

ZILLICH TAROT



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INTRODUCTION

Within the name “Tarot” the T forms the beginning and it forms the end. Thus, a magic circle is closed. In ancient Egypt the T was a symbol of life: the Ankh. At one time the following anagram formula arose: ROTA TARO ORAT TORA ATOR meaning “The wheel of Tarot augurs the command of initiation”. This wheel, presaging destiny, circles the inquirer.

In the Tarot deck it indicates the path through a realm whose center is everywhere, its boundaries are nowhere. This mystery takes on a shape, as the 78 arcana of the tarot. The 78 arcana refer to a secret entity, which spreads its branches in the domain of the collective unconscious as the universal Tree of Life. Its circular crown symbolizes the world equator; its trunk symbolizes the world axis. From four roots it grows into the cosmos, symbolized via the four aces

in the tarot. They are the origins of the elements: fire, water, earth and air. Their emblems are wands, cups, coins and swords. They resemble buds, which open within the circular top of the tree of life and spread out into the four world regions. There, the branches of the Tree of Life spread over four kingdoms, where a king and a prince, a princess and a knight, hold court.

Four aces, 36 number cards and 16 court cards together form the 56 Minor Arcana of the tarot. United, they symbolize the structure of the cosmic world sphere. Within it moves the Fool, the card with the number 0. At times he is a Hercules, at other times a Percival. Whoever he wants to be, he becomes him! On his hero's journey he climbs the rungs of life's staircase, reaching the highest point of the cosmos. There, the light of the polar star shines onto the summit of the world mountain. Following a spiral, the Fool approaches

this summit on his voyage to himself. Within this cycle also lies the determination of our own destiny. The tarot provides us with the symbols for the orientation along our life's path and our progress on the wheel of time.

THE FOOL'S JOURNEY

Just as the Fool on his hero's journey, the questioner moves through three times seven steps: the 21 images of the Major Arcana. He himself is the 22nd image. The four symbols of the Minor Arcana indicate the consciousness levels of man: Wands stand for the spirit, Cups for the emotions, Swords for discernment, and Discs for material things. Depending on their appearance, they indicate the current state of the inquirer.

The 21 Major Arcana are signposts along the path on which the questioner reaches his objective. They indicate favor and disfavor—all that which can

be changed, but also all that cannot be changed anymore. They show the inquirer a path through life, while the Minor Arcana show the manifestation of these indicators: at times they show obstacles, at times they show opportunities.

For the inquirer, the images of the tarot are an advisor on his or her path through life. They are universal tools to accomplish all goals.

– Johan von Kirschner

Translated from German by Jonee Tiedemann, April 2017

MAJOR ARCANA

0 — THE FOOL

Water element. Esoteric symbol: farmer and ox till the field, making the soil receptive. A boy wearing a jester costume approaches an abyss, his gaze fixated on Sirius. In ancient Egypt, the appearance of the brightest star indicated the time of sowing at sunrise. The figure on the card lacks any knowledge, thus he is open for anything, receptive, like a fertile field. He awkwardly holds behind him all that is left from his former life: a satchel full of dark memories.

In a reading: The Fool indicates good ideas and brilliant inspirations, which only differentiate themselves from commonalities because of his brazenness. When the exuberance of the “wise fool” gets out of hand, his mania sometimes brings dangerous

adventure, in which he might also involve others. The Fool symbolizes boundless life energy through which karma is accumulated, but which can also be removed.

I — THE MAGUS

Planet Mercury. Star of the Egyptian Thoth: god of magic, wisdom and the sciences. The esoteric symbol of the image is the temple, the place where holy ceremonies are performed and high wisdom teachings are proclaimed.

The Magus is crowned by a floating lemniscate, the serpent symbol of the first alchemist Hermes Trismegistus, creator of the famous text “as above, so below.” A Magus guides the heavenly spirit towards Earth and forms the elements according to his discretion: fire, air, water and earth, indicated in the image by the rose (in the hand of the Magus), the sword (bottom right, cutting

the image), the cup (grail) and the pentagram (intimated at, bottom left).

In a reading: News, wisdom and good fortune. Mercury is the old Roman god of merchants and thieves. Thus, the Magus also symbolizes success with money, but also cunning and ploy.

II — THE HIGH PRIESTESS

The Moon. The esoteric symbol of this image is the camel, the wise desert animal carrying humans from oasis to oasis since time immemorial. Thus, its connection with the number of this card: two, the number of polarity, indicated here with a wave running top to bottom. It is about the day and night voyage of the sun and moon. Hence, the cross on the gown of the Priestess and the symbol of the four sun phases (morning, noon, evening and midnight). Waves and dots at the lower edge of the image sketch out the four moon phases.

In a reading: The indication is one of change. However, everything occurs in the cyclic flow of time, waxing and waning. All negative things eventually get better. How things ultimately turn out is hidden by the veil of the Priestess. Whoever dares to unveil the secret suffers vertigo.

III — THE EMPRESS

Planet Venus: Principle of love and icon of everything beautiful. The esoteric symbol of the Empress is the gate through which new things are coming into the world. Thus, a Venus symbol adorns her pregnant womb. Just as the field of Isis received the nurturing water of the Nile in ancient Egypt, so the Empress receives the life-giving water to her left. Where water falls into the womb of the earth, life blossoms.

The Empress is the creator and mother of all being, which has taken form and

crystallized as “the salt of the Earth”, which provides substance to things. She is Demeter, the Goddess of fertility and the harvest. The garment she wears is earthen colors. According to legend, God formed the first human from red earth.

In a reading: This card is an indicator for sensuality, fertility and success. But whoever wallows in excessive and wasteful luxury experiences the dark side of the Empress and everything that brings suffering.

IV — THE EMPEROR

Zodiac Aries. His regent is red Mars. A ruler dwells in the light of the sun. He sits at a window, the esoteric symbol of this image. The color of his garment symbolizes the alchemy for the philosopher’s stone, the solar gold. Red is the color of blood, the warm elixir of life that flows from the heart and throughout the body. As such, the

sun spreads its warm light throughout the solar system. She sits firmly at the center, like the heart inside man's chest, like a ruler in his kingdom. For life to thrive requires firmness. The ruler holds the ankh firmly in his hand as a scepter.

In a reading: This ruler conquers all enemies, thus this card indicates victory, power, leadership and control, law and order. However, should he abuse his power, he is a haughty Nero or Nebuchadnezzar, full of presumption and obstinacy.

V — THE HIEROPHANT

Zodiac Taurus. The Hierophant is the revealer of secrets. Hierophants revealed the sacred mysteries of heaven and earth 6,000 years ago, during the Age of Taurus. The esoteric symbol of this image is the hook that unites two halves: the sacred and the secular. The right hand of the Hierophant points

upward with two fingers, indicating the exoteric knowledge available to all. The other two fingers point downward, to the secret esoteric knowledge.

The Hierophant wears the hat of the mythical Dagon, the prehistoric conveyor of culture for mankind. According to legend, in the mornings, he appeared on Earth and taught. In the evenings, he disappeared into the sea. The crosses on his garment symbolize the four seasons.

In a reading: The Hierophant indicates wisdom, intuition and the revelation of secrets. He is a benevolent and paternal helper and bringer of peace.

VI — THE LOVERS

Zodiac Gemini. Esoteric image: the dividing sword that also multiplies, as do the lovers, bringing forth children into the world.

The alchemical *solve et coagula* indicates

the miracle of love: dissolution and binding, symbolized by the egg of the Orphics. In the beginning, this primordial Orphic egg broke into two halves from which the male-female Eros came forth. Since then, the two parts strive to reunite again as heaven and earth, man and woman, mother and child, human and god. For the old Greeks, Eros was the psychic energy of our love life. Furthermore, they knew *philia*, the love of friends, and *agape*, godly love. From the latter arose compassion and the faith in a highest spirit.

In a reading: This image indicates receptivity, intuition and inspiration. Love unites, conjoins opposites, and equalizes inner and outer aspects of life. In a reverse reading, the image indicates shamelessness, triviality or contradictions.

VII — THE CHARIOT

Zodiac Cancer. The esoteric symbol

of the image is the fence that encloses, like the shell protects the soft tissues of the crab.

A wagoneer on his large chariot rushes towards the sun. He symbolizes our soul's carriage, the human body. Sometimes he needs reins. Holding one bright and one dark bridle his mysterious vehicle seems to be pulled by two different forces: good and bad, logic and delusion. Not only the driver is important, the chariot is important as well. It cares not what comes under its wheels. The carriage is the hard shell, responding to the driver's crafty guidance. They form a symbiosis; only together do they make sense.

In a reading: This card indicates confidence and obedience, guidance and authority. It is an image of the searching human soul, of someone full of curiosity, storming off in his armor, disregarding possible defeat.

VIII — LUST

Zodiac Leo. A virgin holds the head of a mighty lion. He symbolizes a process of transformation. His devouring power makes the old disappear in order to make room for the new. Hence, it is also about the alchemical serpent power of transformation, hinted at with the lemniscate. It is named the “rope of love” which, once untangled, results in a circle, the symbol of unity. It is the serpent that unites opposites in ecstasy, because, in paradise, she seduced with the apple from the tree of knowledge. One bite, and nothing is as it was. The strong will of the serpent crushes the will of man.

In a reading: This card stands for soul power and strength. It indicates the manifestation of the life powers, which shall be expressed with complete passion.

IX — THE HERMIT

Zodiac Virgo. The esoteric symbol of this image is the Yod – the letter from which the entire Hebrew alphabet came forth.

In this image, the Hermit meditates as a yogi, unapproachable, floating above the (material) world. He is entirely independent.

A flame blazes in his hands. His inner light is an indication of the godly spark that flickers hidden in all humans. Whoever finds it is enlightened.

In a reading: The Hermit stands for wisdom and the seeing of the secret impulses coming from within. From them he derives his practical actions. But he can only come nearer to himself and receive heavenly impulses when he withdraws from community and worldly affairs.

X — WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Planet Jupiter. This card portrays the principle of the accepting hand: to be open to destiny. Wishes come true as soon as action is taken. The pictured Wheel of Fortune of Fortuna is a talisman—a word derived from the Greek *telos*, the “completion of a cycle”. Something new begins. Fortuna is the goddess of Fortune, the master of life’s powers, with the capacity to do miracles. Whoever opens up to the cosmic influences receives God’s blessings.

In a reading: This card is about a destiny-laden change, a turn towards the good. Because only those who are unsatisfied or troubled consult the tarot. Hence, should this image appear in a reading, it is an indication of success to come. However, one has to trust destiny, regardless of where it may lead. It is certain that everything occurs according to cosmic law, symbolized by the Wheel of Dharma with eight spokes.

XI — ADJUSTMENT

Zodiac Libra. The ox herder's goad is the esoteric symbol of this image. With it he drives his livestock, chastising and disciplining, according to his will. The yoke on the shoulder of the ox resembles the beam of balance. It is a symbol of the mythic Justitia, the personification of adjustment, justice and equality.

This image stands for ruthless justice. Justitia weighs, no ifs or buts. Only the law is relevant. The sharpness of her sword judges right and wrong.

In a reading: When this card appears in a reading it indicates the need for adjustment or equalization regarding matters. The right balance between opposites must be found. There must also be adjustment of the inner world (will) to outer circumstances (norm). With respect to worldly affairs the image appears as an indicator for a judicial matter that can affect the

inquirer, both in a positive and a negative way.

XII — THE HANGED MAN

Element water. The universal symbol for consciousness. The figure in the image wears blue and green garments, a reference to the sea, the cradle of all life. The figure hangs upside down. As its view changes, old circumstances of life dissolve. But it remains mobile as its legs are bound by flexible rope.

The body posture of the Hanged Man indicates the symbol of the alchemical sulfur, the dissolving principle from which the shining elixir of life is prepared. Hence, the brilliant aureole around his head, which signifies that suffering leads to enlightenment.

In a reading: This image indicates a necessary sacrifice. Renunciation entails turning away from the old. Whatever is dissolved is released, but

every release is a painful separation. However, much suffering awakens wisdom.

XIII — DEATH

Zodiac Scorpio. When a caterpillar dies, a butterfly comes forth from its dead shell: a symbol for transformation. These butterflies buzz around the ossified fingers of the Black Angel of Death. Its feathers appear to have only been borrowed, and the Angel itself is a mere black pelt. All-powerful, without body, it goes back and forth between worlds, as no body reaches the other side. Death is the great liberator, hence its esoteric symbol: the Fish (IXTHYS) — taken out of the water (soul), it breathes air (spirit), for a moment, and dies.

In a reading, it is an indication for an unexpected transformation and metamorphosis. The old is transformed into the new— whether voluntarily or involuntarily. However, everything

occurs according to the Law of Destiny. The redemption of the pure spirit occurs via the dissolution of the inert body.

XIV — TEMPERANCE

Zodiac Sagittarius. Inside of two chalices he mixes the universal solution in action and reaction, blending masculine and feminine, heavenly with worldly, and conscious with unconscious, bringing everything into balance. As soon as the lower chalice is filled, the position changes: whatever was on top is now below, the end is a new beginning. These are the properties of the personal guardian angel who guides us, yet tests us as well, which advances us on the path of life. "The path is the destination."

In a reading: This image stands for a fertile union of opposing powers: the amendment of the one to the other, which can only be realized by trial and error. Errors can only be resolved via

the “suffering of truth”, and turned into something good, and hence, refined into the most noble life substance.

XV — THE DEVIL

Zodiac Capricorn. The esoteric symbol is the Eye of Horus —the ancient Egyptian “Illuminator”. This eye sits at the navel as a “willing eye”. Whenever it weeps, only tears of joy, they intoxicate like wine. “In wine there lies truth” goes the saying. Except, whatever the beautiful mouth of the goat utters is extreme, haughty defamation, blasphemy, and nameless wantonness.

Leaning against a gigantic phallus sits the Devil, legs spread apart, wearing three breasts; neither man nor woman, and yet both. Furthermore, it is part animal. He is a faun. His flute playing inebriates the senses, which soon tumble into the depths, like a stream of lust. Unscrupulously, the Devil inverts truth, leads towards the light

and behind it. The Devil paints gray life with multicolored forms, his creativity turns heads. He opens gates into the earth; he is the Master of Time.

In a reading: Nothing is forbidden or restricted. Yet, if you wander too far into the darkness in the name of freedom, you may have difficulty finding your way back.

XVI — THE TOWER

Planet Mars. From the Eye of God, a fiery lightning bolt strikes thunderously into a tower. The image stands for the biblical fall of the Tower of Babel, the symbol for conceit. God confounded the language of its proud builders. Thus, the communication among the builders was suddenly impossible. The arrogant undertaking failed and confusion muddled everything up. Hence, the esoteric symbol of the image is the mouth, the human organ of speech.

To the left is someone who changes colors while falling: he is at times magician (I), at times ruler (IV). He is one who, at some time, pained by megalomania, falls into the deepest ditch—dethroned, powerless, dismayed.

In a reading: The image shows a sudden change or a drastic upheaval of conditions, certainly a catastrophe. The old is destroyed so that something new and better can come forth.

XVII — THE STAR

Zodiac Aquarius. The esoteric emblem of this image is the fishhook. The star is Sirius.

According to ancient Egyptian beliefs, Sirius was the place of origin of high gods whose garments resembled fish. They came to Earth after the sinking of Atlantis in order to initiate the survivors into the secrets of agriculture.

The Hierophant reminds the initiated of this: during the autumnal mysteries celebration (after the harvest) he crowns his head with a stylized fish head (see the Pope's miter). Accordingly, the girl in the image, the ancient Greek goddess of harvest Persephone, is pictured with her right hand sowing and her left hand harvesting.

This image is about the pleasing success of well thought-out deeds, as that which is sowed is harvested.

In a reading: This card stands for hope and faith in one's own works. Furthermore, it is an indicator of unexpected (heavenly) help and guidance (initiation) from others.

XVIII – THE MOON

Zodiac Pisces. Esoteric symbol of the image: the back of the head, where the organ of sleep is located. The moon leads us into the deep water of our

soul with its silvery light. There is something crawling along: at times a crab or a bug, but here, a poisonous scorpion. The large moon appears milky and glassy, shimmering with its melancholic gaze. So much is uncertain and so much is illusion. Only the threatening sting is decisive: life or death, light of the night or darkness, full moon or new moon.

Three goddesses rule over the cold night: Artemis over the half moon, Selene over the full moon, and the grim Hecate over the new moon. The last is the Goddess of magic and necromancy, in the spirit of the poisonous creature.

In a reading: The Moon stands for illusion, confusion and isolation. Beware also of lies, falsehoods and seduction in the darkness. Yet, at the edge of the grim times, the clock strikes the hour of a new beginning. Reach for the light!

XIX — THE SUN

The Sun is the regent of the seasons.

A child (symbol of life) holds a red flag whose color indicates the blood of renewal. Each year, everything in nature opens anew to the sunlight. The esoteric emblem of this image is the face, turning towards this light. As the fire of the world, the Sun represents all-encompassing consciousness. It is light, life and love.

Three Sun phases are symbolized by a closed lotus, a half-open lotus and an open lotus. At the time of the winter solstice there is deepest night. At the spring and autumn equinox, day and night are of the same duration. The sun shines for the longest time at the summer solstice.

In a reading: The Sun card is entirely positive in its significance. It indicates self-knowledge and liberating insights. The sunlight makes gold in the Earth grow, and as such the Sun is also a symbol

for wealth. Gold stands for healing and wisdom. Only when lying next to unfavorable signs does the Sun indicate exaggerated openness or shamelessness.

XX – JUSTICE

Element fire (spirit). Esoteric symbol of the image: a tooth, one with which someone has gnawed through a long and difficult time. Golden light from heavenly trumpets awakens the dead. For a long time their gray bodies have remained in the black grave of the underworld. But now they are raised by the life-giving sunlight towards salvation and a new existence. An old age ends and a new era begins. The eternal consciousness is reborn in the spirit of the primordial fire.

In a reading: This card signifies the last decision at the end of a life phase: the decisive resolution. It determines the path of the future life. Old doors close, new doors open.

XXI — THE UNIVERSE

Planet Saturn and Earth. In antiquity, Saturn was a God of Time, which could be seen circling at the farthest edge of the universe, around the center of the world (Earth).

A dancing hermaphrodite connects Heaven and Earth: “As above, so below”. His/her hands receive four cosmic forces, which he/she deflects into the atmosphere, down into the ground of Earth. They are the four celestial lights of the astral beings: Taurus, Lion, Eagle (Scorpio) and Man (Aquarius). They operate in the sunlight of the four seasons where humans, animals and plants come into the world, grow, mature and pass by.

In a reading: This card is about the eternal cycle of releasing and binding, of dying and rebirth. Everything occurs within the cycles of nature. This card characterizes the main theme of a reading, it shows how a

matter crystallizes with patience and perseverance.

WANDS

ACE OF WANDS

Origin of the powers of fire. Someone “burns for something” with an absolutely positive attitude. From his third eye, a powerful vision streams forward. Anything can form within it. Bright flames leap out from a torch, illuminating the beginning of a new life.

TWO OF WANDS — DOMINION

Mars in Aries. This card is about dynamic energy, depicted by the horses. At times this energy is destructive, and extinguishes opposites (fire extinguishes water, and the reverse), yet it also brings about new things. Whoever remains steadfast and independent has the power to cut out his path. This card is about desire for

freedom and refusal to yield to the will of others.

THREE OF WANDS — VIRTUE

Sun in Aries. With one hand on her forehead, this woman opens her other hand upwards to receive. At the center of the image is the belly, where the energy paths of body, soul and spirit conjoin as shown by the three lotus flowers: red, pink and yellow. This card means honesty, virtue, strength, generosity, pride and arrogance.

FOUR OF WANDS — COMPLETION

Venus in Aries. The Goddess of Femininity has found her burning love in the horned Pan. The attraction is both physical as well as mental or platonic. The cool, watery blue glove is warmed by the fiery red glove. Softness touches roughness. This card symbolizes harmony, joy, grace and favorable circumstances if honesty

prevails. Otherwise, it's vanity and laziness.

FIVE OF WANDS — STRIFE

Saturn in Leo. Futile pursuit of happiness. A figure with wings wants to rise and escape the swamp of its feelings. Yet its legs sink deeper into the quagmire of fear. This card indicates fear of missing desired goals. It can mean either stubbornness or endurance.

SIX OF WANDS — VICTORY

Jupiter in Leo. Two firebirds carry the spoils of their victory in their beaks. They are Phoenixes, reborn from the ashes. In the background is the silhouette of a lion. These power animals emanate positive energy that brings gratifying gains and real success. However, real winners remain humble—*noblesse oblige*.

SEVEN OF WANDS — VALOR

Mars in Leo. A brave warrior jumps with conviction over flaming obstacles, campaigning for what is dear to him. His horned helmet indicates the martial Aries regent Mars. The tip of his spear bears a lion's jaw, which passionately exhales fiery love impulses. At other times they are extreme outbursts of temper.

EIGHT OF WANDS — SWIFTNESS

Mercury in Sagittarius. An ecstatic woman has left her home, hearth and all connections with the past, pictured at bottom right. Freedom! The crystal in her right hand dissolves the weight of old worries into the rainbow colors of tomorrow. Nothing stops her anymore—neither thunder nor lightning!

NINE OF WANDS — STRENGTH

Moon in Sagittarius. This woman

opens her heart center up to the Sun and the Moon from which she receives healing, cosmic energy. Her navel is an enormous magnetic center of power. Through emotional balance and strength she overcomes worries and fears, mediates discord, resolves all conflict and achieves success.

TEN OF WANDS — OPPRESSION

Saturn in Sagittarius. To suppress true feelings splits the interior. The task is to overcome aloofness, dissolve hardening and to free the eyes from the veils of sorrow, represented by the dark side of this image. The brightly colored butterflies stand for the pleasant sensations that can only emerge once the soul is liberated from the oppression of self-doubt and deceit.

PRINCESS OF WANDS

Earth of fire. An exceptional girl walks through blazing flames past a

screaming monster. At the tip of her staff glimmers a burning sunflower, hot like the sun. This card is about courage, optimism, passion and power. However, such joyful feelings are at times unsteady, and at times only superficial.

PRINCE OF WANDS

Air of fire. Glowing coals shine brightly. This is how light meets the darkness. The prince is clothed only with the wings of a Phoenix. He confidently holds his staff, adorned by the head of the firebird. Nobody can escape from him. His energy carries everything away. As the bold conqueror he rules the Earth. The card symbolizes high vitality and energy, at times haste, intolerance, and sometimes even cruelty.

QUEEN OF WANDS

Water of fire. A freedom-loving Amazon queen conjures the flames.

The leopardess at her feet symbolizes courage, dynamism and ferocity. The queen's attraction easily wins favor from others. But her passion can also be reckless and intolerant. At times, she is stubborn and haughty.

KNIGHT OF WANDS

Fire of fire. A fiery explosive force propels the knight on his horse. Like Prometheus, he holds a bright, shining torch. He stands for magnanimity, activity and impulsiveness. When he loses control over himself he turns into a cruel fanatic, bringing forth calamity, like the opened Pandora's Box.

CUPS

ACE OF CUPS

Origin of the powers of water.

Everything is in flux. One is content with oneself. Outward love takes part in inner love, indicated by the two water

dragons that drink from the chalice. This card represents pure affection suffused with happiness and beauty, symbolized by the lotus.

TWO OF CUPS — LOVE

Venus in Cancer. A love affair. In front of a person's heart center the emerald green fins of two auspicious fish indicate that someone has accepted himself. He radiates pure love. The large lotus in the image stands for the awakening of this unconditional love.

THREE OF CUPS — ABUNDANCE

Mercury in Cancer. A woman lovingly touches the cheek of her friend with her left hand, her love flowing to him. The scene is crowned by a healing echinacea blossom. Pomegranates, grapes and lots of flowers indicate abundance, growth and happiness. The will to love is fulfilled in overflowing joy.

FOUR OF CUPS — LUXURY

Moon in Cancer. A beautiful lady splendidly sits inside a lotus blossom. She is carried like heaven on earth. Her head is adorned with a crown of flowers, her arms adorned with gold. The Phoenixes symbolize emotional wealth and fulfillment. This card is about success, abundance, wealth and happiness.

FIVE OF CUPS — DISAPPOINTMENT

Mars in Scorpio. Gray-green waves roll in from a stormy sea. The woman's garment is made from wilted flowers. Her fractured image reflects off the broken mirror in front of her. She has been deluding herself. Now, her expectations are gone. As such, this card stands for self-delusion, sorrow, disappointments, fraud, deceit and unscrupulousness.

SIX OF CUPS — PLEASURE

Sun in Scorpio. Love play is underway in the depths of a kelp forest. Is it Eve

and the Serpent? This card indicates heart energy and the fulfillment of desire. One enjoys the welcome fruits of life's pleasures. There is joy to be found in harmonious relationships.

SEVEN OF CUPS — DEBAUCH

Venus in Scorpio. A pale figure appears passionate, yet in her gluttonous indulgence she is actually quite jaded. Indolently she sits there, crown askew. Next to her lies a dead pheasant. The colorful life is over. This card suggests continuous self-delusion and excess leading to unfulfilled promises.

EIGHT OF CUPS — INDOLENCE

Saturn in Pisces. An apparently soulless person stands in the stagnant swamp. He seems to be scourging himself with foul seaweed. Two fish are gasping for air, symbolizing emotional distress, lack of energy, indolence and stagnation, caused by stubbornness and myopia.

NINE OF CUPS — BLISS

Jupiter in Pisces. A blissful couple dances the tango under a large red lotus flower. Their senses are pleased. They have accepted themselves and radiate joy. They know how to enjoy life to the fullest. To others they sometimes appear as vain, perhaps because of their elevated sense of entitlement.

TEN OF CUPS — SATIETY

Mars in Pisces. The great work has been completed; the elixir of life and the Philosopher's Stone have been found. The figures at the center of this card are purple, the color of kings. Flower buds, leaves, fruit, birds and fish stand for consummate contentment, joy, happiness and enduring success.

PRINCESS OF CUPS

Earth of water. The dreamy princess floats above the cool, sea spray. Lotus flowers adorn her floating garment,

symbolizing her kindness and love. The black swan represents self-love. This card indicates imagination, art and creativity, as well as harmony, kindness, friendliness and tenderness.

PRINCE OF CUPS

Air of water. The prince rushes across the sea. His cap is a scorpion's tail, indicating passion. In front of him stands a serpent, a symbol of renewal and transformation. The eagle above his shoulder represents clear vision. This card is about a self-reflecting man who is dynamic, and at times aggressive. He still has to learn about love, thus, the lotus is shown sinking into the sea.

QUEEN OF CUPS

Water of water. The mystical queen brings life to the budding lotus. The fish diving inside her sea of dreams are her oracular visions. Loving and full of

compassion, the devoted queen takes care of her loved ones. Though she is seen as gentle, she has a determined nature.

KNIGHT OF CUPS

Fire of water. The sun over the sea. The winged helmet of the knight slowly carries him upwards. At the hooves of his stallion the sea creature brings a cup. The cup represents receptivity to new things, and being open to creative impulses. Actively pursuing these passions bring emotional fulfillment.

SWORDS

ACE OF SWORDS

Source of the power of air. The sword eliminates all obstacles. A shining crystal crown brings clarity to its wearer and elevates him above any doubt. Pointing upwards, the sword symbolizes godly things. Turned the other way, it points toward evil. This

card is about the power of good over bad, and strength in times of fear. The wreath of laurel leaves represents victory.

TWO OF SWORDS – PEACE

Moon in Libra. This card illustrates the inner equanimity of someone who has accepted himself. Acting from inner stillness, split feelings can be reconciled. The rose stands for this unification. The seedpods mean something new can now come forth. After a difficult phase, peace has been rediscovered.

THREE OF SWORDS – SORROW

Saturn in Libra. A woman holds her troubled head, surrounded by the gray fog of doubt. A flower is wilting away. Two dark characters prevent the person from approaching her faraway destination, shown at top left. Things are at a standstill. This card is about depression, grief, tears and resentment.

FOUR OF SWORDS — TRUCE

Jupiter in Libra. The fight is finished for now and the helmet has been taken off. The two sides have fought hard to arrive at the center. A truce has been declared. Peace has been found, yet it may be tenuous. At any moment the rock might start rolling down the hill. This card is about the respite after a struggle, and turning toward the good.

FIVE OF SWORDS — DEFEAT

Mercury in Aquarius. This card is about the acceptance of a painful loss. After a bitter defeat this person falls to his knees and turns to stone. The broken ram's horns symbolize that no rational thought or emotional comfort can get through to him. But is his despair justified? Worries come and go.

SIX OF SWORDS — SCIENCE

Mercury in Aquarius. This card shows the mirroring and exchanging of several

scenarios involving unification of four elements. What the spirit analyzes the hands bring together. The card represents the harmony between the spiritual inner realm and the natural outer world.

SEVEN OF SWORDS – FUTILITY

Moon in Aquarius. Withdrawn behind a dull gray veil, this despondent woman is in denial of life's realities. She doesn't see the large colorful flowers all around her. This card illustrates how destructive thoughts can take over, even when things are beginning to clear up.

EIGHT OF SWORDS – INTERFERENCE

Jupiter in Gemini. Swallows flutter all around this overwhelmed woman. Two tangled blossoms grow from her skirt. She has trouble deciding which one to pick. This card is about recognizing details, but not getting so caught up

with trifles that you lose the big-picture perspective.

NINE OF SWORDS — CRUELTY

Mars in Gemini. Droplets of blood stain this sorrowful woman's white sacrificial shroud. Her desperation and pain have driven her to the edge of the abyss. She clutches the rose wreath adorning her neck: it symbolizes the last vestige of hope she has to hold onto.

TEN OF SWORDS — RUIN

The blood red heavenly body glistens menacingly at the end of the dark tunnel. This is the final cruel life phase; the ending that comes from disease, accident, dismissal or separation. There are no more choices to be made. No more illusions to hide behind. Providence dictates that inevitable changes are coming.

PRINCESS OF SWORDS

Earth of air. This woman warrior prepares to strike a blow. Wisely she guides her sword, vanquishing all doubts with her strength. She is part rebel, part holy virgin of Orleans. The clarity she brings turns darkness into light. She skillfully eliminates all ambiguity.

PRINCE OF SWORDS

Air of air. This man with his sword has crystal clear perception. He always acts rationally and with utmost caution. He operates within his own creative thought patterns, as a highly intelligent, inventive gentleman with high social ideals. However, when his success elevates him he may seem condescending.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Water of air. As the stormy bride of the wind, the queen floats alone, high

up in the clouds, aloof, independent and unreachable. Her crystal crown symbolizes pure reason. This card depicts a clear-thinking, confident woman. Her astute gaze unveils secrets, her sword cuts through falsity.

KNIGHT OF SWORDS

Fire of air. A cool atmosphere. A knight gallops through the wind on his wild horse. His hoof beats send a flock of swallows scattering. This highly intelligent warrior acts with skill, astuteness and courage. At times, the knight's brash energy becomes wild and confrontational.

DISCS

ACE OF DISCS

Origin of the earthen forces. The Ace of Discs reveals the prerequisite for material success—grounding. Standing firmly rooted like a tree, a woman holds

a golden sphere. The bright sun-like orb symbolizes wealth, contentment and self-assurance. This card indicates being on an even keel and consolidated efforts. However, matter is actually condensed light. Hence, beware of illusions.

TWO OF DISCS — CHANGE

Jupiter in Capricorn. Spotted serpents balance four colored circles representing the four elements. The leaping faun stands for transformation through movement. He passes through strength and weakness, profit and loss, polarization and unity. He continuously changes his energy and is always searching for something new.

THREE OF DISCS — WORK

Mars in Capricorn. Every goal requires endurance; a house is built stone by stone. A worker moves a giant crystal step by step, which requires the full spectrum of mental work.

This card is about material growth through discipline; the will that moves mountains.

FOUR OF DISCS — POWER

Sun in Capricorn. This card is about exterior wealth and worldly power. From the earthen head of King Midas, the fortress towers up toward the great citadel. The king, a wise ruler, is protected by a walled collar. This card indicates stability and solid foundations.

FIVE OF DISCS — WORRY

Mercury in Taurus. Everything turns to dust in the hands of a tormented person. Dark musings disrupt his communication and misunderstandings trouble his mind, as symbolized by the gray ellipse. A golden cube enclosing a red triangle represents troubles that complicate clear thinking. However, analytical astuteness and the will to

change allows for finding ways out of difficult situations.

SIX OF DISCS – SUCCESS

Moon in Taurus. Propelled by the rays of the red morning sun, a victorious chieftain rides a magnificent golden carp on the way to the heavenly Island of the Blessed. This image indicates enjoyment, advantageous circumstances, abundance and success in all of life's circumstances.

SEVEN OF DISCS – FAILURE

Saturn in Taurus. Towers of fear pierce the poisonous fog. An owl, symbolizing wisdom, stares into the thorny brush. Hopes are crushed, advancement is hindered. This is a card of misery, hardship and disappointment. If the fear of failure were weaker than the courage for success, even the smallest advantage would be recognized as an asset!

EIGHT OF DISCS — PRUDENCE

Sun in Virgo. Thoughtfulness and diligence bring forth beautiful things in the material world and in love as well. This card is about discipline, skillfulness and craftiness. Working toward your goal provides a good base for the development of positive new things.

NINE OF DISCS — GAIN

Venus in Virgo. A girl collects the falling feathers of golden pheasants. She has learned that the more she gives, the more she receives. Her garment features spirals, symbolizing love, wisdom and creativity. This card is about the gain of material wealth, but also about the appreciation of beauty.

TEN OF DISCS — WEALTH

Mercury in Virgo. Shown are two life partners, dressed in wedding garments and holding hands. The golden horse

between them brings blessings of good fortune and contentment. This card symbolizes prosperity, stability and success in all areas of life.

PRINCESS OF DISCS

Earth of earth. Ram horns crown a pregnant Amazon princess, symbols for springtime and fertility. Her long braid represents the intertwined strands of her ancestry. From the buds of a tree bloom forth amethyst and rose quartz, bringing clarity. With the balance of yin and yang, this card is about generosity, kindness, and the fulfillment of wishes.

PRINCE OF DISCS

Air of earth. A young lad on a golden bull rides towards Beltane to celebrate the rejuvenation of all earthly things. This card is about material growth, conscientiousness, patience and diligence. The prince is practical minded and capable.

QUEEN OF DISCS

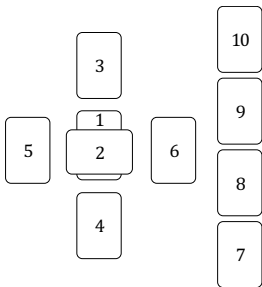
Water of earth. The queen wears the headdress of a bull, the icon for fertility. Seeds in the damp field yield a plentiful harvest. As a herd animal, the ram symbolizes belonging. This card represents a generous woman who provides for her people. She also understands the pleasures of luxury.

KNIGHT OF DISCS

Fire of earth. Sowed in the fertile field, seeds bring forth a bountiful harvest. After diligent work throughout the long year, the knight and his horse are exhausted. But a rich harvest awaits their attention. It requires patience and prudence.

READING WITH ZILLICH TAROT: THE CELTIC CROSS

The Celtic Cross is the oldest traditional card spread for laying out the tarot cards. It is appropriate for all inquiries and can be utilized for forecasts and the search for root causes. Mix the cards. Hand them over to the inquirer. Allow him to cut the deck as he focuses on his question. Ask the inquirer to choose ten cards from the bottom and hand them over to you facedown. Now, lay them out in the following manner:



Significance

- 1 – This is the starting position representing the inquirer
- 2 – This crosses the inquirer
- 3 – This crowns the inquirer, and represents the conscious level
- 4 – This rests beneath the inquirer and represents the unconscious level
- 5 – This represents the recent past
- 6 – This represents the near future
- 7 – This represents the attitude of the inquirer
- 8 – This represents the environment of the inquirer (people, locations, events)
- 9 – This represents the inquirer's hopes and fears
- 10 – This represents the inquirer's long-term goal and the final results

Important: there are no negative readings—all of the obstacles are signposts!

ABOUT THE ARTIST

As a young woman Christine Zillich perceived her calling to the arts.

In music, as a pianist and through her painting she found her ways of expression.

She studied visual communications, graphics and design at the Kassel College. Later, she continued her studies in Italy, where she worked and lived as an artist for an extended period.

Christine Zillich worked as an art director for *Vogue* and several publishers as a freelance illustrator. Later, she founded her own creative label. The artist lives and works in a castle in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Johan von Kirschner was born in Heidelberg. He studied mathematics at the Mannheim University.

He has always been fascinated by hermetics and the mysticism of numbers. He has authored several textbooks about numerology, Kabala, astrology and geomancy. Furthermore, he has authored several books about the Saga of Avalon and the Holy Grail.

Johan von Kirschner lives and works as an author in Berlin, Germany.

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