

# **TAROT OF THE CRONE**

**Ellen Lorenzi-Prince**

Tarot of the Crone, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

© 2007 Ellen Lorenzi-Prince

Portland, Oregon

## Thank You

My family Lou Lorenzi-Prince and Sophie Lorenzi-Prince for their unending love.  
My friend Diane Wilkes for her editorial skills and her great heart.  
My publisher Leisa ReFalo for making this dream come true.

For inspiration for specific cards:

Emily Garlick - Priestess  
Rachel Pollack - Tradition  
Mildred Taylor - Empress  
Victoria Carr - Strength  
KiNi - Sacrifice  
Lou Lorenzi-Prince - Devil  
Obejoyful Lynd - Sun  
Robert V. O'Neill - Calling  
Valerie Sim - Six of Wands  
Yvonne Rathbone - Three of Swords  
Laura Jackson - Beast of Swords  
Tom Waters - Shadow of Disks

## About the Crone

The Crone is the ancient holy one. She is grandmother, witch and hag. She has been ignored, trivialized, blamed and feared, for she holds powers that others deny. Powers of time and transformation. Powers you may fear, but would do better to understand. The Crone is the Mother of all Mothers. She knows all your bedtime stories, and all your worst nightmares. She is the One Who Judges. The one who says No. Through her you learn discernment, how to tell right and wrong, and how to speak the truth.

She is the One Who Knows Death. She will introduce you to your shadow. She can free you from your fears. The Crone is She Who Has Gone Beyond. She has lived many years and many lives. Her feet know the paths of the Ancestors. Through her you can touch those who have gone before. She has lived many lives. She has lived for love, for power, for grace. Now she lives for herself and her journey. She travels new roads and dares the unknown. She is ancient, but not always aged. She may be beautiful, but she's not pretty. She Who Has Gone Beyond may go beyond our idea of what a deity or a woman can be.

Using the magic of Tarot as a vehicle, this work is an attempt to describe some of what may be known about her. This work will help you make her acquaintance. May you never be the same.

## About the Deck

The Major Arcana of the Tarot of the Crone represent times when the Crone is speaking directly to your soul. Rather than addressing an aspect of everyday life as in the Minor Arcana cards, the Majors require you to look at the deeper forces working within and upon you. They are challenging and powerful opportunities when they appear in a reading. In the Minor Arcana, the numbered cards represent qualities or aspects of our magical, emotional, mental and mundane lives. They are identified by the combination of their Element (Fire, Water, Air, Earth represented as Wands, Cups, Swords and Disks) and their Number (Ace through Ten). The court cards represent the different faces of the Crone among the Elements, different expressions of Elemental power. Her faces are Beast, Witch, Grandmother and Shadow.

## Color Meanings

Black	The source. The absolute. Night. All and nothing. The well and the void.
White	The bare bones. That which endures and tells no lies. Truth.
Gray	The unknown. Mystery. Secrets. Shadow.
Red	The life force as Lust. Passion. Blood. Strength.
Blue	The life force as Thought. Spirit. Wisdom. Peace.
Green	The life force as Growth. Life path. Connection between living beings.
Yellow	The life force as Exploration. Creativity. Inspiration. Enlightenment.
Purple	The life force as Magic. The path of the soul through time. Deep power.
Brown	The life of the body. Life in the flesh. Earth. Animals. Home.

Each Suit of the Minor Arcana uses two colors (with black and white):

Wands	Red and yellow, for power and will
Cups	Red and purple, for feeling and soul
Swords	Blue and yellow, for mind and ability
Disks	Green and brown, for life and flesh

Major Arcana use any combination of color.

## **Major Arcana**

### **0 ~ Fool**

The Cloak of the Crone is all you hear, all you see, all you know of your everyday world. Only a Fool would try to see what lies beneath. Only a Fool abandons the known for the unknown and perhaps unknowable. Only a Fool risks becoming lost in the Void, becoming a tiny star in endless space.

A force beyond your small self opens a new space in your soul. You are impelled to start on a new path. One in which you cannot predict the final destination, or possibly even the next step, but feels inevitable all the same. Can you truly trust the Universe? In the Void, where there is no up and no down, you can do nothing else. Remember there is a part of you that wants this, that welcomes it, because it knows becoming formless and timeless is what you need to create a new future.

### **1 ~ Magician**

A mask with living eyes bursts out from the darkness of a cave. The Magician is the force that can manifest itself out of the void and out into the world. She is the ability to appear and act as one wills, the confidence to live one's own life and no other, and the power of originality. But the mask is also illusion. Your very body is the mask your soul wears, how your soul happened into flesh at the time of your birth. The Magician is one who knows both reality and illusion, and who crosses between.

The animal of the mask is the Crone manifesting in the form of her familiar, her first companion, and her aide in the making of magic. Magic crosses the boundaries between worlds, bringing the energies of spirit into form, and dissolving forms back into essences. Magic will do the same for you, if you have the courage and the confidence to take it into your hands and shape it to your will.

### **2 ~ Priestess**

The Priestess is a standing stone, the foremost among a group. Unlike her sisters, she has a face to engage you, to look at and through you, and her eyes glow with the same light of old old knowledge as in the waning crescent above her head. The Priestess is stone, because her knowledge is most often found in silence and stillness, with patience and devotion. Standing stones link the earth to the heavens, and hold fast to immense power and energies that might shatter a less grounded being. The Priestess is a two-way channel, passing stories to the stars from the heart of the earth, and reading signs in the heavens for those on the ground.

And she has something to say to you about living between earth and sky, in darkness and in light. About opening a space, opening your belief, and allowing sacred messages to come. Messengers exist all around you. Omens appear. You will know her truth when your body thrums to the song of the earth, the light of the stars rages in your eyes, and the stones dance.

### **3 ~ Empress**

The Empress is a large comfortable woman, brown-skinned to signify the earth, life on earth and life made flesh. She gazes lovingly down at her cupped hands in her lap. The glow of green life surrounds them. The green is the generative life force, what pulses through all creation. Her dress is blue for the womb of the sea and the canopy of heaven. This is the Grandmother. The Mother of All Mothers. The source of all miracles and mothering powers. Though the mothering you've received in the past may not have been all you could hope for, the Empress says it's never too late to know true and unconditional love.

Love and joy and creation and peace are all one in her. This is the power that rejoices in you, in your individual and unique life. Though her powers are vast and deep, her creations multiplied, still you

are important to her. She sees you and rejoices in your being. In your children and your lovers. In your art and your work. In all that you love.

#### **4 ~ Emperor**

The Emperor is a monumental obelisk supported by human bodies, by flesh and blood and earth and life. Here is the power that sets order to creation, that quarters and establishes the world. Without this power, creation becomes soup. It is a power impersonal and implacable in the drawing of boundaries. It does not especially care about you. Without this power, you would be unable to take a higher view, but forever see only yourself as the center of all things. It is time to take a higher view and get on with it, rather than to bemoan things that cannot be changed.

The Emperor calls to you to take charge of the powers of limitation and order. Lay down the law to the voices you hear. Speak and act with authority. There is a way to walk that works with the Plan. And therein lies the road to success.

#### **5 ~ Tradition**

Matryoshka nesting dolls, generations of “little mothers,” represent Tradition. Each individual is unique in expression, and each is intimately connected to the others. Bonded to those who came before and to those who come after, to those one knows and to those one does not. An individual is just a part of the line that stretches from prehistory into the future, stretching through you. Tradition is what survives time. It is the culture that lives in you and around you because of where you are along that line.

When Tradition speaks, it says the answer is in your past. The answer is in what has been taught you. And the answer is in what you can learn now. Speak to the ancestors. Look back, and know where the roots grow. Reach back in time until you find the heart of it. And let the heart turn to wisdom.

#### **6 ~ Crossroads**

Faces cloaked in shadow, triple Hekate stands at a crossroads on a moonless night. The brown paths indicate you have come to a time when making a decision affects your bodily existence, your life in the flesh, what you will do with your days and nights on this planet. The great hill behind Hekate says you don't always get to choose the ways your life will turn. You don't always get to see ahead. But when life does turn, make the best of it. Every face of hers is dark. She is not there to show you the way, she is there to challenge your path, to tell you to choose your course like your life depended on it. Her red cloaks, and the living earth of the hill behind her, tell you the knowledge of the way lies in the quiet of your mind, the strength of your heart, and the deep wisdom of your body. Listen. Each aspect is telling you, in its own way, how to live a life that includes their power.

#### **7 ~ Chariot**

The Chariot is a witch flying on her broomstick in a sky alive with night and stars. Her face is alight with discovery. She grins into the wind. She doesn't care that others have demonized or trivialized her image, giving her greenish skin and warts. She used her magic to survive adversity and keeps on flying, following her own star, doing what others consider unseemly or impossible. She is wild and wise and moves forward with a taste for adventure and a sense of strength. Freedom is the prize for those who embrace the witch, who are not put off by her apparent ugliness. Those who question authority's assumption of what is good and what is evil, of what is possible and what is not, and find their own way.

The Chariot calls you to set your own reality, your own direction. Feel what calls you forward, what draws your spirit into the future. Then go for it with all you've got.

## **8 ~ Justice**

A giant spider covers the card, leaving nowhere to hide. Her fangs, claws and eyes are as red as her web. A web of blood, of red pulsing life, of life balanced by death, by cause, by cost. Behind the web is the blue sky of intelligence, symbolizing the hope for rational action and decision, and the peace that may come after facing the consequences. The spider's abdomen is like a great milky pool or mirror. Look now, says Justice, at the bone naked truth of who you are and what you've done. Know your responsibility and you will know yourself.

Look also at what has been done to you, and who in your life is acting that out. Determine their part of the responsibility, and what their consequences might be. You are judged, but you also are judge. Look through the multiple lenses of Spider Woman's eyes, and resolve wisely. Reach out with your feelers into the web. It pulses through you, and the more you can sense and respond to it, the more whole your life will be.

## **9 ~ Hermit**

The Hermit is a bag lady rejected by and rejecting comfortable society. She stands on the street of a faceless city, her own face exposed and eloquent. Her dress is a blue that recalls the depths of ocean and sky, and the boundlessness that lies beyond their shallow edges. She carries her bags in both hands, because she's learned that balance gives her endurance. She is alone, but her isolation is the result, not the goal, of her journey. Where she goes, others cannot follow. She seeks the mystery at the core of life, at the core of herself. She looks for the magic that exists even in the most artificial environment. She seeks answers to questions that have not yet been born.

The Hermit says look to yourself for the answers, look into the worlds inside you, and the uncharted realms within, behind and beyond the ordinary. There are secrets only you are meant to discover, and truths only you can divine.

## **10 ~ Wheel**

In the Wheel, a close-up of a standing stone reveals a labyrinth. The blackness of the path shows that you cannot know all that will be in your life, yet through the changes in your life you can begin to sense a pattern and purpose. The path is outlined by green, symbolizing the life force that is yours alone, what you take with you wherever you may go. Beyond the stone is a mysterious purple sky, carved with lines forming a pattern hinted at but impossible to guess, a reminder that even the Great Ones walk a path of chance, fate, and unknown purpose.

The Wheel is the power of both chance and fate, of change that comes to you rather than through you. Change is present and possible in every moment, for good or for ill, and its power can spin you around. But no matter the twist, there is always only one direction to take, the one that leads to your future.

## **11 ~ Strength**

In Strength is the image of a woman arising from the belly of a golden cobra. The background is the red of healthy power and passion. Strength is enlightened flesh, the life force flowing from your heart, from your belly, and from your spirit. Strength is the power of kundalini, the energy "snake" that uncoils from the base of the spine and rises up, bringing healing and knowledge. This is not about spirit taming the body, or lusts of the body overpowering the spirit; this is integration; this is knowing these are not

separate things. Spirit and will are not attributes of the mind alone. Emotion is not felt only by the heart. Your body holds them all.

Whatever shape your body is in right now, it's time to celebrate its life. Know that every breath you take feeds your power, and infuses you with goodness and inspiration. Every breath you take is a victory over the forces of destruction. Feel how each cell of your body is an entire endless universe, and how all of it, all of it, belongs to you.

## **12 ~ Sacrifice**

A cowed, crying face hangs like the moon above a sea of tears. The lavender and blue indicate the spiritual nature of her sadness, and the mystery of the meaning, the nature, and the existence of suffering. The hollow dark of her eyes show that this mystery is endless, and has its beginning in the source of all things. Her face in reflected reversal holds a hint of a smile, for honesty and beauty comes with the pain. To know compassion purifies a selfish soul; to sacrifice is to make sacred.

Weeping Woman cries for us all, but sometimes she requires that you cry too. Letting it flow, hard as that may be, benefits you more than holding it back. Learn the roots of your suffering: what is behind this particular pain, and what is behind that. Let it teach you what it will. But know as well that sacrifice does not make you special; it is not meant to be a lifestyle. Like the tide, let it flood, and let it go.

## **13 ~ Death**

A near skeletal figure stands with arms and legs akimbo before a dark coffin-shaped opening. Surrounding the passage is the blood red of spilled life, of the life that is no more. Ahead are the bare bone of truth and the blackness of the void. A little red passage of potential rebirth is at Death's groin. The choice of passage is up to you: the quick and hard way if you cut enough away to become so small, or the gentler but still hard way of utter dissolution. Either way Death must first be looked squarely in the face.

When Death appears in your life, you can accept or deny. Accept the loss, and you may be filled with grief and emptiness. Deny what is passing, and you may never be free, dragging a corpse along with you into your future. Something is over, and you have to say goodbye. Beyond Death is the unknown. You don't yet know how your life might be after this loss. You know it won't be the same. But it must be done.

## **14 ~ Temperance**

A night-cloaked figure walks a slim green path shining. She builds the power to create that living path within herself, through drawing in and combining opposing powers. She does not burn in the fire, nor does the ice cut her. Neither does she put out the fire nor melt the ice. Her intent is not to diminish nor to submit to these powers, but to use both of them consciously and creatively. Temperance is a dynamic process, a moving magic, and it makes a life full of meaning.

Meaning is not found in one thing or another, but in the being that connects them. You. You are the one to bring beauty to life. You are the one to walk your path. You know about opposition. You have seen both sides of the coin. You know the hunger of fire and the bite of ice. But you do not let their powers consume you. You know the boundaries of earth and sky. But you do not let them pin you in place. You have a living power. Use it now in every step you take.

## 15 ~ Devil

With fierce teeth, the Devil devours her strong red body, immobilizing herself from expressing passion and fully living her life. By turning on herself, she can avoid seeing the larger teeth poised to consume her entirely. Teeth, like bone, represent strength and truth. When you don't embody your truth and your strength, these resources appear as restrictions or adversaries. Teeth also represent wildness and lust, that which wants and enables you to take big bites out of life. The Devil asks you to face the times when your desires were rejected, when you were told "no," and there was something wrong with you for even asking.

The Devil's gaping womb indicates appetite that has become insatiable. The womb is the source of life, and Source is space, the space from which creation may emerge. Its emptiness is not meant to be stuffed full of idle distraction, in an attempt to escape its echoing within you. The Devil reminds you that when you hide from your deep dark inside, it disassociates to surround and control you.

## 16 ~ Tower

The force of her scream breaks a black face into jagged shards, releasing a blaze of yellow light. The unity of the source explodes into fragments of chaos, and a burst of energy and creativity is let loose. The unity broke because it had become more hollow and brittle than deep and real. Like a crust developed on your soul, leaving it empty inside. Like a layer was put down every time you felt you had to act like less of yourself could be in the same room. Judgments have settled, thick as dust. Whatever is there, whatever has enclosed you, whatever has defined you with small and shallow words – know it now for what it is. And whatever you have been holding back behind your teeth for too long, the words you thought you'd never say--they must be said. Now is the time. Time to break free. Break out! And watch the pieces fall, crumble and scatter to the winds.

## 17 ~ Star

The night sky is an amethyst field adorned by strings of stars. It is the shining robe of a holy queen, who embraces heaven and is crowned by the moon. Her face is the black of the void, a sign of her infinite power. Her sweet expression is a sign of her infinite grace. There is hope and peace in the pattern of the stars, in the dance of the planets, and in the immensity of the sky.

The Star calls on you to know compassion: for yourself, fragile questioning creature that you are, and for the other small creatures here with you. Know that the pain of the past can be truly past, when you open your arms and offer it to heaven. When you look up, and know there is so much more. So much more is out there, and in you. Infinite wonder, and a love larger than you've ever known.

## 18 ~ Moon

A figure with a face like the moon stands in a landscape of frozen stone. Ghostly faces can be seen in the stone and in the blue sheeting that winds around her body. Her expression is alternately kind and cruel, and no one knows for sure what goes on behind her luminous, pupil-less eyes.

The Moon brings the gift of other ways of seeing, the power of dream that goes further than imagination. She opens the door to other worlds, magical and mysterious, some of which you can get lost in. She rules the ghosts of your own past, the parts of yourself that have died as well as those that have never been born. The Moon lets you hear them. She invites you to know them. She invites you to rule them. They may all demand your attention, but not all should be given it, and you must be kind or cruel as

necessary. Though not all that is buried is treasure, under the light of the Moon, you may unearth your pearl beyond price.

## **19 ~ Sun**

The Sun is a woman in a red robe with flowing white hair and a youthful joyful face. She glows with inner and outer light, as does the halo around her head. With open hands, she showers the ground with coin-like drops of molten gold.

The Crone Sun is your bright shadow. In the quest that is your life, you have left behind some capacity for happiness, some simple wholeness that you can call back to you now. After all the good that you have been told you can't have and you can't be, it's time to say you can. After all the suffering in the world, it's time not to add to it one ounce. When the Sun comes out, it's okay to be happy. More than that – it's a good thing. When the Sun shines, everyone benefits. Seek now for what brings you joy. Act now as if that's all that matters. Joy is the radiance that comes from expressing yourself, from singing your soul, from living with true passion. Give to it with both hands.

## **20 ~ Calling**

The Crone holds up a red cloak, asking you to wear it, calling you to join her. She appears as a shadowy fantastical bird. The background is the rich blue of the deep sky. The red and blue represent power and justice. These are the colors and this is the card of the superhero. How an ordinary human can become extraordinary is the mystery of this card, and it has nothing to do with anything you've been told before.

When you get this card, your life is changing, whether you want it to or not. From this change arises an opportunity to become greater in person and spirit, to step up to another level. Something is asked of you, and you feel urged to respond. If your response is resistance, know it will take more energy from you than accepting the challenge would. This is your big moment. Take your courage, the strength of your heart, and fly.

## **21 ~ World**

In the World, a large black figure holds twenty-one smaller figures within her. Each of the smaller figures has a face colored to represent the special power she possesses. The face of the larger World, however, is transparent. Through it and haloed around her is the swirling blue and white of a beautiful brave new world. The overall shape evokes a keyhole, outlined in a glow of blue against rich black.

The entry to a new world, and your ability to create it, is in giving all that you are a place, Devil and Empress and Fool. Forget none of their lessons. Give up none of your power. Within your World, all of them come together, and create a whole more than the sum of any amount of parts. More than a balance, more than integration like some locking together of pieces, when you are all, you are on another scale entirely.

## Minor Arcana

The Minor Arcana include forty number cards and sixteen face (court) cards. There are four suits: Wands, Cups, Swords and Disks, representing the four elements of Fire, Water, Air and Earth. The numbered cards represent qualities or aspects of your magical, emotional, mental and mundane lives. They are identified by the combination of their Element and their Number. The face cards represent different aspects of the Crone expressed through Fire, Water, Air and Earth, and also how you might express your own elemental powers.

## Elements

Fire	Spirit. Personal power. Charisma. Vitality. Personality. Spirituality.
Water	Heart. Soul. Emotion. Devotion. Intuition. Dream. What wells up from the depths.
Air	Mind. Thought. Knowledge. Mental processes. Abilities. Achievements.
Earth	Body. Flesh. Self. Home. World. Reality.

## Numbers

Ace	Singularity. The root and basis of all that follows. Unity.
Two	Duality. Polarity. Magnetism. Possibility. Shared power.
Three	Creativity. Synthesis. Generative power.
Four	Solidity. Order. Building. Manifest power.
Five	Evolution. Movement of life through time. Changing power.
Six	Awareness. Harmony. Beauty. Meaning. Power of pattern.
Seven	Exploration. Experimentation.
Eight	Organization. Powers of understanding and undertaking.
Nine	Integration. Healing power.
Ten	Culmination. Ending and beginning. Transforming power.

## Faces

Beast	The primal instinct of the power. The wild and whole expression of the element.
Witch	The focused use of the power concerned with fulfillment and expression of self.
Grandmother	The mature expression of the power concerned with family and community.
Shadow	The element's overdone, destructive and devouring power.

## **Wands**

Wands represent the Element of Fire, the Path of the Magician, the Search for Power, and the Realms of Spirit, Vitality and Personality. The colors for the suit of Wands are red and yellow: red for lust, vitality and strength, yellow for creativity and inspiration.

### **Ace of Wands ~ Will**

A dark strong fingertip is alight with wild yellow fire. The pointed finger is the instrument of will, leading you into action. This Ace is a magic wand; it sets the intention, it creates direction, and taking it up is the first step in making magic. You have the wand with you; the seed and root of your power is in your very life. It's time now to recognize and claim it. Time now to use it. Take it up. Take in this energy. Don't let it be a mere flash in the pan. Take it in, and tell it where it needs to go from here. The path begins in you.

### **Two of Wands ~ Opportunity**

Two torches flank a dark open doorway in a deep red hall. The movement of Spirit into Two opens up potential and space. It defines the boundaries between this world and another, between your awareness and another's, and so creates a passage between them. You have an opportunity to pursue that mystery, to go further with passion and power. You helped create the opportunity, but that doesn't mean it's an easy promise. Though you can't know what's on the other side until you step through, it is your future that calls.

### **Three of Wands ~ Magic**

Three glowing red snakes arise from a cauldron fired by three yellow flames. Spirit moving in the realm of creation is magic. Magic is the manifestation of intention and the infusion of energy into matter. Magic is recognizing what you have given in what is coming back to you. Now you see how it works. So take your tools, your intent, your ingredients and your container. Bring everything together as artfully as you can, weave and sing your best. Then let it go and sit back, for if you keep your focus up forever, it means you lack confidence, either in your power or the creativity of the universe. Give it time to give back, and space to bring forth. But not before you've given all you have.

### **Four of Wands ~ Command**

A figure with upraised face and arms stands within a pyramid of energy drawn from four flames, a structure built of and for power. Within it all she says is true, and all she says becomes manifest. Fire is a changeable dynamic element, and the stabilization of it requires strength, concentration and authority. Not authority over others, but over yourself. Understand now the capabilities, the limits, and the expression of your power. Magic develops into Command through continued and responsible intent. It's time to exchange serendipity for power that can be guided by your own strong hand.

### **Five of Wands ~ Drama**

A figure in a splashy red and yellow costume leaps into the spotlight. Her dark face, though it may be another mask, echoes the void beyond her circle of light. In the changing and restless Five, the fire of spirit returns to a volatile and pivotal state. You have a need to separate yourself from cooperative efforts that are not serving you. A need to declare your individuality and a desire for that individuality to be

recognized. This is your time for living large, even for exercising your passions in a public arena. Engage your audience and find yourself through dynamic, creative, and charismatic action.

### **Six of Wands ~ Radiance**

A bright and exotic six-petal flower opens to reveal a black hooded shape, the inner crone, the source of its unfolding. Six surrounding plants turn to the flower, as if to the sun. The expression of the power of fire in the harmony and awareness of the Six indicates recognition and rewards arising organically. Other respond naturally to you when you radiate from the center of your being the person you truly are. In everyday life, in everyday ways. You know now that being whole and real, in touch with your own source, is what it takes to create beauty that enriches the world.

### **Seven of Wands ~ Risk**

A cloaked figure stands with arms outspread amidst flames and lines of raw power. She plays with fire, as well as opening herself to let power play with her. She is willing to embrace danger in the hope of further achievement, knowing that sometimes you have to take chances. Trust your experience gained thus far; you know when something has potential. It's time to take a real risk, but not a blind one. You know you can't stay comfortable where you are. There's more you want. So let the discomfort goad you into creating a more powerful future and investing in a proposition. Go stand out on that limb.

### **Eight of Wands ~ Leadership**

A figure holding a large showy flower stands ahead and apart from her sisters under a field of stars. The flower represents her gift, her unique self and abilities that she has developed over time into something so beautiful it now serves as an inspiration and example to others. Her face is compassionate and a little weary. To find, after so much work, that you must do more. But it is a responsibility and a privilege to give back, to share what you hold, what you know, and who you are. The world is waiting for what you have to offer. It's time to show it.

### **Nine of Wands ~ Power**

Seven flames within, with the lights of the Sun above and the Moon below, send energy dancing through the figure's black cloak. It crackles and swirls in the red storm of vitality surrounding her. This card represents real power. Power that can enliven every aspect of your life, from the health of your body to the expansion of your dreams. Power requires grounding and desires reaching. It wants you to connect both to the universe and to your own deep self. This touch is not a static thing but a dance, a relationship. It's not something you can hoard or hold on to; the nature and strength of your life and all life is to move and change. Make the connections and your life will flow.

### **Ten of Wands ~ Transformation**

Lightning has blasted and burnt out a tree. From within the hollow that remains a figure takes shape, black as the void. Behind it, ten streams of light radiate from the earth to the sky, beyond what was once the reach of the tree's branches. The Ten of Wands indicates a powerful force of change has blasted your life, making you aware you aren't who you used to be. Will you begin again from where you are, growing fresh life around your irreducible core? Someday five trees might stand where once was one. Or will you join the sun, and take on the dramatic new form of formlessness? Or will you stay a stump? Choose without judgment, fear or desire. Choose from your soul.

### **Beast of Wands ~ Cat**

In a landscape of bright and fiery grass, a sleek black cat with golden eyes intently approaches something just out of view. The cat is both pleasure-seeker and adventurer, combining instinct and intelligence to achieve her desire. She knows the world from having her senses open, from its electric humming along her nerves. She lets its energy move her, but never direct her. She makes power and agility look easy. When the Cat comes to you in a reading, it's time to go for what you want using simple, natural strength.

### **Witch of Wands ~ Sorceress**

As if bursting from a torch, amid flames come alive at her bidding, the sorceress stands. Her stance is rooted and firm; her arms are horns of power. She is immersed in a world of magic. In this world, her intent moves mountains. Her use of power is pure and unabashed. When she feels the Source in every cell of her body, she cannot be burned by its flames. The sorceress tells you now to make such magic as you've never dared to dream before.

### **Grandmother of Wands ~ Matriarch**

In a cave of light under a cover of dark, many figures gather closely around a fire. One figure looms larger than the rest; this is the matriarch. One of the group, she is also its heart and its strength. She speaks, she leads, she ensures all are heard and considered. She weaves individual strands into a tapestry, creating common ground and common cause. With warmth, rectitude and respect, she creates space for group magic to happen. She is tradition and invention in one. She is the fullest integration of your spirit. Embrace it; her power is yours.

### **Shadow of Wands ~ Wasteland**

In the Wasteland, a barren, burnt out land and a vague, closed face are all that remains of a Magician who once created living worlds. Shadows are a harsh reality check. Power can be destructive and you can get caught up in that part of it. In the Wands, Spirit has become deadened, withdrawn. Maybe the effort was too much; maybe the goal was impossible; maybe the passion was too personal. Now effort, goal and passion are gone. Forgotten were body, heart and mind in your endeavor, and you lost their balance and support. Your bridges are burned. You are left with yourself, so take a good look at what survives. And rest. Until you do, the only place to go in the Wasteland is deeper.

## **Cups**

Cups represent the Element of Water, the Path of the Priestess, the Search for the Beloved, and the Realms of Emotion, Devotion and Dream. The colors for the suit of Cups are red and purple: red for blood, passion and deep feeling, purple for psychic abilities and spiritual encounter.

### **Ace of Cups ~ Grace**

A woman's face turns up to take in the falling rain, her open mouth the cup that receives the blessing and savors the taste. The rain runs down her naked shoulders; every pore rejoices in the sensation. At the root of all emotion is the ability to feel. An open heart is a great gift. An open heart is the seat of a great soul. The seeds of beautiful dreams are planted in you. Remember the Star, the Queen of Heaven. Look up, take Her in, and let them bloom.

### **Two of Cups ~ Desire**

Two cloaked figures face, curve toward, and open to one another, forming the shape of a heart. Their roots converge. Their hearts make space for each other. Desire, when a heart-activated force, leads your soul to its true path. Your heart has been opened by Grace; now the Love inside you seeks a complement, seeks the Other. By embracing the Other, you have the chance to know and embrace your own totality. In the Two of Cups you have found that which makes your heart sing out, your heart reach out. You know the urge to become more than one alone. By embracing another, you become greater than before.

### **Three of Cups ~ Communion**

One serene and smiling figure, her arms open to receive, invoke, and embrace, rests within a larger figure. Together the two describe a cosmic face surrounded by a ring of stars. The magic of creation within the realm of emotion becomes Communion: the ability to merge your heart with another being, place or passion. To know it from the inside out, and to let it know you from the inside too. One and one become more than two when by feeling another as yourself, you know yourself as part of something big and wonderful as the heart of the world.

### **Four of Cups ~ Isolation**

A figure stands shrouded and alone in the midst of the sea, her face eclipsed like the sun in the sky. The solidity of the Four freezes the natural flow and diffusion of Water, and the result is Isolation. There is darkness and disconnection, a separation between oneself and the Beloved. But you may recognize the necessity, or at least the inevitability. It's time to learn more about who you are before losing yourself in another's embrace. When you are all you have, you've got to embrace yourself.

### **Five of Cups ~ Hope**

A hooded figure kneels before a symbol of her faith and prays for change. She moves beyond isolation, reaching out with hope and faith. Without knowing how the situation might work out, or how her spirit may know peace again, she holds in her heart her belief in the existence of perfect love and perfect trust. Times of change are times of opportunity, and opportunity lies in looking to the future, not the past. In trying times, look also within and gather strength. Search for more perfect understanding, as you prepare for your next step.

## **Six of Cups ~ Ritual**

Three figures pouring water from deep ritual vessels are reflected in a sacred pool, illustrating the magical principle of “As Above, so Below.” Wise ones know how to open and walk the way between the worlds, how to bridge the symbolic and the concrete, and create something beautiful as a result. A ritual brings together word, action, intention and emotion. Use it as a vehicle for finding harmony in your soul and deepening your relationship with your Beloved. Realize how you echo and reflect great energies in what you experience and what you do.

## **Seven of Cups ~ Fantasy**

Six goddess figurines, their generative powers emphasized as cups of wine or blood, are contained within a similar, greater vessel. In the Seven of Cups, feeling explodes in many directions at once and desire intoxicates your soul. You are come to the realm of fantasy. Your wildest dreams are calling. Confusion is at hand, along with impossible beauty. Potency and potential and mystery surround you. You can do more with it than paint yourself lovely but teasing illusions. Seek the vision that speaks to your whole heart.

## **Eight of Cups ~ Commitment**

A figure stands with arms and legs akimbo, eight red cuffs signifying commitment on her wrists and ankles. Though her limbs are bare, her face is shrouded, for her individual identity is not as important as what or whom she serves. This card signifies giving yourself without reservation to a specific cause. It is the call, the drive, and the willingness to enter into deeper relationship, whatever that relationship may hold. Through the Eight of Cups, you learn to value one path above all others, the path with heart.

## **Nine of Cups ~ Healing**

Two unusual beings, with ribbons of red life spiraling through the serene lavender of their skin-like cloaks, touch and twist and merge in the creation of something wonderful, whole and new. The Nine of Cups represents healing of the heart and soul: when what has been separated comes together again, when feeling flows free and true, when you are aligned with your greatest good, when you become more than you believed you could. The authenticity of your self is not subsumed by bonds with others, but is enhanced through acting with integrity and love.

## **Ten of Cups ~ Rapture**

Stars upon stars, red and white for passion and truth, burst through and around a figure shaped like a star herself. A flow of red connects her head with her groin with what cannot be seen. The Ten of Cups is the power of emotion to turn you inside out. To overwhelm your body with sensation, your mind with vision or delusion, and your soul with an epiphany beyond tongue to tell. It's as if all you've felt in your lifetime is concentrated into one moment. All you have ever loved, with all its pleasure and pain. Let the strength of it carry your heart to another level.

## **Beast of Cups ~ Frog**

A red and black-spotted frog crouches on a branch like a black river pouring across a lavender sky. The frog is a creature sensitive to her environment, having a skin more permeable than most. And she lives in a sensitive environment, in pockets where fresh water might be cradled by the land around it. The Frog takes an intuitive approach. She understands the world through feeling it, and comes close to her Goddess through unselfconscious imitation. She knows what will happen first. Frog brings you psychic gifts, and a warning of susceptibility to stresses around you.

### **Witch of Cups ~ Siren**

A red figure, whose body echoes the curl of the purple waves around her, reaches with them for the stars that arch overhead. The Siren flows with the power of water to move and transform. She draws to her what she desires from the strength of her own desire, like calling out to like to join in the dance. She sings with the power to carry you away to worlds where love reigns, souls merge, and blood, the juice of your life, runs full and free.

### **Grandmother of Cups ~ Godmother**

A purple-cloaked figure, her face wise and kind, opens her arms to three childlike figures while moonlight pours around them. Godmother asks you to remember how you learned what was good and who was bad. And how you teach this to others. Godmother asks, what vows have you taken? What do you honor? What do you give your heart to, again and again? It's time to remember when and where pieces of your soul may have been claimed or captured. You have the opportunity and the power now to recall wholeness, goodness, and caring in your self and your world.

### **Shadow of Cups ~ Drowning**

A naked figure hangs unmoving in dark waters. Shadow in the suit of Cups is drowning and dissolution. A powerful emotion has flooded all boundaries, broken down all solid ground. Your behavior may or may not be passive at this time, but your soul is. Inside you are sinking, accepting obsession, heaviness, and darkness. Allowing one thing to comprise your entire life, and denying yourself a separate identity. It could be it's time for this, and you need to rest here until some understanding is found. Just take care you don't lose yourself in this forever.

## **Swords**

Swords represent the Element of Air, the Path of the Sage, the Search for Knowledge, and the realms of Mind, Thought and Ability. The colors for the suit of Swords are blue and yellow: blue for wisdom and expansion, yellow for invention and focus.

### **Ace of Swords ~ Thought**

A great blue eye shines with stars within, and reaches out to a piercing point. The Ace of Swords, the root power of the Mind, is Thought. See now with fresh eyes. Hear with new ears. Perception is a power not to inhibit or to take lightly. Strive now for lucidity. Foresee what may be and speak your truth. Settle for nothing less than original thought. What is your vision? It is time to share what you see, what you know. Let the world not be diminished by the lack of your voice.

### **Two of Swords ~ Reflection**

A figure sees itself reflected, but not quite the same, in a mirror made of swords. In the Two, the mind has now awakened to itself, moving from being conscious to being self-conscious. The mind has the ability to think about its own thoughts. Reflection looks for meaning in appearances, and for the underlying reality. This card indicates a need to re-think, a time to analyze and confirm your thinking. See how your thoughts are reflected in your world. Ask yourself now, what have I been thinking? And then ask, what else could I be thinking? Second thoughts, when actually different from the first thoughts, open up space for deeper understanding.

### **Three of Swords ~ Inspiration**

Three blades of light strike the head of a figure, cutting and flashing through her to create a footpath in a dark and mysterious landscape. The principle of creation in the realm of mind becomes Inspiration. This is the lightning flash, the intake of breath, the birth of a new awareness. Look for a light that shines in the darkness; follow the vision that beckons you on to bigger things. For it is the compelling image of the mountain seen at a distance that gives you the idea the mountain can be reached at all.

### **Four of Swords ~ Reason**

Four blades of a windmill stretch in each direction in a gentle sky. Solidity in thinking is represented by Reason. There are no figures in this card, illustrating how reason's products and effects can appear disassociated from human sensibility. Yet the card also shows how the power of logical thought and planning can benefit humanity, by harnessing natural power and building the structures that define civilization. Clarity of thought, separated from both desire and daily routine, will redefine the problem and provide the steps necessary to resolve it.

### **Five of Swords ~ Contradiction**

Five abstract figures intersect and collide. Their positions make no apparent sense, but a bright energetic light shines from within them. Truth bounces and refracts and cannot be absolute. Proofs are proven wrong. You are asked not merely to see the other side of a situation, but to see that situation turned inside out. Questions lead not to answers, but to more questions. Where are your blind spots? How do shadows come to light? How do you think the unthinkable? Look for the knowledge that cannot be written and is never taught. Set your mind free of reason and see a way out.

## **Six of Swords ~ Design**

Six blue windows join six yellow shards in creating structure and pattern, while also remaining open to the pure light of the sky. The windows are like cloaked crones, heads together in a circle, arms folded in front of them. Larger patterns are hinted at, and one leads to another. When everything fits, not always exactly but enough... when it fits enough to see it, enough to feel it, then you know you are participating in beauty, then you build meaning into the world.

## **Seven of Swords ~ Imagination**

Seven eyes leap out in all directions from one point in the vast blue of the mind. Exploration in thought is imagination. Your mind has the ability to perceive not only what is in front of you. You can invoke the memory of the salt tang of the sea, and the splash of a whale you wished you saw in person, and not just on film. And think of that whale with mermaids riding on her back, too. Imagination is a searching, a deliberate sending of the mind along new paths. Don't mistrust the gift because you think what it gives isn't true. Even when you create the journey, the place you arrive is real.

## **Eight of Swords ~ Teaching**

A glowing-faced figure standing between two pillars holds a book outlined by eight blades. The pillars represent stored knowledge, and the figure, like the Priestess, is there to access and interpret. When thought is organized, codified into language or schema, it becomes a tool for teaching and widespread distribution of ideas. It is time for you to grab this tool with two hands, both giving and receiving what is asked for or offered. But remember not all information is accurate or helpful. Use the light of your own mind to turn data into wisdom.

## **Nine of Swords ~ Proof**

A figure sits on nine sharp points. Though in a tough situation, she is calm and filled with an inner light. She has no fear of truth, and disdains the rhetoric designed to twist or color it. Yet she also balances because she knows there can be many facets of truth, and will not limit her mind with singularity. Have your theories successfully passed the test? Or are they being called upon to prove themselves? You have the opportunity, and the challenge, to say what you mean and to do what you say.

## **Ten of Swords ~ Revelation**

Ten shafts of light pierce a cloaked figure, slicing truth's white with ribbons of spirit blue. Her dark hands open in surrender, for encounters with Mind, as a power greater than all known truths and proofs, contain their own inexorable certainties, and cannot be denied. Revelation means finally giving up denial, lest your spirit be broken with the effort to maintain it. Do not be broken. Do not despise your yesterday self for not knowing these things before. Today is the culmination of your understanding. It's time to shine with the light that transformed through you.

## **Beast of Swords ~ Crow**

A crow flies, tail and wingtips spread for maneuvering, against an open sky. Crow is the magician of the air. She may be a trickster, a carrion eater, a songbird with an unlovely voice, but she is intelligent, communicative, adaptable and strong: traits that have helped crows flourish throughout the world. Crow

can bring you a glimpse of a higher view, show you the many available paths. Or she can fill your mind with the sound of rushing wings and the call for freedom from all set ways.

### **Witch of Swords ~ Adversary**

A single blade is held in front of a masked face. Only her two intensely focused eyes are revealed. She is named adversary, but she could be named advocate as well. She calls you to be your own best friend and defense lawyer. File a claim on your behalf. Once your choice is made, be unrelenting in your follow-through. This witch allows no obstacle to remain insurmountable. She will find a way. It's time to be honest with yourself and canny with others. You win others to your side with reasoned argument and unshakable vision.

### **Grandmother of Swords ~ Storyteller**

A large, kindly figure gazes down at the small figures gathered in her lap, her mouth open in speech or song. Behind her are the mountains of a wider world. This Grandmother has all the powers of the Swords at her command: reason and imagination, revelation and reflection. She speaks of what is and what could be. She feeds the minds of those around her, lest those minds become starved and narrow. In stories, truth can wear many faces. Tell some stories of your own, and know that in this way the complexity of your world can be met with wonder and power rather than with resistance.

### **Shadow of Swords ~ Machine**

An impassive face made of glassy shards gazes out with eyes resembling those of a flesh and blood person. When the power of thought is taken to extreme, and loses touch with the experiences of the reality that taught it, the Machine is born. The Machine believes her ideas are reality, or that her ideas are in fact cosmic law, like two and two making four. A glimpse into her world can dazzle and illuminate, but do not forget to breathe. A grand scheme, where everything fits just so, is a brittle one.

## **Disks**

Disks represent the Element of Earth, the Path of the Mother, the Search for Reality, and the Realms of Self, Home and World. The colors for the suit of Disks are green and brown: green for the essence, existence and energy of life, and brown for its physical material reality.

### **Ace of Disks ~ Body**

A woman's brown belly holds a green spiral of life at her navel. The Ace of Disks represents the basic element of your earthly life, your body. Living in a body is how you live on this planet, and caring for this vehicle must be your primary concern. Start with the basics; start with your self. Know your experience as unique, and your being as special and necessary. This Ace can also indicate a path opening before you that holds real strength and great potential, and is as personal and unique as you are.

### **Two of Disks ~ Partner**

Two hands reach out from their individual life streams to clasp each other across the dark of the void. Two in the suit of reality indicates you and another being, someone with whom you share a relationship or project. The differences between you are not something either of you are to "fix" in one another or in your self. The challenge and opportunity is to use all the best of your abilities for the common goal, without attempting to deny or overshadow the other's contribution and potential. Partnership values each individual and recognizes that greater strength and achievement comes through equality and cooperation.

### **Three of Disks ~ Family**

Between green hills, three figures in flesh-colored robes stand together on a rich brown path guided by a strangely dark moon. The Three of Disks is Family: your chosen family, your birth family, your kindred spirits, all those you are bound to by blood, love or necessity, with bonds that are both pain and pleasure. Family, making true connection that is deep beyond reason, is a way of expanding your self, your heart and your identity out into the world. And of molding yourself through the influence of others.

### **Four of Disks ~ Home**

A four-poster bed invites relaxation, and symbolizes privacy, ownership and safety. Stability in the physical world is Home, the four walls that house and enclose your life, the possessions and place you call your own. These things are meant to support the life of your soul, and to protect it, but not to define it. Do you have your own space? Is it welcoming? Have things come to possess you? Care for your things and their proper place in your life. Shut the door on what does not serve you.

### **Five of Disks ~ Work**

A woman in black washes the floor on her hands and knees. Five rivulets of water stream away from the sponge she holds. The number of change in the suit of Earth indicates Work is at hand. Life means labor, as every mother knows. Effort is required to maintain your home, your body, and your life from the forces of entropy and decay. It is time to call upon your power of doing. You know you have work ahead of you; you know what it is and what it takes. Get down to it and you'll get it done.

## **Six of Disks ~ Style**

Two distinctively robed figures stand by doorways differentiated by color and design. Each has chosen what resonates, giving her significance and pleasure and giving the world diversity and individuality. You now have the opportunity to understand how a more meaningful life can be created. Bring what is inside you out into the world. Express yourself in big and little ways. Make the choices that shape your life conscious ones and be enriched.

## **Seven of Disks ~ Travel**

A road meanders through the countryside; at each of seven turns is a new and different town or landscape. Travel is the exploration of and movement through the world. Very simply, the Seven of Disks can signify walking down the street or driving in your car; the message is just to get out there. The old hometown or the old job or the comfortable routine may no longer be nurturing your growth, so take a break to explore other options. Remember the adage that life is a journey, not a destination. You're not there yet, so keep going.

## **Eight of Disks ~ Security**

Four guardian pillars, with four walls outstretched like wings between them, separate a living green from a more desolate, but open, surrounding landscape. The Eight of Disks is of a more complex order than the structure of the Four, as its meaning encompasses more esoteric and abstract protections like psychic boundaries and monetary investments. Security can require both effort and knowledge to implement. You will find resources are available to you when you approach the situation without anxiety, for the walls anxiety builds will shut you in.

## **Nine of Disks ~ Community**

Nine homes with open doors are gathered on a rich brown hillside beneath a field of stars. Here connection reaches farther than family. It is not so personal a relationship, but it is quite as necessary. There are others who share your air, your earth, your dreams, and there always will be. Each one is part of the whole. Acknowledge the endeavors that support your living. Consider your own contribution. The antidote to isolation is sharing. How do you want to touch this world?

## **Ten of Disks ~ Age**

A figure with knobby knees and a sunken aged face sits with her thoughts in a throne-like chair. As the body is the root of life, age is the result. Hers is the voice of experience and the understanding of physical limitations. She may be valued for her wisdom, but her no-nonsense views often set her apart and keep her alone. Like her, know that life occurs mostly inside you. Value your own experience and the wisdom of your body.

## **Beast of Disks ~ Pig**

A black pig trots contentedly through a light woodland. Pigs birth larger litters than cows, goats or sheep, and they mature quickly. They eat most anything and find forage in woods and scrub where cows are unable to survive. They are intelligent problem-solvers. The Pig symbolizes robustness, fertility and creativity in the physical realm. But it is also destruction. Pigs can tear up fragile environments and eat

their own young. And they are raised in order to die. The Beast of Disks represents the inescapable requirement of life to feed on other life, and the knowledge that the ones who live are often the ones with the strongest desire.

### **Witch of Disks ~ Lady**

A woman wearing a strong expression and glowing jewels gazes steadfastly at her reality. The Witch of Disks is mistress in her own sphere, and exerts power in the real world of others. The Lady's wealth is material but also intangible, in her confidence and poise. She knows the right place to be and the right thing to do to achieve concrete results. Let her enrich your life with the application of practical knowledge and appropriate force. You don't need to batter down the door when you can turn the knob in your hand.

### **Grandmother of Disks ~ Homemaker**

Backed by her pans and her oven, a peaceful, solid woman in an apron and a green dress offers chocolate cake. The uncounted small loving acts of this Grandmother sustain the home, the community, and the world. She offers you now her gifts: the knowledge and strength and balance of getting things done. You can create a world of comfort and goodness, where smiles matter more than dishes, but the dishes still get done. Rewarding work heartens everyone. Give to the world the time it takes to make it right.

### **Shadow of Disks ~ Bones**

A spider weaves a web, a single ant treks, and bones give up their spirit in a land barren but for a spine of protruding stone. Sometimes life is just tough all the way, and you're forced to get down to the bones. What can't you live without? What must be left behind? What is already gone? When so much of life can get stripped away, what remains of your reality? Time to clear the clutter, or the clutter will be cleared for you. And hold close to whatever you can keep, for it will build the framework of your future.