



Ashwood Tarot Oracle System

an oracle system for artists and creators

By Brigid Ashwood

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT THEN?:

I'm a Tarot enthusiast. I just love tarot and oracle decks of all kinds. I collect them and yes I even use them, reading for friends and for fun. I met my husband when I read his cards. (But that's a story for another day.) I enjoy the tarot from the perspective that it's a tool to unlock the subconscious mind, and it can challenge the reader to think outside the box. For more insight into my philosophy of Tarot check out this great article.)

But I digress...

IN A NUTSHELL: I've made my own Oracle Deck system based off of the Tarot - and I'm sharing this system for FREE under a Creative Commons license.

(PLEASE NOTE: I'm sharing JUST THE SYSTEM for free. I do SELL THE COMPLETED DECK as well if you wish to simply buy the deck. The deck can be found here: <http://www.brigidashwood.com/oracle-tarot/>. The system itself is free to creators who might wish to create their own deck - read on below)

WHY FREE?: I'm releasing this under a Creative Commons license because I would love to see this system widely adopted. If a variety of artists use this system to create Oracle decks that would be a lovely thing, we'd have some semblance of familiarity with at least a portion of the Oracle decks on the market, and EVEN BETTER - readers could mix and match their decks, selecting their favorite cards for each archetype and customizing a deck for their own use.

HEY ARTISTS: I know a lot of artists that find Tarot fascinating. Many of us have ambitions/fantasies of creating our own deck. But creating a deck of 78 original works of art is a daunting task. It can take years to finish the art for a Tarot deck. The Major Arcana offer layers of symbolism and diverse imagery, a joy to paint but the suits are full of monotony.

Because of this many artists resort to creating an Oracle deck instead of Tarot. But there are issues with Oracle decks. There is no standardization with Oracle decks, unlike Tarot which you can count on to have the same cards, with the same meanings, despite a change in artistic style. Because of this lack of standardization a reader might be learning a new system with EVERY Oracle deck they buy. I find I long for the familiarity of Tarot whenever I'm playing with an Oracle deck. I know the Tarot system so well that I instinctively look for parallels in oracle systems. I've not found an oracle deck yet that made this easy.

So what's a lazy artist to do? I'd love to create a Tarot deck. I don't want to paint 78 cards. I certainly don't want to paint the boring cards.....

Necessity is the mother of invention as they say - so I created my own Oracle system based off of Tarot. I've been using it for years. I've given it to friends to try out. It's easy. It works. I'm sharing it now with you - for free. I'm releasing the Ashwood Tarot Oracle under a Creative Commons license. You can use it for personal or commercial use to create your own decks. You don't have to pay me to use. BUT you do have to give me credit. More about that later. The main point here is FREE!!

HEY NON-ARTISTS: This is still for you! Even if you have no ambitions to paint your own cards. Guess what? You can still use this system. Maybe you've always been attracted to plant energies of classic Pre-Raphaelite paintings. Using my Tarot Oracle system as a guide you can MAKE YOUR OWN DECK. Just find images that match the energies and themes of each card, and create your own deck. Awesome, a custom deck all your own... FREE!

Free stuff is awesome.

GET ON WITH IT!

THE ASHWOOD TAROT ORACLE SYSTEM

INTRO: This system relies heavily on its association with the Major Arcana. There is much tradition in creating an Oracle deck that mainly consists in associations with the Major Arcana. The earliest Tarot Decks featured only the Trump cards - the Major Arcana, with the suits following in later adaptations. Indeed to this day there are many readers who work with Major Arcana only when doing readings. However this deck does accommodate the minor Arcana as well thru the use of an Elemental suit.

EXTRAS

This Oracle deck uses a set of Dice and a Polarity Coin for readings. These props are not necessary, readers can rely on their intuition, but are a helpful addition for readers that are interested in fine tuning a reading. From a creative standpoint the Polarity Coin and the Dice offer another opportunity to customize the deck according to your own aesthetics.

DICE: provide numerological associations with each card. Clearly the pip cards in the suits are numbered 1-10, but the rest of the Tarot has numerological associations as well and the dice can be used to further deepen a reading.

POLARITY COIN: The coin is used for readers who prefer to include right side up and upside down cards in their readings. (Also referred to as justified and ill-justified). A basic Polarity standard for this coin would be Sunside/Positive/Male Moonside/Negative/Female (note that positive and negative are used from an energetic standpoint not a social one ie negative = bad positive = good)

ARCHETYPE SUIT

The 22 Archetype Cards

Twenty-two cards of the ASHWOOD TAROT ORACLE correspond with the twenty-two cards of the major arcana of the Tarot. The cards represent timeless archetypes and are powerful divining tools. In the creation of this deck I strove to break down each card of the Tarot's major arcana into the essence of its archetype. Artist's painting these cards can feel free to draw upon the traditional symbolism of the classic Tarot cards, or explore their own unique take on the card's energy. However care should be taken that the point of this system is that the reader should be able to use the card's Tarot based correspondence to rely on an instant connection to the card.

On the left is the name of the card in the Ashwood Tarot Oracle System - on the right is the name of the card as found in the Major Arcana of the Traditional Tarot Deck.

Caution – The Moon

Confrontation - Judgment

Destiny – Wheel of Fortune

Development – The Empress

Freedom – The Fool

Fulfillment – The World

Integration – The Star

Manifestation – The Magician

Meditation – The Hermit

Movement – The Chariot

Partnership – The Lovers

Patience - Temperance

Prosperity – The Sun

Rebirth - Death

Revelation – The Hanged Man

Security – The Emperor

Self Destruction – The Devil

Strength - Strength

Tradition – The Hierophant

Upheaval – The Tower

Wisdom – The High Priestess

WILD CARD SUIT

The 3 Wildcards

Three additional cards reside with the 22 Cards of the Archetype Suit. These are the Wildcards and have been added to specifically address issues that are frequently found in divinatory readings. Choice, Mystery and Passion each address specific needs. These are issues that often come up in a reading yet do not have a clear and dedicated corresponding card in the traditional Tarot.

Choice - Empowerment, it's up to you

Mystery – The Unknown, this just isn't knowable right now. Akin to the Magic 8 Ball answer of "ask again later"

Passion – Desire, is there too much or too little of this emotion at play in this situation?

ELEMENTAL SUIT

The 5 Elemental Cards

Five cards are added to the 22 archetype cards to represent the 5 elements of Earth, Air, Fire, Water and Spirit. Four of these can be used to represent the elements associated with the four suits of the Tarot. Spirit (card title – The Divine), while not represented via a suit in the traditional Tarot is still a powerful card in representing our relationship with the divine and can be freely used in the same manner as if it were a suit of its own. There is great benefit to breaking the suits down into their elements. For years debate has raged in the Tarot community as to the original elemental associations of Swords/Air Wands/Fire - Many reverse these associations. Using the Ashwood Tarot Oracle system removes the association completely, and these suits are represented solely as their elements.

PIPS: When reading an Oracle Deck based on this system the reader will use a set of dice. To fine tune a reading and explore cards 1-10 in the suits, a reader simply pulls an elemental card from the deck and rolls the dice to find it's numerical accompaniment. This number will give the reader the cards correspondent in the Tarot. So for instance pulling the Imagination card (Element Air) and rolling the dice for a result of three would be the 3 of Swords in Traditional Tarot. To further fine tune the interpretation of this card the reader flips the polarity coin.

FACE CARDS: To determine if a card pulled from the Elemental Suit is a Face Card (King, Queen, Knight, Page) the reader will flip the Polarity coin and interpret it according to their own assigned symbolism. For example Sunside flipped twice = King ----- Sunside followed by a Moonside = Knight ----- Moonside flipped twice = Queen ----- Moonside followed by a Sunside = Page

Creation - Fire (suit of wands – creativity, drive)

Emotion – Water (suit of cups – feelings, relationships)

Imagination – Air (suit of swords – mind, intellect)

Practicalities – Earth (suit of pentacles – body, security)

The Divine – Spirit (suit of the sacred – divinity, higher self, true purpose)

TERMS OF USE:

You are free to use and share this system for personal and commercial use. You must give credit as follows:

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PRINT PUBLISHING: If you use this system to create a deck and you subsequently publish it as a printed deck for sale to the public, you do not have to pay me any royalty. HOWEVER, I ask that you contact me first and inform me, and I do require a credit to me in the printed materials.

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The following pages are the inserts that come with my self published deck Oracle of the Tarot. It is a deck based on my Oracle system. To view or purchase this deck please go to <http://www.brigidashwood.com/oracle-tarot/>

I'm providing these pages here for free as helpful tool for those interested in learning this Oracle system.

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When I print these pages I print them as two sheets, with content on both the front and back. You are welcome to do this as well, but I cannot begin to tell you how. Sorry! But printers are all different, I just can't anticipate how yours might work.

The sheets are formatted at 8x10 so they should print out nicely on 8.5x11 paper.

Oracle of the Tarot

Oracle of the Tarot is a system of divination based on the Tarot. With just 30 cards (traditional Tarot has 78) this deck is perfect for readers who prefer smaller spreads. Readers who prefer larger spreads, with plenty of detailed information, have it right at their fingertips. The addition of a polarity coin and a 10 sided die allow for deliberate refinement of readings and deeper interpretation of the cards.

All 22 cards of the Tarot's Major Arcana are clearly present in this deck as **Archetype Cards**.

The four suits are represented in the **Elemental Cards** - Earth(Coins), Air(Swords), Fire(Wands), Water(Cups). The 10 sided die is used at will to indicate Pip Cards in the suits, while the polarity coin determines upright and reverse meanings. Use the polarity in conjunction with the die, to reveal the Court Cards of the suits (King, Queen, Knight, Page)

The 4 **Elemental Cards** are joined by a 5th element not found in traditional Tarot.

The Element of Spirit represents The Divine and our relationship to the natural world and the universe, a higher power, our perfect self, spirit guides and spiritual education. This card can be used just as you would any other suit - with numbers 1-10 and the court having specific meaning.

The final cards in the Oracle of the Tarot deck are the **Wild Cards**. These 3 cards represent specific scenarios and fulfill a divination purpose that is not explicitly addressed with traditional Tarot decks. Mystery, Choice and Passion may turn up when the querent is blocked or projecting to much personal bias into a reading. When these cards show up, pay heed, clear the deck energy and the energy of your space. Re-frame the question and try again.

About the Deck

The art in this deck is adapted from artist Pamela Colman Smith's classic images for the 1910 Tarot deck that is popularly known as Rider Waite, or Rider Waite Smith. When creating this deck I worked from high resolution scans of the originally published deck. I cleaned up the images, redrawing sections, clarifying the design and polishing the colors.

There are additional cards in this deck that are of course, not found in the original 1910 deck. In this case I created entirely new art and tried to complement Pamela Colman Smith's charming style. The cards Creation, Emotion, Imagination, Practicalities, The Divine, Choice, Mystery and Passion are original designs, unique to this deck.

The system of divination used with Oracle of the Tarot is called The Ashwood Oracle System and is my own creation. Learn more at www.ashwoodoracles.com

About the Creator

Brigid Ashwood is an artist, blogger and author. An east coast native she currently resides in the suburbs surrounding Dallas Texas with her husband, daughter and two enormous lovable dogs. Learn more at www.brigidashwood.com

Please visit
www.ashwoodoracles.com
for free downloads &
information

Booklet One

Brigid Ashwood

Tarot of the Oracle



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Polarity Coin

Use the polarity coin to fine tune your reading. You can shuffle the deck randomly, or flip the coin to determine if the card should be read upright or reverse.

Sun Side - upright, positive, light, additive, masculine, right, odd numbers
Moon Side - reverse, negative, shadow, subtractive, feminine, left, even numbers

10 Sided Die

Use the die to fine tune your reading of the Elemental Cards (representing the 56 cards of the suits of the Tarot). Toss the die to determine the Pip Cards - 1-10. The die used in conjunction with the Polarity Coin can determine the Court Cards. (See key below)

↑ **UPRIGHT**

This table reveals the meanings behind the Pip and Court Cards of the suits of the Tarot. In this Oracle deck each suit is represented by one card only. Roll the die to determine the number of the card in the suit. Flip the polarity coin to determine upright or reverse meaning. The suit of Spirit is unique to this deck and is not found in traditional Tarot.

↓ **REVERSE**

Pip Number/ Court Card	Earth/Coins	Air/Swords	Fire/Wands	Water/Cups	Spirit/The Divine
1 beginnings	possessions, prosperity ↑new: venture, home, job, gift, money ↓lose home, job, money, opportunity	intellect, conflict ↑new: victory, triumph ↓conflict, battle, loss, unfair win	creativity, energy ↑new: path, direction, creation ↓delays, uninspired	emotions, love ↑new: relationship, love, family ↓closed off to new love/experiences	higher energy, universe ↑new: revelation, journey, calling ↓lack of faith, closed mind
2 duality, balance, partnership	↑balancing life, supportive partner ↓falling apart, drop the ball	↑truce, assistance in fight, progress ↓stalemate, betrayal	↑first success, partnership, ideas ↓fear, disorganization	↑attraction, reconciliation ↓break-up, quarrelling	↑spirit guide, mentor ↓disconnection, abandonment
3 growth, fruition, increase body-mind-spirit	↑gains, teamwork, collaboration ↓disorganization, insubordination	↑separation, sorrow, heartbreak ↓forgiveness, emotional healing	↑first goal achieved, expansion ↓obstacles, initial setbacks	↑friendship, community, trust ↓adultery, gossip, breach of trust	↑community, group spirituality ↓isolation, drama, distraction
4 stability, foundation	↑stability, security, prosperity ↓misery, materialism, greed	↑rest, recovery, introspection ↓restless, overwhelmed, shaken	↑marriage, community, celebration ↓discord, tension, noncommittal	↑soul-searching, reflection ↓boredom, apathy, monotony	↑serenity, divine connection, grace ↓despair, emptiness, lack of guidance
5 imbalance, disruption, instability, conflict	↑hardship, loss, worry, isolation ↓financial recovery, materialism	↑conflict, betrayal, defeat, deceit ↓resolution, mediation, agreement	↑competition, confrontation, stress ↓passive aggressive, avoidance	↑disappointment, regret, grief ↓acceptance, forgiveness	↑disillusionment, lies, corruption ↓confession, absolution
6 balance restored, victory	↑generosity, charity, altruism ↓debt, selfishness, hoarding	↑rite of passage, needed change ↓clinging to past, unfinished	↑recognition, achievement, accolades ↓arrogance, dishonor, shame	↑nostalgia, reunion, old flame/friend ↓immaturity, living in the past	↑forgiveness, growth, understanding ↓grudges, bitterness, victimhood
7 choice, change, imagination mysticism, insight	↑innovation, reward, perseverance ↓myopia, apathy	↑discovery, hidden agenda ↓deception of secrets, discernment	↑competition, strategy, defend ↓submission, hopelessness	↑delusion, wishful thinking, fantasy ↓avoidance, indecision, denial	↑prophetic dreams, intuition ↓false prophet, abuse
8 power, success, justice	↑education, apprenticeship ↓lack of education, arrogance	↑isolation, imprisonment, exile, fear ↓renewal, release, catharsis	↑sudden movement, swift change ↓delay, grinds to a halt	↑turning point, breakaway ↓confusion, escapism, disillusion	↑self discovery, profundity ↓depression, self doubt, sabotage
9 endings, mastery, attainment, three planes physical-mental-spiritual	↑financial success, prospering ↓financial over commitment	↑despair, anxiety, depression ↓paranoia, unfounded worry	↑perseverance, tenacity, faith tested ↓delays, giving up, surrender	↑wish fulfillment, luxury, comfort ↓greed, materialism, emptiness	↑divine connection, sovereignty ↓ignorance, arrogance
10 completion, end of cycle, new beginnings	↑wealth, inheritance, security ↓failure, bankruptcy	↑object failure, disappointment ↓resistance, necessary ending, rebirth	↑hard work leads to success ↓exhaustion, burdened, burn-out	↑bliss, happy home life/relationship ↓scandal, disrepute, broken home	↑service, ministry, humility ↓charlatanism, fraud
King men of authority, fathers	↑successful man, money, power ↓control, dominance, neglect	↑man of authority, law, government ↓abuse, tyranny, manipulation	↑man of creativity & charisma ↓demanding, ruthless, hot-headed	↑man of generosity & kindness ↓moody, emotionally unavailable	↑male teacher - knowledge, patience ↓oppressive, patronizing, abuse
Queen women of authority, mothers	↑woman of wealth, independence ↓dependence, imbalance	↑woman of authority, perceptive ↓cold, malicious, unsympathetic	↑woman of warmth & charm ↓nagging, high-maintenance	↑woman of intuition & compassion ↓insecure, co-dependent, flighty	↑female teacher - grace, wisdom ↓manipulation, dependence
Knights action, movement, young man	↑dependable young man, hard work ↓laziness, irresponsibility	↑movement, good communication ↓chaos, recklessness, inconsiderate	↑energy, change of home, journey ↓impulsive, daredevil	↑romance, grandeur, affectionate ↓jealous, possessive, deluded	↑development of metaphysical skills ↓disconnection from higher self
Page change, message, child, young woman	↑good news, opportunity ↓bad news, missed opportunity	↑progress, good news, queries ↓delay, bad news, tantrums	↑good news, inspiration, joy ↓pessimism, complications	↑good news, love, happy surprise ↓immaturity, over sensitive	↑message from spirit guide ↓disconnection from elements

Card Spreads

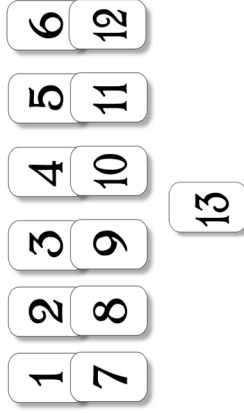
3 Card Spread



- 1. Past/Problem** - past or issues that have led to problem, overview
- 2. Present/Obstacle** - current situation, challenge and obstacles
- 3. Future/Solution** - the action that must be taken and the mind set advised to solve the issue.

(You can also shorten this reading to include Cards 2 & 3 only
Question and Answer)

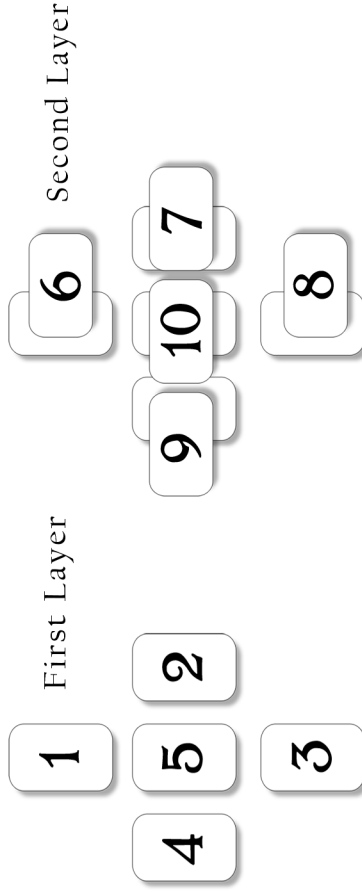
Baker's Dozen Spread



First Layer - Use entire deck. 1-6 Flip coin for polarity.
(Roll die for # if card is Elemental)

- 1. Problem** - the question/situation.
- 2. Mind set** - your current thinking
- 3. Action** - what must be done.
- 4. Obstacles** - mental blocks, negative thinking, other people/circumstances.
- 5. Solution** - what will happen.
- 6. Outcome** - long term result of action taken/solution.

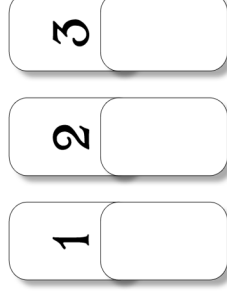
5 Elements Spread



- First Layer** - Elemental Cards. Establishes situation in all areas. Use .
- 1. Practicalities/Earth** - Foundation. Roll die for #, flip coin for polarity
 - 2. Imagination/Air** - Mind set. Roll die for #, flip coin for polarity
 - 3. Creation/Fire** - Talents. Roll die for #, flip coin for polarity
 - 4. Water/Emotion** - Feelings. Roll die for #, flip coin for polarity
 - 5. The Divine/Spirit** - Higher Purpose. Roll die for #, flip coin for polarity

Second Layer Cards 6-10 - Archetype Cards. Informs and affects first layer.
Flip coin for polarity Upright is solution, Reversed is obstacle.
(Use intuition, there are exceptions.)

Wild Card Spread



Second Layer - Use entire deck. 7-12 Flip coin for polarity.
(Roll die for # if card is Elemental)
These cards inform and affect the cards in the first layer.

- 7. Block** - this is making things worse.
- 8. Unblock** - this will make it better.
- 9. Be Aware** - be sure you address this.
- 10. Warning** - look out for this.
- 11. Caveat** - potential side effect, sacrifice.
- 12. Lesson** - head this to avoid future issues.

13th Card

General overview and tone of reading and outcome.

First Layer - Use Wild Cards
1. **Passion** - question/problem/situation (what drives the querent, deep desires)

2. **Choice** - what must be addressed, path to take.

3. **Mystery** - the outcome, result

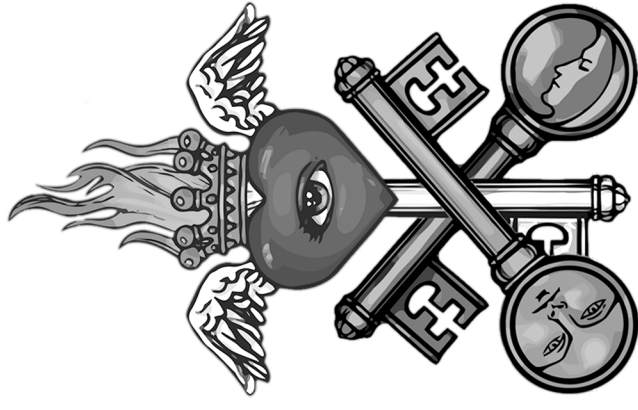
Second Layer - These cards inform and affect the cards in the first layer. Continue placing as many cards in each column as you feel is needed.

Use die and polarity coin as desired.

Booklet Two

Brigid Ashwood

Oracle of the Tarot



Archetype Suit ↑ UPRIGHT ↓ REVERSE

Freedom - 0 - The Fool - ↑ new beginnings, open mind, spontaneity, innocence, carefree ↓ foolish, naïve, fearful, impulsive, bigotry
Manifestation - I - The Magician - ↑ initiative, discipline, confidence, creativity ↓ fraud, deceit, selfish, idle, unreliable, manipulative
Wisdom - II - The High Priestess - ↑ intuition, psychic ability, gnosis, divine connection ↓ obtuse, moody, self-doubt, superficial
Development - III - The Empress - ↑ fertility, union, harmony, good health, home life ↓ illness, infertility, stagnation, poverty
Security - IV - The Emperor - ↑ ambition, authority, status, leadership, material wealth, stability ↓ tyranny, abuse, neglect, hopelessness, chaos
Tradition - V - The Hierophant - ↑ conformity, the establishment, puritanical, spiritual inquiry ↓ promiscuous, revolution, propaganda, bad advice
Partnership - VI - The Lovers - ↑ commitment, romantic love, sexuality, choice, duality ↓ adultery, divorce, obsession, emotional disconnection
Movement - VII - The Chariot - ↑ progress, willpower, achievement, conquest, stamina ↓ failure, loss of focus, direction-less, overcommitted
Strength - VIII - Strength - ↑ empowerment, endurance, fearless, courage, self-assertive ↓ cowardly, pushover, violent, addiction, anxiety
Meditation - IX - The Hermit - ↑ inner wisdom, safe space, centeredness, wisdom of maturity ↓ isolation, immaturity, mental illness, self-pity
Destiny - X - Wheel of Fortune - ↑ good luck, opportunity, karma ↓ bad luck, disappointment, turn for the worse
Balance - XI - Justice - ↑ legal matter, fairness, impartial, good advice, a wrong righted ↓ unfairness, bias, conflict, litigation, bad advice
Revelation - XII - The Hanged Man - ↑ enlightenment, sacrifice, selflessness, prophecy, mysticism ↓ martyrdom, futility, materialism
Rebirth - XIII - Death - ↑ transformation, change, blossoming, new era, renewal ↓ stubbornness, inertia, delay, fear of change
Patience - XIV - Temperance - ↑ moderation, adaptation, compromise ↓ imbalance, overindulgence, impatience, selfishness
Self Destruction - XV - The Devil - ↑ self-sabotage, addiction, ego, cruelty, oppression ↓ letting go, rehab, self love, freedom
Upheaval - XVI - The Tower - ↑ abrupt change, catastrophe, punishment ↓ picking up pieces, turn for the better, awakening, liberation
Integration - XVII - The Star - ↑ hope, faith, the stars align, talents & abilities at work ↓ bad timing, pessimism, self-doubt
Caution - XVIII - The Moon - ↑ beware, betrayal, deceit, uncertainty, delusion ↓ truth, clarity, heightened awareness, trust intuition
Prosperity - XIX - The Sun - ↑ contentment, partnership, affirmation, achievement ↓ separation, vanity, arrogance, discontent
Confrontation - XX - Judgment - ↑ revelation, wake-up call, transformation, certainty ↓ conflict, chastisement, rejection, doubt
Fulfillment - XXI - The World - ↑ ultimate joy, perfection, wholeness, recognition, satisfaction ↓ loose ends, unfinished business

Elemental Suit

Practicality - Earth - Coins - business, money, property, possessions, fertility ↑ prosperity, growth, wealth, stability ↓ failure, poverty, loss, instability
Imagination - Air - Swords* - conflict, communication, intellect, action ↑ original, ideas, innovation, critical thinking ↓ plagiarism, aggression, fuzzy headed
Creation - Fire - Wands* - enterprise, creativity, energy, activity ↑ travel, inspiration, productivity ↓ creative block, stagnation, immobility
Emotion - Water - Cups - feelings, sensitivity, relationships ↑ love, harmony, compatibility, fulfillment ↓ hate, discord, rejection, discontent
The Divine - Spirit - “god”, great spirit, higher self, the universe ↑ connection, wisdom, insight, serenity ↓ emptiness, confusion, distress

Wild Card Suit

Choice - it's in your hands, call to action ↑ over thinking, just do it ↓ be cautious, weigh the options
Mystery - the unknown ↑ let it go, it will work itself out ↓ ask again later, deep down answer is known
Passion - desire, longing ↑ channel impulses wisely for a positive outcome ↓ judgement is clouded

* Some traditions flip the elements for the suits of Wands and Swords.

In this deck it's not a concern since the card's focus are the elements, not the suit.