

GUIDE TO
THE FORTUNE DECK



*under the
a thousand*



EVERWAY

Guide to the
Fortune Deck

EVERWAY

CREDITS

DESIGNER: Jonathan Tweet

EIGHT DEITIES OF THE FORTUNE DECK: Aron Anderson, Sandra Everingham, Tamra Fry, Daniel Gelon, Jenny Scott, Lisa Stevens, Jonathan Tweet, John Tynes

EDITOR & DESIGN CONTRIBUTIONS: Jenny Scott

ART DIRECTION & GRAPHIC DESIGN: Maria P. Cabardo

ELEMENTAL ICONS: Amy Weber

FORTUNE DECK ILLUSTRATIONS: Scott Kirschner & Jeff Miracola

FORTUNE CARD BACK: Amy Weber

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*Central to the **EVERWAY** game is the Fortune Deck, which players and gamemasters use to guide the actions and progress of the heroes. This booklet describes the Fortune Deck in the context of the fantasy universe of **EVERWAY** and gives the meanings of the individual cards. The **EVERWAY** Playing Guide and **EVERWAY** Gamemastering Guide explain how fortune cards are used in play.*

THE FORTUNE DECK AMONG THE SPHERES

The Fortune Deck's history extends back to the creation of the spheres and of humanity, and it is now found in various forms throughout the spheres.

A GIFT OF THE GODS AND GODDESSES

The gods and goddesses created the Fortune Deck as a guide for humanity. In its original form, it was a series of thirty-six images laid out in a specific pattern. The images detailed the evolution of the human soul from its manifestation in the world, through various lives or stages, to its eventual, inevitable perfection. Some say that the Fortune Deck, known then simply as "the Way," guided humans during a "Golden Age," while others say that the Golden Age existed only in the imaginations and intents of the deities.

In any event, legends tell of the fateful action that spelled the end of, or prevented, the Golden Age. A deity variously identified as any of several deities of chaos or trickery, stole one of the images and then mixed the others together so that the original pattern was disrupted and forgotten. It is because the thirty-sixth image is missing that the universe is unbalanced and imperfect. It is because the order of the images is confused that human lives are in disorder.

Human sages put the remaining thirty-five images on cards to form the Fortune Deck. This deck now serves as a way to find meaning in the ever-changing universe. Some can foretell the future or read hidden messages with the cards. Others meditate on the images to gain a deeper understanding of the world. A few claim to have re-created the divine order in which the cards originally stood, but without the last card there's little way to be sure that these schemes are accurate.

THE THIRTY-SIXTH CARD

The loss of the thirty-sixth card created a cosmic void, an emptiness that the card used to fill. Sometimes in a realm a lesser force grows to fill this void until finally it asserts itself as the thirty-sixth force in that realm. A force such as Tragedy, Despair, Vengeance, Charm, Oath, or Sacrifice, for example, may have great influence in a realm. Such a force is called a "usurper force." Some usurper forces are positive, some are negative, and still others are neutral or mixed. Inhabitants of the respective realms, however, generally take these forces for granted, considering them normal.

An accurate Fortune Deck in such a realm includes a card representing the realm's usurper force. Those who travel among realms often

include a blank card in the Fortune Deck, called "The Usurper," to represent the usurper force in each realm visited.

Most realms have a usurper force, but many do not. Among those that do, the force can vary from minor to overpowering in its effect in the realm. Usurper forces can also change; it is their nature to be temporal, like their realms, not eternal, like the thirty-five true fortune cards.

GUISES OF THE FORTUNE DECK

The most common form in which the deck appears is as a set of thirty-six rectangular cards, each with the same design, or no design, on the back, and an image on the front. Each image has a particular meaning, and when the image appears reversed, the meaning is likewise reversed. Sometimes the image includes the name of the card; sometimes the reader must interpret the image alone. Occasionally, fortune cards even have brief meanings written on them.

The images and names on the fortune cards vary from realm to realm and from philosophy to philosophy. While most people claim to be using the "real" Fortune Deck, every Fortune Deck is a temporal and imperfect representation of an eternal pattern. No Fortune Deck can be "the real thing"; each can only be a good model or useful symbol.

The Fortune Deck even appears in some realms where the people cannot make the stiff paper on which the cards are painted. These decks have

The Fortune Deck that comes with this game set is modeled after the one that is most common in the city of Everway. See the EVERWAY Playing Guide to read more about this city.

been brought by strangers and are treasured as magic tools.

In many realms, the Fortune Deck is not known, and in most

realms the common folk do not truly understand it. In all realms, however, the Way of the gods and goddesses makes itself known. In realms that do not have the Fortune Deck, diviners and wise people use magic smoke to induce visions, cast runes or lots to produce readings, interpret dreams for insight, and so on. In each case, the original forces of the Way make themselves known. The Fortune Deck has the advantage of being easy to use, but other systems of gaining insight also work for those who know how to use them.

DIVINING WITH THE FORTUNE DECK

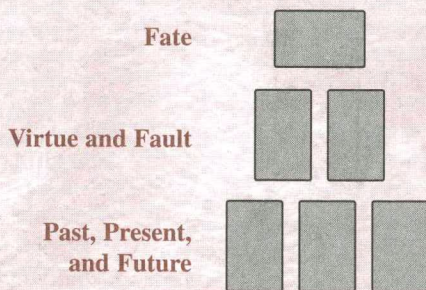
Diviners have developed several ways to get a reading from the Fortune Deck. The most common way is described here.

- 1) The reader poses a question. If the reader is reading the cards for another's sake, the other person poses the question. Open-ended questions are better than those that can be answered "yes" or "no," or by some other simple choice.
- 2) The reader shuffles and cuts the cards. If the reader is reading the cards for another, the other person cuts the cards instead of the reader.
- 3) The reader lays out three cards in a row. These represent, from the questioner's left to right, the Past, Present, and possible Future forces in play regarding the question posed. It is important that the reader not "right" the cards that are upside-down. The orientation is part of a card's meaning.
- 4) The reader lays two cards above the first three (from the perspective of the questioner). The left card is the Virtue, the force working for the questioner. The card on the right is the Fault, the force working against the questioner. Some readers prefer to interpret these as two opposed forces (known as "Rivals"), rather than as a positive and a negative force.



5) The card representing the final result, the Fate, is laid on the top. It is laid sideways; it is neither upright nor upside-down. It is up to the questioner to determine how the result will be resolved. The meaning will be either upright or reversed, depending on the questioner's actions (or lack of action).

When the process is finished, the cards look like this:



6) The reader now interprets the cards according to their meanings and their positions in the pattern. Different readers have different styles. Some emphasize the cards' secondary aspects, for example, while others work primarily with the cards' basic meanings.

It is also possible to divine with the cards using just three: Virtue, Fault, and Fate. Such a reading provides less information, but it may focus on the most important themes. Some diviners claim to be sensitive enough to get valuable insight from a single card, the Fate. Others say that no reading is complete without a fourth layer of four cards, representing the questioner, the questioner's family, the questioner's realm or community, and the deities.

THE FORTUNE DECK IN PLAY

The Fortune Deck is not only important to the people in the fantastic realms of **EVERWAY**; the real-life Fortune Deck also guides the progress of the game.

PLAYERS AND THE FORTUNE DECK

Players choose one card from the Fortune Deck for each of three hero aspects: Virtue, Fault, and Fate. The Virtue represents some special talent, gift, or blessing that a hero enjoys. The Fault is some weakness or curse that the hero suffers. The Fate is a dilemma, issue, or challenge that the hero faces or is destined to face. When a hero successfully meets his or her Fate, the player chooses a new Fate for the hero, including, perhaps, a new Virtue and Fault.

To read more about a hero's Virtue, Fault, and Fate, see pp. 75–77 in the *Playing Guide*.

GAMEMASTERS AND THE FORTUNE DECK

During play, the gamemaster uses the Fortune Deck to help determine how the action progresses. For instance, if a hero wrestles with a satyr, the gamemaster can use a card from the Fortune Deck to help determine which one wins. Gamemasters can also use the Fortune Deck to help them invent quests and realms.

To read more about using the Fortune Deck to determine the results of heroes' actions, see pp. 128–141 in the *Playing Guide*. To read more about using the Fortune Deck for designing quests, see p. 16 in the *Gamemastering Guide*.

EXAMPLE READING

A wanderer whose husband has been spirited away by creatures of darkness comes to a diviner and asks to consult the Fortune Deck. The wanderer's question is "How can I find and rescue my husband?"

The diviner shuffles the deck, the wanderer cuts it, and the diviner then lays them out as such:



The positions are as follows. To read more about these six cards, see the individual descriptions beginning on p. 5.

Past: The Hermit—reversed (isolation)

Present: The Defender—reversed (peril)

Future: The Peasant (simple strength)

Virtue: The Soldier—reversed (blind obedience)

Fault: The Fool—reversed (lack of connection)

Fate: Fertility (growth vs. decline)

One possible reading is as follows:

The Past is represented by "isolation." The diviner suggests that this card indicates that some sort of isolation has brought this tragedy about. Perhaps it refers to the wanderer's isolation from her husband or from those around her. This card takes on special meaning when linked to the Fault card (see below). The Present card, representing "peril," is straightforward: the husband is in danger. The diviner says that the

wanderer should not hope that the husband is being kept safe for some future purpose; he is in danger now. The Future card represents "simple strength," a positive meaning, especially because it is tied to Venus, the planet of love and fertility. This card bodes well, as the wanderer is concerned about reuniting with a loved one. This card takes on special significance when one considers the Fate card (see below).

The Virtue and Fault represent the main forces currently in conflict. On the wanderer's side is "blind obedience." How could this be positive? The diviner concludes that the beings holding the husband captive are blindly obedient and therefore able to be tricked or led astray. Working against the wanderer is a "lack of connection." The diviner says that the wanderer's nomadic ways will work against her; she must strive to establish connections with others if she is to overcome her foes.

The Fate represents what hangs in the balance. Since the issue revolves around a woman and her husband, the Fertility card may literally represent offspring. The diviner interprets the issue at stake as being whether the two will have children. (They haven't had any yet.) The diviner tells the wanderer that the issue is not simply whether the husband is rescued, but whether she will bear his children. It is possible that he will be rescued but that circumstances will prevent them from having children together. It is also possible that the wanderer will fail to rescue the husband but will have a chance to conceive a child with him. The diviner advises the wanderer to direct her energies toward conceiving a child with the husband and to value rescuing him as secondary (though one hopes she could do both).

In sum, the husband is in danger, but the prospects of the wanderer bearing his children are good (and this probably implies rescuing him). To succeed, the wanderer should take advantage of the blind obedience under which her enemies act and strive to form strong bonds with those around her.

The Fortune Deck contains the thirty-six cards described here. Each card is listed with its basic and expanded meanings. When the card is upside-down, the reversed meaning takes effect. Also listed are correspondences to planets, elements, and zodiac signs. Different people place more or less importance on these correspondences.

THE MEANINGS OF THE FORTUNE CARDS

AUTUMN

Meaning: **Plenty**

In autumn, people harvest the earth's bounty and celebrate their good fortune with feasts.



Reversed: **Want**

Autumn can be a time of want if the frost comes too early, if the crop is blighted, or if anything else deprives the people of the harvest on which they depend.

Correspondences

Autumn is tied to earth, the fertile element. The three symbols represent Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn, the three earth signs of the zodiac.

THE COCKATRICE

Meaning: **Corruption**

The cockatrice is born from a cock's egg hatched by a toad on a dunghill. From its conception, it is a poisonous perversion through and through. Corruption incubates unseen and then hatches and wreaks its ruin.

Reversed: **Recovery**

Water and earth, to which this card is tied, are elements of fertility. Just as waste enriches the ground, so the corruption of the cockatrice can turn to healing.



Correspondences

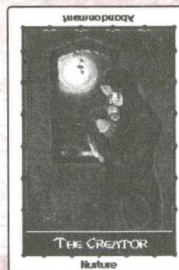
The Cockatrice is tied to earth and water, two elements that, when combined, make dirty water, mud, or slime. When a body dies, it loses its breath and heat first, leaving earth and water, the elements of a decaying corpse.

THE CREATOR

Meaning: **Nurture**

The mother is the source and the supporter of all things. She brings forth life and maintains it.

Reversed: **Abandonment**



All children part ways with their mothers, perhaps happily, perhaps through tragedy. If the child is not ready to face the world alone, the parting can lead to destruction.

Correspondences

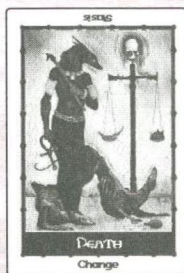
This card is linked to earth and to water, the two fertile, material elements, suggesting growth and life. Its planet is the moon, specifically the round, full moon, representing completion and fullness.

The term "planet" in EVERWAY is used in the traditional, pre-modern sense. It refers to the seven heavenly bodies that are visible in the sky but are not fixed stars: the sun, the moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn.

DEATH

Meaning: Change

Anubis is the god of the dead. He bears the ankh, symbol of life, to show that death is not the end of life but part of the life cycle. Death is change; it eradicates the old and makes room for the new. The seed must die for the wheat to grow.



Reversed: Stasis

Where there is no death, stasis reigns, for the old never gives way to the new.

Correspondences

The overturned vessel represents water, the eternal but ever-changing element of mystery and of the soul. Water is this card's element.

THE DEFENDER

Meaning: Safety

The father protects the family from danger. The spear represents his courage and skill, and the shield represents his fortitude.



Reversed: Peril

When people war, one family's protector is another's marauder. Times are dark when the spear is used more often than the shield. The fire that warms a home can also burn it down.

Correspondences

The Defender is tied to air and to fire, the elements of thought, action, and energy. Its planet is the sun.

THE DRAGON

Meaning: Cunning

The dragon is the most devious of beasts. When the gods and goddesses punished the dragons for rising against them, they stripped each dragon of some of its gifts. For most dragons, however, they left the gift of intelligence so that the dragons would be better able to appreciate their loss. Dragons often turn their intelligence into craftiness, cunning, and treachery.



Reversed: Blind Fury

A dragon whose plans are thwarted flies into a bestial rage.

THE DEITIES OF THE FORTUNE DECK

The gods and goddesses depicted in this Fortune Deck—Anubis, Brighid, Coyote, Gaia, Kuan-Yin, Odin, Ogun, and Quetzalcoatl—are only a few of the countless deities worshiped among the spheres. The sages at the Library of All Worlds in Everway selected these deities to represent various cards in Everway's Fortune Deck, but Fortune Decks from other realms use different deities, or even no deities at all.

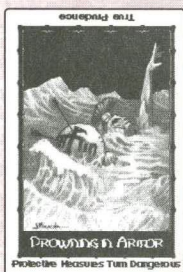
Correspondences

The Dragon's elements are earth and air. Dragons have unified these opposite elements in their history; the dragons once flew in heaven, but they have been grounded for rebelling against the deities. Now they can only fly below the sky as birds do. Thus the dragons encompass the air that reaches heavenward and the weighty earth that burdens them.

DROWNING IN ARMOR

Meaning: Protective Measures Turn Dangerous

A soldier may wear armor for protection in battle, but this precaution turns to doom if an armored soldier falls into the deep. Any plan made to protect us can turn against us as well.



Reversed: True Prudence

True prudence includes understanding the limits and dangers of one's precautions.

Correspondences

The bird on the soldier's shield represents air, particularly a failure of air, meaning a failure of forethought.

THE EAGLE

Meaning: The Mind Prevails

The eagle flies high in the air and sees to the ends of the world. Some say that eagles fly high enough to overhear the conversations of the deities. The Eagle represents the mind and its faculties.



Reversed: Thoughtlessness

If it isn't careful, an eagle can

be carried away by the strong winds found on high. So, too, the mind can be distracted or led astray, causing one to act without proper consideration.

Correspondences

The Eagle is tied to air, the element of thought, forethought, speech, and the mind.

FEARING SHADOWS

Meaning: Unnecessary Fear

In the dark, we are afraid of what is not really there. A little light causes frightening shadows to jump about.



Reversed: Recognizing Safety

A little light causes shadows, but a greater light banishes them so that not even the most cowardly will fear them any longer.

Correspondences

This card is tied to fire, specifically a failure of fire, meaning a failure to see what's there or to be brave.

FERTILITY

Meaning: Growth

Kuan-yin is the goddess of mercy and the bestower of children.



Reversed: Decline

Just as the tide ebbs and flows, life comes and goes. Growth in the present is linked to decline in the past or in the future—or both.

Correspondences

The lake and fish represent this card's links to water, and the lotus represents the card's ties to earth. Water and earth are the fertile elements.

THE FISH**Meaning: The Soul Prevails**

The fish swims low, where people cannot see. If it were not mute it could tell us of mysteries beyond our understanding. The artifacts at the bottom of the water are the remnants of past cities, now forgotten. In the same way, the soul is the keeper of our former selves, now forgotten, but never really gone.

Reversed: Shallowness

The fish can swim so close to the surface that the sun dazzles it, or into water so shallow that it flounders. So, too, people can forsake the depths of their own souls for the shallowness of their sensations.

Correspondences

The Fish is tied to water, the element of intuition, receptivity, the spirit, and the soul.

THE FOOL**Meaning: Freedom**

The fool can go anywhere and say anything. None dare strike a fool, even a fool who curses kings and queens or mocks gods and goddesses.

Reversed: Lack of Connection

The fool is also free from family, friendship, love, and com-

munity, the bonds that connect us to others. The fool's freedom can be a curse.

Correspondences

The Fool is tied to the sun, the planet of creativity.

THE GRIFFIN**Meaning: Valor**

The griffin combines the features of an eagle and a lion, the two noblest beasts. Its bravery is renowned.

**Reversed: Cowardice**

Eventually, fear will strike every heart. Hearts that have felt fear the least often may be the most likely to succumb to it.

Correspondences

The Griffin's elements are fire and air, represented by its courage and its wings, respectively.

THE HERMIT**Meaning: Wisdom**

Away from the demands of community, the hermit gains wisdom and inner knowledge. The hermit knows the secret mysteries of each plant, such as when it must be harvested, how, and for what purpose. People would do well to pay as much attention to their own lives as the hermit pays to the



plants of the forest.

Reversed: Isolation

The pursuit of wisdom may be an excuse to neglect one's duties to others. It may lead one to lose the habits of compassion and caring.

Correspondences

The Hermit is tied to Mercury, planet of knowledge.

INSPIRATION**Meaning: Creativity**

Brigid is the goddess of inspiration, poetry, healing, and smithcraft.

**Reversed: Lack of Imagination**

Just as a well can run dry or a fire can burn low, so creative energies can wane.

Correspondences

The swan, the pool, the Perpetual Flame, and the serpent represent Inspiration's ties to water and fire. Creativity is the ability to balance opposites, such as fire and water, so that they work together instead of defeating each other.

THE KING**Meaning: Authority**

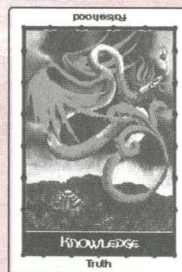
The king brings order to the kingdom, allowing his subjects to live in peace with each other. He takes on the burdens of the kingdom so that his subjects can worry about their own concerns.

Reversed: Tyranny

A king can become a tyrant, however, if he values his own desires over the good of his people. He is given the power to bring peace, and with that power comes the power to destroy peace.

Correspondences

The King is tied to Jupiter, the planet of rulers.

KNOWLEDGE**Meaning: Truth**

Queztalcoatl is the god of knowledge and of winds. He brings writing, the calendar, and other knowledge to those he leads.

Reversed: Falsehood

"Which way does the wind blow?" "Is Venus the morning star or the evening star?" The answers to some questions change, and the more strongly one believes an answer, the harder it is to learn anything new.

Correspondences

The blue gem Queztalcoatl carries is the wind jewel, symbolizing Knowledge's connection to air.

LAW**Meaning: Order**

Odin is the Law-Giver. He walks among his people and guides them with wise sayings and rules of conduct. To guide people to that which is right, he uses speech first and force second.

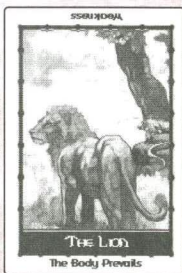
Reversed: Treachery

Just as the wind can change direction, so the law can become a tool for injustice. Treacherous people use others' faith in law against them, violating laws that others expect them to follow.

Correspondences

Odin's ravens, Thought and Memory, represent Law's ties to air, and thus to words and to forethought. Odin's walking stick signifies the card's ties to earth. Earth represents Law's link to that which is stable, orderly, and strong.

THE LION



Meaning: The Body Prevails

The lion is strong, fast, and powerful. It indicates a healthy body, physical power, victory in athletic contests, and so on.

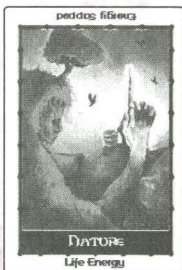
Reversed: Weakness

Reversed, the card means illness, weakness, or physical failings.

Correspondences

The lion represents earth, and the lizard represents fire. These are the two elements that rule bodily health, strength, and endurance.

NATURE



Meaning: Life Energy

Gaia is the goddess of the earth. The things of nature, from the animals to the trees to the hills, are her children, and they prosper from her goodness.

Reversed: Energy Sapped

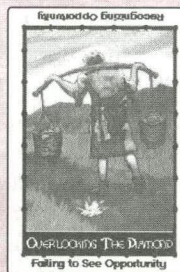
Reversed, this card indicates a loss or exhaustion of energy.

Correspondences

This card is linked to earth, the foundation of the world.

OVERLOOKING THE DIAMOND

Meaning: Failing to See Opportunity



The peasant's labors would be over if he saw the diamond at his feet, but, preoccupied with his load, he has passed it by. This card indicates a failure to notice that which could bring one prosperity.

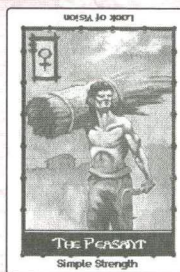
Reversed: Recognizing Opportunity

It's not too late for the laborer to stop and notice the diamond, setting down a heavy load that is worth little in order to pick up a light gem that is worth much.

Correspondences

The fishes that the laborer carries represent this card's ties to water, specifically a failure of water, meaning a weakness of intuition.

THE PEASANT



Meaning: Simple Strength

Kings, soldiers, and smiths all depend on the labor of the peasant, whose feet are on the earth's fertile soil.

Reversed: Lack of Vision

The peasant's connection to the earth and its cycles can be a weakness if the peasant fails to see beyond the next cycle of sowing and reaping.

Correspondences

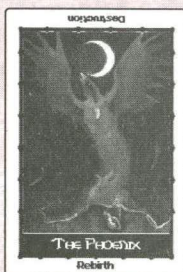
The Peasant is tied to Venus, the planet of fertility.

THE PHOENIX

Meaning: **Rebirth**

When the phoenix grows old, it builds a pyre and burns itself. Out of the ash it is reborn, young and pure. This card represents rebirth, a new creation emerging from the old.

Reversed: **Destruction**



Reversed, this card means annihilation, as when water quenches a fire and both the water and the fire are destroyed.

Correspondences

This card is tied to water and fire. Water is the element of eternity, and fire is the element of change. The Phoenix encompasses these opposites, as it also encompasses the opposites of youth and age, death and birth.

THE PRIESTESS

Meaning: **Understanding Mysteries**

The priestess stands between the world of the deities and the world of humans. She is in touch with the unspoken worlds of magic and miracles, as well as with the mundane world.



Reversed: **Impracticality**

If the priestess delves too far into mysteries, she loses her ability to relate otherworldly wisdom to the material and social worlds around her.

Correspondences

The Priestess is tied to the moon, the planet of mystery.

THE SATYR

Meaning: **Indulgence**

Satyrs are renowned for their excess. They drink large amounts of wine, get into reckless fights, and cavort shamelessly. They're also known for kidnapping humans and forcing them to participate in these "parties." Indulgence can be harmful, but a life without any indulgence is incomplete.

Reversed: **Moderation**



Moderation keeps one from being weakened or led astray. Even moderation, however, can be overdone.

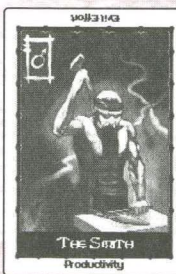
Correspondences

The flames represent this card's ties to fire, the element of energy and action. The satyr's goat legs represent the card's ties to earth, the element of beasts and of primal strength.

THE SMITH

Meaning: **Productivity**

The smith commands fire (in his forge), air (in his bellows), earth (his metal), and water (for tempering his work) to produce the peasant's scythe and the soldier's spear.



Reversed: **Evil Effort**

The smith's products may benefit others, but they may also be blades destined for the hearts of the innocent.

Correspondences

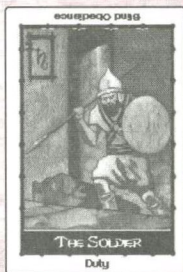
The Smith is tied to Mars, the planet of action.



THE SOLDIER

Meaning: Duty

The safety of the land depends on the soldier's willingness to obey orders. The soldier faces hardship and risks death for the sake of his people.



Reversed: Blind Obedience

Soldiers can be put to evil use when they follow the orders of evil leaders.

Correspondences

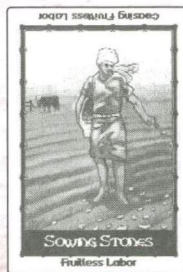
The Soldier is tied to Saturn, the planet of adversities.

SOWING STONES

Meaning: Fruitless Labor

The peasant works even harder when sowing stones than when sowing seed, but the results are disappointing. This card represents great effort that is doomed to fail.

Reversed: Ceasing Fruitless Labor



Once the peasant realizes the error, he can drop the sack of stones and find rest immediately.

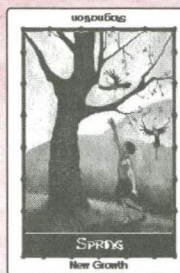
Correspondences

The card is tied to earth, specifically the negative aspects of earth, such as heaviness, density, and resistance.

SPRING

Meaning: New Growth

In spring, people open up the houses that have been



shut up all winter and let in the fresh air. Summer birds return, and the wind blows, bringing warmth, rain, and life to the cold land. Now that winter is over, one looks ahead to the planting and harvesting that await in the year to come.

Reversed: Stagnation

Reversed, the card indicates new ideas, plans, or opportunities failing to come forth.

Correspondences

Spring is tied to air, as symbolized by the birds. The three symbols stand for Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius, the three air signs of the zodiac.

STRIKING THE DRAGON'S TAIL

Meaning: Underestimating the Challenge



The farmer strikes at a snake, only to find out too late that the "snake" is really a dragon's tail. This card indicates a failure to understand the scope of a challenge or the seriousness of a danger.

Reversed: Recognizing the Larger Problem

If one can see the whole issue, one can usually avoid disaster.

Correspondences

The card has links to all four elements: the hoe suggests earth, the moon suggests water, and the dragon's wings and red eyes suggest air and fire. This card represents a failure and a danger on all levels, physical, mental, and spiritual.

SUMMER

Meaning: Energy

The sun shines and energizes the world. Summer is the time for action, when the crops have been planted but do not yet need to be harvested, the roads are dry, and the days are long.



Reversed: Exhaustion

Reversed, the card indicates a lack or loss of energy, when great undertakings fail and new plans never become reality.

Correspondences

Summer is tied to fire, as represented by the sun. The three symbols represent Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius, the fire signs of the zodiac.

TRICKERY

Meaning: Deceit

Coyote is the trickster. Here he is seen stealing fire. This card indicates that the subject may fall for a ruse or pretense.

Reversed: Subterfuge Revealed

Reversed, the card indicates that a ruse or scheme has been revealed, or that pretense is seen through.



Correspondences

The flames Coyote is stealing represent fire, and the eagle represents air. Trickery combines the energy and unpredictability of fire with the foresight of air.

THE UNICORN

Meaning: Purity

The unicorn is a pure and noble creature. It is so pure that it can smell the impure miles away, and it is therefore nearly impossible to catch.



Reversed: Temptation

The unicorn, however, has a weakness: it can be tempted by purity. Hunters use lilies, virgins, and other pure things as bait to lure unicorns.

Correspondences

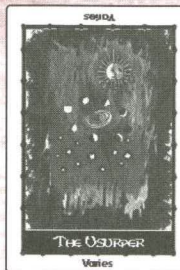
The bird and the stream symbolize air and water, respectively, the two elements linked to this card. Air and water are the elements of subtlety, speed, motion, and wisdom.

THE USURPER

See pp. 1-2 to read more about The Usurper.

Meaning: Varies

Each usurper card has a different meaning.



Reversed: Varies

Reversed, The Usurper's meaning may be opposite or inverted. For instance, if the usurper card in a particular realm means "honor," then the reverse meaning could simply be "dishonor," but it could be "hollow honor," the exterior form or show of honor without

interior integrity.

Correspondences

Like the true fortune cards, The Usurper can correspond to planets, elements, and zodiac signs.

WAR



Meaning: Great Effort

Ogun is the god of war and of iron. His followers call on him to help them overcome obstacles. Here Ogun is seen as he was when he first came to the mortal world, which was then covered with thick vines. He cut the vines away, making room for himself and for humans.

This card indicates a mighty task undertaken and perhaps accomplished, or great energy brought to bear on a problem.

Reversed: Effort Misspent

Great energy and commitment can be directed toward the wrong ends, causing the double loss of both energy wasted and wrong deeds accomplished.

Correspondences

The lizard represents War's ties to fire, the element of action, destruction, and change.

WINTER



Meaning: Maturity

In wintertime, the year has reached its old age. It is a hard time, demanding discipline and care. Like the fish, people wait for the thaw.

This card indicates experience and understanding, an ability to cope and to prevail.

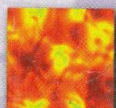
Reversed: Inexperience

Reversed, the card indicates a lack of experience. One is unready to face hardships, as one is unprepared when winter comes before the food has been stored.

Correspondences

Winter is tied to water, the element of deep forces, mystery, understanding, and death. The three symbols represent Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces, the three water signs of the zodiac.

EVERWAY



*encounter the fates
of a thousand worlds*