



RWS TAROT CARD MEANINGS

Major Arcana

KEY 0: THE FOOL personifies a return to spring, starting a new cycle of growth. You must be the empty vessel, ready and eager to be filled. This is the undertaking of a new Path, or the Path has not yet been chosen, and insight is needed on The Way forward. What you seek now is experience. Test your own limits and boundaries to know your potential. If your inquiry is one seeking an affirmation or negation, then The Fool is a message from spirit counseling you to seek further discussion; neither a positive or negative outcome can be conclusively determined at this time.

First Sepenary

HOMO: *Integration of the Self*

KEY 1: THE MAGICIAN. The Magician is the personification of creative thought. When the Magician appears to you, the call to action is exercising the powers of your mind. When you do, you will achieve your greatest potential. The Magician appears to you now to help you manifest discipline and focus toward mastery over your own innate talents. Never forget: you have the capability to manifest your thoughts into reality. That is the divinity in man and the powers embedded within your spirit. Embody the alchemist and transmute what is of little value to what is of great value. Invent, reinvent. The Magician is a message from spirit that the sign of this key *is* the solution you seek. Your Will becomes reality.

KEY 2: THE HIGH PRIESTESS. This is Sophia, or Wisdom personified. She guides you toward the deepening and broadening of your knowledge. Aspire for scholarship to wield the power of discernment. The High Priestess is the Queen of the Angels. When The Priestess appears to you, she instructs on the cultivation of

your wisdom and intuition. The summation of choices you have made and the landscape of thoughts you have painted for yourself have taken you to the threshold of a particular Path, and now is the time to venture deeper, farther. Here is the wellspring of magic. If, however, you inquire for an affirmation or negation, this Key is a negation to your inquiry. Seek another course of action. Further study, knowledge, and cultivation of wisdom are needed. The High Priestess is the most exalted spirit of the TARO and of ROTA, the TORA of them all.

KEY 3: THE EMPRESS. The Empress appears to those who are on the verge of producing a Work of worthy admiration. You will enjoy a little bit of Paradise. The magic of The Empress transforms your hopes into reality. A divinity of Universal Love is present in your life path and The Empress appearing to you is the affirmation you need for acknowledging that presence. She is a muse for poets, writers, artists, and musicians. The Empress also embodies the spirit of Rhetoric. She wields the art of persuasion.

KEY 4: THE EMPEROR. When The Emperor appears to you, your power of self-determination is being affirmed. You have the power to determine what is and what will be for yourself. You wield sovereignty. Do not say that it is out of your control, because all of it is within your control—that is the message Spirit imparts upon you. Your task: define your destination, and then lead the charge. The Emperor appears when you are being called to direct and reign. Overcome your fears, because it is now time for you to conquer new frontier. Wield your authority with aplomb. The Emperor is an affirmation to your inquiry.

KEY 5: THE HIEROPHANT. When The Hierophant appears to you, you are confronting what you have inherited and are now tasked to evaluate that inheritance with individual responsibility. This is the spirit of sovereignty over your soul purpose. When The Hierophant appears to you, it's time to evaluate your material culture and social norms. Discern for yourself whose interpretation of the Great Mysteries is the correspondence that rings true with your divine higher genius. When Key 5 appears to you, take care that you are not following a false prophet. Restrain your indulgences. The solution you seek will be found in Tradition, but be discerning of its interpretation. The Hierophant card is not about religion itself, or philosophy itself, or theology; The Hierophant card is the human expression of religion, the choice of philosophy you have adopted, and the specific theology that most frames your world view.

KEY 6: THE LOVERS. The Lovers is the spirit of pairs. This is our internal binary. The Lovers portend the sacred marriage of your higher self and your ego. You are at a crossroads and your next step is to choose between two paths. Key 6 appears to you when you must decide between instant gratification or delayed gratification. Behind the woman is the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil; behind the man is the Tree of Life bearing twelve fruits. You must choose between

the two. When The Lovers card appears, it can also be a call to evaluate your interpersonal matters. In modernity, The Lovers card might appear so that attention can be called toward a romantic relationship or to the themes of Eros. If your inquiry is one seeking an affirmation or negation, then The Lovers is a message from spirit counseling you to seek further discussion; neither a positive or negative outcome can be conclusively determined at this time.

KEY 7: THE CHARIOT. You have passed the tests of initiation. You have proven yourself worthy of the victory that is coming. The Chariot is the spirit that helps you create change. You have attained a certain mastery of knowledge, and now you must determine how you will use that knowledge to innovate. The Chariot is an omen that you're gaining momentum. You possess mastery of knowledge and skills that now drive you farther along your Path. When The Chariot card appears, you have arrived at a critical milestone and are in active movement toward victory. Success will come to the one who refuses to stop fighting. Keep going. When The Chariot reflects who you are, you are one who has intuited the Truth and have found the right Path, but you have yet to figure out how to produce material works and fruition from that intuition.

Second Septenary

ROTA: Integration of the Cosmos

KEY 8: STRENGTH. This is the spirit of mastery over your own fears. You're awakening to higher consciousness. The Strength card is a reflection of who you are: you are in the midst of great realization. You are learning mastery over the magic chain; remember that astral light is not harnessed through brute force; it is harnessed through charity and agape love. The Strength card is the personification of audacity to achieve personal miracles. In spite of all the obstacles you've endured, you prevail, you persist, and you domineer. When the beast growls at the maiden, instead of responding with violence or with fear, the maiden shows love, kindness, and compassion. Her loving-kindness tames the lion. When the Strength card appears to you, the divine message is to act with charity and demonstrate Love. With patience and fortitude, you overcome the initial setbacks. You are held in high esteem. The Strength card is an affirmation to your inquiry.

KEY 9: THE HERMIT. This is the inner light of wisdom and guidance that shines through the darkness. The Hermit bears this message: as you walk through the valley of darkness, fear no evil, for the Holy One is with you. The Holy One's rod and staff shall comfort you so that you always shine, but never burn—*luceo non uro*. The Hermit is the prophecy of a wise teacher—when the student is ready, the master will come, and that master may be in form or in spirit, so be receptive to both. When The Hermit appears to you, here is your second message: Shine with the light of the heavens. Shine for others, so others can see themselves and the world clearer. Light the life of humanity—*lux hominum vita*. The Hermit bears this

message from Spirit: It is time to dedicate and commit yourself to the Path. The Divine Lamp will guide you. Know this, however: the Path of Greatness is a lonely and solitary one.

KEY 10: WHEEL OF FORTUNE. When the Wheel of Fortune card appears to you, you are at a major turning point in your life. The Wheel appearing before you is driven by the Four Messengers of the Light, affirming that where you are now and what you are doing is exactly as it has been Intended. This is also the symbol of changing cycles and even the cycles of our mind, how we change our perspectives based on the evolution of our experiences. This is also our karma and the law of causation. This is the guardian spirit present during a major shift in your life. When the Wheel of Fortune is a reflection of who you are, you are at a juncture point of learning how to master control over your own future, your fate, and destiny. Master your Will. The Wheel of Fortune is an affirmation to your inquiry: yes, forward and onward you shall go. Your intentions are the Divine's intentions.

KEY 11: JUSTICE. This spirit represents rectification measures that counter karmic consequences. It is the spirit guiding you toward balanced judgment and making clear decisions. Do not judge based on appearances. Choose balanced action, balanced words, and balanced thought. When Justice appears to you, it is a call to make the necessary adjustments so that you might restore balance. The Bearer of Justice arrives when all considerations have been duly weighed and the resulting outcome of the choices you've made, your actions and your speech has now been determined. Key 11 marks that point when the truth comes out. The scales of your life are about to get tipped so that balance can be maintained. If your inquiry is one seeking an affirmation or negation, then this is a message from spirit counseling you to seek further discussion; neither a positive or negative outcome can be conclusively determined at this time.

KEY 12: THE HANGED MAN. Examine your situation from a different perspective. When The Hanged Man appears to you, reflect on the relationship between you and the Universe. This is also the message for you: Be the outlier. This is the spirit designating how we break from establishment to serve a higher purpose. Scrutinize both the fundamentalism around you and the personal dogma embedded deep within. Key 12 sends the message of psychic mindfulness. Tap in to your own deep sea of unconscious. This is the heretical, the eccentric, the dissident. This is the rejection of authority and rebellion against establishment. The Hanged Man appears to you when the answer is to operate outside of and in contention with the established rules of institution. This is also the sign of sacrifice: Others before you have given so that you may give. Now you give so that those after you may give. If you inquire for an affirmation or negation, this Key is a negation to your inquiry. Seek another course of action, but first, take pause. A

moment of respite and meditation is needed before a productive and constructive decision can be made.

KEY 13: DEATH. You are being guided past and through an initiation phase. The suffering you experience serves a greater divine purpose. You are about to embark on a journey deep into a personal underworld, but if you make it out on the other side, following the Light, you will know the Mystery. Changes that you know in your heart are imminent and yet you have been denying to yourself will become the very changes that you will face. The Death card appears to you when your circumstances call for this gentle reminder: All is not fair to the human perception. You toil until sweat seethes from your brow, and yet fruits of your labor are denied to you anyway, no matter who you are or what you have done. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. That is the purpose and the absence of purpose to human Genesis. Endure through the difficult changes to come and when those winds of change have settled, you will find yourself better for it. There will be rebirth after this death. If you are inquiring for an affirmation or negation, this Key is a negation to your inquiry. Seek another course of action.

KEY 14: TEMPERANCE. This is where it gets better. Necessary adjustments to restore equilibrium are coming. When Temperance appears to you, it is an omen that your worst troubles are passing. Pains are subsiding. You are growing closer to your own divine higher genius. *Genius*, in Greco-Roman lore, is one's tutelary deity, or a guardian spirit that protects an individual person. It is your *daimon* from your cradle to your grave, the realization of an inner divine. Circumstances in your life path have converged and a work of personal inspiration becomes your productivity. You realize your innate talents and bring into material being that which is extraordinary. This is the primordial spirit of exceptionalism. "Genius hits a target no one else can see." (Arthur Schopenhauer, 1788-1860) When Key 14: Temperance appears to you, take a moment to intuit the pulses of energy in the space around you. Can you feel the presence of your *daimon*? Do you know that you are watched over and looked after? Temperance is an affirmation to your inquiry; Divinity validates your course of action.

Third Septenary

DEUS: *Integration of the Divine*

KEY 15: THE DEVIL. You know you've begun the final prong of your spiritual journey when you're thrust into a battle with the Devil. This is the mental and emotional chains of bondage you must break, and to break those chains, you must see clearly that those chains have always been an illusion. The Devil is the primordial spirit of harm, and most often than not, self-harm. This is self-sabotage. The Devil is the personification of interferences that undermine our pursuit of our aspirations or the advancement of our knowledge and wisdom. The Devil is that which holds us back. When The Devil card appears, you are letting forces of harm

inhibit your progress. This is a warning sign: you must first confront your weaknesses. Do not allow your darker emotions to consume you; find the Light of Reason and Truth. You have been surrendering your self-control. The Devil is thus trying to alert you to manipulation, abuse, deception, or undue influences that are causing you sabotage in the long-term. When The Devil appears, a usurper lurks nearby. Key 15 is a message from spirit that chains must be broken—cutting those negative attachments is the very solution you seek. Remember: the magus controls the demon; the demon controls the sorcerer.

KEY 16: THE TOWER. The Tower is the spirit of disappointment when you feel what you have worked hard for is not propelling you toward the higher ground you desire. The spirit of The Tower appears when the message you need to hear is this: change your direction; make adjustments. Before the physical construction of your Great Work can manifest, you must build a solid inner foundation. Focus on that inner foundation and then when the conditions are ripe, the physical construction of your Great Work will manifest. This is the moment your material and spiritual worlds collide. The spirit of The Tower appears to you now in an effort to guide you through the challenge of dismantling your own preconceived notions. Heed these teachings: there can be joy in sorrow and stability in change. What are those flames you see? *Lux mentis lux orbis*: light of the mind, light of the world. Key 16 can also be an omen of armed conflict. When The Tower card is a reflection of who you are, your guardian angel cautions you not to let self-glorification get the better of you. Once you reach the top, the only way left to go is down. Pride will breed sorrow, so in all pursuits, show modesty.

KEY 17: THE STAR. You have overcome a brutal yet necessary trial in your life. Now is the time to heal your battle wounds. The Star appears to mend what was broken. The goblets pour forth Hope and Faith—hope and faith in yourself that you are capable of greatness. Key 17 is the Star of the Magi and when The Star appears to you, the fragments of your broken world will be mended. This is the omen of restoration, of rebuilding, salving, and alleviating your pains. When The Star is making her presence known to you, it is the prophecy that a blessing is soon to be conferred.

KEY 18: THE MOON. When Key 18 appears to you, the matter at hand is steeped in ambiguity. You cannot rely on superficial impressions; instead, trust your psychic responses. You must see the unseen, for that is the only way to understand what it is you're looking at. If you are seeking affirmation, then regrettably, The Moon is an omen of negation. Yet The Moon appears to help you see beyond physical perception. This is the spirit of your own imagination, an imagination that shines now so that the Truth can be illuminated. The Moon card appears when you are coming toward the crossroads of having to endure through a dark night of the soul. Yet there is prophecy here: journeying through the dark night of your soul will take you onto the path that leads to your Holy Grail. The

Moon is also the spirit of resurrection. There will come a climactic miracle. Through the doubt and mystery, maintain an unwavering faith and that is what powers the miracle. When The Moon is a reflection of who you are, you wield an extraordinary reservoir of concealed power. Do you know what to do with it?

KEY 19: THE SUN. Key 19 signifies competence and reciprocity. Here we see your consciousness expanding. You are on the verge of confronting potential with Reason and Truth, through which you shall create Goodness. Goodness is Creation with purpose arrived at through Reason and Truth. Here is victory in the battles you've fought for your own independence. You've broken all chains. You've detached yourself from that which had tried to control your will. And now your light shines freely out into the world. The Sun is also the spirit of nurturing growth in others: you shine so that others can blossom. This is success and glory you achieve not for yourself, but so you can be in the empowered position to help more and more thrive and grow. This is the spirit of heroic acts. When you seek validation from Spirit, The Sun card is that affirmation. Yes. Yes.

KEY 20: JUDGEMENT. This is the spirit presented upon your path when you have arrived at a point of no return. What has transpired is now irreversible. "The only way out is through." (Robert Frost, 1874-1963). This is that moment of full realization for why all that has happened to you has happened. The Judgement card is the spirit of revelation, when the answers that were hidden before are now obvious. When the Judgement card appears in divination with other cards, it adds an emphasis of significant spiritual importance to those other cards. Pay closer attention when Key 20 is present. Judgement is a mythic personification of an event horizon—this is a space-time in which no event that comes subsequent can affect the outcome, because all that could have affected it has either transpired or not transpired. The Judgement card appears when you have crossed the boundary of where gravitational pull over you is such that turning back is impossible.

KEY 21: THE WORLD. This is the spirit you encounter when a cycle has come to its completion. Great balance and stability come when the catalyst has succeeded at creating a new zeitgeist. You are the one who brings positive change to the zeitgeist. You are the catalyst. This is the spirit of you succeeding at creating the change you have wanted to see in your world. What do you see in your world right now that is broken or causes suffering? What is your dream of how your world can be repaired? The World card is the spirit ready and by your side, aiding you, guiding you, so that you can truly and fully embody the catalyst to a most wonderful change, a change that will make the world you live in a much better place for all. The World card ushers in a period of renaissance and unification. When Key 21 appears to you, it is the divinatory mark of a new epoch in your life path. With it comes dramatic changes to your world. This is the spirit of a great power rising.