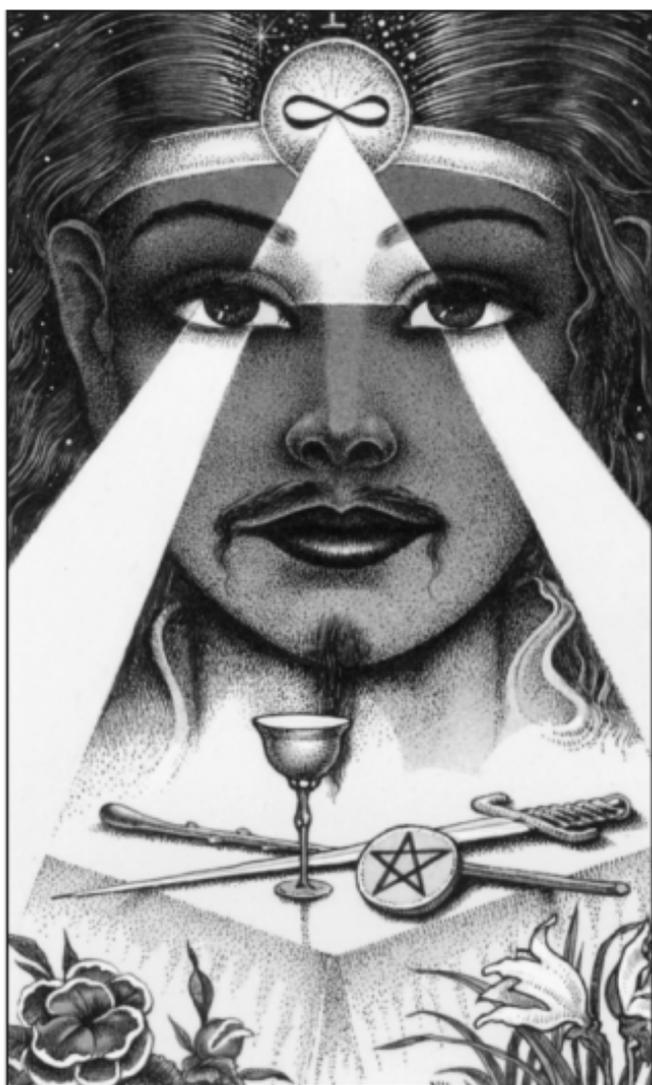


COSMIC TAROT

by Norbert Losche



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

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ISBN-13: 978-0-88079-395-7

14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5

Booklet printed in the USA.

U.S. GAMES SYSTEMS, INC.

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The tarot springs from ancient knowledge whose beginnings are lost in the shadows of time. Its roots reach back into ancient Egypt and India. Some sources suggest its origin was in the legendary lost island of Atlantis.

In the west, the tarot first appeared in the 15th century at the noble courts of Italy and then later in France. These cards always appeared as beautiful, handpainted single decks. Because of their cost, these "mystical pages" were restricted to the rich and noble. With the invention of the printing press, this elitism changed and tarot became accessible to a larger audience.

Although it has sometimes been damned by churches as the work of the devil, and even forbidden by governments, the tarot has remained an important part of esoteric wisdom over the centuries. The first writings to link tarot and occultism appear at the end of the 18th century (Court de Gebelin and Etteilla). The tarot has grown in seclusion until modern times, and now it is blossoming into a cherished flower offering expanded awareness.

INTRODUCTION

In our times, the search for transcendent meaning and self-redemption has replaced the old mystical religions of a distant god. The tarot's age-old knowledge is always quiet and reserved, yet it welcomes the seeker like an old friend. The tarot, with its dynamic concept of constant change, offers a doctrine for the New Age and thus becomes a reliable guide in this chaotic world of shifting social values.

THE TAROT'S STRUCTURE

The tarot has 78 cards grouped under two headings: 22 cards in the Major Arcana, 56 cards in the Minor Arcana.

The 22 cards of the Major Arcana are numbered from 0, The Fool, to XXI, The World.

The 56 cards of the Minor Arcana are divided into four elements: The suit of Wands=fire; the suit of Cups=water; the suit of Swords=air; the suit of Pentacles=earth. Each suit is subdivided into court cards (king, queen, prince, princess) and into numerical cards (ace through ten).

0. The Fool

A colorfully dressed fool dances at the edge of a cliff. *Meaning:* The wisdom of innocence, originality, annulment of reason, frivolity without discipline, ecstasy, delirium, madness, foolishness.

I. The Magician

With his mental power the Magician rules the four elements: fire (Wands), water (Cups), air (Swords) and earth (Pentacles). *Meaning:* Elementary knowledge, determination, skill, juggling, initiative, agitation, disgrace, immaturity.

II. The High Priestess

The High Priestess protects all secrets in nature with her power. *Meaning:* Mystery, hidden knowledge, intuition, initiation, the unconscious, mental power, silence, superstition, presumption, superficial.

III. The Empress

A beautiful woman with a crown of stars amidst a fertile landscape. *Meaning:* Feminine wisdom and power, sensuality,

beauty, culture, abundance, boredom, lethargy, temptation through earthly things.

IV. The Emperor

A powerful emperor sits on his throne, the insignia of power in front of him. *Meaning:* Masculine power, shaping of the material world, rulership, will, severity, stability, power and its danger, force.

V. The Hierophant

A church leader with his followers celebrates in a temple. *Meaning:* Intellectual leadership, initiation, occult powers, secret knowledge, religion, humility, false guru, hypocrisy, theoretical knowledge, hierarchy, disbelief, distrust.

VI. The Lovers

Two lovers, surrounded by birds and flowers, stand at the shore of a lake. *Meaning:* Union, love, blend of opposites, tantra, understanding of the cosmic dance, harmony, discernment, decision, enticement, temptation, doubts.

VII. The Chariot

Underneath a canopy of stars, a man in his chariot is pulled by two fast horses. *Meaning:* Triumph, mental and physical balance, commitment, dynamic, examination, hard work, obstacles, failure.

VIII. Justice

A kind but severe woman guards justice, represented by a scale. *Meaning:* Justice through knowledge of a higher order, union of opposites, balance, virtue, kindness, dignity, fairness, law, selfishness, lack of principles, injustice, prejudice, lack of harmony, stubbornness.

IX. The Hermit

A hermit lives in the mountains. At his feet, a light in form of a lantern. *Meaning:* Seclusion, solitude, wisdom, cleverness, distance, discernment, self-control, discipline, awareness, autonomy, guidelines, reliability, alienation, loneliness.

X. Wheel of Fortune

The world is a mandala. The zodiac turns around the center. The planets are arranged to represent the tree of life. In the four corners there are the symbols of the four elements. *Meaning:* Realization of the cosmic order, application of higher laws, dance of energies, constant changes, "as above, so below," turning point, search for the center, out of control, seeking power.

XI. Strength

A mysterious woman holds a magic cloth which mirrors a lion. *Meaning:* Creative energy, enjoying the dance of life, strength, wildness, transformation of energies, determination to live, strive for power.

XII. The Hanged Man

A young man hangs with one foot from the branch of a tree. His hands are folded as a symbol of inner concentration. *Meaning:* Overcoming obstacles through devotion. Changes, prudence, insight, peace of mind, widened consciousness, sacrifice, renunciation, self-deceit, selfishness, loss.

XIII. Death

The skeleton stands on a plain, together with his scythe and a black bird. Behind him, the sun rises. *Meaning:* The end, transition, transformation, giving up the existing, boundary reached, time elapses, separation, settlement, stagnation, release, sorrow.

XIV. Temperance

A beautiful woman celebrates the ritual of temperance by pouring water into water. *Meaning:* Harmony, mental equilibrium, the middle path, improvement, union, rejuvenation, patience, coordination, carelessness, indecision.

XV. The Devil

A terrible demon oppresses prisoners in his reign of evil. *Meaning:* Victory of materialism, black magic, occult powers, dependence, slavery, passion, egoism, perversion, wrong proportions, overcoming own fears, perception of the inner demon.

XVI. The Tower

The eye of God shoots out lightning bolts. One of them sets a tower on fire. Two people and a crown tumble into the deep. *Meaning:* Forced change, breakdown, ruin, fight, catastrophe, destruction, breaking up constricting convictions, arrogance, intolerance, disappointment, chance for a new start, liberation, enthusiasm.

XVII. The Star

It is night. A nude beauty and a flamingo stand at the border of a lake. A mighty star shines in the sky. *Meaning:* Beauty, inspiration, hope, brilliance, clarity, to give and take, unconventional, dreams, fantasies, resignation.

XVIII. The Moon

Attracted by the forces of the moon, a crayfish crawls out of a lake. *Meaning:* The unconscious, hidden mental power, to forget oneself, salvation, mercy, great love, darkness, secret, drunkenness, hysteria.

XIX. The Sun

The Sun shines upon a beautiful landscape where, surrounded by trees and birds, a child is sitting in the grass. *Meaning:* Light, openness, completion, warmth, favorable relationships, satisfaction, energy, idealism, devotion, passion, home country, harmlessness, lack of criticism, arrogance.

XX. Judgment

Three trumpets sound out of the cosmos and wake up the dead. *Meaning:* Breakthrough, transformation, waking up the latent powers, forgiveness, disillusionment, stuck to the old path, settlement.

XXI. The World

Surrounded by the four symbolic beings, the world dances the eternally magical dance. *Meaning:* Syntheses of the elements; the cosmic dance, unity, success, understanding, perfect application of what was previously learned, forgetting the center, fear of devotion, restricted views, inertia, selfishness, lack of commitment.

WANDS

Ace of Wands

A wand sends out its energy as a symbol of the element fire in its original form. *Meaning:* Origin, beginning, birth, creativity, power, identity, self-realization.

Two of Wands

A young man in a confident posture stands between two wands. *Meaning:* Dominion, superiority, authority, success by understanding the opposites, hesitation, contradictory events, sadness.

Three of Wands

A young woman performs a magic dance behind three blooming lotus flowers. *Meaning:* Virtue, growth, success through self-confidence, dreams come true, manifested will, activity, joy of discovering, prevention of confrontations.

Four of Wands

A dancing girl carries out a harmonious moment. Four roses flourish between four wands. *Meaning:* Completion, rise, clarification, peace, joy, fiery love, guilelessness.

Five of Wands

Two men are fighting. They use wands as weapons. *Meaning:* Strife, confrontation, argument, support, concentrated energy push, blockage, dilution of efforts.

Six of Wands

A young man, kneeling like a victor, holds a wand in his hands. A lion wearing a crown lies beside him. *Meaning:* Victory, balance, success, hope good news, anxiety.

Seven of Wands

A man stands in front of a fence and defends himself in a heroic posture. *Meaning:* Valor, action without planning, negotiation, contest, strife for success, courage, worry, agitation, perplexity.

Eight of Wands

A young man jumps up high. *Meaning:* Swiftness, movement, haste, enthusiasm, activity, new solutions, serious problems, doubt, remorse.

Nine of Wands

A strong man with a powerful glance in his eyes. There is a lion behind him. *Meaning:* Strength, self-determination, revealed passions, self-confidence, tense times, delay.

Ten of Wands

The world burns; a person sinks into the flames. *Meaning:* Oppression, last effort, stubbornness, burden, intrigue, difficulties, link between strong oppositions, fulfilling of wishes, new standard of life.

Princess of Wands

A tempestuous young woman wearing a golden tiara. *Meaning:* Spontaneous, energetic, willing to accept risks, impulsive, passionate both in love and anger, superficial, disloyal, unstable, cruel.

Prince of Wands

A young man with a shield which reflects a lion. *Meaning:* Strong, righteous, noble humorous, impulsive, friendly, proud, committed, romantic, pretentious, intolerant, judges with prejudice.

Queen of Wands

A strong, beautiful woman. A wand emerges from a bouquet of white roses. *Meaning:* Honorable, energetic, friendly, kind, strong will, impatient, stubborn, down to earth, domineering, revengeful.

King of Wands

A man with a domineering look, a luminous wand and a tulip. *Meaning:* Vivid, strong will, looking for adventures, conscious of his responsibility, creative, generous, ascetic, hard, impetuous, fanatic.

CUPS

Ace of Cups

An overflowing cup represents the element of water in its original form. *Meaning:* Abundance, satisfaction, joy, fertility, fulfillment, change, instability, unsettled.

Two of Cups

Surrounded by flowers, two lovers kiss. *Meaning:* Love and its uniting power, union, harmony, sympathy, contradictory feelings, unrequited love, false relationship.

Three of Cups

A couple united in harmony at a lake shore. *Meaning:* Abundance, exuberance, comfort, bliss, healing, happy ending, physical pleasure, excessively emotional, confused emotions.

Four of Cups

A young man beside a lotus flower pond. *Meaning:* Exuberance, uncertain feelings, weariness, diminished joy, refusal, insight, reflection, new possibilities, anticipation.

Five of Cups

On a stormy day, a depressed woman is sitting in a dark room. *Meaning:* Disappointment, regret, sorrow, remorse, inheritance, new relationship, discovery of inner sources, return.

Six of Cups

Two lovers in an intimate moment, sitting in the reeds. *Meaning:* Effortless harmony, satisfaction, nice memories, recovered joy, renewal, chance, remembrance, longing, uncontrolled emotions.

Seven of Cups

A man lies on the floor, tortured by restless dreams. *Meaning:* Illusion, daydreams, ruin, imagination, delusion, illusionary success, testing of wishes and fears, productive power of fantasy, dreamwork.

Eight of Cups

A sad man sits on the beach, the wreck of a boat behind him. *Meaning:* Resignation, giving up projects, interruption, new point of view, strong needs.

Nine of Cups

The sun shines. A young man approaches a beautiful woman. *Meaning:* Happiness, wealth, material advantage, success, physical well-being, imperfection, indifference, lack of sensitivity.

Ten of Cups

A woman with a blue scarf is sitting at the shore of a lake. *Meaning:* Perfect success, satiety, calm, satisfaction, over-saturation, wishful thinking, without aim, disturbances after the climax.

Princess of Cups

A young woman with a lily holds her hand over a cup in a protective gesture. *Meaning:* Sentimental, pensive, thoughtful, quiet, tender, romantic, kind, gentle, dreamy, sensitive, lack of concentration, indolent, insecure.

Prince of Cups

A young man with a scorpion on his arm. Apparently it is very difficult to judge him. *Meaning:* Mysterious, inviting, skilled, challenging, plenty of imagination, searching, tricky, unscrupulous, clever, cunning, inconsiderate.

Queen of Cups

A beautiful woman at the lake shore. She holds a fan decorated with two fishes. *Meaning:* Graceful, beautiful, kind, noble, dignified, tolerant, mediating, poetic, subjective, vicious, unreliable.

King of Cups

A humanitarian man in his palace. The sea is far away. *Meaning:* Friendly, polite,

humane, gifted, gentle, emotional, enthusiastic, indolent, dishonest, melancholy, easy to influence, tending to excess.

SWORDS

Ace of Swords

A brightly shining sword as a symbol of the element of air in its original form. *Meaning:* Power, triumph, conquest, ambiguous, suppressed thinking.

Two of Swords

It is night. At the lake, a girl with a cat in the moonshine. *Meaning:* Balance, through understanding, peace, calm, familiarity, ambiguity, vagueness, two-faced, contradictory thoughts, disloyalty.

Three of Swords

In a dark courtyard, three people dressed in black stand in front of a rose pierced by three swords. *Meaning:* Sorrow, merciless, separation, alienation, grief, error, conscious insight, decisive realization.

Four of Swords

Four travelers rest in an oasis. They left their swords on a carpet in front of them. *Meaning:* Truce, calm after a conflict, interval, retreat, agreement, concentration, mental work, mental challenges.

Five of Swords

A man lies in the desert, detained by five upright swords which pierce roses. *Meaning:* Disgrace, weakness, blame, late insight, clear perspective, new knowledge.

Six of Swords

A dancer moves harmoniously on a plain. Six swords lie at his feet. *Meaning:* Science, deserved success, achieved balance, intelligent behavior, explanation, change in the way of thinking, new mental orientation, conscious association.

Seven of Swords

In a full moon, a woman walks into the unknown. Seven swords disappear in the sand. *Meaning:* Uselessness attempt, vain effort, inconstant behavior, unclear intention, advice, consciously defining a goal.

Eight of Swords

Two people, both captive amidst eight swords, are nevertheless separated and do not talk to each other. *Meaning:* Disturbance, interference, limitation, conflict, blame, resistance, problematic thoughts, mental prison, delimitation of own ideas, great mental tasks.

Nine of Swords

During a war, a man falls to the ground by a sword. Another sword hits the serpent of life. *Meaning:* Despair, sadness, failure, negative thoughts, fear, acceptance of the reality, self-realization, brilliant ideas.

Ten of Swords

Total madness has taken possession of the person. *Meaning:* Ruin, defeat, mental confusion, destruction, desolation, overwhelming thoughts, the lowest point was reached, acceptance of the unexpected, new mental horizons.

Princess of Swords

A young woman with a sword emerging from a flower. *Meaning:* Conscious, skillful, practical abilities, observing, powerful, serious, severe, tricky, frivolous, vulnerable, aggressive.

Prince of Swords

A young man with a sword and a book. *Meaning:* Brave, fast, foreseeing, agile, inventive, clever, courageous, a loyal friend, belligerent, daring, destructive, conceited.

Queen of Swords

A mature, conscious woman with a flower and a white bird. *Meaning:* Conscious, concentrated, severe, graceful, attentive, quick perception, advising, good at repartee, cunning, cruel.

King of Swords

A man with a dominating look, a sword and a white falcon. *Meaning:* Powerful, authoritative, sharp-witted, daring, narrow-minded, mean, reserved, stubborn, tyrannical.

PENTACLES

Ace of Pentacles

A disc with a pentacle as the symbol of the element earth in its original form, stands firmly on a plain. *Meaning:* Wealth, riches, fertility, perfection, dowry, personal talent, personal task.

Two of Pentacles

A young man celebrates a magic dance on the beach. *Meaning:* Changes, attraction between opposites, harmonious change, cheerfulness, new complications, excitement, news, messages, contradictory chances, contradictory tasks.

Three of Pentacles

Three men are building a house. *Meaning:* Work, material foundation, effort, skill, reputation, perseverance, obstinacy, fame, narrow-minded, weakness, mediocrity.

Four of Pentacles

In his country house, an elderly man in a domineering posture. *Meaning:* Power, love for material prosperity, gift, great talent, clinging to property, obstacles, pride.

Five of Pentacles

Five people walk through a gloomy landscape of ruins. *Meaning:* Worry, torture, chaos, poverty, effort, tension, need, idleness, immortality, belief in the future, reconciliation.

Six of Pentacles

A man spreads out his arms on top of a rock. Six pentacles appear above him. *Meaning:* Success, stability, gifts, right timing, generosity, kindness, indulgence, desire, envy, jealousy.

Seven of Pentacles

A depressed man walks through a somber region. *Meaning:* Failure, bad business, hard work—little success, hazardous speculation, inventiveness, own points of view, good business.

Eight of Pentacles

A woman looks down at a rose which is surrounded by eight pentacles. *Meaning:* Wisdom, reason, skill, humbleness, fulfilling work, ambition, vanity, greed.

Nine of Pentacles

A beautiful woman in the middle of her riches. She holds a key in her hand. *Meaning:* Gain, growth, popularity, property, abundance, material wealth, waste, diversion, threatened security.

Ten of Pentacles

A luxuriously dressed man holds a white bird in his hand. *Meaning:* Riches, wealth, security, home, safety, inheritance, family affairs, happiness, developed talents, danger, loss.

Princess of Pentacles

A strong young woman with flowers in her hair amidst a beautiful landscape. *Meaning:* Young, strong, promising, careful, communicating, spoiled.

Prince of Pentacles

A self-confident young man. There is a bull on a cliff behind him. *Meaning:* Persistent, inventive, reliable, ready to help, solid, true, methodical, pensive, practical, patient, stubborn, apathetic, merciless.

HOW TO READ THE CARDS

Queen of Pentacles

A graceful and calm woman in front of her palace at the border of the lake. *Meaning:* Good-hearted, gentle, quiet, benevolent, friendly, rich, zealous, domestic, submissive, impersonal, phlegmatic.

King of Pentacles

The friendly king sits on his throne. *Meaning:* A capable business person, diligent, patient, talented in mathematics, wealthy, prudent, tender, greedy, stubborn.

HOW TO READ THE CARDS

Choose a quiet place and a time when you won't be interrupted. Shuffle the cards thoroughly and then spread the deck out face down in a row on a smooth surface (a satin cloth is best). Draw each card as you concentrate on the question being asked.

One-Card Draw

To answer a single question, concentrate for a short time and then draw one card out of the row of shuffled cards.

Three-Card Spread

Draw three cards from the shuffled row and place them in the following order:



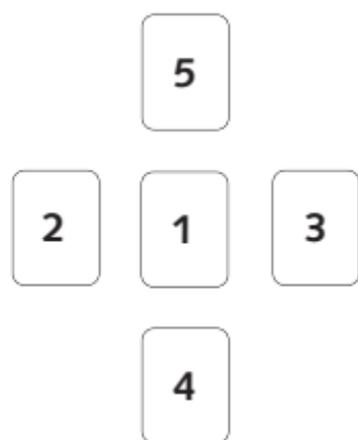
Card 1: The here and now, the situation of the questioner. It represents the power presently at work.

Card 2: The past situation of the questioner. It represents past powers and influences.

Card 3: The future of the questioner. It represents coming influences.

Five-Card Spread

Draw five cards from the shuffled deck. Lay them out in the following order:



Card 1: The present, questioner, theme.

Card 2: The past, past influences, positive or negative completion to card 1.

Card 3: The future, coming influences, positive or negative, completion to card 1.

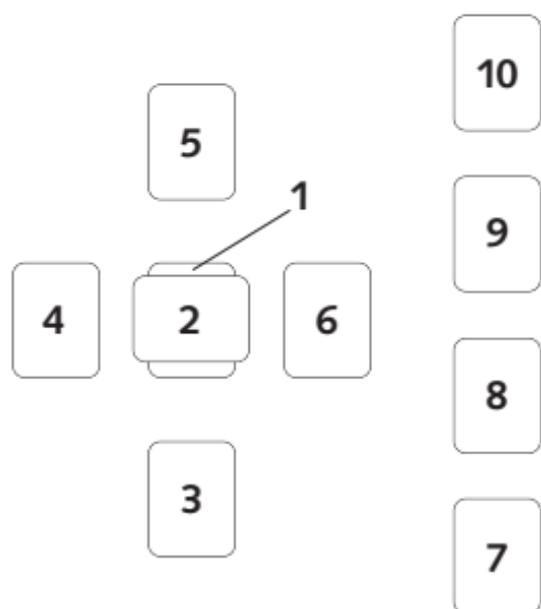
Card 4: The reason behind the question (probably unknown).

Card 5: The development, potential, possibility.

Ten Card Spread

This old method of spreading the cards is sometimes called the Celtic Cross. It gives an extensive picture of the state of a person or a situation.

Draw ten cards from the shuffled deck. Spread out in the following order:



HOW TO READ THE CARDS

- Card 1: The present, questioner, theme, starting point.
- Card 2: The momentary obstacles, problems, distractions.
- Card 3: Motivation or reason to ask the question (probably unknown).
- Card 4: The past, decreasing influences.
- Card 5: The potential, chances, possible development.
- Card 6: Future, increasing influences.
- Card 7: The person of the questioner, previously unknown aspects (in connection with card 3).
- Card 8: Surroundings of the questioner, how the questioner or the situation is perceived by others.
- Card 9: The hopes and fears of the questioner.
- Card 10: A summary or an aspect that will become meaningful.

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