

The Fool: This card represents your imaginative, visionary, childishly optimistic side. Some part of you is yearning, like Icarus, to fly toward the sun, or like Captain Kirk, to boldly go where no man has gone before. You want to see new things, experience adventures, wear bad velour pantsuits and still get the girl! This is the card that asks, if crazy schemes work, are they still crazy?

The Fool Reversed: See Icarus make some fake wings. See Icarus attach them to his back with wax. See him soar high into the sky. Fly, Icarus, fly! See the wax melt. See Icarus plummet to a messy death. Any questions?

The Magician: Hermes, our magician, was known for his charm, cleverness, and diplomacy. And for being the biggest con artist on Olympus! Drawing this cards means that you have the skills to make things happen. Just remember to use your powers for good.

The Magician Reversed: Among other things, Hermes, our magician, was the god of gamblers. The Magician reversed reminds you of the old saying that, if you're at a poker game for more than ten minutes and can't identify the sucker, you ARE the sucker.

The High Priestess: The pythia at Delphi is our High Priestess. She was famous for never telling anyone everything, especially those who thought they already knew it all. Don't accept the surface situation now; dig for hidden truths.

The High Priestess Reversed: The pythia, the ancient oracle at Delphi, is our High Priestess. When you ask her a question, she just points to the two small words carved over her temple doors: 'Know Thyself.' People don't have to hide from you what you refuse to see.

The Empress: Our empress is Hera, wife of Zeus and queen of the Olympian gods. Her Roman name was Juno, which gives us the name of June, still the favorite month for weddings. Drawing this card could indicate a marriage or important merger, or a time of unusual fertility or creativity. Or that your husband is a philandering jerk.

The Empress Reversed: Our empress is Hera, mother of the Olympian gods and patron of births and beginnings. Only, on her worst days, she was less June Cleaver and more Mommy Dearest. Since you drew this card, I have to wonder if there might be anyone you're treating a little bit less than -- hey! Hey, stop hitting me! I just work here, okay?

The Emperor: The emperor card stands for strength, assertiveness and all around macho-like-behavior. Like Zeus, king of the gods, who was accused of a lot of things, but being a shrinking violet was never one of them. But, you know what? Sometimes, macho isn't so bad. If you don't take charge of your own life, someone else will do it for you -- and you may not like where you end up.

The Emperor Reversed: Zeus, our emperor, was a strong, assertive, charismatic leader -- and, frequently, a real jerk. The Emperor reversed represents immaturity, loss of control and all around dickish behavior. Remember: bullying or deceptive tactics may get you what you want, but they rarely make you happy.

The Hierophant: Chiron, the wise centaur and tutor to many demigods, is our Hierophant. A lover of tradition and ceremony, he was known for valuing the many positive aspects of conformity. Or, you know, for being an old stick in the mud. But the first one sounded better, didn't it?

The Hierophant Reversed: Chiron, the famous centaur, might have been wise, but he wasn't always an original thinker. But with the Hierophant reversed, you can be. Now's the time to think outside the box and see solutions where others see only obstacles.

The Lovers: The Lovers card is all about choices, romantic or otherwise. Like Ares with Aphrodite, you may soon discover a person, career path or pastime that will completely enthrall you. The question is whether it's the right choice in the long run.

The Lovers Reversed: The Lovers reversed warns of fights, betrayals and the possibility of shattered bonds. Remember, love (like Aphrodite up there) is not always kind. And choosing badly can bite you.

The Chariot: Like Medea, who teamed up with Jason to steal the famous Golden Fleece, this card is all about conflict and struggle and hard won victory. It promises the power, motivation and drive to get the job done, no matter the odds.

The Chariot Reversed: Medea, the driver of our chariot, achieved everything she ever wanted in life through ruthless ambition -- and lost it all the same way. The Chariot reversed warns of the possibility of defeat, especially if the emotions commonly associated with this card are present: rage, ego, selfishness, and bullying tendencies.

Strength: Like Hercules, who completed twelve supposedly impossible labors to win immortality, this card indicates a time in which you can overcome even the greatest of challenges.

Strength Reversed: The Strength card reversed is about feelings of inadequacy, lethargy, pessimism, and the unwillingness to act. Like Hercules giving up halfway through his labors in despair, until Athena arrived to kick his butt. And to remind him that winning immortality, or doing anything else worthwhile, was never designed to be easy. So get back in there!

The Hermit: Diogenes, the first Cynic, famously lived in a broken water pot in ancient Athens and owned almost nothing. Yet Alexander the Great famously remarked, "If I were not Alexander, I should like to be Diogenes." When the Hermit card comes up in a reading, it advises you to take a moment to step back from the way society measures success and reflect on what is really important.

The Hermit Reversed: The Hermit card reversed speaks of someone so suspicious or bitter against the world that he refuses any help it has to offer. Diogenes, the famous Cynic, wanted to remake society, yet his often outlandish behavior resulted in men laughing at him more than they listened. Sometimes, being too suspicious can be as bad as the reverse.

The Wheel of Fortune: Like handsome Ganymede, plucked away from his boring, earthly existence by Zeus and given immortality, this card signifies rapid progress and a change of fortune for you. Chance is on your side.

The Wheel of Fortune Reversed: The Wheel of Fortune reversed reminds us that luck often needs a helping hand. If you want to win that poker game, it might be a good idea to take a few lessons before challenging a master.

Justice: Athena, Goddess of Justice, famously let Orestes off the hook for killing his mother. He was guilty as hell and everybody knew it, but punishing him was likely to cause a major feud and many more deaths. Likewise, the Justice card signifies that the outcome of a matter will be fair in the universal sense of the word (the best for the most in the long run).

Justice Reversed: Justice reversed represents injustice, inequality and a lack of mercy or understanding. Or like Athena up there, the goddess of justice, who wasn't above bribing the Athenians to get them to worship her rather than Poseidon. Justice reversed says watch your back; someone may not be playing fair.

The Hanged Man: The Hanged Man signifies that, sometimes, we have to take one for the team. Prometheus (that's him, getting his liver pecked out above) suffered for giving the gift of fire to mankind, something that seriously miffed his fellow gods. But, by his sacrifice, all of humanity benefitted. Sometimes, a personal loss can bring a greater gain.

The Hanged Man Reversed: The Hanged Man reversed warns of the dangers of seeing things from a single, limited perspective. Prometheus, cursed for giving fire to mankind, was able to see past the price he would pay to the good it would do. Likewise, if you look at your situation in a new way, you may find opportunity in apparent adversity.

Death: Hades, Lord of the Underworld, is our Death card. But although he's busy dragging off one of the recently deceased, the Death card rarely indicates actual, physical death. Most of the time, it heralds the passing away of something old -- a destructive relationship, an unhealthy way of life, a job you hate -- so that something new can grow.

Death Reversed: Hades, God of the Underworld, spent centuries bemoaning the lack of a dating scene in hell, until he finally got his act together and kidnapped the beautiful Persephone. Who, lucky for him, happened to be into creepy rich guys. Likewise, the Death card reversed warns of a life in danger of stagnation because the risks necessary to succeed are not being taken.

Temperance: Hebe, goddess of youth, was famous for being one of the few even tempered gods. There was no drama with Hebe, no tantrums, no spiting people for fun. Just common sense and peacemaking, which, let's face it, was almost a first for Olympus. Likewise, Temperance is the card of cutting yourself and everyone around you a little slack. Ahhh, now doesn't that feel better?

Temperance Reversed: Revenge is great and all, but you know what's better? Not having to waste your life seeking revenge. There is a reason freed slaves used to lay their chains at the feet of a statue of Hebe, our goddess of temperance, peacemaking and clear-eyed pragmatism. They were saying "the past is behind us, and we're moving on."

The Devil: The Devil card usually stands for temptation, sexual desire and ambition, none of which is bad in and of itself; it all depends on how far you let them go. The god Pan on our card (who became the model for the medieval image of Satan) was the Greek poster boy of pushing the limits. But then, he was a god. For us mortals, a little restraint can go a long way.

The Devil Reversed: The Devil card reversed warns of being too bound by a sense of propriety to experience the fun in life. Pan up there (who did know how to get a party started) is telling you that there's an invitation somewhere with your name on it. So grab yourself a drink and a nymph or satyr (or both) and live a little.

The Tower: This wild ride of a card heralds a new life heading your way at top speed. You may feel inclined to step off the tracks before this oncoming train crashes into you, but don't worry, it probably won't be an Athenian tragedy. The Tower upright usually precedes a change that can remake your life in a positive way. And if not, you'll finally get to collect on all that insurance.

The Tower Reversed: You're bored. Bored with a capital B as in, my God, how did I turn into my mother/father/dull-and-fairly-peculiar-uncle? You were going to be the daredevil, the world-traveler, the rock star. Instead, you have three kids, a mortgage and a twelve-year-old incontinent collie dog. Seriously, call the babysitter. You have some hell to raise.

The Star: When Andromeda was tied to a rock, as an offering to a giant sea monster, she could have sat down and accepted her fate. Instead, she raised such a fuss that a passing hero came to her aid. The Star, likewise, is the card of hope. It is telling you that this is the time to look up -- not around at your problems but above them -- and reach for the stars.

The Star Reversed: The Reversed Star represents pessimism, doubt and obstinacy. There is a way out of your current problem, but you are too bummed to see it. Yes, the night is dark and full of terrors (thanks, George R.R. Martin!) but it's full of beauty, too, if you know where to look.

The Moon: The goddess Selene wanted her human plaything Endymion to stay with her forever, but Zeus wasn't having it. Until she came up with a compromise: Endymion would remain eternally young and handsome, but only as long as he stayed asleep. Selene was thereafter able to visit her lover in his dreams. Likewise, a dream can come true for you now, if you're willing to get a little ingenious in your methods.

The Moon Reversed: Selene, goddess of the Moon, had a handsome son Narcissus, who took one look at his reflection and fell hopelessly in love -- with himself! He wasted away, refusing to stop admiring himself long enough even to eat. The Moon reversed warns of chasing an impossible dream without knowing when to call it quits. Sometimes giving up is okay.

The Sun: The Sun card indicates that things are about to go completely, totally and utterly your way. That promotion you wanted? You got it. That guy/girl you've been chasing? All yours. That lottery ticket you just bought? A sure fire winner. For a short time, you are the darling of the gods. Just try Not to be annoyingly smug about it.

The Sun Reversed: The sun reversed indicates a period when you may be acting under false assumptions. Like an overly bright light, something is blinding you to the reality of the situation, and lulling you into a false sense of security. Everything seems fine -- even wonderful -- but the reality may be very different.

Judgement: When Zeus was asked by three powerful goddesses to decide who was the fairest, he wisely passed the buck to a clueless human named Paris (who had never met them when they were pissed off). The judgement card indicates that something may be weighing you down, maybe an old hurt, maybe a new problem. But right now, the universe is giving you the option to unload it. Take the offer: you'll be amazed at how much lighter you feel.

Judgement Reversed: When Paris was asked by Zeus to decide which of three powerful goddesses was the fairest, he should have run like hell. Instead, he said okay and asked them for bribes! This did not end well for him. Someone may be trying to saddle you with a big, messy problem. Learn from Paris: take a pass.

The World: Gaia, Mother Earth, is our world card. Just as the ancient Greeks believed that Gaia gave birth to everything, so her card represents birth, new beginnings, fulfillment, achievement and satisfaction. It's the payoff for hard work, the triumphant end of a cycle and the beginning of a wonderful new phase of life.

The World Reversed: In ancient Greek tradition, Gaia (Mother Earth) gave birth to all that is, only to watch in frustration as half of it tried to kill the other half. This card represents the weariness you feel when all your hard work on a project hasn't been quite enough. As unfair as it may seem, more time and energy are needed to bring about a desired result.

Ace of Wands: Excitement, courage, creativity, and inspiration. Like Apollo with his lyre, you are on fire!

Ace of Wands Reversed: The Ace of Wands reversed is about feeling unmotivated/uninspired. The creative fire associated with the Wands suite is conspicuously missing. You need to remember what used to excite you, and reignite the spark.

Two of Wands: Titan Goddess of the Breeze, Aura, sits with the land on one side and the ocean on the other, reflecting that the world is her oyster. Like a stiff breeze fanning the flames, your creativity and inventiveness are getting an extra boost right now.

Two of Wands Reversed: Goddess of the Breeze, Aura, is ready to fan the flames of your creativity, but . . . where are they? Something has doused your fire. Reignite it!

Three of Wands: "Youth holding a Hare", from an Athenian redware kylix. The boy is shown as a successful hunter, using his skills to bring home the bacon (or the rabbit). Don't be afraid to hunt in new fields today.

Three of Wands Reversed: The Three of Wands reversed is all about the frustration of an unsuccessful hunt. It speaks of work unrewarded or unacknowledged, and not being able to close the deal. There is hunger but no satisfaction yet.

Four of Wands: Terpsikhore, the muse of dance, is laying down a sick beat because you deserve it. So get up and dance! A celebration/graduation/promotion is in the cards for you.

Four of Wands Reversed: The four of wands is such a positive card, that it's a good draw even in reverse. It means a celebration, although, in this case, possibly a brief one.

Five of Wands: Our card shows Eros playing piggy-back with a woman, guiding her towards her suitor. But, like with the blinded woman, your road to success may have some small stumbles today. Nothing too serious, but sometimes, it may feel like you have a monkey on your back (or a mischievous god).

Five of Wands Reversed: The Five of Wands reversed can indicate an end to the crazy, or at least the beginning of the end. Eros up there is still causing mischief, but his victim is getting wise to his games.

The Six of Wands: This card is about the success that comes through hard work. Even the muses had to practice to get good! But their practice paid off, and so will yours.

The Six of Wands Reversed: The muse on our card is holding an instrument, but not playing it. Likewise, you may be lacking confidence or doubting your abilities right now. Alternately, you may be playing for all you're worth, but it feels like nobody is noticing. Keep at it; this is a phase and will pass, but the skills/lessons learned will remain.

The Seven of Wands: Eos, goddess of the dawn, is shown leading the procession of the day. On the one hand, the sun is shining brightly on you and you have reached the pinnacle of success. On the other, you know what they say about the guy at the top of the hill: there's always someone trying to knock him off. Stand your ground.

The Seven of Wands Reversed: Sometimes, it feels like you're stuck floundering in the night, and that a new day will never come. But, as the old saying goes, it's always darkest right before the dawn. Hang in there!

The Eight of Wands: Our card shows the hero Kadmos confronting the dragon of the Ismenian spring near Thebes. Just like Kadmos, who slayed the dragon and obtained water for the city, you are about to provide sustenance for a long cherished dream.

The Eight of Wands Reversed: Kadmos, our hero, slayed a dragon with a rock (okay, it wasn't that great of a dragon) and helped to found a city. Unfortunately, the dragon was the pet of Ares who . . . didn't take this well. Delay seems probable for you right now, and someone may become a problem.

The Nine of Wands: Pegasus, the beautiful, immortal, winged horse, sprang from the grisly severed head of Medusa after a great battle. Trust that, when you overcome your final few obstacles, a similar amazing reward will be yours.

Nine of Wands Reversed: Pegasus in the above image is bridled. The winged horse that could soar above the clouds is being held down and restricted. Lately, you may have felt like this, too, as obstacle after obstacle sprang up, just when you thought you'd fought free. Fight a little more.

Ten of Wands: Clio, muse of history, knows a lot of facts but one great truth: there's always another battle, another war, another upheaval. You can focus on those, on the struggle, and see nothing else. Or you can look for the beauty and grace and kindness that are there, too. Take a break, soldier!

Ten Of Wands Reversed: History is cyclical -- just ask Clio, the muse of history, on your card. Right now, you may be going through a challenging time. But she would like to remind you that, like the good times, the bad ones never last. There, don't you feel better?

Page of Wands: Hephaestus was the Olympian god of fire, metalworking, stonemasonry and sculpture -- a really creative guy. He made many of the magical items used by gods and heroes alike, including a golden throne for his estranged mother, which wouldn't allow her to stand up! His challenge, and yours, is to channel creativity into positive things, instead of using it to get in trouble.

The Page of Wands Reversed: Hephaestus, our Page of Wands, was famously married to flighty 'Dite, AKA Aphrodite, the goddess of love and sneaking around on your husband. Being constantly cuckolded did not improve Hephaestus' temper, and having everyone know it didn't help his self-esteem. Both of these areas are also likely plaguing someone who draws the Page of Wands reversed.

The Knight of Wands: Our card shows one of the Dioscuri (better known as the constellation Gemini). They were often worshipped by sailors, who believed that they appeared in the form of St Elmo's fire on the rigging of ships, to give protection from storms. In a reading, the Knight of Wands signifies adventure, travel and possibly a vacation over water or abroad.

The Knight of Wands Reversed: The Dioscuri, twin gods of horsemanship and protectors of guests and travelers, were charming, handsome and brave. But they could also be rash and impulsive, getting themselves killed in a family feud after kidnapping their cousins' girlfriends. They never learned that, just because you can do something, doesn't mean you should.

The Queen of Wands: Aphrodite is our Queen of Wands, and not just because of her association with outward beauty and sex appeal (also aspects of the Queen of Wands). But because of her confident, outgoing and fiery nature, that believed she could make any conquest she chose and succeed in any task. She was optimism personified, and if you drew this card, you have reason to be, too.

The Queen of Wands Reversed: At her best, the Queen of Wands is all energy, warmth and charisma. But reversed, that same charm can be used to hurt; she can be pleasant to your face while plotting behind your back. Likewise, her competitive nature can turn vengeful when she fears she is losing.

The King of Wands: Ares is our King of Wands. At his best, he is a forceful leader that is passionate, dramatic, exciting and bold. He gets results by taking risks, and he gets them fast. In the ancient world, he'd be Alexander the Great, conquering through revolutionary military tactics; in the modern, he'd be Bill Gates and Steve Jobs. He's telling you to take a risk and innovate.

The King of Wands Reversed: Drawing this card can indicate that you may be feeling like a failure for not reaching your goals in life. Julius Caesar visited the tomb of Alexander the Great in Egypt and wept, because, at his age, Alexander had conquered most of the known world. Yet Julius would go on to found an empire! Step back and get some perspective.

Ace of Cups: Our Ace of Cups is Oceanus, believed by the ancient Greeks to be the physical manifestation of the wild, rolling oceans. That makes sense as Cups is the suite most associated with water. It is also the suite of our emotional life, and the ace is overflowing with all sorts of emotional rewards: love, joy, and productivity are in the cards for you now.

Ace of Cups Reversed: The Cups are about your emotions, and how you're perceiving a situation. And right now, instead of an ocean's worth of emotion, you're feeling more like a

desert, empty and dry. Maybe you're working too hard, maybe you're not spending enough time with friends or family. But something is draining you.

Two of Cups: On her own, Scylla (above) was a feared sea goddess, but pair her with Charybdis, a massive and very dangerous whirlpool, and she was able to turn the Straits of Messina into the ancient Greek equivalent of the Bermuda Triangle. Sunk ships, sunk ships everywhere! Find your other half, partner up and see what kind of power you can generate.

Two of Cups Reversed: Upright, the Two of Cups shows balance and emotional connection. Reversed, it indicates that you and a partner or loved one may be out of synch.

Three of Cups: One of the nicest cards in any tarot deck is the Three of Cups. So who else to grace ours but the Graces themselves? Daughters of Zeus and the mermaid Eurynome, they were nymphs of high spirits, friendship, and socializing. Gracing the trains of both Aphrodite and Hera, they also brought joy and laughter to romance and marriage. Drawing the Three promises a good time ahead!

Three of Cups Reversed: The number three was used a lot in Greek mythology: Zeus had two brothers, and together they ruled the earth, sea and sky. The three fates wove the life of each human. The three Furies doled out revenge. And the three Graces . . . well, upright, they're a party. But reversed, they can indicate a third wheel in a relationship, when three is most definitely a crowd.

Four of Cups: The sea nymph Galatea was in love with Acis, a handsome Sicilian shepherd boy. Until the cyclops Polyphemus murdered Acis in a fit of jealousy, that is. Which got him exactly nothing, because Galatea turned her lover into a river and went off with him anyway. The Four of Cups warns of an inability to enjoy what you have/can have, and a destructive focus on what you don't.

Four of Cups Reversed: The Four of Cups reversed is a wait-and-see card. It may feel like nothing is happening for you, or not happening fast enough, like the tide has rolled out leaving everything beached and unmoving behind it. But things are brewing far out to sea, and a change for the better is coming soon.

Five of Cups: Some pirates kidnapped a wealthy looking guy, but when they tried to tie him up, the rope wouldn't hold. And then he turned into a lion and attacked them! And when they jumped overboard, he changed them into dolphins and laughed as they swam away. Dionysius always did have a sense of humor. Hopefully you will, too, as you deal with the non-attainment of expected results.

Five of Cups Reversed: So the god Dionysius turned some pirates into dolphins, as punishment for kidnapping him. But, honestly, it could have been worse. Old time pirates didn't exactly have it easy, and dolphins . . . well, they're just really cool. Maybe some of the pirates even came to enjoy their new condition, as you might once you adapt to the changes life has recently brought you.

Six of Cups: Iris, goddess of the rainbow, was also a sea goddess who seeded the clouds with water she carried from the oceans. Likewise, you should feel healed, renewed and revitalized now, happy and content and possibly very fertile!

Six of Cups Reversed: Iris, the golden winged goddess of the rainbow, is our six of cups. Upright, this card is about pleasure, contentment and fertility. Reversed, it often indicates a separation from these things, or from the people who bring us these things. Iris did double duty as a messenger of the gods. Perhaps there is someone you need to communicate with now.

Seven of Cups: Sirens had the heads of women, the bodies of birds, and sang like angels. But angels they weren't. Their favorite pastime was luring sailors to their deaths with their song. Likewise, something may be tempting you now, but it's an illusion, offering temporary pleasure in exchange for possibly permanent damage. Don't fall for it.

Seven of Cups Reversed: The only man to hear the famous siren's song and live was Odysseus, who bound himself to his ship's mast before he passed their island. He knew their voices were irresistible and would lure him to his death, so he made the wise choice to not give himself a choice. Sometimes, willpower needs a little help. Set yourself up for success.

Eight of Cups: Triton, the first merman, must have been a bit of a surprise to mommy and daddy (Poseidon and Amphitrite, god and goddess of the sea) because, um, they both had legs. But his unusual biology turned out to be an advantage, allowing Triton to dive deeper than anyone. Likewise, you would like to find deeper meaning in life. And this card suggests you are well equipped for it.

Eight of Cups Reversed: Most children of the gods got superpowers, good looks, and a home on Mt. Olympus. What did Triton get? A fish tail. But instead of doing the fishy version of emo, he lived it up, siring a whole race of merpeople and stirring up storms with his magic conch shell. Triton was a glass half full kind of guy. And with the Eight reversed, you can be, too.

Nine of Cups: The great rivers of the ancient world were believed to be gods, maybe because without them, life wouldn't have been possible. One of the greatest of these was mighty Euphrates, which along with the Tigris, made the Fertile Crescent so extraordinarily abundant. Likewise, the Nine of Cups is all about abundance in your life, in work, love, finances, and emotional well-being.

Nine of Cups Reversed: The river Euphrates was both a blessing and a curse to its people. On the one hand, it gave life to millions. On the other, jealous rivals ensured that war was common, the marshes around the river carried sickness, and floods were always a problem. The Nine reversed is about your life not looking as good from your perspective as it does to everyone else.

Ten of Cups: Abductions in Greek mythology tended to be pretty tragic. But then there's Hylas, who was getting some water one day for him and his mentor Hercules, when he was abducted by some nymphs. But unlike in most stories, Hylas fell in love and happily chose to stay with the nymphs. Likewise, the Ten of Cups is about finding emotional fulfillment, particularly in relationships.

Ten of Cups Reversed: Handsome Hylas was abducted by some nymphs, who knew a good thing when they saw one. But while that left Hylas very happy, it greatly upset his friend and mentor Hercules, who looked tirelessly, and fruitlessly, for him for months. Similarly, the Ten of Cups reversed is about trouble in relationships, separation, and a lack of peace and harmony.

Page of Cups: Despite his wings, Eros was born of the sea, along with Aphrodite, and is often depicted in watery pastimes. He is also, of course, known for inspiring emotion, and therefore

goes brilliantly in Cups, the suite of the emotions. Our Page is bringing you fresh passions, childlike wonder and great communication between lovers or partners.

Page of Cups Reversed: Eros is more often depicted as a handsome young man than as a chubby child, and it's in this guise that he met and fell in love with a beautiful human woman, Psyche. But Psyche's sisters were jealous, and attempted repeatedly to break the couple apart. Likewise, the Two of Cups indicates trouble in paradise: arguments, deception, and breakups are possible.

Knight of Cups: Sea goddess Thetis is our Knight of Cups. The Knight is all about compassionate love, and Thetis showed this repeatedly. Like when she found the lame Hephaestus, after he'd been thrown out of Olympus, and nursed him back to health. In gratitude, he later made arms and armor for her son Achilles. Showing compassion to someone now could yield you valuable rewards later.

Knight of Cups Reversed: Sea Goddess Thetis was given kind of a raw deal. A prophecy said that any son she might have was likely to surpass his father, which was a problem since she was dating both Zeus and Poseidon! So they conspired together to marry her to a mortal instead, a match that produced the demigod Achilles. In matters of the heart, someone is not being honest with you now.

Queen of Cups: Amphitrite, goddess of the sea and saltwater, is our Queen of Cups. The Cups equate water with emotion, at times the deep, troubled waters of introspection or the rough seas of discontent. But not here! This queen is sunlight on calm seas, personifying hope, happiness, devotion, and loyalty. A true friend.

Queen of Cups Reversed: Amphitrite, goddess of the sea, is our Queen of Cups. Upright, she is sunlight on water, all sparkling joy and calm serenity. Reversed, however . . . not so much. Think of the deep, unfathomable ocean, cold and merciless. Or a storm tossed sea, volatile and dangerous. You or someone near you isn't controlling their emotions, their emotions are controlling them.

King of Cups: Born on land but ruling the sea, Poseidon combined the active quality of air with the emotional quality of water, and frequently fought in both realms. Likewise, this is a card for making your emotions work for you in other areas: an actor or musician using emotion to bring realism to a performance, or a businessman using charm and diplomacy at work.

King of Cups Reversed: The sea can be still as glass on the surface, while tsunamis are forming the depths. Likewise, when this card comes up in a reading, someone may not be feeling the way you think they are. Trusting this king is a gamble; a master of the emotions is also a master at manipulating them. Watch out for lies, deception, and someone using your emotions against you.

Ace of Swords: After a military loss, the Athenians were required to send children every few years to be devoured by the minotaur, a bull headed beast that lived in a maze on Crete. Theseus, the king's son, took the place of a child, discovered the maze's secret, and killed the monster. To win, Theseus had to combine intellect with strength, and right now, so can you.

Ace of Swords Reversed: Being a bro, Theseus agreed to help a friend acquire the beautiful Persephone for a wife. Just one problem: she was already married, and to Hades, god of the underworld! Nonetheless, the two managed to enter Hades' kingdom -- only to immediately fuse to the rocks, unable to move. The Ace of Swords reminds that rash action has a cost.

Two of Swords: Ever heard of being on the horns of a dilemma? Yeah, that's basically you now. And that's Hercules with the Golden Hind, the pampered pet of Artemis, a goddess you did NOT want to cross. But bringing back the Hind was one of Herc's labors, and if he didn't do it, he didn't get immortality. Likewise, you may be feeling stuck, or be facing a quandary right now.

Two of Swords Reversed: Hercules needed to capture the Golden Hind for one of his labors, but was afraid of the reaction of the Hind's owner, Artemis. Yet, after explaining the situation, he found her surprisingly lenient. She even helped him find a way to both complete his labor and return her pet. Likewise, you are now finding a way through to action.

Three of Swords: Hercules' kingly cousin, in an ongoing attempt to get him killed, sent him to deal with a huge, nasty tempered boar. Herc did it, and then brought the boar back alive, to terrify his much less macho tormentor! Feeling betrayed? Has a close relationship gone to hell? The Three of Swords understands, but inflicting your pain on others rarely helps.

Three of Swords Reversed: Eurystheus is shown hiding from Hercules, whom he was forcing to perform twelve dangerous labors. But there was no way out for either of them: Eurystheus was acting on instructions from Hera, and Herc could only achieve immortality by completing his tasks. You may also be feeling trapped in a bad relationship. Prepare for it to take time, and effort, to resolve.

Four of Swords: A symposium in the modern world is a meeting of scholars to discuss new research. In ancient Greece, where the term originates, it was a meeting of scholars to drink and hang out with pretty flute girls. Modern day symposiums could learn a few things from the ancient Greeks! Likewise, you could be a little less serious about something today.

Four of Swords Reversed: The Four of Swords reversed is about working smarter, not harder. You've been pushing lately, trying to force through a roadblock, but it isn't happening. You might get farther by imitating the old Greek symposium (which was basically a drinking party for scholars.) In other words, take a few colleagues out for beer and pick their brains.

Five of Swords: Hera created the Lernaean Hydra, a poisonous, many headed, invulnerable snake, specifically to kill Hercules. The Five of Swords feels like that: not only defeat, but impossible to avoid defeat. Like you've been set up to lose, and maybe you have. But how we deal with failure is at least as important as how we deal with success. Learn from your mistakes and move on.

Five of Swords Reversed: Hercules had a hell of a battle with the Lernaean Hydra. Multiple heads, poisoned blood, and a vicious temper do not make for a fun fight. But he finally managed it, and discovered afterwards that its poisoned blood was perfect for dipping his arrows in! Thanks, Hera! You, too, may soon see the silver lining in a recent cloudy prospect.

Six of Swords: Achilles, the demigod son of the sea goddess Thetis, is our Six of Swords. As a young man, Achilles was dressed as a girl by Thetis, who didn't want him going off to war. But a general saw him looking longingly at some weapons on display, and figured it out. Likewise, the Six is about making a transition to a future that suits you better.

Six of Swords Reversed: In the middle of the Trojan War, Achilles got into a quarrel with his ally Agamemnon, who had stolen a beautiful slave that Achilles had wanted for himself. So

Achilles refused to fight. Likewise, there's something you need to do, but you're resisting. If you wait until you're forced into it, your options will be fewer than if you make the decision yourself.

Seven of Swords: The Swords suite is all about action. But just because you're busy, doesn't mean you're accomplishing anything. The Seven is about expending energy on futile actions, or feeling like any action you take will be useless and thus doing nothing. Like Sisyphus, eternally cursed to roll a boulder up a hill, yet never reach the top, you are in danger of wasting your time.

Seven of Swords Reversed: Hades showed up to claim King Sisyphus for the underworld, but Sisyphus didn't want to go. So he asked Hades to demonstrate how his unbreakable chains worked -- and then used them to trap their master! He hoped to live forever, but was eventually forced to release his captive by the gods. Likewise, if you think you're getting away with something now, look again.

Eight of Swords: The Sphinx was sent by Hera to guard the road to Thebes. Any passersby had to answer her riddle or be devoured on the spot. Right now, you may be feeling similarly trapped or censored. Unable to move ahead until you say what someone else wants to hear or do what they want you to do. If fear of criticism or harsh words is holding you back; speak your truth and move on.

Eight of Swords Reversed: Oedipus was confronted by the Sphynx with a do or die riddle: what goes on four legs at dawn, two at noon and three in evening? His answer: a man, who crawls as a baby, walks upright as an adult, and needs a cane in old age. In response, the monster threw herself off a cliff, because he'd gotten it right. Likewise, obstacles in your path are self-destructing now.

Nine of Swords: After Achilles died, his good friend Ajax claimed his divinely made armor, but his army voted to give it to someone else. He flew into a rage so fierce that, if Athena hadn't confused his mind, he would have slaughtered his own allies. He killed himself afterward, in shame for losing his temper and his honor. Guilt or despair may be plaguing you now, too. Don't give in!

Nine of Swords Reversed: Ajax killed himself after his army voted to give his dead friend Achilles' armor to Odysseus instead of him. But, had he held on a little longer, he might have discovered that Odysseus would need that armor. Because it would take him more than a decade (and an Odyssey full of misfortunes) to get home. Some time could give you a new perspective now, too.

Ten of Swords: Zeus had a headache. A bad headache. An epic quality skull banger of a headache, and nobody had invented aspirin yet. It may feel like that for you right now, too, like all your problems are starting to seem unbearable. But just as Zeus' headache was not brain cancer, but rather feisty goddess Athena about to be born, maybe your problems aren't quite as bad as they appear.

Ten of Swords Reversed: Zeus' mighty headache turned out to be his daughter Athena, being born by bursting out of his skull (and you thought migraines were bad). But while the process hurt like hell, Zeus ended up rather enjoying his little bundle of angry bravado. In fact, Athena became his favorite child. Likewise, the worst is behind you, and good things are on the way.

The Page of Swords: Aphrodite had promised Paris that Helen of Sparta would be his bride, but how to get them together? She solved the problem by sending Paris to Sparta as an envoy, at a time when Helen's husband was away. And then sent Himeros (god of desire) to seal the deal. Likewise, you can reach a desired end more easily through diplomacy than force today.

Page of Swords Reversed: Paris eloped with Helen because Aphrodite had promised him the most beautiful woman in the world for his bride. The fact that Helen was already married, and to the crazy king of Sparta, wasn't his problem, now was it? Ummm You know, enthusiasm is a great and wonderful thing, but maybe a little more thought needs to go into a certain situation just now.

Knight of Swords: The Chimera, a fire breathing monster, was just slaughtering the hell out of everyone, until a hero named Bellerophon teamed up with Pegasus and rammed a mass of metal down its throat. The fire breath melted the metal, which suffocated the monster and saved the day! Likewise, you now have the intellectual energy to find an answer to the most difficult of problems.

Knight of Swords Reversed: Bellerophon killed a monster, married a princess, and seemed set for happily ever after. Except that all that wasn't enough. He started to think that his true place was among the gods. And since he happened to have a magical flying horse, he took off for Olympus . . . and was promptly thrown back to earth for his hubris. Beware arrogance and rash decisions now.

Queen of Swords: The Amazons, a tribe of warrior women, allowed no men to live with them, except for slaves. To preserve their numbers, they occasionally visited a nearby tribe, but any male children who resulted were returned to their fathers. Likewise, the Queen of Swords is about choosing intellect over emotion, and making decisions based on logic rather than sentimentality.

Queen of Swords Reversed: Penthesilia accidentally killed her sister, and in her grief decided that she wanted to die. But as Queen of the Amazons, she had to die in battle, and no one could defeat her. So she joined the Trojan War just to fight Achilles, the greatest warrior of the age, in a suicide by demigod. This card warns of bad decisions when emotions overcome good sense.

King of Swords: Jason's throne had been usurped by his uncle Pelias, who would only give it back in exchange for the Golden Fleece. In order to succeed, Jason had to find out where this fleece thing was, put together a group of heroes to help him get there, and lead them past a number of challenges. Likewise, the King of Swords allows you to use intellect and leadership to succeed today.

King of Swords Reversed: Jason needed the Golden Fleece, but couldn't get past the dragon that guarded it. So he seduced Medea, a local witch, into helping him. Jason got his fleece, and also got Medea as a wife, which would have been great if he had cared about her. He didn't, and later discarded her without a thought. The King reversed hints at the abuse of others for selfish gains.

Ace of Pentacles: Greek myths portray Artemis as Apollo's sister, but other legends tell a different story: of a goddess older than all the rest, and one who never really fit into male-centered Greek mythology. Because she wasn't Greek. And she damned sure wasn't part of the

patriarchy. She was the Great Mother of the Neolithic, who is bringing you fertility, growth and abundance now.

Ace of Pentacles Reversed: Artemis was the goddess of childbirth, of all animals, of the hunt, of agriculture, of death and rebirth, and of the Moon. These traits are identical to those of the great Mother Goddess of the Neolithic. But an all-powerful female deity didn't fit ancient Greek ideals, so she was demoted. Likewise, the reversed Ace warns that your success may have obstacles.

Two of Pentacles: Chloris, nymph of flowers, spring and new growth, was also the goddess of youth and its pleasures. Pentacles, or Coins as this suite is also known, is usually associated with the gathering of wealth. Chloris is reminding you that, while time may be money, money is also time: in other words, don't spend all your life gathering what you forget to enjoy.

Two of Pentacles Reversed: The Two of Pentacles reversed features Chloris, nymph of youth and flowers. On this card, she is echoing the poet: "gather ye rosebuds while ye may, old Time is still a-flying: And this same flower that smiles to-day, to-morrow will be dying." In other words, partying is great, but sometimes, you have to buckle down.

Three of Pentacles: The horai were the goddesses of the three seasons the Greeks recognized: spring, summer and autumn. Together, they formed the team that saw crops from their start as tiny seedlings through to their culmination as bountiful harvests. Likewise, teaming up could bring you rich rewards now.

Three of Pentacles Reversed: The horai, goddesses of the seasons, were also goddesses of proper timing. It doesn't take much to throw off a harvest: rains that come too early or too late; cold that lingers a bit too long; planting before you should, etc. Likewise, the four reversed warns that your timing may be off just now. Accept that delays happen, and pace yourself.

Four of Pentacles: Silenus, famous drunken tutor to Dionysius, visited King Midas's court (okay, he got lost and passed out in the garden). The king didn't understand his slurred comments on the transitory nature of life and the material world, because when he returned him, he asked for a literal golden touch as a reward. Midas should have listened; if you draw the four, so should you.

Four of Pentacles Reversed: King Midas returned Dionysius' lost tutor, Silenus, to him, and received his requested reward: everything he touched would turn to gold. He was thrilled, until his beloved daughter ran into his arms before he could stop her, and became a golden statue. The Four reversed warns of the destructive power of greed, and of the toll it can take on relationships.

Five of Pentacles: Hestia, sister to Zeus, was goddess of the home, hearth, and hospitality. Giving food and sanctuary was considered a sacred duty in the ancient world, especially by the followers of Hestia, who would take in even the lowliest of beggars. You may be feeling poor in health, money or acceptance right now, but look around and you will find those willing to help.

Five of Pentacles Reversed: Zeus and Hermes visited a city disguised as two wandering beggars. But despite the fact that turning away a stranger was a grave offense to Hestia, goddess of hospitality, no one would give them anything. Until they met an old couple named Baucis and Philemon, who invited them in -- and received wealth and safety in return. Better times are ahead for you, too.

Six of Pentacles: Philanthropy was important to the ancient Greeks, and the more you had, the more you were expected to give. Wealthy businessmen often gave back by sponsoring plays, such as the one the actors on our card are preparing for. Likewise, the Six of Pentacles is about a time when you have an abundance. How about using some of it to help your fellow man?

Six of Pentacles Reversed: Ancient Greece is seen as the founder of modern drama not only because of the skills of its playwrights, but because of the wealthy businessmen willing to sponsor performances. Being stingy risked ostracism from the community, and a failure of your business, while the more you gave, the more you were likely to get in return. The same is true for you now.

Seven of Pentacles: Hecate, goddess of witchcraft, was one of the most versatile deities in Greek mythology, believed to have power over the earth, sea and air. Likewise, you are currently being blessed with success in your current field, and the ability to find talents in new areas.

Seven of Pentacles Reversed: Hecate, goddess of witchcraft, was also goddess of the crossroads, areas where many paths intersect before going in different directions. Drawing the three of cups reversed indicates that you are on a path that is no longer working for you. But a crossroad is coming up, and you can choose another way.

Eight of Pentacles: Erichthonius, an early king of Athens (that's him as a baby on our card), is credited with teaching his people many things: how to capture wild horses and yoke them for plowing, how to make chariots, and how to smelt silver. Likewise, the Eight of Pentacles is all about learning new skills (or furthering your education) in order to improve your current situation.

Eight of Pentacles Reversed: Erichthonius, king of Athens, established the Panathenian games (precursor to the Olympics) to honor his adopted mother, Athena. He was himself lame, but didn't let that stop him from competing. He just invented a four wheeled chariot, and used it to beat out many more mobile competitors! Learn from Erichthonius, and don't let obstacles hinder your success.

Nine of Pentacles: Plutus, son of the goddess Demeter, is our Nine of Pentacles. Usually depicted carrying a heavy cornucopia, Plutus was the god of bountiful harvests and abundant wealth, and was often accompanied by Eirene, the goddess of peace, or Tykhe, the goddess of fortune. The Nine shows all three of these blessing you right now.

Nine of Pentacles Reversed: Plutus, god of wealth and good harvests, was blinded by Zeus so he would distribute his bounty without consideration of someone's worthiness. Or as the old saying goes, the rain falls on the just and the unjust alike. The Nine reversed indicates that you may be feeling envious of someone else's good fortune, or may feel under rewarded for your own hard work.

Ten of Pentacles: Persephone had it all. Kidnapped by the god Hades, she realized that the god of the underworld was also the god of wealth, and was stupidly besotted with her. So she worked out a deal: half the year she lived with him; the other half, she went back to the world above to visit her mother Demeter. Likewise, the Ten is saying that you can balance wealth and family, too.

Ten of Pentacles Reversed: Persephone was kidnapped by love-struck Hades, and dragged into the Underworld, causing her mother Demeter to go into a serious funk. And since Demeter controlled the seasons, her daughter's absence made it constantly bleak winter. The Ten reversed is telling you that your work/life balance is off, too, and need to be fixed before the freeze becomes permanent.

Page of Pentacles: Science fiction isn't new. Take the "giant" Talos, for instance, which was basically the world's first robot: a big, bronze automaton made by Hephaistos, and gifted by Zeus to his lover Europa as a bodyguard. Likewise, you are at the beginning of a bold new venture, maybe entrepreneurial, that has the potential to remake your world in a new way. Go for it!

Page of Pentacles Reversed: Talos, the bronze robot of Crete, had a habit of hurling boulders at ships trying to land. But the Argonauts managed to dock after Medea convinced the creature to remove the single nail keeping its oil-like blood in its body. She swore that doing so would make him immortal, but in fact, it only made him dead. Don't let someone derail your dreams today.

Knight of Pentacles: Demeter was taken in by a peasant family during her search for Persephone, and in gratitude, she taught their son Triptolemus the art of agriculture. He thereafter taught the rest of Greece. It was harder than hunting and gathering, but its bounty allowed the great Greek city states to grow. The Knight, likewise, is about the hard work that builds your dreams.

Knight of Pentacles Reversed: Demeter gave Triptolemus a dragon-powered chariot that he used to fly about Greece, sharing the idea of agriculture. But not everyone was glad to see him. King Lynkos ran him off, fearing that new methods of gathering wealth might weaken his hold over his people. The Knight reversed warns of similar hide-bound behavior that is impeding progress.

Queen of Pentacles: Demeter was the great goddess of the harvest, who presided over the fertility of the earth. She is therefore perfect as our Queen of Pentacles, a card that rules wealth and fertility, a down to earth practicality, and material wishes being granted. Anyone drawing this card can expect compassion, generosity, possibly a motherly influence, and, ultimately, success!

Queen of Pentacles Reversed: Demeter cursed Erysichthon, who cut down the trees in her sacred grove, to unending hunger. The man sold all that he had to buy food, even selling his daughter into slavery, but it still wasn't enough. He finally died by eating himself! Beware of the Queen reversed, who can be greedy, selfish and vengeful, always craving more but never satisfied.

King of Pentacles: Along with Demeter, Dionysius was one of the two great gods of the earth. So he is a fitting King of Pentacles, the suite associated with earth. Specifically, he ruled wine making, fertility and madness. In other words, Dionysius knew how to have a good time! And if you drew this card, so should you. The King of Pentacles tells of a happy and prosperous future.

King of Pentacles Reversed: Dionysius, the god of wine, was known to party hardy. But it could get a little out of hand, like with his followers the maenads, who were known to rip men

to pieces in drunken, ecstatic orgies. Likewise, the King reversed warns of too much emphasis on the luxuries of wealth, especially good food, wine or sex, and not enough on the spiritual riches of life.