

# MYTHOLOGICAL ABSTRACTIONS TAROT GUIDE

The pairings of the mythological figures with each card has been done using thorough research and care. In preparation of this deck (as well as the information provided in this guide), I have read countless web pages of tarot card interpretations and learned, to the best of my ability, what each card seems to fundamentally represent. Along with a previous knowledge and admiration of Greek mythology, I was able to weave together a tarot deck of which I am immensely proud.

However, I would like to point out that I am *not* a professional tarot card reader.

I'd like to thank the lovely and ridiculously talented Laura Douglass for inviting me to join in on this tarot card challenge (check out her Tarot in Space deck at [www.cosmiccornersavannah.com](http://www.cosmiccornersavannah.com) - it's out of this world!)

-Trista

[MAJOR ARCANA](#)

[SUIT OF CUPS](#)

[SUIT OF PENTACLES](#)

[SUIT OF WANDS](#)

[SUIT OF SWORDS](#)

## MAJOR ARCANA

0. **The Fool: Orpheus** - The beginning of the deck starts off as Orpheus begins his journey, full of innocence and hope for the road before him. Orpheus holds his lyre as a white dog eagerly awaits the music of this talented poet who was said to be able to charm all living things and stones with his songs. This card inspires new steps as you look forward to the future (and as Orpheus learned, keep your eyes ahead, don't look back). The adventure begins!
1. **The Magician: Apollo** – Apollo, god of music, poetry, art, oracles, truth and prophecy, illusion, archery, plague, medicine and healing, sun, light and knowledge – is there anything this handsome deity can't do? He was an oracular god, powerful and complex. All who traveled to the Temple of Apollo at Delphi sought his magical and spiritual revelations. Although it's difficult to possess all the talents of Apollo, he stands as a monument of confidence and action. There is no limit to your creativity if you believe.
2. **High Priestess: Athena** – Grey-eyed Athena, wise and inspiring. The patron goddess of heroic endeavors. She is even-tempered and fair. Her companion, the owl, is also a symbol of wisdom and mystery. Who better to guide you through unlocking the mysteries in your life? Using intuition and courage, she can see past the surface to a deeper level of understanding.
3. **The Empress: Artemis** – The virgin goddess of the hunt sits in wait, admiring the beauty around her. Artemis is connected to the earth, and she symbolizes a harmony with nature. Her feminine energy radiates. After Artemis assisted her mother in the birth of her twin brother, she became a goddess of childbirth and protector of young children, especially girls. She is strong and wild. Artemis is a reminder to remain open to the world around you, and draw strength and inspiration from Mother Nature's creations.
4. **The Emperor: Zeus** – Zeus reigns as king of the gods, god of the sky. He commands respect and holds authority over law and order (bum bum!). "Father of gods and men" was a common epithet given to this powerful immortal that ruled with a mighty thunderbolt as an authoritative presence bringing structure to chaos. Zeus overthrew his father, Cronus, and ascended to the throne on Mount Olympus. Confidence is often needed to make difficult decisions, and the guidance of a strong disciplinary figure may provide a flash of inspiration to control any disorder you're facing.
5. **The Hierophant: The Pythia** – As a priestess of the Temple of Apollo at Delphi, the Pythia delivered prophecies to those who stood before her seeking wisdom. The Oracle provided counsel, sometimes thought to be advice straight from the gods and goddesses themselves. This card upholds the importance of honoring traditions. Sometimes it's good to step back and accept answers from a higher or more authoritative source.
6. **The Lovers: Apollo and Hyacinth** – The love story of Apollo and Hyacinth (or Hyacinthus) may not have a happy ending, but their tale is a reminder to enjoy the moments you have been given with the people you care about.
7. **The Chariot: Helios** – Every morning, Helios drives his golden chariot of the sun across the skies, east to west. Nothing distracts him from his daily task of bringing light to the world. Let his determination and energy be an inspiration to follow projects to completion. Take the reins of your life and steer toward the direction of your goals.
8. **Strength: Hercules** – You don't need muscles like Hercules (Heracles) to be strong. His Twelve Labors were not only tests of brawn, but of mental acuity, endurance and heart as well. Many

situations require mental and emotional strength. Muscles alone do not a hero make. Hold on to patience in the face of hard labors, and perhaps you, too, can be a hero.

9. **The Hermit: Hestia** – Hestia is the virgin goddess of the hearth. Her presence provides warmth and an inner fire that can be used to guide you to a place of solitude and self-reflection. This may be the start of a personal quest, in search of answers that can only be discovered through quiet meditation. Hestia is a centered, calm figure that presides over homes and domestic matters with a discipline that was obtained from inner strength and stability. A time of introspection can benefit your relationships with others.
10. **Wheel of Fortune: The Fates** – Clotho spins the thread of life. Lachesis measures and determines the length. Atropos severs the thread with her “abhorred shears.” These three sisters, the Fates (or the Moirai) are the embodiment of the cycle of life. There is no getting around it. Everything has a beginning, middle and end. Resistance is futile. Once you recognize and accept the inevitability of the ever-spinning wheel, you will become more aware, gain a better perspective, and learn how to make the most of the time you’re given.
11. **Justice: Themis** – Themis is considered the personification of divine order and law. Though she wears a blindfold for objectivity, this also serves as a call to look inward at your own actions and take responsibility. Justice strives to uphold fairness. Weighing all sides of an issue can reveal your own involvement in matters. Keep the scales balanced to maintain harmony.
12. **The Hanged Man: Prometheus** – The Titan Prometheus. Tied to a rock. His immortal liver eaten by birds each day. It regenerates overnight, only to have a bird come the next day and eat the liver once more. That’s his daily routine. What better time to reflect on choices, to look at life from a different perspective? He gave fire and knowledge to mankind, turning the world upside-down with his sacrifice. Life is full of such sacrifices, and rarely do people let things go without a fight. But sometimes holding onto something will cause imbalance. The name Prometheus means “forethought.” Consider that as you reflect on what may need to be sacrificed in your life to make room for a better future. And don’t worry about Prometheus, (SPOILER ALERT!) he was later set free by Hercules.
13. **Death: Persephone** – Persephone’s abduction by Hades started a new chapter of her life as Queen of the Underworld. Change is not always welcomed, but is often necessary to help bring about transformation. While Persephone is able to return from the underworld to earth, many times new beginnings mean letting go of the past completely. Transitioning into a new epoch of your life can be an opportunity to sweep away old habits, attitudes and choices that have been holding you back. Persephone is also a vegetation goddess, representing rebirth, and pomegranate seeds are, in many cultures, considered to be a symbol of abundance and hope. The seeds of change have been planted in your life, feel the excitement as you watch them grow.
14. **Temperance: Eirene** – As the personification of peace and the season of spring, Eirene is a calming reminder to find balance within yourself, to maintain control of your emotions. Moderation and temperance will help you grow stronger in the face of possible struggles ahead.
15. **The Devil: Pandora’s Box** – Pandora was the first human woman created by the gods. Zeus gave instructions for her to have “seductive gifts” that would plague humanity (his way of punishing mankind for Prometheus’ gift of fire). Though she was created with some malicious traits such as deceitfulness and dishonesty, her biggest downfall was innocent curiosity. She was given a jar (or box, according to some variations of the myth), and one day she decided to peek inside. All the evils of earth sprang forth from that container, plaguing the world with disease, addictions and

misery. All that remained was hope. The world can be a dangerous place, but it's important to realize that sometimes you have a choice on whether or not to let these negative forces control you. Hold on to hope through dark times.

- 16. The Tower: Cronus** – Cronus is seen as a cruel and violent force of chaos, a Titan of upheaval. After castrating and overthrowing his father, Uranus, Cronus discovered he would suffer the same fate by one of his own sons. He devoured his children in an effort to save himself. But sometimes no matter how hard you try to avoid destruction, it finds a way. This card is wrought with negative energy, and Cronus doubles as both a vessel of chaos, and one destroyed by it. Life under the rule of Cronus was often considered the “Golden Age,” before he feared it taken from him and went mad. His reign was born in turmoil, and it ended in turmoil. Let this be a wake-up call for self-evaluation and strength in trying times. If life seems to be pushing you down, don't panic and start eating babies, but rather stand firm in the storm and work towards rebuilding a better life from the rubble.
- 17. The Star: Elpis** – After Pandora's Box unleashed evils upon the earth, all that remained was hope. As the personification of hope, Elpis reminds us to look up to the stars and be comforted by the thought of good things that may be ahead of us. Embrace optimistic expectations. The stars are ever-present in the night sky, beacons of hope in the dark.
- 18. The Moon: Phobos** – As the god of nightmares, Phobos (or Icelus) specializes in feeding off of fear and insecurities. The moonlight creates illusions that cause a false sense of reality, resulting in conflict and deception. Things are not always what they seem. Let your mind be like a dream catcher, trapping the negative energies so they don't wander around wreaking havoc on your senses. Shadows can cloud your vision and judgement, and irrational fear can cause phobias. Phobos often appears in dreams in the form of monsters or frightening animals. He will try to stir up anxiety and disorientation, but if you can recognize the illusions, they will lose their power.
- 19. The Sun: Aether** – Aether is the primordial deity of the upper atmosphere, he embodies the air breathed by the gods. Pure light and pure air can revitalize your soul. Aether is the son of darkness (Erebus) and night (Nyx), radiant light born of two dark forces. Beyond the shadows, there is warmth. The moon has faded in the light of a new day, now is the time to be illuminated by the sun. Breathe in deep the fresh air of success.
- 20. Judgement: Erinyes** – The Erinyes, often referred to as the Furies, were deities of vengeance. They would hear the cries of a victim and punish the guilty. Turn a critical eye inward and cleanse yourself of harmful energy and decisions that do not benefit your life. It is a time of atonement, a chance to change your situation before the infernal goddesses of justice are summoned.
- 21. The World: Gaia** – Gaia is the primordial goddess of earth, portrayed often as Mother Earth herself. She has come to represent wholeness and encourage a balance with nature. While early myths of Gaia involve turmoil and deception (as she protected some of her children), she has since settled into her role as a calming universal mother, gentle and fertile. This card carries a sense of completion and harmony. The joys of the universe are yours for the taking.

## SUIT OF CUPS

- 22. Ace of Cups: Hebe** – Hebe is the goddess of youth and cupbearer to the gods. She was often believed to possess the power to grant eternal youth, and she was worshipped as a goddess of forgiveness. Hebe filled the cups of the gods with nectar and ambrosia. Although old age is

inevitable for us mortals, by choosing to connect positively with others, you can fill what time you do have on earth with affection and love.

23. **Two of Cups: Erato** – While the word “eros” means intimate love, Plato amended his definition to include the appreciation of the beauty within a person, of beauty itself. He believed that physical attraction and sexual desire were not necessarily a part of love (the idea of Platonic love). Erato is the muse of lyric poetry, expressing emotions through verse. By communicating your feelings, it opens doors to a deeper level of appreciation for someone special. Erato inspires love, and a chance to be in harmony with your soulmate, platonic or otherwise.
24. **Three of Cups: Charites** – The Charites (or Graces in Roman mythology), are three goddesses of grace, beauty, and mirth. They are often depicted as young, nude women dancing in a circle, holding hands, enjoying friendship and festivities. Being a part of a community is important, putting yourself out there to revel in shared experiences. Take time away from quiet introspection and simply celebrate relationships.
25. **Four of Cups: Galene** – So you put yourself out there for the Three of Cups. You ate. You drank. You were the very definition of merriment. However, this card calls for you to retreat to a place of solitude and wade in the still waters of self-reflection. Galene is the personification of calm seas. Through meditation and introspection, you can study all the blessings in your life and learn to appreciate them to the fullest, while still dreaming of the future.
26. **Five of Cups: Scylla** – There are times in life when despair and regret surround you. You find yourself between Scylla and Charybdis. Scylla was first referenced in *The Odyssey*, where she was depicted as a vicious sea-monster who yelps “hideously; her voice is no deeper than a young puppy's but she herself is a fearsome monster; no one could see her and still be happy, not even a god if he went that way.” On the opposite side of the narrow strait was the whirlpool of Charybdis, causing sailors to choose between the two. Often there is no safe passage through dark emotions, but you must continue to move forward. Ovid’s origin myth of Scylla depicts her as a lovely and carefree nymph who was transformed into a monster by the jealous Circe. Scylla was helpless to her situation, and she chose to stay stagnant in her loss, embracing the despair, and haunting sailors who cross her path, thus forcing them to share in her pain. But deep within bitterness and disappointment, there may be new possibilities arising. Don’t close yourself off to beginnings. Nothing, not even sorrow, lasts forever. Choose a path, and work your way through the grief and pain to reach a better state of mind.
27. **Six of Cups: Mnemosyne** – Feeling nostalgic? Mnemosyne, the Titan goddess of memory (and mother of the nine Muses) can be your guide as you look back into the past at the good ol’ days. While it’s not always wise to be stuck in yesteryear, falling back in the comfort of something familiar is often an enjoyable way to spend an afternoon. The innocence of childhood is calling. Let the happy memories of the past inspire you to find the simple joys of the present.
28. **Seven of Cups: Phantasos** – Phantasos is the god of surreal dreams. He invokes fantastic, meaningful imagery that causes you to wake up and Google why you dreamt of standing on line at Starbucks for an hour, holding a cat that kept trying to eat the buttons off your shirt, while someone was trying to give you a tattoo of Calvin and Hobbes, and suddenly you were in a truck driving down a bumpy road, all the while having to pee. Allowing your imagination to run wild can be fun, but sometimes you have to make a choice to not be distracted by disorganization that may be cluttering up your mind or your life. Phantasos is one of the deities of dreams (or Oneiroi), his name means “fantasy” and “apparition.” Getting caught up in daydreams can make it hard to focus on real life. The illusions of fantasy are tempting but can lead to delusions and disarray if not

moderated. Take time to examine your surroundings and make a commitment to resist the siren song of procrastination. After all, that may be what Phantasos is trying to tell in your dreams you anyway.

29. **Eight of Cups: Arethusa** – Arethusa was a beautiful sea nymph who was turned into a spring by Artemis in an attempt to escape amorous pursuits of the river-god Alpheus. Escape is necessary at times, and often relies on physical or inner change. It may be time to walk away, to move on from something (or someone) in your life that is weighing you down.
30. **Nine of Cups: Tyche** – The goddess of fortune and prosperity of a city, Tyche, sits here with a cornucopia, reminding you that with a little bit of luck, you can achieve your goals. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the successes you have obtained in your relationship, or your job. Feel confident and secure in the gifts that one of the most uplifting cards in the deck is offering you.
31. **Ten of Cups: Iris** – Iris is the radiant goddess of the rainbow. She delivers divine messages of joy and contentment. As a goddess of the sky and the sea, she symbolizes harmony between the elements. Take time to enjoy being with friends and family. As it is sung in *Hamilton: An American Musical*, “Look around, look around at how lucky we are to be alive right now.” Embrace the bliss that surrounds you.
32. **Page of Cups: Triton** – The messenger of the sea, Triton, blows his twisted conch shell to raise or calm the waters. The Page of Cups often symbolizes the introduction of romance, or possibly a dive to deeper levels in an existing friendship. Let the trumpeting shell signal creative opportunities in your relationships.
33. **Knight of Cups: Perseus** – The hero, Perseus, holds high the head of Medusa. He defeated the Gorgon with bravery and creativity (and some assistance from the gods, of course). After his victory, he discovered the beautiful Andromeda chained to a rock, left as a sacrifice to a sea-monster. Perseus swooped in to save her, and later married her. He symbolizes a new love, a knight in shining armor. This is a call to open your heart, ushering in a new chapter, whether it involves a budding romance with an idealistic partner, or perhaps simply sparking you to don a new outlook filled with beauty and intuition.
34. **Queen of Cups: Tethys** – Tethys is the wife of Oceanus and mother to the Potamoi (river-gods), the Oceanids (water nymphs), and the rain clouds. She is the Titan goddess of fresh water. She is seen as a loving mother, a fitting image, as there were rumored to be 3,000 river-gods and 3,000 water-nymphs! Seek out emotional security. Let feelings of gentleness wash over you, healing your spirit. Feel at one with the universe as you look to a mother figure in your life for guidance and compassion.
35. **King of Cups: Poseidon** – Ruler of the oceans, Poseidon, is god of the sea, earthquakes, storms, and horses. No, not seahorses. Regular, land horses. (He was said to have created the first one in an effort to impress Demeter). Poseidon is second only to Zeus in power and control. Using his artistic inclinations, Poseidon is often credited as the designer all creatures of the sea. He also is said to have a bad temper, be quick to anger, moody, and unpredictable. Again, he’s an artist. However, he has a calm side to him as well. He is protector of the seas, and was worshipped by sailors in hopes that Poseidon would guide them safely home from their voyages. It is best to keep balance in your life. It is easy to fall into the deep waters of emotions, but keep your head above the waves. Maintain a calm composure in rough seas. Once you discover a father figure that is both wise and creative, let them be an inspiration for your journey going forward.

## SUIT OF PENTACLES

- 36. Ace of Pentacles: Euporie** – Euporie is the goddess of abundance. Whether financial, relational, spiritual or otherwise, this card is a sign of new beginnings and opportunities. Center yourself as your roots begin to grow deeper and watch as your branches of labor begin to bear fruit.
- 37. Two of Pentacles: Chronos** – Amidst chaos, it's important to apply the skill of time management to help keep balance in your life. Enter Chronos, the primordial personification of time (not to be confused with Cronus). He is often depicted as a serpent with three heads (man, lion and bull). Sometimes referred to as "Father Time," Chronos will help you to stay on track. You may be juggling a lot of projects right now, so it's important to set priorities to maximize your efficiency. Multitasking can be stressful so be sure you set aside time to rest and relax.
- 38. Three of Pentacles: Jason** – Jason was the leader of the Argonauts, a group of heroes assembled together in the quest for the Golden Fleece. Among the heroes on this expedition were Hercules, Atalanta, Meleager, Orpheus and Philoctetes. Jason was tasked with leading this team of strong-willed (and just plain strong) characters. If you find yourself in a management position or simply as a part of a team, it's important to respect those around you and work together to achieve success. Organization and collaboration will produce results, as well as a harmonious environment. Surround yourself with competent and capable people on your journey.
- 39. Four of Pentacles: Hephaestus** – Hephaestus is the god of fire, metalworking, stone masonry, sculpture, and blacksmiths. He was born with a deformity in his foot and his mother, Hera, tossed him off a cliff because of it. He was saved and raised by Thetis and Eurynome. He became a skilled blacksmith and was let back into Mount Olympus, the only god to return after being exiled. Hephaestus married Aphrodite (an arrangement made by Zeus), but Aphrodite was not fond of being faithful to her husband. This caused a lot of jealousy and suspicion within Hephaestus. The Four of Pentacles is a card of control. You want to maintain what you have and avoid change. Greed and selfishness surround this chain of thought; don't be afraid to let go. Whether you're clinging to a person, a lifestyle or memory, if you keep holding on, it will stifle you going forward. You will feel as if your wheels are stuck in the mud of irrational thoughts. Control is an illusion. Change is inevitable.
- 40. Five of Pentacles: Penia** – Often you may come across times of ill health or financial hardship. You are consumed with worry and feel like you're stumbling in the dark, looking for a light. Penia is the personification of poverty and need. She represents these difficult times, when you've hit rock bottom. It's hard to believe things will get better when you're deep in the belly of insecurity, but don't give up. As George Harrison sings, "Daylight is good at arriving at the right time, it's not always going to be this grey." Take comfort in knowing that nothing lasts forever, all things must pass.
- 41. Six of Pentacles: Eupheme** – Just as there are times of poverty, there are times of wealth. Eupheme is the personification of praise, acclaims, shouts of triumph, and applause. While you might still be struggling, you may find yourself fortunate enough to be able to provide charity to others. Give in to the desire to help, pay it forward. While you shouldn't expect applause for such good deeds, you can give yourself a mental pat on the back for your generosity. Having resources to assist others in their time of need is cause for praise. A good deed is it's own reward, though you can allow yourself to hope for some positive karma points deposited in your spiritual bank.
- 42. Seven of Pentacles: Cassandra** – Cassandra was a beautiful daughter of King Priam and Queen Hecuba of Troy. She was given the gift of prophecy by the god, Apollo. However, after rejecting

his romantic advances, Apollo inflicted her with a curse that would cause no one to believe her visions. How frustrating to be able to see tragedy before it happens but unable to warn others! The Seven of Pentacles is not a tragic card. In fact, most interpretations allude to the idea of reaping the rewards of a project you've been working on. Cassandra, despite knowing she would always be ignored, kept trying to advise others of her prophecies, even after being declared a "mad woman" and locked up for a time. Determination and perseverance can lead to success. While Cassandra will never benefit from her hard work, you can. This may lead to a crossroads between being satisfied with what you have achieved so far, and the realization that with a little sweat and patience, you can multiply your results. While considering your options, don't hesitate to take the opinions of other into consideration. They may be able to see something you've missed.

- 43. Eight of Pentacles: Achilles** – When Achilles was born, his mother, Thetis, dipped him in the river Styx to make him invulnerable. She dipped his entire body except the heel by which she was holding him. He went on to become a great warrior of the Trojan War, but was brought down by his one weakness: his heel. Paying attention to the smallest details can make a big difference. If Thetis would have not missed dipping Achilles' heel in the river, chances are his story would have had a more positive outcome. However, you can take inspiration by her effort and dedication to providing protection for her son. Achilles himself is inspiring as he trained with Chiron the Centaur (who was known for raising up heroes). Achilles was a hard working and successful student. According to myths, he killed his first boar at six years old. Not on the same level as Davy Crockett, but still not bad for a child. By incorporating knowledge and being methodical in your routines, you can achieve your goals. Don't forget to tie up loose ends. Achilles serves as a reminder that sometimes it's the little things that will defeat you.
- 44. Nine of Pentacles: Chloris** – Stand back now and look at your garden. Is everything coming into bloom? You should be seeing the fruits of your labors around you. Chloris is a goddess of flowers and she surrounds herself with beauty and nature. She was said to have transformed dying bodies into flowers, including Adonis, Narcissus, and Hyacinth, preserving their memories while creating something beautiful. You have been working hard; it's time to be thankful for your effort and enjoy the finer things in life. Relax and bask in the glow of what you have accomplished before getting your hands back in the dirt.
- 45. Ten of Pentacles: Rhea** – Rhea was the Titan goddess of female fertility, motherhood, and generations. While her name means "flow" and "ease" she was anything but laid-back when her brother-husband Cronus was devouring their children. She came up with a solution and followed through, thus saving her children, and subsequently living in comfort and ease. Rhea is often depicted on a celestial chariot pulled by two lions. While you may not have access to a celestial chariot in your own town, take pride in knowing if there was one available, you'd probably be able to afford it. The Ten of Pentacles is good omen in financial and material matters. This is a time of prosperity. You are in the midst of good fortune now. Be sure to keep looking ahead to future decisions in order to maintain your security.
- 46. Page of Pentacles: Hermes** – Hermes is the messenger of the gods, as well as the god of trade, merchants, thieves, travelers, sports, transitions and boundaries, and a guide to the Underworld. With his winged sandals, he moves quickly and freely between the mortal world and the divine. As the herald of Zeus, he delivered messages for the god. Be alert for someone coming into your life with a message. This card is generally good, but you may be feeling restless for a change. Your inner child wants to play, take a trip, shake things up. It's fine to let go of responsibilities for a moment, but don't let the controls get too far from your reach. Be practical in your choices. You may be at a prosperous point now but it only takes a moment for that to change. Allow yourself to have fun, but don't lose focus!



- 47. Knight of Pentacles: Theseus** – Theseus was a great hero of mythology. With many stories of his successes (the Minotaur just to name one), he was well known throughout the lands for his bravery and strength. Use him as a guide for hard-work and tireless dedication. While Theseus did not always make the best of choices (capturing the queen of the Amazons and thus inciting a war with the women, for example), he was relentless in taking action, no matter the cost. Stay grounded as you charge forward with unwavering conviction.
- 48. Queen of Pentacles: Demeter** – As the goddess of agriculture, fertility, and the harvest, Demeter is motherly and resourceful, full of earthly love and warmth. As mother of Persephone, she is overprotective and despondent when Hades abducts her daughter. Every year when Persephone is home with her mother, the earth blooms with joy, however, when Persephone leaves, Demeter turns the leaves brown and withers the crops in sadness. The Queen of Pentacles may symbolize a mother figure in your life. Allow them to nurture you, but don't be surprised if they are quick to take actions that secure your safety. This may be a signal to take care of your health and spend time in the sun, soaking up nature in all her glory. A path to spiritual enlightenment may present itself to you now. By opening your heart in generosity you can become rich in spirit and love, while still feeling safe and supported.
- 49. King of Pentacles: King Midas** – Enterprising and opportunistic, the King of Pentacles seems to have the "Midas touch." Dionysus granted King Midas a wish for his hospitality, and Midas declared that he desired everything he touches to turn to gold. Dionysus reluctantly granted this wish, and King Midas soon realized that *literally* everything he touched turned to gold, including food, water and people. While his wish did not have the outcome he wanted, the idea of having a golden touch can be inspiring. Imagine every project you work on being successful, every risk you take brings you wealth! Too good to be true? Probably. There is seldom a quick and easy fix to all your worldly concerns, but by applying practical solutions and a little perspiration, your actions will be rewarded. Continue to climb steadily and efficiently towards your goals.

## SUIT OF WANDS

- 50. Ace of Wands: Terpsichore** – Now is the time to act on new projects! The lovely Terpsichore is the Muse of chorus and dancing. She will provide you with the energy and confidence you need to succeed. Feel a surge of creativity as inspiration lights a fire in your soul. Leap forward with courage, seize the day, take on the world, and in the immortal words of Kang (or was it Kodos...), you must "move forward, not backward; upward, not forward; and always twirling, twirling, *twirling* towards freedom!"
- 51. Two of Wands: Clio** – As you move forward with newfound courage, it's a good idea to bring along Clio. As the Muse of history, she can assist in your journey by showing you past successes (and failures) in order to learn from them. You can be assured that you're taking new steps when you've seen the old ones. She is often given the epithet, "The Proclaimer" because she glorifies and celebrates accomplishments of history. To quote Kierkegaard, "Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards." Sometimes in order to know where you're going, it helps to remember where you've been.
- 52. Three of Wands: Hecate** – Hecate is the triplicate goddess of magic, crossroads, ghosts, the moon, sorcery and necromancy. Listed as a moon goddess, she had power over the sky, sea and earth. Hecate was often depicted as a woman with three heads, which allowed her the ability to see in several directions at once (including past, present, and future). Having foresight is important when exploring the unknown of new endeavors. Her role as goddess of crossroads may symbolize a

decision that lies in front of you. Don't be afraid to ask others for advice. Hecate holds two torches to help light your path. She is often feared for her connection to magic and witchcraft, being labeled a "hag" or "old witch," but this is a misconception. She has been described in myths as "tender-hearted," and many who worshipped her placed shrines of Hecate in entranceways to protect them from restless spirits. She is a very independent goddess (as independent as a woman with three heads can be) so use her as a fearless inspiration to take a leadership role in a project or relationship.

- 53. Four of Wands: Psyche** – Psyche, goddess of the soul, was once a beautiful and mortal young woman. Aphrodite became jealous of this girl and sent her son, Eros, to shoot Psyche with an arrow and force her to fall in love with a hideous man. However, Eros himself fell in love with Psyche. The story continues as Psyche and Eros lose each other, and Psyche searches for her lost love, eventually calling on Aphrodite to assist her. The jealous goddess makes the young girl complete a number of tasks before she was finally reunited with Eros. Eros and Psyche wed, and she became immortal. Psyche was determined to find her love again, and after many perils, she succeeded and was ready to start the next chapter of her life as a goddess. Sometimes even after achieving goals, there is a tendency to stagnate. Don't let the fire in your soul cool down too much, you'll need it for your next adventure.
- 54. Five of Wands: Atalanta** – Competition and conflict surround the Five of Wands, as it surrounds Atalanta. Atalanta was a quick-footed huntress who had no interest in marriage, despite being pursued by Meleager and Hippomenes. Meleager met an unfavorable end, but Hippomenes had more success. After Atalanta declared that she would only marry a man who could beat her in a footrace, Hippomenes called upon Aphrodite for assistance. The goddess of love provided him with golden apples to distract Atalanta as she ran. Atalanta, having an apparent penchant for shiny things, kept stopping to pick up the apples, thus allowing Hippomenes to win the race, and Atalanta's hand in marriage. The thrill of competition can have a certain appeal, rising up against an opponent and going for the gold, but it can also be a distraction from more important issues in your life, and will often create dissention. Fiery passions can erupt into destructive debates; instead try to redirect your excitement into more creative solutions.
- 55. Six of Wands: Nike** – "VICTORY!!" This what you'll be shouting when this card turns up. Nike is the winged goddess of victory, daughter of Styx, and she stands proudly over her achievements, as should you. Revel in a job well done and enjoy the feeling of accomplishment. Your strength and determination have led you to success. But be aware that you won't always end up on top of things, so keep your ego in check and be a gracious winner. And don't rest on your laurels for too long, there's still work to be done.
- 56. Seven of Wands: Hera** – Hera is the goddess of marriage, women, and family, and the long-suffering wife of Zeus. She's also his sister...but let's move past that. This card is about showing conviction, standing up for what you believe, and being assertive to get what you want. Hera has persevered through all of Zeus's dalliances, but she hasn't taken them lying down. Known for being jealous and vengeful, she has caused her fair share of trouble while retaliating against her husband, his lovers and his offspring. Hera is not afraid of conflict and moves forward with fiery resolve. While her methods are often deceptive and treacherous (and not recommended), she refuses to be a victim and fights to maintain her status as queen of Olympus.
- 57. Eight of Wands: Styx** – Come sail away, come sail away, come sail away with me, come sail away - what? Oh, right. Not that Styx. Styx is a goddess of unbreakable oaths, and she also presides over the river Styx, which is the main river from the underworld. Anyone who swears an oath on her waters *must* keep that promise. Even Zeus himself could not break these solemn oaths, causing her

to be feared by many gods. If you made commitments and have irons in the fire currently, don't abandon them now. Keep working towards a resolution. The waters of Styx had the power to make someone invulnerable (think Achilles). Use that power to surge forward and clear obstacles from your path. If you feel like giving up, take notice of new information that may be coming your way.

- 58. Nine of Wands: Circe** – Circe is a fiery goddess of magic, an enchantress. She had extensive knowledge of herbs, and as told in *The Odyssey*, she possessed a potion that would turn men into animals (pigs, specifically). Odysseus protected himself with the herb “moly” delivered to him by Hermes (holy moly indeed!), and he was eventually able to convince Circe to release his men from her spell. Hermes had further warned Odysseus to proceed with caution while dealing with the sorceress. Take precautions while moving forward to resolve issues. With patience and faith, you can find the strength to fight your fatigue. Don't hesitate to rely on assistance from a friend. Times may be tough, but this is only a setback.
- 59. Ten of Wands: Atlas** – Who better to represent the weight of the world on your shoulders than Atlas, Titan god of endurance and astronomy? Condemned to hold the celestial spheres for all eternity, Atlas knows a little something about heavy burdens. You may be feeling like your fire has been diminished by the responsibilities stacking up in your life, and you assume that if you don't step up and handle everything, no one else will. Let go of control. Don't be afraid to say no once in a while. And be wary of pushing yourself to the limit, stress can negatively effect your health.
- 60. Page of Wands: Dionysus** – Dionysus, or Bacchus, is the god of wine, grape harvest, vegetation, pleasure, festivity, madness, religious ecstasy, and theatre. Dionysus is a free spirit, and he inspired frenzied female followers (maenads), devoted nymphs and satyrs to participate in wild festivals that included drinking, dancing and overall debauchery. With such an enthusiastic and often child-like influence, it's easy to get caught up in the pleasures around you, and you may find yourself getting distracted. Dionysus is often categorized as a “resurrection deity.” Zeus took the unborn Dionysus from the womb of his mother, Semele, and sewed the baby into his thigh as Semele was consumed by fire. By being “twice born” to two mothers (Semele and Zeus), his very birth can inspire the need to look for alternative solutions to problems. Instead of letting the energetic fires consume you, let them feed your creative mind in hopes of cultivating a new approach. Express yourself, but don't lose yourself in a frenzy of passion.
- 61. Knight of Wands: Ares** – With a hot-tempered gusto, Ares, the god of war, rushes into battle. In contrast to his wise and strategic half-sister, Athena, Ares represents a more violent, untamed aspect of war. Known as being destructive and filled with bloodlust, this card could boost your energy and confidence as you rush forward into action. You will feel ready to conquer any obstacle in your path with an adventurous spirit. Your inner fire will guide you to make bold moves. Just be careful not to get burned!
- 62. Queen of Wands: Aphrodite** – The magnetism and charm of the Queen of Wands can inspire you to be self-assured and determined in your choices. Aphrodite is the goddess of love, beauty, and pleasure. Born from sea foam, she embodies sensual energy and desire. Her beauty attracted many to worship her, and she reveled in the attention. But beware, she has a jealous streak, making her a dangerous enemy, and she had a tendency for deception. Confidence is encouraged, but if you start to believe your own hype, you may alienate others. Be sure that the energy you are projecting is warm and inviting, and this card may signify a healthy relationship. Balance your inner fires, and keep your ego in check.
- 63. King of Wands: Hades** – Hades, god of the underworld. As Poseidon ruled the seas, and Zeus the skies, Hades inherited the land of the dead. A stern and bold leader, but not evil, as some may

assume. He had authority over the dead, and was feared for that connection, though he is not death personified (that's Thanatos). He has shown in many myths to be creative with compromises when approached with pleas of saving loved ones. He presents himself as tough but fair as he presides over his eponymous kingdom. But sitting on a throne among the dead souls, petting your three-headed dog may eventually cause restlessness, so be sure to use your spark and adrenalin to seize forward with creativity. Hades himself is rumored to have many interesting toys to play with, including a Chair of Forgetfulness and a Cap of Invisibility. You have a chance now to inject some drama and charisma into your daily routine.

## SUIT OF SWORDS

- 64. Ace of Swords: Hippolyta** – Mighty Hippolyta was the Queen of the Amazons, a race of women warriors. She was the subject of the Ninth Labor of Hercules, as he was instructed to retrieve her magical girdle. She was also rumored to have been taken by Theseus, claiming her as his wife, and sparking an Amazonomacy (though a few myths cite that it may have been her sister, Antiope). Regardless, Hippolyta stood as a strong, independent leader who was courageous, possessing raw power and mental clarity. Empower yourself now with a fierce, decisive energy.
- 65. Two of Swords: Selene** – Selene is the pale and beautiful goddess of the moon. Her moonbeams kiss Endymion as he rests in his eternal and ageless sleep (though she is said to have many lovers, Endymion is considered her great love, and myths claim she bore him fifty daughters). Selene rides a moon-chariot across the sky, much like her brother, Helios (the Sun). She bathes in the sea before her nightly journey. She embodies mystery and romance. You may feel uncertain in the darkness of night, surrounded by choices and afraid to act. Let the moonlight shine on the path before you, but you must be patient. Selene can be shy and often hides behind the clouds.
- 66. Three of Swords: Echo** – Echo was a mountain nymph (an Oread) who distracted Hera from Zeus's affairs by having long conversations with the queen of the gods. Hera became angered by the trickery and long-winded stories and she cursed Echo to only be able to speak the last words someone spoke. Dejected, Echo then wandered the forest, and eventually she discovered and fell in love with the handsome Narcissus. However, she could not tell him how she felt, doomed only to repeat his last words, and he rejected her. She watched helplessly as Narcissus fell in love with himself, and eventually he withered and died, staring at his own reflection in the pond. After heartbreak and loneliness, Echo herself faded away and all that remained was her voice. There are many times when the feelings of rejection and sorrow seem to be surrounding you and you feel like you're only a shell of the person you once were. Emotional pain is a necessary part of life. Allow yourself to experience it, but don't let it consume you completely. Find someone to talk to if needed, and gather the strength to conquer your misery. You will adapt.
- 67. Four of Swords: Hesychia** – Sometimes you just have to take a breath and relax. Even if there is chaos all around you, it's a good idea now to retreat into a quiet time of mediation and contemplation. Hesychia is the personification of tranquility, silence and stillness. She has also been referred to as a goddess of good intent. Rest, recover, and redefine your priorities. There are still battles to fight, but in order to have a chance at winning, you must take a step back.
- 68. Five of Swords: Oizys** – Oizys is the goddess of misery, anxiety, and depression. She is the daughter of Nyx (Night) and the twin sister of the god of mockery, Momus. You may find yourself facing conflict and deceit, and it's easy to feel defeated by these moments. Sometimes you just can't seem to win, and the anxiety of loss is unbearable. These times can cause you to defend yourself by looking out for your own interests, but it's better to find solutions that benefit everyone

involved. Assimilate the sadness without becoming overwhelmed. It may be tempting to sit with Oizys and moan about your collective woes. Pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and move on.

- 69. Six of Swords: Callisto** – As a follower of Artemis, Callisto made a vow of virginity, but Zeus tricked and seduced her, and she became pregnant. Artemis, angered at Callisto's broken vow, turned the young woman into a bear (though some tellings of this myth say it was Hera who transformed Callisto, and other myths say she was transformed after giving birth, but anyway...). Callisto gave birth to a human son, Arcas, and he was taken away to be raised in Arcadia. Arcas became a skilled hunter, and one day he came across a bear in the forest. Not realizing it was actually his mother, Callisto, he raised his bow to the creature. Zeus intervened, transforming both Callisto and her son into stars. They can be seen in the heavens as the circumpolar constellations Ursa Major and Ursa Minor (Great Bear and Little Bear). Callisto's story is unfortunate, but in the end, she was spared a tragic death at the hands of her son, and as this card does not represent joyous times, it is also not void of hope. There are times when you face a necessary transition. Respect the presence of change and focus on keeping your head above the water. Perhaps a change of scenery would do you some good.
- 70. Seven of Swords: Autolycus** – Autolycus. His name means "the wolf itself," and he embraces his status as lone wolf. Son of the god Hermes, Autolycus inherited his father's penchant for trickery and theft. He was very stealthy, and possessed the gift of never being caught when stealing from others, even while stealing herds of cattle! Someone close to you may be holding back a secret, or perhaps you are hiding from something in your life. Whichever the case, deception is a dangerous path. Becoming a lone wolf can sometimes seem attractive, being free and detached from the trappings of society, but avoiding responsibility will eventually catch up with you. Keep the lines of communication open with others.
- 71. Eight of Swords: Narcissus** – Being trapped by circumstances can be a frustrating experience. Narcissus was an attractive young man, but cruel and hateful to those who loved him. He was then cursed to fall in love with his own reflection in a pond. He stared and admired himself, unable to leave, until he withered away into nothing. Legend has it, from his dying body emerged a narcissus flower. Don't let yourself be held back in the name of self-interest. Reflect on your current situation and plan an escape. There are always ways to overcome obstacles fencing you in.
- 72. Nine of Swords: Eris** – Eris is the goddess of strife and discord. While crashing a party she was not invited to (due to her being a misery-filled goddess who liked to cause trouble), Eris tossed a golden apple into the crowd of gods and goddesses. The Apple of Discord contained an inscription, "for the fairest one." Chaos ensued as the goddesses fought over which of them was the fairest. The arguments and decisions that stemmed from that apple-incident initiated the Trojan War. The Nine of Swords represents worry and anxiety, the nights you lie awake, hopelessly going over every decision you've made in your life. Regret can eat away at your soul, make you paranoid to take action for fear of causing pain or disagreements. But remember, even though you may take a few missteps, at least you haven't used fruit to start a war. Yet...
- 73. Ten of Swords: Sisyphus** – Sisyphus was a clever and deceitful king, and the stories of him are filled with his betrayals and killings. He was very crafty and cunning, cheating death and tricking the gods repeatedly. The gods were getting tired of the treacherous games of Sisyphus and so he was given the eternal punishment of being forced to roll a boulder up a steep hill every day, only to watch it roll back down. Many times you may feel like Sisyphus, spending day in and day out doing the same routine to no end. Philosopher Albert Camus likened the plight of Sisyphus to the absurdity of human life, and he stated that we "must imagine Sisyphus happy." But the fact is, most people want to move forward in life, to feel like they're making a difference. Rolling the same rock

up the same hill each day can start to feel empty. Look beyond your daily tasks to find meaning and purpose, or at the very least, find humor in the inanity of it all. As Nietzsche says, “To live is to suffer, to survive is to find some meaning in the suffering.” You will survive.

- 74. Page of Swords: Icarus** – Daedalus and his son, Icarus, were imprisoned on an island. In an effort to escape, Daedalus constructed wings of feathers and wax. He warned his son Icarus to fly high enough so that the sea would not clog the wings, and low enough so the sun would not melt the wax. Icarus, filled with hubris and the excitement of flight, did not heed the warnings of his father. He flew too close to the sun, and as predicted, his wings melted, causing him to fall to his death. There will be challenges presented to you, but you must keep a level head. Acknowledge the wisdom of others. Their solutions may not sound exciting, but restlessness and a child-like mentality can cause you to take unnecessary risks. Be aware of your surroundings, analyze your problems logically, and don't fall victim to hubris.
- 75. Knight of Swords: Bellerophon** – Bellerophon serves as another example of what happens when pride overrules wisdom. Bellerophon was a brave and successful hero of mythology. His crowning achievement was slaying the fearsome Chimera. He captured and tamed the mighty Pegasus, and together they defeated many monsters and completed many heroic deeds. Eventually Bellerophon, in one of his less tactful moments, decided he was practically invincible and therefore worthy to sit among the gods up on Mount Olympus. He took advantage of the fact he already had a flying horse as transportation to the heavens, and set a course for the kingdom of the gods. Zeus was less than impressed with this brazen display of hubris and sent a gadfly to irritate Pegasus mid-flight. Bellerophon fell from the back of the steed and into a thorn bush. He was crippled and blinded, and spent the rest of his life in misery and relative obscurity. Bellerophon was action-oriented, bold and opinionated, which are acceptable traits so long as they are balanced with a healthy dose of common sense and reason. A little diplomacy can go a long way. A knight in shining armor is one thing; an egotistical man on a horse haphazardly swinging a sword with no thought of consequence is something completely different.
- 76. Queen of Swords: Urania** – Urania (Ourania) is the inspirational muse of astronomy. She appears as a majestic beauty whose name means “heavenly.” All who study her universe expand their minds with truth and knowledge, but there is always more to learn. The Queen of Swords represents a person in your life that possesses insight, honesty and wit. Use their presence to fuel your own pursuit of subtlety and understanding. Look to the heavens and admire the stars, present yet mysterious.
- 77. King of Swords: Hyperion** – The Titan, Hyperion, is the god of watchfulness, wisdom and light. He is father to the “lights of heaven,” the Sun (Helios), Moon (Selene) and Dawn (Eos). He was considered to be one of the pillars holding up the heavens. Strength and stubbornness may be present in the King of Swords, but so are ethics and truth, which are invaluable instruments for your toolkit. Look at situations in all different lights, and from different angles, to provide yourself with enough knowledge to make a fair and informed decision.