

THE
SACRED
WORLD
ORACLE

SAMPLE



CREATED BY
KRIS WALDHERR



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ABOUT THE SACRED WORLD ORACLE



The Sacred World Oracle celebrates the beauty and diversity of the earth and its creatures. The deck utilizes myth, folklore, and nature to offer practical wisdom and guidance.

The Sacred World Oracle was created to help you access the wisdom of the natural world, just as humans have always done. Throughout history, nature has been seen as a conduit for the divine. The Norse believed they could obtain guidance from Erda, their goddess of the earth, by examining waves in the ocean or watching birds in the sky. Sailors of olden times used cats to predict bad weather.

Oracles bear the double duty of being the message as well as the vehicle to communicate it. In the ancient world, the word “oracle” referred to the sacred place where prophecy was received along with the priest or priestess channeling it. Perhaps the most famous of these places was the ancient Oracle of Delphi, which was sacred to the god Apollo. Whichever definition you prefer, the function of an oracle remains the same: oracles offer us information. They can provide us with an experience of synchronicity, a series of

seemingly random events which are interpreted as a whole for greater meaning. In the case of an oracle, our personal experiences serve to frame these events, thus releasing information we already possess deep within our psyche.

The Sacred World Oracle is comprised of forty-four oracle cards organized into four sections, or quadrants, representing the four elements: earth, air, water, and fire. Within each quadrant ten animals are presented, which seemed particularly rich with mythic connotation to me. It is amazing to note the similarities of animal legends across vastly different cultures. Their symbolism and stories are explained in greater detail on a card-by-card basis within this booklet.

As you work with The Sacred World Oracle, I hope these sacred stories will help you as they have other insightful people since the beginning of time. May the natural world bring you wisdom and inspiration!



THE CARDS



✦ THE QUADRANT OF EARTH ✦

I – EARTH

Keywords: Feeling grounded. Appreciating the good things in life. Manifestation.

The element of earth is associated with the concept of physical manifestation. Most ancient myths present the earth as a warm, giving mother able to support all of life through her creations. Her bountiful plants and trees offer us shelter and food, allowing us to live comfortably in the physical world. As such, the earth symbolizes the feminine forces of fertility and stability. When the Earth card appears in an oracle reading, look for opportunities to take your dreams and turn them into concrete reality.

II – CAT

Keywords: Fertility. Beauty. Magic. Independence.

The cat is perhaps the most mysterious of mammals. The ancient Greeks associated the cat with the moon goddess, Artemis. In Europe, cats were believed to be the familiar of

witches and wizards. However, in Japan and China, the cat was honored as good luck talismans. While cats are prized pets all over the globe, no culture has ever surpassed the Ancient Egyptians in revering them. Four thousand years ago, the cat was worshiped there as the sacred animal of Bastet, the Egyptian goddess of happiness, love, pregnancy, and childbirth. The Cat card challenges you to find ways to express your individuality. How can you create more magic and beauty?

III – DOG

Keywords: Loyalty. Perseverance. Affection for your “tribe”.

The loyal dog has been called “man’s best friend” since time immemorial. In Homer’s *Odyssey*, Odysseus’s faithful dog Argos waited two decades for his master’s return from the Trojan Wars. Once the canine saw Odysseus, he wagged his tail once before departing for his eternal reward. Dogs were also connected to the powerful Egyptian god Anubis. Anubis bore the head of the dog-like jackal and was associated with the afterlife. In the natural world, dogs prefer to coexist in tribes, finding strength in numbers. The Dog card pushes you to find ways to express your loyalty and perseverance. Who makes up the “tribe” in your life?

IV – RABBIT

Keywords: Gentleness. Fertility. Vulnerability.

Gentle and sweet, rabbits are creatures who are vulnerable and paradoxically make others vulnerable. Since they are easily hunted by predators, rabbits routinely burrow for protection. Their burrowing can lead to the ground literally collapsing beneath some unfortunate person's feet. More positively, the rabbit is associated with the moon in Asian cultures along with the new start of spring. The Easter Bunny is one remnant of the rabbit's ancient ties to the Pagan fertility goddess Eostre. The Rabbit card invites you to be vulnerable to new possibilities. A gentle demeanor can open unforeseen doors.

V – RAM

Keywords: Moving forward. Birth. Fearlessness.

In astrological symbolism, the ram is affiliated with Aries, the first sign of the zodiac, which is ruled by the warrior planet Mars. Like the rabbit, the ram is a creature of springtime; however, the ram is as aggressive as the rabbit is passive. No surprise, but rams are often found battering against obstacles in an attempt to discover new pathways.

In ancient Greece, the ram is best known from the tale of Jason's relentless quest for the incomparable golden fleece. Accordingly, the Ram card suggests new riches if one is fearless enough to chase after them. However, before you jump into new ventures, examine the wisdom of doing so.

VI – BEAR

Keywords: Brute strength. Power. Ferocity.

The Bear card symbolizes brute strength lurking beneath the surface. Since the bear is one of the few animals able to walk upright, many cultures consider the bear to have a special connection to humans. On a related note, there are countless stories of humans turning into bears. Perhaps the most famous of these is the Greco-Roman myth about how Hera shape-shifted the nymph Callisto into a bear after she bore a son named Arcos to Hera's husband, Zeus. When Arcas inadvertently pursued his mother in bear form, Zeus protected mother and son by transforming them into constellations, Ursa Major—Great Bear, and Ursa Minor—Little Bear. Norse sagas also tell of a group of warriors who fought with such ferocity, it was whispered that they actually turned into bears. Centuries later, “to go berserk” means to rage like a beast.

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