

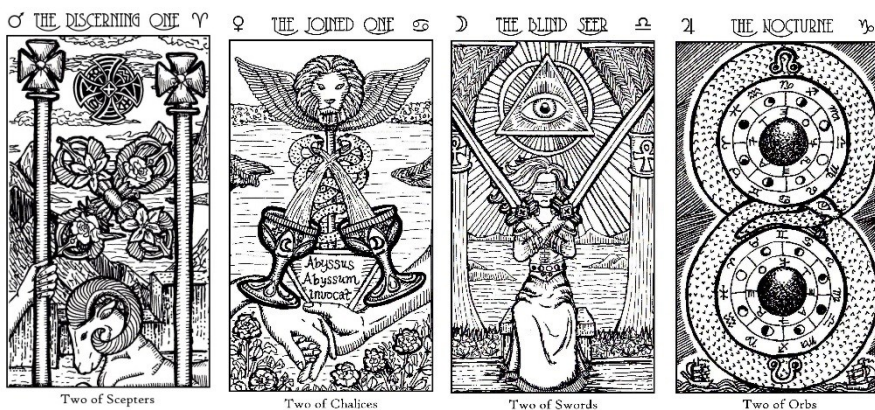
The following is an excerpt from *The Book of Maps*, the companion guidebook to the *Spirit Keeper's Tarot*, a hand-illustrated black and white tarot deck crafted with practitioners of the mystic arts in mind. The pen and ink drawings were inspired by woodcut prints from the late Renaissance. Symbology called upon is based predominantly on medieval European alchemy, astrology (the Sacred Seven), Hermeticism, Zoroastrianism, Abrahamic angelology, Kabbalah, Catholicism/Christianity, Sufism, and Egyptian mythology.



For more information about the deck, go to:

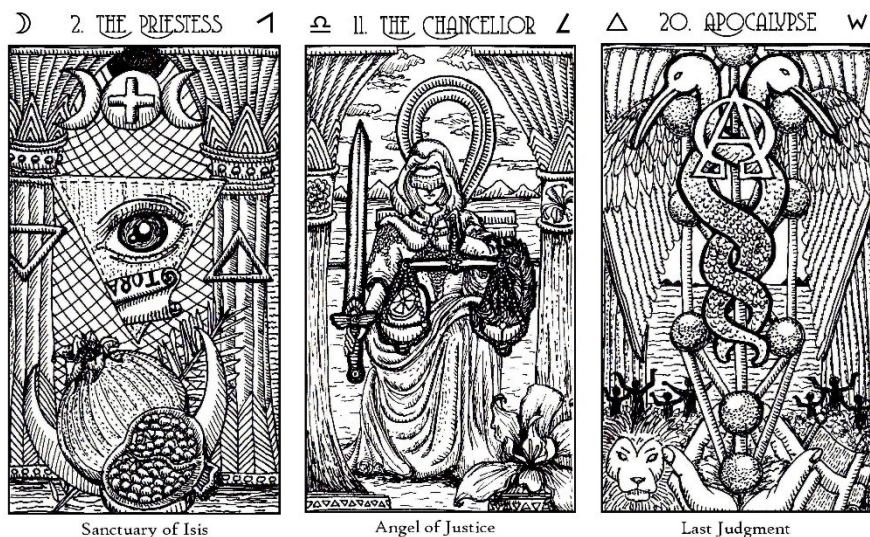
<https://benebellwen.com/spirit-keepers-tarot>

Realm of Twos: Provision







In the Kabbalistic Tree of Life, the Realm of Twos arises from the sefirah Chokhmah, or Divine Wisdom. It is God's agent in Creation. It is the intellection behind creation. This is the number of balance and cooperation. It is the sacred number of the Minister.

Numerological Progenitors in the Major Arcana:



The Ogdoad in the Four Twos

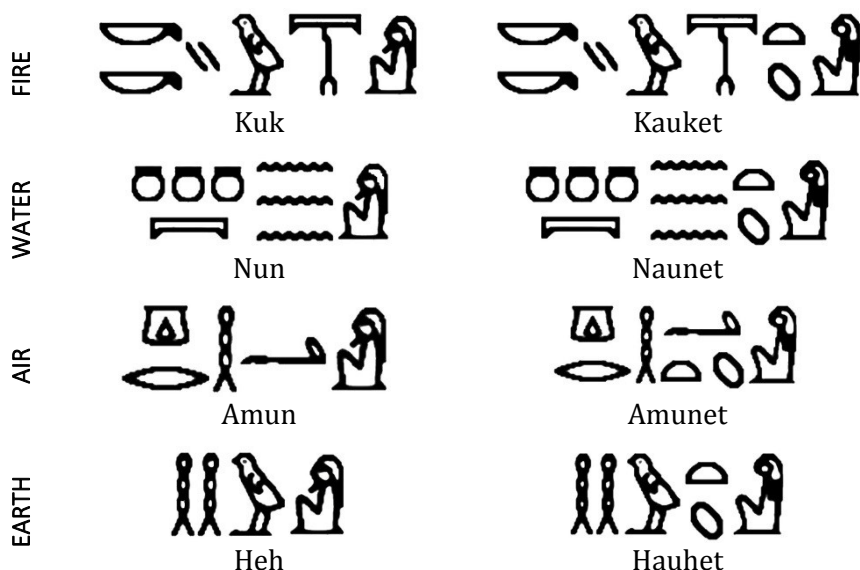
In *Spirit Keeper*, the four Twos also designate the Egyptian ogdoad, or Eight Primordial Deities. These are the four gods and their four consorts, born out of the Numinous Void after the Monad, or One Divinity. Through the Nucleic Seeds, the One gave birth to the Two, and here, the four aspects of the Two are the Eight.

 <i>Fire</i> Scepters	Kuk & Kauket	Kuk is the dawn and the bringer of light. Kuk and his female consort Kauket are also the darkness of night, the obscurity from which dawn and light arise. They also reign over thunder and lightning. In hieroglyphs, they are identified with a staff or scepter.
 <i>Water</i> Chalices	Nun & Naunet	Nun and his female consort Naunet are in every droplet of water. They are the Sacred Lake and forces of chaos from which the world was born. In hieroglyphs, they are identified with water jugs and ideographs symbolizing water (similar to the alchemical glyph for water).
 <i>Air</i> Swords	Amun & Amunet	Amun, god of both the air and the sun, along with his female consort Amunet are the hidden ones. Amun reveals and transmits the Divine Will through oracles. There is an inherent contradiction to Amun's expression: he is both what is seen and what is unseen.
 <i>Earth</i> Orbs	Heh & Hauhet	Heh is the god of the infinite and of eternity. He and his female consort Hauhet are the floods and forces majeure that created the material world we dwell upon. This is the black of the earth along the Nile river.

The Discerning One in the Two of Scepters is the union of Kuk and Kauket manifested in our physical world. The Joined One in the Two of Chalices is Nun and Naunet in union. The Blind Seer is Amun and Amunet joined. The Nocturne in the Two of Orbs is Heh and Hauhet in union.

Upon further examination of the illustrations for these four Twos, you'll see how the Egyptian ogdoad are depicted in the keys. The vajra in Eastern esotericism invoke thunder and lightning, which are sigils placed in the Two of Scepters to allow possession by Kuk and Kauket. Nun and Naunet can be found in every droplet of water in the Two of Chalices. Amun and Amunet are both what is seen (the all-seeing eye above) and that which is unseen (the blindfolds) and the contradicting balance of the two represented by the two swords. Heh and Hauhet are the infinity and the eternity, so here in the Two of Orbs, we see the lemniscate, or infinity

symbol. They are also the floods, and so at the bottom of the card is the depiction of the dark waters.



It is probably inevitable that I would compare the Egyptian ogdoad with the eight trigrams of the Chinese Taoist ba gua. The trigrams of changing yang (the two trigrams for Fire and Thunder) correspond with elemental Fire; changing yin (Water and Wind) with elemental Water; plenary yang (Heaven and Lake) for Air; and plenary yin (the trigrams Earth and Mountain) for elemental Earth.

In Taoist creation theory, these are the primordial building blocks of life. In the Major Arcana, we saw omens of the ogdoad's presence in the wheels on Key 0: The Initiate (which corresponds numerologically to 4), on the patches of Key 4: The Emperor's armor, and encoded into the eight-pointed star of Key 17: The Healer.

The Twos in *Spirit Keeper's Tarot* can be used to invoke the primordial ogdoad deities and their consorts, in pairs, as part of a practitioner's spellcrafting. How exactly that is to be executed is for each individual practitioner to intuit and decide.

Two of Scepters: The Discerning One

ANGELS OF THE SHEM HAMEPHORASH

<i>Upright:</i>	Sitael	<i>Ruling Angel:</i>	Metatron
<i>Reversed:</i>	Elemiah	<i>Ruling Angel:</i>	Metatron

Twin crossed thunderbolt and diamond vajra, symbolizing irresistible force and indestructible force, express the primordial nature in the Two of Scepters. The center orb where the two intersect symbolizes the Great Void. From the orb on each side, a five-petal lotus represents the five elements of creation and destruction. On one vajra, the outer prongs feature roses; on the other, white lilies.

On the left is the left hand of the Discerning One grasping the scepter. In the foreground is a ram facing and marching toward the Discerning One. In lieu of the traditional globe symbolism found on the RWS Two of Wands is a protection cross symbolic of the universe: the center is a protection cross with stylized YHVH inscribed into the four wings. The circle around it features alchemical glyphs for, clockwise from the top left, mercury, water, sulfur, and salt. Understanding of this cross is to have dominion.

Citrinatas, the Awakening stage of realizing the inner Solar Light, is associated with the archetypal nature of the Wise Man or Wise Woman. That is the archetypal nature of the Discerning One.

Mars is home under the sign Aries, or in domicile, so the spirit resident in this card is particularly strong.

SPIRIT OCCUPANT: **The Discerning One**

The spirit resident in this card is the Discerning One, who on the physical plane, holds the highest office in the realm of Fire, born from the spiritual seed of the same elemental Ace. The Cross of The Discerning One is a talisman to safeguard your venture out beyond your comfort zone when you go in search of your passions.

PRIMORDIAL INFLUENCES:

- Astrological: The Tower, The Emperor
- Numerological: The Priestess, The Chancellor, Apocalypse

MATHERS ATTRIBUTION:

Dominion

♂ THE DISCERNING ONE ♀



Two of Scepters

Two of Chalices: The Joined One

ANGELS OF THE SHEM HAMEPHORASH

<i>Upright:</i>	Nelchael	<i>Ruling Angel:</i>	Zaphkiel
<i>Reversed:</i>	Yeiyael	<i>Ruling Angel:</i>	Zaphkiel

The Caduceus of Hermes features a lion's head, angel wings, and a rod upon which two serpents are intertwined. Sixteen visible rays of sunlight emanate from the lion's head: sixteen is the number of true love, perfected love blessed by the Divine. Four rays can be inferred behind the angel wings: the unseen presence of God's love.

From the serpents' open mouths, Holy Water pours fourth into two chalices below. Visualize the water tinged with a pale brilliant light. Each chalice features a crescent moon, reminiscent of the sphinxes in the Chariot. Between the chalices is a triangle—the elemental glyph for Water—and inscribed within the triangle are the words: "Abyssus Abyssum Invocat" (translated to the sea calls to the sea, or the deep calls unto the deep, from Psalms 42:7), which evokes the Initiate's deepest and darkest longing for God, to be one with the Divine, and to be Divine. When the Initiate calls to God, the sea calling to the sea, the outpouring of Divine Love comes forth, overcoming all that had separated the Initiate and God.

Below the chalices, two hands join as one. Supporting the hands, five red roses. The setting is the Mystic Sea, and along the horizon, a wall of rose bushes. Albedo, the Purification stage in the alchemical process of realizing the Great Work, is associated with the archetypal nature of the Anima and Animus coagulating.

SPIRIT OCCUPANT: **The Joined One**

The spirit resident in this card is the Joined One, who on the physical plane, holds the highest office in the realm of Water, born from the spiritual seed of the same elemental Ace. This is the spirit of Love in all its forms, from agape love, romantic, to friendship. It is fidelity and devotion.

PRIMORDIAL INFLUENCES:

- Astrological: The Empress, The Chariot
- Numerological: The Priestess, The Chancellor, Apocalypse

MATHERS ATTRIBUTION:

Love

♀

THE JOINED ONE

♂



Two of Chalices

Two of Swords: The Blind Seer

ANGELS OF THE SHEM HAMEPHORASH

<i>Upright:</i>	Rahael	<i>Ruling Angel:</i>	Kamael
<i>Reversed:</i>	Yeiazal	<i>Ruling Angel:</i>	Kamael

A blindfolded Seer sits on a stone bench, wielding two crossed swords over her heart. Upon her belt are the phases of the moon. Above her is the Eye of Providence radiating with light, encircled by a vermillion ring emblematic of the monad. The twin swords are the Ego and the Self. Her crossed wrists form a double vajra. Behind her, the Great Salt Sea of Awareness merges with the Mystic Sea.

Behind the Seer on either side are twin pillars reminiscent of The Priestess and The Chancellor's realms. The pillars feature reliefs of the sacred ankh and near the top of each pillar, sculpted palm leaves. Along the base and behind her bench is a green threshold of seven blooming hollyhock flowers.

Rubedo, the Actualization or Consummation stage in the alchemical process of realizing the Great Work, is associated with the archetypal nature of merging the Ego with the Self. The spirit occupant is the Blind Seer—sightless to ongoing of the lower realms, yet one who sees that which those of the lower realms cannot.

The Blind Seer is also a threshold guardian for The Priestess and The Chancellor. She can also appear to prophesy an Apocalyptic vision.

SPIRIT OCCUPANT: **The Blind Seer**

The spirit resident in this card is the Blind Seer, who on the physical plane, holds the highest office in the realm of Air, born from the spiritual seed of the same elemental Ace. The Blind Seer can be called upon to confer moral or spiritual insight, or to help facilitate greater understanding of esoteric knowledge. This is the spirit to seek out for guidance when the Keeper is at an impasse or stalemate between the Ego and the Self.

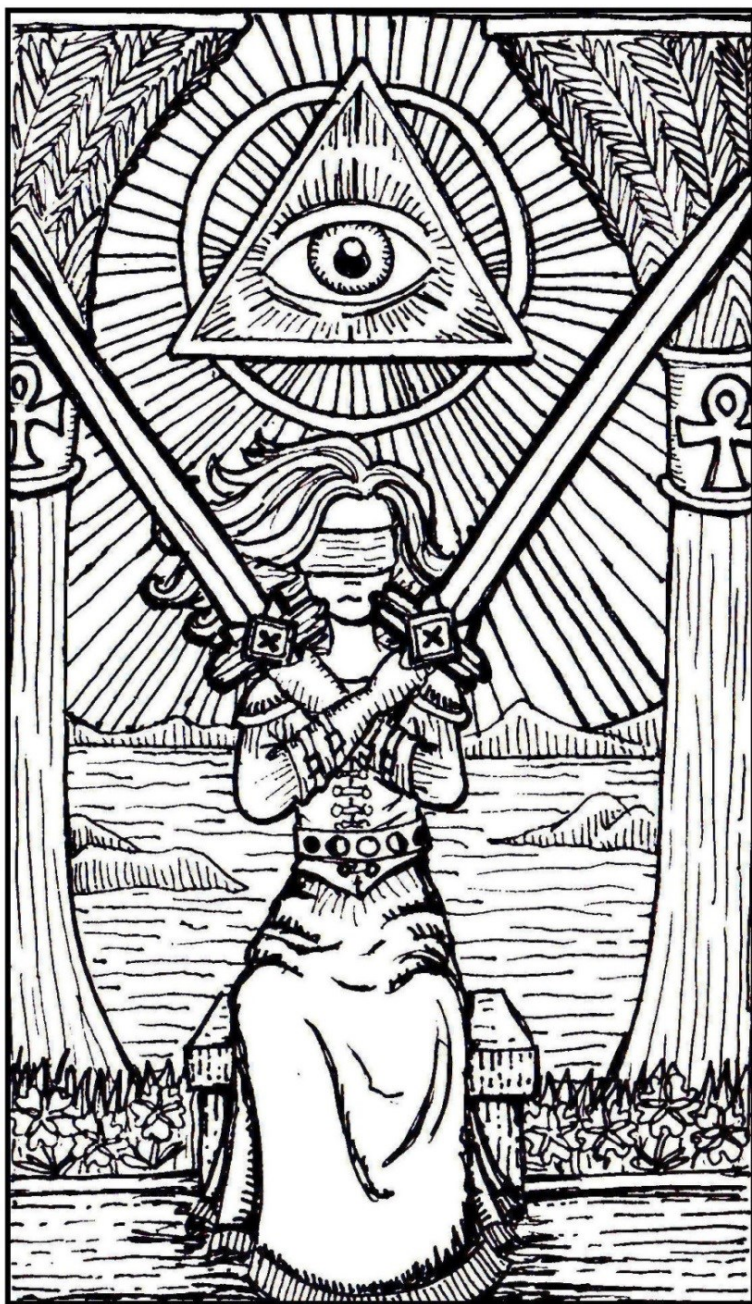
PRIMORDIAL INFLUENCES:

- Astrological: The Priestess, The Chancellor
- Numerological: The Priestess, The Chancellor, Apocalypse

MATHERS ATTRIBUTION:

Peace Restored

☾ THE BLIND SEER ☿



Two of Swords

Two of Orbs: The Nocturne

ANGELS OF THE SHEM HAMEPHORASH

<i>Upright:</i>	Nemamiah	<i>Ruling Angel:</i>	Michael
<i>Reversed:</i>	Yeiael	<i>Ruling Angel:</i>	Michael

Revelation this card brings: “To make gold, you must first have it.” Two wheels, reminiscent of the Wheel of Life from Key 10, appear before a dark night sky. The top wheel is similar to the one from Key 10; the bottom, however, has the same symbols, but in reverse arrangement. At the center of each wheel is an orb. Coiled around the two wheels to form a lemniscate is a serpent—the ouroboros swallowing its own tail. Near the top, along the serpent’s body is the sign of the north lunar node; near the bottom, the sign of the south lunar node. Along the bottom is the open sea with large waves, and two ships sailing in opposing directions. The ships are symbolic of commerce, enterprise, ventures, new and far-reaching experiences, and risk.

Nigredo, the Darkening stage in the alchemical process of realizing the Great Work, is associated archetypally with the Dark Night of the Soul. The Nocturne is the alchemical Black Dragon (a reference to the works of Nicolas Barnaud, 1538—1603) gnawing its own tail, where venom is the Great Medicine.

SPIRIT OCCUPANT: **The Nocturne**

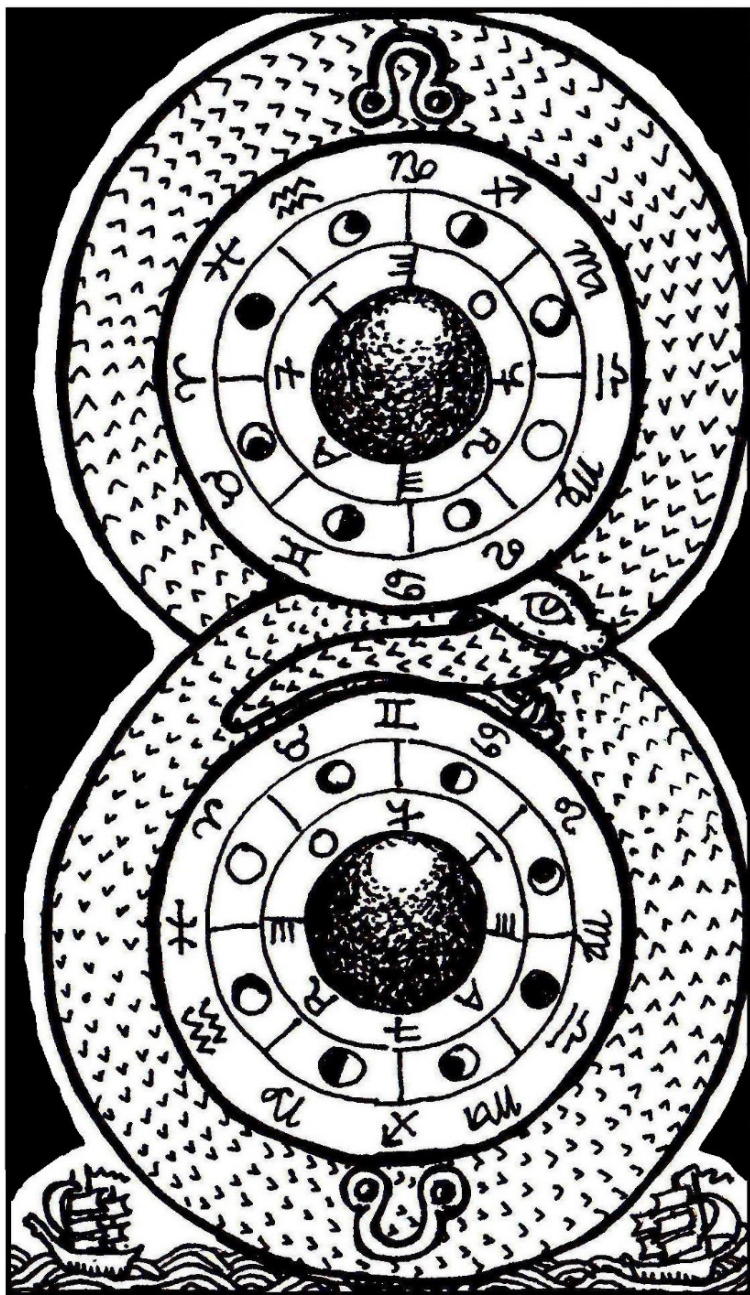
The spirit resident in this card is the Nocturne, who on the physical plane, holds the highest office in the realm of Earth, born from the spiritual seed of the same elemental Ace. The Nocturne is a spirit who will be a faithful companion through the dark night of the soul. This is a congenial spirit who walks in step and orchestrates circumstances toward a harmonious change.

The Nocturne is the spirit to call upon during evening prayer and during transitional phases, when one phase is winding down and another on the cusp of beginning. The Nocturne is a spirit who can aid in facilitating harmonious transitions from one to another.

PRIMORDIAL INFLUENCES:

- Astrological: Wheel of Life, The Demon
- Numerological: The Priestess, The Chancellor, Apocalypse

MATHERS ATTRIBUTION:
Harmonious Change



Two of Orbs