







# The Stolen Child Tarot

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“We are as forlorn as children lost in the woods. When you stand in front of me and look at me, what do you know of the griefs that are in me and what do I know of yours? And if I were to cast myself down before you and weep and tell you, what more would you know about me than you know about Hell when someone tells you it is hot and dreadful? For that reason alone we human beings ought to stand before one another as reverently, as reflectively, as lovingly, as we would before the entrance to Hell.”

— Franz Kafka  
November 8, 1903  
Letter to Oskar Pollak

“Animals are not lesser humans; they are other worlds.”

— Barbara Noske





# The Major Arcana



## The Fool

He contains raw and new energy, untempered, undiluted without influence or molding. The Fool laughs at the four points of the quaternary, the world of phenomena. He prefigures the mindset of differentiation, of conceiving or marking time or direction, or of choosing labels. He is both the beginning/seeker and the enlightened/transcended. Freedom, Energy, Vitality vs. Madness, Chaos, Instability

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Hummingbirds (ruby-throated, black-chinned, Costa's and bee), common dandelion

## The Magician

Clever as a fox, the Magician wields all elements as tools at his command. Trickster and master of improvisation, he can strip away disguises and see through illusions. (Although he may not let on when he does this!) He commits to the present moment and represents the election and recognition of one's path and vocation without reservation. Possibilities, Skills, Talent vs. Con Man, Gullibility, Hesitation

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Red fox, Norwegian rat



## The High Priestess

She represents the purity of purpose in the gestation of inner and outer spirit. Her nest can be high, hidden and unattainable. The potential of her egg is related to the abundance realized in the Star's tide pool, an ocean in a shell. Associated with Isis and the Virgin Mary, she represents spiritual purity inhabiting the material world. Faith, Accumulation, Patience vs. Frigidity, Intolerance, Isolation

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** While the bird-child is a chimera, the eggs and nest were based on grackles

## The Empress

The creative Mother becomes the creative Self. She is budding forth in the flowers, receptive to nature and spring's possibilities. Like the bear, powerful, omnivorous, availing itself of all the world has to offer despite thorns or stings—she embodies uninhibited and confident personal expression. Enthusiasm, Creativity, Abundance vs. Adolescent Rashness, Thoughtless Action

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Brown bear, sweet briar rose



## The Emperor

The traditional Emperor sits on top of a square, symbolic of the quaternary, the four elements expressed as stability in the material world. The polar bear, an arctic animal, literally lives “on top of the world.” He can represent severity like his harsh snowy environment. Secure in physical and mental will, he is the embodiment of material force. Powerful protector and father figure. Mastery in the material world. Resolve, Self-restraint, Self-reliance vs. Indecision, Impulsivity, Self-indulgence

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Polar bear. The Emperor and Empress face one another in a nod to older decks like the Marseille and to show their accord and parity

## The Hierophant

Early observers of the pelican did not understand that it was dipping into its pouch to feed its young. Instead, they believed it was ripping open its chest, offering its own blood to feed its children. This led to its association with the sacrifice of Christ. As a teacher, the Hierophant is the intermediary, able to bridge the heavens/spiritual realm and the land and water of earth. Teacher, Union of Opposites, Communication vs. Dogma, False Leader

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Brown pelican, gafftopsail catfish. In addition to his two undine acolytes, he's accumulated several tide pool creatures like the urchin and starfish on the right. Due to the often rigid, color-within-the-lines interpretations of this figure and the artist's former studio name, No Borders, the bounding box for the Hierophant has been removed



## The Lovers

Bats pollinate plants unaware of the intimacy they play in the flowers' life cycle. They colonize without imposing hive mind; each individual remains autonomous while still joining a massive communal wave. As the Lovers they represent one's emotional life and the joy of living. Unconditional Love, Social Life, Choice, Joy, Siblings vs. Conflict, Pride, Inability to Reconcile One's Ideal With Reality

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Hibiscus, Egyptian fruit bat, giant golden-crowned flying fox

## The Chariot

The Charioteer journeys forth to make his fortune. His forward motion comes not from his vehicle but the movement of the Earth itself, represented by the turtle. Victory, Journey, Harmony of Animus/Anima and Yin/Yang, Triumph, Center, the Potential of Immortality Within Living Material vs. Dissolution, Lack of Will or Agency

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Florida box turtle, shasta daisy, garden snail, praying mantis nymph







## Justice

Blind Justice's antlers symbolize station and authority. The feathers in this deck replace the air suit of swords but also evoke the scales of Egyptian mythology where Anubis weighs the heart of the dead against a feather. Rather than the slightly tilted sword of the Marseille deck connoting and questioning the fallibility of human and social law, here Justice evokes this by pointing to the regimented society of bees. This society provides order and some degree of safety but complete subjugation of individual identity. Justice points to the examination of every law system for its pros and cons because none can be perfect, and any system of absolutes crushes life and growth. Spirit of the Law, Discernment, Beginning of Critical Thinking, Rebellion vs. Submission, Mob Mentality, Solipsism

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Honey wasp, Yellow jacket wasp

## The Hermit

The Hermit is willing to let go and explore the unknown for its own sake. The illumination of the bug could be a beacon to draw others of its kind or a warning to scare predators away. Pure Science, Pure Research, Curiosity, Wisdom, Advanced Age, Leaving One's Comfort Zone, Humility vs. One Who Does Not Suffer Fools, Silence, Asceticism

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** European hedgehog, Eastern firefly, rose hips



## The Wheel of Fortune

The Wheel of Fortune revolves in a cycle impartial to every single thing, living or inanimate. Like the weather, the rain falls on the just and the unjust, the guilty and the innocent. There is no luck or karma that the conscious mind can control or explain. It can only flatter or distract itself in seeking patterns. Letting go of its defenses, the pangolin has unfurled itself, spinning like the Wheel to open and join the world. Closure with the Past, Expectation of the Future, Cycle, Change, Authentic Action vs. Resistance, Nostalgia, Role-playing

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Sunda pangolin, banana leaf



## Strength

Recognition and management of the animal nature. Connection to instinct in a conscious way. Early psychologists wrote about animal nature as “the beast within” as if it were something to be feared, while numerous indigenous cultures have made concerted efforts to discover and communicate with their totem or spirit animal. Recognition and Empathy With the Other, Acknowledgement of the Shadow or Base Impulses, Clear Communication vs. Aggrandizement, Compartmentalization, Dissociation, Anxiety

**Natural features/Artist’s notes:** American bison, goldenrod



## The Hanged Man

Like in the Marseille deck, the figure is in a state of total passive submission to his suspended state. The tree with its gaping roots, aged bark, squirrel and other inhabitants pays homage to the tree of Norse myth Odin hung himself upon. Like the dryads of Greek and Roman myth, our human figure may become one with this state of contemplative torpor and, swallowed, even become the tree itself. Meditative Retreat, Stasis, Processing Period or Time of Healing vs. Stagnation, Repetition, Inability to View and Break a Cycle

**Natural features/Artist’s notes:** White oak, red squirrel, fiddleheads

## Death

A triad of transformation: Mind, Spirit and Body. Body: the death cap mushroom is toxic to many mammals—including humans. Mushrooms also fill a scavenger niche in nature by helping break down rotting matter. Spirit: The raven in myth is both a harbinger of death and a guide to the spirit otherworld. Mind: The death’s-head moth while considered an omen of death, specifically evokes the head/mind with its prominent back pattern resembling a skull. The child is a new babe, beginning transformation. Complete Paradigm Shift, Upheaval, Rite of Passage, Mental Concepts Open to Thoughts to the Spiritual Realm vs. Reversion, Immaturity, Infantilization

**Natural features/Artist’s notes:** Common raven, death’s-head hawk-moth, death cap mushroom, fly agaric toadstool. The thirteenth trump of the tarot traditionally is printed with no name





## Temperance

The frog's amphibious nature takes it from the waters of its birth to land, then back to the water again for reproduction. Because of its travels, it represents the junction of the land, or material life, and the water, or unconscious/spiritual life. Frogs, whose health has been called the barometer of the environment's health, are a good symbol of the Temperance necessary to preserve the natural world. Circulation, Blending, Harmony, Healing, Protection, Moderation, Balance, Prosperity vs. Contamination, Excess, Barren Surroundings

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** The frog is a composite animal of the common bullfrog and leopard frog

## The Devil

The snake has long been associated with the Devil as tempter. Rats have also long been associated with him, believed to be in league with him for spreading plague, corrupting and stealing food. They can also represent souls lured away to Purgatory by music (pleasure) in stories like the Pied Piper of Hamelin. Material Concerns Eclipsing True Values, Carnal Desire, Obsession, Fear, Taboo vs. Balance of the Intellect, Selflessness

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Western diamondback rattlesnake



## The Tower

Trees record and tell the history of the world around them without bias. Their rings tell age, growth and weather patterns, while their bark and wood record environmental events such as fires or scars showing their use by animals. They represent the temple, or the body, housing the deity (consciousness). Related to the Hanged Man, the end of isolation and introspection, and Rapunzel breaking free. Illumination, Overflow, Release vs. Rupture, Catastrophe, Evacuation

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Aspen, red maple, pileated woodpecker, North American beaver, stag beetle



## The Star

The bountiful source that allows us to find our place in the world. Otters move from land to water with ease—and both environments are equally necessary for their survival. Tide pools are small galleries of sea treasures, ecosystems unto themselves that still reflect the larger ocean. The octopus over her shoulder represents the eight stars of the traditional card. Ecosystem, Dance, Success, Luck, Harmony, Generous Waters vs. Unrealistic Expectations, Lofty Goals, Delayed Recognition

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Sea otter, ochre sea star, red octopus, cone snail. The tide pool occupants here harken back to those on the Hierophant's rock



## The Moon

The sleeping child in the moon dreams. Its reflected light draws out the subconscious and can flip-flop one's urges. Normally timid and solitary, mad March hares are known to box one another in the moonlight during mating season. Instead of the two fortresses of the traditional card image, there are two groves of trees. Figuratively, the hare's ears, too, represent the towers, with its head that falls between them standing in for the lower wilderness of the subconscious mind. Subconscious Fears or Beliefs Exerting Constructive Influence, Dream Work vs. Confusion, Mirage, Delusion

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** The hare from the Moon returns in the minors forming a narrative triptych

## The Sun

Like a cosmic architect, the naked sun child helps spread the seeds of the garden. The golden cat represents independence and liberty. Like the reed cat of the Book of the Dead, she can destroy serpents when defending herself and others. The twin birds represent the work of cooperative duality within us; our conscious mind may guide and interpret the subconscious, while our subconscious process the events of waking life through dreams. Rebirth, New Dawn, New Construction, Illumination, Openness, Ascension, Truth vs. Delays, Discovery of Obstacles or Misinformation

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Abyssinian cat, yellow swamp-warbler. I love William Blake, and I had a little fun here making the infant an homage to "The Ancient of Days"





### Judgement

New consciousness emerges via birth or resurrection. Like the life stages of the moth or butterfly, the call to transformation is irresistible. The dawning emergence of this new understanding hangs within the life spiral, while the arching leaf and divided twig evoke the Golden Mean. A culmination of effort is bursting forth. Metamorphosis, Desire, True Calling, Grace, Acceptance of Inner Voice, Emergence vs. Stunted Growth, Emotional or Spiritual Immaturity, Self-repression

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Monarch butterfly, caterpillar and chrysalis

### The World

Instead of the mandorla, the fullness of the World is held and offered as the cornucopia in the child's arms. The male stag and female child evoke the yin and yang or recognition of the androgynous nature of the spirit. The four-petaled dogwood blossoms recall the traditional frame of the quaternary. The Fool's journey completes. Realization, Simultaneously Active and Passive Reception vs. Denial of Self, Chaos

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** I tried to include as many and more of the leaves and flowers from earlier cards here, including the goldenrod, briar roses and maple leaves. The lotus in her crown recurs frequently in the minors





# The Minor Arcana

## Oak

The Earth suit holds all the potential for matter and form. Beyond just the acorn bringing forth the tree, it is the hummus and leaf litter — all things making up the foundation of physical being. Nourishing, grounding and solid, it is the stuff of home and the body, the plane of shapes and being.

### Ace of Oak

William Faulkner wrote, “I am a wet seed wild in the hot blind earth.” Here is the stable foundation to which all can return. All is broken down to feed, to rest, to sprout, to wait or to be made fertile again. The tip of the Flames entering the lower-right corner suggest the molten core of deep Earth. The emerging top of Brine’s heart in the lower left corner remind us of our emotional link to the Oak’s foundation in our burial rituals. Abundant Gifts, Financial Potential, Fecundity of the Physical Body or Creative Mind vs. Lack of Resources, Bankruptcy, Barren or Toxic Landscape

**Artist’s notes:** The Aces of the four suits may be placed in a square to show overlapping elements in their design. Top: Oak/Zephyr, Bottom: Brine/Flame. The edges of these, where visible, may be appropriate to read to color an interpretation



### Two of Oak

Duality and balance. To some degree all of the Twos, regardless of suit, express this. The thylacine was one of the few marsupial apex predators in Australia that survived to modern times. Fear that they would harm sheep and other farm animals led to bounties and eradication programs that ultimately wiped them out and created an opening for invasives like foxes and domestic cats. In an ecosystem, there will always be a necessary niche for the predator. The thylacine’s bodies frame the card like pillars, one looking up and one looking down. The child keeps open hands before the spiral of the floating wattle seeds. You cannot makeover your environment for static perfection. Balance your presence with your feet planted on earth. Faith in Balance, Perceiving the Web, vs. Fear of the Other, Imperception, Blindness to Other’s Selfhood and Wholeness

**Natural features/Artist’s notes:** Thylacines or Tasmanian tiger, golden wattle, *Boronia anemonifolia*

### Three of Oak

Change can be wrought, and creativity and transformation achieved, through one's own agency and initiative. The hand touches its little finger to thumb, highlighting the sophistication and potential in one's own hands. This image is reinforced with the inclusion of the chameleon, itself owing its success to having opposable digits. While the animal's horns, the raised fingers and trefoil leaves of the flowers reinforce the card's number symbolism for change, the reptile's spiraling tail hints at process and repetition through time being key for completion. Growth Potential, Creative Aptitude vs. Refusal of Agency, Ignorance of Own Power and Possibility



**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Jackson's chameleon, Oxalis blossom and leaves



### Four of Oak

Foundation and potential can be found within and without, if one will look for it. It's not to say there isn't hardship, a tough or even bleak environment, but recognize that something can be done and formed from whatever you can touch. If you can't climb, walk. If you can't walk, crawl. The card references the folk belief that minerals and gems were the embryos or seeds of the dirt and clay and points to our structural frame, the calcium of the bones, the keratin of horn and nail. Homestead, Perseverance, Unusual Repurposing or Combinations vs. Despair, Excuses

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Mountain goats. The concept for this card came from a Mountain Goats' song, "Girl with the Cobra Tattoo," specifically the lines "God does not need Abraham. God can raise children from stone."

### Five of Oak

Where does mana come from? What truly constitutes generosity? The badger breaks open the honeycomb, scattering and sharing the honey with the mice below, but whose labor made the honey? When someone is flush with resources and shows largess, maybe we should investigate how they became so and why they share. It could be happenstance, truly mana, luck or grace from the universe, or it may bear closer inspection. Due Diligence, True Philanthropy, Sustainable Production, Actions that Empower All vs. Surface Appearances, Gate Keeping, Generosity Without Sacrifice

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** European badger, white domestic mice. In the Rider Waite imagery, it is the Six of Coins that shows the rich man meting out gold to the poor. Because of my own associations with Five being a chaotic number and seeing the image as layers of class inequality, I elected to shift the image to the Five







## Six of Oak

Cut open a persimmon along its equator and see the Star inside. Like the tree's forking branches, there are many paths to abundance and fulfillment. The tree is firmly planted, stable, balanced. Despite wind and weather, it will advance, producing fruit season after season. Stability Through Consistency, Disciplined Practice, Grounding Through Routine vs. Disorganization Affecting One's Life, Giving Up to Entropy

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** A close friend of mine who works in bonsai pointed out that my fantasy trees and the limbs I draw for ornaments often look like persimmon branches. After I ran across an article on Mu Qi's painting, "Six Persimmons," citing the balance and control of the brushstrokes, I decided it was a natural for this card

## Seven of Oak

Acceptance, integration and community. Each animal is welcome at the fount and is in accord with the others without losing themselves. The card asks the reader to consider interdependence and independence. Healthy Relationship to Others, Social Help vs. Loss of Agency, Lack of Self-reliance, Parasitism

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Red kangaroo, wombat, echidna and bilby. This is the only card referencing a specific geographic landmark, placing Uluru in the background



## Eight of Oak

The artisan's goal is to transcend through physical creation. Whether a common garden spider or the Hopi Spider Grandmother or African Anansi, the nimble eight-legged arachnid is a craftsperson, a being of creation. Singular Vision, Focus of Craft, Practice, Consistent Habit vs. Scattered Ideas and Actions, Lack of Planning, Shallow Efforts

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** The grass spiders and insect parts are an amalgamation of many animals, not a specific species

## Nine of Oak

Squirrels store nuts away as the growing season ends. Preparation for the future also acknowledges a recognition that cycles and endeavors have a natural lifespan that must conclude. Ending, Disintegration, Insular Vision Leading to Anticipation of a Change vs. Uncertainty, Inattentiveness, Willful Ignorance

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Red and gray squirrels, burr oak



## Ten of Oak

The wealth of the earth, its full fecundity and richness, comes to fruition. The child, the acorn, has what it needs to thrive, its body one with the forest floor, giving rise to new forms and creation. Wealth, Abundance, Inheritance, Physical Resources vs. Lack of Stability, Feeling Overwhelmed, Poor Physical Health

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** I think for some reason I associate the microbiome of the body with mushrooms. I'm not sure why, but the link is there for me. I also love that what we see of mushrooms is called the "fruiting body," so I wanted to create an image that celebrated them as part of earth's abundance as opposed to as a symbol of decay

## Page of Oak

What niche do you fill? Can you find your place? Will you be an apprentice who ascends to mastery? The brown fawn child walks among the does, their coats white, like ghosts of those who've gone down this path many times before. Holding a switch made of wood of its suit, the fawn looks back but does not turn from its journey. Entering Apprenticeship, Skill Building, Honest Effort vs. Procrastination, Hesitation, Excuses

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Albino white-tailed deer. The fawn child was modeled after sika deer







### **Knight of Oak**

Placement of the physical body in the material world. Unlike insects and birds, larger animals like moose must learn migration. But based on the length of time a population has lived in an area, it may appear seamless and innate. These are the patterns and routines that allow them to find the best forage and to thrive. In work and craft, the Knight points to habits and repetitions that streamline and increase productivity. Muscle Memory, Curation and Editing of Goals to Achieve Focus vs. Lack of Discipline, Indolence or Disruptive Environments

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Shiras moose, watercress, red sumac, lotus

### **Queen of Oak**

The Queen recognizes that with growth comes metabolic changes and developing functions of the body. She understands growth as burgeoning but temporary seasons that require their own nourishment. As honey carries energy to bees, so blood carries oxygen to the cells. Perception of Biology and the Self as Both Similar and Distinguished From Others, Possession and Awareness of the Physical Body vs. Regression

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Domestic honeybees, evergreens, dogwood blossoms, rain lilies



### **King of Oak**

The King of Oak stands at the dawn of day and his world is an ocean of evergreen. He is the master of this built and amassed wealth and can even close his eyes in confidence of his strength to continue to work and produce. The ring-tail cat's body forms an eternity symbol as it rides his shoulders. Autonomy of the Physical Body, Physical Agency as Related to Perception of Self, Choice of Informed Action, Selected Labor and Craft vs. Servitude, Lack of Aptitude

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Ring-tailed cat, Monterey pine and seed-bearing cone



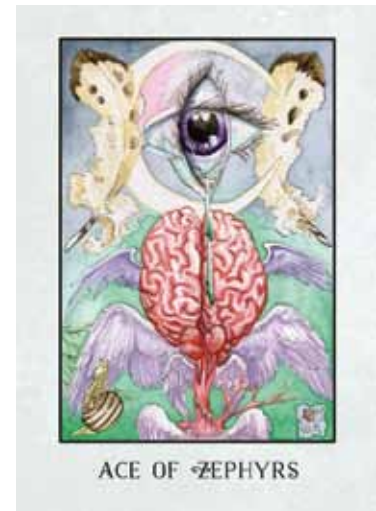
# Zephyrs

Zephyrs represent thought, comprehension and reason. This suit is the world of the mind, including the font of ideas, paradigm shifts and discernment but also the blind spots and tripping points of our minds like selection bias, limited data, compartmentalization and a tendency towards pattern recognition.

## Ace of Zephyrs

The Ace encompasses all the attributes of the suit listed above but specifically is concerned with the tools the mind employs to organize and express thought. It points to the origin of language and number systems as the means of conveying ideas and concepts. This card asks that these systems be examined for their strengths and limitations both in how they are employed and structured. Does your language shape your thoughts? To what degree can you control and shape your language to your own ends? Clarity, Swift Decision-making, Insight vs. Stupefaction, Disinformation

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Its wing tips reach down to the fingers of the Ace of Flame hinting at thought becoming action



## Two of Zephyrs

We do not know what we do not know. When sailors began landing on Mauritius Island, the dodo birds they discovered seemed plentiful. Now they are extinct. Not only were they hunted for food (seen as easy game since they were flightless and unafraid of humans), but the rats on board the ships came ashore to prey on their chicks and eggs in ground nests. While the loss of the dodo came at a time before the concept of conservation had gained much ground, other species, such as those natives to Australia are facing decimation in the wake of purposefully and accidentally introduced invasives. The Two, introducing duality to thought, brings with it the judgement of good or bad, cause and effect, choice of action or inaction and beyond. The scales are difficult to balance and not every judgement or perception is clear and correct. Complex Choice That Is Difficult to Weigh and Research vs. Acting on Whims or Chance, the Toss of a Coin

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Dodo birds, albino Norwegian rat. My initial thought for this card was to do a variation on Odin's ravens, Hugin and Munin, forethought and afterthought, but ultimately that didn't have the immediacy of relating it to a historic cause/effect event like the dodo. Shifting this card opened the door to all the Twos depicting extinct animals



### Three of Zephyrs

The Three of the Air suit is often linked to the mind in grief or heartache. But why the Three? Possibly for the transitory nature of the number? As the mind becomes aware of itself, an early milestone is the perception of time as the past, present and future. In Norwegian folklore, three cormorants flying together bring communication from the dead—sometimes information and wishes or sometimes warnings. The bird in the foreground is in the present, drying its wings. But is it too focused on facing the shadow bird on the left in the past? Is it needlessly worried about or turning away from the looming shadow bird on the right in the future? Period of Grief or Loss, Homesickness, Mourning vs. Clinging to the Past, Avoidance of Change, Bitter Nostalgia



**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Double-crested cormorant



### Four of Zephyrs

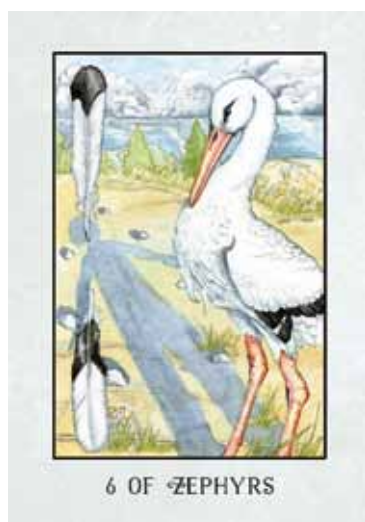
We cannot choose our foundation or where we come from. No one controls their origin. The circumstances making up our home and family are thrust upon us. Yet these influences affect and shape our being, psyche, behavior and thought patterns in ways we cannot imagine—or in ways we may spend a lifetime trying to sort out or gain insight into. The Zephyr children rise over the nest to consider its contents with clear eyes. On the surface it may appear austere and barren, but the bones may indicate food was brought here, and wheat shafts among the leaf litter hint at other resources and nourishment. The image asks that you consider your frame of reference or that you dig deeper and ask if you truly can. Inverted it indicates self-delusion or fixed thought patterns one can't step outside of. Ambiguous Parent or Influence, Difficult or Ascetic Past, Rising Above Adversity vs. Overindulgent or Spoiled Mindset, Rigid Attitude, Blame, Playing the Victim

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** I tried to use a limited palette here to reflect the feeling of limited resources. For the contrasting color I thought blue evoked clarity or an open sky

## Five of Zephyrs

The struggle to reconcile the psyche with the physical form. The cow's head is ambiguous: The horns suggest a feminine lunar goddess—or is it a masculine bull's head? The body and sky reflect gendered pinks and blues. Does what the child sees in the mirror match the mind and soul under the hair and horns? Earthly leaves hang in the air like the feathers, frozen and waiting in this moment. What form does the eclipsed pink figure of the child belong to? Deepening Understanding of the Body and Self vs. Dysmorphia

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** This card was inspired by two trans women I know. With both women, our relationships started before they came out or began transitioning so the process and their feelings of identity were big parts of our conversations and shaped our social activities. Anything more is their story to tell



## Six of Zephyrs

The white stork is a migratory bird. Pictured here, it is fully capable of journeying over the distant water, past the thunderheads to the far shore beyond. It considers its shadow, its other half that will always make this journey with it. Transitioning thoughts or a paradigm shift. The ability to distinguish between the physical and spiritual self, including their overlap and interdependence. Inverted, it indicates the clinging to or singular selection of one aspect over the other—to choose either only the physical image of self or only the psyche, to the detriment of the whole. New Understanding, Mysteries Revealed, Fresh Worlds and Perspectives vs. Compartmentalization, Stereotyping, Judgemental Attitudes, Cherry Picking Facts

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** The stork appears first in the Four of Flame

## Seven of Zephyrs

Thievery, or going against the letter of the law can be a survival technique. Some cuckoos are brood parasites, meaning they steal the parental labor of other birds by simply laying eggs in their nests and letting them raise cuckoo chicks. To human perception, this seems like a dirty trick, flying in the face of our sense of fairness. But does this behavior free up the adult cuckoo to cull more fast-breeding insects? Does its changeling baby routine help curb the population or improve the adaptation of plentiful species like the crows it frequently leaves eggs with? The image can be a sign to question the status quo or the systems in place when one is at odds with them, or it can indicate actual loss or deception happening under the radar. Resourcefulness, Marching to One's Own Drummer, Moral Code Before Legal Code vs. Base Opportunism, Pedanticism



**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Common cuckoo





### Eight of Zephyrs

The mirror twin to the Death card—a sort of front-end vs. back-end view. The carnivorous plants here, unlike the fungus with their defensive toxins, are actively predatory and so robustly alive they are blossoming. Despite being surrounded by these plants and perceiving a hostile environment, the child is in no real danger. They may open their eyes and walk forward towards the plume safely. Self-limiting Thoughts, Black/White Thinking, Overthinking vs. Intuition, Overturning the Negative Inner Voice

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Venus flytrap, pitcher plant, sundew

### Nine of Zephyrs

Anxiety and hyperawareness. Death borders life on all sides, but it cannot be a source of distraction and panic. Do your fears step in the way of living? Trying to anticipate every outcome or being aware of every danger can blind you to the immediate business of existence and being. Panic, Feeling Overwhelmed vs. Patience, Presence

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** There's a narrative triad formed by the Moon, the Nine of Zephyrs and the Knight of Zephyrs



### Ten of Zephyrs

The angel has counted the tree's rings in its stump. How long will you live? Carl Sagan suggests that we are a way for the universe to know itself. With that sentience comes the knowledge of mortality and our own deaths. Given the uncertainty of the afterlife, are you motivated to live your life conscientiously to improve the tangible, knowable world? Or is the thought of the hereafter a comforting belief in unlimited do-overs? Some thoughts don't bear dwelling on as they can bring paralysis, while others are not considered deeply enough. Living an Intentional Life vs. Hypervigilance, Shallow Pursuits

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** White-backed vulture

## Page of Zephyrs

Knowledge of self, scope of the unknown, and vulnerability. This is a pause to hold yourself tightly against what's out there. We are the primary witness to the secrets of our own bodies. These secrets can act biologically to close the loop, to self-soothe and to recenter within. Knowledge of Self, the Inkling of the Vast Scope of the Unknown, Recognition and Management of Vulnerability vs. Cocooning, Mental Retreat, Dissonance

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** The animal reference came from a pigeon fledgling



## Knight of Zephyrs

For raptors like owls to be successful, they must focus and strike without hesitation. The Knight of Zephyrs has the concentration and clarity of purpose to plunge into action and meet their goals or set their long-term plans into motion. Definitive Vision, Fearlessness, Unquestioning Aim vs. Reckless Acts, Impatience, Missing the Mark

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Spotted eagle owl. This card is the last in the triptych with the hare. Some part of my mind was building the narrative of the hare as a presence of each card's inversion regardless of whether or not it fell upside down

## Queen of Zephyrs

With the woodpecker who crowned the Tower card and a blood-red cardinal flanking her, clear golden light falls on the Queen's brow. Her branching crown brings her knowledge and ideas from many sources and in many forms, but she weighs and draws her own conclusions. Her companion card in the Major Arcana is Justice. Independent Thinker, Speaking Truth to Power, Unbiased Opinion or Critique vs. Assumptions, Suppositions, Pushing an Agenda, Reactionary Attitude

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Pileated woodpecker, cardinal, chickadee, barn swallow, bearded sparrow, red sumac, nandina berries







### King of Zephyrs

High atop a mesa, the King of Zephyrs' head is literally within his core element, the air, and he is surrounded by signs of attainment and station. Still thunderheads fill the right-hand sky behind him while clear blue fills the left, showing the potential of power in the conscious mind and the openness and peaceful free flow in the intuitive mind. The flanking falcons who invoke Horus and the crown of butterflies whose name means royalty mark his sovereignty and mastery of his realm of the mind. Stable Understanding, Truth, Balanced Calm Intellect, Protector vs. Power-Hungry Individual, Persuasive Manipulator, Abuse of Authority

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** American kestrel, monarch butterfly, thistle



# Brine

The Water suit is the fountain, the wellspring and source of emotions, passions, the subconscious and the interplay therein. Associated with salt blood, the life water of the oceans, and origins like the primordial soup that brought forth life.

## Ace of Brine

As blood flows through the heart to the body, brine flows through the syphon of the octopus. It rises — pushed and pumped forth from the dark and the void into the world of differentiated forms and life — and is made available to all, abundant and free. New Beginnings, Origins, True Manna, Unconditional Love and Understanding Moving Out Into the World vs. These Concepts Directed Inward, Self-compassion, Acceptance

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Turret shells, common garden snail, red octopus



## Two of Brine

The Two of Cups traditionally signifies relations to others, often interpreted as specifically between two people, such as friends or lovers. The Two of Brine however, asks the individual to become the two, to go into unfamiliar territory and see the other in themselves first, namely their shadow side or subconscious as a precursor to healthy relationships. Off the edge of the known map, the legend read, “Here be monsters.” The open seas, and later the study of the deep ocean, led to a belief in giant monsters. Delving deep into the subconscious can elicit the same terror. But while there is something down there, it may be no Leviathan or Kraken. While strange and difficult to comprehend, it may mean no harm at all. Dream Symbols, Personal Mythology, Recognizing Desires and Impulses vs. Repression, Fear of the Unknown, Phobias

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** The Twos in each suit feature extinct animals. For a gentle denizen of the deep, I chose the Steller's sea cow. These twenty-foot giants were closely related to other mammals like modern dugongs and manatees



### Three of Brine

The singular and differentiated souls of the Ace and the Two learn of and open to the hearts around them. The ray's body literally forms a triangle pointing downward. This shape traditionally symbolizes water and, with its wide base, extension. In its undulating flight forward, it leads with the flat end, leaving its point, its piercing end to the rear for defense only. To find and commune with one's tribe, whether born-to, grown or discovered, or chosen. Community, Pleasure and Accord in Society vs. Isolationism, Loneliness, Disaffected Alienated Person

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Spotted eagle rays. The scallop shell is a fantasy color



### Four of Brine

Immersion. Period of secure, undisturbed contemplation. The Naga's upright body and arm placement of a crooked elbow evoke the shape of the Arabic numeral four. They float in calm waters and are surrounded by tokens associated with meditation: the lotus, the fruiting tree of persimmons. The presence of the three monkeys offers no real distraction. Calm Period of Stable Deep Meditation, Gathering of Thoughts vs. Self-absorption, Focus to the Exclusion of All Missing Data, Obsession With the Present Moment

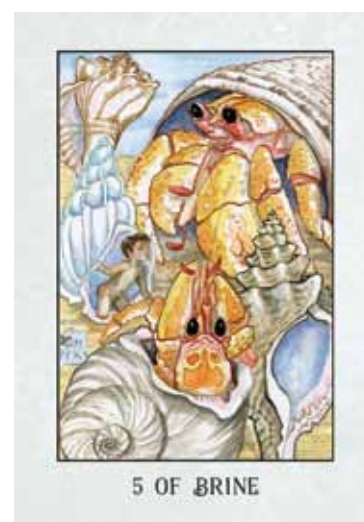
**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Squirrel monkeys, persimmon, lotus, carrier shell



### Five of Brine

The largest two shells are pointed out of the frame, perceived to be open in invitation or empty and barren. This card asks the individual to move beyond the comfortable foundation of the Four. The Five brings awareness of inherited gifts, physical and emotional strength, skills and social privilege. It warns against inappropriate emotional attachment or unexplored feelings of loss. Gratitude, Recognition of Privilege, Respect of Others vs. Obsessions, Infatuation, Neurotic Dependence

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Horse conch, shark eye, lightning whelk, angulate wentletrap, hermit crab





### Six of Brine

Awakening to the power of compassion, the open hand and mercy. This card can signify the need for the gentle answer in a maelstrom. This need requires the strength and power to direct the flow rather than the ability to ride or follow it. Philanthropy, Diplomacy, Capacity for Forgiveness vs. Spent Emotional Labor, Drama for Drama's Sake, Schadenfreude

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Auger shell, ribbed cantharus

### Seven of Brine

There are treasures in the water beyond what anyone could imagine, with possibilities we can only dream of. Maybe they are glimmers of what's been seen or touched before, or hopes we barely dare entertain. But when it comes to our goals, does the rippling mirror of the liquid surface before us distort the image of what we aspire to attain? Is a Seven pip, a number of transcending earthly concerns and opening up to spiritual and creative powers, only concerned with the seeking and attainment of some key goals, or does the card point to the process, to the life and growth necessary in the act of seeking? For this reason, every potential treasure the raccoon may lay hands on is something that could feed and nourish it. Experimentation, Curiosity, Exploring and Defining Goals vs. Status Quo, Comfort Zone, Morality Signaling



**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Raccoon, leopard frog, red-eared slider, blue crayfish, red rock crab





### Eight of Brine

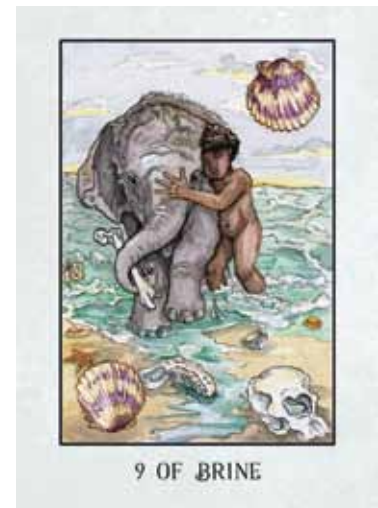
The choice to assume the journey from the physical to the spiritual. The white color of the driftwood the child ascends could be the branch from the Hanged Man's tree. Eels, among fish, are a symbolic link to the physical as they often live in brackish muddy waters or deep in underwater rock crevices. Due to their similar form, they are associated with the serpent bringing knowledge. They are not a roiling mass for the child to untangle themselves from but active observers, as though the brine itself could witness this journey. Mirroring the child is the starfish, the ochre sea star. Its five-pointed body has been used to symbolize humans, representing four limbs plus the head. The sea star's purple hue is a royal color implying the nobility of the child's goals. Aspiration, Transition, Desire for a Growth Environment vs. Lack of Ambition, Need for Encouragement or Inspiration, Wounded Soul

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** The eels are fantasy colors and patterns to make each unique.

### Nine of Brine

An elephant never forgets? Elephants also mourn their dead. They return to the site of their relatives' and companions' bones to touch and carry them around. Emotional waters run deep, even for an animal known to be large and powerful. The elephant's skull in the foreground shows the hollowness of the skull's center, like an enormous third-eye socket. Power of Memory, Cycle of Grief, Deeply Felt Social Bonds, Coping with Strife vs. Paralysis in Grief, Fear of Isolation or Abandonment

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Asian elephant, calico scallop



### Ten of Brine

The child becomes one with the reef, looking up, open to the current and filtered light as it flows. The sea and its beings, indicative of feelings and emotions, move in and out of the child's hair and fingers, observed and uninhibited. This card calls forth inner and outer harmony, even in activity, and the myriad moods the body may manifest. One evolution of the Hanged Man's sacrificial retreat. Observation of Feelings Without Needing to Act on Them vs. Impulsive Reaction, Seizure of Highs and Lows

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Ridley sea turtle

## Page of Brine

Call of the heart. Child of clear joy and open spirit. Standing bold, head back and open to the bright sun, he is unbothered by even the most raucous beach dwellers around him. This is someone ready to experience the world of emotion, unblemished. The card denotes innocence, the Buddhist “child’s mind.” Its inverse is not naivete like the fool, but scars, fear or cynicism — anything that closes emotional doors in the name of protection. Confidence, Generous Optimism, Budding Soul vs. Bitterness, Adoption of Negative Attitudes

**Natural features/Artist’s notes:** Common gull, sea lion, leopard seals, horse conch. This was the first of the brine cards done after the look of the minors was solidified. On a whirlwind trip to Florida, I saw this little boy playing in the surf, jumping over the waves. He inspired this card and set the cast for the rest of the Brine court cards



## Knight of Brine

The young knight, head in the golden light of awakening agency, considers the seahorse, an animal whose males birth the young. His body blends with the shark’s, an animal associated with vicious ferocity and appetite, but this knight is not influenced by toxic societal conventions. He can fully express his true nature and emotions, including strength and compassion. This freedom marks him as an emblem for powerful creativity. Imagination, Creativity and Clear-Moving Communication vs. Conformity, Repression, Fear of Emotions

**Natural features/Artist’s notes:** Hammerhead sharks, Lined seahorse

## Queen of Brine

Endurance, weathering all with open, clear eyes. Through her experiences, she has developed an ability to process her emotions. This has enhanced and strengthened her like the opalescent layers of a pearl. The spiraled nautilus under her hand places her in touch with the passage of time and with fortune’s cycles of peace and strife, as represented by the stripes of orange and red. Empathetic Compassion, Mercy Without Judgement, Listening Heart, Keen Observation vs. Fear of Vulnerability, Inexperience, Naivete, Limited Self-reflexive Compassion, Callow Heart

**Natural features/Artist’s notes:** Compass jellyfish, Nautilus, Pacific oyster







### King of Brine

Brine court cards feature masculine maternal images to blur the lines gendering caregiving roles. Symbolically alligators often represent power, viciousness and knowledge, this last one due to their connection to the serpent. The alligator does possess all these attributes, as can be seen by the smarts of a female alligator using the heat from composting vegetable matter to incubate her nest. However, alligators also rear and protect their young for up to a year after hatching. Expansive Compassion, Agape, Earned Pride, Constructive Criticism vs. Jealousy, Hubris, Self-aggrandizement

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** American alligator, alphabet cone shells



# Flame

The Flame suit deals with the ignition of will into action, physical transformation, kinetic energy and momentum. Like Zephyrs, it is a suit of speed and immediacy, concerned with the present moment, acts as they occur and the potential and tension inherent to in-process and dormant chain reactions.



## Ace of Flame

The hand has long stood in for the whole being. Both in numeral symbolism, with the pentagram as a diagram of four limbs and the head, and in other divination like palmistry where it acts as a map of both health and life. Here the hand, the paw and the claw each represent potential soon-to-be tools of action, to be used either for creation or destruction. They are wreathed and watched over by the snake, who indicates the knowledge and consciousness of the activity that's about to begin. Infinite Potential, Boundless Energy vs. Quenched Ambition, Depression

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Racoon paw, ball python, brown bear claws

## Two of Flame

Beneath the child's hands, within the bubble or cell, things ignite. Dual seed germs, or possibly tadpoles, emerge, their pattern like cellular division or mitosis. Surrounding this event are axolotls, neotenic salamanders, drawn to the flame. This card points to the miracle of transmutation: to put hand to form and effect discernable change. To set the world on fire, even if only in the small sphere of the individual. Productive Division or Hybridization, Ignition, Personal Alchemy vs. Stalling Out, Inability to Connect With One's Creative Potential, Writer's or Artist's Block, Lack of Self-faith

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Albino axolotl. Of the Twos, this is the only animal not yet extinct. While so rare in the wild due to water pollution that it frequently comes up as absent on environmental survey counts, in captivity it is actively reared for scientific research and as aquarium pets. Along with the obvious fire association with salamanders, I thought it appropriate to the theme of the card to choose an animal whose continued existence so closely depends on humans' minute direct actions





### Three of Flame

The flamingo gains its eye-popping color from the pigment in the minuscule algae and invertebrate animals it filters and consumes from the water. The sunflower achieves its vast face with a ubiquitous resource many take for granted: the sunlight it tilts towards. Some actions may be small, but they create volume and impact in their repetition. With its emphasis on patience, the Three of Flame is a sibling card to Temperance. Fruition of Investments, Longtime Habits Paying Off vs. Unnecessary Caution, Minimalism

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** American flamingo, the common sunflower

### Four of Flame

Once you've set action in motion, how do you maintain stability? Four is linked to the square, the shape of foundation and implied permanence, but the creation and motion of the Flame suit bring challenges to a set foundation's sustainability. The child in this card is firmly planted between the towering birds, with hands over the heart (the seat of want and desire) and stomach (the seat of physical needs) of either animal as though dividing and considering the source of their passions. Likewise, the card is divided horizontally between air and water. This creates four quadrants the child is now master of. Stability Within Flux, Eye of the Storm, Proven Abilities vs. Divided Attention, Entropy



**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Red-crowned crane, White stork



### Five of Flame

Many animals, dogs and canines especially, engage in rough play and pretend fights to learn social skills within a pack. These are small proving-ground skirmishes to learn limits, how to pay attention and listen, and how to win or when to acquiesce. Social Conflict, Mock Battles, Devil's Advocate Games vs. Misunderstandings that Fester, Poor Communication, Inability to Recognize One's Dynamic Within a Group

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** African wild dogs



## Six of Flame

While the Six of the Fire suit frequently is read as victory and recognition, the common image of the laurel-crowned rider raises the question, victory according to whom? Perhaps another way to consider the Six is through the lens of reputation. How can your perception of a situation, or the world's view, help or hinder you? Wolves are a common power animal, but they have suffered because of beliefs that they could wipe out livestock or that they would snatch away children. Folklore is full of werewolves, the big bad wolf and the wolf in sheep's clothing. But current perception is changing as more is learned about wolves' strong social ties, shy nature in relation to humans, and ecological role in maintaining biodiversity through their packs' moving of large herd animals. Here the child tries on the aspirational mantle of the wolf in the hopes of becoming one with it. Their right hand, power hand, is formed and free. What is your public persona? Public Perception, Power Display, Fake It Till You Make It vs. Tail Between Legs, Unable to Project Self, False Witnesses



**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Gray wolf, rain lilies, sugar pine



## Seven of Flame

Symbols among prime numbers often circle around to one another. The Five's mock battles for testing and learning now meet with true challenges in the wider world. At one time, narwhal tusks were believed to serve a defensive purpose for facing off against rivals, like a stag's antlers. More recent research has shown they are a sensory organ that assists the animal in navigating the harsh, icy waters where they live. Rubbing their tusks, which was once thought a battle maneuver, is now believed to be a form of communication. Their mottled parti-coloring can be a sign of maturity as the whales start out dark and gain white patches as they age. Here the Five has matured and mastered their interactions with others. Self-reliance, Negotiation, Fighting for Principles or One's Ideals vs. Inexperience, Excuses, Manipulation

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** I learned about narwhals as a kid obsessed with unicorns. At the time the information was pretty thin, so mostly I thought of them as a mysterious sea oddity. As an adult though, I found the paradigm shift fascinating of how wrong early theories and assumptions were about them. I knew I wanted to include them

## Eight of Flame

At first glance, the fight between mongoose and cobra can seem like a David-vs.-Goliath match, with the smaller mammal tangling with something larger and faster, that's all muscle and armed with deadly venom. But, in reality, the mongoose is immune to the snake's venom. Conflicts arising between the two largely arise from competition over territory and prey, such as pests like mice. The cobra, whether associated with the biblical serpent or the Hindu Naga, represents secret wisdom and the fire that burns within. The presence of the mongoose helps to fuel it, stir the kindling and let air in. Divine conflict, the tension necessary to ignite creativity. The push-pull needed between the practical physical elements and the spiritual ideals to draw something completely new into existence. Positive Nemesis, Worthy Opponent vs. Lack of Input or Feedback, Static Stagnant Landscape



**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Indian cobra, banded mongoose



## Nine of Flame

The child clutches a human heart in the sanctuary of the armadillo's shell. From within this armor, they can observe the flames, the potential within their grasp. Creative wholeness is coming. This card represents the promise of completing the three-part journey of the physical, intellectual and spiritual, if one can withstand the final flames. Perseverance, Temporary but Real Adversity, vs. Dwelling on Trifles, Impatience, Surrender

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Three-banded armadillo

## Ten of Flame

The sphinx-child grasps fuel in their hands, ready to wield or perhaps snap it. This is the completion of knowing what's possible for physical action. What looks like stillness is the gathering of focus before one proceeds. Here is the moment during growth of recognizing emotional and intellectual labor. You are beginning to realize what you have been pursuing is actually internal. Economy of Movement, Strategy, Responsibility, Choosing One's Battles vs. Deferral, Codependency, Burdens

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Margay, domestic shorthair





### Page of Flame

Growth and development come in due season, and these measured periods are necessary for real sustained transformation. The Page of Flame is surrounded and bathed in icons of life cycles: The caterpillar—an inchworm that measures each stride and fulfills its necessary duty of consuming the buds and new leaves around it. The pupae in either corner, seeming to wait, but actually teeming with activity as the life inside transforms. Finally, the adult butterflies that will pollinate, find mates, lay eggs and die. The child accepts and enjoys the role and the actions they can take now at this stage, trusting they will be ready and eager for their next role when the time comes. New Positions, a Different Role In Life, Anticipation, Learning By Doing vs. Haste, Unwillingness to Practice, Imposter Syndrome

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Old world swallowtail butterfly, geometer moth larva (inchworm), luna moth pupae

### Knight of Flame

The human hand as an active tool can symbolically stand in for the whole of the self and creative identity. For the self to make something in any form is something no one else can do. I do, therefore I am. Self-expression, Communicating Beyond Language, Recognition of History vs. Choked or Blocked Expression, Lack of Self-worth, Hindered Flow of Ideas, Reductive Beliefs of the Past

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Przewalski's horse or Mongolian wild horse. The image here is a reference to the caves of Lascaux; this was primarily to have the painted image of the horse reflect the (possible) living relative the child sits on.

The inspiration for the card, however, came from something closer to my home in Texas, Seminole Canyon State Park. There you can see the Fate Bell Shelter rock paintings, which are accessible only on foot, and the Panther Cave pictographs, accessible by boat. In addition to the mysterious and beautiful nature of the artwork itself, the main thing that struck me the first time I visited these scenes was something a park volunteer said. The first humans in this area of Texas, a hot rocky desert, were subsistence hunter-gatherers, possibly dating back to 3000 B.C.E. Food was nearly as scarce and precious as water. But the need to create these artistic works was of such importance to them that they gave up some of their food—fat, berries and roots—to make the pigments. Creative expression means that much.







### Queen of Flame

Courageous and confident, the Queen of Flame is also a pragmatist. She solves her problems head-on in the full light of day. Sticky or complex problems seem to sprout obvious, step-by-step solutions when laid out under her gaze. She is generous with her enthusiasm and encouragement, a true optimist in thought and action. One of her greatest actions is that of choice. She is aware of risks like disappointment, failure or despair, but while acknowledging them, she chooses to put her energy into moving forward, into problem solving and into what can be done. Cheerful Constructive Actions, Clarity of Purpose, Persistence, Bravery vs. Overwhelmed Person, Defeatism

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Common sunflower, black jaguar. My inspiration for this card came from meeting an impeccably dressed woman with Down Syndrome on the bus in San Francisco. The outfit she put together, a 50's sundress with pink patent leather heels and clutch, immediately marked her as a queen to me. For the deck, it was important to me to try to reflect as many of the people around me as possible and I hope I did her justice!

### King of Flame

The male lion may be the head of the pride, but he does not carry out the hunting, the raising of cubs or the on-the-ground, day-to-day actions of lion society. He is a visionary leader or one with a long-term plan. Possibly an entrepreneur. Both the child and lion gaze a thousand yards hence, as though privy to what lays on the horizon. The starfish flower plant on the left hints at the inverse of this card: In Zulu medicine it was used as a cure for hysteria. Charisma, Prescient Theorist and Conceptualizer vs. Impulsivity, Unfounded Expectations, Fantasist

**Natural features/Artist's notes:** Asiatic lion, starfish flower. The salamanders are fantasy animals



## Additional Images



### Babes in the Woods

This art was originally started as either the title card or cover image. I had the palette and the idea of how I wanted two androgynous earth children to be emerging from the green, which I immediately plowed into drawing and painting. But in the end I couldn't have a title card oriented horizontally and I felt like any image paired with the title (like the box cover) should have a single child pictured.



### Topsy-Turvy

The second of three works I thought would be the card back. The first was a quadrant of four species of moths, this was the second, which I went a little wild with, until I finally arrived at the green faces in the infinity curve. While some decks can be used for such, tarot cards are not playing cards for game strategy, so there's no necessity for a symmetrical card back. And I'm sort of fascinated with how my composition's proportions follow my hand dominance from right to left organically. I'm afraid not one of the three designs created was symmetrical at all.

The concept for the piece was the balance and tension between introversion vs. extroversion — not as a single individual's key personality trait but as the interplay of both within one individual since everyone has some degree of both. The inner and outer self, if you will. The antlered face looks up, rolling its eyes back as though looking within. Their thoughts form an enclosed egg



so full of potential it burns. The horned child looks forward, facing the viewer clearly with even its third eye open. The blue around the faces could be a sea of the unconscious from which the golden fish burst forth, or a starry sky, open to budding and blooming thoughts. The title, Topsy-Turvy, came from the idea that there's really no correct way to stand the image up because to do so risks implying that one facet is superior to the other.

## In Our Blood and Bones



This piece was created as a promised bonus item on the Kickstarter funding campaign. I left the concept and content pretty open when it was mentioned in the campaign, saying only that it would be thematically appropriate to go with the deck. On the final choice of image, there were two things that came together as inspiration—I had been thinking about a Bjork song, “Emotional Landscapes” and I had also been reading about different “world animals,” like the Hindu and Chinese ideas that the world was supported or contained on the back of a turtle or elephant. So the image came to me as a way of incorporating the elements of the suits with the idea that we are both of and on the earth. I chose a goat as the animal so that time could be represented in the horns spiraling out and because of its associations with gnosis and sacrifice.



## Recommended Resources online (Free)

A Dictionary of Symbols, J. E. Cirlot

<https://archive.org/details/DictionaryOfSymbols>

Downloadable images of the Marseille deck and little white book of meanings

<http://www.cbdtarot.com/download/>

The William Blake Tarot book download

[https://blaketarot.com/Tarot-Card-Download\\_Books.html](https://blaketarot.com/Tarot-Card-Download_Books.html)



## The Stolen Child

WHERE dips the rocky highland  
Of Sleuth Wood in the lake,  
There lies a leafy island  
Where flapping herons wake  
The drowsy water rats;  
There we've hid our faery vats,  
Full of berrys  
And of reddest stolen cherries.  
Come away, O human child!  
To the waters and the wild  
With a faery, hand in hand,  
For the world's more full of weeping than you can understand.

Where the wave of moonlight glosses  
The dim gray sands with light,  
Far off by furthest Rosses  
We foot it all the night,  
Weaving olden dances  
Mingling hands and mingling glances  
Till the moon has taken flight;  
To and fro we leap  
And chase the frothy bubbles,  
While the world is full of troubles  
And anxious in its sleep.  
Come away, O human child!  
To the waters and the wild  
With a faery, hand in hand,  
For the world's more full of weeping than you can understand.

Where the wandering water gushes  
From the hills above Glen-Car,  
In pools among the rushes  
That scarce could bathe a star,  
We seek for slumbering trout  
And whispering in their ears  
Give them unquiet dreams;  
Leaning softly out  
From ferns that drop their tears  
Over the young streams.  
Come away, O human child!  
To the waters and the wild  
With a faery, hand in hand,  
For the world's more full of weeping than you can understand.

Away with us he's going,  
The solemn-eyed:  
He'll hear no more the lowing  
Of the calves on the warm hillside  
Or the kettle on the hob  
Sing peace into his breast,  
Or see the brown mice bob  
Round and round the oatmeal chest.  
For he comes, the human child,  
To the waters and the wild  
With a faery, hand in hand,  
For the world's more full of weeping than he can understand.

—William Butler Yeats









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