



TAROT of The Witches



Instructions by Stuart R. Kaplan



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Tarot of the Witches Deck

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TAROT & WITCHCRAFT

Witchcraft is the practice of natural and supernatural acts including evil power. In ancient times, the supernatural power of a witch was not always evil, but often was used for the power of prophecy. One of the most famous ancient witches was the Witch of Endon who lived in Palestine. The Bible tells us that Saul, the first King of the Hebrews, consulted her before the battle with the Philistines. (I Sam. 28:7)

Witches and warlocks frequently consult tarot fortune-telling cards. The complete tarot pack contains seventy-eight cards comprising twenty-two Major Arcana and fifty-six Minor Arcana cards. The twenty-two Major Arcana cards consist of twenty-one cards numbered from 1 to 21, plus an unnumbered card called the Fool. The fifty-six Minor Arcana cards consist of four suits of fourteen cards in each suit. In

addition to the Ace through Ten cards, there are four court cards in each suit—the Valet, Knight, Queen and King.

During tarot card readings the black witch tends to lean more towards mischievous and evil interpretations. The white witch generally denotes favorable aspects and brightening prospects. Both types of witches are especially suited to the reading and interpreting of tarot cards by virtue of their keen perception and concentration.

Whether you are an avowed witch or warlock, or simply attracted by the fascination and mysteries of the occult, the reader of tarot fortune-telling cards soon feels a close kinship to the symbolic pictures. The mystical images depicted on the cards create an association of ideas and symbols which the reader or diviner translates into events, both past and present, including the possibilities which may exist in the future.

The High Priestess card in the tarot deck is one of the most compelling cards of the twenty-two Major Arcana. The High Priestess is the source of great knowledge and divine wisdom. She is a queen in the highest sense of the word and the protector of the witches' coven.

The ideal coven consists of six perfect couples—six males and six females plus the High Priestess. In some covens the High Priestess also has a personal emissary. Five of the six couples, ten persons in total, are represented in the tarot pack by the pip cards numbered one to ten in any of the four suits of the Minor Arcana. The last couple, represented by the king and valet (jack), are usually a warlock and witch in training. They assist the High Priestess represented by the queen and her personal emissary, the knight. Thus, the coven is usually represented by thirteen persons, sometimes increased to fourteen by the

addition of the personal emissary to the High Priestess.

In ancient times the complete coven was similar in number to the fourteen cards found in each suit of the tarot deck—the pip cards numbered 1 to 10 plus four court cards, the valet, knight, queen and king. Today there are only thirteen cards in each suit of modern playing cards, similar in number to the thirteen persons in most modern covens.

The magick circle is the holy place of worship and knowledge. The circle contains within its bounds powerful and compelling forces. When an initiate stands at the threshold of the magick circle it represents the passage of darkness and ignorance into the light of perception, knowledge and wisdom.

The magick circle is the place where the High Priestess resides. She blesses and presides over her coven with wisdom and

divine perception. The point in the center of the magick circle where the four cardinal points (north, south, east and west) come together and intercept is the most sacred point of highest power. This point is symbolic of the twenty-two Major Arcana cards. It is represented by spaces number 1 and number 2 in the ancient ten-card Celtic Cross spread that has been used for centuries to read tarot cards.

Inside the magick circle, the north, or magnetic center of the universe, is represented by swords, equivalent to the suit of swords or spades. The south side of the Universe signifies struggle and is represented by the suit of batons, wands or clubs. The east side of the universe, symbolic of great knowledge, is represented by the chalice of wine, equivalent to the suit of cups or hearts. The west side of the universe signifies meditation, and is represented by paten cakes or coins. It is

equivalent to the suit of coins, pentacles or diamonds.

One of the most ancient card spreads for tarot readings involves a layout of ten cards. Six cards fall on spaces numbered 1 to 6 inside the sacred magick circle and four cards fall outside the magick circle in spaces numbered 7, 8, 9 and 10. See diagram on page 39 of this booklet.

Detailed explanations of each position are denoted on pages 40–42.

The first two card positions at the center of the circle are located at the circle's most sacred point. These two spaces represent the Major Arcana cards in their present position and immediate influence.

Card 1 • Present Position

Card 2 • Immediate Influence

The next four cards at the cardinal points of the circle represent each suit of the Minor Arcana in the four quarters of the

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