

Symbol	Sign	Modality	Element	Ruling Celestial Body	
				Classical	Modern
♈	Aries	♈	♂	♂	♂
♉	Taurus	♌	♀	♀	♀
♊	Gemini	♍	♁	♁	♁
♋	Cancer	♎	♂	♂	♂
♌	Leo	♏	♁	♁	♁
♍	Virgo	♐	♀	♀	♀
♎	Libra	♑	♁	♁	♁
♏	Scorpio	♒	♂	♀	♀
♐	Sagittarius	♓	♂	♂	♂
♑	Capricorn	♈	♁	♁	♁
♒	Aquarius	♉	♁	♁	♁
♓	Pisces	♊	♂	♁	♁

Major Arcana			
0	♈♁♁	11	♈♀♁
1	♈♌♀	12	♌♁
2	♌♁♁	13	♌♁♁♁
3	♌♀	14	♌♁♁♁
4	♌♁♁♁	15	♌♁♁♁♁
5	♌♀♁	16	♌♁♁
6	♌♁♁♁	17	♌♁♁♁♁♁
7	♌♁♁♁	18	♌♁♁♁♁♁
8	♌♁♁♁	19	♌♁♁
9	♌♀♁♁	20	♌♁♁♀
10	♌♁♁	21	♌♁♁

Element	Symbol
Fire	♂
Air	♁
Earth	♌
Water	♎

Modality	Symbol
Cardinal	♈
Fixed	♌
Mutable	♐

Name	Symbol	Symbol represents
Sun	♁	
Moon	♁	A crescent moon
Mercury	♁	Mercury's winged helmet and caduceus
Venus	♀	Venus' hand mirror.
Earth	♁	
Mars	♁	Mars' shield & spear.
Jupiter	♁	Jupiter's thunderbolt or eagle
Saturn	♁	Saturn's sickle
Uranus	♁	Derived from a combination of the Mars & Sun symbols
Neptune	♁	Neptune's trident
Pluto	♀	Derived from a combination of the Neptune & Venus symbols

Notes on the Tarot:

Below are the findings of a Roman/Maronite Catholic individual uninitiated in Wicca, Rosicrucianism or other forms of mysticism, who's only partially familiar with occultism, the history of tarot cards & alchemy as it applies to the occult. These findings are, in no way, meant to be presented as solid facts, but as simple observances in regards to the cards' imagery, how they invoke a subconscious response & the underlying meanings as per the zeitgeist of each deck's print era. Though much thought has gone into this research, verification/revision of these notes are needed & greatly appreciated.

This individual who authored these notes is one who trusts in the history of tarot cards as being introduced to Europe from China (via the Arabs after the 10th Crusade) in the 14th century, as presented by most historians & Arthur Waite; the views stated by Antoine Court de Gébelin (that the tarot originated in Ancient Egypt & was introduced by the "Gypsies," or Roma/Dom/Dombo,) are confirmed to be a false history, as there's sufficient historical, linguistic & genetic proof that the Roma are, in fact, of Hindi descent. The proof provided for doubting Court's claims are as follows; the Roma language has its roots in medieval Hindi from the era of Gengis Khan (according to all linguistics scholars) & is incomprehensible to any Semite unfamiliar with the language (whereas the Egyptian language is still spoken by the Coptic Orthodox of modern Egypt & can be partially understood by Arabs & Ethiopians unfamiliar with it). Roma elders also tell stories of "the land of five rivers" & of, one day, returning to this homeland (this is a clear reference to the Punjab region of northern India, where the Dombo are persecuted as untouchables by the Hindi cast system). Their genetic makeup, as found by geneticists, has also been found to be Indic in origin, as opposed to Semitic or African.

This, however, does NOT detract from the power held within the tarot, nor does it detract from the skills needed by anyone to interpret the tarot.

The Tora & New Testament contain major prohibitions on all forms of magic, witchcraft & divination, though they don't state any exact form other than consulting familiar spirits & the dead (i.e.: necromancy). Deuteronomy 18:11, Exodus 22:18 & Acts 19:19 (among other chapters & verses in the Bible) call for the destruction of all occult books & instruments, along with the death penalty for all practitioners (but makes no mention of cartomancy or the tarot in particular). The Catholic catechism & a papal bull passed in 1484 also states a prohibition of all forms of divination, witchcraft & magic, but there stands no document or edict that makes mention of the tarot in particular, though there has been mention of the general practice of cartomancy.

As the 22 major arcana cards are also associated to the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet, these cards have also been linked to the 22 verses of Psalm 119 in the bible; for each verse of the psalm that's assigned to a letter, one finds a very apt description to each card in the major arcana.

The first ten major arcana correspond to the first ten cards of every suit in the minor arcana. Also, the Aces & Tens of every suit in the minor arcana are interrelated; the Aces are the means to the ends represented by the Tens. The court cards also have astrological correspondences with respect to certain age groups & genders. The pages represent women under the age of 30; the queens, 30 & over. The same can be said of the knights & kings, except that they represent men. The four suits of the tarot, in this case, would then represent the four elemental dignities of the twelve zodiac signs, as seen in the charts on page 1.

The Fool in the Marseille deck (& older decks) depicts a medieval court jester being attacked by a cat (in historical contexts, jesters were usually mentally ill & looked down upon by all social casts). The Fool of the Marseille deck also carries a bindle, supported by a long spoon (bringing to mind the saying “He who sups with the devil should have a long spoon”). The Fool in Waite’s deck depicts a care-free vagrant whose dog is trying to stop him from falling off a cliff. The Fool in the Thoth deck appears to be a Phoenician warrior (according to ancient Egyptian depictions of the Sea People,) who explores the pains & pleasures of the world (Phoenicians were skilled ship builders, voracious privateers/pirates/explorers/mercenaries forming Egypt’s navy & were the first people of the Mediterranean to sail outside of the Strait of Gibraltar, landing in England). The Fool in the Golden Dawn’s deck is a toddler, reaching out to touch a rose, while a dog is leashed onto his wrist; would the dog pull the leash if the toddler’s about to prick himself?

The High Priestess in the Marseille deck (& older decks) is a reference to the legend of Pope Joan (a woman who became Pope). The High Priestess in the Golden Dawn’s & Waite’s deck appears to represent either the Greek goddess Hegemone, or the Greek goddess Diana; offering a cup as though offering her virginity, with her bonnet being the waxing, full & waning moon, her robes flowing to the ground & evolving into a pool of water. This said, modern interpretations compare the High Priestess of Waite’s deck to the mother goddess of Wicca or the Greek goddess Hecate. In the Thoth deck, the High Priestess could be representative of the Egyptian goddess Isis, with geometrics & a plentiful bounty at her feet. In Waite’s deck, however, the High Priestess is seated at the front porch of the first temple of Solomon, between the two pillars named Boaz & Jachin (which are Masonic symbols representing the duality of nature, the bounty given to the world by God & the power of fraternal love found within every person).

The Lovers in the Marseille deck (& older decks) are getting married, while cupid aims his arrow at the groom’s head. In Waite’s deck, the Lovers are Adam & Eve under the eyes of Gabriel. In the Thoth deck, the lovers are the Emperor & Empress. In the Golden Dawn’s deck, the Lovers are Perseus & Andromeda (depicted while he rescues her from the sea monster Cetus).

The Hermit in the Thoth deck represents the Greek god Hades, as he’s followed by Cerberus. In all other decks, the Hermit represents the legend of the wandering Jew, who was cursed to live until the Second Coming for taunting Jesus Christ during his crucifixion.

The Chariot in the Marseille deck, its predecessors & the Waite deck may represent Alexander the Great as he conquered Egypt & installed the Ptolemaic dynasty. The Chariot in the Golden Dawn’s deck might also represent Alexander the Great, but could also represent Apollo or Ares when shown riding in the clouds. What is the allegory behind the Chariot in the Thoth deck?

The Hanged Man in the Thoth deck may represent St. Peter, as he was crucified upside-down. In other decks, the Hanged Man depicts the medieval Italian method of punishing traitors (by hanging them upside-down, by one ankle, for all to see). Note: this card is associated with sacrifice; perhaps the Hanged Man decided to take blame for the crimes of a friend or a loved one to protect them (reminiscent of the story of Damon & Pythias being held for treason by Dionysus I of Syracuse).

The Death card in most decks represents the medieval European view of Death during the Black Plague (& the whole concept of the Dance Macabre; “Quod sumus, hoc eritis,” or “That which we are, thou shalt be”). However, considering the meaning of the card (a significant & painful change in one’s life,) the depiction of death as the Grim Reaper is in keeping with the classical depiction of Chronos (the Greek Titan of time, who carries a scythe & represents the destructive ravages of time that consumes all). In Waite’s deck, Death is shown as one of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse. In the Thoth deck, Death is shown with a scorpion (coinciding with the zodiac sign of Scorpio,) ready to commit suicide due to a serious event that it can’t cope with. Note: it’s a known fact that, when a scorpion’s in a dangerous situation that it can’t fight its way out of, it will commit suicide by stinging itself.

The Devil card in all decks (except for the Thoth deck) depicts the Baphomet idol that the Knights Templar were accused of praying to, before they were disbanded & executed for heresy. In the Thoth deck, the Devil is glorified as the Egyptian god Banebdjedet (associated with Osiris & several other gods).

The Tower card in the Thoth deck shows either a Masonic Eye of Providence (i.e.: the all-seeing eye of God,) or the Udjat Eye (i.e.: the eye of Horus, an agent of action, protection & wrath). In every single deck (including the Thoth deck,) the Tower depicts the destruction of the Tower of Babel, according to the Midrash (the roof burned, the foundation was swallowed into the ground & the rest was left to erode).

In the Thoth deck, the Ace of Coins reads “Tò Mega Therion” (the Master Beast) because Aleister Crowley identified with (& himself as) “The Beast whose number is 666” since his teenage years (as per the Book of Revelations’ mention of the Antichrist & false prophet). Crowley then integrated the concept of the Master Beast as a diety into his cult of Thelema. The Ace of Swords in the Thoth deck reads “Thelema” (i.e.: will, according to Aleister Crowley’s Book of the Law). With isosephy, the words “Thelema” & “Agapé” (love) carry the same numeric value (93,) which is the reason behind Crowley’s law of Thelema; “Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law. Love is the law, love under will.” Note: right-wing Christian groups (such as Evangelicals) are quick to dismiss the cult of Thelema as Satanism (since it’s a pagan/witchcraft cult that integrates the Master Beast with Crowley’s doctrine of freedom to do what one wishes, without further governance other than the Golden Rule & Law of Returns,) while LaVeyan Satanists are quick to point out that, in spite of Crowley’s work being partially influential on their ideology, the cult of Thelema isn’t Satanic due to its adherence to paganism & love under will (while Satanism is an atheist doctrine that holds no governance over anyone’s actions whatsoever).

In the Thoth deck, all the Fives in the minor arcana depict an upside-down pentagram; whereas a right-side up pentagram in Wicca signifies the quintessence of spirit being above the four Aristotlean elements, the pentagrams in the Thoth deck’s minor arcana could represent the head of the Baphomet (possibly in keeping with Crowley’s Master Beast identity/theology,) as well as the spirit being below the four elements. Yet, all the Tens of the minor arcana in the Thoth deck depict the Kabbalistic tree of life.

The Thoth, Marseille & Golden Dawn’s decks are all heavily dependent on pure numerology for the minor arcana & are, therefore, more powerful for divining with regards to both mundane & spiritual matters (especially the Thoth deck, due to its imagery directly relating to the alchemical & astrological,) whereas the Waite deck’s minor arcana are better suited for divining with regards to the mundane, as well as for meditation & mediation (i.e.: to increase a cartomancer’s intuition on matters common to the human experience & to help open a querent’s mind to self-improvement & introspection).

The Five of Cups & the Eight of Swords in the Waite deck can provide inspiration for severely depressed querents to seek the help & care they need for their condition & the sources behind it; the Five of Cups shows a cloaked man with his back turned to two full cups, while sulking over three spilled cups (representing the querent sulking over the negative aspects of life instead of striving for the positive aspects,) while the Eight of Swords depicts a woman, blindfolded & bound while imprisoned in a circle of swords (representing the querent being blinded by their emotions to a situation they could otherwise solve, with the right kind of help).

The Five of Coins in the Waite deck depicts a couple of beggars outside of a church, seeking shelter from a snowstorm. This can be used therapeutically for married couples facing relationship issues (i.e.: this card represents the meaning & importance of wedding vows; “I take you for my lawful wife/husband, to have & to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness & in health, until death do us part”). When used alongside other cards pertaining to relationships (such as the Two, Six & Ten of Cups to depict the origins & desired outcome of the relationship,) finances (such as the Two & Four of Coins to depict the juggling of expenses & greed) & conflicts (such as the Three, Six, Eight, Nine & Ten of Swords to depict the heartache, sense of entrapment & ill-wishes against each other,) the Five of Coins can remind couples of the reasons why marriage vows exist. The Devil card should also be taken into consideration, due to its representing temptations/sins that can be detrimental to any relationship (such as unfaithfulness, lack of will to improve, withholding or overspending money, jealousy & revenge).