



Figure 1 Carol Herzer Illuminated Tarot (version of RWS)

Meanings taken from Amanda Goldston's Learn Tarot Online

<http://www.learntarotonline.com>

Yod

5 Swords

Quick Keywords

Conflict, victory, strong adversary, hollow victory.

Symbols

Two dejected looking figures are standing by the water, whilst the 3rd has 3 swords in his hands. The swords of the other two people lie on the ground in front of him.

Meaning

This is a card of conflict and victory, but at the expense of other people. The figure looks quite smug with having all the swords. However this can be a hollow victory. This can be a serious quarrel.

This may be that you are up against someone who is much stronger than you and that they have all the factors in their favour. It may be you that is the stronger of the people.

This is a card of arguments and hostility, and can be an "us-against-them" mentality. This is a selfish card and there is no co-operation between people.

There are no real winners with this card. One person has all the swords, often to the detriment of the other parties.

With abundant blessings.

Amanda Goldston

He

Page of Cups:

Quick Keywords

Birth, pregnancy, new project, labour of love, creativity, ideas.

Person

The page can represent a child and it can also indicate a person who is younger in age or more immature than the person you are reading for.

As a person the page is a sensitive, creative child (or person who has child like creativity and imagination). The child may be a bit of a daydreamer, as well as quiet, gentle, reflective and kind.

Beware of over-sensitivity.

It can also indicate a child born under one of the Water signs of Pisces (symbolised by the fish), Cancer or Scorpio.

The person will often be an emotional person, maybe a poet or artist or musician.

Situation

The Page of cups often indicates news of a birth or a pregnancy.

This can also be the creative birth of new ideas and projects. Let the ideas flow in an uninhibited and creative manner. Ideas will often be coming straight from the heart. It is important not to judge them.

The page can also be bringing opportunities for love.

It can also be good for exploring psychic, intuitive and spiritual matters, with an open mind and sense of curiosity and wonder.

With abundant blessings.

Amanda Goldston

Vau

8 of Swords

Quick Keywords

Restriction, limitations, obstacles, trapped.

Symbols

Here we see a woman who is blindfolded and who has cloths tied around her, which are restricting her movements. She is standing in water, which represents emotions. There are 9 swords forming a barricade behind her.

Meaning

This is a card of restriction. It may be self-imposed and the situation may not be as difficult as it is perceived to be. This can also indicate restriction and obstacles from external sources.

The bandages appear to be quite loose around the figure and she could probably wriggle loose and take off the blindfold if she chose to.

This can be a card of limiting beliefs about your capabilities. This can also be a card of "I can't because..." which may or may not be justified.

This card can indicate a feeling of being trapped, backed into a corner or imprisoned by someone or by your circumstances.

This can indicate that someone has given away their personal power to someone else. It can be that you are feeling a victim in life and are waiting for someone or something to come and rescue you

Some of the situation may be of your own making and you still have choices, as difficult as that may seem to accept. By finding your clarity of thought, you can find a solution and a way forward.

He

Temperance

Quick Keywords

Healing, balance, calm, plenty, flow of life, serenity, allowing, testing the waters, keeping options open.

Colours

All the Colours are present here, symbolizing balance in all areas. There are elements of Earth (green), Air (White), Fire (Red) and Water (Blue). The most dominant Colours are the white of the Angel's robe, signifying spirituality and the red of the Angel's wings, which is fire connection between heaven and earth

Symbols

With one foot in the water and one on the land, there is balance between the emotions and actions. The figure is pouring water between 2 cups, which symbolizes the continual flow of life. The sun in the background brings a bright new day.

Meaning

This is a card of balance, of moderation and of pausing for thought before you act.

Temperance is a great healer of mind, body and spirit.

It is a card of calm, of hope and optimism, of "dipping your toe in" before you act. It is also about making sure you have all the facts and putting personal opinions to one side.

It is inner strength, self-control and a quiet, knowing confidence. Take the time to listen to and feel your emotions without being controlled by them.

Take inspired action when it feels like it comes from your heart and spirit.

Hidden motive

2 of Wands

Quick Keywords

Personal power, strength, success, support, restlessness.

Symbols

A well-dressed, wealthy looking man surveys the landscape in front of him. He holds a world in his hand. One wand is fixed to the wall and he is holding the other.

This is a card of success and prosperity, of having reached a goal, of holding the world in your hand. It can also signify the choices of "what next?"

Meaning

This can be earned success, wealth and fortune, brought about by your own efforts. It can be help and support from affluent individuals.

This is a card of personal power, of strength, courage and personal success. This is a card of power and it may be that you have the power and influence and someone else wants it or someone else has it and you want it. You may need to seek the help of someone in a position of influence, and that help is there for you. It may also be that someone else looks up to you as a means to opening doors for them.

It is also important to consider the influence that material power and success plays in your life and goals.

Are you driven just by external success?

There is some contentment for what has been achieved and also looking for new opportunities for stimulation or for growth.

There can be a certain amount of restlessness and a desire to move onto new pastures. The person may be considering new opportunities or even moving to a new location. There is a choice here between what is stable and fixed and moving onto new pastures.

Outcome

9 of Swords

Quick Keywords

Grief, despair, distress, desolation, illness, stress.

Symbols

Here a figure sits up in a bed, crying or very distressed and with 9 swords on the wall behind.

Meaning

This card indicates grief, desolation, despair, great pain, worry, stress and sadness. It can also indicate health issues and hospital visits.

If someone is it at their wits end, this card can mean great anxiety, depression, nightmares and insomnia. It can mean illness.

This will often be some sort of stress related condition. In readings for women, this card can indicate women's health issues or even surgery.

With the head in the hands, this can indicate a refusal to look at the world or to bury your head in the sand, in the hope that problems will go away.

During the dark of the night is the time when all our fears, doubts, worries, feelings of guilt and anxiety come bubbling up to the surface. Sometimes the pain of these feelings is so much we feel like just putting our head in our hands and crying.

It may be that you need to examine the choices you are making in life and perhaps a small change could make a big difference in the way you feel and the actions you take.

Arc of Influence

The Empress

Quick Keywords

All is well, abundance, plenty, success, creativity, productivity, motherhood, pregnancy, birth, harmony, nurturing, being at one with earth, female, fertility, sensual pleasures, domestic stability, nurturing yourself and others, experiencing and enjoying life through your passions and senses.

Colours

All Colours – balance and harmony.

Yellow - thoughts and feelings and life giving power of the sun.

Red of cushions -power, affluence.

Green- nature and earth.

White of robe- spiritual.

Symbols

The 12 stars in crown are the Symbols of the astrology Symbols.

9 pearls of necklace-9 planets.

The wheat represents abundance and plenty and is a sign of fertility.

The female symbol on cushion is a sign of Venus, goddess of love.

The water in background and flowing underneath her chair equals the force of life and is a symbol of fertility.

Pomegranates on robes- symbol of fertility.

Meaning

Everything is likely to turn out much better than you have expected. There is abundance, joy, passion and flow in life generally. There is balance and harmony and a feeling of nurturing, whether that is for yourself or from someone else.

This is a beautiful card to see in a spread. It can point to motherhood or pregnancy; however it is important to look at the other cards around before presenting that interpretation to someone.

Star

Quick Keywords

Wishes, dreams, pleasure, joy, plenty, balance, flow.

Colours

It is mostly blue, which deals with the emotions, with plenty of lush green for the earth and a bright, yellow star of hope in the middle.

Symbols

Stars are Symbols of hope and optimism. Stars are always around, even during the day, when we can't normally see them. The naked figure looks totally at ease and totally comfortable with him/herself.

Meaning

This is a card of balance and plenty. It is about peace of mind, calmness, inspiration, some light at the end of the tunnel and moving into better conditions.

There is also inner strength with this card, as well as playfulness and going back to nature. It reminds us that true contentment comes from being at peace with yourself.

Often the simplest of things give the greatest and most long lasting pleasure.

Body and spirit are one and there is a lack of self-consciousness or fear or doubt. It is also a reminder to allow yourself to enjoy the innocence of childhood. It is also a card of rejuvenation and can indicate fertility of ideas.

It is the card of hopes, wishes and dreams. It points to fulfillment in every respect.

Tower

Quick Keywords

Upheaval, sudden change, something unexpected.

Symbols

A stone tower high on a cliff, which represents all our values, ideals and the way we have created our life. The bolt of lightning is something out of the blue, which can literally shake our whole world to the core.

Meaning

Something unexpected and unplanned is happening in your life. It will probably cause a big change and possibly considerable upheaval. It will sweep away what needs to change and make way for new and better things. It may be there have been warnings for a while and the person has not done anything about it.

For example, someone who is very unhappy in their job, but too afraid to change, suddenly gets fired or made redundant. Certain things have to change. Even if the Tower were rebuilt, it would never be the same as it was before.

The Tower will bring a silver lining, although it can be very difficult to see that when you are in the aftermath of a Tower event. The people falling seem to be in free-flow and may well land on some soft ground below.

The biggest challenge with the Tower can be to let go of the past situation and to go with the flow of the new one.

When people have had a Tower in their lives, most of them will look back in a few months and say “I am glad that event happened, because we have been able to do such and such and if it hadn’t, we would never have done that”.

It signifies a period of growth and change, often very challenging. When a Tower occurs, it is often one of those events you did not see coming and even if you did, could do very little to stop it. However, you still have the choice of how you react and the decisions you make to take you forward.



Figure 2 Carol Herzer Illuminated Tarot (version of RWS)



Pamela Eakin's Tarot of the Spirit



Figure 3 Ancient Itarian Tarot