

THE UNVEILED TAROT

JESSE LONERGAN

FOREWORD BY MIKE MIGNOLA



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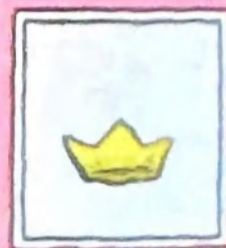
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CONTENTS

FOREWORD

4

INTRODUCTION

6

THE MAJOR
ARCANA

9

EXCLUSIVE CARDS

34

THE MINOR
ARCANA

37

HOW TO READ
THE CARDS

56





FOREWORD

First let's be clear: I am a simple creature. I love ghosts, graveyards and moonlit castles, shadowy staircases and coffins in the basement. What I know of tarot is pretty much nothing, just a vague ominous blur born of candlelit gothics and ghost stories. You mention tarot to me, and I see the glorious black and white atmosphere of old monster movies (the kind they don't make anymore), heavy drapery, silk scarves, and jangly bangle bracelets. Here comes the Fortune Teller; she (always a she) is either a dark-haired exotic beauty (see Maureen O'Hara in the 1939 *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*) or a wise old crone (see Maria Ouspenskaya in the 1941 *The Wolf Man*). That's how simple I am. In fact, I don't think either of the fantasy women in my head ever actually used cards but, well, let's just keep going. She pushes the crystal ball out of the way (pretty sure neither O'Hara nor Ouspenskaya ever had a crystal ball) and deals out the cards: cups and swords, a skeletal reaper, a burning tower, and some poor bastard hanging upside down by his foot. . . . I don't know what any of these cards actually mean, and apparently they have different meanings depending on how they are dealt out, in what order and how they sit next to each other—something like that. It is not for me, the common (simple) man, to comprehend the cards. The fortune teller (beauty, crone, or other) must interpret them for me. But I know they mean *something*.



How could they not? They are amazing looking things, wonderful pieces of art that are wonderfully symbolic. I have always loved these images. I've seen a great many variations over the years; and now, finally, we come to the Jesse Lonergan cards. Knowing Jesse's work, I'm guessing we are in for something a little different . . . and (holy crap!) I was right.

As I write this, I am looking at Jesse's cards for the first time. Having worked with him, I know he's something of a genius so my expectations were pretty high, but what he's delivered here sails so far beyond anything I was expecting. Brilliant. Gorgeous. Well, okay, I was expecting brilliant and gorgeous. What I wasn't expecting was *modern*—the politician as the Fool; a rock star as the High Priestess; the couple on the subway, each lost in their own electronic devices, as the Lovers; and that stunning Tower. The way he fuses the very new with the very old (the Chariot, the Hermit) and the very unexpected (the Devil)—all very much of our time—a comment on our world of today without losing any of the power of the way-back-whenever.

I hope that writing this foreword earns me a set of these cards. I may not be able to read my future in them, but I look forward to spending time with them, getting lost in these images. And who knows . . . ?

Mike Mignola
Somewhere in Los Angeles






INTRODUCTION

The first card that I drew was Death, which seems appropriate. I've always taken comfort in the idea that in a hundred years I and most everyone I know will be dead, and likely forgotten. It removes a lot of the pressure from the things that cause anxiety in the present moment. It can be very freeing to think about mundane frustrations from this perspective.

You can even go geological. Most things become trivial from the perspective of a sedimentary rock that took millions of years to form, which is close to saying that nothing matters but not quite. Our time is limited and all things will pass, so you must find what truly matters to you and give that all you've got.

Of course there are things that stick around through history, that extend through generations and resonate long after their origin: certain stories, ideas, and archetypes that reappear across the centuries and millennia.

It's that quality that initially attracted me to the tarot. These images and figures that came down through history, in some cases evolving as they went, which spoke to people centuries ago in much the same way as they speak to people now. It may be hard to believe that somebody in the eighteenth century,



when tarot started to be used for divination, would have anything in common with a person living today, but somehow I find it easy to believe that we could look at the Fool or Ten of Wands and find our minds going to similar places, despite the years between us.

The idea with my cards is to capture that quality of difference and similarity, ancient and modern, near and far, upright and reversed. All of the cards have two images which come together in some way or another, and the intention is for this juxtaposition to create harmony or dissonance that leads to new ideas that are more than the sum of the constituent parts.

My hope is that, through these contrasts and parallels, these cards can help you find perspective. And perhaps this deck can help you discover (or rediscover) what's really important and separate the trivial from the essential.





THE
MAJOR
ARCANA



INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR ARCANA

Our journey begins with the Major Arcana, the twenty-two cards beginning with the Fool and ending with the World, which represent the archetypes and cosmic forces that might guide you on your path. These cards are more complex than the Minor Arcana, both in their outward layers of symbolism and interior truths.

Perhaps your story of growth will be a linear one following the confident Fool and the savvy Magician through to oneness with the World in a path known as “The Fool’s Journey,” or maybe your road will be more unconventional and spontaneous. There’s no telling when the Major Arcana will appear in your readings, but you had better take heed when they pop up and be aware of their significance regarding your true path.





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THE FOOL

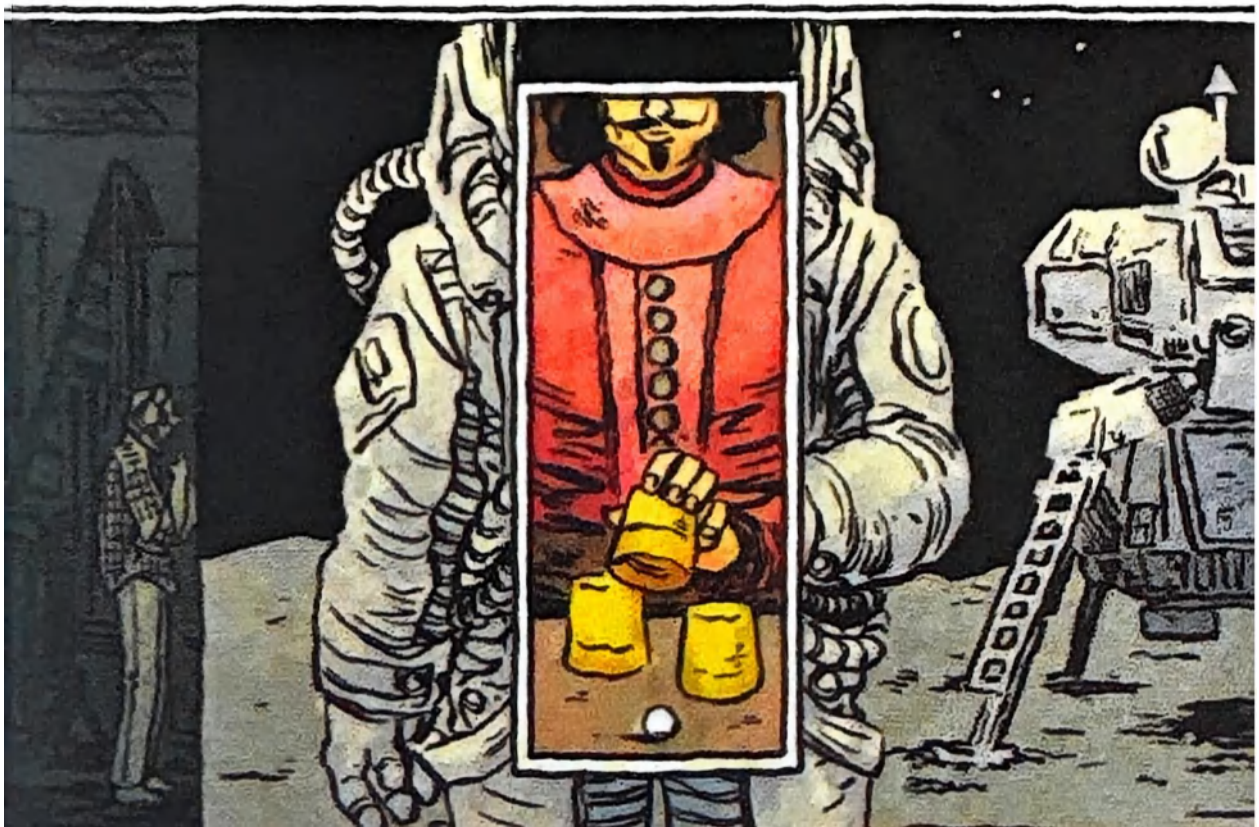
The sun shines and flags wave at the inauguration of the journey. Beginnings can occur at any age and in any circumstance, whether you are dressed in a beggar's ragged clothes or a tycoon's power suit. The world lies before you with myriad paths, possibilities and opportunities. What can you accomplish? Will you be a liberator, a tyrant, or something of little note in between? Are you overconfident? Will you listen to the advice of those that surround you? Is their advice worth listening to? Is there a cosmic plan being followed, or is this an exercise in improvisation? Much will remain unknown, and there will certainly be mistakes and regrets, but the journey has begun.

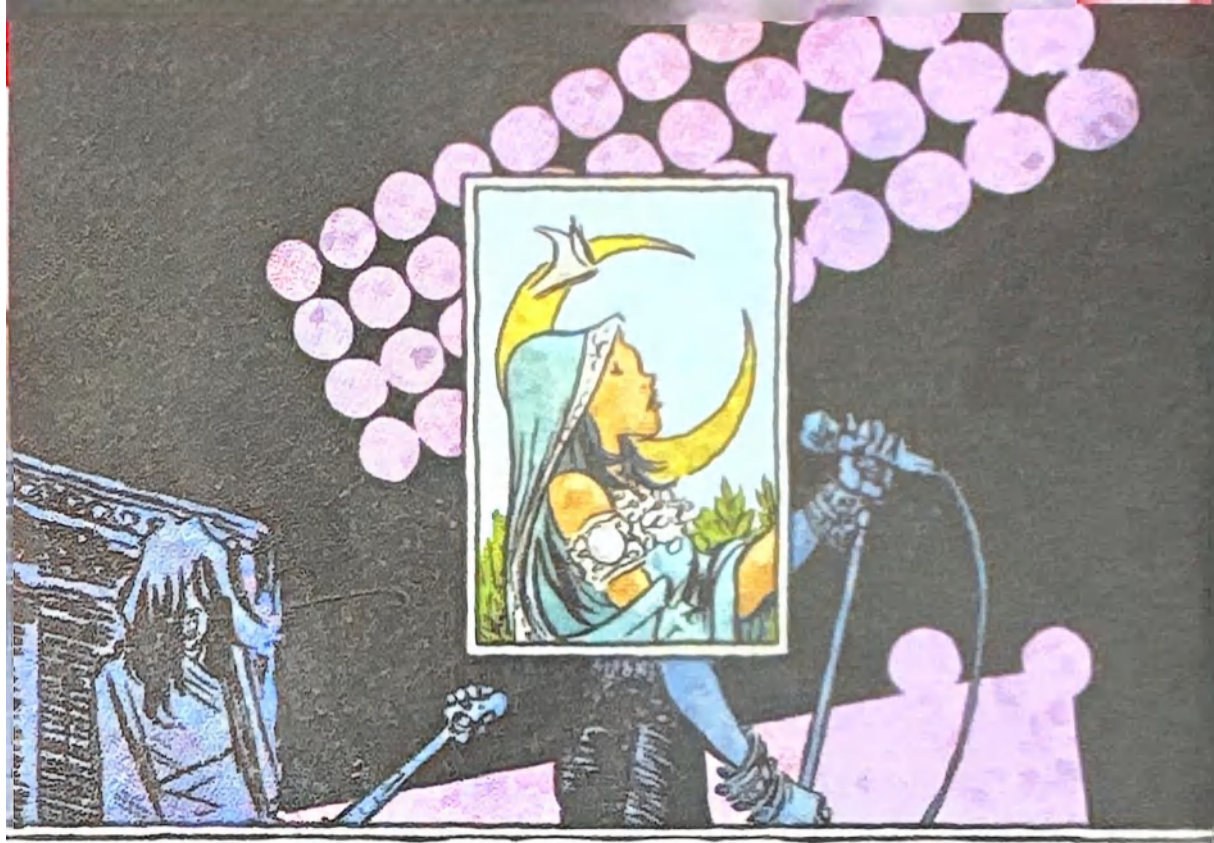
There may be disasters to come: pain to weather, monsters to fight, and dreaded truths to face. Fear of these things should not prevent you from beginning the journey. The strength of the Fool is the willingness to embrace the risk of failure; but do travel with caution. The Fool laughs with the world, while a clown is laughed at.



THE MAGICIAN

Anything is possible if people believe it so. Through pure willpower, determination, and a clever shuffling of the elements, the Magician unifies heaven and earth, or at least makes people believe he has. In some cases, facts only get in the way of dreams and pure imagination. In moving forward, you must be resourceful and use your skills and abilities to manifest the reality in which you want to live. You have everything you need to craft the best version of you. In much the same way as the ball moves from cup to cup, jump between personas until you find the one that is most useful for your goals. Reach for the heavens, but keep your head clear. Don't lose track of the ball or yourself.





THE HIGH PRIESTESS

Anyone can sing the notes, but the High Priestess knows that the spaces in between the notes are just as important as the notes themselves. The superficial world demands we pay attention to the sounds of clocks ticking, cars running, and voices talking. We've become so inured to the noise and the volume that we actively run from the silence. In the silence we are alone with ourselves, and this shouldn't feel like a terrible thing. The silence is where we breathe. Our unconscious raises its head, the soft inner voice speaks, and logic and pragmatism cower in the face of pure intuition. What mysteries will be revealed? What secrets will be exposed? Is someone hiding something from you, or are you hiding something from yourself? Perhaps it is time to join the High Priestess and revel in silence in the midst of the maelstrom.



THE EMPRESS

Harnessing her love and creative energies, the Empress brings forth beauty into the world. Her mind, body, and spirit are fully in tune; her warmth and inspiration spreads out, takes root in the ground, and sends out an abundance of new growth. Miracles of natural beauty spring forth from the smallest seeds of thought and affection, but they will only grow if they are planted in fertile soil and cared for with love and patience. A maple tree will not grow in the desert, and a cactus will not thrive in the arctic. You must observe the conditions and carefully choose which seeds to plant. It is also possible to give too much of yourself, and it is important to recognize when you have given enough. Perhaps the time for the watering can has passed and it is time to do some pruning instead.





THE EMPEROR

The statue of stone stands tall and monolithic, representing authority, stability, and order. Here is the protector who, with discipline and focus, makes sure things get done. Standing high above the crowd, nothing is beyond the statue's view, and with his perspective there is a practical solution for every situation. The statue represents ideals to aspire to. However, you must remember you are a human made of flesh and blood and not an immovable piece of stone, immune to the failings and weaknesses of the living.

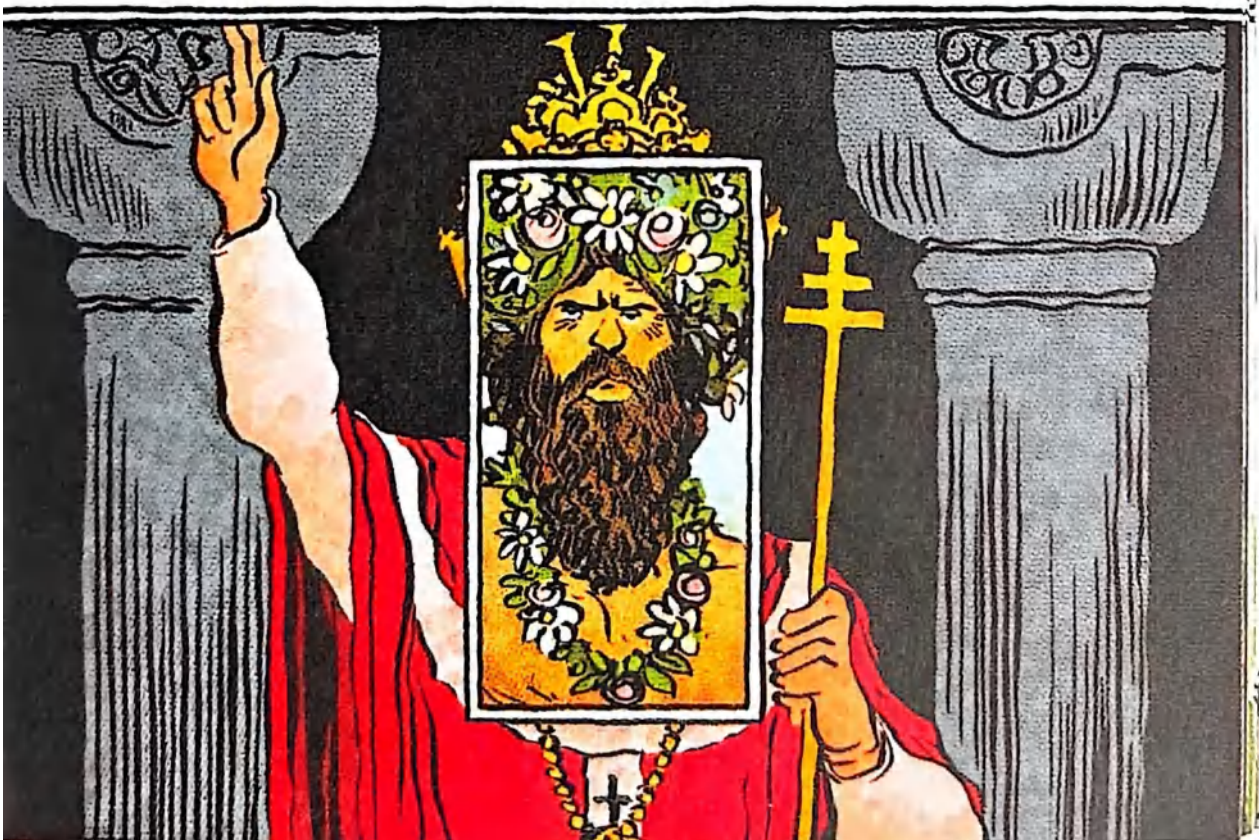
You may find yourself in a position of power with big decisions to make, and it is important to keep perspective and see the people that surround you. Stone cannot bend, and from the statue's vantage point it is easy to lose track of the living, breathing individuals amid the crowd. True success comes from the merging of the two points of view. The strength of stone must be combined with the flexibility of the human form.



THE HIEROPHANT

You find yourself standing before the Hierophant in his full regalia; the symbols of tradition, authority, and power he wears echo through the years. These could be the vestments of a priest or any other form of attire signaling command and experience. He possesses knowledge and can function as a guide down paths both physical and spiritual.

You may take comfort in the structure he offers, and many will be content to simply follow his instruction, observing the trail markers and performing the liturgy without truly understanding the deeper meanings. Move beyond this to understand the symbols and ancient knowledge that surround you. These ancestral beliefs, which have provided guidance for centuries, could help you on your journey toward the future. Seek wisdom from the past without following blindly. As your awareness grows you may find yourself turning away from traditional authorities and looking instead to your own moral compass to guide yourself down unconventional, perhaps even iconoclastic, paths.





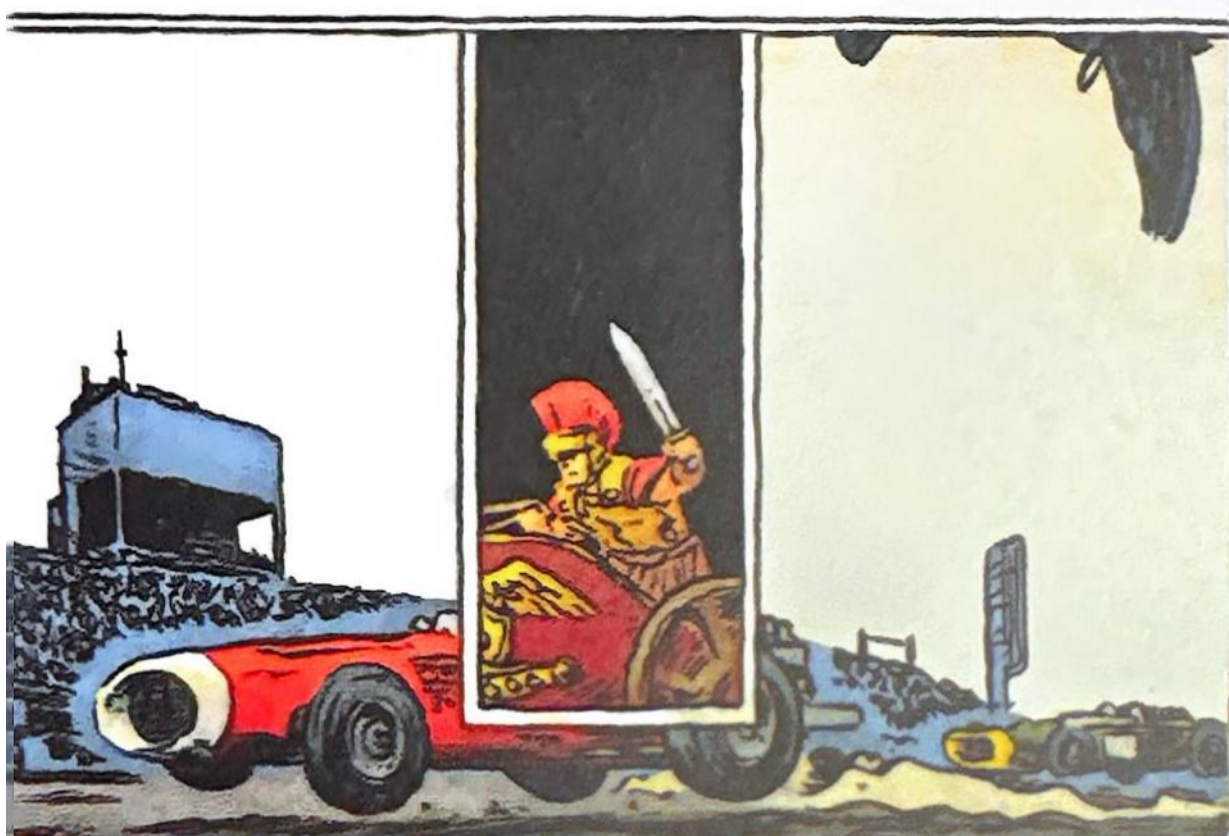
THE LOVERS

Love in all its forms can be found even in the most mundane moments. Passionate relationships, deep friendships, selfless unconditional love. . . . They are all there, simply waiting for a person to make the commitment to be connected to the people around them. It's easy to unthinkingly ride the train of life back and forth and never experience the depths of consciousness that love can bring. You are more than these daily routines and banal distractions; you must look up and consider what surrounds you. Breaking through surface mundanities requires a decision to make a commitment to action and personal engagement that will bring you to a higher level and a new experience. The love in question could be something new or perhaps an existing relationship that has fallen out of balance. Have your relationships drifted into thoughtless routines? You must commit to being actively involved in your connections, both old and new.



THE CHARIOT

Victory is within your reach; the crowd is ready to cheer, and the umpire is about to wave the checkered flag. You have all that you need to succeed. Combine the skills you've been developing for years with the resources you have at hand. Even with perfect focus and control of your assets, it will not be an easy path to success. There will be obstacles to overcome and challenges from other competitors, but, with confidence and determination, you will power yourself through to the end. However, you must remember that power without control will surely end in disaster, whether in some catastrophic accident or by simply burning up all your fuel before the finish line.





STRENGTH

It's a violent world. Passionate conflict and open aggression present themselves at every turn, but with your strength you can tame violent forces and calm chaotic situations. With confidence, compassion, and love you can accomplish nearly anything. At times, you may even appear to be a miracle worker. You can stop the bleeding and find cures for the most hopeless cases. Not only this but you can also get others to join you. The greatest strength of all is to get others to believe; your self-confidence and courage shows that they too can be brave. "I can't" becomes "I can." Do not be afraid to show your strength, whether it be physical, mental, or emotional. It should not be a shallow show of strength simply meant to impress; it should be an aid and an inspiration.



THE HERMIT

There is peace alone on the mountaintop with nothing to distract you from your contemplation, but you can't live there. Instead, you need to find peace where you can find it. Amid the frenetic bustling of a world that wants you running here and there, distracted from the eternal by the trivial and ephemeral, it is necessary to make time for self-reflection. Are the moments that tick past meaningful and life-affirming? Or are they spent desperately keeping track of schedules, routines, and objectives? If you find yourself feeling out of balance and out of step with the world, take the time to firmly plant your feet on the ground. With the simple act of standing still within an ever-moving society, you may begin your journey to knowledge and wisdom.





WHEEL OF FORTUNE

So much of the world is beyond our control that it may seem that our daily lives are decided by the spin of a wheel. You can choose to call the turns of your life fate or luck; however, it is not so much the events that occur, but what you choose to make of them that matters. All is not chaos. The Wheel repeats its cycle and you can recognize patterns. Is the situation you're in or are the people you are encountering completely new? Life is a roulette, spinning and throwing things at you at random.

Raise your head and see the figures guiding the ball: the jackal of Anubis representing death, the riddle-speaking sphinx representing knowledge, and the deadly serpent Typhon bringing misfortune. See those holding the wheel, with their wisdom and stability: the winged bull, the lion, the eagle, and the angel. The results may change, but the players always stay the same, and you will learn their ways in time. Remember what worked and what didn't in the past. Recognize and pay attention to the patterns and, with this knowledge, break some of the cycles within your control. Turn a coming disaster into a blessing.

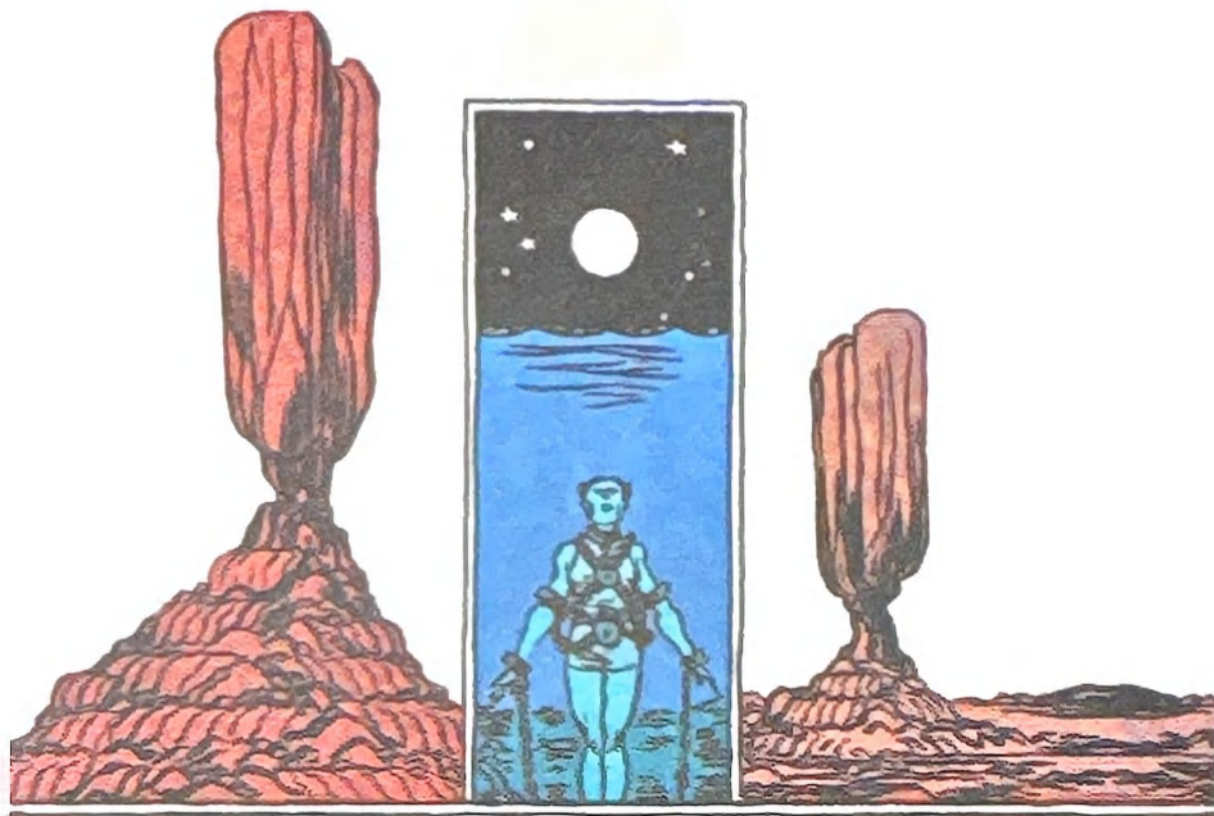


JUSTICE

It's time for the days of dishonesty and chicanery to come to an end. Corruption and plain old monkey business have gone on long enough, and now the objective truth must come home. There will be consequences, and the agents of malfeasance will be held accountable.

However, the delivery of justice is a balancing act. There is the perfect conceptual Justice of the cosmos, but here on Earth things can get muddy, and there are no hard and fast rules. There will be complications and exceptions. Be true to yourself. Find stability and consider the purity of the universe and the grit of everyday life. Making a decision is not enough. You must take action and live with integrity. You've seen wrongs done in the past and thought it wasn't your place or the time wasn't right to intervene. The time for those rationalizations and prevarications has passed.





THE HANGED MAN

You may feel that life is holding you in suspension, leaving you restrained and forced to be still. You may ask, "How did I ever get myself in this ridiculous position?" You may be drowning in anxiety, chained by responsibility, and wandering, abandoned, in a desert of hopelessness. Yet it is in this position that you must trust in the universe and contemplate what you have chosen to believe. Is it a sea of worry or possibility? Are they chains of bondage or security? Is it a desert of abandonment or rebirth?

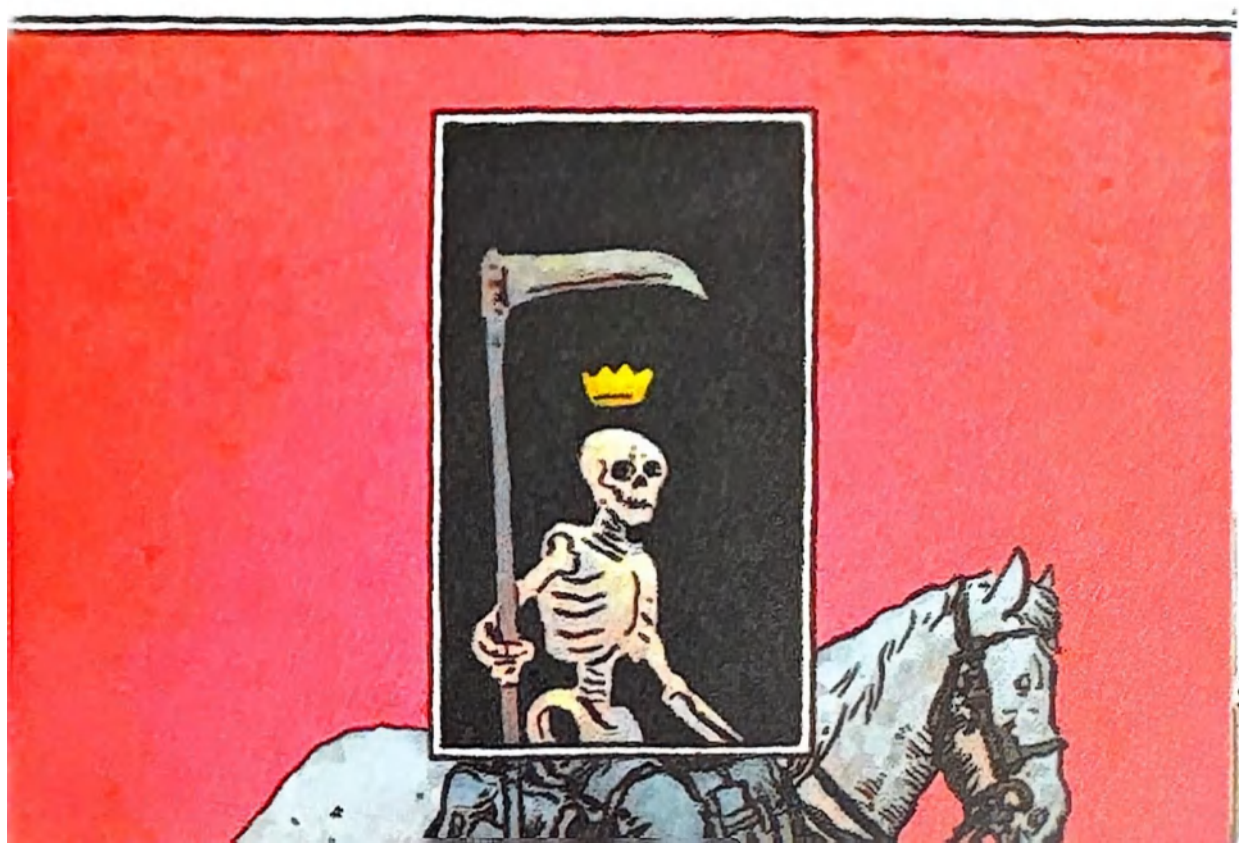
Use this period of stillness to meditate on what you need to move forward. The ridiculousness of this position is a matter of perspective. Look beyond the typical models and patterns of the material world. It is only by refusing to take advantage of this moment of tranquility that one's position becomes truly worthy of ridicule.



DEATH

Even after the end, there is someone there, standing witness and heralding what's to come.

Death is the end, but there can be so many deaths and so many endings, and really what each one signifies is a transformation. An ending of one thing forces the beginning of something else, and it is how we treat that transition that truly defines the end. It may be an ending that you have chosen or one that was forced upon you. Ends come to all things: stages of life, relationships, and careers. You can greet the end in many different ways: with pain and sorrow, wonder and excitement, stoic acceptance, or outright denial. If you look beyond this ending to what is to come there is nothing to fear. In truth, it is only in fighting the inevitable end of something that one suffers. Accept the pain that comes with an ending, and accept that you have changed alongside everything else. Exit stage right with grace.





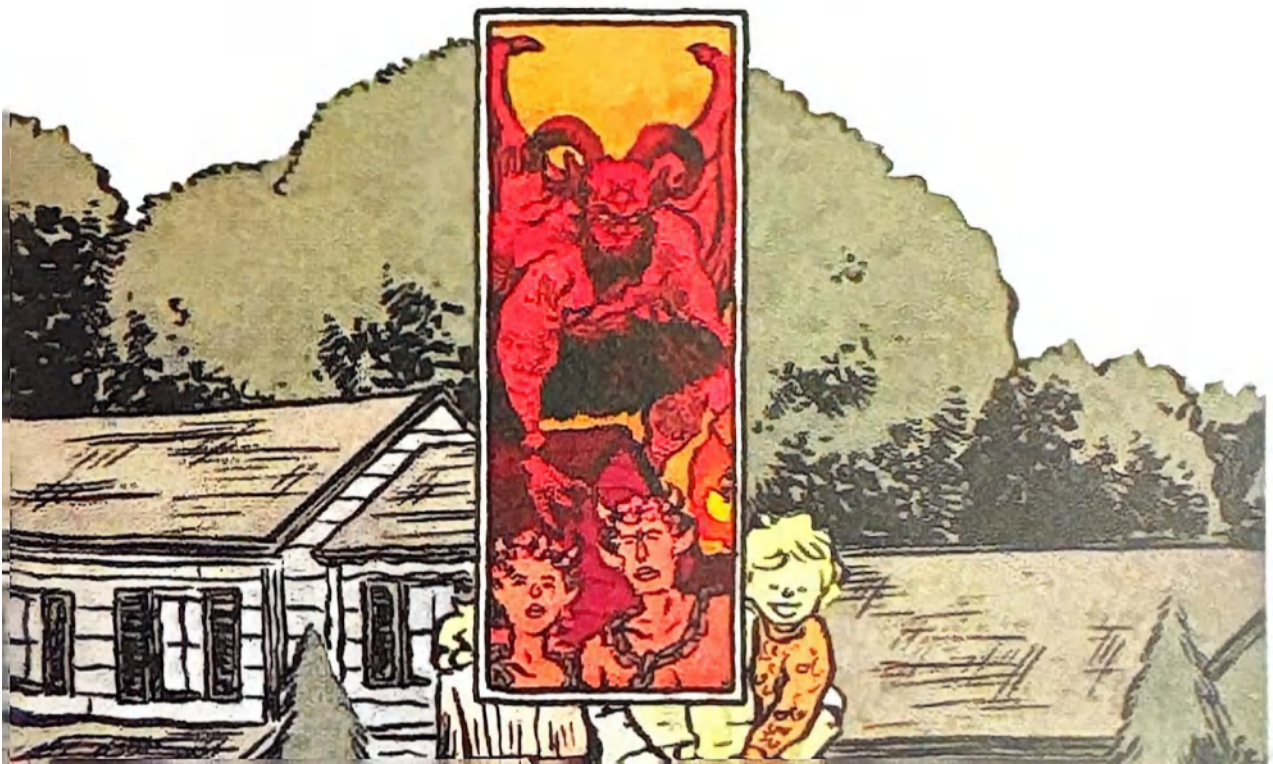
TEMPERANCE

What is this lovely elixir before you, so perfectly balanced it could only be created by the angels? Every component blends together in perfect harmony, and the tranquility that spreads through your body makes you feel as if success in all aspects of your life is possible. Even dreams once thought an impossibility feel within your grasp. This is a drink that is more than the sum of its parts, and the removal of even one ingredient would make it a foul concoction completely unpleasant to consume. This drink is all about balance. It's not about the extremes on either end; it's about finding the middle point where all things are in harmony. If one part of life is in excess it means that other parts are lacking. Focus on those parts of your life where there are deficiencies. A solution can be found by adding something just as often as by subtracting something.



THE DEVIL

You've mowed the lawn, washed the dishes, and done the laundry, but have you addressed the Devil today? The life in the photograph may look happy and perfect, but underneath the surface of our daily routines are our passions and vices. You may have attempted to deny them or hide them away, but they will always rise again. Your sins and weaknesses exist. The Devil must be acknowledged and addressed. Refusal to do so will result in your desires manifesting themselves in distorted and corrupted ways. You must look deep inside yourself to identify those repressed urges, and recognize whether you are dealing with them in healthy ways or allowing them to manifest in ways that trap you in a poisoned life.





THE TOWER

Is your castle made of sand? How easily could this skyscraper that is your life come crashing down around you? Have you been putting the time and energy needed into your relationships, your career, and yourself? Or are you simply running madly, trying to hold it all together? You may be standing in the face of total destruction and scrambling—not in an attempt to hold it all together but to escape the falling rubble. But this doesn't mean that all is lost, and you certainly shouldn't delay the inevitable. This may just be an opportunity to start anew with an unburdened perspective. Our lives get filled with so many rules and habits that remain long after they have lost any benefit or purpose. What was formerly useful often becomes a hindrance if it sticks around too long. Let it fall away.



THE STAR

Looking at the stars, you find yourself seeing ancient light from millions of miles away. This kind of vision can exist not only when gazing at the stars but also when considering your life. You can see what is to come and what must happen to get to your ideal state. This vision, combined with the nearly unlimited powers of the human mind, makes us capable of accomplishing amazing things. If your vision is blurry take the time to refresh your sight, and remind yourself of what you really want and need. Perhaps it is time to address old hurts or make some repairs to your emotional equipment. As you take this time to rediscover hope and inspiration be sure to maintain your connection to the earth and don't get lost in abstract dreams of the stars.





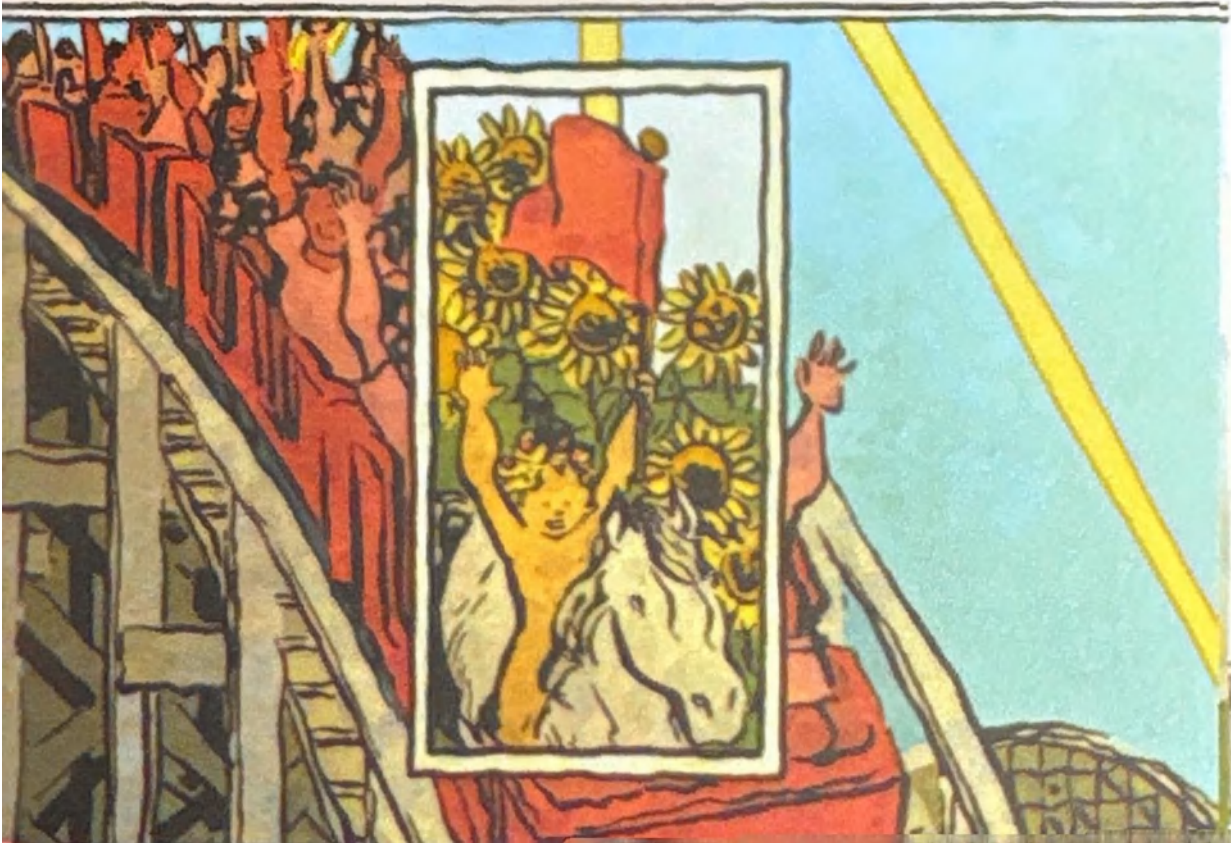
THE MOON

You have entered the realm of night where the Moon is king. . . . It gazes down on your dreams, your desires, and your secret trespasses. All of the things that you keep hidden in the day are laid bare by the light of the Moon. You may imagine yourself as a nice, functional member of society, but the Moon knows all about the wildness that lurks within your unconscious. It sees what burrows far down in the depths of your subconscious. You must ask yourself what domestication has brought you and what fear and deception it took for you to bury those wild animals away. You have been allowing the domesticated version of yourself too much control. Embrace the complexity and confusion of the world, and throw away misunderstanding and anxiety. Pay a little more attention to things that can only be seen by the light of the Moon.



THE SUN

On such a sunny day filled with sweetness and light you can feel the pure joy that you once felt as a child. The hard times have come to an end: the long night of confusion and uncertainty is over, and success in family, career, and creative endeavors is at your fingertips. You've climbed the heights of the roller coaster, and your reward is the thrilling rest of the ride. Blaze forward with confidence and vitality; you will shine brightly enough to illuminate others. Gone are the days of nervousness and anxiety around social interactions. The optimism you feel on this day cannot be denied, but it is important you not get carried away with excessive enthusiasm and unrealistic expectations. You cannot become someone new overnight, but you can be the best version of who you are.





JUDGEMENT

The journey is approaching its end, and you can hear Gabriel's horn blowing. You have been through profound experiences that have changed you in ways both seen and unseen. Your old life will be put in a box and buried, but you will continue on. It is time for you to reflect on what you have done and what you have become. This is a moment of reckoning far beyond the sea of anxiety and self-loathing that has governed your everyday experience. You can stand in front of the mirror, stripped free of the trappings of the mundane world, and see yourself with clear eyes. This is the crossing of the threshold, leaving one life behind and moving forward to another. Become fully aware of yourself, and learn the lessons that you have been given. Allow yourself to be renewed and move into the next phase of life, fully awake and ready to make changes both large and small.



THE WORLD

Now the journey is complete. You have traveled the length of the road and find yourself stepping out, exiting the buzz of the metropolis and entering the fullness of the World, ready to begin again. Your achievements and fulfillment are undeniable. Just as the journey has found its completion so can you feel a sense of completion and wholeness in yourself. Any marks or scars from the journey are no longer seen as points of weakness or failure, but simply as parts of the whole. It is a time for celebration and dancing. You may see a new journey ahead, a new project to begin, but do not let that make you feel that you have not achieved anything or are still lacking. One thing comes to an end and another begins; it is important to acknowledge and celebrate that change. Be in harmony with the universe.





EXCLUSIVE CARD THE MOB

A feeling bubbles deep down inside, and you've found some others who have it too. You're not alone. You are no longer individuals: you are a mass, a movement, a revolution. But who are these people you're running with? Was it truly the same feeling that brought them here? Or was it something else? But there's no time to think. This is a new and unstoppable beast running wild. The strength of the monster is intoxicating, and you feel the power pumping through your veins. And then you realize no one's controlling this animal, and it doesn't care who gets hurt. The beast feeds on wild emotions: anger, fear, and pride. The beast is never satisfied, and storming the castle won't be enough. The actions of this creature will not bring joy or calm, only disappointment, shame, and regret. Remember to use your head as much as your heart, and power every move with strong intent so you are never simply dragged along. Ask yourself whether you are still doing this for the sake of your cause or simply because you are unable to abandon the fight.



EXCLUSIVE CARD THE PUPPETEER

The master manipulator, ruthless and scheming. They turn people against each other, exploit weaknesses, and play with people's emotions to get what they want. The puppeteer will blame others, deny wrongdoing, and use guilt to control the situation. You may find yourself caught by the puppeteer, pulled this way and that or engaged in mind games with no way of winning. If kept in this position for too long, your puppeteer may not even have to do anything because you will manipulate yourself and simply think it's how things are.

If you're the one pulling the strings, convincing people that what's best for you is also what's best for them, your manipulations may begin to control you. The need for control will take priority, and the prevarications and contrivances will become habits you can't break, preventing you from having relationships that provide love and support.





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THE MINOR ARCANA



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INTRODUCTION TO THE MINOR ARCANA

Do not forget the physical realm in which you live when contemplating the cosmic mysteries of the spiritual world. There is wonder and power in the seemingly mundane events of life that coalesce into the grand changes represented by the Major Arcana. The Minor Arcana speak to the smaller, but no less important, everyday happenings of the material world. These cards are our daily struggles and tiny blessings, the hidden building blocks behind the path to unity with the universe.

WANDS: Fire. Inspiration and creativity, ambitions, and career goals.

CUPS: Water. Emotions and relationships, healing, and reflection.

SWORDS: Air. Intellect and the mind, choices, and conflict.

PENTACLES: Earth. Finances and work, balance, and community.



ACE OF WANDS

Bathed in the burning fire of inspiration and ambition, you charge forward, confident that you can tackle any problem and accomplish any goal. It's pure joy to move forward with this mindset, but excessive eagerness can lead to mistakes, so keep your dreams safely held high.

TWO OF WANDS

Door number 1 or door number 2? It is time to choose, and you must carefully consider the options before you. You worked hard to get to this point in the game; now you must trust yourself and take action. You may feel the pressure of many eyes on you as you proceed, but don't let them rush you, and don't mistake a rash decision for decisiveness.

THREE OF WANDS

Your endeavor has launched successfully, and you are beginning to see the rewards of your hard work. With this comes a level of respect and validation, but there is still so much more to do! Study your current situation, and make plans for this success to continue. It may be smooth sailing at the moment, but the weather cannot stay perfect forever.

FOUR OF WANDS

You have worked hard and put in the time and effort necessary; now it is time to enjoy your cake. You and the people around you have come so far. You are transitioning into a new phase of life, and it is important to acknowledge and celebrate this moment!





FIVE OF WANDS

The energy in the room is undeniable, and something is going to snap. You may not know whether you are going to kiss someone or get punched in the face, but there is no denying the feelings that surround you. Chaotic and confusing as it may be, you can take the opportunity to harness this tension and come to a new understanding of yourself and your priorities.

SIX OF WANDS

You have emerged victorious from the competition. Your questions have been answered, your talents shown, and your fitness judged. The other contestants have been found lacking, and you stand beautifully supreme, the crown placed on your head, validated by the world.

SEVEN OF WANDS

You stand as the last line of defense against all attacks. Shots will be fired at high speed, and you must be prepared to protect what is important to you. Do not be fooled by feints and fakes meant to get you out of position. When the time is right, step forward and face the challenge that approaches you.

EIGHT OF WANDS

You're about to throw something out into the world. Whether you're starting a new project, taking a serious step forward in a relationship, or just making your feelings known, you have gone through all the preliminaries, and now it is time to launch. Eliminate unnecessary movements, and focus on each part of your body working in harmony as you release this piece of yourself.





NINE OF WANDS

You've built up defenses from years of fighting and struggle, and you have the wounds and scars that show the necessity of self-defense. Muster your strength to continue the fight, but realize that there will come a time when these fortifications and weapons will no longer be necessary.

TEN OF WANDS

There is no denying the burden you carry. It's heavy and almost at the limit of what you can bear, but you are so close to the home colony. Will rest await when you get there, or, like a drone, will you simply find new burdens to carry? Consider why you carry this burden and who really benefits from it.

PAGE OF WANDS

Inspired and full of energy, you are making your way toward the summit. With clear eyes, you can see the footholds and grips all in a line, like lights guiding you on your ascent. There are still great heights and challenges ahead so be sure to stay focused, and don't allow fear or overconfidence in your skills to lead you off course and into a dangerous and untenable position.





KNIGHT OF WANDS

You've got a full tank of fuel and massive amounts of horsepower and passion under your control. It feels like nothing can slow you down or prevent you from taking flight; the laws of gravity no longer apply to you and the constraints of society most certainly don't. But with this much energy running through your system a fiery crash is a definite possibility.

QUEEN OF WANDS

There is no denying your vision as you direct all the pieces and elements within the scene. You've brought together a team of experts and masters in their craft, and now you guide them toward a singular goal. Keeping this enterprise moving forward requires a strong hand, but holding on too tight can lead to antagonism and failure.

KING OF WANDS

Through mastery of the skills in your chosen field, you find yourself in a position where the crowd is in the palm of your hand. There are inherent risks in your endeavors, but you can read the situation and prevent things from getting out of control. Try not to lose yourself in the adulation, and be sure to step off stage once in a while and put your feet on the ground.





ACE OF CUPS

The cup emerges from a boundless sea of love and possibility. It's time to take a drink and open yourself to emotional and spiritual intuition. New feelings or feelings long unfelt will present themselves with the first sip.

TWO OF CUPS

The warmth found in relationships can take the chill off of any winter night. Connections and close bonds built over years harmonize with new relationships and attractions whether it be with coworkers, lovers, or kindred spirits.

THREE OF CUPS

It's time for your friends to get together, raise a glass, and have a celebration. The reason? Just being friends is surely enough, but maybe you've accomplished something, or one of your friends has had an emotional breakthrough, or perhaps you haven't seen each other in a long time? However, is this party a way to distract yourself from some dark truth you don't want to confront? A conversation you don't want to have? And who will be there to clean up when the party's over?

FOUR OF CUPS

A moment of peace for reflection is what this time calls for. If you can't disappear to a little hideaway for a while then just take these moments wherever they can be found. Be careful not to meditate too long and miss out on what's happening around you.





FIVE OF CUPS

Loss and grief have come to you, and you can see the shattered pieces of your life all around. You may even feel that you have become broken and irreparable. It's important that you take this time to acknowledge the sorrow and loss. And remember, unlike the statue, with time you can heal and begin anew.

SIX OF CUPS

Nostalgia and pleasant memories of the past have been brought forth; take the time to enjoy them. Revisit pieces of the past: places, people, and little mementos. Just be careful not to get too lost in this reverie; the past is rarely as simple and pure as your memories would make it seem.

SEVEN OF CUPS

Choices, choices, choices. It seems like the possibilities are endless, but you must choose what will bring the results you want. In some cases you must choose between equally healthy and rewarding options, and in others the choice that seems most desirable might be a temptation that will leave you with recriminations and regret. Deep down, you know what you really need.

EIGHT OF CUPS

You may find yourself in a situation with all the trappings of happiness and stability, the kind of situation that others may wish to be in, but for you it just reeks of stagnation and boredom. Take the leap and get out. Discover something new! However, if you find yourself taking this leap again and again, perhaps it is time to reconsider what it is you're running away from.





NINE OF CUPS

It's time to celebrate with those closest to you. Kick back, have a drink, and indulge in some of the delicacies offered. This night will be one to remember; it could feed your soul and deepen your connections with those that surround you, or it may just be an evening of gratification. You've earned this evening, though be careful not to overindulge.

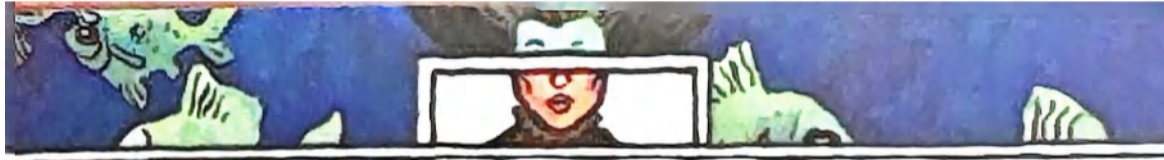
TEN OF CUPS

No matter what the circumstances, you can feel the strength and stability of your family, be it the one you were born with or the one you found for yourself. But this isn't some idealized Hollywood version of the perfect family; like all families, there are imperfections, but the strength comes from the acceptance of those flaws and the ability to reach out when someone is struggling.

PAGE OF CUPS

It is with a youthful mind that we find ourselves truly open to the world to such an extent that dreams and reality blend together with an equalness of power, wonder, and awe. The sensations and emotions are so intense they may seem like a vast untamable ocean, but with some growth they can be contained.





KNIGHT OF CUPS

A new romance is rolling in, picking you up, and carrying you away on beautiful new feelings. It seems perfect, but perfection is hard to live up to. Be open to idealism and the pursuit of the divine, but realize perfection isn't always possible to reach and the road will have its bumps and dips.

QUEEN OF CUPS

The Queen of Cups has access to a seemingly bottomless reservoir of compassion and understanding that she can bring to others. If you are the Queen then be careful not to neglect yourself. Love should be given freely; but when your reserves are depleted, you may start expecting some form of payment for your support and care. In this situation, subjects become distrustful and wary of hidden costs. Do not pour from an empty chalice; be open to receiving love as well as giving it.

KING OF CUPS

In the midst of the wildest storms of life, where emotions rumble and roil, the King of Cups is able to play a calming and supportive role. In the King you can find a shoulder to cry on, a friend to rely on, or a parent who can calm your nerves and dry your tears. When you are the King you must sometimes make sacrifices to provide comfort and security to others.





ACE OF SWORDS

These are no ordinary clouds: they are the clouds of deep thought, and looking at the sky on this day ignites your mind. With logic and wisdom, you can go about your day reorganizing and making decisions that you have been putting off for too long. Just don't let that intellect get nasty and start tearing down the people around you.

TWO OF SWORDS

It's decision time, and you must weigh your options carefully before moving forward. It might be a dichotomy between emotions and rationality, or perhaps something is going to be lost no matter what your decision. This, however, is all part of the game. Take off the blindfold and make a move.

THREE OF SWORDS

It's a heartbreak. You heave from the weight of the swords in your chest. Maybe you deserved it, and maybe you didn't; the pain is real regardless. Acknowledge the pain, and start finding ways to express it outside of racing to the bottom of a glass.

FOUR OF SWORDS

It's time to rest and recover. Pull back from the world, and take some time to think about your existence. It is not something to take lightly, and you must consider the end you are heading toward. Perhaps a recent injury or conflict is causing you to have a think about the path you're on and whether you're going in the right direction. It's important that you allow yourself to do this.



FIVE OF SWORDS

You are experiencing conflict, an unavoidable thing in life, and doubtless there will be times when you are the winner or the loser, but sometimes the whole game feels rigged and unfair. Do not greet loss with dejection and hopelessness, and, in the same way, a win should not lead to arrogance and self-involved boasting.

SIX OF SWORDS

It is time to take flight. This may be a permanent exit or a temporary trip to put some physical distance between yourself and the tumult of your day-to-day life. If physical travel isn't an option then mentally and emotionally take a step back for a period of time. Doing so will bring you a sense of calm and clarity that will reaffirm what your goals are and what is important to you.

SEVEN OF SWORDS

Do you do whatever it takes to get what you want? Don't let the joy of getting ahead blind you to the ethics of any given situation. A shortcut here and a handy little trick there is all well and good but, if you fear getting caught, it might be time to reconsider your methods.

EIGHT OF SWORDS

You may feel completely immobile, pinned down by routines and responsibilities and unable to move while your soul is pulled out of your body and dissected by the demands of modern life. There is no denying the difficulties you face, but don't allow this situation to shut down your mind. Creative solutions do exist, and the biggest changes come from the hardest situations.



NINE OF SWORDS

It is a long dark night, and your thoughts run wild. Your body's physical inactivity allows your mind to fall victim to anxiety and fear, latching on to one grim thought after another. Past failures and mistakes mingle with future calamities and disasters. You must figure out what is causing this worry and recenter yourself. These nightmares will fade in the dawn.

TEN OF SWORDS

You've been stabbed in the back, and not just once. Decorum and societal norms force you to act as if you are ignorant or unaware of the attack. It's a great act of strength just to keep upright, but that is what you must do. You may have been betrayed by someone in your community. Do not despair over this setback; you must survive and continue moving forward with as much dignity and strength as you can muster.

PAGE OF SWORDS

In a shadowy world of intrigue and complex situations, you are able to see clearly and cut through the haze with your intellect. Though you still lack experience in many ways, and there is always wisdom to be gained, you're able to make sense of the world around you and charge forward eagerly. You are young, in the grand scheme of things. At times, your judgments may be hasty, and your ability to distinguish relevant information from gossip and misdirection still needs to grow.





KNIGHT OF SWORDS

The Knight charges into the fray with a passion for the cause, launching themselves into the conflict with a take-no-prisoners attitude. Protected by layers of defense, the Knight feels safe from any attack, but while the armor protects, it also blinds and keeps the Knight removed from the situation. The Knight loses the ability to see any nuance or complexity and assumes any opposing idea is a villain to be vanquished. You may have forgotten the real purpose of the battle you're charging into.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

You have clarity of thought and the ability to judge a situation without sentiment or emotion. These qualities have put you in a position of respect and responsibility. Your intellect serves you well, but if you deny all emotions, people will begin to see you as lacking some key component, detached from the world at large.

KING OF SWORDS

The King of Swords brings order, discipline, and control. This can be what a community needs at times, a guiding force that enforces the rules and norms that a society has explicitly or implicitly agreed upon. The danger is in the power that comes with this, which can turn dictatorial and wither away the King's heart and compassion.





ACE OF PENTACLES

Whether it be financial, emotional, or spiritual, a new life of prosperity stands before you, allowing you to reach higher levels than previously thought possible. With this comes new possibilities but also risks of disappointment and loss.

TWO OF PENTACLES

You're working hard to keep your life in balance, juggling very different and demanding elements and giving each their moment. It can be an impressive act to watch, but if things get out of balance it might all come crashing down . . . or worse, blow up in your face.

THREE OF PENTACLES

It may be small at the moment, but any project or enterprise you are involved with will grow to be a success, and it will be recognized by those around you. Keep that in mind, and do not lose yourself in the mundanity of placing brick after brick. It takes patience and dedication to create something long-lasting.

FOUR OF PENTACLES

You have what is yours and of course you need to protect it, but that protection has gone too far and has left you with massive muscles of defense and protection squeezing so tightly that you become paralyzed. You are trapped alone with your wealth and objects. Find ways to let go and relax.





FIVE OF PENTACLES

You went off to war, risking it all and putting your money where your mouth is, but it all ended in failure. You find yourself beaten and destitute, maybe even broken, but you are not alone. You will always have the opportunity to rebuild.

SIX OF PENTACLES

Money has fallen into your hand through either the charity of others or of the universe. Now you must use this boon in a way that is beneficial to the world. It is not the time to think of yourself. The universe may have put you in the position to be charitable at this moment, but the future could easily reverse the situation.

SEVEN OF PENTACLES

The seed has been planted. Now you must allow the cogs and wheels of time to turn for it to germinate and grow. You are doing what must be done and must continue to do so. Nurture your dreams and aspirations; there is no instant gratification so patience is your most valuable quality in this moment.

EIGHT OF PENTACLES

You've got your head down and are working hard to complete task after task, confident that this will build your skills, increase your finances, and ultimately lead to a better future. You may be the perfect fit for your job, but is your job the perfect fit for you? If you lose yourself in the work without careful consideration you may one day suddenly discover that you've been on the wrong career track all along.





NINE OF PENTACLES

All that hard work and discipline has paid off, and now you find yourself able to truly stop and smell the roses. With the economic freedom you currently have you can relax, reflect, and take a moment for yourself. In your leisure remember that other people exist outside the walls of your quiet garden, lest it become a prison of solitude.

TEN OF PENTACLES

You are not walking through this world alone. Your family or community are there, following right behind. Generations echoing back through the years are there to support you in this moment. Within each family and group there can be disagreements and conflicts, but you should not allow this to dominate your thoughts. This group can provide you with your greatest strength.

PAGE OF PENTACLES

The time has come to build your skills, refine your talents, and diligently deal with the moment. The world is a lump of unrefined marble that stands before you, and you must take the time to find the statue inside. You may feel that you don't yet have the ability to do so, but nothing will be accomplished by inaction. Be patient and do the work. Don't mar it with reckless thoughts and actions.





KNIGHT OF PENTACLES

You have developed your skills and built your community; now it is time to put them to use. What you are building may be hard to define and hard to hold, but you can feel it in your bones. While others may think everything you are doing is all in fun, you realize the importance of your actions and are able to move forward with clarity of vision and a clear plan. Don't let your dreams fall into neglect.

QUEEN OF PENTACLES

You find yourself in a position of comfort and are able to share your riches, but that doesn't mean you're a soft touch who would throw money around or bestow gifts upon those who wouldn't care for them. There is wisdom behind your support, which not only allows others to feel comfort but also motivates them to do their part. Be careful not to lose that pragmatism and find yourself becoming the one who needs the support.

KING OF PENTACLES

You find yourself in the leadership position of whatever group, organization, or community fate has seen fit to make you a part of. With that comes a responsibility to take care of others and make sure that resources are properly managed. Increasing said resources is of course a part of this, but that doesn't mean that you should engage in reckless behavior that puts everyone at risk.



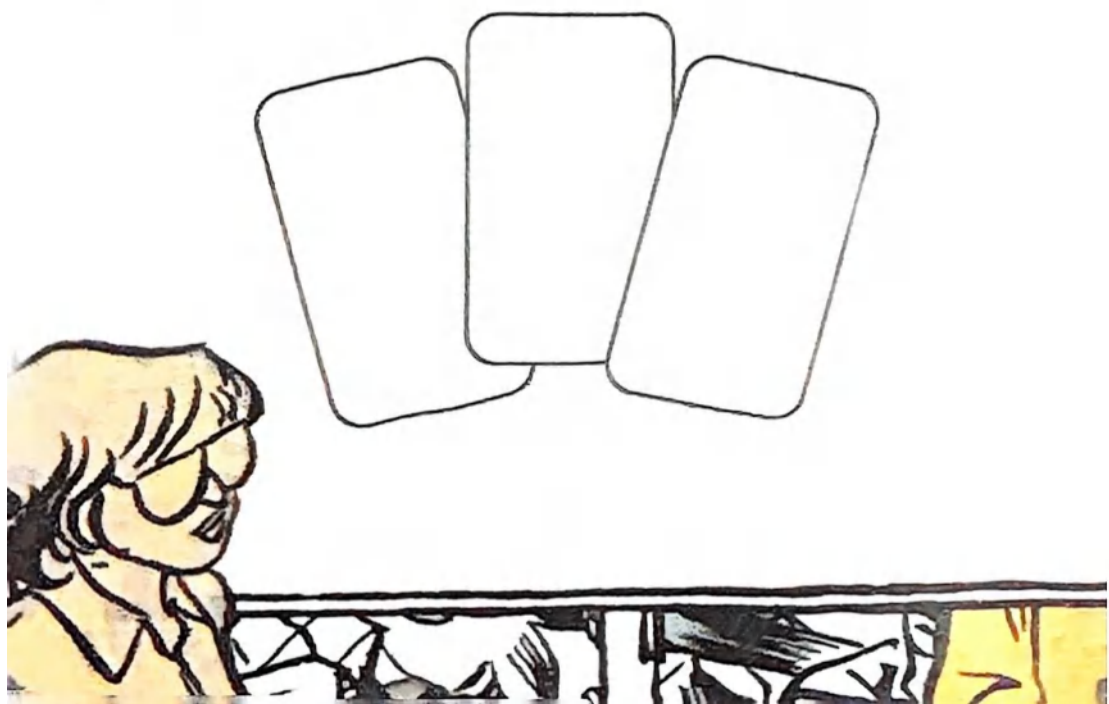



HOW TO READ THE CARDS

Begin by finding a quiet space, somewhere you feel at peace and are able to comfortably reflect, that is far from the cacophony of the material world. A tarot reading is a pause from the hustle and bustle and a chance for connection between yourself and the universe, or a querent and a reader.

For this spiritual conversation to take place you must first understand the language being used; flip through the cards, and see what jumps out at you. A tarot deck conveys its story through its symbolism and figures. Consider what is being shown and what it means to you personally before checking the meaning of each card.

What do you want to learn? What is your current circumstance, and do you want to change it? What is important to you right now? As you shuffle the cards, clear your mind of distraction and focus your thoughts.





If you are not sure where to start with spreads then you can try a simple three-card draw with one of the following example prompts:

The Veil (how the situation is presenting itself) /
The Unveiling (a new perspective) / Advice (how
to move forward)

Past / Present / Future

Material or Financial State / Emotional State /
Spiritual State

Change / Cause / Solution

If you are left with more questions than answers then, try a one-card draw to focus your thoughts even further, and narrow down the advice given by the cards. One-card draws are also handy for daily quick readings if you are short on time.

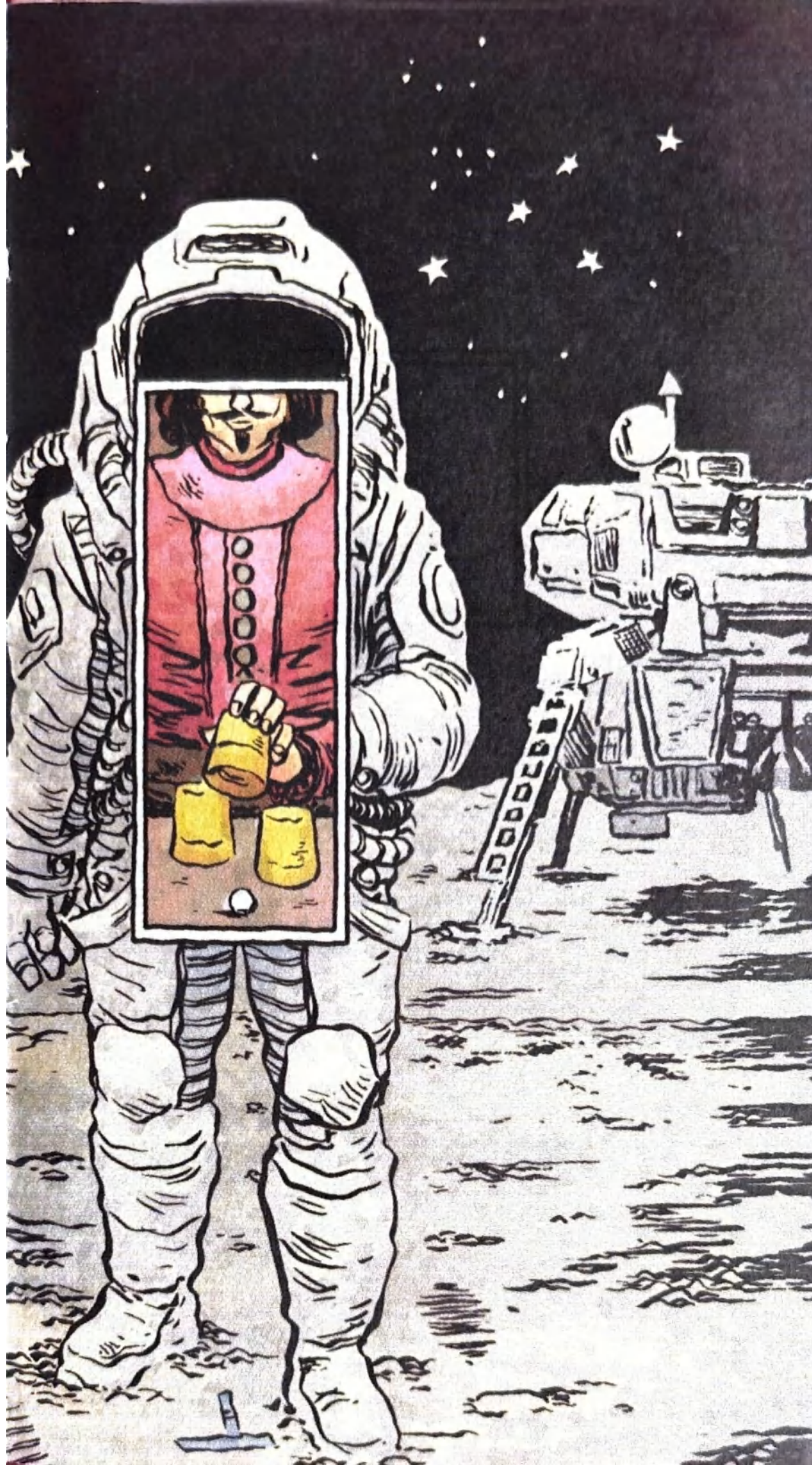
Pick a spread, and lay out the cards. You may wish to take note of how your chosen cards relate to one another, as this will reveal another layer of deeper meaning. Are there any repeating suits or themes? How does the spread speak to you/your querent? And consider the duality in each card. Perhaps it shows a new way of looking at your situation, or lays bare a secret, or perhaps you connect strongly with one half and disagree with the other. These are all ways of guiding your thoughts to what matters to you.





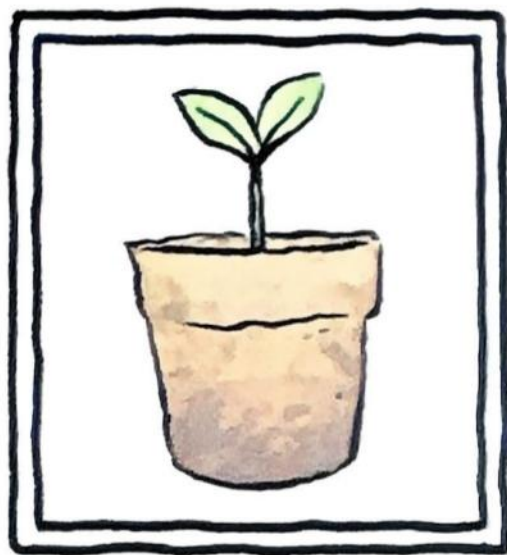
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