

TAROT NUAGES

By Gnedmann

SAMPLE

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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.

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