

# THE ARCHEON TAROT



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# DEDICATION

For Brenda, my Queen of Cups...  
and my mother and father...

## INTRODUCTION

### Symbolism

1. The practice of representing things by means of symbols or of attributing symbolic meanings or significance to objects, events, or relationships.
2. A system of symbols or representations.
3. A symbolic meaning or representation.
4. Revelation or suggestion of intangible conditions or truths by artistic invention.
5. Symbolism: The movement, theory, or practice of the late 19th-century Symbolists.

(from *Dictionary.com*)

### Symbolism—Late 19th Century

*Symbolism is a 19th-century movement in which art became infused with a spooky mysticism. It was a continuation of the Romantic tradition, which included such artists as Caspar David Friedrich and John Henry Fuseli.*

*Anticipating Freud and Jung, the Symbolists mined mythology and dream imagery for a visual language of the soul. The leading Symbolists included Gustave Moreau, Odilon Redon, and Pierre Puvis de Chavannes.*

*More a philosophy than an actual style of art, they influenced the contemporary Art Nouveau movement and Les Nabis. The movement was also a major influence on some of the Expressionists, especially through the work of Edvard Munch and Franz von Stuck.*

*(from Artcyclopedia.com)*

Had I lived in the late 19th Century, I'd like to believe I would have been a Symbolist. I'll never actually know, but I think I would have felt at home among those artists and innovators. Much of what I do in the way of artistic endeavor has a Symbolist quality to it and perhaps nothing more so than this, The Archeon Tarot.

Begun in the late stages of October 2003, this project was not only my first endeavor with creating a Tarot deck, but it was also something of a personal journey. Each of the 78 images in the Archeon Tarot relies heavily on the collection of symbols that inhabit my mind. It is a curious mixture of traditional and non-traditional imagery from varied sources thrown into the blender of my subconscious. There will be things that you recognize, cultural and social conventions, but their interpretations may not always be what you would expect.

The name "Archeon Tarot" springs from several sources. "Archons" were regents of ancient Athens, whose jurisdiction covered civil affairs. The word "anarchy" dates from a time when strife and chaos prevented archons from being appointed by the

Athenians. “Archeon” also relates to archeology. An archeologist sifts through layers of the past to discover meaning. Those who consult the Archeon Tarot sift through the layers of imagery in the cards, thus finding a way to harvest order and meaning from chaotic or seemingly unrelated events of life. Finally, “Eons” were considered to be emanations sent forth by God, or embodiments of divine attributes.

Consider The Archeon Tarot a window into the mythology of one man’s world, or at least how he imagines his world to be.

–Timothy Lantz

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# THE STRUCTURE OF THE ARCHEON TAROT

The first 22 cards of the Archeon Tarot are collectively called the major arcana, while the remaining 56 are called the minor arcana.

The major arcana represent the characters and themes which form the basis of the Tarot, while the minor arcana offers a perspective or focal point that may add to or help clarify the meaning of an individual card.

Many readers rely exclusively on the major arcana when seeking the advice of the Tarot. For this reason, I have placed a greater emphasis on these cards in this text. I fully encourage you, however, to explore the possibilities of including the minor arcana in your readings. Doing so can often provide a much deeper and more satisfying experience.



## THE MAJOR ARCANA

The major arcana show us the outside forces influencing events beyond the control of the individual. They may be people, events, or even things in the individual's environment which demand attention or affect the outcome of a given situation.

## O THE FOOL

*By their own follies they perished, the fools.*

– Homer

The Fool marches forth confident and secure in the knowledge that should she step off the edge of the world, she would not fall but instead soar through the clouds. She represents an almost child-like sense of wonder, combined with a certain degree of naiveté, that can act as a shield against the harshness of the world around her. It is not so much a lack of intelligence, but rather a blissful ignorance which surrounds the Fool.

The Fool can also be the victim of her own foolishness. By walking the path with blinders, she risks the possibility of the occasional misstep. Although she often overlooks this risk in favor of the rewards of a blissful existence, she would do well to remember that it takes only one such misstep at an untimely moment to bring about the end of all things.

**The Fool represents:** beginnings, boldness, blind faith, feeling carefree, excitement, fresh starts, journeys, wonderment.

**The Fool inverted represents:** carelessness, cowardice, fear, indulgence, stagnation, recklessness, wastefulness.

# I THE MAGICIAN

*Make no little plans; they have no magic  
to stir men's blood...Make big plans,  
aim high in hope and work.*

– Daniel H. Burnham

The Magician is cunning and a crafty master of time and space. His sovereignty is born of blood, fire and spirit. He walks the forgotten pathways between worlds and uses his specialized skills to alter reality to his vision. No person, place, or thing can withstand the power of his manipulations should he deign to focus his attentions.

While the Magician can be a powerful ally, one must take great care to see the truth behind his conjurings. The Magician's plans are often convoluted, and his goals far from aligned with your own. Many are the unfortunates who discover too late his deception and must suffer the consequences of his betrayal.

**The Magician represents:** adaptation, cunning, craft, mastery, skill, wisdom.

**The Magician inverted represents:** deceit, domination, false expertise, indecision, trickery.



## II THE HIGH PRIESTESS

*We don't receive wisdom; we must discover  
it for ourselves after a journey that  
no one can take for us or spare us.*

– Marcel Proust

The High Priestess is a teacher and a guide. She has closed her eyes and seen the mysteries of the universe revealed before her. She will tell you that the key to understanding the world may only be found along the path that leads toward inner illumination. Yet she is wise enough to know that you may not listen to her.

The High Priestess speaks only in truth, and for many, that truth is much more unbearable than the ignorance in which they dwell. To heed her advice is to see things for what they truly are, but often that clarity of vision exacts a heavy toll.

**The High Priestess represents:** spiritual enlightenment, divine knowledge, the subconscious, wisdom.

**The High Priestess inverted represents:** repression of awareness, reliance on others' opinions, a need for validation or approval.

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