

WHAT THE TAROT CARDS WANT

Unlocking the Hidden Energies
of the Tarot



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INTRODUCTION

This little volume takes a different approach to reading Tarot cards. Rather than using the cards to predict what's likely to happen in our lives, it explores the underlying energies that influence what happens in our lives.

The premise is simple: Each of the 78 cards in a Tarot deck represents a unique type of energy. When we lay out a Tarot reading, the cards reveal which energies are trying to express themselves in our daily lives.

For instance, drawing the Knight of Cups might indicate a strong desire to pursue something we love. Perhaps we've always wanted to be a writer or an artist, but we keep putting off writing that book or buying those paints. Nevertheless, the desire remains. Beneath the surface, something within us is urging us to create.

Or we might draw the Eight of Wands, suggesting that things in our lives are gathering momentum, moving in a positive direction, and inviting us to go with the flow rather than resist it.

Each card represents an energy seeking expression in our lives.

Put another way, each card is telling us what it wants.

And, of course, what the card wants is really what some part of us wants. Each card represents an aspect of our lives, personalities, or inner potential that is trying to manifest.

BLOCKAGES

Of course, if living a fulfilled life were that simple, we could just lay out a Tarot reading and say, "Oh, well, I see that I'm supposed to pursue what I love. No problem, then. I'll get right on that."

Unfortunately, human beings are a little more complicated.

We frequently encounter internal and external obstacles that prevent us from expressing ourselves fully.

A person might yearn to become a writer or artist, yet be so afraid of criticism that they never put pen to paper or pick up a paintbrush.

Another person might have everything going beautifully. A long-cherished project is finally nearing completion, opportunities are opening up, and success seems almost inevitable. Then, at the last moment, they lose their nerve.

Perhaps they were told as children that they weren't good enough, that they didn't deserve success, or that their dreams were unrealistic. Those old beliefs, operating beneath conscious awareness, can become self-fulfilling prophecies.

For every energy represented by a Tarot card, there are corresponding obstacles that can interfere with its expression.

Understanding those obstacles is an essential part of working with the cards.

AFFIRMATIONS AND WORKING WITH THE ENERGY

So what do we do when we discover that some part of our energy is being blocked?

Give up and walk away?

Obviously not.

Instead, we begin by recognizing the energy that is trying to express itself. We examine the beliefs, fears, circumstances, or habits that may be obstructing it. Then we consciously work toward allowing that energy to find its natural expression.

One way to accomplish this is through affirmations.

Affirmations help us redirect our attention away from the obstacles and toward the qualities we want to cultivate. They provide a means of consciously reinforcing the energy represented by the card.

Rather than simply identifying a problem, we begin working toward a solution.

In this way, a Tarot reading becomes more than a description of our circumstances. It becomes a practical tool for personal transformation.

HOW THE DEFINITIONS ARE SET UP

That's the basic formula used throughout this book.

Each of the 78 cards is presented in three sections.

What It Wants

We begin with the central question: What does this card want? What energy is it trying to express in my life?

Rather than treating the card as a prediction, we explore its underlying motivation, its natural direction, and the qualities it seeks to bring into expression.

What Blocks It

Next, we examine the obstacles that may interfere with that energy.

What fears, beliefs, behaviors, or circumstances might prevent it from expressing itself fully?

Sometimes the blockage is obvious. At other times, it may be something we've carried around for years without recognizing it.

Affirmations

Finally, each card includes a set of affirmations designed to help us consciously align ourselves with its energy.

For example, the affirmations for the Knight of Cups are:

- * I have the courage to follow what I love.
- * I express my feelings openly and sincerely.
- * I allow my heart to guide me while keeping my feet on the ground.
- * I turn inspiration and emotion into meaningful action.
- * I distinguish genuine love from the fantasy of love.
- * I carry what matters to my heart forward into the world.

These affirmations aren't magic formulas that instantly eliminate our problems. Rather, they are tools for directing our attention, challenging limiting beliefs, and encouraging the qualities we want to develop.

Used consistently, they can help us move from understanding a card's energy to actively expressing it in our lives.

A WORD ABOUT REVERSED CARDS

In this system, we don't interpret reversed cards separately.

That doesn't mean we ignore them or discard them from a reading. Instead, we treat every card as though it were upright.

The reason is simple: We're working with the fundamental energy of each card.

Reversed cards generally represent variations, distortions, or blockages of that energy, and those possibilities are already included in our approach.

Consider the Knight of Cups.

Upright, the Knight represents the desire to pursue what we love, follow our hearts, and give meaningful expression to our feelings.

Reversed, the Knight may suggest that we're having difficulty doing those things. Perhaps we're afraid to follow our dreams, confused about our feelings, or caught up in fantasies that never become reality.

The underlying energy hasn't changed. It still wants expression.

The difference is that something is interfering with it.

By examining what the card wants and what might be blocking it, we can address both possibilities without needing separate definitions for upright and reversed cards.

AN EXAMPLE

Let's look at how this approach works in an actual reading.

We'll use a simple four-card spread:

Current Conditions: Five of Pentacles reversed

What Needs to Be Done: The Magician reversed

Factors Working Against Us: Ace of Cups

Probable Outcome: Seven of Swords

In a traditional reading, we might interpret these cards as describing a difficult situation, blocked personal power, emotional complications, and a possible need for secrecy or caution.

But let's approach the reading differently.

Instead of asking what each card predicts, we'll ask what each card wants.

Five of Pentacles — Current Conditions

The Five of Pentacles wants us to recognize hardship without surrendering to it. It wants us to cultivate hope, regain perspective, and recognize that help, resources, and opportunities may be available even when circumstances appear bleak.

Our questioner may be experiencing genuine difficulties, but the energy of this card is encouraging her to look beyond her immediate limitations.

The Magician — What Needs to Be Done

The Magician wants conscious intention, confidence, and purposeful action.

It wants our questioner to recognize her abilities, focus her attention, and begin using the resources already available to her.

Rather than feeling powerless in the face of circumstances, she needs to reclaim her ability to influence the direction of her life.

Ace of Cups — Factors Working Against Us

The Ace of Cups wants emotional openness. It wants us to experience love, tenderness, compassion, joy, intuition, beauty, gratitude, and meaningful connection.

But because this card appears in the position of Factors Working Against Us, we need to consider how that energy might be blocked.

Perhaps our questioner has closed herself off emotionally. Perhaps disappointment has made her reluctant to trust, receive affection, or believe that happiness is possible.

Or perhaps her emotions are overwhelming her ability to act.

Whatever the specific circumstances, the reading suggests that her relationship with her emotional life needs attention.

Seven of Swords — Probable Outcome

The Seven of Swords wants strategy, independent thinking, and a willingness to approach problems from a different angle.

It wants our questioner to think carefully, question her assumptions, and develop a plan that takes her actual circumstances into account.

Rather than continuing to struggle with an approach that isn't working, she may need to find a more intelligent, creative, or unconventional way forward.

Bringing the Energies Together

Notice what happens when we look at the reading as a whole.

Our questioner is experiencing difficulties, but she is being encouraged to regain hope and perspective.

She needs to reclaim her personal power, recognize her abilities, and take deliberate action.

At the same time, she needs to examine whatever emotional obstacles may be preventing her from moving forward.

And finally, she needs to develop a thoughtful strategy rather than simply reacting to circumstances.

Each card represents a different energy seeking expression in her life.

By recognizing those energies, identifying what may be blocking them, and consciously working with them, she can begin bringing them into harmony.

Instead of passively waiting to see what the future holds, she becomes an active participant in creating it.

And that, ultimately, is the purpose of this book.

WISHING YOU WELL

I'm offering this little book free of charge as a karma offering, in the hope that it will help you deepen your understanding of the Tarot and discover new ways of working with the cards.

Whether you're a beginning reader or someone who has been studying the Tarot for years, I hope this approach gives you a fresh perspective on the remarkable wisdom contained in those 78 little pieces of cardboard.

If you enjoy the book, please consider exploring my other books on Tarot, spirituality, and personal transformation. You'll find them on my Amazon author page:

<https://www.amazon.com/stores/Daniel-Adair/author/B0FK9BR5WC>

May the cards bring you insight, inspiration, and a little magic along the way.

Daniel Adair



Ace of Wands — What It Wants

The Ace of Wands wants ignition. It wants you to feel the spark of desire, inspiration, enthusiasm, or creative possibility and do something with it. It doesn't particularly care whether you know where the road leads yet; it wants movement, experimentation, and the willingness to say, "That excites me. I'm going to try it."

What Blocks the Ace of Wands

The Ace of Wands is blocked by hesitation, overthinking, fear of failure, and waiting until you're certain. Perfectionism can smother its fire by demanding a finished plan before allowing the first step. It can also be blocked when you dismiss your own excitement as impractical, foolish, or not important enough to pursue.

Ace of Wands Affirmations

- * I trust what excites and inspires me.
- * I give myself permission to begin before I know the outcome.
- * My creative impulses deserve expression.
- * I act on inspiration while the fire is alive.
- * I don't need the whole path. I only need the next step.
- * I welcome new energy, new ideas, and new possibilities.



Two of Wands — What It Wants

The Two of Wands wants expansion. The initial spark has already happened; now it wants you to look beyond the boundaries of your present world and ask, “Where could I take this?” It wants vision, ambition, planning, and—most importantly—the willingness to choose a direction rather than simply admire the possibilities.

What Blocks the Two of Wands

The Two of Wands is blocked by playing small, fear of leaving the familiar, and endless consideration without commitment. You can see the larger world but remain safely behind the walls, planning forever and never venturing into it. It is also blocked when you convince yourself that what you already have is all you’re entitled to—or all you’re capable of handling.

Two of Wands Affirmations

- * I allow myself to think bigger.
- * I am willing to move beyond what is familiar.
- * I choose a direction and commit my energy to it.
- * The world contains possibilities I have not yet explored.
- * I trust myself to grow beyond my present circumstances.
- * I turn possibility into intention and intention into action.



Three of Wands — What It Wants

The Three of Wands wants follow-through and expansion. You've made your choice and sent your energy out into the world; now it wants you to stand behind that decision and let it develop. It wants confidence in what you've begun, openness to opportunities beyond your familiar territory, and the patience to allow your actions to produce results.

What Blocks the Three of Wands

The Three of Wands is blocked by impatience, second-guessing, and retreating because results aren't immediate. It can also be blocked by trying to control exactly how things must unfold. You've already launched the ships; constantly calling them back to the harbor to repaint them isn't going to get them anywhere.

Three of Wands Affirmations

- * I trust what I have set in motion.
- * I give my efforts time and room to grow.
- * I am open to opportunities beyond what I already know.
- * I allow my world to become larger.
- * I trust that action creates possibilities I cannot foresee.
- * I move forward without constantly second-guessing myself.



Four of Wands — What It Wants

The Four of Wands wants celebration, belonging, and appreciation of what has already been achieved. After all that fiery movement, it wants you to stop long enough to recognize that you've reached a good place. It wants community, shared happiness, stability, and the ability to say, "This is good. Let's enjoy it."

What Blocks the Four of Wands

The Four of Wands is blocked by never allowing anything to be enough. Constant striving, immediately moving the goalposts, isolating yourself, or being so focused on the next accomplishment that you fail to enjoy the present one all interfere with its energy. Sometimes the block is simply an inability to receive happiness without wondering what's going to go wrong next.

Four of Wands Affirmations

- * I allow myself to enjoy what I have created.
- * I recognize and celebrate my accomplishments.
- * I welcome happiness without needing to justify it.
- * I make room for friendship, community, and belonging.
- * I am grateful for the stability I have built.
- * I let good moments be good moments.



Five of Wands — What It Wants

The Five of Wands wants engagement. It wants you to get into the arena, test yourself, encounter resistance, exchange ideas, compete, argue, wrestle with the problem, and discover what you're capable of. This isn't necessarily destructive conflict; often it's the friction that produces growth, skill, clarity, and stronger ideas.

What Blocks the Five of Wands

The Five of Wands is blocked by avoidance of conflict, excessive agreeableness, fear of competition, and the desire to keep everything comfortable. It can also be blocked when you interpret every disagreement as hostility or every obstacle as evidence that you're on the wrong path. Sometimes resistance isn't telling you to stop—it's asking you to engage more fully.

Five of Wands Affirmations

- * I am willing to engage with challenges.
- * I can disagree without creating enemies.
- * Resistance helps me discover my strength.
- * I am not afraid to test my ideas against reality.
- * Competition can sharpen rather than diminish me.
- * I participate fully instead of standing on the sidelines.



Six of Wands — What It Wants

The Six of Wands wants recognition. You've engaged with the challenge, proven yourself, and now it wants you to acknowledge your success—and allow other people to acknowledge it too. It wants healthy pride, confidence, visibility, and the willingness to step forward and say, "Yes, I did this, and I did it well."

What Blocks the Six of Wands

The Six of Wands is blocked by self-doubt, false modesty, fear of being seen, and dismissing your accomplishments as unimportant. It can also be distorted by becoming dependent upon applause and external validation. Its healthiest expression is neither hiding your light nor desperately needing everyone else to admire it: know your own worth and be comfortable letting it be recognized.

Six of Wands Affirmations

- * I allow myself to be seen and appreciated.
- * I take healthy pride in what I accomplish.
- * I accept recognition without embarrassment or apology.
- * My success does not diminish anyone else.
- * I know my worth even when no one is applauding.
- * I confidently bring my achievements into the world.



Seven of Wands — What It Wants

The Seven of Wands wants conviction. You've gained some ground, and now it wants you to stand your ground when that position is challenged. It wants courage, boundaries, persistence, and the willingness to defend what you believe in even when other people disagree.

What Blocks the Seven of Wands

The Seven of Wands is blocked by giving up your position simply because it becomes uncomfortable to hold it. Fear of criticism, people-pleasing, exhaustion, self-doubt, or assuming opposition means you must be wrong can undermine its energy. The card reminds you that resistance sometimes appears precisely because you've taken a meaningful stand.

Seven of Wands Affirmations

- * I stand firmly behind what I believe.
- * I can withstand disagreement without doubting myself.
- * I protect what I have worked to create.
- * I maintain healthy boundaries without apology.
- * Opposition does not automatically mean I am wrong.
- * I have the courage to hold my ground.



Eight of Wands — What It Wants

The Eight of Wands wants momentum. Things are moving now, and it wants you to move with them rather than stopping to reconsider every decision. It wants swift action, clear communication, responsiveness, and trust in the direction you've already established. This is the moment to ride the energy while it's available.

What Blocks the Eight of Wands

The Eight of Wands is blocked by hesitation, procrastination, overanalysis, and unnecessary interference. Trying to control every detail can interrupt a process that is already working. Sometimes the block is simply failing to recognize that the time for deliberation has ended: you already made the decision—now move.

Eight of Wands Affirmations

- * I move confidently with the energy that is available to me.
- * I act when the moment calls for action.
- * I trust the direction I have chosen.
- * I communicate clearly and directly.
- * I release unnecessary hesitation.
- * I allow momentum to carry me forward.



Nine of Wands — What It Wants

The Nine of Wands wants resilience. You've been through the battle, you're tired, and you may even be a little battered—but you're still standing. It wants you to draw on everything you've learned, protect what matters, and find the strength for one more effort. Its message is essentially: you've come too far to quit now.

What Blocks the Nine of Wands

The Nine of Wands is blocked by exhaustion, discouragement, and allowing past difficulties to convince you that future difficulties will defeat you. It can also become overly defensive—expecting another attack simply because you've been attacked before. Resilience means learning from your wounds without allowing them to turn into permanent walls.

Nine of Wands Affirmations

- * I have survived difficult things before.
- * I am stronger because of what I have learned.
- * I protect my energy without closing myself off from life.
- * I can rest without giving up.
- * Past difficulties do not determine what happens next.
- * I have enough strength for the next step.



Ten of Wands — What It Wants

The Ten of Wands wants completion—but it also wants you to recognize the cost of carrying too much. You've taken on the responsibility, and now you need to bring it home. But the card also asks you to distinguish between what genuinely must be carried and what you've accumulated simply because you kept saying yes. Finish what matters, then put the damn sticks down.

What Blocks the Ten of Wands

The Ten of Wands is blocked by overcommitment, refusing help, taking responsibility for everything, and believing that struggle somehow proves your worth. It can also appear when you've become so accustomed to carrying a heavy load that you no longer question whether all of it is necessary. Sometimes perseverance is admirable; sometimes wisdom means dropping three of the sticks.

Ten of Wands Affirmations

- * I carry only what is truly mine to carry.
- * I am allowed to ask for help.
- * I can finish what matters without exhausting myself.
- * My worth is not measured by how much I can endure.
- * I release responsibilities that no longer belong to me.
- * Completion includes knowing when to put the burden down.



Page of Wands — What It Wants

The Page of Wands wants exploration. It has discovered something exciting and wants to find out where it leads. Unlike the Ace, which is the raw spark itself, the Page is the person who notices the spark, becomes fascinated by it, and starts playing with it. It wants curiosity, experimentation, enthusiasm, and the freedom to try something new without already having to be good at it.

What Blocks the Page of Wands

The Page of Wands is blocked by cynicism, excessive seriousness, fear of looking foolish, and demanding competence before allowing yourself to be a beginner. It can also be blocked by turning every new interest immediately into an obligation or asking whether it will be useful, profitable, or successful. Sometimes curiosity needs permission to exist simply because something looks interesting.

Page of Wands Affirmations

- * I give myself permission to explore.
- * I follow what sparks my curiosity.
- * I don't have to be good at something to enjoy discovering it.
- * I welcome new experiences with enthusiasm.
- * I allow myself to experiment without knowing the outcome.
- * My curiosity can lead me somewhere important.



Knight of Wands — What It Wants

The Knight of Wands wants adventure and bold action. The Page discovered something exciting; the Knight wants to chase it. He wants movement, risk, passion, experience, and the exhilaration of throwing himself wholeheartedly into something. He would much rather make a mistake at full speed than spend six months deciding whether to begin.

What Blocks the Knight of Wands

The Knight of Wands is blocked by fear, excessive caution, routine, and the need for guarantees before taking action. But his energy can also block itself through recklessness—charging enthusiastically toward every new possibility and abandoning it when the next exciting thing appears. His challenge is not learning how to create fire; it's learning how to give that fire direction.

Knight of Wands Affirmations

- * I pursue what excites me with courage.
- * I am willing to take reasonable risks.
- * I choose action over endless hesitation.
- * I direct my passion toward what truly matters.
- * I welcome adventure, change, and new experience.
- * I can be spontaneous without becoming reckless.



Queen of Wands — What She Wants

The Queen of Wands wants self-expression. She wants you to inhabit your own fire comfortably and let it radiate outward. She is creative, confident, warm, sensual, independent, and thoroughly herself. Unlike the Knight, she doesn't need to charge off looking for excitement—she generates it. She wants you to trust your creative power and allow yourself to be visible.

What Blocks the Queen of Wands

The Queen of Wands is blocked by self-consciousness, comparison, fear of judgment, and making yourself smaller so other people will be comfortable. She is especially weakened by the belief that confidence must be earned through somebody else's approval. Her shadow can go the other direction as well, turning confidence into attention-seeking or dominance. Her real power comes from knowing who she is without needing either permission or applause.

Queen of Wands Affirmations

- * I am comfortable being fully myself.
- * I trust my creative power.
- * I allow myself to be seen.
- * I express myself without apology.
- * I do not need anyone else's permission to shine.
- * My confidence comes from within.



King of Wands — What He Wants

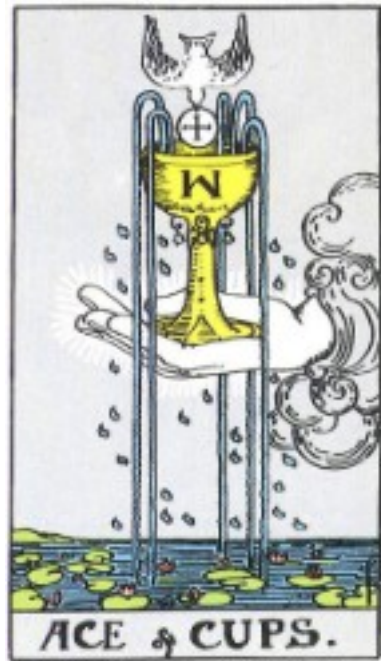
The King of Wands wants vision made real. He has moved beyond discovering his fire, chasing it, or simply embodying it—he wants to direct it toward a larger purpose. He wants leadership, creative authority, confidence, and the ability to inspire other people to participate in a vision. His question is not merely “What do I want to do?” but “What do I want to create in the world?”

What Blocks the King of Wands

The King of Wands is blocked by lack of direction, fear of assuming authority, playing small, and having plenty of ideas without committing to a larger vision. His energy can also become distorted into arrogance, domination, or insisting that everyone else follow his plan. True authority doesn't require controlling people; it provides direction, purpose, and inspiration.

King of Wands Affirmations

- * I trust my vision and give it direction.
- * I have the confidence to lead.
- * I turn inspiration into purposeful action.
- * I think beyond immediate results and create for the future.
- * I inspire others without needing to control them.
- * I have the courage to make my vision real.



Ace of Cups — What It Wants

The Ace of Cups wants opening. It wants you

It doesn't ask you to analyze the feeling or decide where it will lead. It wants the heart to become receptive enough that something new can enter. The Ace of Cups says, "Open the door. Let yourself be moved."

What Blocks the Ace of Cups

The Ace of Cups is blocked by emotional defensiveness, cynicism, numbness, and the fear of vulnerability. Past disappointment can cause you to protect yourself so thoroughly that nothing new can reach you. It is also blocked when you distrust your feelings, intellectualize them, or insist on knowing whether something is "safe" before allowing yourself to experience it. You cannot receive from a cup you keep turned upside down.

Ace of Cups Affirmations

- * I allow myself to feel deeply and freely.
- * I am open to love, beauty, and emotional connection.
- * I trust the wisdom of my heart.
- * I allow new feelings to arise without needing to control them.
- * Vulnerability allows something new to enter my life.
- * I receive what nourishes my heart.



Two of Cups – What It Wants

The Two of Cups wants connection. It wants two people to meet one another openly, honestly, and as equals. It wants recognition—the moment when you see something of yourself in another person and feel yourself seen in return. This may be romantic love, friendship, partnership, reconciliation, or any genuine meeting of hearts. The Two of Cups says, “Meet me here. I will bring myself if you bring yourself.”

What Blocks the Two of Cups

The Two of Cups is blocked by imbalance, guardedness, mistrust, and relationships in which one person gives while the other only takes. It is blocked when you hide who you really are in order to gain approval, or when fear of rejection prevents genuine intimacy. It can also be blocked by trying to force connection where reciprocity does not exist. The Two of Cups requires two willing participants. One person cannot create mutuality alone.

Two of Cups Affirmations

- * I welcome relationships based on mutual respect and affection.
- * I allow myself to be seen as I truly am.
- * I recognize and value genuine connection.
- * I give freely without abandoning myself.
- * I choose relationships in which affection and respect flow both ways.
- * I meet others with an open heart while remaining true to myself.



Three of Cups — What It Wants

The Three of Cups wants celebration. It wants you to come out of yourself and share your happiness, creativity, affection, and enthusiasm with other people. It wants friendship, laughter, companionship, and the simple pleasure of belonging. Where the Two of Cups creates connection between two people, the Three expands the circle. It says, “This is too good to keep to ourselves. Let’s celebrate it together.”

What Blocks the Three of Cups

The Three of Cups is blocked by isolation, withdrawal, social anxiety, and the belief that you must handle everything alone. It can also be blocked by comparison, jealousy, gossip, cliques, or relationships in which competition replaces genuine friendship. Sometimes the block is simply forgetting that pleasure and companionship are legitimate needs—that life cannot consist entirely of work, responsibility, and self-improvement.

Three of Cups Affirmations

- * I allow myself to enjoy the company of others.
- * I welcome friendship, laughter, and celebration into my life.
- * I celebrate the happiness and success of others without diminishing my own.
- * I allow other people to support and encourage me.
- * Joy grows when it is shared.
- * I make room in my life for pleasure, friendship, and belonging.



Four of Cups — What It Wants

The Four of Cups wants reflection. It wants you to withdraw temporarily from external distractions and ask yourself what you actually feel and what you genuinely want. It is not interested in accepting something merely because it is being offered. It wants discernment, emotional honesty, and the willingness to sit quietly with dissatisfaction until you understand what it is trying to tell you. The Four of Cups says, “Don’t reach for another cup yet. First find out what you’re really thirsty for.”

What Blocks the Four of Cups

The Four of Cups is blocked when reflection turns into stagnation. Withdrawal can become isolation, discernment can become chronic dissatisfaction, and contemplation can become endless brooding. It is also blocked when disappointment with what you already have makes you unable to recognize a new possibility when it appears. The danger is becoming so absorbed in what is missing that you fail to notice the cup being offered.

Four of Cups Affirmations

- * I give myself permission to pause and listen to my feelings.
- * I do not have to accept what does not nourish me.
- * I allow dissatisfaction to show me what I truly want.
- * I remain receptive even while I reflect.
- * I notice new possibilities when they appear.
- * I know when it is time to stop contemplating and reach for the cup.



Five of Cups – What It Wants

The Five of Cups wants grieving. It wants you to acknowledge what has been lost, disappointed, broken, or failed instead of pretending that it doesn't matter. Some things genuinely hurt, and the Five of Cups gives you permission to mourn them. But it does not want you to live there forever. It wants grief to move through you so that eventually you can turn around and discover what remains. The Five of Cups says, "Mourn what is gone. Then look again at what you still have."

What Blocks the Five of Cups

The Five of Cups is blocked in two opposite ways: by refusing to grieve and by refusing to stop grieving. Denial prevents loss from being processed, while fixation on the past makes the loss larger than everything that remains. Regret, guilt, bitterness, and endlessly replaying what might have been can keep you staring at the spilled cups. Healing begins when you can honor what was lost without allowing it to define the whole landscape.

Five of Cups Affirmations

- * I allow myself to grieve what I have lost.
- * I honor my disappointment without becoming trapped in it.
- * I release what cannot be changed.
- * I forgive myself for what I did not know then.
- * Loss is part of my story, but it is not the whole story.
- * When I am ready, I turn toward what remains.



Six of Cups — What It Wants

The Six of Cups wants remembering. It wants you to reconnect with what was innocent, joyful, loving, and authentic in you before experience taught you to become guarded or complicated. It wants the past to become a source of nourishment rather than a place to live. Childhood memories, old friendships, forgotten pleasures, and earlier versions of yourself may contain something worth recovering. The Six of Cups says, “Remember who you were before the world told you who you were supposed to be.”

What Blocks the Six of Cups

The Six of Cups is blocked when the past is either rejected or idealized. Painful memories may cause you to cut yourself off from your earlier self, while nostalgia can convince you that everything worthwhile lies behind you. It is also blocked when old conditioning continues to govern the present unconsciously. The purpose of remembering is not to return to the past, but to recover what was valuable there and bring it forward.

Six of Cups Affirmations

- * I welcome the joyful and authentic parts of myself back into my life.
- * I honor my past without becoming trapped in it.
- * I reclaim the innocence, curiosity, and wonder that still live within me.
- * I release old conditioning that no longer belongs to me.
- * My past contains wisdom, but it does not determine my future.
- * I carry forward what was beautiful and leave behind what no longer serves me.



Seven of Cups — What It Wants

The Seven of Cups wants imagining. It wants you to dream, fantasize, explore possibilities, and allow yourself to envision realities that do not yet exist. It opens the doors of imagination and says, “What if?” But ultimately, it wants those possibilities examined and one of them chosen. Imagination creates possibilities; choice gives them power. The Seven of Cups says, “Dream freely — but eventually choose the dream you are willing to make real.”

What Blocks the Seven of Cups

The Seven of Cups is blocked when imagination becomes escape. Too many possibilities can produce confusion, indecision, wishful thinking, or endless fantasizing without action. It can also be blocked by illusion—wanting something because it looks attractive without examining what it actually contains. The danger is remaining enchanted by possibilities because choosing one means surrendering the others. At some point, the dream must encounter reality.

Seven of Cups Affirmations

- * I give myself permission to imagine new possibilities.
- * My imagination reveals possibilities I have not yet considered.
- * I distinguish genuine desire from fantasy and illusion.
- * I do not need to pursue every possibility that appears.
- * I trust myself to choose.
- * I turn the dream that matters most into action.



Eight of Cups — What It Wants

The Eight of Cups wants departure. It wants you to recognize when something has given you all that it can give and find the courage to leave it behind. The cups may not be empty; that is precisely what makes leaving difficult. There may still be comfort, history, affection, or value there—but something deeper is calling you onward. The Eight of Cups says, “You don’t have to hate something to outgrow it. Take what it gave you, and keep walking.”

What Blocks the Eight of Cups

The Eight of Cups is blocked by attachment, familiarity, fear of the unknown, and the belief that because you have invested time or emotion in something, you must remain with it. It can also be blocked by guilt—the fear that leaving means betraying someone, wasting what you have built, or admitting failure. Sometimes we remain in situations that no longer nourish us simply because the familiar emptiness feels safer than the unknown road ahead.

Eight of Cups Affirmations

- * I recognize when it is time to move on.
- * I can appreciate what something gave me and still leave it behind.
- * I release what I have outgrown without bitterness or guilt.
- * I trust the deeper calling that draws me forward.
- * I do not remain somewhere merely because I have been there a long time.
- * I have the courage to walk toward what I have not yet found.



Nine of Cups — What It Wants

The Nine of Cups wants enjoyment. It wants you to recognize what you have achieved, receive the pleasure it gives you, and allow yourself to feel satisfied. It wants desire fulfilled and fulfillment actually experienced—not immediately replaced by the next desire. There is a moment when striving needs to stop so that satisfaction can begin. The Nine of Cups says, “You wanted this. Now let yourself enjoy having it.”

What Blocks the Nine of Cups

The Nine of Cups is blocked by the inability to be satisfied. You may achieve what you wanted only to immediately move the goalposts, compare yourself with someone else, or decide that what you have still isn't enough. It can also be blocked by guilt about pleasure or the belief that contentment will make you lazy or complacent. At its shadow extreme, pleasure itself can become excess—trying to fill an emotional hunger by continually consuming more. The Nine of Cups asks you to distinguish genuine satisfaction from endless appetite.

Nine of Cups Affirmations

- * I allow myself to enjoy what I have created and received.
- * I recognize the abundance already present in my life.
- * I do not need another achievement before I am allowed to feel satisfied.
- * Pleasure and contentment are worthy experiences.
- * I know the difference between enjoying enough and endlessly wanting more.
- * I pause long enough to realize when a wish has already come true.



Ten of Cups — What It Wants

The Ten of Cups wants belonging. It wants emotional fulfillment that extends beyond the individual and becomes shared life—family, friendship, community, love, harmony, and the feeling that you have found your place among people who genuinely matter to you. Unlike the Nine, which says, “I am happy,” the Ten says, “We are happy together.” The Ten of Cups says, “Let happiness become something you share.”

What Blocks the Ten of Cups

The Ten of Cups is blocked by isolation, unresolved conflict, emotional withholding, and unrealistic expectations about what happiness is supposed to look like. It can be especially blocked by the fantasy of the “perfect” family, relationship, or community. Real belonging does not require everyone to be cheerful all the time; it requires enough love, honesty, acceptance, and forgiveness for imperfect people to remain connected. Sometimes the greatest block is pursuing an idealized picture of happiness while overlooking the imperfect but genuine love already present.

Ten of Cups Affirmations

- * I allow myself to belong.
- * I create relationships based on love, honesty, and acceptance.
- * I share my happiness with the people I care about.
- * I release the need for relationships to be perfect.
- * I recognize and appreciate the love that is already present in my life.
- * I help create the community and belonging I want to experience.



Page of Cups — What It Wants

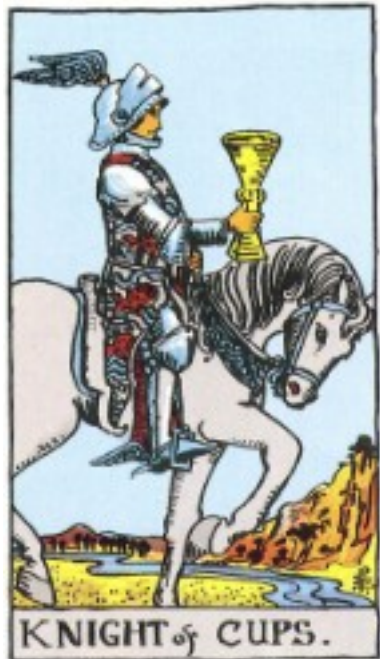
The Page of Cups wants wonder. It wants you to remain emotionally curious, receptive, imaginative, and willing to be surprised. It brings feelings, intuitions, creative impulses, and strange little messages from the unconscious without demanding that they immediately make sense. The Page of Cups is willing to talk to the fish in the cup simply because the fish has something to say. It says, “Don’t dismiss this because it’s strange. Pay attention and see where it leads.”

What Blocks the Page of Cups

The Page of Cups is blocked by cynicism, emotional self-consciousness, excessive seriousness, and the need to explain everything rationally before accepting it. It is also blocked when sensitivity becomes emotional immaturity—taking everything personally, becoming overwhelmed by feelings, or expecting others to protect you from disappointment. Wonder requires openness, but openness does not require abandoning discernment.

Page of Cups Affirmations

- * I remain open to wonder and surprise.
- * I listen to my feelings without being ruled by them.
- * I trust the messages of my imagination and intuition.
- * I allow myself to be curious about what I do not yet understand.
- * Sensitivity is a source of creativity and insight.
- * I pay attention when the unexpected speaks to me.



Knight of Cups — What It Wants

The Knight of Cups wants pursuit of the heart. It wants you to follow what you love, express what you feel, and move toward the people, dreams, ideals, and creative visions that stir you emotionally. Unlike the Page, who receives the feeling, the Knight acts on it. He carries the cup forward. The Knight of Cups says, “If your heart is calling you somewhere, follow it.”

What Blocks the Knight of Cups

The Knight of Cups is blocked by fear of vulnerability, emotional hesitation, and the refusal to act on what you genuinely feel. But it can also be blocked by romanticism without reality—falling in love with the dream rather than what actually exists. At his shadow extreme, the Knight endlessly pursues beautiful feelings, new romances, or inspiring visions but loses interest when they become ordinary. The challenge is to follow the heart without confusing emotional intensity with truth.

Knight of Cups Affirmations

- * I have the courage to follow what I love.
- * I express my feelings openly and sincerely.
- * I allow my heart to guide me while keeping my feet on the ground.
- * I turn inspiration and emotion into meaningful action.
- * I distinguish genuine love from the fantasy of love.
- * I carry what matters to my heart forward into the world.



Queen of Cups — What It Wants

The Queen of Cups wants emotional wisdom. She wants you to listen deeply—to yourself, to other people, and to the subtle currents moving beneath what is being said. She wants compassion, intuition, empathy, and emotional presence without immediately trying to fix, judge, or explain. She knows that feelings contain information. The Queen of Cups says, “Be still enough to hear what the heart already knows.”

What Blocks the Queen of Cups

The Queen of Cups is blocked when sensitivity becomes absorption. Empathy can turn into taking responsibility for everyone else’s feelings, intuition can become projection, and compassion can become self-sacrifice. She is also blocked when you distrust your emotional perceptions or suppress them to appear rational or strong. Her challenge is to remain deeply receptive without losing the boundary between what belongs to you and what belongs to someone else.

Queen of Cups Affirmations

- * I trust my emotional wisdom.
- * I listen to my intuition with patience and discernment.
- * I can care deeply without carrying what belongs to others.
- * My sensitivity is a strength when it is balanced by healthy boundaries.
- * I honor my own feelings as readily as I honor the feelings of others.
- * I remain openhearted without losing myself.



King of Cups — What It Wants

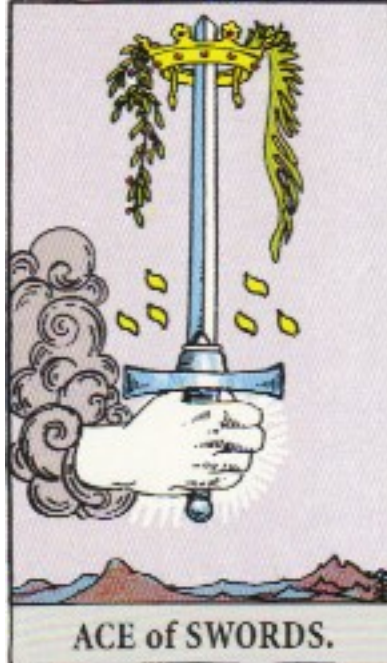
The King of Cups wants emotional mastery. He wants you to feel deeply without being overwhelmed by what you feel. He does not suppress emotion; he contains it, understands it, and chooses how to respond to it. His sea may be turbulent, but he remains steady upon it. The King of Cups says, “Feel everything—but let wisdom decide what you do with the feeling.”

What Blocks the King of Cups

The King of Cups is blocked by emotional reactivity on one side and emotional repression on the other. Losing control, lashing out, withdrawing into silence, or pretending not to care are different ways of surrendering mastery. He can also be blocked by using emotional control as a form of manipulation—appearing calm while withholding affection, concealing resentment, or managing other people through guilt. True emotional mastery is neither domination nor detachment. It is the ability to remain present, compassionate, and self-directed even when the emotional waters are rough.

King of Cups Affirmations

- * I feel deeply without being ruled by my emotions.
- * I choose my response rather than reacting automatically.
- * I can remain calm without shutting down my heart.
- * My emotions inform me, but they do not control me.
- * I meet difficult feelings with compassion and maturity.
- * I remain steady even when the waters around me are turbulent.



Ace of Swords — What It Wants

The Ace of Swords wants clarity. It wants you to cut through confusion, wishful thinking, emotional fog, and competing possibilities until you arrive at what is true. It wants the breakthrough—the moment when suddenly you understand what you couldn't see before. This Ace does not particularly care whether the truth is comfortable. It cares that it is true. The Ace of Swords says, "See clearly. Name what is real. Then act from what you know."

What Blocks the Ace of Swords

The Ace of Swords is blocked by confusion, rationalization, intellectual dishonesty, and the refusal to see something because we don't like what it means. It can also be blocked by overthinking—endlessly analyzing a situation after the essential truth has already become apparent. Sometimes we genuinely don't know the answer. At other times, we know perfectly well but keep thinking because we hope to arrive at a different answer. The sword cannot cut through the knot if you refuse to pick it up.

Ace of Swords Affirmations

- * I am willing to see the truth clearly.
- * I trust my ability to recognize what is real.
- * I release confusion and unnecessary mental clutter.
- * I allow insight to replace uncertainty.
- * I have the courage to name what I know.
- * Clear understanding leads to clear action.



Two of Swords — What It Wants

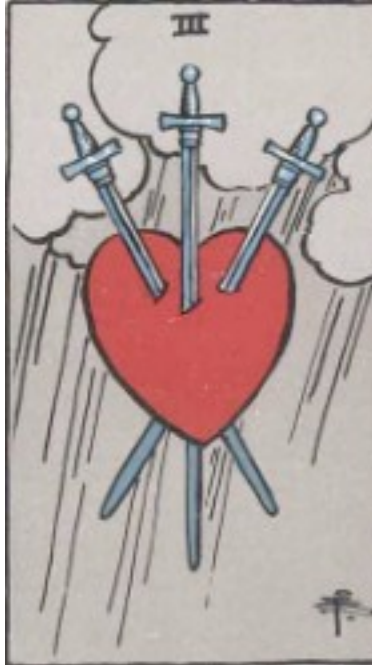
The Two of Swords wants stillness before decision. It wants you to stop reacting long enough to recognize that two competing ideas, choices, or truths are demanding your attention. This is not necessarily a card of permanent indecision. Sometimes refusing to choose immediately is exactly the right choice. The Two of Swords wants you to withdraw from the noise, hold the opposing forces in balance, and wait until you can see what is actually true. It says, “Don’t force the answer. Become quiet enough to recognize it.”

What Blocks the Two of Swords

The Two of Swords is blocked when temporary stillness becomes avoidance. There is a difference between waiting for clarity and refusing to look at something you already know. Fear of making the wrong decision can leave you endlessly suspended between alternatives, particularly when neither choice is completely comfortable. The blindfold can create the quiet necessary for inner reflection—but eventually it has to come off. You cannot remain at the crossroads forever.

Two of Swords Affirmations

- * I give myself permission to pause before making a decision.
- * I can hold opposing possibilities without immediately choosing between them.
- * I become quiet enough to hear my own inner knowing.
- * I recognize the difference between patience and avoidance.
- * I trust that clarity will emerge when I am ready to see it.
- * When the time comes to choose, I will choose.



Three of Swords — What It Wants

The Three of Swords wants acknowledgment of pain. It wants you to stop pretending that something doesn't hurt when it does. Grief, disappointment, rejection, betrayal, and loss are painful precisely because something mattered to us. The Three of Swords does not ask you to wallow in suffering; it asks you to face it honestly so that it can move through you. Pain that is acknowledged can eventually heal. The Three of Swords says, "Yes, this hurts. Let yourself know that—and then let the healing begin."

What Blocks the Three of Swords

The Three of Swords is blocked by denial, emotional suppression, bitterness, and the refusal to let an old wound heal. We can avoid pain by pretending it never happened, or we can become so identified with it that we continually reopen the wound. Neither allows the experience to complete itself. The card is also blocked when we turn pain into a permanent story about ourselves: I was rejected, therefore I am unlovable. I was betrayed, therefore no one can be trusted. The wound is real. The story we build around it doesn't have to be.

Three of Swords Affirmations

- * I acknowledge my pain without allowing it to define me.
- * I give myself permission to grieve what I have lost.
- * I release the stories that keep old wounds alive.
- * I allow painful experiences to move through me rather than remain trapped within me.
- * I can remember the past without continuing to suffer from it.
- * My heart can heal.



Four of Swords — What It Wants

The Four of Swords wants rest. It wants you to stop doing, stop struggling, and stop trying to solve everything for a while. There are times when no amount of additional effort will improve a situation because what you actually need is recovery. The Four of Swords asks you to withdraw from activity long enough for your body, mind, and spirit to restore themselves. Rest is not wasted time; it is part of the process. The Four of Swords says, “Be still. Nothing needs to happen right now.”

What Blocks the Four of Swords

The Four of Swords is blocked by restlessness, anxiety, overwork, and the belief that you must always be doing something. Sometimes we are so accustomed to activity that stopping makes us uncomfortable. We fill every quiet moment with work, worry, entertainment, or plans for what comes next. It can also be blocked by guilt—the feeling that resting is lazy or irresponsible. But exhaustion eventually makes the decision for us. If you refuse to choose rest voluntarily, your body or circumstances may eventually choose it for you.

Four of Swords Affirmations

- * I give myself permission to rest.
- * I do not have to solve everything today.
- * Stillness restores my strength and clarity.
- * Rest is a necessary part of productive action.
- * I release the guilt I associate with doing nothing.
- * I allow myself to become quiet, peaceful, and renewed.



Five of Swords — What It Wants

The Five of Swords wants discernment about conflict. It wants you to recognize when a battle is worth fighting—and when winning will cost more than victory is worth. Sometimes we become so determined to prove that we are right, defeat an opponent, or have the last word that we lose sight of what the conflict is actually costing us. The Five of Swords asks, “What are you really trying to accomplish here?” It wants you to choose your battles carefully and understand that walking away can sometimes be the greater victory.

What Blocks the Five of Swords

The Five of Swords is blocked by pride, hostility, resentment, and the need to win at any cost. It appears when conflict has stopped being about resolving a problem and has become about defeating someone else. It can also be blocked by the opposite tendency—remaining involved in destructive conflict because you are afraid that walking away means you have lost. Not every challenge must be accepted. Not every insult requires an answer. Sometimes the only way to win the game is to stop playing it.

Five of Swords Affirmations

- * I choose my battles wisely.
- * I do not need to win every argument.
- * I recognize when conflict has stopped serving a useful purpose.
- * I can walk away without considering myself defeated.
- * I release the need to prove that I am right.
- * I choose peace when victory would cost me too much.



Six of Swords — What It Wants

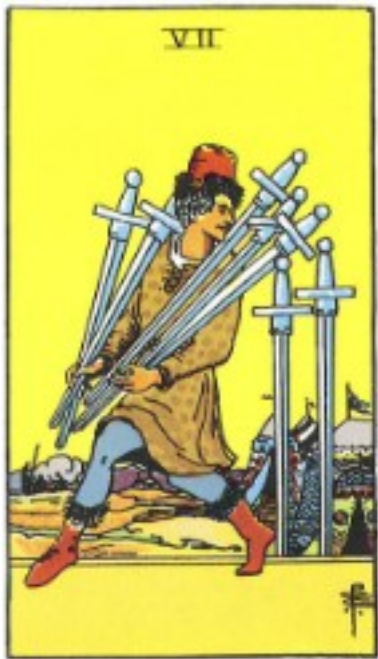
The Six of Swords wants movement away from difficulty. It wants you to recognize when something has run its course and begin moving toward calmer waters. You may not know exactly where you are going yet, and you may still be carrying some of the pain, memories, or consequences of what happened. That's all right. You don't have to have everything resolved before you leave. The Six of Swords says, "You've been here long enough. Take what you've learned and keep moving."

What Blocks the Six of Swords

The Six of Swords is blocked by attachment to the past, fear of the unknown, and the belief that you must completely understand or resolve something before you can move beyond it. Sometimes we remain in painful situations simply because they are familiar. We replay old arguments, revisit old disappointments, and keep asking questions that may never have satisfactory answers. You don't always need closure before you leave. Sometimes leaving is what creates the closure.

Six of Swords Affirmations

- * I am willing to leave behind what no longer serves me.
- * I move toward greater peace and clarity.
- * I do not need every answer before I move forward.
- * I carry the wisdom of the past without remaining trapped in it.
- * I trust myself to navigate unfamiliar waters.
- * I am ready for the next part of my journey.



Seven of Swords — What It Wants

The Seven of Swords wants strategy. It wants you to think before you act, use intelligence rather than brute force, and recognize that not every situation should be approached openly or directly. Sometimes the wisest course is to keep your plans to yourself, work behind the scenes, or find an unconventional way around an obstacle. You do not owe everyone an explanation of what you are doing. The Seven of Swords says, “Be clever. Be discreet. Make your move when the time is right.”

What Blocks the Seven of Swords

The Seven of Swords is blocked by dishonesty, self-deception, manipulation, and cleverness used without integrity. There is a fine line between being strategic and being deceptive. It is also blocked when secrecy becomes habitual —when you hide your intentions simply because you are afraid of confrontation or unwilling to take responsibility for your actions. Strategy should help you navigate a difficult situation, not become an excuse for avoiding honesty. Be clever, but make sure you can live with what you are doing.

Seven of Swords Affirmations

- * I think strategically before I act.
- * I know when to speak and when to keep my plans to myself.
- * I find intelligent solutions to difficult problems.
- * I use discretion without sacrificing integrity.
- * I recognize the difference between strategy and deception.
- * I trust myself to find another way.



Eight of Swords — What It Wants

The Eight of Swords wants a change in perception. It wants you to recognize that the situation may not be as hopeless as you believe it is. The restrictions are real, but they are not necessarily absolute. Fear, assumptions, and limiting beliefs can turn a difficult situation into an impossible one simply because we stop looking for alternatives. The Eight of Swords wants you to question the boundaries you have accepted and discover where you still have freedom to act. It says, “Look again. You are not as trapped as you think.”

What Blocks the Eight of Swords

The Eight of Swords is blocked by helplessness, fear, negative assumptions, and the belief that nothing can be done. It is especially powerful when we confuse “I don’t like my choices” with “I have no choices.” Sometimes every available option carries a cost, but that does not mean there are no options. The card is also blocked when we wait for someone else to rescue us rather than testing the limits of our confinement. Before accepting that you cannot move, make certain the ropes are really tied.

Eight of Swords Affirmations

- * I question the limitations I have accepted as absolute.
- * I am willing to look at my situation from a different perspective.
- * I recognize the choices that are still available to me.
- * Fear does not determine what is possible.
- * I have more freedom than I sometimes realize.
- * I can take the first step toward freeing myself.



Nine of Swords — What It Wants

The Nine of Swords wants perspective. It wants you to recognize the difference between what is actually happening and what your frightened mind is telling you might happen. Worry has a way of multiplying in darkness, turning possibilities into certainties and problems into catastrophes. The Nine of Swords asks you to bring those fears out into the light and examine them one by one. Some may require action; others may exist almost entirely in your imagination. The Nine of Swords says, “Stop fighting monsters in the dark. Turn on the light and see what is really there.”

What Blocks the Nine of Swords

The Nine of Swords is blocked by rumination, catastrophizing, guilt, and the endless repetition of frightening thoughts. The mind tries to protect us by anticipating every possible danger, but eventually that vigilance becomes its own source of suffering. We can become trapped in a loop in which fear produces frightening thoughts and frightening thoughts produce more fear. The way out is not necessarily to force yourself to “think positively.” It is to return to what you actually know, distinguish facts from fears, and deal with the real problem rather than all the imaginary ones surrounding it.

Nine of Swords Affirmations

- * I distinguish between what I know and what I fear.
- * I do not have to believe every frightening thought that enters my mind.
- * I bring my fears into the light and examine them clearly.
- * I release problems that exist only in my imagination.
- * I give my attention to what I can actually address.



Ten of Swords — What It Wants

The Ten of Swords wants an ending. It wants you to recognize that something is over and stop trying to revive it. The situation may have failed spectacularly, painfully, or completely—but there can be a strange freedom in reaching the point where there is nothing left to save. The Ten of Swords does not ask you to pretend the ending didn't hurt. It asks you to accept its finality so that you can begin again. The Ten of Swords says, "It's over. Stop fighting the ending. The sun is already coming up."

What Blocks the Ten of Swords

The Ten of Swords is blocked by refusing to let something end, repeatedly revisiting the disaster, or turning a painful experience into a permanent identity. Sometimes we keep ourselves pinned to the ground long after the battle is finished because we cannot stop asking how it happened, who was responsible, or how things might have been different. There is nothing wrong with learning from failure, but eventually analysis becomes attachment. You cannot begin the next chapter while insisting on rewriting the last one.

Ten of Swords Affirmations

- * I accept what has ended.
- * I release what cannot be restored.
- * I allow the past to remain in the past.
- * An ending does not define the rest of my life.
- * I take the wisdom of this experience with me and leave the pain behind.
- * The darkest part is over, and I am ready to begin again.



Page of Swords — What It Wants

The Page of Swords wants curiosity. It wants you to ask questions, gather information, explore new ideas, and look at familiar things from unfamiliar angles. This Page is mentally alert and fascinated by possibilities. He doesn't assume that he already knows the answer—he wants to investigate and find out. The Page of Swords says, "Pay attention. Ask questions. There is something here you haven't understood yet."

What Blocks the Page of Swords

The Page of Swords is blocked by closed-mindedness, premature conclusions, gossip, and information gathered without understanding. Curiosity can easily deteriorate into suspicion, and healthy questioning can become endless skepticism. This Page can also collect facts simply for the pleasure of collecting them without ever doing anything useful with what he learns. Intelligence needs direction. Keep asking questions, but remember that the purpose of inquiry is eventually to understand something.

Page of Swords Affirmations

- * I approach the world with curiosity and an open mind.
- * I ask questions before reaching conclusions.
- * I am willing to reconsider what I think I know.
- * I seek information that leads to greater understanding.
- * I use my intelligence thoughtfully and constructively.
- * There is always something new for me to discover.



Knight of Swords — What It Wants

The Knight of Swords wants decisive action. Once you know what is true and understand what needs to be done, he wants you to stop hesitating and move. This Knight has little patience for endless deliberation, second-guessing, or waiting for perfect conditions. He wants courage, commitment, and forward momentum. There are moments when thinking must give way to doing. The Knight of Swords says, “You know what needs to be done. Go do it.”

What Blocks the Knight of Swords

The Knight of Swords is blocked at one extreme by hesitation and at the other by recklessness. His tremendous forward momentum becomes destructive when speed replaces judgment. He can charge into situations without considering consequences, mistake certainty for correctness, or become so determined to reach his objective that he tramples everything in his path. Decisiveness is powerful, but it needs direction. Know where you are going before you put the horse into a gallop.

Knight of Swords Affirmations

- * I act decisively when the path is clear.
- * I trust myself to move forward with courage and confidence.
- * I balance speed with good judgment.
- * I direct my energy toward a clear purpose.
- * I do not confuse hesitation with caution or recklessness with courage.
- * Once I have made my decision, I move.



Queen of Swords — What It Wants

The Queen of Swords wants discernment. She wants you to see people and situations as they actually are rather than as you wish they were. She has lived long enough to know that compassion does not require gullibility and love does not require abandoning good judgment. She listens, observes, and reaches her own conclusions. She values truth, clear boundaries, and intellectual independence. The Queen of Swords says, “See clearly. Think for yourself. Trust what experience has taught you.”

What Blocks the Queen of Swords

The Queen of Swords is blocked by bitterness, cynicism, harsh judgment, and emotional detachment. Experience can produce wisdom, but it can also produce armor. After being disappointed enough times, discernment can become suspicion and healthy boundaries can become walls. She is equally blocked when you ignore your own judgment because you are afraid of appearing cold, selfish, or unkind. Wisdom requires both a clear mind and an open heart. You can understand someone’s behavior without allowing it into your life.

Queen of Swords Affirmations

- * I see people and situations clearly.
- * I trust the wisdom I have gained through experience.
- * I maintain healthy boundaries without closing my heart.
- * I can be compassionate without abandoning good judgment.
- * I think for myself and speak the truth with clarity.
- * I know what I know, and I trust myself to act accordingly.



King of Swords — What It Wants

The King of Swords wants mastery of the mind. He wants you to think clearly, reason carefully, and make decisions based on truth rather than fear, wishful thinking, or emotional reaction. Unlike the Ace, which brings the flash of insight, the King knows how to use that insight wisely. He weighs the evidence, considers the consequences, and then makes the decision. His authority comes from disciplined thought and sound judgment. The King of Swords says, “Know the facts. Understand the situation. Make the decision.”

What Blocks the King of Swords

The King of Swords is blocked by rigid thinking, intellectual arrogance, coldness, and the belief that being logical means ignoring everything that cannot be reduced to facts. Intelligence can become tyranny when we assume that our conclusions must be correct simply because they seem rational to us. He is also blocked when emotion overwhelms judgment and prevents us from seeing a situation objectively. The King does not ask you to eliminate emotion; he asks you not to surrender your judgment to it. The mind is a powerful ruler—but it must remain a wise one.

King of Swords Affirmations

- * I think clearly and make decisions based on what I know to be true.
- * I trust my ability to reason carefully and objectively.
- * I consider both facts and consequences before I act.
- * I remain open to changing my mind when new information appears.
- * I use intelligence with fairness, wisdom, and compassion.
- * I trust myself to make sound decisions.



Ace of Pentacles — What It Wants

The Ace of Pentacles wants material abundance. It wants you to recognize opportunities for prosperity, security, health, and physical well-being, and take practical steps to develop them. It represents the seed of abundance, reminding you that prosperity grows through patience, effort, and careful cultivation. The Ace of Pentacles says, “The opportunity is here. Plant the seed. Help it grow.”

What Blocks the Ace of Pentacles

The Ace of Pentacles is blocked by scarcity thinking, fear of failure, procrastination, and failure to recognize opportunities. It struggles when you dismiss possibilities as insignificant or expect immediate results without sustained effort. It is particularly blocked by the belief that prosperity is unavailable to you or that you are undeserving of material success.

Ace of Pentacles Affirmations

- * I recognize and welcome opportunities for prosperity.
- * I deserve material security and abundance.
- * I transform possibilities into tangible results.
- * I patiently nurture the seeds of success.
- * I take practical steps toward improving my circumstances.
- * I am open to receiving life's abundance.



Two of Pentacles — What It Wants

The Two of Pentacles wants balance and flexibility. It wants you to manage competing responsibilities, adapt to changing circumstances, and maintain your equilibrium amid life's demands. It asks you to recognize that balance is not a fixed condition but an ongoing process of adjustment. The Two of Pentacles says, "Stay flexible. Keep moving. Find your rhythm."

What Blocks the Two of Pentacles

The Two of Pentacles is blocked by rigidity, overwhelm, poor time management, and resistance to change. It struggles when you take on too many responsibilities, insist on controlling every detail, or become so focused on one area of life that you neglect others. Its energy is also blocked when you approach life's demands with anxiety rather than adaptability and a sense of humor.

Two of Pentacles Affirmations

- * I maintain balance amid life's changing demands.
- * I adapt easily to new circumstances.
- * I manage my responsibilities with confidence and flexibility.
- * I recognize when to act and when to rest.
- * I approach challenges with patience and good humor.
- * I move gracefully with the changing rhythms of life.



Three of Pentacles — What It Wants

The Three of Pentacles wants mastery through cooperation. It wants you to develop your skills, take pride in your work, and recognize the value of collaboration. It asks you to combine talent with discipline, learn from others, and create something of lasting value. The Three of Pentacles says, “Honor your abilities. Work together. Build something worthwhile.”

What Blocks the Three of Pentacles

The Three of Pentacles is blocked by lack of cooperation, unwillingness to learn, poor workmanship, and failure to appreciate the contributions of others. It struggles when pride prevents you from accepting guidance or when self-doubt causes you to undervalue your talents. Perfectionism, impatience, and unwillingness to practice can also interfere with the development of genuine mastery.

Three of Pentacles Affirmations

- * I take pride in developing my skills and abilities.
- * I welcome opportunities to learn and improve.
- * I recognize the value of cooperation and teamwork.
- * My talents make a meaningful contribution.
- * I approach my work with patience, care, and dedication.
- * I create lasting value through skill and purposeful effort.



Four of Pentacles — What It Wants

The Four of Pentacles wants security. It wants you to protect what you've earned, establish healthy boundaries, and build a stable foundation for the future. It asks you to manage your resources wisely, appreciate what you possess, and recognize the difference between responsible stewardship and fearful attachment. The Four of Pentacles says, "Protect what matters. Build stability. But don't let security become a prison."

What Blocks the Four of Pentacles

The Four of Pentacles is blocked by financial irresponsibility, weak boundaries, and failure to protect your resources. Its energy can also become distorted by greed, possessiveness, scarcity thinking, and excessive fear of loss. It struggles when the desire for security becomes so powerful that you resist change, generosity, or opportunities for growth.

Four of Pentacles Affirmations

- * I manage my resources with wisdom and care.
- * I create stability and security in my life.
- * I establish healthy boundaries that protect what matters.
- * I appreciate and preserve what I have earned.
- * I release fear and excessive attachment to possessions.
- * I enjoy security without sacrificing freedom or generosity.



Five of Pentacles — What It Wants

The Five of Pentacles wants hope in hardship. It wants you to recognize that difficulties, deprivation, and feelings of exclusion are temporary conditions, not definitions of who you are. It asks you to acknowledge your struggles without surrendering to despair and to recognize that help, resources, and opportunities may be closer than you realize. The Five of Pentacles says, “You are not abandoned. Look for the open door. Help is available.”

What Blocks the Five of Pentacles

The Five of Pentacles is blocked by hopelessness, isolation, shame, and the belief that suffering is permanent. It struggles when pride prevents you from accepting assistance or when feelings of unworthiness convince you that you don’t deserve support. Scarcity thinking and focusing exclusively on what is missing can blind you to opportunities for recovery.

Five of Pentacles Affirmations

- * I recognize hope and possibility even in difficult times.
- * I am worthy of help, support, and abundance.
- * I release the belief that hardship defines my future.
- * I am willing to seek and accept assistance.
- * I recognize opportunities that can improve my circumstances.
- * I trust in my ability to move beyond adversity.



Six of Pentacles — What It Wants

The Six of Pentacles wants generosity and reciprocity. It wants you to recognize that abundance is meant to circulate through giving and receiving. It asks you to share your resources when you can, accept assistance when you need it, and cultivate relationships based on fairness and mutual support. The Six of Pentacles says, “Give with an open heart. Receive with gratitude. Let abundance flow.”

What Blocks the Six of Pentacles

The Six of Pentacles is blocked by greed, selfishness, pride, and an unwillingness to accept help. It struggles when generosity becomes a means of control or when giving and receiving create unhealthy obligations. Feelings of unworthiness, fear of scarcity, and the belief that receiving assistance is a sign of weakness can also obstruct its energy.

Six of Pentacles Affirmations

- * I give generously when I have the means to do so.
- * I receive assistance with gratitude and without shame.
- * I deserve fairness, kindness, and mutual support.
- * I allow abundance to circulate freely in my life.
- * I share my resources with wisdom and compassion.
- * I welcome balanced and reciprocal relationships.



Seven of Pentacles — What It Wants

The Seven of Pentacles wants patience and perseverance. It wants you to recognize that meaningful accomplishments require time, effort, and sustained attention. It asks you to pause, evaluate your progress, and determine whether your efforts are producing the results you desire. The Seven of Pentacles reminds you that growth cannot be rushed, but neither should you continue investing in something that no longer serves you. It says, “Be patient. Assess your progress. Give what you’ve planted time to grow.”

What Blocks the Seven of Pentacles

The Seven of Pentacles is blocked by impatience, discouragement, unrealistic expectations, and the desire for immediate rewards. It struggles when you abandon worthwhile projects before they mature or continue investing effort without evaluating the results. Fear that your work will never pay off can undermine the persistence necessary for success.

Seven of Pentacles Affirmations

- * I trust the value of patience and consistent effort.
- * I allow my projects the time they need to mature.
- * I recognize and appreciate the progress I’ve made.
- * I evaluate my efforts with honesty and wisdom.
- * I remain committed to goals that deserve my energy.
- * I trust that worthwhile investments can bear fruit in time.



Eight of Pentacles — What It Wants

The Eight of Pentacles wants mastery through practice. It wants you to dedicate yourself to meaningful work, develop your skills, and take satisfaction in doing something well. It asks you to recognize that excellence is achieved through patience, repetition, and attention to detail. The Eight of Pentacles says, “Practice your craft. Honor the process. Let your work become your mastery.”

What Blocks the Eight of Pentacles

The Eight of Pentacles is blocked by laziness, distraction, impatience, and unwillingness to develop your abilities. It struggles when you expect excellence without practice or become discouraged by slow progress. Perfectionism can also obstruct its energy when fear of making mistakes prevents you from learning. Excessive work without rest can turn dedication into joyless drudgery.

Eight of Pentacles Affirmations

- * I develop my abilities through consistent practice.
- * I take pride in the quality of my work.
- * I approach each task with patience and attention.
- * I welcome mistakes as opportunities to learn.
- * My skills improve with every effort I make.
- * I find satisfaction and purpose in meaningful work.



Nine of Pentacles — What It Wants

The Nine of Pentacles wants independence and fulfillment. It wants you to enjoy the rewards of your efforts, appreciate your accomplishments, and take pleasure in the life you've created. It asks you to cultivate self-sufficiency, recognize your own worth, and embrace beauty, comfort, and abundance without guilt. The Nine of Pentacles says, "You've earned your place in the sun. Enjoy what you've created."

What Blocks the Nine of Pentacles

The Nine of Pentacles is blocked by feelings of unworthiness, financial dependence, lack of self-confidence, and the inability to enjoy success. It struggles when you measure your worth through the approval of others or believe that pleasure must always be postponed. Excessive self-reliance can also become an obstacle when independence turns into isolation.

Nine of Pentacles Affirmations

- * I deserve to enjoy the rewards of my efforts.
- * I celebrate my accomplishments with gratitude.
- * I am capable of creating security and independence.
- * I welcome beauty, comfort, and abundance into my life.
- * My worth does not depend on the approval of others.
- * I give myself permission to enjoy the life I am creating.



Ten of Pentacles — What It Wants

The Ten of Pentacles wants lasting prosperity. It wants you to build a secure and abundant life that provides stability not only for yourself but for those who come after you. It asks you to appreciate your accomplishments, honor your connections with family and community, and recognize the value of creating something that endures. The Ten of Pentacles says, “Build a life of abundance. Enjoy its blessings. Leave something of value behind.”

What Blocks the Ten of Pentacles

The Ten of Pentacles is blocked by instability, short-term thinking, financial irresponsibility, and neglect of long-term goals. It struggles when family conflicts, rigid traditions, or inherited beliefs interfere with your well-being. It can also be blocked by defining success exclusively through money and possessions rather than recognizing the importance of love, belonging, and shared prosperity.

Ten of Pentacles Affirmations

- * I create lasting security and abundance in my life.
- * I appreciate the prosperity I have already achieved.
- * I build a foundation that supports my future.
- * I honor the relationships and traditions that enrich my life.
- * I recognize that true wealth includes love and belonging.
- * I create something meaningful that will endure beyond me.



Page of Pentacles — What It Wants

The Page of Pentacles wants opportunity and learning. It wants you to approach the material world with curiosity, enthusiasm, and a willingness to develop new skills. It asks you to recognize practical possibilities, pursue education, and turn promising ideas into achievable goals. The Page of Pentacles says, “Stay curious. Learn something new. Turn your potential into something real.”

What Blocks the Page of Pentacles

The Page of Pentacles is blocked by procrastination, lack of focus, impatience, and unwillingness to learn. It struggles when you dismiss opportunities because they require effort or when fear of inexperience prevents you from beginning. Unrealistic expectations and the desire for immediate rewards can also interfere with its patient, practical approach to growth.

Page of Pentacles Affirmations

- * I welcome opportunities to learn and grow.
- * I approach new experiences with curiosity and enthusiasm.
- * I am capable of developing valuable skills.
- * I recognize practical opportunities for prosperity.
- * I turn promising ideas into achievable goals.
- * I invest in myself and my future with confidence.



Knight of Pentacles — What It Wants

The Knight of Pentacles wants steady progress. He wants you to approach your goals with patience, discipline, and unwavering determination. He asks you to honor your commitments, attend to practical details, and recognize that lasting success is built through consistent effort rather than dramatic gestures. The Knight of Pentacles says, “Stay the course. Do the work. Every step brings you closer.”

What Blocks the Knight of Pentacles

The Knight of Pentacles is blocked by impatience, inconsistency, procrastination, and lack of discipline. He struggles when you abandon responsibilities or chase exciting new possibilities instead of completing what you’ve begun. His energy can also become distorted through excessive caution, stubbornness, and rigid routines that prevent growth or necessary change.

Knight of Pentacles Affirmations

- * I make steady progress toward my goals.
- * I honor my commitments and responsibilities.
- * I approach my work with patience and determination.
- * I recognize the value of consistent effort.
- * I remain dependable while adapting to change.
- * I trust that persistence creates lasting success.



Queen of Pentacles — What It Wants

The Queen of Pentacles wants nurturing abundance. She wants you to create a life of comfort, security, and well-being while caring for yourself and those you love. She asks you to combine practical wisdom with generosity, appreciate the pleasures of the physical world, and recognize that prosperity is most meaningful when it supports a fulfilling life. The Queen of Pentacles says, “Nurture yourself. Care for what matters. Let abundance become a source of joy.”

What Blocks the Queen of Pentacles

The Queen of Pentacles is blocked by self-neglect, financial insecurity, poor boundaries, and feelings of unworthiness. She struggles when you devote so much energy to caring for others that your own needs go unmet. Excessive materialism, anxiety about money, and the belief that security requires constant sacrifice can also interfere with her nurturing energy.

Queen of Pentacles Affirmations

- * I create comfort, security, and abundance in my life.
- * I nurture myself with kindness and practical care.
- * I deserve to enjoy the pleasures of the physical world.
- * I manage my resources with wisdom and generosity.
- * I balance caring for others with honoring my own needs.
- * I welcome prosperity that supports my happiness and well-being.



King of Pentacles — What It Wants

The King of Pentacles wants prosperity and mastery. He wants you to take command of your material circumstances, build lasting wealth, and enjoy the rewards of your accomplishments. He asks you to combine ambition with practical wisdom, manage your resources responsibly, and use your success to create security for yourself and others. The King of Pentacles says, “Master your resources. Build lasting prosperity. Enjoy the abundance you’ve created.”

What Blocks the King of Pentacles

The King of Pentacles is blocked by financial irresponsibility, poor judgment, lack of discipline, and fear of success. He struggles when you underestimate your abilities or fail to manage your resources wisely. His energy can also become distorted through greed, materialism, excessive caution, and the belief that personal worth is measured exclusively by wealth or status.

King of Pentacles Affirmations

- * I create prosperity through wisdom and purposeful action.
- * I manage my resources with confidence and responsibility.
- * I deserve financial security and material abundance.
- * I recognize and appreciate the rewards of my efforts.
- * I use my prosperity to enrich my life and benefit others.
- * I am capable of building lasting success and stability.



The Fool — What It Wants

The Fool wants freedom. It wants you to step beyond the boundaries of the familiar and embrace life as an adventure. It asks you to trust your instincts, release your expectations, and approach the unknown with curiosity, innocence, and an open heart. The Fool doesn't demand guarantees, elaborate plans, or even a destination. It wants you to rediscover the joy of possibility and the courage to begin something entirely new. The Fool says, "Trust life. Take the leap. The adventure is waiting."

What Blocks the Fool

The Fool is blocked by fear of the unknown, excessive caution, rigid expectations, and the need to control outcomes. It struggles when past disappointments convince you that the world is dangerous or that taking risks is foolish. Cynicism, self-doubt, and the belief that you must have everything figured out before beginning can prevent its energy from flowing. The Fool is also blocked when responsibility becomes an excuse for never allowing yourself to experience freedom, spontaneity, or joy.

The Fool Affirmations

- * I trust myself to navigate the unknown.
- * I release the need to control every outcome.
- * I approach life with curiosity, wonder, and an open heart.
- * I give myself permission to explore new possibilities.
- * I am free to begin again, regardless of my past.
- * I embrace uncertainty as an invitation to adventure.



The Magician — What It Wants

The Magician wants manifestation. It wants you to recognize your personal power and use your talents, knowledge, and resources to transform ideas into reality. It asks you to focus your intention, believe in your abilities, and take deliberate action to create the life you desire. The Magician knows that you already possess many of the tools you need. It wants you to stop waiting for outside circumstances to change and begin consciously shaping your own experience. The Magician says, “You have the power. Use it.”

What Blocks the Magician

The Magician is blocked by self-doubt, scattered attention, indecision, and the belief that you are powerless to influence your circumstances. It struggles when you underestimate your abilities, fail to recognize available resources, or allow your energy to become fragmented among competing desires. It can also be blocked by the misuse of personal power—manipulation, dishonesty, or attempting to control others rather than mastering yourself. The Magician’s energy flows most freely when intention, belief, and action work together.

The Magician Affirmations

- * I possess the power to shape my own experience.
- * I focus my thoughts, intentions, and actions toward my goals.
- * I recognize and use the talents and resources available to me.
- * I transform inspiration into meaningful action.
- * I trust my ability to create positive change.
- * My will, imagination, and actions work together in harmony.



The High Priestess — What It Wants

The High Priestess wants inner knowing. She wants you to turn away from the noise of the external world and listen to the quiet wisdom within. She asks you to trust your intuition, explore your dreams, and become receptive to the messages of your unconscious mind. Unlike the Magician, who seeks to influence the world through conscious action, the High Priestess seeks understanding through stillness and receptivity. She wants you to recognize that not everything can be understood through logic or forced into awareness. The High Priestess says, “Be still. Listen. The answers are already within you.”

What Blocks the High Priestess

The High Priestess is blocked by constant activity, mental chatter, emotional turmoil, and excessive reliance on rational analysis. She struggles when you dismiss your intuition, ignore your dreams, or seek external validation for truths you already sense within yourself. Fear of confronting hidden feelings or unconscious material can also prevent her wisdom from emerging. Her energy is blocked when you demand immediate answers rather than allowing understanding to unfold in its own time.

The High Priestess Affirmations

- * I trust the quiet wisdom of my inner knowing.
- * I make time for stillness, reflection, and contemplation.
- * I listen to my intuition and honor its guidance.
- * I am receptive to the wisdom of my dreams and unconscious mind.
- * I allow understanding to emerge naturally, without forcing answers.
- * I trust that what is hidden will be revealed when I am ready.



The Empress — What It Wants

The Empress wants abundance. She wants you to embrace the richness of life, nurture what you love, and allow your creativity to flourish. She asks you to connect with nature, enjoy the pleasures of the physical world, and recognize that you deserve love, beauty, comfort, and happiness. The Empress is the energy of fertility and growth, whether expressed through relationships, artistic creation, or the cultivation of a fulfilling life. She wants you to receive as generously as you give and to recognize that abundance grows through appreciation and care. The Empress says, “Nurture what you love. Allow yourself to flourish.”

What Blocks the Empress

The Empress is blocked by feelings of unworthiness, self-neglect, creative repression, and the belief that pleasure must be earned through suffering or sacrifice. She struggles when you give so much to others that you have nothing left for yourself, or when fear and scarcity prevent you from enjoying what you already possess. Perfectionism can inhibit her creative energy, while excessive control can stifle the natural processes of growth. The Empress is also blocked when you disconnect from your body, your senses, or the nurturing rhythms of nature.

The Empress Affirmations

- * I deserve love, beauty, pleasure, and abundance.
- * I nurture myself as lovingly as I nurture others.
- * My creativity flows naturally and joyfully.
- * I welcome growth, prosperity, and fulfillment into my life
- * I appreciate the beauty and abundance that already surround me.



The Emperor — What It Wants

The Emperor wants order. He wants you to take command of your life, establish a solid foundation, and create the structures necessary to achieve your goals. He asks you to exercise self-discipline, accept responsibility, establish healthy boundaries, and turn your intentions into lasting accomplishments. Where the Empress nurtures growth, the Emperor provides the stability and protection that allow it to flourish. He wants you to become the conscious authority in your own life rather than surrendering your power to circumstances or other people. The Emperor says, “Stand firm. Take responsibility. Build something that lasts.”

What Blocks the Emperor

The Emperor is blocked by disorder, indecision, lack of discipline, weak boundaries, and an unwillingness to accept responsibility. He struggles when you allow circumstances or other people to dictate the direction of your life. However, his energy can also become distorted through excessive control, rigidity, authoritarianism, and the belief that everything must conform to your will. Fear of losing control can turn healthy structure into a prison. The Emperor functions best when strength is balanced with wisdom, flexibility, and respect for others.

The Emperor Affirmations

- * I am the conscious authority in my own life.
- * I create order, stability, and structure that support my goals.
- * I establish healthy boundaries and honor my responsibilities.
- * I have the discipline and determination to accomplish what matters.
- * I exercise my personal power with wisdom and fairness
- * I build a secure foundation for lasting success.



The Hierophant — What It Wants

The Hierophant wants wisdom. He wants you to seek understanding through study, tradition, spiritual teachings, and the accumulated knowledge of those who have traveled the path before you. He asks you to recognize the value of guidance, mentorship, and belonging to something greater than yourself. The Hierophant represents the transmission of wisdom from one generation to the next and the transformation of knowledge into meaningful principles for living. He wants you to discover what you believe, understand why you believe it, and live in accordance with those convictions. The Hierophant says, “Seek wisdom. Honor what is true. Let your beliefs guide your life.”

What Blocks the Hierophant

The Hierophant is blocked by closed-mindedness, unwillingness to learn, rejection of guidance, and the belief that you must discover everything for yourself. His energy can also be distorted by blind obedience, rigid dogma, conformity, and surrendering your judgment to external authorities. He struggles when tradition becomes more important than truth or when inherited beliefs prevent personal growth. The Hierophant functions best when respect for established wisdom is balanced with independent thought and genuine spiritual understanding.

The Hierophant Affirmations

- * I am open to wisdom from teachers, traditions, and experience.
- * I seek understanding rather than blindly accepting beliefs.
- * I honor the wisdom of the past while remaining open to new insights.
- * My values and convictions provide meaningful guidance.
- * I trust myself to recognize teachings that resonate with my inner truth.



The Lovers — What It Wants

The Lovers want union. They want you to open your heart to love, intimacy, and meaningful connection while remaining true to yourself. They ask you to recognize the power of relationships to reveal who you are and what you value. Beyond romantic love, the Lovers represent the integration of opposing forces within yourself and the conscious choices that bring your life into harmony with your deepest convictions. They want you to choose from love rather than fear and to recognize that genuine union requires both openness and authenticity. The Lovers say, “Open your heart. Choose what you love. Become whole.”

What Blocks the Lovers

The Lovers are blocked by fear of intimacy, emotional defensiveness, mistrust, and the belief that love requires sacrificing your individuality. They struggle when you make choices to gain approval, avoid rejection, or satisfy the expectations of others rather than honoring your own values. Inner conflict, unresolved emotional wounds, and the inability to reconcile opposing desires can also obstruct their energy. The Lovers are particularly blocked when fear replaces love as the guiding principle of your decisions.

The Lovers Affirmations

- * I open my heart to love and meaningful connection.
- * I honor my individuality while embracing intimacy with others.
- * I make choices that reflect my deepest values.
- * I welcome harmony between the different parts of myself.
- * I choose love over fear whenever possible.
- * I am worthy of relationships built on honesty, respect, and mutual affection.



The Chariot — What It Wants

The Chariot wants mastery. It wants you to take control of your direction, harness conflicting impulses, and move forward with determination and purpose. It asks you to bring your thoughts, emotions, desires, and actions into alignment so that your energy carries you toward your chosen destination. The Chariot recognizes that opposing forces need not be eliminated; they must be understood and directed toward a common goal. It wants you to overcome obstacles through self-discipline, confidence, and focused intention. The Chariot says, “Take the reins. Unite your forces. Move forward with purpose.”

What Blocks the Chariot

The Chariot is blocked by indecision, conflicting desires, lack of direction, and allowing emotions or external circumstances to dictate your actions. It struggles when your energy is scattered among competing goals or when fear of failure prevents you from committing to a course of action. Excessive aggression, impatience, and the need to control everything can also distort its energy. The Chariot succeeds through inner mastery, not brute force. Its greatest obstacle is often the inability to bring opposing parts of yourself into cooperation.

The Chariot Affirmations

- * I direct my life with confidence, clarity, and purpose.
- * I bring my thoughts, emotions, and actions into alignment.
- * I have the determination to overcome obstacles.
- * I transform conflicting impulses into focused energy.
- * I remain centered and disciplined as I pursue my goals.
- * I move forward with courage, self-mastery, and unwavering intention.



Strength — What It Wants

Strength wants gentle mastery. It wants you to recognize that true power comes not from force or domination, but from patience, compassion, courage, and inner harmony. It asks you to embrace your instinctive nature rather than suppress it, transforming fear, anger, and powerful emotions into sources of wisdom and vitality. Strength represents the ability to remain calm in the presence of difficulty and to influence through love rather than coercion. It wants you to trust your natural resilience and discover the extraordinary power of gentleness. Strength says, “You do not need to conquer yourself. You need to understand and embrace yourself.”

What Blocks Strength

Strength is blocked by fear, self-doubt, impatience, emotional repression, and the belief that power must be exercised through force. It struggles when you regard your instincts, desires, or emotions as enemies that must be defeated. Harsh self-judgment, shame, and attempts to control yourself through punishment can weaken its energy. Strength is also blocked when you mistake gentleness for weakness or allow fear to dictate your behavior. I

Strength Affirmations

- * I meet life's challenges with courage, patience, and compassion.
- * I embrace my instincts and emotions as natural parts of myself.
- * My gentleness is a source of strength, not weakness.
- * I transform fear and anger through understanding rather than force.
- * I trust my inner resilience and natural wisdom.
- * I am powerful when I am at peace with myself.



The Hermit — What It Wants

The Hermit wants illumination. He wants you to withdraw from the distractions and expectations of the outside world long enough to discover your own truth. He asks you to embrace solitude, contemplation, and self-examination as pathways to wisdom. The Hermit recognizes that some answers cannot be found through external guidance or constant activity; they must be discovered through personal experience and inner reflection. He wants you to become your own source of guidance, carrying the light of understanding into the darkness of uncertainty. The Hermit says, “Be still. Look within. Find your own light.”

What Blocks the Hermit

The Hermit is blocked by constant busyness, fear of solitude, dependence on external approval, and unwillingness to confront uncomfortable truths about yourself. He struggles when you fill every quiet moment with distractions or allow the opinions of others to drown out your inner voice. His energy can also become distorted through excessive isolation, withdrawal from meaningful relationships, or using solitude to avoid life’s responsibilities. The Hermit seeks wisdom through temporary withdrawal, not permanent separation from the world.

The Hermit Affirmations

- * I welcome solitude as an opportunity for self-discovery.
- * I trust my ability to find wisdom within myself.
- * I make time for silence, reflection, and contemplation.
- * I release the need for constant external approval.
- * My inner light guides me through uncertainty.
- * I return from solitude with greater clarity, wisdom, and understanding.



Wheel of Fortune — What It Wants

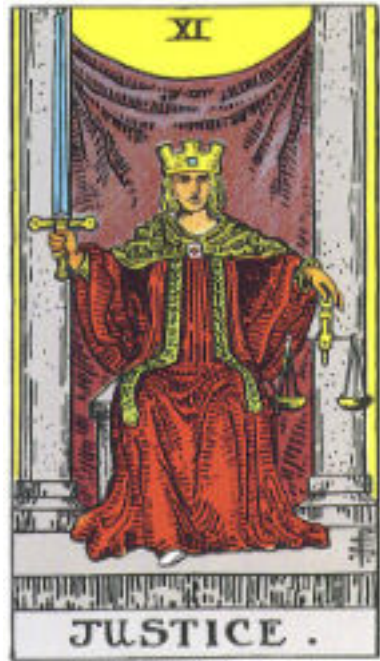
The Wheel of Fortune wants acceptance of change. It wants you to recognize that life moves in cycles and that nothing remains fixed forever. It asks you to release your attachment to particular outcomes, remain adaptable, and trust your ability to navigate the changing circumstances of life. The Wheel reminds you that opportunities often arise unexpectedly and that apparent setbacks may become turning points toward something better. It wants you to recognize the patterns and synchronicities that shape your experience and learn to cooperate with the natural flow of events. The Wheel of Fortune says, “Life is moving. Move with it. Be ready when opportunity appears.”

What Blocks the Wheel of Fortune

The Wheel of Fortune is blocked by resistance to change, fear of uncertainty, attachment to the past, and the need to control circumstances beyond your influence. It struggles when you cling to situations whose time has passed or interpret every unexpected development as a threat. Fatalism can also distort its energy by convincing you that you are powerless to influence your destiny. The Wheel asks neither for passive resignation nor frantic attempts at control, but for the wisdom to recognize when to act, when to adapt, and when to allow events to unfold.

Wheel of Fortune Affirmations

- * I welcome change as a natural part of life's unfolding.
- * I trust my ability to adapt to new circumstances.
- * I recognize opportunities hidden within unexpected events.
- * I release what has passed and remain open to what is coming.
- * I cooperate with the natural rhythms and cycles of life



Justice — What It Wants

Justice wants truth and balance. It wants you to examine your circumstances honestly, accept responsibility for your choices, and act with fairness and integrity. It asks you to recognize that actions have consequences and that lasting harmony requires accountability. Justice wants you to set aside personal biases, see situations as they truly are, and make decisions guided by wisdom rather than emotion. Justice says, “Seek the truth. Act with integrity. Accept the consequences of your choices.”

What Blocks Justice

Justice is blocked by dishonesty, denial, prejudice, and unwillingness to accept responsibility. It struggles when you rationalize your behavior, blame others for your choices, or allow emotions and personal preferences to distort your judgment. Excessive self-criticism and rigid moral judgments can also interfere with its energy. Justice requires honesty tempered by compassion, not punishment or perfectionism.

Justice Affirmations

- * I seek truth and understanding in every situation.
- * I accept responsibility for my choices and actions.
- * I make decisions with fairness, wisdom, and integrity.
- * I recognize that my actions shape my circumstances.
- * I release prejudice and examine situations objectively.
- * I treat myself and others with honesty and compassion.



The Hanged Man — What It Wants

The Hanged Man wants surrender. He wants you to release the need for control, suspend your usual ways of thinking, and see life from a different perspective. He asks you to embrace stillness, accept temporary delays, and recognize that insight often emerges when you stop struggling to make things happen. The Hanged Man says, “Let go. See things differently. Allow wisdom to emerge.”

What Blocks the Hanged Man

The Hanged Man is blocked by impatience, resistance, rigid thinking, and the need to control outcomes. He struggles when you insist on forcing progress or cling to beliefs and expectations that no longer serve you. Fear of uncertainty and the belief that inactivity is failure can prevent the transformation of perspective that he seeks. His energy is also blocked when surrender is confused with helplessness or defeat.

The Hanged Man Affirmations

- * I release the need to control every outcome.
- * I welcome new perspectives and deeper understanding.
- * I trust the wisdom that emerges through stillness.
- * I allow life to unfold without forcing immediate results.
- * I recognize that surrender can be an act of strength.
- * I embrace pauses as opportunities for insight and growth.



Death — What It Wants

Death wants transformation. It wants you to release what has outlived its purpose and make room for something new. It asks you to accept endings as a natural part of life, surrender outdated identities, beliefs, and attachments, and recognize that renewal often requires letting go. Death reminds you that nothing can remain unchanged forever. It says, “Release what is finished. Allow the old to fall away. Make room for rebirth.”

What Blocks Death

Death is blocked by fear of change, attachment to the past, denial, and resistance to necessary endings. It struggles when you cling to relationships, circumstances, or beliefs that no longer support your growth. Fear of uncertainty and the desire to preserve what is familiar can prevent new possibilities from emerging. Death’s energy is blocked when you mistake letting go for failure rather than recognizing it as a natural process of transformation.

Death Affirmations

- * I release what no longer serves my growth.
- * I accept endings as natural parts of life’s journey.
- * I welcome transformation and new beginnings.
- * I let go of the past with courage and gratitude.
- * I trust my ability to adapt, renew, and begin again.
- * I make room for new possibilities by releasing the old.



Temperance — What It Wants

Temperance wants harmony. It wants you to bring opposing forces into balance, practice moderation, and create something greater through their integration. It asks you to combine patience with purposeful action, blend reason with emotion, and find the middle path between extremes. Temperance reminds you that transformation often occurs through gentle adjustment rather than dramatic change. It says, “Find your balance. Blend what seems opposed. Allow harmony to emerge.”

What Blocks Temperance

Temperance is blocked by extremes, impatience, emotional imbalance, and rigid thinking. It struggles when you approach life with an all-or-nothing attitude or attempt to force solutions rather than allowing them to develop naturally. Excessive self-control, indulgence, and an unwillingness to compromise can also interfere with its energy. Temperance requires flexibility, patience, and the willingness to reconcile differences.

Temperance Affirmations

- * I create harmony between the different aspects of my life.
- * I practice moderation, patience, and self-awareness.
- * I balance reason and emotion with wisdom.
- * I welcome cooperation and reconciliation.
- * I allow transformation to unfold at its natural pace.
- * I find strength and peace through inner balance.



The Devil — What It Wants

The Devil wants liberation through awareness. It wants you to recognize the fears, desires, attachments, and unconscious patterns that limit your freedom. It asks you to confront your shadow, acknowledge your instinctive nature, and recognize where you have surrendered your power to habits, beliefs, or external influences. The Devil reminds you that many of your chains are maintained by your own unconscious participation. It says, "Recognize your chains. Reclaim your power. Choose freedom."

What Blocks the Devil

The Devil is blocked by denial, shame, self-deception, and unwillingness to confront uncomfortable truths. It struggles when you repress your desires, blame others for your circumstances, or refuse to acknowledge destructive patterns. Its energy is also distorted by obsession, addiction, compulsive behavior, and the belief that you are powerless to change. Liberation begins with honest awareness rather than judgment or repression.

The Devil Affirmations

- * I recognize the patterns and attachments that limit my freedom.
- * I face my shadow with courage and compassion.
- * I reclaim responsibility for my choices and actions.
- * I release beliefs and habits that no longer serve me.
- * I accept my instinctive nature without allowing it to control me.
- * I possess the power to free myself from unnecessary limitations.



The Tower — What It Wants

The Tower wants liberation through disruption. It wants you to recognize and release the false beliefs, illusions, and unstable structures that prevent genuine growth. It asks you to confront uncomfortable truths, abandon what can no longer be sustained, and recognize that sudden change can create opportunities for freedom and renewal. The Tower says, “Let what is false fall away. Face the truth. Build something real.”

What Blocks the Tower

The Tower is blocked by denial, resistance to change, attachment to false security, and fear of losing control. It struggles when you cling to beliefs or circumstances that are no longer sustainable. Attempts to preserve appearances, avoid uncomfortable truths, or rebuild the same dysfunctional structures can prevent the liberation it seeks.

The Tower Affirmations

- * I have the courage to face uncomfortable truths.
- * I release beliefs and structures that no longer serve me.
- * I recognize that disruption can create opportunities for growth.
- * I remain resilient when unexpected changes occur.
- * I trust my ability to rebuild on a stronger foundation.
- * I welcome the freedom that comes from living authentically.



The Star — What It Wants

The Star wants hope and renewal. It wants you to restore your faith in life, trust in the future, and reconnect with your deepest aspirations. It asks you to release the wounds of the past, embrace your authentic self, and recognize that healing often begins with renewed hope. The Star reminds you that even after profound upheaval, peace, inspiration, and possibility remain. It says, “Have faith. Allow yourself to heal. Trust that brighter days are coming.”

What Blocks the Star

The Star is blocked by despair, cynicism, self-doubt, and loss of faith in the future. It struggles when past disappointments convince you that happiness is unattainable or that your dreams are unrealistic. Emotional exhaustion, feelings of unworthiness, and an inability to recognize life’s possibilities can also prevent its healing energy from flowing.

The Star Affirmations

- * I welcome hope, healing, and renewal into my life.
- * I trust that brighter possibilities lie ahead.
- * I release the disappointments and wounds of the past.
- * I believe in my dreams and aspirations.
- * I allow myself to experience peace, inspiration, and joy.
- * I trust in life’s capacity for renewal and transformation.



The Moon — What It Wants

The Moon wants exploration of the unconscious. It wants you to venture beyond the familiar world of logic and certainty into the mysterious realm of dreams, instincts, emotions, and intuition. It asks you to confront hidden fears, recognize illusions, and become aware of the unconscious forces influencing your perceptions. The Moon says, “Enter the mystery. Face your fears. Discover what lies beneath the surface.”

What Blocks the Moon

The Moon is blocked by denial, emotional repression, fear of the unknown, and excessive reliance on rational thinking. It struggles when you ignore your dreams, suppress uncomfortable feelings, or refuse to acknowledge unconscious influences. Its energy can also become distorted when anxiety, fantasy, or unfounded suspicions are mistaken for intuition. The Moon requires openness to mystery without abandoning discernment.

The Moon Affirmations

- * I explore my inner world with courage and curiosity.
- * I acknowledge my fears without allowing them to control me.
- * I welcome the wisdom of my dreams and unconscious mind.
- * I distinguish genuine intuition from fear and illusion.
- * I trust myself to navigate periods of uncertainty.
- * I allow hidden truths to emerge into conscious awareness.



The Sun — What It Wants

The Sun wants joy and authentic self-expression. It wants you to embrace life with innocence, confidence, and enthusiasm, allowing your true nature to shine without fear or self-consciousness. It asks you to celebrate your existence, recognize your inherent worth, and rediscover the spontaneous happiness of your inner child. The Sun says, “Be yourself. Celebrate life. Let your light shine.”

What Blocks the Sun

The Sun is blocked by shame, self-doubt, pessimism, and the belief that happiness must be earned or justified. It struggles when you suppress your natural enthusiasm, seek approval from others, or allow past disappointments to diminish your joy. Excessive self-consciousness and fear of being seen can also prevent its radiant energy from flowing freely.

The Sun Affirmations

- * I embrace life with joy, confidence, and enthusiasm.
- * I allow my authentic self to shine freely.
- * I deserve happiness simply because I exist.
- * I celebrate my uniqueness and natural gifts.
- * I welcome innocence, playfulness, and spontaneity.
- * I radiate warmth, joy, and positive energy.



Judgement — What It Wants

Judgement wants awakening. It wants you to recognize your true nature, release the limitations of your past, and answer the call to a more authentic life. It asks you to examine your experiences with honesty, forgive yourself and others, and recognize that you are ready for a new stage of growth. Judgement represents the moment when old identities fall away and a deeper sense of purpose emerges. It says, “Awaken to who you truly are. Release the past. Answer your calling.”

What Blocks Judgement

Judgement is blocked by guilt, shame, self-condemnation, and fear of change. It struggles when you remain imprisoned by past mistakes or allow the judgments of others to define your identity. Denial, unwillingness to forgive, and resistance to recognizing your deeper purpose can also prevent its awakening energy from emerging.

Judgement Affirmations

- * I release the judgments and limitations of my past.
- * I forgive myself and embrace the possibility of renewal.
- * I recognize and honor my authentic nature.
- * I am ready to answer the call of my higher purpose.
- * I welcome transformation and spiritual awakening.
- * I step forward into a new chapter of my life with confidence.



The World — What It Wants

The World wants wholeness and fulfillment. It wants you to recognize how far you've come, celebrate your accomplishments, and embrace the integration of everything you've learned and experienced. It asks you to accept yourself as a complete being, honor the journey that brought you here, and recognize that every ending contains the possibility of a new beginning. The World says, "You have arrived. Celebrate your journey. Embrace your wholeness."

What Blocks the World

The World is blocked by feelings of incompleteness, self-doubt, perfectionism, and the inability to recognize your accomplishments. It struggles when you continually move the finish line, refuse to celebrate your successes, or believe that something essential is always missing. Fear of endings and attachment to unfinished business can also prevent the satisfaction and closure that the World seeks.

The World Affirmations

- * I recognize and celebrate my accomplishments.
- * I embrace myself as a whole and complete being.
- * I honor the experiences that have shaped my journey.
- * I allow myself to experience fulfillment and satisfaction.
- * I release the need for perfection and appreciate what I have achieved.
- * I welcome new beginnings with gratitude for all that has come before.

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The author also maintains an extensive blog on the Tarot at Just-the-Tarot.com. The site has been on-line for nearly 10 years and contains detailed discussions of Tarot cards, Tarot history, Tarot symbolism, and a free on-line course for Tarot beginners.

In addition he is an artist who has a wonderful selection of Tarot themed posters available on Etsy in his [Tarot art section](#).