



SIGHTSEE THE TAROT is a YouTube video series that takes you on a tour of the tarot, from discovering new books and tarot thought leaders to workshoping classic tarot spreads and tinkering with particular tarot decks.

Series Page: tinyurl.com/sightseethetarot

Your Host: BENE BELL WEN [benebellwen.com]

Episode: Tarot Divination with Papus

Meanings of the Cards

From *Tarot of the Bohemians* (Papus, 1889)

MAJOR ARCANA.

Key 1 – The Juggler [Magician]	Male inquirer [significator for a man].
Key 2 – The High Priestess	Female inquirer [significator for a woman].
Key 3 – The Empress	A leading action. Initiative. Good decision.
Key 4 – The Emperor	Will. Power of mental control. Power of choice. Wish or purpose carried out.
Key 5 – The Hierophant	Inspiration. Divine influence that is exerted upon the querent's mind or soul. Writing or words being divinely influenced or having a divine quality.
Key 6 – The Lovers	Love. Tender or passionate affection for another. Personal attachment. Passion or desire.
Key 7 – The Chariot	Triumph. Providential protection: the Lord protects the querent from ill luck and misfortunes; active governance of God in the querent's life, shielding and safeguarding the querent, even when faced with trials.
Key 8 – Justice	Justice. Moral rightness. Indicating that which is righteous.
Key 9 – The Hermit	Prudence. Wisdom. Having discretion. Taking care to provide and account for the future.
Key 10 – Wheel of Fortune	Fortune: position in life as determined by one's wealth. Destiny: that which is most affecting the querent was a predetermined force.

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Key 11 – Strength (or Fortitude)	Strength. Fortitude. Mental and emotional strength in the face of difficulty, adversity, danger, and temptation.
Key 12 – The Hanged Man	Trials: facing a test. Sacrifice. The offering of that which is material and of the body to receive that which is spiritual and of Divinity.
Key 13 – Death	Death: the end of life. Cessation. That which is being destroyed. Demise. A departure.
Key 14 – Temperance	Temperance: to exercise self-restraint and self-control. To observe moderation. Economy: to manage consumption.
Key 15 – The Devil	Immense force: distress. Illness. Unhealthy conditions. Malice. Having a bad disposition or being ill-natured. Unwillingness to act in accordance to a higher purpose or good.
Key 16 – The Lightning-Struck Tower	Ruin. Deception. State of decay. To have been misled. To waste time. Unfaithfulness.
Key 17 – The Star	Hope: that which the querent seeks will come to be. The querent can look forward to fruition.
Key 18 – The Moon	Hidden enemies. Danger; peril. The querent is presently exposed to serious risks of harm.
Key 19 – The Sun	Material happiness. Lucky marriage. Glory.
Key 20 – The Judgment	Change of position. The course upon which the querent seems to be set will shift in a new direction.
Key 0 – The Foolish Man	Inconsiderate actions; querent is being hasty and thoughtless. Madness.
Key 21 – The Universe	Assured success. Attainment of achievement, honors, a raise in personal status or wealth.

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MINOR ARCANA

Papus approaches the Minor Arcana as, essentially, a game of matching the correspondences of the number (Ace through Ten) or figure (the courts) to the correspondences of the suit (Scepters, which are Wands, Cups, Swords, and Pentacles).

For example, the card meaning for the Queen of Swords would be the indication for Queen, noted in the below left column, connected to the indication for the suit of Swords, noted in the below right column. To interpret the Four of Cups, connect the indication for Fours to the indication for Cups. Nonetheless, a concise indication for each card is provided in the subsequent pages.

King. A man with a...

Can also indicate an active force influencing a subject matter corresponding with the suit.

Queen. A woman with a...

Can also indicate a passive force influencing a subject matter corresponding with the suit.

Knight. A young man with a...

Can also indicate both active and passive forces at play, causing uncertainty; the future outcome cannot be determined at this time.

Knave (Page). A child or young girl with a...

Can also indicate that forces are causing events in the subject matter corresponding with the suit to be in transition right now.

Ace. Commencement of...

Two. Opposition to the commencement of...

Three. Realization or assured progress of...

Four. Obstacles to...

Five. Opposition to the obstacles faced in...

Six. Realization of the opposition to...

Seven. Assured success of...

Eight. Due to oppositions, partial success of...

Nine. Realization of success of...

Ten. Uncertainty in the management of...

Sceptres. Dark complexion; dark hair and dark eyes, with a beloved, charming, beneficent disposition.

Cups. Fair complexion; fair hair and fair eyes, with a beloved, charming, beneficent disposition.

Swords. Dark complexion; dark hair and dark eyes, with a malicious, unfavorable disposition.

Pentacles. Fair complexion; fair hair and fair eyes, with an unfavorable disposition.

Sceptres. A creative undertaking. An enterprise. A course of action or events toward glory.

Cups. A romantic relationship. The sentiment of Love. Spiritual instruction. The pursuit of happiness.

Swords. A struggle. A misfortune. An antagonistic or hostile force. An adversary.

Pentacles. A money matter. Trade. A commercial venture. The development of a commercial project.

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Meanings of the Cards

SCEPTRES (WANDS).
Creation. Enterprise. Agriculture.

King of Sceptres	The King of Sceptres symbolizes a dark man, a friend. He generally represents a married man, the father of a family.
Queen of Sceptres	A dark woman, a friend. Represents a serious woman, a very good counsellor, often the mother of a family.
Knight of Sceptres	A dark young man, a friend.
Knave (Page) of Sceptres	A dark child, a friend. Also represents a message from a near relation.
Ace of Sceptres	Commencement of an Enterprise.
Two of Sceptres	Opposition to the commencement of the Enterprise. The Enterprise is commenced when an unexpected obstacle suddenly prevents its execution.
Three of Sceptres	Realization of the commencement of the Enterprise. The basis of the work is now definitely established, and the undertaking can be fearlessly continued.
Four of Sceptres	Obstacles to the Enterprise. Nothing can be accomplished without obstacles. We therefore now find them appearing, and must prepare ourselves to overcome them.
Five of Sceptres	Opposition to the obstacles. Victory after surmounting them.
Six of Sceptres	Realization of the opposition. At last the obstacles succeed. Failure of the Enterprise in the midst of its execution.
Seven of Sceptres	Certain success to the Enterprise.
Eight of Sceptres	Opposition to its success. The Enterprise will only partially succeed.
Nine of Sceptres	Realization of success. Success is continued.
Ten of Sceptres	Uncertainty in the management of the Enterprise.

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CUPS.

Preservation. Love. Instruction.

King of Cups	A fair man, a friend. This card also represents a barrister, judge, or ecclesiastic. It symbolizes a Bachelor.
Queen of Cups	A fair woman, a friend. The woman loved. The Mistress.
Knight of Cups	A young fair man, a friend. The young man loved. The Lover.
Knave (Page) of Cups	A fair child. A messenger. Birth.
Ace of Cups	Commencement of a love affair.
Two of Cups	Opposition to this commencement. Unimportant obstacles raised by one of the lovers.
Three of Cups	Realization of this commencement. The love is mutual.
Four of Cups	Serious obstacles to the love. They arise from other persons, not from the lovers.
Five of Cups	Opposition to the obstacles. Victory over the obstacles after a struggle.
Six of Cups	The obstacles triumph. Love destroyed in the midst of happiness. Widowhood.
Seven of Cups	Success assured to the lovers.
Eight of Cups	Partial failure of love. Love only partially succeeds.
Nine of Cups	Motherhood.
Ten of Cups	Uncertainty in the management of the love affair.

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Meanings of the Cards

SWORDS.

Transformation. Hatred. War.

King of Swords	A dark, bad man. He is a soldier, a powerful enemy, who must be distrusted.
Queen of Swords	A dark wicked woman. The card also indicates her actions, gossip and calumnies.
Knight of Swords	A young, dark man, an enemy. He is also a spy.
Knave (Page) of Swords	A child, an enemy. Bad news. Delay. The figures generally indicate opposition arising outside the house.
Ace of Swords	Commencement of enmity.
Two of Swords	Opposition to this commencement. The enmity does not last.
Three of Swords	Realization of the enmity. Hatred.
Four of Swords	Opposition to the hatred. Success against the enemy.
Five of Swords	Opposition to this opposition. The enemy triumphs at the moment one fancies the victory is secured.
Six of Swords	Equilibrium of the opposition. The enemy is rendered powerless at last.
Seven of Swords	Success assured to the enemy.
Eight of Swords	Partial opposition to this success. The enemy only partially triumphs.
Nine of Swords	Certain duration of the hatred.
Ten of Swords	Uncertainty in the enmity.

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Meanings of the Cards

PENTACLES.
Development. Money. Trade.

King of Pentacles	A fair man, inimical or indifferent.
Queen of Pentacles	A fair woman, indifferent, or inimical.
Knight of Pentacles	A young, fair man. A stranger. An arrival.
Knave (Page) of Pentacles	A fair child. A messenger. A letter. The figures of the Pentacles are inverse to those of the Sceptres and Cups, and indicate all that comes from outside, from the country or abroad.
Ace of Pentacles	Commencement of fortune. Inheritance. Gifts. Economy, etc.
Two of Pentacles	Opposition to this commencement. Difficulty in well establishing the first landmarks of good fortune.
Three of Pentacles	Realization of this commencement of fortune. A small sum.
Four of Pentacles	Opposition of fortune. Loss of money.
Five of Pentacles	Opposition to this opposition. A success coming which will balance the low.
Six of Pentacles	Realization of the opposition. Ruin.
Seven of Pentacles	Success assured. A large fortune.
Eight of Pentacles	Partial success. Great loss of money at the moment apparently of definitely securing the fortune.
Nine of Pentacles	Equilibrium of Equilibrium. A durable fortune.
Ten of Pentacles	Uncertainty in the fortune. Great success and great reverses.