



The Harry Potter Tarot

Introduction

The Harry Potter Tarot is a working tarot deck of 78 cards: 22 major arcana, 40 pip cards and 16 court cards. With respect to its tradition it is indebted to the Rider-Waite and the Crowley-Harris tarots. Users of Rider-Waite will recognize the naming of the major arcana “Strength” and “Judgment” which I moved back from Crowley’s designations as “Lust” and “The Aeon”. I also restored the elementary allocations of the court cards with the Kings being assigned Fire, the Queens Earth, the Princes Air and the Princesses Water. Crowley gives Fire to the Knights, Water to the Queens, the Princes have Air and the Princesses are assigned Earth.

The designations of the court cards reflect neither Rider-Waite nor Crowley completely, but a mix of both. I kept Crowley’s Princesses to have a gender balance of two males and two females rather than the male or sex-less Page of other traditional decks, but the King and Queen are the traditional seated parent figures rather than Crowley’s youthful usurping Knights on their horses.

For the pip-cards I kept with Crowley’s tradition to give the cards names such as “Illusion”, “Victory” or “Gain”, in order to allow a reader to gain quick access to the general meaning of the card. I also kept Crowley’s astrological correspondences for the cards: the major arcana have either an elementary, planetary or zodiac symbol drawn on them, and the pip cards have both a planetary and a zodiac emblem.

The card descriptions give a quick overview of correspondences and key-words for speedy reference. For more in-depth explanation, the meaning of the card is next explained in more detail, and finally in “Exploring the Card” I give an introduction into the particular iconography of the card, into why a certain motif or person was chosen for the card and how that relates to the subject-matter of the Harry Potter novels.



The Major Arcana

0 – The Fool

Correspondences	Air
Keywords	Curiosity, new beginnings, open-mindedness, innocence, excitement, joy of life, exploration, fearlessness, lack of caution, recklessness
Meaning	The card, opening the sequence of major arcana, is the Fool. It stands for beginnings, for wide-eyed curiosity and the way a child would see the world, full of wonder and oblivious to danger. The Fool signifies starting a new project or letting go of prejudices and taking a fresh and unbiased look at the facts. There is a certain danger of recklessness and lack of caution, but most fools seem to have a rather alert guardian angel.
Exploring the Card	The traditional card shows a young man in gaudy clothes with a knapsack striding forward, oblivious to the fact he's stepping over the rim of an abyss. A dog follows him while another animal - with Crowley it's a crocodile - tries to bite him from the back. The fool for this deck is Colin Creevy. His knapsack is his camera, where he's storing his marvelous experiences at school. His wide-eyed and innocent enthusiasm makes him step into all sorts of dangers, he follows Harry around like a little dog, and still, until DH at least, his innocence also keeps him safe, as when his camera saves him from being killed by the eyes of the basilisk. Crowley's crocodile has become the monster rearing up behind him, and the abyss has been morphed into a harmless flight of steps...

I – The Magus

Correspondences	Mercury
Keywords	Will, consciousness, control, influence of the material world through domination and inventiveness, self-realization, moving ideas into action, the power of rational directed thought, transformation, individuality, creativity
Meaning	The Magus is the conscious, individual human being taking control of his environment symbolized in the traditional decks by the four elements. The bandwidth of control can reach from cheating trickery – sometimes this card is called “The Juggler” – to all-powerful transformation, and the Magus becomes the Mercury of the alchemists. The Magus shows the hero at the beginning of his quest, ready to take charge of his journey and his development.
Exploring the Card	In the books, Harry is faced with the quest of fighting and eventually destroying his nemesis Voldemort, and so instead of placing him behind the traditional table, holding the symbols for the four suites and the four elements, he is instead surrounded by the individual pieces of Voldemort’s soul, which he needs to find and break: Nagini, Ravenclaw’s tiara, Hufflepuff’s cup, Slytherin’s locket, Tom



Riddle's diary, the deathly hallow of the stone and finally the scar on his forehead. Striking a defensive pose, Harry is ready to take on his challenge and enter into his adventure.

II – The High Priestess

Correspondences	The Moon
Keywords	Inner wisdom, knowledge of the mysteries of life and death, patience, seclusion, independence, self-reliance, calm serenity, the rhythm of ebb and flow, descent into the well-spring of the self, secret power and hidden forces, a guardian and protector
Meaning	The High Priestess guards the mysteries of life and is the archetype of the wise woman and the anima. In a spread, the card can signify that we are ready to connect with our subconscious, that we can rely on our intuition or discover our female side. Patience will overcome obstacles, rather than brute force. Unrevealed forces may be at work or we may find ourselves retreating from reality and into dreams.
Exploring the Card	Traditionally, the High Priestess is seated between a light and a dark column with a veil suspended between them. She holds an open book in her lap and shows that there are secrets and revelations, and that we will only gain as much insight and understanding as she wishes us to have. For this deck the High Priestess is Minerva McGonagall, head of Gryffindor house and someone who protects Harry from the very first. Minerva works a lot of her power and influence in secret and not necessarily through the official channels. She rarely has to stand up out in the open, but she will do so if pushed to extremes, like when she defends Sybill Trelawney against Umbridge... Her animagus form as a cat works well with the feminine and lunar aspects of this card.

III – The Empress

Correspondences	Venus
Keywords	The principle of motherhood, the source of life, birth, growth and natural cycles, creative potential, fertility, beauty, success, harmony, the power of love, sensuality, merger, bounty and the harvest
Meaning	The Empress symbolizes the creative female principle, the joy of life and physical being, she is Mother Nature and stands for great energy, self-confidence and optimism and the will to initiate change. In a reading it may mean that a female querent should take joy in being a woman, a relationship may deepen and intensify, there may even be a possible pregnancy.
Exploring the Card	For Harry the Empress and the Emperor (the next card) can only be his parents, his first models for the female and male principle. I drew Lily holding baby Harry in front of their old cottage in Godric's Hollow. It's a beautiful summer day and



the garden around their house is in full bloom. The Empress embodies mother goddesses like Demeter, so a natural and abundant, but also cultured setting would be perfect for her.

IV – The Emperor

Correspondences	Aries
Keywords	The principle of patriarchy, male rule and fatherhood, force of life, realization of power, god-father, victory of man over nature through inventiveness and science, structure and order, logical thinking, naming and understanding the world, analysis as the basis for action, reason, aggression
Meaning	As a card, the Emperor signifies the male order of things. It stands for civilization, laws and rules of society, science and research that cures and improves mankind's lot, the willingness to take the lead, to take responsibility, to provide and to keep the weak ones safe are also attributes of this card. In a spread, the card signifies that we are ready to achieve status and authority or to take the lead in a new project, but also that we are somewhat wary of our emotions and more likely to trust our intellect. The Emperor and Empress work best when they are in harmony, when they respect each other's strengths and weaknesses and support each other. The Empress out of control is tsunamis and earthquakes, the natural world grinding us into the ground to reshape mankind into the next experiment of evolution without regard for intelligence, beauty or emotion. The Emperor out of control is polluted air, radioactive waste, the intricacies of science abused to kill the earth and other people for the illusion of absolute power and control.
Exploring the Card	Arcana 3 and 4, the Empress and the Emperor, stand for the archetypes of mother and father. So from Harry's perspective I decided they'd have to be Lily and James. James is shown with his animagus form, the stag, seeing that that ability of his had so much influence throughout the story, by determining both Harry's and ultimately through Lily even Snape's patronus. I wanted to contrast his surroundings from those of Lily by showing her in a form of domesticated nature in a garden, and his out in the wild of the forest.

V – The Hierophant

Correspondences	Taurus
Keywords	The principle of teaching and learning, the pontifex (bridge-builder) between the human and the divine, culture, belief systems, instruction, revelation, a sudden spiritual insight, knowledge beyond science and rational explanation, listening to one's conscience
Meaning	The Hierophant card represents the belief of the group rather than personal beliefs, and it stands for the socialization of an individual into a group. Therefore the Hierophant is often the figure of a teacher or a mentor, who helps the



individual fit into the group or into society, by teaching them skills and knowledge, but also appropriate behaviors, norms and ethics. When you draw it, it may mean that you have to examine your beliefs with respect to what others around you believe, that perhaps you should seek the guidance of a teacher or that you may be called on to mentor and help others.

Exploring the Card

The composition is actually fairly close to the traditional image of the hierophant, who is generally depicted as an older man (often in priest-like garments, because in very old decks he is actually the Pope), who is blessing or instructing smaller figures arranged in front of him. To use Dumbledore for this card was the obvious choice, because he is a guardian, guide and mentor to so many, he inspires loyalty and is a figure of respect, he leads at Hogwarts, where young witches and wizards first learn what it means to become a responsible and knowledgeable member of their society, and he truly represents all that is good and honorable in the wizarding world.

VI – The Lovers

Correspondences

Gemini

Keywords

The principles of decision and of belonging, Eros, the connection of male and female, the joining of opposites, the soul-mate, anima and animus, Hercules at the crossroads, finding completion, realization that true unity can only come from inside, readiness to open up to someone else, deciding what one needs rather than what one wants

Meaning

"The Lovers" as a card has two traditions: in one it depicts a true couple as lovers, in the other tradition this card is called "The Choice" and shows a young man standing between an older dark-haired woman and a younger blonde one, and he has to decide between them. The second tradition is said to go back to the story of Hercules who, as a young man, encountered two women, one promising him an easy life of pleasure and indulgence, but of obscurity, the other one a life of pain and deprivation that would make him famous throughout the known world. Hercules chose the second offer.

When drawn, "The Lovers" may mean that you find a balance within the male and female elements within yourself, the finding of your soul-mate and readiness to open yourself completely to another person, but also a conflict between different attractions or the need to choose.

Exploring the Card

Tonks and Lupin are the perfect couple that shows both traditions of the card at the same time. Obviously the two are lovers, but in *Deathly Hallows* Lupin is also called upon to choose: between the call of the moon that transforms him into a beast and the call of duty towards his wife and unborn son that make him into a responsible father. The choice isn't easy for Lupin.

VII – The Chariot

Correspondences

Cancer



Keywords	The warrior/ hero setting out on his quest, ultimate power and control, discipline, mastership, fixity of purpose, invulnerability, defensiveness, hiding one's true self, an important journey
Meaning	"The Chariot" stands for the hero setting out on his quest. Traditionally, it shows a figure encased in armor atop a chariot drawn by sphinxes. In a draw, the Chariot indicates an intense drive forward to accomplish something. There is little openness to accept a deviation from the course, and the impulse comes all from the inside - from inside the armor. Ultimately the hero will be challenged on his quest, he will need to halt, to open himself and to learn, but not yet. The lesson is to harness the drive, but also not to ride roughshod over obstacles and not to fear failure so much.
Exploring the Card	From the armored charioteer it was fairly easy to jump to the Hogwarts Express, the "chariot" for young wizards and witches to take them out on their quest, to learn about magic and about themselves. Incidentally this is also the first card that does not feature a figure or figures.

VIII – Justice

Correspondences	Libra
Keywords	Justitia, the judge, the harmony of the universe, the goddesses Maat, Themis and Nemesis, fairness, truth, balance, reward and punishment, gaining distance from one's own subjective view of the world and taking other standpoints into consideration, a law-suit or other legal matter
Meaning	The Toth Tarot has the old Egyptian goddess Maat as the personification for Justice. Maat was present at the judgment of souls in the afterlife where she put a feather on the scales when the dead person's heart was examined. If the heart was heavier than her feather - i.e. the deceased had unbalanced justice by his misdeeds, his heart was fed to the crocodile god Sobek and that was the end of that. If the feather was heavier than the person's heart, Osiris would welcome them to all the pleasures of the afterlife. Therefore the Justice card exhorts us to be fair, and to realize that we may be confronted with the results of our choices. If we have chosen badly, we need to restore the balance and make amends. We may also be too preoccupied with the rules and too little with emotions and the concept of mercy and generosity.
Exploring the Card	This card is a little guilty of sacrificing traditional meaning to the artist's personal whim. Basically this is a joke at the expense of good old Aleister Crowley, who drew up the figure of Maat for the Toth Tarot. Maat's feather became the attribute of Justice in Crowley's deck. Well, Umbridge is meting out her own warped justice with her sadistic feather detention treatment, and so she made the cut for Justice, standing before the great Ministry seal that warns offenders that ignorance does not excuse any wrongdoing. Of course if Justice also stands for the retribution for creating bad karma, at least Umbridge can serve as a case study and a warning.



IX – The Hermit

Correspondences

Virgo

Keywords

The principle of introspection and personal integrity, the wise man and counselor, retreat from life, inner illumination, solitude, the depth of winter, silence, isolation, self-awareness, being at peace with oneself, withdrawal without outward achievement

Meaning

Traditionally, the Hermit is on a lonely path, holding a staff and a lantern and walking through a lonely landscape of rugged mountains in the night. The Hermit may signify a guardian and mentor on the long dark passages in life, someone who shines a light for us, even on the things we don't want to see about ourselves or on the secret fears we have. The Hermit may also mean that we close ourselves off from others, that we march to the beat of our own drum and that we stand alone, which does not necessarily mean that we feel lonely.

Exploring the Card

Snape fulfills both meanings of the card - he is essentially in a league of his own, blending in neither with the Order members, nor counting himself among the Death Eaters. He keeps his own counsel and does not reveal much about himself. For Harry, he is also a mentor and guardian, not one who teaches with kindness, like Dumbledore or Sirius, but someone who has harsh lessons in humility, who shows Harry things about himself (and his father) that he does not want to know and to recognize. But when it comes to the crunch, he will always try to keep him safe.

X – Fortune

Correspondences

Jupiter

Keywords

Fortuna, the Fates, the wheel of existence, the ages of man, destroyer-creator-preserver, experience of the openness of the future (apprehension or excitement), accepting change, accepting all aspects of oneself, flexibility and optimism

Meaning

The card signifies the course of life through what is perceived as luck and misfortune. It stands for human nature between instinct, intellect and spirit and for change and chance. It advises us to use opportunities to our advantage, to risk something, to see the bigger picture, and to try and play fate ourselves. If you pull Fortune in a spread, you can be sure that the wind will change direction. If you're at the bottom of the pile, you'll get your chance, if you're on top of the world, better watch out...

Exploring the Card

Fortune traditionally shows a wheel with figures perched on it, some rise to fame and fortune, others fall into poverty and misery. While there are a lot of ups and downs for some of the characters in the books, nothing as iconic as the "Wheel of Fortune" stands out. However, there is a whole discourse on "destiny" in the books. Upon coming to Hogwarts, the sorting hat allocates everyone to their house, and thereby makes implicitly a statement about the person's character and future: Hufflepuff - nice folks, but not too bright, Ravenclaw - unconventional brainiacs, Gryffindor - noble and reliable friends, Slytherin - ambitious and



somewhat warped and predestined to go off to the dark side in later life.

So is fate fixed? At one point, Dumbledore suggests that the school is sorting people too soon - and some folks manage to spectacularly break through their "house conditioning" like the traitorous Wormtail and the ultimately heroic Snape who each don't quite fit the bill.

Perhaps fortune is a bit of both - there always is some sorting happening in life - which part of town are you born in, how much education could your parents afford, what self-image did others give you (fat, smart, popular, a geek, a jock, a reliable friend)? But you also have to work with what you're given, and there your fate isn't fixed.

The combination of the hat and the houses in the card alludes to the "fixed" stuff, but having everyone compete and add or lose "marbles" for their house showed that there also is room for personal effort and reward. Some cards life deals you - and some you get to pick yourself, and it's always up to you how you play your hand.

XI – Strength

Correspondences

Leo

Keywords

The principle of intuition and power, the wild and untamed, animalistic instinct, the choice to unleash or to tame the inner beast, illumination, working your "dark" side in a constructive manner, using instinct and the senses as a source of power

Meaning

Strength traditionally shows a young woman holding shut the maw of a fierce lion with ease. When drawn, the card reminds us to face any threat or danger with determination and to trust in our innate abilities. The strength needed to overcome the challenge presented by this card usually has less to do with physical fortitude and more with strength of will and determination, with trusting our gut, and with keeping our wits about us. Another meaning of strength is that we find our buttons pushed, and true strength lies in the ability not to let it get to us, but to be stronger than what set us off, get over ourselves and forgive others.

Exploring the Card

There are no lions in the books, if we discount Gryffindor's lion, but Hermione and Buckbeak make for a good replacement. She kept stringing him along in the movie with Hagrid's dead ferrets and built a good rapport with him.

Also Hermione possesses a lot of attributes for strength: willpower, determination, the ability to rally others, intelligence to face and overcome obstacles, and quite often it is she who impels Harry and Ron to do the right thing, even though they complain that she's bossy. One lesson that remains for her though is not to allow others to push her buttons...

XII – The Hanged Man

Correspondences

Water



Keywords The dying god, the sin-eater, the sacrifice, acceptance of fate, release, being caught in a blind alley, complete exposure and helplessness, loss of control, passivity, waiting, a releasing crisis, being stuck, letting go, disregard for one's own well-being

Meaning The Hanged Man is an uncomfortable card, but one that has to teach much. We are typically in a crisis where we realize that our old habits and view-points have lost their significance, old safeguards have become meaningless, we feel helpless as our world is turned on its head and we lose traction with the ground, but insight may come when we surrender, give up control and wait with patience. We may have to bide our time and make sacrifices to endure this card.

If drawn, there is also a danger that we relish making martyrs out of ourselves to send others on a guilt trip or that we abandon control in order to evade responsibilities. We may also have to confront our deepest fears about being powerless to do something about a situation.

Sometimes the card can also indicate the need for some contrary thinking. Take a chance, don't follow your usual blind instincts, do the opposite of what everyone and everything urges you to think. Perhaps you just decide it doesn't matter so much right now. Take a dangle and enjoy the unexpected view...

Exploring the Card There is too much of an iconographic overlap for Snape's worst memory not to make the image for this card, even though it emphasizes all that is uncomfortable and unhappy about this card, and less of the positive aspects that can be found in it as well.

Still Snape teaches us a valuable lesson as the subject of this card. If we fight it (by lashing out and calling a good friend a mudblood, for example), we're only making it worse. This card can only be effectively dealt with by accepting a certain amount of humiliation and loss of control and bearing it with patience. The Sin-eater or the Sacrifice are better archetypes to tap into, when we are in Hanged Man mode, than Pride and Wrath.

XIII – Death

Correspondences Scorpio

Keywords Farewell, death as the prelude to new life, a passage, changes and transformations, descent into the underworld, the natural end of a time and the beginning of something new, letting go of something that is ready to move out of our lives, moving on, change and grief as the gateway to something new

Meaning Typically, the card will indicate a natural transformation. We have reached the natural end of a development and need to let go of our old view of the world or our old identity. While the Tower can land on you like a ton of bricks, knocking you silly and out of your path, Death usually changes you from the inside out, and it tends to feel more organic, even though it may be painful and scary at times. Probably the best symbol for the card is a sloughing snake.

One day she'll look like death, with pale and withered skin and dull, blind eyes,



and the next she'll be sleek and glossy and beautiful after having shed her now useless old skin.

Exploring the Card

For the image of Death this deck shows the arch at the Department of Mysteries. It is very fitting as a passage-way to something new that you can only enter when your time has come.

The curtain actually shows an image of rippling sand tilted to an odd angle to give a feeling of disorientation, as if there truly was an entirely different dimension behind the confines of the doorway.

XIV – Temperance

Correspondences

Sagittarius

Keywords

Alchemy, the golden mean, proportion and harmony, the leveling-out of imbalance, the opposite in everything, transformation from the flawed to the perfect, artistic imagination

Meaning

Temperance is an undervalued virtue these days, though we could all do with a dose of it when we live in a world where people thrive on excess: excess consumption, excess expectations, excess conviction (whether religious, political or otherwise), excess pride and sense of entitlement. All of our excess is currently boiling this planet alive - in conflicts, climatic change and overcrowding. Temperance tries to scale back, to even things out, to redress imbalance, and that is exactly the meaning and measure of this card. When drawn, you are called to assess the imbalances and excesses in your life and restore equilibrium. Can you do with less of something: less anger, less impatience, less spending, less speed, less greed?

Exploring the Card

The Weasley twins seem like an odd choice for this card, as apparently they thrive on excess, but this is misleading as actually time and again they interfere to even the score.

Angry Harry on another rant? They tell him not to bottle up his emotions, to let it all out, and their sarcasm shames him and calms him down. Umbridge at the height and might of her power at Hogwarts? They create a swamp, cause total mayhem and set Peeves on her. Harry confined to the castle, because of Uncle Vernon's spiteful refusal to sign the permission slip to go to Hogsmeade? They give him the Marauder's Map. Molly in full smothering information lockdown for Harry's safety? Extendable ears! Everyone hiding under the bed because of "You Know Who"? They invent U-No-Poo - to show people what's really important in life - a good digestion!

In the end, their whole sweets business was founded on the idea that you can create an imbalance, and then even it out again - every puking pastille and ton-tongue-toffee has its antidote.



XV – The Devil

Correspondences

Capricorn

Keywords

The dark side of the self, meeting your shadow, Lucifer, magic and transformation, the breaking of taboos and barriers, the material world, instinct and passion, extremes, ambition, pride, worldly wisdom and success, egotism, cynicism, lack of love, the price you pay and the price you force others to pay for you

Meaning

When drawn, the devil card may signify that the querent is in the position of the devil or the position of the devil's victims.

As the devil you will need to confront your shadow, examine your motivations and the way you treat others. Do you ask for too many sacrifices from others for your own benefit, power and gratification? Are you thoughtless, cruel or do you need to keep others small to feel powerful yourself? As the victim you need to confront your fears or obsessions – what keeps you in chains and how can you break them?

In either case, the Devil will show you things about yourself that you wish you could ignore or that you have suppressed.

Exploring the Card

Of course Voldemort is the devil-figure of Harry's world, so he had to be the central focus of this card, and instead of an anonymous couple, I decided to add the two characters to him who seem to be most under his evil spell during the seven books - Bellatrix and Wormtail.

Their two characters show very clearly two mind-sets that can lead to hell on earth for people: obsession and fear. Bellatrix is obsessed with Voldemort and the power that he holds. She craves nothing more than his approval and perhaps his love - both of which prove elusive. Even though she goes to her death for him, in the end she has got nothing in return except 12 years of misery in Azkaban and a loveless marriage of convenience.

Wormtail is also chained to Voldemort, but not because of obsession. He is so terrified of his master that he betrays his best friends to keep himself safe and even seeks to bring back the man he most fears. In the end, he is so warped and twisted that his last shred of human compassion only serves to kill him, a fate that he feared so much.

XVI – The Tower

Correspondences

Mars

Keywords

The sudden, illuminating and destructive flash of lightning, revolution, annihilation of the old, fighting, war, the tower of the prisons we build for ourselves is broken open, our safety structures, our habits, our armor, our material security are toppled and destroyed by sudden explosive energy, catastrophes, the aggression of destruction

Meaning

On the one side, the Tower stands for life delivering a sucker-punch to the



stomach, one of those jolts of fate that leave you flat on your ass, gasping for air, wondering where that came from and what you had done to deserve it. These are the catastrophes in life: the car wrecks, the betrayals of friends and partners you trusted, the sudden downsizing at your company that leaves you jobless, the bank repossessing your home, the medical diagnosis you didn't see coming. Once you've been through a true Tower experience, life will never be the same.

But there is a second dimension to the Tower. While for some the destruction of the tower is a terrible event, for others it may be a prison suddenly broken open. Tower events have an ability to relieve and release. You may lose the stability of your current life, but this may in fact be liberating, and once you've got over the shock and pain you have the ability to grow, to move beyond what you thought possible and to achieve more.

Exploring the Card

The killing of Dumbledore certainly qualifies as a Tower event - the heart and soul of Hogwarts destroyed, the last bastion of safety fallen, the seeming betrayal of a trusted friend, and with it the suddenness and the violence of it all.

But there is also the dimension of the second and more positive meaning: in *Deathly Hallows*, when we learn of Snape's memories, we find that Dumbledore begged Snape for this deed as an act of mercy, as relief from pain and suffering - in fact as release from the prison of his life with his old guilt, the curse of his withered hand and at the end the horrible effects of Voldemort's poison.

XVII – The Star

Correspondences

Aquarius

Keywords

The guiding star, the waters of life, renewal, hope, inspiration in dreams, longing for the far-away and eternal, will to live, happiness, a moment of utter joy, vision, invention, trust in the order and reason of the universe, the lightness of being, ease of mind

Meaning

The Star sends a message of unspoiled hope. At the darkest hour, there is a light to guide us. The Star encourages us to let our own light shine and to trust in our abilities, it shows the way to happiness and success. We may intuitively do the right thing, and we are looking towards a time of hope and expectation where inspiration comes to us as easily as breathing.

Exploring the Card

Traditionally, the Star shows a young woman pouring water into a star-lit lake, but for the HP Tarot the journey of the first-years across the lake to the school makes a good symbol for the meaning of the card.

The journey may be dark and scary, but at the end of it all, there are welcoming lights, brightness, warmth and good food. And once you are there, you can discover your own talents, learn and grow, find friends and encouragement along the way.



XVIII – The Moon

Correspondences

Pisces

Keywords

The night, dreams, nightmares, the source, exploration of inner depths, descent into the subconscious, intuitive understanding, empathy, medial perception, fantasy, mysticism, metamorphosis, introspection, dreams and images rising from the imagination, confronting one's inner demons, exploring one's dark side

Meaning

The Moon can be a double-edged card. Traditionally, it shows a dog and a wolf howling at a waning moon that is weeping silver tears amid a dark landscape of standing stones, a branching path and a body of water that holds a crab scuttling about. All of that makes it probably one of the most mysterious-looking cards of the deck. Well-aspected, the Moon may mean that we are operating mostly on the intuitive plane: the crab in the water is what scurries about underneath the surface of our conscious mind, and while we follow our instinct, we walk the paths of dreams with the certainty of a sleep-walker. The Moon encourages us to be open to hunches and to listen to our inner voice.

On the other hand, the Moon also holds a message of caution: The dark moonlit landscape may be the scene of nightmares, of drugged hallucinations, of illusions that guide us down the wrong paths where wolves are snapping at our heels and the guiding light of the moon wanes and fails. Looking under the surface of our consciousness may make us encounter our shadow rather than our inner guardian.

Exploring the Card

The traditional symbols of the card serve well here: the wolf and dog were easy enough to keep – Sirius and Remus in their animal form as dog and werewolf sitting outside the shrieking shack. Of course for Remus to turn, the traditional waning moon had to be replaced with a full moon. The wolf and dog give the card a meaning that really emphasizes the double nature of the moon card. Remus' transformation is involuntary, nightmarish, dangerous and a curse. It shows all the negative aspects of the moon card – the way our subconscious can overpower us with illusions and fear. Sirius' transformation is voluntary, a feat of skill and magic and it is done for love and friendship. The marauders honed their skills of transformation so they could keep their friend Remus company and help him without endangering themselves. It shows that we can tap into our animal side for working good if we know how and if we do it for the right motivation and with proper skill.

Adding the shrieking shack was another opportunity to show that nightmares and illusions can turn out to be something else if we take a closer look. Everyone was always terrified of the "most haunted house in England" until the trio took a closer look and found it to be actually a safe place and a shelter for the marauders. In the same way, the Moon card sometimes urges us to go below the surface of what scares us and to explore our beliefs and fears.

IX – The Sun

Correspondences

The Sun



Keywords	The day, light, fire, energy, reason, the force of light, ego and self, the sunny side of life, completeness, generosity, insight, clarity, healing, revelation, inspiration, optimism, creativity, vision, joy, leadership, splendor, triumph, glory
Meaning	The Sun is the symbol of all that is light and joyful, true and invincible and it stands for courage, energy, insight and success. When you stand in the noon-day sun, your shadow is the smallest and weakest it will ever be, and you are fully illuminated.
Exploring the Card	The iconography is a little different from the usual motif of a pair of small children frolicking on a fenced green hill. Instead we see Fawkes, the phoenix taking flight into the rising sun, his feathers curling like flames and each of his tail-feathers blazing like a little miniature sun. Dumbledore's phoenix is one of the strongest solar/fire symbols that are around in the HP books. He is the light that shines in the darkest places - coming to those that are loyal and true, healing poison and injury, carrying the heaviest loads out of darkness, and gifting people with a song that will lift and open their hearts. All of this really captures the meaning of The Sun as a card.

XX – Judgment

Correspondences	Fire
Keywords	Karma, actions and reactions, retribution, being judged by one's deeds, restoring balance, remorse, being confronted by the outcome of one's words and deeds
Meaning	Judgment usually means that you're being called on your actions and behavior. If you can live with yourself and what you did, the card is nothing to fear. Perhaps it means you have a chance to justify yourself before others, or that there is a decision point in the future where you have to exercise good judgment. On the other hand, if you have behaved in ways that are contrary to who you are, or if you have hurt others through your actions, this card will show you retribution in some way – perhaps you are asked to redress past wrongs, or to deal with your remorse constructively. Perhaps your bad karma will catch up with you....
Exploring the Card	Lucius is judged several times in the books: by the society he betrayed and who throws him in prison, and by his master who takes what he has, mocks him and finally finds him expendable. Every identity he's had, both as an upstanding member of society and as a Death Eater, is rendered hollow and meaningless and has been cast aside as false during those external judgments. And so Lucius develops a third identity, one that is built on who he is, one that is free from outside labels. He learns slowly, but in the end he has his priorities and his behaviors straight, and that is to get himself and those he cares about alive through this whole mess that he's started, to save his son. He judges himself by this behavior, and at the end of <i>Deathly Hallows</i> there is no more external judgment for him – his master is dead and the other wizards and witches leave him and his family alone. No one interferes. The two runes he has on the table on his mugshot are Othala (O: Ancestral



property.) "Inherited property or possessions, a house, a home. What is truly important to one and fundamental values" and Ansuz (A: Ancestral god, i.e. Odin) "A revealing message or insight, communication. Signals, inspiration, speech, true vision, power of words and naming". They are perfect, because in order to be judged well, you need to be in touch with your true will and you have to have your priorities straight.

In "Judgment" Lucius has just now begun his journey of painful learning that shows the hollowness of his assumed roles as pureblood, influential politician and Death Eater until he identifies himself appropriately as a loving father.

XXI – The World

Correspondences

Saturn

Keywords

The hero returns, completion, cosmic union, universal spirit, magnum opus, harmony of the spheres, synergy, the quest is finished, culmination of a development, finding one's true place in life, being complete, being one with creation, harmony, equilibrium, joining the cosmic dance

Meaning

The card is the end and sum of the development of the previous cards. The Magus/hero has come through all the stages of development and eventually finds unity with everything. In a spread, the World means that we are coming into our own, that we are dancing across our perceived limitations and boundaries, and that we can now see the big picture and find our true calling. Good times lie ahead.

Exploring the Card

The World is a card standing in opposition to the Magus, therefore it duplicates Harry. As the Magus, he is striving for control at the beginning of his journey, challenged by his mission. As the World, he has accomplished his task, and suddenly control is not important to him anymore.

He discards the elder wand and the stone that would give him control over death and life, simply takes his father's cloak of obscurity and steps out of the trap of heroism and power that ensnared Voldemort to lead a normal life with a job, a wife and children. He has learned the wisdom of the world - to be yourself and to discard the notion of control as overrated. When you're at peace with yourself and your true will, you can rely on something much better - synergy with the universe.

You may not always get what you want, but you will surely get what you need.



The Minor Arcana

The Ace of Wands

Correspondences	The Spark of Creation, Fire
Keywords	The power of will, first impulses, the individual's sense of self, self-realization, creativity, success
Meaning	This card signifies the arrival of new impulses and ideas, the querent has time for inner development and the realization of long-held wishes and plans. Doors open and new people and contacts will help along the way.
Exploring the Card	For the Aces, the cards revert back to the four founders of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. With his emblem of a Lion in red and gold, Godric Gryffindor embodies the fire-element. The prized character traits in his students, loyalty, generosity and bravery are well suited to the element as well. Here we see him with his totem animal, the lion, and holding his sword. In some tarot traditions, the sword actually stands for the fire-element, and the wand symbolizes the air element.

2 of Wands – Domination

Correspondences	Mars in Aries
Keywords	Struggle, aggression, contention, conflict, the need to assert oneself
Meaning	In the 2s, each of the elements gets doubled up, i.e. it gets to react to a similar impulse. For will this means that two impulses clash and immediately there is a struggle for which one will win out. No one likes to be pulled in different directions at the same time, so very soon one drive wins out over the other. When drawn, the 2 of Wands signifies determination, drive and activity, but also impatience, aggression and a tendency go headfirst through walls, feeling competitive and ready to pick a fight with anyone and everyone.
Exploring the Card	Two wizards duel each other, crossing wands to resolve their conflict. The image does not refer to a particular scene from the books or to a particular pair of wizards.

3 of Wands – Exploration

Correspondences	Sun in Aries
Keywords	Curiosity, making plans, fixing our eyes on a goal, energy to tackle the new, time for projects and endeavors
Meaning	As the four elements move into the 3s, we see the results of the 2s meeting and interacting. There is a sense of consolidation of opposites and the feeling of now being able to "get on with it". The 3s are aligned with the planet Saturn, the planet the ancients associated with time, with limitations, endings and the



boundaries of the solar system. If you connect three points for the first time, you have a figure where a boundary encloses a finite space. So the association is very appropriate.

For Fire and Will, the three means that we have fixed our intentions and our goals, and we are now ready to take the path under our feet and start exploring, start embarking on an adventure. The card signifies creativity, self-reliance, optimism, liveliness, new ideas, the resolving of any resistances that stand in our path.

Exploring the Card

The Three Broomsticks serve well for an image, because the three brooms make three nice wands, but also because the place is a focal point where intentions cross and meet and many adventures start. For example it's in the Three Broomsticks Harry first learns of Sirius and Peter's involvement in the fate of his family.

4 of Wands – Perfection

Correspondences

Venus in Aries

Keywords

Harmony, balance, concentration, harnessing our strength

Meaning

The 4s of all the suits carry a measure of crystallization, of hardening and consolidation of the creative flux of the previous cards. The planetary ruler of the 4s is Jupiter, the old Roman ruler of the gods, but power is only one aspect of this dominance, the term "jovial" also derives from it, and so the cards tend to show also a certain mental relaxation and ease of mind that comes with stability and quiet. The number 4 gives you the four points of a square, one of the most stable geometric shapes of all.

The Wands work well with the aspect of 4 giving a measure of completion of impulse that now strives for perfection. The association is order, concentration, moving beyond mere opposites, control and power. We achieve mental balance and find our own center. We achieve the crowning completion of a long and laborious task.

Exploring the Card

The image for this card shows four of the weird candles in Lupin's office as Harry tries to perfect his patronus spell in *Prisoner of Azkaban*. He passes his fingers through one of the flames just at the moment he decides to use the memory of his parents as the foundation of his spell and he achieves success. He touches his core, he achieves concentration and stability, and with that access to his innermost being he is successful at repelling the dementor.

5 of Wands – Conflict

Correspondences

Saturn in Leo

Keywords

Challenge, tension, impulse, demonstrating skill, competition, conflict, revolution, resolving frustration through contention, confrontation

Meaning

While the 4s are all about consolidation, the 5s are about an eruptive breaking of



moulds. The stability of the 4s grows unstable, and if we were comfortably settled with the previous cards we now go through a certain amount of pain and insecurity at having to adjust. The 5s are under the auspices of Mars whose somewhat violent energy is very appropriate to the dynamic of these cards.

In the fiery Wands, Mars does wreak less havoc than in the other elements. Yes, there will be strife and confrontation, but it may be a healthy blow-out that clears the air. We stand up for ourselves and assert our will. In some cases, the card may stand for a demonstration of skill and bravado, for some healthy competition and for meeting and overcoming resistance.

Exploring the Card

For an image, the card shows the fight between the Whomping Willow and the Weasleys' Ford Anglia in *Chamber of Secrets*. The enchanted tree just shows the kind of spirit of not allowing anyone to mess with it that is very appropriate to the meaning of the card. Five of the thick, club-like, knobby branches also make for a good image of five wands.

6 of Wands – Victory

Correspondences

Jupiter in Leo

Keywords

Joy, optimism, triumph, crowning glory, enthusiasm, trust, loyalty, success

Meaning

The 6s stabilize and order the unbridled and sometimes destructive energy of the 5s and are associated with the sun, with clarity, order and energy of life.

In the case of fire and will that impulse translates into triumph and victory. We find acclaim and public recognition, are able to settle conflicts and treat them as a means for growth and as opportunities. We enjoy a spirit of fair competition and can trust in our abilities.

Exploring the Card

One of the surest ways to gain victory in a game of quidditch is to catch the snitch. Here one lucky seeker has just grabbed the prize and holds it up in triumph. The six wands are symbolized by three goal posts and three brooms flying about in the background.

7 of Wands - Bravery

Correspondences

Mars in Leo

Keywords

Futile resistance, challenges, obstacles, stubbornness, the spirit of not going down without a fight, heroism, standing firm for what we believe, us against the world

Meaning

The 7s are associated with the energies of Venus and, at the danger of harping on old stereotypes of the feminine, they are involved with a view of the world colored by emotion, wishful thinking and misconceptions.

The 7s find their best realization in the element of Fire and Will. We've entered the fray believing we can win - our illusion here - and now we realize that the odds are too great. Yet, we persist regardless. True bravery consists not in going



into a fight where we are assured of victory, but in persisting against all odds, in doing the right thing, even if it means the world is going to get the better of us. Resistance may be futile, but a true hero digs his heels in and gives them hell, even if it costs his own life.

Exploring the Card

Who better to symbolize bravery, than the bravest man Harry has ever known? The drawing is not of Snape himself, though, but of his portrait in the Headmaster's office that was accorded him posthumously and at Harry's request with six wands shown on the frame and his own wand to make 7.

8 of Wands – Swiftess

Correspondences

Mercury in Sagittarius

Keywords

Ideas, movement, progress, quick communication, ingenious solutions, intellectual power, thinking on your feet, spontaneity, flexibility

Meaning

The 8s are under the auspices of Mercury and share some of its quicksilver mental acuity. The cards offer sudden insights, but also share a sense of nervousness and of mental hyper-sensitivity.

For the Wands, the combination of willpower and rationality makes for a streak of genius. We are capable of thinking at lightning-speed; we feel inspired and come up with ingenious solutions. This would be a great time to tackle a persistent problem and to apply some out-of-the-box thinking. We are able to learn and comprehend anything we put our mind to and to broaden our horizons.

There is only one danger – to leave our more slowly and deliberately thinking companions and audiences behind. So tap into your ingenious communication abilities to take them along with you.

Exploring the Card

To combine the design of wooden wands with the concept of speed a display of Firebolt brooms seems to be an appropriate image. Because of a depiction of 8 actual brooms would really be crowding this card the sense of the number 8 is instead realized in the price-tag on one of the brooms.

9 of Wands – Power

Correspondences

Moon in Sagittarius

Keywords

Strength, energy, balance of all impulses, spiritual and physical harmony, inner resources, creativity, the guiding light

Meaning

The 9s constitute the last impulse on the four elements before they reach their final manifestation in the 10s. The 9s are ruled by the Moon and by the subconscious – drives and impulses that are rarely fully transparent to us and that may work for us or against us.

For the Wands and the element of Fire, this impulse works in a positive manner, aligning our subconscious drives with our conscious will, and this translates into power or strength. We feel the unity of drive and intuition, both pulling us into the same direction, so our impact on our surroundings is not marred by any



internal conflicts or contradictions. We feel that even the greatest undertakings come to us as easily as breathing.

Sometimes extraordinary artists or athletes describe the essence of this card as being “in the zone”.

Exploring the Card

If magic existed, it could only work in the way the 9 of Wands indicates – your inner will and your conscious abilities are in complete harmony and fully focused on your goal and the magical operation you wish to accomplish. Therefore in this card we see nine of the wizard’s tools to accomplish this transformation of pure will into reality.

10 of Wands – Oppression

Correspondences

Saturn in Sagittarius

Keywords

Dogmatism, fixation, problems with authority, struggle for power, law and order, repressed aggression, structure

Meaning

In the 10s all elements are subjected to full materialization. The 10s are dominated by the planet Earth. They are the most solid and crystallized manifestation of each suite.

In the realm of Fire and the will, it means that all of our wishes, desires, impulses and drives crash-land right into reality. Sometimes that can feel like a bucket of cold water hitting you straight in the face. At age 2, you would have thrown a temper-tantrum at this point.

As a grown-up, you are asked to curb your frustration, take a reality check and work out a compromise between what you want and what is realistically possible. Quite often this means that we have to follow rules and repress our wishes. We would like to fly – unfortunately gravity stands in the way. The only way to get our wish without immediate and unpleasant death is to study engineering, to channel all of our other wishes and impulses towards our goal and work hard in order to construct ourselves a flying machine.

Exploring the Card

A suitable image for the uncomfortable message of the 10 of Wands is Hedwig locked up in her cage by Uncle Vernon. She would love to fly and hunt and spread her wings. Unfortunately the rules in Harry’s muggle residence forbid it and now ten steel bars stand between her and freedom.

Princess of Wands

Correspondences

Water of Fire

Keywords

Enthusiasm, spirit, joy of life, passion, beauty, power

Meaning

The Princess of Wands signifies a passionate young woman who intends to live and to enjoy life with every fiber of her being. She is driven, fearless and fiery and cannot be pinned down. Sometimes her happy-go-lucky attitude can feel like she has little empathy for others. She can be stubborn and a bit egocentric at times.



Exploring the Card

Fiery, fearless Ginny seems like the perfect Princess of Fire. JKR's favorite adjective for her is "blazing", and she is a true Daughter of Flame: passionate, spontaneous, alluring, a little irresponsible, loving excitement and adventure, temperamental and a flirt (judging by all the boys whose heads she turned at school...).

Prince of Wands

Correspondences

Air of Fire

Keywords

Activity, impatience, spontaneity, taking risks, hunger for adventure, enthusiasm for a new project

Meaning

Traditionally, the Prince of Wands is described as a fiery young man who tends to be impatient, impulsive, ready to take risks and by nature optimistic. However, his frank and spontaneous outside may mask feelings of insecurity and immaturity inside. He cannot be completely trusted.

Exploring the Card

With the Wand court being made up from members of the Weasley family, of course Ron has to be the Prince of Wands. However his assignment as the Prince of Wands also fits with the traditional interpretation. Ron is kind of touchy, moody and hates having his pride dented, particularly as he is not too sure about his own abilities and talents sometimes.

Queen of Wands

Correspondences

Earth of Fire

Keywords

Change and inner transformation, independence, dignity, empathy, dominance

Meaning

The Queen of Wands tends to be a head-strong, mature woman who knows her place in life and tends to be optimistic, inspiring, charismatic and full of energy. She thrives in the company of those she loves and protects them fiercely. She is sure of her sensuality, a steadfast friend and will only accept a strong partner who respects her. She doesn't tolerate fools. She is loyal and passionate, and she usually tends to have things her way and have people follow her lead.

Exploring the Card

Molly Weasley is the perfect Queen of Wands. Here she is at home at the Burrow, sitting in the kitchen, and though the books never mention a cat, a feline of some sort is usually the companion of the Queen of Wands. She is both stately and impressive – a true queen in her home – but also kind and welcoming. The space is not stylized as it is for the Cups, nor confining or menacing as for the Swords, but open and airy with a look out into the open landscape behind the house.

We know that Molly is almost over-protective of her family and she is even prepared to kill for them in the end. That and the way she keeps her horde of menfolk in line, makes her the perfect Queen of Wands.

King of Wands



Correspondences	Fire of Fire
Keywords	Leadership, responsibility, enthusiasm, benevolence, generosity
Meaning	The King of Wands stands for a mature, honorable, idealistic, proud and intelligent man who is prepared to lead and to take responsibility. He has the well-being of everyone at heart and always strives for improvements and better solutions. Doing the right thing is very important to him, and he will always protect those who depend on him and who trust him. He is loyal and steadfast.
Exploring the Card	Arthur Weasley may not be the richest or most influential man in the wizarding community, but he fulfills the criteria for the King of Wands perfectly. He knows that wizards and muggles must coexist peacefully and that they need each other, and he is prepared to lay down his life to make it happen. He always does the honorable and the right thing. He does not allow any insult to the honor of his family – and he is passionate enough to even take on Lucius Malfoy at Flourish & Blotts over it. And even though the Weasleys sometimes find it hard to make ends meet, he still generously shares what he has with Harry and Hermione, virtually adopting them into his family. Here he sits at his post at the Ministry of Magic taking care that no magical mishap befalls the muggles entrusted to his care.

The Ace of Cups

Correspondences	The Source of the Soul, Water
Keywords	The fullness of emotion, union, merger, belief, illumination, completion, freedom, limitless bliss
Meaning	The Ace of Cups stands for the flow of emotion and the descent into the depths of the soul. It signifies harmony between who we are, what we believe and what we do. We discover the source of all love within ourselves.
Exploring the Card	For the Aces, the cards revert back to the four founders of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Silver and green as their colors and the placement of their common room under the lake associates Slytherins very closely with the element of water. Salazar's arrogance does not correspond too well with the association of this suite with love, but the way Slytherins appear so driven to succeed points to a deep-seated emotional hunger and to the shadow-side of this element.

2 of Cups – Love

Correspondences	Venus in Cancer
Keywords	Union, happiness in love, sensuality, harmony, erotic attraction, trust
Meaning	In the 2s, each of the elements gets doubled up, i.e. it gets to react to a similar impulse. For Cups, we have two sparks of emotion, and with a bit of mutual attraction going on, we end up with love as the meaning of this card.



In a spread, the card signifies happiness in love, sensuality, harmony and erotic attraction, the seeker usually looks for completion in union with someone else and the 2 of Cups may point to an important positive encounter and may end up in love and partnership.

Exploring the Card

The image of the card is a little tongue-in-cheek, but gives a good pretext to draw two glasses for two cups. Someone drops a little amoretia potion into two champagne glasses. Of course for the true meaning of the card both drinkers would have to be in the know and comfortable with that.

3 of Cups – Abundance

Correspondences

Mercury in Cancer

Keywords

Enjoyment, happiness, a sense of being in the lap of luxury, comfort, the fruits of love

Meaning

As the four elements move into the 3s, we see the results of the 2s meeting and interacting. There is a sense of consolidation of opposites and a sense of now being able to "get on with it". The 3s also are aligned with the planet Saturn, the planet the ancients associated with time, with limitations, endings and the boundaries of the solar system. If you connect three points for the first time, you have a figure where a boundary encloses a finite space. So the association is very appropriate.

For the Cups, this means the two previous elements have joined in love and created something more than the sum of two. This may mean a literal translation of the creation of new life, but also inner growth and fulfillment, happiness, opening up to the fullness of life that surrounds us at all times and meeting with generosity and success all around.

Exploring the Card

A good expression to capture the spirit of the 3 of Cups is the figure of speech: "the cup overfloweth". So this card shows a three-tiered, flowing fountain to capture the principle of abundance. Add three white peacocks and you get a glimpse into Malfoy Park. For these folks, abundance was pretty much a given for most of the time - until Lucius got busted, and then of course Voldemort moved in and made everyone miserable...

4 of Cups – Comfort

Correspondences

Moon in Cancer

Keywords

Security, stability of feeling, satiety, domesticity, calm, fulfillment

Meaning

The 4s of all the suits carry a measure of crystallization, of hardening and consolidation of the creative flux of the previous cards. The planetary ruler of the 4s is Jupiter, the old Roman ruler of the gods, but power is only one aspect of this dominance, the term "jovial" also derives from it, and so the cards tend to show also a certain mental relaxation and ease of mind that comes with stability and quiet. The number 4 gives you the four points of a square, one of the most stable



geometric shapes of all.

Emotionally, stability gives us comfort, we settle into routines, we enjoy quiet domesticity, but all of that comfort or "gemuetlichkeit", as it is so nicely called in German, bears the danger of being stuck in a rut, of getting so settled and so comfortable that our satiety turns to ennui.

Exploring the Card

The image for this card shows four nice fat pewter tankards ready for a round of butter beer among friends. What could be more comforting? But Winky's choice of using butterbeer to dull her emotional pain shows the underbelly of this kind of comfort very well. This is a card that can offer respite if a situation is well controlled and if it's enjoyed in moderation, or get us stuck in a quagmire if it isn't.

5 of Cups – Disappointment

Correspondences

Mars in Scorpio

Keywords

Disillusionment, pain, farewells, tears, separation, sobering insights, sorrow, depression

Meaning

While the 4s are all about consolidation, the 5s are about an eruptive breaking of moulds. The stability of the 4s grows unstable, and if we were comfortably settled with the previous cards, we now go through a certain amount of pain and insecurity at having to adjust. The 5s are under the auspices of Mars whose somewhat violent energy is very appropriate to the dynamic of these cards.

In the realm of emotions, the erosion of security causes us disappointment. We had set our heart on something, now it's proved elusive. The card signifies disillusionment, farewells, separation, sobering insights and at worst despair, sorrow and depression. With this card we are sometimes our own worst enemy as negative wishes surface and find fulfillment. We may even end up despising and mistrusting our innermost feelings.

Exploring the Card

For an image this card shows a scene from Snape's potions class. The expectations are all written out on the blackboard, but in front are the pathetic results from the students - one even managed to break his vial in the process. The disappointment on Snape's side will be muted - he has no illusions about his pupils, but he will make sure that they feel mightily disappointed themselves. All it takes is a good tongue-lashing and an avalanche of homework...

6 of Cups – Happiness

Correspondences

Sun in Scorpio

Keywords

Gladness of the spirit, wishes come true, discovery of the inner well-springs of being, charisma, conviction that all will turn out the way it should

Meaning

The 6s stabilize and order the unbridled and sometimes destructive energy of the 5s and are associated with the sun, with clarity, order and energy of life.



For the cups, the energy of the sun heightens emotions to just pure, unconditional happiness. We find within us a wellspring of creativity, contentment, charisma, success and the ability to let ourselves go with the flow and to tap into synchronicity.

Exploring the Card

What better to symbolize this card than that old *felix felicitis* potion, the magic stuff that simply will not let you fail and that will allow you to do just the perfect thing at the right time - and six little glasses to share your good fortune with your friends?

7 of Cups – Illusion

Correspondences

Venus in Scorpio

Keywords

Intoxication, being ruled by our desires, loss of reality, anesthesia, false hopes and promises, delirium, unproductive daydreams, clouded judgment

Meaning

The 7s are associated with the energies of Venus and, at the danger of harping on old stereotypes of the feminine, they are involved with a view of the world colored by emotion, wishful thinking and misconceptions.

For the Cups and the domain of emotions, misconceptions usually mean that we view the world distorted by our wishful thinking. We are ruled by our desires and lose our grip on reality. We may give up the autonomy of ourselves by fleeing into daydreams, pseudo-religion, following false leaders or hiding in drug-induced dream-worlds. Or perhaps we are trapped in a relationship where we idolize our partner and see them not as he or she is, but as we wish them to be. In any case the danger of misleading ourselves is great.

Exploring the Card

The card shows Professor Trelawney's tasseomancy "equipment", seven stacked teacups to read the leaves from. In one memorable lesson in *Prisoner of Azkaban*, she interprets Harry's cup as showing the grim - a horrible omen of death - but we find this is simply due to her impulse to predict fateful danger in every divination she makes, when in reality the dog-shaped tea leaf pattern might point to Sirius Black, who is about to enter into Harry's life.

The interpretation of tea leaves is a great way to show how "Illusion" works: the patterns are random - it is our desire and our secret impulses that give them shape and interpret them for us, thus shaping our reality for better or for worse.

8 of Cups – Despair

Correspondences

Saturn in Pisces

Keywords

The eclipse of light, being caught in the dark night of the soul, resignation, melancholy, contamination, being stuck in a quagmire, giving up, feeling that a situation is rotten through and through, retreat, fatalism, destruction of values

Meaning

The 8s are under the auspices of Mercury and share some of its quicksilver mental acuity. The cards offer sudden insights, but also share a sense of nervousness and of mental hyper-sensitivity.



The Cups don't cope very well with this kind of energy. The best scenario to describe the feeling of the card would be those times you wake up at four in the morning and a few minutes later you are thinking about all the problems and worries in your life, and the more you think, the more awake you get and the more the problems seem to get blown out of all proportion until you reach a state of total mental despair and exhaustion, and you know that in a few hours you need to be awake for real and go to work. But what's the point of it, when your whole life is basically a mess and in the end you die anyway.

There is a reason why statistically most suicides happen in the early hours just before dawn...

Exploring the Card

So much negativity could be expressed in a whole cabinet full of assorted poisons. For the 8 of Cups that is a good image of how our emotional state looks like, when our mind is playing this kind of trick on us.

9 of Cups – Joy

Correspondences

Jupiter in Pisces

Keywords

Love, happiness, contentment, optimism, trust in the future

Meaning

The 9s constitute the last impulse on the four elements before they reach their final manifestation in the 10s. The 9s are ruled by the Moon and by the subconscious – drives and impulses that are rarely fully transparent to us and that may work for us or against us.

In the realm of emotions, this influence is deeply beneficial. It gives us faith that the universe and our place in it somehow are as they should be, that they make sense. This results in a sense of deep joy, of being at one with creation, of loving and being loved. In a spread, the card signifies that we are at peace with ourselves and with others. We feel blessed, and are met with sympathy and understanding in everything we try our hand at, whether it be at work, in a new friendship or with a partner.

Exploring the Card

The image for this card shows the Hogwarts house cup – whichever house wins it, has been the most accomplished for that year. It is recognition of good behavior, academic accomplishment and daring and skill on the quidditch pitch – a truly rounded achievement. For an expression of the number nine there are nine small plaques on the cup, with the school crest in the center.

10 of Cups – Satiety

Correspondences

Mars in Pisces

Keywords

Passing the zenith, calm, the ability to enjoy and to let go, completion, having enough

Meaning

In the 10s all elements are subjected to full materialization. The 10s are dominated by the planet Earth. They are the most solid and crystallized manifestation of each suite.



For the element of Water and in the realm of feelings, this means that we have passed the point of ecstasy and are now sinking into the afterglow of an intense emotional experience. It is the nature of emotions that they cannot be pinned down. If they are fully materialized and we consciously examine them, they tend to evaporate. If you are in a moment of intense fear or happiness and you consciously acknowledge that feeling, it loses its intensity and dissolves.

A fully materialized feeling also may leave us somewhat exhausted, and so the impulse of the card is satiety, the feeling that we've had enough. We may be grateful for the experience, but it's time to let go and move onto other things.

Exploring the Card

As an image the 10 of Cups shows the mermaid's window in the prefects' bathroom. What better way to unwind after a long day at school and keeping everyone in line than in a nice, long, hot soak of water watching the play of light in the colorful panes of shimmering glass.

Princess of Cups

Correspondences

Water of Water

Keywords

Seduction, illusion, dream, fantasy, intuition, allure

Meaning

The Princess of Cups tends to be a young woman who is difficult to understand and to describe. She has a certain sense of allure, but also tends to be elusive, and mirrors back to us what we want to see rather than who she really is. Sometimes this card is understood to be the soul incarnate in matter.

Exploring the Card

We know little of Pansy Parkinson, apart from the fact that she seems truly devoted to Draco and completely in sympathy with his likes and dislikes. He obviously is attracted to her, when other Gryffindors think that she is exceedingly ugly. This mirror effect and her own emotional attachment certainly make her a good candidate.

For the idea of an incarnate soul, the card shows some symbolism to that effect, like the serpent and oil lamp, taken from a Roman burial stele. The Princess also denotes the person at the beginning of the path of mastery, so like the other princesses she has not yet been given the symbol of her suite to hold, it is just placed beside her. She will have to go a long way, before she can sit on her throne, her cup firmly in her grasp.

Prince of Cups

Correspondences

Air of Water

Keywords

Tension between feeling and mind, charisma, gaining clarity of our own feelings, conflicting emotions

Meaning

Traditionally, the Prince of Cups can signify a romantic, a knight in shining armor, a sensitive and seductive young man. The Prince may sometimes have problems with truth and reality and may turn out to be a liar and a betrayer. The seeker is faced with the task to reconcile intellect and emotion.



Exploring the Card

Conflicting emotions are a hallmark of Draco's development. Attachment to his father makes him hateful of muggles and muggle-borns and all those who protect them. It also makes him proud to be entrusted by the Dark Lord with the important mission to kill Dumbledore. He is cold-hearted, underhanded, a bully and on occasion downright vicious, as when he stomps Harry in the face on the Hogwarts Express.

At the same time, the pureblood and Death Eater expectations thrust on him nearly destroy him. He cannot bring himself to become a murderer, he fails on his mission and eventually becomes a victim of the forces he thought he controlled. In the end, we see him downright shocked and sickened by the pain and death of others, such as when he has to face the strung-up teacher for Muggle Studies or when he weeps for his dead friend.

Queen of Cups

Correspondences

Earth of Water

Keywords

Inner wisdom, intuition, deep emotions, confusion, things are not what they appear to be, the wise woman and the witch

Meaning

The Queen of Cups can signify a woman with a highly intuitive intelligence, a loving partner, an artist, a medium, a mother and protector, and someone to whom home and family are very important. She can strike her surroundings as a little bit of a witch, because of her amazing insights as well as her ability to seduce and mislead if she wishes.

Exploring the Card

Narcissa is the perfect choice for the Queen of Cups. She is fiercely protective of her husband and son and she even manages to lie convincingly to the greatest legilimens who ever lived, the Dark Lord himself! Here she sits at rest, facing sideways, because she is not out to challenge or engage the viewer. It is also an allusion to the fact that Narcissa always tried to stare straight ahead when Voldemort was around in *Deathly Hallows*, perhaps because she knew that she could only protect those around her if the Dark Lord never got to read her true feelings.

King of Cups

Correspondences

Fire of Water

Keywords

An injury, compassion, achieving wisdom through suffering, balancing will and instinct

Meaning

The King of Cups is a complicated man. He can be a wise counselor guided by intuition. He can also be a manifestation of the archetype of the injured king, the man who fell into guilt and learned wisdom through pain and suffering. The King of Cups sometimes can be a weak character and warn us not to get seduced by other powers and get pulled into intrigues and dubious dealings.

Exploring the Card

Lucius Malfoy seems to be an odd choice at first, but he embodies many



characteristics of the King of Cups. His arrogance and lust for power seem to fly in the face of the traditional meaning of the card as denoting a sensitive and compassionate character, but it is certainly true that he acquires wisdom through pain and suffering. Once he has returned from Azkaban and Voldemort is through with him, he sees what is truly important – to save the life of his son.

His role as a Death Eater also shows that he is not the powerful and independent pureblood he likes to present himself as in public. He has been seduced to the dark side, suffered himself to be branded like some piece of cattle and readily kneels and grovels at the feet of his half-blood master.

The Ace of Swords

Correspondences	The foundation of consciousness, Air
Keywords	Mental activity, comprehension, understanding, clarity, objectivity, cognitive ability, decision
Meaning	We are rational beings, capable of making sense of our surroundings and to comprehend the world around us. We think, bringing order to chaos, analyze a situation and formulate theories and solutions. This card urges us to use our heads, to trust reason and objectivity to solve conflicts and problems. Perhaps it is time to have that clarifying conversation, to sit down and think things through rather than blundering blindly along on hunches and on instinct.
Exploring the Card	For the Aces, the cards revert back to the four founders of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Rowena Ravenclaw prized exactly those traits in her students that the Ace of Swords stands for – brains, intelligence, a quick and nimble mind. Her sky-blue color and her totem of an eagle associate her squarely with the air element, as does the Ravenclaw common-room, perched atop one of Hogwarts' towers and accessible only after you prove you are intelligent enough to solve a riddle.

2 of Swords – Equilibrium

Correspondences	Moon in Libra
Keywords	Dualistic thinking, harmony through understanding, resolution of differences, peace, balance, justice
Meaning	In the 2s, each of the elements gets doubled up, i.e. it gets to react to a similar impulse. For the Swords, this means that two thoughts or ideas come together and the outcome is balance and equilibrium. An image of this would be a logical equation that has not been resolved yet. You can hold two ideas in your mind and not yet decide which one you'll adopt (because that would be a third impulse...). When drawn, the 2 of Swords signifies dualistic thinking, harmony through understanding, balance, justice and the resolution of differences. It is a good card to resolve a seemingly impossible situation through calm analysis or for being a



mediator.

Exploring the Card

The image for this card shows a close-up of an astronomical clock, close to the large one in the main window at Hogwarts with two hands in balance. Incidentally they are pointing at the astronomical cross-reference for this card: the Moon in Libra.

3 of Swords – Grief

Correspondences

Saturn in Libra

Keywords

Sorrow, tears, hurt, helplessness, weakness, pain, disappointment, self-torture

Meaning

As the four elements move into the 3s, we see the results of the 2s meeting and interacting. There is a sense of consolidation of opposites and a sense of now being able to "get on with it". The 3s also are aligned with the planet Saturn, the planet the ancients associated with time, with limitations, endings and the boundaries of the solar system. If you connect three points for the first time, you have a figure where a boundary encloses a finite space. So the association is very appropriate.

Air and the Intellect do not fare so well at being tripled up. The clash of two conflicting ideas has left us confused and we feel pain at having to overcome old and comfortable attitudes or having them destroyed for us. The card may also signify a betrayal that leaves us helpless and in pain, there may be a broken trust or a painful truth to face. The traditional card shows a thrice-stabbed heart...

Exploring the Card

The card shows the sharp daggers of the dissecting mind going to work on something beautiful (but ephemeral) and just leaving destruction in their path. Moonflowers are some of the most stunningly beautiful, but also transitory flowers - they bloom for only one night, their scent reminiscent of cucumber, limes and jasmine, and the plant that bears them is poisonous, inducing hallucinations.

Cutting through beautiful and intoxicating beliefs may be painful and leave nothing much to look at in its path, but ultimately the card teaches a thing beyond grief: the truth will set you free!

4 of Swords – Truce

Correspondences

Jupiter in Libra

Keywords

Contemplation, stillness, calm, solitude, peace, tolerance, recovery, insight

Meaning

The 4s of all the suits carry a measure of crystallization, of hardening and consolidation of the creative flux of the previous cards. The planetary ruler of the 4s is Jupiter, the old Roman ruler of the gods, but power is only one aspect of this dominance, the term "jovial" also derives from it, and so the cards tend to show also a certain mental relaxation and ease of mind that comes with stability and quiet. The number 4 gives you the four points of a square, one of the most stable geometric shapes of all.



A quieting of impulse for the ever-active ratio means that not much is moving at all. We are in a position of stalemate where nothing is really able to tilt the scales. This may not be a bad thing, as we withdraw into the self and use our powers of inner healing while we shut out the outside world and work on inner development. A good image for this card is the chrysalis: completely quiet on the outside, on the inside a lot gets accomplished as it manages the transformation from a caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly.

Exploring the Card

The image for this card shows the moment in *Philosopher's Stone* where the trio confronts the chessboard that blocks their access to the hiding place of the stone and they have to huddle to make decisions on how they will confront this next challenge. The pawns stand there with drawn swords, blocking the access, but nothing is moving and the friends have to retreat inwards on their own resources to find a solution.

5 of Swords – Defeat

Correspondences

Venus in Aquarius

Keywords

Humiliation, passive endurance, realization of limitations, loss, fear, embarrassment, betrayal

Meaning

While the 4s are all about consolidation, the 5s are about an eruptive breaking of moulds. The stability of the 4s grows unstable, and if we were comfortably settled with the previous cards, we now go through a certain amount of pain and insecurity at having to adjust. The 5s are under the auspices of Mars, whose somewhat violent energy is very appropriate to the dynamic of these cards.

For the Swords, the 5 signifies an experience of humiliation, the realization of limitations, loss, fear, embarrassment and betrayal. The things we held firm in our minds and on which we built the rationality of our actions and our image of self-worth, prove unreliable. So we almost feel as if we have been cursed. Experiences that our mind cannot rationalize touch our deepest fears until we may doubt reality itself. We feel as if we face aggression and rejection from all sides.

Exploring the Card

The 5 of Swords shows an imaginary spell book that lists dark curses and is opened at the page of the *sectumsempra* spell. It's an ugly spell, vicious and merciless, but it was invented by someone who had been pushed to extremes, who had been mistreated by those around him and resorted to this as a last line of defense. It's a spell born from despair and anger. As for the actual five swords, they are rather small and appear in the illustration in the text where the effect of the spell is portrayed as five daggers flying at the small cursed figure in the picture.

6 of Swords – Knowledge

Correspondences

Mercury in Aquarius

Keywords

Science, the search for the truth, understanding, intelligence, harmony of mind



and nature, holistic insight

Meaning The 6s stabilize and order the unbridled and sometimes destructive energy of the 5s and are associated with the sun, with clarity, order and energy of life.

In the area of the swords (air and rational mind), solar energy gives clarity and knowledge. We search for the truth, strive for harmony of mind and nature, for objectivity, understanding and intelligence. The card may signify sudden blazing insights and unconventional solutions to problems.

Exploring the Card For the image of the card we see six books with the publisher's symbol of a sword to give the six swords for the card. The books cover magic practices that have to do with air, speech, ratio and the sky: runes, levitation, astrology, arithmancy and air itself.

7 of Swords - Deception

Correspondences Moon in Aquarius

Keywords Cunning, naiveté, foolish trust, de-masking ourselves or others, cleverness, seduction, tricks

Meaning The 7s are associated with the energies of Venus and, at the danger of harping on old stereotypes of the feminine, they are involved with a view of the world colored by emotion, wishful thinking and misconceptions.

If we let Illusions get in the way of our rational mind - the domain of the Swords - we find ourselves deceived. This card cuts both ways: it may either mean that we snare ourselves in our own little devious lies and plots or that others are out to mislead us. We may fall victim to a scam or an intrigue, and sometimes our mind is our own worst enemy, undercutting and secretly undermining our own plans.

Exploring the Card The image on the card shows the Monster Book of Monsters which is a slightly tongue-in-cheek approach to deception, but gives us 7 impressive fangs for 7 swords: deceptively fierce and predatory, the book is reduced to a happily purring bundle of fur and paper once you stroke its spine, and we have a nice little scene of misdirection as Harry tries to recapture his copy by first dangling a shoe down for it to attack and then jumping it, once it's lured by the bait.

8 of Swords - Interference

Correspondences Jupiter in Gemini

Keywords Restlessness, being driven, multiple interests, too many choices, nervousness, mania, inability to concentrate

Meaning The 8s are under the auspices of Mercury and share some of its quicksilver mental acuity. The cards offer sudden insights, but also share a sense of nervousness and of mental hyper-sensitivity.

If the inventors of the tarot had known about attention deficit disorder, this card would be it. We are so hyper, we simply cannot stay on one task, instead we are



pulled in multiple directions and in the end, very little gets accomplished. In some cases the distractions do not come from within, but we seem to be surrounded by people who feel destined to offer unsolicited advice and opinions slowing us down and meddling in our affairs.

If this card has one message, it would be to slow down, to re-evaluate what needs to get done and to refuse to get side-tracked from our plans.

Exploring the Card

If ever there was a task that played with the concept of interference, it was the trap in *Philosopher's Stone* that had Harry pick one key out of a mad enchanted swarm of flying keys to open the door in the dungeons. It required ignoring distractions and staying the course to reach the one item that was actually relevant. So here we have a smaller swarm of eight keys fly up one of the staircases in the castle to remind us of the meaning of that task.

9 of Swords – Cruelty

Correspondences

Mars in Gemini

Keywords

Nightmares, guilt, irrational fear, shame, terror, misery, hatred, despair, suffering

Meaning

The 9s constitute the last impulse on the four elements before they reach their final manifestation in the 10s. The 9s are ruled by the Moon and by the subconscious – drives and impulses that are rarely fully transparent to us and that may work for us or against us.

With Swords representing the rational, conscious mind, the influence of subconscious impulses does not result in harmony, but in bitter conflict. We repress, project, regress, we punish ourselves or others – in short, we display all the typical defense mechanisms of a deeply wounded psyche. If we pull this card, the message is difficult, but we cannot side-step or avoid our fear or shame and misery. The only way out is to walk through the heart of terror, to face our demons and to use our rational mind to recognize what is lurking in the shadows. Only then can we vanquish it and move on.

Exploring the Card

One of the most deeply unsettling situations in the books is Umbridge's punishment of Harry by making him write with the cursed quill. It is so unsettling, because on some level Harry does truly feel he deserves it – not for the reason Umbridge gives him, but for failures he does feel responsible for, like the death of Cedric Diggory.

This kind of co-dependent sense of guilt locks teacher and student into a truly sick relationship where the punisher derives sadistic satisfaction from the pain of his victim, and the victim complies, because he feels it is the right thing that happens to him.

There are no actual physical swords in this card, but the nine lines Harry has written have cut into his skin like so many sharp knives...

10 of Swords – Destruction



Correspondences	Sun in Gemini
Keywords	The end, separation as an act of freeing oneself, farewell, transformation, ruin, death
Meaning	In the 10s, all elements are subjected to full materialization. The 10s are dominated by the planet Earth. They are the most solid and crystallized manifestation of each suite. For the Swords, this is not an easy influence to deal with. It signifies that we see things as they really are – no wishful thinking, no illusions, no hope. We have reached the end of the line, be it in a job, in a relationship or a personal matter, and now we have to make the conscious decision to face the consequences. In this way, the card is related to XIII Death and XVI The Tower. However, in the two major arcana the need to let go is more of a development forced by outward developments, be it organic or catastrophic. In contrast to that, the 10 of Swords forces us to bring about the end ourselves. In a spread, this may mean that we finally realize we are in a dead-end job or in a relationship that's going nowhere, and we take the initiative and hand in our notice or separate from our partner. We literally pick up the sword and cut ourselves off.

Exploring the Card	The card shows a dementor with ten talon-like claws bending over his next victim. The image can be interpreted as a warning. If we do not accept the harsh message of this card and continue fooling ourselves that things will somehow improve if we just wait a little longer, we end up like those poor witches and wizards, whose encounter with a dementor has left them as soulless and unconscious husks of their former selves.
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Princess of Swords

Correspondences	Water of Air
Keywords	Impulsiveness, mischief, self-realization, rebellion, renewal, the amazon warrior
Meaning	A young woman of mental acuity who is prepared to take on the world, she has charm, esprit and a keen sense of logic and she has no problem with picking fights and be right up in your face if she feels you disrespect her. She also has a keen sense of fun and mischief, enjoys playing tricks and pranks on people, and she is always prepared to defend her ideals and opinions.
Exploring the Card	Try calling Tonks by her first name of Nymphadora and you find out very quickly, what the Princess of Swords is all about. Like her mother, Tonks is a born rebel, abandoning her Black heritage and fighting the dark side as an auror at the ministry. She also can be a bit of an air-head, the way she generally manages to stumble into objects, but she takes it all with a sense of fun including her metamorphmagus abilities that she uses to amuse others. Here she stands before the Black coat-of-arms depicting the sword that she not yet wields and conjures her patronus, a white wolf.



Prince of Swords

Correspondences	Air of Air
Keywords	Search for understanding and solutions, cutting the bonds that hold us fast, overcoming obstacles, inventiveness, the flight of Icarus
Meaning	The Prince of Swords is a complicated character. He has a keen and penetrating mind, but he does not truly believe in anything or feel anything. His personal independence is paramount to him. He is a genius who does not think about the consequences of his actions. His attitude of “anything goes” can injure those around him. He will convince himself and others of anything, using his brilliant mind. He is the kind of guy you want to have as part of your team during brainstorming, but not as someone you’d need to rely on, when you need someone with a conscience. Sometimes the Prince of Swords can be so in love with his own fabulousness, he becomes naïve and fails to see reality.
Exploring the Card	Regulus Black is a reformed Prince of Swords. He starts out seduced by Voldemort, and he is not interested in the consequences of his actions. Only when he understands the impact of his choice on Kreacher, does it get through to him that he’s on the wrong side. After that he uses his truly brilliant mind to figure out Voldemort’s horcrux plot and even manages to remove one of them. Dumbledore and Harry could not have completed the task, had it not been for the investigation and brave sacrifice of the mysterious RAB. In the card, we have him standing at the stone basin with the poison, contemplating the horcrux locket and thinking about actions and consequences.

Queen of Swords

Correspondences	Earth of Air
Keywords	Liberty, self-reliance, calculating coldness, distance, intelligence, arrogance, pride, reason, methodical approaches, independence
Meaning	The Queen of Swords is the woman who is using her head to rule her heart and get ahead in the world. For many centuries she’s got bad press as ice-cold and calculating, as too masculine and unfeeling and as inherently barren, frigid and evil. In modern times, she gives us a more positive message, showing us that women have a reason to exist that is not defined by their fathers, husbands and children. They can have a career, make independent decisions and be their own person. The most positive archetype for the Queen of Swords is the Greek goddess Athena, the most negative the black widow who kills her men by sucking them dry.
Exploring the Card	Bellatrix Lestrange shows more of the shadow side of this card than its positive meaning. She is cruel, sadistic and ruthless, but she is also the only female Death Eater we know of, the only woman to apparently possess the Dark Lord’s trust and to be able to break into an entirely male domain. She is a powerful witch who knows what she wants, and even though she fights firmly on the dark side, she possesses both loyalty and authenticity.



King of Swords

Correspondences	Fire of Air
Keywords	Activity, acuity, the will to understand, strategy, enlightenment, duplicity, cynicism, adaptability, cleverness
Meaning	The archetype for the King of Swords is Ulysses, the brilliant adventurer that brought death to a city, who had a solution for everything, was not about lies and dissimulation, but who also took on the gods themselves and never wavered from his goal to get home. It is also Mercury, the messenger of the gods, the healer and guardian of the dead, but also the god of tricksters, traders and thieves. The King of Swords teaches us that the mind is a powerful weapon for good and for ill and he himself has the potential for both. We may use our intelligence to better the world, to cure disease, to stamp out hunger, to understand the universe and to bring justice to everyone. We can also abuse it to trick and deceive, to steal and betray and to hurt others.
Exploring the Card	Sirius Black embodies the duality of the King of Swords. He is brilliant – the only wizard ever to figure out how to break out of Azkaban, and as an animagus he has a dual nature that enables him to appear as a dog and trick or protect others. For some people like James, Remus and Harry, he is indisputably good: a steadfast friend and a loyal protector. However ask folks like Severus Snape or Kreacher, the house elf, and a different story emerges: that of an arrogant, even sadistic bully, who enjoys lording it over those he despises.

The Ace of Disks

Correspondences	The roots of matter, Earth
Keywords	Materialization, the body, possessions, wealth, power, success, the five senses
Meaning	The card urges us to be pragmatic, to concentrate on the reality of the here and now and to ensure our plans and aspirations are based on a firm foundation. We take pleasure in the riches of the earth and in our own material existence. We enjoy stability and security and revel in great health and unbridled energy. Our undertakings are crowned by success and an increase of wealth and status.
Exploring the Card	For the Aces, the cards revert back to the four founders of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. With their common-room located right by the kitchens, the yellow of gold or ripe grain as their house color and their earthy totem animal, the badger, Hufflepuffs are squarely aligned with the earth element. Helga Hufflepuff's open and mothering welcome to all of her students also fits well with the properties of this element.

2 of Disks – Change

Correspondences	Jupiter in Capricorn
Keywords	New goals and directions, the power of opposites, the eternal circle, yin-yang,



flexibility, polarization, transmutation

Meaning

In the 2s, each of the elements gets doubled up, i.e. it gets to react to a similar impulse. With two material states, the result is change. You move from one state to the other, from young to old, from rich to poor, from cold to warm. Nothing in the material worlds ever stays stable while its alive and change is inevitable for survival.

The meaning of the card points to the power of opposites, yin-yang, polarization and opposing forces, but also to the eternal cycle where one state gets transmuted into the other. The card urges us to realize that everything has two sides and to abandon one-sided standpoints and outlooks and is best approached with a certain amount of flexibility and an easy-going attitude.

Exploring the Card

The card depicts an imaginary bit of marble flooring at Hogwarts that shows a mosaic of the two most opposite houses - Gryffindor and Slytherin. Still, in the books we have two members of those houses who did a complete about-face: Wormtail, who proved more treacherous than any snake, and Snape, who proved braver than any of Godric's lions. The wavy mosaic lines surrounding the two medallions symbolize the flow of change and transmutation.

3 of Disks – Work

Correspondences

Mars in Capricorn

Keywords

Manifestation, realization, duty, development, growth, progress, material increase, creation

Meaning

As the four elements move into the 3s, we see the results of the 2s meeting and interacting. There is a sense of consolidation of opposites and a sense of now being able to "get on with it". The 3s also are aligned with the planet Saturn, the planet the ancients associated with time, with limitations, endings and the boundaries of the solar system. If you connect three points for the first time, you have a figure where a boundary encloses a finite space. So the association is very appropriate.

Now that we have materials to work with, well, we work. In a sense the card teaches us to accept the limitations of our physical existence and then set out to transform them and to make of them the best we can. Our work will be successful and recognized. We can harvest the fruits of our labor and we will attain full self-realization. It will be a strenuous time of dedication and focus, but at the end we will accomplish the results we strive for.

Exploring the Card

There is no better analogy for this card than the great work of the Alchemists - to transform lead into gold and the self from gross matter into a spiritual being. The card shows a fictitious window at Hogwarts depicting the three basic elements of Alchemy - Mercury, Sulfur and Salt and around them the seven planets signifying the basic metals of gold, silver, mercury, copper, iron, tin and lead.



4 of Disks – Stability

Correspondences	Sun in Capricorn
Keywords	Power, security, fixation, completion of earthly power, unerring direction, status, influence, position, structure
Meaning	The 4s of all the suits carry a measure of crystallization, of hardening and consolidation of the creative flux of the previous cards. The planetary ruler of the 4s is Jupiter, the old Roman ruler of the gods, but power is only one aspect of this dominance, the term "jovial" also derives from it, and so the cards tend to show also a certain mental relaxation and ease of mind that comes with stability and quiet. The number 4 gives you the four points of a square, one of the most stable geometric shapes of all. In the material realm stability is a good thing. Recent stock market events have shown that upheaval and wealth don't mix well. So consolidation translates into security, stability, completion, power, an unerring sense of direction, status, influence, position and structure. If you ever wanted to leave a mark on the material world, this card will give you that chance.
Exploring the Card	What better choice to illustrate this sense of stability than a well-filled purse with four shiny gold galleons and a few sickles and knuts. When we are in control of our wealth it allows us both a sense of security and a way to make an impact on the world around us – for better or for worse.

5 of Disks – Torment

Correspondences	Mercury in Taurus
Keywords	Crisis, need, bankruptcy, poverty, loss, fears, lack of purpose, insecurity, meaninglessness, pain, destruction of form
Meaning	While the 4s are all about consolidation, the 5s are about an eruptive breaking of moulds. The stability of the 4s grows unstable, and if we were comfortably settled with the previous cards, we now go through a certain amount of pain and insecurity at having to adjust. The 5s are under the auspices of Mars whose somewhat violent energy is very appropriate to the dynamic of these cards. In the suite of Disks, the Mars energy is the most painful and difficult. When material securities fall away and prove brittle, people suffer. We are material beings and if we are robbed of that sustenance, whether it be actual food or our home, possessions or sense of safety, we are in pain. The best image to express the deep suffering of this card is a quiet farm-stead with the fields ripe for harvest, and an army marching through, killing the farmer and his family, slaughtering his livestock and trampling his crops into the dirt.
Exploring the Card	The five of Disks shows Dumbledore's withered hand after he touches the horcrux ring. He tries to break the mould of the material world by calling the dead to him and this breach ultimately robs him of his own existence - it is the first step on the path of torment that finally leads him to plead for death on top of the astronomy tower. The black stone of the ring represents one disk, the other four are symbols



for the most inauspicious of geomantic figures stitched into the sleeve of his robes: tristitia, carcer, rubeus and amisso - sadness, prison, reddening and loss.

6 of Disks - Success

Correspondences	Moon in Taurus
Keywords	Overcoming of crisis, material success, harmony and fullness, achievement, optimism
Meaning	The 6s stabilize and order the unbridled and sometimes destructive energy of the 5s and are associated with the sun, with clarity, order and energy of life. In the case of the disks, this translates into material success. The card is associated with harmony and fullness, wealth, and the fulfillment of wishes. We achieve our goals, events seem to work out in our favor, and having an optimistic outlook in life pays off.
Exploring the Card	Hermione's abnormally successful OWLs results work well as an image for this card. As anyone knows who's sat tests - you can't do it without hard work and putting in your best effort, but it also takes a little dash of just plain good luck. That's how "Success" works: you can't just sit back and hope good things will happen to you, you need to strive for them and just wish for that little extra nudge by the universe to make it all come together.

7 of Disks - Failure

Correspondences	Saturn in Taurus
Keywords	Emptiness, resignation, confrontation with deep-seated fears, loss, plagues, misfortune, misery, the universe appearing to conspire to keep you down
Meaning	The 7s are associated with the energies of Venus and, at the danger of harping on old stereotypes of the feminine, they are involved with a view of the world colored by emotion, wishful thinking and misconceptions. For the Disks and the material plane, this does not make for good news: to approach a project with the wrong assumptions and with an unrealistic outlook will result in only one thing: failure. When drawn, this card will prepare you for things to go wrong. If you are already in the middle of a disaster, don't follow false hopes, be realistic and accept the consequences. If you are just getting started, you may want to delay or get ready for a rough journey ahead.
Exploring the Card	The image for this card shows the infamous cursed opal necklace at Borgin and Burke's that Harry first sees in <i>Chamber of Secrets</i> and that Draco uses unsuccessfully in <i>Half-blood Prince</i> to try and bring about Dumbledore's demise. The 7 set stones represent the 7 disks, and an object that can kill by mere touch makes for a suitable symbol of failure in the material world.

8 of Disks - Circumspection



Correspondences	Sun in Virgo
Keywords	Clarity through organization and structure, insight into detailed connections, self-discipline, objectivity, knowledge of rules, planning
Meaning	The 8s are under the auspices of Mercury and share some of its quicksilver mental acuity. The cards offer sudden insights, but also share a sense of nervousness and of mental hyper-sensitivity. On the material plane, a jolt of Mercury energy proves to be very beneficial. We are able to establish harmony with our surroundings through insight and conscious effort. Well thought out and tactical planning helps us achieve our goals. We are prepared to do our homework and it pays off. The card also indicates a readiness to wait for developments to run their natural course, to work with our opportunities rather than against them.
Exploring the Card	The put-outer seems to be an object that symbolizes this approach well throughout the books. It first appears, when Dumbledore extinguishes the street-lights on Privet Drive so they can leave Harry undisturbed with his aunt and uncle, and later it becomes a bequest to Ron and proves instrumental in reuniting him with his friends in <i>Deathly Hallows</i>, when he regrets his rash decision of turning his back on them. Overall it proves Dumbledore's almost preternatural aptitude for planning and foreseeing developments and for providing the appropriate solutions. For this card, the magical instrument is absorbing eight disks of light in a darkened muggle street to allow its bearer to go about his business undisturbed.
9 of Disks – Gain	
Correspondences	Venus in Virgo
Keywords	Contentment, security, a stroke of good fortune, increase, growth, powerful insights
Meaning	The 9s constitute the last impulse on the four elements before they reach their final manifestation in the 10s. The 9s are ruled by the Moon and by the subconscious – drives and impulses that are rarely fully transparent to us and that may work for us or against us. The Earth element in the Disks responds well to this influence. It inspires us to grow and to try more than we ever thought ourselves capable of, because we have an instinctive belief that we will find what we need along the way. We are capable to achieve what we put our mind to, and somehow it feels as if the universe recognized our sincerity and responded in kind. When drawn, the card may indicate a stroke of luck – a business deal that goes through, a promotion we've been working towards, finding "the one" that's right for us...
Exploring the Card	What better to symbolize this meaning than the Room of Requirement? There you walk the castle with this intense need firmly fixed in your mind and next you are met with precisely the manifestation of all the things that will meet that need – this is exactly what the 9 of Disks stands for. Here the room is just about to



open. Nine pairs of stones part to open the gate, one stone of each pair inscribed with a symbol for the geomantic figure of *acquisitio* – gain.

10 of Disks – Wealth

Correspondences	Mercury in Virgo
Keywords	Solidity, security, firm foundation, outer and inner riches, satisfaction, treasures
Meaning	In the 10s, all elements are subjected to full materialization. The 10s are dominated by the planet Earth. They are the most solid and crystallized manifestation of each suite. For the Disks and the element of Earth, full materialization is the culmination of a natural development. We reap the harvest of all of our aspirations and efforts and it feels good. This is not just related to outer success and riches, but also signifies a sense of inner wealth, of feeling mature and secure in who we are.
Exploring the Card	The 10 of Disks shows us a glimpse at Hagrid’s hut with a bumper crop of 10 fat pumpkins. The image does not only convey the sense of outward and material plenty, but Hagrid is also a character who is deeply content with who he is and where he is. Lucius Malfoy may not even acknowledge that his dwelling place is fit to qualify as a house, but with a hot cup of tea, some rock cakes and Fang slobbering all over your face, how could you not call it a very welcoming home indeed...

Princess of Disks

Correspondences	Water of Earth
Keywords	Love, warmth, protection, being in tune with nature, being at rest within oneself, caring, growth
Meaning	The Princess of Earth is a somewhat shy, but very creative and warm-hearted young woman. She is trusting and open to new ideas and willing to follow-through on her plans, no matter what. She is reliable, kind and in tune with the cycles of nature within herself and within the world around her. Her insights are powerful, not necessarily at a superficial intellectual level, but because they express a deeper sense of truth.
Exploring the Card	Luna Lovegood is a wonderful embodiment of this archetype. Even though she is in Ravenclaw, she has a great ability to “ground” her friends. She is highly creative, from her personal adornments to the beautiful embellishments of her bedroom depicting her friends. And while her unshakable belief in nargles and blibbering humdingers exposes her to the ridicule of her fellow students, it expresses a deeper truth: that this world is full of magic and surprises, if we only open our eyes and believe. She also acknowledges and accepts that sometimes knowledge is only achieved through pain. She can see and befriend thestrals because of the death of her mother. This gives her the kind of old soul that characterizes a true Princess of Disks.



Prince of Disks

Correspondences	Air in Earth
Keywords	Dedication, concentration, stamina, stubbornness, perseverance, work, reliability, focus on a goal
Meaning	The Prince of Swords is a sober, dedicated and reliable young man. He may not have the smarts of the Prince of Swords or the fire of the Prince of Wands, but he sticks to his task through thick and thin. Others may dismiss him as slow and dumb, but he has great practical intelligence and accomplishes what he sets his mind to. He can trust his instinct and takes a pragmatic approach to life. He also has a hand for tools and possesses dexterity and physical strength.
Exploring the Card	Even though he is a Gryffindor, Neville Longbottom, like Luna, has an innate ability to cut through Gryffindor enthusiasm and suicidal bravery and bring his friends back to reality. Perhaps he shares this ability with Luna, because like her, he's had a tremendous amount of pain and loss in his young life. He is dismissed by many as borderline squib, but once he discovers his passion – herbology, he becomes a formidable student with vast abilities and knowledge that he uses to help others.

Queen of Disks

Correspondences	Earth in Earth
Keywords	Material security, connection to all forms of life, matriarchy, realism, protecting what you have
Meaning	The Queen of Disks is a mature, experienced woman who has both feet firmly on the ground and takes care of her own. She embodies creativity and the life-force, and is patient and trustworthy. She teaches us that we cannot achieve results without dedication and personal sacrifice and that we need to stand firm before we reach for the stars, otherwise we topple and fall. She has no time for nonsense, foolishness and daydreaming.
Exploring the Card	Pomona Sprout, the reliable, dedicated Herbology teacher makes a good Queen of Disks. She is unfazed by fainting students, but in a crunch can be relied on to whip up a potent mandrake draught. Her green thumb and no-nonsense attitude makes her a great image for this card.

King of Disks

Correspondences	Fire in Earth
Keywords	Endurance, reliability, strength, patience, conservatism, possessions, order and structure, realism
Meaning	The King of Disks is a sober, realistic man who is occupied with stabilizing and protecting what he has achieved and to test new ventures and projects for their potential. He is willing to take his time to see his goals realized and to do the



groundwork to prepare a plentiful harvest. He also has a great compassion for and empathy with the earth and with all her creatures.

Exploring the Card

Hagrid is a true embodiment of the King of Disks, his half-giant background aligns him firmly with the element of Earth, and his willingness to care for any kind of monster in need shows his compassion for all creatures. He is impossible to turn from a course of action once he is embarked on it, such as the rehabilitation of his brother where he persists, when everyone else would have given up. Despite his size and strength, he can be surprisingly gentle and protective, such as when Dumbledore entrusts him with rescuing Harry as a baby. He also is absolutely reliable and trustworthy and never lets his friends down.

Here he sits in his hut, happy to hold the hatching dragon Norbert, the egg doubling as a symbol of the disks.