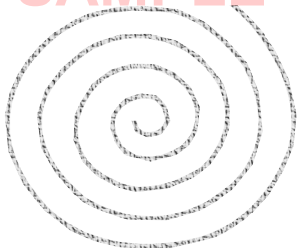


The Spiral Tarot

by Kay Steventon



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INTRODUCTION

There are 78 cards in a Tarot deck: 22 Major Arcana and 56 Minor Arcana. The Minor cards include sixteen court cards and forty “pip” cards. The Major cards (sometimes called Trumps) describe the Fool’s journey from card 0 to card 21. The Fool begins his journey innocent and eager. As he travels, he meets the archetype represented in each Major card image. From these, the Fool learns the lessons of life; upon reaching card 21, The World, he completes the cycle. As in a Spiral, the Fool begins the journey again, this time with a little more knowledge than before.

The Major Arcana corresponds to important growth patterns and life changes on an inner and outer level. The Minor cards attend to the details of life; they tell a story and describe what kind of energy is dominant in a spread.

THE MAJOR ARCANA

0. The Fool

The Fool is represented by a young man. He kneels in awe at the sight of the Grail. An angel guides him on his way. A black cat instinctively senses danger, in contrast to the Fool, who is fearless. *Divinatory meaning:* Having trust in life. New beginnings. Faith. Optimism. Always follow your very own instinctive nature.

I. The Magician

The Magician wears a cape bearing all the symbols of the Minor Arcana. He holds the caduceus aloft, bringing divine energy down to manifestation. *Divinatory meaning:* The skills of the universe are there for you. Important life-changing communication may manifest in the form of letters, meetings, or via the Internet.

II. The High Priestess

The High Priestess sits on her throne guarded by Cerberus, the three-headed Wolf. A fire burns in the Sybil's Tripod, where she sees the Fool's past, present, and future. *Divinatory meaning:* Insight, self-sufficiency, using your intuition, feeling isolated or alone.

III. The Empress

The Empress sits in her garden which is full of fruits and flowers. She is wearing a gown of red and green, the colors of fertility. *Divinatory meaning:* A creative, fruitful period in life.

Lover/mother/wife issues could be in focus; unconditional love or “smother love.”

IV. The Emperor

The Emperor’s throne is high on a mountaintop. It is adorned with the two-headed eagle, reminding us of his supreme domination and majesty.

Divinatory meaning: Self-discipline, becoming our own authority, having responsibility and control; father issues, ruthlessness.

V. The Hierophant

Chiron is the Hierophant; his hand is raised in priestly blessing. In his other hand lies the High Priestess’s key of knowledge. A rainbow bridge links heaven and earth. *Divinatory meaning:* Speaking your truth, retaining integrity in the face of criticism; the healer, teacher, and guide.

VI. The Lovers

The Lovers are the Alchemical King and Queen. They embrace in a fertile garden, with the roses of the Empress, the High Priestess's pomegranates, and the lush colors of life. *Divinatory meaning:* A crossroads where choices must be made—usually involving a relationship. Loving relationships, discrimination.

VII. The Chariot

The Solar Hero, through sheer determination and will, drives his apparently immovable chariot. *Divinatory meaning:* Having will power, overcoming our fears. Victory; we have the choice to move forward, keeping our emotions in control so that we can make a positive move.

VIII. Strength

Ishtar subdues her lion nature. She loves her wild animal side, but does not want her instincts to gain dominance over her connection to the divine. *Divinatory meaning:* Strength to overcome those parts of the self which are no longer needed; able to overcome difficult situations with gentleness and love, not force.

IX. The Hermit

The Hermit, the Goddess Vesta, holds her lantern aloft to show us the way. *Divinatory meaning:* Self-knowledge and self-sufficiency; being alone to experience what is meaningful and significant to you. Your inner guide.

X. The Wheel of Fortune

The Triple Fates spin, measure, and are ready to cut our allotted time. These Goddesses belong to the Great Cosmic Round, of which we are all a part. *Divinatory meaning:* Going with the natural flow of life, being flexible and open to new opportunities. Changes in your life bring rewards and benefits.

XI. Justice

The Goddess Themis/Maat holds the upright sword of justice in one hand, and in the other the scales to weigh the hearts of men against their actions. *Divinatory meaning:* Being honest with yourself, being fair. Legal issues, important decisions that require an open mind.

XII. The Hanged Man

The Hanged Man is suspended in time between the past and the future. *Divinatory meaning:* You are being asked to surrender some part of the self; old patterns of behavior, addictions, old ways of thinking. Patience, sacrifice, victim, martyr. Higher understanding.

XIII. Death

The Goddess Hecate gathers up lost souls in her nets. Hecate is the Reaper who cuts down that which is no longer important in life so that something else may grow. *Divinatory meaning:* When Death appears it does not signify physical death; rather it symbolizes total transformation in some area of your life. Accept change, make way for the new.

XIV. Temperance

The winged Goddess Iris, symbolic of the alchemical union of opposites, is mixing the divine water of life from one cup to the other without wasting one drop. *Divinatory meaning:* Bringing talents and values together to create something of worth. Moderation in all things; harmony and balance.

XV. The Devil

Lucifer wears the green scaly skin of the serpent. In a mirror, a woman has caught sight of her real self. She doesn't like what she sees.

Divinatory meaning: You must face your fears. The message is that we must acknowledge our chains. These are our obsessions, illusions, and all the things which keep us in bondage: depression, hopelessness, materialism, lust.

XVI. The Tower

The Tower rises up to meet Zeus's thunderbolt. A king and queen fall from the flaming tower. *Divinatory meaning:* The Tower is liberating; when we are complacent, it gives us a shake-up. Destruction of old forms, creation of new structures, upheavals, and change.

XVII. The Star

Here is Isis the Star Maiden, who comes to replenish the waters of life with her tears. She is the symbol of life eternal. *Divinatory meaning:* Everything is all right. You have renewed trust in yourself and know from this moment you'll have the self-sufficiency to work out issues.

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