

SPIRIT KEEPER'S TAROT



LITTLE WHITE BOOK THE REVELATION EDITION

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ANGEL WHO RECORDS, whose Hand seals upon the Book of Remembrance, who bears witness to All to enumerate every deed, since Creation, from the beginning of the world to this day, from my cradle to my grave, I invoke you to read to me, to show me, to transcribe upon my heart, to place upon the mantle of my mind the pages of the Book I petition for. Let it be the Truth. Let that Truth, come what may, ever be used to work the Highest Good. And so may it be.

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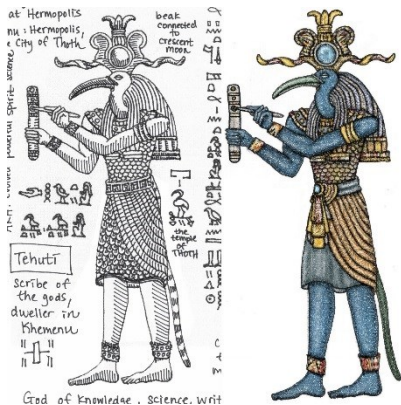


INTRODUCTION

In pursuit of revealing a *prisca theologia*, a primordial truth about divinity, the *Spirit Keeper's Tarot* journeys back to our cradles of civilization. This is a deck that integrates ancient theologies from disparate corners of the world.

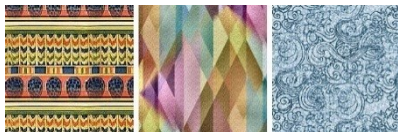
I created the *Spirit Keeper's Tarot* with a singular mission in mind: to design the most powerful occult technology possible. Whether I have succeeded in that mission is not for me to say, but for each holder of these cards to discern. May these cards meet you where you are, then lead you to higher, hallowed ground.

The Revelation is the third of three editions from the *Spirit Keeper's Tarot* family, finally revealing the deck's architecture and design in full-color.



The linework is done by hand on paper in pen and ink illustration, then scanned in and digitally colored.

To color, I created 108 seamless tiles of different hues and values, using a digitally painted pointillism technique.



With the 108 colored seamless tiles of dotted color, I then created over 900 seamless patterned tiles. Those patterned tiles are what I use as “paint” to digitally fill in the shapes, forms, and spaces of the hand-drawn linework.



Thus, what appears to be blue, or purple, or beige in the illustration is in fact a multi-hued seamless patterned tile that I created from a palette of colored tiles rendered in a pointillist style.

The foundational principle of the *Spirit Keeper's Tarot* is animistic in its proposition. A speculative (and oft-chided) premise in Western occultism is that tarot cards are living beings, that there is a spirit embodying each one. Each card is ascribed certain characteristics, tendencies of behavior, and qualities, just

like any sentient creature. It's subject to predictable habit, but also subject to spontaneity in any arbitrary moment.

Modern day tarot readers dismiss that premise as superstition. I did, too. In the face of science and contemporary rationalism, animism—this belief that objects, such as a deck of cards, might possess an animated spirit essence—is ridiculed, even censured. To believe that a deck of cards can hold spirited life is to reveal an unsophisticated intellect.

Yet that is exactly the point where I start my journey with crafting this tarot deck. What if there *is* a roster of known essential spirit energies in our universe, one panpsychic in its nature, that influences human events, both on the macroscopic and microscopic, and if encoded in just the right manner, a tarot deck (really, any intelligently designed system) *can* become much more than just pieces of cardstock? What if there really is a mad method to giving a tarot deck sentience, or at the very least, what we perceive to be sentience?

My ambition was to transform lines of ink and pieces of cardstock through a precise, formulaic code—an intelligent design—into a sentient roster of spirit calling cards. A tarot reader who wields such a roster would then become a spirit keeper. My ambition was to give life.

I've also illustrated this deck with the purpose of conveying esoteric knowledge and creating a platform for divine transmissions. To that end, a deck such as this one requires intricacy of symbolism and allegory—each card is designed to tell a story, to introduce you to a complete psychic realm, and to invite you to pathwork and journey into those realms.

These spirits will take you to cultural landmarks and reimagined historical sites, from Angkor Wat (the City of Temples) in Cambodia, 14th century Timbuktu, and Mēxihco Tenōchtitlan to Alexandria, the Taj Mahal, Rani ki Vav, the ancient cityscape of Uruk and the fire temples of Persepolis. Visit the verdant lands of the Haudenosaunee (the Iroquois), the islands of Oceania that the Austronesian navigators of the seas

landed on, Athens and Sparta, or journey along the Silk Road, the arctic tundra, or pre-Columbian Andes.

Finally, each card is designed under strict adherence to principles of talisman crafting and ritual magic. Astrology, numerology, alchemy, and a portfolio of mystical and shamanistic traditions converge to engineer a deck that can jailbreak your own mind and gain you access to your full psychic and spiritual potential. The *Spirit Keeper's Tarot* is a skeleton key for opening gateways that you had otherwise felt locked out of.

This is an 80-card deck that follows the traditional tarot structure of 78 cards, with the additional feature of having 3 versions of Key 0. My objective was to merge the Rider-Waite-Smith Tarot with the Crowley-Harris Thoth. Then as the deck evolved, it became its own independent system, to be approached in a way that departs from both its parents.

This deck has been programmed to give direct access to your divine teachers, *daemons*, to messengers of the gods, and

your guardian spirits. May these cards transmit to you prophetic messages from beneficent spirit realms. These cards will dial you into the spheres of the beyond. Working with the SKT will inspire you to Believe. Let the voices of the spirits speak to you directly.

May you receive only as you are ready.

Here is an entry-level way to work with these cards: Flip through the deck slowly, taking in the visuals and your impressions of each card. That is one way to commence the bonding process.

When you're ready to do a reading, shuffle the cards. As you do so, read the invocation on page 2 of this booklet, beginning "Angel Who Records..."

Pull one card from the deck. Take a moment to dial into that card's world and let your personal impressions pave the way toward hearing the spirit messages. Then look up the card's entry in this booklet to complete the transmission.

Optional: Pull a second card. The first answered your inquiry; the second gives

supporting divine counsel on the matter. Then construct an I Ching hexagram from the two trigram correspondences of the cards (card 1 is the lower trigram; card 2 is the upper trigram). The oracle message from that hexagram concludes the divination.

If you are on a journey of self-discovery, note the Major Arcana cards that correspond with your sun, moon, and rising horoscope signs, and your Life Path number. Note the four cards of the Minor Arcana Realm associated with your Life Path number. Also examine the decan ruler correspondences. Studying each card one by one will help you to get in touch with your innate gifts, strengths, weaknesses, and character. Think about the potential that these personality cards foretell about your soul and purpose.

MAJOR ARCANA: PRIMORDIAL REALM



On each Major Arcanum card, the top left features the elemental or astrological correspondence. The center is the tarot

key title. To the right is the corresponding Logos, or letter from the Proto-Canaanite/Phoenician alphabet. Three of the Majors will bear an elemental glyph in the top left, for the Tria Prima, the three alchemical primes.



Seven of the Majors will show a planetary glyph for the Sacred Seven, as you see for Key 1: The Magus, featuring the astrological symbol for Mercury.



Twelve of the Majors will show a zodiac glyph, for the twelve zodiac signs. For example, Key 4: The Emperor corresponds with Aries under the Golden Dawn system of attributions, which is what this deck follows.



The bottom caption features the I Ching trigram correspondence on the left. For

example, the above caption under The Emperor card features the trigram Fire.



Where the symbol “⌘” appears in lieu of a trigram, that Major Arcanum is one of the six points of divinity, equating to six principles of magic.

To the right is the number assigned to the card, in the Mayan numeral system. Planetary cards are assigned 9, zodiac cards are 12, the three tria prima mothers are 3, etc. In the Mayan numeral system, the bar equals 5, while a dot equals 1.

The center title is the spirit’s epithet for invocations and evocations.

The Significator (Key 0)

In this deck, the tarot Fool card, often assigned as Key 0, is your designated significator card. Choose one of the three based on your inquiry. The Initiate is for spiritual guidance on which path to take; The Seeker for questions about purpose or how to problem-solve a pending

matter; and The Keeper activates the spirits of the deck and works with the cards in the astral realm.

KEY ○: THE INITIATE personifies a new cycle of growth. The Initiate card is about having to take that proverbial first step of a thousand-mile journey. *Ab incunabulis*: from the cradle to the grave; *ab aeterno*: since the beginning. *Ab initio mundi*: from the beginning of the world to this day. The Green Man oversees this gateway, symbolic of rebirth, the cyclical forces of nature, and evocative of Osiris. Your animal spirit companion, a fox, is waiting for you. Beyond the threshold, the Orphic Egg, hatching Protogonus.

KEY ○: THE SEEKER is The Fool who seeks answers, who seeks to know. This is you in search of specific guidance and divine counsel. The journey to come will be about advancing the sophistication of your knowledge. Another aspect to The Seeker: Until you have put in more effort, the gods will not reveal to you where to find what you are looking for. You still need to prove yourself worthy. Nobody is born "The One." Nobody is born worthy.

It is an embodiment that you must prove you are capable of being. Double your efforts. Pictured here is Angkor Wat, the City of Temples from the Hindu-Buddhist Khmer Empire in Cambodia. Greek gorgon heads and Buddhist reliefs of the Medicine Master adorn the corridors.

KEY ○: THE KEEPER engages in a more interactive relationship with the many names and many faces of the Holy Spirit. This is the key for spirit contacts, connecting you to the angelic or divine realms, for Akashic Records readings, or mediumship readings. The Keeper indicates a strong guardian spirit present around you, and that presence wants to be known or identified. If there are other cards in your reading, they will describe traits or aspects of that spirit presence. Background features the Taoist Seal of Changes. The Dharma Wheel oversees this gateway. Here is a tribute to the Iron Age Semitic mythos of a Mother Goddess, Elath (“the Goddess”) or Qudshu (“Holiness”). In Ugaritic texts from 1200 BC, she is The Great Lady Athirat, also known as Asherah.

The First Seven (Keys 1-7)

Integrate the Self

KEY 1: THE MAGUS. The Magus is the personification of creative thought. It's time to be disciplined, so that you can master your innate talents. Embody the alchemist and create a sum greater than its elemental parts. Positive omen of culminating power. Prodigy revealed. There is also an undertone of the trickster here in Key 1, signified by the fox mask. The theme is power, but it is also performance. Time to put on a good show. Here, the Magus is embodied by Himiko, the shamaness queen from the Yayoi Period of Neolithic Japan (Wa).

KEY 2: THE PRIESTESS. Go deeper to harness the full potential of your inner magic. What had been kept hidden will soon be revealed. This is the Key of Secrets. In matters of love or war, The Priestess is an auspicious omen. Pictured here is a Sumerian gala priestess, syncretized with iconic references to the high priest who enters the Holy of Holies. Upon her lunar crown is an icon of

Inanna. Seek wisdom, and if that is still beyond reach, seek faith. The Divine's reasoning cannot be revealed at this time. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways."

KEY 3: THE EMPRESS. You are on the verge of producing a Work of worthy admiration. Hopes become reality. Positive omen of plenitude. Gloria Mundi is the muse for poets, writers, artists, and musicians. Mother Goddess is proud of you. The heavens shine blessings upon your life path. The Empress also embodies the spirit of Rhetoric. She wields the art of charismatic persuasion. Fertile ground and high productivity are prophesied. The inspiration here is Wu Zetian, the only woman in imperial Chinese history to rule a dynasty. Here, Wu Zetian is appearing as the goddess Houtu, the Empress Mother Earth.

KEY 4: THE EMPEROR. You have the power to determine what is and what will be for yourself. Your task: define your destination, then lead the charge. 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. Hold yourself out as the leader and they will follow. Pictured here is Menelik I, Ethiopian emperor, son of the Biblical King Solomon and Queen of Sheba. Behind him is a golden eagle, symbolic of a Heavenly Father, and the Ark of the Covenant. It is the dawn of your personal Age of Reason, a progressive moment toward intellectual enlightenment.

KEY 5: THE HIEROPHANT. The Hierophant is about confronting what you have inherited and evaluating that inheritance with individual responsibility. This is the spirit of sovereignty over your soul purpose. Divinity speaks directly to you and works through you, though the truth may be difficult to hear. The Hierophant is embodied by Maitreya, the bodhisattva and prophesied future Buddha of Loving-Kindness and Light, greeting you at the gates of Tushita, a celestial paradise. Alongside Maitreya, when The Hierophant appears, Ganesha's blessings are coming your way. Ganesha is the

remover of obstacles, a deva of intellectualism, the arts, and science.

KEY 6: THE LOVERS. You are at a crossroads and your next step is to choose between two paths: a path of instant gratification and one of delayed gratification. *Solve et coagula*: dissolve and concentrate, a maxim of the alchemists. The Lovers portend the sacred marriage of your higher self and your ego. This is the key of *hieros gamos*, or the sacred marriage between the god and the goddess, or the metaphorical intercourse between compassion *karuna* and insight *prajna*. For the matter at hand, bring together Reason and Intuition. Mediate the polarities. In modernity, The Lovers card might appear so that attention can be called toward a romantic relationship or to the themes of Eros. Close by is the Edenic cherub with the Flaming Sword.

KEY 7: THE CHARIOT. Now is the time to make waves and create change. The Chariot is an omen that you're gaining momentum. You possess mastery of knowledge and skills that advances you

on your Path. You have arrived at a critical milestone. A new dawn has risen. Keep going. Stay in movement and gain momentum. The charioteer is a depiction of Eos, Greek Titaness-goddess of the dawn (Roman: Aurora; Vedic: Ushas). *Lux et Veritas*: Light and Truth; today, both are your allies.

The Second Seven (Keys 8-14)

Integrate the Cosmos

KEY 8: THE FORCE. You've attained mastery over your own fears and now it's time to show the world your fearlessness. The Force is the audacity to achieve personal miracles. In spite of the obstacles you've had to endure, you prevail, you persist, 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. With patience and fortitude, you overcome the initial setbacks. You are held in high esteem. The violet sun luminescent with Astral Light is an omen of your spiritual transcendence to come.

Keep the Will steady and even-keeled. Extend your trust to others and you will turn their hearts.

KEY 9: THE ERUDITE. The Erudite is the prophecy of a wise teacher. This is someone who has learned and mastered many subjects, and therefore possesses great knowledge as broad in scope as that knowledge is deep. When The Erudite appears to you, here is the core message from Spirit: 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 ex tenebris*: this is the inner light of wisdom and guidance that shines through the darkness. But take care—*Luceo non uro*: Shine, not burn. Pictured here is a mbonga or ascetic priestess of Mwari, the Force Behind Creation, the Supreme Creator of the Shona. The mbonga is a shamaness, spirit medium, and oracle.

KEY 10: WHEEL OF LIFE. You are at a major turning point in your life. This is 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. Two divine forms of Shai appear here, one upright and one in reverse. Shai is the Egyptian divine personification of fate and fortune. Design for the Ezekiel's Wheel is based on the Secret Key by William Postel.

KEY 11: THE CHANCELLOR. Be fair, be objective, and be impartial when you judge the situations of others. Do not make your decision based on appearances, because in the matter at hand, appearances will deceive. Choose balanced action, balanced words, and balanced thought. When The Chancellor appears, it is a divine call to make the necessary adjustments so that you might restore balance. Key 11 marks that point when the truth comes out. Across the skies is the Babylonian Code of Hammurabi in cuneiform. If Key 10 was karma as fate, then Key 11 is a sign that the gods want you to choose for yourself. Here is Themis, the singular force maintaining civil society (Homer), divine

law, Mother of Diki, Libran goddess of human-ordained law.

KEY 12: THE OUTLAW. Examine your situation from a different perspective. Be the outlier. This is the spirit designating how we break from establishment to serve a higher purpose. This is the heretical, the eccentric, the dissident. This is the rejection of authority and rebellion against establishment. The Outlaw appears to you when the answer is to operate outside of orthodoxy and institutions. *Do ut des*: I give that you may give. This is also an omen of self-sacrifice. *Coram Deo*: you are in the presence of God. Across the skies is Psalm 102 (KJV 103) from the Latin Vulgate. The butterfly has just emerged from its chrysalis, resting its wings before it takes flight—an omen revealing the influence of Psyche.

KEY 13: THE READER. *Lucem sequimur*: follow the Light. You are being guided through an initiation phase and the suffering you experience serves a greater divine purpose. A change that you know in your heart is imminent but have been

denying is the change that you will face. The Reaper appears to you when the circumstances call for this gentle reminder: All is not fair to the human perception. 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.

KEY 14. THE ANGEL. This is where it gets better. Your Holy Guardian Angel whispers words of reassurance. *Mutatis mutandis*: the necessary changes have been made. This is the primordial spirit of exceptionalism. “Genius hits a target no one else can see.” (Arthur Schopenhauer, 1788-1860). *Genius*, in Greco-Roman lore, is one’s tutelary deity, or a guardian spirit that protects an individual person. It is your *daimon* calling to you. Rainbow ripples reveal Iris, messenger of the gods. When your guardian angel appears, take a moment to intuit the pulses of energy in the space around you. Can you feel the presence of the *daimon*? Do you know

that you are watched over and looked after? Here is the manifestation of a composite duality, Destroyer of Evil and Bringer of Harmony. Blended, they are Creative Power, here to endow blessings. This is also the Divine Androgyne of Khunrath (Eliphas Levi, Magic Chain).

The Third Seven (Keys 15-21)

Integrate the Divine

KEY 15: THE DEMON. You know you've begun the final prong of your spiritual journey when you're thrust into a battle with the Typhon (son of Gaia and Tartarus), the serpent who challenged Zeus. 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. This is self-sabotage, holding your own Reason and Intuition captive, the personification of interferences that undermine the pursuit of our aspirations, obstructing the advancement of our knowledge and wisdom. You have been surrendering your self-control. When The Demon appears, a usurper may be lurking

nearby. Yet the spirit of The Demon is the source of chaos magic, the wellspring of unbridled power. Pictured here is the Baphomet of the Templars. The serpent of the Edenic Mysteries is Azoth, the soul of the earth.

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 Tower appears when the message you need to hear is this: change your direction. Revision work is needed. 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. Dismantle your own preconceived notions. Reach skyward for noble reasons, beyond personal vanity. Ascend from ego. No matter the fall, you always get back up and thrive. Heed these teachings: there can be joy in sorrow and

stability in change. *Lux mentis lux orbis*: light of the mind, light of the world. Key 16 can also be an omen of armed conflict. Pictured in the back: the Eye of God, the Helix Nebula.

KEY 17: THE HEALER. The fragments of your broken world will be healed. This is the omen of restoration, of rebuilding, salving, and alleviating your pains. When The Healer is making her presence known, it is the prophecy that a blessing is soon to be conferred. You have overcome a brutal yet necessary trial in your life, and now is a time for healing your battle wounds. With your goodness, you revitalize the world around you. Pictured here is Kannon, or Kuan Yin, the Buddhist bodhisattva of mercy and compassion. Upon her crown: Amitofuo. The Shinto shrine in the background honors beneficent nature spirits. “Born Shinto, die Buddhist” is expressed here. What had been taken from you shall be restored in even greater glory than before.

KEY 18: THE NECROMANCER. The matter at hand is steeped in ambiguity, but emotion and intuition will converge to guide you.

Seek out counsel from your ancestral lines. You cannot rely on superficial impressions; instead, trust your psychic responses for judgment. You are about to walk into the dark night and will be navigating fluctuating terrain. Trust your intuition and you will avert danger at each turn. Pictured here is Anubis weighing a heart against Maat's feather. At the center crux of the balancing scales is an icon of Maat facing right. Egyptian hieroglyphs are from the *Book of the Dead*. This Key unlocks the underworld. When The Necromancer appears, the veil between worlds is thin. It endows you with mediumship powers—the cards in the spread are messages from beyond. Those who have passed on return to see you.

KEY 19: THE WARRIOR. This is the spirit of heroic acts. *Libertas perfundet omnia luce*: freedom floods all things with light. *Luceat lux vestra*: let your light shine. You are now liberated and triumphant. The sun symbolism above represents Sol Invictus. Below is Victoria, Roman goddess of victory in war and politics (Greek: Nike). Here is victory in the

battles you've fought for your own independence. You've broken all chains. The ruby light that powered The Demon (Key 15) now powers The Sun. You've detached yourself from that which had tried to control your will. And now your light shines freely out into the world. The Warrior is the spirit of fighting to protect others, fighting in service. This is success and glory you achieve not for yourself, but so you can be in the empowered position to help others thrive and grow. You are about to attain the highest echelons of greatness, because the heavens shine righteously in your favor.

KEY 20: APOCALYPSE. You've 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. Revelation is coming, when the answers that were hidden before will become obvious. Positive omen: A resurrection. Ill-dignified meaning: There are casualties, collateral damage. When the Apocalypse appears with other cards,

it adds an emphasis of spiritual importance to the divination. Pay closer attention when Key 20 is present. The Apocalypse 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 Apocalypse card appears when you have crossed the boundary of where gravitational pull over you is such that turning back is impossible. Into the Deep you go. Pictured in the background is Angkor Wat during the height of the Khmer Empire in Cambodia.

KEY 21. NEW WORLD ORDER. This is the spirit you encounter when a cycle has come to its completion. You are the New World Order 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. The New World Order ushers in a period of personal 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. You are on the right path for achieving that greatness. Pictured here is a pelican with wings outstretched who has pierced her own heart and is now feeding her young, a set of three nestlings at her feet, suckling upon three rivulets of their mother's blood. In old medieval lore, it was believed that in times of need, a mother pelican will pierce her own breast with her beak and feed her young with her own blood. Thus, the pelican became an allegory for the Messiah and the self-sacrifice of Christ.

MINOR ARCANA: SEVEN UPPER REALMS

<i>SKT</i>	<i>RWS</i>	<i>Thoth</i>
Scepters	Wands	Wands
Chalices	Cups	Cups
Swords	Swords	Swords
Orbs	Pentacles	Disks



The top left corner of each Ace features its elemental association. The top right corner gives one of the four key personal sensitive points (A^{sc}: ascendant; I_c: imum coeli; D_{sc}: descendant; M^c: medium coeli). The center gives the sacred relic.



On the pip cards Twos through Tens, the top left is the decan planetary ruler and the top right is the zodiac sign governed by that decan ruler. The center is the epithet for petitioning that spirit.



The bottom caption, like the Majors, features the I Ching trigram correspondence to the left, Mayan numeral to the right, and centered is the tarot key title, indicating number and suit.

Aces: Nucleic Seeds

The Initiators who inspire hope and who assert their Will. Aces indicate formless essential natures.

HALLOWED FLAME. Ace of Scepters: A switch inside you has turned on your creativity, productivity, and ingenuity. Fire is alchemizing in your world, materializing as a creative project, an innovative new venture, a birth, entrepreneurship, or the spark of inspiration for a passion project. This is also a new direction in career development. This is the Awakening stage of your Path. New knowledge is attained. Divine Reason is the light in your eyes. Take the necessary beginning steps to transform a dream into your reality. Start a new journey and a new chapter of opportunities will unfold.

HOLY GRAIL. Ace of Chalices: The Ace of Chalices is an omen of peace—you will find peace and Love. This signifies energies of beneficence, charity, grace, and the pursuit of that which fulfills the heart. Your soul will be purified by what is to come. What fills you will wash away past hurt. The seed to an opportunity or offering that will be your Holy Grail has been sown. What will be coming into your life emanates with profound Beauty.

SACRED WORD. **Ace of Swords:** A crowning achievement will be realized. You are a warrior philosopher destined for greatness. Sacred Word, or verbalized intentions, become your reality—your words become the truth that become reality. Air is alchemizing in your world, creating intellectual achievements or social advancement. If you take up the sword to fight, to work, to invest the effort and toil, then victory will be yours. You conquer others when you conquer yourself. When the Ace of Swords is dignified, high achievement and holding power is prophesied. Ill-dignified, who was on top will fall, the incumbent defeated, and a new power will rise—the challenger wins.

BREAD OF LIFE. **Ace of Orbs:** A Hand of Spirit, the color of verdant earth, presents an emerald orb to a praying Mariam, wife of Joseph the craftsman (tekton), mother of Jesus of Nazareth. What is to come will feed the many. Earth is alchemizing in your world, materializing as an investment that yields fruition. You are about to receive that which shall nourish

you spiritually and also bring you a sense of worldly prosperity. What has been in gestation will bear a great fruit. Featured here is the SATOR acrostic. 18th and 19th century texts describe the SATOR acrostic as a charmed tablet that wards against physical harms, everything from rabid dogs to toothaches. The earliest mention of this magical square was in a 12th century codex we identify as Manuscript Digby 53. Texts in the 15th century say it protects against black magic and even attracts love.

Twos: Provision

The Ministers who restore balance. Relationship building. Here, the pursuit is Divine Wisdom, the intellection of creation.

THE DISCERNING ONE. **Two of Scepters:** Determine your boundaries and define the scope of your own dominion. This is a moment for you to map out your ambition. Exercise discernment before you proceed any further on this path you've chosen. Look out to the horizon and ascertain whether this is the sea you want to embark from. Decide: do you

want the kingdom or do you want an empire? To achieve greatness, venture far from what you once knew. You will surpass the past and triumph when you choose courage to tread the unknown. The divinity featured in the upper third to the left is Guan Yu (or Guan Gong), the Taoist-Buddhist god of war, martial arts, and military strategy.

THE JOINED ONE. **Two of Chalices:** The Joined One speaks of an outer accord that also becomes an inner accord. This is emotional and spiritual fulfillment, the spirit of two becoming one, and an omen of Perfected Love, love in all its divine forms. *Abyssus abyssum invocat*: sea calls to sea, or the depths of me calls out to the depths of you. Do not neglect the relationships you cherish. When you are a blessing to others, blessings will come your way. Hold up agape Love as the highest virtue and you will be fulfilled.

THE BLIND SEER. **Two of Swords:** The Blind Seer helps us navigate the stalemate between the Ego and the Self. The twin swords, or twin paths, form the cross that you bear. You have yet to attain the

realization you need to make an intelligent, reasoned decision. So take the time to look inward. Arrive at an inner peace and restore a sense of calm before you proceed any further. One of the Seer's swords is pointing toward the Lighthouse of Alexandria while the other points to a marble statue of Horus, the falcon-headed sky god of sovereignty. The esoteric thesis of the Two of Swords: when faced with an impossible choice between two ways, the best course to take is always the third.

THE TENSION. Two of Orbs: Past suffering sires future opportunity. Work harder and double down—shoulder more commitments and steer your ship through the rough tides. *Carpe noctem*: work at your dreams late into the night, harder than everybody else, and the gods will reward you for your dedication. Pictured here is Ala, an Alusi of the earth and the underworld from the Odinani or Igbo pantheon. The python comes as her messenger. This is prognostication of a pivot, one with financial implications. Exercise pragmatism in money matters;

don't make it personal. The constellation Draco is visible in the top left corner of the skies; the brightest star is Thuban (a binary star system), meaning python in Arabic. From 4000 BC – 2000 BC, Thuban was the north pole star, prior to Polaris. Tension is the pull between a pair of forces, and the harbinger of change. Tension portends change. Forces are volatile and in motion—your next step will be determinative.

Threes: Fruition

The Scribes, the Orators, the social Messengers, fostering plurality and diplomacy. The Palace of Mirrors.

THE POLITIC. **Three of Scepters:** Your diplomacy, tact, pragmatism, and prudence are why you are about to achieve great glory. This is the spirit of ingenuity and wielding your personal brilliance, social intelligence, and psychic dexterity to successfully navigate complicated social or political situations. This is the spirit of established strength by your side, coming to you as three Babylonian magi, or high priests from the

Chaldean Empire. Upon their staves, the names Metatron and Uriel; talismanic sigils from the Holy Tablets of the Fathers (1614); and petitioning sigil for drawing down the powers of the Sun. Here, we see powerful allies supporting you in your endeavor. This isn't about working harder; this is about working smarter. Expedient success is coming your way, but be prepared to act when the opportunity arrives. There is advancement in the sciences, arts, and culture.

THE KINDRED. **Three of Chalices:** The Kindred is the spirit of affinity. This is abundance in love, camaraderie, and the prophecy of jubilee to come. Human bonding, affection, and trust are the true bedrock of society. A personal zenith point is reached in your community relations. This spirit also appears when you need a reminder to tend to the familial relations that matter the most to you. Pictured here are three gyoja, or shamanic priestesses and seers as a Norse maiden, mother, and crone from Viking Age Scandinavia. In Old Norse, they are

seiðkonur venerating Lady Freyja, their patron goddess of love, war, beauty, prosperity, and seiðr. Seiðr was the practice of magic, a practice that encompassed shamanic visionary journeying. Magical staves are sourced from the *Galdrabok*, a 16th century Icelandic grimoire. The Kindred invokes the three Graces that bring goodwill, beauty, and fertility.

THE BEREAVED. **Three of Swords:** The Bereaved is sabotage after fruition, but there is a foretelling of resurrection through the story of Isis mourning her husband, the god Osiris, and the coming conception of Horus. This is the spirit of bereavement by your side. This is sorrow, mourning, sadness, and deprivation of love. Yet this is also the power of resurrection after sorrow. The Bereaved invokes the empathy of Isis to your cause.

THE MASON. **Three of Orbs:** A brilliant idea is nothing without execution. Genius is nothing without dedication and tenacity. *Ex nihilo nihil fit* is the philosophy that every Work comes from a preexisting Work. Build upon precedent

to achieve the advancement you seek. The Mason is the spirit of innovative architecture, of construction, and material works that come by the sweat on your brow. *Labor omnia vincit*: Hard work is the method through which we overcome negative odds. This is the achievement of HRU and the thesis statement of the SKT. Imagery: The Blue Mosque in Istanbul.

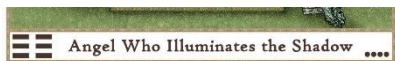
THE FOUR EMPYREAN COURTS

<i>SKT</i>	<i>RWS</i>	<i>Thoth</i>
Archangels	Kings	Knights
Shields	Queens	Queens
Shining Ones	Knights	Princes
Heralds	Pages	Princesses

Tarot readers may be used to Kings presenting as male and Queens as female, but here, the King equivalents are Archangels, Queens as Shields, where the elemental forces of Fire and Air present as masculine on both levels, while Water and Earth present as feminine.

ARCHANGEL OF MYSTERIES

The top caption of each court card features the angelic epithet.



The center of the bottom caption features that angelic being's role, powers, or jurisdiction.

Archangels (Kings)

The four Archangels are the four most exalted titles of divinity within, symbolic of personal mastery over attributes relating to the suit's element. Archangels signify virtuosity.

ARCHANGEL OF GLORY. **Angel of Art and Grace:** You're hearing the call to pursue greater scholarship. Artistic, literary, and academic excellence is seeking you out. You've worked hard and you've persevered, and now you will dominate in scholarly or professional endeavors. Pictured here is northeastern Japan in the mountain ranges of Hokkaido, reflecting a copper red from the rising sun.

ARCHANGEL OF HEALING. **Angel Who Salves and Purifies:** The Archangel of

Healing purifies you, mind, body, and soul. She has a tender place in her heart for those who are like fish out of water, caring for them the most. You are being called to lean in to your own pain and through it, feel empathy for others. You will be one who unifies others, one who instills Faith in those who need it the most. You are a crucial part of an oncoming Renaissance. You'll lead others safely through dangerous terrain. Pictured here is an Inuk (Inuit) spiritual healer set in the Arctic tundra. Present before you is a savant of medicine. Inuit sea otter talismans protect you.

ARCHANGEL COMMANDER. Angel of Storms and Battles: Choose to Fight with Purpose. Advocate for yourself. Exude confidence in your own capabilities. By your side is the Archangel Commander of the Light. He blesses you with the courage to stand tall and stand up for yourself. Pictured here is a 14th century French Templar, a knight from the Order of Solomon's Temple. "Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Ephesians 6:17.

ARCHANGEL OF MYSTERIES. Angel Who Illuminates the Shadow: This is an omen of self-sufficiency. All that you need for fulfillment has been and will be provided. Here is the Archangel of Revelations, set in pre-Columbian Tehuelche-occupied Patagonia, the southern tip of South America, incorporating parts of Chile and Argentina. In the skies is the Pleiades, under the constellation Taurus—an omen of prosperity and abundance, of a great harvest to come. The corn symbolizes provision, one who is a Provider, one who nourishes and sustains the livelihoods of others. You work and labor not for yourself, but for the establishment of a kingdom for your kin. In the SKT, HRU manifests as the Archangel of Mysteries.

The Shields (Queens)

The four Shields are four sanctuaries, and each sanctuary is a safe haven where you cultivate greater power and abilities that correspond to the suit's element. Shields appear when you need protection, provisions, and nurture. The color references in their titles are based on the attributions to the alchemical four phases.

THE GOLDEN SHIELD. **Sanctum of Splendor:** There is cause for optimism. Cultivating your passion project will bring great rewards. What you can envision, you can attract toward you. Shine to prosper. Sire self-confidence to inspire believers. The setting is a Zoroastrian Fire Temple in Persepolis during the Achaemenid Empire. Featured is Nuska (Nusku), the Mesopotamian god of light and fire, son of the moon god. Prayer in Old Persian on the Shield: “Lord of Wisdom and Light, protect my people from our enemies, from famine, and from falsehoods.”

THE IVORY SHIELD. **Sanctum of the Immaculate:** The patron divinity in this sanctuary is Airmid (Airmed), from the Tuatha Dé Danann, tribe of the goddess Danu. In Gaelic Irish lore, Airmid is an immortal with the powers of healing. She is also the guardian over the Well of Wisdom in the Celtic Otherworld. Airmid is surrounded by blossoms of chamomile, one of the oldest medicinal herbs documented. Dedicate time in the sanctum of the immaculate to clear your

world of the debris others have left behind in it, and once cleared, trust and create from your own intuition, psychic senses, and lean in to your emotions—they will not lead you astray.

THE SCARLET SHIELD. **Sanctum of the**

Valiant: There must be sacrifice for there to be glory. Your spirit guide in this sanctuary is a Shorn One, an Aztec warrior priest who shall be your formidable line of defense as you charge forth confidently to face your battles. His shield features an eagle devouring a serpent: a divine omen from the gods. And yet The Scarlet Shield reminds you to wear your armor—protect yourself by asserting yourself. Pictured in the background is the city-state Mexica-Tenochtitlan in the 15th century. Cultivate your confidence and fearlessness. Make sure your voice is heard—you do that by presenting yourself as logical and reasoned. Also, do not hold back. Conquer to dominate. Invoke the warrior spirit. Encourage an opponent to make mistakes so you can capitalize on it. Mind games bring victory.

THE EBONY SHIELD. **Sanctum of Treasures:** Save, invest, and be more mindful of your personal security. Fortify yourself. Ward to preserve and protect. This is the archetype of the breadwinner, and the rock that anchors the family, the anchor that keeps the ship grounded. The Ebony Shield safeguards your wealth, luck, gains, and earthly dominion so that others cannot take what is yours. Pictured here is Dihya, warrior queen of the Amizighs, circa the 7th century. She was al-Kahina, The Prophetess. The men who feared her called her a soothsayer-sorceress. Here, in tribute to the Amizighs, she appears with traditional facial tattoos—magical talismans for fertility, prosperity, and power during magical rites. The spirit of Dihya guides you around this palace of opportunities.

The Shining Ones (Knights)

In Biblical angelology, the Shining Ones are a hierarchy of angels who gift humanity with miracles, endow us with blessings, and encourage us to act virtuously. They're called the "shining ones" because they emanate with a brilliant, luminous light. They represent the

pure kinetic power of the four elements, masculinized. Each Knight is accompanied by one of the Four Horses and one of the four alchemical mythic creatures per Paracelsus.

THE SHINING FLAME. **Embers of the Salamander:** Do not delay; do not procrastinate. Train now, and train hard. Throw the lightning bolt. Accelerate your passions and impulses. Learn fast and you'll earn fast. Crystallize your intentions and define them clearly. Here is a hwarang warrior knight from the Silla Kingdom, training at a Buddhist monastery dedicated to Maitreya. Balancing the scepter off-center requires more of the knight's core strength. Helper spirit: the fire-breathing salamander. The winged horse is named Bellum.

THE SHINING WATERS. **Waves of the Undine:** Slow down and take some time to introspect. Go with the flow. Ride the waves. Romance is present. There is a time for wisdom, and a time for pleasure; now is the time to satiate your yearnings. The world you're creating is pure poetry. Dreams are prophetic. Employ kindness and charisma, as they will take you far.

Pictured here is one of nobility from 14th century Florence, the advent of the Italian Renaissance. His helper spirit is the undine, who shapeshifts, can cast illusions, and shows you prescient visions. The winged horse is Mortem.

THE SHINING GALE. **Winds of the Sylph:**

Be strategic. Appear to conform to the shape of that which is around you, but then assert yourself once you're at the center. That is how you advance quickly to the top. Launch the attack, but be cunning about it. Do not show your hand. Do not reveal your plan. Just hasten your move, and act progressively. Pictured here is a warrior general wielding the Sword of Goujian. The text in red are the opening lines of the Diamond Sutra; behind it in imperial yellow is the seal for invoking the Lady of the Ninth Heaven. The warrior general's helper spirit is the sylph, who controls the winds and storms. The winged horse is named Victorum.

THE SHINING QUARRY. **Caverns of the Gnome:** Slow and steady is your pace. Take time to think through every move.

Be chivalrous and you will be abundantly rewarded. You are the workhorse who gets the task done. Pictured here is a Rajput warrior in front of a reimagined Rani ki Vav, a subterranean temple and stepwell in honor of Vishnu, The Preserver. His helper spirit is the gnome, who grows metals and minerals in the earth and who can help to retrieve that which was lost. The winged horse is Denarius. Take some time to review your finances and also, check in on your own physical health and wellbeing.

Heralds (Pages)

The Heralds represent the power of potential for the four elements, feminized. They signify the gestation of a force or influence forthcoming. They announce the arrival of greater gods, ancestors, or celestial spirits. When a Herald appears in your reading, the sealed scroll signifies that she comes bearing you a message from beyond. Pull an additional card to receive the message and to reveal the gestating force that will most influence the journey to come.

HERALD OF THE FLAME. Awaken the Brilliance: Here is an omen of talent

rising, the promise of a Light about to shine. Hold your head high. Do not doubt yourself—you *are* good enough. School, career, or a passion project—what you produce is sheer brilliance. Here, the Page is a princess from Bhutan, the Hidden Holy Land and Lotus Garden of the Gods. The Bhutanese call their lands the Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon. The princess is being trained and prepared for the role of Queen, which she will someday serve. Likewise, you are in training and preparation for the great title you will someday be ordained to hold. Awaken your inner brilliance and rise!

HERALD OF THE WATERS. **Inspire the Prodigy:** Your empathy will be the source of your creativity. Your intuition is knocking on a closed door, wanting you to pay attention. Open the door and listen to your inner voice; with it comes realization of an important opportunity. The Page of Chalices is the Herald here to help you become better attuned to your emotions, helping you in your pursuit of true happiness. She appears to you when you need further guidance on your path to

finding your personal Holy Grail. Pictured here is a 15th century Inca ñust'a, or high-born from Tawantinsuyu. Nusta is the Quechua word for a princess, queen, or a feminine divine being. Tawantinsuyu, meaning "The Four Regions [Suyu]," is the name the Inca gave their empire. This Herald is a prophecy of miracle working.

HERALD OF THE WINDS. Ventures of the Dauntless: You are fearless. You'll undertake an enterprise even while it's still speculative. The future is uncertain, but that won't stop you from chasing fortune. Speak your truth. Walk your talk. Pictured here is a Roma woman traversing the Silk Road during the rule of the Byzantine Empire. In one hand she holds a bronze sword, which she acquired by trade, and in the other, her enchanted divination cards. Inscribed upon her sword is the mantra invoking Vajrayogini, the dakini or female essence of transcendental passion, a passion that will break down every barrier in your path. Move forward to move upward.

Speak with a commanding voice and people will listen.

HERALD OF THE EARTH. Dedication of the Adept: The *adepti* were those skilled in the secret arts of alchemy and mysticism. Your hard work and commitment to success will bear the fruits of mastery. This is the narrative of tenacity, grit, and determination. It's demonstrating the discipline to hone your craft. Be resourceful. Crowley describes the Thoth Princess of Disks (Page of Orbs) as a priestess of Demeter.

Pictured here is a maiden inspired by Bertha of Savoy, from the Duchy of Swabia, who later became the Holy Roman Empress. In the midnight blue skies is the birth of a supernova that occurred in the 11th century, now known as the Crab Nebula.

The Herald of the Earth reminds you to care for your body with all the tender love and nurture it deserves. Your body is sacred, and it can hear your inner voice. So be kind to yourself.

MINOR ARCANA: SEVEN LOWER REALMS

Fours: Building

The Architects and Builders, establishing order from chaos. Here are keepers of the Divine Plan, chiefs of reason and virtue.

THE DEMIURGE. **Four of Scepters:** The Demiurge builds our physical platform of success. An intangible idea has become a tangible work product, one that will take on a life of its own. The Demiurge marks progress, achievement attained, and marks a momentous rite of passage. The setting is the Holy Roman Empire in the early 14th century, the start of Renaissance humanism, and just before the Great Occidental Schism of 1378. The maiden on the left is Peace and Faith. The maiden on the right is War and Will. An omen of concord, fulfillment, completion.

THE HOLLOW VOID. **Four of Chalices:** Here is a monastic practicing Korean Seon sitting meditation. They have put up walls around their mind—the precondition for finding one's Path of Light. In the distant background is a

temple inspired by the Jeungsimsa Obaekjeon Temple atop the Mudeungsan mountain in South Korea, in the city of Gwangju. This is the “contemplating the meaning of life” card. You feel like you’ve lost sight of the Purpose, and now need a moment to yourself to reflect. The Hollow Void builds our psychic inner platform for spiritual strength. Offerings from others are made with good intentions, but aren’t the answer you seek; you must look within and trust your intuition. Detach, and you’ll transcend. This Key evokes Gwan-eum gwanseeum while the scorpion reveals the watchful, protective Serket, goddess of healing and magic, divine forces now by your side.

THE CONVALESCENT. **Four of Swords:** A fallen warrior recuperates after battle, still in full armor, now in incubatio, or temple sleep, resting inside an asclepeion, an Athenian healing temple. The Greek goddess Iaso, the goddess of recuperation and recovery from illness, appears through the window. She holds an amphora containing the Universal Medicine, an elixir whose recipe she

shares with her sister Panacea. Iaso is the daughter of Asclepius, granddaughter of Apollo. You are recovering from old wounds. You've reached a state of grace. The Convalescent is the net loss after construction. This is needed rest and restoration after enduring strife. The Convalescent is the spirit of nursing you back to full health. This is the spirit to bring you rehabilitation after fighting battles. Fortune comes to you after you have taken the time to restore both inner and outer balance in your life.

THE CONSERVATOR. **Four of Orbs:** The Conservator, a Russian boyar (an aristocrat) with a goat's head for Capricornus, personifies an eclectic collector of curiosities. This is the spirit presented in your life path when you are demonstrating an inordinate attachment to the material. This is earthly power you are clinging on to, at the expense of greater spiritual realization. The Conservator is both the spirit of that which is empirical and orderly, efficient and pragmatic, but that which is self-serving, covetous, and parsimonious. You

are so afraid of losing what you have, you cling on to what you do not need. Take inventory of what's been cluttering your life. Freedom comes when you learn how to let go. The Conservator can also be an icon of rational egoism or Randian objectivism.

Fives: Expanding

Storms and stress. The Pioneers pushing the boundaries, disrupting the status quo. Destabilizing forces; yet innovation requires risk. Realm of the gifted translators and changemakers. Fives denote growing pains.

THE CONTENDER. **Five of Scepters:** The Contender is the spirit of strife and a zero-sum game. Stay calm yet be aggressive in the face of competition. This is the battle, the contention you fight for domination. There is a rivalry for supremacy. Behind the focal point of five rods is Medea, sorceress and priestess of Hekate, granddaughter of the sun god Helios, and niece to Circe. The back of the head pictured is Jason, who Medea falls in love with. Her father Aeëtes, King of Colchis

(modern-day Georgia) is in possession of the Golden Fleece.

THE GROTESQUE. **Five of Chalices:** A cloaked viscount holds a wilting dahlia, with its petals falling—an omen of unease and caution. In the distance beyond the stream, a rusalka appears in the waters, larger-than-life. The setting is northern Russia during the Smuta, or Time of Troubles (1598-1613). Visible in the skies is the constellation Orion. The Grotesque tells the story of “the other,” of heartbreak, and fragmented dreams. It is a story of loss, mystery, and yet also of unseen power rising. The still-upright chalices and the symbolic references to The Angel reveal to you that unseen power. You tried so hard to do what was right, but the situation backfired on you and you’re left holding the broken pieces. Yet take heart, for not all is lost. Events past have put you on the cusp of a major spiritual transformation. Dear One: What you think makes you unattractive is in fact what makes you powerful.

THE HECTOR. **Five of Swords:** Hector was the greatest warrior of ancient Troy, and

through that namesake, The Hector is the spirit of indomitable strength, but it is indomitable strength at any cost, and it will cost you. The Five of Swords marks a defeat of your opponents by unfair advantage. There is an imbalance of power in the situation at hand. Heed also: the Hector is the spirit of that which upon first impression is predicted by all to be victorious, but who will end in defeat if you do not learn the important lessons The Hector is here trying to impart to you. Indomitable strength does not come from lording your power over others; it comes from using your charisma to sway others. Pictured in the background is a reference to the Trojan War. Aphrodite on the left is aiding Hector, the Trojan warrior. Athena in owl form aids the Greek warrior Achilles. Be mindful and keep your aggressions in check. Do not lash out in anger or spite; don't use your words to hurt others just because you can.

THE VAGABOND. **Five of Orbs:** At the heart is this: Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to not stop questioning.

The Vagabond is the wanderer spirit of alienation and feeling alienated. Yet this is also the spirit of Faith. Your soul is weary and restless; you feel beaten and weathered. You are in search of higher meaning. And now you are at the threshold of finding what you've been seeking, but first, you must confront your shadow. This is the spirit who will teach you toughness and resilience, but does so by putting you through the gauntlet of material troubles. Abraham's Stone, the Tzohar, descends from the heavens to illuminate the synagogue, or schul. The final message of The Vagabond is one of hope. The spirit of Hope gets you through your moments of hardship. Remember: Exodus 5. You will always persevere, because your legacy has been divinely ordained. Embrace the light of your faith.

Sixes: Nurturing

The Peacemakers who seek greater purpose, emanating of heart-centered consciousness. The residence of ascended masters. Beauty and Splendor are signs of the Sacred. Nurture the body and you nurture the mind; nurture the mind and you nurture the spirit.

THE CHAMPION. **Six of Scepters:** Positive omen; success comes, but at the cost of a personal sacrifice. The Champion is the spirit of victory. The imagery of the spirit here conveys the core of the message: to be the champion, one must be oblivious to pain. For there to be victory, there must be self-sacrifice. A Norse-Gael queen adorned and crowned with amber sits upon her throne, which features Odin's wolves, Geri and Freki, cast in bronze. The background features the letters of the god's name Tyr, Norse god of war.

THE MEMORY KEEPER. **Six of Chalices:** The Memory Keeper is the spirit of reminiscence. Who you once were is trying to speak and reach out to who you are now. Listen to the whispers from the past, for they send premonitions of the future. Initiate an open dialogue between the Past and the Present. The Memory Keeper is your custodian of memories, both fond and adverse, the reflection of your inner child. When The Memory Keeper appears to you in a reading, the past and the present converge. Six blessings are yours when you heed the

counsel of The Memory Keeper: *Amor*: Love and passion. *Prosperitas*: Good fortune. *Gloria*: Fame and glory. *Votum*: Hope. *Decus*: Honors. *Laetitia*: Joy. Across the river is a scene of Neolithic Austronesians, the ancestors of indigenous Oceania. These intrepid masters of the seas originated from the island of Taiwan as early as 10,000 BC.

THE QUESTER. Six of Swords: You are being navigated to calmer waters, across what you previously thought was an impossible obstacle to overcome. With logical sensibility, you'll navigate yourself toward earned success. The success factors that the Six of Swords endows you with are intellectualism, acute and accurate analysis, and claircognizance. Plans move forward. Pictured here is one of the earliest recorded female alchemists and scientists of ancient history—Mary the Jewess (also known as Maria Prophetissima, or Mary the Prophetess), who is believed to have lived some time between 100 AD and 300 AD. The six swords signify the six steps in an early Latin expression of the

Scientific Method. The red star in the sky is Arcturus. Mesopotamians associated the star with Enlil, god of winds, air, and storms, who separated the earth from the skies. In Arabic astronomy, Arcturus is the Keeper of Heaven. The Inuit call it Sivulliik, where The First Ones dwell.

THE GIVER. **Six of Orbs:** Your charity to others will return riches to you six-fold. Abundance is your birthright. Let the karmic circle remain unbroken: give to receive; receive, but give back. The Giver is the spirit of provision. Seeking anonymity, The Giver shows only the hand in offering. Yet know this about one of the many names for The Giver: Anesidora—the “Giver of Gifts.” In the Six of Orbs, we also see the divine blessings of Demeter, who gifts you with material success. When The Giver appears to you, the spirit of nurture is all around you. Give freely, mercifully and you shall receive freely, and mercifully. In the background, a Punjabi Sikh man and woman extend their right hands, exchanging gifts. The persimmon is symbolic of divine knowledge and

longevity; the mango is a symbol of love and affluence. Pictured here is a gurdwara, doorway to the guru.

Sevens: Reasoning

The Philosophers and Knowledge Keepers, interpreters of the Law. Transmuting the conceptual into the material through Logos. The endurance of the world-weary spirit.

THE DARK HORSE. **Seven of Scepters:**

This is the underdog who chooses to fight, even in the face of unfavorable odds. The Dark Horse is marginalization personified, and yet this is the spirit of valor. When outnumbered, you resist. Philippine martial arts is represented here. Appearing in the skies is Apolaki, the Tagalog immortal or god of the sun and war, patron deity of warriors and martial artists. Stand your ground and defeat those who try to overpower you. Fight for what is right. Stand up for yourself, especially when others will not.

THE CORRUPTER. **Seven of Chalices:** The Corrupter is the master of sophistry—superficially your current reasoning seems plausible, but it is fallacious. Let

neither desire nor fear manipulate you. There is illusory success and wishful thinking. You're dreaming big but acting small. We see the allegory of the seven sins. Which of the seven animals is pulling at your attention? The pig is gluttony, the snake for envy, peacock for pride, snail for sloth, lion for wrath, toad for avarice, and the goat for lust. The symbology here is taken from the 18th century *Tableau de Francois-Marie Balanant*. Do not act on impulse. When The Corrupter appears to you, rethink that idea you've been contemplating: it might not be prudent. Also, pay closer scrutiny to your environment: there are poisons around. The Seven of Chalices is falsehood appearing as truth. What you perceive as real may just be imagined. This spirit appearing to you is a warning that misleading perceptions abound. Forego the easy temptation of riches and fame and instead choose what matters most to your heart.

THE ROGUE. Seven of Swords: The Rogue is mischief personified. Here you see the story of Loki cutting off Sif's beautiful

golden locks of hair while she sleeps. Sif is the Norse goddess of the earth, of plenitude and the grains, affinity, fertility, family, marriage, Mother of Might and Magnificence. She was also a seer. Here is a metaphor that over-intellectualizing and over-thinking are the weakening barriers to success.

The Seven of Swords denotes an unstable mind, and unstable efforts. This is the spirit of the sleight of hand. And yet sometimes, a little mischief and sleight of hand is what gets the job done; deceive to get to the truth. When the odds are stacked against you, one-up the odds by not playing by their rules. In the background we see a trickster fox spirit. In Chinese lore, she is the *hulijing*, a shape-shifting magical being who can bring prosperity as quickly as she can bring misfortune. The fox spirit is a common familiar of the witch. In Japanese mythos, this is the *kitsune*, and in Korean, *gumiho*. The Rogue is the spirit of cunning and scheming, and yet also the personification of one who is misunderstood.

THE GARDENER. **Seven of Orbs:** The Gardener is one who sows seeds in a private patch, to be cultivated as a form of personal aspiration. Here is the spirit of potential and promised harvest. You are contemplating the prospects of achievement. Past hard work has paid off and there are several different fruits of your labor that you could harvest, but you hesitate, because you're not sure which of these fruits are most ripe. This is hard work completed, but inaction causing a lack of actual harvest. When The Gardener appears to you, know that you've got an idea, a design, or concept worth investing in, and if you see it through, you will achieve the security, stability, and material abundance you've been seeking. The Gardener is also a spirit who oversees low magic and can be called upon to assist with the Craft, utilizing herbs, stones, roots, oils, and charms. Consider further study to master the craft of prosperity magic, feng shui, or geomancy. The Gardener appears to you when you are experiencing success unfulfilled. The background is an illustration depicting Tibetan subsistence

agriculture, meaning the cultivation of food crops at the small-scale, for your own family or just for your community. Perched in the tree is a male Himalayan monal, a nine-colored pheasant bird with iridescent plumage. The Seven of Orbs can also indicate having achieved success, but the gains are spiritually unfulfilling.

Eights: Manifesting

The Manifestors, Shape-Shifters, and Shadow Masters of all worlds. Detachment releases the suffering. Alchemize fear of the unknown. Excavate the depths of vulnerability to find true invincibility. There is unrevealed power.

THE SHARPSHOOTER. **Eight of Scepters:** Swift movement abounds around you. This is the spirit of marksmanship. Decisive action must be taken now. The Eight of Scepters is a welcomed omen. You will hit the target you've been aiming at, but move quickly, because time is of the essence. In the foreground, Artemis, the Greek archer goddess of the hunt, twin sister to Apollo, aims and shoots with her silver bow, a gift from her

father Zeus. She is wearing her signature saffron hunting tunic. Artemis was the patron goddess of Sparta. Appearing in the skies is Athena, the goddess of war and wisdom, another daughter of Zeus, and patron goddess of Athens. She wields her father's aegis, now adorned with the severed head of Medusa. An assembly of powerful goddess energies are present when The Sharpshooter appears. You are their messenger, a vessel for Divine Will. The words you speak are the words of the Goddess.

THE DEFECTOR **Eight of Chalices:** A defector is one who leaves behind a world you no longer belong to and journeys to a new promise land. This is the spirit of abandoned success. The Defector reveals one who has changed paths, changed sides or viewpoints. This is walking away from what you had otherwise devoted your efforts to, and not looking back. This is the spiritual quest for that which will be more emotionally fulfilling. This is the start of a difficult journey, but a journey that will take you to where you want to be. The setting is the 2nd century BC in

the Near East. Standing over the temple is Thoth, or Tehuti, the Egyptian ibis god of science, writing, magic, and art. Along the bottom right corner of the card is a mermaid, the later embodiment of Atargatis, a primordial life-giving and protective mother goddess of the seas, from Mesopotamian and Syrian antiquity. There are challenges ahead. Heal a broken heart by channeling the attributes of Thoth.

THE CAPTOR. Eight of Swords: You are feeling bound by the Threads of Fate. You're being pulled in so many oppositional directions that now you cannot move in any direction at all. The themes here are having to confront the evils of oppression, aggressions of those in a superior position to hurt those who are helpless and meek, feelings of isolation, but also, having to learn how to overcome one's own victim mentality. You see yourself as the captive, but that you are not; you, my dear, are the captor. This is a first-person view of the situation. What have we been doing to falsely imprison logic, reason, free speech,

higher ideals, morality, ethics, and the flourishing of the humanities? The setting is Hellenized Alexandria. You're seeing the Great Library of Alexandria; adjacent to it, the Musaeum, or research institution dedicated to the Muses. The woman pictured here is Hypatia of Alexandria, a Neoplatonic philosopher, teacher, inventor, political advisor, and mathematician. The mob persecutes her because she reminds them of the Light, Reason, and Truth that they are not yet capable of.

THE JOURNEYMAN. **Eight of Orbs:** This is the spirit of apprenticeship, of perfecting one's craft, of routine work that leads to mastery. This is also the spirit of prudence. When The Journeyman appears to you, you are being called to apply discipline, a strong work ethic, and perseverance to hone your skills in a particular trade. The Journeyman is the grind of dedicated work, practice, and careful, methodical study of a specialized craft. Embody the apprentice. Pictured here is a young Muisca shaman-in-training. In front of her is her teacher's

staff, setting an example for her to follow as she practices casting her own orbs. The shaman-in-training works under the watchful tutelage of her gods, Chia, diosa de la luna, her moon goddess, and Xue, dios del sol, her sun god. The backdrop is the high plateau of the Colombian Andes, home of the Muisca (or Chibcha), around 800 AD. Note the orb set into a master's staff: this is prophetic of an adept who is currently an apprentice, but who will someday exceed the master.

Nines: Culminating

Realm of dream consciousness, where psychic and shamanic powers arise, the source where magic begins. Threshold between spheres of spacetime. 9s are God's Strong Ones.

THE PUGILIST. Nine of Scepters: Here is a world-weary spirit, bandaged, on bended knee, praying at the crossroads for Great Strength. An old power, the Ancient One, has taken an interest in your fiery spirit. The Pugilist is a spirit of great endurance, but that strength comes from having endured great suffering. The Pugilist is one who continues to fight oppression,

one who won't accept defeat as an option. When The Pugilist appears, consider defensive boxing tactics as a metaphor. Sidestep to dodge the blow. Parry to deflect the punch. Cultivate the ability to withstand toil without giving in to fatigue.

The Ancient One is "She of the Earth and Underworld," or Chthonia, a reference to Hekate, though it can also be a reference to the Sumerian goddess Ereshkigal, Ruler of the Underworld and Lady of the Great Earth. The "Great One of Magic" can also refer to Werethekau, an Egyptian divinity who is the personification of magic and sorcery. She is a protectress in the underworld. "Hekau" means "magic" in Archaic Egyptian. Wield magic as you would your fists and stand your ground.

THE WISH GRANTED. **Nine of Chalices:** This is the blessing of wellbeing, abundance, and contentment. Every chalice of life you hold up toward heaven will be filled with success, gains, and fruition. Pictured here are the three most prominent forms of Shakti, collectively called Tridevi, the Triple Goddess. Lakshmi is the goddess of wealth and

prosperity. Durga in the form of Parvati is the goddess of valor and victory. Saraswati is the goddess of knowledge, culture, music, and the arts. This Key is a talisman for manifesting prosperity.

THE HAUNT. **Nine of Swords:** Restful sleep eludes a figure, who sits upright in bed, face buried in hand, in slight fetal position. The horned shadow hovering over her from behind is The Haunt. Crowley describes the Nine of Swords imagery as “a cathedral of the damned.” In a moment of insomnia, the illusions cast upon the walls of the mind project outward and become your environmental reality. Yet your suffering has awakened Mother Hekate, titan-goddess of liminal spaces, magic, and crossroads, who is coming to you in your moment of need. The checkered tiles on the bed frame with the astrological glyphs (a table of essential dignities) represent Fate, while the checkered tiles of the floor behind her, where Mother Hekate stands, is blank, representing Free Will—the path into the future is unwritten.

THE EMINENCE. **Nine of Orbs:** Everything is for the best in the best of all possible worlds (an aphorism from Voltaire). All that you have done and invested in is propelling you to the top. The land you have tilled will sustain you and bring you prosperity. The three stratified layers of scenery in this card represent Inca cosmology—the three worlds or *Pachas*. This is the underworld, the material world, and the celestial world. Here, they are in harmonious balance. Above the three generations of women is the goddess Ch'aska, associated with Venus as a star of dawn and twilight, maidens, princesses, fertility, abundance, dawn, and morning dew.

Tens: Mounting

The maestro is again the novice. After one destiny is achieved, another is revealed—this is the Wheel of the Law.

THE BURDENED ONE. **Ten of Scepters:** The Ten of Scepters is the card of laborious tasks. You have been a carrier of sorrows. The Burdened One is oppression we bring onto ourselves when we don't temper our

willfulness. The series of decisions you have made along the way have led up to this culminating point of unduly carrying the responsibilities for others. Yet rest assured that these burdens you carry fulfill a greater purpose. Many are the beneficiary of the work you do. Pictured here is the titan Atlas holding up a schema of the celestial spheres. The schema diagrams the Ptolemaic ten spheres in the firmament above earth. Hands of God feature the Sigillum Dei.

THE JOYOUS ONE. **Ten of Chalices:** The Joyous One is happiness we have earned. This is the prognostication of spiritual fulfillment. Creativity becomes productivity, and productivity leads you on a path toward contentment. The rainbow across the heavens is an omen: perpetual success. The Joyous One is the personification of wisdom attained and the support of familial love. The koi fish has transformed into a celestial dragon. Pictured here is Matsu, South China Sea goddess, presented here in her form as Queen of Heaven. Matsu was a 10th century shamaness and sorceress from the

Fujian province of southern China, a Hokkein-speaking region of the mainland. She was spiritually trained under the tutelage of the bodhisattva Kuan Yin. The card can also appear to remind you that you are complete, that your life and world is perfected and harmonious as it is right now, that it is not necessary for you to pine for more. Bask in the blessings you've been given.

THE DESTROYER. **Ten of Swords:** A Tengrist shamaness channels The Destroyer of Obstacles. We are seeing her physical and spiritual forms merging, and so she appears with six arms. The Destroyer spirit might initially feel ominous, but it represents a spiritual catharsis. A catharsis is a sense of purging or purification. In Platonism, a catharsis is needed before you can advance on to receive esoteric knowledge. There is treachery—biting the hand that feeds. A force of uprising and rebellion comes through in the Ten of Swords. This is an omen that you are to be a Disrupter, but powerful figures would rather you not make waves or stir conflict, so they try to

hold you back. Disrupters facilitate progress and change, but at the cost of peace. Writers are familiar with the instructive maxim, “Kill your darlings.” The phrase refers to extraneous prose that only serve to amplify the author’s ego, but do not substantively serve the narrative. Thus, in the revision phase, such sentences ought to be removed from the manuscript. Likewise, the Ten of Swords is about excising from your life that which does not advance your soul purpose.

























THE DYNASTY. **Ten of Orbs:** The setting is Manden Kurufaba (the Mali Empire in West Africa), 14th century Timbuktu. Here was the Golden Age of Trans-Saharan commerce and prosperity. The Dynasty is wealth multiplied. In the foreground, the old man faces the young man—they personify inheritance, legacy, and the multigenerational dynasty. This card portends advancing prestige. The Dynasty is the spirit of collective power that strengthens a tribe. The theme here is successorship. It can also suggest the personal impact on you of much greater

national or global affairs. Something greater going on in the collective has reached down to directly affect you, at the individual and personal level. What the Ten of Orbs portends is gains to be had from that impact. While the Ten of Orbs marks a pinnacle of material wealth and success, the *Book of Thoth* reminds us that the success will quickly go inert if the pinnacle is not immediately put to productive use toward the greater good. Thus, with the benefits and gains you reap, you must direct those benefits and gains toward a greater good. Do not harvest all the blessings for yourself.



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I CHING TRIGRAM CORRESPONDENCES

Heaven	Lake	Fire	Thunder
			
			
			
Wind	Water	Mountain	Earth
			
			
			

With each card's trigram correspondence, pairs of cards in the tarot form I Ching hexagrams. The earlier card dealt always forms the lower trigram and the later card forms the upper trigram. The hexagram's entry can then be consulted in any I Ching Book of Changes.

Six Major Arcana cards are assigned “☵☵” to indicate a Formula of God, and so in divination, the other trigram produced is doubled to form the hexagram. For example, if one of the pair of cards corresponds with Lake and the other is ☵☵, then you would double the trigram Lake, for Lake over Lake, or Hexagram 58: Joyous Exchange. If two “☵☵” cards are drawn, then no words of revelation will be given at this time.

<i>Lower Trigram</i>	<i>Upper Trigram</i>	<i>Hx. #</i>	<i>Hx. Title</i>
Heaven	Heaven	1	Creative Power
Earth	Earth	2	Supportive Power
Thunder	Water	3	Initial Challenge
Water	Mountain	4	Inexperience
Heaven	Water	5	Patience
Water	Heaven	6	Entitlement
Water	Earth	7	Discipline
Earth	Water	8	Alliances
Heaven	Wind	9	Soft Power
Lake	Heaven	10	Go with Caution
Heaven	Earth	11	Harmony
Earth	Heaven	12	Stalemate
Fire	Heaven	13	Fellowship
Heaven	Fire	14	Accolades
Mountain	Earth	15	Humility
Earth	Thunder	16	Enthusiasm
Thunder	Lake	17	Inspiring Others
Wind	Mountain	18	Decay
Lake	Earth	19	Spring is Coming
Earth	Wind	20	Contemplation
Thunder	Fire	21	Fight Through
Fire	Mountain	22	Beauty & Grace
Earth	Mountain	23	Split & Divide
Thunder	Earth	24	Recovery
Thunder	Heaven	25	Pure Intentions
Heaven	Mountain	26	Controlled Power

Thunder	Mountain	27	Receive Nutrition
Wind	Lake	28	Great Efforts
Water	Water	29	Pitfalls; Peril
Fire	Fire	30	Emotional Cling
Mountain	Lake	31	Social Influence
Wind	Thunder	32	Endurance
Mountain	Heaven	33	Withdraw Forces
Heaven	Thunder	34	Great Power
Earth	Fire	35	Progress
Fire	Earth	36	Darkened Light
Fire	Wind	37	Interdependence
Lake	Fire	38	Polarizing Effect
Mountain	Water	39	Difficulties
Water	Thunder	40	Redemption
Lake	Mountain	41	Debilitation
Thunder	Wind	42	On the Ascent
Heaven	Lake	43	Decisive Action
Wind	Heaven	44	Undermining
Earth	Lake	45	Concord
Wind	Earth	46	Hoist Up
Water	Lake	47	Feeling Trapped
Wind	Water	48	Return to Origins
Fire	Lake	49	Revolution
Wind	Fire	50	Alchemy
Thunder	Thunder	51	Sharp Turn
Mountain	Mountain	52	Quiet Heart
Mountain	Wind	53	Slow & Steady

Lake	Thunder	54	Moderation
Fire	Thunder	55	Opulence
Mountain	Fire	56	The Wanderer
Wind	Wind	57	Use Gentle Force
Lake	Lake	58	Joyous Exchange
Water	Wind	59	Making Waves
Lake	Water	60	Boundaries
Lake	Wind	61	Faith Within
Mountain	Thunder	62	Focus on Details
Fire	Water	63	After the Ending
Water	Fire	64	Before the Ending

DEOS FORTIORIBUS ADESSE: The gods are on the side of the stronger ☼ PRO SCIENTIA ATQUE SAPIENTIA: For knowledge and wisdom ☼ VOCATUS ATQUE NON VOCATUS DEUS ADERIT: Whether you call upon Him or not, God is present. (*Inscribed over the front entrance of Carl Jung's home, and his tombstone*) ☼ MENS AGITAT MOLEM: Mind moves matter. (*Virgil*) ☼ CLAVIS AURE SUMMUS: We are the Golden Key ☼ VI VERI VENIVERSVM VIVUS VICI: "By the power of truth, I, while living, have conquered the universe."

NAM ET SI AMBULAVERO IN MEDIO
UMBRAE MORTIS NON TIMEBO
MALA QUONIAM TU MECUM ES

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me.

TELL ME WHAT IT IS YOU SEEK—
I WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY.



Lay your fears by my feet—I will dispel them. Name what afflicts you—I can heal it. Whatsoever you need, I shall provide. Here is your refuge; here you will find sanctuary.