

THE HAINDL TAROT DECK



Created by HERMANN HAINDL

Booklet based on
The Haindl Tarot vols. 1 & 2,
by RACHEL POLLACK

U.S. GAMES SYSTEMS, INC.
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INTRODUCTION

The complete seventy-eight-card tarot pack is divided into two sections: twenty-two Major Arcana and fifty-six Minor Arcana cards. The Major Arcana are twenty-two trump cards, usually numbered 0 through 21 and displaying names such as "The Empress" or "The Fool." The Minor Arcana contain four suits of fourteen cards each, ace through ten and four "court" cards: traditionally, king, queen, knight or prince, and page or princess. The court cards of the Haindl Tarot are mother (queen), father (king), daughter (princess) and son (prince). The traditional tarot suits are swords, wands or staves, cups and coins. The Haindl Tarot replaces the suit of coins with the suit of stones.

The Haindl Tarot deck is rich with symbolism, emotion and mythology. A single gesture, or an object, or a color pattern will appear simple, but will actually convey a whole range of ideas. Contemplating a card, the reader can learn much, even without the aid of text. However, as a person can appreciate nature without understanding its inner workings, a friendly guide can deepen and expand that appreciation by pointing out details that could be missed and by illuminating hidden aspects. So, Rachel Pollack's book, *The Haindl Tarot*, is a friend, a guide for the Haindl Tarot. This booklet is extracted from the Pollack book, providing a starting point for those who wish to explore the beauty and depth of the Haindl Tarot.

The divinatory interpretations of the cards may at times seem contradictory. This is because each meaning contains the suggestion to look within to realize the positive potential expressed in the card, or to become aware of the negative potential and transform it to the positive.

THE MAJOR ARCANA

On each Major Arcana card is a Hebrew letter, a rune and an astrological sign. The inner borders of the cards represent the four elements, with white for air, blue for water, red for fire and yellow for earth. The descriptions

give the Hebrew letter and its meaning, the rune and its meaning, and the astrological sign.

0 THE FOOL Aleph, ox; Wynn, W, joy; Uranus. The Fool is a medieval court jester, required to entertain, but also to speak truths no one else would care to express. The wounded swan represents the fall from grace, the parting of humanity from the Garden of Eden. At the bottom is Earth. **Divinatory meanings:** Act impulsively. Follow your feelings. Surprise. Wonder. Excitement. Take opportunities that arise. **Reversed:** Difficulty believing in your instincts. Fear of stepping into the unknown. Do not be reckless.

I THE MAGICIAN Beth, house; Peoh, P, cattle or property, wealth; Mercury. The symbols in the foreground represent the four suits of the Minor Arcana: wands, swords, cups and stones. They are also ritual objects for the Holy Grail. The Magician wears a tiara, symbol of the crowning power of the intellect. Crystals radiating from the Magician's left eye indicate the ability to perceive the pure forms of existence, an ability that could be clouded by unintegrated darker emotions, represented by the figure rising from the tiara. **Divinatory meanings:** Power. Strength. Being in control of one's life. Transforming old situations, bringing in new ones. A burst of energy. Creativity. Focused will. **Reversed:** Natural expression of energy blocked. Inner resistance. Arrogance. Misuse of personal power.

II THE HIGH PRIESTESS Gimel, camel; Ur, U, bison or rain; Moon. The High Priestess is the Goddess, manifested as the moon, the seas, the night and the Earth. Light fills the card, radiating from her palms, pouring down from a globe over her head. Her dress seems to pour down like rain on the camel and the dark land. She is the divine life principle. **Divinatory meanings:** A time for quiet, for looking inward. Seek peace. Use intuition and feeling. Peace and joy. Possibly, a lover who needs solitude or is avoiding commitment. **Reversed:** A time for action, for involvements with others. Commitment in romance.

III THE EMPRESS Daleth, door; Thorn, T, thunder or door; Earth. Below the eye at the top of the card is a woman and behind her, a doorway symbolizing culture.

The open door is scaled, like a fish, and the arch suggests a church, religion. The woman stands on a crescent that floats in the water. She holds a scepter topped with a pine cone and a snake that wraps around her arm. The snake represents transformation and enlightenment. A band of light is around her head. A golden bird flies toward her ear, as if to bring the word of heaven. **Divinatory meanings:** Passion. Love of nature. Motherhood. Joyous activity. **Reversed:** Passion blocked. Difficulty expressing oneself. Problems with one's mother.

IV THE EMPEROR Heh, window; Ansuz, A, stag, or Ansur, mouth; Aries. The tree behind the Emperor is Yggdrasil, the world tree of Scandinavian myth, with its roots deep in the mysterious origins of life and its branches reaching up to the stars and beyond. The Emperor holds the rod he received from the Empress. The gold ball in his other hand symbolizes the material world. The diamond overhead contains the colors of humanity. **Divinatory meanings:** Influence of society, law. Resurgence of energy. Sexual potency. Arrogance. Insensitivity. Energy and desire. **Reversed:** Blocked possibility. Development of sensitivity.

V THE HIEROPHANT Vav, nail; Radh, R, wheel; Taurus. A grandfather fills most of the picture. To his right appears the father. At the bottom is the back of a boy's head. The boy wears a skullcap. The three generations of men represent the positive value of patriarchal religion and Judaism, the "father" of both Christianity and Islam. The book and the key before it symbolize the Torah, the five books of Moses and the "key" to Jewish culture. The book also symbolizes culture and knowledge. **Divinatory meanings:** Tradition, community and teachings. Conformity. Marriage, or any solemn commitment. **Reversed:** Social pressure. Doctrines and ideas that have lost meaning. Originality. Gullibility.

VI THE LOVERS Zain, sword; Ken, K, torch; Gemini. The Lovers cross arms behind a cup. In the sky is a spear, a unicorn and a rose within a Star of David. The trees on either side refer to the Garden of Eden, with the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge. The woman's

hair is like pitted rock, a sign of the ancientness of human sexual traditions. The ground shows the earthiness of love; the unicorn and the rose reflect its mystical qualities. **Divinatory meanings:** The importance of love. Depending on the place in the spread, the state of a specific relationship. **Reversed:** A relationship ending. Trouble in a relationship. Lack of love. Insecurity, loneliness. Loss of balance.

VII THE CHARIOT Cheth, fence; Hagall, H, hailstone; Cancer. A boat with wheels rushes through a rough sea. The boat is red, the color of energy. A red glow surrounds the figure in the boat. Above is a mythical beast, part boar, part wolf. It signifies our deepest fears, unnameable and wild. **Divinatory meanings:** Willpower in dealing with problems. Will to continue. Deep fear driving a person. Triumph over fear. **Reversed:** Lack of will. Passivity or weakness. It may be best to let things run their course.

VIII STRENGTH Teth, snake; Sigil, S, sun; Leo. The person of Strength is open, without shame. Her strength comes from her unity with Earth and her own divine energy. She is a shaman performing a ritual under the moon, in the woods by a pool of water. The pool is the unconscious, the hidden mysteries. By holding up the snake, the shaman connects the above and the below, the sky and the Earth. The snake is green, the color of new life, and its underside is red, the color of energy. **Divinatory meanings:** Inner strength. Love and gentleness. Confidence. Ability to give love. **Reversed:** Feeling blocked from one's power. Weak. Overwhelmed. Meditation or some form of relaxation may help restore strength.

IX THE HERMIT Yod, hand; Is, I, ice; Virgo. A man stands on a mountaintop, surrounded by birds symbolizing the spirit. The gnomes, whose faces appear in the rocks, symbolize the elemental spirit forces alive in nature. The lantern is human knowledge and teachings passed from generation to generation. An eye inside a triangle forms a traditional image of God. **Divinatory meanings:** Withdrawal from outside interests. Self-reliance. Self-creation. Developing one's personality. Gaining wisdom. Powerful dreams. **Reversed:** Involve-

ment with others. Fear of loneliness. Disturbing dreams. A desire not to grow up.

X THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE Kaph, palm; Jara or Ger, J, year; Jupiter. The Wheel is set against a field of stars symbolizing the cosmos. Below, looking upward, is the Mother, the Earth. At the upper left is the Sky Father, Zeus. At the upper right is an androgynous child. The child, with its wizened face, represents humanity and our ancestors. Inside the Wheel, the mushrooms symbolize luck, the snake, rebirth, the eye, time, the dinosaur, all things lost in the turning of time. **Divinatory meanings:** Change of circumstances. Taking hold of one's life. Grabbing hold of fate. Time to take what life has given you. **Reversed:** Difficulty adjusting to changes. Resistance to change.

XI JUSTICE Lamed, ox goad; Nyd, N, necessity; Libra. Two separate images of balance are made by the scales in the foreground and the peacock feathers. The scales hang from an invisible holder, unchanging, the cosmic balls suspended above the pans. This signifies that Justice always exists in the universe as a perfect principle. The feathers exist in a much more precarious balance; a breath of wind would disrupt them. In the world of ordinary experience, Justice often seems remote. The feathers appear rooted in a tree trunk, suggesting that spirit does not exist apart from nature. Their "eyes" signify seeing our own emotions. **Divinatory meanings:** Examine your life, weigh things in the balance. A relationship is going badly. Analysis. Take a balanced view. **Reversed:** Do not act out of habit. Imbalance. You may be acting unfairly. Trying to avoid an honest evaluation.

XII THE HANGED MAN Mem, seas; Tyr or Tewaz, T, a war god or god of law; Neptune. The Hanged Man is Odin of Scandinavian myth. The rainbow implies water; its colors also correspond on the Hanged Man's body to the chakras, yogic points of energy in the human physique. The Hanged Man's hair seems to merge into the ground like the roots of a tree. On one side shines a crescent moon, symbol of the High Priestess, goddess of mystery. On the other appear Odin's twin ravens, Hugin and Munin, thought and memory. Ravens signify

death and thus bring information from the "other world."

Divinatory meanings: Attachment. Deep spiritual awareness. Independence. **Reversed:** Being overly influenced by outside ideas. Pressure to conform. Demands. Sacrificing something to get past hangups. Lack of purpose.

XIII DEATH Nun, fish; Ba or Beorc, B, birch goddess or boat; Scorpio. The image of the boat belongs to birth as well as to death; the baby's cradle originally symbolized a boat. The trees and grass signify plants, the bones, minerals, the birds, the animal world, and the ferryman, the human world. The peacock's eye in the center signifies looking at the truth in regard to death. The bird also symbolizes the soul and the divine potential of a person. **Divinatory meanings:** The Death card rarely refers to physical death. Rather, it has to do with one's feelings about death. Psychologically, letting go. New opportunities. **Reversed:** Resisting change. Stagnation. Inertia. Pain of giving something up.

XIV ALCHEMY Samekh, tent peg, Laguz, L, water; Sagittarius. The diagonal divides the card between blue and red, water and fire. The Grail appears twice, red in the blue half, and blue in the red half, providing an interchange of energy. The two cups come from the traditional image of the card as Temperance. On the right a circle contains the sun and the moon. The red background is pitted rock, a symbol of age. The blue side is ageless light, a quality of spirit. A devil face inhabits the cloud, signifying sexual life energy. On the other side is her reflection, an angel. Below the angel and the devil is a clown and a skull, life and death. **Divinatory meanings:** Measurement and combination. Do not allow setbacks to turn enthusiasm into its mirror image of dejection. Take control. Moderation. **Reversed:** Going to extremes. Excessive behavior. Conserve energy. A person out of control.

XV THE DEVIL Ayin, eye; Eolh, elk or man; Capricorn. The picture is organized around a diagonal line, broken by a crystal, which transforms the aggressive instinct of the Devil. The snake is an image of rebirth and the visionary experience, and also of evil. The Devil has three horns and three eyes, and wears a stone diadem.

Divinatory meanings: Something exciting, possibly dangerous or forbidden. Temptation. Physical gratification. Exploring darker feelings. Wild action opens up new areas in life. **Reversed:** Resisting temptation. Not a time for sensuality. Fear of one's own decisions.

VI THE TOWER Peh, mouth; Yr or Irr, to err; Mars. The Tower symbolizes an arrogant technology that constantly desires more and bigger monuments to its conquest of nature. Inside of it is darkness and fire. It is a modern image of the Tower of Babel. The sunrise and blue sky suggest hope. **Divinatory meanings:** Long-standing activity or approach that may bring about disaster if continued. Pressure building up. Long-buried motions let loose. News. A flash of understanding. **Reversed:** Similar to upright meanings, but less severe. Shaking up. Minor disturbance.

VII THE STAR Tzaddi, fish hook; Eh, E, horse; Aquarius. A woman is at the bottom of a bare rocky hill where a stream of water splashes into a pool. She is washing her hair, an act of unity with the Earth. Her hair blends into the water. Her dress suggests age. She is Gaia, the Mother of Life. No flowers or trees grow, there are only water and rock, Earth's oldest forms. Above her is a cluster of stars, seven small ones and one large double star. **Divinatory meanings:** Renewal. Reality and feeling. Cleansing. Humility. Hope. **Reversed:** Fears for the future. Isolation. Tension or anxiety. Hope.

VIII THE MOON Kaph, back of head; Othal, O, prosperity; Pisces. The landscape represents peace, while the lobster represents fear. The unicorn, which replaces the traditional dog and wolf, is the imagination. The entire image is dreamy and surrealistic, a land of myths, illusions and wonders, the path of the imagination which can lead to perfect knowledge. **Divinatory meanings:** Imagination. Fantasies, daydreams, strong dreams. The sources of creativity. **Reversed:** The time to return to "solar," rational activities. Conscious mind blocking the unconscious.

XIX THE SUN Resh, head; Gebo, G, gift; Sun. The Sun is a labyrinth of spirals, the trees line up with an order never found in nature, and the rose appears as dream-like. We have not returned to the ordinary world, but have

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