

GAME OF THRONES[™]

TAROT GUIDEBOOK

by LIZ DEAN


CHRONICLE BOOKS
SAN FRANCISCO



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DISCLAIMER: The card interpretations in this book reflect traditional tarot-card meanings, which have evolved over centuries. The meanings given here may, or may not, resonate with you; as they are symbolic, there can be many layers of interpretation.

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Contents

INTRODUCTION	5
Preparing for a reading	6

Laying the Cards

Past, Present, Future	9
The Red Keep	10
Old Gods of the North	11
Faith of the Seven	12
I Drink and I Know Things	14
Spread of the Maesters	16

The Cards' Meanings

THE MAJOR ARCANA	19
THE MINOR ARCANA	64
The Suit of Swords	66
The Suit of Cups	75
The Suit of Spears	85
The Suit of Coins	95

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	105
ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR	106

INTRODUCTION

Created in fifteenth-century Italy, tarot was first used to play card games and commemorate royal occasions. By the late eighteenth century, however, the cards had become a tool for divination. Today, tarot continues to illuminate our past, present, and future with its enduring popularity due to the cards' archetypal imagery. All the many decks and many diverse representations of the cards tap into the realm of universal archetypes—from the priestess to the hero, the mother to the hermit.

Archetypes are the foundation of every great tale—and *Game of Thrones* is an outstanding story, a rich weave. Mythically proportioned, *Game of Thrones* boasts more than sixty hours of masterful visual storytelling. From the icy landscapes beyond the Wall to the hot deserts of Dorne, the world of *Game of Thrones* is replete with symbolism: an abundant source for a new tarot deck.

The creative team behind this deck dug deep into these two worlds to find the overlapping characters, story arcs, and symbolism. We intertwined them into a unique tarot that evokes the vivid dramas of *Game of Thrones* while offering rich oracular cues for the serious tarot reader.

By bringing this epic saga into our hand-drawn cards, we have created a deck that honors the tradition of tarot and our favorite television drama.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK AND DECK

As per the tradition of tarot, a tarot deck may be called upon whenever answers, insights, or guidance are needed. Lay out the cards for a reading, then refer to the card meanings (see pages 19, 64, which suggest how the cards' imagery and scenes might play out in your own life. (You may prefer to use just the cards rather than this book, tapping into your personal knowledge of *Game of Thrones*). Five tarot spreads are included on pages 9–17, but you could also use your own.

PREPARING FOR A READING

Tarot readers believe the more connected we are with our deck, the more accurate and insightful our readings. It's traditional to take time to look through the cards individually, and handle them often. It is common practice not to allow anyone else to handle the cards casually (unless you invite them to do so, if you're giving them a reading).

Before you begin, set up your space: Find a decent-sized clean surface. Lay down a scarf or piece of fabric on which to place your cards (this isn't essential, but it's believed to protect your cards physically and energetically). Perhaps light a candle or incense to signal that the ritual of tarot is about to begin.

Finally, blow on your cards, fanning them in your hand; then gather them back into a pile and knock on the top of the deck. Use this cleansing ritual before every reading.



SHUFFLING AND CHOOSING YOUR CARDS

There are two methods: fanning the cards, and cutting the deck.

If reading for yourself: Shuffle the entire deck, thinking of your question (if you don't have a question, just ask to see what you need to know that day). When you are ready, spread the cards face down in a fan shape and choose your cards, arranging them in the spread, or layout, you've chosen (see page 9–17). Alternatively, cut the deck twice after shuffling so you have three piles, and choose one pile. Place the rejected piles under the chosen pile. You're now ready to lay down cards for a reading, dealing the cards from the top of the deck, face down.

If reading for another person: Ask them to shuffle the cards, thinking of their question. Take back the cards, fan out the deck face down, and ask them to choose the cards you'll need for the reading, handing each one to you in turn, so you can place it face down in the position on the spread. Alternatively, when they have finished shuffling, ask them to cut the deck twice with their left hand, so there are three piles of cards. Ask them to choose one pile. Place the rejected piles under the chosen pile.

TIP

When choosing cards from the fan or cutting the deck, it's believed that using your left hand connects you with the unconscious, intuitive mind.

IF YOU KNOW NOTHING (ABOUT TAROT)

You may prefer to use only the major arcana cards for your readings while you're getting familiar with



the deck. The major arcana (see page 19) comprises the 22 cards numbered 0–XXI and reveals major life events, whereas the 56 minor cards show more specific, day-to-day events (see page 64).

READING REVERSED CARDS

Both upright and reversed card meanings are given in this book. Reversals happen during shuffling, when cards are turned upside down, often subconsciously. You can choose to read reversals or not; it's fine to turn all your cards upright when you see reversed cards in a spread. Do what feels right for you.

READING INTUITIVELY

Card reading isn't a science, it's an art, and all you need is these cards and the ability to trust your intuition. Let the card images guide you to a meaning before you delve into the card interpretations; this switches on your intuition and creativity right from the start. Go with the flow; what counts is your personal response to a character, symbol, or scene and how these translate for you, in your life.

AND NOW THE READING HAS ENDED . . .

Extinguish your candle or incense and place cards in a box or drawer, out of sight. It's best to wrap them in a dark cloth or scarf as this protects your cards physically and energetically when they are not in use.



THE SPREADS

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Here's a classic tarot spread for instant insight into any situation: Lay down one card for the past, one for the present, and one for the future. The "future" card reveals future influences at the time of the reading. Shuffle and choose your cards (see page 7), placing them face down from left to right. Turn them face up, and begin your interpretation.



Dragonglass/
The Past



Milk of the
Poppy/
The Present



Valyrian
Steel/
The Future

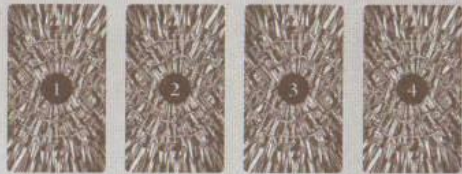
1. Dragonglass: What's the past situation? What can you learn from it to help you in the future?
2. Milk of the poppy: The present. What are you dreaming of? Does anything need healing or changing?
3. Valyrian steel: What magic does the future hold?



THE RED KEEP

The Red Keep, seat of the ruler of the Seven Kingdoms, is the powerhouse of political intrigue. The card positions align with three areas of the Keep, helping you see the opportunities available to you.

Look at all the cards face up and choose a card in answer to the question, "What's powerful in my life right now?" Place it face up in the card 1 position. Next, gather up the remaining cards, hold them face down, shuffle, and choose your cards (see page 7), placing them as cards 2, 3 and 4, face down. Turn over cards 2, 3, and 4, and begin your interpretation.



1. The throne room: What's powerful in my life right now?
2. The Tower of the Hand: What needs to get organized?
3. The secret tunnels: What's the hidden advantage in this situation?
4. The outcome.

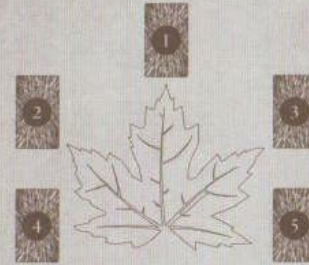
« 10 »

OLD GODS OF THE NORTH

The Old Gods were worshipped for thousands of years. These are the gods who are worshipped at large weirwood trees decorated with carved faces.

When you feel a need to turn to the past to shed light on the present and future, turn to this spread, shaped in the red leaf of the sacred weirwood.

Shuffle and choose your cards (see page 7), placing them face down in the positions shown. Turn them face up, and begin your interpretation.



1. The Old Gods: What you need to know about a past situation.
2. The weirwood: What strengthens you? What past experiences and knowledge will help you endure?
3. The Children of the Forest: What do you need to watch over? What needs attention, or protection?
4. The heart tree: What you can do now; what you might commit to.
5. One with the sight: The answer. The truth.

« 11 »



« 12 »

FAITH OF THE SEVEN

Father, smith, warrior; mother, maiden, crone, stranger: the names of the seven aspects of god, according to the Faith of the Seven.

Arranged into the seven-pointed star, the symbol of the Faith of the Seven, this spread is perfect for examining one situation and coming to a decision. See all the angles and the way ahead.

Shuffle and choose your cards (see page 7), placing them face down in the positions shown. Turn them face up, and begin your interpretation.

1. Father: Justice and decisions. Your situation; what can be resolved and brought to order.
2. Smith: Your work and skills.
3. Warrior: Strength in battle. What or whom opposes you? Are you strong? Can you succeed?
4. Mother: Love, relationships, and creativity. What are the positives? What can you focus on and nurture?
5. Maiden: Your values and virtues. What values do you need to protect? What's your true motivation?
6. Crone: Hopes or fears. Inner guidance.
7. Stranger: The unknown; what the future holds.

« 13 »

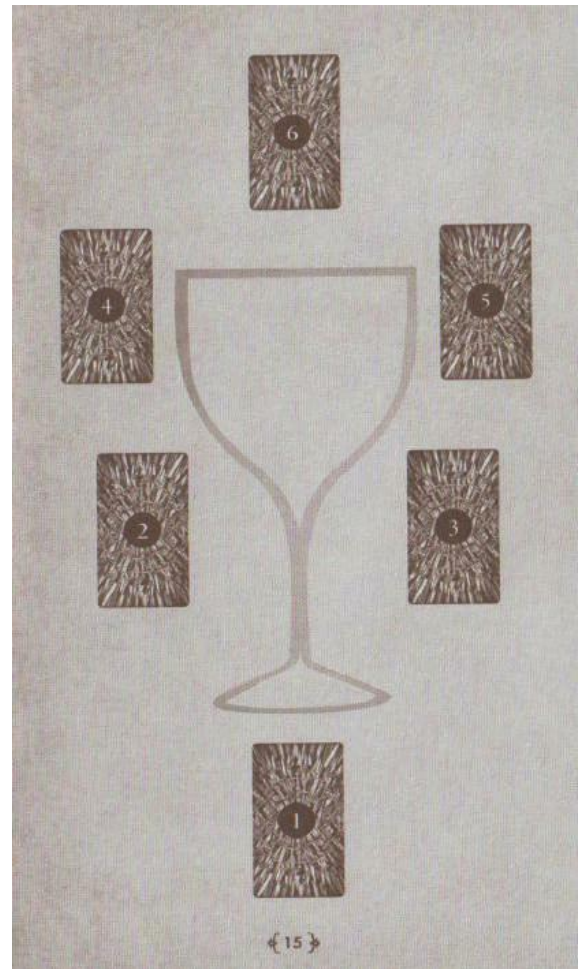
I DRINK AND I KNOW THINGS

Tyrion Lannister, with his armory of pithy quotations, is certainly worth a tarot spread of his own. Here's a simple spread for a fun reading—in the shape of a goblet, of course.

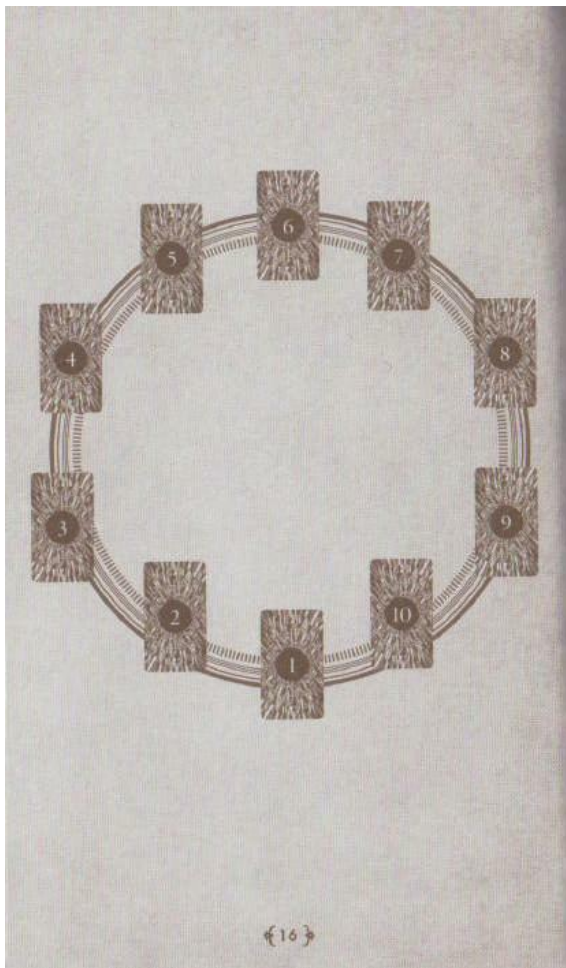
Shuffle and choose your cards (see page 7), placing them face down in the positions shown. Turn them face up, and begin your interpretation.

1. It might be time for a drink. What's your indulgence?
2. Learning ("A mind needs books like a sword needs a whetstone") What you've learned so far.
3. The flaws you've accepted (that no one can use against you): Weaknesses that are, or can become, your strengths.
4. Trials (by combat): Opposition and challenges.
5. A Lannister always pays his debts. Did you pay your debts? Money and property.
6. The future.

﴿ 14 ﴾



﴿ 15 ﴾



﴿ 16 ﴾

SPREAD OF THE MAESTERS

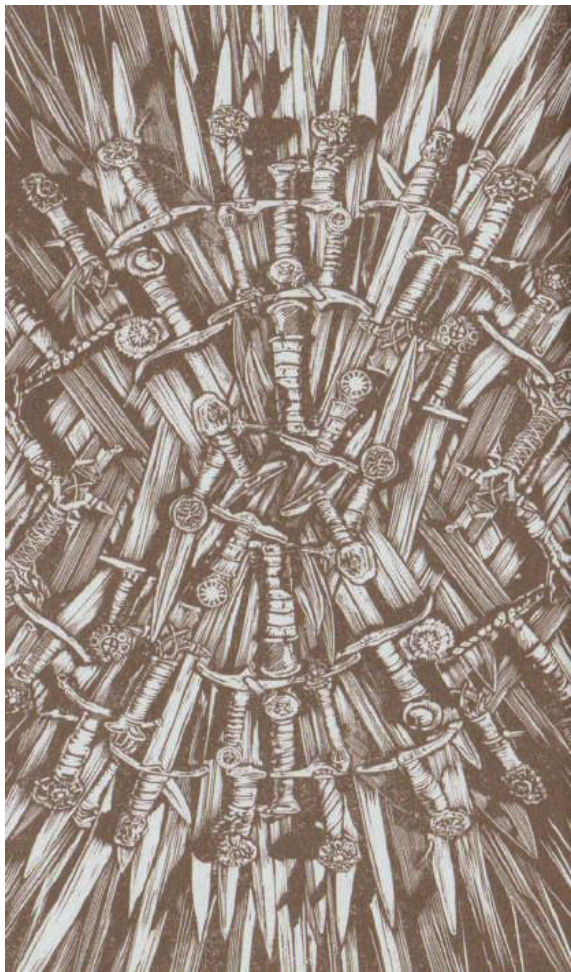
A Maester's chain signifies his learning; the metal of each link has a corresponding field of study in the arts, sciences, and magic.

This spread offers a detailed reading, looking at ten aspects of your life, and it offers a cosmic perspective too.

Shuffle and choose your cards (see page 7), placing them face down in a circle, starting from the bottom and working clockwise, as shown. Turn them face up, and begin your interpretation.

1. Astronomy: Your known universe—the situation now.
2. Construction: Foundations—what supports you.
3. History: The past.
4. Ravenry: Communication and travel.
5. Economics: Money and property.
6. Smithing: Work and skills.
7. Healing: Love and relationships.
8. Warcraft: Strategies.
9. Magic: Hidden forces.
10. Astrology: Future prediction.

﴿ 17 ﴾



THE MAJOR ARCANA

The twenty-two major arcana cards, numbered 0–XXI, show major events, turning points, and shifts in perspective on our life journey. The major cards represent a cycle of birth, death, and spiritual ascension beginning with the Fool, who journeys through the major arcana sequence and is born again when his cycle of experience is complete. These major cards, therefore, are intended to offer you insight at a deep, soulful level; you may want to pay special attention to them in your readings. You may also prefer to read only with the major arcana (particularly if you are a beginner), as the majors are a distillation of meaning of many of the minor arcana cards, which are associated with day-to-day events.

﴿ 19 ﴾



0

THE FOOL

Key meanings: Risk, innocence, opportunity, beginnings, youth, impetuosity

The Fool is represented by Tyrion Lannister, who risks his life to follow a dream. Enchanted by dragon stories as a child, he courts death to visit Viserion and Rhaegal, saves his city from Stannis Baratheon's army, and travels to the Wall. This Fool is no fool in the literal sense: as Tyrion says, "I drink and I know things." And Tyrion can say what others dare not.

﴿ 20 ﴾

The tarot Fool, as number 0, stands outside the sequence of major arcana cards. Tyrion is the outsider, despised by most of his house. Witty, brave, and brilliant, he is destined, like the Fool, to be both apart from and a part of everything his dark world has to offer.

Upright Meaning

An adventure, opportunity, new phase, or perspective beckons. There's an air of spontaneity and optimism as you follow your dream in the spirit of freedom. Take a breath before you begin, and calculate the risks before you take that leap of faith.

Additional meanings: Independence, a student, a young person leaving home

Reversed Meaning

Idealism leads to rash decisions when the Fool reverses, so consider all the options before you embark upon a new venture in order to avoid a false start. Alternatively: apathy, ignoring an opportunity.

﴿ 21 ﴾



I

THE MAGICIAN

Key meanings: Success, willpower, messages, manifesting, inspiration, diplomacy

Spymaster Petyr “Littlefinger” Baelish is the Magician, manipulating others to his will. He wears rings on both little fingers, signifying Mercury, planet of communication. On the red screen behind him are the lemniscate, or infinity symbol, plus the four suit symbols; the sword is represented by Catspaw, a dagger of Valyrian steel.

﴿ 22 ﴾

As number I, The Magician stands for the individual and the ego, the “I.” Littlefinger incites war and commits murder to create chaos, his “ladder” to power. He feigns powerlessness to get people to trust him but, as Lord Varys says, Littlefinger “is one of the most dangerous men in Westeros.” An arch manipulator, driven to succeed while others suffer the impact of his lies, he reflects both the upright and reversed meanings of the tarot Magician.

Upright Meaning

Action, ideas, and energy abound. It's time for inventiveness, expansive thinking, and new directions, so the card often comes up to show new work, relationships, business start-ups, and other successful creative ventures. At the spiritual level, you connect with your higher self, or true purpose. If you're waiting for news, the card tells you that you will soon have the information you need.

Additional meanings: Significant journeys, moving home

Reversed Meaning

Delays and communication problems come with the reversed card, so projects go on hold, or you may be avoiding a choice. There may be manipulation and deception, too, so you could be talked out of a course of action that would otherwise benefit you.

﴿ 23 ﴾



II

THE PRIESTESS

Key meanings: Wisdom, secrets, the spiritual realms, intuition, feminine power

The Red Woman, Melisandre, is the tarot's Priestess, shadowbinder, and former advisor to Stannis Baratheon and Jon Snow. The flames in her chamber represent R'hllor, Lord of Light; fire is her holy book, through which she communes with her god.

Her card number, II, signifies duality. The Priestess mediates between the earthly and spirit realms, what is evident and what is hidden. Melisandre also

﴿ 24 ﴾

has a hidden identity of crone. While her practices have brutal outcomes—she births a vile spectre to kill Renly Baratheon, and incites the killing of Shireen Baratheon—she can use her power for good, and briefly redeems herself by bringing Jon Snow back to life after his assassination by the Night's Watch. For this reason, Melisandre echoes both the negative and positive aspects of the tarot's spiritual Priestess.

Upright Meaning

The Priestess reveals wisdom, intuition, and secrets. The card invites you to honor your intuition and connect with spiritual guidance. This is also a time for privacy and discretion, and you may need to protect a secret, or at least keep your own counsel. Your inner life is important now, and you may be drawn to study and seeking a mentor.

Additional meaning: Significant dreams, clairvoyance

Reversed Meaning

The reversed card suggests false information. You may be misled by a teacher or mentor, or otherwise persuaded to go against your intuition; a person's egotism disappoints. A confidence may be broken or a secret revealed.

﴿ 25 ﴾



III
THE EMPRESS

Key meanings: The matriarch, fertility, creativity, authority, abundance, peace

Daenerys Targaryen, “mother of dragons” and *myr* of Meereen, is the tarot Empress, or matriarch. She embodies the qualities of the warrior-mother who fiercely nurtures and protects what is hers. “When my dragons are grown,” she says, “we will take back what was stolen from me and destroy those who wronged me!” Her dragons, flying above her as she sets sail for Westeros, symbolize the rise of

﴿ 26 ﴾

Targaryen power. As fantastical creatures, they also represent freedom. When Daenerys vows “to break the wheel,” she births a new social order. Like the fertility goddess Demeter, an Empress archetype who made the earth barren to free her daughter from the underworld, Daenerys will turn the world upside down in the name of freedom and a better future for her followers.

Daenerys’ three dragons echo her card number of three, which signifies creation.

Upright Meaning

The Empress denotes the mother, wife, or female partner, or an influential female. She symbolizes care, security, and abundance, so relationships flourish; the card can also predict a child. As she is traditionally paired with IV The Emperor, she represents stability in love. Creative projects also thrive under her influence, and home life is harmonious. New opportunities unfold.

Additional meanings: Finances improve

Reversed Meaning

In the reversed position the Empress reveals imbalance in relationships and finances. You or a person close to you may need to be less controlling, and money needs managing. Creative projects may fester because you feel blocked.

﴿ 27 ﴾



IV
THE EMPEROR

Key meanings: The patriarch, authority, protection, support, courage, order, structure

The Emperor is Jon Snow, King in the North and head of House Stark. He holds Longclaw, his sword of rare Valyrian steel, a symbol of authority and protection. As Valyrian steel keeps its sharpness, it signifies security through longevity of rule. Wearing armor embellished with the Stark direwolf sigil, he stands before the lands of the North as warrior and leader. Jon Snow does not need symbols of power,

﴿ 28 ﴾

nor does he expect devotion. Believed to be born an illegitimate child and ignorant of his true heritage, he is of the people. “I don’t want them to kneel for me,” he declares. “I want them to fight with me, when the time comes.” His courage earns him power and respect.

The card’s number, IV, means stability and structure. In numerology, four is likened to a square. As all sides are equal, it has no points of weakness.

Upright Meaning

The Emperor denotes the father, husband, male partner, or other influential man. In respect to a situation, the card gives a “yes” to questions relating to finances, work offers, and projects, and it shows that disputes are resolved. The card also signifies support, trust, and order after a period of chaos or uncertainty. As he is paired with III the Empress, the Emperor can represent a committed relationship.

Additional meaning: Making the right decision

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, the card shows a power imbalance, so you may feel controlled or bullied. The reversed Emperor can also reveal greed, boundary disputes, and, overall, unfair pressure.

﴿ 29 ﴾



V

THE HIEROPHANT

Key meanings: Unity, orthodoxy, divinity, divine law, connection, alliance, commitment

Lord Varys, the “spider” or “Master of Whisperers,” is the Hierophant, or priest of the mysteries. The birds behind him represent his vast network of child agents and the screen itself, a veil of secrets. Just as a priest mediates between heaven and earth, Varys mediates between his flock of birds and the powers that be, politicking against the crown for the sake of progress. He saves Tyrion Lannister’s life

﴿ 30 ﴾

because Tyrion, he says, “is one of the few people alive who could make this country a better place.” Varys stands outside the mundane world and he is above the earthly desires of men.

The card’s number, V, is linked with Mercury, planet of communication, which reflects Varys’s early role as spymaster to the monarch.

Upright Meaning

The Hierophant has diverse meanings, from traditional religion and spiritual knowledge to educational opportunities. Overall, the card denotes unity: connecting mind, body and soul, or making a key commitment. The card can also represent following, or becoming, an inspiring spiritual leader, mentor, or teacher.

Additional meanings: Career progress; marriage

Reversed Meaning

The reversed Hierophant is the bad teacher or leader whose power trips disrupt groups or communities. More generally, the card can show wrong direction; you may need to withdraw and choose another option.

﴿ 31 ﴾



VI

THE LOVERS

Key meanings: Love, attraction, decisions, maturity, growth

Atop the Wall in a tender embrace, Jon Snow and Ygritte are about to kiss. These two outsiders, a Wildling and a man labeled as “illegitimate,” have just survived a perilous climb. The skyscape, with its gray and orange, holds the light of love and clouds of doubt: love, like the Wall itself, means risk. This is love, and Ygritte has claimed Jon—“I’m your woman now, Jon Snow!” Jon looks directly at Ygritte, yet her eyes are cast downward.

﴿ 32 ﴾

Upright Meaning

The Lovers bring love and a decision to commit to a relationship or new venture with an open heart, or to sacrifice an opportunity that cannot grow. Consider the long-term impact of your choice rather than short-term gain. If single, the card can predict a new partner, and it asks if you are ready for love.

Additional meaning: A choice between two loves

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, the card shows that lust wins over love, or that love is not in the cards yet. Additionally, there may be dishonesty in relationships, or you are asked to make an impossible choice.

﴿ 33 ﴾



VII
THE CHARIOT

Key meanings: Progress, victory, determination, mastery, control, energy, journey

Rallying the Dothraki khalasar, Daenerys Targaryen cries, “Will you give me the Seven Kingdoms?” The warriors, arakhs aloft, roar their assent to conquer Westeros and sail “wooden horses” across the Narrow Sea.

The Dothraki and Drogon represent power that must be masterfully controlled if the mission is to succeed. The horses are white and dark, which in

﴿ 34 ﴾

tarot symbolize the tension between the light and dark aspects of the self and the ever-changing nature of our experiences.

The card’s number, mystical VII, stands for potential greatness and the successful completion of a chapter.

Upright Meaning

The Chariot reveals a major departure; you make a determined move forward, either physically through travel or moving home, or progressing in your work and creative ventures. The card often comes up to show an opportunity that brings financial reward or other marks of success. Relationships progress; you commit or journey on alone, determined to follow your calling.

Additional meanings: Driving; a new vehicle

Reversed Meaning

The reversed card can show abuse of power and ego out of control; you, or a person close to you, may act recklessly, and chaos ensues. You may feel you have lost your path and need to rethink your direction. Less haste, more speed.

﴿ 35 ﴾



VIII
STRENGTH

Key meanings: Patience, courage, strength, resilience, pressure, control, compassion

Lady Brienne of Tarth is Strength. With courage, she has survived a litany of taunts and rejection: “All my life men like you have sneered at me,” she once snarled at Jaime Lannister, her captive, “and all my life I’ve been knocking men like you to the dust.” Jaime and Brienne torment, yet rescue each other, eventually finding the balance and resolution which the Strength card represents. When Brienne

﴿ 36 ﴾

is about to give Jaime back his sword, Oathkeeper, at Riverrun, Jaime says, “It will always be yours.” In this touching moment, the sword becomes a symbol of their new mutual respect, and of Brienne’s enduring strength.

The card’s number, VIII, stands for renewal and the flow of life. It also has a karmic meaning: What we reap, we sow.

Upright Meaning

Strength invites you to get a situation under control—to connect with your inner strength to deal with external pressures or internal conflict. This may mean taking a moral stance, holding your ground or your values, or dealing sensitively with a hurt, angry individual or wounded part of the self. The card also reminds you that you have the willpower to break addictions or negative thinking patterns.

Additional meaning: Physical strength, improvement in health

Reversed Meaning

The reversed card reveals avoiding or denying a challenge or difficult truth. Fear of conflict and overthinking may hold you back from taking action. The card also suggests physical weakness.

﴿ 37 ﴾



IX
THE HERMIT

Key meanings: Solitude, spirituality, truth, reflection, wisdom, self-healing, journeys

Bran Stark and the Three-Eyed Raven are the Hermit, the card of spiritual journeying. As a warg, Bran can enter the minds of animals and humans, and has the sight: visions of the past, present, and future. On his wrist perches a three-eyed raven, the form taken by a mysterious hermit, who communicates with Bran through his dreams and whom Bran eventually

﴿ 38 ﴾

becomes. "The raven is you," reveals fellow visionary Jojen Reed.

The tarot Hermit traditionally travels a lonely path, but he has hope and a light to guide him, symbolized by the lantern. The Hermit follows his calling to the truth, just as Bran is called to the sacred weirwood tree to meet his mentor and discover the truth of Jon Snow's parentage.

The card's number, IX, stands for oneness, intensity, and realizations.

Upright Meaning

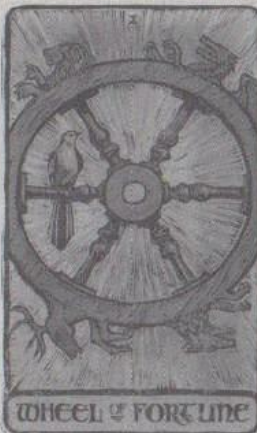
The Hermit signifies contemplation and learning. You may incubate new ideas and approaches, or spend time reading, researching, journaling, or simply contemplating where you are in your life. This quiet card also invites you to take your time making decisions, and generally go slow. In relationships, the Hermit can show time apart or solitude after a breakup.

Additional meaning: Giving or receiving mentoring

Reversed Meaning

The reversed card can reveal isolation, a time of solitude that is unwelcome or unexpected. Support is still available to you. Welcome the opportunity to reflect, then approach those who can help you move forward.

﴿ 39 ﴾



X
THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Key meanings: Fate, destiny, divine law, opportunity, luck, change

The Wheel of Fortune is an ancient symbol of luck and destiny, the twists of Fate that shame a queen into a penitence or turn an illegitimate child into a king. Daenerys Targaryen speaks of a wheel as a symbol of enslavement, but the Wheel of Fortune gives no judgement: Fate simply is.

Around the wheel are the House sigils of Baratheon, Stark, Targaryen and Lannister, which

﴿ 40 ﴾

revolve according to their fortunes. The mockingbird represents Petyr Baelish, a deadly opportunist who climbs the spokes to appropriate power.

The card's number, X, stands for completion of a cycle—it comes halfway in the major arcana sequence, the point at which we shift our focus away from the conscious self to the cosmic forces at play.

Upright Meaning

Everything improves when The Wheel arrives in a reading: finances, work, home life, career, and relationships. You also benefit from chance meetings, and reconnect with people who live away from you. Opportunities for success come your way. The card invites you to manifest your wishes through affirmations and action, and to broaden your knowledge. Overall, you gain a wider perspective on your place in the world.

Additional meaning: Psychic work

Reversed Meaning

When the Wheel moves down, rather than upward, it signifies closure on a run of bad luck or disruption. Spiritually, you may feel disconnected from your guidance. Life is set to improve; it will just take time.

﴿ 41 ﴾



XI
JUSTICE

Key meanings: Justice, action, decisions, clarity, perception, balance

Justice is Eddard Stark. Ice, his sword, stands for retribution and the scales, mercy. Eddard is justice in action: "The man who passes the sentence should swing the sword," he declares before beheading a deserter from the Wall. He delivers justice in the name of King Robert Baratheon when sentencing Ser Gregor Clegane to death for slaying villagers and declares Tywin Lannister responsible. His decisions

﴿ 42 ﴾

may not serve him best: He makes an enemy of Tywin. Yet Eddard follows his own justice and is willing to execute it.

The card's number, XI, when expressed as 11, has two numbers of equal value, and so is a symbol of balance, equality, and choices.

Upright Meaning

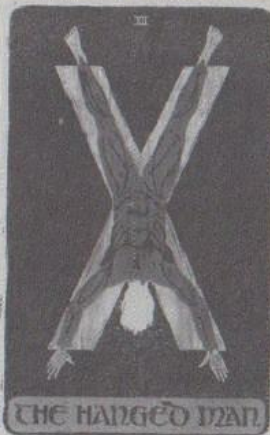
A decision goes in your favor and you are judged fairly, provided you are deserving. You succeed, also, in tests, interviews, and negotiations. Past mistakes or arguments are laid to rest; in all matters, you act according to your conscience and for the higher good. The card also signifies improved finances, support, and good advice. The spiritual aspect of the card sees you connected with divine guidance.

Additional meaning: Signing contracts; legal issues

Reversed Meaning

In the reversed position, you may suffer a miscarriage of justice and be ill treated, or need to accept responsibility for a mistake you made. Overall, there's a theme of unfairness running in relationships and/or work.

﴿ 43 ﴾



XII
THE HANGED MAN

Key meanings: Time, suspension, waiting, transition, protection, reversals, sacrifice

The Bolton sigil is the Hanged Man. While the flayed man evokes the torture of Theon Greyjoy by Ramsay Bolton, it may also symbolize life in suspension. The figure must simply endure a necessary delay before he can move forward. During this wait, he is initiated into a higher level of consciousness. He perceives the world from a different perspective and experiences a powerful rebirth: When Theon

﴿ 44 ﴾

Greyjoy casts off the withering persona of Reek, he reclaims his lost identity and saves Sansa Stark.

The card is numbered XII, which reduces to three, the number of creation. Through the Hanged Man's experience of altered reality, a new future emerges.

Upright Meaning

While the Hanged Man reveals waiting for a decision or change in circumstances, he also invites you to take a different view of the situation, as you could find an ingenious solution. The card also says a sacrifice may be needed to break the stasis and forge ahead. Whatever your decision, you can move forward, enlightened.

Additional meaning: Prophecy, dreams

Reversed Meaning

The reversed card asks you to rethink an objective, as it may be unrealistic. A broader interpretation is wasting your time; you may need to walk away rather than wait much longer for a decision to be made.

﴿ 45 ﴾



XIII
DEATH

Key meanings: Endings, rebirth, loss, transformation, release, truth

Arya Stark is Death personified. A trained assassin, she holds her sword, Needle, a symbol of the lives she has taken to avenge those of her family. Behind her is the Hall of Faces in the House of Black and White: a library of masks, or identities, worn to kill. Through her training with Jaqen H'ghar she considers killing off her old identity, to become "no one." She is released when she affirms her name as

﴿ 46 ﴾

Arya Stark. She is reborn with a stronger sense of self.

As Arya says to Tywin Lannister, "Anyone can be killed." In tarot, Death is the experience of loss and change that may strike at any time and for no reason. It is a necessity, and without it nothing new can grow. The card's number, XIII, reduces to four. The number four stands for order, which comes when Death is done.

Upright Meaning

The card means symbolic death (rather than physical death) and heralds significant change: moving house, a new career, or the demise of a relationship or other ways of living. This ending often happens quickly and is a necessary clearing of the way.

Additional meaning: Seeing the truth

Reversed Meaning

Death reversed holds the same meaning as the upright card, but with it come difficult emotions—anger, regret, shock, stress—and the need to hold on. Try to accept what has occurred and look forward.

﴿ 47 ﴾



XIV
TEMPERANCE

Key meanings: Balance, adjustment, resources, guidance, choices, moderation, reconciliation

Samwell Tarly is Temperance, the card of balance and adjustment. A gentle, cerebral soul, Samwell must quickly adjust to life at Castle Black. He cannot fight, but he finds a protector in Jon Snow, who helps him survive the brutality of training. His mind is his greatest resource. After destroying a White Walker with dragonglass, Samwell turns to books for an explanation. Reading at Castle Black's library, he

﴿ 48 ﴾

discovers that obsidian blades may have protected the Children of the Forest—and therefore have the power to save humankind from the lethal army of the dead. The two candles represent the past and the present. Samwell mines secrets from old books and scrolls that will guide Jon Snow in his defense of Westeros.

The card's number, XIV, reduces to five, the number of tests, adjustment, and choices.

Upright Meaning

You may be managing a huge workload, balancing budgets, or negotiating with demanding people. Carefully assess your priorities, and you will get the balance right. Give others what they need in reasonable measure, but conserve your energy, too; make time to schedule, plan, and care for your own needs. Overall, the card asks you to redress whatever is out of kilter.

Additional meaning: Connecting with guides and angels

Reversed Meaning

When Temperance reverses, you're in danger of becoming emotional overwhelmed as love, career, and money issues cause tension. The card can also show that you're living too much in the past or the future. Pay attention to what you can change now.

﴿ 49 ﴾



XV
THE DEVIL

Key meanings: Temptation, addiction, power, anger, lust, excess, materialism

Ramsay Bolton represents the Devil. As Ser Jorah Mormont says, "There is a beast in every man, and it stirs when you put a sword in his hand." In the case of Ramsay, he is innately cruel with or without an instrument of torture, and he happily corrupts others to act out his sadistic fantasies.

Ramsay stands proud in his chamber of torture. The black chamber signifies oppression and the

darkest aspects of human nature, while the chains show control and dependency. The card's number, XV, reduces to VI, the Lovers. The Devil is fear, the antithesis of love.

Upright Meaning

The Devil reveals an agreement, moral obligation, or relationship that restricts you. The card also stands for materialism and ego, so it can mean feeling enslaved by work or debt, or negative people draining your energy or bank account. It's also the card of addiction: to substances, sex, illicit affairs, or a pattern of victimization—whatever gives you short-term refuge or pleasure but is ultimately damaging. You can, however, be free of this situation.

Additional meaning: A binding contract

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, the card's meaning is hopeful. You recognize that you deserve more than you've been getting, so breaking an agreement or habit may be easier than you think.



XVI
THE TOWER

Key meanings: Destruction, chaos, breakthrough, illumination, revelation, shock

When Bran Stark climbed the decrepit tower at Winterfell to see Jaime Lannister and his twin sister, Cersei, having relations, Jaime pushes Bran out, concluding, "The things I do for love." The Tower represents a construct, the lie of Cersei's marriage to Robert Baratheon and the paternity of her children. Yet, Jaime's cruel actions cannot protect their secret. The old tower of lies is already unstable, the

Lannister-Baratheon power is about to crumble.

In tarot lore, The Tower stands for downfall and the light of truth. Bran sees the truth of the siblings' relationship, which, if known, will bring about destruction. The card's number, XVI, reduces to VII, the Chariot, the card of control. With the Tower, we have no control over events: We suffer and see truth in the wreckage.

Upright Meaning

A shocking event, sudden change, and chaos are the traditional Tower meanings, but you are not responsible. The upside is that you are released from old ways of being or living and awoken to what is now possible. There's an opportunity to learn from the past and create stronger foundations for the future.

Additional meaning: A relationship secret; an intense attraction

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, The Tower suggests self-blame, taking responsibility for events that were beyond your control. You may come to accept that certain aspects of your life had to change at some point; let them go.



XVII
THE STAR

Key meanings: Hope, wishes, healing, creativity, inspiration, guidance

Sansa is the Star, which holds the message of hope. Trapped in Winterfell by her sadistic husband, Ramsay Bolton, Sansa has had the opposite of the fairytale life she imagined: Her parents and brother murdered, she has been imprisoned, beaten, and betrayed. Yet she still has hope and faith that she will be free. Breaking out of her locked chamber, she runs to the Broken Tower and holds a lit candle at

﴿ 54 ﴾

the window, a rescue signal to Brienne of Tarth. The candle flame signifies guidance, which comes in the form of Theon Greyjoy, who leads their escape across a freezing river to safety from Ramsay's vicious hounds.

The card's number, XVII, adds up to eight, the number of change and renewal.

Upright Meaning

The Star asks you to keep the faith, because opportunities and reward will come; you follow a new direction in work, projects, or relationships. Spiritually, the card reveals guidance. You discover your life purpose; for some, this is the ability to heal others and yourself. You may have come through a period of transition and now sense the unfolding of new, creative possibilities. Relationships are harmonious, and if you are looking for love, you are now ready to be with your soul mate.

Additional meaning: Recognition, luck, and money

Reversed Meaning

The Star reversed can mean aloneness and a lack of immediate support. Another interpretation is lack of perseverance; keep believing in yourself and your work until this period of uncertainty passes.

﴿ 55 ﴾



XVIII
THE MOON

Key meanings: Illusion, the unconscious, mystery, deception, uncertainty, dreams, indecision

In the High Hall of the Eyrie, the moon door: a portal to deadly rocks hundreds of feet below, their craters like the surface of the moon itself.

The moon door is a symbol of cruelty, uncertainty and illusion—will we endure or, as Lysa Arryn says to Sansa Stark, be broken “like eggs dropped on the floor?”

﴿ 56 ﴾

The two posts at the bottom of the rim represent the boundary between this world and the unknown realm. There is only one decision, one way to go—to either stand or fall. The moon door is a means of execution which in tarot can be interpreted as the need to execute a decision. This is an internal process—we may need to tunnel through the past to discover truths that will help us go forward.

The card's number, XVIII, reduces to nine, the number of tension and realization.

Upright Meaning

You may feel confused, disappointed, or disillusioned. Emotions run high, and you sense the need for a decision, which feels like a great risk, vulnerable as you are. Ask your intuition to guide you forward and discern what is a real option and what may be fantasy. When you do this, you may discover your true path and the work you were meant to do.

Additional meaning: Dreams, psychology

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, the Moon suggests that buried emotions may be blocking your relationships or creative projects. The card invites you to look at your deepest needs rather than downgrade your expectations to fit what is on offer.

﴿ 57 ﴾



XIX
THE SUN

Key meanings: Optimism, success, achievement, growth, happiness, well-being, vacations, family

The Sun is the astrolabe; with the Westerosi sun at its center, the astrolabe's moving blades tell the story of Westeros and its shifts of power, echoing the ever-turning Wheel of Fortune (see page 40), the wheel that Daenerys Targaryen vows to break. A young Drogon, in peaceful pose, absorbs the sun's radiance. The petal-like sunrays evoke the sunflower, symbol of growth and strength, which

﴿ 58 ﴾

also appears in the urn in this garden. Drogon is sheltered by a stone wall, which signifies protection and sanctuary. Daenerys named her dragon after Khal Drogo, her late husband, whom she called "my sun and stars."

The card's number, XIX, reduces to ten, the number of fulfillment and completion.

Upright Meaning

The Sun is one of the most positive cards in the tarot, signifying happiness, well-being, and an opportunity to bask in your achievements. The card often arises to show a well-deserved vacation and, overall, reaching a point at which you ease up and share precious time with those close to you. The card also favors time with children, nurturing new projects, and conditions that lead to financial success.

Additional meaning: Relationship growth

Reversed Meaning

The Sun, optimistic as it is, has virtually no downside. You may need to wait a little longer to get to your place in the sun, however that translates for you, but otherwise the meaning of the upright card stands.

﴿ 59 ﴾



XX
JUDGEMENT

Key meanings: The past, second chances, memories, guilt, awakening, the soul

Judgement is the Night King, leader of the White Walkers, sapphire-eyed ice warriors who terrorize the living inhabitants of the lands north of the Wall. At the coastal village of Hardhome, the Night King raises his arms turning the Free Folk into wights, an army of the dead who will do his bidding. He demonstrates his power as if saying, "You cannot resist," just as at times, we cannot resist being drawn

﴿ 60 ﴾

into the past. So it is with Judgement: The card means the return of the dead, when what could be buried or burned comes back to life. As Jon Snow says, "The long night is coming, and the dead come with it." The sheer cliffs symbolize danger: the risk of confronting the White Walkers in their freezing, deadly territory.

The card's number XX reduces to two, the number associated with opposites and choices.

Upright Meaning

Judgement often appears in a reading when you are on the brink of change, and with it come memories, dreams of the past, and people reappearing in your life. You may decide to give a situation or relationship a second chance, or otherwise review your behavior and see, at a higher level, the life lessons offered. The card also suggests spiritual awakening, mediumship, and connecting with angels and guides. This is a powerful opportunity to make sense of the past.

Additional meanings: Fame and reputation

Reversed Meaning

When Judgement reverses, the past disrupts the present. You may judge yourself too harshly and feel guilty, or be trapped in old habits or negative relationships. The card can also appear in readings to show the process of grieving.

﴿ 61 ﴾



XXI
THE WORLD

Key meanings: Completion, success, reward, integration, expansion

A map of Westeros is depicted with the creatures of the sigils of houses Stark, Baratheon, Lannister, and Targaryen. The four sigils echo the symbols of the four evangelists on the Rider Waite Smith World card known as the tetramorph (Matthew, the man; Mark the lion; Luke the ox; and John, the eagle). The animals represent the four corners of the Westerosi world.

﴿ 62 ﴾

The card's number, XXI, reduces to three, the number of the Empress: Daenerys Targaryen, who vows to break the cycle of oppression and claim the Seven Kingdoms, fulfilling her destiny. The World is also the final card in the major arcana sequence before we return to 0 and the Fool, who is reborn into a new world.

Upright Meaning

The World represents fulfillment and deserved success. This may be graduation, promotion, the completion of a landmark creative project, or celebrating key anniversaries and birthdays. In relationships and families, love flourishes and brings you joy. The card also heralds a time of expansion as future plans take seed, so you may travel or move into new business and friendship circles. Spiritually, the card suggests oneness with the world.

Additional meanings: Awards and gifts

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, success is delayed. This may be due to perfectionism or clinging to one goal that may not be realistic. You can achieve what you have worked for by letting go of that performance pressure; your reward is waiting for you.

﴿ 63 ﴾

THE MINOR ARCANA

Minor arcana cards are believed to reveal day-to-day events, whereas the major arcana cards (see page 19) denote deeper influences.

The fifty-six minor arcana cards are divided into four suits of fourteen cards, numbered Ace through Ten, plus four court cards: Page, Knight, Queen, and King. The court cards can be people in your life, or situations; a meaning is given for each. Each suit has its own element—Air, Fire, Earth, or Water—that underpins its meaning.

SWORDS

The suit of Swords represents the element of Air, the realm of the mind. The cards denote thoughts, conflict, and decisions. This is the bloodiest suit, which looks at external and internal battles and how they might be resolved.

SPEARS

The suit of Spears's element is Fire, realm of the soul. The cards express passion, intuition, communication, movement, and action. This is perhaps the most positive suit, as it reveals the nature of our desires and creative ambitions.

﴿ 64 ﴾

COINS

The element of the suit of Coins is Earth, the physical realm. These cards link with the body and the material world, so they reflect issues around money, structure, security, home, nature, work, and reward.

CUPS

The suit of Cups takes the element of Water, the realm of emotions. These cards tell us about love, relationships, sensitivity, and the imagination, and how we interact with others.

﴿ 65 ﴾

THE SUIT OF SWORDS



Jon Snow brandishes his sword, Longclaw, with the Wall before him.

ACE OF SWORDS

Key meanings: Beginnings, decisions, insight, success, clarity, the intellect

Upright Meaning

This Ace reveals success and a breakthrough. With determination and clarity of purpose, you get what you want: in work, creative projects, and relationships. Everything changes for the better when this Ace comes into play, but there may be some level of confrontation, too:

Wield that awesome sword with care.

Reversed Meaning

What you hoped for has not materialized—yet. Frustrated by opposition, you may feel like giving up. Garner your willpower, and trust your ideas and take them where they will be appreciated. If a decision goes against you, do not doubt your abilities; keep the faith.



Arya Stark before the House of Black and White holds Needle and the wooden sword she trained with.

TWO OF SWORDS

Key meanings: Procrastination, thinking time, decisions

Upright Meaning

You may cross swords with an opponent or face a problem that cannot be easily resolved. This Two is often a card of procrastination, and you're blind as to which way forward. By all means, take time out to think, but a decision needs to

﴿ 66 ﴾



A dead knight is tended by one of the Silent Sisters, an order devoted to the Stranger, or death.

FOUR OF SWORDS

Key meanings: Refuge, rest, recovery, stress, withdrawal

Upright Meaning

It's time for rest and recuperation after a period of stress. This may mean taking time away from work to recover from physical illness or pressure, or putting a relationship or project on hold until it's time to make a decision. See this as an opportunity to find personal space and perspective. The card can also show time

to reconnect with your spirituality.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed card shows imposed time out. This may create feelings of isolation and even resentment that blur the potential benefits of taking a step back from home, work, or relationships. Don't overthink why you're in this position; instead, accept this as a period of healing or transition.



Bran Stark yields Winterfell to Theon Greyjoy.

FIVE OF SWORDS

Key meanings: Conflict, loss, defeat, exposure

Upright Meaning

This Five shows loss and even humiliation in a war of words. And there's an edge of cruelty, too, as your opponent seems to take pleasure in your defeat. The card can signify fighting with institutions, within families, at work, or within

﴿ 68 ﴾

be made, and soon. You need a workable solution, not a perfect one.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed Two shows being deceived, and the possibility of self-deception as you convince yourself nothing is amiss. Investigate the situation for yourself, and be prepared for resistance; it's likely that a professional or love partner believes their own story.



Three swords pierce the flaming heart of P'hllor. The central sword is Oathkeeper, used by Brienne of Tarth to kill Stannis Baratheon.

THREE OF SWORDS

Key meanings: Pain, suffering, sorrow, betrayal

Upright Meaning

The sword hilts represent Houses Stark, Lannister, and Baratheon: three warring factions. The suffering heart symbolizes the impact of a revelation: sorrow, betrayal and heartbreak, the card's meaning. You may see a painful truth, but you will know exactly where you stand from now on. An additional meaning is intense stress and the need to strike at the heart of a problem.

Reversed Meaning

In the reversed Three, heartbreak is accompanied by quarreling, drama, and disorder. At the very least, you are able to put difficult feelings into words, venting frustration, sadness, and anger as you move on from shock.

﴿ 67 ﴾

other group situations, rather than one-to-one combat. It's clear that this battle is not worth continuing; withdraw now with dignity rather than suffer more harsh treatment.

Reversed Meaning

In the reversed position, this five shows that the battle was not worth having at all, because its premise is a lie. You may have been falsely accused, scapegoated, or bullied. You'll soon see where the real incompetence lies.



Arya seeks refuge from the chaos of Westeros in Braavos.

SIX OF SWORDS

Key meanings: Safety, peace, moving on

Upright Meaning

The upright Six shows you that it's time to move on after a time of stress and conflict. You may take a physical trip away, step back from a stressful environment, or shift your perspective to find peace within. Overall, this card reassures you that order will return. You may also make a valuable discovery that offers a new perspective on the past.

Reversed Meaning

Much as you need to escape pressure, unresolved issues block the way. Are you looking in the right place for answers? Drop that fixation on one outcome and you'll see a way forward, even if that means waiting a while longer before you can act.

﴿ 69 ﴾



Samwell Tarly steals Heartsbane from his father Randyll, defying his claim that Sam would never possess it.

SEVEN OF SWORDS

Key meanings: Dishonesty, theft, transgression, mistrust

Upright Meaning

This Seven, the tarot's "thief" card, asks you to protect your ideas, home and possessions, and even your relationship, from opportunists. While the card can also indicate legal issues and business malpractice, more generally, it reveals an atmosphere of mistrust and the need for vigilance. Keep your wits about you and guard what is rightfully yours.

Reversed Meaning

If you're able to "think smart," it's still possible to get one step ahead of an aggressor rather than fall into victimhood. Two Swords are untouched, showing that you have resources. You might need to resort to deviousness to defend your position.



Brienne of Tarth, captured by Locke's men before she and Jaime Lannister, are delivered to Harrenhal.

EIGHT OF SWORDS

Key meanings: Overthinking, restriction, incapacity

Upright Meaning

This Eight, the tarot's restriction card, shows you hemmed in by your thoughts. You may feel forced to fulfill an obligation or to conform to an ideal that isn't you (which may be self-imposed). See your situation from a different perspective, and you will see the route out. An additional meaning is hitting a relationship roadblock.



The aftermath of Jon Snow's assassination by brothers of the Night's Watch at Castle Black.

TEN OF SWORDS

Key meanings: Finality, truth, endings

Upright Meaning

A bond is broken: This Ten is the card of endings. The evidence is unmistakable, the decision final. Although you may be shocked or confused, with hindsight you will see that this situation had been building for some time. The upside is that all the surrounding tension has disappeared, making way for you to move on up.

Reversed Meaning

In the reversed position, the meaning of the upright card stands, but the ending is protracted, and there may be more anxiety, regret, or conflict to get through before you're able to let go.



One of the Sons of the Harpy, the masked insurgents fighting the anti-slavery decree of Daenerys Targaryen.

PAGE OF SWORDS

Key meanings: News, contracts, vigilance

Upright Meaning

As a person, the Page is a young individual, male or female, who is witty, clever, and contrary. Applied to a situation, he represents vigilance. You may have contracts and documents to arrange or sign for property, travel, finances, or other agreements, so

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, negative thinking runs riot, and there's an element of panic. You may be attacking yourself with your own thoughts or perceptions of reality, and there may also be anger, guilt, or shame that you're in this situation. Don't blame; forgive yourself and walk on.



Grey Wind, Robb Stark's dire wolf, caged at the Frey stronghold.

NINE OF SWORDS

Key meanings: Anxiety, stress, disruption, insomnia

Upright Meaning

Being mentally overwhelmed, fear, and stress are the traditional meanings of this tense Nine. You could be struggling to process one recent event, feel anxious about the future, or be locked in a pattern of anxious thinking.

Additional meanings include whatever else disturbs sleep, such as nightmares, insomnia, or physical discomfort.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed card can signify difficult emotions along with stress: guilt, despair, or a sense of victimhood. This dark night of the soul is soon over, however, bringing recovery and peace of mind.



Ramsay Bolton on his horse, after the massacre of the Ironborn at Moat Cailin.

KNIGHT OF SWORDS

Key meanings: Drama, stress, conflict, change

Upright Meaning

As an individual, this Knight is bold and determined. He has charisma but lacks finesse. Applied to a situation, he stands for sudden drama and conflict, and he often reveals relationship stress, family discord, or other personal challenges to be overcome.

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, the Knight is the anti-hero who creates drama for its own sake; he does not fight with conviction or for a genuine goal. Applied to a situation, he represents empty promises, so beware of those who try a little too hard to appear invincible.



Queen Regent Cersei Lannister seated on the iron throne in the Red Keep's Great Hall.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Key meanings: Single-mindedness, strength, intelligence, insight

Upright Meaning

The queen—smart, charismatic and wise—is an ally up to a point, but she ultimately puts herself first. Applied to a situation, she advises you to trust your intelligence and insights. The card often comes up in readings to show strength of character, and it can stand for single parents and single women.

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, the insightful queen turns attacker, using cruel words to wound. Applied to a situation, you may have to deal with a ruthless individual. The card can also suggest that it's time to step away from toxic environments rather than lose your head.



The Night King in the circle of standing stones of ice beyond the Wall.

KING OF SWORDS

Key meanings: Ambition, decisions, order, justice

Upright Meaning

Fiercely intelligent, this King is a decision maker and leader. He is highly strategic and, if necessary, ruthless. When applied to a situation, the card stands for mind power, decisions, and justice (and especially legal decisions). His arrival in a reading often means that an intense work phase is almost done.



The wedding vows of the Faith of the Seven with the seven-pointed star.

TWO OF CUPS

Key meanings: Partnership, relationships, love, agreements, creativity

Upright Meaning

A partnership is sealed, so this Two expresses happiness, passion, harmony, and love agreements, and often reveals moving in together, engagements, and weddings. In established relationships and friendships, too, you sense a karmic connection. Creative partnerships flourish: You respect and support each other.

Reversed Meaning

The Two reversed indicates secrets and doubt as a relationship stalls. There may be commitment issues on either side, and poor communication; a lack of trust sets in. Let your intuition guide you now, rather than let past wounds play out.



The cups of Tyrion Lannister, Grey Worm, and Missandei; Tyrion is about to demonstrate joke telling.

THREE OF CUPS

Key meanings: Celebration, friendship, indulgence, replenishment

Upright Meaning

It's a time for socializing and much-needed fun, as this Three offers food, wine, dancing, and talking into the small hours at parties, family celebrations or get-togethers with friends. Feeling the love, you're emotionally replenished and reenergized. Such is the vivacity of this Three, you may even indulge in some lighthearted flirting.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed King, self-centered and power-hungry, controls others through fear. Applied to a situation, you may be criticized unfairly or put under huge pressure to deliver a near-impossible goal. The card can also show conflict with authority figures, legal problems, a corruption of power, and, in relationships, mind games.

THE SUIT OF CUPS



King Joffrey's wedding chalice, given to Joffrey and Margaery Tyrell by her father, Maester.

ACE OF CUPS

Key meanings: Beginnings, love, creativity, flow, healing

Upright Meaning

The Ace reveals love and self-expression: falling in love, pregnancy, and motherhood are common meanings, or finding the inspiration to begin a new creative venture. Whatever you hope for begins, and you're in the flow; there are also opportunities for spiritual growth and healing. Love is given, shared, and returned in fullness.

Reversed Meaning

Emotions are suppressed or run out of control, so you may feel blocked, neglected, or overwhelmed as new love or projects don't progress. Often, the reversed Ace reflects imagined insecurity about the future. As the cup can suddenly overturn, so this situation can right itself.



Sansa Stark, sitting despondently under the Winterfell Heart Tree, hears Petyr Baelish's plans for their life together should he take the Iron Throne.

FOUR OF CUPS

Key meanings: Hesitation, despondency, dissatisfaction, restlessness

Upright Meaning

The Four reveals listlessness and hesitation: You may feel doubt or even cynicism when offered love or a work opportunity. Generally, you may be low on energy and motivation, and withdraw into a kind of restless apathy. If you are in an established relationship, rekindle the romance.

Reversed Meaning

In the reversed position, dissatisfaction becomes acute. You may feel drained and want change, but you do not know how to find it. An additional meaning is being blind to your negative thinking.



In her chamber at the Red Keep, Cersei Lannister mourns the loss of her children.

FIVE OF CUPS

Key meanings: Loss, sadness, grief

Upright Meaning

This Five is the sadness card; often it comes up for a relationship breakup or other personal loss, including loss of work, money, or reputation. The card can also show old sorrows resurfacing. Another interpretation is dealing with bereavement. Although three cups of happiness are overturned, two remain upright: Take what you can from this experience, as there is hope for the future.

Reversed Meaning

This Five is one of the a few minor cards with a more positive reversed meaning, as it reveals acceptance and recovery from grief or disappointment. The card can also herald friends coming back into your circle. You're moving on.



At Winterfell after the Battle of the Bastards Jon and Sansa, now reunited, reminisce about their childhoods.

SIX OF CUPS

Key meanings: Nostalgia, reunion, harmony, childhood

Upright Meaning

The Six is the card of the visitor from the past. An individual comes back into your life, offering friendship and affection while helping you appreciate both the past and the present. Equally, you may find that your past learning and experience feeds a new creative idea or project.



Jon Snow walks away from Castle Black, declaring, "My watch has ended."

EIGHT OF CUPS

Key meanings: Departures, change, resolution

Upright Meaning

The Eight represents change as you turn away from an established relationship, friendship, job, or other commitment. This may be a difficult decision, but intuitively you know it's right and, for this reason, you move on when you see the signs rather than wait for its ending.

This may mean detaching yourself emotionally from a relationship that cannot develop. You depart quietly, without drama.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed Eight shows poor judgement: You walk away too soon or stay too long in a relationship or situation that's effectively over. An additional meaning is being abandoned by a partner or friend or, at work, being unfairly criticized.



Samwell Tarly, sitting under nine cups at the Library at the Citadel, the seat of the Order of Maesters.

NINE OF CUPS

Key meanings: Wishes, reward, happiness, sharing

Upright Meaning

This Nine is the tarot's wish-come-true card: You not only manifest what you desire, but you also get to enjoy it. It's a time of abundance, growth, reward, affection, laughter, and new connections as relationships and new ventures

However this card manifests for you, the past will have an important bearing on the future.

Reversed Meaning

When the Six reverses, you may just get lost in nostalgia, taking refuge in memories or becoming drawn into other people's histories and unresolved issues. Don't reminisce for too long.



Iron Stark, warring, sees visions of past and future events in seven cups.

SEVEN OF CUPS

Key meanings: Mystery, possibility, fantasy, imagination

Upright Meaning

Your imagination is on overdrive just now, and you do not yet have the information you need to make a decision; everything feels up in the air. You may need to make a choice without knowing the facts, but you have your intuition to guide you. An additional meaning is imagination, dreams, and visions.

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, you may be deceiving yourself or falling for someone else's fantastical dreams and schemes. There is no concrete offer here; you are hearing only half the story. An alternative meaning is feeling overwhelmed by choice.

flourish. You share your rewards; all are welcome at your table.

Reversed Meaning

Delays, disconnection, and desperation are the unfortunate messages of the reversed card. Refocus and put personal relationships above the need to succeed. Alternatively, you may be eclipsed by someone else's showy success.



Ten candles burn in the cozy bedchamber of Eddard and Catelyn Stark at Winterfell. Each cup represents a member of their family.

TEN OF CUPS

Key Meanings: Joy, togetherness, love, achievement

Upright Meaning

This Ten denotes love, contentment, and the spirit of togetherness: Relationships, group activities, and children thrive as you enter a phase of emotional and financial security. Old tensions and arguments dissolve, long-term projects come to fruition, and you may even find your dream home. The card can also show another child coming into the family.

Reversed Meaning

When the Ten reverses, there's a sense of disconnection: An issue can't be discussed or resolved, a friendship goes cold, or someone disrupts your usually happy home. Often the card comes up to show fear of change in established relationships.



At Winterfell, Bran Stark holds a cup with a wave symbol. The fish completes the sigil of Tully, his mother's House.

PAGE OF CUPS

Key meanings: News, fun, opportunities

Upright Meaning

As an individual, this Page is a sensitive, imaginative young person; he or she may also be psychic. Applied to a situation, the card heralds a creative phase, plus surprise social opportunities and friendships. Meeting the Page is also a sign that a new relationship is on the horizon.

There is also good news about children and projects.

Reversed Meaning

As a person, the reversed Page needs attention and often acts out because he or she cannot communicate their feelings. Applied to a situation, talk does not lead to action, so projects falter. You may feel distant from friends or lovers.



Ser Loras Tyrell, in full regalia, about to face Gregor "the Mountain" Clegane in The Hand's tournament at King's Landing.

KNIGHT OF CUPS

Key meanings: Promises, ideals, invitations

Upright Meaning

Romantic and idealistic, this knight may enchant you, so this card can show the possibility of new love. This knight loves being the lover: Equally, you may project onto him or her the dreamy qualities you ideally want. Wait before you commit.

Applied to a situation, there's a proposal



Jon Snow, declared King in the North at Winterfell in a vote of confidence lead by Lady Lyanna Mormont.

KING OF CUPS

Key Meanings: Steadiness, warmth, resolution, emotions

Upright Meaning

This King is often an advisor, academic, artist or business person, and in tarot generally represents the ideal male partner. Kind and charismatic, he is sensitive to others, but his inability to deal with his own strong emotions means he can appear distant. Applied to a situation, take a balanced view in order to heal a dispute. Also, be reassured that you can manage your emotions when the pressure is on.

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, the King denies his emotions, so his behavior may become blaming and destructive. Applied to a situation, the card reveals a creative block, or feeling blocked because those around you will not address a vital issue.

or an invitation for you, but assess carefully what is on offer.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed Knight is a beautiful narcissist. He cannot be trusted, leaving you confused when his words do not match his actions. Ultimately, he puts himself first while appearing to be courteous. Applied to a situation, you are unlikely to get the commitment you need.



A reflective moment for Sansa Stark before the approach of Margaery Tyrell at the godswood, King's Landing.

QUEEN OF CUPS

Key meanings: Sensitivity, compassion, emotional intelligence

Upright Meaning

As a person, this Queen is a sensitive woman of high emotional intelligence who nurtures her relationships; she often symbolizes the ideal friend or romantic partner. Applied to a situation, the card shows you're in touch with your emotions, and that it is safe to follow your heart and to explore your creative potential. You'll also receive the support you need just now.

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, this Queen thrives on drama and attention, and enjoys fueling others' emotional discord. She may appear giving, but her company is draining. Applied to a situation, she shows that your feelings may not be reciprocated.

THE SUIT OF SPEARS



The spear of Oberyn Martell, Red Viper of Dorne. The viper appears on his sword hilt.

ACE OF SPEARS

Key meanings: Beginnings, drive, desire, ideas, fertility

Upright Meaning

Fiery energy, inspiration, and communication are the gifts of this Ace: It is a great omen of success for new work, businesses, creative ventures, and travel. Clear purpose and drive achieve your desires. As the spear is a symbol of male virility, the card can also show starting a family. An additional meaning is commitment from a male partner.

Reversed Meaning

False starts, creative blocks, miscommunication, and fertility issues are possible interpretations of the reversed Ace. Overall, there's a gap between a wish and a goal. In love, you may be spending time away from a partner.



Daenerys Targaryen appraises the city of Meereen from the balcony of the Great Pyramid.

TWO OF SPEARS

Key meanings: Partnership, plans, choices, travel

Upright Meaning

The Two reveals a choice. If you are ready to leave the security of your castle, it's time to visualize the possibilities and make a plan. Partnerships are favored now, too, and you have support around you. The two spears can also represent a portal into the spiritual realms and, overall, a leap into exciting new territory.

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, the Two can show an unreliable partner. In work, you may be underappreciated, and others don't listen to your ideas. You may need to look elsewhere for kindred spirits.



Petyr Baelish observes sailing ships from a cliff-top before the Battle of the Blackwater Bay.

THREE OF SPEARS

Key meanings: Travel, action, manifestation, success, quirkiness

Upright Meaning

You are very close to your destination, and your wish is manifesting now. This Three reveals success and self-expression, so dreams begin to take form. A new project, romance, or trip materializes, and the card can also predict a wedding. An additional interpretation is celebrating your

uniqueness through creative projects or sports: Let that quirky talent shine.

Reversed Meaning

You may need to simplify your goals just now. Communication has become complicated and may even break down, leaving you feeling unsupported or isolated. This is however, just a glitch; keep going.



At the lush arboretum of the Red Keep, a canopy of celebration flowers.

FOUR OF SPEARS

Key meanings: Establishment, reward, love, friendship, celebration

Upright Meaning

The Four symbolizes celebration, reward for your work and in relationships, or a declaration of love. The card also favors friendship and group activities, and you feel more settled in your career and home life. There's also a sense of childlike freedom that comes with this card, so you may return to a childhood place or home, or find a dream property.

Reversed Meaning

When the card reverses, the good things in life can seem just out of reach. This may be because you're the outsider and can't, or do not wish to, fit in with a group that is too conventional for you.



Five Unsullied, sparring in an arena in front of the Great Pyramid.

FIVE OF SPEARS

Key meanings: Tests, competition, interviews, opinions, pride

Upright Meaning

This Five shows tests, and often differences of opinion. You'll need persistence to win and perhaps even to be heard. It is important that you present your case eloquently. At home, too, you may be dealing with strong personalities and find it hard to tell your side of the story. On the upside, these are skirmishes, not serious battles.

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, success and progress are halted; the card often indicates being passed over in interviews, or a project that meets with initial approval is rejected. An additional meaning is deception.



A triumphant Daenerys Targaryen rides out from Astapor with the recently freed Unsullied.

SIX OF SPEARS

Key meanings: Success, acknowledgement, prizes, self-confidence

Upright Meaning

Take a well-deserved bow: The harmonious Six shows appreciation and success. You are recognized and rewarded for your work or your community, educational, or sporting achievements. This card answers "yes" if your question was, "Will I pass my examinations/win this award?" The card shows self-confidence and, in relationships, feeling high on love.

Reversed Meaning

Rewards are delayed when the Six reverses, but be patient: While you wait, you may discover alternative ways to make progress. The reversed card can also suggest that you're overly sensitive to other's opinions just now.



An Unsullied is outnumbered, but holds his ground against the Sons of the Harpy in Meereen.

SEVEN OF SPEARS

Key meanings: Challenges, negotiation, advocacy, anticipation

Upright Meaning

Endurance and opposition are the meanings of this Seven. The card suggests you hold your ground through tough negotiations as you fight off a competitor, defend your ideas, or push back one too many demands. The positive aspect, however, is that you see the challenge and take action before the situation gets out of control. Persevere.

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, your efforts seem wasted, as you can't make progress. The issues may be too complex and the demands on your time too great. Save your strength for a contest you can win.



Eight Dornish spears fly past the tent in Dorne.

EIGHT OF SPEARS

Key meanings: Travel, news, speed, communication

Upright Meaning

This Eight is the tarot “go” card, because it symbolizes opportunities to connect, travel, create, and be inspired. Stuck projects get moving and problems dissolve during this exciting, frenetic phase, but be mindful of your energy—you don’t

have to say yes to every invitation. In relationships, the Eight shows love news, and you may be traveling to see a partner.

Reversed Meaning

When this Eight reverses, travel is delayed and professional and personal projects go on hold, so you may need to find an alternative approach. In relationships, a partner or friend’s lack of or miscommunication causes temporary confusion.



Jon Snow’s determined army, confronted by a Bolton wall of shields, spears aloft.

NINE OF SPEARS

Key meanings: Defense, determination, strength, boundaries, creative tension

Upright Meaning

You’re in a strong position, defended rather than defensive, but hard work is taking its toll. You may feel exhausted by the sheer effort it’s taken to get to this point.

The card can also show keeping ideas to yourself because you fear criticism or a build-up of tension in creative projects.



A young Unsullied takes a moment to look at a bird in flight on the outskirts of Meereen.

PAGE OF SPEARS

Key meanings: Good news, creativity, ideas, friendship

Upright Meaning

As a person, the Page is a young individual, male or female, who is enthusiastic and talkative. Applied to a situation, the card means good news and often shows a young situation, such as a project in development, particularly in writing and the arts. You may connect with old friends to talk about new ideas, so this is a creative, sociable time.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed Page can show a young person struggling to write, read, or talk.

Applied to a situation, the card often shows negative conversations, or ideas that sound great but come to nothing.



Jaime Lannister prepares to charge the steps of the Sept to rescue Margaery Tyrell from her scheduled Walk of Atonement.

KNIGHT OF SPEARS

Key meanings: Passion, desire, progress, travel

Upright Meaning

The Knight is dynamic, creative, and driven. Applied to a situation, he shows speed and action, so you make real progress. You may travel physically or find that a stuck situation is suddenly freed up. Exciting new projects, a new job, and even a whirlwind romance are possible now. This knight often appears in readings to show moving home.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed card shows obstinacy, which maybe appropriate if you’re defending your values, but often, it’s more about resentment and feeling overworked. An additional meaning is boundary issues, such as problems with neighbors.



A man transports ten lances of a King’s Landing journey. Banners fly for House Stark and Clegane.

TEN OF SPEARS

Key meanings: Feeling overwhelmed, work, burdens, guilt, martyrdom

Upright Meaning

The Ten is the card of burdens. You’re carrying so much responsibility that you have lost sight of your purpose, been caught up in others’ demands, or put yourself under pressure to perform. Prioritize tasks now and ask for support, and you can succeed. The card also shows carrying guilt from the past. If this is your first card in a spread, you may be too distracted to receive a reading just now.

Reversed Meaning

In the reversed position, the burdens are more imagined than real, so you’re in danger of becoming a martyr; you’re giving away your time and energy way too easily.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed Knight is ruled by his ego. He often avoids hard work but wants the glory of success. Applied to a situation, the card indicates blocked communication, leading to misunderstandings or mislaid messages. There may also be frustration because of delays in travel plans or projects. In relationships, a new romance gets hot, then burns out.



As Queen of Meereen, Daenerys Targaryen presides over the recently reopened Meereen fighting tournament.

QUEEN OF SPEARS

Key meanings: Creativity, expression, focus, energy, empowerment

Upright Meaning

This talkative Queen has a passionate, fiery nature; she is authentic and driven. A creative, intuitive soul, she often works in arts, communications, or administration. Applied to a situation, she invites you to express yourself. The card also shows strong relationships, energy, and growth.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed card often shows a person who thrives on chaos, and who is usually the cause of it. Applied to a situation, relationships suffer because of interference from third parties, and in general there’s much talk and little positive resolution.



KING OF SPEARS

Key meanings: Honor, freedom, openness, inspiration

Upright Meaning

This king is engaging, charismatic, and passionate about what he does. He might be in a business start-up, communications, the arts, or the travel industry; whatever his position, he upholds high standards. Applied to a situation, a lightbulb moment offers a way to create and financial freedom.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed King can be domineering and conceited. Applied to a situation, you could be feeling restricted or undermined. You may sense you're being controlled and oppressed at work, and in personal relationships you resent being overruled by a partner or family member.

Eddard Stark rests by a weirwood tree at Winterfell after killing a deserter from the Wall.

THE SUIT OF COINS



ACE OF COINS

Key meanings: Beginnings, prosperity, winning, business, property

Upright Meaning

This Ace symbolizes money, success, or other achievement. You may receive money via new work, or receive a windfall or gift that will sustain you in your future goals. Additional meanings include a new property, founding a new enterprise, and a stable relationship. Overall, the card reveals financial security and contentment.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed card can show a false start:

You may not get the work or investment you expect, or you are not paid for work you do. Additional meanings include materialism and financial mistakes, so it might be best to avoid making money decisions just now.

The iron coin given to Arya Stark by Jaqen H'ghar, one of the Faceless Men of Braavos. The coin and words "valar morghulis" ensure her safe passage.



TWO OF COINS

Key meanings: Resources, balance, tension, decisions

Upright Meaning

The Two denotes the tension between two forces. It often reveals cash-flow issues or the need to choose where to live, work, or study when faced with two strong options. The message is consistency and attention to detail to keep money flowing, and to make choices

based on what is practical rather than ideal. An additional meaning is news via letter or email.

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, the card shows financial hardship and lack. This may be down to poor budgeting, unexpected expenses, or irresponsible actions such as gambling. An additional meaning is investing too much time or money in a project or partnership.

The unofficial Lannister motto: "A Lannister always pays his debts."



THREE OF COINS

Key meanings: Projects, property, acclaim, early success

Upright Meaning

Your good work gets attention, so projects and other enterprises receive praise and support. This creates a shift in how others see you, so be prepared for congratulations, and maybe a touch of envy, as you successfully complete a key phase that sets you up for the future. The card also favors

At Septon Ray's hillside settlement, a new Sept.



FOUR OF COINS

Key meanings: Improvement, money, security, materialism

Upright Meaning

Hard work brings benefits, and you feel satisfied with what you have. You might gain permanent employment, invest in a new home or business, or otherwise find financial security. There's an alternative meaning to this card, however, which is an overprotective, materialistic attitude: Value what you have, but don't cling to the coin.

A banker from the Iron Bank of Braavos holds four Braavosi coins.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed card shows insecurity. This might be because you cannot find regular employment, a reorganization at work moves you away from promotion, or, more generally, you're finding it tough to save or hold onto money just now.



Arya Stark, blind and begging on the streets of Braavos. Beside her is the wooden staff the Waif throws to her before they enter combat.

FIVE OF COINS

Key meanings: Fear, poverty, lack, tests

Upright Meaning

You may be feeling poor or isolated emotionally, but this card comes up most for poverty consciousness: the belief that you'll never have what you need, or, when you get it, that you can't trust it. You have more resources than you realize, however, and just like the five coins behind you, help is within reach.

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, the card can show that your security is at risk. Relationship breakups have a financial impact, or someone withholds money or love. An additional meaning is hoarding, and ignoring money and relationship problems.



In Meeeen, Yarys persuades a destitute woman that Tyrion's coin is a gift for her baby.

SIX OF COINS

Key meanings: Gifts, support, generosity, receiving

Upright Meaning

The Six is a feel-good card. You're either able to be generous to others, helping out friends or making a charitable donation, or you're the one receiving money, perhaps as an award or bonus. An additional interpretation is giving your time to help a good cause, or receiving practical support. You give or receive with grace.



A King's Landing blacksmith, working through the night, hammers his Faith of the Seven shields to perfection.

EIGHT OF COINS

Key meanings: Apprenticeship, perfection, reward

Upright Meaning

This Eight is often called the "apprentice" card, because it's about education and skill: It shows you successfully finishing a task or course of learning, and completing work to a high standard. The card often comes up in readings to mark the end of a degree or diploma course, a probationary period at work, or a phase of creativity and craftsmanship. Your work brings you financial reward.

Reversed Meaning

When reversed, you may find yourself chasing the dollar but hating the work you do. An additional meaning is being or working with people who don't share your values, or choosing a course that isn't right for you in the long term.



Daenerys Targaryen holds one of her young dragons in a fruit-laden garden in Qarth.

NINE OF COINS

Key meanings: Fulfillment, comfort, prosperity, focus

Upright Meaning

This Nine symbolizes satisfaction and prosperity. Financial worries are over, projects get completed, and your efforts bring material benefits, including the finer things in life.

Reversed Meaning

When the Six reverses, money comes, but it goes out just as quickly because of debt or even theft. An additional meaning is money with strings attached; if you do not like the conditions, it may be best to reject the offer.



A King's Landing gardener contemplates seven Tyrell coins on a rose bush. The House Tyrell words are "growing strong."

SEVEN OF COINS

Key meanings: Potential, effort, expansion, results

Upright Meaning

The Seven shows potential success. If you expected better results by now, don't spend too long analyzing if you are in the right business or have made the right choices: This Seven shows you will succeed eventually. The key is to keep going and put in consistent effort, even when the work is tedious. Don't turn back.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed card shows that it is time for a rethink: Change your approach and renegotiate terms, or decide that this project or relationship is not worth further input. Procrastinate no longer.

You feel happy and at home with yourself, and any past sacrifices you have made feel worthwhile. Additional meanings include redecorating and yard or garden projects.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed card can show property disputes, overspending, and materialism. This may be down to you, or because a partner is irresponsible with money. You may need to protect your home at this time.



In the garden of King's Landing, the wedding table, adorned with Tyrell rose coins, awaits King Joffrey and Margaery Tyrell.

TEN OF COINS

Key meanings: Wealth, happiness, consolidation, family, marriage

Upright Meaning

This joyful Ten shows consolidating wealth and sharing love, so the card's meanings include relationship commitment, marriage, wedding gifts, inheritance, strong ties across the generations, and a close friendship circle. Relationships and investments mature. Additional meanings include good advice from an older person and finding your dream home.

Reversed Meaning

In the reversed position, there's a clash of values between generations, or old and new. Children rebel, or older family members appear too controlling. The card can also show arguments over property, and money getting in the way of love.



PAGE OF COINS

Key meanings: Income opportunities, good news, details

Upright Meaning

As a person, the Page is a young, plain-talking individual, male or female, who is reliable and diligent. Applied to a situation, the card reveals good news about money, income through a new job or project, or a property offer. It's also time to deal with tax returns, and to check your schedules. Time is money.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed Page is self-centered and puts his or her needs first. Applied to a situation, there may be overspending and debt and, at the least, being taken for granted. Often, the card shows you as the victim as your generosity is abused, but whatever the cause, you will need to ensure this situation doesn't repeat.



Lady Brienne of Tarth begins her journey along the Kingsroad to find and protect Sansa Stark.

KNIGHT OF COINS

Key meanings: Loyalty, investment, growth

Upright Meaning

This Knight has plans—and lots of potential. While she or he may not be the most imaginative of souls, she or he is dedicated, loyal, and steadfast. Applied to a situation, the card represents long-term growth and commitment to a goal. The card asks you to examine how you might succeed financially in future. What seeds can you sow?



Lord Petyr Baelish, Master of Coin of the Small Council, holding a coin from the Iron Bank.

KING OF COINS

Key meanings: Wealth, stability, support, generosity, reward

Upright Meaning

This King's concerns are money and possessions. Generous and reliable, he offers material comfort and protection. He may work in building and property, agriculture, or banking. Applied to a situation, he symbolizes money and security, loyalty in love, and problems solved. An additional meaning is finding profitable work, and receiving financial sponsorship or gifts.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed King is obsessed with money; at his worst, he is corrupt. Applied to a situation, the card advises you to avoid debt and to carefully check financial contracts. Alternatively, you may take a stand against materialism in some way, perhaps by following a more spiritually rewarding path.

Reversed Meaning

The reversed Knight can be negative and selfish, expecting you to do all the giving. Applied to a situation, you may be misled, so check all agreements before you sign.



Lady Olenna Tyrell on the terrace at King's Landing, where she coaxes Sansa Stark to reveal Joffrey Baratheon's cruelty.

QUEEN OF COINS

Key meanings: Affection, love, fertility, abundance, help

Upright Meaning

Generous and highly intelligent, this queen appreciates life's natural pleasures. She enjoys work that is hands on and that directly benefits others, from cooking and gardening to environmental work and public office. Applied to a situation, the card signifies fertile ideas and financial support, and can predict love, marriage, and pregnancy.

An additional meaning is a close relationship with animals and nature.

Reversed Meaning

In the reversed position, the Queen flails between meanness and extravagance, and may use bribery. As a situation, the card shows misuse of funds: You suffer from another person's overspending or debts otherwise go unpaid. A close friend or partner proves unsupportive or miserly.

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