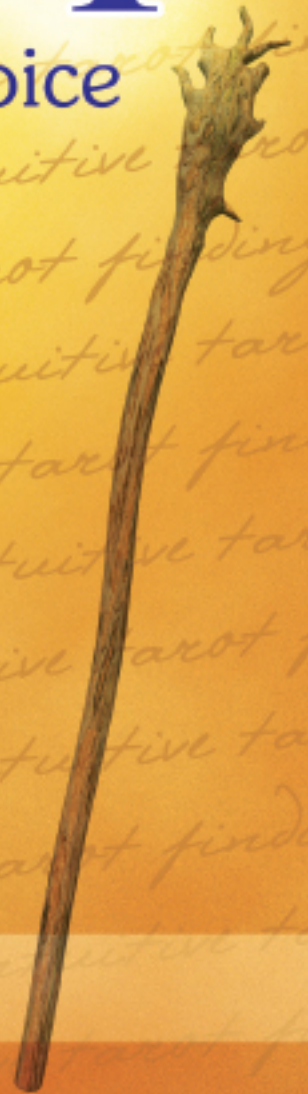




INTUITIVE

# TAROT

Finding Your Inner Voice



Gina Rabbin

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Gina Rabbin

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# Introduction

In the spring of 1987, I entered a small store on Union Street in the Cow Hollow district of San Francisco, and left holding a shopping bag containing the Morgan-Greer Tarot deck. I had never owned a tarot deck before and I knew nothing about the cards. The deck was purchased at the suggestion of my oldest brother, although to this day neither of us can remember why he had done so. Little was I to know, on that day 24 years ago, that my life would never be the same. Learning tarot became my obsession and my passion.

I had no idea how the tarot cards worked. I had no concept of how these cards could uncover blocks and patterns and behaviors in my subconscious, blocks that were keeping me from creating the life I imagined for myself. I was completely unaware of how the cards could help me uncover the lessons and challenges in my own life, or how they could mirror parts of me, parts of my life, in such a profound way. What I did have was the book that came with the deck and an overwhelming feeling that learning how to read the tarot was necessary to my life. In the beginning, I gave readings to friends and family, always with that book by my side, telling people what the cards were saying about their lives based on what the book said.

The more readings I gave, the less comfortable I was with just the card descriptions from the book. I wanted more; I wanted to deepen my connection to the cards themselves. I took to sleeping with the deck under my pillow; I thought I might absorb some deeper meaning that way. After a week of restless, sleepless nights, I realized that perhaps the energy of the *whole* deck was a bit too much, so I put only one card under my pillow at a time. I absorbed the energy of that particular card as I slept, integrating it with my own energy, making the card mine.

I meditated with each card. I would hold it in my hands, stare at it, stare through it, stare beyond it, to that place of deep silence where knowing lives. I took the book that came with the deck and wrote in it what came from that silence; I wrote what the card said to *me*, and little by little put aside the author's interpretation.

As the years went by, I continued to open to the power and energy of the cards. I realized that as energy shifts and changes constantly, so do the meanings of the cards. I allowed the cards to be the doorway through which messages came through from 'behind the veil' (I also soon learned that the veil doesn't really exist, although that's a story for another time). I began to read not just the cards but the energy that the cards represented; I became an intuitive tarot reader. And the more I worked with the cards, the stronger my connection to the other side became. I realized what an incredible tool the tarot cards were in assisting me to strengthen and trust my intuitive abilities.

What exactly do I mean by intuition? To be intuitive is defined as "*The power or faculty of knowing or sensing without the use of rational processes; immediate cognition.*" That sounds kind of like psychic, I can hear you say to yourself. It's similar, but not quite the same. Often, the terms intuitive and psychic

are used interchangeably; they are, however, different. While intuition is that “*flash of knowing without reasoning*,” psychic awareness is defined as “*sensitive to nonphysical or supernatural forces and influences*.” It includes abilities such as clairvoyance, telepathy, and precognition. So, we see intuition as being normal - an instinct, hunch, or gut feeling - and psychic awareness as paranormal. While I use both my intuitive and psychic abilities (I do connect with the other side during readings) it was learning to connect to and trust my intuition that opened the door to other gifts. Everyone has the ability to be intuitive and psychic. Haven’t you ever thought of someone and minutes later they called you on the phone? Or you’ve been looking for a parking spot and for some reason you feel drawn to turn left down that little side street and lo and behold, there’s the BEST parking space ever? For some people, their intuitive and/or psychic abilities are stronger than for others. I happen to have those gifts, and I’ve spent many years (and continue daily) to work with my abilities. Working with the tarot cards can help *you* strengthen *your* intuitive and psychic abilities.

Ten years ago, I began to teach tarot classes. I wanted to offer others a fun way to connect with their own intuitive gifts; I wanted to share what I had learned. I designed a series of four classes aimed at teaching Intuitive Tarot. At the urging of many of my former students, I’ve finally written this workbook based on those series of classes. My goal in writing this workbook is not only to help you build a foundation for understanding the tarot and continuing your studies with the cards, but to assist you in connecting with, and trusting, your intuition.

While there are now hundreds of tarot books on the shelves of bookstores and metaphysical stores everywhere, this workbook is a bit different than other tarot workbooks you’ll find. Notice that there are no pictures of specific decks in these pages. This workbook is not designed to interpret any particular deck in the way the artist or author intended. It does not contain theories or philosophies of tarot. It is, instead, easy, basic, down-to-earth, and fun, and serves one purpose: to assist you in learning to read the cards intuitively and make them your own. You will learn to listen to your cards, to trust what they have to share with you, even if it differs from what the author says, and ultimately, you’ll discard the books that tell you what each card means, listening with each reading to what the cards want to tell you in that particular reading. Always remember: there is no right or wrong when intuitively reading the tarot cards. There is only what you feel; there is only the awareness of the energies that come through the cards, the messages that you receive.

This workbook can be used for self-study, with friends, or by other tarot teachers in their own classes. It is for anyone wanting to learn how to listen to, and trust, their inner voice; for anyone who wants to find a way to touch the source of their own inner power; for anyone who wants to learn how to navigate through the sometimes challenging transitions of life, and do it all in a fun and enlightening way.

As this is a workbook, you will be given ample space on the pages to record your thoughts, ideas, and feelings. You’ll be prompted to take certain *actions* to assist you in getting the most out of this process. Of course, you’ll want to keep your tarot cards handy, as you’ll be working with them throughout the book!

It's important that you follow the *actions*, taking your time with each one. If you rush through the process, you will only be doing a disservice to yourself and your study of the tarot.

Throughout the workbook, I'll make mention of the graphics you might be seeing on the cards. The pictures I describe will be what you'd see on the cards of a traditional tarot deck. While there are many beautiful decks on the market today, I suggest you use a traditional deck to begin with; it will make learning the tarot so much easier. Most of my past students have found the graphics of the traditional decks easier to relate to, easier to understand, and easier to connect with, than the less traditional. Some good traditional decks are:

- Connolly Tarot
- Gilded Tarot
- Hanson-Roberts Tarot
- Morgan-Greer Tarot
- New Palladini Tarot
- Rider-Waite Tarot (and all its variations)
- Sharman-Caselli Tarot
- Universal Waite Tarot

This workbook is divided into four parts:

**Part One** focuses on the minor arcana, which represent the everyday situations and events you encounter in your daily life.

**Part Two** discusses the major arcana, the cards that represent the actual journey of your life, the transitions that result from how you choose to live every day.

In **Part Three** you'll learn how to merge the energies of the minor and major arcana together to get the most out of a reading.

And in **Part Four**, you'll learn about reverse cards; learn how to care for your cards; learn how to prepare for a reading; understand your responsibilities as a reader; and be given various spreads to use.

You'll find that I have chosen not to delve into the history of tarot. Most tarot scholars now agree that the cards originated in 15th century Northern Italy. Originally, they were used for a game similar to bridge; records of tarot being used for divination don't show up until the late 1500s. There are, today, thousands of tarot decks in existence, some replicas of those 15th century cards and some that have been designed in the 21st century. There are many excellent books that discuss the history and origin of tarot, and if you are interested in knowing more I encourage you to research those books and find out all you can.



In the following chapters, you'll step into the mysterious and enlightening world of tarot, revealing the mystical patterns and processes of life they represent. You'll be guided into a deeper connection to the messages received and their ability to transform your life as you connect to your personal intuitive channels to begin the journey of a lifetime.

May your journey through this book light your way to a deeper connection with your inner Self; instill in you a trust in what you know; and guide you to clarity during moments of doubt. May it open up for you a whole new world beyond that which you see with your eyes, hear with your ears, and touch with your hands.

Welcome to the magical, mystical, enlightening world of tarot. Enjoy your journey!



## PART ONE

# The Minor Arcana

# Chapter 1 - The Basics of the Minor Arcana

A tarot deck consists of 78 cards made up of 22 major arcana and 56 minor arcana cards. In Part One of this workbook you will be focusing on the minor arcana, which represent the everyday situations and events you encounter in your daily life. You'll learn all about the major arcana in Part Two.

The 56 minor arcana cards are divided into 4 suits of 14 cards each. The 14 cards within each suit consist of 10 numbered cards and 4 court cards. In this chapter, you'll take a look at the general meanings of each of the four suits as well as the 14 cards within those suits.

*Note: The word "arcana" is the plural derivation of the Latin word "arcānus" meaning hidden, secret, or mystery. Both the minor and major arcana are tools to uncover that which is hidden deep within you, the secrets or mysteries of your soul.*

While you will ultimately be learning to read the cards intuitively, it is necessary to have this basic understanding in order to create a solid foundation for your work with the tarot. Don't worry if you need to refer back to this chapter during the learning process. It takes time to build that foundation!

Since you'll only be working with the minor arcana in Part One, before you go any further please separate the cards and set the 22 major arcana aside for now.

It's time to take a look at the basic breakdown of the minor arcana, starting with the four suits.

*Action: Lay the 14 cards of each suit in four rows: Wands at the top, next Cups, then Swords, and at the bottom Pentacles. If any cards are reversed, turn them upright; you'll learn about reading reverse cards in Part 4. Each row should be laid out sequentially: Ace through 10, then Page, Knight, Queen, and King. Have a pen or pencil handy to record in the workbook any thoughts, feelings, and/or ideas that arise as you look at the cards.*

## **The Four Suits**

The four suits of the minor arcana are known as Wands (also called Staffs or Rods), Cups, Swords, and Pentacles (sometimes referred to as Disks or Coins). Each suit represents one of the four elements - fire, water, air, earth - which in turn is representative of a particular quality (a characteristic or identifying nature, i.e. an emotion, idea, belief, thought) you embody, a way in which you both act in, and perceive, the world on a daily basis. You'll study this in greater detail in the following chapters. For now, you'll look at the basic interpretations of the suits:

<i>suit</i>	<i>element</i>	<i>quality</i>	<i>possible expressions</i>
wands	fire	spiritual	path, meaning, passion
cups	water	emotional	creative, intuitive, heart-centered
swords	air	analytical	ego, mental, clarity
pentacles	earth	manifesting	career, finances, structure

Take a few minutes to sit with the energies and qualities of the suits. Are there additional possible expressions that come up for you? When you think of the quality of being spiritual, how might you live that in the world? How about the quality of being emotional? Are there other expressions to being analytical or to manifesting that feel right to you? Looking at the cards may spark your imagination and bring to mind some other possible expressions; write down any that you feel might fit:

Spiritual: \_\_\_\_\_

Emotional: \_\_\_\_\_

Analytical: \_\_\_\_\_

Manifesting: \_\_\_\_\_

### **The Numbered Cards**

As you look at all 56 cards spread out in front of you, you'll see that each suit contains fourteen cards in total: an Ace, numbers Two through Ten, and four court cards traditionally called Page, Knight, Queen, and King. You'll work with the Aces through Tens first.

#### Ace through Ten

The numbered cards, Ace through Ten, represent your daily life experience as formed by the energy of that suit. Uh oh, that sounds confusing, doesn't it? Don't worry. For now, just look at the basic meanings of those numbers and you'll add in the energy of the suits in the following chapters.

*Ace* – a new beginning; pure potential; idea; essence of the suit energy

*Two* – duality; other; union; balance; choice

*Three* – merging; creation; manifesting; unfolding

*Four* – foundation; structure; form; stability

*Five* – midpoint; doubt; instability; uncertainty; chaos; change

*Six* – harmony; balance; resolution; equilibrium

*Seven* – reevaluation; reassessment; introspection; insight

*Eight* – forward movement; putting into motion; experience

*Nine* – fulfillment; wisdom; approaching the end of the cycle

*Ten* – attainment; completion; achievement; the ending

There is a journey here in the Ace through Ten, one that you've likely experienced many times in your life. Can you see it? Look more closely:

The **Ace** represents a new beginning, perhaps a new idea. **Two** gives you a choice in what you want to do with this new idea. **Three** is the unfolding or manifesting of that choice. Next, with the **Four**, you build a foundation with which to give your creation form and structure. Of course, you know that when you begin something new, you're often filled with self-doubt, or at the least you experience change in your life that comes from something new. The **Five** fills you with a sense of instability that often accompanies change. You stick with it, though, and the **Six** shows you that things eventually calm down and harmony and balance are restored. Now you have a chance to reevaluate from the place of **Seven**. Are you on the right path? Do you need to make any changes? What have you learned? The time for introspection is over as you make the decision to either move forward or make a few changes, and the **Eight** carries you onward. **Nine** brings you a sense of fulfillment, a sense of almost there. Finally, **Ten** leads you to the end of this particular journey, to the completion of what you started.

As you'll see in later chapters, this journey through everyday life will shift depending upon the energy of the suit. It may be a journey through a new relationship or a creative endeavor (Cups); you may be starting a new job (Pentacles) or beginning a spiritual journey (Wands); or you may be using your thought processes in a whole new way or falling prey to your fears (Swords). You'll see, in later chapters, that each life experience doesn't happen exactly in the Ace through 10 sequence as shown in the above example, but understanding the process will assist in connecting with the cards on a deeper level. And you'll realize that each card holds its own shadow, representative of the duality of life. The journeys you take as you travel through the pages of this workbook represent many of the journeys you've taken before and will take in the future. The awareness you'll gain from working with the cards will assist you in making the best possible choices as you move forward on each of your life's journeys.

Take some time now, before moving on, to sit with the numbered cards. I encourage you not to try to interpret the cards or energies. Simply sit with the cards, look at them, become comfortable with them. This is laying a foundation for the work you'll be doing with the cards in the upcoming chapters.

*Action: Write down your thoughts and impressions of the meanings of each number in the spaces provided below. Focus your energy NOT on the meanings of the cards in relation to the suit, but simply the journey through the numbers themselves. If you can, try to relate the journey to a personal experience.*

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## The Court Cards

Think of the court cards as archetypes, that which serves as the model or pattern for other things of the same type. The Page, for example, represents a certain archetype, or model, for all Pages. So do the Knight, Queen, and King serve as models for all their respective types. It is when you include the energy of the suit that the archetype takes on a more personalized aspect. Thus, the four court cards - Page, Knight, Queen, and King - represent aspects of your personality as formed by the energy of the suit. Now, don't let that throw you. As in the numbered cards, let's just take a look at what those personality aspects are before you worry about the energies involved!

*Note: In some decks, the Page may be known as the Princess and the Knight may be referred to as the Prince.*

The Page: represents an energy of youth, vitality, naivety, arrogance, fearlessness; the young person's attitude of reach out and grab for it; act first, think later.

The Knight: more experienced than the page, the Knight is the warrior, willing to go after what he wants, sometimes thoughtfully and carefully and at other times rashly and dangerously.

The Queen: the feminine, yin energy; this is an inner-oriented energy, as powerful as the King but expressed more gently, more covertly, than the outer-oriented King. The Queen has nothing to prove and realizes that her presence alone can achieve the desired outcome. She doesn't need to do, simply to be is enough. The Queen knows when to let a process alone to allow it to unfold.

The King: the masculine, yang energy; this is an outer-oriented energy, the doer, the creator, the builder. The King gives form and structure, he is dynamic and forceful. The King needs to do, he cannot just be. He needs to control the process; he is not comfortable with letting it simply unfold.

*Note: While I may use the genders 'he' and 'she' and speak of youth or experience in describing the court cards, they do not literally represent either age or gender; they simply reflect aspects of one's personality. A King can be a stubborn 2-year-old or the female head of a corporation; there are many men with the yin energy of a nurturer and caregiver.*

Everybody possesses each of these archetypes, or models, as part of their personality pattern. Haven't you, at one time or another, exhibited a youthful can-do Page attitude? Do you remember being the Knight and going after what you wanted with unflinching courage and perseverance? Perhaps there was a time when you were called upon to be the King, to be the one in control and take charge. And no doubt there have been those moments when you knew it was time to let something be, to let the process unfold in its own time, as the Queen does.

You also express these aspects of yourself at different times, to different people, in different situations. The way you are with your best friend is probably not the way you act with your boss. Think of how you behave around your kids as opposed to when you're with your parents. Perhaps during the day you

are responsible for decisions that affect hundreds of employees and evening will find you sitting on the floor of your home playing with your puppy!

Take a few minutes with the court cards and imagine yourself as these archetypes. Think back to times you've been the Page, or the Knight. Who were you when you woke up this morning? Are you still feeling that archetypal energy now?

*Action: Write down your thoughts and impressions in the spaces provided below.*

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Congratulations! You've now laid the necessary foundation for your continued work with the minor arcana. With this awareness of, and feeling for, the meanings of the four suits and the numbered and court cards, you're ready to embark on the next stage of your journey. Have fun!

*Note: You may wonder at the order in which I've discussed the suits - Wands, Cups, Swords, and Pentacles. It is my belief that this is the order in which we grow and learn, the natural rhythm of life. First, we are created, we come into being, we emerge from source (Wands). We then learn to feel, to love, to connect with and express our emotions (Cups). Next, we are taught to think, to use our mind, to analyze and rationalize and shape and control the things around us (Swords). Finally, we take our awareness, our emotions, and our mind and we create something real and manifest and tangible in the world (Pentacles). The perfect balance of Body, Mind, and Spirit leads us to Manifestation.*

## Chapter 2 - The Four Suits

In Chapter 1, you learned the basic meanings of the four suits of the minor arcana as well as the numbered and court cards that make up each suit. Now you'll take that awareness to a deeper level as you begin your magical journey through each of the suits, starting with the Wands. You're going to bring together the meanings, feelings, and qualities of each suit to get a clear understanding and sense of the potential interpretations of each of the cards.

For each suit, you'll follow a three-part process:

1. feeling the element
2. translating the feeling into a quality
3. recognizing how that quality might be expressed

Are you ready to begin your journey? Let's start.

### The Suit of Wands

*Element:* The suit of Wands represents the element of fire.

*Traditional Card Graphics:* The Wands will be graphically represented by a wooden wand, staff, or rod. You may even notice fire depicted on some of the cards. In some decks, Wands are called Staffs or Rods.

*Action:* Lay the 14 cards of the suit of Wands in front of you; all cards should be upright. Have a pen or pencil handy to record in the spaces provided any thoughts, feelings, and/or ideas that arise as you look at the cards.

Before you do anything else, take a moment, close your eyes, and think of fire. Imagine what it must have been like the first time early man sat in front of a fire, felt its warmth and saw how it kept away predators of the night. How might he have felt to realize he could control fire and use it for his own use? Imagine a romantic fire in the fireplace, a crackling fire at a campsite, an out-of-control fire burning a home or a forest; feel its heat. When you sit in front of that fireplace, or gather around the campsite, or watch on television the scenes of a powerful forest fire, what stirs within you? When you think of fire, what other images come to your mind? How does it make your body feel?

*Action: Step 1 - Feel The Element - write down your thoughts and impressions in the spaces provided below.*

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Now that you have the image and feeling of fire firmly implanted in your mind and body, you'll take the process a bit further. This next step may seem a bit more challenging, but just let it flow and you'll be fine. You're going to translate that *feeling* of the element into a *quality*.

When you bring up the *feeling* of fire, what does it do to you? How does it make you feel? What action or idea or belief does it stir up inside? To help you out, here are some translations of other tarot students:

fire evokes:

power  
dispelling the darkness  
divine spark  
fire in the belly  
warmth

translates as:

connection to a higher power  
higher consciousness  
spirituality  
purpose, path, passion  
self-confidence, courage

Do the same for the feelings that you wrote down in Step 1.

*Action: Step 2 - Translate Into A Quality - write down how your feeling can be expressed as a quality.*

fire evokes:

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translates as:

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In the final step of this process, you'll simply be with the cards. Take a look at the 14 cards of the suit of Wands spread out before you. Don't worry about knowing what the cards mean. Don't worry about interpreting them. Simply look at them. Feel the energy of the fire. It doesn't matter that you don't know the meaning of the cards yet. Simply take in and feel the energy of the fire in the cards. Feel how the fire might become a quality. Feel how that quality might be expressed every day. For example, here's how the quality of fire felt to one student:

Fire sparks something deep inside of me. When I feel that spark, I am stirred by a sense of passion and purpose. This makes me want to know what my path is, why I am here, and how I can live with passion and purpose in my life.

*Action: Step 3 - Expression Of The Quality - write down how you might want to express those fire qualities in your daily life.*

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### **The Suit of Cups**

*Element:* The suit of Cups represents the element of water.

*Traditional Card Graphics:* The Cups will be graphically represented by a gold cup or chalice. Water may be present in many of the cards.

*Action: Lay the 14 cards of the suit of Cups in front of you; all cards should be upright. Have a pen or pencil handy to record in the spaces provided any thoughts, feelings, and/or ideas that arise as you look at the cards.*

Just as you did with fire, take a moment to feel the energy of water. Imagine that you are standing at the edge of the seashore, staring out at the vast and endless ocean. Feel its power as it surges unbounded upon the shores, consuming everything in its path. Feel the water's gentleness as you wade into a calm and peaceful lake. Feel the calm soothing of cold water trickling down your throat on a hot day. Imagine the fluidity of water, how it continually shifts and changes, ebbs and flows, its tides controlled by the moon. How does your body feel as it floats lightly in the sea, or the lake, or even a swimming pool? What does the energy of water evoke in you?

*Action: Step 1 - Feel The Element - write down your thoughts and impressions in the spaces provided below.*

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Now take the process to the next step and translate the feeling of water into a quality. You saw how easy and - admit it! - fun this was with Wands/Fire. Do the same here.

Once again, to help you out, here are some translations of other tarot students:

water evokes:

movement  
the moon  
healing  
watery  
dreaming

translates as:

creativity  
intuitive, psychic  
compassion, forgiveness  
emotions, love, heart  
open, accepting, tolerant

Do the same for the feelings that you wrote down in Step 1.

*Action: Step 2 - Translate Into A Quality - write down how your feeling can be expressed as a quality.*

water evokes:

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translates as:

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As before, in this final step of the process, you'll sit quietly with the cards. The 14 cards of the suit of Cups should be spread out before you. Simply look at the cards, feel the energy of the water. It's not important whether you know what the cards mean. You will soon enough! For now, feel how the water might become a quality. Feel how that quality might be expressed every day. It might feel like this:

Standing at night on the beach in front of the ocean, I am drawn to the moon, to the power of the moon, and something stirs inside. I am overcome with emotion, I want to laugh and cry at the same time, I want to dance in the water in the moonlight. I feel connected to something so deep inside that I don't even know what it is, but I know that I want to explore that connection more deeply and let it guide me in my everyday life.

*Action: Step 3 - Expression Of The Quality - write down how you might want to express those water qualities in your daily life.*

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## The Suit of Swords

*Element:* The suit of Swords represents the element of air.

*Traditional Card Graphics:* The Swords will be graphically represented by a sharp, often double-edged sword.

*Action:* Lay the 14 cards of the suit of Swords in front of you; all cards should be upright. Have a pen or pencil handy to record in the spaces provided any thoughts, feelings, and/or ideas that arise as you look at the cards.

The suit of Swords is the one many new students of tarot have the most difficulty with, so if you have trouble understanding or working with this energy in the beginning, you're not alone. Air is represented here, and it might be confusing as to why this element is symbolized by a sword. What do *air* and *sword* have in common? Let's see if I can help you make sense of this pairing.

Where Wands/fire represents your passion and desire to seek deeper meaning and purpose, and Cups/water represents your emotional, creative, intuitive aspect, Swords/air speaks of your analytical, thinking side, your mind, your ego. You can use your thought processes to gain clarity and solve problems, or to find ways to control, manipulate, or create chaos and fear.

Now imagine a sword slashing through the air. It can clear obstacles out of the way, allowing for clarity, or it can cut and cause pain, creating chaos and feeding your fears. Just as your mind can be used to gain clarity or to create chaos, so can a sword be used to cut through obstacles or create pain. Does the symbolism feel more fitting to you now, the pairing of air and sword?

Do you see why this is a difficult energy to work with? An energy that may speak to your desire for power and control is not an energy you prefer to acknowledge you hold within you, is it? And yet, by understanding the swords, you'll be able to work *with* its energy, rather than against it. Remember, it isn't the sword itself that has the potential to create the conflict, it is how you choose to use that energy.

*Action:* Step 1 - Feel The Element - write down your thoughts and impressions in the spaces provided below.

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Are you feeling a bit more comfortable with your images and feelings of air? Are you ready for the next step? See if you can translate the feeling of air into a quality.

Let's look at some of the translations of other tarot students to help you get started:

air evokes:

crisp  
cold  
refreshing  
cleansing  
power

translates as:

clear thinking, logical  
ego, authoritarian, manipulative  
analytical, bold  
clarity, conflict  
change, action, force

Do the same for the feelings that you wrote down in Step 1.

*Action: Step 2 - Translate Into A Quality - write down how your feeling can be expressed as a quality.*

air evokes:

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translates as:

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It's time to be with the cards again, just focusing your energy gently on the 14 cards of the suit of Swords spread out in front of you. Feel the energy of them; feel the energy of the sword being held high, stirring up the air, and feel the energy of the sword at rest. As I've said before, please don't try to interpret the cards. Let yourself feel the quality you attribute to air and how that might be expressed in the world. Here's one student's example:

The cold air swirls around me and it makes me feel as if it's blowing away all my confusion and doubt. My head feels clearer, I feel more rational and logical, not so emotional. I think I can be more objective now and analyze the situation, and create the change that's needed.

*Action: Step 3 - Expression Of The Quality - write down how you might want to express those air qualities in your daily life.*

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## The Suit of Pentacles

Finally, you've arrived at the suit of Pentacles, the representation of the manifest, tangible world; the merging of Wands, Cups, and Swords made real in the world.

*Element:* The suit of Pentacles represents the element of earth.

*Traditional Card Graphics:* The Pentacles will be represented by a pentagram enclosed within a circle. The symbol of the pentagram represents life in the earthly realm. In some decks, Pentacles may be referred to as Coins or Disks.

*Action:* Lay the 14 cards of the suit of Pentacles in front of you; all cards should be upright. Have a pen or pencil handy to record in the spaces provided any thoughts, feelings, and/or ideas that arise as you look at the cards.

When you think of the earth, what are you reminded of? Think not only of the ground beneath you but of what you create on that ground, and what you create from it. Feel the soft, cool soil as it slips through your fingers. Breathe in the cleansing scent of a bouquet of fresh wildflowers. Let your hands caress the rough texture of an old oak tree. Imagine a field of wheat that will soon be a part of the bread you eat. Now, take those images to the next step: picture an office building, built from those tools the earth provides you, where multitudes spend their days earning a paycheck. Take a moment, close your eyes, and let the images flow through you.

*Action: Step 1 - Feel The Element - write down your thoughts and impressions in the spaces provided below.*

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Take those thoughts and impressions and give them qualities; give them a way in which they can be lived in the world.

The translations of other students may help you with your own translations:

earth evokes:

fertility  
potential  
growth  
stability  
connected

translates as:

manifestation  
vision, success  
finances, career  
grounded, tangible  
home, family

Do the same for the feelings that you wrote down in Step 1.

*Action: Step 2 - Translate Into A Quality - write down how your feeling can be expressed as a quality.*

earth evokes:

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translates as:

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As you sit with the cards in this final step, remember not to try to interpret the cards. Just focus your energy gently on the 14 cards of the suit of Pentacles spread out in front of you. This is an exercise in just being with the cards and feeling the energy of the earth flow out from them. Let yourself feel the quality you attribute to earth, and imagine how you would live that feeling, that quality, in everyday life. You might express that quality like this:

The earth feels solid and stable beneath my feet, and I realize this is the same foundation I want to create for my life, one that provides me with a sense of safety and security in the world, where my vision for what I want to manifest can be made real and tangible. I realize I can build a life I desire as my vision becomes clear.

*Action: Step 3 - Expression Of The Quality - write down how you might want to express those earth qualities in your daily life.*

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Are you feeling a little more at ease with the energies of the four suits? Do you have a greater understanding of the ways in which you express those energies in everyday life? Spend as much time as you need with this chapter before moving on to Chapter 3.