

The Rider-Waite-Smith Divinatory Meanings

KEY

↑ Card upright divinatory meanings.

↓ Card reversed divinatory meanings.

+ Additional meanings.

×2 Card recurrence meanings.

Major Arcana 0: The Fool

↑ Folly, mania, extravagance, intoxication, delirium, frenzy, bewrayment.

↓ Negligence, absence, distribution, carelessness, apathy, nullity, vanity.

Major Arcana 1: The Magician

↑ Skill, diplomacy, address, subtlety; sickness, pain, loss, disaster, snares of enemies; self-confidence, will; the Querent, if male.

↓ Physician, Magus, mental disease, disgrace, disquiet.

Major Arcana 2: The High Priestess

↑ Secrets, mystery, the future as yet unrevealed; the woman who interests the Querent, if male; the Querent herself, if female; silence, tenacity; mystery, wisdom, science.

↓ Passion, moral or physical ardour, conceit, surface knowledge.

Major Arcana 3: The Empress

↑ Fruitfulness, action, initiative, length of days; the unknown, clandestine; also difficulty, doubt, ignorance.

↓ Light, truth, the unravelling of involved matters, public rejoicings; according to another reading, vacillation.

Major Arcana 4: The Emperor

↑ Stability, power, protection, realization; a great person; aid, reason, conviction; also authority and will.

↓ Benevolence, compassion, credit; also confusion to enemies, obstruction, immaturity.

Major Arcana 5: The Hierophant

↑ Marriage, alliance, captivity, servitude; by another account, mercy and goodness; inspiration; the man to whom the Querent has recourse.

↓ Society, good understanding, concord, overkindness, weakness.

Major Arcana 6: The Lovers

↑ Attraction, love, beauty, trials overcome.

↓ Failure, foolish designs. Another account speaks of marriage frustrated and contrarities of all kinds.

Major Arcana 7: The Chariot

↑ Succour, providence; also war, triumph, presumption, vengeance, trouble.

↓ Riot, quarrel, dispute, litigation, defeat.

Major Arcana 8: Strength

↑ Power, energy, action, courage, magnanimity; also complete success and honours.

↓ Despotism, abuse of power, weakness, discord, sometimes even disgrace.

Major Arcana 9: The Hermit

↑ Prudence, circumspection; also and especially treason, dissimulation, roguery, corruption.

↓ Concealment, disguise, policy, fear, unreasoned caution.

Major Arcana 10: Wheel of Fortune

↑ Destiny, fortune, success, elevation, luck, felicity.

↓ Increase, abundance, superfluity.

Major Arcana 11: Justice

↑ Equity, rightness, probity, executive; triumph of the deserving side in law.

↓ Law in all its departments, legal complications, bigotry, bias, excessive severity.

Major Arcana 12: The Hanged Man

↑ Wisdom, circumspection, discernment, trials, sacrifice, intuition, divination, prophecy.

↓ Selfishness, the crowd, body politic.

Major Arcana 13: Death

↑ End, mortality, destruction, corruption; also, for a man, the loss of a benefactor; for a woman, many contrarities; for a maid, failure of marriage projects.

↓ Inertia, sleep, lethargy, petrification, somnambulism; hope destroyed.

Major Arcana 14: Temperance

↑ Economy, moderation, frugality, management, accommodation.

↓ Things connected with churches, religions, sects, the priesthood, sometimes even the priest who will marry the Querent; also disunion, unfortunate combinations, competing interests.

Major Arcana 15: The Devil

↑ Ravage, violence, vehemence, extraordinary efforts, force, fatality; that which is predestined but is not for this reason evil.

↓ Evil fatality, weakness, pettiness, blindness.

Major Arcana 16: The Tower

↑ Misery, distress, indigence, adversity, calamity, disgrace, deception, ruin. It is a card in particular of unforeseen catastrophe.

↓ According to one account, the same in a lesser degree; also oppression, imprisonment, tyranny.

Major Arcana 17: The Star

↑ Loss, theft, privation, abandonment; another reading says – hope and bright prospects.

↓ Arrogance, haughtiness, impotence.

Major Arcana 18: The Moon

↑ Hidden enemies, danger, calumny, darkness, terror, deception, occult forces, error.

↓ Instability, inconstancy, silence, lesser degrees of deception and error.

Major Arcana 19: The Sun

↑ Material happiness, fortunate marriage, contentment.

↓ The same in a lesser sense.

Major Arcana 20: Judgement

↑ Change of position, renewal, outcome. Another account specifies total loss though lawsuit.

↓ Weakness, pusillanimity, simplicity; also deliberation, decision, sentence.

Major Arcana 21: The World

↑ Assured success, recompense, voyage, route, emigration, flight, change of place.

↓ Inertia, fixity, stagnation, permanence.

Ace of Wands

↑ Creation, invention, enterprise, the powers which result in these; principle, beginning, source; birth, family, origin, and in a sense the virility which is behind them; the starting point of enterprises; according to another account, money, fortune, inheritance.

+↑ Calamities of all kinds.

↓ Fall, decadence, ruin, perdition, to perish; also a certain clouded joy.

+↓ A sign of birth.

↑×2 Trickery.

↑×3 Small success.

↑×4 Favourable chance.

↓×2 Enemies.

↓×3 Debauchery.

↓×4 Dishonour.

Two of Wands

↑ Between the alternative readings there is no marriage possible; on the one hand, riches, fortune, magnificence; on the other, physical suffering, disease, chagrin, sadness, mortification. The design gives one suggestion; here is a lord overlooking his dominion and alternately contemplating a globe; it looks like the malady, the mortification, the sadness of Alexander amidst the grandeur of this world's wealth.

+↑ A young lady may expect trivial disappointments.

↓ Surprise, wonder, enchantment, emotion, trouble, fear.

+↓ [None given.]

↑×2 Accord.

↑×3 Security.

↑×4 Contention.

↓×2 Mistrust.

↓×3 Apprehension.

↓×4 Reconciliation.

Three of Wands

↑ He symbolizes established strength, enterprise, effort, trade, commerce, discovery; those are his ships, bearing his merchandise, which are sailing over the sea. The card also signifies able co-operation in business, as if the successful merchant prince were looking from his side towards yours with a view to help you.

+↑ A very good card; collaboration will favour enterprise.

↓ The end of troubles, suspension or cessation of adversity, toil and disappointment.

+↓ [None given.]

↑×2 Calm.

↑×3 Unity.

↑×4 Progress.

↓×2 Safety.

↓×3 Serenity.

↓×4 Great success.

Four of Wands

↑ They are for once almost on the surface – country life, haven of refuge, a species of domestic harvest-home, repose, concord, harmony, prosperity, peace, and the perfected work of these.

+↑ Unexpected good fortune.

↓ The meaning remains unaltered; it is prosperity, increase, felicity, beauty, embellishment.

+↓ A married woman will have beautiful children.

↑×2 Insomnia.

↑×3 A subject of reflection.

↑×4 Journey near at hand.

↓×2 Dispute.

↓×3 Disquiet.

↓×4 Walks abroad.

Five of Wands

↑ Imitation, as, for example, sham fight, but also the strenuous competition and struggle of the search after riches and fortune. In this sense it connects with the battle of life. Hence some attributions say that it is a card of gold, gain, opulence.

+↑ Success in financial speculation.

↓ Litigation, disputes, trickery, contradiction.

+↓ Quarrels may be turned to advantage.

↑×2 Vigils.

↑×3 Determination.

↑×4 Regularity.

↓×2 Reverse.

↓×3 Hesitation.

↓×4 Order.

Six of Wands

↑ The card has been so designed that it can cover several significations; on the surface, it is a victor triumphing, but it is also great news, such as might be carried in state by the King's courier; it is expectation crowned with its own desire, the crown of hope, and so forth.

+↑ Servants may lose the confidence of their masters; a young lady may be betrayed by a friend.

↓ Apprehension, fear, as of a victorious enemy at the gate; treachery, disloyalty, as of gates being opened to the enemy; also indefinite delay.

+↓ Fulfilment of deferred hope.

↑×2 Irritability.

↑×3 Success.

↑×4 Abundance.

↓×2 Downfall.

↓×3 Satisfaction.

↓×4 Care.

Seven of Wands

↑ It is a card of valour, for, on the surface, six are attacking one, who has, however, the vantage position. On the intellectual plane, it signifies discussion, wordy strife; in business – negotiations, war of trade, barter, competition. It is further a card of success, for the combatant is on the top and his enemies may be unable to reach him.

+↑ A dark child.

↓ Perplexity, embarrassments, anxiety. It is also a caution against indecision.

+↓ [None given.]

↑×2 News.

↑×3 Infirmary.

↑×4 Intrigue.

↓×2 Women of no repute.

↓×3 Joy.

↓×4 Quarrellers.

Eight of Wands

↑ Activity in undertakings, the path of such activity, swiftness, as that of an express messenger; great haste, great hope, speed towards an end which promises assured felicity; generally, that which is on the move; also the arrows of love.

+↑ Domestic disputes for a married person.

↓ Arrows of jealousy, internal dispute, stings of conscience, quarrels; and domestic disputes for persons who are married.

+↓ [None given.]

↑×2 New knowledge.

↑×3 Marriage.

↑×4 Reverse.

↓×2 Misfortune.

↓×3 A spectacle.

↓×4 Error.

Nine of Wands

↑ The card signifies strength in opposition. If attacked, the person will meet an onslaught boldly; and his build shews that he may prove a formidable antagonist. With this main significance there are all its possible adjuncts – delay, suspension, adjournment.

+↑ Generally speaking, a bad card.

↓ Obstacles, adversity, calamity.

+↓ [None given.]

↑×2 Receipt.

↑×3 Success.

↑×4 A good friend.

↓×2 A small profit.

↓×3 Imprudence.

↓×4 Usury.

Ten of Wands

↑ A card of many significances, and some of the readings cannot be harmonized. I set aside that which connects it with honour and good faith. The chief meaning is oppression simply, but it is also fortune, gain, any kind of success, and then it is the oppression of these things. It is also a card of false-seeming, disguise, perfidy. The place which the figure is approaching may suffer from the rods that he carries. Success is stultified if the Nine of Swords follows, and if it is a question of a lawsuit, there will be certain loss.

+↑ Difficulties and contradictions, if near a good card.

↓ Contrarieties, difficulties, intrigues, and their analogies.

+↓ [None given.]

↑×2 Change.

↑×3 New condition.

↑×4 Condemnation.

↓×2 Expectation justified.

↓×3 Disappointment.

↓×4 Event, happening.

Page of Wands

↑ Dark young man, faithful, a lover, an envoy, a postman. Beside a man, he will bear favourable testimony concerning him. A dangerous rival, if followed by the Page of Cups. Has the chief qualities of his suit. He may signify family intelligence.

+↑ Young man of family in search of young lady.

↓ Anecdotes, announcements, evil news. Also indecision and the instability which accompanies it.

+↓ Bad news.

↑×2 Disquiet.

↑×3 Dispute.

↑×4 Dangerous illness.

↓×2 Society.

↓×3 Idleness.

↓×4 Privation.

Knight of Wands

↑ Departure, absence, flight, emigration. A dark young man, friendly. Change of residence.

+↑ A bad card; according to some readings, alienation.

↓ Rupture, division, interruption, discord.

+↓ For a woman, marriage, but probably frustrated.

↑×2 Intimacy.

↑×3 Lively debate.

↑×4 Serious matters.

↓×2 Susceptibility.

↓×3 A duel, or personal encounter.

↓×4 Alliance.

Queen of Wands

↑ A dark woman, countrywoman, friendly, chaste, loving, honourable. If the card beside her signifies a man, she is well disposed towards him; if a woman, she is interested in the Querent. Also, love of money, or a certain success in business.

+↑ A good harvest, which may be taken in several senses.

↓ Good, economical, obliging, serviceable. Signifies also – but in certain positions and in the neighbourhood of other cards tending in such directions – opposition, jealousy, even deceit and infidelity.

+↓ Goodwill towards the Querent, but without the opportunity to exercise it.

↑×2 Sincere friends.

↑×3 Deception by women.

↑×4 Great debate.

↓×2 Work.

↓×3 Gluttony.

↓×4 Bad company.

King of Wands

↑ Dark man, friendly, countryman, generally married, honest and conscientious. The card always signifies honesty, and may mean news concerning an unexpected heritage to fall in before very long.

+↑ Generally favourable; may signify a good marriage.

↓ Good, but severe; austere, yet tolerant.

+↓ Advice that should be followed.

↑×2 Minor counsel.

↑×3 Consultation.

↑×4 Great honour.

↓×2 Projects.

↓×3 Commerce.

↓×4 Celerity.

Ace of Cups

↑ House of the true heart, joy, content, abode, nourishment, abundance, fertility; Holy Table, felicity hereof.

+↑ Inflexible will, unalterable law.

↓ House of the false heart, mutation, instability, revolution.

+↓ Unexpected change of position.

↑×2 Trickery.
↑×3 Small success.
↑×4 Favourable chance.
↓×2 Enemies.
↓×3 Debauchery.
↓×4 Dishonour.

Two of Cups

↑ Love, passion, friendship, affinity, union, concord, sympathy, the interrelation of the sexes, and – as a suggestion apart from all offices of divination – that desire which is not in Nature, but by which Nature is sanctified.

+↑ Favourable in things of pleasure and business, as well as love; also wealth and honour.

↓ [Many/most/all copies of Waite's *The Pictorial Key to the Tarot* and *The Key to the Tarot* are missing a reversed divinatory meaning for this card. However, at least one source (Huson) gives "passion".]

+↓ Passion.

↑×2 Accord.
↑×3 Security.
↑×4 Contention.
↓×2 Mistrust.
↓×3 Apprehension.
↓×4 Reconciliation.

Three of Cups

↑ The conclusion of any matter in plenty, perfection and merriment; happy issue, victory, fulfilment, solace, healing.

+↑ Unexpected advancement for a military man.

↓ Expedition, dispatch, achievement, end. It signifies also the side of excess in physical enjoyment, and the pleasures of the senses.

+↓ Consolation, cure, end of the business.

↑×2 Calm.
↑×3 Unity.
↑×4 Progress.
↓×2 Safety.
↓×3 Serenity.
↓×4 Great success.

Four of Cups

↑ Weariness, disgust, aversion, imaginary vexations, as if the wine of this world had caused satiety only; another wine, as if a fairy gift, is now offered the wastrel, but he sees no consolation therein. This is also a card of blended pleasure.

+↑ Contrarieties.

↓ Novelty, presage, new instruction, new relations.

+↓ Presentiment.

↑×2 Insomnia.
↑×3 A subject of reflection.
↑×4 Journey near at hand.
↓×2 Dispute.
↓×3 Disquiet.
↓×4 Walks abroad.

Five of Cups

↑ It is a card of loss, but something remains over; three have been taken, but two are left; it is a card of inheritance, patrimony, transmission, but not corresponding to expectations; with some interpreters it is a card of marriage, but not without bitterness or frustration.

+↑ Generally favourable; a happy marriage; also patrimony, legacies, gifts, success in enterprise.

↓ News, alliances, affinity, consanguinity, ancestry, return, false projects.

+↓ Return of some relative who has not been seen for long.

↑×2 Vigils.
↑×3 Determination.
↑×4 Regularity.
↓×2 Reverse.
↓×3 Hesitation.
↓×4 Order.

Six of Cups

↑ A card of the past and of memories, looking back, as – for example – on childhood; happiness, enjoyment, but coming rather from the past; things that have vanished. Another reading reverses this, giving new relations, new knowledge, new environment, and then the children are disporting in an unfamiliar precinct.

+↑ Pleasant memories.

↓ The future, renewal, that which will come to pass presently.

+↓ Inheritance to fall in quickly.

↑×2 Irritability.
↑×3 Success.
↑×4 Abundance.
↓×2 Downfall.
↓×3 Satisfaction.
↓×4 Care.

Seven of Cups

↑ Fairy favours, images of reflection, sentiment, imagination, things seen in the glass of contemplation; some attainment in these degrees, but nothing permanent or substantial is suggested.

+↑ Fair child; idea, design, resolve, movement.

↓ Desire, will, determination, project.

+↓ Success, if accompanied by the Three of Cups.

↑×2 News.
↑×3 Infirmity.
↑×4 Intrigue.
↓×2 Women of no repute.
↓×3 Joy.
↓×4 Quarrellers.

Eight of Cups

↑ The card speaks for itself on the surface, but other readings are entirely antithetical – giving joy, mildness, timidity, honour, modesty. In practice, it is usually found that the card shews the decline of a matter, or that a matter which has been thought to be important is really of slight consequence – either for good or evil.

+↑ Marriage with a fair woman.

↓ Great joy, happiness, feasting.

+↓ Perfect satisfaction.

↑×2 New knowledge.

↑×3 Marriage.

↑×4 Reverse.

↓×2 Misfortune.

↓×3 A spectacle.

↓×4 Error.

Nine of Cups

↑ Concord, contentment, physical bien-être; also victory, success, advantage; satisfaction for the Querent or person for whom the consultation is made.

+↑ Of good augury for military men.

↓ Truth, loyalty, liberty; but the readings vary and include mistakes, imperfections, etc.

+↓ Good business.

↑×2 Receipt.
↑×3 Success.
↑×4 A good friend.
↓×2 A small profit.
↓×3 Imprudence.
↓×4 Usury.

Ten of Cups

↑ Contentment, repose of the entire heart; the perfection of that state; also perfection of human love and friendship; if with several picture-cards, a person who is taking charge of the Querent's interests; also the town, village or country inhabited by the Querent.

+↑ For a male Querent, a good marriage and one beyond his expectations.

↓ Repose of the false heart, indignation, violence.

+↓ Sorrow; also a serious quarrel.

↑×2 Change.
↑×3 New condition.
↑×4 Condemnation.
↓×2 Expectation justified.
↓×3 Disappointment.
↓×4 Event, happening.

Page of Cups

↑ Fair young man, one impelled to render service and with whom the Querent will be connected; a studious youth; news, message; application, reflection, meditation; also these things directed to business.

+↑ Good augury; also a young man who is unfortunate in love.

↓ Taste, inclination, attachment, seduction, deception, artifice.

+↓ Obstacles of all kinds.

↑×2 Disquiet.
↑×3 Dispute.
↑×4 Dangerous illness.
↓×2 Society.
↓×3 Idleness.
↓×4 Privation.

Knight of Cups

↑ Arrival, approach – sometimes that of a messenger; advances, proposition, demeanour, invitation, incitement.

+↑ A visit from a friend, who will bring unexpected money to the Querent.

↓ Trickery, artifice, subtlety, swindling, duplicity, fraud.

+↓ Irregularity.

↑×2 Intimacy.

↑×3 Lively debate.

↑×4 Serious matters.

↓×2 Susceptibility.

↓×3 A duel, or personal encounter.

↓×4 Alliance.

Queen of Cups

↑ Good, fair woman; honest, devoted woman, who will do service to the Querent; loving intelligence, and hence the gift of vision; success, happiness, pleasure; also wisdom, virtue; a perfect spouse and a good mother.

+↑ Sometimes denotes a woman of equivocal character.

↓ The accounts vary; good woman; otherwise, distinguished woman but one not to be trusted; perverse woman; vice, dishonour, depravity.

+↓ A rich marriage for a man and a distinguished one for a woman.

↑×2 Sincere friends.
↑×3 Deception by women.
↑×4 Great debate.
↓×2 Work.
↓×3 Gluttony.
↓×4 Bad company.

King of Cups

↑ Fair man, man of business, law, or divinity; responsible, disposed to oblige the Querent; also equity, art and science, including those who profess science, law and art; creative intelligence.

+↑ Beware of ill-will on the part of a man of position, and of hypocrisy pretending to help.

↓ Dishonest, double-dealing man; roguery, exaction, injustice, vice, scandal, pillage, considerable loss.

+↓ Loss.

↑×2 Minor counsel.
↑×3 Consultation.
↑×4 Great honour.
↓×2 Projects.
↓×3 Commerce.
↓×4 Celerity.

Ace of Swords

↑ Triumph, the excessive degree in everything, conquest, triumph of force. It is a card of great force, in love as well as in hatred. The crown may carry a much higher significance than comes usually within the sphere of fortune-telling.

+↑ Great prosperity or great misery.

↓ The same, but the results are disastrous; another account says – conception, childbirth, augmentation, multiplicity.

+↓ Marriage broken off, for a woman, through her own imprudence.

↑×2 Trickery.
↑×3 Small success.
↑×4 Favourable chance.
↓×2 Enemies.
↓×3 Debauchery.
↓×4 Dishonour.

Two of Swords

↑ Conformity and the equipoise which it suggests, courage, friendship, concord in a state of arms; another reading gives tenderness, affection, intimacy. The suggestion of harmony and other favourable readings must be considered in a qualified manner, as Swords generally are not symbolical of beneficent forces in human affairs.

+↑ Gifts for a lady, influential protection for a man in search of help.

↓ Imposture, falsehood, duplicity, disloyalty.

+↓ Dealings with rogues.

↑×2 Accord.
↑×3 Security.
↑×4 Contention.
↓×2 Mistrust.
↓×3 Apprehension.
↓×4 Reconciliation.

Three of Swords

↑ Removal, absence, delay, division, rupture, dispersion, and all that the design signifies naturally, being too simple and obvious to call for specific enumeration.

+↑ For a woman, the flight of her lover.

↓ Mental alienation, error, loss, distraction, disorder, confusion.

+↓ A meeting with one whom the Querent has compromised; also a nun.

↑×2 Calm.
↑×3 Unity.
↑×4 Progress.
↓×2 Safety.
↓×3 Serenity.
↓×4 Great success.

Four of Swords

↑ Vigilance, retreat, solitude, hermit's repose, exile, tomb and coffin. It is these last that have suggested the design.

+↑ A bad card.

↓ Wise administration, circumspection, economy, avarice, precaution, testament.

+↓ A certain success following wise administration.

↑×2 Insomnia.
↑×3 A subject of reflection.
↑×4 Journey near at hand.
↓×2 Dispute.

↓×3 Disquiet.

↓×4 Walks abroad.

Five of Swords

↑ Degradation, destruction, revocation, infamy, dishonour, loss, with the variants and analogues of these.

+↑ An attack on the fortune of the Querent.

↓ The same; burial and obsequies.

+↓ A sign of sorrow and mourning.

↑×2 Vigils.
↑×3 Determination.
↑×4 Regularity.
↓×2 Reverse.
↓×3 Hesitation.
↓×4 Order.

Six of Swords

↑ Journey by water, route, way, envoy, missionary, expedient.

+↑ The voyage will be pleasant.

↓ Declaration, confession, publicity; one account says that it is a proposal of love.

+↓ Unfavourable issue of lawsuit.

↑×2 Irritability.
↑×3 Success.
↑×4 Abundance.
↓×2 Downfall.
↓×3 Satisfaction.
↓×4 Care.

Seven of Swords

↑ Design, attempt, wish, hope, confidence; also quarrelling, a plan that may fail, annoyance. The design is uncertain in its import, because the significations are widely at variance with each other.

+↑ Dark girl; a good card; it promises a country life after a competence has been secured.

↓ Good advice, counsel, instruction, slander, babbling.

+↓ Good advice, probably neglected.

↑×2 News.
↑×3 Infirmity.
↑×4 Intrigue.
↓×2 Women of no repute.
↓×3 Joy.
↓×4 Quarrellers.

Eight of Swords

↑ Bad news, violent chagrin, crisis, censure, power in trammels, conflict, calumny; also sickness.

+↑ For a woman, scandal spread in her respect.

↓ Disquiet, difficulty, opposition, accident, treachery; what is unforeseen; fatality.

+↓ Departure of a relative.

↑×2 New knowledge.
↑×3 Marriage.
↑×4 Reverse.
↓×2 Misfortune.
↓×3 A spectacle.
↓×4 Error.

Nine of Swords

↑ Death, failure, miscarriage, delay, deception, disappointment, despair.

+↑ An ecclesiastic, a priest; generally, a card of bad omen.

↓ Imprisonment, suspicion, doubt, reasonable fear, shame.

+↓ Good ground for suspicion against a doubtful person.

↑×2 Receipt.
↑×3 Success.
↑×4 A good friend.
↓×2 A small profit.
↓×3 Imprudence.
↓×4 Usury.

Ten of Swords

↑ Whatsoever is intimated by the design; also pain, affliction, tears, sadness, desolation. It is not especially a card of violent death.

+↑ Followed by Ace and King, imprisonment; for girl or wife, treason on the part of friends.

↓ Advantage, profit, success, favour, but none of these are permanent; also power and authority.

+↓ Victory and consequent fortune for a soldier in war.

↑×2 Change.
↑×3 New condition.
↑×4 Condemnation.
↓×2 Expectation justified.
↓×3 Disappointment.
↓×4 Event, happening.

Page of Swords

↑ Authority, overseeing, secret service, vigilance, spying, examination, and the qualities thereto belonging.

+↑ An indiscreet person will pry into the Querent's secrets.

↓ More evil side of these qualities; what is unforeseen, unprepared state; sickness is also intimated.

+↓ Astonishing news.

↑×2 Disquiet.
↑×3 Dispute.
↑×4 Dangerous illness.
↓×2 Society.
↓×3 Idleness.
↓×4 Privation.

Knight of Swords

↑ Skill, bravery, capacity, defence, address, enmity, wrath, war, destruction, opposition, resistance, ruin. There is therefore a sense in which the card signifies death, but it carries this meaning only in its proximity to other cards of fatality.

+↑ A soldier, man of arms, satellite, stipendiary; heroic action predicted for soldier.

↓ Imprudence, incapacity, extravagance.

+↓ Dispute with an imbecile person; for a woman, struggle with a rival, who will be conquered.

↑×2 Intimacy.
↑×3 Lively debate.
↑×4 Serious matters.
↓×2 Susceptibility.
↓×3 A duel, or personal encounter.
↓×4 Alliance.

Queen of Swords

↑ Widowhood, female sadness and embarrassment, absence, sterility, mourning, privation, separation.

+↑ A widow.

↓ Malice, bigotry, artifice, prudery, bale, deceit.

+↓ A bad woman, with ill-will towards the Querent.

↑×2 Sincere friends.
↑×3 Deception by women.
↑×4 Great debate.
↓×2 Work.
↓×3 Gluttony.
↓×4 Bad company.

King of Swords

↑ Whatsoever arises out of the idea of judgment and all its connexions – power, command, authority, militant intelligence, law, offices of the crown, and so forth.

+↑ A lawyer, senator, doctor.

↓ Cruelty, perversity, barbarity, perfidy, evil intention.

+↓ A bad man; also a caution to put an end to a ruinous lawsuit.

↑×2 Minor counsel.
↑×3 Consultation.
↑×4 Great honour.
↓×2 Projects.
↓×3 Commerce.
↓×4 Celerity.

Ace of Pentacles

↑ Perfect contentment, felicity, ecstasy; also speedy intelligence; gold. It shews prosperity, comfortable material conditions, but whether these are of advantage to the possessor will depend on whether the card is reversed or not.

+↑ The most favourable of all cards.

↓ The evil side of wealth, bad intelligence; also great riches. In any case it shews prosperity, comfortable material conditions, but whether these are of advantage to the possessor will depend on whether the card is reversed or not.

+↓ A share in the finding of treasure.

↑×2 Trickery.
↑×3 Small success.
↑×4 Favourable chance.
↓×2 Enemies.
↓×3 Debauchery.
↓×4 Dishonour.

Two of Pentacles

↑ On the one hand it is represented as a card of gaiety, recreation and its connexions, which is the subject of the design; but it is read also as news and messages in writing, as obstacles, agitation, trouble, embroilment.

+↑ Troubles are more imaginary than real.

↓ Enforced gaiety, simulated enjoyment, literal sense, handwriting, composition, letters of exchange.

+↓ Bad omen, ignorance, injustice.

↑×2 Accord.
↑×3 Security.
↑×4 Contention.
↓×2 Mistrust.
↓×3 Apprehension.
↓×4 Reconciliation.

Three of Pentacles

↑ Métier, trade, skilled labour; usually, however, regarded as a card of nobility, aristocracy, renown, glory.

+↑ If for a man, celebrity for his eldest son.

↓ Mediocrity, in work and otherwise, puerility, pettiness, weakness.

+↓ Depends on neighbouring cards.

↑×2 Calm.
↑×3 Unity.
↑×4 Progress.
↓×2 Safety.
↓×3 Serenity.
↓×4 Great success.

Four of Pentacles

↑ The surety of possessions, cleaving to that which one has, gift, legacy, inheritance.

+↑ For a bachelor, pleasant news from a lady.

↓ Suspense, delay, opposition.

+↓ Observation, hindrances.

↑×2 Insomnia.
↑×3 A subject of reflection.
↑×4 Journey near at hand.
↓×2 Dispute.
↓×3 Disquiet.
↓×4 Walks abroad.

Five of Pentacles

↑ The card foretells material trouble above all, whether in the form illustrated – that is, destitution – or otherwise. For some cartomancers, it is a card of love and lovers – wife, husband, friend, mistress; also concordance, affinities. These alternatives cannot be harmonized.

+↑ Conquest of fortune by reason.

↓ Disorder, chaos, ruin, discord, profligacy.

+↓ Troubles in love.

↑×2 Vigils.
↑×3 Determination.
↑×4 Regularity.
↓×2 Reverse.
↓×3 Hesitation.
↓×4 Order.

Six of Pentacles

↑ Presents, gifts [both of foregoing stem from a mis-translation of the French le présent ("the present", i.e. now)], gratification; another account says attention, vigilance; now is the accepted time, present prosperity, etc.

+↑ The present must not be relied on.

↓ Desire, cupidity, envy, jealousy, illusion.

+↓ A check on the Querent's ambition.

↑×2 Irritability.
↑×3 Success.
↑×4 Abundance.
↓×2 Downfall.
↓×3 Satisfaction.
↓×4 Care.

Seven of Pentacles

↑ These are exceedingly contradictory; in the main, it is a card of money, business, barter; but one reading gives altercation, quarrel – and another innocence, ingenuity [stems from a mis-translation of the French ingénuité ("ingenuousness")], purgation.

+↑ Improved position for a lady's future husband.

↓ Cause for anxiety regarding money which it may be proposed to lend.

+↓ Impatience, apprehension, suspicion.

↑×2 News.
↑×3 Infirmary.
↑×4 Intrigue.
↓×2 Women of no repute.
↓×3 Joy.
↓×4 Quarrellers.

Eight of Pentacles

↑ Work, employment, commission, craftsmanship, skill in craft and business, perhaps in the preparatory stage.

+↑ A young man in business who has relations with the Querent; a dark girl.

↓ Voided ambition, vanity, cupidity, exaction, usury. It may also signify the possession of skill, in the sense of the ingenious mind turned to cunning and intrigue.

+↓ The Querent will be compromised in a matter of money-lending.

↑×2 New knowledge.
↑×3 Marriage.
↑×4 Reverse.
↓×2 Misfortune.

↓×3 A spectacle.

↓×4 Error.

Nine of Pentacles

↑ Prudence, safety, success, accomplishment, certitude, discernment.

+↑ Prompt fulfilment of what is presaged by neighbouring cards.

↓ Roguery, deception, voided project, bad faith.

+↓ Vain hopes.

↑×2 Receipt.
↑×3 Success.
↑×4 A good friend.
↓×2 A small profit.
↓×3 Imprudence.
↓×4 Usury.

Ten of Pentacles

↑ Gain, riches; family matters, archives, extraction, the abode of a family.

+↑ Represents house or dwelling, and derives its value from other cards.

↓ Chance, fatality, loss, robbery, games of hazard; sometimes gift, dowry, pension.

+↓ An occasion which may be fortunate or otherwise.

↑×2 Change.
↑×3 New condition.
↑×4 Condemnation.
↓×2 Expectation justified.
↓×3 Disappointment.
↓×4 Event, happening.

Page of Pentacles

↑ Application, study, scholarship, reflection; another reading says news, messages and the bringer thereof; also rule, management.

+↑ A dark youth; a young officer or soldier; a child.

↓ Prodigality, dissipation, liberality, luxury; unfavourable news.

+↓ Sometimes degradation and sometimes pillage.

↑×2 Disquiet.
↑×3 Dispute.
↑×4 Dangerous illness.
↓×2 Society.
↓×3 Idleness.
↓×4 Privation.

Knight of Pentacles

↑ Utility, serviceableness, interest, responsibility, rectitude – all on the normal and external plane.

+↑ An useful man; useful discoveries.

↓ inertia, idleness, repose of that kind, stagnation; also placidity, discouragement, carelessness.

+↓ A brave man out of employment.

↑×2 Intimacy.
↑×3 Lively debate.
↑×4 Serious matters.
↓×2 Susceptibility.
↓×3 A duel, or personal encounter.
↓×4 Alliance.

Queen of Pentacles

↑ Opulence, generosity, magnificence, security, liberty.

+↑ Dark woman; presents from a rich relative; rich and happy marriage for a young man.

↓ Evil, suspicion, suspense, fear, mistrust.

+↓ An illness.

↑×2 Sincere friends.
↑×3 Deception by women.
↑×4 Great debate.
↓×2 Work.
↓×3 Gluttony.
↓×4 Bad company.

King of Pentacles

↑ Valour, realizing intelligence, business and normal intellectual aptitude, sometimes mathematical gifts and attainments of this kind; success in these paths.

+↑ A rather dark man, a merchant, master, professor.

↓ Vice, weakness, ugliness, perversity, corruption, peril.

+↓ An old and vicious man.

↑×2 Minor counsel.
↑×3 Consultation.
↑×4 Great honour.
↓×2 Projects.
↓×3 Commerce.
↓×4 Celerity.