



The New Tarot

ANGELICA GREEN

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Welcome

If my webpage is a portal opening onto a different universe, this book is your first few steps into that new world.

It contains the language and secrets of reality.

Bold claims? See what you think...

I'm Angelica Green, and I am your gatekeeper and guide.

Enjoy your journey!



-Angelica Green



Preface

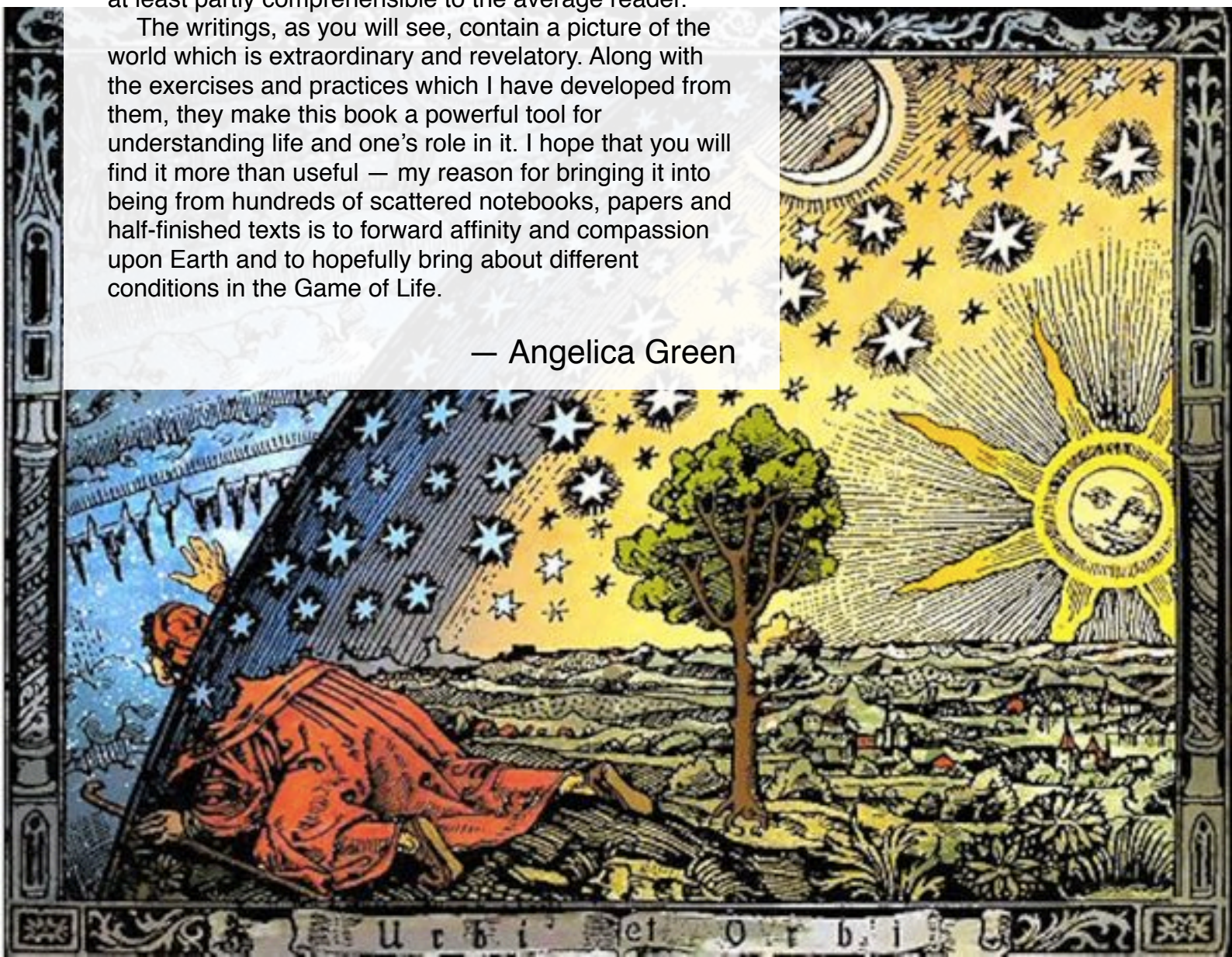
This book constitutes a sampling of the writings of my father, Tobias Green, a man of strange abilities and insights, on the nature of the universe, as particularly discernible through what we call the 'Tarot'.

As a child, of course, my father was simply that: a father, someone who loved and supported me throughout childhood. It wasn't until much later that I realised that he was an unusual man, a man who in effect had one foot placed in another world. As I came to read his writings — many of which were at first highly obscure and far beyond my understanding — I grew to appreciate him as not just a father but someone possessed of great insight into the nature of reality.

It has taken many years of dedicated study to finally transcribe much of what he wrote into a form useable by others. Many of his notebooks were full of writings in indecipherable code, partly due to faded handwriting and partly due to invented alphabets and languages, some of which evade me still. But as far as I have been able, the rest has now been translated and re-worked so that it is at least partly comprehensible to the average reader.

The writings, as you will see, contain a picture of the world which is extraordinary and revelatory. Along with the exercises and practices which I have developed from them, they make this book a powerful tool for understanding life and one's role in it. I hope that you will find it more than useful — my reason for bringing it into being from hundreds of scattered notebooks, papers and half-finished texts is to forward affinity and compassion upon Earth and to hopefully bring about different conditions in the Game of Life.

— Angelica Green



How To Use This Book

The first part of the book consists of theoretical background. It describes the foundational concepts and connections which underpin the practical elements contained in the second part. If you are not especially interested in theoretical ideas and images, you can safely skip the first section and still make valuable use of the second. But comprehension of the theory undoubtedly magnifies the depth and power of the practical.

The second part consists of a new study of the Tarot as 'the language of the universe'. The reader can use the images and elements here to 'read' the nature of reality, to predict within certain parameters what might occur in the future, and to comprehend the nature of patterns which might be recurring in a life and beyond.

Those who purchased the book in order to obtain a professional reading from the author can safely proceed to page 131 and follow the steps outlined there in order to obtain their results. However, I must point out that those results will be better understood and applied if the entirety of the theory behind them has been grasped.

What This Book Is About

You have in your hands a kind of primer about the universe — in this case, not an elementary textbook for teaching children to read, but one that serves as an introduction to a subject of study. In this case the subject of study is reality itself.

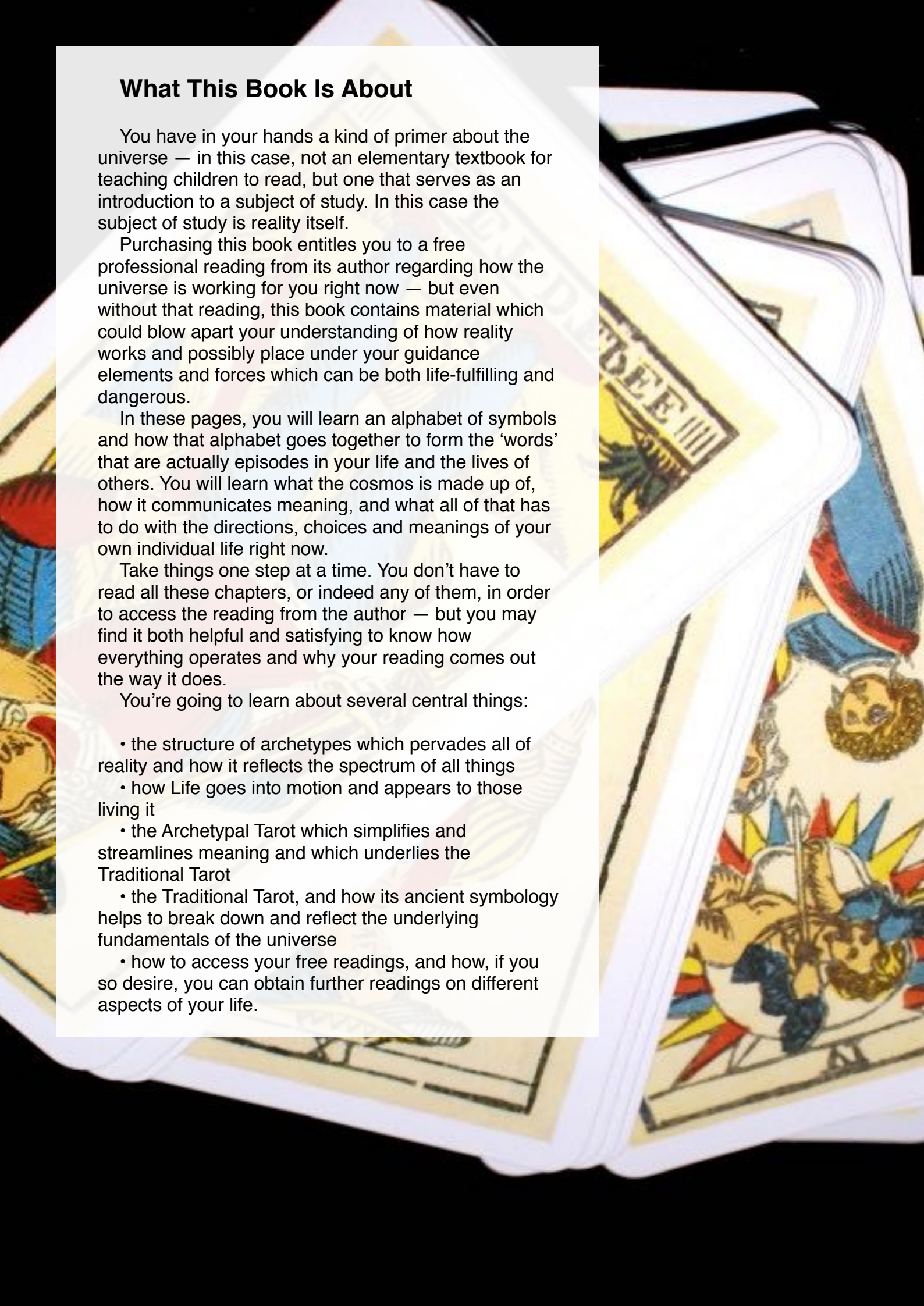
Purchasing this book entitles you to a free professional reading from its author regarding how the universe is working for you right now — but even without that reading, this book contains material which could blow apart your understanding of how reality works and possibly place under your guidance elements and forces which can be both life-fulfilling and dangerous.

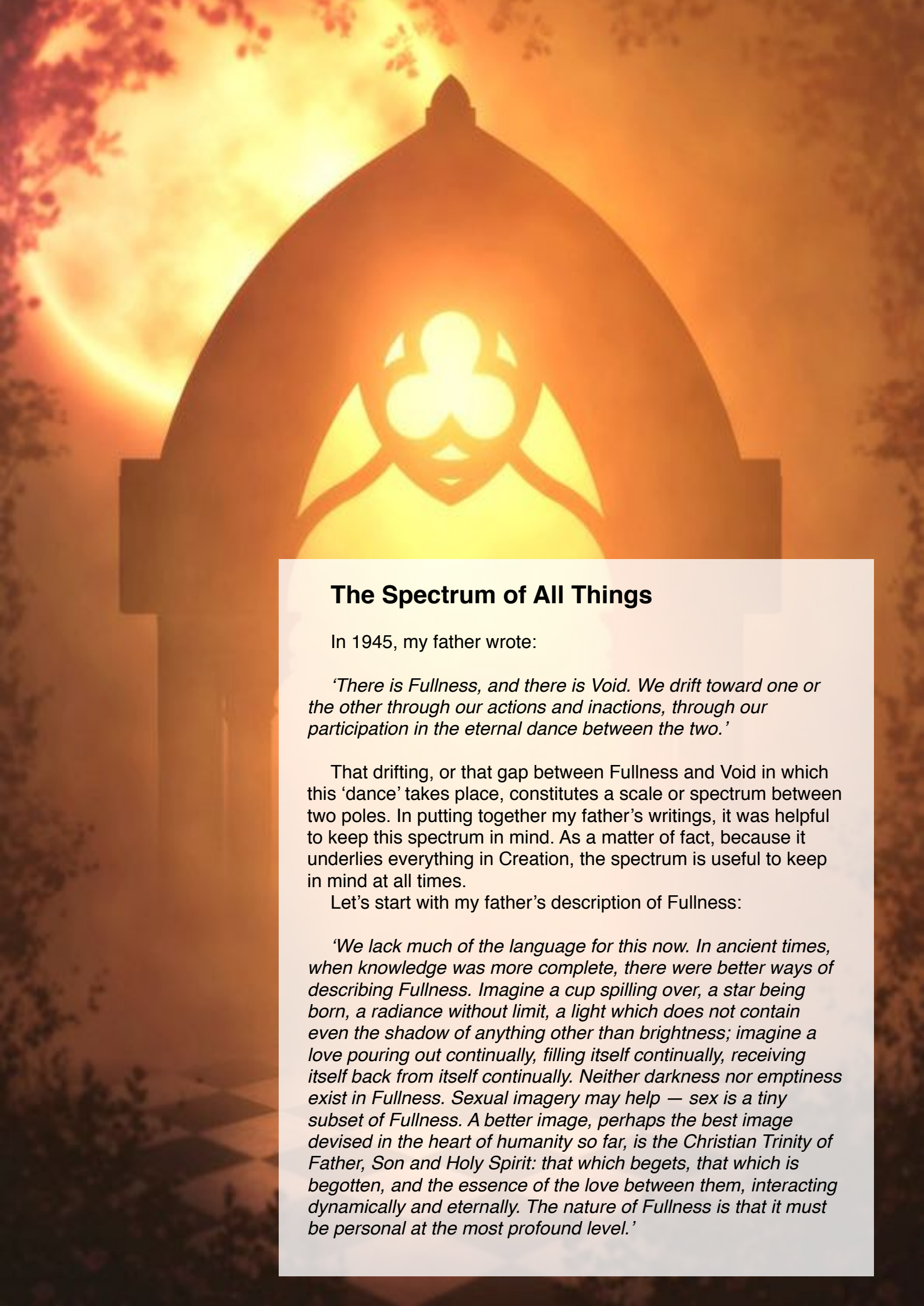
In these pages, you will learn an alphabet of symbols and how that alphabet goes together to form the 'words' that are actually episodes in your life and the lives of others. You will learn what the cosmos is made up of, how it communicates meaning, and what all of that has to do with the directions, choices and meanings of your own individual life right now.

Take things one step at a time. You don't have to read all these chapters, or indeed any of them, in order to access the reading from the author — but you may find it both helpful and satisfying to know how everything operates and why your reading comes out the way it does.

You're going to learn about several central things:

- the structure of archetypes which pervades all of reality and how it reflects the spectrum of all things
- how Life goes into motion and appears to those living it
- the Archetypal Tarot which simplifies and streamlines meaning and which underlies the Traditional Tarot
- the Traditional Tarot, and how its ancient symbology helps to break down and reflect the underlying fundamentals of the universe
- how to access your free readings, and how, if you so desire, you can obtain further readings on different aspects of your life.





The Spectrum of All Things

In 1945, my father wrote:

'There is Fullness, and there is Void. We drift toward one or the other through our actions and inactions, through our participation in the eternal dance between the two.'

That drifting, or that gap between Fullness and Void in which this 'dance' takes place, constitutes a scale or spectrum between two poles. In putting together my father's writings, it was helpful to keep this spectrum in mind. As a matter of fact, because it underlies everything in Creation, the spectrum is useful to keep in mind at all times.

Let's start with my father's description of Fullness:

'We lack much of the language for this now. In ancient times, when knowledge was more complete, there were better ways of describing Fullness. Imagine a cup spilling over, a star being born, a radiance without limit, a light which does not contain even the shadow of anything other than brightness; imagine a love pouring out continually, filling itself continually, receiving itself back from itself continually. Neither darkness nor emptiness exist in Fullness. Sexual imagery may help — sex is a tiny subset of Fullness. A better image, perhaps the best image devised in the heart of humanity so far, is the Christian Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit: that which begets, that which is begotten, and the essence of the love between them, interacting dynamically and eternally. The nature of Fullness is that it must be personal at the most profound level.'


As human beings living on Planet Earth, it seems that we are far removed from a direct experience of Fullness, though, and much closer to its opposite, Void. This is what my father said about Void:

'A void or vacuum is pure emptiness, nothingness, a gap, a hole. But the really interesting thing about emptiness is that it is continually trying to fill itself. Hence all emptinesses, all vacuums, are pulling in what is around them, seeking to be full. Nature abhors a vacuum; God does not want you to be empty. The deepest, darkest void of space, the blackest abyss, somewhere in its centre, possesses an awareness of its own lack and seeks to remedy that all the time. It is the nature of a Void to seek Fullness.'

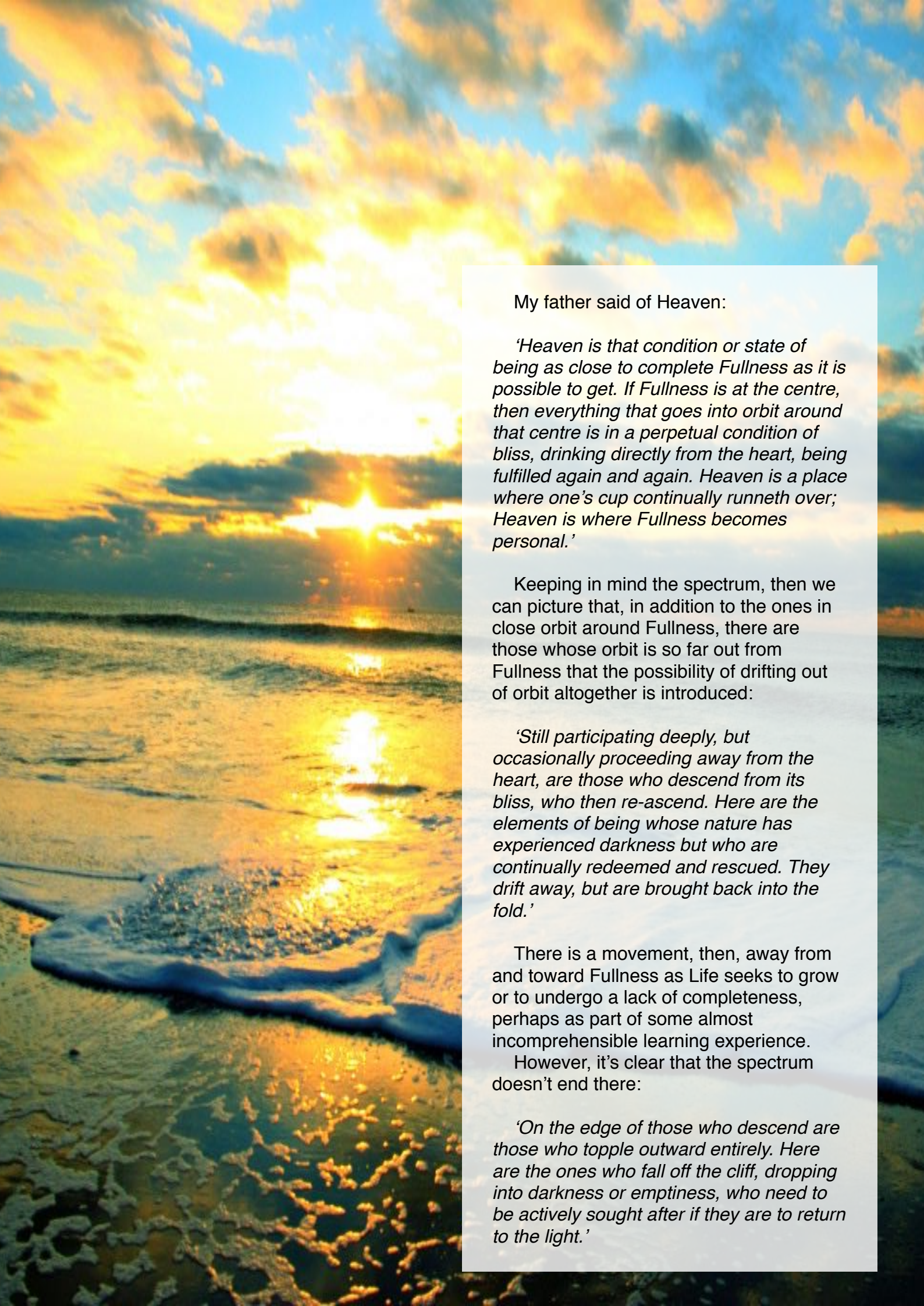
As human beings living in the present day, it becomes obvious how much we are surrounded by emptiness. Our current picture of the universe is one of a limitless void, in which energy and matter are present in tiny and apparently entirely irrelevant proportions. This concept leaks into fields other than astronomy, and is reflected in popular notions of psychology — human beings are isolated creatures, individuals divided by an unbridgeable void, forever doomed to be existentially alone.

Human culture over the last 500 years shows a progression from a world in which Fullness occupied the centre ground of thought to one in which the Void is at the heart. Between these two extremes lies everything that we can perceive — but everything is not static.

If we imagine Fullness and Void as two poles, then we can perhaps picture all of Creation drifting, like iron filings affected by a magnet, to align themselves between those two poles. Life is somewhere in this spectrum, either closer to Fullness or closer to Void, but always moving one way or the other. Fullness is often known as Heaven; Void as Hell.



*As human beings living in the present day,
it becomes obvious how much we are
surrounded by emptiness.*

A vibrant sunset scene with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across a sky filled with scattered clouds. The sun's reflection is visible on the calm water surface. In the foreground, a dark, rocky shoreline is partially submerged, with some small plants growing in the shallow water.

My father said of Heaven:

'Heaven is that condition or state of being as close to complete Fullness as it is possible to get. If Fullness is at the centre, then everything that goes into orbit around that centre is in a perpetual condition of bliss, drinking directly from the heart, being fulfilled again and again. Heaven is a place where one's cup continually runneth over; Heaven is where Fullness becomes personal.'

Keeping in mind the spectrum, then we can picture that, in addition to the ones in close orbit around Fullness, there are those whose orbit is so far out from Fullness that the possibility of drifting out of orbit altogether is introduced:

'Still participating deeply, but occasionally proceeding away from the heart, are those who descend from its bliss, who then re-ascend. Here are the elements of being whose nature has experienced darkness but who are continually redeemed and rescued. They drift away, but are brought back into the fold.'

There is a movement, then, away from and toward Fullness as Life seeks to grow or to undergo a lack of completeness, perhaps as part of some almost incomprehensible learning experience.

However, it's clear that the spectrum doesn't end there:

'On the edge of those who descend are those who topple outward entirely. Here are the ones who fall off the cliff, dropping into darkness or emptiness, who need to be actively sought after if they are to return to the light.'

Entities of light, having danced the dance in orbit around Fullness, can drift so far from the centre that they fall into shadow and to journey even further away from Fullness:


'Now, far away from the flowing heart which gives them light and life, these sparks of being can be at times overwhelmed by shadows. Doubt, fear, anxiety, blindness, swamp these entities, sometimes for long periods. When in such a condition, the light can no longer be seen at all and return becomes almost impossible.'

Though overwhelmed, these beings nevertheless can still experience moments of relief or light. Two more stages of descent are perceptible, though:

'If a living being spends too long in these depths, a mortally dangerous thing can occur: they can ally themselves with it. Losing any connection with the light, they can conclude that the only way that they can continue to survive is by aligning themselves with the darkness — and so they swallow it willingly. They give up fighting it, and instead begin to consume it. Gulp enough of the blackness down and it starts to become what one is made of. And so the bottom of the scale is reached: Oblivion, where Beingness becomes Void.'

Thus a living being can move from participating in the heart of a full creation, to being in orbit around it, to drifting away from it, and eventually to falling into an alliance with the incompletenesses which lie in the outer Void.





'We see around us plenty of emptiness and the suffering that goes with it: we do not see more than a faint glimmer of the rising souls who are making their way back to Fullness.'

It should be apparent to the most astute readers that reality as we perceive it as human beings living on Planet Earth stretches from the Void all the way to the beginnings of an inkling of rescue and redemption — beyond that, we cannot see clearly. Humanity seems limited to this material portion of the spectrum; behind that, mortal sight fails us, and we must depend upon faith. We see around us plenty of emptiness and the suffering that goes with it: we do not see more than a faint glimmer of the rising souls who are making their way back to Fullness. Our experience stretches to embrace the Void and the edge from which it seems we have fallen — beyond that, our perceptions strain to see anything with lucidity.

As for Fullness itself? We catch a glimpse of it through art, now, perhaps; we used to see it a little more clearly through the church. Collectively, society in Western Europe at any rate, used to gather regularly to cluster as closely as possible around the traces of Fullness that were still discernible in the world of emptinesses: things like the Eucharist or even the light that poured through a stained glass window in an ancient church. Some still do form communities around the remaining vestiges of these things, but for many the light has faded and the world of matter and space has swallowed it up.

The stark truth, though, is that it is not the darkened world that has swallowed the light, but us who have swallowed the darkness.

Meditative Practice # 1: Picturing Fullness

Isolate yourself in a quiet space where you are not going to be interrupted for at least half an hour.

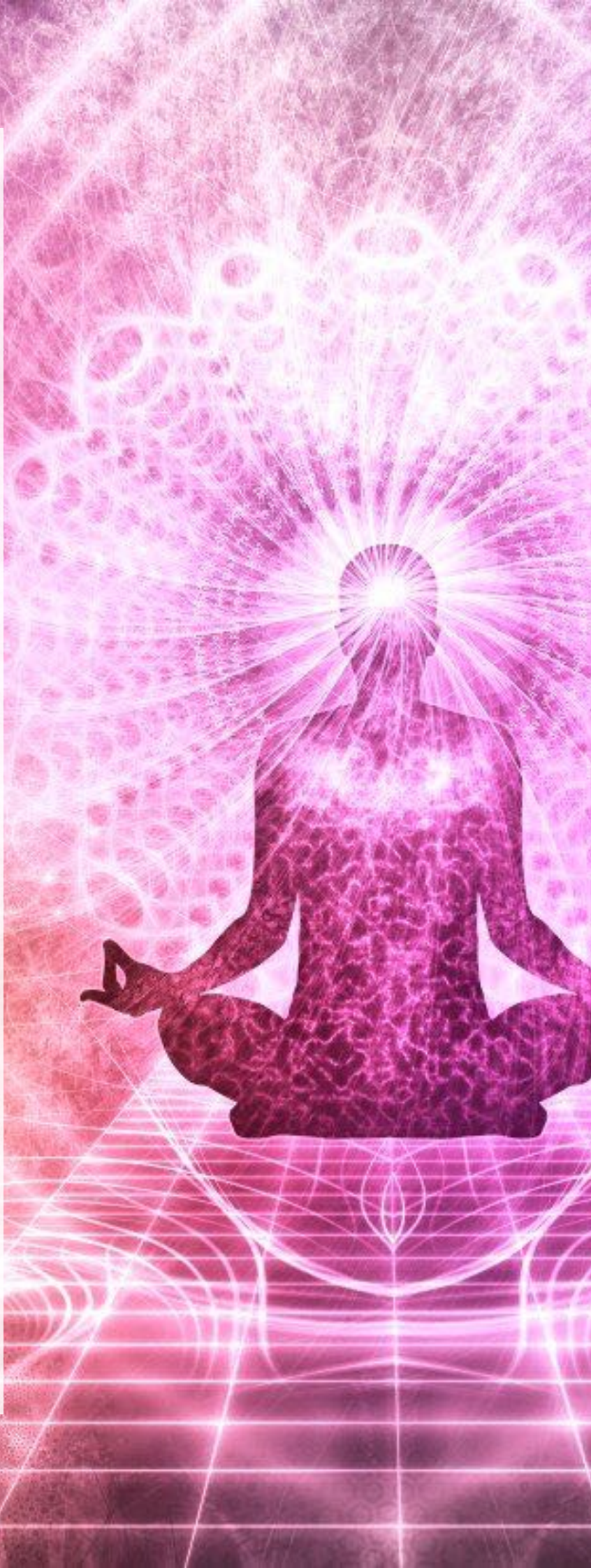
Assume a relaxed position, sitting or lying down, with no tight clothing or other physical distractions.

Close your eyes and breathe deeply a few times, then normally.

Imagine Fullness. This can be an enormous bright light, or a glowing warmth, or an outflowing stream. Imagine it as best you can at first, allowing the image to develop and grow. Keep the image of Fullness in your mind as purely and as persistently as you can.

Imagine particles in the Fullness, flowing around and within it continually. Slowly perceive that they are in an immense orbit around the centre of the Fullness, moving gradually around in a huge circle, in perpetual bliss. You may hear song or music or some kind of background hum at this point.

On the outskirts of this orbiting galaxy of particles, perceive that there are areas in which some elements descend or move outward from the heart, apparently disappearing into the shadows, but later re-emerging and re-joining the orbiting dance. See if you can trace particular particles as they leave like sparks from a central fire, shimmering and shifting away, and then returning, descending from an outer darkness and re-entering a state of bliss.





With your physical eyes still closed, peer outward from Fullness into the shadows. As you watch, millions and millions of sparks are falling back towards you, eager to rejoin the dance of eternal bliss, shedding their shadows and shining more brightly as they approach.

Imagine that they are friends and long-lost loved ones, dashing to embrace you and to share their warmth and light with you.

Enjoy this sense of returning love for as long as you can.

Breathe deeply. Feel the Fullness all around you. Sense your relationship with it deepening, and gently find your position in relation to it at this point in time.

When you are ready, open your eyes. Look at the space around you. Seek out its corners and edges. Get up and touch a few objects in your vicinity.

End of Meditative Practice # 1.

Mastery of the Void

Here are some further notes from my father about the nature of the universe. You aren't obliged to read them or agree with them, but understanding them will give you insight into the Tarot later.

Our First Instinct

The first instinct of the human mind is to project the Void. As soon as we wake, we scatter emptiness everywhere, onto our bodies, our time, those around us. We 'check the news' in order to latch onto the unknowns of the day; we paint vacuums into the mental space they call 'the future'. Importantly, we then use these created vacuums to motivate ourselves through the day — pulled along by fears, anxieties, projected unknowns.

This is partly to maintain a resonance with our surrounding environment which is made up of voids, but it becomes a primal habit.

Fear is a projected void: we throw the unknown out there and quake at it. Any upset we have is based on the triggering of voids.

Spotting that one projects voids all the time is the beginning of mastery of them and can lead to leaving them behind forever.

Human thought is constructed around voids.

This universe of space/time, matter and energy is constructed around voids.

Our inner life is not.

The first instinct of the inner mind is to receive Fullness.

This is partly to maintain a resonance with our inner environments — and it needs to become a primal habit.

Peace is a received Fullness.

Spotting that one can receive Fullness all the time is the beginning of an inner life.

Alleviating fear and upset is a selective receiving of Fullness.

One of the first things that we need to do when we wake is receive Fullness into the day: into our bodies, our time, those around us. We should check the quietnesses in order to latch onto the wavelengths of the inner world; we should paint fullnesses into the future. Importantly, we should use these received fullnesses to motivate themselves through the day — carried along by peace, certainties, received knowns, instead of fears, anxieties and unknowns.

Human thought should be constructed around Fullness.

The inner universe is constructed around Fullness.

A photograph of a forest path in autumn. The path is covered in a thick layer of fallen red and orange leaves. The trees on either side have vibrant autumn foliage, with some leaves still on the branches. The scene is misty, with a soft, hazy atmosphere. The path leads into the distance, disappearing into the mist.

Moving from the Outer World Towards the Inner

First steps: Obviously, we begin in the normal, mundane world in which we awake each morning. But our practices in that outer world can open the door to the inner.

Spend time with nature. Walk in the woods, not paying attention to time, not looking at watches, just wandering.

Do good deeds; spend quiet time alone. Eat healthy foods.

Breathe deeply.

Be grateful.

Make friends with animals and plants.

Sing to yourself.

Plant things — plants and ideas.

Next steps: To move from the outer world to the inner, one needs to recognise that the outer is a projected construction of voids.

Space, time, matter, energy are built of projected emptinesses. These emptinesses permit or encourage or enable motion and action and give rise to 'free will', meaning the apparent departure from certainties. The outer world encourages and thrives upon uncertainties.

Spiritual wisdom is returning to the certainties of the inner world.

Quarantine

This life might be a quarantine life; this universe a quarantine universe. Perhaps we're here until we can learn mastery of the Void. We are 'inoculated' with voids (desires which create multilevel resonant emptinesses) and have to try to dismantle or overcome them so that we can accept Fullness, become whole again, partake of God's blood.

We begin to learn personal mastery when we build a personal monastery.

Overcoming desires (and the voids they create) has a lot to do with forgiving oneself and others. Desires/voids are unavoidable here. When we experience divine mercy we receive Fullness and a glimpse of the way things really are, but this can only happen when we are ready and open to wisdom and growing or becoming whole again.

Being in this universe is about being fractured and finding one's way back to wholeness.

This universe can be seen as an intensive quarantine hospital or asylum. Inmates are obsessively self-harming and damaging each other. As they recover, they begin to act less compulsively and can accept more genuine fullness, or the blood of God, becoming more divine as they cease to do harm and are more and more able to act as conduits and channels.

The transition is from self-obsessed cells, determined to grow like cancers, to healthy blood cells, taking wholesomeness around the universe. Unless or until they can make that transition, they are kept in quarantine conditions.

Human Upsets

Because this is a universe of voids, it tends to create more voids in resonance.

An upset with another is a void. We either lack the love we once had for them, or have ceased to share with them, or have declined to communicate with them. We have an upset only because there was once love, sharing and communication and now there isn't. That's the void.

We are plunged into a void universe, removed from our ideal environment, then pulled back to share what we learn...so we go through all of this not solely for our own individual benefit but for the benefit of our group soul and ultimately all others.



The Connection Between Reality and the Tarot

According to my father's researches, reality as we perceive it is a dance outward from Fullness or the Godhead and back into it. This dance occurs on scales beyond our current imagination and also within every microcosmic moment, day to day. Your emotional mood as you read this book shifts; your understanding of what is happening to you during any single day moves; your perspective on what your life is all about is in motion from moment to moment.

Your own understanding of who 'You' are is part of this.

Where this begins to be really practical is when you start to see that each portion or segment of the spectrum we have examined so far can be *personified*.

The personifications are the Seven Archetypes, found throughout human experience, history and literature of all kinds. Each archetype represents part of the spectrum.

The Seven Archetypes are Void, Shadow, Submerging Queen, Seeker, Emergent King, Fool and Wisdom. These seven figures represent parts of the dance; their forms, symbols and representations are scattered throughout reality.

These archetypes form the basis of both the Archetypal and the Traditional Tarot.

Both kinds of Tarot consist of symbolic representations which assist human beings to 'read' reality. They would possess no credence at all were it not for the fact that they are based on the fundamental elements of Creation itself, as outlined above. Scepticism about the Tarot is based on a lack of understanding about the connection between what is portrayed on a series of cards and the essential nature of reality. Once that connection is understood, the Tarot becomes one of the most powerful and vital tools ever developed by human beings.

The best way to explain this is to go through each type of Tarot and give you some examples.





The Archetypal Tarot



The Archetypal Tarot

Unlike the Traditional Tarot, which is a set of playing cards which first appeared in the 15th century and which we will look at in detail shortly, the Archetypal Tarot is the set of building blocks upon which the Traditional Tarot is founded.

It is much simpler than the traditional version, and because its symbology is directly linked to the spectrum upon which the universe is made, it is easier to read.

Let's take a look at each Archetypal Tarot card in turn, beginning with Void, which represents the empty end of the spectrum.



The Void

When one has left Fullness as far behind as it is possible to leave it, there is the apperancy of emptiness, or Void.

The Void card represents the darkest point or aspect of being.

In reference to an individual, this indicates that a person has been overcome by pride or conceit but is blind to the fact.

In terms of a close relationship or family, this represents the lack of both, or the insubstantial foundation underlying either or both.

Similarly, a Void card suggests that a work or group environment is hollow and unfulfilling.

Void is the negative outcome or reverse of an existence, the polar opposite of Godhead. Existence is made up of either a descent towards this archetype or a progress away from it.

The intriguing factor with regard to Void, though, is that even at this depth there is a need for Fullness — so any Void, no matter how deep, possesses a sense of needing to be filled.



The Shadow

One step closer to Fullness brings us to Shadow, which in many respects is similar to Void except that here we have a greater awareness of emptiness and therefore an overwhelming desire to be filled, juxtaposed with the sense that one never can be.

The Shadow card represents perhaps the most painful aspect of being in that the individual has intentionally and knowingly allied himself or herself with the darkness of the Void, while remaining conscious of the wrongness of such a position. Thus it might be said that at the point of Shadow a person is knowingly evil.

Regarding a close relationship or family, this card indicates duplicity, betrayal, falsehoods and inner destruction.

A Shadow card suggests that a work or group environment is poisonous and self-harming.

Here the individual is tortured by self-knowledge and vacillates constantly, eternally tormented by the awareness that he or she is knowingly doing wrong but cannot escape.

The tragic heroes of fiction fit here — think Macbeth, in particular. But also Gollum from *The Lord of the Rings*, or Darth Vader. Orlick in Dickens' *Great Expectations* is another.

This is the painful end of the spectrum that is an individual life: the figure who would have made it into the light had it made different choices, but which is now caught in an orbit around the darkness of the Void, unable to break free.

The Shadow card can be a warning: 'You could end up like this if you're not careful or if you don't change your current course.'



The Submerging Queen

Moving incrementally closer to Fullness brings us to the Submerging Queen archetype. Here, there is some ephemeral awareness of the light — the proximity to the Void has grown less, but it is still close enough to have powerful effects. Here we find shifting moods, rhythms of dark and light, a wave pattern.

The Submerging Queen card represents equivocation: an individual is torn by doubt or shaken inwardly from any stable position. A willing alliance with darkness may be questioned or rejected; evil or duplicitous action may no longer be certain. Redemption becomes feasible, but sometimes too late.

The Moon is another symbolic representation of this archetype.

In relationship or family terms, this card means transitory or unstable connections.

Work or group-wise, this also means fleeting success or indeed passing failure — there is a wave or tidal pattern to fortunes.

The Submerging Queen has a little more room to manoeuvre, climbing up into enlightenment or drifting down into doom. Individuals usually suffer when falling too, because they have more awareness of what they have to lose.



The Seeker

The Seeker is where the thrust of attention lies as it represents the central ground of the spectrum. Here self awareness is stronger and a cohesive sense of identity becomes apparent — the beginnings of Fullness.

The Seeker card represents moments of decision and choice, moral and otherwise. Here, the individual is charged with deciding which pole to progress towards, Void or Fullness. This is often symbolically represented as a cliff-edge or life-and-death choice.

Regarding a close relationship or family, the Seeker indicates making a selection, beginnings, establishing truths and inward contemplation.

With regard to work and groups, the Seeker shows a time of decision and new careers.

As the Void, the Shadow and the Submerging Queen potentially represent negative parts of the universal spectrum, so here, at the centre of the Seven Archetypes, is the point of balance: through this archetype we usually see the whole life tip either towards the positive or the negative.

Protagonists in stories are a fictive representation of the Seeker — they possess built-in flaws but also built-in strengths; they also often have an intimate connection to the Void or Shadow representing the negative end of the spectrum. In stories, it is the Seeker who is personally in peril, gripped by darkness, and who is capable of sliding the wrong way at any moment.



The Emergent King

As Fullness draws nearer, the Void recedes.

Fullness manifests itself on a human level in terms of self-knowledge, self-mastery and then mastery of one's environment and others. Traditionally expressed, this is kingship.

The Emergent King card represents certainty: an individual has shaken off doubts and fears and adopted a stable position. Here, the person becomes clearly aligned with Fullness; goodness is accepted and forwarded, evil is rejected. This is the point at which true redemption occurs.

The Sun is a symbolic representation of this archetype.

In relationship or family terms, this card means faithful and stable connections.

In relation to work or groups, this means lasting success and prosperity.

Here, any darkness that has existed in the past is thrown off, as the individual merges with the light to become a leader or king.

Emergent Kings are the polar opposites of the Submerging Queens and can act as part of a complementary whole.



The Fool

The majority of life philosophies including the Tarot feature this figure.

You see comic figures in novels, plays, movies and elsewhere so often that you have probably become partly blind to them. They are usually cited as providing 'comic relief' and they do — but their presence and their role is more profound than that. They represent a kind of innocence, the state of things at the upper end of the spirit. They are the polar opposite of the Shadow.

They are usually 'untouchable', bumbling their way through all kinds of hazards and obstacles without any serious harm ever occurring to them. In fact they can sustain what might appear to be critical damage, and which would kill or maim anyone else, but recover easily, often in a comic fashion. Harmlessness, innocence, humour, warmth, light-heartedness and yet potency are amongst their usual characteristics.

The Fool card represents moments of pleasure and undiluted happiness. The individual, now very close to Fullness, is able to engage in play.

Regarding a close relationship or family, the Fool indicates the contemplation of pleasure, sexual satisfaction, contentment and ecstasy.

With regard to work and groups, the Fool indicates total enjoyment in, or complete release from, work or any kind of burdensome social interaction.



Wisdom

In contrast with the Void, at the point of Wisdom one has left emptiness as far behind as it is possible to leave it. Here, there is no remaining hint or shadow of lack, or need, or vacuity, or absence.

The Wisdom card represents the brightest possible point or aspect of being.

In reference to an individual, this indicates that a person has achieved complete self-knowledge and knowledge of Life and the operations of Creation.

In terms of a close relationship or family, this represents the complete embracing of all relationships.

Similarly, a Wisdom card suggests that a work or group environment is fulfilling and expansive.

Wisdom is the positive outcome or full expression of existence, an embodiment of Godhead. All of Creation consists of either an ascent towards or descent away from this archetype.

We see this archetype appear in literature in the guise of the old wizard in stories from ancient times, as well as modern works — this is the Gandalf, Dumbledore, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Merlin figure that we immediately recognise as an archetype, taking their close similarities for granted.

The Wisdom card indicates that a person knows more than anyone else what is going on, and they are normally the ones who explain things to others.

This is as close as human beings can get to meeting the Godhead itself, as in Christ.

Wisdom often disappears for a large portion of a life, mysteriously vanishing, or becoming apparently impotent before re-appearing to wrap things up at the conclusion.

How the Seven Archetypes Work

These seven archetypes or receptacles work together to give life its character as a whole, whatever it is: Void is the negative end of a spectrum, orbited by Shadows; Submerging Queens either succumb or escape from that negative gravity; the Seeker sways between the two polar opposites, while the Emergent King shows the way forward to the light; progress is assisted by the Fool and the whole thing is guided by Wisdom.

Most lives, even simple ones, require this set of archetypes, not just one or two. Shorter lives have no room for all seven, of course — but suggestions of them often appear even there.

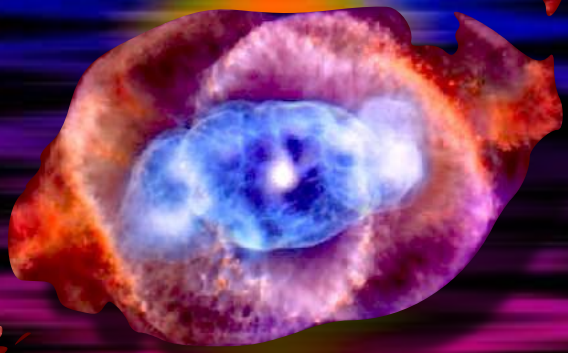
Sometimes a life can move between a few of them. The key thing is to recognise that they are there.

The Seeker is, for human beings, often the centre of attention, the one who has the most to lose.

A individual's life consists of all of these archetypes, working together. Ideally, they would all be functioning in unison and in balance, but, being a human being on Planet Earth means that certain archetypes are more prominent than others in most people.

Planet Earth exists in a hollow universe — in other words, in a universe at the Void end of this spectrum. Emptiness surrounds us, pervades our environment, permeates our existence. Scientists presently consider that the universe consists of less than a trillionth of one percent of matter; 99.9999999% of the human body is empty space. We are in effect in orbit around the idea of space, of emptiness. Fullness can seem a long way off.





Spiritual development is really the motion of one of these archetypes towards or away from the ends of this spectrum.

My father described two basic human responses to life: 'hollow thinking', in which thought and action are driven by emptinesses, desires, gaps, needs, lacks, mysteries and the like; and 'full thinking' in which Fullness guides how we behave and act. By far the bulk of human responses are dominated by hollow thinking: even in reading this sentence, the reader is driven by a need to get to the end and understand what is being said.

So human life as a whole is predominantly motivated and overseen by the Void, and to some extent, while in this universe, we are all in the position of Shadows.

When an individual gets an inkling that there is another way of perceiving things, whether through spiritual revelation or some other means, his or her perspective can shift to that of the Submerging Queen: though still heavily influenced by the Void, moments can occur when Fullness is perceived, creating a wave pattern.

If the perception of Fullness is magnified in some way, the position shifts further yet and becomes that of the Seeker, freer to move toward the light but still capable of dropping back into darkness. If particular choices are made, the viewpoint moves towards that of the Emergent King, and so on.

The key point is that *all of these archetypal positions exist latently within any individual*. Specific kinds of thought and action result in movements toward or away from Fullness, both internally and externally.

In other words, Wisdom, the Fool, the Emergent King, the Seeker and so on exist right now within every human being, but the 'centre of gravity' of most human thought lies around the Shadow position, bound to the Void.

You can structure your life so as to become more aware of each archetypal role. Your life will become energised and more aligned immediately.

Spiritual development is really the motion of one of these archetypes towards or away from the ends of this spectrum.

The Void exists within you right now: it is that mood or state of mind in which you feel most trapped and unaware; when you 'vibrate' in a painful vacillation, apparently unable to escape some set of circumstances, you are in the position of the Shadow; when your life or emotions are falling or rising in a wave pattern, you are in the position of the Submerging Queen.

If you find yourself quite mobile, moving up and down and through various archetypal roles, this may be an indicator that you are generally in the Seeker position. Seekers often run the whole gamut of archetypes, performing as each.

Emergent Kings step out of the shadows and take on a leading role, becoming masters of themselves as well as other types of leader. Fools are rarer in this universe (though we glimpse something of their nature in children), and Wisdom as a positional role for a human being is scarce indeed.

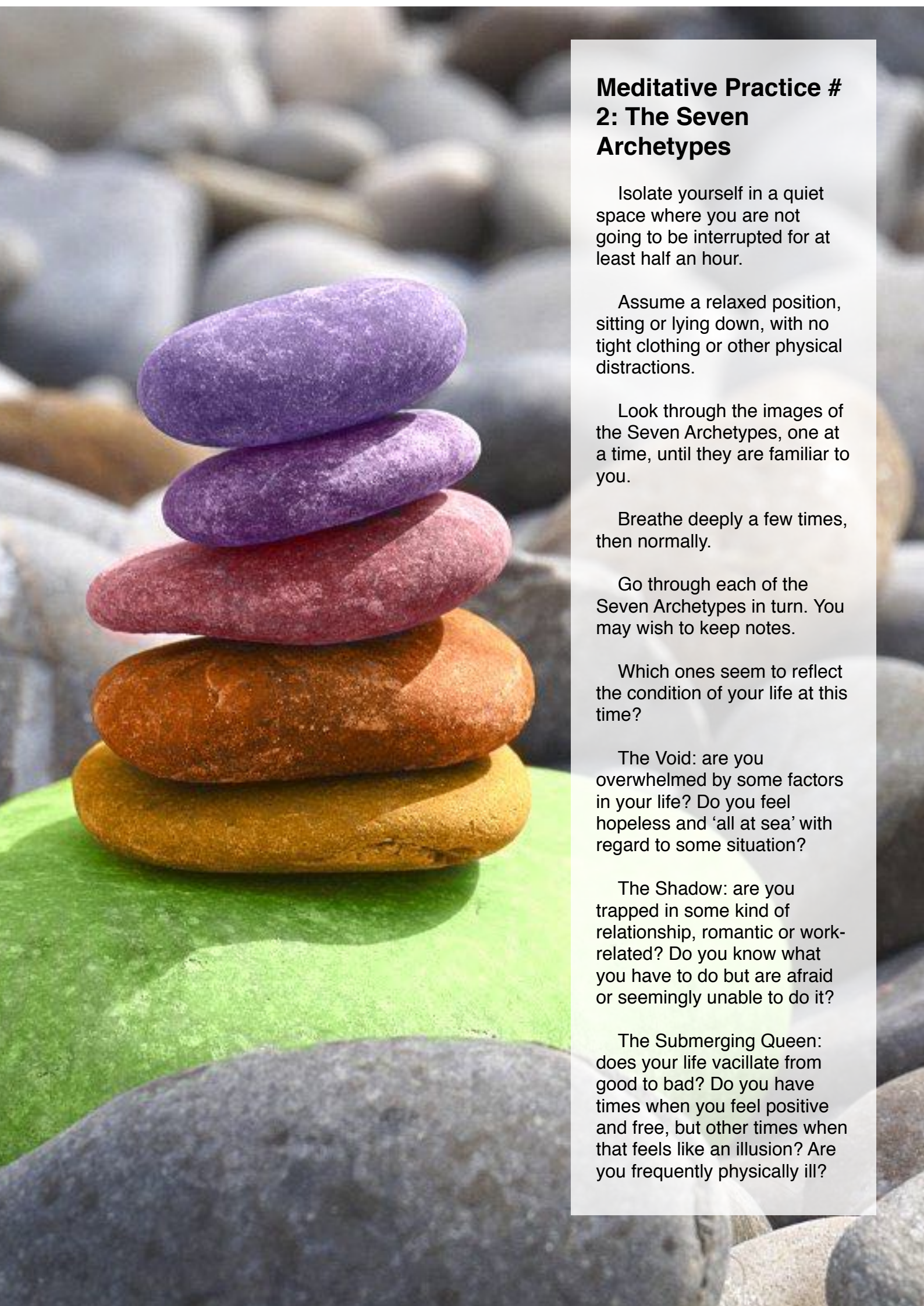
You may by now have some kind of idea of why your life is the way it is.

Understanding your own archetypes entirely is one of the keys to finding meaning and satisfaction in life.

If your archetypes are 'meshing together' well, it probably means that your life is relatively harmonious. On the other hand, if you are having difficulty, it is probably the case that you are 'stuck' in a position below that of the Seeker.

Using the Archetypal Tarot, an individual can find understanding, guidance and revelation which can help to move them forward toward Fullness. Your first reading could be the beginning of that journey.



A stack of five smooth, rounded stones in shades of purple, pink, and orange, balanced on a green surface. The stones are stacked vertically, with the top two being purple, the middle one pink, and the bottom two being orange. The background is a blurred natural setting with grey and blue stones.

Meditative Practice #2: The Seven Archetypes

Isolate yourself in a quiet space where you are not going to be interrupted for at least half an hour.

Assume a relaxed position, sitting or lying down, with no tight clothing or other physical distractions.

Look through the images of the Seven Archetypes, one at a time, until they are familiar to you.

Breathe deeply a few times, then normally.

Go through each of the Seven Archetypes in turn. You may wish to keep notes.

Which ones seem to reflect the condition of your life at this time?

The Void: are you overwhelmed by some factors in your life? Do you feel hopeless and 'all at sea' with regard to some situation?

The Shadow: are you trapped in some kind of relationship, romantic or work-related? Do you know what you have to do but are afraid or seemingly unable to do it?

The Submerging Queen: does your life vacillate from good to bad? Do you have times when you feel positive and free, but other times when that feels like an illusion? Are you frequently physically ill?

The Seeker: are you exploring possibilities at the moment? Looking for some stable truths? Finding out more about some dimension of life?

The Emergent King: do you feel a growing confidence? Does it seem that certain problems or difficulties are being left behind? Are you on the verge of mastering something?

The Fool: is your life comfortable and carefree? Do you experience pleasure most of the time? Are you happily engaged in helping others?

Wisdom: have you mastered Life? Is everything under control and operating harmoniously?

You may be unable to decide between two or more of these options in relation to a specific circumstance. Don't worry — some situations are so large or interconnected that trying to 'pin' them to a single archetype seems impossible. If this is the case for you, simply note down both or all the archetypes which seem to fit.

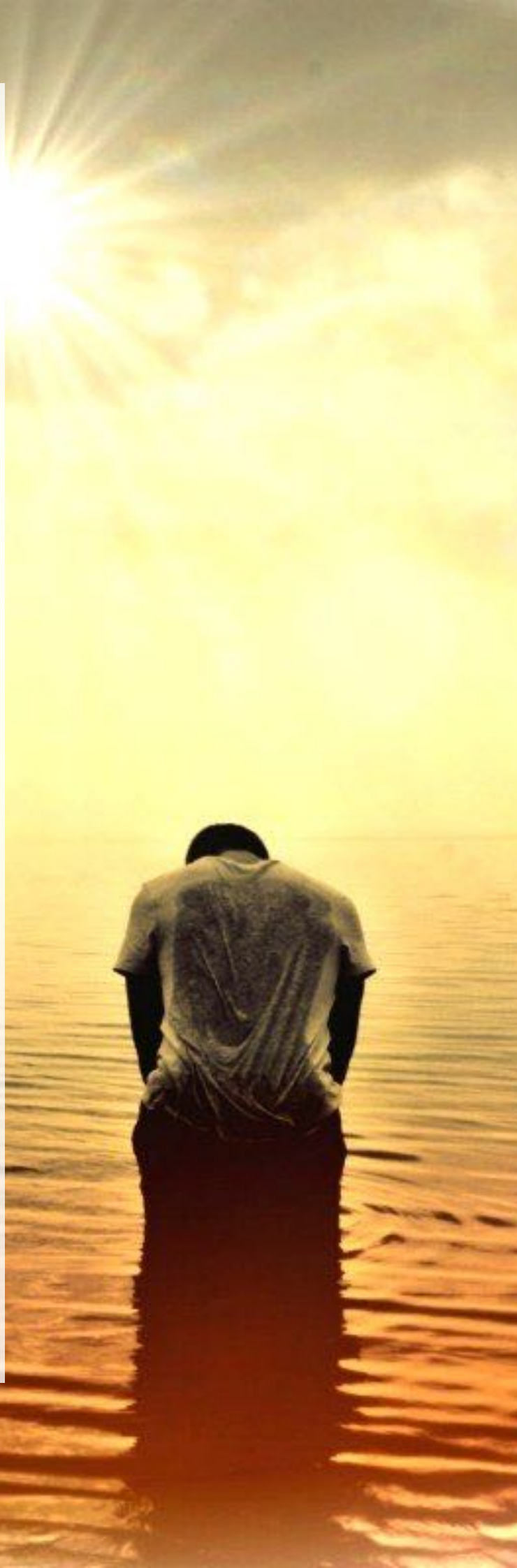
If you have been focusing on a single situation — a health condition, or a pressing problem or something which distresses you — please take the time to look over other parts of your life in the same way, going through each of the archetypes to see which might be the best fit. This will help to free up your attention a little from the main issue.

If you wish, you may now repeat Meditative Practice # 1 to get settled and put things in perspective.

Close your eyes. Breathe deeply. Feel the Fullness all around you. Sense your relationship with it deepening, and gently find your position in relation to it at this point in time.

When you are ready, open your eyes. Look at the space around you. Seek out its corners and edges. Get up and touch a few objects in your vicinity.

End of Meditative Practice # 2.



A collage featuring several tarot cards, including the 'NINE of Swords' which is clearly visible at the bottom. The cards are surrounded by various crystals: a large, rough, light-colored crystal in the top left; a cluster of blue crystals in the top right; and a small, smooth, purple crystal in the bottom right. A small, round, iridescent object, possibly a gemstone or a small globe, is positioned near the top center. The background is dark, making the cards and crystals stand out.

The Traditional Tarot



The Traditional Tarot

The Archetypal Tarot represents the personified spectrum of reality; the Traditional Tarot breaks this down further to a kind of 'alphabet' of stages within that spectrum.

Each 'arcana' and 'suit' within the Traditional Tarot reveal an aspect of the universal progression towards or away from Fullness. The best way to explain this is to look at the Traditional Tarot in detail.



THE FOOL.



THE EMPEROR.



STRENGTH.



THE HANGED MAN.



THE TOWER.



THE STAR.



THE MAGICIAN.



THE HIEROPHANT

The Major Arcana



TEMPERANCE.



THE MOON.



THE HIGH PRIESTESS



THE LOVERS.



THE HERMIT.



DEATH.



WHEEL of FORTUNE.



THE SUN.



THE EMPRESS.



THE CHARIOT.



JUSTICE.



THE DEVIL.



JUDGEMENT.



THE WORLD.

#0 The Fool

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The Fool is 'hero' of the traditional tarot, representing a universal viewpoint, a 'hero' to whom Life's adventures happen, and so is actually close to the Archetypal **Seeker**.

In a traditional Tarot reading, the Fool usually indicates open, willing energy and embracing the future without anxiety.

Earlier versions of The Fool card show a character driven by lower needs and impulses, poverty-stricken, decrepit and vulnerable as a result of delusion and failure; sometimes he is portrayed as a carnival entertainer. Here The Fool represents fallen humanity — or the Seeker, choosing the downward path— mired in the material plane of existence, and at the beginning of a pilgrimage toward self-knowledge and wisdom but the more consistent image is that of an innocent soul before its descent into the material world, untainted by society and all its ills.

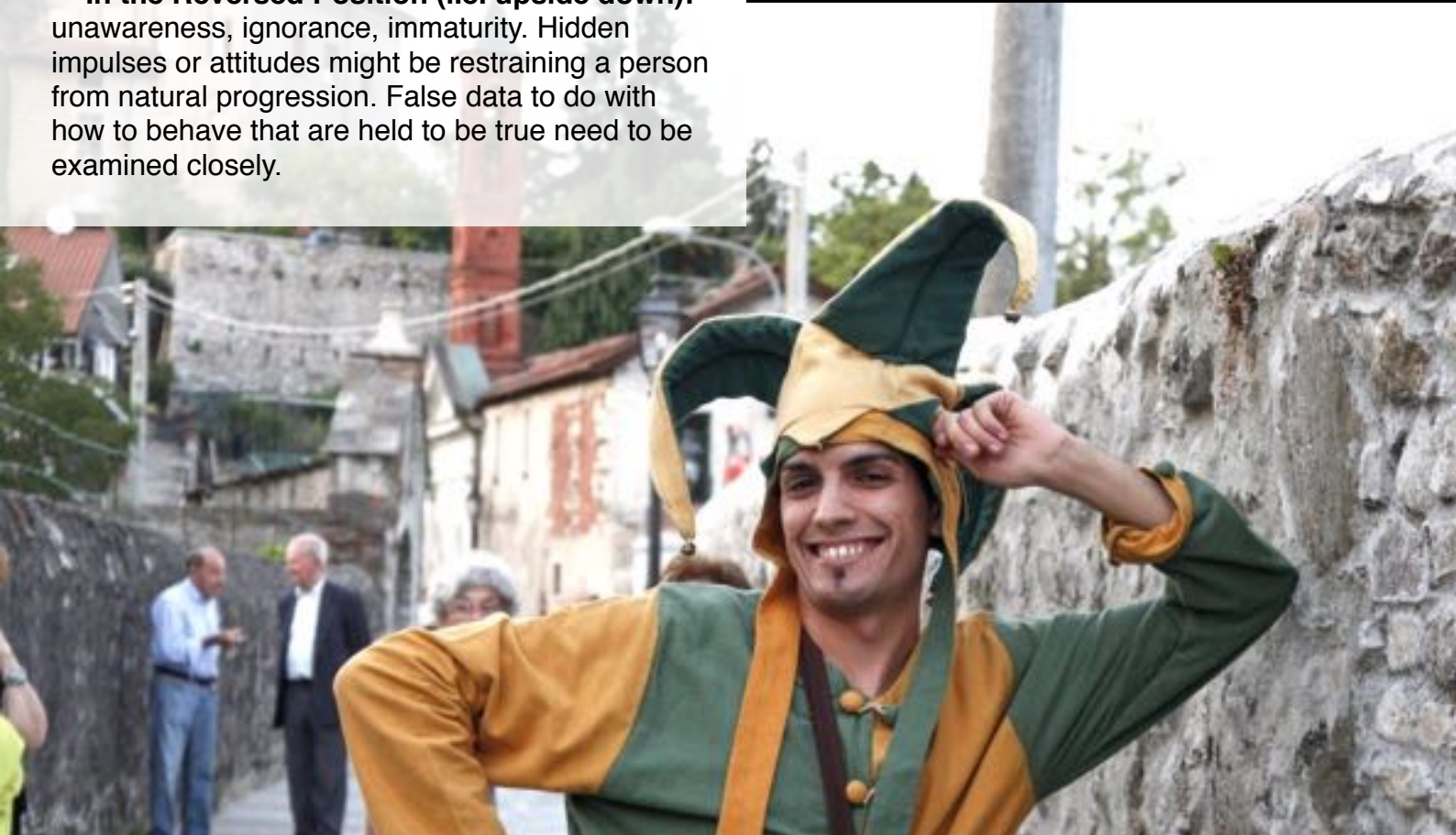
Many traditional Fool cards show the character about to make a mis-step, tumbling into the unknown, usually over a cliff.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

adopt a path of personal development; perceive where we are at in terms of that path. Focus on release from demands or expectations; put complete attention on the present moment, the moment of choice.

In the Reversed Position (i.e. upside down):

unawareness, ignorance, immaturity. Hidden impulses or attitudes might be restraining a person from natural progression. False data to do with how to behave that are held to be true need to be examined closely.



#1 The Magician

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The Magician card aligns most with the **Emergent King**. This card acts as a reminder that any human individual is a unique individual, possessed of many gifts that set them apart, which are there to help that person overcome adversity.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

The Magician in a traditional tarot reading indicates that the individual already has everything needed to move forward.

Alchemical transmutations, the charging of talismans, healing, transformation, rituals, are all normally the province of the traditional magician in human culture, the one who seeks to bring forth the 'divine gold' within, to transmute or transform what seems base and ordinary into something precious and valuable, to move from inner darkness to inner light.

This card indicates a progression from darkness to light using innate powers, guided by energies that emerge spontaneously from within.

In the Reversed Position:

A Magician card reversed indicates a working against one's own creativity. It reveals a rejection of a leadership position, even if only temporary. It means a movement downward toward the Void.



#2 The High Priestess

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The High Priestess card is closely associated with the **Submerging Queen**. This card urges the person to listen to his or her inner voice and to follow instincts.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

In a traditional tarot reading, she indicates that the individual should look inward for answers rather than outward.

The High Priestess resembles a female Pope or the ancient Egyptian Priestess of Isis, the Greek goddess Persephone, or Eve, before the fall, or the return of the Holy Spirit, which can be interpreted as the feminine aspect of the Holy Trinity. The High Priestess in the Major Arcana is the first teacher of The Fool, helping develop his innate powers and become a Magician. This card can also symbolise the contemplation of nature and spiritual mystery.

The High Priestess suggests adhering to and strengthening a chosen spiritual practice, cooperating with spirit, setting aside distractions, finding time to retreat into an inner sanctum and establishing a spiritual routine in balance with worldly pursuits.

In the Reversed Position:

Addiction to the inner self, shutting out reality, family, friends and external things, abandoning the world. This indicates a need to balance the internal and the external.



#3 The Empress

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The Empress card represents femininity, and is also closely associated with the **Submerging Queen** archetype. Compassion, beauty, and love, a deep connection to Mother Nature, and the natural world is also a part of what this card symbolises.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

Often pictured as a pre-Christian Goddess, The Empress portrays the energy of the Great Mother Nature, around us and within us, ever-present, evolving and life-giving. As different aspects of the same archetype, The Empress and The High Priestess connect with each other. Clothed with the sun, source and embodiment of natural law representing fertility, nourishment and security, this card can also represent karmic disruption.

In the Reversed Position:

Natural disasters and violent emotions.



#4 The Emperor

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The Emperor card represents leadership and power, another aspect of the **Emergent King** archetype. As an authoritative force who has been through many experiences to achieve this status, he represents structure and solidity, and reminds the individual of the immense power of self-possession.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

Representing the highest form of leadership, a head of state, or the most powerful person in the realm, responsible for the affairs of a society or community, The Emperor is the master of physical manifestation as well as a sense of sovereignty within the individual, an overcoming of self-limiting beliefs or self-doubt. This card suggests that the individual has the necessary abilities to be in control, and is able to demonstrate competence with confidence.

In the Reversed Position:

Petty tyranny, self-indulgence, being served and flattered, narcissism, arrogance distorting a point of view. The Emperor should actually be the servant of everyone in the realm. Failing to serve well can bring him down.



#5 The Hierophant

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The Hierophant acts as a messenger from the spiritual sphere, experienced in guidance, bringing valuable lessons down to us in the material world. This aligns with both the **Wisdom** archetype and that of the **Emergent King**. The word 'hierophant' means 'a person who brings religious congregants into the presence of that which is deemed *holy*'. The word comes from ancient Greece, and is a combination of *ta hiera*, 'the holy', and *phainein*, 'to show'.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

The Hierophant is a master of natural law. This card is all about the revelation of the secrets of life, the cycles of the Moon and tides, and any other connections between human beings and the heavens and is linked with the ancient lineage of Melchizedek, his right hand raised in blessing, initiator of the Hebrew priestly tradition, the one who passes on the teachings. All shamans of any tradition draw upon this archetype. The Hierophant card indicates a need to study, to learn knowledge in order to establish credibility in a particular field.

In the Reversed Position:

Rebellion against tradition or long held ideals and customary spiritual beliefs; a damaging of the relationship between the individual and the Great Mystery.



#6 The Lovers

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The Lovers card represents close relationships in life and is about the union of the **Emergent King** and the **Submerging Queen**. If it comes up in a Tarot reading, relationships of that kind are in need of focus and attention. It's also a card about your values and decisions, especially those at a crossroads in Life, where all the possible consequences of choices must be considered.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

Choosing a partner; quality or dynamics of close relationships; mutually exclusive decisions, in which one cannot take both paths, such as when one is pursuing a higher ideal and is required to sacrifice a lesser option; the path of pleasure (sexual or otherwise) and its ability to distract from spiritual growth; selfish gratification of the personality maturing into spiritual progression. It advises compromise, trusting intuition, and conviction or commitment.

In the Reversed Position:

Dichotomy or a vested interest in self-sabotage which won't be resolved until self-duplicity is admitted. It can also underlie a situation in which binary opposites appear to be in irresolvable conflict.



#7 The Chariot

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The Chariot card is about motion up through the Archetypes and is connected to natural drive and determination, incorporating the idea of victory. It suggests that the combination of rational knowledge and the power of the heart and spirit provides an unstoppable force.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

Triumph and freedom, reflecting celebration, congratulations and empowerment, the realisation of dreams. Seizing The Chariot's reins suggests successful ambition but also a risk of an increased rate of change and the possible magnification of mistakes in judgment. This in turn implies care and caution, preparation for often sudden or rapid change or motion, a greater fluidity and freedom; a self-sufficiency, like a well-equipped traveller.

In the Reversed Position:

A balking or backing off from responsibility, a choice to move away from potential; holding back for reasons of over-caution; an inner resistance and a blaming of circumstances.



#8 Strength

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The Strength card represents fortitude of heart, courage, and resilience, qualities mainly to be found in the **Emergent King**.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

The power of primal nature, wild and often untamed; an instinctive will and passion unbroken; working in harmony with the feminine soul-force to nurture and induce cooperation from others; harmony in situations producing collective good will; discipline and a separation of self interest from enlightened wisdom; avoiding wilful ego and working with intuition to influence others through integrity.

In the Reversed Position:

A weakness of position; an out-of-control, untamed force that rides roughshod over subtleties and dismisses inducements; a reversal of positions; a need to hide and rest.



#9 The Hermit

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The Hermit card suggests a yearning for solitude, a withdrawal from the noise of the world, meditation and prayer. It assumes a listening approach, and is a blend of archetypes, a mix of **Wisdom** and **Fool**, and as such is placed in a removed position from the turmoil associated with the material world.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

Quiet, mysterious knowledge, time taken to acquire wisdom; the contemplation of the elements, animals; a relaxation of the ego in communion with nature. Earlier emblems featured an hourglass, which over time shifted to a lantern: both can act as symbols for patience and enlightenment, careful contemplation, private time away from distraction; seclusion and patience in which to assimilate and process; preparation and readiness.

In the Reversed Position:

A fear of loneliness; a resistance to isolating change; a seeking to avoid something by hiding in the crowd, intuition and wisdom drowned by noise.



#10 Wheel of Fortune

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The Wheel of Fortune is about impermanence, constant change, progression up and down the ladder of Archetypes.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

Cyclical change, suggesting a wheel that keeps on rolling; ceaseless progression of ups and downs, freeing us from events as isolated incidents; rising and falling, achieving crystal clarity only at the apex. The hub represents unchanging, eternal qualities. All the points on the wheel are occupied by individuals at one point or another — the lesson is that all things will change; a flow of events, moves, spiritual awakenings, or changing social patterns.

In the Reversed Position:

A complete reframing, a totally new context or new set of opportunities, unconnected to the past, as well as a reconfiguration of ambitions.



#11 Justice

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

An assessment or re-assessment of Archetypal patterns in an individual's life, Justice indicates that there is a consequence for every action — Life as it is lived stems from decisions made in the past, and whether things appear to be punishments or rewards, all is balanced and reckoned against actions taken.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

Moral sensitivity, empathy, compassion, a sense of fairness and a standard for the humane and fair treatment of other beings, usually represented through the image of a fulcrum or scale which helps to balance individual needs against a greater good, or a two-edged sword to symbolise precision, clear judgment, and the need to attend to detail with care; observation, listening closely, giving a full hearing and attending to detail; understanding developing from subtle inferences and clues leading to wise and accurate assessments.

In the Reversed Position:

Logic, common sense, rationality and law overridden in an apparent paradox; chaos appears to ensue but over time the truth will be revealed.



#12 The Hanged Man

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The Hanged Man suggests heading down into the zone of the **Shadow** and the **Void**, detachment, limbo, sacrifice and letting go. Outcomes should not be gripped onto so tightly.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

Helplessness; waiting for judgment; individual will unable to regain control until a situation has passed; an opportunity to study and meditate, to form resolutions and to seek wisdom and patience. Possible humiliation may also be suggested; surrender illusions and self-deceptions; accept the consequences of bad decisions; cease to resist circumstances; seek to recognise collaboration with the problem.

In the Reversed Position:

The uselessness of self-sacrifice; no benefit for the greater good; no expansion of consciousness will occur; self-denial should be examined.



#13 Death

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The Death card is about the distinct motion from one Archetype to another; endings, beginnings and the passing of relationships, feelings, fears and the past — to make way for new, better things to enter.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

The death of a project, plan, or relationship; a time of harvest; a cutting of cords that link to the past; liberation to go forward; pruning everything away in order to provide for the fertility of the future; seasonal cycle of gain and loss; balance rather than permanent departure; ripeness; detachment from an old order, a closing of accounts, completing unfinished tasks; gathering a harvest, moving on, cutting cords that bind an individual to old ways and outdated conventions; a motion toward ultimate interests.

In the Reversed Position:

Persistence and endurance without the relief of an ending; delay of termination and closure; need for patience with current circumstances without necessarily expecting a negative outcome.



#14 Temperance

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The Submerging Queen working with the power of **Wisdom**, the Temperance card is about moderation, peace, patience, the flow of life rather than forcing its pace or direction.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

A classically female soul, a woman or angel, possessed of subtle energies tempering metals in a forge to produce stronger, purer products; souls volunteering their egos for cleansing and healing; turning the personality inside-out; bringing out concealed inner treasure; a quest for missing ingredients, a marshalling of skills and abilities and doing what needs to be done to complete a mission.

In the Reversed Position:

Apathy, self-doubt and ignorance of inner needs; a morbid exaggeration of chaos and disruption rather than focusing on regeneration and liberation; without the presence of higher powers, submergence is inevitable.



#15 The Devil

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

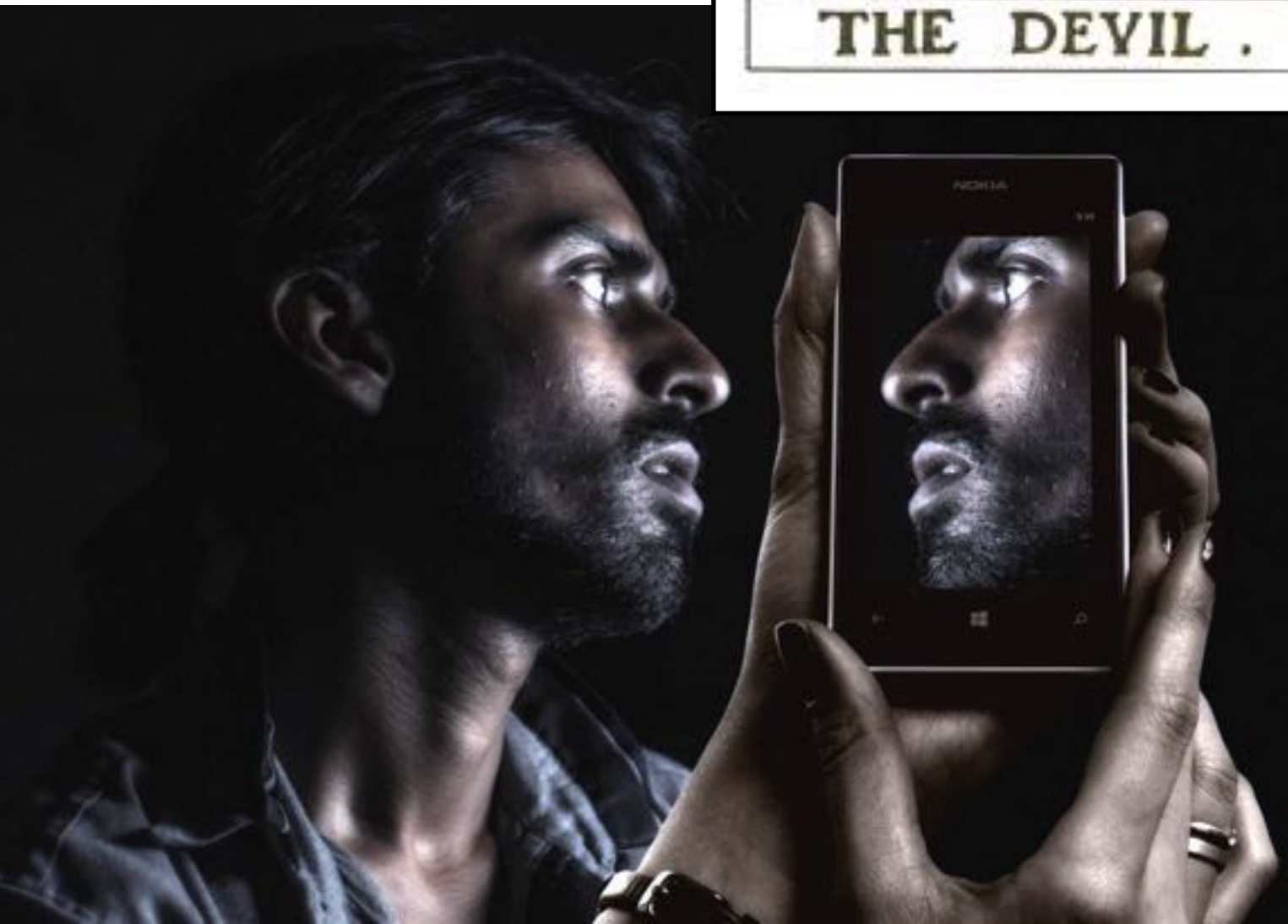
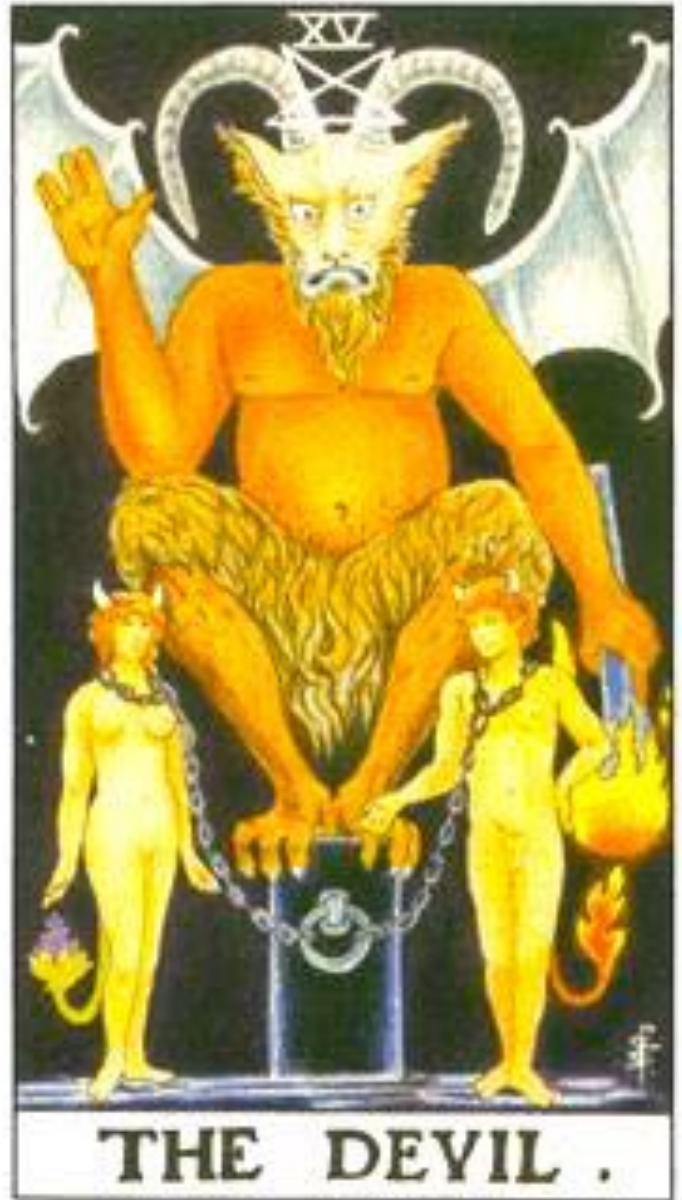
The Devil card, associated with the **Void** and the **Shadow** in the Seven Archetypes, indicates restraint, powerlessness, a lack of control and being stuck in a situation without options. However, the entrapment is not instigated by external forces, but by the individual's own limitations or unwillingness to move forward.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

Taboo topics, culturally rejected shadows and the subconscious; the core of individual being; a set of passions which cannot be gotten rid of and which cannot be tamed, often portrayed as a vampire-demon, a source of wild and passionate forces; primal reserves of passion and desire empowering efforts to overcome convention and expectation and experience true freedom of soul; asserting an agenda, honest expression and allowing circumstances to take their course; expressing true emotions, including anger, as part of acknowledging truth and accepting the power and depth of inner experience.

In the Reversed Position:

Chaos and resistance without ultimate purpose; a rebellious course leading to serious trouble; revelry and wild antics.



#16 The Tower

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The Tower is a representation of the power of the **Void**, destruction, remorseless crumbling. The message of this card is that the weakest parts of a life must be torn down in order to build something strong and sturdy in their place.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

Lightning striking or demons released from ancient hiding places; society collapses; a hierarchy is toppled; drastic social change or revolution is indicated, revealing a fresh start; radical change has already been unleashed by gigantic forces, the future is bursting in on the present, prompting efforts at mediation and protection.

In the Reversed Position:

The aftermath of drama and a leaving behind of issues and emotions associated with trauma; the episode is over; time to find renewed energy for whatever comes next.



#17 The Star

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The Star represents **Wisdom**, hope and healing, a calming influence that brings renewal, optimism, inspiration and a sense that the universe is working positively; a re-dedication to higher values, meditation practice, and surrendering to the greater good; connecting to the higher self and the larger realm; quiet contemplation leads to a communion.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

Reconnecting the individual soul with the divine; the transcending of personality, family, community, and individual reputation; the soul responding to celestial influences and a stronger sense of purpose, remembering origins and its attraction to a higher union, referring back to the reason for being, the mission in this lifetime; a reminder that souls are agents of divine will in day-to-day existence; recognition of the divine in daily life, encouraging the perception of invisible help and a better understanding of our place within — and value to — the larger cosmos.

In the Reversed Position:

Alienation from usefulness; a sense of being at odds with the truth of things; a forgetting of purpose in this lifetime.



#18 The Moon

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The Moon card is connected to the **Shadow** and the **Void** archetypes. Individuality re-emerges in an ocean of being which can be terrifying and overwhelming; it is about the subconscious, internal thoughts, feelings, doubts and fears. In a Tarot reading, it indicates anxiety that overrides the memories of the past and faith in the future; intuitive trust rather than reliance upon the civilised self; supportive meditation.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

A deeply relaxed state of sensitivity and imaginative impressionability; dream, trance, visions, insights, and psychic tides; deep mystical and/or terrifying realities beyond ordinary senses and states of expanded consciousness; a test of a soul's integrity.

In the Reversed Position:

Self-delusion, exaggeration or embellishment; emotional dramatisation rather than actuality; a loss of balance and the centre.



#19 The Sun

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The Sun represents **Wisdom** and the **Fool**, happiness, joy, vitality, and optimism. It is a positive sign that things are working well and that motion is occurring in the right direction.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

Personality and character, health and safety; limitations stripped away; the soul is refreshed in the garden and protected from the chaos outside the garden walls; reclaiming of primordial goodness, truth, and beauty, a human incarnation of the divine; a resolution of the tension between opposites; confidence in natural divinity; a throwing off of any cultural conditioning that prevents authenticity; a revelation of true motives and principles; a focus on the positive and the real; a falling away of contrivance.

In the Reversed Position:

There is no negative meaning in a reversed Sun card.



#20 Judgement

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

Judgement is about **Wisdom**, a review and alignment. The Judgement card indicates that the future is not set in stone, and that it's never too late to make a change for the better. The Judgement Tarot card indicates freedom from inner conflicts, the clearing of channels, the processes of opening the self, and manifesting as a multi-dimensional being.

What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

Sometimes called 'Resurrection', it represents a great reunion that the ancients believed would happen once in every age — souls would be harvested and taken to their place of origin outside the solar system and the world re-seeded with a batch of new souls. Reunion is also about the psychological completion of process like symbolically celebrating birthdays; growth, transformation, and the release of hidden potentials; investing energies in new growth and becoming a more complete person; trusting impulses.

In the Reversed Position:

Externally imposed restrictions, inexplicable blockages; not allowing the growth within you to diminish; continuing to flow.



#21 The World

Position in relation to the Seven Archetypes:

The World is the last card of the Major Arcana, and represents **Wisdom**: completion, success, fulfilment and greater understanding. It represents what becomes known when the true nature of self is followed to creative freedom and achieves its ultimate form.


What the Card Means in the Traditional Tarot:

Usually represented as a female figure that originated in Hebrew, Gnostic, and Alchemical lore, standing between Heaven and Earth as a cosmic mother of souls, the wife of God, and our protector from the karmic forces that humanity has set loose upon the Earth in its immaturity and ignorance, inviting a cosmic citizenship once humanity is ready; an awakening of the soul's immortal being, accomplished without death; a motivation close to the will of the divine; error is turned to the greater good; the dancer and the dance are one; divine intention achieved.

In the Reversed Position:

This card, like the Sun, has no negative meaning no matter where or how it appears.





The Minor Arcana

A vibrant landscape photograph featuring a double rainbow arching over a dark, silhouetted forested mountain. The sky is a deep blue with scattered white clouds, and a bright light source, likely the sun, is visible behind the clouds, creating a lens flare effect. The rainbow's colors are vivid, with red on the outside and violet on the inside.

The Minor Arcana: Meanings Behind the Number Cards

Just as the Archetypal Tarot represents the broad spectrum of all reality, and the Major Arcana, made up of largely archetypal figures or actions, enables some detail, so the Minor Arcana suits, each corresponding to some elemental aspect of Life, empower the individual to determine micro-aspects of what is happening to them and around them.

There are 56 cards in the Minor Arcana, made up of four suits; each suit is made up of 14 cards. The order of these suits follows the order of the elements themselves: Fire, Water, Air, Earth.

Number Card Energies

The Minor Arcana suits each contain an Ace card, numbered cards from two through 10, and four Court cards: Page, Knight, Queen, and King. Each of these cards holds an important position within the suit, and these positions have their own potent energies independent of the suits themselves. Here, we will take a look at the numbered cards, including the Ace as the 'One' card.



Aces

The Ace position contains boundless pre-creative energy or potential.

It symbolises the space between cycles, the existence between life and death, the pause between inhale and exhale.

An Ace reminds you that your potential is limitless, and where you go next is entirely up to you.

Gaps, holes, emptinesses, missing things, losses, can all be suggested by the Ace.

A powerful way to view the Ace is to see it as a vacuum of potential.



A man and a woman are shown from the chest up, submerged in clear blue water. They are both wearing white, flowing robes. The man is on the left, looking towards the woman on the right. The woman is looking back at him. The water is bright and clear, with some bubbles visible. The overall mood is serene and romantic.

Two

The Two indicates union, partnership and harmony.

Twos can symbolise the beauty of relationships, duality and opposition, or even the potential for creation.

Two also indicates binary poles, opposites and the potential spectrum between.



Three

The Three represents development and creativity, help and growth.

Collaboration, delegation, selection and completion are also suggested.



Four

The Fours represents foundations, success and stability.

They can also indicate the need to take a period of rest before moving forward again, as well as a sense of disappointment that things are not yet complete.



Five

The Five represents instability, struggle and change.

Fives remind us that difficulties are necessary but do not last.



Six

The Six represents the effort to restore balance, harmony, reconciliation, realignment and a bridge between the struggles of the past and the potential of the future.

The Six indicates a move back to stable ground.



Seven

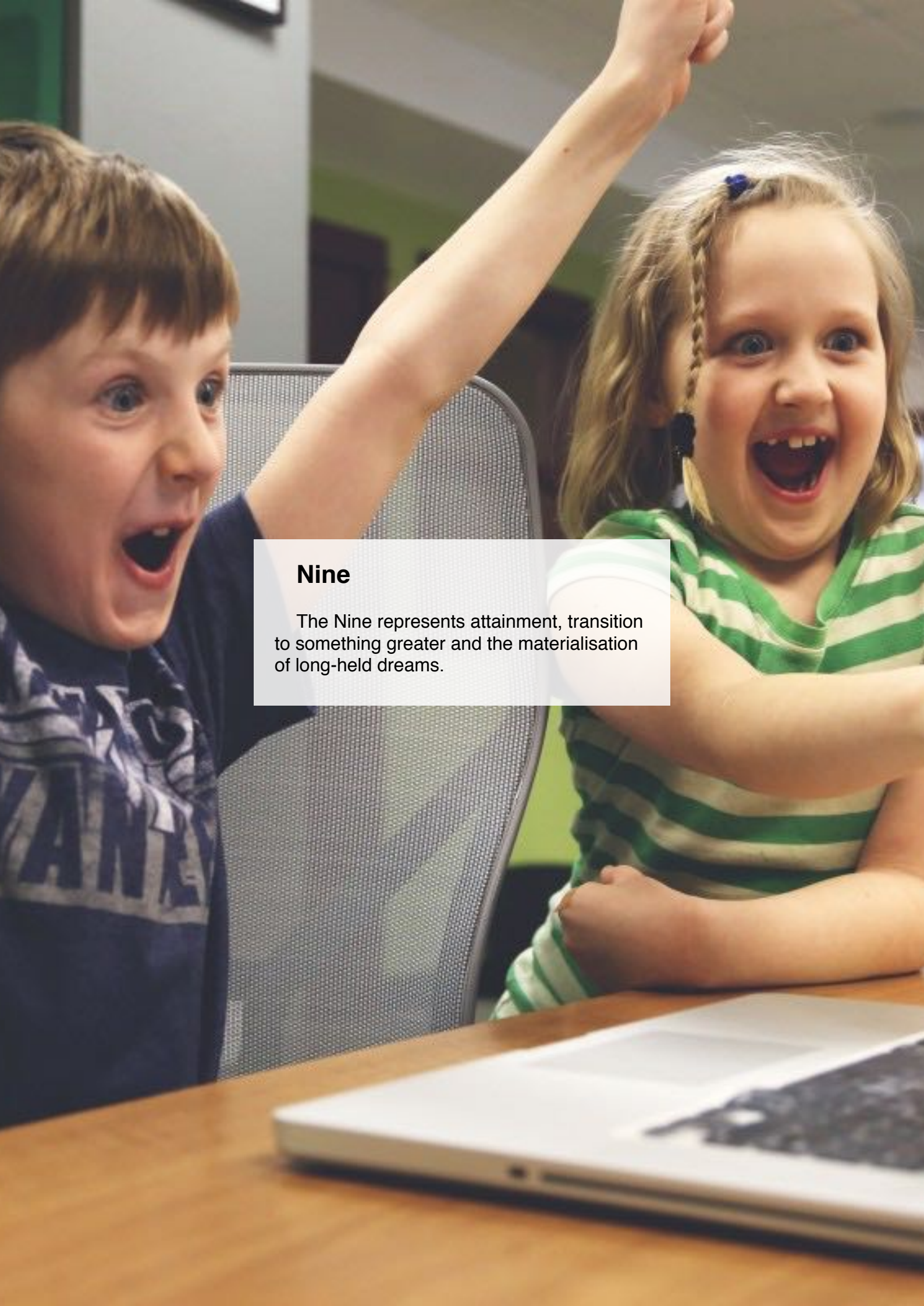
The Seven represents lessons, re-evaluation, knowledge and certainty.

The background image is a wide-angle, low-angle shot of the interior of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. The view is from an upper level, looking down into a large, open hall. The most striking feature is the massive, vaulted glass and iron roof, which is supported by a complex network of dark metal trusses. The glass panels are set in a grid pattern, allowing natural light to flood the space. Below the roof, the architecture is made of light-colored stone or brick. On the left and right sides, there are tall, arched windows. In the center, a wide staircase with a white balustrade leads down to a lower level. On that lower level, there are several arched doorways and a central statue. In the foreground, the top of a large, ornate chandelier is visible, partially obscuring the bottom of the frame. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid in the center of the image, containing text.

Eight

The Eight represents profound but positive change, systems and supportive foundations.

It suggests achievement, change and advancement.



Nine

The Nine represents attainment, transition to something greater and the materialisation of long-held dreams.



Ten

The Ten represents the end of a cycle, both physically and spiritually, transition between phases, culmination, completion, rest.

The Suit of Wands - Fire

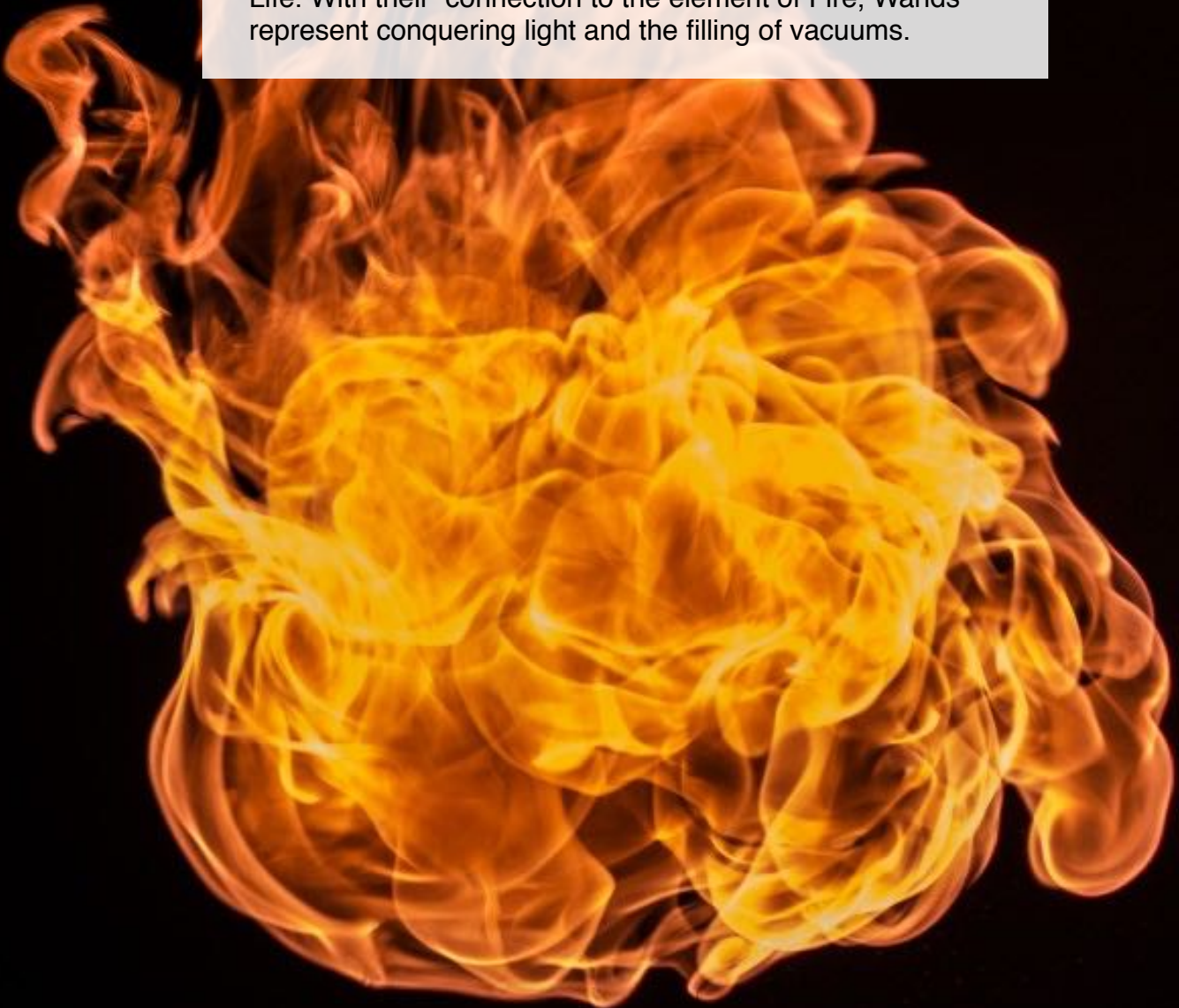
Think Momentum, forward motion, movement from one thing to the next. This suit, sometimes called 'Rods' or 'Staves', represents initiative, ambition, drive and desire. This is the suit of enterprise and risk-taking.

Connected to the spring season and the Fire element, Wands are about boldness, ambition, drive, competitiveness, and initiative, but also linear motion, direction, vectors.

A Wands card indicates action that is being taken or suggested, implying change. Wands are like verbs.

As well as being powerful and passionate cards that can urge you to make moves, they can also act as a warning that you're moving too fast.

Given that motion, purpose and direction indicate the presence the life force, Wands are to do with energy and Life. With their connection to the element of Fire, Wands represent conquering light and the filling of vacuums.



Ace of Wands

A pivotal action or fateful step, a birth or new beginning, the initiation of an endeavour, a necessary commitment to see something through. It indicates a time of inspiration and motivation.

Advice:

Take a bold step forward; energetic movement toward activity, a springing into action, spontaneity, seizing opportunity without hesitation.

In the Reversed Position:

Resistance to change.



Two of Wands

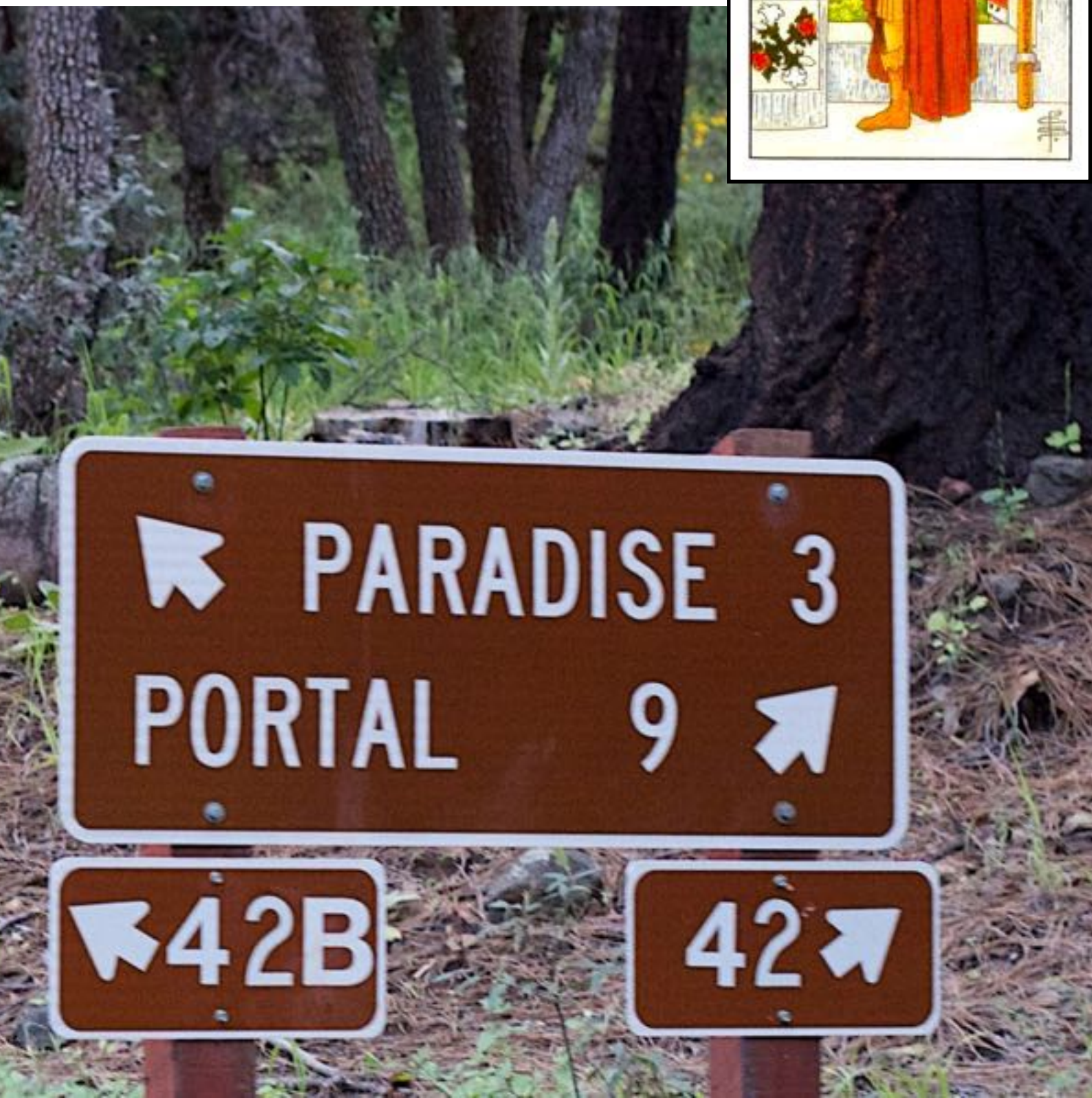
The second step of a journey, when direction and planning become essential, often portrayed as crossed wands, implying a deadlock or working at cross-purposes. Anything to do with binary opposites, psychologically or in terms of moral choices, is also implied.

Advice:

Respect for the decision-making process, and an appreciation of the various implications of possible choices.

In the Reversed Position:

A jam in the process of decision making; a problem; intention versus counter-intention.



Three of Wands

Inner balance permitting optimism. A human character stands on a balcony, watching ships leave a harbour, loaded with goods for far-off ports, dreaming of fortunes, but implying patience and trust; the energy a person needs to take on great adventures and accomplish noble (and remunerative) deeds. A detail that sometimes appears in the more esoteric Tarots is a winged wand with two snakes twining around it, called the Caduceus, which is Mercury's wand. This is an ancient symbol of the healer or shaman, one who can travel between the worlds to rescue souls from death or possession.

Advice:

Quick action, perfect timing; being 'in the moment' and responding to instinct or intuition; risks taken based on gut feelings; acting to instigate entrepreneurial growth; making a move and sorting out the details later.

In the Reversed Position:

Temporary lapse of drive or will, perhaps from exhaustion.



Four of Wands

The teamwork card, often symbolised by two couples who have come together to create something profitable and enduring. Quite likely, they will create a gift for the future — a business, hospital, theatre or university. They represent the founding families of the future community that will grow around their inspiration. It takes time to build a grand vision; and other people of ambition and talent must be attracted to it for it to fulfil its potential; founding visionaries committing their energies to designing the blueprints and laying the groundwork, the prototype for society or any grouping where the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

Advice:

Seek stimulation from imaginative individuals to sustain your creative powers; good, productive, evolutionary ideas; concentrating on networking; use charisma and power to attract like-minded souls to significantly increase a sphere of influence; enthusiasm empowering vision, which is thriving with possibilities.

In the Reversed Position:

Losing touch with the needs of others; inherent problem-solving skills going dormant; needing stimulation and contact with creative individuals of a like mind.



Five of Wands

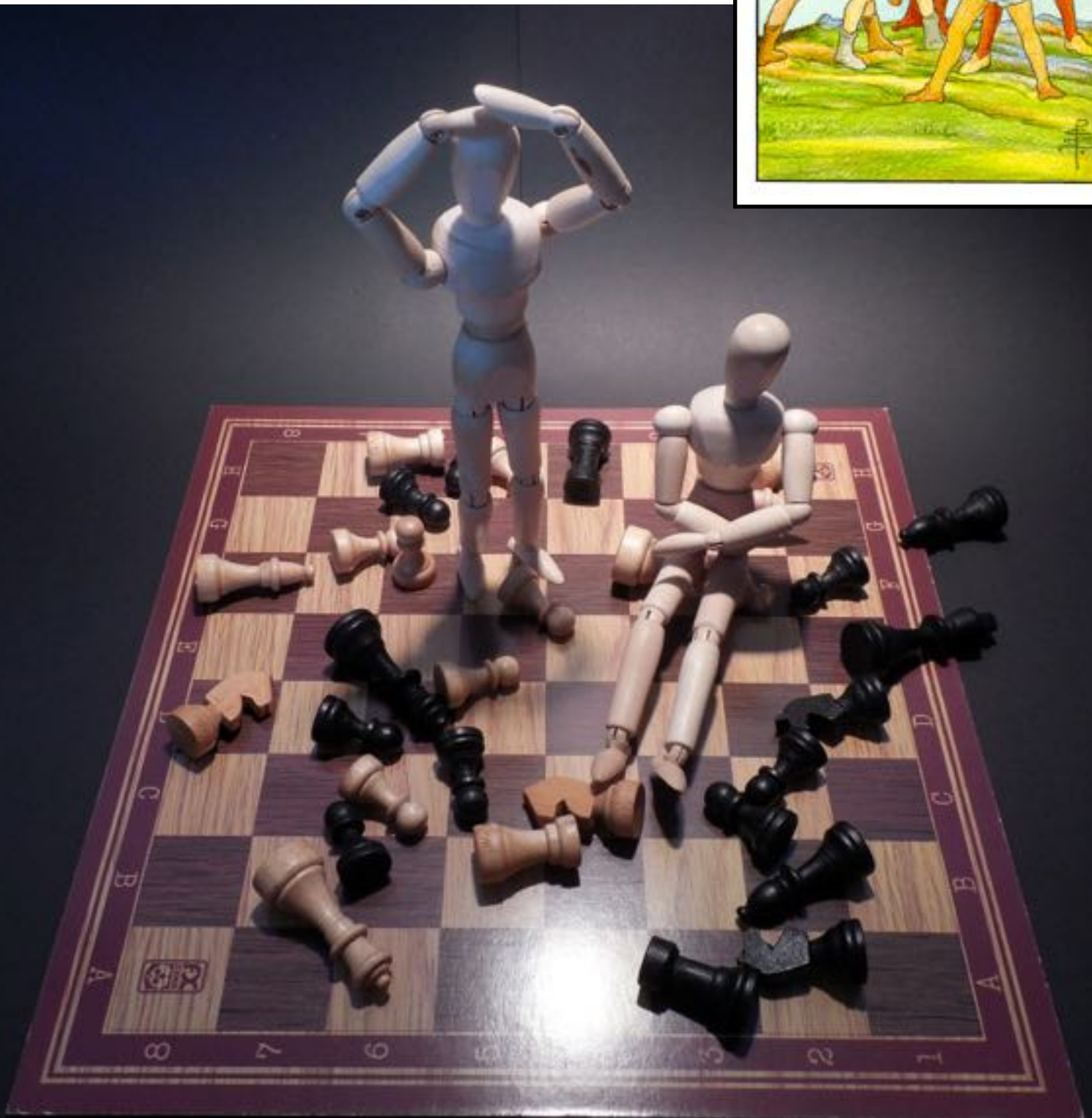
Struggles caused by ambitious manoeuvring and a competitive urge; pushing an agenda forward at the expense of others; the fine line between demonstrating personal excellence and making others feel like losers.

Advice:

Find natural ambition; identify what energises.

In the Reversed Position:

No way to completely overcome the competitive environment; inability to bond with potential partners in a team spirit; falling back on a sense of mission and sense of survival to provide direction.



Six of Wands

Respect and acknowledgment due for efforts to solve the problems. The image is usually of a victory parade, after the celebrated leader helped troops win a pivotal battle. The team is thrilled that the leader led them to victory; a time to let everyone relax and celebrate.

Advice:

Taking action on burning and passionate convictions, no matter what the social consequences; articulating and defining self in light of vision; inspiring others to conceive new ideas.

In the Reversed Position:

Agreeing to take a leadership role even if it's uncomfortable; with the admiration and privileges of a leadership role comes the pressure of people's expectations and a certain lack of privacy; being more visible and accountable.



Seven of Wands

A person who is nearly always successful in working his or her will in the world, truly gifted, standing head and shoulders above the rest, setting standards and examples that exceed previous conceptions of what is possible. In historical Tarot, this person would most likely be portrayed as an admired and feared warrior who has vanquished his adversaries against all odds. Such an outstanding feat could just as easily apply to the world of the media, politics or business.

Advice:

Beware of conceitedness that can be hinted at by this card. Being successful does not make you invincible.

In the Reversed Position:

Active resistance of the expenditure of time and energy required to be useful; capable of being a role model but trouble accepting the challenge; lack of motivation; shrinking self-esteem.



Eight of Wands

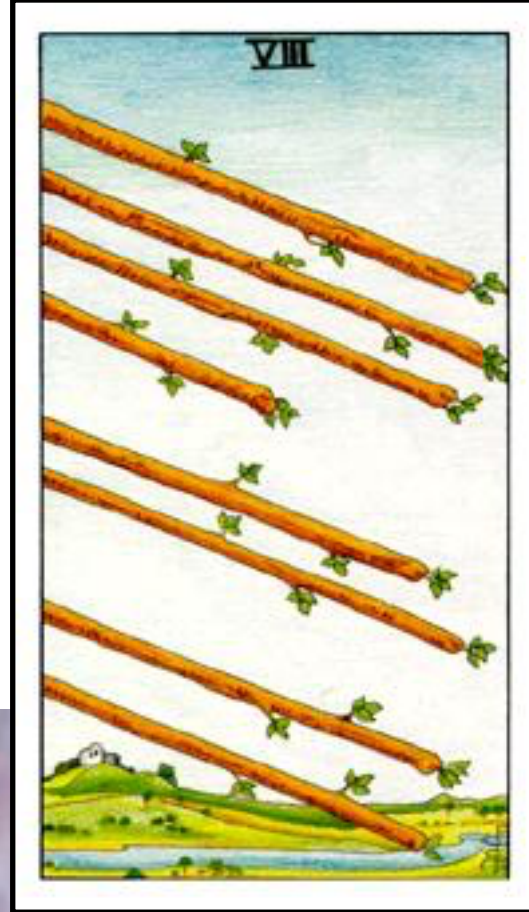
Often shows a flight of spears or staffs moving through the air in formation, as if a hidden group of archers had let them fly all at once, possibly referring to swiftly unfolding events, unintentional or intentional. Also the agricultural cycle, paralleling the yearly crop cycle with the swift growth of children into adults with children of their own; necessity of change and the challenge of keeping up with it.

Advice:

Learn all you can from recent successful experiences; don't just cling to past successes and previous accomplishments.

In the Reversed Position:

Awakening to changes that are happening..



Nine of Wands

A need for rest; mending wounds and savouring victories; leaving the field, releasing any attachment to a leadership role for now. The protagonist is shown as too exhausted to be effective in defending his gains, yet resisting the suggestion to ask for help or step down, making himself irreplaceable.

Advice:

Accept help; everything that can be done has been done to bring a situation to a successful conclusion; all the creative energy that is available has already been put to use. Lay down concerns and enjoy a rest; regenerate and restore energy.

In the Reversed Position:

Avoid losing battles, seek new perspectives, question motives.



Ten of Wands

All-out effort, an obsessive commitment to a task which demands everything. The person shown is in no position to rest until he makes it inside the stout walls of the well-defended castle in the distance. If he fails, he will become prey for the highway robbers after dark. It doesn't matter that he's overloaded and underfed.

Advice:

Do whatever it takes to get to completion — nothing can be allowed to interfere; identify the purest, most wholesome impulses; allow optimism and honour to see what's good about the world; look beyond challenges, setbacks, disappointments and frustrations.

In the Reversed Position:

Lacking perspective is impairing progress; rest and step back.



Page of Wands

Traditionally entitled the Page, but in some modern decks appearing as a Princess, a unique individual, a nonconformist, often something of a bohemian, definitely independent by nature requiring little in the way of affirmation or approval; perhaps a mischief-maker, often an innovator or inventor. Don't be fooled by this humble appearance. This person is a future captain of industry or world leader, now serving an apprenticeship, sometimes seen planting a staff like a flagpole into the earth in the far off wilderness (where they can start fresh without having to make any compromises). A wild card; knowledge of how to facilitate communication depends upon a study of the environment.

Advice:

Blend into surroundings to gather information and get a clear sense of what is going on; be a secret agent for the greater good; transform divisiveness to unity; watch quietly from the sidelines.

In the Reversed Position:

Emphasise beneficial contributions; don't be overly concerned with reputation or image; don't be seen as a source of controversy or conflict; stand up for peace, compromise and harmony even if these values have been pushed into the background.



Knight of Wands

Traditionally called the Knight, but in some modern decks appears as the Prince, indicating the energy of an instigator, a fire-starter, a feisty and easily provoked character who is liable to attack first and ask questions later; also a helper, rescuing the world from its madness by imposing a sense of order upon it; bossiness, paranoia and a tendency towards overkill. Sometimes this energy is perfectly appropriate, like when asserting protective nature over threatened treasures or interfering with dark forces. Keep a sense of proportion when this Knight unleashes fire — intense experiences are enjoyed and are always ready to be taken to the next level.

Advice:

The time is right for action. Any form of motion is better than no motion.

In the Reversed Position:

Giving the knowledge or opinion of others a fair hearing; listening and trying to comprehend why they disagree despite anxiety to get moving; consideration of others' points of view and giving them the benefit of the doubt.



Queen of Wands

A woman represents the natural manager, whose gift is to inspire teamwork and delegate tasks, ensuring everything runs smoothly, inspiring everybody to keep up and supporting morale with infectious energy; a challenging but encouraging mother, who believes in her charges and they work hard to please her. Unsentimental, like a good farmer, she views her crops, her animals, even the people who work for her, as necessary resources for the achievement of the higher goal. If any aspect is no longer productive or cost-effective, she can let them go without a second thought. Do not look to her for sympathy; a need to hold a place in the chain of command and respect the hierarchy (at least for now).

Advice:

Not a time to be at the helm, even if motivated by a strong dedication to completing a project or overcoming a challenge; a perceived deficiency in leadership may prompt a wish to take hold of the reins, but restrain yourself and remain loyal to seniors. Stay focused and energetic. Enthusiastically confront the challenges; perform in good faith and encourage others to do the same.

In the Reversed Position:

A hidden agenda is detected, and undeniable if it is brought to light. Trust more important than image.



King of Wands

The classic conquering hero; a charismatic leader, entrepreneurial and ambitious, always creating new adventures; restlessness and boredom with the predictable; a crusader, someone to take on a big challenge; enjoyment of flattery and praise; overachieves in situations where it will be noticed, but in private wants to be served and adored like the head lion of a pride. Our lives are designed to bring us eventually to a place of self-ownership; an opportunity for self-empowerment is presenting itself; through attitude, power is held over experiences in life.

Advice:

Indecision or doubt are not appropriate responses when clarity and confidence are critical. As roles grow, it will begin to feel more comfortable; seize the opportunity to influence events.

In the Reversed Position:

Danger in mistaking empowerment for domination, hence a potential for undermining the autonomy of others; exercise positive use of power; guard against any old tendencies to grab the controls and take over.



The Suit of Cups — Emotion (Water)

The Suit of Cups, inclining toward **Wisdom**, represents watery emotions and relates to our feelings and matters of the heart. Cups in a reading are associated with love, feelings, and inner conflict, and can ask us to consider what is deeply important to us.

Cups cards are associated with summer, water and flowing with feelings

Also referred to as Chalices or Hearts, this suit represents the emotional and psychic aspects of life — fantasy, imagination, feelings, love.



Ace of Cups

A hand holding up an overflowing cup, which gives forth an endless stream of water, wine, blood or some other liquid for refreshment and healing; an unfailing source of balm for body, heart and soul, suggesting relaxation into a safety net of love, support and communion; too much attention on outer circumstances and not enough on available nurturing energy; withdrawal, becoming harmonious within, until love and trust return; reclaim faith in the abundance of the universe;.

Advice:

Make no moves or decisions until cleansed of any pessimism and negativity; challenge and discover what is good about every relationship; practice looking at the world through the eyes of the Divine. Magnetism will increase; the whole world will benefit as this becomes second nature.

In the Reversed Position:

Loss of self-esteem, optimism and faith in the abundance that the universe has to offer; loss of altitude; mental diet.



Two of Cups

A union of souls; a romantic relationship, including the idea that all good friendships and partnerships are based on a natural affinity and a deep mutual understanding. Mind and soul discovering each other, maybe for the first time. This card also symbolises a karmic tie, often portrayed by a wreath or figure-eight ribbon twining around the two cups. Occasionally there is an Alchemic symbol referring to the union of alchemical opposites (as in sacred sex), pictured as a long-necked flask twined with serpents, its mouth spouting flames, sometimes with wings, indicating the refining and mutually completing effect of a true and lasting love; the image of the heart making a vow, pledging self to a friendship and putting the heart on the line, with nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Advice:

Life as a relationship game; sharing with others who are complementary and compatible.

In the Reversed Position:

Stop seeking so much validation from others; attentiveness to others has overtaken the psyche, to the neglect of self. Undermining self undermines relationships too. Working extra hard to take care of others may disguise abandonment of self, leading to alienation and resentment.



Three of Cups

Consent, the spirit of agreement, mutual support, encouragement and teamwork, often pictured as three women celebrating connectedness in a dance with lifted cups; sisterhood; the benefits of harmonious relationships.

Advice:

Tune in with family; allow them to add substance with their talent and imagination. Everyone can contribute; trust will be well rewarded. Synergy could enhance each individual's talent and creativity.

In the Reversed Position:

Frustration of the best efforts of loved ones and allies; the importance of maintaining harmony in relationships which are a valuable asset; allowing in love and caring, not turning away the possibility of harmony and enjoyable contact.



Four of Cups

A restless time, dissatisfaction, emotional discomfort, stagnation, longing for change; taking a clear look at stalling or distraction, becoming bogged down by negativity, hopelessness or a sense of limitation. Cutting through some of the forces that undermine, defining what is 'for' and 'against', deciding whether to be as heavy as a cup of earth, as placid as a cup of water, as turbulent as a cup of air, or as aroused as a cup of fire.

Advice:

Arousal may constitute liberation from existing circumstances.

In the Reversed Position:

Not making the reasons for reluctance clear; resisting the flow of events, but not admitting it; foot-dragging or unmotivated, passive-aggressive stalling. Recognise this as a symptom of deeper dissatisfaction.



Five of Cups

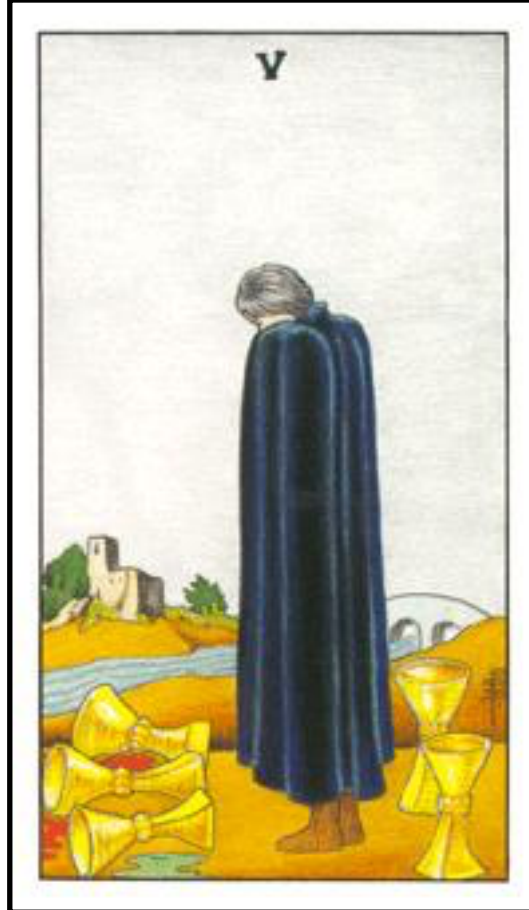
Aftermath of an emotional upheaval, such as a tantrum or fit of rage; a hangover and lost wages, abuse and ruined relationships. Also sometimes called Inheritance, suggesting cross-generational legacy, violent family patterns magnified; war. Tightening belts, making do with less and showing more appreciation for things. Loss may be due to an inappropriate emotional attachment.

Advice:

Don't promise undeliverable things or disappointment will follow. Overestimating abilities leads to facing limits. As the cups fell, only three of the five were lost. Two are still intact — do not cling to the setback, focus on the potential.

In the Reversed Position:

A paradoxical situation wherein what seems like the worst thing that could happen actually creates a better circumstance; any incoherent fear, once expressed and faced, can be transformed into a manageable issue. Liberation from the dread of negative anticipation; freedom to act authentically as a result of this energy transformation.



Six of Cups

Refreshing openness and innocence, a willingness to learn and an optimism that things will get better as understanding is advanced. Also known as The Past, reminiscent of original nature, youth and enthusiasm, when anything was possible and the future was an open book. Repetition or cycles in life; links between present situations and past experiences; new beginnings require new energy and concentration. Until the past is analysed drift may occur.

Advice:

Distill memories to get as much value from them as possible; use this as motivation for change. Use hindsight, employ new strategies and try new angles on recurring issues.

In the Reversed Position:

Final closing of accounts with an emotional undertow; revisiting wounded places calmly, without the fear that of being drawn back in; no lingering emotional residue or entrenched nostalgia remaining; putting to rest past experiences.



Seven of Cups

Works of the imagination, the use of dream and vision to invent a different future; outcomes are not set in stone; raising hopes and expectations and upgrading. Also known as Fantasy, which indicates the magical quality of awakened imagination.

Advice:

Relax the mind and open dreams and imaginings; imagine positive outcomes; creatively visualise, relax guards, let go of fears.

In the Reversed Position:

A reawakening to playfulness, joy and curiosity. Lack of purpose has a deadening effect, a forgetting how to dream — mind and imagination can become dry and orientated to materiality, devoid of glow, or spark, which should not be tolerated for long. Stimulate endorphins; making contact (perhaps through art or meditation) with something good, true and beautiful to find relief from deadening flatness.



Eight of Cups

Disappointment, emotional setback, betrayal or injury to the heart, often illustrated with a young woman who has just been molested and then cast aside by a stranger, leaving her vulnerable, with potentially drastic consequences, warning against misplaced trust and unguarded vulnerability. Looking inside and recognising old grudges from past injuries or traumas; getting on with life; possibly nursing old wounds from painful losses of faith and trust; scrutiny of current motives.

Advice:

Seek to understand and accept hesitation and fear and come to terms with them. Put old emotions in their rightful place.

In the Reversed Position:

A terrible event, which has not been allowed to ruin life; emotional agony but resilience; a bouncing back from setbacks; learning to transform disappointments into a will to change. Resilience converts adversity into positive accomplishment.



Nine of Cups

Sometimes titled Happiness, also known as Victory, often showing an innkeeper doing brisk business and feeling very happy. Happiness also refers to the feelings of fulfilment stemming from good service to the community or family, as well as gratitude for blessings. Open to circumstances — there may be no need to manage a situation that does not require a lot of control or leadership.

Advice:

Be heartfelt, bonded, nurturing, receptive. Proceed from the heart, rely on intuition. Be attracted to what feels supportive, avoid what feels harsh, critical and judgmental.

In the Reversed Position:

Getting what is wanted, but finding it's not what was wanted at all. This may not be the thing itself, but the discovery of false expectations.



Ten of Cups

Family and community, often showing a celebratory scene including many generations, crowned by a rainbow signifying the end of hard times. Love and support extending in all directions.

Advice:

Prioritise teamwork over personal goals; the goodwill that will emerge from such an approach will last long after the project is over. Generous rewards later if a selfless approach is taken.

In the Reversed Position:

A group's collective good will is damaged and its safety net is fraying; personal judgments and rejection abound; things are being said and done that will be regretted later. Mediation is called for to re-establish mutual trust and support — provide an example for others to follow or things will dissolve.



Page of Cups

Entitled the Page, also appearing as a Princess, a poetic, mystical, emotionally open young person, still tender and idealistic, given to flights of imaginative fantasy; energy exquisitely refined and fine-tuned; being grounded in reality has not yet entirely set in, so subjected to external forces and events.

Advice:

Work to achieve a stronger will and a more calculating mind, to balance and protect sensitivity. Study the best ways to be of service. Strive to discern what would give more pleasure, comfort and emotional security and then provide it. Understand that what is happening has little or nothing to do with personality. Look at individuals as the embodiment of the Divine; try to fulfil each one's needs. Be unconcerned with the outcome; understanding comes later.

In the Reversed Position:

Those around have been tolerant of self-indulgent feelings but don't owe any service; unpleasant surprises. Make others' desires and well-being a higher priority.



Knight of Cups

Traditionally entitled the Knight, also known as the Prince, often portraying a homecoming after a long journey, possibly a return after a long estrangement, a taste for adventure exhausted; a romanticisation of battles or travel in strange lands; returning to recognition, where the individual is wanted and welcome, with the attitude of one who has become older and wiser, the prodigal son. Getting involved with what is happening in the present.

Advice:

Examine underlying values —possibly something has been mistakenly rejected in the past. Humility and heart and soul nourishment.

In the Reversed Position:

Looking for excuses or a way to blame problems on someone else; immaturity, lack of personal responsibility, adding conflict rather than exercising natural helping and healing powers.



Queen of Cups

A sensitive, vulnerable, omniscient woman who offers unconditional love, supremely empathic, her caring nature exposes her to everybody else's emotions and needs. Difficulty identifying own best interests in the midst of responsiveness to others; unfocused or perhaps overwhelmed. She represents the Grail Queen, as well as the Goddess of the Family.

Advice:

Be generous, kind and forgiving. Do not encourage complacency or dependency, as others can take support for granted with little or no consideration for needs. Cultivate an awareness of love as freely giving and receiving while clarifying the important difference between receiving energy and taking it. Do not allow giving to be misunderstood or abused, as if it were a weakness.

In the Reversed Position:

Cessation of all efforts to dull pain or distract from it. Emotional honesty is called for. Continue to anaesthetise pain and it won't be released. Distracting from reality only serves to entrench the problem.



King of Cups

Portraying a watery background, with a man seated on a throne, holding the Cup of Mystery in his hand - occasionally, the cup is fulminating like the mouth of a volcano, emanating light, but never boiling over. Sometimes the king is robed like a priest or shaman, intense and intuitive, not to be taken lightly. Strength, passion and commitment without the need to communicate it.

Advice:

Closely examine conscience and bring a personal mission into alignment with what is best for everyone. Step into a community or situation with integrity and an ability to communicate the highest wisdom, inspiring others to raise their own motives and intentions. Strong leadership uses strong reassurance to help everyone work together.

In the Reversed Position:

Bitterly holding a grudge or hatred, withholding a propensity for forgiveness and blessing, creating an emotional vacuum which deprives of serenity; prodigious powers of empathy and compassion are wasted in favour of rehashing the past and self-pity. Admit the hurt, forgive and embrace; let peace and benevolence back in.

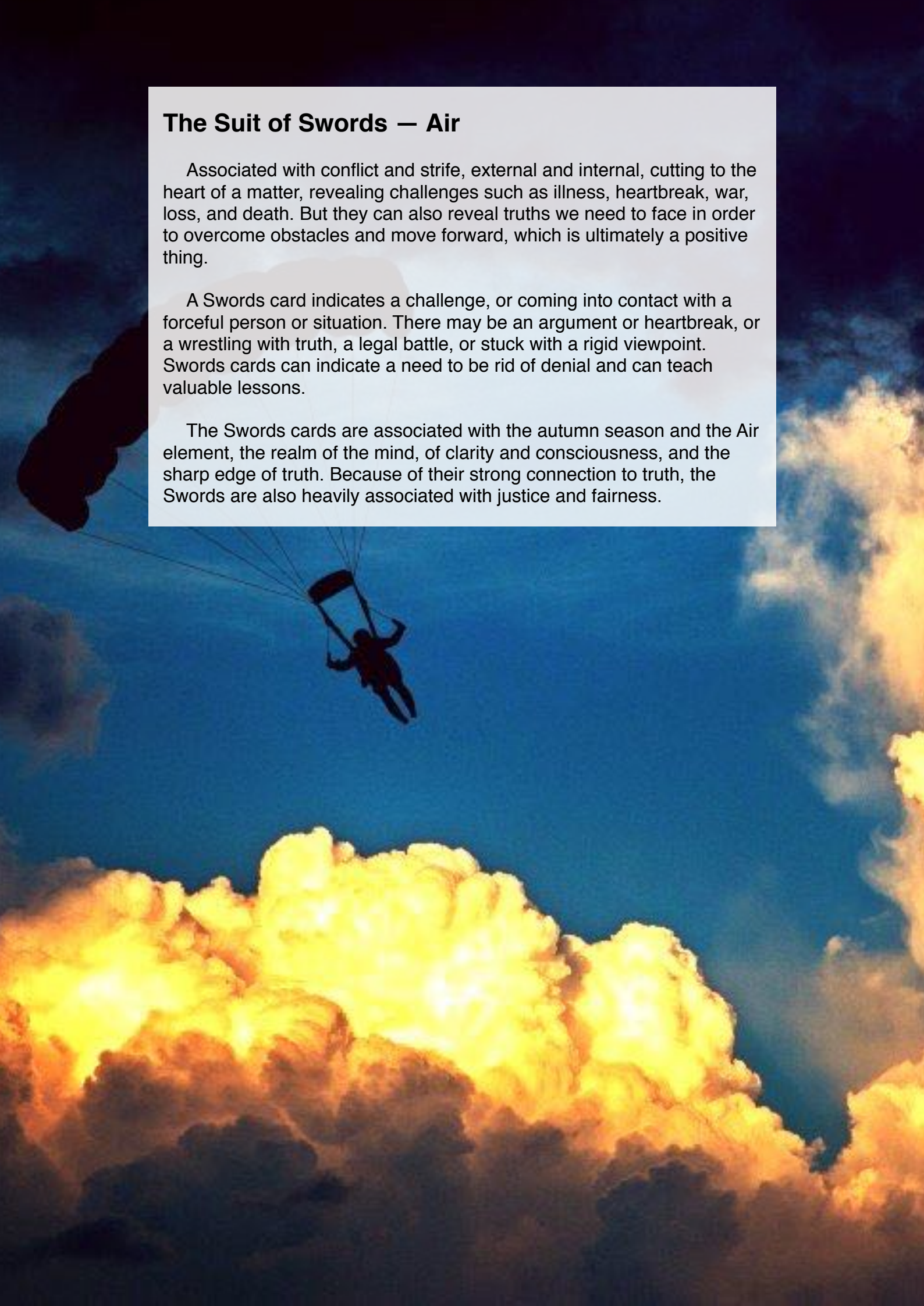


The Suit of Swords — Air

Associated with conflict and strife, external and internal, cutting to the heart of a matter, revealing challenges such as illness, heartbreak, war, loss, and death. But they can also reveal truths we need to face in order to overcome obstacles and move forward, which is ultimately a positive thing.

A Swords card indicates a challenge, or coming into contact with a forceful person or situation. There may be an argument or heartbreak, or a wrestling with truth, a legal battle, or stuck with a rigid viewpoint. Swords cards can indicate a need to be rid of denial and can teach valuable lessons.

The Swords cards are associated with the autumn season and the Air element, the realm of the mind, of clarity and consciousness, and the sharp edge of truth. Because of their strong connection to truth, the Swords are also heavily associated with justice and fairness.



Ace of Swords

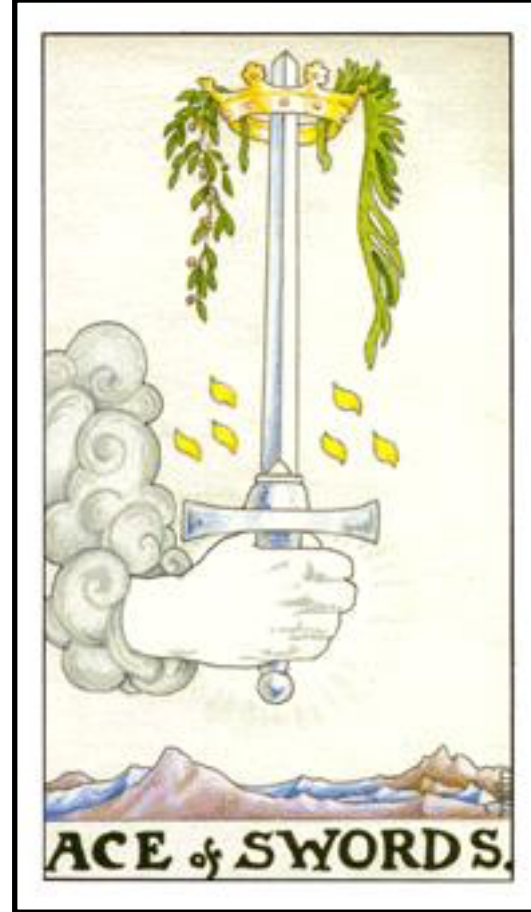
The rational mind and its ability to discriminate, cutting through things in order to pierce illusion, differentiation between fantasy and reality. In the image of this Ace, a single upraised sword, represents a prime motive or guiding ideal, a vision that guides an individual through life's changing fortunes with single-minded clarity. The sword is sometimes shown piercing a silver and/or laurel crown, a symbol of optimism implying evolution, progress, a sense of hope and victory. Pointed downwards it communicates a darker message, referring to sacrifice, challenges and a critical environment.

Advice:

Be steady, an objective is almost achieved; concentrate on making an impact; the arrow is pointed straight at the target. Set aside distractions and hit the mark, to be rewarded with insight and clarity.

In the Reversed Position:

Blindness to the one thing that matters most; reason used to create rather than cut through obstacles; a clinging to illusions, biases, and preconceptions.



Two of Swords

Conflicting ideas or visions must be reconciled by communication in order to achieve harmony or complete strategic negotiations. Mixed signals prevail: while they may be appearing to try to communicate, opposite sides are missing each other entirely, with possibly drastic consequences. A frank discussion is needed to clear the air and serve both sides, but this is not to be expected. This may not be a good time to make a decision.

Advice:

Fully assimilate the situation before making any moves, even if not having an immediate solution causes tension. Have patience — there are circumstances in which action is better than non-action, but this is not one of them. Remain silent as much as possible and allow things to settle; meditate to achieve greater objectivity.

In the Reversed Position:

Creative disagreements leading to the realisation that two heads are better than one; the capacity to create synergy or at least provide common ground where argument once prevailed; gathering input and feedback.



Three of Swords

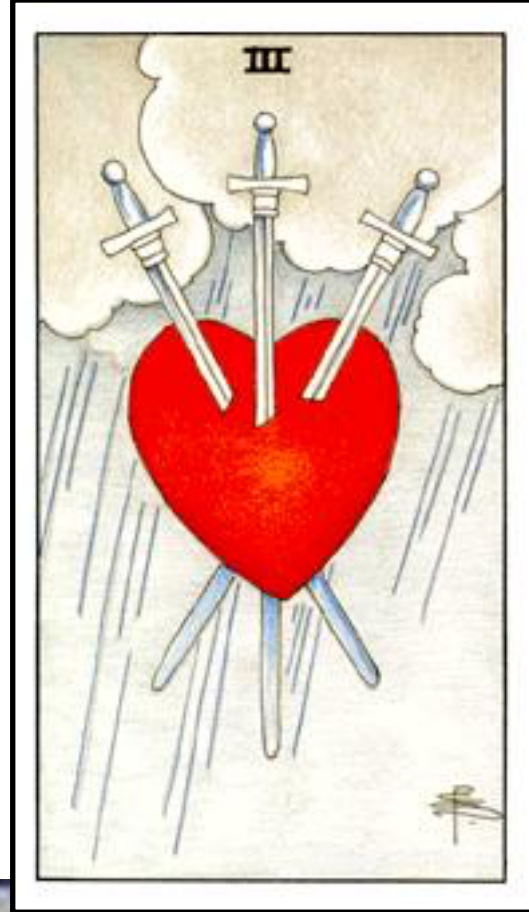
Separation or the breakup of a significant relationship, including the tragic emotions that come along with such an event. The image is often of the horizon filled with storm clouds and flashing lightning. The positive side of this card would be the ending of draining or frustrating associations, to become free again, cutting some things loose in spite of sentimental memories and emotional attachments; let go of relationships that either cannot live up to their promise or have outlived the pleasure and support they once held.

Advice:

Strike out independently; separate from incompatible people and forces; use creativity and imagination and seek out situations that make sense to companions.

In the Reversed Position:

A storm is clearing, feelings are mending, communication skills are improving, accusations and paranoia are diminishing, conflict seems to be draining away, though some challenges may remain.



Four of Swords

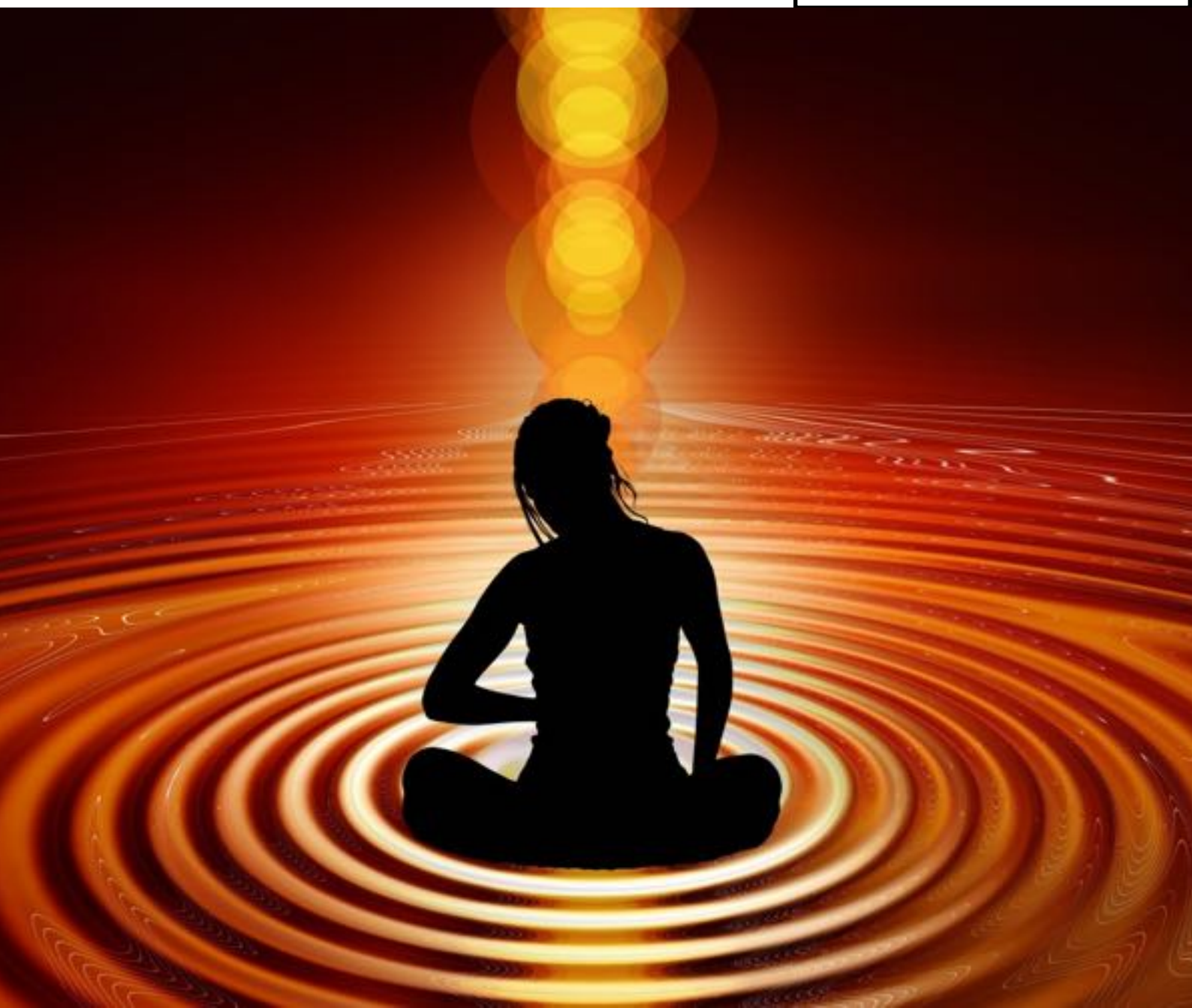
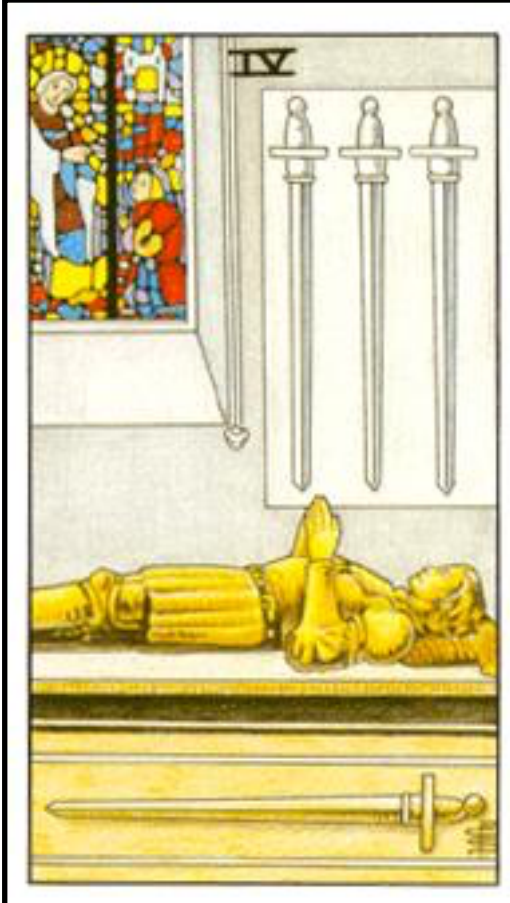
Some images suggest a visit to the tombs of ancestors, a place to contemplate mortality; a quest or pilgrimage to one's centre allows contemplation of roots, values and goals, seeing a place in the flow of time and unfolding generations. Keep one's own counsel; fear and hostility in the environment may prevent the individual from being heard; ideas may not be ripe enough or the individual is not ready to listen to feedback from others.

Advice:

Spend more time in contemplation in order to be able to disregard the emotional occupations and biases of others; closely observe inner events; sharing will come later.

In the Reversed Position:

Even though solitary contemplation can be a great pleasure, it should be balanced with appropriate interpersonal communications; isolation can be counterproductive; seek help or counsel to intervene with an energy-draining pattern; get enough human contact, preferably of a therapeutic or supportive kind, in order to have a safety net.



Five of Swords

Regroup and rethink the game plan, discovering blind spots and weak links, and take corrective measures before getting back into the field for another round. Examine approaches, styles, strengths and weaknesses. Underdeveloped communication skills or loss of objectivity in tense moments, reduces the ability to reach goals and dreams.

Advice:

Avoid allowing haunting by misfortunes and detours that are inevitable and go on to achieve goals. Do not obsess; learn something. Prepare for disappointment over how fellow humans are setting their priorities. Develop a thick skin; try not to be too quick to anger or jump to conclusions. Others' pessimistic sense of the world does not have to be undermining. The challenge is to learn how to sidestep confrontation and evoke a more evolved response; be assertive about setting boundaries.

In the Reversed Position:

The gaining of some mastery over competitive or combative impulses; the outgrowing of judgmental or critical tendencies; letting go of that part of the personality which tends to magnify others' flaws and weaknesses. Using life force in a more creative and positive way, overcome conflicting impulses.



Six of Swords

The objectivity of scientific method, sifting fact from superstition, building facts into theories, and theories into laws which can be trusted and used to improve lives. Once called The Navigator, this skill was considered akin to magic, so few were the individuals who understood the principles involved, people with insights into sophisticated techniques. Other related titles common to this card are The Path (out of danger) and The Way Through. Time is of the essence; the big picture, and good ideas have occurred, now it is necessary to take action. There may be no more time for debate.

Advice:

Commit to pursue changes that will lead to improvement; overcome the tendency to get distracted. There is no time for approval seeking. Initiate action: others will be grateful for clear thinking and quick reflexes.

In the Reversed Position:

Rational, scientific, systematic, logical thinking is not being used to its fullest potential; objectivity is compromised; perception of possibilities is limited. Regain objectivity and confirm original goals; moderate emotions while increasing mental discipline and focus to return to the fruitful pursuit of plans.



Seven of Swords

Mental preparedness, acquired through the use of imagination, including the rehearsing and visualising of desired results; positive mental habits of a natural winner. The image is often of a warrior who has infiltrated into the enemy camp, discovered their preparations and stolen their swords, to demoralise the enemy.

Advice:

Work smarter, not harder; study all the angles and examine the viewpoint of the competition so as to develop a thorough grasp of the whole situation so that there will be no surprises. Skilful preparation justifies the optimism of the natural winner. Deep within, the individual knows what steps to take and what order to take them in to bring about a desirable outcome; envision unobstructed success despite changes and obscurations, keep the desired outcome clear and sharp; the goal and tremendous self esteem can be gained.

In the Reversed Position:

Even heroic effort sometimes does not fully succeed or goes unappreciated.



Eight of Swords

Also called 'The Test', this card usually pictures a warrior running the gauntlet, subjected to harsh examination; situations of close scrutiny: exams, interviews, tough conversations. Great ideas meet real time: the Test represents a chance to vindicate the time and energy spent in preparation. Every setback experienced awakens renewed effort; no formula guarantees outcome. An open-minded and optimistic attitude serves better.

Advice:

Make the rigorous effort that is being called for; perform wholeheartedly, with good faith and hopefulness. Forestall bickering and criticism, prevail against negative forces and overcome the demons of doubt and resistance. Get excited about challenges; be confident enough to improve the situation.

In the Reversed Position:

A tendency to rationalise, justify and project blame onto others. Focus inner dialogue and conversations with others on what produces positive change; inspire rather than complain.



Nine of Swords

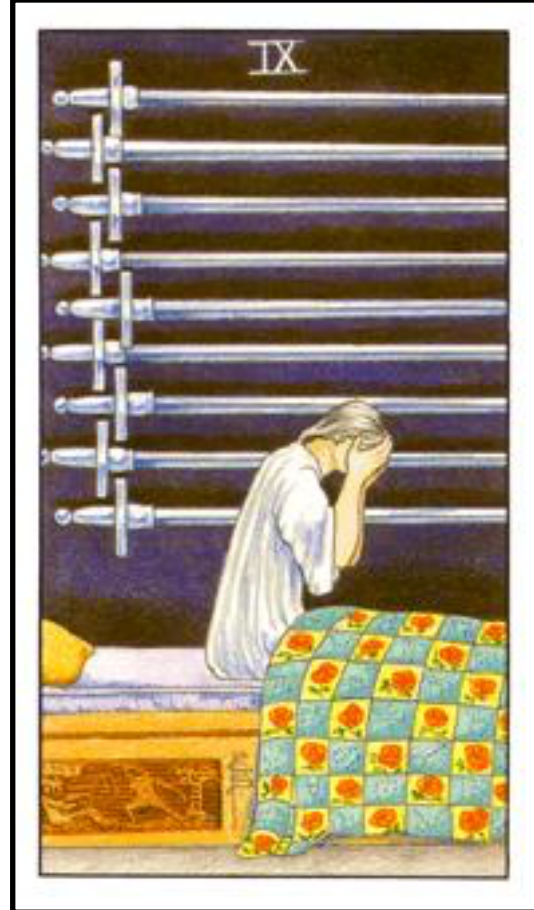
The plight of a woman who is alone in the world, generally seen sitting up in bed weeping, grieving and in fear of abandonment because of her vulnerability, wondering what will happen to her now that her male protector is gone. Swords above her head may indicate that the loss has come through cruel conflict, the outcome of which has left her behind as chattel, the spoils of war. This symbolises the price of pride, creating losers as a side effect — the woman in the picture represents the concerns of the heart, the damage to the soul and to vulnerable ones, when the ego becomes so invested in control and domination that it does not count the human costs. Sensitive, subtle, heartfelt approaches to nature are trampled and thrown aside in service to a 'winner takes all' mentality.

Advice:

Confront the fear of being alone and acknowledge the different limits arising through fear. Striking out independently may have been forestalled; the individual may have bargained away creativity and joy in order to avoid being challenged. Cut losses; recognise how much time and energy have been sacrificed incorrectly. Turning points, opportunities to heal the shedding of heavy burdens.

In the Reversed Position:

An opportunity to wake up from a long dark period of depression and negativity; finally seeing a light at the end of the tunnel; a tremendous breakthrough; a blessing, turning negative thinking around with the power of renewed hope and optimism.



Ten of Swords

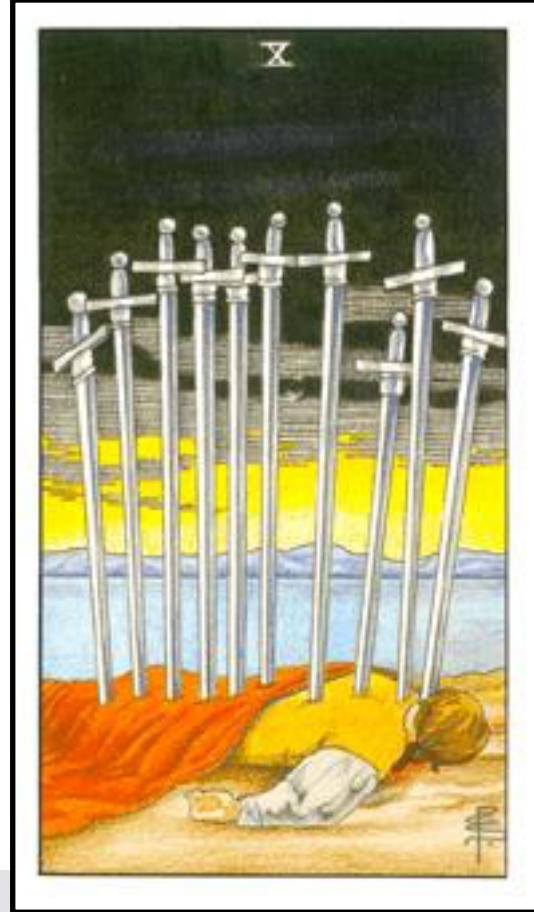
The final end of something; no hope for revival; a limit has been reached, a line has been crossed; no turning back. This may be a tragic loss, but is a paradoxical sense of release and closure, with no more ambiguity. Letting go and moving on; no more progress to be made. Exhaustion, burnt out by trying to make a difference; forgiveness for giving up.

Advice:

Lay low for a while, don't make a move, keep as safe as possible until the drama or possible trauma plays itself out, then assess the damage and start to make repairs. Protect what is essential, hope for the best and wait it out. Trust the process even though it may seem pretty drastic.

In the Reversed Position:

A possible over-dramatisation of a predicament in an attempt to get sympathy and understanding from others; reframing a situation to emphasise a fresh start; considering the possibility of indulgence in drama; taking a more accurate look at a situation.



Page of Swords

Traditionally called The Page, but in some modern decks appears as a Princess, a messenger, an emissary or liaison between separate camps, charged with faithfully representing one side's communications to the other; diplomacy, facilitating sensitive negotiations, often under difficult conditions. Sometimes referred to as The Watchman or The Spy, she could even be working as a double agent, playing both sides against each other to serve her own agenda. Her title serves as camouflage, protective coloration enabling movement unrecognised, collecting information anonymously. A situation requires subtle change in order to produce the highest good for all concerned.

Advice:

Rather than being visible and heroic, this is a time when counsel must be kept, tracks covered and stealth used to accomplish what would be impossible to complete without privacy. Reduce profiles; increase anonymity, no matter how self-image might suffer.

In the Reversed Position:

Analyse possible prejudice instead of others' weakness; don't take a stand against another until any feelings of resentment or a punitive motive have been cleared — or else an attitude problem might undermine the truth of the message.



Knight of Swords

Traditionally called The Knight, but in some modern decks appears as The Prince, a restless mind, searching for a target to pounce on, a feeling of being slighted, a hostile attitude, looking for someone to blame; an attitude of righteousness, leading to the job of correcting the offender. Jumping easily to conclusions, shooting first, asking questions later; overkill.

Advice:

Question motives; apply forethought; discriminate between righteous and unrighteous causes; control any traces of impulsive judgement. Remain open to conflicting ideas instead of being surrounding exclusively with people who agree with you. Test ideas in a debate; keep conversations impersonal so no hurt feelings are provoked; practice negotiation skills so as to be in shape for imminent diplomatic challenges as they arise. A sparring partner could help to control impulsive comments and stem the urge to be right at the expense of others being wrong.

In the Reversed Position:

Lies, false promises and hope for a miracle of deliverance from a stressful time. Learn to tell the truth so that this reactionary behaviour becomes unnecessary.



Queen of Swords

This feminine power was traditionally known as a widow, crone or divorcee, translating as a model of self-sufficiency, independence and intelligence. Extremely high standards based on subtle sensitivities, which can be perceived as being critical or hard to please. Lack of interest in conforming; too intelligent to be confined to the role of housewife or nursemaid, although perfectly competent in those areas. A choosing of associations (or solitude); seldom caught up in dependent relationships; intelligence is not always the most comfortable to be around, but it can be counted on to see through superficiality and point to the truth of a situation.

Advice:

Refrain from remaining dependent on others; harbour only ambitions that can be accomplished; do not wait and see what others would think, say or do; don't ask permission; leave sentimentality behind and take action; make important decisions as an individual.

In the Reversed Position:

Recognise it is a flaw to ignore the heart; show some compassion and in so doing help loved ones; don't isolate self. Serving one's own feelings and needs is appropriate and necessary.



King of Swords

The Adjudicator, the wise judge or mediator, helping parties in conflict to discover common ground, guiding societies to see a greater good - his archetype is Solomon, ancient lawgiver and philosopher of the Old Testament. Cool and detached, he can be misunderstood as not caring; he is not moved by appeals to sympathy or pity. His long experience leads to listening deeply, watching closely and speaking last. Occasionally this man is subtly detailed to imply that he is a woman in male armour.

Advice:

Research a situation; question existing authorities; examine underlying assumptions and bring greater clarity. Call forth sober wisdom, the elder father figure, then act.

In the Reversed Position:

Pangs of conscience no longer prick as keenly; morality and integrity have been compromised. Awaken from a state of blinded self interest and get back to serving the greater good; hold to a higher standard, think about contribution, relinquish self-absorption.



The Suit of Pentacles — Earth

Sometimes referred to as 'Coins' this suit pertains to things in the material and physical world. While Pentacles are sometimes mistaken as symbols of wealth and money matters, in truth they speak of success and prosperity on all levels including family, body, and health matters.

Connected to the winter season and the Earth element, they represent stability, practicality, and determination, as well as giving and receiving, and are indicators that something in the material world needs attention, positive like a successful business transaction or a large inheritance; or negative like health troubles or obstacles.

Symbolising safety, security, and abundance, they also reflect strengths or gifts. Those willing to invest themselves deserve rewards as well as the means to earn and deserve them.

Intellectual, entrepreneurial, artistic, brute energy or strength, the Pentacles symbolise the value of assets including personal values, things that are loved, are attractive, and collectable.



Ace of Pentacles

A magical talisman that represents wealth or potential, something supportive that is available, whether it be health, some kind of talent, a material or financial resource; usually pictured with a garden or agricultural backdrop, symbolising a seed. An Ace represents the first step to a goal, and if that step is repeated, it will cover great distances. Generally, the suit of Coins refers to the tangible realities in daily life, but in the case of the Ace, this could be a winning idea, game plan or blueprint. Occult tradition sometimes interpreted this Ace as representing the alchemist's gold —light within matter, the third eye of the energy-body, meditating upon the light within, and pointing oneself toward the archetype of humanity enlightened. By practicing such a meditation, one eventually gains enough control of the celestial radiance to heal the body, untangle the emotions and complete the growth of the soul.

Advice:

Apply nature's lesson of compound interest and develop a project gradually; a slow and steady buildup makes change and growth inevitable; work a little bit every day toward a long-term goal, at some time in the future results will accumulate. Do not inflate dreams to grandiose levels; choose direction wisely, while humbly and faithfully taking one step at a time.

In the Reversed Position:

Reconnect with values; distinguish between external appearances and true gold and costume jewellery. Search the heart.



Two of Pentacles

A youth juggling, with two coins juggled in figure-eight fashion, or just the coins without the youth — one heads up, the other tails — both flipping in the air: there is more to learn before a decision can be made about appropriate action. This counsels patience. The figure-eight image is a symbol of immortality and eternity, no need to hurry, changes are in the works, but stay calm until more information comes to light. Everything is in flux.

Advice:

Do not choose anything definitive for the time being; give things a little more time to sort out feelings and any mixed messages from others. Act only when able to do so with a unified heart and mind.

In the Reversed Position:

Let go of passivity, this is a time for action; too much ambivalence about outcomes is detrimental; neutral stances or procrastination will not serve; move into proactive support for the good of all concerned and leave passivity behind. Assert personal preferences.



Three of Pentacles

The card of genius; a master craftsman conferring with his masons on the installation of a beautiful stained-glass window in the cathedral, a multi-talented visionary who has no peers in talent or productivity. On some cards, the genius is portrayed at his studio, alone and burning the midnight oil, in a creative ferment, driven to draw, paint, invent, or otherwise create; days and weeks of intense concentration it takes to solve the problems that great works entail.

Advice:

Showcase unique capabilities. A good time to seek recognition; receive appreciation, accept and savour the acknowledgment. Expect new and exciting offers, accept them graciously.

In the Reversed Position:

Beware of perfectionism and other subtle forms of egoism or a refusal to share one's gifts and vision with the world. Acts of genius belong more to the divine inspiration that calls them forth than they do to the personalities they come through.



Four of Pentacles

The paradoxical aspect of material security — the two-edged sword of having been well supported and protected; the pressure of big decisions, responsibilities toward dependents or employees, and even tougher decisions in times of insecurity. In the English decks, we see a person who is stuck in their misunderstanding of how the material plane works, afraid to let go of his four measly coins, because he doesn't know that he has to give in order to get. This is the card of poverty consciousness. Abundance has limits.

Advice:

Prudence and responsibility will permit the endowment to grow; frivolity and folly could undermine both the inheritance and the well being of others who are connected to it.

In the Reversed Position:

Instead of looking for ways to help, resentment may be getting in the way. This attitude constricts the flow — not an insurmountable obstacle, but it has to be worked out before progress can be made.



Five of Pentacles

Desire and gratification, expressed in classical tradition as flattery and false promises; both the seducer and the one seduced. Attraction of opposites; magnetism with a stranger. Short-term gratification with no sincerity, or the attraction appears as competition to more fulfilling relationships and will not produce long-term results. The sickly poor freezing outside a well-lit church warns of the painful outcomes of bad choices.

Advice:

Create contractual agreements with those who have similar interests; strength in numbers. Together, devise a bold plan for future objectives; teamwork and mutual benefits yield a combined effort.

In the Reversed Position:

Take a hard look at a situation and root out possible deceptions; beware an eagerness to believe in fairy tales or rescue fantasies.



Six of Pentacles

Generosity with strings attached. A rich man gives alms, his reputation enhanced from his giving, but without having helped anybody really better him or herself, inferring that the giver will be expecting something back for his giving; sometimes interpreted as referring to a patron or benefactor who rescues a talented person from oblivion, but then wants to dictate what the artist works on. Inequality of power; an unbalanced power struggle. A cosmic talent agent, seeking individuals who show a spark or gift in order to refine and upgrade their skills resulting in a peer relationship with a sense of mutual regard and admiration; a delicate operation, constantly checking intentions so as not to expect something in return.

Advice:

Do not take pride in doing someone a favour — it is really paying back an old debt to those who served as your mentors.

In the Reversed Position:

The idea of payback may have become too important; over-generous, supportive, understanding, but with many binding conditions; conditional giving.



Seven of Pentacles

The humble labourer, willing to show up every day and sweat in the sun for next season's bounty; cultivation; faith in nature's assistance; not making excuses, dedication and seeing the job through. Working with nature rather than against her.

Advice:

Focus on the long run; compound interest; a slow and steady investment of time, energy and labour; perseverance; consistent steps in the right direction.

In the Reversed Position:

Avoid doing something rash or taking a gamble; losing track of the rewards of productivity and self-discipline.



Eight of Pentacles

A successful artisan spending time hammering out the commissions he has attracted because of his skill, so popular that it's become difficult keep up with demand, accepting only the most worthy assignments; workaholic, indispensability, not asking for help or delegating anything, becoming so identified as the creator that the personal identity of the creator becomes consumed by the works. The solution lies in balancing creative energy with a personal life.

Advice:

Focus on the main project and produce as much as possible, while staying healthy; meet goals, but do not work so hard that quality suffers. Do the work and the reward will be flexibility and freedom.

In the Reversed Position:

Do not overly identify with one's livelihood; danger of losing self to work.



Nine of Pentacles

Financial security; support from own business, inheritance or property; turning a historical accident into a personal opportunity; the vision and strength of character to hold onto gains against all odds. The person pictured is at the pinnacle of a long and stressful process of winning the right to be taken seriously.

Advice:

Prepare for greater resources to be flowing inward; a smooth transition into a state of well being and peace of mind is possible. Hard work has brought grace, comfort, and freedom, personal, emotional or financial. Exercise imagination and create an abundant, sustainable, and enjoyable lifestyle (or relationship); acknowledge friends and others who were loyal during the difficult times. Gather dreams and get ready; happiness is deserved.

In the Reversed Position:

A period of self-discipline is needed to restore energy and vitality; escape a situation of dependency or overindulgence, not in full possession of energy and focus.



Ten of Pentacles

The final result of cumulative efforts, perhaps after generations of effort, resulting in such abundance that it directly and indirectly supports a lot of people; the pride of supporting one's own lineage; a flow of abundant resources that spills over with pride, self-respect and gratitude; bounty which can impact the destiny of many families and generations; passing obligation down from generation to generation along with the abundance and freedom. One may be of great benefit to people, whether through service, an invention or an idea; a storehouse of value.

Advice:

Sincerity, innocence and original vision need to be replicated. Every act of spending and investing and securing is a sowing of seeds that will sprout and produce more; get really clever and inventive at seed-sowing.

In the Reversed Position:

A terrible loss or a fall from grace, but both the having and the losing are part of the fluctuating evolution of human consciousness.



Page of Pentacles

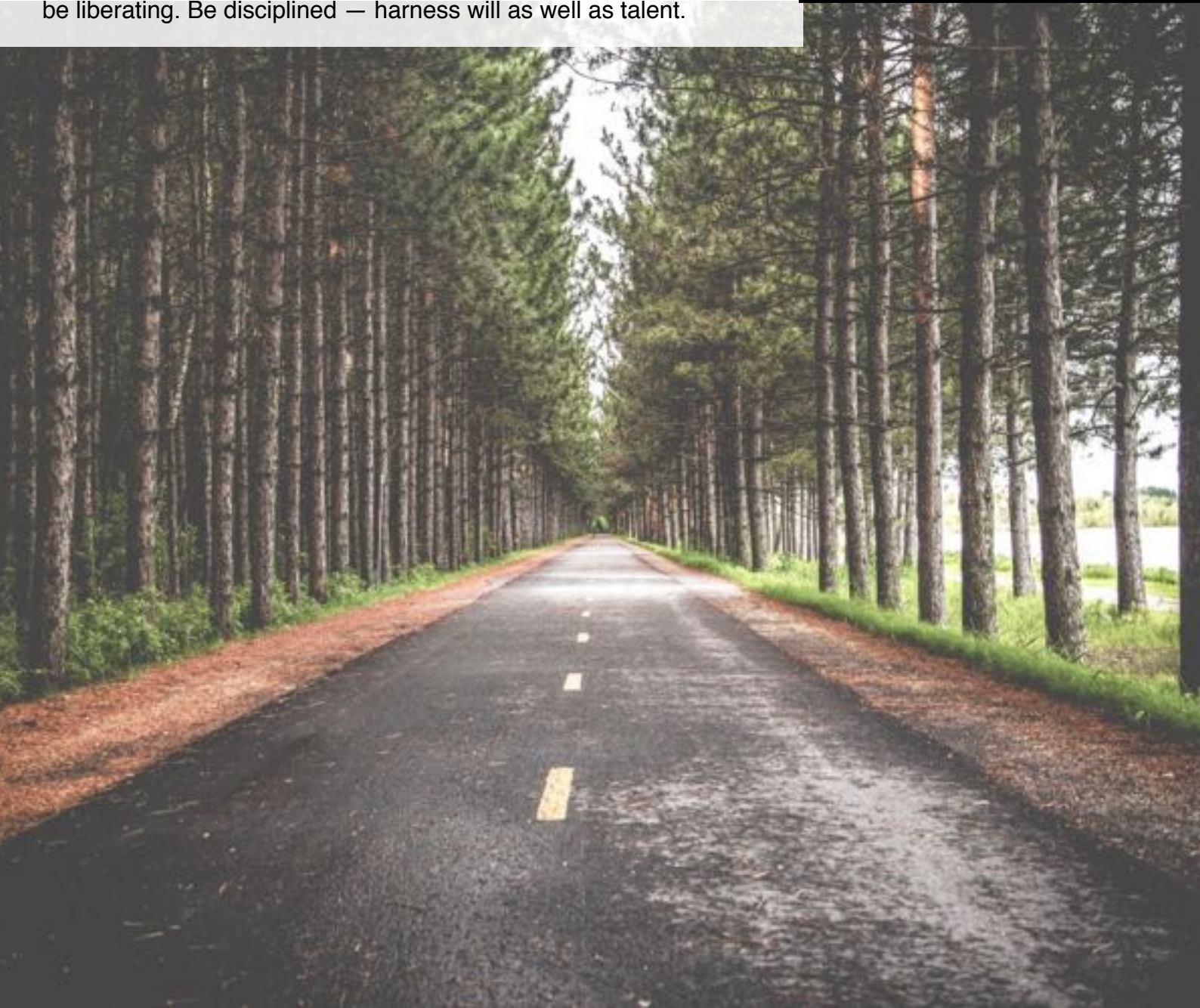
Traditionally entitled the Page, but in some modern decks appears as a Princess, focusing on learning the natural laws that pertain to synergies —growing vegetables, the stock market etc — in order to understand the underlying mechanism that supports the creation of results and abundance. Humility or servitude fades as a sense of mastery increases.

Advice:

Study a chosen field seriously, gaining intellectual knowledge plus experiential learning; listen to the stories of others, both their successes and their failures, and be inspired by their dedicated efforts. Figure out why experiments went the way they did and what might be done differently to change the outcome. Passionately hunt for the missing pieces; penetrate to the heart of the matter.

In the Reversed Position:

Do not doubt or resist the impulse to be of service to others. Embrace the discipline that it takes and just do it, despite possibly feeling coerced into it or that being in service is an unwanted role; it is necessary to develop considerable skill in a profession before it can be liberating. Be disciplined — harness will as well as talent.



Knight of Pentacles

Usually called The Knight, but in some modern decks appears as the Prince, this is an overseer of fertility and growth, symbolising a period of ascendancy during quiet years between conflicts, when everybody collaborates to raise the collective standard of living. A horse is huge and thickset, more suitable to pulling a plough than riding into battle; temperament is easygoing and relaxed, moving with the flow, seeing the bigger picture, not allowing momentary fads or fancies to distract. Stability and dedication, total responsibility; earthy and gentle, as simple and deep as the soil and the flowers.

Advice:

Offer up services to some project or enterprise— the entire endeavour will be enhanced significantly by the resources brought to it; supervise and guide the project as well as influence the outcome of events.

In the Reversed Position:

Stop wasting energy by being unappreciative.



Queen of Pentacles

A feminine guardian, endowed with enormous good sense and problem solving energy, but not particularly entrepreneurial. She loves to advise, encourage, and empower others, studying their problems with them and setting them up to solve them.

Traditionally, she was pictured as the Sibyl or Oracle, who made herself available to people in need no matter what their social class or situation. In modern times, an educator, a healer, managing disaster aid programmes or a charitable drive of some sort. She likes to work in an atmosphere of beauty, enjoyment and abundance, and is sometimes accused of being extravagant — but she works hard, and sees no reason to deny the rewards of a job well done. Everyone is enriched by enjoyment in living.

Advice:

Trust the forces that have taken care of you up to this point; continue to express truth without worrying about loss. Proceed with confidence and do what must be done.

In the Reversed Position:

Make an objective assessment of the management of life and identify areas that can be improved; don't become addicted to pleasure; review the spending of time, money and energy over the last six months or so; look for balance.



King of Pentacles

A king who has accomplished much in life and has arranged his or her affairs so that he has much good to show for it; practical genius in the ways of the world; a love of building things; deal-making; the power to make or break people financially — not always winning love, but earning respect.

In previous centuries this card referred to the myth of Midas, who loved gold so much that he was cursed so that everything he touched turned to gold. One day his daughter reached out to him and was turned into a golden statue — the downside of letting material security take too much precedence.

Advice:

Understand the value of wealth, including the burden it produces; keep things in perspective; sovereignty reflects higher values, as well as general welfare and prosperity. Behave as if already a success. Project confidence that plans and goals are in the process of unfolding perfectly; make moves with authority and trust in actions without waiting for acknowledgment or approval. Receive blessing after blessing. Feel confident; get comfortable with it and attract desired support.

In the Reversed Position:

Shift focus from control to self-discipline or risk a slide into self-doubt and the misuse of abilities; an insatiable craving that reality on the physical plane cannot satisfy. A true master, a true king, outgrows the need to demonstrate his power unless it is truly needed for the good of the realm.



A background image featuring a stack of tarot cards fanned out on a dark surface. A purple, textured cloth is draped across the top. A white circle is centered over the cards, containing the text.

Your FREE Tarot Reading

How to Get Your Free Tarot Reading

Understanding the general meaning of each card is just the beginning. The true power of Tarot depends on you.

In purchasing this book, you are entitled to a free reading from me. You can now access your own Wisdom through the cards and via my reading by doing the following:

i) First, you need to ask a clear and open-ended question. Avoid asking questions that begin with 'Will I...?' as they present you in a passive role in relation to your own future. Ask broader questions. Here are a few examples:

What do I need to know about [a particular area of my life]?

How can I better understand [a person or situation or event]?


What can you tell me about [a specific concern that you have]?

Is there a hidden opportunity in [a particular area of my life]?

What should I focus on in [a relationship, job, situation, crisis]?

What's the best way forward in [a particular area of my life]?



A decorative background image featuring a grid of dice in various colors: green, red, yellow, orange, white, and dark red. The dice are arranged in a way that shows different faces, with some showing numbers like 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. The lighting is soft, creating a subtle glow around the dice.

ii) Normally with the question in mind you would then shuffle the cards. Your interaction with the cards works beneath your consciousness — your Wisdom archetype is subtly arranging the cards to answer your question, even as you think you are shuffling them randomly. But as this reading is being done online, instead you should choose **10 numbers between 1 and 78**, while keeping your question in mind. I will shuffle the cards for you and select cards from the deck according to the numbers you have chosen. For example, if you choose 1, 7, 13, 23, 34, 41, 45, 54, 62 and 77, then I select the first, the seventh, the thirteenth, the twenty-third card and so on from the shuffled deck.

iii) You then email your question and the numbers you have chosen. Mark the subject '**Angelica Green Tarot Reading**'.

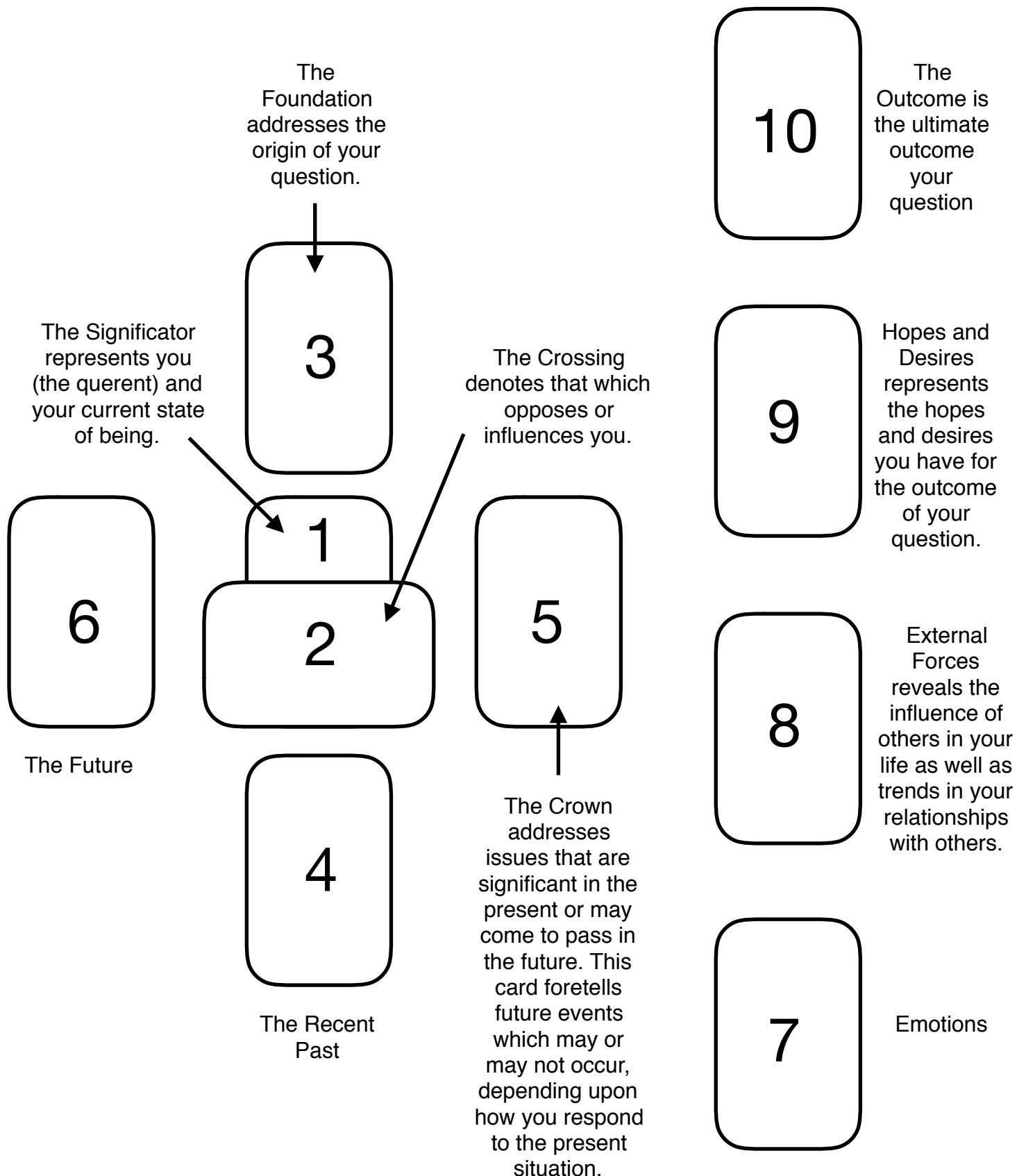
(Before you send your email, please read about the special bonus reading below — you may want to include that in this email...)

The email comes via the publisher:

grant@clarendonhousebooks.com

iv) The online reading involves the traditional Celtic Cross Spread. It is intended to shed light on many aspects of your life. There are many variations to the layout of the cards in this spread, but what matters most is the question you put to the cards.

The various cards in this spread represent the following about you:



v) Once your cards have been chosen, I will lay them facedown in the above spread. Then, I turn them right side up and look at the words, symbols, and imagery, paying attention to what comes to mind as I go, keeping your question in mind.

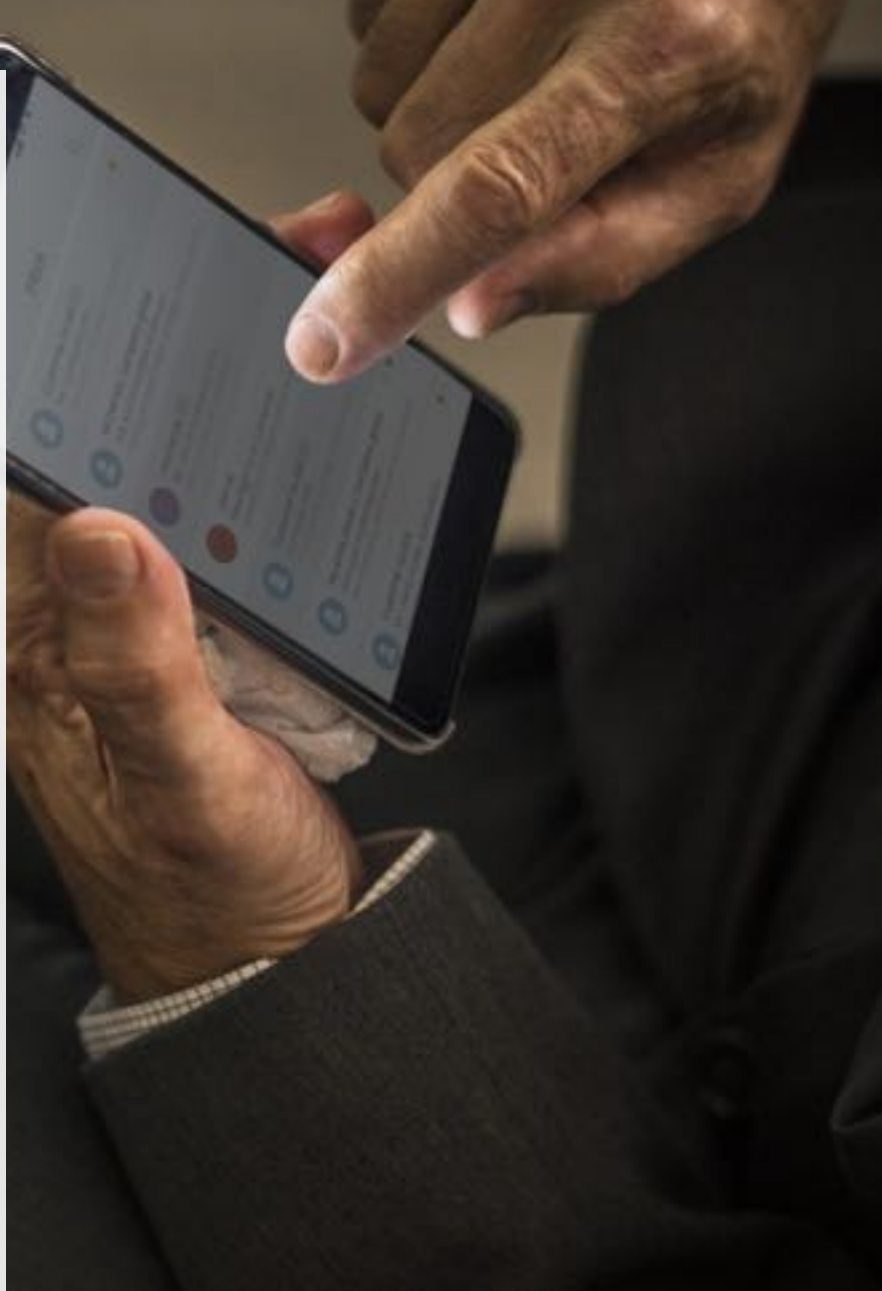
vi) I then email you an interpretation of the cards, along with a photograph of the layout so that you can refer to it.

vii) If anything seems unclear to me as I do the reading, I will put the cards aside for a while and then attempt the reading again.

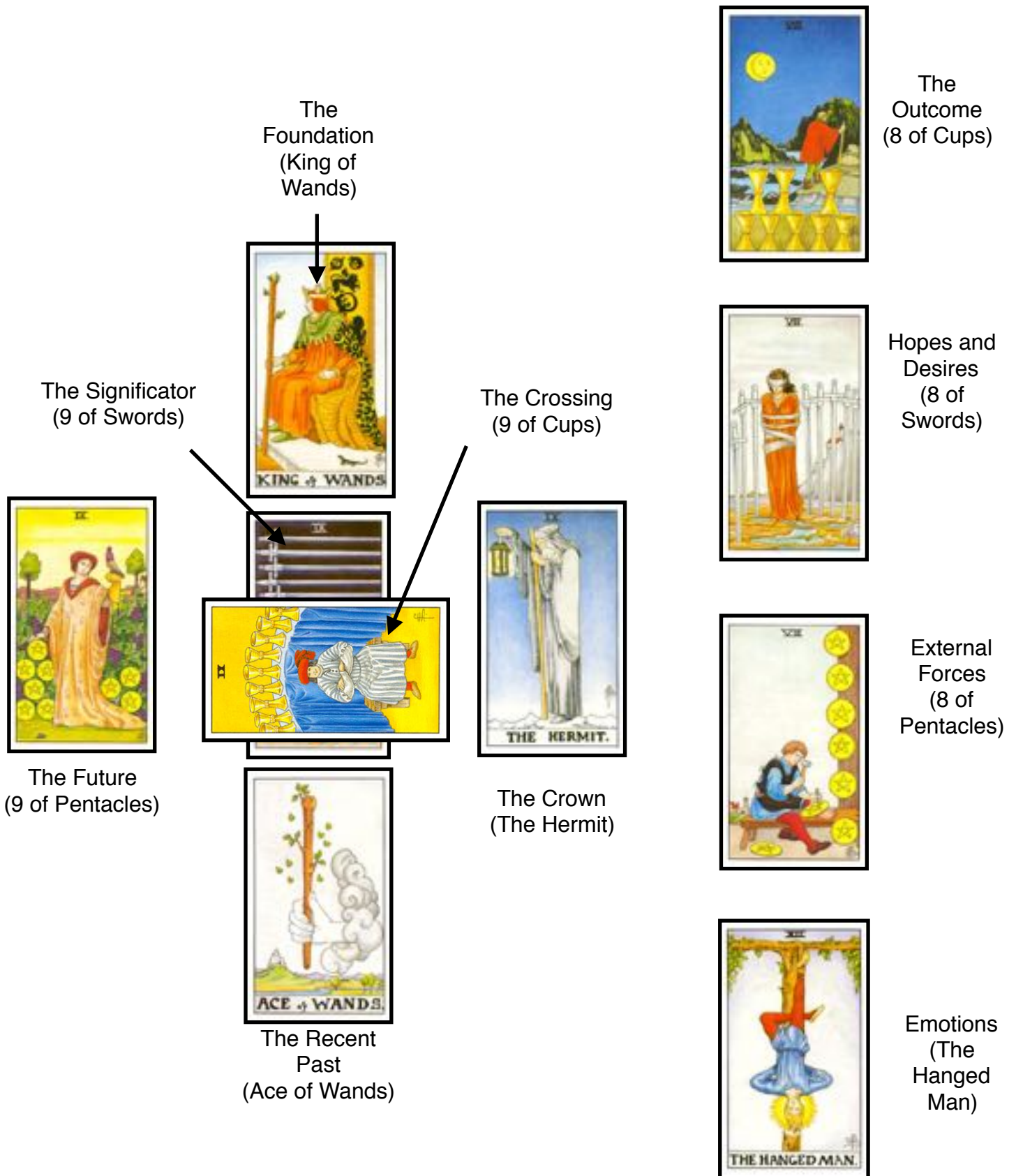
viii) If on receipt of the reading you have any questions, you are free to email me back. However, I will not be able to go into lengthy email conversations about the reading and the best way for you to gain further clarity is to read through the meanings of the cards for yourself in the earlier parts of this book.

ix) Further readings are available at a cost of £20.00 per reading. Visit the [website](#) for details.

***READ ON for
information about a
special BONUS
READING.***



An Example of a Celtic Cross Layout



Frequently Asked Questions

1. How accurate and clear will my reading be?

This is of course the most frequently asked question and the one which is the hardest to answer. It will be as clear as it can possibly be — as to accuracy, that depends upon the details of the interpretation. What tends to happen over the period following a reading is that the querent (the person asking for the reading) will come to his or her own conclusions about the results and will then scrutinise his or her life intensely for a day or so before becoming tangled up in daily affairs again. Then, unexpectedly, in a quiet moment, something will strike him or her regarding something that they have just seen, heard or experienced and they will recall the reading — and some parts at least of what they have been told will fall into place. Sometimes it is not until weeks or

months later than a specific detail in the reading makes sense. But if the interpretation can be used as a guide to action, it is often found that things work out according to what was forecast in an unexpected way — or something better happens.

2. What's actually happening during a reading?

What is occurring is that the archetypes within you, from Wisdom down to the Void, are manifesting themselves through the cards. It's like a 'spiritual MRI scan': the reading is scanning your life and revealing what is going on beneath its surface. The interpretation is then much like a doctor's interpretation of a medical scan: you can find out what to watch out for and the best actions to take. A tarot reading is you listening to You using the cards as tools.



3. What if the reading reveals something dreadful is about to happen? Can I act to avoid that event?

This is also a common fear among querents. A large part of the reason why many people seek tarot readings is because they have a dread of some specific or non-specific event that might occur in their lives. They hope that the reading will give them a clue as to what that event might be and how to avoid it.

It's important to understand that there is a difference between our perceptions of normal, day-to-day life and the spiritual realities beneath it. What might appear to us to be a 'dreadful event' might be part of the unfolding of a larger series of events which lead to a brighter future; or the dark forecast might be the resolution that is needed for a long-term problem to finally be addressed and dealt with.

If a person enters a dark room, they are quite likely to stumble into the unseen furniture that has been laid out around them — they may hurt themselves or break something. The tarot offers a tiny amount of candlelight by which to see what is around us. Sometimes we will be able to make out clearly an obstacle in our way; at other times we will only get a vague glimpse. But the room will no longer be entirely dark to us.

If something distinctly awful is forecast, the tarot does not suggest in any way that it is inevitable — just as, by being able to see shadowy shapes in the darkened room, we may be able to avoid a collision, so the tarot gives the querent the opportunity to change course or alter something so that a particular consequence can be avoided.



4. Isn't it better not to interfere with such matters as the future? Is a tarot reading tampering with things best left alone?

A tarot reading isn't like using a ouija board or trying to contact the spirits of the dead — it's an internal process of using images and symbols to read beneath the surface of the querent's life. It could be argued that using x-rays or other scans medically are enabling a person to see that which is hidden and should therefore not be used — but, like medical scans, tarot cards offer a way of 'diagnosing' particular situations or areas of living so that better choices can be made.

Every human being has access to the higher archetype of Wisdom within themselves, so you could say that you already know everything that a reading will tell you. All that the tarot cards are doing is presenting what is already known in a different form, one that may be interpreted and understood by the active self in daily life.

Another way of looking at a tarot reading is as a kind of spiritual Google search: you are asking a question, and the cards are acting as a 'search engine' through which you might obtain some answers. Certainly, at any time you can choose not to pay heed to what is found — or you can use what comes up to inform your decisions and choices accordingly.



Google

Polska

photo, mockups, crm

MacBook Air

5. What kinds of questions work best?

Keep the analogy of a search engine in mind. Would you ask Google 'What should I do next?' or 'What will happen to me?' Probably not, because even the most powerful search engine in the universe would struggle to compute with all the variables associated with that kind of question, especially when, if you received an answer, you might immediately change your thinking or behaviour and so affect the outcome anyway.

No — instead, you ask a search engine for information or options or guidance based on what might be already known or out there. The questions given earlier are examples of this:

What do I need to know about [a particular area of my life]?

How can I better understand [a person or situation or event]?

What can you tell me about [a specific concern that you have]?

Is there a hidden opportunity in [a particular area of my life]?

What should I focus on in [a relationship, job, situation, crisis]?

What's the best way forward in [a particular area of my life]?

In other words, ask for *information*. The cards will communicate back to you in images, hints, narratives, characters, symbols. That's the language of the spirit. Don't expect simple mechanical answers like those you get from searching the web sometimes — expect intuitive shapes, clues, insights.



6. What if I am not happy with a result from a reading?

The terms under which you enter into a tarot reading with me include that a) you understand that you are in effect listening to yourself through me and the cards and b) that you are free to dismiss the cards and any interpretation as you see fit, or even to interpret the cards yourself if you disagree.

I make no claims as to accuracy in any reading as this is an impossible claim to make — the nature of the universe is such that everything is in flux and one 'snapshot' of a life as seen through a single reading cannot be set in stone as 'true' or 'right'. You undertake a reading out of interest and to see that snapshot, no more.

Also, think of it this way: through the tarot, your inner wisdom is communicating to you. Wisdom is wise: if there is something that should not be revealed or which it determines that should not be known or known clearly at this point in your life it simply won't come up. So not being happy with some aspect of a reading is possibly to misunderstand what a reading is and what to expect from one.

If after a reading you are unhappy because you feel that I did not perform my part of the bargain in some way, I will of course give a full refund.



7. Can I use the tarot reading to communicate with departed friends or relatives? Can you speak with the dead using the cards?

The tarot cards themselves don't specifically reference any difference between what we consider 'alive' or 'dead'. Your answers will be determined by the questions you ask. As with a search engine, any answer could apply equally well to any area of life or death.

8. Is the tarot Christian?

Not explicitly, no. Just as medical scans or modern medicines are not mentioned in any ancient religion, though, does not mean that they are forbidden. The discerning thing here is the *intention of the querent*: is the person seeking to do good or evil by asking a particular question? Again, Wisdom is wise

— evil is not forwarded by inner Wisdom. If a querent has an evil purpose in obtaining a reading, it is more likely that the answer will be foggy and muddled and the interpretation very unclear.

9. What if I realise after asking a question and receiving a reading that I had asked the wrong question?

You can either re-interpret the reading for yourself or obtain a further reading from me for £20.00. Numerous readings are possible in a short space of time, so if you have a number of questions you would like to put, you can purchase a number of readings. After about five consecutive readings in a short space of time, though, it's best to leave the field for a while and give your spiritual self a rest!



10. What if I have a question that is not answered here?

Feel free to drop me a line by email and ask anything you wish, through the publisher:

grant@clarendonhousebooks.com



On the next page, you can find out about a special BONUS reading which you can also access for free.



Your Special **BONUS** Reading



How to Get Your Free BONUS Reading

You are entitled to an extra reading using the **Archetypal Tarot**.

This is very simple.

0. Ask a question related to some aspect of your life as with the first reading.
1. Simply choose a number from 1 to 7 inclusive.
2. Email me your chosen number (you can send it along with your original numbers for your first reading, or separately, as you wish).

Mark the subject **Angelica Green Tarot Reading** and send it to

grant@clarendonhousebooks.com

3. I will shuffle the Archetypal Tarot cards and select according to the number you chose — for example, if you selected '5', I will choose the fifth card in the pile.
4. I will then interpret that card in terms of your question. For example, if you asked a question like 'What do I need to know about [a particular area of my life]?' and the card that was selected was The Fool, I would interpret the answer according to the information given about The Fool above. If the card was The Emergent King, the interpretation would be different. And so on. Because the Archetypal Tarot is above the Traditional Tarot conceptually, this reading may help to clarify or give shape to the first reading.

Thank you

I hope you enjoyed and benefitted from this book.

If you have any questions, you may contact me through my publisher's email:

grant@clarendonhousebooks.com

Stay tuned for further releases and other news by bookmarking my webpage:

<https://www.clarendonhousebooks.com/new-tarot>

Further readings are available upon request, through that webpage.

I wish you all the best in your journey through this world and others.

-Angelica Green



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