

Universal Folk Tarot

 By Anita Inverarity 

SAMPLE

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Introduction to Universal Folk Tarot

Anita's personal interest and relationship with the tarot spans more than 30 years. Briefly in the 90s, she offered consultations and workshops in various esoteric arts, but her enduring passion for the cards has been a more personal journey, which she compares to having a good friend on hand with the best advice and nicest teas. Anita knew that one day she would like to illustrate her own deck. That seed was planted in 2012, when the first drawings for Universal Folk Tarot came about.

Following from the publication of her Universal Folk Oracle, Anita describes this new tarot deck as a labor of love, enlightenment and at times, the most extraordinary catalyst for personal growth.

The deck uses the classic Rider-Waite-Smith framework and incorporates occasional alternative narratives from folklore and mythology where Anita felt compelled to bring these stories and illustrations into her tarot journey. As with the Universal Folk Oracle, the delivery is rooted strongly in projecting healing energy and deep compassionate understanding, while still embracing the inherent duality of the tarot. This tarot deck gives plenty of opportunity to work with your shadow in a responsible way and Anita hopes it will appeal to both intuitive readers and those preferring more structure. An additional feature to explore is the inclusion of a crystal companion for each card. Anita has chosen these intuitively throughout the creation of the deck. Each brings a particular medicine and vibration to consider if you are drawn to explore them more.



Major Arcana



☼ 0 * The Fool ☼

Keywords: innocence; beginnings; adventure; carefree; trust.

Crystal: Hematite; protection; grounding; courage.

The Fool shows a young man setting off out into the world. He is traveling light with just a small knapsack of essentials, as he has not yet accumulated the baggage associated with adult life. The Fool is innocent and pure of heart, his head is filled with big dreams and adventures. He represents our childlike wonder, which we hope to retain on our journey through life. On his cap there is a single

feather for pure potential and perhaps also a gift of protection from the angelic realms. The symbol of infinity rests there too, showing his pivotal role in this deck and the Fool's Journey through the Major Arcana. The Fool can appear at the beginning or the end of the Major Arcana cards, showing how the life journey loops around on itself. We start to learn with this card and the more we learn the more we long to be cloaked in the innocence and joy of the Fool card again.

In his belt pouch he carries a tiny, polished hematite stone picked up on his travels. He doesn't fully realize the significance of the stone yet, but it will keep him safe and protected. The Fool may not yet have all the skills to support himself but he is cherished and protected spiritually. If you look closely, you'll notice he wears his heart on his sleeve. The little dog stares in disbelief as he nears the cliff's edge. The sun is shining and he is distracted by the beautiful flowers and billowing clouds without a care in the world. His companion will bark loudly to warn him of any dangers and will stay close by his side for the journey ahead. In the background, there is a hint of night sky, which brings hidden things to fear and the mountains rise up representing challenges to face. The Fool is ready to start his journey of discovery and growth from a place of trust.



Symbolic Healing and Guidance

Ouroboros: infinity; circle of life and death.

Daisy: innocence; purity; birth; new beginnings.

Fairy Ring: veil of forgetfulness; time travel; portals.

Dog: loyalty; trust.

Feather: pure potential; spiritual protection.



Upright Message: There is a particular joy and rejuvenation in your energy at present. It is a wonderful time to start something new with no expectations or real commitment. Exploration, creativity and spontaneous decisions are exciting and favorable. Make time to smell the daisies and enjoy the moment. Take a leap of faith. The timing is right.

Reversed Message: You may need to pay attention to hidden risks and challenges. There is a tendency to be unaware and dreamlike at the moment. Remember to ground your energy and assess new situations or people in particular. Exercise a little more caution in your day-to-day dealings. It is time to slow the brakes and gather your focus while still maintaining the playful energy of the Fool. Pause, play and assess further.





I ♄ The Magician (The Magi)

Keywords: manifestation; alchemy; power; influence; magick.

Crystal: Clear Quartz; transformation; programming; balance.

The magi is mastering his universe and has all the tools at his disposal to manifest his desires. He raises his wand to the heavens, drawing down divine energy to his practice. This is young vital energy awakening to the more experienced energy of the universe as he starts to harness magical powers and alchemy. The Magician is in tune and is an adept, but also fresh and pure of heart. The wand is double tipped with powerful quartz crystals, which helps to transmute and transform energy into matter. There is an understanding of the laws of alchemy and hermetic teachings implying “as above, so below.”

On the table, we are introduced to the four symbols of the tarot suits (cups, wands, swords and pentacles.) They also relate to the four directions and elements, the building blocks of life. He wears a cloak of red, symbolizing energy, vitality and action. It is also adorned with suns, moons and stars, showing his assured place in the universe. The magi is becoming aware of himself and his unlimited potential, represented by the infinity loop held over his head. This symbol is echoed again in the spiral shell around his neck. He also wears a pendant of red lava encased in silver to bring balance to his outward masculine traits. The pendant relates to feminine earth energies and the moon (also a balance of the elements fire, earth, air and water). He stands in a fertile garden of his own making with rambling roses and an abundance of lilies. The amanita mushrooms represent elements of chaos and the wild unexpected where science and magick meet paths.

A companion cat gazes into the distance anticipating the next steps for moving forward on the journey. It reminds us that time is more fluid in the magical realms and seeds sown sometimes require patience to mature. There is an indication of rapid growth just ahead.

The crow overhead is a powerful guide through the magical realms. Crow energy has foresight and can communicate hidden knowledge. In many traditions, he is the bird of transformation and change.

The magi is sometimes seen as a shaman or journeyman who can navigate various plains of consciousness. He uses magical knowledge in a very practical and applied manner. He uses his intellect to tap into unseen creative forces and convert it into a resourceful form.



Symbolic Healing and Guidance

Roses: unfolding wisdom; abundance.

intuition, dreams, mysteries and visions. Here, we learn to separate illusion and deception from reality. At times our fears and anxieties might seem to be heightened as we move closer to the light. The Moon exposes just enough in her glow for us to work with. Beyond the towers is daybreak, clarity and reason; but first the Moon summons the things that reside in the dark.

The woman is flanked by two dogs; one is gentle and placated, taking a drink from the pool, and the other bears its teeth in the start of a grimace, so we are not sure if he means harm or is just fearful. The dogs represent the tamed and wild untethered parts of our mind. The woman is wearing a crescent moon clasp at her throat and also on her crown showing the shifting aspects of the moon, the waxing and waning, and the power of the divine feminine. Two luna moths flying up in the foreground represent the beauty and mystery of the night and the transient nature of all things, as the life of an adult moth is fleeting. A crayfish emerges from the milky pool, indicating the hidden aspects of our being.



Symbolic Healing and Guidance

Luna Moth: transformation; mystery;
beauty; transient.

Dogs: opposing aspects; wild and tamed.

Water: emotions; depths; mystery; hidden.

Crayfish: revealing the subconscious;
uncovering mysteries.

Towers: subconscious; conscious;
road to enlightenment.

Spaceship and Atom: bringing inner worlds to the
outer realms; mirror aspects.



Upright Message: The Moon appearing in a reading usually means that some aspects are hidden from you right now. There may be parts of your psyche that need to be uncovered or healed in order to unlock some new revelations or mysteries. The card can point to illusions and deceptions that we are weaving in our mind or choosing to ignore. The crayfish is emerging to bring these hidden aspects to the surface now. It may be time to address what is causing you fear and anxiety to clear the path of ascension ahead. The Moon hands over to the Sun each morning and offers new hope and clarity.

Reversed Message: The Moon reversed is wilder and more untamed. Psychic powers and visions may be very pronounced at the moment, with a quickening of signs and synchronicity. This is a very exciting and transformational time with the full power of the Moon showing her hand. However, it can be the most unsettling and confusing too. It is the nature of the universe to hold its secrets close and there will undoubtedly be trickery and deception to navigate at this time.





☀️ XIX * The Sun ☀️

Keywords: joy; warmth; positive; source energy; youthful; divine masculine.

Crystal: Sunstone: positive energy; masculine aspects; outgoing; vitality.

A child rides a magnificent dragon through the cosmos. Together they bring a positive, joyful energy that is infectious and playful. Very little can hide from the brilliance and warmth of the Sun as it nurtures us and gives life. The Sun shines brightly, representing source, positive energy and all life on Earth. The four suits of the Minor Arcana are represented as fire (the torch), air (the bird), earth (the flowers on her coat) and water (the stems on her coat). These

are the building blocks of our alchemical universe and the elements represented in the tarot suits. We are getting ready to apply our wisdom in the real world. The Sun card asks that we go forward with high vibration, vitality and positivity. It also asks that we bring the pure energy of youth and curiosity to our pursuits. The dragon shows we are ready to refine our purpose and take action. It allows us to take up the best qualities of leadership and to run with our ideas and goals. We are a powerful force for motivation when the Sun makes an appearance and the dragon embodies its source energy, winding its way as it breathes fire into everything it touches.



Symbolic Healing and Guidance

Dragon: fire; energy; leadership; motivation; cosmic energy.

Bird: air; lighthearted; purity; frequency.

Child: purity; joy; curious; love of life.

Sun: source; life source; energy; divine masculine; action.



Upright Message: The Sun brings in an undeniable sense of joy and happiness. Things will seem easy and success will happen in all areas of your life. This is a time where you attract abundance in all the Minor Arcana areas of creativity, communication, emotional well-being and wealth. Others who share your spirited enjoyment of life

will be attracted into your sphere. It is obvious that you are living your best life and this positivity is contagious. The Sun brings the energy of the divine masculine in its purest form, which is light and playful and free from ego. This is a time when you can truly enjoy living in the moment while harnessing the energy of your higher self.

Reversed Message: The Sun reversed represents our inner child and the joy and innocence that we often bury deep down because of our adult responsibilities. This is an indication that your inner child needs to be nourished a lot more. It is time to let that side of you play and explore, to be more joyous and less serious. Once you start following the path of joy, the full brightness of the sun will shine on you again. Remember that the energy of this card is contagious, so making a small effort will start that chain reaction you need right now. If aspects of your inner child need healing then now is a good time to address this.



SAMPLE XX * Judgment



Keywords: judgment; test; absolution; accept; results; graduation.
Crystal: Snowflake Obsidian: learning from experience; protection; banishing; personal growth.

The goddess Pele comes out of her volcanic lair and descends the mountain. Ahead of her she sends her beloved dog, who will seek food and shelter from the people in the village. As a test of their purity and goodness of heart, she will be noting who stops to help this innocent, trusting creature, and who just walks on by. Sometimes she will dress as a beggar and join her faithful friend as they judge the village as a whole and decide if it is worth saving from the lava flow. If the village is deemed to be a kind and welcoming place, then she

will reward the people with rich fertile ground, nourished from the very fires and ashes of the earth.

Pele holds up her polished mirror of obsidian to show that any judgment we bestow on others is ultimately a judgment on ourselves. Judgment is one of the most profound lessons in the tarot deck. Once we can fully let go of comparisons and criticism, we can acknowledge that we are all one and there is no separation. It seems so simple a step to walk in the absolution of kindness, but become aware and you will find that judgment is part of our discerning nature, though it may be keeping us from the final steps of enlightenment.



Symbolic Healing and Guidance

Volcano: fire; judgment; wrath; reward.

Dog: kindness; compassion; purity;
innocence; non-judgment.

Obsidian: mirror; soul lessons; awareness;
enlightened path.



Upright Message: The Judgment card appears when you are waking up to your higher states of consciousness. It signals spiritual awakening and a clearing out of any residual processes that are standing in your path. It calls out that “now is the time” to look in the mirror and examine whether or not you are ready. Any karmic stories or embers of shame and regret are ready to be cleared out now. You are evolving

into the person you really want to be and choosing how you show up in the world. Compassion, kindness and oneness will be your guides.

Reversed Message: There may be some self-work to do now. You are so close to many breakthroughs and the universe has big plans for you. If you make time for contemplation and meditation, the blocked areas will be revealed. The inner voice and the self-critic might be raising their voices and bringing up those niggling self-doubts. Likewise, you may be projecting those doubts onto others and being unnecessarily harsh and unforgiving in your views. However, this indicates that you are close to a major breakthrough. If you can observe, recognize and understand why these things are playing out and why certain players are appearing to deliver these lessons, then you are halfway there. Things are going to become infinitely more interesting and rewarding.





XXI * The World (Synchronicity)

Keywords: completion; endings; beginnings; success; accomplishment; freedom; travel; expansion.

Crystal: Turquoise: adventure; traveler's companion; protection; unity.

The woman dances through the world, draped in beautiful fabrics from all corners of the globe. Surrounding her are birds representing the different continents. There is an Arctic tern, a bee-eater, a hummingbird, a blue jay, a blue tit, a kookaburra and an African swallow. In turn, each bird holds an amulet crafted by the elders of their lands to bring good fortune and prosperity. All of the seasons are included in this scene, the blooms of spring and summer, the falling leaves of autumn and the delicate snowflakes of winter,

showing uniqueness and unity. In her hat, the woman wears a comb, which she can use to propel herself in any direction, past or future.

The high mountains represent how far she has come and the bridge over the river shows the direction of her dance. There is freedom and a sense of adventure awaiting. The completion of one phase is ending and new beginnings are all around. The World signals a completion and a loop to the eternal dance that is life. The appearance of this card signals balance and harmony as well as exciting new opportunities and adventures. There may be a longing to experience more of the world and to connect in different ways; it is time to embrace your wanderlust and curiosity. After a period of growth and learning you are ready to connect and learn firsthand about so many things. The woman is humbled and honored by her surroundings and the many miracles to be discovered.

Symbolic Healing and Guidance

Arctic Tern: travel; migration; tenacity; stamina.

Bee-eater: rainbow; unity; equality; understanding; social.

Hummingbird: joy; happiness; healing; good fortune.

Blue Jay: courage; communication; clarity; curiosity.

Blue Tit: love; loyalty; luck.

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