

Introduction

Welcome to the world of Elle Qui Oracle (“She Who”) featuring magnificent female warriors and women of great compassion and wisdom. This distinctly feminine deck features 44 heroines who have experienced it all: from fear to freedom, hardship to hope. They now share their powerful lessons of life and love with all who seek them out. Each card presents a woman who is willing to challenge you in unique ways. With names drawn from Asian and African, as well as European languages, Elle Qui offers the worldview that, as different as our lives are, we are all linked by similar inspirational experiences. It is our hope that this deck can be a bridge connecting women of diverse cultural backgrounds as we journey through life.

Elle Qui Oracle can be used for introspection as well as divination. Each card has three suggested questions to help you dig a bit deeper into your situation. Use them as you see fit. You are encouraged to come up with your own questions as well. Let your own vision of “She Who” lead you to a new understanding of yourself. As you view each card, tell yourself a story about the individual in the art. Imagine how you might greet her if you met her in person. Do not be surprised if you glimpse reflections of your own strengths and weaknesses in these cards. This deck will help you discover layers of forgotten selves. Elle Qui works with your own imagination, so let your mind wander. Who will you be today?



The Cards



SHE WHO BATTLES:
ABANOLAKA

Justice, Fierce, Commitment

When ABANOLAKA, SHE WHO BATTLES, appears, you would do well to gird your loins. Abanolaka is the Zulu word for ‘fierce.’ She is not one to take the easy way out. Her preference is a deadeye stare straight into the depths of what challenges her. Her bronze armor and war ribbons match her ferocious gaze, yet at the same time, she wears a soft, white dress that billows in the breeze and she holds her sword back. As fierce as Abanolaka is, she is equally patient, and knows sometimes the best strategy is to fight a battle with words not swords, restraint not aggression.

Abanolaka is here to help you face your current challenges. If you decide to stand and fight, remember her unwavering focus and complete commitment. Abanolaka knows if she is first victorious in her heart, she cannot be beaten. But there is a great saying, “You do not have to attend every argument to which you are invited.” You are not diminished by refusing to do battle. Often it takes greater

strength to lay down your sword. By doing so, you may learn something that changes the entire scene. Your enemy may turn out to be a friend, or a teacher rather than a taker. Whichever path you choose, stay fiercely committed to your decision.

- *What is the battle at hand that I must take on?*
- *How would I feel if I refuse this particular fight?*
- *What's really behind this conflict?*



SHE WHO BECOMES:

AETERNA

Metamorphosis, Transcend, Journey

AETERNA, SHE WHO BECOMES, rises light like a feather. No longer anchored to the ground, her lightness of being creates a total metamorphosis of self. Even her hair is changing colors from fiery red to the intensity of light blue and white like the hottest part of the flame. Her passion to transcend to her next highest self is taking place. Her right hand is held in the *Prithvi Mudra* to offset the fire element and increase the earth

element. She knows she must maintain this balance if she is to continue evolving. This powerful mudra increases her sense of stability, which she needs as she floats off the earth. Her antenna-like stamen gathers information on deep sensory levels. Aeterna may seem to be asleep, but she is focused on her journey at hand.

This card indicates that you are at a moment of becoming the being you have been working on. All the effort is coming together to send you soaring up to the next plane. The good news and the bad news is there is always another level to achieve. Each subtle state of existence creates new challenges. Know that you have safely lived on your current plane, and all that you have learned by, and failed in, and powered through will be brought with you on your journey. The cranes who rise from the mist show you the past is a source of strength for the future. Like the caterpillar who metamorphoses into a butterfly, it is time to try out your new wings.

- *What is the next level for me?*

- *How can I benefit the most from this transcending?*
- *What challenges me the most in my current spiritual journey?*



SHE WHO QUESTIONS:

AMALIE

Curiosity, Destiny, Search

AMALIE, SHE WHO QUESTIONS, welcomes you. She wears an assortment of vivid flowers and honors the many tendrils. Each one is a possibility, a chance, an unexpected happening. Her gift is to see which ones will open next. She Who Questions welcomes questions because she loves giving answers that lead to more questions. She is the sacred circle of the oracle. Do not be dismayed if your search seems to lead you to more questions. It is Amalie's preferred way.

Amalie shows that you have other paths in front of you. There are avenues you can take that you may not even see yet. Be ready for the unexpected signpost pointing you toward a completely different way. Destiny

can sometimes be tricky because you may be pulling for the wrong shore. Stop for a moment in your seeking. Tap into your natural curiosity and question things. Even those people who have always seemed one way and only one way may have hidden depths. Your job is to reexamine what you thought truth was. Chances are good you will be given an opportunity to make some changes. Remember the circle can become a spiral so rather than leading you back to your own beginning, it may take you up or down. Your skill at questioning will help you find your way.

- *What am I searching for?*
- *What is the meaning of destiny to me?*
- *In what ways has my journey been a spiral?*



SHE WHO RESISTS:

AUDAZ

Fearless, Justified, Resistant

AUDAZ, SHE WHO RESISTS, grips a bloody knife in her hand. She looks back to see who follows. Her determination is echoed in the golden bee exploring the rose in her hair.

She will continue to do what she must do. She holds no love for violence, but neither will she allow fear to rule her. When the call comes to fight for her rights, she will always answer. Her fierce resistance comes from a lifetime of being told what she cannot do. Audaz embraces her own voice, her own power, her own infinite right to be herself.

Audaz's message is to fight for yourself. Resist those who would change who you are. Stand against injustice in your world. It is best to choose the path of non-violence, yet at times you may have to use justified anger as impetus to move yourself forward. This moment calls for you to draw on your own inner strength. Examine how you may be allowing things to happen simply by refusing to resist. This is not a time to allow others to walk over you.

- *Am I allowing my power to be blocked?*
- *Is my anger justified?*
- *Are there peaceful ways to resist?*

SHE WHO GRANTS WISHES:

AYLIS

Wish, Desires, Hope

AYLIS, SHE WHO GRANTS WISHES, dances among the stars in purple and gold. Her eyes gaze downward to catch all the wishes being made. While she can't acknowledge every wish, she waits for the ones that truly touch her heart. The wand she carries displays the bright light of hope we all send up. This is her energy, her gift, what motivates her to continue her dance and to hold her attitude of listening.

Aylis tells you to define what you want. What are your wishes? What is your heart's desire? Do not answer too quickly. Sometimes we wish for a horse when what we truly desire is movement. Your duty to yourself is to dig deeply into your own wants and needs. Heed the proverb: "Be careful what you wish for. You may get it." So, She Who Grants Wishes requires you to apply discretion before you say what it is you think you want. Aylis' goal is not to withhold things from you. She merely

hopes you will not waste the gift of a wish today. This card brings work but also fulfillment.

- *What is the underlying reason for my heart's desire?*
- *What am I willing to do to have my wish fulfilled?*
- *Where can I use more hope in my life?*



SHE WHO BRINGS LIGHT:

BLANCHE

Light, Serenity, Beacon

BLANCHE, SHE WHO BRINGS LIGHT, understands the symbiotic nature of light and growth. The vine, which crowns her, springs up from beneath her feet. She offers herself up as support so the searching leaves can seek the bright sun. Blanche herself wears only her hair, the vine and peacock feathers as she welcomes the warmth. Her elfin ears point to the sun, drawing in its comforting, life-giving rays. Even her hair shimmers with echoes of fire.

This card's message is to assure you that you are whole. The answer you seek is already dancing in your own spark of life. If you feel drained and restless, now is a good time to fuel yourself with food that nourishes and replenishes you. Enjoy vegetables from the garden that have been supercharged by the sun. Creativity needs to be fed as well. Go to those places where you can connect with the things that ignite you. If your normal creative outlet isn't giving you what you need, try something different. Imagine yourself peacefully accepting all the energy of the sun. Taking only what you need, you become a beacon for other seekers. You not only reflect the brilliance, you are the emanating light. This card calls you to understand your own warmth, your own glow, your own brilliance.

- *What serves as my beacon?*
- *Where can I go to recharge my own battery?*
- *What are three things I value about myself?*

SHE WHO LOVED ONCE:

BLUE

Fragile, Secret love, Rejection

BLUE, SHE WHO LOVED ONCE, has a sad demeanor because she is thinking about someone who no longer accepts her love. She wears a golden wreath on her dark hair and clasps flowers to her heart. From her glance, you can see she is feeling lost and alone now. The delicate dogwood flowers are meant to be given to someone special, but Blue hesitates in offering her love again.

This card encourages you to explore your own feelings of vulnerability. There is always a risk in revealing your emotions. If you have a secret love, it can be a thrilling thing as much as a terrifying one. If you tell them how you feel, how will they respond? Will they appreciate your declaration or will they walk away? The only real way of knowing the answer is to hold out your gift. Let this card remind you that you weren't meant to love only once. If you suffer the anguish of rejection,

allow yourself time to heal. When you are ready, pick new flowers. Face the world head on so others can find you to offer you their love.

- *Who are the people I trust to love me?*
- *In what ways do I feel vulnerable?*
- *How can I best protect my fragile heart today?*



SHE WHO SURPRISES:

BRISE

Surprise, Discovery, Revelation

BRISE, SHE WHO SURPRISES, stands watching at her window. She is singing a song we can't hear but the butterflies can. They are attracted to her nature as if she were a living representation of nectar. She is their butterfly queen who can direct them to the sweetest flowers. She oversees pollination of not only the flora, but of humankind as well. One of her favorite things is the unexpected discovery. It isn't only the surprise bringing Brise her happiness, but the feeling of divinity that comes with the marvelous moment of revelation.

When this card of surprise shows up, expect the unlooked-for moment. If you are receptive to fortuitous and unheralded insight, you stand a very good chance of finding the answers you need. The key here is the message may come in unusual ways. You cannot expect a straightforward response. Rather, look for those things that reveal themselves through patterns. Perhaps you see a caterpillar over and over. Or maybe it will be the caterpillar, the chrysalis and then the butterfly. Whatever the symbol is, don't worry if you don't understand it in the moment. Sometimes discovery comes only after we have assimilated the knowledge deep within ourselves. We must allow the process to unfold. Forcing it may ruin the moment of sacred surprise.

- *How can I pay closer attention to the signs I am given?*
- *How can I discover my own divine direction?*
- *What is being revealed to me?*

SHE WHO FREES:

CARLY

Liberation, Unrestrained, Freedom

CARLY, SHE WHO FREES, demonstrates how useless it is to try to bind her. She stands barefooted on the rocky shore, her hair blowing loose from the confining headband. Birds swoop overhead. The waves break upon the rock where she perches. Nothing can contain her. She has made the decision to be free, so free she will be. Her wrists bear the marks of the shackles. She will always remember the lessons of wearing them but now she tosses the broken, useless chains into the water. Within the waves there is almost an electrical pulse as Carly's energy sets her loose. This is a being who will not be restrained.

The message of this card is that you face a challenge only you can answer. Will you remain obedient to the chains put upon you? Or will you cast them aside to live the liberated life? It's important to remember sometimes bonds are accepted. You should

also understand you can change your mind about those restraints. You are at a point where you can end anything you feel holds you back. It would be wise to examine the chains thoroughly though. Who holds the other end and who holds the key?

- *When did I first notice that I am being held back?*
- *What would real freedom feel like?*
- *What chains do I yearn to be free of?*



SHE WHO NURTURES:

COLETTE

Empathy, Gentleness, Insight

COLETTE, SHE WHO NURTURES, entwines her hair with a soft crown of flowers and leaves. The name Colette means ‘necklace’ in French. She also wears a delicate gold chain adorned with an amethyst and tiny pink pearls. The soft luminescence of the pink pearls and blossoms reflect Colette’s gentle nature and her nurturing heart. Purple amethyst is a stone that promotes healing from grief as well as a sense of balance and peace. On Colette’s forehead it

signifies the third eye chakra, the source of her insight and intuition. She instinctively knows what others are feeling so she is able to nurture those who need her gift of empathy.

This card brings a gentle message of hope and healing. When you are troubled, turn to those around you and let them see what you need. If you are lucky you may encounter one of those rare souls who see at a glance exactly what you are experiencing. You will recognize the knowing souls like Colette, by the empathetic depth in their eyes. Allow yourself to be nurtured back to health and happiness.

- *When do I need to be more gentle with myself?*
- *Do I allow myself to be nurtured by others?*
- *Who can I share my gifts of empathy and insight with?*

SHE WHO WHISPERS:

CONSCIA

Secrets, Confessions, Confidante

CONSCIA, SHE WHO WHISPERS, knows how to keep a secret. You won't pry anything from her lips. She is the quintessential vault who holds all the lies and all the truths of the world. Her smoky quartz headdress helps remove negative energy. In fact, it is said to transform it into positive energy. It is her role to hear all the confidences of all who come to her. Conscia, Latin for 'confidante,' never judges. She simply listens.

This card reveals that all of us have secrets. It may be time to release yours now if they have become a burden. If you are concerned about being judged, look into your own heart first for compassion. Sometimes we convince ourselves that our secrets are uniquely deep and dark. When we expose them to the light we may discover others with the same fears. If someone has entrusted you with their secrets, honor their confidence.

- *What are my secrets?*

- *What would happen if I shared my secrets with others?*
- *Who can I trust with what I value most?*



SHE WHO YEARNs:

DESIREE

Yearn, Longing, Pine for

DESIREE, SHE WHO YEARNs, longingly watches the moon rise. She sheds her robes and ribbons for they are not needed in the coming dark of night. She will return her laurel wreath and lyre to the sun god Apollo. Her realm is the mystery of night. Desiree seeks her divine feminine self in the cycles of the moon. Birds come winging toward her, messengers from the moon carrying the answer she seeks. Desiree teaches us how to fully commit to pursuing our dreams. Rather than hope for something, she has begun the process of making her desires real.

The message of this card is to commit fully to your wants or admit you are simply stuck in the mode of pining for what you cannot reach. Your energy is at stake here. Will

you shed yourself of what you do not need in order to gain what it is you really want? Are you unsure of your yearning? Wishful thinking has its place, but now is the moment to drive forward to your goal or set the goal aside. The moon is reachable if you dedicate the resources necessary.

- *How far away is this thing I long for?*
- *Are my goals realistic?*
- *Am I giving up too much or not enough? What is the balance?*



SHE WHO REGRETS:

ECLAT

Battle, Victory, Bitterness

ECLAT, SHE WHO REGRETS, brings the message of bitter victory and success, which may be regretted in the long run. She knows how to go to battle. She understands how to win a war. Never having run from a fight, the ground she rests upon is littered with skulls. She stands solitary on the smoke-covered battlefield, secure in the knowledge that she is victorious. But while the battle had to be waged, perhaps it could

have been done with less acrimony. Some of the wounds Eclat inflicted were to herself. There will never be any love lost between Eclat and those she has crushed in the name of her hollow victory.

The message of this card is to use caution in arguments. We all have disagreements in our lives. It is how we resolve those moments that defines our future. How often have angry words been used as weapons before any attempt at a truce is made? Consider your speech carefully before you launch those arrows. Is it the right thing to do? Can you find another way to resolve the confrontation that doesn't involve the loss of friends and self-respect? Before you send out a declaration of hostilities, look deeply into Eclat's eyes and consider her regret.

- *What is the best outcome for all involved?*
- *Will I have regrets if this conflict ends bitterly?*
- *Who will be harmed if this matter is not settled amicably?*

SHE WHO FORGIVES:

ELIXIR

Remorse, Guilt, Forgiveness

ELIXIR, SHE WHO FORGIVES, wears simple autumn leaves in her hair. Her hazel eyes welcome you to her world. The green of her gown echoes nature's favorite color. She is a healer. She holds an intricately etched decanter containing a healing elixir of forgiveness. But there is a dare hidden here. Like all miracle cures, you must seek her out and complete a task. Elixir's magical liquid can soothe your woes, but first you must address what caused those pains in the first place. Are you willing to engage in this arduous, possibly perilous journey to the center of yourself?

Elixir appears because you seem to be seeking solace from hurts inflicted by others. You must ask yourself if those wounds were self-inflicted. Did you stay too long when you knew you should go? Did you not return when you had messages that you were needed? There are so many ways we can harm ourselves, but the worst of all is guilt.

We heap blame upon ourselves when we can't undo what's been done. Remorse for things said or unsaid, all of this must be dealt with when we seek healing. The message of this card is, you can be healed, but first you must forgive yourself.

- *If I were to write a letter asking for forgiveness, what would it say?*
- *If I would write a letter telling someone I forgive them, what would I say?*
- *What do I need to let go of in order to heal?*



SHE WHO DOUBTS:

ENID

Fear, Wariness, Trust

ENID, SHE WHO DOUBTS, is learning how to let go of mistrust. She has scars, both visible and invisible, that have held her back from living fully. She carries an ornate emerald pendant, which is said to promote the truth. It calms the wearer and restores self-esteem. Even though Enid is young, she knows that allowing doubt to hold her back will only harm herself. With the cautious eye of a wary doe, Enid ventures back out into the world.

The message of this card is to examine your own doubts. We all have been injured by life in one way or another. If we continue to hide in the shadows, then we allow those who did us injustices to win. Now is the time to let go of old misgivings and learn to trust again. Wariness is not a bad thing unless you are using it to give yourself permission to hide from life. Put on a trusty talisman, slip your scarf from your ears so all your senses are engaged, and trust in your own unique power.

- *Who or what am I hiding from?*
- *How do my fears limit me?*
- *Where do I need to place my trust?*



SHE WHO SURRENDERS:

ESTAFANIA

Chains, Bondage, Release

ESTAFANIA, SHE WHO SURRENDERS, rereads an old letter from someone who hurt her long ago. Clutching the response to her breast, she allows herself to be overcome by the agony yet again. Her bower has become her prison. Iron shackles bind her in this spot. Wrapped around her, this black cable weighs

her down. What she hasn't realized yet is that the chains are of her own making. By holding on to regret, anger or fear, she has forged heavy links tying her to her past. No one can release her save herself. And save herself is what she must do. To do that, she must let go of the past.

The lesson of this card is that when we surrender to the losses of the past we strangle ourselves with sorrow. It reminds us that when we let the ropes of past hurts turn into anchors, they only hold us back. Your task is to carefully review things from the past. If they cause you pain, you must let them go. It's like a paper cut that won't heal because you keep touching it. Put the past in the past where it belongs. Breaking this chain of misery will not be easy, but you've been given the chance to start anew. Don't let misery detain you from your amazing life.

- *Am I surrendering to old pain or releasing it?*
- *If I could write a letter to one person who hurt me, what would I say?*
- *Which chain link can I break today?*