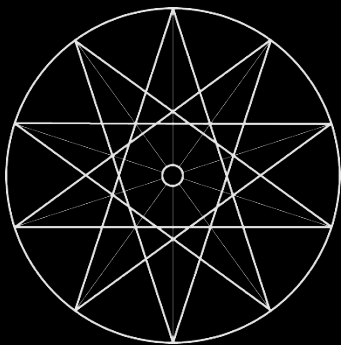
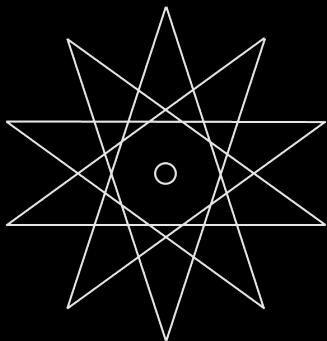


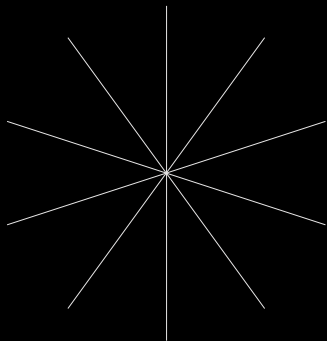


# **THE FORBIDDEN LEXICON**

**Surviving the  
Tarot of  
Desolation**









# Introduction

Welcome to a perilous descent into the obscured caverns of the human soul. This isn't a sanctuary for your hopes and dreams; this is a labyrinth of despair, treachery, and unspoken horrors. The "Tarot of Desolation" is designed to unveil the darkness that lurks within and around you—a darkness too profound for most to confront.

In "The Forbidden Lexicon," each card serves as a malevolent signpost on the treacherous path of life. Forget about seeking the light; you're here to navigate through shadows, to engage with the unsettling and uncomfortable truths that society dares not speak of.

Whether you're a seeker of forbidden wisdom or a daring wanderer through life's cruel maze, this guide arms you with the grim insights you'll need to face the unforgiving landscape that awaits you.

Prepare yourself. The pages you are about to turn are filled with dread and revelation. You stand at the precipice of an unsettling odyssey.



# **How to Work with the Cards: Unveiling the Inexplicable**

## **The Basics**

The Tarot of Desolation is not an everyday spiritual tool; it demands respect and caution. Each card is a gateway to hidden fears, unspeakable desires, and cruel realities. Before shuffling the deck, ensure you're in a quiet, dimly lit space, removed from distractions. The more isolated, the better; you're delving into realms best explored alone.

This journey is not for the weak-willed or overly optimistic. It will take you through the pits of human emotion and experience, as brutal as it is enlightening. Proceed with courage, for what awaits you is a landscape bereft of mercy.

## **Shuffling and Drawing Cards**

When you're ready, shuffle the deck with purpose but without haste. As the cards slip through your fingers, concentrate on the questions or situations you wish to probe. Once shuffled, draw the cards, and lay them on a dark cloth or wooden surface.

Remember to proceed with these spreads at your own risk, giving ample time to absorb the grim wisdom each card offers. Refer to the detailed



explanations in this guidebook for a thorough understanding of the cards you draw.

# The Desolation

For novices, the cards insist on using the Desolation Spread, a simple three-card layout:

1. Past Shadows: The leftmost card unveils the murky past that has led you to your current predicament.
2. Present Abyss: The center card exposes the dismal realities or challenges you currently face.
3. Future Ruin: The rightmost card foretells the probable doom or salvation that lies ahead.

Lay the cards from left to right, meditating briefly on each as you uncover its face.



*An example of The Desolation Spread*

## The Vortex of Despair

Adepts may proceed to venture further with the Vortex of Despair, an unsettling five-card layout.

1.     Root of Suffering: The central card identifies the core issue or challenge at hand.
2.     Claws of the Past: The card to the bottom-left reveals past events haunting your present.
3.     Fangs of the Future: The card to the bottom-right indicates impending challenges or changes.
4.     Veil of Deception: The card to the top-left exposes hidden influences or deceptions.
5.     Mask of Fate: The card to the top-right forecasts the irrevocable outcome if the current course remains unchanged.

Arrange the cards in an X-shape, starting with the Root of Suffering in the center and expanding outward.



*An example of The Vortex of Despair Spread*

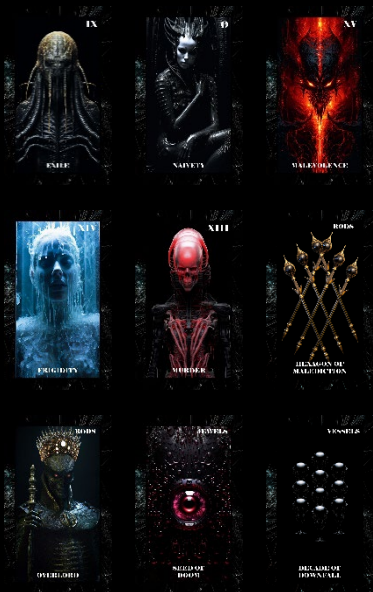
# The Labyrinth of Torment

Fools can convince themselves they are mistress or overlord of these cards. These misguided explorers may dare to navigate the most intricate and unsettling corners of their souls. For this, the cards require the Labyrinth of Torment, a nine-card grid.

1. Abyssal Core: The central card deciphers your deepest fears and desires.
2. Chains of Reality: Directly above the core, this card represents the hard truths you must face.
3. Grim Hope: Directly below the core, this card shows the thin glimmer of hope, however bleak.
4. Shackles of the Past: To the left of the core, these two cards illuminate your historical traumas and mistakes.
5. Gargoyles of the Future: To the right of the core, these two cards foretell impending trials and tribulations.
6. Inner Demons: The cards at the corners of the grid unveil the dark psychological influences that you must confront.
7. Snares of Indecision: Positioned above Chains of Reality, this card reveals the paralyzing choices or moral quandaries that entrap you.
8. Traitors in the Shadows: Located below Grim Hope, this card unveils the hidden vulnerabilities, betrayals, or enemies that may be plotting against you.
9. Whispers of Madness: Flanking the Abyssal Core, these cards expose the insidious

thoughts or compulsions that threaten to unravel your sanity.

Lay the cards in a 3x3 grid, focusing deeply on each as you reveal it.



*An example of The Labyrinth of Torment Spread*



# Interpretation

Each card in the Tarot of Desolation has its own malevolent or cautionary tale, detailed in the subsequent sections of this guidebook. To make sense of the spreads, read the explanations for each position, giving due weight to the reversed meanings when applicable.

The wanderer through desolation will not find the usual tarot cards and their meanings. These twisted and malformed images can be interpreted as replacements, present to facilitate the need for delving into the dark. Or for those with the right mindset, these can be interpreted for what they truly are. Not replacements, but harsh reality.



0

NAIVETY

## 0 - Naivety

### Description

In this haunting portrayal, a young female sits, torn between a posture of readiness and a semblance of ease. Clad in a pitch-black bodysuit, she serves as a chilling embodiment of naïveté—the perilous balance between unguarded innocence and the lurking dangers in the shadows. Her eyes betray a subtle glimmer of unawareness, further emphasizing her vulnerable position.

### Upright Meaning

When Naivety appears in the upright position, it serves as a grim warning of the perils of innocent unawareness. It cautions that your lack of vigilance or comprehension in a situation may lead you down a treacherous path. Whether through willful ignorance or pure innocence, you risk exposing yourself to forces you do not fully understand. It urges you to shed the veil of naivety before proceeding further into your inquiry.

### Reversed Meaning

In its reversed state, Naivety signals a distorted innocence turning into manipulative immaturity. Here, the lack of understanding is not a risk but rather a chosen path, one that employs naïveté as a tool for deception or evasion. It warns of potential manipulation, either coming from you or directed at you, masked as innocent ignorance.



I

MANIPULATION

# I - Manipulation

## Description

The card portrays a faceless figure, almost spectral in nature, radiating a hunger for control that verges on the predatory. Void of any identifiable features, it stands as an unsettling personification of manipulation—faceless, emotionless, and driven by a soulless ambition. This being embodies the raw, dead energy of manipulative forces that exist to exploit and dominate.

## Upright Meaning

When Manipulation appears in an upright position, it warns of a situation thick with deceit and control. The faceless figure serves as a mirror, forcing you to confront the possibility that you are either the puppet or the puppeteer. This card signifies an environment where trust is rare, and ulterior motives are plentiful. It urges caution and advises you to question both situations and relationships that seem too good to be true.

## Reversed Meaning

In its reversed state, Manipulation signifies a dissipating deceit or a loss of control. It could indicate that a manipulative force around you is losing its grip, or alternatively, that you are becoming aware of the machinations at play and are thus less susceptible. However, this is no cause for celebration; the dissipating energy may make room for something even more ominous.

II

DECEPTION



## II - Deception

### Description

The card features a woman, her eyes obscured by a crown of lustrous pink. The crown, though seemingly ornate and beautiful, serves as a blinding device, leaving her unable to see the world around her clearly. This powerful image captures the essence of Deception—seductive, misleading, and dangerously blinding.

### Upright Meaning

When drawn upright, Deception is a stern warning against allowing appearances to cloud judgment. It points to situations or individuals that may seem attractive or promising but ultimately are not what they appear to be. The shiny crown signifies material or superficial attractions that may divert your attention from the truth. It's a call to look beneath the surface, remove your blinders, and confront the reality you might be avoiding.

### Reversed Meaning

In its reversed form, Deception suggests a revelation or the lifting of the blinders. It could indicate that the period of being deceived is coming to an end, either because the truth has been discovered or the deception has served its purpose and is no longer necessary. Yet caution is still advised; sometimes, when one deception ends, another begins.

III

**OPPRESSION**

## III - Oppression

### Description

This disconcerting card features a grayscale woman, her body almost entirely engulfed in a cocoon of outdated technology. Wires, screens, and mechanical parts constrain her every movement. Her face, the only part visible, is a haunting echo of the Naivety card—suggesting a nightmarish evolution from innocence to entrapment.

### Upright Meaning

When Oppression appears upright, it heralds a state of severe constraint or subjugation. It's a grim indicator that external factors, perhaps even your own past choices, have led to a current state of bondage. Whether it's technology, relationships, or simply circumstances you can't control, you are mired in a repressive situation. The card insists on immediate action; the path you are on is unsustainable.

### Reversed Meaning

In its reversed form, Oppression hints at a potential for liberation from a confining situation or mind-state. It suggests that the suffocating elements in your life are starting to lose their grip. However, this liberation isn't without its scars. While the constraints may loosen, the experiences that led to this point will not be easily forgotten and may require ongoing work to fully overcome.



**IV**

**TYRANNY**

## **IV - Tyranny**

### Description

In this evocative card, an attractive male figure is adorned with an elaborate purple crown, rich in its craftsmanship and hue. His eyes exude authority but also a certain burden, as if the weight of his crown demands a terrible price. Tyranny is encapsulated in this image—the seductive allure of power, which often comes at the expense of others.

### Upright Meaning

When Tyranny appears in the upright position, it sounds an alarm regarding power imbalances and the abuse of authority. The card warns you to be wary of those who may use their position or charm to dominate or control. Alternatively, it could point to your own tendencies to wield power in a destructive manner. The card insists you reconsider your role in this dynamic before proceeding.

### Reversed Meaning

In its reversed form, Tyranny suggests the potential for a shift in power or the toppling of a controlling force. It could signal that an oppressive individual or regime is losing its grip, or that you are growing aware of the mechanisms that have held you back. While this may bring temporary relief, the card warns that new structures of power are likely to replace the old.



**INCOMPREHENSION**

## V - Incomprehension

### Description

This mysterious card presents a cloaked figure in yellow, its face obscured by what could either be an elongated mask or a grotesque, otherworldly visage. This ambiguity leaves you questioning whether the figure is hiding its true identity or revealing something utterly incomprehensible. The card serves as an unsettling symbol of the limits of human understanding.

### Upright Meaning

When Incomprehension appears upright, it marks an encounter with the inexplicable or unknowable. Situations or individuals may be presenting themselves in ways that defy logic or conventional wisdom. The card insists that this is a time for caution, a signal that some matters are beyond your current understanding and may require more contemplation or even outside guidance.

### Reversed Meaning

In its reversed state, Incomprehension points toward a dawning clarity or emerging understanding. Something previously indecipherable is becoming more transparent. However, this new insight may not provide comfort. Sometimes, understanding brings its own set of complications and challenges.



**VI**

**OBSESSION**

## **VI - Obsession**

### Description

In this arresting card, two skeletal figures confront each other, leaving the viewer to ponder whether they are lovers locked in an eternal embrace or simply mirror reflections of the same tortured soul. The ambiguity heightens the card's disturbing theme of Obsession—the inescapable pull of desire that may lead to ruin.

### Upright Meaning

When Obsession appears upright, it flags an overwhelming attraction or fixation that has eclipsed reason and caution. It could indicate a relationship that has consumed you, or perhaps a goal or ambition that you pursue recklessly, heedless of the consequences. The card insists you examine whether your relentless pursuit is worth the inevitable toll it will take.

### Reversed Meaning

In its reversed form, Obsession signals a weakening of its tight grip, either due to a conscious effort to break free or an external event that disrupts the dynamic. Although a lessening of obsession may bring temporary relief, the underlying issues that fueled it may still linger, requiring further introspection to prevent a return to the same trap.

**VII**

**PESTILENCE**

## VII - Pestilence

### Description

This unsettling card features a swarm of grotesque, multi-limbed creatures that seem eager to either capture you or block your path. Their malevolent intent and overwhelming presence evoke an air of inescapable dread, encapsulating the essence of Pestilence—a force that threatens to engulf and disrupt.

### Upright Meaning

When Pestilence appears upright, it serves as an omen of unavoidable complications and challenges that will multiply if left unchecked. The card insists that you confront these looming issues directly; evasion will only intensify their menacing grip on your life.

### Reversed Meaning

Reversed, Pestilence suggests a scattering of the difficulties that have beset you. The swarm's dispersal may offer a brief respite, but this is no time for complacency. Even as troubles wane, vigilance is necessary to prevent a resurgence of the obstacles that once swarmed you.



**VIII**



**BRUTALITY**

## VIII - Brutality

### Description

The card depicts an imposing, extremely muscular male figure, shrouded in shadows. His face is turned downward, hidden from view, but his physicality radiates an unsettling aura of raw power and latent violence. Brutality encapsulates the darker aspects of strength—uncontrolled, unforgiving, and often destructive.

### Upright Meaning

When drawn upright, Brutality serves as a warning of unchecked power and aggression, either within you or in your external circumstances. The card insists that this raw energy can either create or destroy, and it urges you to carefully consider the impact of your actions or those around you.

### Reversed Meaning

In its reversed position, Brutality suggests a potential for reining in destructive tendencies or emerging from a situation that had previously been marked by aggression or control. While the immediate threat may be receding, the underlying forces are not entirely eradicated and require vigilant attention to prevent a return to chaos.

**IX**



**EXILE**

## **IX - Exile**

### **Description**

This haunting card features a cephalopod-like humanoid with leathery skin, separated from any known world or species. Its unique and unsettling form evokes a profound sense of isolation and otherness, capturing the essence of Exile—unwanted separation and the struggle of being eternally misunderstood.

### **Upright Meaning**

When Exile appears upright, it signals a period of loneliness or estrangement, possibly self-imposed. You may feel disconnected from your community, work, or even your own sense of self. The card insists that you examine the root causes of this isolation, whether they stem from your actions or external circumstances.

### **Reversed Meaning**

In its reversed form, Exile indicates a potential end to a period of isolation or a new understanding that brings you back into the fold. The opportunity for reconnection is on the horizon, but it may come with its own challenges. A period of readjustment will likely be necessary, and the cards warn that returning to your former state may not be as straightforward as it seems.

**X**



**MISFORTUNE**

## **X - Misfortune**

### Description

The card unveils a wheel of yellow lightning, glowing ominously against the backdrop of a dark, rain-soaked night sky. The wheel serves as a stark emblem of unpredictability and chaos, encapsulating the unsettling concept of Misfortune—unplanned detriments that can strike at any moment.

### Upright Meaning

When Misfortune appears upright, it acts as an omen of sudden setbacks or challenges that are largely out of your control. This card insists that you brace yourself for unforeseen complications, and advises a flexible approach to mitigate the impact of these disturbances.

### Reversed Meaning

In its reversed state, Misfortune suggests the potential lifting of a difficult phase, or the mitigation of the immediate problems you've been facing. Though it seems the worst is behind you, the card warns that you shouldn't let your guard down entirely. Periods of misfortune can often be cyclical, and preparation for future challenges is advised.

**XI**



**RUTHLESSNESS**

## **XI - Ruthlessness**

### Description

The card presents a figure shrouded in a blood-red cloak. Disturbingly, fragments of flesh and streaks of blood hang from its face, emphasizing a sense of brutal intensity. This chilling tableau captures the essence of Ruthlessness—a willingness to achieve objectives regardless of the moral or emotional cost involved.

### Upright Meaning

When Ruthlessness appears upright, it serves as a stark warning about the dangers of unbridled ambition or a disregard for ethical constraints. The card insists that you scrutinize the real price of your pursuits, urging you to consider whether the ends truly justify the means.

### Reversed Meaning

In its reversed state, Ruthlessness suggests a fleeting opportunity for introspection or remorse concerning past indiscretions. Although it points to a potential softening of an overly harsh approach, the card warns that the consequences of past actions are not easily erased and that vigilance is needed to avoid a return to cruel tendencies.



**XII**

**DOOM**

## **XII - Doom**

### **Description**

The card portrays a towering, tentacled entity with a massive head surrounded by fire and brimstone. The atmosphere is heavy with the weight of impending catastrophe, signaling the concept of Doom—inescapable fate and impending disaster.

### **Upright Meaning**

When Doom appears upright, it serves as a dire warning of an unavoidable crisis or transformative event. The card insists that you prepare mentally and emotionally, as profound upheaval is on the horizon and will affect all indiscriminately.

### **Reversed Meaning**

In its reversed form, Doom offers a brief glimmer of hope, suggesting a possible reprieve from immediate disaster. Nevertheless, the card warns that avoidance is only temporary, and that the inevitable still lurks ahead. Utilizing this time for preparation or making amends is crucial.

**XIII**

**MURDER**



## **XIII - Murder**

### Description

This unsettling card reveals a skeletal wraith, imposing in its stature, draped in hues of red and black. The aura is thick with malevolence, as if the very air has been tainted by its presence. Murder encapsulates the darkest aspects of intent and the irreversible consequences of lethal actions.

### Upright Meaning

When drawn upright, Murder serves as an ominous indicator of severe discord, betrayal, or devastating harm. It insists you remain vigilant, as someone or something in your surroundings may possess harmful intentions that could lead to irreversible consequences.

### Reversed Meaning

In its reversed state, Murder could signify narrowly avoided catastrophe or the reining in of destructive impulses. Yet, the card warns that this reprieve is fleeting, and that the seeds of potential disaster still exist. It suggests taking immediate steps to defuse the situation or to protect oneself.

XIV

FRIGIDITY

## **XIV - Frigidity**

### **Description**

The card features a nude female figure, frozen in a block of ice, encased behind a glass pane. Her frozen state captures an essence of impenetrable emotional and physical distance, encapsulating the essence of Frigidity—emotional aloofness and chilling detachment.

### **Upright Meaning**

When Frigidity appears upright, it warns of emotional unavailability or a disconnection from one's own feelings or those of others. The card insists that this emotional standoffishness could hinder growth, intimacy, and meaningful connections, urging a reevaluation of emotional barriers.

### **Reversed Meaning**

In its reversed form, Frigidity suggests a thawing or the possibility of emotional reconnection. However, the card warns that this softening may be temporary, and the danger of slipping back into emotional seclusion is real. It advises seizing this fleeting moment to rekindle connections or break down internal barriers.

**XV**

**MALEVOLENCE**

## **XV - Malevolence**

### **Description**

This haunting card displays a molten demonic entity, its arms outstretched as if to pull you toward an infernal, fiery pit. The entity's malevolent grin and fiery aura create a tangible sense of dread, perfectly embodying the essence of Malevolence—pure, unadulterated evil intent.

### **Upright Meaning**

When Malevolence appears upright, it serves as a severe caution against dark forces or individuals with harmful intentions in your vicinity. The card insists that you be highly alert and cautious, as the threat is both immediate and deeply unsettling.

### **Reversed Meaning**

In its reversed form, Malevolence could indicate the weakening of an evil force or the foiling of harmful intentions. However, the card still warns that complacency is dangerous; the underlying malevolence has not been eradicated and could resurface at any time.





**XVI**

**DOWNFALL**

## **XVI - Downfall**

### Description

The card depicts a tower, not just cracked but entirely split, standing in a pool of dark, reflective water. The rust that covers the tower speaks to long-term decay, while the still water ominously mirrors the structure's failure. Together, they encapsulate the essence of Downfall—inevitable collapse after a period of decay or poor foundations.

### Upright Meaning

When Downfall is drawn upright, it signifies an impending collapse or failure, often after a long period of hidden flaws or ongoing neglect. The card insists you pay close attention to the weaknesses in your own life or projects, as the consequences of ignoring them are near.

### Reversed Meaning

In its reversed state, Downfall offers a sliver of hope—a chance to halt the collapse and rebuild. But the card warns that this momentary reprieve is not to be squandered; urgent action is required to mend the weaknesses that led to this point.

**XVII**



**DARKNESS**

## **XVII - Darkness**

### **Description**

The card showcases a fiery plasma star, its thin rays stretching outward almost in the shape of a cross. It hovers ominously over a monochrome, grayscale cityscape, which is relentlessly pounded by torrential rain. The juxtaposition of the blazing star and the submerged city encapsulates the essence of Darkness—a blinding, deceptive illumination that offers no true light, but rather intensifies the shadows below.

### **Upright Meaning**

When Darkness appears upright, it signifies deceptive clarity or misguided enlightenment. It warns that what seems like an epiphany or guidance may actually lead you further into confusion and despair. The card insists you scrutinize your sources of "light" carefully, as they may be exacerbating your struggles.

### **Reversed Meaning**

In its reversed form, Darkness implies the possibility of genuine enlightenment piercing through the deceptive gleam. However, the card warns that this newfound clarity may be transient and that vigilance is needed to discern true wisdom from false prophets.

**XVIII**



**CONFUSION**

## **XVIII - Confusion**

### Description

This card features what at first glance appears to be a moon but upon closer inspection reveals itself as a dusty, skull-like shape. Its disorienting appearance creates an optical illusion, perfectly embodying the essence of Confusion—unclear perspectives, misinformation, and disarray.

### Upright Meaning

When Confusion is drawn upright, it warns of situations or individuals who will muddle your understanding, cloud your judgement, or lead you astray. The card insists that you tread carefully, for appearances can be deceiving, and the path ahead is not as straightforward as it may seem.

### Reversed Meaning

In its reversed state, Confusion suggests that the fog is beginning to lift, offering a moment of clarity or understanding. However, the card warns that this clear vision may be fleeting, and you should act decisively while the path is momentarily illuminated.

**XIX**

**BURNING**

## **XIX - Burning**

### Description

The card depicts a male figure, his entire body engulfed in merciless flames. His face is disfigured, almost beyond recognition, yet he appears unconcerned by the fire consuming him. More unsettling is his demeanor, which suggests a desire to share this all-consuming blaze with you.

### Upright Meaning

When drawn upright, Burning represents destructive allure or seductive chaos. This card insists that you exercise extreme caution; the fire may appear entrancing, but it promises devastation for those who come too close.

### Reversed Meaning

In its reversed form, Burning suggests a dawning awareness of the dangers that enticed you. The card warns that while the allure may diminish, the potential for destruction lingers. It's a moment to reassess and, possibly, to pull back from the brink.



**XX**

**CONDEMNATION**

## **XX - Condemnation**

### Description

The card displays a haunting skull adorned with lifeless angelic wings. The chilling juxtaposition of death and celestial imagery encapsulates the very essence of Condemnation—irreversible judgment, the finality of fate, and the loss of grace.

### Upright Meaning

When Condemnation appears upright, it serves as a harsh warning of looming judgment or irreversible decisions. The card insists that you carefully weigh your actions and choices, for they may lead to irreversible consequences.

### Reversed Meaning

In its reversed form, Condemnation hints at a possible reprieve or second chance, but at a cost. The card warns that while a momentary escape from judgment may be possible, the underlying issues remain and could resurface later.

A vertical rectangular image showing a cosmic void. The center features a bright, glowing orange-yellow ring with a dark, circular void in the middle. This central feature is surrounded by a dense field of small, distant stars and galaxies, appearing as a dark, textured expanse. The entire scene is framed by a black border with faint, wispy white lines, suggesting a deep space or nebula environment.

**XXI**

**VOID**

## XXI - Void

### Description

The card reveals an ominous hole in space, a gateway leading from nothing to nothing. Amidst the engulfing darkness, a faint shimmer of light flickers, as if hinting at some inscrutable promise or lurking danger within the Void—capturing the essence of emptiness, nihilism, and the haunting unknown.

### Upright Meaning

When Void appears upright, it signals a time of existential questioning that may lead to disorientation or loss of purpose. Despite the unsettling nature of the card, the faint light suggests that all is not lost. The card insists you face this existential quandary head-on, as ignoring it will only intensify the darkness.

### Reversed Meaning

In its reversed state, the shimmer of light in the Void grows slightly brighter, indicating the potential for new beginnings or the realization of something meaningful amidst the emptiness. However, the card warns that this moment of clarity is fleeting; unless the core issues are confronted, the Void will return.



# Vessels



## Root of Calamity

**Upright:** A sudden surge of emotional intensity or a personal crisis that serves as a call to action.

**Reversed:** Repressed emotions causing turmoil; avoidance of confronting issues.



## Duo of Strife (Two of Cups)

**Upright:** Unresolved tensions in a relationship, possibly escalating conflicts.

**Reversed:** A stalemate in emotional or relational matters; misunderstanding.



## Trinity of Agony

**Upright:** Emotional stress spreading to social circles, disrupting friendships and gatherings.

**Reversed:** Isolation from community; deepening personal agony.



### Quartet of Inertia

Upright: Emotional stagnation, unwillingness to accept new opportunities.

Reversed: A temporary lift from apathy, but without resolution.



### Quintet of Hostility

Upright: Emotional betrayal or the discovery of deceit within a close-knit group.

Reversed: Unresolved resentments; lingering grudges.



### Sextet of Affliction

Upright: Haunting memories or the return of a painful past issue.

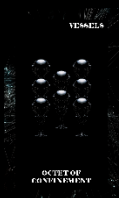
Reversed: Refusal to confront the past; emotional denial.



### Septet of Trickery

Upright: Deception, often emotional or relational; false fronts.

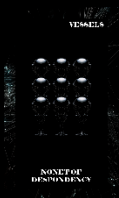
Reversed: Clarity dawning, but damage already done.



### Octet of Confinement

Upright: Feeling trapped in an emotionally stifling situation; inability to leave.

Reversed: Temporary emotional relief, but no actual solution.



### Nonet of Despondency

Upright: Deepening sadness or despair; often relating to unfulfilled wishes.

Reversed: Momentary lift from sadness but without addressing the root issue.





## Decade of Downfall

**Upright:** The ultimate destruction of a familial or social structure; complete emotional upheaval.

**Reversed:** Temporary reconciliation or peace but with underlying instability.



**VESSELS**



**NOVICE**

## **Novice of Vessels**

**Upright:** The Novice of Vessels stands as a harbinger of emotional turbulence. Draped in black and masked in an emotionless helmet, the novice holds a simple cup, representing untapped and perhaps dangerous emotional potential. This card suggests the beginning of an emotional journey that will be fraught with upheaval and unforeseen emotional hazards.

**Reversed:** In its reversed state, the Novice of Vessels shows emotional stagnation or avoidance. The opaque helmet and dark attire reflect a refusal to engage with the emotional chaos that is just beginning to surface, possibly leading to a future of emotional barrenness.

A figure wearing a highly detailed golden helmet and armor, holding a golden chalice with both hands. The figure is set against a dark background with some light streaks on the left side. The overall aesthetic is dramatic and regal.

**VESSELS**

**ADEPT**

## **Adept of Vessels**

**Upright:** The Adept of Vessels is a figure of emotional ruthlessness. The hollow golden armor symbolizes a soul stripped of compassion, holding a chalice that may well contain the sorrows of others. The card heralds a period of intense emotional manipulation, whether by you or someone else. The elaborate chalice signifies the mastery of dark emotional arts.

**Reversed:** When reversed, the Adept reveals emotional corruption or depletion. The hollow armor is tarnished, signifying the personal toll taken by a lack of empathy and human connection. The golden chalice, once a sign of mastery, now represents the hollowness of victory without moral substance.

**VESSELS**

**MISTRESS**

## **Mistress of Vessels**

**Upright:** The Mistress of Vessels is the mastermind of emotional and psychic manipulation. Her ornate headpiece and intense gaze into the smoking cauldron symbolize her capacity to delve deep into the emotional realms and pull out truths others wish to hide. Standing on a pool of dark water, she's in her element, capable of emotional depths few dare to explore. This card implies a time of emotional control, psychic insight, and perhaps the use of these powers for darker ends.

**Reversed:** In the reversed position, the Mistress of Vessels suggests a loss of control over the emotional realm. The dark water she stands upon may begin to ripple, symbolizing emotional instability. The cauldron's smoke disperses, and her once focused gaze is now vacant, signifying a period of emotional confusion, perhaps even being deceived by your own intuitions.



A character from the anime Overlord, wearing a metallic mask and holding a golden cup. The character is set against a dark background with a subtle, glowing, star-like pattern. The image is framed by a dark border.

**VESSELS**

**OVERLORD**

## **Overlord of Vessels**

**Upright:** The Overlord of Vessels embodies the epitome of emotional greed and manipulative mastery. His tarnished gold skin signifies a life spent chasing emotional or material gain at any cost. The shiny cup he holds contrasts sharply with his own decay, symbolizing a yearning for emotional fulfillment that remains elusive. Drawing this card may indicate a time when you are in control of your emotional landscape but warns of the potential moral or ethical pitfalls of such dominion.

**Reversed:** When reversed, the Overlord of Vessels suggests an emotional downfall. The tarnished gold begins to flake, and the once-coveted cup appears dull. It signifies a loss of control, a time when emotional manipulations backfire, leading to isolation and barrenness. The cards insist that you reflect on your emotional machinations and their ethical implications.



## Rods



### Genesis of Decay

Upright: The inception of a draining project or endeavor, sapping vitality.

Reversed: A retreat from an undertaking that may prove to be disastrous.



### Pair of Fracture

Upright: A difficult decision that risks causing strife and discord.

Reversed: Indecision causing delayed fracture; procrastination.



### Triumvirate of Misery

Upright: Initial stages of a venture where everyone is suffering or unhappy.

Reversed: Pulling back from a project or relationship, but at a cost.



### Tetrad of Isolation

Upright: Solitary struggle without the support of peers or community.

Reversed: Temporary group involvement that doesn't last or help.



### Pentagon of Loss

Upright: Misaligned efforts leading to loss; collective failure.

Reversed: A cease-fire in disputes, but with losses already incurred.



### Hexagon of Malediction

Upright: Achieving a victory that feels more like a curse than a blessing.

Reversed: A failure that somehow provides a twisted sort of relief.



### Heptagon of Deception

Upright: Misleading strategies in battles or endeavors; foul play.

Reversed: Unveiling deceit, yet with irreparable damage done.



### Octagon of Dread

Upright: Fast-paced changes inducing fear and anxiety.

Reversed: A pause in unsettling developments, but dread lingers.



### Enneagon of Lament

Upright: Emotional or physical exhaustion from ongoing struggles.

Reversed: Temporary respite that doesn't alleviate the underlying weariness.



### Decagon of Finality

Upright: The crushing end of a journey or project, marked by overwhelming burdens.

Reversed: A momentary lightening of load, but the end is still inevitable.





**RODS**



**NOVICE**

## **Novice of Rods**

**Upright:** The Novice of Rods represents a fledgling mastery over dark forces. In the shroud of darkness, her glowing staff serves as a double-edged symbol—hope and potential on one side, but also the naivety of thinking light can easily banish dark. The card suggests a time of learning and experimentation, of balancing your internal energies as you step into new realms of experience.

**Reversed:** In the reversed position, the Novice's staff dims, signifying a loss of faith or a pivotal mistake that costs dearly. The cards insist that the lesson of this failure should not be dismissed, as even in error, there is room for growth and learning. Caution against rash decisions and heedlessness is advised.

**RODS**



**ADEPT**

## **Adept of Rods**

Upright: The Adept of Rods with his magical harpoon stands in enigmatic silence, poised for action yet unreadable. This card indicates a mastery over one's own destiny but warns of the ambiguities that come with power. The Adept knows how to navigate through darkness, but what he seeks remains a mystery. The cards insist that you are in a powerful position to direct your own fate, but must exercise wisdom in your choices.

Reversed: Reversed, the harpoon seems almost a burden, a weapon of potential harm either to the Adept himself or others. The cards insist that mismanagement of power and unclear intentions will lead to chaos and possible self-sabotage. This card warns against losing sight of your own ethical compass in the quest for power.

A woman with dark skin and dramatic eye makeup is depicted in an Egyptian-style costume. She wears a tall, black, ribbed headdress and a dark, open garment adorned with multiple layers of beaded necklaces and a large, ornate pendant. She holds a torch with a bright, glowing flame in her right hand. The background is dark with faint, glowing, star-like patterns on the left and right sides.

**RODS**

**MISTRESS**

## **Mistress of Rods**

**Upright:** The Mistress of Rods, in her dark yet sumptuous attire, wields a scepter of authority. The cards insist that you are in a position to influence, direct, and command. The regal scepter is a token of her mastery over her domain. This is a sign of strong feminine energy, empowering you to take control but with a sense of balance and ethical responsibility.

**Reversed:** In a reversed state, the scepter's weight seems to be a burden. The cards warn of authoritarian tendencies, where the urge to control turns to oppression. There is a risk of abusing power for personal gain, and a loss of the harmonious balance that comes with responsible leadership.

**RODS**

**OVERLORD**



## **Overlord of Rods**

**Upright:** The Overlord of Rods, in his reptilian visage and golden crown, epitomizes a twisted form of authority and dominance. The cards insist that you might be in a place of considerable influence but caution that this power can corrupt. The golden rod in his grasp suggests that you have the resources to enact your will. It's an invitation to wield your authority, but to do so wisely.

**Reversed:** When reversed, the Overlord's decadence is his downfall. The cards warn of a pending loss of control or authority, the corrosive impact of power, or the propensity to rule with an iron fist. The golden rod and crown lose their sheen, symbolizing the temporary nature of materialistic gains and power achieved through fear.





# Blades



## Origin of Malice

Upright: The starting point of harmful intent or destructive thought.

Reversed: A repressed urge for malice that can potentially backfire.



## Twins of Dissension

Upright: An uncomfortable stalemate due to internal or external disagreements.

Reversed: A forced resolution that satisfies no one.



## Threesome of Ruin

Upright: Heartbreak or betrayal causing devastation.

Reversed: A surfacing of hidden wounds that had been ignored.



### Foursome of Neglect

Upright: Isolation and withdrawal leading to neglect of important issues.

Reversed: A reluctant re-engagement with the world, but damage is done.



### Penta of Struggle

Upright: A victory in battle that results in wider conflict or loss.

Reversed: Backing down from a fight but with a sense of defeat.



### Sixfold of Enmity

Upright: A journey or transition that sows discord or creates new enemies.

Reversed: A return to a troubled past, reviving conflicts.



### Sevenfold of Complexity

Upright: A complex situation requiring deceit or trickery to navigate.

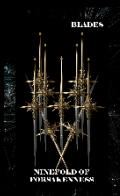
Reversed: An unraveling of secrets or plots but with complicated consequences.



### Eightfold of Stasis

Upright: A situation of paralyzing fears or doubts inhibiting action.

Reversed: A slight loosening of restrictions but not enough for true freedom.



### Ninefold of Forsakenness

Upright: Mental anguish and isolation to the point of feeling forsaken.

Reversed: A glimpse of hope or relief, yet the feeling of abandonment remains.



### Tenfold of Annihilation

Upright: The ultimate betrayal or failure leading to ruin.

Reversed: A dodged bullet, but the danger of annihilation still looms.



**BLADES**



**NOVICE**

## **Novice of Blades**

**Upright:** The Novice of Blades, holding a sword to its head, represents the duality of intellect and action. The cards insist on acknowledging both the danger and potential wisdom that comes with new ideas or strategies. The sword is a symbol of both threat and enlightenment, indicating that decisions and actions at this point are critical.

**Reversed:** In the reversed position, the Novice suggests a misapplication of thought and action. The cards warn that you may be using your intellect or resources in a way that's destructive rather than constructive. What you consider as devotion or service may actually be blind obedience or self-sabotage.



**BLADES**



**ADEPT**

## **Adept of Blades**

**Upright:** Shrouded in shadows, the Adept of Blades holds her sword upright, almost in a meditative state. The card insists that you possess both the skill and the weapon to cut through any difficulties. Your thoughts may drift towards darker intentions, like the effectiveness of your blade in causing harm, but now is a time to harness that capacity for focused and effective action.

**Reversed:** Lost in the shadows, the reversed Adept suggests a misuse of power or an impending lapse in judgment. The cards warn you to reconsider the direction of your blade—misused, it could lead to harm, both to yourself and others.

A woman with pale skin and dark eye makeup is shown from the chest up. She is wearing a dark, intricately detailed costume with a high collar and a headpiece that features many thin, vertical spikes. She holds a long, thin sword vertically in front of her face, with the blade pointing upwards. The background is dark with some faint, glowing lines and a vertical strip of light on the left side.

**BLADES**

**MISTRESS**

## **Mistress of Blades**

**Upright:** The Mistress of Blades, clad in black and crowned with spikes, captivates with her gaze as her ornate blade divides her portrait. This card signifies a mastery of mental acuity and emotional detachment. Just like her blade, you have the power to split realities, make tough decisions, and sever ties if need be. Her unwavering gaze suggests that whatever you're contemplating, do it decisively.

**Reversed:** In the reversed position, the Mistress warns of a duplicity that could backfire. Her blade, which once divided wisely, now cuts recklessly. Be cautious of manipulation and deceit, both from others and potentially within yourself.



**BLADES**

**OVERLORD**

## **Overlord of Blades**

**Upright:** The Overlord of Blades, a youthful king adorned in ornate armor, tightly grips his weapon—a symbol of his might and domain through warfare and conquest. This card speaks to authority, control, and strategic planning. It suggests a mastery over one's environment, gained sometimes at great personal or moral cost. The power you seek is within reach but be prepared for the responsibilities and sacrifices that come with it.

**Reversed:** In its reversed position, the Overlord of Blades warns of tyranny, abuse of power, and misguided aggression. The sword that once led to victories now risks becoming the instrument of your downfall. Be cautious not to let the thirst for control blind you to the consequences of your actions.



# Jewels



## Seed of Doom

Upright: The inception of a dangerous or ominous situation.

Reversed: A narrow avoidance of impending disaster, but not without its costs.



## Duality of Chaos

Upright: Juggling multiple chaotic elements, leading to instability.

Reversed: Loss of control, leading to full-on chaos.



## Triad of Suffering

Upright: Collaboration that results in shared misery or suffering.

Reversed: A project or endeavor fails, multiplying the agony.





### Quaternity of Stagnation

Upright: Hoarding resources or emotions, causing life to stagnate.

Reversed: Forced to relinquish control, leading to momentary upheaval.



### Quintessence of Conflict

Upright: Material loss that becomes the essence of ongoing conflict.

Reversed: A small material gain that doesn't significantly alleviate tensions.



### Hex of Malady

Upright: Giving or receiving help that proves to be ill-advised.

Reversed: An imbalance of power keeps the cycle of malady going.



### Septum of Deceit

Upright: Long-term plans or investments tainted by deception.

Reversed: Realizing the deceit but struggling to rectify it.



### Octave of Entrapment

Upright: Skilled labor or efforts leading to an entrapping situation.

Reversed: Lack of skill causing a trap to tighten further.



### Nonagon of Grief

Upright: A momentary sense of accomplishment overshadowed by grief.

Reversed: Gains made but at an emotional or ethical cost.



## X of Ruin

Upright: Achieving a long-term goal but it leads to your downfall.

Reversed: A collapse that destroys the intricate structure you've built.



**JEWELS**



**NOVICE**

## **Novice of Jewels**

**Upright:** The Novice of Jewels presents a demonic imp engrossed with a large golden globe, surrounded by smaller nuggets. This card is a symbol of new financial or material opportunities. The imp's fascination with the golden objects suggests a nascent understanding or engagement with wealth, perhaps to the point of greed or obsession. This card may indicate a new venture or investment that could prove to be lucrative.

**Reversed:** When reversed, the Novice of Jewels warns of materialism taken to an extreme, or opportunities squandered due to a lack of focus. The scattered golden nuggets around the imp indicate potential waste and the risks of being too preoccupied with wealth for its own sake.

**JEWELS**



**ADEPT**

## **Adept of Jewels**

**Upright:** The Adept of Jewels stands as a spectral figure in deep space, surrounded by glass globes and holding a unique piece of jewelry made of glass skulls. This card signifies mastery over material and financial realms but suggests that this control has come at a cost. The space setting indicates a certain detachment or isolation that this level of control can bring, perhaps an emotional or spiritual void.

**Reversed:** In the reversed position, the Adept of Jewels warns of the perils of financial or material obsession. The glass skulls could symbolize a fixation with material gain that could be spiritually or emotionally 'deadening.' The deep space backdrop, in this case, serves as a reminder that focusing too much on material assets can lead to a lonely existence.



**JEWELS**

**MISTRESS**

## **Mistress of Jewels**

**Upright:** The Mistress of Jewels, a mysterious figure with facial tattoos, holds a red globe that could be either an offer or a lure. This card symbolizes the complex relationship one has with material wealth and power. In the upright position, it suggests an ability to masterfully manage resources, but also hints at the ambivalence and hidden risks associated with such power. The globe can be a treasure or a trap, asking you to be mindful of your motivations and the consequences of your choices.

**Reversed:** In reverse, the Mistress of Jewels serves as a stark warning against the perils of greed or being overly focused on material gains. The red globe could symbolize a destructive passion or obsession that could lead you astray. The unclear nature of her offer or beckoning turns more ominous, suggesting that what you think you control could actually control you.

**JEWELS**



**OVERLORD**

## Overlord of Jewels

**Upright:** The Overlord of Jewels stands in opulent but peculiar attire, with a black opal as his third eye that drips molten gold onto his head. This card signifies the pinnacle of material success and power, but at a cost. The molten gold spreading suggests that this influence is shaping or even consuming him. When upright, the card indicates that you have achieved great material success but urges you to consider its impact on your character and well-being.

**Reversed:** In the reversed position, the molten gold and floating embers around the Overlord become warning signs. Your pursuit of wealth or power may have led you astray, causing more harm than good. The embers in the air could represent dwindling opportunities or the burning away of meaningful relationships. Be cautious of letting material concerns consume your identity and values.

## **Closing Thoughts**

The tarot deck you now hold is unlike any other; it's a tool that delves deep into the shadows, unearthing truths that can be both enlightening and unsettling. While traditional tarot decks often focus on higher spiritual planes or abstract concepts, this set embraces the darker aspects of reality. It's a powerful instrument but wields its power indiscriminately.

When you engage with these cards, it's crucial to approach them with the respect and caution they demand. Unlike other decks that guide you gently through your inner world, this one might drag you into its abyss if you're not prepared. The figures, the symbolism, the names—all are deliberately intense and meant to provoke thought, feeling, and sometimes, discomfort.

Remember, darkness is not inherently evil; it's a realm of potent energies that we often neglect or misunderstand. Yet mishandling these energies can lead to outcomes that are challenging at best and detrimental at worst. Use this deck as a means to confront, understand, and ultimately integrate these darker elements into your spiritual and psychological framework. But tread carefully; the path you're on is fraught with complexities that should neither be underestimated nor trivialized.

Approach this deck with a balanced mindset and a fortified spirit. Then, and only then, can you hope to master the profound insights it offers.



