

The Tarot Card Meanings Unraveled

Tarot cards have been around since the middle part of the 15th century. As a matter of fact, they have been around in European cultures for nearly as long as typical playing cards. It is not known exactly how long those playing cards have been around.

And about 60 years later, the first set of tarot cards was created in Italy. They had the addition of trump cards. And over time with different names, these cards were known as '*tarocchi*' which is of Italian origin. But it is not known what it means. And that is how the title '*tarot*' came about.

The typical playing cards never used the same suits that are known today. In fact, they used the suits that are now part of the Minor Arcana of the tarot. They were Staves, which are Wands, Cups, Coins, Pentacles, and Swords. And they were replaced by Clubs, Hearts, Diamonds, and Spades. Additionally, tarot cards were not meant to be used for divination. They were simply created as an alternative to playing cards.

But over time, tarot cards were used by those who spoke English for divination purposes exclusively. As it evolved, the deck grew into 78 cards instead of 56. The Major Arcana and the Minor Arcana.

The Major Arcana consists of 22 cards which are the trump cards in games. But what they do represent are major life events and transitions that have symbolic images, a name, and a number. The Minor Arcana consists of 56 cards that are in the 4 suits, and represent the mundane.

Time to briefly look at which each of the 78 cards means, starting with the Major Arcana.

The Major Arcana

The Fool

Represents a spirit in search of experience as well as knowledge. The Fool has a childlike trait to understand based on intuition, and is ready to learn and gain wisdom. The Fool in reverse acts on impulse in a dangerous way. Learning the hard way is a guarantee.

Corresponding Number: 0

Corresponding Planet: Uranus

Enneagram Type: 7

The Magician

Creation, innovation, using the brain to make something new, powerful, resourceful, skills and an abundance of energy. The Magician in reverse is a sign of deceit, no energy, problems with communication, poor intentions.

Corresponding Number: 1

Corresponding Planet: Mercury

Enneagram Type: 3

The High Priestess

This card represents insight on a spiritual level, intuition, talents that are concealed, and a mystery. Things that are meant to be revealed at the right time. The High Priestess in reverse is indicative of no harmony within, purposely holding secrets, and purposely withholding information.

Corresponding Number: 2

Corresponding Planet: The Moon

Enneagram Type: 4

The Empress

The Empress is associated with motherhood and anything that is maternal. There is nurturing creativity and abundance. It can also be a sign of pregnancy, and if this card comes up, it can be a sign of an opportunity on the way. The Empress reversed can indicate problems in the home, financial problems, as well as stagnation.

Corresponding Number: 3

Corresponding Planet: Venus

Enneagram Type: 2

The Emperor

The Emperor is known as the paternal card, the leader, a figure of authority, creating discipline and order. The Emperor is powerful. The Emperor in reverse is a control freak, someone who is a leader who is not mature enough to be, abuse of power. It can also be indicative of a loss of authority.

Corresponding Number: 4

Corresponding Sign: Aries

Enneagram Type: 8

The Hierophant

The Hierophant is about education, formality, and tradition. This can also be a card that represents someone who is religious, seeking counsel or advice, and simply learning. Higher levels of education are also associated with this card. The Hierophant in reverse is rebellion, being given poor advice, and rejecting family values.

Corresponding Number: 5

Corresponding Sign: Taurus

Enneagram Type: 1

The Lovers

The Lovers is the card that shows up when it comes to making a commitment, and a choice after weighing options. It can also represent falling in love, and even being at crossroads which means it is time to make a decision. The Lovers in reverse is indicative of infertility, problems within a relationship, and separation.

Corresponding Number: 6

Corresponding Sign: Gemini

Enneagram Type: 6

The Chariot

The Chariot is about overcoming challenges as well as conflicts, and it represents having willpower, a desire to keep going. That is no matter how you are feeling emotionally. You are determined not to give up. The Chariot in reverse means giving up, a lack of self-confidence, and energy that is scattered.

Corresponding Number: 7

Corresponding Sign: Cancer

Enneagram Type: N/A

Strength

Strength is what this card is called, inner strength. It is a card that represents vitality, energy, and belief in oneself. It is about confidence. The Strength in reverse is a sign of lacking courage and vitality and having a lot of self-doubts. Also, it can mean no self-control.

Corresponding Number: 8

Corresponding Sign: Leo

Enneagram Type: N/A

The Hermit

The Hermit signifies that this is a time to do some serious soul-searching and finding the answers within. It is a card that means to do this in solitude, to be introspective, and to be withdrawn from society for the time being. The Hermit in reverse means isolation, being a misfit, loneliness, and sadness.

Corresponding Number: 9

Corresponding Sign: Virgo

Enneagram Type: 5

The Wheel Of Fortune

The Wheel of Fortune is the card that represents a change in a cycle and finding a new opportunity. It is the card that represents taking a chance and moving forward. When this card is in reverse, it represents a setback that has been unforeseen, a mishap, or a missed opportunity.

Corresponding Number: 10

Corresponding Planet: Jupiter

Enneagram Type: N/A

Justice

Justice is the card that represents balance, justice, fairness, equality, responsibility, and cause and effect. In other words, it represents karma. If this card is in reverse, then it is indicative of unfair treatment, lack of honesty, no accountability, or legal problems.

Corresponding Number: 11

Corresponding Sign: Libra

Enneagram Type: 1

The Hanged Man

The Hanged Man is the card that represents sacrifice, letting go, surrendering, or being held in time. When this card is in reverse, it represents the ego taking over, not being willing to change, or missed opportunities.

Corresponding Number: 12

Corresponding Planet: Neptune

Enneagram Type: 2

Death

Death is the most misunderstood card in the deck. It rarely means physical death. However, when it comes to terminal illnesses it does. What it really represents are endings, transformations or major changes. When this card is in reverse, it means that there is resistance to change, depression, or simply not being aware.

Corresponding Number: 13

Corresponding Sign: Scorpio

Enneagram Type: N/A

Temperance

Temperance is the card that represents harmony, moderation, patience, balance, and connecting with your Higher Power. When Temperance is in reverse, it can mean there is illness, lack of moderation or patience, and imbalance.

Corresponding Number: 14

Corresponding Sign: Sagittarius

Enneagram Type: 9

The Devil

The Devil represents materialism, unhealthy attachments, and obsessions, temptation, indulgences to the extreme, and commitment. When this card is in reverse it is indicative of breaking free from addictions and poor habits, no more restraints, and also divorce.

Corresponding Number: 15

Corresponding Sign: Capricorn

Enneagram Type: 6

The Tower

Another card in the deck that is quite feared. What it represents are changes that are unforeseen, crises, dangerous situations creeping up, destruction followed by liberation. This card in reverse is indicative of the aftermath after destruction, losses, and obstacles.

Corresponding Number: 16

Corresponding Planet: Mars

Enneagram Type: N/A

The Star

The Star follows the Tower for a reason. It is the card that represents hope and inspiration. It also represents new opportunities that are on the way and spirituality. It can be a card that also represents astronomy. When it is in reverse, it is indicative of opportunities that have been missed, despair, illnesses, and disappointments.

Corresponding Number: 17

Corresponding Sign: Aquarius

Enneagram Type: N/A

The Moon

The Moon is a confusing card because it represents deception, illusions, things that are hidden, and fear. When this card is in reverse, it can indicate weird dreams, insomnia, and no longer being in fear. But it can also mean being unhappy.

Corresponding Number: 18

Corresponding Sign: Pisces

Enneagram Type: N/A

The Sun

This is the happiest card, which represents pure joy, happiness, celebration, vitality, success, and marriage. When it is in reverse, it means vitality is low, disappointments, false impressions and no clarity.

Corresponding Number: 19

Corresponding Planet: Sun

Enneagram Type: N/A

Judgment

Judgment is the card that represents renewal, resurrection, entering a state of higher consciousness, redemption, making bold decisions, and awakening. When this card is in reverse it represents no logic, poor judgment, acting on impulse, and stagnation.

Corresponding Number: 20

Corresponding Planet: Pluto

Enneagram Type: N/A

The World

The World represents accomplishments, achievement, new possibilities, and fulfillment. In reverse, this card rules plans that have failed, stagnation, and success that has been delayed. This is the last card in the Major Arcana.

Corresponding Number: 21

Corresponding Planet: Saturn

Enneagram Type: N/A

As you can see from this very small overview of the Major Arcana, you can see that it represents a single journey. As you review the cards and see that the cards that follow each one make sense during a sequence. Now, the next set of cards are the remaining 56 of them which are the Minor Arcana. That represents the day-to-day and mundane stuff. Let's get an overview of each of those cards now.

The Minor Arcana

The Minor Arcana represent the mundane, day-to-day aspects of life. There are 4 suits, they are Wands, Swords, Cups, and Pentacles. The first suit that will be covered is the Wands suit.

Wands are associated with the fire element, and this is what rules passion, energy, creativity, and motivation.

The Wands

Ace of Wands - This card rules potential and the early stages of intention, development, and thoughts with a plan of action in place. This card also tells you to make any type of new beginning fruitful. Create it and stick to it. This card in reverse is that there was some passion for a new start, but you are stuck and cannot evolve. Or it may represent ill-intentions. All fire signs are linked to this card.

Two of Wands - This card shows that you have found a balance in life in regards to your career, social status, and image. You are making future plans, decisions, and you are making some strong discoveries in regards to what will help you achieve your goals. This card in reverse is indicative of poor inner alignment due to fear. Or you are making these plans for ill-intended reasons. This card is astrologically tied to Mars in Aries.

Three of Wands - This card represents progress, unexpected gains, new partnerships, foresight, future planning, and opportunities. This card in reverse indicates a lack of planning forward and foresight. This card is astrologically tied to the Sun in Aries.

Four of Wands - This card shows that someone's ideas and plans have materialized. It can relate to business, personal life, and relationships. Marriage is on the way with this card. This is a joyous card which means celebration, harmony, and relaxation. This card in reverse may mean these things have been achieved such as a plan materializing but there is a lack of happiness and alignment with it. Astrologically this card is tied to Venus in Aries.

Five of Wands - This card is indicative of conflicts, competition, and tension, as well as disagreements. When this card shows up in reverse, it represents all of those things within. Astrologically, this card represents Saturn in Leo.

Six of Wands - This card represents victory and great results as a result of hard work. It also can be indicative of great news on the way. Always keep persevering no matter what. This card in reverse represents disappointment as a result of not achieving what you worked for and the plan not going the way it has intended. Astrologically this card is tied to Jupiter in Leo.

Seven of Wands - This card means that you are up for a challenge by a competitor and you are ready to fight it and stand your ground. Always stick to your principles and to never give in. When this card shows up in reverse, it means that you are exhausted and giving up, and giving in. Astrologically this card is tied to Mars in Leo.

Eight of Wands - This is the card of fast-paced and fast-moving action as well as air travel. In reverse, this card indicates delays and resistance to change. Astrologically this card is tied to Mercury in Sagittarius.

Nine of Wands - This is the card that shows that you are carrying a load but you are persisting, and courageous, and you can do it. It is most definitely a test of faith. In reverse, this card shows a lack of resilience and plenty of struggle. Astrologically this card is tied to the Moon in Sagittarius.

Ten of Wands - This card shows that you are shouldering a lot of responsibility and it is time to delegate because your plate is overfilled. This card in reverse indicates that you are not delegating and you are on your way to a breakdown and burning out. Astrologically this card is tied to Saturn in Sagittarius.

Page of Wands - This card shows that new ideas and discoveries are made in regards to your business that can be quite fruitful. However, when this card shows up in reverse, you may be second-guessing these ideas and you may be compromising your honor and self-esteem as well. This card is tied to the fire element.

Knight of Wands - There is a change happening, motion is happening, and something is about to end which is welcomed. It could be a better job being around the corner meaning the one you are not happy in is about to end. In reverse, there are delays to the changes and stagnation. Astrologically, Scorpio and Sagittarius are tied to this card.

Queen of Wands - This card represents an energy that is strong, fun-loving, independent, passionate, and confident. In reverse, this card is indicative of the energy that is pushy, overbearing, manipulative, spiteful, and poor self-esteem. Astrologically this card is tied to Pisces and Aries.

King of Wands - This card represents energy involving ambition, leadership, and self-assertion. This is a card that focuses on business as well as finance. In reverse, this card represents an abuse of power, cruelty, or not being a good leader for any reason. Astrologically this card is tied to Cancer and Leo.

The Swords

The Swords suit in the Minor Arcana of the tarot is the one that rules thoughts, intellect, the mind, and struggles. This is linked to the air element.

Ace of Swords - This card indicates that there is mental clarity, a brand new idea, a eureka moment, and success. This card in reverse indicates that there are second guesses and thoughts around an original idea as well as poor judgment. This card represents all air signs.

Two of Swords - This card represents hard decisions and having to weigh the pros and cons heavily. Everyone has to make a difficult decision in life and this is what this card shows. When this card is in reverse it is a clear sign of indecision or stalemate. Astrologically this card is linked to the Moon in Libra.

Three of Swords - The heartbreak card. This card represents pain on an emotional level, sadness, hurt, and grief. In reverse, this card can represent several things that can mean optimism and having the ability to release the pain. Or it can mean that you are talking badly about yourself. Astrologically, this card is associated with Saturn in Libra.

Four of Swords - This is the card that represents rest and sleep. It can also mean recuperation as well as meditation, and 'sleeping on it'. This card in reverse can either indicate stagnation where you have been contemplating for too long or being burned out. Astrologically, this card is linked to Jupiter in Libra.

Five of Swords - This is the conflict card. This is the card that represents competition, disagreements, and defeat. When this card is in reverse, it can indicate being able to move forward from any ill feelings or passing an olive branch. Astrologically, Venus in Aquarius is associated.

Six of Swords - This card is indicative of removing baggage, and making changes. It can also represent travel by sea. If this card shows up in reverse, it shows that there is resistance to making necessary changes or that there is business that is unfinished. Astrologically, this card is linked to Mercury in Aquarius.

Seven of Swords - This is the betrayal and deception card that is indicative of someone getting away with something. They had acted in a strategic way to do that. When this card is in reverse, it can be indicative of not being honest with yourself and being very secretive. Astrologically this card is tied to the Moon in Aquarius.

Eight of Swords - This card shows that imprisonment is only happening in the mind as well as a victim mentality. You think you are trapped, but you really are not. When this card is in reverse, it can show that you are releasing those self-limiting beliefs and becoming open to other options to solve your issues whether they are real or imagined. Astrologically this card is linked to Jupiter in Gemini.

Nine of Swords - This is the anxiety card as it can indicate excessive worry as well as fear. There are anxiety and depression. It can indicate that there are nightmares. When this card is in reverse, it means that the fears are quite deep or that they are being released which depends on the spread. Astrologically, Mars in Gemini is associated with this card.

Ten of Swords - This card pretty much says this is the end, and the end is quite painful. It can be a card that represents betrayal as well as crises and loss. When this card is in reverse, either this shows that one has recovered or one is hanging onto something that is gone. Astrologically, this card is linked to Mercury in Gemini.

Page of Swords - This card indicates that brand new ideas are on their way as well as a strong hunger for knowledge. This is a communication card, and if this shows up in reverse, it indicates that it is a case of all talk but no action. This card is linked to the air element.

Knight of Swords - This is an ambitious figure who is quick to think and has a strong desire to succeed. When this card shows up in reverse it indicates impulsive thinking and someone who is not focused. Astrologically this card is linked to Taurus and Gemini.

Queen of Swords - This card is indicative of someone who is quite independent, objective, and is clear with communicating, and has boundaries set. In reverse, this card indicates a trait of being cold, too emotional, unkind, or not thinking for oneself. Astrologically, Virgo and Libra are associated with this card.

King of Swords - This is the card that represents truth and having the ability to think clearly. This is a card that represents both honesty as well as authority. In reverse, it can indicate abused power or ineffective power. Astrologically, Capricorn and Aquarius are linked to this card.

The Cups

The Cups suit in the Minor Arcana is linked to the element of water. This means aspects of relationships, emotions, feelings, healing, and intuition are what this suit represents.

Ace of Cups - This card represents a new love whether it is a new relationship or a new hobby. It is also a card that represents intuition as well as compassion. In reverse, it also is indicative of intuition, self-centeredness, and feelings that are repressed. This card is linked to the water element.

Two of Cups - This is the relationship card, as there is a partnership or love that is unified. When this card is in reverse, it can indicate a breakup, lack of harmony, or self-centredness. Astrologically, this card is linked to Venus in Cancer.

Three of Cups - This is the celebration card and it can indicate that there are collaborations, creations, as well as a party. When this card is in reverse, it really means being independent and breaking away from the party. Astrologically this card is linked to Mercury in Cancer.

Four of Cups - This is the apathy and boredom card. This card can also indicate being contemplative, meditating, as well as re-evaluating. When this card is in reverse, it means there is a withdrawal. Astrologically this card is linked to the Moon in Cancer.

Five of Cups - This is the card that represents disappointment, regret, and setbacks. When this card is in reverse, it means that you are moving on and you have forgiven yourself. The associated astrological placement is Mars in Scorpio.

Six of Cups - This is the nostalgia card. This is a card that represents innocence, thinking back to childhood, or the past in general. When this card comes up in reverse, it can indicate someone who is stuck in the past and not being playful. Astrologically this card is linked to the Sun in Scorpio.

Seven of Cups - This card means there is confusion, a lack of focus too many choices presented, and information overload. When this card comes in reverse, it shows that you have made a choice based on your personal values, or it may once again represent overload. Astrologically this card is linked to Venus in Scorpio.

Eight of Cups - This is the card that shows up when you have made the decision to move on after disappointment, or it can mean you are trying to escape. When this card shows up in reverse, it can mean you are trying to hang onto something that you should be walking away from. Astrologically this card is linked to Saturn in Pisces.

Nine of Cups - This is the wish card! Your dreams are coming true! This is the card of happiness, joy, and feelings of gratitude and contentment. In reverse, this card indicates that there is dissatisfaction even after getting what you have wanted, or there is an indulgence. Astrologically this card is linked to Jupiter in Pisces.

Ten of Cups - This card means that there is a blissful relationship, you are in harmony, and you are aligned. When this card comes up in reverse, then there is misalignment and relationship problems, as well as the feeling of being disconnected. The associated astrological placement is Mars in Pisces.

Page of Cups - Messages that are delivered by intuition is what is indicated by this card. Additionally creative urges and opportunities, as well as feelings of curiosity. When this card is in reverse it can indicate a block in creativity, or not being emotionally mature, as well as self-doubt. This card is tied to the water element.

Knight of Cups - This card is the one that represents imagination, beauty, and creativity. There is some charm associated with this card. When it shows up in reverse, it can be indicative of moodiness, envy, not being realistic as well as having an imagination that is overactive. Astrologically this card is associated with Aquarius and Pisces.

Queen of Cups - This card represents a character that is caring, kind, compassionate, intuitive, goes with the flow, and stable on an emotional level. When this card is in reverse, it can indicate self-centeredness and be codependent. Astrologically this card is associated with Gemini and Cancer.

King of Cups - This card represents a character that is diplomatic and compassionate, as well as being balanced on an emotional level. When this card is in reverse, it can show someone who is manipulative on an emotional level, moodiness, and self-centeredness. Astrologically this card is associated with Libra and Scorpio.

The Pentacles

The Pentacles suit in the Minor Arcana is the one that rules finances, anything that is physical or material, health, and anything that is tactile. This is the suit that is associated with the earth element.

Ace of Pentacles - This card indicates that there is a new business venture on the rise. It can also be a sign of a new financial opportunity, as well as manifesting abundance. When this card is in reverse, it can indicate that something was planned poorly or that an opportunity was missed. It is tied to the earth signs.

Two of Pentacles - This is the card that indicates that a need for time management is in order. It also is the card that rules multitasking, as well as being adaptable and to prioritize. When this card is in reverse, it can mean that time is poorly managed as well as being disorganized. Astrologically, this card is tied to Jupiter in Capricorn.

Three of Pentacles - This is the teamwork card, and is the one that indicates that there is collaboration, as well as implementing what one has learned. When this card is in reverse, it shows that there is trouble within the team as well as disharmony. It is also a choice to work independently instead of being a part of a team. Astrologically, this card is tied to Mars in Capricorn.

Four of Pentacles - This card indicates being frugal and conservative with money. It shows that there is complete control over finances. When this card is in reverse, it can either mean being cheap or not being cautious with money. It depends on the spread. Astrologically, this card is tied to the Sun in Capricorn.

Five of Pentacles - This card is indicative of poverty, financial loss, worry, or having a lack mindset, or being in poor health. When this card is in reverse, it means that there is recovery. Astrologically, this card is tied to Mercury in Taurus

Six of Pentacles - This is the generosity card. A card that rules being giving and benevolent. It is indicative of charities, being the one to donate or being the one to receive. If this card comes up in reverse, it can indicate debts that have not been paid or a charity that is one-sided. Astrologically, this card is tied to the Moon in Taurus.

Seven of Pentacles - This card is indicative of long-term investments or something taking a while to manifest, and remaining patient. It requires perseverance, faith, and patience. When this card is in reverse, it is indicative of not being able to hold a long-term vision as well as something that does not turn out to be successful after all of the efforts you had put in. Astrologically, this card is tied to Saturn in Taurus.

Eight of Pentacles - This card is the apprenticeship card as well as mastering and developing skills. It is a card that represents learning new practical things. When this card is in reverse, it can indicate being too much of a perfectionist that will end up hurting your efforts down the road, or activity that is not directed properly. Astrologically, this card is tied to the Sun in Virgo.

Nine of Pentacles - This is the abundance card. Financial abundance has been achieved, and that means you are self-sufficient, and it is also a card that represents luxury. When this card is in reverse, it means that you are hustling too much for something that will not pay off in the end. Astrologically, this card is tied to Venus in Virgo.

Ten of Pentacles - This is the wealth card which indicates financial success and excellent financial contribution, and you are secure in the long term. This card in reverse can indicate greed or financial loss. Astrologically, this card is tied to Mercury in Virgo.

Page of Pentacles - This is a good news card! It means there is a financial opportunity coming your way, and you are manifesting what you are putting out there and it can be a card that represents skill development. The element that this card is tied to is the earth element.

Knight of Pentacles - This is the card that represents hard work as well as being productive, and being conservative. Staying on a routine is important. When this card shows up in reverse, it can mean that there is a feeling of boredom as well as problems with perfectionism. The signs that this card is tied to are Leo and Virgo.

Queen of Pentacles - This card represents a character that is both practical as well as nurturing, and providing for a family. It is a working mom. When this card is in reverse, it can indicate that there is a conflict that has to do with work and home. It can also indicate that one is caring for themselves but not for others. The signs that this card is tied to are Sagittarius and Capricorn.

King of Pentacles - This is the leadership and business card, as well as discipline and abundance. This is also a card that represents security. In reverse, this card represents being obsessed with self-image and wealth, as well as stubbornness. This card represents The signs that this card is tied to are Aries and Taurus.

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