

Radiant
RIDER-WAITE®
TAROT DECK

INSTRUCTIONS



U.S. GAMES SYSTEMS, INC.
Stamford, CT 06902 USA

Based upon the original and only authorized edition of the famous 78-card Rider-Waite® Tarot Deck. Designed by Pamela Colman Smith® under the direction of Arthur Edward Waite. Reissued in collaboration with Miss Sybil Waite and Rider & Company, London

Recolored by Virginijus Poshkus

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

© 2015 by U.S. Games Systems, Inc.

Made in China

U.S. GAMES SYSTEMS, INC.

179 Ludlow Street, Stamford, CT 06902 USA

203-353-8400 • Order Desk 800-544-2637

FAX 203-353-8431

www.usgamesinc.com

Instructions excerpted from
THE KEY TO THE TAROT
by Arthur Edward Waite

INTRODUCTION

by Stuart R. Kaplan

Dr. Arthur Edward Waite (1857–1942) was a genuine scholar of occultism whose published works include *The Holy Kabbalah* and *The Key to the Tarot* first issued in England in 1910. Waite utilized symbolism as the key to the Tarot pack. In *The Key to the Tarot* he writes: “The true tarot is symbolism; it speaks no other language and offers no other signs.” What are the Tarot cards about which Waite so skillfully writes? What is the message of each card and when and where did these fascinating cardboard symbols first originate?

The precise origin of Tarot cards in antiquity remains obscure. Court de Gebelin writing in *Le Monde Primitif* in 1781 advances the theory that Tarot

cards derived from an ancient Egyptian book, *The Book of Thoth*. Thoth was the Egyptian Mercury, said to be one of the early Kings and the inventor of the hieroglyphic system. Gebelin asserts that it is from the Egyptians and Gypsies that Tarot cards were dispersed throughout Europe.

The emergence of Tarot cards in Europe predates by over five centuries the work of Waite. A German monk, Johannes, describes a game called *Ludas Cartarum* played in the year 1377. Covelluzzo, a fifteenth-century chronicler, relates the introduction into Viterbo of the game of cards in the year 1379. In the year 1369 playing cards are *not* mentioned in a decree issued by Charles VI of France against various forms of gambling; however, 28 years later, the Prevot of Paris, in an ordinance dated January 22,

1397, forbids working people from playing tennis, ball, *cards*, or ninepins excepting only on holidays. It is generally accepted that playing cards emerged in Europe in the latter half of the fourteenth century, probably first in Italy as a complete 78-card deck— or some inventive genius subsequently combined the common 56 cards known as the Minor Arcana with the 22 esoteric and emblematic Tarot cards known as the Major Arcana to form the 78-card pack.

During the fifteenth century Tarot cards were generally drawn or hand painted for the princely houses of Northern Italy and France. Subsequently, the card packs became more numerous because they were reproduced by techniques using woodcuts, stencils and copper engraving. By the sixteenth century

a modified Tarot pack called the Tarot of Marseilles gained popularity.

There exists today, in the archives of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, 17 Major Arcana cards generally believed, probably erroneously, to have been hand painted about the year 1392 by Jacquemin Gringonneur for Charles VI of France. These cards are likely of later Venetian origin, possibly mid-fifteenth-century Tarocchi of Venice cards.

The Pierpont Morgan Library in New York City possesses 35 cards from a 78-card Tarot deck dating from circa 1484 and believed to be the work of either Bonifacio Bembo or Antonio Cicognara. This deck apparently belonged to Cardinal Ascanio Maria Sforza (1445–1505) or to his mother Bianca Visconti Sforza and was probably not intended for actual play

but, instead, may have been merely a pictorial representation of the times.

Other early European cards related to the Tarot pack include:

- Tarocchi of Mantegna deck comprising of 50 instructive cards in five series of ten cards each;
- Tarocchi of Venice or Lombardi deck comprising of 78 cards including 22 Major Arcana and 56 Lesser Arcana cards;
- Tarocchino of Bologna deck comprising of 62 cards, believed to have been invented by Francois Fibbia, Prince of Pisa, and containing 22 Major Arcana and only 40 numeral suit cards;
- Minchiate of Florence deck similar to the regular 78-card Tarot deck but enlarged to 97 cards by the addition of the signs of the zodiac, the four elements and three cardinal virtues.

Tarot fortune-telling readings generally take into account not only the individual divinatory meaning of a card but also the proximity between two or more cards and whether the card is upside down (which weakens, delays and even reverses the meaning). The brief descriptive title on each of the 22 Major Arcana cards serves as a catalyst toward a broader and deeper meaning which the diviner seeks to express.

Tarot decks contain 78 cards divided into two main groups:

- 22 Major Arcana Cards
- 56 Lesser Arcana Cards

The 22 Major Arcana or emblematic cards comprise of 21 cards numbered from XXI to I (21 to 1) plus an unnumbered card known as The Fool (*Le Mat* and *Le Fou* in French). The 22 Major Arcana are also referred to as trumps (*atouts* in French,

atutti or *trionfi* in Italian) signifying “above all.”

The 56 Lesser Arcana cards contain four suits including the usual court cards; King, Queen, Jack (Valet, Page) plus a fourth card, the Cavalier (Knight, Knave) which is placed between the Queen and the Jack. The suits are generally swords (spades), batons or wands (clubs), cups (hearts), and coins or pentacles (diamonds). Suit origins are believed to represent the four estates of life during medieval times: nobility or persons who held their rank by military service were symbolized by swords; peasants or working class people by clubs; clergymen and statesmen by cups; and tradesmen and the industrial class by coins.

Today’s ordinary decks of playing cards seemingly descend from the medieval Tarot decks. As card playing

increased in popularity the Major Arcana cards were dropped (except for The Fool which was retained as the Joker) and the Cavalier and Page were combined into today's Jack, thus giving us the standard deck of fifty-two cards plus Joker.

During the past two centuries various important works have appeared on different aspects of Tarot cards authored by Gebelin (1781), Etteilla (1783), Levi (1854), Vaillant (1857), Mathers (1888), Papus (1889), Falconnier (1896), Wirth, Waite (1910), Thierens, Case, Crowley (1944), Gray (1960), Knight (1965), Moakley (1966), Doane (1967), and Kaplan (1970).

Under the initiative and supervision of Waite, a unique 78-card Tarot pack known as "Rider Deck" was drawn by Miss Pamela Colman Smith, an American artist who was a fellow

member of The Order of the Golden Dawn.

Miss Smith was brought up in Jamaica and during her early teens traveled with the stage acting partnership of Ellen Terry and Henry Irving. By the age of twenty-one Miss Smith was established in England as a theatrical designer and illustrator. Her interest in the theatre led to her collaboration with William Butler Yeats on stage designs. Subsequently, she worked with his brother Jack Yeats on the illustration and publication of a small magazine entitled *The Broad Sheet* before bringing out her own *The Green Sheaf*, which was filled with ballads, pictures, folk tales, and verses.

The outstanding feature of the Rider Deck is that all of the cards, including the forty pip cards (numeral cards Ace to 10 in each of four

suits) are presented in emblematic designs, which are readily suitable for divination. This is in contrast to the rigid forms of swords, batons, cups, and coins previously used in Tarot decks. Waite also believed that The Fool, being unnumbered and representing 0, should not be placed between cards 20 and 21, and that its more natural sequence fell in front of The Magician in attribution to the first letter of the Hebrew Alphabet, *Aleph*.

Waite transposed the numbers of two Major Arcana cards: Strength (Force, Fortitude) more frequently shown in other Tarot decks—in particular Muller's 1JJ deck and Grimaud's Tarot of Marseilles version—as XI, is instead shown in the Rider Deck as VIII. Justice, more generally shown as VIII, is designated by Waite as bearing number XI.

There is currently a phenomenal interest in Tarot cards. The serious investigator seeks to employ the cards as a means of placing the past into more meaningful perspective, understanding the present, and revealing the alternatives that exist in the future. Persons less acquainted with Tarot cards are content to use them as a game and to indulge in readings at parties or in small private groups. From the collector's standpoint, Tarot cards are both colorful and interesting.

Tarot decks are currently used by students, artists, counselors, business people, professionals, collectors—indeed, persons from all walks of life. Hollywood has even indulged in the growing trend with Tarot cards being featured in movies.

One of the fascinating aspects about Tarot cards is their personal

affect upon the individual who uses them. Waite successfully presents a new dimension to their meaning in *The Key to the Tarot*. Any Tarot reader, be they a serious scholar or a person dabbling in the occult, will benefit from Waite's insight and keen perception.

THE MAJOR ARCANA AND THEIR DIVINATORY MEANINGS

1. THE MAGICIAN—Skill, diplomacy, address, sickness, pain, loss, disaster, self-confidence, will, the Querent himself (if male). *Reversed:* Physician, Magus, mental disease, disgrace, disquiet.

2. THE HIGH PRIESTESS—Secrets, mystery, the future as yet unrevealed, the woman who interests the Querent (if male); the Querent (if female), silence, tenacity, wisdom, science. *Reversed:* Passion, moral or physical ardor, conceit, surface knowledge.

3. THE EMPRESS—Fruitfulness, initiative, action, length of days, clandestine, the unknown, also difficulty, doubt, ignorance. *Reversed:*

Light, truth, the unraveling of involved matters, public rejoice, according to another reading — vacillation.

4. THE EMPEROR — Stability, power, aid, protection, a great person, conviction, reason. *Reversed:* Benevolence, compassion, credit, also confusion to enemies, obstruction, immaturity.

5. THE HIEROPHANT — Marriage alliance, captivity, servitude, by another account, mercy and goodness, inspiration, the man to whom the Querent has recourse. *Reversed:* Society, good understanding, concord, over-kindness, weakness.

6. THE LOVERS — Attraction, love, beauty, trials overcome. *Reversed:* Failure, foolish designs.

7. THE CHARIOT — Succor,

triumph, providence, also war, trouble, presumption vengeance. *Reversed:* Riot, quarrel, dispute, litigation, defeat.

8. STRENGTH—Power, energy, action, courage, magnanimity.

Reversed: Abuse of power, despotism, weakness, discord.

9. THE HERMIT—Prudence, also and especially treason, dissimulation, corruption, roguery. *Reversed:*

Concealment, disguise, policy, fear, unreasoned caution.

10. WHEEL OF FORTUNE—

Destiny, fortune, success, luck, felicity.

Reversed: Increase, abundance, superfluity.

11. JUSTICE—Equity, rightness, probity, executive. *Reversed:* Law in all departments, bigotry, bias, excessive severity.

12. THE HANGED MAN—Wisdom, trials, circumspection, discernment, sacrifice, intuition, divination, prophecy. *Reversed*: Selfishness, the crowd, body politic.

13. DEATH—End, mortality, destruction, corruption. *Reversed*: Inertia, sleep, lethargy, petrification, somnambulism.

14. TEMPERANCE—Economy, moderation, frugality, management, accommodation. *Reversed*: Things connected with churches, religions, sects, the priesthood, also unfortunate combinations, disunion, competing interests.

15. THE DEVIL—Ravage, violence, force, vehemence, extraordinary efforts, fatality, that which is predestined but not for this reason evil.

Reversed: Evil fatality, weakness, pettiness, blindness.

16. THE TOWER—Misery, distress, ruin, indigence, adversity, calamity, disgrace, deception. **Reversed:**

According to one account, the same in a lesser degree, also oppression, imprisonment, tyranny.

17. THE STAR—Loss, theft, privation, abandonment, although another reading says—hope and bright prospects. **Reversed:** Arrogance, haughtiness, impotence.

18. THE MOON—Hidden enemies, danger, calumny, darkness, terror, deception, error. **Reversed:** Instability, inconstancy, silence, lesser degrees of deception and error.

19. THE SUN—Material happiness, fortunate marriage, contentment.

Reversed: The same in a lesser sense.

20. THE LAST JUDGMENT—

Change of position, renewal, outcome.

Reversed: Weakness, pusillanimity, simplicity, also deliberation, decision, sentence.

21. THE WORLD— Assured success,

route, voyage, emigration, flight,

change of place. *Reversed:* Inertia, fixity, stagnation, permanence.

0. THE FOOL— Folly, mania,

extravagance, intoxication, delirium,

frenzy, bewrayment. *Reversed:*

Negligence, absence, distribution, carelessness, apathy, nullity, vanity.

THE LESSER ARCANA

The Four Suits of Tarot cards will now be described according to their respective classes by the pictures to each belonging, and a harmony of their meanings provided from all sources.

WANDS

KING OF WANDS—The physical and emotional nature to which this card is attributed is dark, ardent, lithe, animated, impassioned, noble. He uplifts a flowering wand and wears, like his three correspondences in the remaining suits, what is called a cap of maintenance beneath his crown. He connects with the symbol of the lion, which is emblazoned on the back of his throne. *Divinatory Meanings:* Dark man, friendly, countryman, generally married, honest and conscientious. *Reversed:* Good, but severe, austere, yet tolerant.

QUEEN OF WANDS—Throughout this suit the wands are always in leaf, as it is a suit of life and animation. Emotionally and otherwise, the Queen's personality corresponds to that of the King, but is more magnetic. *Divinatory Meanings:* A dark woman or a countrywoman, friendly, chaste, loving, honorable. If the card beside her signifies a man, she is well disposed towards him; if a woman, she is interested in the Querent. Also, love of money. *Reversed:* Good, economical, obliging, serviceable. Also signifies opposition, jealousy, deceit, and infidelity.

KNIGHT OF WANDS—He is shown as if upon a journey, armed with a short wand, and although mailed is not on a warlike errand. He is passing mounds or pyramids. *Divinatory Meanings:*

Departure, absence, flight, emigration. A dark young man, friendly. Change of residence. **Reversed:** Rupture, division, interruption, discord.

PAGE OF WANDS—In a scene similar to the former, a young man stands in the act of proclamation. He is unknown but faithful, and his tidings are strange. **Divinatory Meanings:** Dark young man, faithful, a lover, an envoy, a postman. Beside a man, he will bear favorable testimony concerning him. He is a dangerous rival, if followed by the Page of Cups. Has the chief qualities of his suit. **Reversed:** Anecdotes, announcements, evil news. Also indecision and the instability which accompanies it.

TEN OF WANDS—A man oppressed by the weight of the ten staves which he is carrying. **Divinatory Meanings:**

A card of many significances, and some of the readings cannot be harmonized. I set aside that which connects it with honor and good faith. It is oppression simply, but it is also fortune, gain, any kind of success of these things. It is also a card of false-seeming, disguise, perfidy. The place which the figure is approaching may suffer from the rods that he carries. Success is stultified if the Nine of Swords follows, and if it is a question of a lawsuit—there will be certain loss. **Reversed:** Contrarities, difficulties, intrigues, and their analogies.

NINE OF WANDS—The figure leans upon his staff and has an expectant look, as if awaiting an enemy. Behind him are eight other staves erect, in orderly disposition, like a palisade.

Divinatory Meanings: The card

signifies strength in opposition. If attacked, he will meet the onslaught boldly. With this main significance there are all its possible adjuncts, including delay, suspension, adjournment. **Reversed:** Obstacles, adversity, calamity.

EIGHT OF WANDS—The card represents motion through the immovable—a flight of wands through an open country. **Divinatory Meanings:** Activity in undertakings, the path of such activity, swiftness, as that of an express messenger; great haste, great hope, speed towards an end which promises assured felicity; that which is on the move, also the arrows of love. **Reversed:** Arrows of jealousy, internal dispute, stings of conscience, quarrels.

SEVEN OF WANDS—A young man on a craggy eminence, brandishing a staff, six other staves are raised towards him from below. *Divinatory Meanings:* It is a card of valor, for on the surface, six are attacking one, who has, however, the vantage position. On the intellectual plane, it signifies discussion, wordy strife, in business—negotiations, war of trade, barter, competition. It is further a card of success, for the combatant is on the top and his enemies may be unable to reach him. *Reversed:* Perplexity, embarrassments, anxiety.

SIX OF WANDS—A laureled horseman bears staff adorned with laurel crown; footmen with staves are at his side. *Divinatory Meanings:* The card has been so designed that it can cover several significations. On the

surface, it is a victor triumphing, but it is also great news, such as might be carried in state by the King's courier. It is expectation crowned with its own desire, the crown of hope.

Reversed: Apprehension, fear—as of a victorious enemy at the gate, treachery, disloyalty, as of gates being opened to the enemy.

FIVE OF WANDS—A posse of youths are brandishing staves, as if in sport or strife. It is mimic warfare.

Divinatory Meanings: Imitation, for example, sham fight, the strenuous competition and struggle of the search after riches and fortune. Hence some attributions say that it is a card of gold, gain, opulence. **Reversed:** Litigation, disputes, trickery, contradiction.

FOUR OF WANDS—From the four great staves planted in the foreground

there is a great garland suspended, two female figures uplift nosegays and at their side is a bridge over a moat, leading to an old manorial house.

Divinatory Meanings: They are for once almost on the surface—country life, repose, concord, harmony, prosperity, peace, and the perfected work of these. ***Reversed:*** The meaning remains unaltered—increase, felicity, beauty, embellishment.

THREE OF WANDS—A calm, stately figure, with his back turned, looking from a cliff's edge at ships passing over the sea. Three staves are planted in the ground and he leans slightly on one of them. ***Divinatory Meanings:*** He symbolizes established strength, enterprise, effort, trade, discovery, commerce; those are his ships, bearing his merchandise, which are sailing over

the sea. **Reversed:** The end of troubles, suspension or cessation of adversity, disappointment, and toil.

TWO OF WANDS—A tall man looks from a battlemented roof over sea and shore. He holds a globe in his right hand and a staff in his left rests on the battlement, another is fixed in a ring. The rose and cross and lily should also be noticed on the left side. **Divinatory Meanings:** Between the alternative readings there is no marriage possible, on the one hand, riches, fortune, magnificence. And on the other, physical suffering, disease, chagrin, sadness, mortification. The design gives one suggestion—here is a lord overlooking his dominion and alternately contemplating a globe. It looks like the malady, the mortification, the sadness of Alexander

amidst the grandeur of this world's wealth. **Reversed:** Surprise, wonder, enchantment, emotion, trouble, fear.

ACE OF WANDS—A hand issuing from a cloud grasps a stout wand or club. **Divinatory Meanings:** Creation, invention, enterprise, the powers which result in these, principle, beginning, source, birth, family, origin, the beginning of enterprises, according to another account—money, fortune, inheritance. **Reversed:** Fall, decadence, ruin, perdition, to perish, also—clouded joy.

CUPS

KING OF CUPS—He holds a short scepter in his left hand and a great cup in his right, his throne is set upon the sea, on one side a ship is riding and on the other a dolphin is leaping.

The implicit is that the sign of the cup naturally refers to water, which appears in all the court cards. ***Divinatory***

Meanings: Fair man, man of business, law, or divinity, responsible, disposed to oblige the Querent. Also equity, art and science, including those who profess science, law and art, creative intelligence. ***Reversed:*** Dishonest, double-dealing man, roguery, exaction, injustice, vice, scandal.

QUEEN OF CUPS—Beautiful, fair, dreamy woman (as one who sees visions in a cup). ***Divinatory***
Meanings: Good, fair woman, honest, devoted, who will do service to the Querent. Loving intelligence, and hence the gift of vision, success, happiness, pleasure, also wisdom, virtue. ***Reversed:*** The accounts vary, good woman, otherwise, distinguished

woman but one not to be trusted, vice, perverse woman, dishonor, depravity.

KNIGHT OF CUPS—Graceful, not warlike, riding quietly, wearing a winged helmet, referring to the higher graces of the imagination which sometimes characterize this card. *Divinatory Meanings:* Arrival, approach—sometimes that of a messenger, advances, proposition, demeanor, invitation, incitement. *Reversed:* Trickery, artifice, subtlety, swindling, duplicity, fraud.

PAGE OF CUPS—A fair, pleasing, somewhat effeminate Page, of studious and intent aspect, contemplates a fish rising from a cup to look at him. *Divinatory Meanings:* Fair young man, one impelled to render service and with whom the Querent will be connected. A studious youth, news, message,

application, reflection, meditation — also these things directed to business. ***Reversed:*** Taste, inclination, artifice, attachment, seduction, deception.

TEN OF CUPS— Appearance of cups in a rainbow, it is contemplated in wonder and ecstasy by a man and woman below, evidently husband and wife. His right arm is about her, his left raised upward as she raises her right arm. The two children dancing near them have not observed the prodigy, but are happy after their own manner. There is a home scene beyond. ***Divinatory Meanings:*** Contentment, repose of the entire heart — the perfection of that state, if with several picture cards, a person who is taking charge of the Querent's interests. Also the town, village or country inhabited by the Querent.

Reversed: Repose of the false heart, indignation, violence.

NINE OF CUPS—The goodly personage is feasting to his heart's content, and abundant refreshment of wine is on the arched counter behind him. **Divinatory Meanings:** Concord, contentment, physical bien-être; also victory, success, advantage, satisfaction for the Querent or person for whom the consultation is made. **Reversed:** Truth, loyalty, liberty. But the readings vary and include mistakes, imperfections.

EIGHT OF CUPS—A man of dejected aspect is deserting the cups of his felicity, enterprise, undertaking or previous concern. **Divinatory Meanings:** The card speaks for itself on the surface, but other readings are entirely antithetical—giving joy, mildness, timidity, honor, modesty.

Reversed: Great joy, happiness, feasting.

SEVEN OF CUPS—Strange chalices of vision. **Divinatory Meanings:** Fairy favors, images of reflection, imagination, sentiment, things seen in the glass of contemplation, some attainment in these degrees but nothing permanent or substantial is suggested. **Reversed:** Desire, determination, project, will.

SIX OF CUPS—Children in an old garden, their cups filled with flowers. **Divinatory Meanings:** A card of memories and of the past. For example, reflecting on childhood, happiness, enjoyment, but coming rather from the past, things that have vanished. Another reading reverses this, giving new relations, new knowledge, new environment, and then the children are

disporting in a newly-entered precinct.

Reversed: The future, renewal, that which will come to pass presently.

FIVE OF CUPS—A dark, cloaked figure, looking sideways at three prone cups, two others stand upright behind him and a bridge is in the background, leading to a small keep or holding.

Divinatory Meanings: It is a card of loss, but something remains over, three have been taken, but two are left. It is a card of inheritance, transmission, and patrimony, but not corresponding to expectations. With some it is a card of marriage, but not without bitterness or frustration. **Reversed:** News, alliances, affinity, consanguinity, ancestry, return, false projects.

FOUR OF CUPS—A young man is seated under a tree and contemplates three cups set on the grass before him,

an arm issuing from a cloud offers him another cup. His expression notwithstanding is one of discontent with his environment. ***Divinatory Meanings:*** Weariness, disgust, aversion, imaginary vexations—as if the wine of this world had caused satiety only. Another wine, as if a fairy gift, is now offered him, but he sees no consolation therein. This is also a card of blended pleasure. ***Reversed:*** Novelty, presage, new instruction, new relations.

THREE OF CUPS—Maidens in a garden ground with cups uplifted, as if pledging one another. ***Divinatory Meanings:*** The conclusion of any matter in plenty, perfection and merriment, happy issue, victory, fulfillment, solace, healing. ***Reversed:*** Expedition, dispatch,

achievement, end.

TWO OF CUPS—A youth and maiden are pledging one another, and above their cups rises the caduceus of Hermes, between the great wings of which there appears a lion's head. It is a variant of a sign which is found in some old examples of this card. Some curious meanings are attached to it, but they do not concern us in this place.

Divinatory Meanings: Love, passion, friendship, union, affinity, concord, sympathy, the inter-relation of the sexes, and—as a suggestion apart from all offices of divination—that which nature is sanctified. *Reversed:* False love, folly, misunderstanding.

ACE OF CUPS—The waters are beneath, upon which are water lilies. The hand issues from the cloud, holding in its palm the cup, from

which five streams are pouring. A dove, bearing in its bill a cross-marked host, descends to place the wafer in the cup—the dew of water is falling on all sides. It is an intimation of that which may lie behind the Lesser Arcana. *Divinatory Meanings:* House of the true heart, joy, content, abode, nourishment, abundance, fertility, holy table, felicity hereof. *Reversed:* House of the false heart, mutation, instability, revolution.

SWORDS

KING OF SWORDS—He sits in judgment, holding the unsheathed sign of his suit. *Divinatory Meanings:* Whatsoever arises out of the idea of judgment and all its connections—power, command, authority, militant intelligence, law, offices of the crown, and so forth. *Reversed:* Cruelty, evil

intention, perfidy, perversity, barbarity.

QUEEN OF SWORDS—Her right hand raises the weapon vertically and the hilt rests on an arm of her royal chair. The left hand is extended, the arm raised, her countenance is severe, chastened, and suggests familiarity with sorrow. *Divinatory Meanings:* Widowhood, female sadness and embarrassment, absence, sterility, mourning, privation, separation. *Reversed:* Malice, bigotry, artifice, prudery, deceit.

KNIGHT OF SWORDS—In full course, as if scattering his enemies. *Divinatory Meanings:* Skill, bravery, capacity, defense, address, enmity, wrath, war, destruction, opposition, resistance, ruin. *Reversed:* Imprudence, incapacity, extravagance.

PAGE OF SWORDS—A lithe, active figure holds a sword upright in both hands, while in the act of swift walking. *Divinatory Meanings:* Authority, overseeing, secret service, vigilance, spying, examination, and the qualities thereto belonging. *Reversed:* More evil side of these qualities, what is unforeseen, an unprepared state, sickness is also intimated.

TEN OF SWORDS—A prostrate figure, pierced by all the swords belonging to the card. *Divinatory Meanings:* Whatsoever is intimated by the design—also pain, affliction, tears, sadness, desolation. *Reversed:* Advantage, profit, success, favor, but none of these are permanent. Also power and authority.

NINE OF SWORDS—One seated on her couch in lamentation with the

swords over her. ***Divinatory Meanings:*** Death, failure, miscarriage, delay, deception, disappointment, despair. ***Reversed:*** Imprisonment, doubt, suspicion, reasonable fear, shame.

EIGHT OF SWORDS—A woman, bound and hoodwinked, with the swords of the card about her.

Divinatory Meanings: Bad news, violent chagrin, crisis, censure, power in trammels, conflict, calumny—also sickness. ***Reversed:*** Disquiet, difficulty, opposition, accident, treachery, that which is unforeseen, fatality.

SEVEN OF SWORDS—A man in the act of carrying away five swords rapidly, the two others of the card remain stuck in the ground. A camp close at hand. ***Divinatory Meanings:*** Design, attempt, wish, hope, confidence—also quarrelling.

A plan that may fail, annoyance.

Reversed: Good advice, counsel, instruction, slander, babbling.

SIX OF SWORDS—A ferryman carrying passengers in his punt to the further shore. **Divinatory Meanings:** Journey by water, route, way, envoy, missionary, expedient. **Reversed:** Declaration, confession, publicity. One account says that it is a proposal of love.

FIVE OF SWORDS—A disdainful man looks after two retreating and dejected figures. Their two swords lie upon the ground. He carries two others on his left shoulder, and a third sword is in his right hand, point to earth. He is the master in possession of the field. **Divinatory Meanings:** Degradation, destruction, reversal, infamy, dishonor,

loss. **Reversed:** The same—burial and obsequies.

FOUR OF SWORDS—The effigy of a Knight in the attitude of prayer, at full length upon his tomb. **Divinatory Meanings:** Vigilance, retreat, solitude, hermit's repose, exile, tomb and coffin. **Reversed:** Wise administration, circumspection, economy, avarice, precaution, testament.

THREE OF SWORDS—Three swords piercing a heart, cloud and rain behind. **Divinatory Meanings:** Removal, absence, delay, division, rupture, dispersion, and all that the design signifies naturally. **Reversed:** Mental alienation, error, loss, distraction, disorder, confusion.

TWO OF SWORDS—A hoodwinked figure balances two swords upon her

shoulders. *Divinatory Meanings:* Conformity and the equipoise which it suggests, courage, friendship, affection, concord in a state of arms, intimacy. *Reversed:* Imposture, falsehood, duplicity, disloyalty.

ACE OF SWORDS—A hand issues from a cloud, grasping a sword, the point of which is encircled by a crown. *Divinatory Meanings:* Triumph, the excessive degree in everything, conquest, triumph of force. A card of great force, in love as well as in hatred. *Reversed:* The same meanings, but the results are disastrous; another account says—conception, childbirth, augmentation, multiplicity.

PENTACLES

KING OF PENTACLES—The figure calls for no special description. The face is rather dark, suggesting also courage, but somewhat lethargic in tendency.

The bull's head should be noted as a recurrent symbol on his throne.

The sign of this suit is represented throughout as engraved or blazoned with the pentagram, typifying the correspondence of the four elements in human nature and that by which they may be governed. *Divinatory*

Meanings: Valor, realizing intelligence, business and normal intellectual aptitude, sometimes mathematical gifts and attainments of this kind—success in these paths. *Reversed:* Vice, weakness, ugliness, perversity, corruption, peril.

QUEEN OF PENTACLES—The face suggests that of a dark woman, whose

qualities might be summed up in the idea of greatness of soul. She has also the serious cast of intelligence—she contemplates her symbol and may see worlds therein. ***Divinatory Meanings:*** Opulence, generosity, security, magnificence, liberty. ***Reversed:*** Evil, fear, suspicion, suspense, mistrust.

KNIGHT OF PENTACLES—He rides a slow, enduring, heavy horse, to which his own aspect corresponds. ***Divinatory Meanings:*** Utility, serviceableness, interest, rectitude, responsibility. ***Reversed:*** Inertia, idleness, repose of that kind, stagnation—also placidity, discouragement, carelessness.

PAGE OF PENTACLES—A youthful figure, looking intently at the pentacle that hovers over his raised hands. ***Divinatory Meanings:*** Application,

study scholarship, reflection. Another reading says news, messages and the bringer thereof—also rule, management. **Reversed:** Prodigality, dissipation, liberality, luxury, unfavorable news.

TEN OF PENTACLES—A man and woman beneath an archway which gives entrance to a house and domain. **Divinatory Meanings:** Gain, riches, family matters, archives, extraction, the abode of a family. **Reversed:** Chance, fatality, loss, robbery, games of hazard; sometimes gift, dowry, pension.

NINE OF PENTACLES—A woman, with a bird upon her wrist, stands amidst a great abundance of grapevines in the garden of a great house. **Divinatory Meanings:** Prudence, safety, success, accomplishment, certitude, discernment. **Reversed:**

Roguery, deception, voided project, bad faith.

EIGHT OF PENTACLES—An artist in stone at work. *Divinatory Meanings:* Work, employment, commission, craftsmanship, skill in craft and business. *Reversed:* Voided ambition, vanity, cupidity, exaction, usury.

SEVEN OF PENTACLES—A young man, leaning on his staff, looks intently at seven pentacles attached to a clump of greenery on his right. One would say that these were his treasures and that his heart was there. *Divinatory Meanings:* These are exceedingly contradictory, in the main, it is a card of money, business, barter—but one reading gives altercation, quarrel, and another innocence, ingenuity, purgation. *Reversed:* Anxiety about money.

SIX OF PENTACLES—One in the guise of a merchant weighs money in a pair of scales and distributes it to the needy and distressed. *Divinatory Meanings:* Presents, gifts, gratification. Another account says attention, vigilance, now is the accepted time, present prosperity, etc. *Reversed:* Envy, desire, cupidity, jealousy, illusion.

FIVE OF PENTACLES—Two mendicants in a snowstorm pass a lighted casement. *Divinatory Meanings:* It foretells material trouble above all, whether in the form illustrated, that is, destitution, or otherwise. For some cartomancists, it is a card of love and lovers—wife, husband, friend, mistress—also concordance, affinities. These alternatives cannot be harmonized. *Reversed:* Disorder, chaos, ruin, discord, profligacy.

FOUR OF PENTACLES—A crowned figure, having a pentacle over his crown, clasps another with hands and arms; two pentacles are under his feet.

Divinatory Meanings: The surety of possessions, cleaving to that which one has, gifts, legacy, inheritance.

Reversed: Suspense, delay, opposition.

THREE OF PENTACLES—A sculptor at his work in a monastery.

Divinatory Meanings: Métier, trade, skilled labor. Usually, however, regarded as a card of nobility, aristocracy, renown, glory. *Reversed:* Mediocrity in work and otherwise, puerility, pettiness, weakness.

TWO OF PENTACLES—A young man in the act of dancing has a pentacle in either hand, and they are joined by that endless cord which is like the number eight reversed. *Divinatory*

Meanings: It is represented as a card of gaiety, recreation and its connections, which is the subject of the design. But it is read also as news and messages in writing, such as obstacles, agitation, trouble, embroilment. **Reversed:**

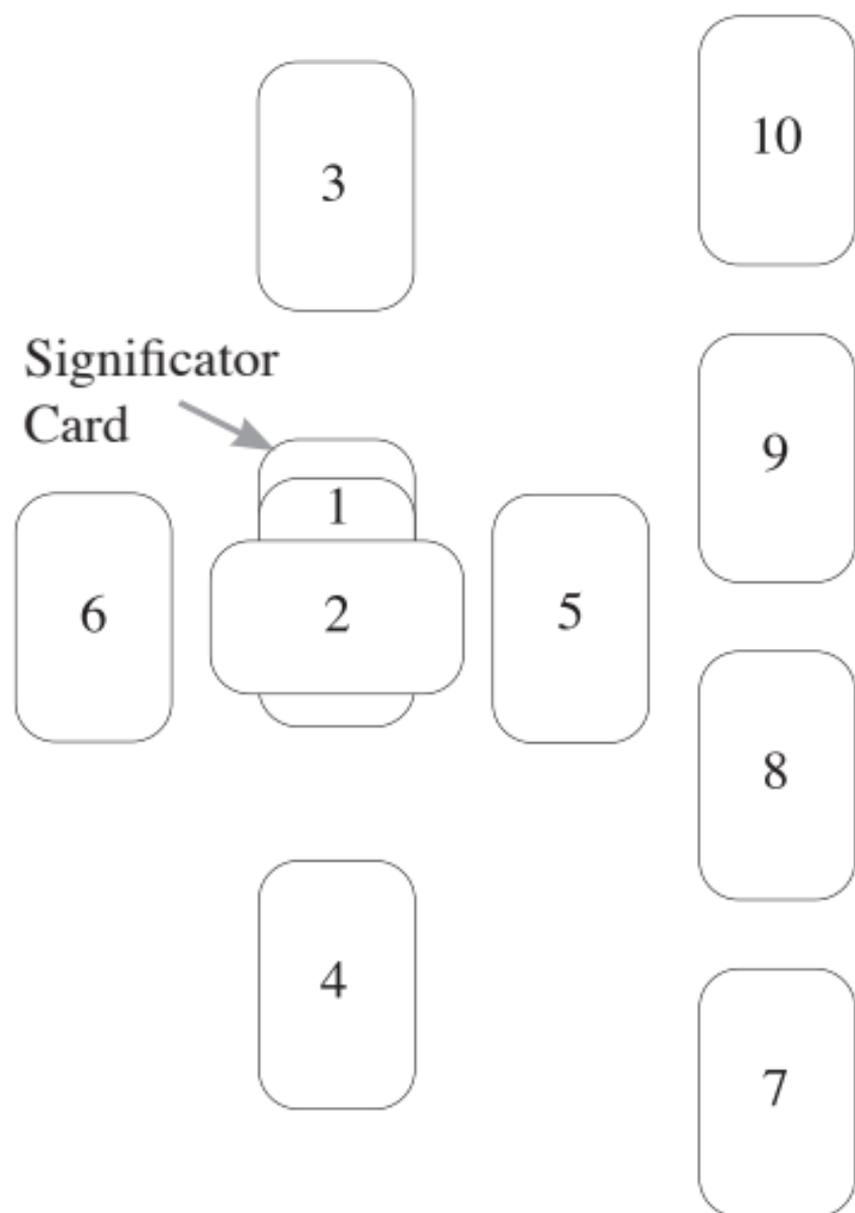
Enforced gaiety, simulated enjoyment, literal sense, handwriting, composition, letters of exchange.

ACE OF PENTACLES— A hand— issuing, as usual, from a cloud— holds up a pentacle.

Divinatory Meanings: Perfect contentment, felicity, ecstasy— also speedy intelligence, gold.

Reversed: The evil side of wealth, bad intelligence. Also great riches.

THE CELTIC CROSS



THE ART OF TAROT DIVINATION

Cups are assumed to represent people with light brown hair and of fair complexion. Wands represent those having yellow or red hair and blue eyes. Swords correspond to persons with dark brown hair and possibly gray, hazel or even blue eyes. Pentacles answer to very dark people. The procedure is as follows:

Select the **Significator** of the person or thing about whom or which the inquiry is made. It is the card which, in the reader's judgment or experience, is the most representative, and is not, therefore, of necessity the Magician or High Priestess mentioned in the official divinatory meanings. Place the Significator in the middle. Let the reader and querent shuffle and cut the

remainder of the deck three times each.

Turn up the **FIRST CARD**; cover the Significator therewith, and say; “That covers him.” This is the person or thing’s general environment at the time, the influence with which he is actuated all through.

Turn up the **SECOND CARD**; put it across him horizontally, and say: “This represents his obstacles.” If it is a favorable card, it will be something good in itself, but not productive of good in the particular connection.

Turn up the **THIRD CARD**; place it above the head of the Significator, and say: “This crowns him.” It represents (a) the best that he can arrive at, or (b) his ideal in the matter; (c) what he wants to make his own; (d) but it is not his own at present.

Turn up the **FOURTH CARD**; place it below the feet of the Significator, and say: “This is beneath him.” It is his own—that which he has to work with and can use.

Turn up the **FIFTH CARD**; place it on the side that the Significator is looking away from, and say: “This is behind him.” It is the current from which he is passing away, and it may be the past of the matter.

Turn up the **SIXTH CARD**; place it on the side that the Significator is facing, and say: “This is before him.” It is the current that is coming into action and will operate in the specific matter.

The first six cards (plus the **Significator** card) are now disposed in the form of a cross. The next four cards are turned up in succession and placed

to your right, one card above another.

THE SEVENTH signifies himself, his attitude and relation to the matter.

THE EIGHTH signifies his house, his environment in the affair—the influence, people and events about him.

THE NINTH signifies his hopes and fears.

THE TENTH represents what will come. It is on this card that you concentrate your intuitive powers, your experience and your memory in respect to the official divinatory meanings attached thereto. It should include whatsoever you may have divined from the other cards on the table, including the Significator itself and concerning him or it, not excepting such lights upon higher significance as might fall like sparks from heaven if the card

which serves for the oracle, the card for reading, should happen to be a Trump Major.

Thus basing your calculations, if you obtain a decisive judgment the operation is over, and you have only to formulate the end result.

But it may so happen that you do not derive a full light and result in certitude. There is then another process. Take this last card to serve as the new Significator, repeat the whole operation, when all the cards dealt and arranged round it are read to develop an explanation.

In conclusion, as regards the question of complexions, their allocation to the suits need not be taken conventionally. You can go by the temperament of a person; one who is exceedingly dark

may be very energetic, and would be better represented by a Sword card than a Pentacle. On the other hand, a very fair person who was indolent and lethargic should be allocated to Cups rather than Wands.

Great facility may be obtained by this method in a comparatively short time, allowance being always made for the gifts of the reader.

Illustrations from the Radiant Rider-Waite
Tarot are copyright ©2003, 2015
U.S. Games Systems, Inc.

Illustrations from the Rider-Waite Tarot and
the Waite Tarot, are copyright ©1971
U.S. Games Systems, Inc.

Further reproduction prohibited.

The Rider Tarot Deck® , also known as the
Rider-Waite Tarot Deck® ,
Waite Tarot Deck® ,
and Pamela Colman Smith Tarot Deck®
are registered trademarks of
U.S. Games Systems, Inc.
Stamford, CT 06902 USA
www.usgamesinc.com



U.S. GAMES
SYSTEMS, INC