

# DEVIANT MOON TAROT

BY PATRICK VALENZA



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND DEDICATIONS

I would like to thank my wife, Angela, who acted as my “second eye” throughout this project, giving me all the constructive advice and emotional support I needed to create this deck. This project is dedicated to her and to my two children, Thomas and Kristen, for all their patience and understanding.

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—PATRICK VALENZA

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TAROT

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# THE CREATION OF DEVIANT MOON TAROT

The Deviant Moon Tarot deck was created using various forms of photographic manipulation. Each card began with a complete drawing, which was then scanned into the computer where I applied various photographic textures. Nineteenth-century tombstones provide most of the clothing worn by the citizens of the Deviant Moon. I bent, twisted, and reformed my photos to become capes, boots, hats and trim. One of the best aspects of creating the deck was “hunting” for specific textures as I respectfully tiptoed around the graveyards of eastern Long Island, New York. Background buildings were created with photographs I took of a local abandoned insane asylum. Rotted doors, windows and walls became castles, factories and cities.

My character stylization was influenced by ancient Greek art, yet I added a slightly abstracted twist. I chose to draw the figures in a flat, playing card style, rendering them with heavy light and shadows, then placing them in a shallow background.

As I worked, different styles emerged, and before long the characters evolved into the moon-faced beings seen in the cards.

Symbolism for the deck comes from childhood dreams and imagination that carried itself into my adult world. I have always been intrigued with the melancholy side of life and have sought to express my visions through the characters I create. The moon has always been a psychic friend to me. As the sentinel of the night, it feeds my dreams and casts a strange glow on the way I see the colors of reality.

Nothing has had a greater influence over my art than the tarot itself. I first discovered the tarot at the age of nine. I was captivated by the unique characters I saw on each card and studied the artwork intensely. My favorites were the old 19th century and medieval decks. While my classmates were drawing what children normally do, I was busy making my own little pictures of the fool or the magician. Over the years, I have made many attempts to create my own deck, but never completed more than a few cards each time. I held the ideas of my early random creations and revitalized them here in the Deviant Moon Tarot.

While this physical deck has taken over three years to complete, from an inspirational standpoint, Deviant Moon Tarot has been at least thirty years in the making. It is not only a testament to my art, but a record of my life.

# MAJOR ARCANA

## O • THE FOOL

Unaware of his surroundings, the fool begins his journey by wandering into the canal. He has no experience with life; therefore he has no fear of it.

*Upright meanings:* The beginning of a journey. Innocent or young person. Folly. Acting without thought. Potential.

*Reversed meanings:* Failure to seize the moment. Unsure actions. Uncertainty.

## I • THE MAGICIAN

Blessed with a great talent, the magician performs skillfully. Although he has only begun to learn his craft, he is already gifted.

*Upright meanings:* Putting creativity to use. Exploring one's potential abilities. Manual dexterity. Skilled hands. Emerging talent.

*Reversed meanings:* Putting one's gift to ill use. Lack of imagination. Confusion. Uncoordinated efforts. Unable to learn new skills.

## II • THE HIGH PRIESTESS

The high priestess sits as a winged sentinel over the city. She protects the knowledge she holds inside, for wisdom

must be earned through the trials of life.

*Upright meanings:* Supreme knowledge. Intuition. A woman wise beyond her years. Virtuous. Scholarly.

*Reversed meanings:* Ignorance. Lack of vision. Holding back true feelings.

### III • THE EMPRESS

The empress sits on her garden throne holding a flower that emanates from her own body. As the goddess of fertility, she is one with nature.

*Upright meanings:* Strong female figure. Fertility. Maternal.

*Reversed meanings:* Infidelity. Domestic strife. Infertility.

### IV • THE EMPEROR

Dominating all that is around him, the emperor sits with confidence. Although pleased with his achievements, he looks towards other areas of conquest.

*Upright meanings:* Strong male figure. Leadership. Accomplishment. Ambition.

*Reversed meanings:* Incompetence. Weakness. Indecision.

### V • THE HIEROPHANT

The Hierophant prays for the souls of the city. His position wields more than spirituality, for religion holds a man like a doll in a pocket.

*Upright meanings:* Divine inspiration. Mercy. Control over spiritual needs. Conformity.

*Reversed meanings:* Unorthodox ways. Impotence. Poor advice.

## VI • THE LOVERS

Locked in a passionate hold, two lovers embrace by a desert lake. The moon casts a hypnotic trance upon them. A snake injects them with venom.

*Upright meanings:* Love. Passion. Romance. Harmony. Union.

*Reversed meanings:* Separation. Division. Conflict.

## VII • THE CHARIOT

The charioteer prepares to venture out of the city. Overcoming past adversities has made him strong; now he takes his experience to new lands.

*Upright meanings:* A journey to new places. Boldly venturing into the unknown.

*Reversed meanings:* Failed plans. Poor strategy.

## VIII • JUSTICE

A great judge balances two swords as he presides over the city. Although seemingly fair, corruption often creeps from the

seams of a just society.

*Upright meanings:* Balance. Strong character. Fairness.

*Reversed meanings:* Abuse. Taking sides. Bias.

## IX • THE HERMIT

The hermit hides from the world in his alcove. Even though he shuts himself off from the city, he is never truly alone. The rotted fish beside him is a reminder that we can never hide from ourselves.

*Upright meanings:* Solitude. Exile. One who seeks to be alone. Outcast. Hidden knowledge. Secrecy.

*Reversed meanings:* Social. Sharing information. One with the community.

## X • THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE

The gypsy stares into the future with a blank gaze. She spins the wheel for an uneasy citizen who wishes to know his own fate.

*Upright meanings:* Fortune. Chance. Unplanned happenings. Fate. Destiny.

*Reversed meanings:* Unfortunate events. Unexpected results.

## XI • STRENGTH

A man possessing incredible strength imposes his will on a wild beast. The man must beware, for what he seeks to control

may ultimately overcome him.

*Upright meanings:* Power. Strength from within. Endurance.

*Reversed meanings:* Defeat. Surrender.

## XII • THE HANGED MAN

A citizen hangs suspended in limbo. He is apathetic and feels no urgent need to alter his situation. Time around him does not stand still, however. He must free himself, or his life will pass him by.

*Upright meanings:* Letting time pass you by. Indecision. Opportunities missed.

*Reversed meanings:* Wasting time. Lack of progress. Feeling stalled in life.

## XIII • DEATH

Two corpses, a mother and child, stand on a polluted beach. The child attempts to re-enter the womb of his mother, but is held back. Another will be born soon. With death comes rebirth.

*Upright meanings:* Change. Metamorphosis. Loss. End of ways.

*Reversed meanings:* Turbulent change. Bad situations.

## XIV • TEMPERANCE

An angel stands by a peaceful stream patiently pouring water from her urns.

Although the vessels are different in design, the mixture she creates is a potion of harmony.

*Upright meanings:* Patience. Balance. Channeling one's energy. Combining elements for new results.

*Reversed meanings:* Conflict. Bad combinations. Discord. Excess.

## XV • THE DEVIL

Standing on a volcanic globe, the devil dances in delight over the havoc he has caused in the city. Once a beautiful angel, he now roams the dark depths of men's hearts and binds their souls to his own.

*Upright meanings:* Oppression. Material bondage. Evil fantasies. Obsessive desires.

*Reversed meanings:* Unwavering pursuit of material gain. Greed. Mind control.

## XVI • THE TOWER

A lightning blast from the sky strikes the tower. Two sinners plummet to their death below as the structure falls to ruin.

*Upright meanings:* Severe or abrupt change. Loss or accident. Traumatic event. Ruin. Upheaval.

*Reversed meanings:* Inability to break from sad events. Redundancy in life.

## XVII • THE STAR

A maiden sits on the shore and pours water into a crystal pool. Seven stars shine behind her, bringing hope to the lands below.

*Upright meanings:* Hope. Sign of good things. Renewed faith. Fulfillment in life's pleasures.

*Reversed meanings:* Doubting one's abilities. Stagnant creativity.

## XVIII • THE MOON

The deviant moon casts its powerful influence over the city, controlling minds like a puppeteer.

*Upright meanings:* Brainwashing. Dark influences. Trickery. Illusion. Subconscious control.

*Reversed meanings:* Avoiding reality. Strange forces. Delusional thoughts. Lies and despair.

## XIX • THE SUN

Twins meet by the city wall. They came as two individuals, yet the sun above unites them into a single soul.

*Upright meanings:* Successful social relationship. Friendship. Engagement. Happy times. Pure joy.

*Reversed meanings:* Loneliness. Unstable relationships. Separation.

## XX • JUDGMENT

Corpses rise from their tombs as the angel awakens them with a blast of his horn. All beg for redemption as judgment is set forth upon the land.

*Upright meanings:* Accountability for one's actions. New beginnings. Awakening.

*Reversed meanings:* Fearful of death. Guilty feelings. Worry. Delay.

## XXI • THE WORLD

The young mermaid has made her way around the world. She ends her journey where she started it. However, experience has transformed her. Around her, a large snake completes the circle by devouring its own body. Below her, sit the beasts she has overcome on her travels.

*Upright meanings:* Completion of a cycle or journey. Triumph. A hard-fought victory. Successful outcome over adversity.

*Reversed meanings:* Frustration. Incomplete projects. Failed endeavors.

## SUIT OF SWORDS

The family of swords is a powerful clan, yet its members are troubled with conflict. In spite of their problems, they persevere through strength and fortitude.

### KING OF SWORDS

The mighty king stands with a soldier from his army. He imposes his strong will on those around him and leads with stern determination.

*Upright meanings:* Using one's will-power to an end. Controlling leadership. Determination. Disciplined. Lawmaker. Logical.

*Reversed meanings:* Brutality. Unfair judge. Selfishness.

### QUEEN OF SWORDS

The weeping queen is alone in the forest. Her position of power offers no consolation for the loneliness she feels. Blood drips from the end of her blade, for her heart is torn by events around her.

*Upright meanings:* Loneliness. Anxiety. Sadness. A widow. Someone carrying a burden.

*Reversed meanings:* Cruel and deceitful. Bad tempered.

## KNIGHT OF SWORDS

An open gate awaits the brave knight as he prepares to ride out in search of adventure. Although he is known as the protector of the city, he sometimes leaves his post to pursue acts of aggression.

*Upright meanings:* Brave but rash. A hero. Quick to respond and take action. Tactless.

*Reversed meanings:* A bully. Troublemaker. Impulsive.

## PAGE OF SWORDS

The young page roams the city. He is skilled in perceiving hidden truths and secrets, however he is often underestimated due to his youth.

*Upright meanings:* Insightful. Perceptive. Intuitive. Keeper of secrets.

*Reversed meanings:* Deceit. A liar. False friend.

## TEN OF SWORDS

Ten swords penetrate a wooden box, piercing a man who was hiding inside. His place of shelter has become an unfortunate coffin.

*Upright meanings:* Absolute ruin. Misery. Unbearable sorrow. Physical or mental turmoil.

*Reversed meanings:* Improving situations. A slight edge over one's hardships. A pause in calamity.

## NINE OF SWORDS

Unable to fall asleep, an old woman sits up in her bed. Nine swords hang in her thoughts as she is tortured by worry and nightmares.

*Upright meanings:* Anxiety. Worry. Stress. Misery. Despair.

*Reversed meanings:* Improved outlook. Better health.

## EIGHT OF SWORDS

Bound by the trance of sleep, a woman is beckoned by the deviant moon. Eight swords threaten her from below as she is pulled from her window. The moon's influence over her dreams will soon come to an end, for daybreak is near.

*Upright meanings:* Bondage. Being controlled by outside forces. Censorship. Restriction.

*Reversed meanings:* Freedom. Ability to think for one's self. Independence.

## SEVEN OF SWORDS

The harlequin attempts to swallow his swords in a dramatic display of skill, yet his plan is flawed. The rope, which binds

the blades, is frayed and will soon break, leaving him in a tragic predicament.

*Upright meanings:* Ill-conceived plans. A path to failure. A poor attempt.

*Reversed meanings:* A plan well thought out. Strong advice.

## SIX OF SWORDS

The city is ablaze and turmoil has overtaken the land. A lone citizen ferries himself to new shores in hope of finding peace. Six swords aid in creating a vehicle for escape.

*Upright meanings:* A journey. Escaping bad situations and entering good ones.

*Reversed meanings:* Inability to break free of bad circumstances. Entrapment in miserable events.

## FIVE OF SWORDS

A foreign soldier has entered the city. He shows no respect to the king and dishonors him with his tactics. It is impossible to win against such a foe, so it is best not to fight for now. Gloating over his victory, the soldier collects the five swords surrendered to him.

*Upright meanings:* A cheat. Dishonorable victory. Unfair tactics. A cruel person who enjoys the suffering of others. A braggart.

*Reversed meanings:* Exposing a false friend. Less chance of defeat.

## FOUR OF SWORDS

The girl in the ground is dreaming again. Her visions illuminate the tomb and keep four roses in bloom. Three swords are plunged into the earth to mark her place of sleep. A fourth sword lies buried beside her.

*Upright meanings:* Reenergizing one's self. Rest. Retreat. Exile. Inverted thought.

*Reversed meanings:* Renewed vigor. A return to daily life and events. Activity.

## THREE OF SWORDS

A sad woman stands alone in her chamber as a terrible storm looms in the distance. Her heart has been pierced by an act of betrayal. She touches the tip of one of the swords, trying to determine if the pain she feels is real or imagined.

*Upright meanings:* Heartbreak. Separation. Stormy relationship. Longing for an absent love.

*Reversed meanings:* Extreme sorrow. Loss of a loved one. Emotional misery.

## TWO OF SWORDS

Two mighty swordsmen of equal skill have reached a stalemate. They rest a moment before resuming their battle.

*Upright meanings:* Stalemate. Balanced powers. An immovable obstacle. Rest before action.

*Reversed meanings:* Falsehoods. Lies. Treachery.

## ACE OF SWORDS

An archangel guards herself with a single sword. Although thorns wrap themselves around the blade, she is protected by her strength, and will triumph over adversities around her.

*Upright meanings:* Power. Superior inner strength. Situation leading to victory. Determination. Courage.

*Reversed meanings:* Abuse of power. Tyranny. Destruction.

## SUIT OF WANDS

The tribe of wands lives their life with passion and creativity. When faced with problems, they use their ingenious imagination to overcome adversity.

### KING OF WANDS

The king of wands leads his children on an exciting adventure through the woods. His fatherly guidance inspires his offspring down the path of life, for he always sets good examples for them to follow.

*Upright meanings:* A father. Loving paternal qualities. A married man. Wise leader.

*Reversed meanings:* Rough natured. Showing no compassion. Intolerant. A strict and cruel parent.

### QUEEN OF WANDS

The confident queen of wands stands as a dominant personality in the forest. Her self-assured energy radiates from her soul, attracting everyone she meets with inescapable charm.

*Upright meanings:* An attractive and well-liked female. Assertive. A sincere person. Confidence.

*Reversed meanings:* Vindictive person. One who brings conflict. Infidelity. Revenge.

## KNIGHT OF WANDS

The daring knight rushes across a grassy field, ready to meet his troubles head on. Little does he realize, his rash and impulsive reactions to life are the cause of his conflicts.

*Upright meanings:* Hasty decisions. A sudden journey. Impulsive behavior.

*Reversed meanings:* Unforeseen disruption. Sudden change of plans. Interruption. Delay.

## PAGE OF WANDS

Using a pair of hand-made stilts, the page boldly treks across an icy pond. Undaunted by the inherent risk of his actions, he confronts life's obstacles with youthful optimism and energy.

*Upright meanings:* Creative thinking. Ingenuity. A genius.

*Reversed meanings:* Dim-witted. Poor choices. Indecisive.

## TEN OF WANDS

An overburdened worker slowly makes his way home after a long day's labor. Although he struggles, his abilities are sufficient to manage his heavy load.

*Upright meanings:* Oppression. Having a burden to bear, but being able to handle it. Overwhelming stress.

*Reversed meanings:* Loss. Unable to maintain stability. Treacherous actions.

## NINE OF WANDS

Trapped in an underground maze, the masked lad searches for a way out. Resting upon a ledge, he considers giving in to his seemingly hopeless situation. Eight wands mark the path to a possible exit. A ninth wand ignites his resolve to not give up.

*Upright meanings:* Stopping to ponder during challenging events. A pause. Summoning the will to continue with a struggle. Hope.

*Reversed meanings:* Delay. Insurmountable obstacles. Giving up. Lack of motivation or willpower.

## EIGHT OF WANDS

A peasant woman prepares to rid her land of the wands growing in the field. An eighth wand serves as a scythe as she readies to cut them all down with a single stroke. Above her, a black crow flies into the scene with important news.

*Upright meanings:* Quick actions. Decisions made in haste. Delivery of important news. Voyage by air.

*Reversed meanings:* Stagnation in life. Domestic woes. Envy. Jealousy.

## SEVEN OF WANDS

A bewildered child has been lost in the thicket for several days. Against overwhelming odds, she finally discovers a path that will lead her home. Seven blooming wands mark the end of her ordeal.

*Upright meanings:* Beating the odds. Victory over all competition. Winning a fight or struggle.

*Reversed meanings:* Loss. Self doubt. No faith in one's own ability.

## SIX OF WANDS

Tonight, there is celebration in the woods. The grand metamorphosis has finally occurred! A new being emerges victoriously from a moonlit flower bud. Five wands are held high in honor of the event. Grasping a flowering sixth wand, the creature bestows good fortune on all souls present.

*Upright meanings:* A new hero. Change. Metamorphosis. Emerging better than before. Victory.

*Reversed meanings:* Delay. Unfulfilling results of efforts. Failure to adapt to situations.

## FIVE OF WANDS

Conflict has broken out! Citizens from various factions are at odds with each other. They turn to a battle of wands to resolve

their problems instead of finding peaceful means of negotiation.

*Upright meanings:* Competition. Discord. Struggle. Legal troubles. Conflict with neighbors.

*Reversed meanings:* Negotiation. Working out a solution. Using differences to an advantage.

## FOUR OF WANDS

A married couple walks hand-in-hand up the path leading to their new home. Four massive wands serve as a stable foundation for the structure, while providing a strong base on which to build their lives together.

*Upright meanings:* Stability. Strong foundations. Marriage. Domestic life.

*Reversed meanings:* Insecure home life. Unstable partnership. Divorce.

## THREE OF WANDS

Upon a grassy hill, an expectant mother patiently awaits the blooming of the three wands. Having committed great energy into the growth of this new life, she reflects on the journey that has brought her to this moment. From afar, the deviant moon nourishes the buds with its silver breath.

*Upright meanings:* Anxiously awaiting the rewards of labor. Reflection on one's efforts.

*Reversed meanings:* Inability to focus on projects. Bad advice. Mistakes made.

## TWO OF WANDS

The farmer has begun planting in the fields. Harnessing the power of two wands, he channels their energy into a single force. Using this unique and creative tool, he digs the first hole with ease.

*Upright meanings:* Creative use of energy. Bringing together ideas. Focusing on a single objective. Working together for a common goal. Unifying forces.

*Reversed meanings:* Unable to think creatively. Divided attention. Separation. Dysfunction.

## ACE OF WANDS

The ace of wands heralds the beginning of all that is good as she cradles new life in her arms. Her massive torch is prepared to spread its fire throughout the woods, igniting minds with creativity and passion.

*Upright meanings:* Creativity. Passionate love. Birth. New life. Potential. Good things about to begin.

*Reversed meanings:* Indifference. Loss of energy. Passivity. Delay in plans or journeys.

## SUIT OF CUPS

The realm of the cups is filled with new promises. They represent hopeful people who build harmonious relationships with their fellow citizens.

### KING OF CUPS

The insightful king stands proudly on a sand dune. His kingdom by the sea has benefited from his intuitive leadership and creativity. A trading vessel sails across the horizon as a spiritual star shines upon its earthly counterpart.

*Upright meanings:* Artistic. Creative leadership. Free thinking. Businessman.

*Reversed meanings:* Difficult to please. Lack of creativity. An unscrupulous character.

### QUEEN OF CUPS

The benevolent queen makes her way along the shoreline. She is careful to catch any drop of water that might spill from the glorious chalice she carries. In the distance, a lighthouse serves as a guiding beacon.

*Upright meanings:* Kind and caring person. Devoted. Imaginative. A guiding personality.

*Reversed meanings:* Untrustworthy. Unreliable. Indecision.

## KNIGHT OF CUPS

The loyal knight presents his find to the world; the gift of hope. His long search has taken him over and under a boundless sea. His once magnificent armor now bears a green patina. This journey has changed not only his body, but his soul as well.

*Upright meanings:* Romantic. Someone who offers new ideas to a situation. An offer of opportunity.

*Reversed meanings:* Deceptive person. Falsehood. A scam.

## PAGE OF CUPS

Comforting a hapless sea creature she holds in her cup, the page makes her way to the beach. The fish offers her a glowing pearl as thanks for helping him find the way home.

*Upright meanings:* Reflective or imaginative person. Compassion. Gratitude.

*Reversed meanings:* A selfish person. Secretive. A liar or lazy person.

## TEN OF CUPS

A wounded soldier returning from war is embraced by his loving family. Ten cups rise up over a full moon in celebration of this joyful reunion.

*Upright meanings:* Home life. Reunion.

Family devotion. Loving and peaceful surroundings.

*Reversed meanings:* Family strife. Ended friendships. Disruption of normal routines.

## NINE OF CUPS

A young man wonders in amazement at the apparition set loose before him. The genie bestows a wish upon the lad, as nine cups levitate in a ring of mystical energy.

*Upright meanings:* Material success. Overall well-being. Abundant pleasures. Choices.

*Reversed meanings:* Financial worries. Imperfection. Vanity.

## EIGHT OF CUPS

The woman in red has abandoned her old ways, for they are no longer relevant to her life. Wanting no part of the past, she moves on to new, brighter situations.

*Upright meanings:* Change of plans. Ending one's endeavors. Abandoning old ways. Looking for better things.

*Reversed meanings:* Seeing things through. Perseverance. Taking a risk.

## SEVEN OF CUPS

Seven cups are positioned in the artist's studio, where he struggles to depict them on canvas. Relying on his subconscious, rather than reality, he interprets his subject with imagination and skill.

*Upright meanings:* Imagination. Day-dreams. Having thoughts of fantasy.

*Reversed meanings:* Realistic goals. Looking for hard facts. Believing what you can see.

## SIX OF CUPS

In times long gone, children gathered in the town center to enjoy exciting spectacles. Citizens today often wish for their vanished past, yet time flows ever forward. Six cups, shown in carved relief on the puppet booth, exist like memories; in a tangible form, yet unobtainable.

*Upright meanings:* Childhood memories. Nostalgia. The past. Longing for things long gone.

*Reversed meanings:* Future events. Upcoming situation.

## FIVE OF CUPS

The wretched shrew berates her husband over three spilled cups; the contents of which empty slowly onto the floor. A rose lies in remembrance of the romance

that once flourished here. Two cups still stand upright, for in spite of the wall that has come between man and wife, some hope for love still remains.

*Upright meanings:* Imperfect relationships. Marital disappointment. Regret. Loss.

*Reversed meanings:* New relationships. Return of a past friend.

## FOUR OF CUPS

Alone by the glow of the deviant moon, a maiden has locked herself onto her balcony. Dissatisfied with life's gifts, she apathetically tosses a golden cup into the sea.

*Upright meanings:* Unhappiness in spite of success. Apathy. Disappointment in one's life. Boredom.

*Reversed meanings:* Bright outlook on life. New hopes and dreams.

## THREE OF CUPS

Three merry souls celebrate their deliverance as they emerge from the inside of a fearsome sea creature. In spite of personality differences, the trio toasts their shared good fortune. What was once a dark situation has finally been overcome.

*Upright meanings:* Solution to problems. Celebrating victory over hardships. Merriment.

*Reversed meanings:* Illness. Loss of life's pleasures.

## TWO OF CUPS

Midnight has been tempted by Death and a pact has been made between the two lovers. Raising two cups, they toast the bond of their union.

*Upright meanings:* Love. Harmonious partnership. Coming together.

*Reversed meanings:* False love. Broken relationships. Conflicting interests.

## ACE OF CUPS

An angel lovingly cradles the golden chalice against her body. Her warm spirit invigorates the liquid she holds, inviting the moon to sip of its essence.

*Upright meanings:* Abundant pleasure. Fullness of spirit. Beautiful situations in life.

*Reversed meanings:* Unfortunate and abrupt changes. Loss of love. Stagnation.

## SUIT OF PENTACLES

Those who dwell in the city of pentacles are hardworking and industrious. However, they sometimes pay the price of placing material gain over spiritual well-being.

### KING OF PENTACLES

The great king holds the silvery emblem of his industrial dynasty. Although skilled in the ways of business and trade, he focuses too heavily on material gain over spiritual enlightenment.

*Upright meanings:* Business know-how. Wise investor. Skilled in math. Proficient in financial matters.

*Reversed meanings:* A swindler. Corrupt money dealings. A cheat.

### QUEEN OF PENTACLES

The gracious queen revels in her luxurious lifestyle. However, she is somewhat detached from the needs of her people. She shows her royal pentacle to an audience of dolls, mistakenly believing that society will benefit from this act of misplaced charity.

*Upright meanings:* Luxury. Affluence. A gracious hostess. Charity and generosity.

*Reversed meanings:* Dependent on others for monetary support. Untrustworthy. Poor social graces.

## KNIGHT OF PENTACLES

The passive knight slowly patrols the factory courtyards. He is persistent and always completes his tasks. Life for him has become unerringly monotonous.

*Upright meanings:* Persistent. Methodical. Mundane. Ritualistic.

*Reversed meanings:* Irresponsible. Lack of motivation. Inconsistent.

## PAGE OF PENTACLES

The scholarly page reflects upon an old pentacle he has found in a scrap pile. He has built himself with spare parts like these, and knows the value of such a remarkable discovery.

*Upright meanings:* Young student eager to learn. Inventive mind.

*Reversed meanings:* One who opposes new ideas. Rebellious youth. Close-minded.

## TEN OF PENTACLES

A wealthy father schools his son in a game of chess, sharing his knowledge not only of the game, but of life as well. Ten pentacles form an arch around the window, framing the boy's future inheritance. Unbeknownst to them, a servant has quietly stolen the king piece.

*Upright meanings:* Sharing of family values and traditions. Inheritance. Wealthy and prosperous home.

*Reversed meanings:* Unfortunate family matters. Loss of home or money.

## NINE OF PENTACLES

An affluent woman strolls through the city streets accompanied by her small pet. Nine pentacles glide down from the sky encircling her in a display of material wealth.

*Upright meanings:* Material good fortune. A wealthy and independent female. A pet lover.

*Reversed meanings:* Financial hardship. Loss of possessions. Theft of one's belongings.

## EIGHT OF PENTACLES

In the bowels of the factory, a laborer toils over his handiwork as he produces eight golden pentacles. Ever vigilant in his craftsmanship, he will not tolerate anything less than perfection.

*Upright meanings:* Skilled laborer or craftsman. Attention to detail. Pride in one's work.

*Reversed meanings:* Carelessness. Sloppy work. Laziness.

## SEVEN OF PENTACLES

The young witch practices her spells in the factory garden. Sticking a tree with a rusty nail, she evaluates the growth of her skill. Seven pentacles bloom from the once dead branches.

*Upright meanings:* Developing skills. Growth in one's ability. Taking a moment to reflect on progress made.

*Reversed meanings:* Impatience. Doubting one's own abilities. Little progress.

## SIX OF PENTACLES

Compassion for the plight of the dead has led a wealthy man into the cemetery. Meeting a soul who longs for the material world, the man offers one of his six pentacles in an open act of generosity.

*Upright meanings:* Charity. Gifts. Sharing one's wealth. Material generosity.

*Reversed meanings:* Selfishness. Hoarding wealth. Mishandled finances.

## FIVE OF PENTACLES

A woman of ill repute makes her way through the narrow streets of the city. Having none of the city's amenities, she searches for a place of refuge amidst the industrial buildings. She soon discovers hope in the form of five pentacles glowing in a church window.

*Upright meanings:* Material hardships. Homelessness. Poverty. A lost soul.

*Reversed meanings:* Improved outlook. Better times. New employment.

## FOUR OF PENTACLES

Unprepared for his doom, the miser is escorted by a demon leading him into the roaring flames of damnation. Looking back on his life, he clutches four pentacles in an attempt to maintain his worldly possessions.

*Upright meanings:* One who is tight with money. Greed. Selfishness. Putting material gain over all else. A miser.

*Reversed meanings:* Material delays. Hardships in business affairs.

## THREE OF PENTACLES

Three artisans are at work in the studio. Although they often act as a unified team, their unique personalities come through in their creations. The three pentacles represent their individuality.

*Upright meanings:* Artistic ability. Working with others in a creative environment. Skill and craftsmanship. Collaboration.

*Reversed meanings:* Mediocrity. Poor workmanship or quality.

## TWO OF PENTACLES

The belly dancer performs under the light of the crescent moon, balancing two silvery pentacles against the sky. Although her moves seem effortless, they come with great practice and concentration.

*Upright meanings:* Balance and harmony with effort. Handling multiple situations.

*Reversed meanings:* Inability to maintain balance in life. Misplaced priorities.

## ACE OF PENTACLES

The dragon grasps the mystical pentacle, holding the entire universe in his grip. He is a being of pure perfection, in harmony with both the material world and the spiritual realm.

*Upright meanings:* Perfection. Balance of material and spiritual realms. Prosperity. Having the will to succeed.

*Reversed meanings:* False happiness. Sadness in spite of material gain. Squandering wealth.

# THE LUNATIC SPREAD

The Deviant Moon shines its influence across the land, affecting one's mind, dreams, and destiny with her silvery glow. The Lunatic Spread mimics the shape of the full moon, and derives energy from its circular pattern.

The inquirer brings his/her question or dilemma before the reader, and with that issue in mind, shuffles the deck. The reader takes the top ten cards from the deck and places them face up in a counterclockwise circle, as shown on the spread sheet. The cards are read counterclockwise, and in numerical order.

## 1: THE INQUIRER: PRESENT DAY

Represents the inquirer and all circumstances in your present position in life.

## 2: PAST INFLUENCES

Events from the inquirer's past that shape the present day in a known or unknown way.

## 3: SUBCONSCIOUS INFLUENCES

Underlying forces in the inquirer's mind, as well as your dreams or subconscious thoughts.

#### 4: SECRET DESIRES AND WISHES

Hopes and dreams not yet realized.

#### 5: HIDDEN FORCES

Unseen powers that affect the inquirer.

#### 6: EVENTS YET TO COME

Represents future happenings in the inquirer's destiny.

#### 7: SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

Elements of home, work, community, or any type of environment you find yourself in.

#### 8: INFLUENCE OF OTHERS

Represents how those you meet or deal with affect your persona.

#### 9: SPIRITUAL FORCES

The effects of spiritual influence over your question.

#### 10: FINAL OUTCOME

Culmination of events. The result or answer to the your question.

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