

# CONNOLLY TAROT DECK



Created by Eileen Connolly  
Illustrated by Peter Paul Connolly

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# THE CONNOLLY TAROT DECK

## INTRODUCTION

THE COMPLETE SEVENTY-EIGHT-CARD TAROT pack is divided into two sections: twenty-two Major Arcana and fifty-six Minor Arcana cards. The Major Arcana are allegorical cards and are also known as the Triumphs, the Greater Arcana, the Higher Arcana, and the Atouts.

The Minor Arcana are divided into four suits: swords, wands, cups, and pentacles. In each suit are four court cards: king, queen, knight, and page, and ten numbered cards.

Eileen Connolly designed the Connolly Tarot deck in cooperation with her son, Peter Paul Connolly. The scenes on each card are reminiscent of medieval stained glass associated with majestic cathedrals. Each card touches the subconscious in a profound way, and the spiritual and inspirational imagery brings the viewer to a higher level of consciousness. The wardrobes of the figures are resplendent in color and historic detail, and the scene on each card is luminous. The cards include symbols that Eileen Connolly has held in her consciousness for many years, yet the scenes convey simple, clear messages. The Major Arcana bear standard card titles with two exceptions. Card number 13, usually titled Death, is titled Transition in Connolly Tarot to reflect transformation and the change of one's life path. Card 15, normally the Devil, has been changed to Materialism, and shows how the tools of life have been abused.

EILEEN CONNOLLY, Ph.D., is one of the world's leading authorities on tarot, numerology and other esoteric sciences. Dr. Connolly's works are used extensively as textbooks by tarot institutions. She is president of the Connolly University of Parapsychology, established in 1969, and an adjunct professor at Atlantic University, Virginia Beach, Virginia. As an educator and international parapsychologist she is a welcome and regular guest on television and radio, both in the United States and abroad. Dr. Connolly's first book was written to open the world of tarot to the student. It is a simple textbook designed to educate and enlighten anyone with the desire to learn. In planning the Connolly Tarot deck, the author used a simple approach. Each card presents a beautiful visual image that is faithful to traditional tarot, yet eliminates all unnecessary and negative symbolism. The veil has been opened by Dr. Connolly with much love and wisdom in the hope that all will find success.

PETER PAUL CONNOLLY was born in Farnworth, Lancashire, England, on August 1, 1964, and came to the United States with his parents in 1968. With no professional training he has developed a unique artistic style using colored pencil as his medium. This style is reflected in the brilliant colors and detail seen in the Connolly Tarot deck. In a tireless effort of over eighteen months, Peter painstakingly constructed each card under the loving supervision of the author. Using this method along with hours of meticulous research he was able to bring to life the distinct personality within each symbol. Peter currently resides in North Carolina. His work can be seen in local galleries and has been displayed in Williamsburg and on the West Coast. He has illustrated novelty and gift cards, calendars, and books, and he does privately commissioned works.

## THE MAJOR ARCANA

When we study the Major Arcana, we find that there is an intimate relationship between the twenty-two cards and the kabbalah or Tree of Life. The subject is complex, and only a hint of its beauty and profundity can be given here. The kabbalistic Tree of Life is a living reality in continuous movement, embracing the secrets of humanity in relation to the God force from which we originate. The Tree reflects all the possibilities of man—the various choices he can and must make in his soul's journey back to God.

The Major Arcana are divided into three groups of seven cards each, called septenaries. Each septenary represents a stage in the life of man on earth, as he completes his karma. Within each are the lessons man must learn to return to his heavenly heritage. The “key” following the description of each card is the divinatory meaning; “reversed” is used if the card falls upside down in a spread.

### 0 ~ THE FOOL

The Fool has climbed the steep cliffs of his higher consciousness from the ocean of his spirituality. We see him poised and in the process of making a choice. Standing on the purple path of his master, his pink and purple tunic denotes the strength to make the right choice. As the Fool begins his journey of life, he will experience every level required to complete the journey of the soul. The key word for the Fool is Choice. **KEY:** You are now at the crossroads. The decision you make can be important. Think carefully. **REVERSED:** Have you made the right choice? You could be wrong. If discontented or lacking motivation, why not review things to date?

## I ~ THE MAGICIAN

The Magician has found the table of life. On it are the four symbolic tools of life: the cup, the wand, the pentacle, and the sword. His love and purpose are seen in the beautiful red roses and white lilies that surround him. The flaring red cloak of individuality protects him as he reaches out and masters the elements that rule himself and others. The key word for the Magician is Individuality. **KEY:** Know that everything is possible through the power of God. **REVERSED:** Abuse of power. The ability to manipulate to suit selfish ends.

## II ~ THE HIGH PRIESTESS

The powerful, yet gentle femininity of the High Priestess is evident as she sits serenely between the two pillars that represent the positive and negative aspects of life. At her feet is the lunar crescent, glowing with mysterious secrets. Step in the pool of spirituality by the feet of the High Priestess. We must go beyond the gold gates for wisdom on our life path. The key words are Unseen Wisdom. **KEY:** Activity beneath the surface. The whole picture cannot be seen at this point. Much depth. **REVERSED:** Superficial situation. No secret activities are involved.

## III ~ THE EMPRESS

The Empress, a regal figure in a vivid pink robe, is seated by a field of ripe wheat. To her left is the fountain of life; we see this through the symbol of the butterfly. The Empress stands for total balance and makes possible all things as she waits for us to enter her beautiful garden. The key work for the Empress is Abundance.

**KEY:** Promise of growth, prosperity, and fertility in all things. Needs fulfilled with joy and satisfaction. **REVERSED:** Wasteful energies causing despair and failure. Unproductive activity can affect home and income.

#### IV ~ THE EMPEROR

The Emperor, dressed in rich jeweled green robes, represents power, command and authority. His decisions are based on solid foundations. His individuality is firm, yet he does not allow free expression to govern his need for discipline. With his concept of mind over matter and his goals firmly rooted, his is perhaps the brightest vision of all. The key word is Discipline.

**KEY:** Balance and authority. Mind over matter. Experience and knowledge. **REVERSED:** Positive direction is needed. Lack of control, need for self-discipline.

#### V ~ THE HIEROPHANT

The Hierophant is sometimes known as the Pope. He represents institutional religion and tradition. In his left hand he holds a triple-cross scepter, and with his right, he gives a blessing. Crossed keys and a dove, representing the Holy Spirit, are to his upper left and right. Standing before a glorious stained glass window, he traditionally understands all the ways of men. Tradition is the key word. **KEY:** he who conforms and diligently searches for truth must recognize that he himself is not truth. **REVERSED:** A keen sense of originality. One who is not afraid to undertake new ventures or to explore and has an open mind.

#### VI ~ THE LOVERS

A striking red sun is shown at the top of the card. It is the source of spiritual energy focused in the center. The Tree of Life is heavily laden with fruit. All levels of consciousness are portrayed. The man is the conscious level. He gazes confidently at the woman, who is the subconscious level. In turn, she looks to the cherub of higher consciousness emanating from the great angel Raphael. The sky, mountains, and water reflect all levels of consciousness in the act of merging, going directly to the source. The key words are Choice With Harmony.

**KEY:** Two paths. The time to make a choice, the outcome of which is of vital importance. **REVERSED:** Wanting the best of both worlds, causing everyone concerned to feel unstable.

## VII ~ THE CHARIOT

A warrior-hero riding home after his conquest is triumphant and victorious. But look at his eyes. They are full of pain as he leaves behind him the aftermath of battle. Still holding the reins of his Chariot, he maintains full control. He now has wisdom and the secret of inner knowledge, and he can use his talents and energy constructively. The key word is Control. **KEY:** It is important to exercise self-discipline. With continued effort you can win the day and be triumphant. **REVERSED:** A portentous situation, indicating wrong use of energies and talent. Possible negative vibrations of unfairness, pressure, force.

## VIII ~ STRENGTH

A young woman with flowers in her hair and in her hand peacefully contemplates the beauty around herself. Her gentleness merges equally with the strength of the lion. She has no fear and does not feel the need to defend herself. It is the strength of God that permeates the unspoken dignity of this maiden. Higher forces protect all those who submit their fears to God. The key word is Strength. **KEY:** Inner qualities of love, patience and gentleness are superior to material power, force, or hate. **REVERSED:** Do not lose your nerve; surrender will force you to resort to alternatives that can upset future plans.

## IX ~ THE HERMIT

As we look at the two faces of the men of the Hermit card, we see that the older man is the young man who knows himself. The Hermit is the higher consciousness that waits at the peak of our own spirituality. Only by



thrusting forward purposefully can we hope to make contact with our original staff of life. As the flame grows brighter we are given the vision to see our purpose and reach our earthly goals. The key words are Inner Wisdom. **KEY:** Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. The combination of faith and personal strength may be found within yourself. **REVERSED:** Too much resistance and objection. A refusal to accept or listen to good counsel. Don't let ego stand between you and good sense.

### X ~ THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE

The Latin inscription around the Wheel is translated, "I reign; I reigned; I am without reign; I shall reign." The four corners of the card show the four original tools of the Magician's table. Use or misuse of these tools determines our place on the Wheel of Life. As the wheel constantly turns, man must realize the rhythm and nature of his own Wheel. The key word is Change. **KEY:** Remember, when you are down on the Wheel of Life there is only one way to go, and that is up! **REVERSED:** Everything may appear to be wrong, no matter how hard you try. Have courage, be strong, put your thoughts on higher things.

### XI ~ JUSTICE

A strong woman stands with grace and power. Her triumph is evident and emphasized by her vivid red dress of individuality. Poised and radiant, she is perfectly balanced between the two pillars. Her need to know and recognize her roots and foundations is seen in her deep green cape. Red and white roses remind us that true justice is given in purity and love. The double-edged sword is symbolic of justice, assuring us that both sides of an issue are equally evaluated. The law of karma comes into effect: we reap what we sow. The key words are Justice and Decision. **KEY:** Someone has investigated the situation and has arrived at

Also created by Eileen Connolly  
and Peter Paul Connolly:

## FENG SHUI TAROT

The mother-son duo who created the colorful Connolly Tarot have collaborated once again to create Feng Shui Tarot. Rendered in a vivid oriental aesthetic, the 78-card deck artfully blends traditional tarot with Feng Shui symbolism and settings.

*Feng Shui Tarot*, a 232-page illustrated guidebook, offers an excellent alternative approach to interpreting tarot through ancient Chinese principles of Feng Shui.

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