

TAROT NUAGES

By Gnedmann

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WELCOME TO NUAGES

In the town of Nuages, towers and palaces rise up from the clouds in the sky. Strange legends are told of the different creatures and people who live here. Nuages has its own culture and nobility, its own mythical creatures, monsters and demigods. Based on early 16th century Western Europe, the town was placed between our world and another far away. Since then it developed in its own unique way, having few and rare visitors from the outer worlds.

The town of Nuages has its own tarot deck, with its traditions and its inhabitants depicted in the cards. The deck continues the tradition of Tarot of Marseilles, having taken it as the source of inspiration since the times when the town was a part of our world. Through the ages the odd creatures have found their places in the tarot, becoming minions for the different suits. The Wands suit, con-

nected with the fire element, is followed by eager goblins and spirits of fire called imps. The Chalice, whose element is water, attract penguins, creatures of ocean and ice, and tender fairy pixies. The suit of Swords and the air element is illustrated by grim, ponderous creatures that inhabit the upper floors and rooftops of Nuages. These are the warlike and enduring gargoyles. And the Coins, referring to the earth element and productivity, became associated with mushrooms and bees.

The historical figures from different ages and four different noble families formed the Court Cards, with each family representing its archetypal suit. The mighty demigods formed a pantheon of what we are used to calling the Major Arcana. For example, the clown Meaugeaux is depicted as the Fool, and Lourittrice, the powerful entity, is shown on the High Priestess card. These references are

due to the powers, personalities and deeds of demigods, which show them aligned with those cards' meanings. There is obviously a strict connection. But that's no surprise in a small, closed world full of strange energies and entities.

The idea for the Tarot Nuages deck started several years ago when I was first introduced to the tarot itself. I had seen many decks, including of course the famous Rider-Waite deck with its revolutionary Minor Arcana cards. At the same time I was fascinated by the original old Marseilles style decks, with their simple images suggesting the essence of old times. I like the modern decks but always considered the Tarot of Marseilles as the historic source of all tarot decks. As time passed, the idea of combining the old and the new began to take shape. The ideas developed into what would become the Tarot Nuages, whose name and

concept itself pay tribute to the Marseilles decks. So, I drew inspiration from both the old Marseilles Tarot, as well as some influences from the artwork of Pamela Colman Smith. Some images in the Rider-Waite deck perfectly capture the essence of the meaning, so they were taken as the source for my interpretations. But the main artistic concepts are intended to follow the Marseilles tradition. For example, I have made the suit items the primary focal point with the minions positioned around them rather than putting the items “in the corner.” The Strength and Justice cards haven’t changed places like they did in the Waite edition. The Lovers card is also as it was in the Marseilles tradition. I always felt much more connection with the old-fashioned decks of Marseilles Tarot, so this is what I made—a new version of it, with fresh influences and some ideas from Smith-Waite (that have become

a tradition for many other decks themselves). As for the meanings, they are basically those of the Marseilles Tarot, and those who use it, can read the Nuages Tarot just as if they were using a Marseilles deck. In this booklet I share my vision of the meanings, sometimes a bit altered, as every user alters them with his or her own experiences. I myself use the tarot in upright positions only. There are several reasons for that. When studying the tarot, I have seen absolutely different reverse meanings of the cards in different sources. It's usually the opposite of the upright meaning. So for some "bad" cards the reverse meaning often is either "even worse" or "good/better." On the other hand, each card has a warning in the straight position. For example, the Chariot—a mighty force going forward—but imagine rushing at a great speed, you should take care and not crash. That's the underlying warn-

ing. Even looking at the pip cards of Marseilles decks, you can see that there's no reverse position, and that too is another reason to use the deck without reverse meanings. But the choice of using upright only or both ways is a matter of experience and personal preferences. Every opinion has its source, point and reason. So this booklet presents both upright and reversed meanings.

This booklet also provides two spreads of my own. I don't claim that the ideas are entirely new. Perhaps similar spreads have already been invented. But these I created and configured from my own personal experience, in the hopes that they would be easy for others to understand and use. The Tarot Nuages is a deck that I, as the tarot user, made from my own experience and for myself (as any user does). It's simple, it's easy to use, it has a bit of an antique look and feel. The cards have clear references to

the meanings, however it's not overly detailed or complicated. It has no distracting abundance of colors (I kept within the four traditional colors of Marseilles decks) and it is borderless. I made it as I envisioned the deck that I would enjoy using myself, as well as to share with all the other users. So, welcome to Nuages.

THE MAJOR ARCANA

0. THE FOOL

The clown Meaugeaux is striding across the lands, without doubt, restraint or any troubles. He travels forward, whatever is there. He is full of power and ready for new adventures. The sun shines above him, lighting his way. His only luggage is a small sack on the stick, no weight is slowing him down. He has all that is needed with himself. His dog accompanies him and it is as vigorous and playful as the Fool himself.

Meaning: Endeavor. No fear. New paths and possibilities. New beginnings.

Unlimited potential. Passion. Irrational actions. Spontaneous decisions.

Reverse: Raw, immature motivation.

Missing the opportunity. Lack of planning. Inability to finish what was begun.

I. THE MAGICIAN

Arconorre levitates himself amidst the plains, being in harmony with the elements during his meditation.

A staff, a sword, a chalice and a coin soar before him, held aloft by his will. He has control over himself, his surrounding reality and different aspects of life, represented by the suit items. He is calm and aware of his own power.

Meaning: Power. Ability to exert influence on reality and people. Creativity, imagination. Control of surroundings and oneself. Completeness.

Reverse: Weakness. Lack of will, hesitation. Vulnerability. Skills misused. Actions lead to false goals.

II. THE HIGH PRIESTESS

The High Priestess's name is Lourittrice. She is serenity incarnate, full of mysticism and insight. She looks inside souls with wisdom and calmness. Her eyes are full of knowledge. The moon above her symbolizes intuition and understanding the subconscious. She holds a sacred book. Black and white columns behind her represent contrasting dualities: dark and light, day and night, man and woman, life and death.

Meaning: Intuition. The unconscious motives. Serenity. Wisdom. Virtue. Analytic mind. Empathy.

Reverse: Selfishness. Inability to understand one's own feelings. Ignorance. Premature decisions.

III. THE EMPRESS

The Empress Attiria sits on her throne of a living plant. Her gaze is a mix of tenderness and sensuality. She is the essence of femininity incarnate,

the mother. She embodies fertility and nature. Below her throne the flowers blossom. Her shield bears an emblem of a heart and the feminine symbol of Venus's mirror on it.

Meaning: Maternal figure. Fertility, ability to perform an excellent result. Leadership. Care. Strong female person.
Reverse: Losing resources. Vain efforts. Infidelity. Unreliable person.

IV. THE EMPEROR

The ruler, Vortesan, sits on his great throne looming over the town and the lands. His body is like a part of the throne, and the throne is a part of him, showing his status and literally raising him above all. He observes his lands and rules them from up above. He has completely devoted himself to his role of leader.

Meaning: Domination. Leadership. Control of the material plane. Ambitions. Conqueror. Strong male figure.
Reverse: Indecision. Weak will. Bad

decisions. Poor control of the situation.

V. THE HIEROPHANT

Mearhion the Hierophant, the spiritual leader, sits on his throne. He is tranquil and confident of himself and his mission in this world. In one hand he holds his scepter, pointing at his highest rank. With his other hand he blesses two zealots kneeling before him. Two pillars behind him radiate soft light, inspiring the souls of his followers.

Meaning: Spiritual power. Traditionalism. Strong inspiring leadership. Mercy and kindness.

Reverse: Misused generosity. Inability to change according to new tendencies. Bad advice. Loss of authority, weak charisma.

VI. THE LOVERS

Mirridius, the lover, stands before two maidens. Now is the moment for him to make the final choice. The maidens are obviously demanding resolution.

Above them is a cherub preparing to take the shot. The maidens on this card are often understood as virtue and vice, and also represent choice itself; not just a romantic choice, but any decision-making situation.

Meaning: An urge to make a choice.

Making clear a situation that was complex before. Love affairs. Risks. Determination.

Reverse: Bad choice. Bad decisions in the past that have led to failure now. Absence of alternate ways.

Danger awaiting.

VII. THE CHARIOT

Neerel, the Impetuous, rules his chariot, raising clouds of dust and wind. His willpower has subjugated the pair of mythical monsters, who pull him forward. Nothing can stand in his way, the chariot will smite all between the charioteer and his goal.

Meaning: Energy, bursting power. Rushing toward a goal. Freedom.

Voyage. Travel into the unknown.

Reverse: Indiscretion. Failure. Getting past the goal in a rush. A fall from the winning position.

VIII. JUSTICE

Equilibria, the heavenly warrior, is obsessed with justice. In one hand she holds scales, in the other, a sword.

Unlike Femida, her eyes are not blindfolded. Her glance is fierce and resolute. Yet if someone happens to stand before her, they have nothing to fear if they are innocent and honest.

Her goal is justice and peace, not fear.

Meaning: Balance. Justice. Idealistic intentions. Help in fair plans. Resilience to temptations and provocations. Virginity.

Reverse: Corruption. Cruelty. Unfair actions.

IX. THE HERMIT

Amidst the desert under the cloudy evening skies stands Gormerius, the

Hermit. He is a hooded, humped figure, the hood being another barrier separating him from society. The lifted lantern contains his wisdom and knowledge. Not everyone deserves to learn from him, yet the worthy can find the hermit and learn from him if they are ready for a long quest.

Meaning: Exile. Self-sufficiency. Wisdom. Mature experienced advice.

Reverse: Unsocial behavior. Unveiling the secrets. Exposed private life. Gossip.

X. WHEEL OF FORTUNE

A golden wheel represents the power of Fortune and the cyclic structure of everything. Above the wheel the sun shines, bathing the top spokes in its rays. Below it the dark clouds are gathered and the tentacles of evil writhe, eager to drag into the abyss those who happen to be below. Even if one is below the wheel, when it turns, who was once below will now be on the top, and who was in the

shine of glory will fall to the darkness below. The letters on the wheel can be read as TAROT or ROTA (wheel) or TORA. The ever-rotating wheel has sharp rays that can cut through any circumstance and obstacles.

Meaning: Destiny. Fate. Seizing the opportunity. Solving a problem. Unpredictable and unexpected events. Changes to either bad or good (depends on the previous and next card).

Reverse: Bad luck. Unexpected or unneeded interference. Interruption of progress.

XI. STRENGTH

Katricia, the nymph, by only a wave of her hand playfully restrains a wild monster-lion. She is calm, serene, almost naked, and absolutely self-confident. Around her is nothing but the bare plains, the mountain far away and the sky. She steps easily into the wild knowing her own power and playing with beasts and predators.

Meaning: Inner strength. Self-control. Animal instincts subdued by willpower of personality. Inner reserves of strength. Self-confidence that is based on understanding one's abilities.

Reverse: Weakness. Behavior based on primal instincts. Fear of taking risk. Low spirits. Exhausted willpower.

XII. THE HANGED MAN

A trickster, Nensallier, is hanging upside down in an archway. He shows absolutely no worries about this position. In fact, he has already freed his hands, and has placed them down behind his head as if he were lying on a bed. He can easily free his leg from the rope, but for some reason he remains hanging. His figure and face show that everything is okay and even seems as if it were planned. Who knows, maybe his powers make him feel in control, using an inconvenient position to irritate his offenders while he appears to be just relaxing. Or maybe he really

got caught, accepted his fate and isn't going to panic.

Meaning: Optimism. Invulnerability to hardships. Time to ponder and stay relaxed whatever the situation. Finding solutions. Being in peace with fate.

Reverse: Trapped. Wasted time.

Missed opportunities. Panic.

XIII. DEATH

Moriand, the Grim Reaper, is sitting on a throne guarding the passageway. The corridor is narrow but full of light. Behind the back of the Reaper the clear blue sky with a couple of clouds is seen, showing there is nothing to be afraid of. It's a new world there, inviting those who are ready.

Meaning: Change. Transmutation to a new state. Ending of something old and beginning of new, or metamorphosis of old into new. Loss of friendship or connection. New horizons.

Reverse: Stale situation. Inability to progress into new state. Stagnation. Unwillingness to accept new ideas.

XIV. TEMPERANCE

Saillia, a spirit of harmony, stands with her feet in the water. A long road leads to a mountain (representing the earth element) far away in the distance. Her clothes flutter in the wind, and the fiery sun radiates above. Temperance is amidst all of the elements, harmonically surrounded by them. She pours liquid from one jar into another, the jars symbolizing extreme like the masculine and feminine that come into a state of harmony and equilibrium. Everything is balanced here, everything is tranquil.

Meaning: Balance. Moderation.

Harmony that comes from different sources. Interaction and fusion of everything in the world.

Reverse: Imbalance. Inability to combine oneself and one's feelings with the surrounding world. Disharmony. Conflict.

XV. THE DEVIL

Mefirael, the notorious, mostly consid-

ered an essence of pure evil and vile desires, looms on his giant throne. His wings are enormous, his grin is disgusting, and his skin is red, as if scorched in the hellfire. His limitless power is exerted upon those who are weak of spirit. His servants crawl and kneel before his hooves.

Meaning: Temptation. Malevolent will. Material power. Uncontrolled desires that lead to misfortune. Bad temper. A person who preys upon people's weaknesses.

Reverse: Nearly the same as in upright position, but more grave, like the inescapable influence of a vile person. Another possible version of the reversed meaning is the direct opposite: spiritual revival, freeing from evil influences, regaining one's own will and self-esteem.

XVI. THE TOWER

A lightning bolt from the dark low clouds falls upon the tower, knocking off its top, which is similar to a

crown. The tower is burning from the inside as well as it is surrounded with flames from which fiendish beings howl and flail their arms. People who once were safe at the top of the tower are now on their way down into the fire and agony. This image is referring to the Tower of Babel and at the same time depicts a fall from the top of the social hierarchy into the pit below.

Meaning: Crushing of plans. Ruin. Loss. Falling down from any progress. There is an opinion that if the Tower shows up in the beginning of a spread, that's all; the spread ends and it means no good outcomes.

Otherwise, the Tower card can be understood as a warning to remain cautious and prepare for the worst, even if everything seems fine.

Reverse: Inability to build up after a downfall. Absence of will to retake what is lost. A long period of bad luck.

XVII. THE STAR

A maiden by the name Sallinia sits beside a lake pouring the water of life from two vases, from one into the lake, and from another onto the land. She is naked and beautiful; her nudity speaks of her purity. Above her and all the lands shines a Star of Hope surrounded by seven other lesser stars. A tree, a mushroom and the maiden herself all reach up toward the Star, leaning into its light.

Meaning: Hope. Inspiration. Good signs. Positive energies flowing through the world.

Reverse: Bad luck. Unfulfilled expectations. Disappointment. Lack of spark.

XVIII. THE MOON

A giant moon, Luniara, hangs in the night sky. Her face is calm and everything around her is quiet. Two dogs howl at the moon, and the tide draws a sea creature forward, attracted by the moonlight. All the world is

dreamy as the boundaries between reality and dreams are forgotten. Two towers bend towards the moon as if they were flexible and not stone. The road runs from the water, toward the horizon, and upward into the clouds.

Meaning: Subconscious influence.

Illusions, deception. Obscurity. Trickery. Plotting, lies.

Reverse: Being torn away from reality. Getting lost in planning instead of action. Conspiracy.

XIX. THE SUN

Solliarn, the Sun, is spreading his light upon the world. The light is pure and bright, the face of the Sun is wise and kind. Two youths are dancing in the light, full of happiness, enjoying the life, the light and the universe. The day is bright, and a wall protects them from the outer dangers. All is well here.

Meaning: Joy and happiness. Easy times. Good luck. Positive social interactions. Love. Fair business.

Reverse: Apathic mood. Loneliness. Loss of friendship or love. Plans gone wrong.

XX. JUDGMENT

Rays of golden light break through whirling heavy clouds, from which emerges an angelic creature, Gabriel. He blows his trumpet above a graveyard hill, awakening the dead. The revived souls hail him as they step from their graves into new life.

Meaning: Rebirth. Revival, starting anew. Compared to the Death card, this one is more about second chances and redemption, rather than final endings or transition into new circumstances. The spiritual aspect of this card matters the most. The Judgment card speaks of hope and responsibility at the same time, as well as divine interference.

Reverse: Guilt. Self-punishment. Worries, fears, phobias.

XXI. THE WORLD

A maiden named Creatillia is levitating in the air. She is nearly nude, clothed only by a ribbon wrapped around her. She holds two scepters. Winds ruffle her hair and golden light emanates from her, shining in all directions.

Behind her is a circle that symbolizes completion. In the corners she is surrounded by an angel, an eagle, a bull and a lion. The two last creatures were also seen in the Chariot and Strength cards accordingly. All is balanced, enlightened and completed here.

Meaning: Perfection. Completion.

Abundance. Success. Triumph.

Reverse: Instability. Failing to attain the final result. Cycles of fruitless efforts.

THE MINOR ARCANA

SUIT OF WANDS



ACE OF WANDS

A large wand is held up by a hand emerging from the clouds. The wand pulses with light from the inside and spreads rays around it.

Meaning: Potential for new plans and beginnings. Energy, vigor. Creativity, creation. Inheritance.

Reverse: Delay of planned activities. Low energy. Depressed mood. Indifference.

TWO OF WANDS

Two wands are crossed in the center of the image. A goblin under them is thinking over his plans for the future. Two imps sitting on the tops of the wands are looking far in the distance beyond the horizon.

Meaning: Focusing on ideas. Planning. Considering perspectives. A

time just before starting to bring plans into life.

Reverse: Inability to put plans together. Poor partnership.

THREE OF WANDS

Three wands form a triangular window with views to far away distances. A goblin is watching the ship intensely as the imps load the cargo aboard. The planning is over, the work has begun, and progress is being made.

Meaning: Enterprise. Business endeavors. Trade. First fruits of labor.

Reverse: Mistakes. Improper management. Bad advice.

FOUR OF WANDS

Now the triangular portal has been transformed into a more stable square structure. Two goblins and two imps show their delight, playfully celebrating and enjoying the results of their efforts. It appears they are content to settle in here.

Meaning: Harmony. Stability. Social life, connections. Family. Rest after labors. Romance.

Reverse: Unhappiness. Unsatisfactory results. Unstable family life.

FIVE OF WANDS

A goblin alone holds five wands behind his back. He is attacked by imps from all sides, yet he seems determined to give them nothing. He fiercely bares his teeth, frightening the imps.

Meaning: Conflict. Competition. Struggle.

Reverse: Hidden struggle. Hidden enemies unwilling to show themselves in an open conflict. Also, the reverse meaning is often understood as being opposite of struggle—diplomacy, or making compromises.

SIX OF WANDS

Six wands are arranged as columns supporting a pedestal, on which stands a goblin in armor and weap-

ons. His sword is already sheathed, he holds a shield and a crown of laurel is on his head. He triumphantly raises his fist and his troops, two imps and a goblin, hail him.

Meaning: Triumph, victory. A moment of glory. Conquest. Goals achieved. Leadership.

Reverse: Failure to achieve the desired outcome. Weak leadership. Unworthy results of great effort.

SEVEN OF WANDS

An imp rises up on great wings. He is strong enough to carry not only the weight of a wand that is bigger than him, but also carries the weight of another imp and a goblin. He is strong, and he demonstrates his strength. Even if it is a mere temporary gain, his strength will be remembered well into the future.

Meaning: Overcoming the boundaries. Exceeding one's limits. A winner. Challenges won.

Reverse: Uncertainty, doubt. Creating obstacles. Hesitation.

EIGHT OF WANDS

The wands are flying through the air like lances, tearing through the clouds. The angle of the wands shows that the goal is almost reached. One of the wands is mounted by a goblin, eager to reach the destination, whatever it is.

Meaning: Swift movement. Very fast progress, maybe too fast. Important news. Travel.

Reverse: Immobility. Stagnation. Delays. Family troubles.

NINE OF WANDS

Six wands are positioned as they were on the Six of Wands card. But the platform is now below, serving as the floor. Another three wands create a kind of shelter that can be made into a tent if needed. A single goblin sits alone. He has finished

with his activity; now is the time for thinking and rest.

Meaning: A pause. Taking a rest. Anticipation. Building oneself up to go on.

Reverse: Delay. Facing obstacles. Limited willpower.

TEN OF WANDS

A goblin is burdened under the weight of ten wands that he carries. He has to use all his endurance and will to take them to the building in the distance. He can't stop or hesitate; if he does, he will be crushed under the weight. But he is determined to finish the task and he can do it.

Meaning: The final effort. Hardships. Burdens that require full commitment to be overcome. Successful completion of the project through hard labor.

Reverse: Losses. Treachery. Burden too big to carry. Being crushed under the weight of responsibility.

THE COURT CARDS

Members of noble family Batoneaud form the court cards of the Wands suit.

PAGE OF WANDS

Terillir Batoneaud stands holding a wand with a flag on it. He is equipped for this journey, this endeavor. In his quest for knowledge and broadened perspectives, he has reached new lands.

Meaning: A friend, a loyal person.

Creative person. Business connections.

Good intentions. Important news.

Reverse: Treacherous person. Plotting man. Indecision.

KNIGHT OF WANDS

The first of the Nuages knights was the famous Aldebert Batoneaud.

Many knights have inherited his armor and followed his legacy throughout the ages. This knight has taken a vow to be the first to act and explore. He (or she) is resolute and seeing the goal rushes forward, sometimes

impetuously. His temperament is fiery, according to the fire element represented by the suit of Wands. His weapon and symbol is a spiked wand. *Meaning:* Impulsive person. A conqueror, ready to rush forward into the unknown without hesitation. A person with professional skills. A journey. *Reverse:* Unexpected quick changes of plans. Interruption. Quarrel.

QUEEN OF WANDS

Queen Riallonne Battoneaud is seated on her throne made of the same wood as the wands themselves. Some offshoots sprout from the wood—the throne is alive. The queen's hair curls like vines. She is in harmony with her throne, her role and with the world. She is confident and calm yet serious. *Meaning:* A sincere and friendly female. One who can give help, but only to those who are worthy of her help. She assists those who are willing to do the work themselves. Sympathy. Honor.

Reverse: Vengeful person. Unstable temper. Deceit, trickery.

KING OF WANDS

King Coutevallier Battoneaud sits on his throne, which grows from wood. The throne has roots and is a part of the surroundings. On top of the throne are candles symbolizing the fire element. The king's glance is intense and curious. He is ready to stand and take action if needed. He is not one to just sit back and rule passively.

Meaning: Mature and wise leader. A responsible male person. Fatherly person. Educated. Curious.

Reverse: Strict and unjust leadership. Ignorance. Cruel personality.

SUIT OF CHALICES



ACE OF CHALICES

A hand holds a great chalice in the sky. A fountain of water and golden light pours from the chalice.

Meaning: Abundance. Happiness.

Pleasure. A good period in life.

Reverse: Undesired changes. Unfortunate events. Absence of joy.

TWO OF CHALICES

Two penguins are holding two chalices from which emerge two kissing pixies. All are harmoniously entwined as couples.

Meaning: Love. Friendship. Harmony. Passion. Partnership.

Reverse: Separation. False or unhappy love. Breaking up. Ending friendship.

THREE OF CHALICES

This is a scene of great joy. Pixies and penguins are singing and dancing around three chalices. Evidently, there is a reason and something good has happened.

Meaning: Celebration. Joy. Happy moments. Resolution of problems.

Reverse: Lost pleasures. Excess pleasures that are no longer satisfying. Illness.

FOUR OF CHALICES

Three cups stand with an opulent fourth chalice above them, emanating rays of light around it. Yet the penguin and the pixies seem not at all interested. In fact, they appear to be bored or even depressed.

Meaning: Disappointment. Satiety. Absence of ambition.

Reverse: Dreams and hopes. Possibilities. New inspirations.

FIVE OF CHALICES

Five chalices lie empty, damaged and twisted. Once they were objects of fine craftsmanship, but not anymore. A penguin looks down from a cloud in sadness and regret. He is ruined. A dull red rain falls in the distance. Something bad has happened.

Meaning: Loss. Destroyed property. Regrets.

Reverse: Attaining new goods. Lucky outcome.

SIX OF CHALICES

A penguin stands between six chalices, gazing into them. There were flowers and plants in them before, but they have died. The penguin is disappointed and sad. He remembers how beautiful the flowers were when they blossomed.

Meaning: Nostalgia. Memories.

Losses. Longing for the past. Lost possibilities and dreams.

Reverse: Striving for developments. Future events. Learning from bad past experiences.

SEVEN OF CHALICES

A penguin stands before seven chalices with different contents. He isn't sure if they are illusions or real. Maybe his imagination conjured up these attractive chalices. The penguin dreams about all his options but he has to choose one.

Meaning: Fantasies, dreams. Imagination. Living in an imaginary

world. Choosing between the real world and fantasy.

Reverse: Attaining real goals. Materialistic perception of the world. Willpower.

EIGHT OF CHALICES

A penguin walks away from eight chalices. From a distance they seemed shiny and attractive. But after reaching them, the penguin noticed the vile faces on the chalices. Now disappointed, he walks away. They are not what he expected.

Meaning: Changes of plans for something better. Disappointment. A project that ended not as expected.

Reverse: Getting the desired outcome. Attaining success.

NINE OF CHALICES

Nine rich chalices rise in rows. A penguin wearing a triangle hat and a gold medal triumphantly stands in the center chalice. Two pixies are rejoicing by his sides. They all are victorious and jubilant.

Meaning: Richness. Material abundance. Success, triumph. Victory.
Reverse: Unhappiness. Material losses. Vanity.

TEN OF CHALICES

One great chalice is surrounded by nine smaller ones. The big one is a home for a family of penguins. They stand hugging happily with an egg between them—their future child. Their pixie neighbors share in their happiness.

Meaning: Home. Family. Peace. Harmony. Happy family life. Social reputation.

Reverse: Unhappiness. Family troubles. Broken friendships. Disrespect in society.

THE COURT CARDS

Members of noble family Goubellessant form the court cards of the Chalices suit.

PAGE OF CHALICES

Houbeirt Goubelessant, the page, stands on the shore. He has a romantic look. He is an artist or a bard.

He willingly thrusts forward a great chalice as an invitation to share.

Meaning: Emotional person. Imaginative and sensitive nature. Compassion.

Reverse: Selfish person. Greedy and lazy tendencies.

KNIGHT OF CHALICES

The brilliant knight Parsillier Goubelessant began his quest many ages ago as legend says. His descendants have continued his quest and have helped him finish it. The chalice that he carries symbolizes his achievement. He is calm, experienced and he knows his abilities. He has already proven himself, but he can always set new goals to accomplish.

Meaning: Compelled. Being ready for new opportunities. Romantic nature.

Reverse: A person unable to express himself. A liar. Lack of heroism.

QUEEN OF CHALICES

Queen Gvenriade Goubelessant is seated upon a throne rising up from the sea. Its design consists of waves and green color. The queen's hair also flows like the waves. She represents the water element.

Meaning: Kind person. Care, protection. Harmony of spirit. Help in a bitter moment.

Reverse: Unreliable person. Vice.

KING OF CHALICES

King Erendrace Goubelessant has traits of sea creatures in his visage. His eyes are not human, and his beard, like the hair of the queen, resembles fluid. His throne emerging from the ocean wave has the form of a giant chalice. The king has likely designed his throne himself, according the water element—his source of power.

Meaning: Creative person. A man who is experienced yet open to deep transformation. Ability to apply oneself to different situations. A guide and support. Artistic nature.

Reverse: A dull person. Absence of creative spark. Heavy personality. Prejudice.

SUIT OF SWORDS



ACE OF SWORDS

An armored hand emerging from the clouds raises up a sword, which goes through a bejeweled crown. Three rays of light emanate upward from the sword.

Meaning: Power. Strength to conquer and achieve. Determination. Inspiring leadership.

Reverse: Tyranny. Misuse of power. Feebleness. Leadership in wrong hands.

TWO OF SWORDS

Two gargoyles are sitting on pedestals

facing each other. They have crossed their swords and are not moving. Either they already tried to fight and no one won, or they are just preparing to fight but neither wants to make the first move.

Meaning: Stalemate. Mutually balanced equal forces. A moment before action. Harmony.

Reverse: Treachery, lies. No initiative.

THREE OF SWORDS

A gargoyle is bent under the weight of a heart pierced by three swords. He feels oppressed by grief and loss. Another gargoyle sits on the top of the heart with his wings outstretched. He has lived through that mournful state of the lower gargoyle. Now, he is ready to move on with his life.

Meaning: Strife. Heartbreak. Grief, sorrow. Resilience to live through losses.

Reverse: Emotional hardness. Inability to recover from extreme suffering.

FOUR OF SWORDS

A gargoyle sleeps in the center of a pedestal surrounded by his four friends who guard him with their swords. They may have already faced some conflict recently or just are used to being vigilant.

Meaning: Rest. Safety. Temporary retreat. Regrouping, restoring one's force.

Reverse: Precaution. Exhausting actions without rest. Unprotected and vulnerable.

FIVE OF SWORDS

A gargoyle stands on top of a damaged pedestal holding a sword. Four other swords are stuck in the sides of the pedestal. The blades of those swords are damaged from battle. The pedestal stands strong in spite of being damaged and bent. This gargoyle has survived the attack or conquered the pedestal—either way it's a success. And his sword is undamaged so he can face another fight.

Meaning: Conquest. Destruction. A hard victory. Surrounding enemies.
Reverse: Defeat. Weakness. Misfortunes. Losses.

SIX OF SWORDS

Five gargoyles mounted on a giant beetle are flying forward. They all are armed with swords. They seem to be resolute and sure of their goal.

Meaning: A voyage. Straightforward actions to end a bad situation. Resolution and success.

Reverse: Overwhelming circumstances. No chance to escape.

SEVEN OF SWORDS

A large gargoyle and his smaller mate have taken up positions on a high spire, ready to meet an incoming attack. They are not willing to leave or give up. The large gargoyle has pulled himself up to use all of his skills. He holds six swords in two hands without any problem. The lesser gargoyle

is in a fighting position with one sword, held securely with both hands. *Meaning:* Fortitude. Taking a stand. Drawing on inner resources. Ultimate use of one's skills. Hope, plans. *Reverse:* Unpreparedness. Quarrels. No leadership.

EIGHT OF SWORDS

A large and fierce gargoyle is trapped inside a cage of eight swords. There is not enough room for him to stand up. But he is strong and ferocious enough to break out of his cage.

Meaning: Imprisonment. A need to be prepared for escape from a bad situation. Facing hostile forces. Conflict.

Reverse: Depression. Guilt. Also freedom, independence.

NINE OF SWORDS

Amidst stormy clouds a gargoyle is caught by a pair of evil hands. Nine sharp swords extend from the fingers. The situation appears to have no easy

way out. The gargoyle seems to have lost all hope, but against all odds, he is still alive.

Meaning: Despair. Misery. Unhappy perspectives. Suffering.

Reverse: Wariness. Reasonable precaution. Understanding the perils.

TEN OF SWORDS

A gargoyle is pinned to his pedestal by ten swords. There is no hope. The situation has come to an end. He is dying. The stormy blackened clouds gather in the background. All is lost.

Meaning: Fiasco. Ruin. Absolute destruction.

Reverse: A narrow escape from a bitter end. Delayed calamity.

THE COURT CARDS

Members of noble family Gelavessir form the court cards of the Swords suit.

PAGE OF SWORDS

Nerngort Gelavessir, the page, leans

upon his great sword. He is armored and vigilant yet he appears to be more interested in showing off or surveying the surroundings. Perhaps he is actually an emissary of peace. Either way, his mind is keen and ready to react.

Meaning: Perception. A person of discretion and strategy. Ready for action. Alertness.

Reverse: A traitor. Hidden secrets. Naivete.

KNIGHT OF SWORDS

This knight has given a vow to be in the front lines of battles. He is one of many descendants of the famous Leonhorret Gelavessir, the legendary hero of past. His helmet is decorated with a fearsome gargoyle creature. He raises his two-handed sword eager to dash forward and swing his mighty weapon.

Meaning: A heroic personality. Bravery. Warlike behavior. Aggression. No doubts.

Reverse: Imprudence. Impulsiveness causing difficulties. Behavior causing more troubles. Inability to compromise.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Queen Iselliria Gelavessir sits on her throne on top of her pedestal in the sky surrounded by clouds. Cold winds blow her hair. She seems lost in her thoughts, her eyes are sad.

Meaning: A sad personality. A widow. One surviving through difficulties or loneliness. A keen mind.

Reverse: Malicious temper. Cruelty.

KING OF SWORDS

King Soridion Gelavessir sits on his throne levitating high in the sky. The throne is decorated with swords. It hangs high in the sky held by the strong connection between the king and the air element. The king's crown is part helmet. He sits with his hand upon his sword, ever ready to put the weapon to use. Unlike other kings,

this one has no beard—a reference to military discipline. Or it's possible the King of Swords may be a woman.

Meaning: Active personality. Leader through discipline and strict control. Willpower. Logical mind.

Reverse: Sadistic and selfish temper. Dangerous connection.

SUIT OF COINS



ACE OF COINS

A hand in the clouds holds a great and magnificent coin. In the center of the coin is a pentacle, uniting both traditions—of coins and pentacles in one. This splendid coin casts rays of light in all direction around itself.

Meaning: Abundance. Prosperity, great wealth. Material and spiritual richness.

Reverse: Greed. Material wealth without satisfaction. Obsession with money.

TWO OF COINS

Two coins are balanced with each oth-

er. The lower coin serves as a wheel for a unicycle. A mushroom masters the balancing act of this unicycle, keeping the system in equilibrium.

Meaning: Ability to handle all like a master. Agility. Balanced state.

Reverse: Distraction. Inability to multitask. Simulation of joy.

THREE OF COINS

Three skillfully forged coins are presented by the craftsman mushroom. He is proud of himself and this pride is well deserved. His helpers are two bees that share in his contentment with the job well done.

Meaning: Great skill. Self-esteem, pride. Ability to share success.

Reverse: Bad skills. Poor quality of results.

FOUR OF COINS

The mushroom is richly clothed and he owns four golden coins. They are tied with a rope with which the bees carry the mushroom along with his

money. He owns the coins so he is burdened with the responsibility of deciding what direction to go in with all his wealth. Without carefully establishing his goals he will fall sooner or later, and the coins won't help him out. *Meaning:* Money that needs to work. The need to make financial decisions. Accumulation of wealth for a purpose. *Reverse:* Material problems. Lack of business foresight. Money losses.

FIVE OF COINS

Five coins are burning. The wealth they represent soon will vanish and the mushroom is sad about this. Perhaps he used to own the coins and has lost them. Or, he is poor and wealth has remained out of his reach so he is depressed. He still can take the risk and save the coins. But risking his life for that is hardly worth it.

Meaning: Loss. Misery. Bankrupt. A project not worth the risk.

Reverse: New perspective or ideas about business. Resolution of a difficult situation.

SIX OF COINS

A mushroom has six coins but gave away four of them to the bees when they needed help. He is happy to help them out, and he still has two coins for himself, which is more than enough. In the future the bees will help him out if he is ever in need. Everyone is happy.

Meaning: Charity. Philanthropy. Helping out those who face hardship.
Reverse: Selfishness. Profiting on other's misery. Debts.

SEVEN OF COINS

Here is the money tree the bees have been planting and growing. They have done everything right and are now resting, waiting for the fruits. Seven coins will be ripe soon.

Meaning: Waiting for results. A time to

rest and watch the fruits of your labor emerge. Growth. Good skills. Reward.
Reverse: Impatience. Scarce results. Fruits of labor taken prematurely.

EIGHT OF COINS

A mighty mushroom forges coins with his anvil. The results of his mastery created his house and his foundry. He loves his life's work. His two bee apprentices are ready to help, holding a big hammer as they watch and learn.

Meaning: Skilled worker. Professionalism. Learning new skills. Efforts. Working for results. A career.

Reverse: Laziness. Badly done work. Lack of motivation for work. Also workaholism.

NINE OF COINS

This self-content mushroom sits with a satisfied face on the top of his small castle. Nine coins symbolizing his wealth are everywhere. His money

helped him to build a safe place to live and to obtain a respectful social position. Two bees with halberds guard him.

Meaning: Richness. Accomplishment. Safety. Top social position.

Reverse: Paranoia. Threatened position. Helpless state. Theft. Money loss.

TEN OF COINS

Ten coins form the roof and the foundation of a home where a family of mushrooms lives. Under their coin roof they are safe and secure and very happy about it.

Meaning: Home. Family. Lineage.

Values and traditions passed through generations. Prosperity. Security.

Reverse: Home troubles. Bad inheritance. Social position loss. Money losses.

THE COURT CARDS

Members of noble family Monessier form the court cards of the Coins suit.

PAGE OF COINS

The page Milter Monessier is richly clad but pays no attention to that. He is humble and his real interests and what he values are in his bag. He carries his books wherever he goes, always ready for new knowledge and ideas.

Meaning: Scholarship. Eagerness to learn. Bearer of good news. An inventor.

Reverse: Illogical behavior. Closed-minded person. Unable or unwilling to learn new ideas.

KNIGHT OF COINS

This knight has taken a vow to always support progress. His lineage was started during the years of the distant past by Knight Trommegarte Monessier.

He is the one who can be relied upon. He is not one to dash into combat.

He plans his strategy beforehand and achieves the best result. His life may be less interesting than the lives of other knights, but his success is unmatched.

Meaning: Methodical mind. Ability to

analyze and organize. A leader with a plan. A patient person.

Reverse: Irresponsibility. Stagnation.

Lack of imagination and creativity.

Narrow mind.

QUEEN OF COINS

Splendid Queen Lusseriette Monessier sits on her throne of marble and gold. The top of the throne is shaped like a large coin. Her golden hair falls to her flowing golden garments. She is the essence of luxury embodied.

Yet she is kind and likes to support and help others.

Meaning: Great wealth. Luxury. A helpful, kind and charitable person.

Reverse: A person of low social position. Untrustworthy. Actions motivated with envy.

KING OF COINS

King Mergrest Monessier sits upon his throne of ivory and gold. The round design on top refers to the curved shape

of coins, similar to the throne of the queen. His clothes are rich and his beard is gold. He is pondering some future investments and projects, yet at the same time he is listening and watching carefully to what happens all around.

Meaning: A knack for financial affairs. A reliable partner. A loyal friend. Efficient and practical leader.

Reverse: An impostor, a rogue. Illusion of success. Unreliable friend. A person driven by ill will and envy.

THE TOWN

The Town card is an extra card depicting the town of Nuages shortly after its founding. It adds a decorative element to the deck. But if one wants to use it in readings the meaning is: one's own world, stable and secure. A place for fantasy and rest. The walls that define and defend.

SPREADS



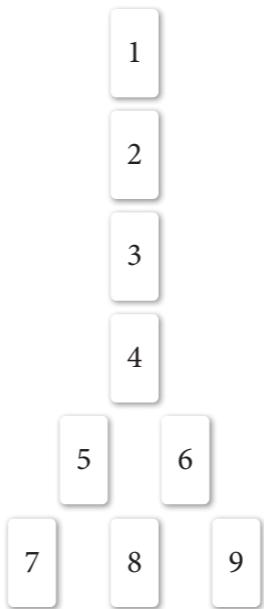
THE X

This is a simple spread for any situation. I more often use adaptive spreads rather than special spreads for only one purpose, so I made this one simple and universal. It provides quick, useful information. It's named X because of its shape.

1—a way for better decisions in the situation

2 and 3—the things/means/decisions/people that can help

4 and 5—the obstacles/enemies/mistakes that one should be aware of



QUEST

Yes, this one was influenced by RPG games. It provides a good way to see the full picture of oneself and any problems. You can look and compare

what you are into, what you are “armed” with, and what to withstand.

1—The goal: The events that must be reached or, the core idea, the essence of the question

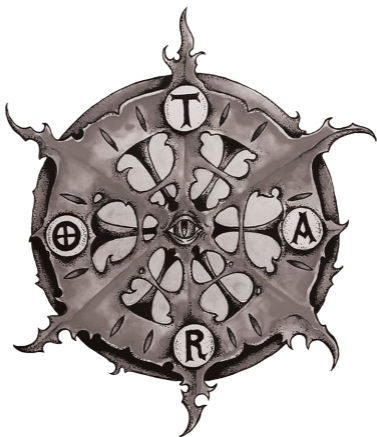
2—The weapon: One’s active instruments for reaching the goal, or character traits

3—The shield: the passive or protective means that will help in reaching the goal

4—Advantages: The sides of life/character/surrounding/circumstances that will be most helpful and that should be used when possible. This is your strength.

5 and 6—Vulnerabilities: These should be taken notice of, like the advantages, but on the contrary, these are the aspects of life/character/surrounding/circumstances that can be used against you. So these are the things that should be avoided when possible. When imminent, one should be on alert.

7, 8 and 9—Enemies: These are the active difficulties or the persons that are in your way and whom you'll have to withstand.



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