



Symbols

*When looking at symbolism in the Tarot, remember that your own responses and interpretations are what count most.

Symbol	Meaning
Circle	Wholeness, unity, protection, continuity
Square	Stability, equality, structure
Triangle	Trinity, 3D existence, movement
Downward Triangle	Divine feminine, Earth or Water elements
Upward Triangle	Divine masculine, Fire or Air elements
Star	Hope, promise
Five-pointed Star	Protection, the human body, physical incarnation
Six-pointed Star	Union of male/female or earth/sky, integration, manifestation
Vertical Line	Movement, heaven, sky, masculine energy
Horizontal Line	Stability, earth, feminine energy
Cross	Union of male/female or earth/sky, integration, manifestation
Spiral	Life energy, renewal, movement toward the centre
Sun	Clarity, vitality, optimism, contentment, masculine energy
Moon	Secrets, intuition, emotions, feminine energy
Dove	Peace, reconciliation, promise
Crane	Wisdom
Rose	Love
Mountain	Challenge, Vision, Achievement
Ocean/Water	Emotions, the unknown depths of the psyche
Snake	Transformation, hidden knowledge, kundalini energy
Egg	Birth, fertility
Rainbow	Renewal, hope, happiness
Book	Knowledge
Lantern	Guidance, clarity, hope
Bridge	Connection, harmony, overcoming difficulty
Tree	Knowledge, growth, protection, strength
Butterfly	Transformation

From: How to Read Tarot



Animal	Meaning
Snake	Instinct, fertility, evil
Crayfish	Soul, crisis of faith
Horse	Conflict & passion
Lion	Strength, destruction (opposite aspects of human behavior)
Dragon	Primal power
Monkey	Vanity
Donkey	Folly, submission
Dog	Conscience, primitive urges, protection from danger

From: Understanding Tarot by Liz Dean

Connections & Duality

- We will look at a spread and break it down into pairs/duality – are they in agreement or tension?

Ex) Ace of Cups & the Lovers = agreement

Ace of Cups & 5 of Pentacles = tension

- Look for positive progression in number sequence, hierarchy or element.

Numbers:

- 1) New beginnings
- 2) Duality or things coming together (partnerships)
- 3) Social or creation
- 4) Stable (maybe stuck?)
- 5) Change or challenge (time to take action)
- 6) Balance & harmony after hardship
- 7) Introspective (do not take action)
- 8) Karma & fulfillment (you reap what you sow)
- 9) Near completion, endings
- 10) Finale (end becomes the beginning again)



SAGE WIND TAROT CIRCLE ... MAY 2021

Hierarchy in Tarot: based on the zodiac (Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer)

Wands: laborer – working the land

Pentacles: merchant – producing things

Swords: nobility – on earthly plane

Cups: clergy – spiritual connection

Page: fertile soil, fertile environment

Knight: new messages

Queen: Internalized, feeling it, not yet spoken of it

King: Externalized, take action, speak it out loud.

GLOSSARY

- ANGEL**—1. *Raphael*, angel of air. Symbol of the superconscious (Key 6). 2. *Michael*, angel of fire and sun (Key 14). 3. *Gabriel*, angel of water (Key 20).
- ANKH**—Egyptian symbol of life, generation; combines the masculine and feminine (Key 4).
- ANUBIS**—Jackal-headed Egyptian god representing the evolution of consciousness from lower to higher levels. Also the Egyptian equivalent of Hermes or Mercury, signifying self-consciousness, intellectuality (Key 10).
- BANNER** (Also **STANDARD** or **FLAG**)—Betokens freedom from material bonds; action, vibration. Carried in the left hand, it indicates that control of vibration has passed from the right hand (self-consciousness) to the left (subconsciousness) and has become automatic. (Keys 10, 13, 19, 20).
- BULL**—Sign of Taurus in Astrology. Assigned to the suit of Pentacles to indicate they are of the element earth.
- BUTTERFLY**—Symbol of the immortality of the soul and of the element air. Knight, Queen, and King of Swords show butterflies in the designs of their cards.
- CAT**—A black cat indicates the sinister aspect of Venus.
- CHAIN**—Restriction, largely self-imposed.
- CIRCLE**—Eternity, spirit.
- CRESCENT**—Soul.
- CROSS**—Solar cross has equal arms to indicate the union of the male, positive element (upright), with the female, negative element (horizontal), or the union with God and earth. (Keys 2, 20).
- CROWN**—Attainment, mastery. The Will, which may be set against the cosmic purpose. Represents the creative, formative, and material world. (Keys 3, 5, 16).
- CUBE**—Sometimes a square. Represents earth, material manifes-

- tation. Order and measurement. That which was, is, and shall be. (Key 15).
- CUPS**—Associated with the concept of water (see suit of Cups, Minor Arcana). The cup is a symbol of knowledge and preservation. It also means love, pleasure, and enjoyment. (Key 14).
- CYPRESS TREE**—Sacred to Venus (Key 3 and Court cards of Swords).
- DEVIL**—Symbolizes the false conception that man is bound by material conditions, that he is a slave to necessity and blind chance. The Devil is sensation divorced from understanding by spiritual blindness. (Key 15).
- DOG**—Friend, helper, and companion to man. Indicates that all nonhuman forms of life are elevated and improved by the advance of human consciousness. (Keys 0, 18).
- DOVE**—Descent of Spirit, peace.
- EAGLE**—One of the symbols denoting the four seasons or the four suits of the Minor Arcana. The Eagle is associated with Scorpio (the Scorpion), the eighth sign of the Zodiac. It is a symbol of power. (Keys 10, 21).
- EARTH**—Symbol of concrete physical manifestations (Keys 14, 17).
- ELLIPSE**—The superconscious (Key 21).
- FIGURE EIGHT ON ITS SIDE**—Eternal life, the cosmic lemniscate. Harmonious interaction between the conscious and the subconscious, between life and feeling, desire and emotion. May mean dominion over the material. (Keys 1, 8).
- FISH**—Idea or thought. In the King of Cups the fish is seen coming from the sea of the universal subconscious. In the Page of Cups it is arising from his own subconscious.
- FLAME**—Spirit.
- FLOWERS**—White flowers: spiritual thoughts, love, happiness. Red flowers: human desires.
- FRUIT**—Fertility.
- GLOBE**—(See Orb of the World.) Symbol of dominion (Key 4).
- GNOMES**—Elements who live beneath the surface of the earth. Associated with the suit of Pentacles.
- GOAT**—Fertility, as when depicted on the arms of the throne of the Queen of Pentacles. Suggests bestiality and overindulgence in sex, as in Key 15, the Devil.
- GOLD**—Metal of the sun.
- GRAPES**—Abundance, pleasure. **GRAPEVINES**: a continuation and growth in abundance and pleasure.
- HAND**—Right hand, positive, masculine; left hand, negative, feminine.
- HEART**—Symbols in the shape of a heart refer to the subconscious, the emotions. (Key 3).

- HORSE**—Symbol of solar energy, or the controlled, subdued Life-force. (Keys 13, 19).
- HHVH**—Ancient Hebrew initials of the name Jehovah: I—Fire; H—Water; V—Air; H—Earth (Key 10).
- IRIS**—Represents Iris, Greek goddess of the rainbow, as in Key 14.
- KEYS CROSSED**—The Hidden Doctrine. One is of silver, the other gold—representing solar and lunar currents in radiant energy. (Key 5).
- LAMP**—Spiritual light, intelligence.
- LEAVES**—Growth, vitality.
- LIGHT**—Spiritual emanations, activity of God, life.
- LIGHTNING**—A flash of inspiration. The Life-power that descends down the Kabalistic Tree of Life.
- LILY**—Abstract thought untinged by desire (Key 1).
- LION**—King of the beasts; zodiacal sign Leo. Represents all-powerful subhuman force. May also stand for Mars (war). (Keys 8, 10, 21).
- MIRROR OF VENUS**—A solar cross surmounted by a circle; symbol of the planet Venus; indicates fertility. (Key 4).
- MOON**—A feminine astrological symbol of personality, also of the subconscious mind. The reflected light of the subconscious. (Keys 2, 18).
- MOUNTAINS (SNOW-CAPPED PEAKS)**—Indicate the cold, abstract principles of mathematics behind and above all warm, colorful, and vital activities of cosmic manifestation. Heights of abstract thought. Wisdom and understanding. (Keys 0, 6, 9, 14, 20).
- ORB OF THE WORLD**—A traditional symbol of the earth dominated by the Lord or the Spirit. (Key 4).
- PALM**—Symbol of victory over death, and of the male aspect of life. The active force, as shown on the veil behind the High Priestess. (Key 2).
- PATH**—The way to spiritual attainment and esoteric knowledge, as set forth in the Tarot cards (Keys 14, 18).
- PENTACLE**—The pentagram in the form of an amulet, believed to protect against evil spirits. (See suit of Pentacles, also Key 15).
- PENTAGRAM (SEAL OF SOLOMON)**—Five-pointed star, expressing mind's domination over the elements. Symbol of the Word made Flesh. Depending on the direction of its points, it may represent order or confusion. (Note that the pentagrams are right side up in the suit of Pentacles, reversed in Key 15).
- PILLAR**—1. *White Pillar* (Jachin) establishes the principle inherent in all things; the positive aspect of life; light. 2. *Black Pillar* (Boaz). Negation of activity, inertia; darkness (Keys 2, 5, 11)
- POMEGRANATES**—Symbol of the female, passive aspect of life; fecundity (Key 2).

- PYRAMID**—The earth in its maternal aspect. The triangular-shaped face of the pyramid suggests the threefold principle of creation.
- RABBIT**—Symbol of fertility.
- RAINBOW**—A Sign from God of future protection and happiness.
- RAM'S HEAD**—Symbol of Mars, war; power, leadership. Also First Sign of the Zodiac (Aries, the Ram). (Key 4).
- ROSE**—1. *White Rose*: Freedom from lower forms of desire and passion. 2. *Red Rose*: Represents Venus, nature, desire. Both are cultivated flowers, representing cultural activities. (Keys 0, 1).
- SALAMANDER**—Lizardlike creature able to live in the midst of fire. The elemental of the suit of Wands; also used in the Court cards.
- SCALES**—Balanced judgment (Key 11).
- SCROLL**—The Divine Law, the Hidden Mysteries. Past events impressed upon the subconscious. (Key 2).
- SERPENT**—Symbol of wisdom, for it tempts man to knowledge of himself. Secrecy, subtlety. Serpent biting its tail represents law of endless transformation; also represents radiant energy descending into manifestation. (Keys 1, 6, 10).
- SHELLFISH**—The early stages of conscious unfoldment. Related to the Zodiacal Sign of the Crab. May invade the territory of the waking consciousness and give rise to fears. (Key 18).
- SHIP**—Material treasure.
- SILVER**—Metal of the moon.
- SPHINX**—Symbol of the combination of human and animal attributes. The white sphinx betokens mercy; the black one, severity. Sometimes the Sphinx represents the human senses, which are continually propounding riddles. (Keys 7, 10).
- SQUARE**—Foursquare, the solidity of earth.
- STAFF**—Implement of the Magician; emblem of power.
- STAR**—Suggests Sixth Sign of the Zodiac. The six-pointed star (hexagram) indicates dominion over laws of the great world; the eight-pointed star represents cosmic order, radiant energy. (Keys 9, 17).
- STONE**—*Abn* is the Hebrew word for stone. *Aba*, stemming from the first two letters of the alphabet, means "father" (as in Abraham); *Bn* means "son" (cf. Ben-Gurion, son of Gurion). Thus, stone symbolizes the union of father and son, spirit and body; the Divine Wisdom and the human intellect. "Upon this rock [stone] will I build my church" (on the understanding that the Father and the Son are one). David slew Goliath with a stone, and with this understanding we can all slay the Goliaths in our lives.
- STREAM**—Symbolizes the stuff of life, forever flowing to the ocean of cosmic consciousness.
- SUN**—Source of light, dynamo of radiant energy whence all creatures derive their personal force (Keys 0, 6, 13, 19).

- SUNFLOWERS**—Nature in its fullness (Key 19).
- SWORDS**—Represent activity, either destructive or constructive (see suit of Swords). They also represent the rigors of the law; can mean the elimination of outworn forms. (Key 11).
- SYLPH**—An elemental of the air somewhat similar to a cupid. Associated with the suit of Swords.
- TOWER**—Represents a man's creation or personality, sometimes built on a foundation of false science. Misapprehension; the fallacy of personal isolation. (Keys 13, 16, 18).
- TREE**—1. *Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil*, bearing five fruits, representing the five senses (in Key 6, it is seen behind Eve). 2. *Tree of Life*, bearing 12 fruits, representing the 12 signs of the Zodiac (Key 6, behind Adam).
Note: Under the appellations of the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is concealed the great arcanum of antiquity—the mystery of equilibrium. The Tree of Life represents the spiritual point of balance—the secret of immortality. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil represents polarity or imbalance—the secret of mortality. Though humanity is still wandering in the world of good and evil, it will ultimately attain completion and eat of the fruit of the Tree of Life growing in the midst of the illusionary garden of worldly things.
- UNDINE**—An elemental that lives in the water and is thus associated with the suit of Cups. Undines appear on the throne of the Queen of Cups.
- VEIL**—Indicates hidden things or ideas. Symbol of virginity. Only when the veil is rent or penetrated by concentrated impulses on self-conscious levels are the creative activities of the subconscious realized and actualized. (Keys 2, 11).
- WAND**—Symbol of Will and power. Suggests continual renewal of life. May have phallic significance. (See suit of Wands, also Key 21).
- WATER**—Symbolizes the subconscious, the emotions. Water in a pool symbolizes the reservoir of cosmic mind stuff, which can be stirred into vibration by the act of meditation. (Keys 14, 17, 18, 20).
- WATER LILIES**—Eternal life.
- WHEAT**—Abundance and fertility. Sacred to Hathor-Isis and all Mother goddesses. (Key 3).
- WHEEL**—Symbol of the whole cycle of cosmic expression. The center or pivot is the archetypal or thought world; the inner circle, creative; middle circle, formative; and the outer circle, the material world. The eight spokes, like the eight-pointed star, represent the channels of universal radiant energy. (Keys 7, 10).
- WOLF**—Symbolizes the manifestations of Nature before man has tamed and civilized them. (Key 18).

WREATH—Represents the forces of Nature, the kingdom of growing things. (Keys 3, 8, 21).

YOD (DROPS OF LIGHT)—Yod is the Hebrew letter symbolizing the hands of man. It betokens power, skill, dexterity. The descent of the Life-force from above into the conditions of material existence. Corresponds to the zodiacal sign of the Virgin. (Keys 16, 18).

ZERO—Symbol of the absence of quality, quantity, and mass. Denotes absolute freedom from every limitation. Sign of the infinite and eternal conscious energy. Superconsciousness. (Key 0).

ZODIAC—Symbol of cycle of existence.

Air, 21, 22

99, 139,

Air sign, 1

Alchemy,

Alpha, 25

Angel, 15,

167

Ank (Cru

Aquarius,

Aries, the

Astrology

166, 17

Athens, 1

Banner, 1

Bible, 21,

Binah (3

Birds, 76

Boaz (F

Temple

Book T, 1

Bull, 21,

Butterfly,

Cancer, t

Capricor

Case, Pa

Chariot,

112-1

China, 9

Chokma

172

Clubs (s