacks of cards from both 12 Card and Celtic Cross layouts.



If the original signifier is a person's signifier and you want to know what the person has been doing about the situation portrayed in the pair of cards, place the person's signifier on top of and to the right of the pair of cards. This will tell you how the person has or has not been dealing with the situation.

There is a limit to how many expansions you can do. At a certain point all probabilities become equal and you will get a reading that will give you an equal number of opposite factors.

You do not need to key the stack of cards to be expanded unless you put the cards away between the original reading and the expanded reading. If you do put the cards away you will need to key the original signifier, then the pair of cards. Key the pair of cards together and as "the stack of cards from such-and-such a reading done on this date" or something similar. Do not key the cards from the pair separately.

Blow-up readings are useful for tracking hidden adverse magical spells that people have done – these almost always show up in readings. If you find a Magi Rx or Priestess Rx in the past or present line of a reading it could indicate that an adverse spell has been cast, that magic needs to be done but has not been done or that inappropriate magic is being

done. Look at the context of the reading to find out what is being indicated. Try interpreting the reading all three ways – one way will make sense while others won't.

Hidden or shielded spells often don't show up as reversed Magi or Priestess, but may show up as a 7 Swords Rx second carded by a Magi (loss of personal power), a Chariot Rx second carded by Ace Discs (loss of control of their health), or a Devil Rx second carded by Sun (some force prevents the person from achieving their birth vision). If there's nothing else in the reading to indicate that the person is creating this situation then you may want to expand those cards to see if you can find a spell. The spell will show up as a Magi Rx or Priestess Rx in an expanded reading. If the spell was created by a very skilled practitioner you may need to expand the reading 6 or 8 times to find the actual spell.

## **Multiple Signifier Exercises**

1. Do at least one reading using multiple signifiers and one expanded reading recording your results in your Book of Shadows.
2. Record your interpretations of the readings (either in your Book of Shadows or in the forms provided).

**12 Card**

**Question:**

**Signifiers:**

**Date:**

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**Signifiers:**

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### **Interpret Your Readings**

Use the forms below or your Book of Shadows to record your interpretations.

**Signifier:**

**Question:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
<b>1 – Past Line</b>	
<b>2 – Past Line</b>	
<b>3 – Past Line</b>	
<b>4 – Past Line</b>	
<b>5 – Present Line</b>	
<b>6 – Present Line</b>	
<b>7 – Present Line</b>	
<b>8 – Present Line</b>	
<b>9 – Future Line</b>	

<b>10 – Future Line</b>	
<b>11 – Future Line</b>	
<b>12 – Future Line</b>	

**Signifier:**

**Question:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
<b>1 – Past Line</b>	
<b>2 – Past Line</b>	
<b>3 – Past Line</b>	
<b>4 – Past Line</b>	
<b>5 – Present Line</b>	
<b>6 – Present Line</b>	

<b>7 – Present Line</b>	
<b>8 – Present Line</b>	
<b>9 – Future Line</b>	
<b>10 – Future Line</b>	
<b>11 – Future Line</b>	
<b>12 – Future Line</b>	

# Progressed and Regressed Readings

## Progressed Readings

A 12 Card reading will give you information within a certain time frame, from past to future. If you want to look further into the future than the future line, move the reading forward in time – this is called progressing the reading. You can only progress and regress 12 Card readings.

To do a progressed reading, first throw the base reading and record it in your Book of Shadows (make sure and leave room near the top of the recorded reading in your Book of Shadows to record the far future line). Follow the directions below to progress the reading:

1. Without snuffing your candles, pick up the past line and put it back on top of your deck.
2. Shift all the cards in the present line down to the position of the past line.
3. Shift all the cards in the future line down to the position of the present line.
4. Reshuffle the deck once to integrate the past line cards back into the deck.
5. Follow the procedure to do a new reading (shuffling the cards three or more times, dividing the cards into three stacks and so on).
6. Lay out a new future line in the reading (this is actually the far future of the reading).
7. Record the far future in your Book of Shadows.

You can keep progressing the reading following the same procedure until you get so far into the future that all probabilities become equal. You can tell that all probabilities have become equal when all the base cards are change or principle cards such as Death, Tower, World, Fortune or Judgement. The cards indicate that the reading will not display any more specific events, just principles.

If you throw the base reading but are not ready to throw the progression, you can snuff the candles and throw the progression later. You can either leave the reading set up (if you won't be away long) or take it down and set it up again later. Simply relight the candles, remove the past line and follow the procedure above. Don't wait too long to throw your progression because the reading is only valid as long as nothing changes in the present. If you change anything in the present you'll need to throw a new base reading; a small change in the present produces a larger change in the future (according to the Laws of Tarot). The future line is only true if the present line still matches present circumstances.

Each time you progress the reading you are extending it into the future by the same amount as your reach. For instance, if your original future line was 30 days into the future from the present line, the far future line will be 60 days ahead of the present line.

You can tell the probability of certain events in your progressed future based on the readability of the flow lines. If the flow line is easy to track from present to future to far future there is a high probability of that flow line manifesting. If the flow line jumps around or gets harder to read as it progresses into the future it has a low probability of manifesting. The whole point of a progressed reading is to enable you to make conscious choices in the present, which will make a difference in the future. This is the embodiment of the Science of Prayer.

### **Regressed Readings**

Just as you can progress a reading to look further into the future, you can regress a reading to examine situations further in the past. To regress a reading, follow a procedure similar to that for progressing a reading.

1. Throw the base reading and record it in your Book of Shadows (make sure and leave room near the bottom of the recorded reading to record the far past line).
2. Without snuffing your candles, pick up the future line and put it back on top of your deck.
3. Shift all the cards in the present line up to the position of the future line.
4. Shift all the cards in the past line up to the position of the present line.
5. Reshuffle the deck once to integrate the future line cards back into the deck.
6. Follow the procedure to do a new reading (shuffling the cards three times or more, dividing the cards into three stacks and so on).
7. Lay out a new past line in the reading (this is actually the far past of the reading).
8. Record the far past in your Book of Shadows.

With regressed readings you can walk your readings all the way to the beginning of creation. You can also use regressions to examine past lives. Because your past is already set you don't run into the same problem of equal probabilities that you do with progressed readings. You can regress a reading back over almost any amount of time. The same rule of reach applies to regressions – your reach determines how far back in time each regression is.

If you're regressing a reading of your own life, you'll encounter events that you recognize in the first few regressions. As you move further into the past you'll see a reverse timeline: conception, a period between lifetimes and a loss of the body from the previous lifetime. In real life the sequence is the loss of the body, a period of time between lifetimes, and then conception. However, since you are regressing the reading and going backwards in time you'll see the sequence in reverse. Conception is usually represented by an upright page second carded by Death, Sun or Devil (all cards that indicate a new beginning). Cards such as Tower Rx/Ace Discs, Sun Rx/Ace Discs, World Rx/Ace Discs, World Rx/Queen Discs, Strength Rx/King Discs or High Priestess Rx/Death represent the loss of a body.

If you want to monitor how your Spirit has been doing throughout these lifetimes place your signifier on top of and to the right of Star, then regress the reading. Star is the spiritual path card. As you regress further and further into the past you may lose track of which time the reading is indicating or what age you are in the reading. You can use the Kings, Queens, Knights and Pages to help you track the flow of time and get a general picture of age.

### **Tracking Relationships**

If you want to find out whether you've had past relationships with someone you can track it by keying their signifier. As you go through the deck to pull your signifier, pull the other person's signifier as well. Key your signifier and put it next to the Protection candle. Key the other person's signifier and put it back into the deck with the intention that it will stay keyed to show up in the reading at the appropriate time. Usually putting a card back into the deck unkeys it but when you set your intention this way the signifier will stay keyed.

Shuffle the deck and lay out the reading as usual. Keep regressing the reading until the person shows up in the reading. You do not need to put a 2 Cups or Lovers on your signifier for this to work. The way the other person's signifier shows up in the reading will tell you how they were related to you in a past life.

## **Progression and Regression Exercises**

1. Progress at least one reading and record your results in your Book of Shadows. You may want to use the template as a guide. Remember to leave room at the top of your recorded reading for your progression.
2. Regress at least one reading and record your results in your Book of Shadows. Remember to leave room at the bottom of your recorded reading for your regression.

Date:  
Time:

Signifier:

Question:

























Date:  
Time:

Signifier:

Question:

























