

## Black Alchemy Tarot – Intro by Kurtis Joseph

Thank you for your interest in this Black Alchemy Tarot. This deck and the development of it was brought forth through real life experiences which have been a part of my own alchemical process of transformation. Though the imagery of the cards are indeed inspired by the more traditional Rider Waite deck the way in which these symbols are conveyed are rather unique as they are based on the idea of the ONE Tree of Drakonian Power as a mirror upon which we can reflect upon the images in order to learn more about ourselves, our strengths, our fears and inadequacies. It is for this reason that I will state that this pamphlet, though useful for obtaining very general meanings to perform divination with this deck should not be used as a crutch. Nor should the words necessarily be committed to memory.

Use the images as a means to look inward. Learn to allow the artwork to open the subconscious mind and activate intuition. One good way of doing this is to act as a "bard" of sorts when starting to connect with this deck. Instead of "reading" the cards it would be wise to pull a card and write a short story inspired by its images. In this way you are not extracting supposed facts from a guidebook or template, but rather using the imagery of the deck to extract power from within so that you can observe that power through the stories you write. The stories will give you insight into what these symbols unleash from within you. At first this can be done one card at a time. Then you can attempt to do this with three card spreads to inspire the beginning, middle and end of a story. Finally, you can attempt to use a more elaborate spread such as the Celtic Cross to develop characters and plots in a more refined way if you so desired. This is suggested because a good tarot reader is first and foremost a good storyteller who has a vast knowledge of how the symbols and archetypes found upon the cards can be applied to give the querent insight into the situation they are seeking advise on.

This small pamphlet is therefore a list of examples which show how various symbols can work together to provide a general meaning. This is a start. It gives you a beginning through which you can dig deeper into the depths of self to gain more wisdom and knowledge. The artwork upon the cards of this deck are framed with a mirror frame for a reason.... They are indeed mirrors to reflect upon the surface meaning of the deck, however each mirror is also a gateway through which you may scry in a very literal way. This process will also bring forth visions relative to the gnosis which can be extracted from each card. Allow this card to speak to you through its unique abstract design so it may inspire your own unique learning process.

The uses of the deck you now hold in your hand are limited only by your own level of inspiration and imagination. The inherent power can be used and wielded toward sorcerous

objectives. They can act as gateways into the planetary spheres of the ONE Tree of Drakonian Power, and they can be used to meditate upon in order to understand the greater and lesser mysteries and how their potentials can be used in your own personal spiritual development. Explore these possibilities and more. This is how you will truly be able to harness this deck to perform the most effective divinations.

## **The Black Alchemy – The Art Side by Gary Rosenberg**

*Feb 2018*

I was sitting at my desk distracting myself from work when I got messaged by a recent friend on FB, Kurtis Joseph. Kurtis was working on a project (his contribution to BALG's Belial compendium) and wanted to know if he could commission a few pieces from me for the project. I had recently read and been impressed by Kurtis's book Black Magic of Ahriman and I am always open to collaborate with writers who's work I respect and like to challenge myself, so I said sure. During the conversation, Kurtis mentioned that a full pathworking for the project would probably involve creating a tarot deck. Upon seeing my work, he mentioned contracting me to do the Tarot deck. Thus, was the start of what was to be the most demanding, intense and fulfilling collaborative project I have undertaken.

I've been working with and learning from the tarot for about 40 years now. It is a system I know fairly well. Kurtis's received insights and visions for the Major arcana are often unique and indeed visionary. He also gives great feedback. Our style, both or working and procrastination / distraction mesh rather well and perhaps uniquely, on a project like this, there were never any points of contention. This project was definitely being guided. Some of the cards took several reworkings, others I got it in one and knew it. Kurtis often seamlessly incorporated my ideas into his vision. It was truly collaborative in that fashion.

Quite often with many of the cards, as with a lot of my art, images would appear through the filtering and background work that I was doing that were unintentional but not accidental. An example of this is the eye that appeared within the Wheel of Fortune. Look closely at these cards and scry within as often images can be seen within the shadows.

This is definitely a deck that can be used not only for divination, but also for meditation and ritual work. When I hit points at which, I just didn't feel like art-ing that day, I was motivated because I wanted to have this deck in my hands and use it myself. The results I have had from readings I've done with the deck has only affirmed this feeling for me.

While it is a deck that has a lot of shadow in it, there is also light and humour as well. Both sides of the tree of knowledge have been incorporated into the gnosis of this deck as they are within all of us.

A lot of meditation, thought, guidance, sweat and blood has gone into the creation of this deck. My expectation and wish is that your work with it will be as rewarding as ours has been.

## **Keywords:**

### **The Major Arcana**

**The Fool** – The Zero point; The beginning of a journey or path; Trust the adventure; New stage of life; Trust heart and let go of fear-based thinking; caution against reckless behaviour.

*Reverse-* Need to reason things out more and avoid recklessness; possible neglect or inconsideration of those around us.

**The Magician** – Changing one's circumstance by use of will; Time for activity as we feel we can accomplish anything; Inspiration and manifestation; Question whose agenda is being followed; Greater focus and concentration needed.

*Reverse* – Blockage to achieving either through nonbelief in what one is doing or feelings of unworthiness; Misuse / Abuse of Power; Imposing one's will on others despite what they may wish.

**The Priestess** – Time to still mental chatter and tune into intuition; Pay attention to dreams and other forms of subconscious communication; Growth happening below the surface yet to manifest; Time to commune with one's spirits / deities.

*Reverse* – Consequences due to not listening to intuition and guidance given; new ways needed to open our selves up to our inner voice; need to meditate;

**The Empress** – Time to go with and follow one's emotions rather than calm reflection; Time of creativity and joy; A return to nature; Possibly pregnancy or birth; A time to nurture or turn 'diva' in fully expressing oneself without holding back.

*Reverse*- Blocks to creativity or self-expression; Confusing imagination for intuition; Fear of 'letting one's self go'; inability to handle our own emotional nature. Difficulty with maternal figures in one's life.

**The Emperor** - Stability in mind leading to security by being able to change with change.; Time to move forward and take advantage of or make new opportunities; Someone who gives good advice in a leadership role

*Reverse* – Rigidity or inflexibility in thought or in lifestyle; Blocking oneself from leadership role even in our own life; difficulty with father figures.

**The Hierophant** – Adherence to tradition; The common thread that exists between all traditions; Learning the rules so one can break them when necessary, without consequence; Learning the system. Accepting authority unquestioningly.

*Reversed* – Increasing difficulty in staying within society's rules; Abuse of Authority; Unorthodox or unconventional approach to life. Need to learn how things work before taking them in new directions.

**The Lovers** - Creation through harnessing polarity. Choosing between two compelling paths. Both in relationships and choices in life. Choosing to attract or repel a given person or circumstance. Union with the divine.

*Reverse* – Doubting choices we have made particularly in terms of relationships; Possible disharmony and desire to split up. End of relationship due to losing sight of what brought them together in the first place.

**The Chariot** – Successful balancing and control of circumstances; Working together towards common goal; Need to stay focused on situation; possible need to reign in oneself and use will to a better effect;

*Reverse* – Situation out of control; Being pulled in two different directions; need to learn new ways of pulling things together; possible need to let go of the need to control

**Justice** – Cause and Effect; Balance of light and darkness; Balance between heart and head; Reconciliation of personal truth and social consensus; legal issues that will resolve fairly; Awareness that our circumstances are self-created. Importance of self-honesty.

*Reversed* - Dealing with dishonesty and unfairness either external, internal or both; refusal to take responsibility; need to take ethical high ground; unfavourable legal decision

**The Cunning Woman** - Isolation or seclusion needed to obtain emotional control or self-mastery; Focusing on internals rather than externals or the need to do so; Teacher, Guide or mentor appearing who may guide us to our next stage.

*Reversed* – Isolation due to fear or avoidance; too much time spent on internal work – time to have fun and integrate what has been learned; possible self-absorption or refusal to mature.

**Wheel of Fortune** – Playing the hand that's dealt to one's advantage; changing external circumstances that are beneficial; temporary good fortune.

*Reversed* – Struggling against life changes; run of bad luck; The need to take responsibility for one's life rather than letting things happen as they will.

**Strength** – Struggle for evolution; reconciliation of inner conflict; Inner courage; Self-Control; Understanding how values are relative; Self-confidence; Overcoming weakness;

*Reverse* – Feeling inadequate for the inner struggle; Possible addictive behaviour or relapse into addiction; possibly a destructive relationship based more on passion than love.

**The Hanged Man** – Sacrifice; Surrendering part of our self for knowledge or gain; breaking free of convention; Possible delay or hold up in plans; Willingness to stretch identity to become more;

*Reverse* – Conforming to social expectations rather than living dreams; feeling like one is making wasted sacrifices; waiting for life to happen rather than making it happen.

**Death** - The sacrificing of who we are for who we are becoming; Transition between stages; Ascension; Very rarely actual death; Coming to know death as an embodiment of the process of life; release

*Reversed* – Resistance to change and growth; choosing to ‘stay safe’ rather than change; inability or reluctance to move on after loss or change.

**Alchemy** - Yoga or Divine Union of opposites; reconciling; uniting; state of balance; Integration of knowledge; possible caution against going to extremes.

*Reversed* – Imbalance; going to extremes; possible passive-aggressive behaviour; non-action through being overly-cautious

**The Devil** - The shackles of the mundane life experience; political servitude; refusing the big picture by rejecting critical thought; addictive behaviour of any kind including sexual.

*Reversed* – Awareness of shackles of mundane life; Is this what I want? Feeling Trapped; Awareness of over-indulgence

**The Tower** - The result of trial from adversary, separating the wheat of True Will from the chafe of that which no longer serves; Elements of life built upon false assumptions collapses

*Reversed*- Collapse still happens but not as bad; lessons from collapse may not be learned; doubling down on false assumptions in order to shore up shaky foundations

**The Star** - Illumination from loss; spilling the blood of a illusory life; Healing; Hope inspired by the spirit; accepting lessons learned from loss; return to basic principles; rebuilding

*Reversed* – Not allowing the healing to happen; fear of starting over; fear of repeating mistakes

**The Moon** – Illusion, Visions, Things in Shadow, Hazy, The subconscious speaking but who can tell the real from the illusion; our limits at discernment show through; delusion; mental instability;

*Reversed:* The fog has lifted; possible regression on steps gained; too caught up in the day-to-day to look at emotional needs

**Black Sun** – Success in all mundane matters; Good times; Relief From Stress; Releasing what no longer serves; Stasis of Success

*Reversed-* The success is there but obscured by stress or worry, pessimism; Realization of the limits of success

**Judgement-** Hearing a call to something greater; Ascension; Call towards actualization; Breaking through into fullness;

*Reversed:* Resisting the call; Feelings of Unworthiness; Fear of Change;

**Black Earth-** Fertilization, Decay, Rebirth through Death, Nemah above (Queen of the Black Earth), Macroscopic mind; full manifestation; Successful Completion of a cycle;

*Reversed:* Limiting oneself from achieving potential; not accepting the end of a cycle; procrastinating the end of a job.

## The Minor Arcana

### Wands

**Ace of Wands** – The creative spark; Beginning of forging the will; New start as it exists in potential – We need to fan it to make it grow

*Reversed* – Blockages in regard to divine spark; Hinderance in harnessing will due to either social programming or outer circumstances; Stillborn ideas.

**Two of Wands** – Successful beginning yet choices on how to proceed. Looking at the big picture to understand where choices may lead;

*Reversed* – Either a blockage in the decision-making process or the inability to make the decision; Choice made but no follow through. Dealing with stasis.

**Three of Wands** - The motion and movement created after a decision has been made; Clarity of purpose, having knowledge of the correct path ahead.

*Reversed* - Uncertainty, regarding action that must be taken. Self-doubt which creates hesitance from moving forward. Feelings of inadequacy to the job

**Four of Wands** – Manifestation of the journey; Things are stable and plans are set; A time of celebration and feasting before setting off;

*Reverse* – Backing out of plans; lack of follow-through; Still a time of celebration tho the purpose may be muted or lost sight of; Runaway Bride

**Five of Wands** – The conflict or turmoil that comes through the training process; developing real skills through adversity; creative conflict as opposed to all-out war

*Reverse*- Losing emotional control and sense of purpose making one unable to remain safe in the eye of the storm. Breaking under pressure leading to weakness; Simulated training turns into an all-out fight due to damaged pride.

**Six of Wands** - Success and Victory in terms of cultivating skills that are applicable under pressure. The obtainment of self-confidence; the ability to cultivate the same skills in others; Balance of will and action to forge the path ahead.

*Reverse* – Stagnation within past accomplishments that keep one from moving forward; Imposter Syndrome; Inability to gain momentum

**Seven of Wands** - Overcoming obstacles through the skills obtained through past experience and a well-forged will. Standing firm in our beliefs; Defending our position. 'Choosing one's battles.'

*Reverse* – Refusal to apply applicable skills to win the battle; Excessive preparation without follow-through; Need to find inner hero.

**Eight of Wands** – Swift travel; Pulling free from hinderances and flowing; renewed direction and purpose; plans to travel; possible new relationship; rekindled sense of adventure

*Reverse*- Scattered energy and enthusiasm; Mired in conflicts or obstacles; Possible jealousy in relationship; Hesitating in removing one's self from a bad situation.



**Nine of wands** – Time to marshal our strength and be ready for conflict; In it for the game rather than personal gain; a great struggle; a challenge that will be well met.

*Reverse* – Over cautious; Hyper-Vigilance; Jumping at shadows because one has been battle-ready for too long; PTSD; Need for vulnerability to avoid rigidity.

**Ten of Wands** – Overtaxed; One has taken on too much and is unwilling or unable to let anything drop; Overwhelmed; Shouldering too much

*Reverse* – Oppression has been lifted and responsibility has been met; Need to avoid overtaxing oneself again; Things at a breaking point.

**King of Wands** – Masculine, intense energy; Someone who sweeps people along in their wake; Charismatic; Visionary and conceptual rather than detail oriented; Someone who wishes to do the creative work and let others clean up after.

*Reverse* – Someone who can't see beyond their own vision; unwilling to give credit or see value in the ideas of others; Bad-tempered or Bigoted; We may have temporarily lost sight of our objectives and unwilling to listen to council.

**Queen of Wands** – Feminine, Creative energy; Someone nurturing of creative energies; inspiring and giving good advice; A time when we are more inspiring than loyal and may be impatient with those around us.

*Reverse* – Someone who may have been unfaithful to us; someone, overburdened and frustrated with those around them; Someone possibly possessive, controlling, vindictive and / or untrusting.

**Prince of Wands** – Someone who will change your world / alter your life; a change in residence or environment; an energy that comes into your life with no warning and sweeps you up; a new project where it is necessary to keep sight of objectives.

*Reverse* – Circumstances have gone awry and become confused; Disappointment with the cooperation of others; Unexpected delays

**Page of Wands** – Young person with lots of energy and a winning personality; A time of adventure and willingness to explore new things; Good news.

*Reverse* – Willingness to learn new things has become blocked; Time of indecision; Someone in our environment who is tantruming; someone who is shallower than we thought.

## **Cups**

**Ace of Cups** – New love at hand either from another or within; Potential for relationship; new period of potential joy

*Reverse* – Blockage to feelings of love or romance. Refusing connection

**Two of Cups** – A strong relationship usually at its beginning; A new start or strengthening to an existing relationship; Romance

*Reverse* – Mistrust poisoning a relationship; Relationship that's in danger;

**Three of Cups** – Friendship; Companionship; Good times with friends; A time of feeling loved and at peace with ourselves and our environment; Appreciation of life.

*Reverse* – Feelings of Companionship have been blocked or disappeared. Feelings of disappointment or betrayal from a friend. A broken trust.

**Four of Cups** – Something new has entered our lives - something of an emotional nature. Will we accept it or throw it in a pile with the rest?; Something is offered that we don't accept.

*Reverse* – Acceptance of what has been offered in the spirit given; Loss of things that we have taken for granted.

**Five of Cups** - Crying over spilt milk; Loss or disappointment; Looking at what has been lost rather than at what remains

*Reverse* – Looking at loss philosophically; Appreciation for what remains and what has been learned through loss; Remaining open to new experiences despite loss.

**Six of Cups** – The Golden moment that will stick in our memories; reliving past days when we felt loved and loving; A time for making new lasting memories; peace and balance.

*Reverse* – Unable to see how good our lives are, no matter how good they are; So focused on the future that we are not living in the present; Unpleasant association from the past

**Seven of Cups** – So many choices that look good tho only one or two are truly beneficial; life not as much fun as we're pretending or presenting; going for the short pleasure fix rather than lasting joy

*Reverse* – Seeking true happiness rather than quick-fix pleasure; Focusing on what is truly important and fulfilling; Hidden problems or dangers revealing themselves; Choices narrowing but what remains are the essentials

**Eight of Cups** – Disillusionment with current circumstances; Knowledge of being able to improve our circumstances if we only had the courage and focus to pursue it; Sense of failure tho only in that our current situation has come to an end; Call to action.

*Reverse*- It might be time to leave our current situation tho we are still enjoying it; coming to terms with present circumstances; Staying at a party way too long.

**Nine of Cups** – The 'wish' card; Getting what we want; forward motion in matter at hand; Enjoyment of simple pleasures; Abandoning one's cares and work to sit and dream; Enjoying our circumstances with others.

*Reverse* – Not getting what we want; Getting what we wanted but not enjoying it; something seems to be missing; too much focus on personal gain and achievement while ignoring that of others

**Ten of Cups** - 'Happily ever after'; Time of harmony and enjoyment particularly in the areas of love, relationship and family. Culmination of relationship; a need to take this feeling to the next level of awareness

*Reverse* – Blockage to happiness with family; Loss of sense of 'closeness'; A feeling of something missing in our lives that we need to pursue separately; Neglecting our family in pursuit of other goals; Time to examine our values.

**King of Cups** – Masculine energy; Someone who advises wisely and can influence your situation for the better or someone who is looking for wise advice from us; A time of romantic fluidity or frustration over inability to take action in love.

*Reverse* – Someone in our environment who is untrustworthy and manipulative; they may be charming but moody as well; Unfaithfulness in relationships; Letting our emotions control rather than council our actions.

**Queen of Cups** – Feminine, Passive energy. Someone who is open but aloof with great depths and currents below the surface; A call to be open and receptive, if not in agreement; Someone maternal in our lives; generous, caring and social tho remote.

*Reverse* – Someone who is out of touch with the needs of others; someone who may put ambition above compassion; manipulative and dishonest while showing a gentle-heart façade; possible indication of Alcohol abuse

**Prince of Cups** – Impractical person who romantically sweeps you off your feet; Someone who may feel like the answer but what is their investment; commitment issues; someone who wants to experience it all at a deep level; finding the balance between dreaming and acting on your dreams.

*Reverse* – A desire to avoid responsibility either out of a sense of disillusionment with the world or that there is too much expected of them; someone manipulative who may use our attractions against us; values their words over truth or honesty

**Page of Cups** – Need to access our inner child and take time out to dream and play; A child who is wide-eyed, open, innocent and questioning.; time for a greater spiritual awareness or path

*Reverse* – Playtime has gone on too long; Our inner and outer lives may have become too entangled and damage to ourselves and others may ensue; Impulsivity; Someone who is being disturbed by psychic flashes or visions. Time for a reality check.

## **Swords**

**Ace of Swords** – New way of looking at things; Seeing something we have been missing; clarity of thought and perception; a new conflict or challenge to be faced.

*Reversed* – Clarity has become obscured; Confusion where the path ahead is uncertain; Delusional thinking; Prejudices and Preconceptions interfering with clear thought

**Two of Swords** – Things have reached an Impasse; time to withdraw and consider both paths; Inherent tension between opposing ideas that can be resolved with time

*Reverse* - The weight of decision has become too heavy; Either matters have fallen out of our hands or things have collapsed due to inherent tension. “If you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice”

**Three of Swords** - Separation from something or someone loved ; Grief; Heartache; Time needed to reflect and heal

*Reverse* – Clinging to old wounds; unable to put the past behind. Someone is refusing to learn the lesson and move on.

**Four of Swords** – Time of rest in the middle of a conflict; take stock and look at all possible outcomes before battle resumes; Not peace but a brief pause to heal and reflect; Further effort is necessary.

*Reverse* – Truce is over; Time to resume and resolve the conflicts at hand; If the inner work has been done then resolution is possible

**Five of Swords** – A loss that is somewhat humiliating, possibly one won through unethical means by someone who is out to win at any cost; Avoid unwinnable battles; Avoid risking humiliating defeat

*Reverse* - Loss in the past that one has never recovered from; reluctance to engage in present conflicts due to past losses

**Six of Swords** – Take stock, look at situation objectively and move on. Time of healing and moving forward; possible journey over the water but in the context of healing; someone may twisting the problem to suit their own ends

*Reverse* – Someone is feeling trapped in their situation unable to escape; Clarity is needed; someone offering what appears to be an escape route that may in the end lead to worse problems and entrapment.

**Seven of Swords** - Difficulties expressing oneself in present circumstances due to people in authority; Feelings of either having to compromise or surrender who we are; Maintaining our inner being while living our day to day lives. Feelings of isolation; possible thievery and underhandedness in our situation.

*Reverse* - Need to consult others on how to escape our situation; Difficulty in doing what we have to do to get away; The need to bring out in the open what has been hidden.

**Eight of Swords** – Distracted by minutiae, both internal and external; People distracting us either with problems or unwanted advice; The need to free ourselves from that which seeks to distract us both external or internal;

*Reverse* - Too focused on the task at hand – time to take a break and return with fresh eyes; Avoiding responsibility and refusing to do what is expected of us; we have stopped blaming others for our inability to get things done

**Nine of Swords** - Waking nightmare; Dark Night of the Soul; Anxiety and Sleepless nights; Unresolved guilt from the past; facing our shadow; self-blame for past issues with others particularly in relationships.

*Reverse* - Our inner conflicts have come to an end and we can give ourselves a break; Cruelty towards others, oft non-intended; Someone with cruel intentions may be acting nice to catch us off guard.

**Ten of Swords** - Things are about as bad as they could be; Loss of everything important to us; Little if anything left to lose; May reflect worries and fears rather than actual loss; If everything is gone but we still remain, rebuilding is possible.

*Reverse* - It is possible that the loss has happened and rebuilding can begin; We have managed to stave off the worse but need to extricate ourselves or suffer further; need for clarity.

**King of Swords** - masculine; A lawyer or someone who has that type of mind; possible legal or business matter we need advice on; Swift action necessary; Taking responsibility for choices made even if we need to delegate someone to help us; someone logical and autocratic who gives good advice but makes us feel judged.

*Reverse* – Someone with control issues in our environment; He likes to throw his weight around and expects compliance; “Dom from hell”; Sadistic and cruel; Someone rule-bound who is indecisive.

**Queen of Swords** – Time for us to express what we see openly and clearly; Someone who is blunt and forthright; someone who may seem unfeeling but she hates ‘sugar-coating’ the truth “grandmotherly kindness”; Someone who bears the scars of past wounds that have healed.

*Reverse* – Someone hurt by life who has become bitter; They tear at the world because they want the world to feel what they feel; Bearing bitterness internally poisoning the self; overwhelmed by past sorrow.

**Prince of Swords** - We may feel criticized in our present circumstances; We need to look at the criticism and fight back in an open clear manner; passivity in the

face of criticism; we may have been overly critical, running roughshod over the feelings of others; bad news in the offering

*Reverse* - Someone who seeks conflict and enjoys dragging others into it; Leaping without looking, heedless of ensuing damage; possibly a relationship ending in an abrupt fashion; time for solitude; possible delay in travels; someone untrustworthy who has entered our lives

**Page of Swords** – The need to speak the truth even when we expect opposition; someone who is young and bright with good ideas but dismissed because of their youth; news we resist because of its ability to shake our world; someone who is trying to learn about us; the need to clear our minds and focus

*Reverse* – We may be too hyper-vigilant and jumping at shadows; seeing opposition everywhere; using perceived obstacles as a reason for not moving forward; a tormenting brat; We may be too fearful at expressing ourselves.

## **Pentacles**

**Ace of Pentacles** – A new business opportunity; renewed strength and trust in partnership; Feeling grounded after a long period of feeling scattered; Possibly new money coming in; Health and vitality

*Reverse* – Lack of appreciation for what is entering life; Possibly money conflicts

**Two of Pentacles** – Constant adjustment needed to keep things in balance; balancing different aspects of our life; Smooth flow

*Reverse*- Balance is not flowing smoothly; Things moving too swiftly to maintain harmonious balance

**Three of Pentacles** – A time of learning and hard work paying off; Recognition of effort; feeling of accomplishment;

*Reverse* – Offering mediocre work; a half-assed job; something done to “get by” rather than conscious effort; someone not working to their best ability



**Four of Pentacles** – Holding on to tightly to social constructs and control structures; relying on material things we have rather than grounding in ourselves and nature; generosity and sharing

*Reverse* - Breaking down of our structures and need to connect internally through meditation or contemplation of nature; hesitation to help others

**Five of Pentacles** - Spiritual and material poverty; Finances, health or both have reached a state of crisis; Period of crisis that is survivable but will take endurance; Missed opportunities; Don't be so hung up on difficult circumstances that you don't appreciate the positives

*Reverse*- Problems more dire and more difficult to recover from; Reacting badly to life's difficulties makes recovery even harder

**Six of Pentacles** – Financial help being offered and it is an equitable exchange; someone successful letting wealth flow through them; 'giving back'; giving so more can be received; success earned and shared tho possibly temporary.

*Reverse* - Current period of success may be coming to a close – a need to find a way to make it last; store ahead; investment; one might have become so material minded that they need to focus on the spiritual

**Seven of Pentacles** – A Project that has stalled or stopped being productive; our lives may feel stalled and in stasis not moving; Are we actively working on improving our lives or are we just going through the motions?; Lost sense of purpose; This will lead to new time of maturity and internal growth.

*Reversed* – What was previously stagnant may now show new growth; Sense of renewal and movement; Stagnant projects may be abandoned

**Eight of Pentacles** – Time of great creativity and self-expression in tune with receptivity to inner guidance; Tighter focus may be needed; Attention to detail is necessary and then we can reconnect to big picture both in our relationships and in business and practical matters; Time to buckle down and pursue goals

*Reverse* – Too much attention to details and too little to big picture; What has worked in the past may no longer be helpful; wider perspective needed; patience is needed; it may be time to step outside the box

**Nine of Pentacles** - Enjoyment of material success may now be possible in our lives; Through self-discipline and attention to detail we can complete our goals; project is close to completion; dissatisfaction and / or boredom. The need for spiritual attainment

*Reverse* - Despite our best efforts, our work is not paying off; Difficulty with focusing oneself and self-discipline. ; Distrust of others; Coming to value spontaneity over careful planning.

**Ten of Pentacles** – Successful conclusion of a cycle and all efforts have borne fruit; Time to enjoy the results of our labor; keen appreciation for beauty in our life and environment; pride in our accomplishments; possibly giving up risk for security; avoiding adventure by remaining in comfort of one's home

*Reverse* – Leaving our comfortable lives to partake of new adventure; delay in realizing full potential of our dreams or blockage in realizing it; Having a great life but taking it for granted and not using it to its fullest potential.

**King of Pentacles** – Someone in a position of power who can help us either financially or with good advice; Someone who may be found either in the board room or out in nature; Play time may be over and it is time to get back to work; Find more enjoyment in every area of our life. What we focus on, thrives.

*Reverse* - Someone who we have counted on is now inaccessible to us; Someone who is bitter and resentful, possibly us; Someone who may have a problem with alcohol; someone who's empathy is too deep and they have given in to despair.

**Queen of Pentacles** – Someone who has cared about and provided for us in ways that we could not; Someone loving, caring and creative, helpful and freely giving; A time when we are taking care of others and appreciating the ability to be of use; Time of abundance and caring for others has brought us here.

*Reverse* – Someone who feels out of their element and is not sure how to proceed; Someone who needs to be reminded of their strengths and how to use

them in their current situation; A need to connect to our true selves to determine if we are in the right place; Neglecting ourselves in our endeavour to care for others.

**Prince of Pentacles** – A time to be practical and not rush into things. Someone who is loyal, sure and steady who takes things a step at a time but gets there; someone who can help us in practical matters; Time to ground ourselves in nature.

*Reverse* – Things may have grown stale for us and we may need something to break us out of stasis. Stalled project that needs to be rejuvenated; Need to think outside the box and innovate; Someone who can't move beyond their fixed ideas; someone more focused on partying than getting the job done

**Page of Pentacles** - We may have started a new course of study or apprenticeship that excites us; A time of learning and growth; Possibly time to still ourselves and discover new potentials within; A dreamy young person with interests we wish to learn about; Possibly positive news on the financial front.

*Reverse* – We may feel blocked in the realization of our plans; We may not have put forth the effort needed to realize our dreams; A focus on short-term enjoyment rather than long-term plans; We have completed our course of study and we are ready for a break.