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INTRODUCTION

In this Age of Aquarius the Tarot cards are enjoying a revival of interest, well deserved. The first known cards are dated 1390 A.D., but it is probable that their origin dates back much earlier. The mystery of their origin and the esoteric symbols have intrigued man through the centuries. Today we can find new meaning in the old symbols, applicable to our lives.

Man has always been interested in the mysteries of his unconscious and the future; whether consciously or not, he has always strived toward the light of transcendent life. The cards, in the universal language of symbols, explore man's collective unconscious and its bearing on one's personal life and growth. A proper reading of the cards can help one gain perspective on personal questions and reorder the priorities in his life. Whether the cards help one to know oneself better or point one in a new direction, they add a new dimension to one's experience of life.

The pack consists of seventy-eight cards, twenty-two in the Major Arcana and fifty-six in the Minor Arcana, divided into four suits—Cups, Swords, Pentacles, and Rods (sometimes called Wands). General meanings are included here, but for further interpretations of the symbols and their subtler meanings and interrelationships, it is advisable to refer to one or more of the books listed at the end.

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RODS

ACE. A time of beginnings—a marriage, birth, enterprise, creation or, in a sense, the creative or emotional momentum behind them.

REVERSE: A shallow existence, decadence, spiritual ruin.

TWO. Though one holds the world in the palm of his hand in the sense of wealth, dominion, magnificence, sadness is still indicated.

REVERSE: Sense of wonder, enchantment, possible trouble, fear.

THREE. Fruitful collaboration in business; also signifies enterprise, ingenuity, effort, and commerce.

REVERSE: Help offered not reliable; adversity ceases.

FOUR. Material and emotional blessings—harmony, repose, prosperity, the perfection of one's affairs.

REVERSE: The meaning the same; prosperity, peace, amplitude.

FIVE. Strenuous competition for material gains and recognition; business affairs may improve.

REVERSE: Legal complications, trickery.

SIX. Triumphant reconciliation of desire and reality. Great news realizing hopes.

REVERSE: Sense of vulnerability and fear of enemy at the gates. Betrayal, as to the enemy. Indefinite delay.

SEVEN. Man outnumbered by adversaries but ultimate victor. Courage and persistence create advantage in business, trade, or verbal war.

REVERSE: Anxiety, confusion, chagrin. Avoid indecision.

EIGHT. Momentum toward desired end. Great expectations, haste. May also denote the arrows of love.

REVERSE: Guilt, jealousy, internal or domestic disputes.

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MAJOR ARCANA

1—THE MAGICIAN. Denotes the ability to translate ideas into action, to use psychic powers to advantage; skill, diplomacy, self-confidence.

REVERSE: The use of power for destructive ends. Bad luck.

2—HIGH PRIESTESS. Denotes the feminine principle of love and relatedness; the ideal wife and mother, supportive of those she loves; mystery, wisdom, unrevealed influences at work.

REVERSE: Indicates superficial qualities, physical passion divorced from love.

3—EMPRESS. Fertility in body or mind, initiative, action, bountiful harvest. Good luck.

REVERSE: Sterility, wastefulness of resources, indecision, disruption of life at home or in society.

4—EMPEROR. Authority. One who is master of his emotions; active intelligence able to realize ideas.

REVERSE: Immaturity. Tendency to be gullible. Self-control limited.

5—HIEROPHANT. One who leads one away from too worldly concerns. Possibility of marriage or alliance of some kind.

REVERSE: Unorthodox, openness to new ideas, unconventional.

6—LOVERS. Conflict between different attractions and the necessity of choice which means responsibility. Beauty, inner harmony.

REVERSE: Quarrels, frustration in romance or marriage; failure.

7—CHARIOT. Control over tension of opposites. Triumph over all difficulties through perseverance; a balanced life; success.

REVERSE: Failure in carrying out a project, riot, litigation.

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NINE. Inner strength crystallized by opposition.

REVERSE: Distress, obstacles, adversity.

TEN. A sense of oppression coupled with some kind of success; guilt feelings, doubt.

REVERSE: Conflict of opposites, difficulties, intrigue.

PAGE. A young man, bearer of messages, an envoy, faithful lover. May represent family intelligence.

REVERSE: Bad news, indecision, instability.

KNIGHT. A young man on the go, attractive to women, capable of creating dissension in his wake. May indicate change of residence, travel, departure.

REVERSE: Conflict, division in emotional or business life.

QUEEN. A warm, honorable woman, devoted to her family and loyal to her friends. Card may signify also some success in business.

REVERSE: Practical and careful with money, obliging. Can mean jealousy, opposition, deceit, or infidelity if the nearby cards tend toward similar meanings.

KING. A man of noble character—honest, loyal, conscientious, and just. Generally married, often a countryman.

REVERSE: Unyielding in judgments; strict but tolerant. Advice should be considered.

SWORDS

ACE. Triumph of great force, either love or hatred; may signify a birth of special significance.

REVERSE: Extremes of love or hate or ambition can lead to disastrous results.

TWO. Peaceful hiatus in an otherwise discordant situation. REVERSE: End of stalemate; falsehood, disloyalty.

THREE. Rupture, separation, absence, delay.

REVERSE: Disharmony, alienation, confusion, disorder.

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8—STRENGTH. Courage, magnanimity, persistence, patience, spiritual power. Able to offset any bad luck in surrounding cards.

REVERSE: Weakness, possible loss of honor, discord.

9—HERMIT. Withdrawal; meditation on meaning of life; predicts a meeting with one who will counsel the seeker or inspire him.

REVERSE: Denotes an inability or refusal to mature, to deepen one's wisdom with one's years.

10—WHEEL OF FORTUNE. The ups and downs of life, constant change. Beginning of a positive cycle. Change results from prior events. Can indicate a bad turn of events and misfortune.

REVERSE: The quality of your involvement will be the measure of your reward.

11—JUSTICE. Balance, sense of proportion in one's self and life; in another sense the card means we are held accountable for our actions.

REVERSE: Predicts lawlessness, injustice, lack of balance. Wrong decisions and the failures that ensue. Unfavorable decision in a legal matter.

12—HANGED MAN. One must defer to the social order to dispense justice or to continue on one's path of growth. Can denote spirituality, intuition, self-sacrifice.

REVERSE: Concentration on oneself; egoism; opposition to spiritual influence.

13—DEATH. Death, rebirth, generally in areas of one's consciousness. Great change in one's life.

REVERSE: Stagnation; tendency to lethargy.

14—TEMPERANCE. Mature adaptation to whatever life offers; individualized existence.

REVERSE: Conflicting interests in business or personal life; unfortunate combinations.

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FOUR. Retreat, recuperation, exile.

REVERSE: Activity tempered with economy and careful administration.

FIVE. Humiliation, dishonor, loss.

REVERSE: A cause for mourning.

SIX. Journey by water; action toward resolution of difficulties perhaps through another person.

REVERSE: Dilemma without any immediate solution.

SEVEN. Plans, hopes, expectations; irritations, and possible failure in relation to same.

REVERSE: Counsel, instruction, sound advice.

EIGHT. Inability to extricate oneself from a difficult situation; conflict, crisis, slander.

REVERSE: Anxiety, deception, opposition, sometimes unforeseen tragedy.

NINE. Vacillation on an important matter, failure, disappointment, desolation. May mean miscarriage or death of a loved one.

REVERSE: Shame, suspicion, uncertainty, imprisonment

TEN. A card of trouble and suffering, ruin, pain, affliction, tears. Not a card of violent death.

REVERSE: A period of advantage, profit, power.

PAGE. Denotes watchfulness, spying, examination for either positive or negative reasons.

REVERSE: Unforeseen danger; unprepared state; illness a possibility.

KNIGHT. An action-oriented man of military nature epitomizing bravery, skill, and determination. Depending on the card nearby, this card could mean conflict, war, opposition, or destruction.

REVERSE: Indiscretion, extravagance, foolishness.

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15—DEVIL. Lack of essential humanity; emphasis on material things to the detriment of others. Destructive force.

REVERSE: Possibility of spiritual understanding; tendency to vacillation, pettiness.

16—TOWER. Unforeseen catastrophe, disruption of one's style of life or way of thinking which may be followed by enlightenment.

REVERSE: Tyranny, threats to one's freedom. The same as above in lesser degree.

17—STAR. Inspiration. A glimpse of a transcendent way of life. Good health.

REVERSE: Illness, pessimism, haughtiness.

18—MOON. A yearning for fulfillment. Unforeseen perils; threatening situations, possibly to loved ones. Psychic forces.

REVERSE: Peace will come after difficult period.

19—SUN. Contentment, liberation, attainment of personal or business goals.

REVERSE: Uncertainty of future plans; loss of something of value.

20—JUDGMENT. Growing awareness; shift in personal consciousness toward union with the universal.

REVERSE: Physical health threatened, disillusionment, separation, loss of worldly goods.

21—WORLD. Reward, completion, cosmic consciousness; also change, travel.

REVERSE: Cramped vision; fear of change; stagnation.

0—THE FOOL. Denotes the positive inner forces which influence an individual in his choices.

REVERSE: The choice made is likely to be foolish.

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QUEEN. A saddened woman representing widowhood, privation, absence, sterility, or separation.

REVERSE: A superficial woman dominated by negative emotions, malice, intolerance, pettiness.

KING. An authority whether in the field of medicine, law, or government; brilliant and wise.

REVERSE: Brilliance coupled with cruelty; evil intention.

CUPS

ACE. Wealthy in the things of the spirit—love, joy, fertility, contentment.

REVERSE: Revolution, bankruptcy, change.

TWO. Love, affinity, friendship; a spiritual union, harmony.

REVERSE: Disharmony, jealousy, false love.

THREE. Bountiful outcome in perfection and merriment; fulfillment; healing.

REVERSE: Physical enjoyment and the pleasures of the senses to excess.

FOUR. Sense of boredom and dissatisfaction with environment and possibly self; longing for change. Action must be taken, but seeker is hesitant.

REVERSE: Good omen for something new possibly entering Querent's life.

FIVE. Indicates some loss in the process of receiving something, i.e., a disappointing inheritance, possibly a marriage carrying with it bitterness and frustration.

REVERSE: Hope renewed, return of a friend or relative, a new alliance.

SIX. Reflection on the past, things that have vanished. May indicate desire for change.

REVERSE: Inability to outgrow the past creates failure. Possibility of some gift from the past.

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SEVEN. The seeker has strong, active imagination and many desires but lacks the tenacity to translate ideas into reality. Limited attainment.

REVERSE: Determination; tenacity; realization of a project.

EIGHT. A withdrawal from the present situation; decline of a matter which is of little consequence for good or evil.

REVERSE: Material aspect chosen over spiritual; joy; feasting.

NINE. Material, physical, and spiritual well-being. Happiness.

REVERSE: Overemphasis on physical and material side of one's being; imperfections.

TEN. Perfection of human love and friendship; contentment; attainment of the heart's desires.

REVERSE: Loss of harmony, anger; feelings of guilt.

PAGE. A thoughtful, artistic young man or girl willing to help the seeker. Can also signify the birth of a child or new ideas in business.

REVERSE: Obstacles; responsibility not assumed.

KNIGHT. An intelligent man of high value, bearer of important messages. Can represent advances, invitation, or change to new endeavors.

REVERSE: A seducer, unworthy of trust. Examine all propositions.

QUEEN. A beautiful, loving woman, intuitive, and yet practical too. Happy marriage, vision.

REVERSE: In some ways may be a good woman, but may be perverse, not to be trusted.

KING. Represents a man of business, law, or divinity who is responsible, generous, and considerate of others.

REVERSE: A selfish, deceitful person. Can indicate considerable loss.

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6. Turn up the **Sixth Card** and place it to the right of the Significator and say: "This is before him." It shows the influence that will operate in the near future.

Now turn up the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Cards and place one above the other in a line on the right side of the cross.

7. The **Seventh Card** represents the attitude of the subject toward the matter.

8. The **Eighth Card** represents the subject's environment and those tendencies or influences in family and friends which may have a bearing on the matter.

9. The **Ninth Card** indicates the hopes and fears of the subject concerning the matter.

10. The **Tenth Card** indicates the outcome of the matter, the culmination of all the influences at work in the preceding cards.

The operation is now completed; however, should the Tenth Card indicate an uncertain nature from which no conclusions can be drawn, one can repeat the process using the Tenth Card as Significator. The pack should be shuffled again, cut three times, and the first ten cards taken as before. By this method, a more thorough account of the outcome may be procured.

Should the Tenth Card be a court card, the outcome of the matter may lie in the hand of the person suggested by the card. For further information as to the outcome, one may take the court card in question and use it as Significator and repeat the process again.

In any divination, if the majority of the cards in the layout come from the Major Arcana, the Diviner may deduce that there are powerful forces influencing the subject's affairs either from the outside or from the subject's own unconscious.

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PENTACLES

ACE. Complete contentment, bliss, ecstasy, quick intelligence; gold, wealth.

REVERSE: Deterioration of character through wrong attitude toward wealth; the evil side of wealth.

TWO. Troubles not as serious as had been imagined. Adjustments may be needed to overcome obstacles.

REVERSE: Conflict of irreconcilable opposite; simulated enjoyment and letters of exchange.

THREE. Card of mastery, such as of a skill, nobility, renown, glory.

REVERSE: Mediocrity in work or person; immaturity, pettiness.

FOUR. Denotes one possessive of material things, impressed with the power such possession wields. May also mean inheritance, gift, legacy.

REVERSE: Material ambitions thwarted; possible loss of possessions.

FIVE. Material or spiritual impoverishment; loneliness.

REVERSE: Dissonance in marriage; obstacles to resolution of personal relations.

SIX. Business success combined with a generous and fair sharing of proceeds; philanthropy.

REVERSE: Greedy desire for wealth; illusion, envy.

SEVEN. Success in matters having to do with money, business, barter.

REVERSE: Apprehension over money matters; impatience.

EIGHT. Employment, skilled work, commission.

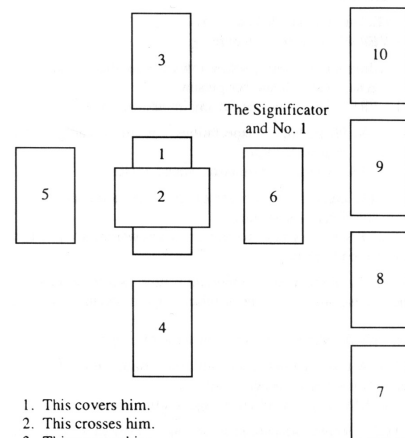
REVERSE: Failure, conceit, greedy desire for wealth; the lending of money at exorbitant rates.

NINE. Financial security, accomplishment, certainty.

REVERSE: Deception, voided project, bad faith.

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DIAGRAM OF THE ANCIENT CELTIC METHOD OF DIVINATION



1. This covers him.
2. This crosses him.
3. This crowns him.
4. This is beneath him.
5. This is behind him.
6. This is before him.
7. Himself.
8. His environment—family, friends.
9. His hopes and fears.
10. The culmination of all preceding influences; the outcome.

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The Diviner first selects a card to represent the subject of the reading, determining which suit by the physical characteristics of the subject as follows:

Rods—Blonde hair and blue eyes.

Cups—Light brown hair and eyes.

Swords—Dark brown hair and eyes.

Pentacles—Black hair and very dark eyes.

From that suit, the Diviner selects a King if the subject is a man; a Queen, if a woman; a Knight if a young man; and a Page if a youth, either male or female. This card is known as the Significator.

Place the **Significator** face up on the table. Concentrating on the question he wishes to ask, the subject now shuffles the pack thoroughly three times, the faces always downward. After shuffling, he cuts the pack into three piles and places them face downward to his left.

The Diviner now picks up the pack from the left, still keeping the cards face downward.

And now begins the Divination.

1. Turn up the **First Card** and cover the Significator with it and say: "This covers him." This card represents the general atmosphere relevant to the question asked.

2. Turn up the **Second Card** and lay it across the first, saying: "This crosses him." This card indicates the nature of the forces opposing him, for good or evil.

3. Turn up the **Third Card** and place it above the Significator, saying: "This crowns him." It represents what the subject hopes for in relation to the question and has not yet been realized but may be in the future.

4. Turn up the **Fourth Card** and place it below the Significator, saying: "This is beneath him." The card shows the foundation of the matter, that which the subject has already experienced relevant to it.

5. Turn up the **Fifth Card** and place it to the left of the Significator and say: "This is behind him." This card shows the influence that has just passed or is now passing away.

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TEN. Pertains to family matters such as an inheritance, lineage, gains.

REVERSE: Loss of family reputation or inheritance. Be careful of financial dealing.

PAGE. A young person; serious, scholarly, hard-working. May denote scholarship, respect for new ideas.

REVERSE: Rebellion, dissipation, prodigality. Unfavorable news.

KNIGHT. A responsible, patient, hard-working man. Also denotes usefulness, ability to serve.

REVERSE: Idleness, carelessness, lethargy.

QUEEN. A dark woman of generous and perceptive spirit who is a devoted wife; magnificence, opulence, security.

REVERSE: Suspicion, distrust, anxiety.

KING. A dark man of good intelligence and strong convictions who is a considerate and affectionate partner.

REVERSE: Corrupt. Tendency toward drunkenness, unfaithfulness, and perverse use of ability.

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In the Ancient Celtic Method of Divination as in any other method, the quality of a reading is dependent on the sensitivity and intuitive ability of the Diviner and on his growth and perception of the wide range of human experience. Whoever decides to read for another should approach the reading with a respectful spirit and an open mind, as free of personal bias as possible. He should always consider the cards relative to the subject's age, sex, and position in life and adapt the meanings thereby. The Ancient Celtic Method of Divination is used for answering a subject's definite question.

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AQUARIAN™ TAROT

Authentic interpretation of the medieval Tarot



SIX OF CUPS

Instructions