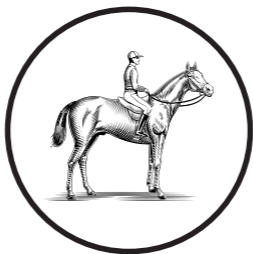


Josef Machynka

ECLECTIC TAROT

No 1943



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Dedication:

To all those people and living creatures of this world who, wittingly or unwittingly, have been or are today my teachers. And not least to a friend of the woodlands.

Preface

It was several decades ago that the Tarot — along with other techniques of reading the future like I Ching and astrology — emerged as a broad-based and fashionable trend. The Tarot had first reached a larger public in the 19th century when, hand in hand with spiritualism, it began to evolve into a highly fertile and often idiosyncratic system which spilled over into our own century. A hundred years ago delving into the rediscovered world of the occult was primarily a prerogative of the upper classes. With the advent of democratic ideals in the 20th century the Tarot has itself become more egalitarian and has derived vital fresh impulses from the innovative world-

view of democratic thinking. Since the great freedom movement of the sixties this area of human thought has established itself as an integral part of the attitudes of young people and of those who have retained a youthful outlook on life. This trend was marked by the sudden availability of innumerable different Tarot sets in such bewildering variety that a certain disorientation has set in. On the one hand diversity is an asset because it offers the luxury of choice and documents the revival of an age-old fascination. On the other hand the contours of the traditional knowledge which the Tarot embodies have become blurred by too many specialised card sets only tenuously linked with the tradition.

The true origins of the Tarot are lost in the mists of time. The oldest extant example of a Tarot set is the so-called Visconti Sforza Tarot dating from the mid-15th century. But these cards in themselves draw on a continuous tradition about which we know little

and can only speculate. This fact left the field free for any inquiring and creative mind to invent a new Tarot. Often such speculative products had little or nothing to do with the historical tradition, although certain features in the symbology and the hierarchy of the cards have remained consistent. The aspect of the Tarot which has been subjected to the most far-reaching adaptation is the ideology, the specific significance of the individual cards. It was in this respect that the „sixties generation“ made the most obvious impact on the Tarot: by interpolating concepts like individualism, freedom, value neutrality and so on. Yet the historical thread was never quite broken. A few Tarot sets have always survived to enshrine the essentially timeless significance of the cards: the Visconti Sforza set, for instance, or the Marseilles Tarot.

Do we need yet another new Tarot? Are there not already too many different sets available? I originally intended to use my card designs purely for

my own purposes and never contemplated publishing them. I invested many years of work in the set, and it is possible to trace a gradual development in the designs. Inevitably, this set contains much of my own personal thinking, and it cannot lay claim to any degree of universal validity. By the time I had completed work on the Major Arcana I felt that I had put so much into the project it would be a pity to reserve the cards only for my own use. I approached Piatnik & Sons, who declared themselves willing to publish the set. I then finished the Minor Arcana, and the end product you have in your hands.

In designing these cards I sought to incorporate as many diverse sources of the Tarot tradition as was feasible. Hence the designation Eclectic Tarot. At the same time I was careful to make no changes that are not justified by tradition and source material and to pursue the goal of clarifying the symbology, the philosophical roots and the most revealing analogies with par-

allel systems of perception. This goal is reflected in the structure and the hierarchy of the designs. The formula is consistent: $0 + 3 \times 7 = 22$; $4 \times (4 + 10) = 56$. This reveals an underlying level of significance beyond the already obscure system of pictorial symbology: the secret within the secret. Numbers are the clue: Pythagorean mathematics in a philosophical guise; the mathematics of philosophical dynamism. This insight is not new, yet it has always been subordinated to the plethora of pictorial significance. Much of my information derives from Papus' work „Tarot der Zigeuner“, in which he established correlations between the Tarot and the formula of the tetragrammaton, the four-letter Hebrew formulation of the name of God which was never spoken. This formula contains the letters י ה ו ה = (from right to left: yod, he, vav, he), which spell Jehovah. This in its turn is closely related to the tetractys, which the Pythagoreans regarded as holy. And it brings us back to the age-old

problem of squaring the circle. How could the infinity of the divine spirit give birth to the finity of Creation? How could Zero become three and thence four? The answers to these questions are tied up with the cosmic process of creation. The tetractys embodies within itself the mathematical cycle one to ten. The cabbalistic system which has come down to us in the Tarot is a body of universal knowledge in the guise of a specific time and culture. Papus was familiar with the historical context, identified the system in the Tarot and documented the correlation in his book. Similar interconnections can be traced in every great religious and philosophical tradition.

It was on this insight that I based my own Tarot. The outward appearance of the cards is merely the guise in which, consciously or unconsciously, I clad my vision of the cosmic archetype of man. This archetype is to be found in every traditional Tarot; I tried to

bring it out more clearly in my own designs.

It would exceed the scope of the present commentary to discourse in more detail on such background information. The reader is urged to make his own voyage of exploration into this fascinating territory. Each individual portion of knowledge that is gained is valid in its own terms. Taken together, the body of knowledge accessible through study of the Tarot constitutes the total corpus of truth which lies beyond all relativisation. The Tarot is one of the paths which lead to this truth.

Interpreting the cards

Reading the future in the cards of the Tarot involves two practical techniques: the laying of the cards and their interpretation.

There are countless different methods of laying the cards. Many of them are extremely complex, and learning them requires a great deal of time and practice. Yet the simplest approaches are often the most fruitful — although it should be added that simple is not necessarily synonymous with easy. The safest path to perception lies through the study of natural laws as they are manifested in science and rational thought. The understanding gained in this way can be directly applied to any practical field of life. In terms of reading the Tarot cards, this would mean: taking any simple mathematical or geometrical structure as a basic pattern for laying the cards. With greater assurance one can begin to make use of more complex patterns, but it is important to understand the

way the natural laws work within these patterns before they are used.

Quite naturally, anybody just starting to interpret the Tarot is curious to have a particular question answered. The procedure should be kept as simple and clear as possible. Involved rituals tend only to blur the perception, and there is an inherent danger for the people involved. The following guidelines are no more than suggestions and can be adapted at will.

The milieu conducive to the procedure of questioning is one which is as distinct as possible from everyday experience. One should be alone or just in the company of the person seeking the answer. A quiet room should be used. A table cloth should be reserved purely for the purpose of laying the Tarot cards. Light a candle or incense (but avoid heavy, excessively sweet scents). Above all, seek to formulate the question as intelligibly and concisely as possible. The questioner must be perfectly clear in his own mind

what it is that he wants to know. The question should be articulated in the briefest form. Then the questioner will utter a prayer or request to the presence or power from whom he is seeking the answer. This may be a divinity representing the oracle; it may be the Tarot itself; it may be some form of personal divine being; or it may be God. A non-materialist set of beliefs and faith in the Divine are absolutely indispensable. Having offered up this invocation the questioner will state the question, choosing his words with extreme care. Now the cards must be shuffled. They have been arranged in a particular sequence: the pack is placed face down on the table and consists, from the top, of the 22 cards of the Major Arcana from I (the Magus) to XXI (the World); then the Minor Arcana. The suits are in the sequence: Wands, Cups, Swords and Discs. Each suit begins with the court cards (King, Queen, Knight, Knave) followed by the number cards from One (Ace) to Ten. The Fool (0) is as-

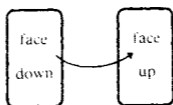
signed a special position, either at the end of the Major Arcana (after XXI) or as the penultimate card of the Major Arcana (between XX and XXI). Alternatively, the Fool may be placed on the top, above I. This latter option is most frequent in cartomancy.

The top card is thus either the 0 or the I. The bottom card is the Ten of Discs.

There are two possible methods of shuffling the deck. The first is spontaneous and random and involves spreading the cards out face down on the table surface and mixing them round arbitrarily, then gathering them up in no particular order. The second method is identical to regular shuffling in the hand and then cutting the pack. In this latter case, though, it is important to ensure that the cards are thoroughly mixed and do not all end up pointing in the same direction. A great deal of significance attaches to whether a card is laid on the table upright or inverted. This random inversion is best achieved

by cutting the pack and rotating the top segment. The procedure might go as follows: hand-shuffle three times, cut once and repeat thrice.

The questioner should now pause for a moment to concentrate and then begin to lay the cards out one by one with his right hand. Each card is turned over and placed on the table (like turning back a page of a book). The cards on the table are now face up.



Now to the techniques of laying the cards and their significance. First, a few examples using simple number combinations:

1. The Number One: draw either the top card or any other card from the pack. This card represents the questioner in the context of the question, or it represents the question itself, depending on whether

the time frame relates to the present or the future.

2. The Number Two or Duality: draw two cards, which then signify either the questioner and the object of his question or the questioner and a second person with whom the questioner is linked in a given relationship.
3. The Number Three: any form of Trinity. Three cards are laid out in a triangle, denoting past, present and future or childhood, youth and old age.

If a more complex method is used it is advisable to select a so-called significator card before you shuffle the pack. This card symbolizes the questioner, the person on whose behalf the question is being asked or the substance of the question itself. One of the court cards is generally used for this purpose because they are most conducive to the perception of personal associations. The cards of the Major Arcana can be used in specific cases, but on

the whole they are too bound up with archetypal principles to be suitable.

The criteria applied to the selection of the significator are the characteristics of the questioner — the sum of his personality, standing, capabilities and attitudes or, if necessary, only one of these categories. These criteria are matched to the significator as follows:

King: an adult, mature or elderly man.

Queen: as above, but relation to a woman:

Knight: a young man or a man in the prime of life.

Knave: a young boy or girl, or a child.

Wands: impetuous, strong-willed, assured, dynamic, masculine, determined, rational, violent, bad-tempered.

Cups: insipid, emotional, passive, receptive, feminine, intuitive, sensitive, loving, anxious, unstable, melancholic.

Swords: mobile, intellectual, fast-moving, cheerful, analytical, superficial, sanguine.

Discs: earthy, ponderous, dependable, cumbersome, heavy, diligent, persistent, torpid, phlegmatic, sombre.

Before the cards are shuffled the significator is placed in a special position in the pattern — for instance, at the centre of the triangle.

Some more examples of methods of laying out the cards:

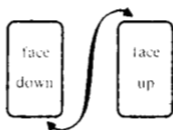
4. The Number Four: Childhood, Youth, Maturity, Old Age or Past, Present, Future and the Outcome of all three.
5. The Number Five: Body, Vitality, Emotions, Reason, Intellect.
6. The Number Six: Past, Present and Future in terms of the inner being (microcosmos) and the outer, extraneous world (macrocosmos).

This series may be extended at will according to one's own perceptions.

For those with an interest in the traditional I should like at this juncture to outline the original oracle method of Tarot reading. It is relatively straight-

forward to follow and yet sophisticated and profound in its appeal. It is suitable for use both by beginners and by experienced Tarot readers and can be performed either with all 78 cards or just with the 22 cards of the Major Arcana.

The significator is placed on the table and the pack is shuffled. Then the cards are laid out one by one according to a fixed pattern. The first card is laid on top of the significator. If the first card is inverted, all the following cards are turned over and rotated at the same time (thus not sideways like the pages of a book but vertically).



During this procedure the following phrases are spoken:

1. This wraps and surrounds him.
2. This crosses him.

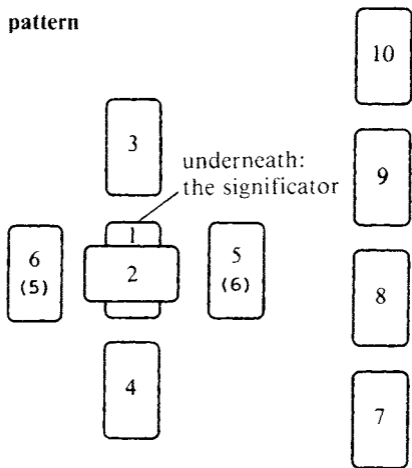
3. This crowns him.
4. This is below him.
5. This lies behind him.
6. This lies in front of him.

Depending on the way the signifier is lying, 5. and 6. may have to be reversed.

The first six cards are now interpreted before the next cards are laid out, with the following phrases:

7. This is himself.
8. This is his house and home.
9. These are his hopes and fears.
10. This is what will come.

pattern



The meaning of the individual positions:

1. The present situation: the sphere of influence or the atmosphere which directly dominates the questioner's life and work.
2. Imminent influences: impending dangers, obstacles or problems.

3. Goal or destiny: the most favourable outcome possible in the present circumstances. The questioner's aims and aspirations.
4. The background of the past: the overall composite picture of events and influences from the distant past out of which the present has proceeded. In many cases the questioner will not be aware of the causal chains, even if he has forged them himself.
5. Past events: recent occurrences or influences or more decisive events lying further back in the past.
6. Future influences: whatever will come to pass in the immediate future and during the rest of the questioner's lifetime.
7. The questioner: the person or the question and the attitudes involved within the given circumstances, relating the questioner to the perspective.
8. Concomitant factors: the questioner's status, home background

and present environment and the factors at work here; the influence which the questioner exerts on others and vice versa.

9. Emotions: concealed feelings, wishes, fears, uncertainties, aspirations, anxieties connected with the question. Also the things the questioner will come to realise in the near future. The secrets which the questioner is trying to keep concealed.
10. The Outcome: the final result, culmination, coming together of the strands which have been seen in the other cards, embracing every insight so far. If this final card is unclear or fails to answer the question, the whole procedure should be repeated using this tenth card as the significator. The other cards on the table are returned to the pack and shuffled as previously.

Finally a few words on the second technique involved: the interpretation

of the cards. The beginner is well advised to consult the present commentary or a book and read exactly what is written on the specific meaning of each card. At the same time the symbology of the cards as a whole needs to be studied. After a while this information will stick in the memory, so that it is no longer necessary to look up every card. This is first noticeable with the cards of the Major Arcana, which are more striking in their connotations and therefore more readily memorized. The more the questioner understands about the symbology of the cards, the more meaning he will be able to extract from them. The process is comparable to the deciphering of a lost language: it amounts to the unravelling of the inexhaustible secrets of the Tarot.

The Meaning of the Cards

The commentary on the meaning of the cards is divided into two parts. The first deals with the 22 cards of the Major Arcana, the second with the 56 cards

of the Minor Arcana. Each description begins with a brief list of the possible or actual cabbalistic, astrological, numerological, geometrical or other analogies. I leave it up to the reader to pursue each of these paths further and to draw his own conclusions from the analogies. They are not central to the Tarot itself. There follows a description of the card and its symbology, and finally the significance of the card in upright and inverted position in keywords.

The Major Arcana

1. The Magus (the Juggler)

Analogies:

⚔ aleph — cow-A — maternal letter
1 or 1000

△ — element of air

1 — Kether

the crown, unity ☉ or ☿.

Description:

The Magus stands before a table containing three implements of magic:

cup, sword and disc. He holds his staff in his raised right hand, while his left hand points to the ground. He is thus uttering the alchemist's „solve et coagula“ and at the same time establishing the link between Heaven and Earth. The Magus rules over the higher and lower powers as well as the four suits of the Minor Arcana; the four elements are his tools.

Upright meaning:

A strong-willed person, resolute, self-confident, creative, adept, skilful, self-controlled, homogeneous, disciplined, active, imaginative.

Inverted meaning:

A weak-willed person, insecure, restless, indolent, a procrastinator, apathetic, incompetent, undisciplined, negative will to achieve negative goals, a charlatan and swindler.

II. The High Priestess

Analogies:

𐌆 — bet — house — B — double letter

2 or 2000

☾ — the Moon

2 — chockmah

Wisdom, duality, ⊕.

Description:

The Priestess is seated between the twin pillars of duality, the sea in the background. Her right hand is raised in blessing, while in her left hand she holds the keys to the immanent and transcendental worlds. On her lap lies the open book of knowledge, half veiled like the Priestess herself. On her heads she wears the horns of Isis and between them the Yin-Yang symbol. The two sides of her nature — revealed and concealed — correspond to exoteric and esoteric knowledge. By lifting her veil before her disciple she offers initiation into the mysteries.

Upright meaning:

A wise, clever and loving woman or mother; love, intuition, feeling, wisdom, knowledge, perceptiveness, caring, forethought; passively receptive and a disseminator of understanding.

Inverted knowledge:

An egocentric and domineering woman; excessively severe; conceit, ignorance, bigotry, affectation, superficiality, hatred, delusion, pretence, vengefulness.

III. The Empress

Analogies:

𐌆 — gimel — the camel — G — double letter

3 or 3000

♀ — Venus

3 — binah

Knowledge — the Trinity, Δ .

Description:

A winged woman sits on an throne wearing a crown of twelve stars, the

signs of the Zodiac. The Moon is at her feet. Like the High Priestess she is the Heavenly Virgin. In her coat of arms she has a silver-white eagle, the symbol of the soul. She represents the fertile, receptive nature of woman, the life-giver of all creatures.

Upright meaning:

A natural and feminine wife or companion; marriage, children, receptiveness, fertility, Nature, femininity, beauty, intuition, love, emotion, healthy sensuality, material prosperity, completion, talent, gentleness, courtesy.

Inverted meaning:

Exaggerated sensuality, indecisiveness, inactivity, fear, worries, inability to concentrate, procrastination, passivity, vanity, superficiality.

IV. The Emperor

Analogies:

⚔ — dalet — the door — D — double letter

4

♃ — Jupiter

4 — chesed

Goodness, four-in-one

□ or +.

Description:

A stern ruler sits on a cubic throne, holding in his hand the symbols of his power, orb and sceptre. His golden coat of arms is adorned by a block eagle, an indication of strength of will. The upper part of his body forms a triangle, his legs a cross, symbolizing the supremacy of mind over matter. The raised sceptre and the Emperor's body form the sign of Jupiter.

Upright meaning:

A strong-willed husband or man; authority, leadership qualities, severity, will, power, intelligence, reason, endurance, conviction, the realisation of goals, abundance, riches, prosperity; reason is stronger than the lower passions, mind rules matter; determination, justice and kindness.

Inverted meaning:

Immaturity, weakness of character, incompetence, lack of strength and incisiveness; vacillating, incapable of keeping the baser emotions in check; hatred, violence, abuse of power, dependent upon prestige and image, unjust.

V. The Hierophant

Analogies:

☐ — he — window — H — single letter

5

♈ — Aries

♂ — Mars

5 — geburah

Severity, five-in-one, ☐ or ✠.

Description:

The Hierophant sits in his gorgeous robes between two pillars. With one hand he is making the sign of the blessing, in the other he holds a staff whose three crossbeams — like the three tiers of his tiara — indicate his

knowledge of the three planes underworld, world and heaven. This card is clearly related to the High Priestess. The Hierophant rules over the powers of duality. He is the father of religion and teaching, the patriarch of the ancient wisdom, the spark of intellectual life beyond the material world.

Upright meaning:

A man of great seriousness, immersed in religion or thought; an intellectual; philosophical, authoritarian and stern but kind and helpful; friendliness, forgiving nature, humility, compassion; a person who offers refuge like a father; inspiration, the dissemination of knowledge, faith, religious belief, morality, duty.

Inverted meaning:

A powerless, sensitive person; weakness, vulnerability, fragility, lack of faith, excessive friendliness, misplaced generosity, an irreligious nature.

VI. The Lovers (Temptation)

Analogies:

7 — vav — hook — V — single letter

6

♋ — Taurus and ☾ - the Moon

6 — tipereh

Beauty — six-in-one, ⚡.

Description:

A naked man stands at a crossroads. Two women are calling him: the scantily clad woman represents man's physical appetites, the woman in blue the virtues of the soul. Man is faced with a choice before which he is naked. However he decides the arrow of the Sun Angel will strike him: as a reward if he makes the right decision, otherwise as a dire punishment — perhaps a painful bereavement. Yet whatever happens, man is never alone: divine intervention is always a factor in the course of events.

Upright meaning:

Decision, test, a crossroads, consci-

ence, the conflict between spiritual and physical love, between virtue and sinfulness, between the higher will and the base passions; seduction, temptation; the right decision is practically made already.

Inverted meaning:

A wrong decision, the test is failed; inability to come to terms with a problem; defeated by conflict; submission to temptation, disappointment in love and marriage, imprudent intentions, infidelity, unreliability, disloyalty, fickleness, separation, divorce, inability to decide, doubts, hesitancy.

VII. The Warrior (the Chariot)

Analogies:

⚔ — sayeen — weapon — S — single letter

7

♊ — Gemini and ☉ — the Sun

7 — netzach

Victory, seven-in-one, ☉.

Description:

The Warrior is crowned with three stars, the true higher self. His chariot is drawn by a black and a white Sphinx. He holds the flaming sword of just battle and the sceptre of victory. He is the conquering hero who has defeated the base passions in battle. The primeval forces of duality draw his chariot. The Sun behind the Sun is his companion.

Upright meaning:

The victor, hero; honour, battle, triumph, conquest, strength, supremacy, determination, diligence; a severe test, daunting obstacles.

Inverted meaning:

Defeat, failure, submission, dishonour, prostration, setback just before achieving success, the collapse of plans; inability to assume responsibility.

VIII. Justice

Analogies:

𐌆 — chet - fence - Ch — single letter
8

♋ — cancer and ♀ — Venus
— hod

Glory, eight-in-one ☉.

Description:

Justice sits blindfolded between two pillars. The ability to distinguish between true and false comes from knowledge, not from seeing. The actions of the past, embodied in a heart, are being weighed in the scales against a feather. Only those who fear the truth and have offended against it need fear the sword of punishment. The law is severe but just.

Upright meaning:

Justice, balance, harmony, law, order, honesty, integrity, virtue, dignity, honour, kindness; court of law, legal proceedings, disclosure of the truth, the ability to discern the truth.

Inverted meaning:

Injustice, imbalance, discord, lawlessness, prejudice, false accusations, dishonesty, difference of opinion, intolerance, arrogance, abuse, falsehood, hypocrisy, insults, lack of discernment, inability to discern the truth or to be told the truth; unfavourable verdict in a legal dispute.

IX. The Hermit

Analogies:

♁ — tet — womb — t — single letter

9

♌ — Leo and — Jupiter ♃

9 — Yesod

Foundation, nine-in-one ☉.

Description:

The Hermit, wrapped in the mantle of silence and solitude, strides across the plain, leaning on his shepherd's crook, the symbol of his intellectual authority. By sheltering his lantern in the folds of his cloak he is protecting the inner divine spark from the coldness

of isolation. The lower self has become the guardian of the higher self. The light of his lantern does not illuminate his path but shines back into himself, for the path lies within him.

Upright meaning:

Maturity, wisdom, intelligence, perception, caution, reflection, silence, solitude, loneliness, moderation, alertness, self-discipline, patience, ability to keep a secret, pursuit of higher goals.

Inverted meaning:

Immaturity, childishness, incaution, impatience, foolish actions, brazenness, gossip, carelessness, hasty deeds, unnecessary delays through exaggerated caution, mistrust of the Divine.

X. The Wheel of Fortune

Analogies:

☛ — yod — hand — J — origin —
single letter

♍ — Virgo and ☿ — Mercury

10 — malkuth

Kingdom, the decade

10 = 1 + 0 = 1, unity on another plane, ☉ or ☿.

Description:

As the positive force rises on the wheel, the negative force descends. The Sphinx above tilts the wheel and decides in which direction it spins. Only two points on the wheel do not change their position: the hub and the Sphinx. This is the wheel of cyclical change, of destiny or karma. The only escape is by reaching the hub.

Upright meaning:

Ascendancy, progress, profit, good fortune, improvement, the ups and downs of life, the inexorability of change, finding the harmonious centre, escape from the constraints of circumstance.

Inverted meaning:

Descent, setbacks, misfortune, failure,

deterioration of the situation, instability, imbalance, disappointment of expectations, the fickleness of fortune.

XI. Strength

Analogies:

☞ — kaf — closed hand — K — double letter

20

⌋ — final kaf — 500

♂ — Mars

11 = 1 + 1 = 2

⊕.

Description:

A woman effortlessly opens and closes the jaws of a lion. She has tamed the forces of animal aggression. The sign on her hat, like that on the hat of the Magus, signifies infinity, the source of her strength.

Upright meaning:

Overcoming the instincts and the blind forces of Nature; victory over brutality and aggression, self-control, courage,

strength of mind, energy, determination, physical and mental strength, self-confidence, faith, ardour, eagerness.

Inverted meaning:

Weakness, powerlessness, pettiness, lack of self-confidence, succumbing to temptation and the passions, being the plaything of animal instincts, abuse of power, tyranny, presumptuousness, coarseness, brutality, violence.

XII. The Hanged Man

Analogies:

⚡ — lamed — ox goad — L — single letter

30

⚖ — Libra and ☾ — the Moon,

12 = 1 + 2 = 3

△.

Description:

A man hanging by one leg is suspended from a beam between two trees. Each tree has six pruned branches —

the twelve signs of the Zodiac. The man's legs form a cross, his arms and head a triangle. This is an image of the man who has changed his attitudes. The spirit has subordinated itself to matter, but voluntarily, as an act of sacrifice. He is losing the material possessions which he had previously valued: the coins at his armpits are falling to the ground. This card suggests the sacrifice made by Prometheus when he allowed himself to be chained to a rock for giving man fire.

Upright meaning:

Self-sacrifice, trial, foreswearing, duty, transition, reincarnation, change of attitudes and way of life, a new beginning, voluntary foregoing, submission to the law, surrender, altruism, relying on one's own strength.

Inverted meaning:

Reluctance to make a sacrifice, inability to give spontaneously, egoism, false sacrifice, refusal to change oneself.

XIII. Death

Analogies:

☪ — mem — water — M — maternal letter

40

☐ — final mem — 600

▽ — element of water

13 = 1 + 3 = 4

☐ or +.

Description:

Death the skeleton, the reaper with the scythe, makes no distinction between kings and their subjects. At the end of time, when the rainbow joins Heaven and Earth, the harvest will be brought in. Some will lose their heads, others just their hands or feet. Only through death is rebirth possible. Here the visible and invisible worlds fuse in the eternal cycle of death and life.

Upright meaning:

Physical death or the death of the old self, making room for what is new; a new beginning; a new era dawns; the

end of relationships or material security, sudden change, transformation, loss, misfortune, accident, bereavement, disaster, ruin, collapse.

Inverted meaning:

No movement, stagnation, lethargy, immobility, petrification, incomplete metamorphosis, mourning, dissolution.

XIV. Temperance

Analogies:

♋ — nun — fish — N — single letter
— 50

♋ — final nun — 700

♋ — Scorpio and ☉ — the Sun

14 = 1 + 4 = 5

◊ or ✠.

Description:

A winged angel is pouring a liquid from a silver into a golden vessel: the transformation from impure to pure, the resolution of the opposites in alchemy. for the angel is standing with

one foot in water, the other on dry land, bridging the two elements. Occasionally a soul is seen changing from one vessel to the other in reincarnation. The source of the transformation, the Sun, is in the background.

Upright meaning:

Abstinence, temperance, frugal ways, patience, balance, purification, transformation, rejuvenation, fusing into a new, superior essence, harmony, blending.

Inverted meaning:

Disharmony, discord, frivolity, conflict in business, personal or professional affairs, inability to co-operate, unfulfilled wishes, retrogression, collapse.

XV. The Devil

Analogies:

◻ — samech — snake — Ss — single letter

♆ — Sagittarius and ♄ — Saturn

15 = 1 + 5 = 6



Description:

This composite winged creature, generally referred to as Baphomet or the Devil, contains the four elements within himself. His hooves and legs represent the earth, the scales on his belly water, his feathers and wings the air and his torch fire. The Devil also belongs to both sexes. The other two chained creatures are his slaves — humans in whom the animal is prevalent. This is the dark, occult Sphinx, the snake, knowledge of the dark side.

Upright meaning:

The danger inherent in the baser passions, animal forces, materialism, the lower powers of the occult, black magic, delusion and madness, slavery, dependence, predominance of matter over mind, the uncanny, experience of destiny, fear, evil, misfortune, catas-

trophe, devastation, disintegration, violence, fate.

Inverted meaning:

Deliverance from slavery, throwing off shackles, surmounting obstacles, overcoming one's own anxieties and passions.

XVI. The Tower

Analogies:

𐌆 — ayin — eye — Gh — single letter

70

♄ — Capricorn and ♃ — Jupiter

16 = 1 + 6 = 7, ⚡.

Description:

The tower is destroyed by a bolt of lightning hurled by the divine eye. A king and his servant, the builders of the tower, are thrown from the battlements — the fate of man's overweening pride in his own consciousness. As power is broken, a new sombre age dawns. Room is being made for what

the future holds in store. Nature sets its own limits, and no being on this earth may venture into realms in which it does not belong. The result is catastrophe.

Upright meaning:

Disaster, fall, ruin, collapse, devastation, the breakdown of old ideas and plans, loss of stability and material security, unhappiness, misery, danger, greed, materialism, arrogance, intolerance.

Inverted meaning:

Hopes dashed, oppression continues, inability to generate change, imprisonment, confinement, monotony.

XVII. The Star

Analogies:

D — pe — mouth — P — double letter — 80

7 — final pe — 800

♿ — Mercury

17 = 1 + 7 = 8



Description:

A naked woman is pouring liquids from a golden and a silver jug. One liquid is fiery, the other watery. Both fuse into an androgenous synthesis like the black and white star above the figure's head. It is surrounded by seven other stars — the seven classical planets. The butterfly is a symbol of the fluttering psyche which has found its way to the higher self and is nourished there by the elixir of life.

Upright meaning:


Balance, harmony, beauty, art, contentment, insight, understanding, optimism, hope, faith, unity, surrender.

Inverted meaning:


Fickleness, discord, pessimism, disappointment, unfulfilled hopes, misfortune, resignation, doubt, obstinacy.


XVIII. The Moon

Analogies:

 — zade — fishing hook — Z —
single letter

90

 — final zade — 900

 — Aquarius and ♀ — Venus

18 = 1 + 8 = 9



Description:

A white dog and a black wolf, chained to a white and a black tower are barking at the Moon. The black powers often appear harmless or tempting, the powers of light sinister and threatening. But clarity of vision reveals the truth. The white tower has an entrance, the black tower has none. A path sprinkled with drops of blood falling from the Moon extends to the horizon. It is the path of sorrow that has to be taken in surmounting the base lunar forces — also represented by the crab surfacing from the depths of the water. These are the lusts and instincts

from the unconscious. The Moon has no light of its own but reflects only the sunlight: it is a vast, living-and-dead mirror.

Upright meaning:

Pretence, illusion, fraud, disappointment, deceptive appearances, disillusionment, ambiguity, affectation, gossip, scandal, slander, lies, immorality, insults, superficiality, a dishonest relationship, false friends, enemies, passions, lust, instincts, the unconscious, the unknown emerging from the deep.

Inverted meaning:

A minor deception, slight errors, temptation, irritation, avoidable mistakes, recognising the danger in time.

XIX. The Sun

Analogies:

☉ — kof — eye of a needle — K —
single letter

100

♋ — Pisces and ♃ — Jupiter

19 = 1 + 9 = 10 = 1

☉ or ☽.

Description:

Encircled by a wall and ringed by flowers and grasses a blond young man and a blond girl hold hands. Behind the wall sunflowers grow. The sun itself is raining golden drops onto the figures. The light of the sun is their own. It is the direct, unreflected light of knowledge. This is consciousness and enlightenment.

Upright meaning:

Union, friendship, engagement, marriage, a good friend, favourable relationships, intellectual life or love, light, enlightenment, knowledge, harmony, unity, warmth, completeness, triumph, joy, talent, achievement, material prosperity.

Inverted meaning:

Separation, loss of friends, unfulfilled obligation or agreement, obstructed

plans, loneliness, unhappiness, misguided idealism, ignorance.

XX. The Day of Judgement

Analogies:

𐤒 — resh — head — R — double letter

200

𐤆 — Saturn

20 = 2

⊕.

Description:

The trumpet is sounded at the end of time to summon the dead from their graves. A man, a woman and a child, embodiments of those people who have not yet reached the ultimate goal, rise from the tomb. In the material world they were in a state of death; now they return to life by joining the world of the spirit.

Upright meaning:

Reincarnation, rejuvenation, a higher plane, perfection, development, expansion

sion, progress, awakening of the soul, spiritual resurrection, a new beginning, the quest for immortality.

Inverted meaning:

Delay, indecision, hesitation, hanging on to the old life, failing to go through the necessary transformation, spiritual dormancy, disappointment, disillusionment, inability to perceive facts, separation, divorce.

0 The Fool

Analogies:

☪ — shin — tooth — Sh — maternal letter

300

△ — the element of fire, and ☸ — the spirit

0 — the zero beyond the manifested numbers.

△.

Description:

A man in the guise of a bird with bright plumage is striding happily to-

wards a precipice. He has not even noticed the danger. Slung over his shoulder he carries a knapsack containing his destiny. He is oblivious to the fact that a wild beast, his animal nature, has sunk its teeth into his leg. At the bottom of the precipice a crocodile lies in wait for him; this creature has its home in the muddy waters of the material world. That the process of disintegration has also set in on the cultural plane is indicated by the toppled obelisk. A parallel sign is the solar eclipse. This is one of the most complex cards in the entire Tarot. While it is pervaded by the kind of symbolism outlined above, it possesses a second symbology beyond the first deriving from its numbering and its position in the Tarot hierarchy. The practical associations resolve themselves into one figure: the man who „adds up to nothing“.

Upright meaning:

Foolishness, immaturity, imprudence, rash actions, thoughtlessness, mad-

ness, eccentric and dangerous ideas, reluctance to understand, mistakes, blindness to the truth, instincts, materialism, lack of discipline and concentration, extravagance, passion, profligacy.

Inverted meaning:

Hesitancy, indecision, apathy, lethargy, carelessness, lack of self-confidence, a wrong decision, a flawed judgement.

XXI. The World

Analogies:

⌚ — tau — cross — Th — double letter

400

☉ — the Sun

▽ — the element of earth

21 = 2 + 1 = 3 or 400 = 4

The elements of the world

□ or + .

Description:

A naked woman dances in the middle of a garland bearing twelve groups of

three blossoms each. Above the figure is a kind of fish-bird which — like the woman — is a symbol of the soul at the centre of the world. The world is suggested by the four „animals“: man, lion, eagle and bull — the four elements. The complex numerological associations of this card require brief explanation. The number four is the world, and it closes the circle, tying in with the four elements of the Magus on card I. Hence this card's alternative designation ‚The Crown of the Magus‘. Then again, it contains the number three, which indicates the soul at the centre. Taken together, then, the numbers give us seven which, combined with its constituent parts, is the formula for the Major and Minor Arcana (4×14 for the Minor Arcana, $3 \times 7 (+ 0)$ for the Major Arcana). This card is sometimes referred to as „All in All“. It forms a transition to the Minor Arcana.

Upright meaning:

Outcome, culmination, completion,

perfection, fulfilment, ending, the crowning glory, consciousness at the centre, harmony, focus, success, security, the point towards which all the other cards have pointed.

Inverted meaning:

Inability to complete what has been embarked upon, leaving the centre, incompleteness, short-sightedness, lack of harmony, disappointment, fear.

The Minor Arcana

We now proceed from the world of archetypes to the world of manifestation whose basic structure is built up on the number four — the four elements and the number of the world. In the following we will be considering the court and number cards of the four suits, their pictorial and symbolical content and their meaning. The court cards tend to be related closely with people — as we saw with the idea of the signifier — who exert a certain influence on the question or the questioner. The number cards generally indicate inanimate forces or events at work within the overall situation.

Wands

The court cards

King of Wands (Ruler/Magnanimity):

Description:

The fire of fire. Colour red. A severe ruler on a throne adorned with lions' heads, a symbol of the Sun.

Upright meaning:

A strong-willed, responsible man, fiery disposition, authoritarian, severe, magnanimous, wise, proud, a good friend, somebody who knows what he wants.

Inverted meaning:

A dogmatic or violent man, excessively severe, cruel, given to excess or grovelling.

Queen of Wands (Honour/Generosity)

Description:

The water of fire. Colours blue and red. Her gown is blue — the colour of water. She is strong-willed but is also capable of gentleness and affection.

Upright meaning:

A strong-willed woman, authoritarian but also a good friend, loving and energetic, generous, understanding and very attractive.

Knight of Wands (Departure/Violence)

Description:

The air of fire. Colours yellow and red. The Knight rides in great haste through the sea of flames, in his hand a winged wand.

Upright meaning:

A noble and victorious warrior, swift-ness, change, absence, travel, a step into the unknown, pride, a violent difference of opinion.

Inverted meaning:

Discord, conflict, separation, end of a personal relationship, unexpected changes, vanity, cowardice, prejudice, insensitivity, sadism.

Knave of Wands (Stranger/Honesty):

Description:

End of the fire. Colours brown and red. A young man stands amongst rocks licked by flames. His wand bears the symbol of the four elements and permanence.

Upright meaning:

Messenger, envoy, news, a friend or stranger with good intentions, honesty, loyalty, energy, violent anger and love.

Inverted meaning:

Bearer of bad news, gossip, shallowness, falsehood, cruelty, presumptuousness, displeasure, indecisiveness, fear of making decisions.

The number cards

Ace of Wands (Birth/Strength):

Description:

A hand appears out of a cloud, grasping a wand, the wand of Ptah, the gold of subterranean fire.

Upright meaning:

Beginning, birth, creation, roots, fortune, enterprise, inventiveness, masculinity.

Inverted meaning:

Bad beginning, dark prospects, depression, anger, ruin, failure.

Two of Wands (Sovereignty/Sorrow):

Upright meaning:

Power of the ruler, leadership, courage, achievement, good fortune, wealth, tinged with sorrow.

Inverted meaning:

Relapse, sadness, problems, loss of faith, trust and hope, distress, fear.

Three of Wands (Enterprise/Virtue):

Upright meaning:

Good character, virtue, understanding, hard work, resourcefulness, business, partnership.

Inverted meaning:

Beware of help from a stranger, assistance offered with ulterior motives, treachery, deception.

Four of Wands (Perfection/Community):

Upright meaning:

Perfection, the fruits of your labours, prosperity, harmony, sense of community, peace, romance.

Inverted meaning:

Loss of peace and quiet, insecurity, unrequited love.

Five of Wands (Competition/Gold):

Upright meaning:

Exertion, effort, striving, work, competition, eventual success, gold, conflict.

Inverted meaning:

Swindle, legal battle, difficulties, fear of decisions.

Six of Wands (Victory/Servant):

Upright meaning:

Victory, progress, conquest, profit, advantage, messenger, startling news, hopes fulfilled.

Inverted meaning:

Fear of an enemy, infidelity, treachery, dishonest profits, worries, delay, arrest.

Seven of Wands (Bravery/Negotiation):

Upright meaning:

Courage, last-ditch effort, individual bravery, challenge, competition, rivalry advantageous position.

Inverted meaning:

Anxiety, beware of indecisiveness, doubts, haste, mortification, complications.

Eight of Wands (Speed/Message):

Upright meaning:

Sudden movement, mobility, hasty decisions, on the move, sudden success, arrows of love, letter, message.

Inverted meaning:

Disunity, quarrel, domestic discord,

envy, doubts, pangs of conscience, delay, jealousy.

Nine of Wands (Strength/Delay):

Upright meaning:

Strength, victory in battle, fearlessness, discipline, mobility, skill, hidden enemies, delay, uncertainty.

Inverted meaning:

Problems, intrusion, obstacles, adverse circumstances, disaster, tardiness, opposition, health problems, weakness.

Ten of Wands (Oppression/Treason):

Upright meaning:

Oppression, limitation, tyranny, being overloaded, excessive pressure, treachery.

Inverted meaning:

Deception, fraud, intrigues, falsehood, spite, contradiction, loss.

Cups

The element of water. Basis colours blue, white and silver. The horizontal, passive and most feminine of the elements, representing the female psyche, the feelings in conjunction with intuition, love and wisdom.

The court cards

King of Cups (Priest/Gentleness):

Description:

The fire of water. Colours red and blue. The shell and the crabs decorating the throne are symbols of water and the Moon. He represents the active, masculine form of water.

Upright meaning:

An appealing and artistic man, friendly, a gentle nature, humane, courteous, dependable.

Inverted meaning:

A dishonest and deceitful man, malicious, lying, vain, lazy, sensual, schizophrenic.

Queen of Cups (Lover/Virtue):

Description:

The water of water. Colour blue. Lotus blossoms float at her feet. Everything about her suggests loving, intuitive femininity.

Upright meaning:

A loving and giving wife or mother, good, pure, dignified; a perfect wife, patient, adored, warm-hearted, delicate.

Inverted meaning:

A profligate, malicious woman, unfaithful, dishonest, mendacious, a distorter of the truth.

Knight of Cups (Arrival/Offer):

Description:

The air of water. Colours yellow and blue. The knight rides with closed eyes through a sea of clouds.

Upright meaning:

A dreamy man, messenger, offer, invitation, suggestion, challenge, arrival.

Inverted meaning:

Deceit, trickery, deception, a cunning and treacherous person, ambiguity, theft, artificiality.

Knave of Cups (Assistant/Loveliness):*Description:*

The earth of water. Colours brown and red. An extremely effeminate young man staring dreamily at the cup in his hand.

Upright meaning:

A sensitive, diligent young man, willing to offer his services, feelings, thoughtfulness, helpfulness, silent, gentle, affectionate, a perfect companion, a message.

Inverted meaning:

Easily influenced, insecure, fickle, deception, absent-minded, seduction.

The number cards

Ace of Cups (Abundance/Fertility):

Description:

A hand reaches out of the clouds offering an overflowing cup like the Holy Grail: origins, the source of the element of water.

Upright meaning:

Superabundance, fulfilment, joy, happiness, beauty, fortune, love, wisdom.

Inverted meaning:

Falsehood, instability, change, infertility, unrequited love, a false friend.

Two of Cups (Love/Attraction):

Upright meaning:

Love, ties, harmony, living together, affection, marriage, partnership, renewal or beginning of friendship, sexual relations.

Inverted meaning:

Unrequited love, false friendship, dis-

cordant relationship, divorce, separation.

Three of Cups (Abundance/Success):

Upright meaning:

Abundance, fulfilment, joyousness, perfection, victory, solution of problems.

Inverted meaning:

Excessive hedonism, bodily pleasures, overindulgence in sensual gratification, loss of prestige, ingratitude.

Four of Cups (Surfeit/Opulence):

Upright meaning:

Opulence, surfeit, reluctance, nausea, disappointment, unhappiness, dissatisfaction, inconsolability, bitterness.

Inverted meaning:

New possibilities and relationships, new approach to old problems, new insights, prescience.

Five of Cups (Disappointment/Inheritance):

Upright meaning:

Partial loss, disappointment, destruction sets in, pain, mistake, powerlessness, inheritance, bitterness in marriage.

Inverted meaning:

Hopeful prospects, new ties, joyful expectations, reunited, ancestors, return.

Six of Cups (Past/Joy):

Upright meaning:

Harmony and joy, sense of wellbeing, past, memories, past influences, things forgotten or suppressed, childhood experiences, homesickness, yearning.

Inverted meaning:

Future, forthcoming opportunities, imminent occurrences, new prospects.

Seven of Cups (Thought/Downfall):

Upright meaning:

Illusions, fantasies, downfall, decay,

madness, unrealistic expectations, addiction, moodiness.

Inverted meaning:

Wishes, plans, longing, determination, goal almost reached, an intelligent choice.

Eight of Cups (Collapse/Lethargy):

Upright meaning:

Lethargy, disappointment, abandonment of plans, end of an affair, shyness, excessive modesty, sorrow.

Inverted meaning:

Exertions until the goal is reached, happiness, fortune, celebration.

Nine of Cups (Happiness/Victory):

Upright meaning:

Success, contentment, happiness, satisfaction, prosperity, satiety, good health, victory, the future is secure.

Inverted meaning:

Material loss, mistake, misplaced trust, opposition, imperfections.

Ten of Cups (City/Satiety):*Upright meaning:*

Perfect contentment, satiety, home, home town, pleasure, happy family life, prestige, virtue, human love and friendship in perfection, problems after the culmination.

Inverted meaning:

Loss of a friend, discontent, violence, domestic conflict, opposed views, moodiness, anger, greed, hypocrisy.

Swords

The element of air. Basic colours yellow, silver, gold. Air is the most mobile of the elements; it is vitality but also the dissecting, analytical intellect. Herein lies its correlation with Wands. Both are masculine principles.

The court cards

Kind of Swords (Judge/Authority):

Description:

The fire of air. Colours red and yellow. The king is surrounded by mountainous clouds. His throne is adorned with stylised wings. In the background are birds, creatures of the air. The king's power derives from the fusion of the Swords' mobility and the creative force of fire.

Upright meaning:

Power, strength, authority, energy, law, judge, control, perceptiveness, intelligence, courage, severity.

Inverted meaning:

Egoism, malevolence, inhumanity, cruelty, licentiousness, evil intentions, senseless violence, disaster.

Queen of Swords (Widow/Perception):

Description:

The water of air. Colours blue and

yellow. Like her husband, she is enthroned amidst clouds. She wears a blue cloak and holds the sword in her right hand.

Upright meaning:

Severity, mourning, a widow, separation, divorce, influence, infertility, perceptiveness.

Inverted meaning:

Narrow mindedness, prudishness, hypocrisy, deceit, malevolence, cruelty, vengefulness, scorn, cunning, unreliability, dangerous beauty on the surface.

Knight of Swords (Soldier/War):

Description:

The air of air. Colour yellow. The horseman gallops through the air, his sword stretched out before him. The hero is turning to the attack.

Upright meaning:

Chivalry, bravery, speed and fore-

thought, skill, activity war, a reckless plunge into the unknown, fearlessness, resistance, destruction.

Inverted meaning:

Incaution, incompetence, exaggeration, impulsiveness, lack of understanding, ruin brought about by a woman, clown, conceited fool.

Knave of Swords (Watchfulness/Spy):

Description:

The end of air. Colours brown and yellow. A youth in a brown cloak hurries with drawn sword across a plain. He is guarding the land.

Upright meaning:

Alertness, finely tuned perception, spying, reconnaissance, practical skills, seriousness, persistence, aggressiveness.

Inverted meaning:

Unexpected situation, inconsistency, base thoughts, illness, helplessness in the face of strength.

The number cards

Ace of Swords (Strenght/Fertilization):

Description:

A hand reaches out of the clouds and grasps a sword whose point is ringed by a garlanded crown. This is the root of the element of air.

Upright meaning:

Great power in love and hatred, success, conquest, urges, overabundance of everything, flourishing, fertilization, fortune.

Inverted meaning:

The foreboding of strength, violence, quick temper, a tyrant, self-destruction, catastrophe.

Two of Swords (Peace/friendship):

Upright meaning:

Balance, harmony, peace, courage, friendship, fondness, tenderness, health.

Inverted meaning:

Falsehood, dishonesty, ambiguity, treachery, disgrace, duplicity, false friends.

Three of Swords (Mourning/Dislike):*Upright meaning:*

Mourning, worries, concern, suffering, sharing, losing oneself, melancholy, grief, lateness, wandering, dismissal, enmity, dislike.

Inverted meaning:

Confusion, bewilderment, disorder, madness, restlessness, mistakes, loss, turbulence, separation, divorce.

Four of Swords (Loneliness/Armistice):*Upright meaning:*

Peace, reprieve, armistice, rest, loneliness, isolation, exile, tomb, coffin, sleep, death, desertion, recuperation from illness, alertness.

Inverted meaning:

Caution, prudent leadership, circum-

spection, wish to regain what is lost, frugality, activity, will.

Five of Swords (Defeat/Loss):

Upright meaning:

Defeat, shame, dishonour, humiliation, degradation, enemy, infamy, retraction, conflict, storm.

Inverted meaning:

Uncertain outlook, weakness, loss, funeral, mourning, a friend is threatened with disaster.

Six of Swords (Travel/Science):

Upright meaning:

Travel, excursion, voyage on a ship, an envoy, problems surmounted, science.

Inverted meaning:

Public, publication, confession, unwelcome suggestion, no immediate solution, clarification.

Seven of Swords (Uselessness/Hope):

Upright meaning:

Vain exertions, uselessness, unclear goal, attempted return, too weak, new plans, wishes, trust.

Inverted meaning:

Conflict, arguments, contradictions, idle chatter, unsafe advice.

Eight of Swords (Captivity/Interference):

Upright meaning:

Temporary captivity, chained, sentence, oppression, interference, crisis, depression, rebellion, bad news, humiliations, distress, illness.

Inverted meaning:

The unforeseen, difficulty, resistance, destiny, deceit, infidelity, a heavy heart, new beginning, rebirth.

Nine of Swords (Despair/Single Status):

Upright meaning:

Cruelty, extreme faithlessness, despair, tearing apart, poverty, misery, conflict, unhappiness, worries, death, failure, fear for a loved one, celibacy, single status.

Inverted meaning:

Profound fear, incarceration, bad character, disgrace, slander, suspicion, mistrust, scruples.

Ten of Swords (Tears/Downfall):

Upright meaning:

Downfall, the lowest point, everything destroyed, pain, sadness, grief, tears, depression, discouragement, inhibition, agony.

Inverted meaning:

Profit, success, advantage, power, all impermanent, improvement.

Discs

The element of earth. Basis colours brown, black and iron. The earth is a horizontal element. The fertile, receptive and productive earth has both male and female characteristics. It is the matter from which all forms proceed and to which they ultimately return.

The court cards

King of Discs (Diligence/Business Acumen):

Description:

The fire of earth. Colours red and brown. The disc the king is holding bears the vertical line of spiritual fire.

Upright meaning:

A dark, intelligent man, good character, loyal friend, an experienced guide and sound businessman, courageous, mathematically gifted, diligent, patient, imaginative and a dreamer, romantic.

Inverted meaning:

Stupidity, sycophancy, clumsiness, faithless, weak, licentious, corrupt, greedy, acquisitive, ugly.

Queen of Discs (Profundity/Magnanimity):*Description:*

The water of earth. Colours blue and brown. Her blue cloak and other accoutrements indicate her links with water.

Upright meaning:

A magnanimous, earnest woman, security, gentleness, ambition, hard work, peace, benevolence, glory, abundance, health, comfort, domesticity, generosity, grace, intelligence, profundity, intuition.

Inverted meaning:

Malevolent, flawed person, debts, illusory wealth and happiness, neglect of duties, stupidity, officiousness, excess, evil, betrayal, inhibition, fear, mistrust.

Knight of Discs (Usefulness/Dependability):

Description:

The air in earth. Colours yellow and brown. The knight in armour sits astride his horse. The turgidity of earth is enlivened by the element of air.

Upright meaning:

A dogged worker, reliable manager, usefulness, responsibility, honesty, maturity, patience, diligence, interest, care, unflappability, ingenious, unforgiving.

Inverted meaning:

Lethargy, indolence, no sense of purpose, narrow mindedness, vanity, cowardice, recklessness, stupidity, blinkered outlook.

Knave of Discs (Concentration/Study):

Description:

The earth of earth. Colour brown. A brown-clad, sturdy young man stands

in a cave and lifts a coin which he has fetched from deep inside. The earth's mineral resources.

Upright meaning:

Consideration, thought, daydreaming, concentration, study, inquiring mind, new ideas.

Inverted meaning:

Extravagance, waste, thoughtlessness, illogicality, rebelliousness, blindness to the facts, bad news, luxury, generosity.

The number cards

Ace of Discs (Contentment/Prosperity):

Description:

An open hand reaches down from a cloud. Above it a disc hovers: the creative germ of the earth.

Upright meaning:

The goal has been reached, wellbeing,

wealth, contentment, fertility, ecstasy, delight, treasures, perfection.

Inverted meaning:

Riches without happiness, lost money, corruption, waste, bribery, insufficient intelligence.

Two of Discs (Difficulties/Change):

Upright meaning:

Harmonious change, cheerfulness, but also new difficulties, success in challenging questions.

Inverted meaning:

Pretended happiness, exaggerated joy, literary capabilities, documents, letters, handwriting, literal meanings, confusion.

Three of Discs (Work/Nobility):

Upright meaning:

Work, profession, perfection, mastery, artistic talents, skill, success, high standing, nobility.

Inverted meaning:

Professional mediocrity, laziness, poor quality, disorder, weakness, financial problems, exaggerated criticism.

Four of Discs (Power/Wealth):

Upright meaning:

Safeguarding property, love of material prosperity, petty-mindedness, inability to share, profiteering, inheritance, gifts, law and constitution.

Inverted meaning:

Material setback, business instability, dismissal, lateness, interruption, obstacles, postponement.

Five of Discs (Lovers/Distress):

Upright meaning:

Material worries, desertion, distress, torture, poverty, failure, error, loss of money and job, lover, lovers.

Inverted meaning:

Threat of ruin, confusion, breaking

up, chaos, downfall, fighting, excess, immorality.

Six of Discs (Gifts/Success):

Upright meaning:

Success, generosity, sense of community, charity, gifts, rewards, consideration, courtesy, material profit.

Inverted meaning:

Selfishness, egocentricity, acquisitiveness, envy, meanness, burden of debt, suspicion, jealousy.

Seven of Discs (Money/Setback):

Upright meaning:

Great talents, hard work, growth, success, money, property, health, development, but also setback, unprofitable speculation.

Inverted meaning:

Restlessness, impatience, reckless actions, care in lending money, bad business, mistrust.

Eight of Discs (Crafts/Skill):

Upright meaning:

Crafts, work, professional status, commission, personal exertions, teaching, artist, intelligence, modesty.

Inverted meaning:

False ambition, aptitude for deceit and fraud, greed, extortion, profiteering, disappointment, intrigues.

Nine of Discs (Profit/Realisation):

Upright meaning:

Profit, property, abundance in all things, prosperity, fulfilment, security, success, talent, discriminating taste, realisation.

Inverted meaning:

Deception, foiled plans, base criminals, theft, wastefulness, loss of a friend or a piece of property, falsehood.

