

# The Medieval Scapini Tarot



by  
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## THE MEDIEVAL SCAPINI TAROT

The cards of the Medieval Scapini Tarot recreate the Middle Ages of Europe with symbolism, costume and setting. The gold backgrounds of the court cards and the Major Arcana recall the great *tarocchi* of fifteenth-century Italy, and many images on the cards are inspired by masterpieces of the Renaissance. While surrounding the reader with the atmosphere of medieval and Renaissance times, the cards reveal the eternal story of the tarot, relating to the chaos of modern everyday life in the city and to the earthy activities of country life. Both the susceptibilities and the virtues of human nature are illustrated within universal situations.

The symbolism combines medieval icons with the esoteric tradition that became publicly known in the eighteenth century and continues today as a strong part of the tarot. One sees the influence of diverse occultists such as Papus, Oswald Wirth and Arthur Edward Waite, among others. Alchemical processes color the cards. Many clues—often humorous—to the meanings of the cards are half-hidden in the intricate pictures, and careful examination will bring surprises. The rich and eclectic images of the cards make them suitable for both divination and meditation.

Had Luigi Scapini lived during the Renaissance, the Visconti and Sforza families of Milan would surely have commissioned him to paint the *trionphi* cards. The splendor of Scapini's cards, with their beautiful imagery and brilliant creativity, would have been greatly admired by the ducal court.

Stuart R. Kaplan

## INTRODUCTION TO THE TAROT

The complete tarot deck of seventy-eight cards is divided into two sections, twenty-two Major Arcana and fifty-six Minor Arcana cards. The Major Arcana cards comprise twenty-one allegorical cards numbered from I to XXI, plus an unnumbered card known as The Fool. The titles of the Major Arcana cards of the Medieval Scapini Tarot are as follows.

0 The Fool	XI Force
I The Magician	XII The Hanged Man
II The Pope	XIII Death
III The Empress	XIII Temperance
IIII The Emperor	XV The Devil
V The Pope	XVI The Falling Tower
VI The Lovers	XVII The Star
VII The Chariot	XVIII The Moon
VIII Justice	XVIII The Sun
VIII The Hermit	XX Judgment
X Wheel of Fortune	XXI The World

Generally, the Major Arcana cards represent the physical and spiritual forces affecting humanity—illness, death, storms, strength, power, love and religion.

The Minor Arcana of the Medieval Scapini deck are divided into four suits: swords corresponding to spades, wands to clubs, cups to hearts and coins to diamonds. Each suit of the Minor Arcana has four court cards—king, queen, knight and page. The Minor Arcana generally represent occupations, social position and status.

## THE 22 MAJOR ARCANA

### 0 THE FOOL

The Fool, dressed in ragged clothes, stands dangerously near the edge of an abyss. On his head are four feathers: white for the suit of swords, red for wands, aqua for cups and gold for coins. He carries a rough stick over his left shoulder. On the end of the stick is a pig's bladder symbolizing Saint Roch, a victim of the plague who wandered in the wilderness as an outcast. In the Fool's right hand is a stick. A small lion leaps forward on his leg and a wilted flower with thorny petals is at his feet. A crocodile lurks in the abyss among pieces of a broken obelisk.

**Divinatory meanings:** A new adventure. Enthusiasm. Initiative. Unlimited possibilities. Pleasure. Passion. Frenzy. Obsession. Mania. Folly. Thoughtlessness. Lack of discipline. Immaturity. Irrationality. Frivolity. Inconsiderateness. Delirium. Spontaneity. Levity. Exhibitionism. Unrestrained excess. Carelessness in promises. Infatuation. Indiscretion. Tendency to start a project without carefully considering all the details. Reluctance to listen to advice from other people.

**Reversed meanings:** Faulty choice or bad decision. Indecision. Apathy. Hesitation. Failure to diligently proceed. Ignoring opportunities.

### I THE MAGICIAN

A young man dressed in red stands at a three-legged table. His hat is luxurious and wide-brimmed, symbolizing the triumph of thought and intellect. On the table are symbols of three tarot suits: sword, cup and coins, and in his hand is a wand. The wilted flower that was at the feet of the Fool is now revived and the stony ground resembles the skin of the crocodile which the Magician has conquered through will.

**Divinatory meanings:** Originality. Creativity. Free will. Imagination. Self-reliance. Skill. Willpower. Self-confidence. Dexterity. Ingenuity. Flexibility. Craft. Guile. Masterfulness. Self-control. Trickery. Deception. Sleight of hand. Unity of thought and emotion.

Determination to see a task through to completion. Ability to influence other people.

**Reversed meanings:** Weakness of will. Ineptitude. Insecurity. Disquiet. Delay. Lack of imagination. The use of one's skills for destructive ends. Willpower applied to evil ends.

## II THE POPESS

The slender, young Popess gazes from her throne with serenity and wisdom. Her robes are dark blue, symbolizing feminine intuition, and a crescent moon crowns her tiara. In her right hand is the Book of Life, its cover inscribed with the kabbalistic Tree of Life, and in her left hand are a gold key and a silver key. At her breast is a Maltese cross joined with a child's head, referring to the legend of Pope Joan, the female pope. Behind her shoulders is a veil supported by the sun and the moon, with rainbows streaming down on each side. The arch's column to her left is supported by a black sphinx and symbolizes the feminine side of life, incorporating a mermaid who is offered an apple by a demonic serpent. The fiery column on her right is masculine, and in it are little flames, water drops, a salamander and a bat. The Popess's foot rests on a grass-green cushion. The checkered floor gives way to life and nature.

**Divinatory meanings:** Wisdom. Sound judgment. Common sense. Learning. Serenity. Objectivity. Penetration. Education. Foresight. Intuition. Perception. Self-reliance. Hidden emotion. Purity. Virtue. Severity. Platonic relationships. Avoidance of emotional entanglements. Volubility. Teacher.

**Reversed meanings:** Ignorance. Shortsightedness. Lack of understanding. Selfishness. Acceptance of superficial knowledge. Improper judgment. Shallowness. Conceit.

## III THE EMPRESS

The Empress sits majestically on a throne whose back forms a gothic arch with wings and a clear blue sky. On her head is a crown with nine stars for the nine

muses of music, poetry and science, and twelve stars for the twelve houses of the zodiac. Her gown is red for passion, tempered by cool blue which flows around her like fertile waters. She holds a shield emblazoned with the imperial eagle, and in her left hand is a scepter topped with an orb. The platform on which she is seated is supported by the Tarocchi of Mantegna cards showing the seven liberal arts: grammar, logic, rhetoric, geometry, arithmetic, music and poetry, along with philosophy, astrology and theology. At her feet is a crescent moon, and a lily at the side of her throne denotes purity.

**Divinatory meanings:** Feminine progress. Action. Natural energy. Development. Fertility. Accomplishment. Interest in details of daily life. Mother. Sister. Wife. Feminine influence. Evolution. Ability to motivate others. A leader. Decisions founded on all the facts at hand. Businesswoman. Level-headedness. Practicality. Decisiveness. Intuitiveness.

**Reversed meanings:** Vacillation. Inaction. Lack of interest. Lack of concentration. Delay in accomplishment or progress. Anxiety. Frittering away of resources. Loss of material possessions. Seduction. Infertility. Infidelity. Fickle love. Vanity.

## IIII THE EMPEROR

Many details point to the Emperor's rank as supreme ruler of the elements. The awesome and potentially destructive powers of the four elements are represented by pictures of apocalyptic landscapes, showing winds for air, volcanic land for earth, burning buildings for fire, and ships sinking for water. Bracing the platform are four creatures: a he-goat, a lion, a dog and the creation of Frankenstein. The platform and its symbols represent the elemental chaos which the Emperor rules and puts to order. The yellow cube on which the ruler sits is draped with a fiery red robe; the colors are of power and activity. The Emperor himself is dressed in armor designed after that depicted on the sepulcher of Emperor Rudolf of Hapsburg (1218-1291), and he wears a large hat lined in ermine, topped



at the crown with pyramids and decorated with the imperial eagle. On his breast are the sun and the moon. A golden braid, a token from the Empress, is draped at his neck. The tulip that appeared with the Fool and the Magician appears at the back of his throne. He holds a lily-headed scepter with a crescent moon at its handle. The facial features of the Emperor are those of Stuart R. Kaplan, president of U. S. Games Systems, whom the artist wished to honor as patron of the deck.

**Divinatory meanings:** Worldly power. Confidence. Wealth. Stability. Authority. Indomitable spirit. Leadership. Maturity. War-making tendencies. Paternity. Father. Brother. Husband. Male influence. Direct pressure. Domination of intelligence and reason over emotion and passion. Patriarchal figure. Desire to increase domination in every direction. Masculinity. Worthiness to exercise authority. A capable and knowledgeable person. Willingness to listen to counsel.

**Reversed meanings:** Immaturity. Ineffectiveness. Lack of strength. Indecision. Inability to make progress. Weak character. Feebleness. Failure to control petty emotions.

## V THE POPE

A jovial face augments the benevolence of the Pope. Yet his hair is white and his face lined with experience. He raises his right hand in blessing. In his left hand is a staff, with the symbols of the planets Mercury, the Sun, the Moon, Mars, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn at the top, and the thunderbolt of Jupiter at the bottom. The three rings of his tiara show, at the bottom, the natural world, in the middle, the crown of thorns of Christ's passion, representing worldly life and free will, and at the top, the spiritual realm, represented by simple triangles and circles, with a cross surmounting the whole. The two pillars behind him are from the ciborium of St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. At the foot of the throne, the seven vices are depicted: from left to right, pride, wrath, lust, gluttony, envy, sloth and avarice. The Pope triumphs over the sins of the world.

Two monks kneel, one on each side of the platform. The angle of the throne, which seems to be leaning forward, symbolizes mercy and receptiveness to the needs of others.

**Divinatory meanings:** Ritualism. Ceremony. Mercy. Humility. Kindness. Goodness. Forgiveness. Inspiration. Alliance. Compassion. Servitude. Overt reserve. Captivity to one's own ideas. Tendency to cling to ideas and principles even if outdated. A person to whom one has recourse. Conformity. A religious or spiritual leader. Inability to adapt to new circumstances and changing conditions. A person with a sense of the importance of history.

**Reversed meanings:** Foolish exercise of generosity. Overkindness. Repeated errors. Susceptibility. Impotence. Vulnerability. Frailty. Unorthodoxy. Renunciation.

## VI THE LOVERS

The Lovers is modeled on the same card from the fifteenth-century Visconti-Sforza Tarot. A man and a woman clasp hands, the woman gazing at the man and the man looking upward. They willingly pledge their love and their desire to stay with one another, as they stand on a forking path near an abyss. On the left is a rugged and hard land, the choice of virtue. On the right is a pleasant and sunny land, the choice of vice. Above the two Lovers is the centaur Chiron, who was renowned for his beneficence and wisdom. After his death he was exalted to become the constellation Sagittarius, the zodiacal sign that rules free choice.

**Divinatory meanings:** Love. Beauty. Perfection. Harmony. Unanimity. Trials overcome. Trust. Honor. Possibly the beginning of a romance. Infatuation. Deep feeling. Optimism. Being oblivious to possible consequences. Letting oneself go. Freedom of emotion. The necessity of tests or trials. Struggle between sacred and profane love. Examining. Yearning. Temptation. A person deeply involved in the emotions and problems of a friend or relative. A meaningful affair.

**Reversed meanings:** Failure to meet the test. Unreliability. Separation. Frustration in love and marriage.

Interference by others. Fickleness. Untrustworthiness. Unwise plans.

## VII THE CHARIOT

The charioteer rides over a landscape that recalls Northern Italy, near Verona at the foot of the Alps. The square chariot is sheltered by a canopy lined with gold stars on a deep blue background. The charioteer has the qualities of the zodiacal sign of Aries. He holds a scepter composed of a rod with a sphere and an arrow, and he controls the horses' reins with a golden ring. A blue crescent and a red crescent on his shoulders represent knowledge of the past and the future. The white horse pulls upward, while the black horse pulls earthward, indicating the two impulses of human nature toward spirituality and sensuality. The charioteer must learn to control the horses so that they can function in harmony. The horses' tails together form an image of a winged seed, denoting the potential embodied by the Chariot.

**Divinatory meanings:** Major effort. Possible voyage or journey. Escape. Rushing to decision. Riding the crest of success or popularity. Perplexity. Trouble. Adversity, possibly already overcome. Conflicting influences. Turmoil. Vengeance. Need for supervision. Need for attention to details. Urgency to gain control of one's emotions. Greatness can be achieved when physical and mental powers are kept in balance.

**Reversed meanings:** Defeat. Failure. To lose something, at the last minute, otherwise within grasp. Sudden collapse of plans. To be conquered or overwhelmed. Failure to face reality.

## VIII JUSTICE

The woman signifying Justice has a sophisticated face, for she must be discriminating and knowledgeable. Her dress is red and blue with a gold lining. Her headdress is composed of three towers with three doors, like the temple of the great fertility goddess, Diana of Ephesus. She wears a golden braid at her elongated neck, and the neckline of her dress is anchor-shaped. In her right hand, Justice holds a

sword, and in her left hand, a scale. She is surrounded by a curious arch, the pillars of which are breasts, again referring to the goddess, Diana of Ephesus, whose holy image depicts a woman with a multitude of breasts. An Amazon, one of the legendary female warriors of ancient times, is in the lunette above her. Two suns provide illumination. On the sides, scenes of the four seasons are shown. The fertility symbols of the design indicate that, although Justice may seem severe to wrongdoers, the world is best when Justice prevails.

**Divinatory meanings:** Fairness. Justice. Harmony. Balanced conduct. Equity. Righteousness. Virtue. Honor. Virginity. Just reward. Good intentions. Well-meaning actions. Firmness of character. Advice. Self-satisfaction. The eventual outcome, whether favorable or unfavorable, will truly be fair. Equilibrium. Poise. Impartiality. Ability to perceive temptation and avoid evil. A person who responds favorably to the good nature of others. A considerate person.

**Reversed meanings:** Bias. False accusations. Bigotry. Severity in judgment. Intolerance. Unfairness. Abuse.

## VIII THE HERMIT

An old man holds up a lamp shaped like an hourglass. He supports himself with a staff on which are seven roses and a snake. The roses on his staff symbolize the seven stages of growth, from a bud to the fully open flower. The twisted snake bites its own tail, symbolizing eternity. The Hermit's hat is like those worn by the monks of Mount Athos of Greece, as is his gown, which was originally black but has been faded by the sun. His underdress is made of woven straw. In the background is Mount Athos and at his feet is the sea. The boats and the whale in the foreground refer to the Old Testament prophet Jonah, who was miraculously saved from drowning when he was swallowed by a whale. Later his preaching saved the city of Nineveh from destruction by God.

**Divinatory meanings:** Counsel. Knowledge. Solitude. Inner strength. Self-illumination. Prudence. Discretion. Vigilance. Patience. Circumspection. Self-denial.

Withdrawal. Sometimes represents recession and regression. Desertion. Annulment. Insincerity. Coldness. A loner or a person incapable of interaction with another person. Fear of discovery. Failure to face facts. Possessor of secrets. Untutilized knowledge.

**Reversed meanings:** Imprudence. Hastiness. Prematurity. Foolish acts. Incorrect advice. Failure resulting from inactivity. Overprudence resulting in unnecessary delay. Immaturity. Excessive isolation.

## X WHEEL OF FORTUNE

The Wheel of Fortune is gold, and on it are the symbols of the zodiac. Behind the Wheel, blind Fortune stands. Her wings, hands and head touch the Wheel in seven places, symbolizing the seven planets of the ancients. Her wings are red, and behind her, a blue circle represents individual life. Two boats, with figureheads like twisting snakes, support the Wheel, and also bind Fortune's feet. Below are the green waters of life. The ruler of the Wheel, fixed at the top, holds a sphinx and a sword. On the right, a blue figure ascends, chasing a golden crown. On the left an older man is afire while he hurls downward, grasping for his golden crown which will soon be enveloped by the waves. Below, an old man flails helplessly in the water.

**Divinatory meanings:** Destiny. Fortune. Fate. Outcome. Felicity. Godsend. Special gain or unusual loss. Culmination. Approaching the end of a problem. Inevitability. Unexpected events may occur. The course of things from beginning to end. Advancement for better or worse. Progress. Good or bad luck depending upon nearby cards.

**Reversed meanings:** Failure. Ill luck. Broken sequence. Unexpected bad fate. Interruption or inconsistency due to unexpected events. Outside influences not contemplated.

## XI FORCE

A tall, strong woman calmly grasps the jaws of a lion with one hand. She is modeled on a painting by the Renaissance master Piero della Francesca. Her hat has the lemniscate, traditional for this figure of the

tarot. A golden braid at her neck links her with the Emperor and Justice. The landscape is stony and dry. In the background is Hermes with the head of the Sun. Hermes was the Greek god of alchemy, and his image here is from a medal which commemorated a successful alchemical operation.

**Divinatory meanings:** Control over a situation. Strength. Courage. Fortitude. Energy. Resolution. Defiance. Action. Awareness of temptations and the ability to overcome them. Confidence. Innate ability. Zeal. Fervor. Mind over matter. Accomplishment. Attainment at considerable peril. Conquest. Hidden forces at work are challenged. Heroism. Virility. Strength to endure in spite of all obstacles.

**Reversed meanings:** Weakness. Pettiness. Impotence. Sickness. Tyranny. Lack of faith. Abuse of power. Succumbing to temptation. Indifference. Physical circumstances overwhelm the will.

## XII THE HANGED MAN

The imagery of The Hanged Man runs with the blood of sacrifice. The scaffold is twined with grapes that ooze red juice. At the foot of the right pillar is a pelican, the bird which, according to legend, feeds her children with her own blood, and which was frequently shown in allegorical art at the top of Christ's crucifix. Nearby is a sacrificial lamb, its throat cut. On the left a dragon bites its tail, illustrating the occult law, "That which is above is the same as that which is below." The hammer, nails and pincers are traditional symbols of Christ's passion. The Hanged Man himself seems complacent as he dangles above whirling waters. The buttons of his shirt and trousers number twenty-two, the number of the Major Arcana of the tarot. Coins drop from the crescents formed by his pockets and splash in the water.

**Divinatory meanings:** Sacrifice. Life in suspension. Transition. Change. Reversal of the mind and one's way of life. Apathy and dullness. Boredom. Abandonment. Renunciation. Events with an uncertain outcome. The period of respite between significant events. Repentance. Readjustment. Efforts may have to be

made to reach a goal, which still may not be attained. The approach of new life forces. This is the time to condition oneself for new experiences. Surrender. Lack of progress. An unappreciated person.

**Reversed meanings:** Lack of sacrifice. Unwillingness to make the necessary effort. Failure to give of one's self. Preoccupation with the ego. False prophecy. Useless sacrifice.

### XIII DEATH

A skeleton dances on blue ground, holding a scythe whose handle used to be a human spine. The pose of Death resembles that of Shiva, Hindu god of destruction. A raven, symbol of decomposition, glides nearby. The landscape is strewn with human hands and feet, but the hands indicate that new energy is coming forth, as emphasized by the green plants below. Three heads are in the foreground. On the right is a woman's head and in the middle, a child's. The artist admits that he, too, is subject to the great power of Death and his portrait appears, with palette, in the bottom left corner.

**Divinatory meanings:** Transformation. Clearing away the old to make way for the new. Risk for renewal. Unexpected change. Alteration. Abrupt change of the old self, though not necessarily physical death. The ending of a familiar situation or friendship. Loss of income or financial security. Illness, possibly even death. Streak of bad luck. A loan that will not be repaid.

**Reversed meanings:** Stagnation. Immobility. Slow changes. Partial change. Inertia. Narrow avoidance of a serious accident.

### XVIII TEMPERANCE

An angel pours liquid from one vessel to another. The golden urn is solar, embodied by a lion, and the silver vessel is lunar, embodied by a crescent. Together they symbolize the harmonious mix of masculine and feminine. The mysteriously androgynous features of the angel resemble those of John the Baptist in the painting by Leonardo da Vinci. On the forehead is a solar disk. The angel's swan wings denote alchemical

ablution. On the left is a wilted flower, and on the right is a scene of Christ's baptism as the dove of the Holy Spirit descends. The baptism scene is taken from a fresco by the artist in the church of Santa Croce in Verona, Italy.

**Divinatory meanings:** Moderation. Temperance. Patience. Accomplishments through self-control and frugality. Accommodation. Harmony. The mixing or bringing together into perfect union. Management. Compatibility. Fusion. Adjustment. Good influence. Consolidation. Ability to utilize the material and intellectual manifestations available to oneself. Possibly a person without excessive tendencies. A well-liked, highly regarded person. Confidence and placidity. Possibly being too temperate and moderate to achieve a goal presently out of reach.

**Reversed meanings:** Discord. Disunion. Conflict of interest. Hostility. Inability to work with others. Difficulty in understanding others. Impatience. Frustration.

### XV THE DEVIL

The body of the Devil embraces the four elements: his wings symbolize air, his red face symbolizes fire, the scales on his legs symbolize water and the goat legs, earth. A mouth on his belly mockingly protrudes a red tongue. His wings and the star on his forehead indicate that once the Devil was one of the angels of heaven, known as Lucifer, "bringer of light." In his left hand the Devil holds a sword without a hilt as a symbol of unleashed sexuality, and his fiery right hand makes the occult sign of greeting. Two horns and animal ears add to the bestial quality of the creature. Female breasts indicate that the Devil is not really a "he" but rather has the qualities of both sexes. A gold male demon and a green female demon at his feet also emphasize that both sexes can take on the qualities of the Devil. They dance the tango, a dance of sensuousness, and they are tethered to the Devil's pedestal with golden ropes. Three steps, on which the demons' feet are placed, symbolize hierarchy and diabolic initiation. Flames leap through fissures on the stony floor.

**Divinatory meanings:** Subordination. Ravage. Bondage. Malevolence. Subservience. Downfall. Weird experience. Bad outside influence or advice. Black magic. Unexpected failure. Seeming inability to realize one's goals. Dependence upon another person that leads to unhappiness. Violence. Shock. Fatality. Self-punishment. Temptation to evil. Self-destruction. Disaster. Astral influence. The tearing apart of self-expression to such an extent that one becomes ineffectual. An ill-tempered person. Lack of humor except at another's expense. Lack of principles.

**Reversed meanings:** Release from bondage. Throwing off shackles. Respite. Divorce. Recognition of one's needs by another person. Overcoming handicaps. The beginning of spiritual understanding. The first steps toward enlightenment.

#### XVI THE FALLING TOWER

With foundations set in sand, the Tower is made of seven cubical stories, like the Tower of Babel. There are three doors, the Gothic door at the top representing faith and the square door on the lower left representing experience. The tip of an obelisk emerges from the top of the tower. A stroke of solar lightning demolishes the top of the tower, and the mushroom cloud that expands evokes nuclear catastrophe. Satellites, bombs, stars and debris fall through the sky. A king falls on the left; he is shaped like the Hebrew letter *ayin*. Another figure, motionless on the ground, is struck on the neck with a brick.

**Divinatory meanings:** Complete and sudden change. Breakdown of old beliefs. Abandonment of past relationships. Severing of a friendship. Calamity. Misery. Disillusionment. Bankruptcy. Termination. Downfall. Undoing. Disruption. Loss of stability. A sudden event that destroys trust. Loss of security. Loss of love and affection. Setback. Terrible change.

**Reversed meanings:** Continued oppression. Following old ways. Living in a rut. Inability to effect any worthwhile change. Entrapment in an unhappy situation. Imprisonment.

#### XVII THE STAR

A young woman kneels on the edge of a pond. Her long blond hair flows around her naked body to meet the ground perfectly. In her left hand is a Doric protogeometric vase, indicating Doric rustiness and simplicity. In her right hand is an Attic vase, reflecting elegance and fine intelligence. Above her are two stars, one with eight points and the other with five points, and symbols of the seven planets of the ancients. Near her is a Rosicrucian rose, which is reflected on the water. A raven perches on the rose as a personal sigil of the artist, who was inspired by The Star. Two hills are behind the woman, and an acacia bush on one of the hills is a symbol of grace and love.

**Divinatory meanings:** Hope. Faith. Inspiration. Bright prospects. Mixing of the past and present. Promising opportunity. Optimism. Good omen. Spiritual love. Ascending star. Astrological influence. Accumulation of past knowledge for use in the present. Results will soon come from energies expended. Fulfillment. Satisfaction. The proper balancing of desire and work, hope and effort, love and expression. A favorable card suggesting that desire and energy are essential to happiness.

**Reversed meanings:** Unfulfilled hopes. Disappointment. Pessimism. Bad luck. Lack of opportunity. Stubbornness. Imbalance. Conclusion of an unsatisfactory business experience or friendship.

#### XVIII THE MOON

Shadows play over a scene lit only by the moon. Anubis, the Egyptian god of the dead, sits in the form of an elegant, violet dog at the foot of a tower. Across from him a wolf howls. On one tower is an astrologer from ancient times, and on the other tower is Galileo's telescope. Drops of moisture fall from clouds lit by a crescent moon with masculine features. A huge crayfish emerges from a murky pond in the foreground.

**Divinatory meanings:** Deception. Twilight. Obscurity. Trickery. Danger. Error. A warning. Bad influence. Ulterior motives. Insincerity. False friends. Double dealing. False pretenses. Disgrace. Slander. Super-

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