



CARD READING

CARD READING WITH THE COSMO TAROT

The following interpretations of the cards are given for the purpose of random card readings. The ideas go beyond the purely visual and symbolic meanings expressed by the cards and include basic astrological information associated with the sign, planet, house, aspect or element represented by the card. The use of this reference booklet in play with the cards will help in learning basic astrology. For those who already know astrology, card reading will be easy, and can be used to supplement regular chart readings.

Random readings using any of the layouts used for the Tarot will often be found to reflect the person's birth chart, transits, relationships, and any other events in the natal, progressed or solar return charts. If you are not experienced in astrology, the person's sign and the element of that sign can be kept in mind. The signs of lovers, children, or others close to the person may appear in the reading.



© 1986 by
Carol Herzer

THE SIGN CARDS

The 12 Sign cards and 4 Element cards in the COSMO TAROT correspond to the 16 Court cards of the Tarot. The 12 Signs of the Zodiac represent different, basic personality types.

In a reading the Sign cards may represent an actual person of that Sign. If this is the case, it usually will be someone quite obvious, such as a friend, lover, mate, or a child. If no real person emerges, develop the interpretation around the energies and ideas expressed by the Sign. A list of qualities, both positive and negative, are given in this booklet.

△ fire ♀ ♃ ♆ ♄
 ▽ earth ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎
 △ air ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍
 ▽ water ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌

Look for connections between Signs and Elements in your readings, noticing both compatibility and contrasts. Fire-Water and Earth-Air are opposites. Earth-Water and Fire-Air are compatible and work well together. Fire-Earth and Air-Water are incompatible.

SIGNS, PLANETS & HOUSES

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
♈	♉	♊	♋	♌	♍
♂	♀	♀	☾	☉	♀

7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
♎	♏	♐	♑	♒	♓
♀	♁	♃	♄	♅	♆

and play with ideas, who is quick thinking, versatile, changeable, original and inventive. Manual dexterity, enjoys magic tricks and games. Can be scattered and lacking in concentration. Distractable, superficial, fickle, nervous. Talks too much. Friendly, but noncommittal. Easily bored.

CANCER ♋

Emotionally sensitive, desires security. Connected to the home, the past, roots and the unconscious mind. A person who is receptive, sympathetic, reflective, nurturing and protective. Can be hypersensitive, insecure, defensive and moody. A fear of ridicule and rejection. Expresses love through caring, nurturing and protecting.

LEO ♌

A person who is fun loving, dramatic, playful, affectionate, attentive and loyal. May be passionate, generous, powerful and creative. Love is expressed and channeled through individuality and an open heart. A strong and developed ego radiating love and warmth. Leadership, rulership, stardom, personal recognition, honor. Creative self expression

ARIES ♈

The beginning of a cycle. A person who is a leader, a pioneer, ambitious, adventurous, outgoing, enthusiastic, willful, decisive, quick acting and self confident. A high energy level, but a lack of persistence and a tendency not to finish everything. Can be impatient, egotistical, impulsive, rash, aggressive, pushy and foolish, leaping without looking. Anger is quick and short lived. Love of fun and excitement.

TAURUS ♉

Concern with permanence and stability, emotional security, comfort, routine and predictability. A person who is persistent, patient, deliberate and practical. Love of beauty, art, music, peace and harmony. Sensual and gracious. Productivity, fertility and wealth. Can be lazy, possessive, stubborn, inert, selfish and sensually indulgent. Attachment to the material world. Unable to change, overly conservative.

GEMINI ♊

Communication, mental energy, self conscious awareness, nervous energy. A person who likes to talk

and personal magnetism. Can be arrogant, proud, extravagant, overbearing, domineering, self centered and stubborn. Wants to be on center stage.

VIRGO ♍

Attention to details, love of perfection and a strong sense of order. A person who is neat, efficient, orderly, humble, submissive, conformist, analytical, discriminating, meticulous and precise. Concerned with health, purity and cleanliness. The ego is directed toward work and service. Common sense, not a dreamer. Likes to analyze. Can be overly critical and concerned with detail, nitpicking and fault finding. May set standards that are too high and give up, becoming careless and sloppy. Lack of self confidence.

LIBRA ♎

Balance, harmony, cooperation, peace, beauty, art, aesthetics. A person who is tolerant, diplomatic, considerate and tactful. Fairness is idealized. A desire to find the perfect solution may prevent resolution. Can be a person who cannot make up his mind, or who

attempts to avoid any difficult situation or confrontation. A strong involvement with relationships, self awareness is through interaction with others. Idealistic in romance. Needs permanent relationships. A strong desire to please others, but has a hard time dealing with intense emotions. Can be wishy-washy and non committal.

SCORPIO

Intense emotional involvement with the unexpected capacity for complete retreat and containment. Magnetic sexual power and the power to control and deny ones impulses. Total changes, death and resurrection, complete transformation. A person who is determined, tenacious, relentless and intense. This may not be obvious. Loves mystery and secrecy, probes the depths. Fearless, loyal, deep. Can be jealous and possessive, compulsive, vindictive, sarcastic, coercive and destructive. Feelings are intense but difficult to express. Misunderstandings.

SAGITTARIUS

Philosophy, religion, wisdom, education, idealism, goals, shooting for the stars. An integrated, interrelated, broad vision

5

make a deliberate effort to be positive.

AQUARIUS

Group consciousness, cooperation, friends, peers, ones generation, social idealism, utopia. A person who is emotionally detached, friendly, free, sociable and concerned with humanitarian ideals. A social reformer and revolutionary. Values freedom and does not like to be bound by emotions in love. The symbol is two waves in harmony. Harmony is reflected from one wave to another, suggesting communication. Also included are communication networks, electrical energy, science and invention, and original and inventive, visionary minds. Can suffer from emotional dryness, being too detached, cold, abstract and impersonal. Impractical theories, may be too willing to sacrifice the individual for the sake of the group. Erratic and eccentric behavior. Fanaticism and anarchy. Scatter brained and bizarre.

PISCES

Dissolution, the end of a cycle, detachment from the material world, egolessness, compassion,

7

of the world and universe. One who is straightforward and frank, but who can be blunt and tactless. A desire to be free and unfettered. One who sees the overall pattern and integrates understanding into an expansive vision. Seeks new experiences; travel, physical or in the mind. Honest, ethical, truth seeking. A teacher and a guide. Can be opinionated, exaggerating, illogical, risk taking, show-off. A practical joker, insensitive. Needs space and freedom, likes fun and spontaneity. Has high ideals, hopes and aspirations.

CAPRICORN

Concentration, organization, limitation, responsibility, self control, material security, conservative attitudes. A strong desire for success in the world. Career oriented, may be a social climber. A person who is serious, ambitious and disciplined. Things evolve slowly and carefully. Time is important and used wisely. Concerned with consensus reality and tradition. Can be overly cautious, pessimistic, cold, rigid, self deprecating and generally negative. May be selfish and a total materialist, hiding his inner light. Needs recognition. Must

6

openness, psychic sensitivity. A desire for ego transcendence. Sensitivity to drugs and toxins. An active imagination and unclear or different realities. A person who is "thin skinned" and extra sensitive to outside influences. May try to assert self negatively by creating dependency situations. Martyrdom, emotional extremes and depths. Moody, sometimes self pity, escapism, loneliness, depression. Can be gentle, considerate, sympathetic, subtle, complex and changeable. Spiritual and mystical experiences. Needs to feel needed, desires to serve and give love.

THE ELEMENT CARDS

In the Tarot the 4 elements are represented by the Knights and are a part of the group of 16 court cards. In the Cosmo Tarot they are seen as the pure archetypal energy of the elements and are not personified. The 4 Aces are also included in this deck as expressions of the elements.

FIRE = SPIRIT.....WANDS = INTUITION
EARTH = MATTER....DISKS = SENSATION
AIR = MIND.....SWORDS = THINKING
WATER = SOUL.....CUPS = FEELING

8

It is helpful to understand the interactions and compatibilities of the elements to each other.

FIRE Δ

Spirit, light, creative energy, intuition, warmth, radiant, positive energy. Fire is immediate, quick acting, impulsive, assertive, and wants to lead and to be first. Fire is inspiring and inspired, creatively alive and uplifting. It is fed by air and doused by water. Fire is very different from earth. As spirit and matter, fire and earth must be balanced in their interaction.

WANDS Δ

The energy of light and spirit is channeled through living forms, bringing growth, activity, and creative productivity. The magic wand is a means of focusing and directing creative power as an expression of the creative will. This card in a reading suggests initiative and creative, productive activity.

EARTH ∇

The element earth is stable, solid, practical, conservative,

9

social awareness and group consciousness.

SWORDS Δ

The Sword, as a magical symbol, is active and penetrating. It is the power of mind over matter. Vibrations are released when the sword, as the mind, activates inert matter. In a reading, this card suggests overcoming inertia through a focused, active and penetrating mind. As an instrument of division and separation, the sword reveals waves and vibrations. The mind defines things through noticing differences, through duality and division. This card suggests discrimination and clarity of thinking.

WATER ∇

Water is the medium of emotional energy. Sensitive to the most subtle vibrations, it picks up unseen currents of feeling. Feeling can be as delicate as a fine rain or as latently powerful as a deep reservoir behind a massive dam. This card in a reading suggests subtle sensitivity, moodiness, empathy, sympathy. The

predictable, grounded, organized, and direct. Reality is based on the direct experience of the 5 senses. Earth energies are physical and sensual, with a desire for comfort and security. Earth is where air is not, and is in direct contrast to air energies. Earth and water blend harmoniously, bringing fertility.

DISKS ∇

Whereas earth is sensation, disks represent matter, the vehicle of direct sensation. Through the experiences of the 5 senses the physical world is organized and directed. Disks are also coins in the Tarot, and suggest dealing with the material world.

AIR Δ

Air is the medium of thought and communication. It is logical, objective, clear and detached. In contrast to water, with which it is incompatible, air is emotionally dry, preferring friendship and freedom. Air, like fire, is active and quick moving, with flights of the imagination and mental activity. It is inventive and original. Through communication, air is concerned with

10

passive, receptive, unconscious mind is linked to the element water. Sensitivity is involuntary and impressions can be taken in without conscious recognition.

CUPS ∇

As water is contained by a cup, emotions contain and give form to feelings. Cups are Love, the highest expression of feeling and sensitivity. When this card appears in a reading, love and emotional involvement are suggested, with subtle sensitivity and changeability.

THE ASPECT CARDS

In interpreting the aspect cards, think about the basic symbolism of the number upon which the aspect is based. In a way the aspects are like a numerical series. Also refer to what is known about the aspects as they are used in astrology.

CONJUNCTION σ

A converging of energies, a union, focus, concentration, intensity, synchronicity. A direct, strong and powerful link between two energies. The beginning of a cycle.

12

OPPOSITION

A situation or relationship requiring balance and an increase of awareness. Polarization, contrast, attraction of opposites. Complementary pairs. Tension, pull, oscillation from one pole to the other. A tendency to see only one side or the other, bringing a need to become aware of both sides of an issue or situation. Relationship, reflection, duality.

TRINE

Perfect balance and harmony. Equilibrium, passivity, lack of resistance. Stability, the triangle being the most stable of forms. An easy flow of energy that encourages growth and creativity. Love and positive energy.

SQUARE

Resistance, challenge, frustration. The opportunity for achievement through the creative resolution of a situation. Pressure, tension, limitation, obstruction, stress. Ego energies are aroused and tested. Motivation, stimulation. Can bring anger and impatience.

13

DECILE

Inner knowledge and understanding which gives the power and ability to transform and change the world.

SEMISEXTILE

An undercurrent of subtle tension created by a transition between closely connected but essentially different energies. Both the problem and the solution are not obvious.

QUINCUNX

A difficult to resolve situation, requiring the combining of energies which are totally different. Resolution through a quantum leap, through linking that which seems to have no connection. Visionary solutions are needed.

THE PLANET CARDS

The planet cards are taken from the Tarot major arcana series and include reference to the cards from which they were derived. Planets in a reading may refer to the general energy and characteristics of the planet, or they may be a direct reference to planets in a persons chart.

15

QUINTILE

Five is the number of the intellect. This card in a reading suggests intelligence and an inner awareness of the order of the universe. It also suggests the ability to bring creative ideas into concrete reality.

SEXTILE

Opportunities which must be recognized and acted upon to be realized. An easy, harmonious, positive flow of energies.

SEPTILE

The source of creative inspiration. Creativity in relationships.

SEMISQUARE

Resistance and impedance, subtle, underlying and innate, reaching into the unconscious and the past. Tensions which are resolved by letting go of attachment. A challenge requiring a creative approach to resolve in a positive way.

NOVILE

Spiritual union. Creative growth and expansion. An integrated, interrelated perception and understanding.

SUN

The cosmic will. Self awareness. Total purity of being, inner light, communion, love for all beings, spiritual union. The center of ones universe. An enlightenment experience.

MOON

Reflection, intuition, rythms, waves. The unconscious mind and the unconscious process of growth and gestation. Things taking form in response to natural forces. Also emotional cycles, instincts, the home, physical roots and the past. The cosmic mother, mother earth. Innate, intuitive wisdom.

MERCURY

Mental energy, the mind, communication, logic and reason. The nervous system, Kundalini, the release of higher consciousness. The power of mind over matter. Learning, writing, symbols and information.

VENUS

Love, the desire to relate. Beauty, grace, art, aesthetics, harmony, sensuality, wealth, luxury, fertility, birth, gentleness, consideration, cooperation. The earthly mother.

16

MARS ♂

The ego, aggressiveness, self assertiveness, personal magnetism, physical power and vitality. Individualism, survival, courage, competition, drive, motivation, desire. The earthly father. Male sexuality.

JUPITER ♃

Growth and consciousness expansion. Integrated awareness of overall patterns and relationships. Spiritual understanding and guidance. The education of both mind and spirit. Freedom, broad horizons, travel, incorporation of new experience. The desire to integrate and connect experiences.

SATURN ♄

Consensus reality. Physical, material reality. Responsibility, structure and order. Caution, limitation, seriousness. Patience and a practical approach to things. Concentration, focus, possible narrowness of vision. Can be too cold and insensitive.

URANUS ♅

Awakening, sudden revelation, breaking free of limitations, the liberation of the mind from con-

17

NEMESIS

Collective karma. Concern with that which effects the planet as a whole. A need to be involved and take action in creating a positive environment. Also may refer to natural events and disasters which seem to come out of the blue without reason, but which act in some way to bring about increased awareness. They also act to balance the spiritual with the material.

LUNAR NODES ♌ ♎

The Nodes are a point of significant contact. They can indicate a meeting or opportunity, a crossing of paths. The contact is very specific and should stand out quite clearly. Sometimes they are associated with fate or luck, however it is simply a sensitive point and can be either fortunate or unfortunate. Things are revealed, patterns converge.

***The Lunar Nodes and Nemesis are not derived from the Tarot. Nemesis can be added as a 23rd arcana. The Nodes and Nemesis belong with the Planet cards as a group. Nemesis is the level of consciousness beyond Pluto. The nodes are determined by the Sun, Moon and Earth.

19

ceptual rigidity. Sudden change, upset, revolution. This is revitalizing and restores life to dead, rigid structures. Can be accidents, especially if change is resisted. Extreme stimulation, nervous system is wired, can't sleep at night. Loss of ability to put up with things. Desire to be free.

NEPTUNE ♆

The denial and tempering of the ego. Selflessness, egolessness. Sensitivity, empathy, psychic awareness. Unreality, other realities, dreams, fantasy, illusions, imagination and inspiration. Spiritual seekers, gurus, idealism. Collective fantasies, fads, fashions and desires. Can bring confusion, delusion, deception, dependency, martyrdom. Can relate to drugs, poisons, toxins and addictions.

PLUTO ♇

Extreme expansion, disintegration. Death and resurrection, total transformation. The deepest buried levels of the psyche. The collective unconscious. Power struggles, manipulation. Purification through destruction. The underworld. Atomic energy.

18

THE HOUSE CARDS

The cards for the 12 houses were originally taken from the Cosmo Tarot interpretation of the Tarot major arcana. The following interpretations reflect both the Tarot and astrology.

1st HOUSE, THE WAVE

Individual personal patterns, personality structure, identity, self image, physical appearance. The underlying vibrational patterns which create individual structure, the personal hologram.

2nd HOUSE, THE WORLD

Values, aesthetics, possessions, that with which one identifies oneself, including the physical body. Beauty, ideals, the world perfected and fully realized.

3rd HOUSE, COSMOLOGY

The creation of one's personal cosmos and everyday world. Patterning, learning, programming, communication. The interaction of the 4 elements. The creative power of the word.

20

4th HOUSE, THE THRESHOLD

The past and the deepest levels of the unconscious. Inner, personal, emotional involvement. Family, roots, home. Total receptivity and openness, loss of resistance. Sensitivity, vulnerability, letting go. Cosmic memories, akashic records, body consciousness.

5th HOUSE, THE INITIATE

Creative self awareness, love, creative self expression. Inner harmony expressed through outer forms; theater, rituals, art, and creative play. The inner light brought to the outer world.

6th HOUSE, THE PATH

The choice of a path and a purpose in life. Ones work, duties, service to humanity. The awareness of good and evil. Health and the condition of the body as a reflection of this awareness.

7th HOUSE, THE WILL

Relationships where there is union and a sense of unity. The

21

one's creative potential. Social responsibility, power, authority, leadership, success, achievement, ambition.

11th HOUSE, GENERATION

Group consciousness, one's peers and one's generation. Friendship, brotherhood, loss of a feeling of alienation and aloneness. One's connection to the human family and the continuing process of regeneration. Hope and the ideal of a socially integrated world.

12th HOUSE, THE UNCONSCIOUS

The unconscious mind. Things which are hidden, repressed, secret. Self sacrifice, surrender, martyrdom. Selflessness and detachment from the ego. One who is open, sensitive, and extra receptive to impressions. An inability to screen out negative energy. A lack of resistance, psychic sensitivity.

development of the will through the balancing of male and female, dark and light, spirit and matter. Marriage, committed relationships.

8th HOUSE, PERFECTION

Purification, regeneration, and transformation. The perfecting, balancing, and development of the ego through desire and deep levels of involvement. As a jewel is cut from a raw stone, there is total and irreversible change, revealing clarity and destroying the past form.

9th HOUSE, ILLUMINATION

The expansion and illumination of the mind and spirit. An orgasmic release of energy. An integrated vision and an experience of wholeness. The bird on the card suggests freedom and travel; physical or in the mind.

10th HOUSE, THE WHEEL

The wheel of life and karmic responsibility. Individual personal involvement in the world; career, recognition, the expression of

When reading the Cosmo Tarot it is helpful to know the basic astrological connections between the cards. Lay out your deck according to the following charts as a visual meditation and as a learning device to prepare you for better readings.

1 st	2	3	4	♈	♉	♊	♋
5	6	7	8	♌	♍	♎	♏
9	10	11	12	♐	♑	♒	♓
△	▽	△	▽	△	▽	△	▽

The Houses and the Signs are both grouped by element. Read the columns up and down, in groups of 4 cards. For example, the 1st, 5th and 9th houses are Fire, △. You may wish to include the 4 Aces in your meditation.