

# Fool's Gambit



Tarot Guide

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A Thanks  
to the  
Artist



The Fool's Gambit tarot deck could not exist today if it were not for Elientje De Laet. She brought the entire deck to life by creating a total of 79 unique illustrations with minimal input. Not only that, but her unique art style perfectly brings out the whimsical, fun side of tarot that I had hoped to emphasize with this project. For this, I am extremely greatful, and would recommend her services to anyone who enjoys this art style.

If you would like to see more of her work, you can find her on Instagram:

[@ellie.patatellie](#)

# *Introduction*



# Hello oh great and beautiful reader!

Welcome, and congratulations on your acquisition of the Fool's Gambit tarot deck! Well, at least I assume that you have a copy of the Fool's Gambit tarot deck. If not, what are you doing here? How did you come across this guide? Regardless, I'm glad to have you.

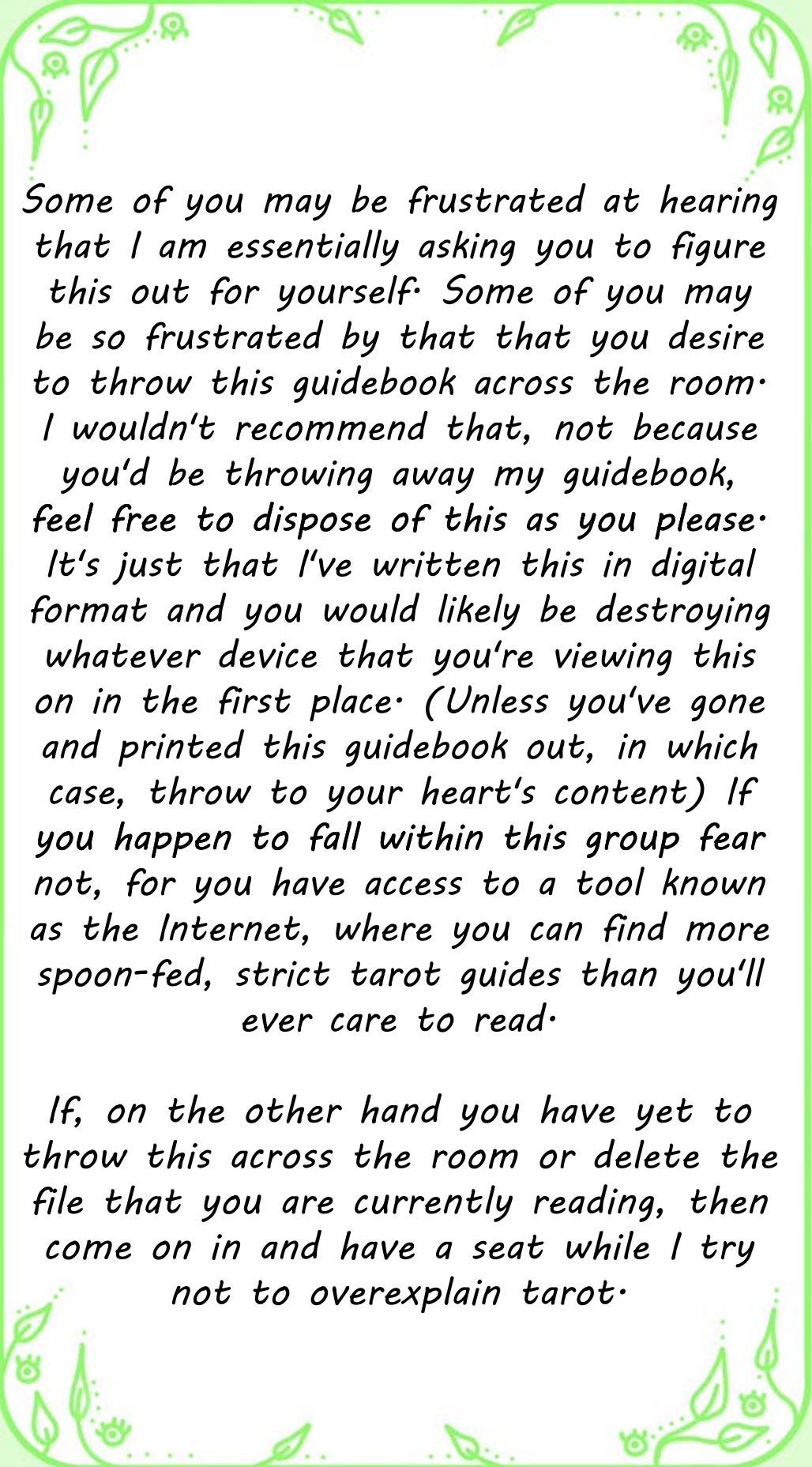
Another assumption that I'm going to make is that you are here because you want to know how to read the Fools Gambit. I know that especially when it's your first time looking at all the symbols and imagery of tarot it can seem pretty intimidating trying to understand what's in front of you. Luckily for you, you've got me. I am here to tell you about the bona fide 100% best way of reading tarot...



Are you ready?

... There isn't one. That's it, a simple truth that, if you can agree with it early on, you'll be a much better tarot reader than I was when I started. Historically, records of tarot date back 600 years or so, give or take a few decades. In that time the ideas and meanings and interpretations of tarot have evolved and changed and grown far beyond a single set standard. Even so, certain traditional meanings and interpretations have clung on for dear life in such a way that even to this day people will still read tarot strictly using common card meanings. I see nothing wrong with using the tarot in this way but if that's the way that you're looking to learn, you're in the wrong place.

The Fools Gambit isn't about tradition or defying tradition. It's just a freeform way of doing it. When I was first starting out, I checked my guidebook for everything. Every minute detail of every reading had to be done the **RIGHT WAY**. At first, this was fun but it got somewhat irritating to have to check a guidebook every single time I wanted to do a reading. I also saw other readers who didn't use a guidebook they seemed to have memorized the entire deck with all its meanings. I was not for that. Tarot was supposed to be fun for me, and doing homework quizzing myself on the meanings of cards was quite the opposite of that. So what did I do? I started freestyling. I tried to check the guide as little as possible and instead went out of my way to try to come up with my own interpretations of the cards. At first, this led to a lot of vague, unclear readings, but the more I did it the more I felt like I was onto something.



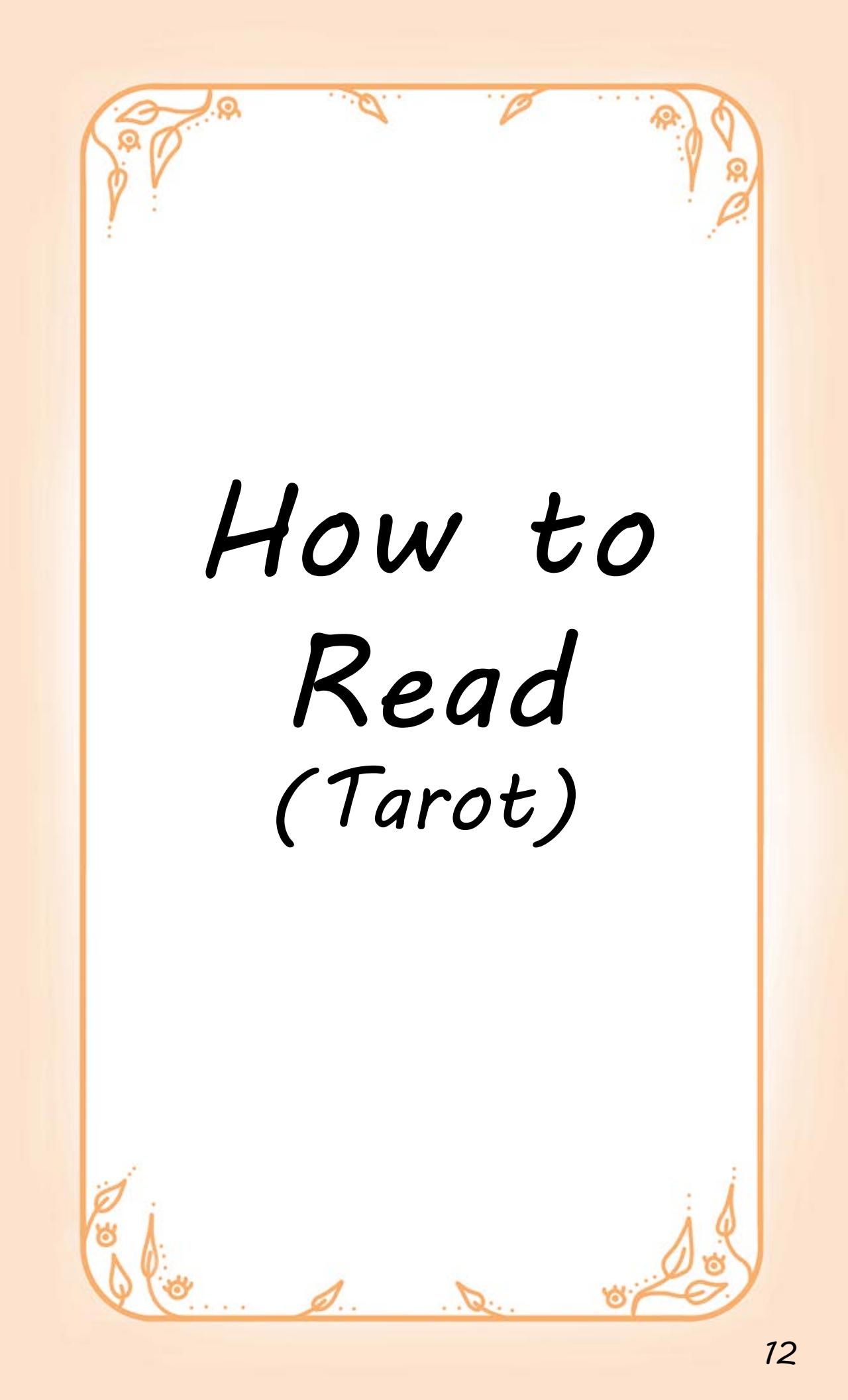
Some of you may be frustrated at hearing that I am essentially asking you to figure this out for yourself. Some of you may be so frustrated by that that you desire to throw this guidebook across the room. I wouldn't recommend that, not because you'd be throwing away my guidebook, feel free to dispose of this as you please. It's just that I've written this in digital format and you would likely be destroying whatever device that you're viewing this on in the first place. (Unless you've gone and printed this guidebook out, in which case, throw to your heart's content) If you happen to fall within this group fear not, for you have access to a tool known as the Internet, where you can find more spoon-fed, strict tarot guides than you'll ever care to read.

If, on the other hand you have yet to throw this across the room or delete the file that you are currently reading, then come on in and have a seat while I try not to overexplain tarot.



# Tarot Basics

If you're completely new to tarot, let me start by giving you a general idea of how this deck is put together. There are 78 cards in total, composed of 5 suits. The first suit is called the Major Arcana, and these cards typically represent major events or influences in life. Many people will read these cards as indicators that there is something important coming through the reading. The remaining four suits are Wands, Pentacles, Cups, and Swords, and they are arranged similarly to the suits of playing cards. Each suit has numbered cards from 1 to 10, following which come the face cards in the order of Page, Knight, Queen, then King. The type of each suit also represents a different aspect of self and others. In the case of this deck, Wands correspond to energy, Pentacles correspond to the physical world, Cups correspond to spirit, and swords correspond to the mind. However, you'll likely see that depending on the context, your interpreted meaning won't fit perfectly into these given categories. Got all that memorized? Yes? No? Doesn't matter.



# How to Read (Tarot)



Let's just begin a reading by picking a card from the deck. Any card will work for this so pick one at random.

Got your card? Good, now look at it. Really look at it. Soak up all those details.

Okay, now how do you feel? Happy? Upset? Hungry? Try to put that feeling into words. This can be anything, a simple phrase, or an entire paragraph if that's what comes out.

If you're really not feeling anything, that's alright. You've got a backup. For each card, I've provided four words or key phrases for you to use as reference. You don't need to give too much thought to these, they're just here to give you something to work with. Try again to see how you feel when you hear these words, or just use one of them in a sentence.





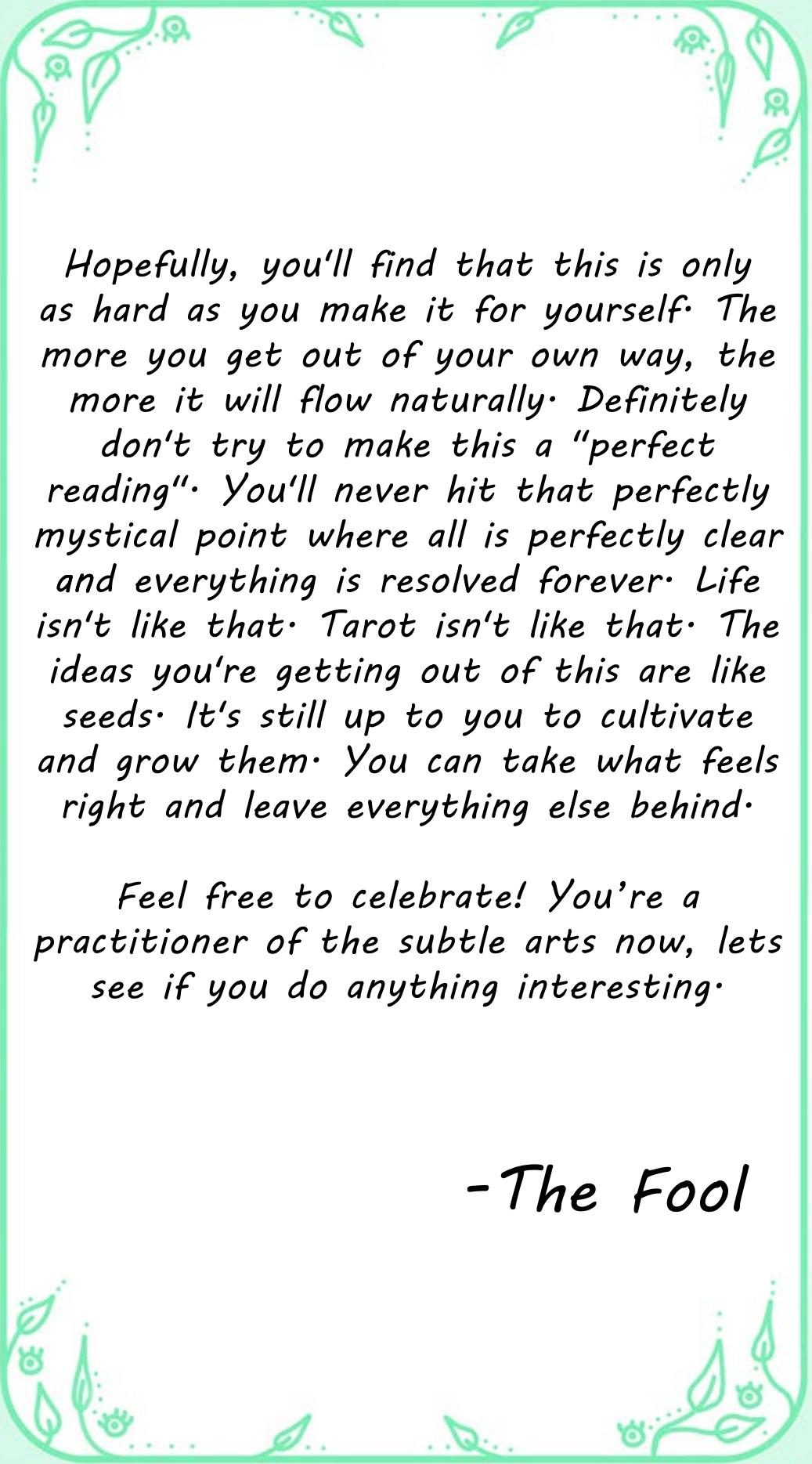
Now, this is just one card, so you don't have to get too focused on it. Try drawing another and start repeating the process. Feel out the card in whatever way feels natural to you. Feel how this card is different from the first. Try to draw a connection between the feeling from the first card and the feeling of this one. Put together another phrase or sentence using both of these as reference.



Alright, you're doing it. Wash, rinse, repeat and you've got yourself a full reading. You can keep drawing cards in this reading until you feel like you're done. This can be any number of cards, but the greater number you draw, the more possible it is to make the message vague and ambiguous. Heck, you might feel like you've gotten what you were looking for in just one card.

## *A note on reversals:*

*A fairly common practice in the world of tarot is to change the meaning of a card based on the orientation it is drawn. The version of this that I have seen the most is interpreting a card as the opposite of its given meaning if you draw it upside down. If doing it this way strikes your fancy, go for it. Sometimes I do, most of the time I don't. It's your choice, your reading.*



Hopefully, you'll find that this is only as hard as you make it for yourself. The more you get out of your own way, the more it will flow naturally. Definitely don't try to make this a "perfect reading". You'll never hit that perfectly mystical point where all is perfectly clear and everything is resolved forever. Life isn't like that. Tarot isn't like that. The ideas you're getting out of this are like seeds. It's still up to you to cultivate and grow them. You can take what feels right and leave everything else behind.

Feel free to celebrate! You're a practitioner of the subtle arts now, lets see if you do anything interesting.

- The Fool



# The Major Arcana

New  
Beginnings

Innocence



The Fool

Fun

1



Tradition

2

Ritual

Belief

Purity

The High Priestess

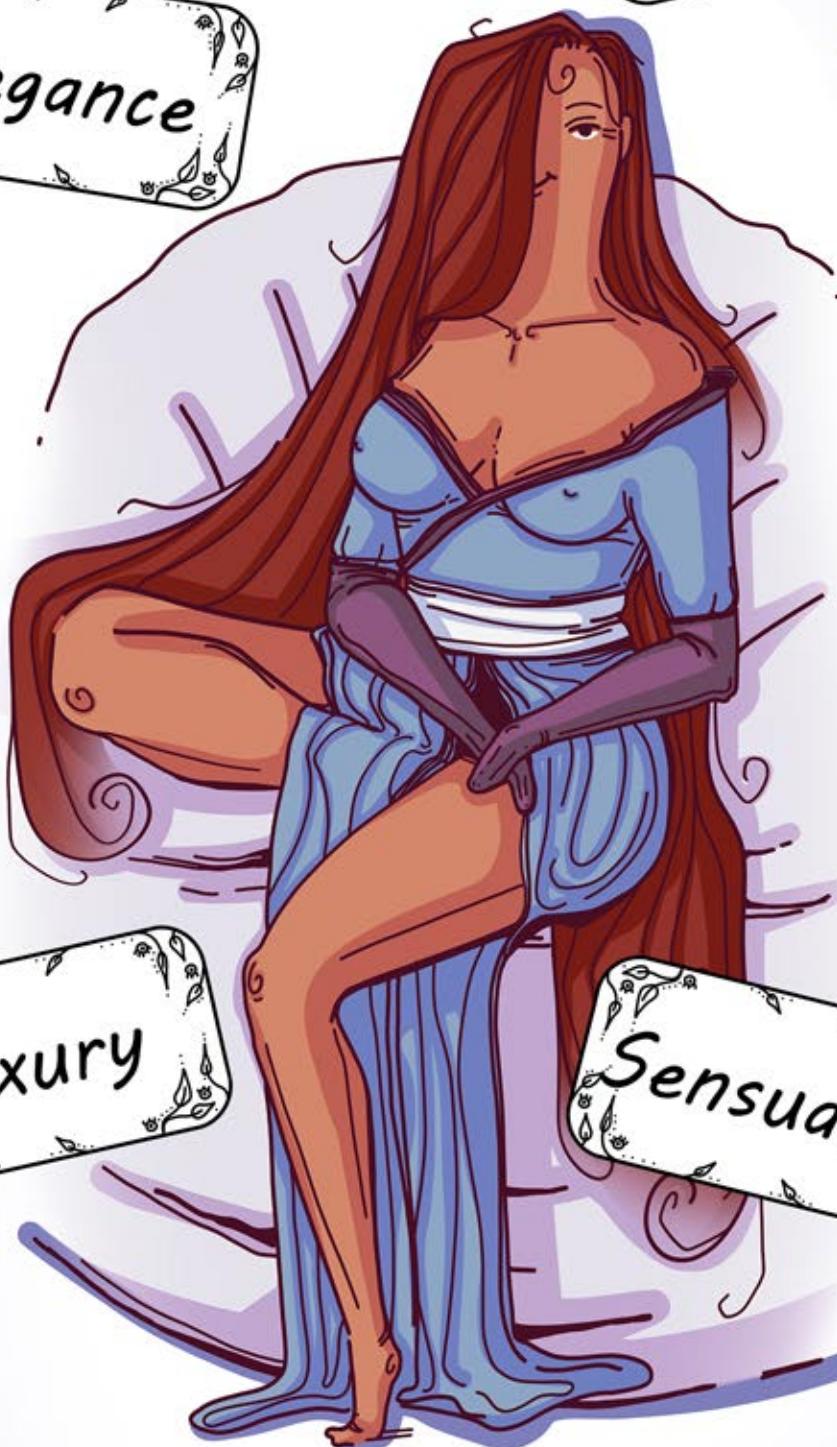
3

Confidence

Elegance

Luxury

Sensuality



The Empress

4

Routine

Structure

Stagnation

Complacency

The Emperor

5

Slow  
Movement

Traditional  
Wisdom

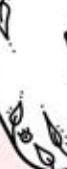


The Hierophant

6

Unity

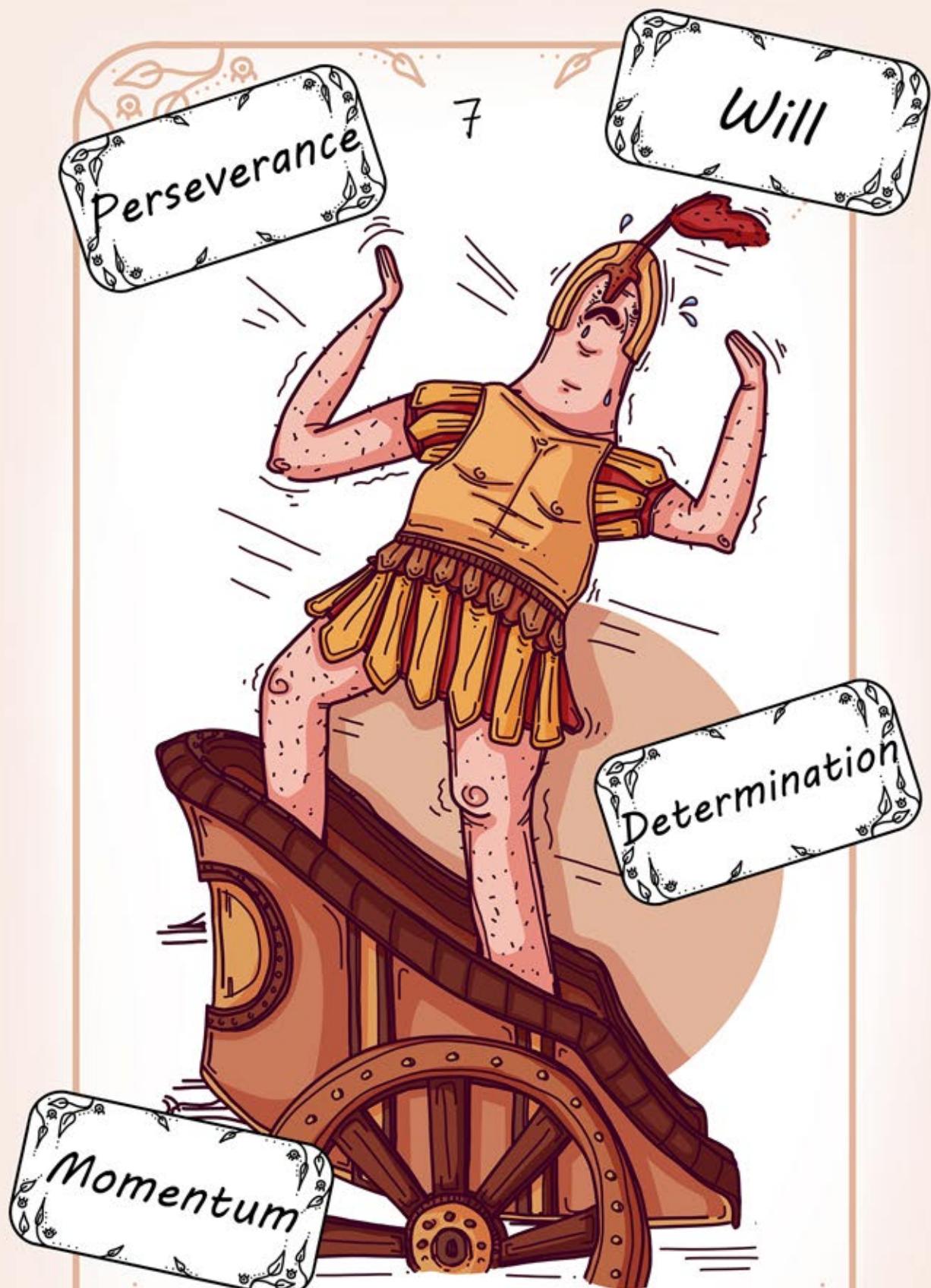
Beauty



Unseen  
Connections

Love

The Lovers



The Chariot



9

Self  
Discovery

Isolation



The Hermit

10

Natural  
Cycles

Fate

Change in  
Circumstances

Acceptance

Wheel of Fortune

11

Balance

Fairness

Truth

Action and  
Consequence

Justice

12

Lessons Learned

Temporary Suffering



Consequences

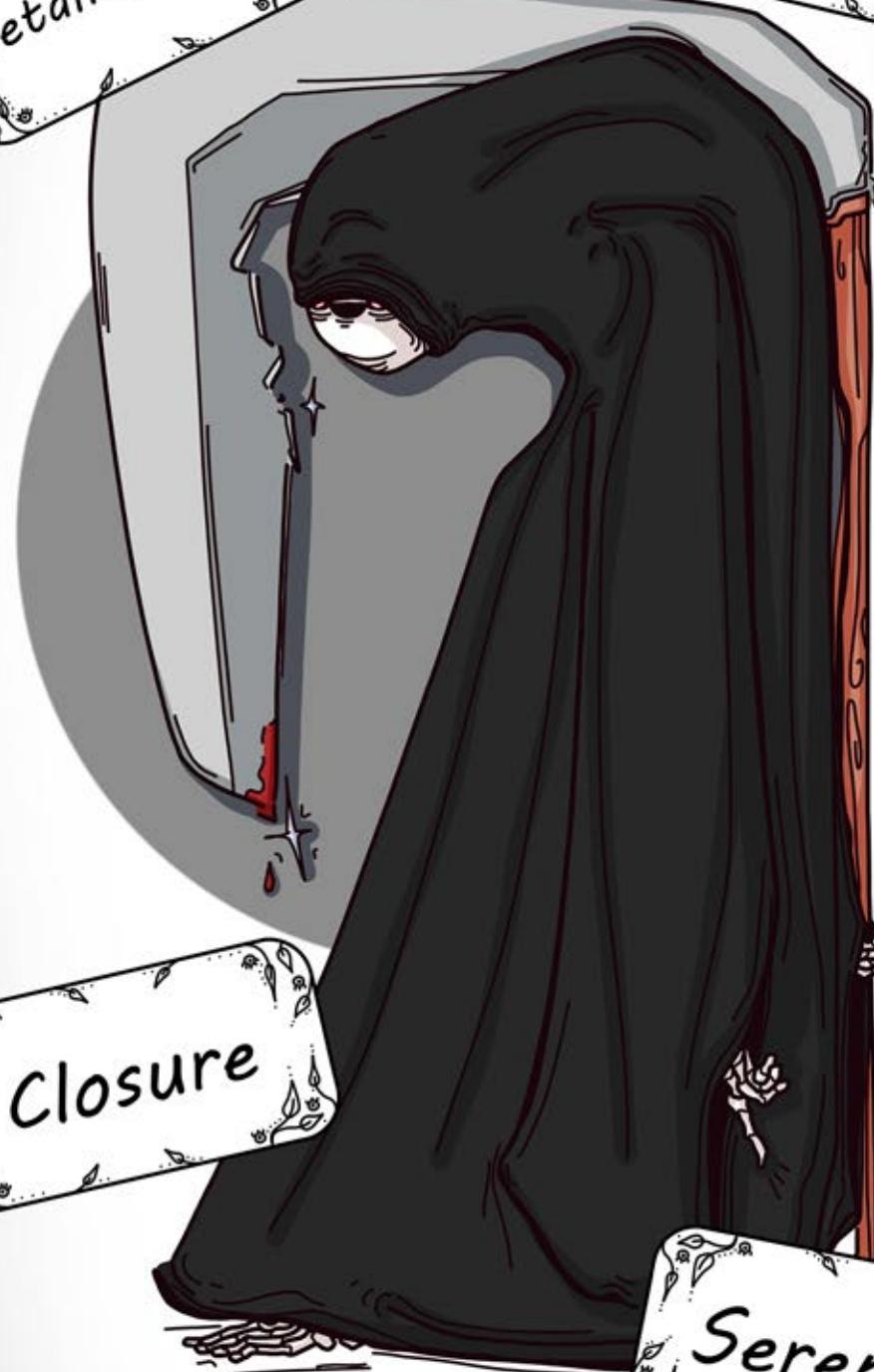
Inconvenient Truth

The Hanged Man

13

Metamorphosis

Endings



Closure

Serenity

Death

Expression

14

Patience



Creativity

Art

Inspiration

Temptation

15

Excess



Bad  
Habits

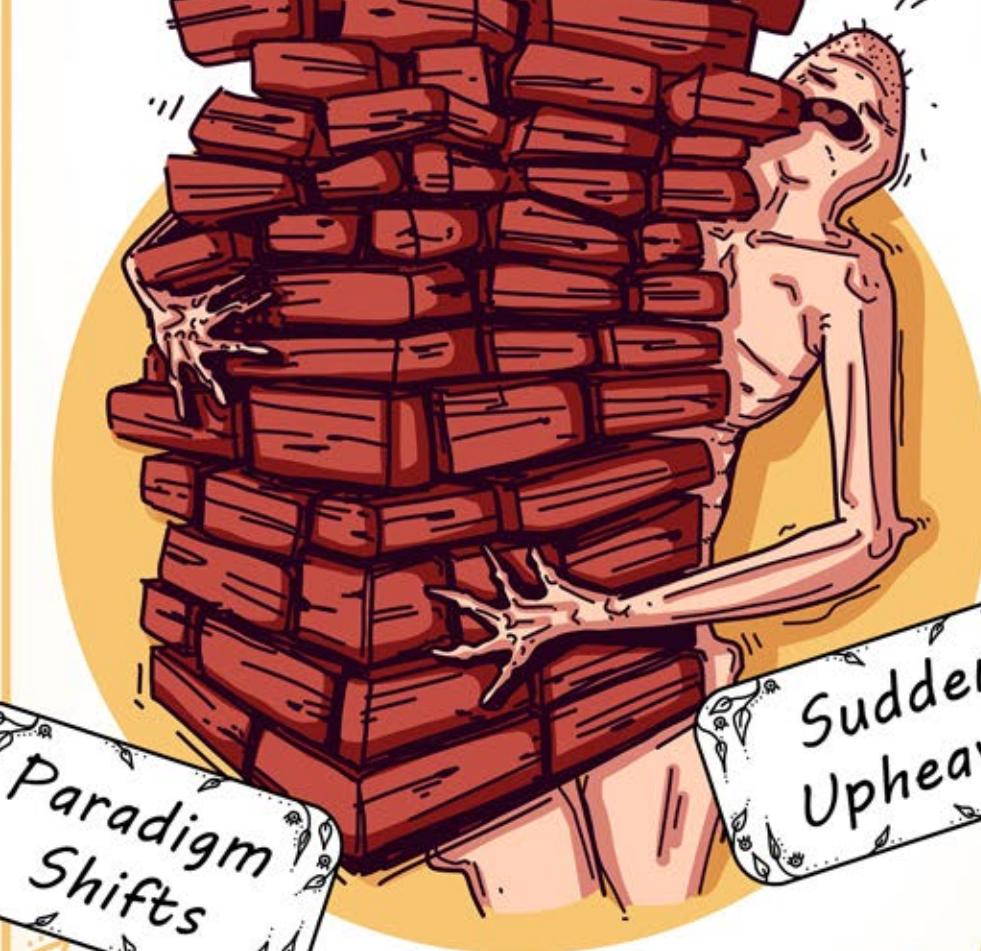
Deception

The Devil

16

Chaos

Collapse



Paradigm Shifts

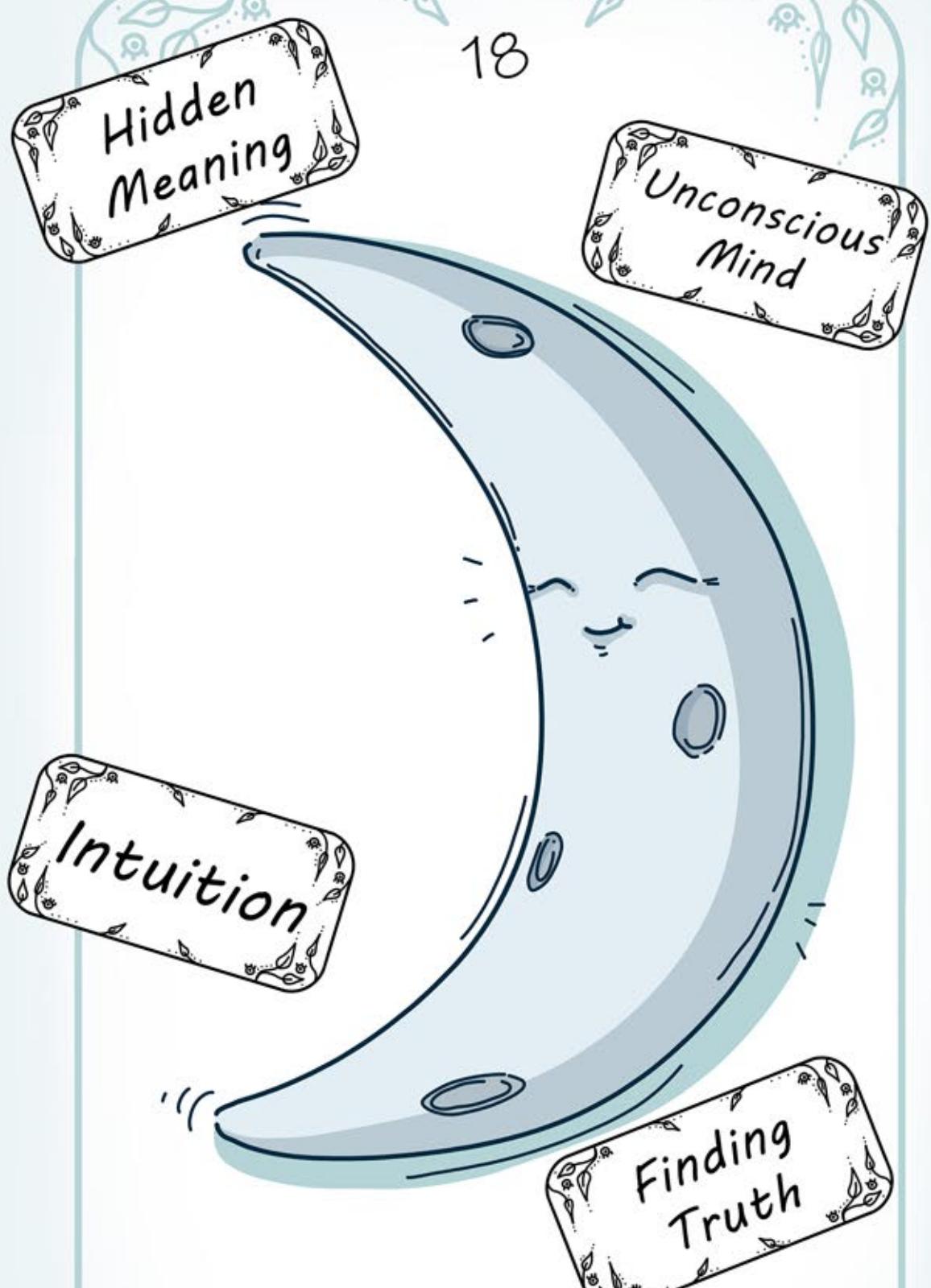
Sudden Upheaval

The Tower



The Star

18

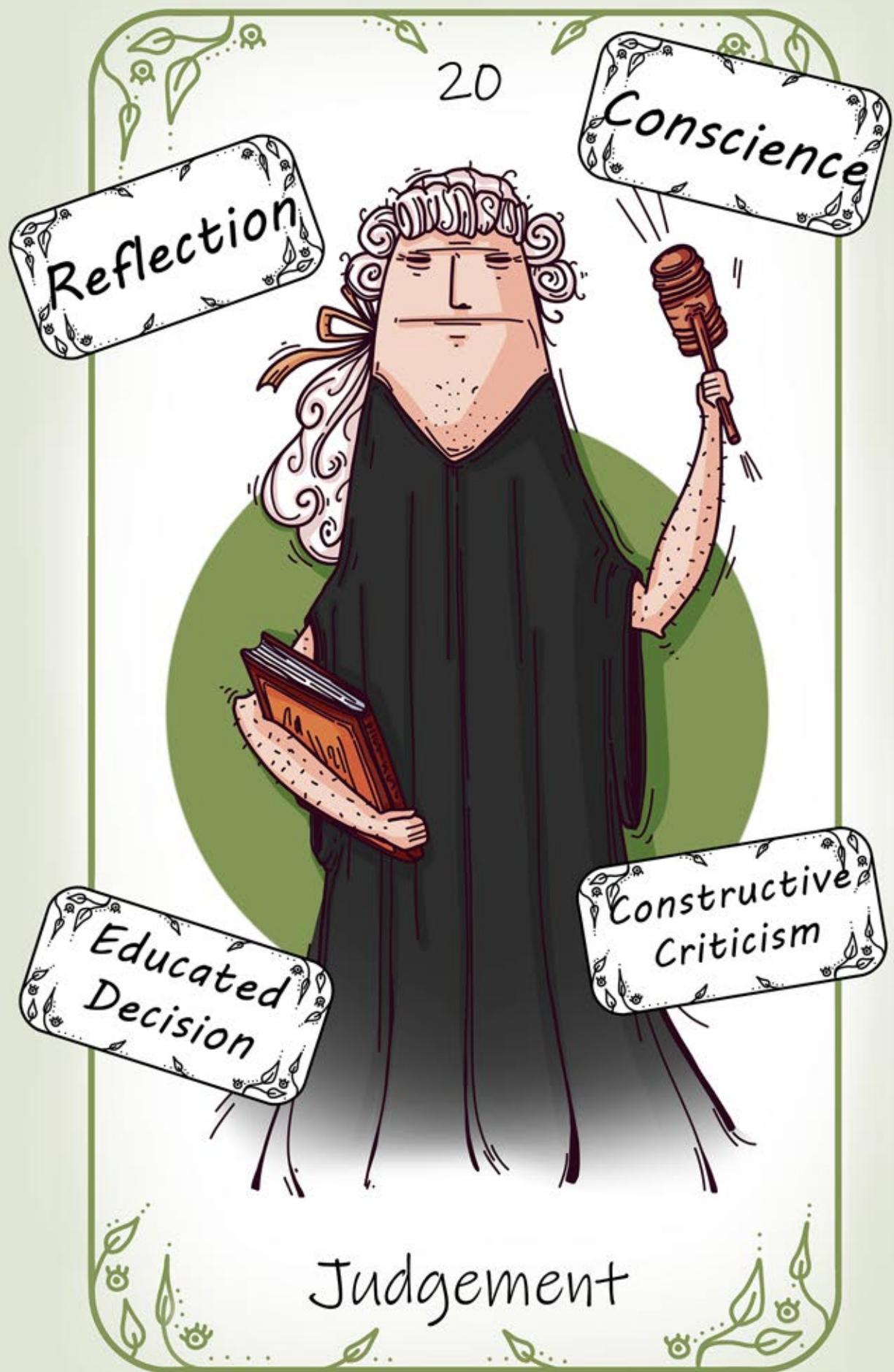


The Moon



The Sun

20

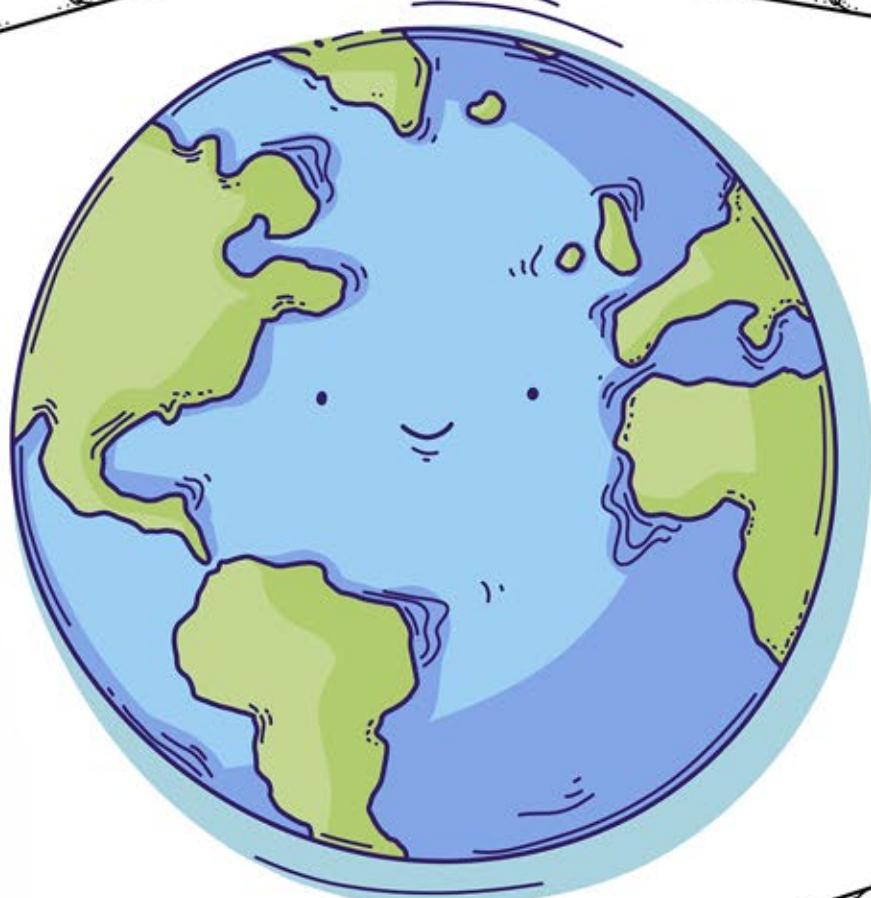


Judgement

21

Interconnection

Unity



All Is  
One

Harmony

The World

# Wands



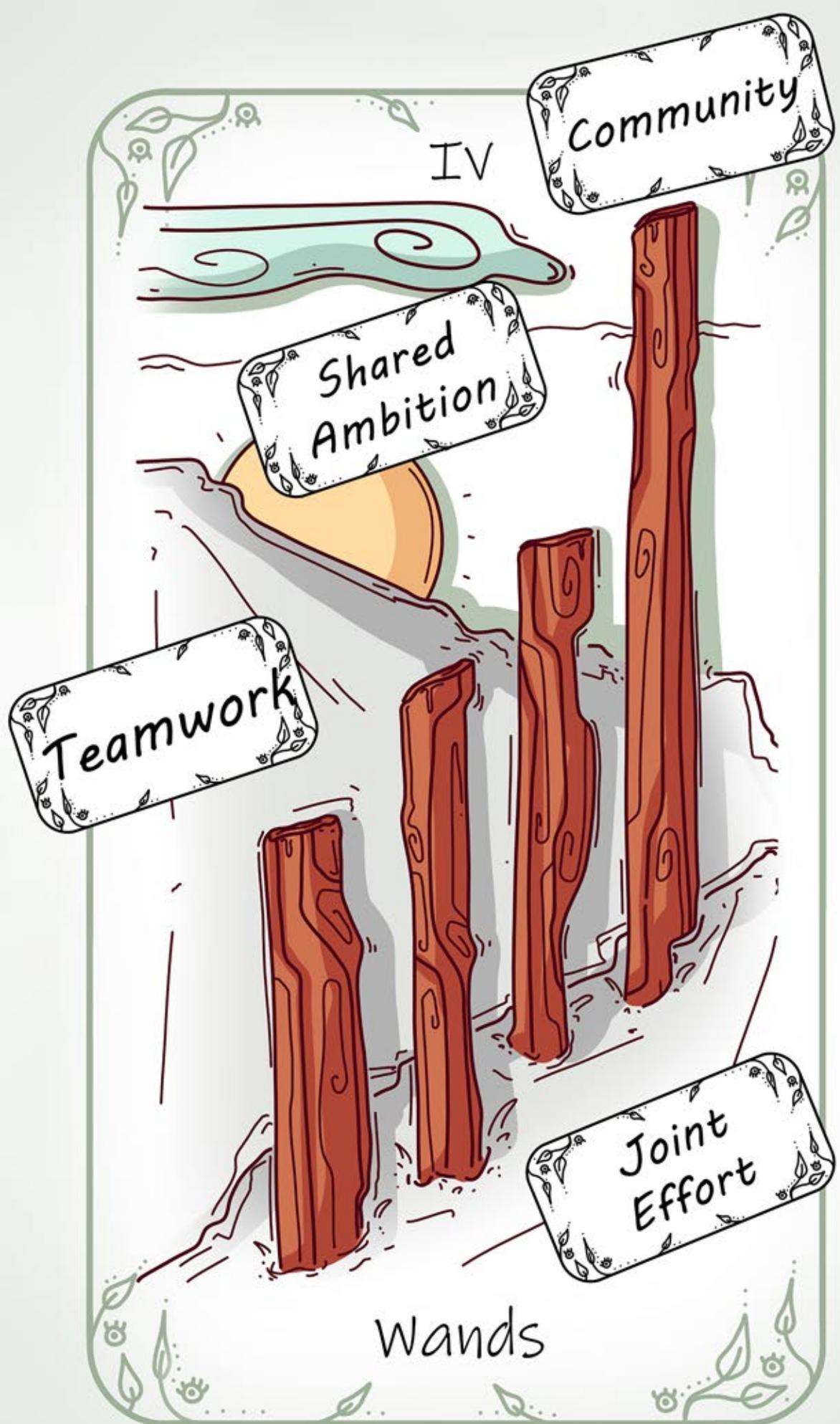
II

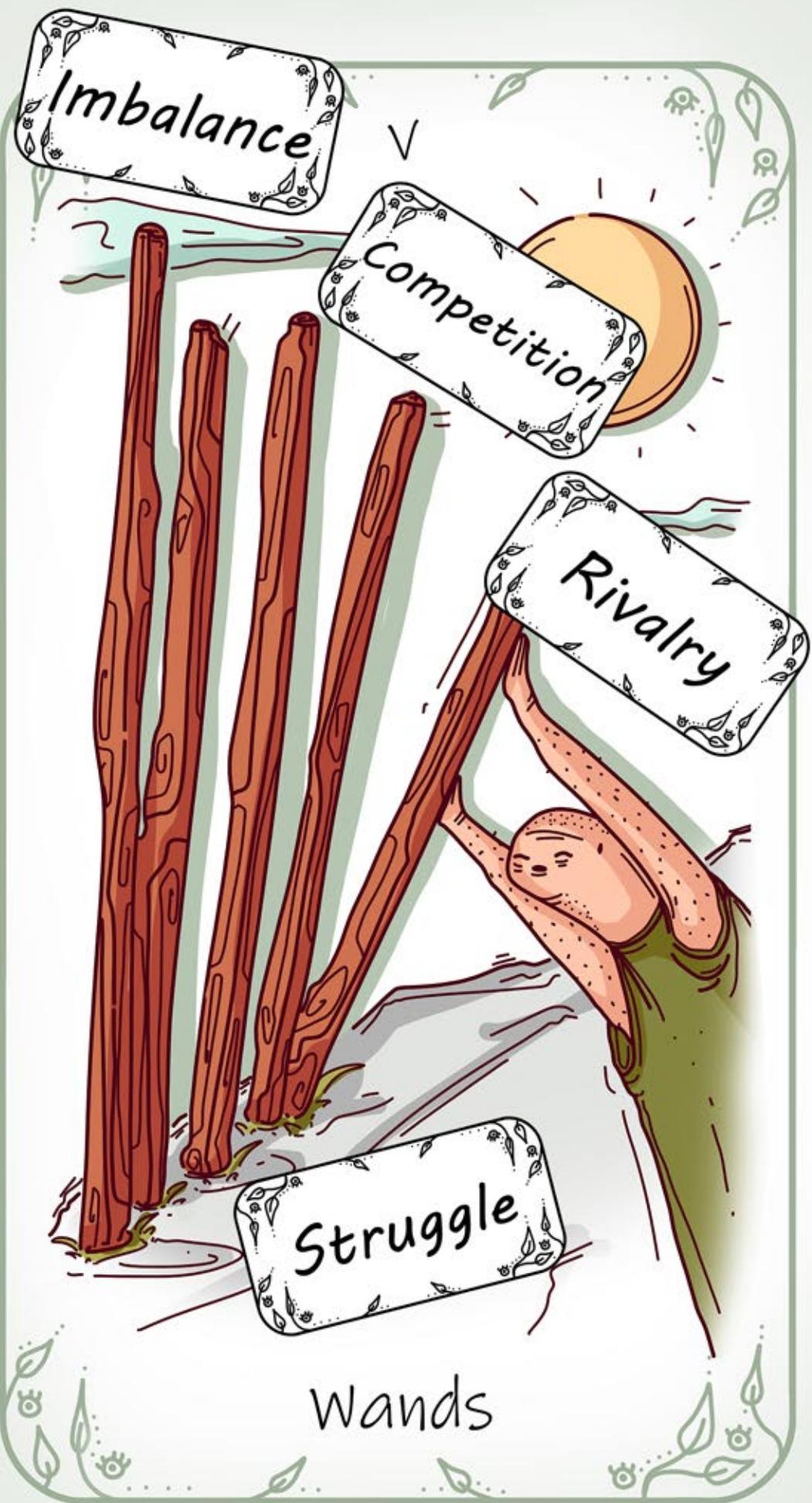


III

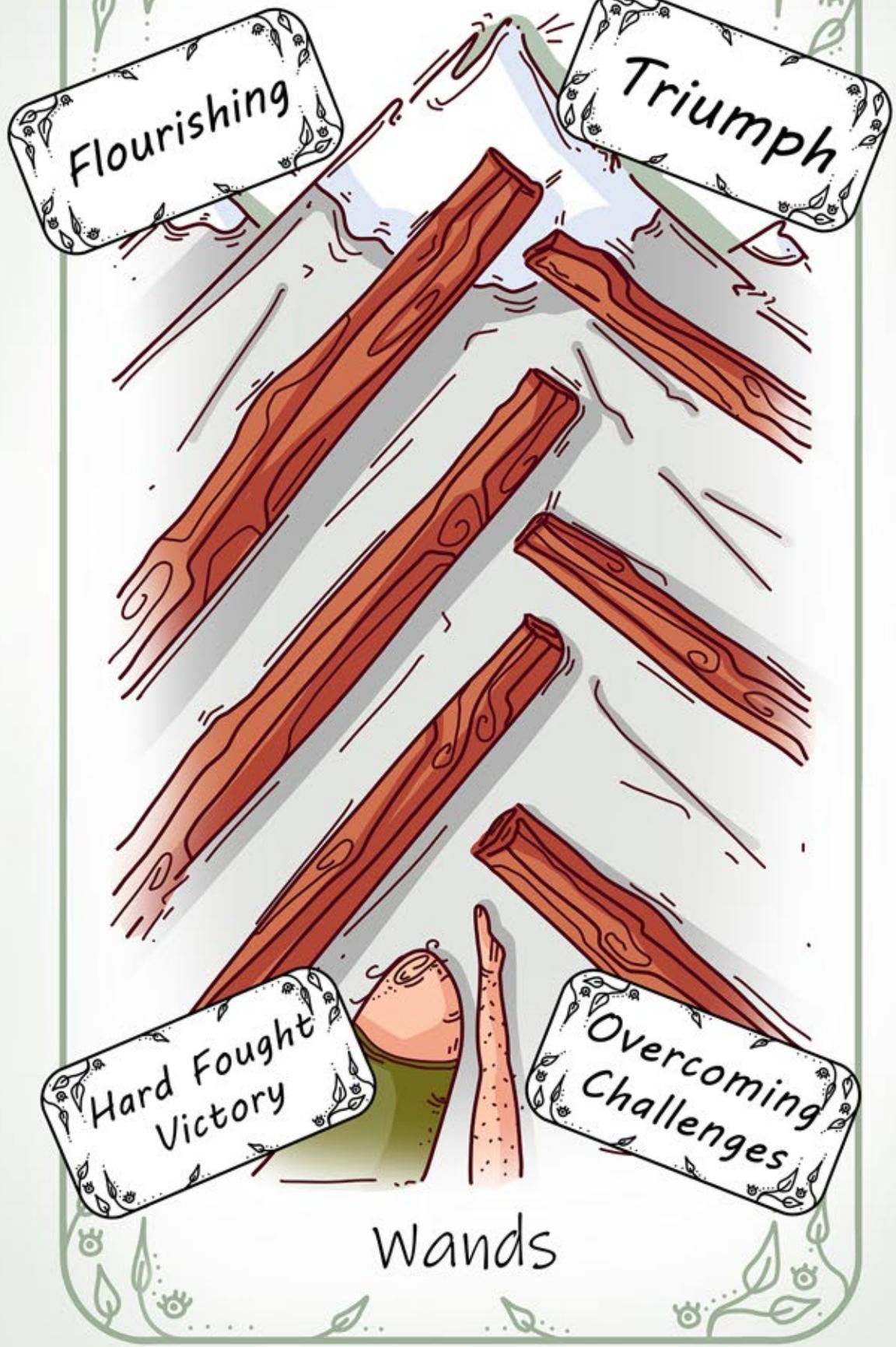


Wands





VI



Safety

VII

Protection

Carefulness

Wands

Boundaries

VIII

Control

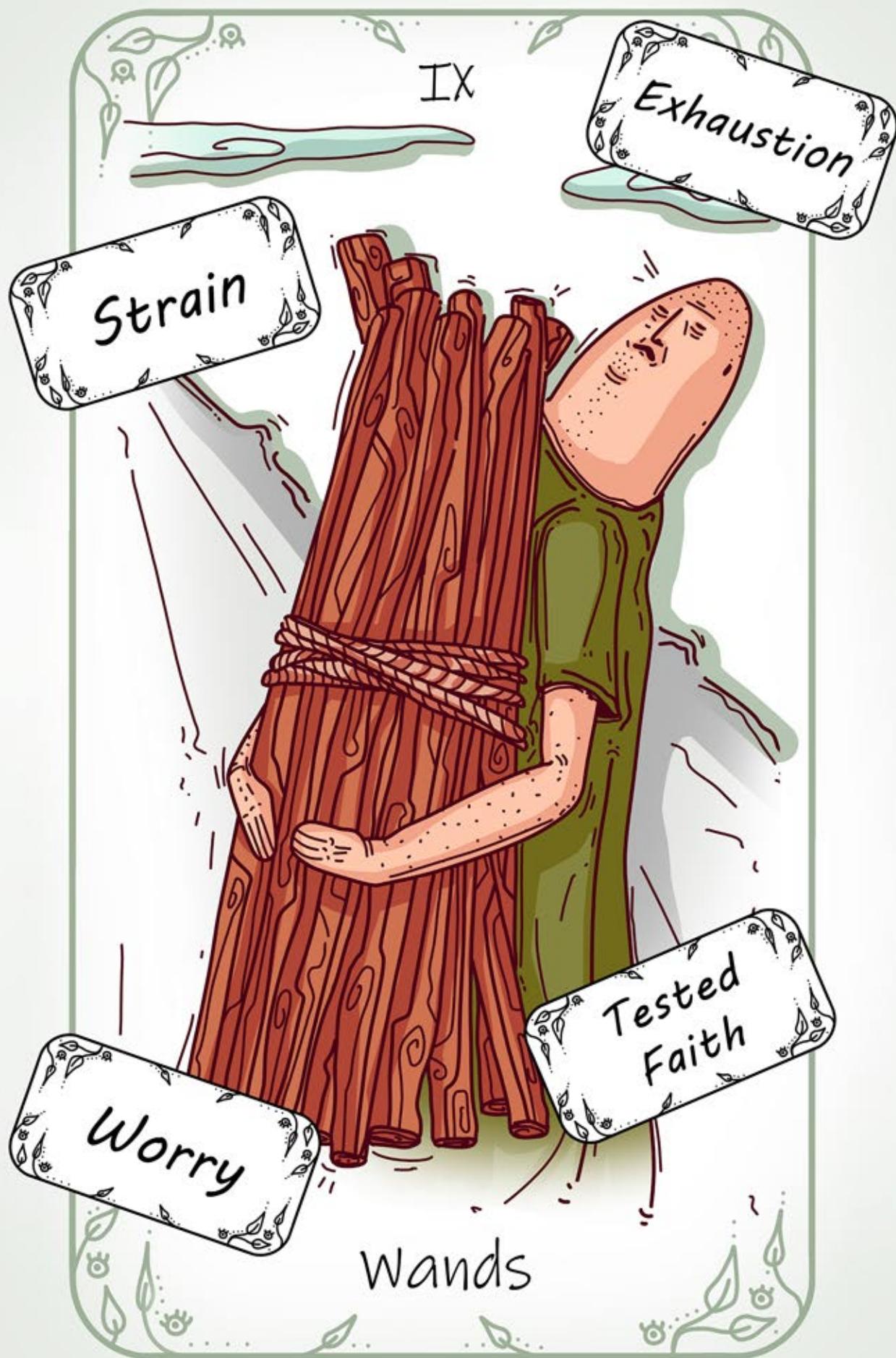
Abundance

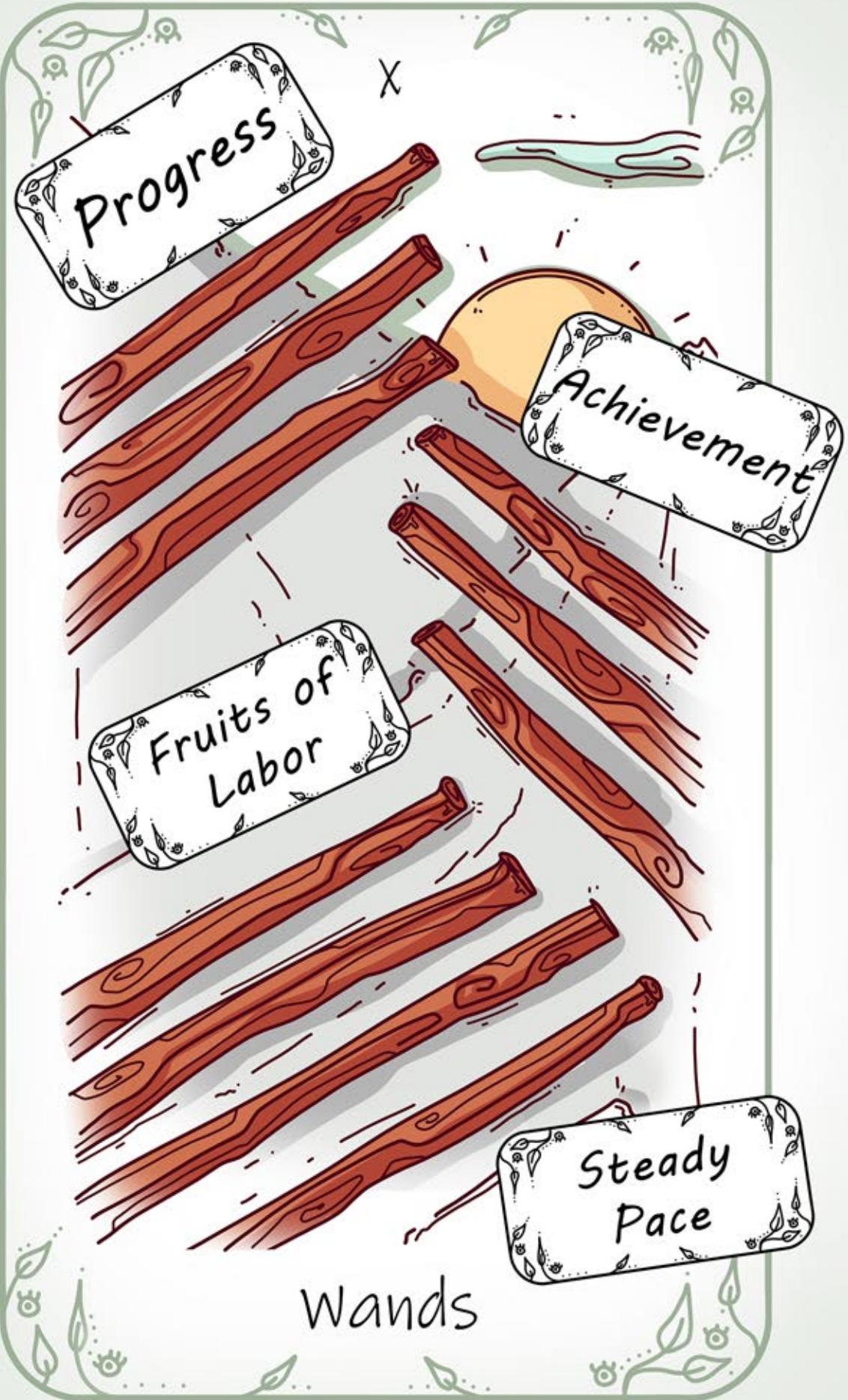
Proactivity

Preparation

Wands

IX





Exploration

Page

Enthusiasm



wands

Knight

Adventure

Impulsiveness

Excitement

Bravery

Wands

Calmness

Queen

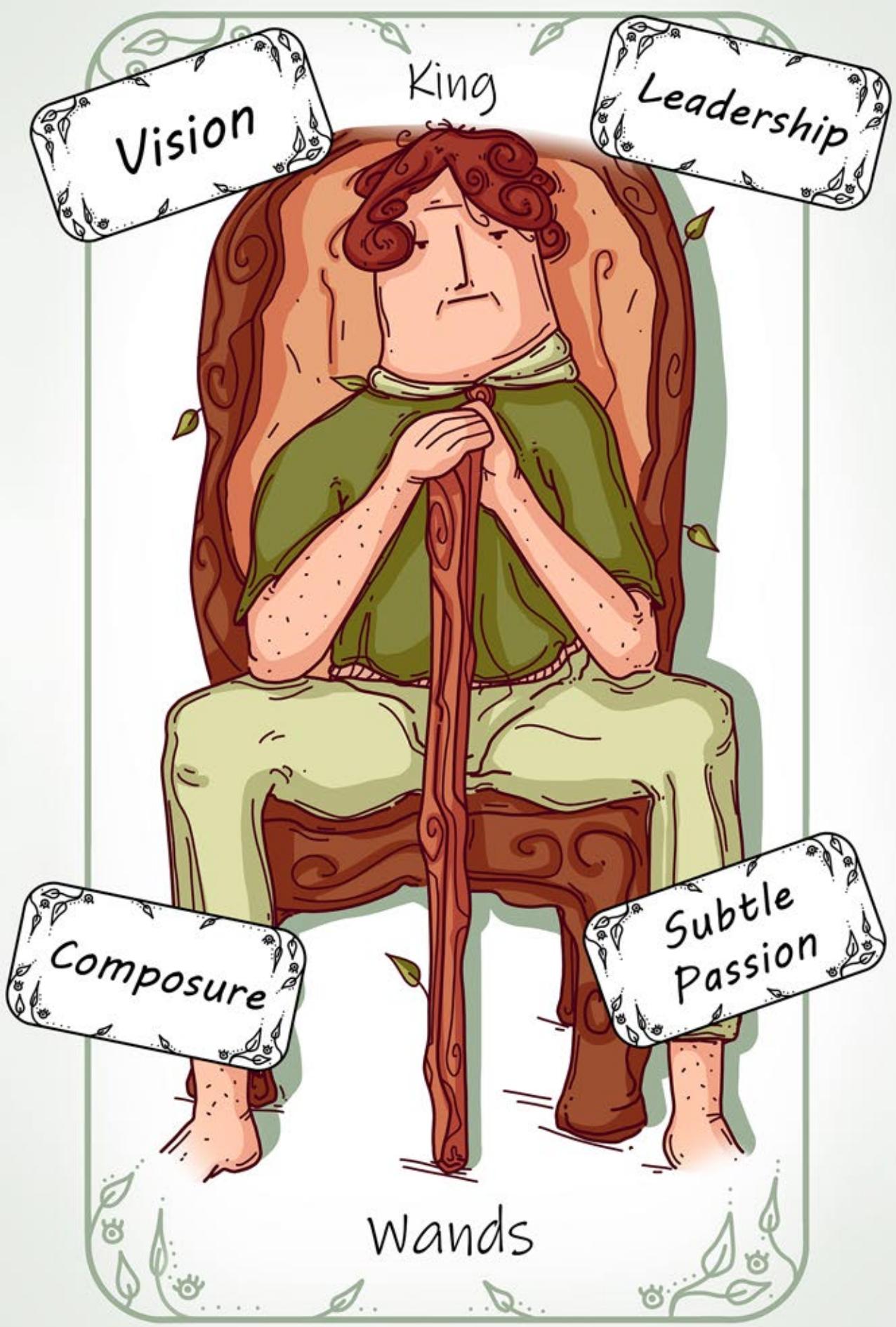
Determination

Ease

Flow

Wands





# Pentacles



Gain

Ace

Abundance

Prosperity

New  
Ventures

Pentacles

II

Priorities

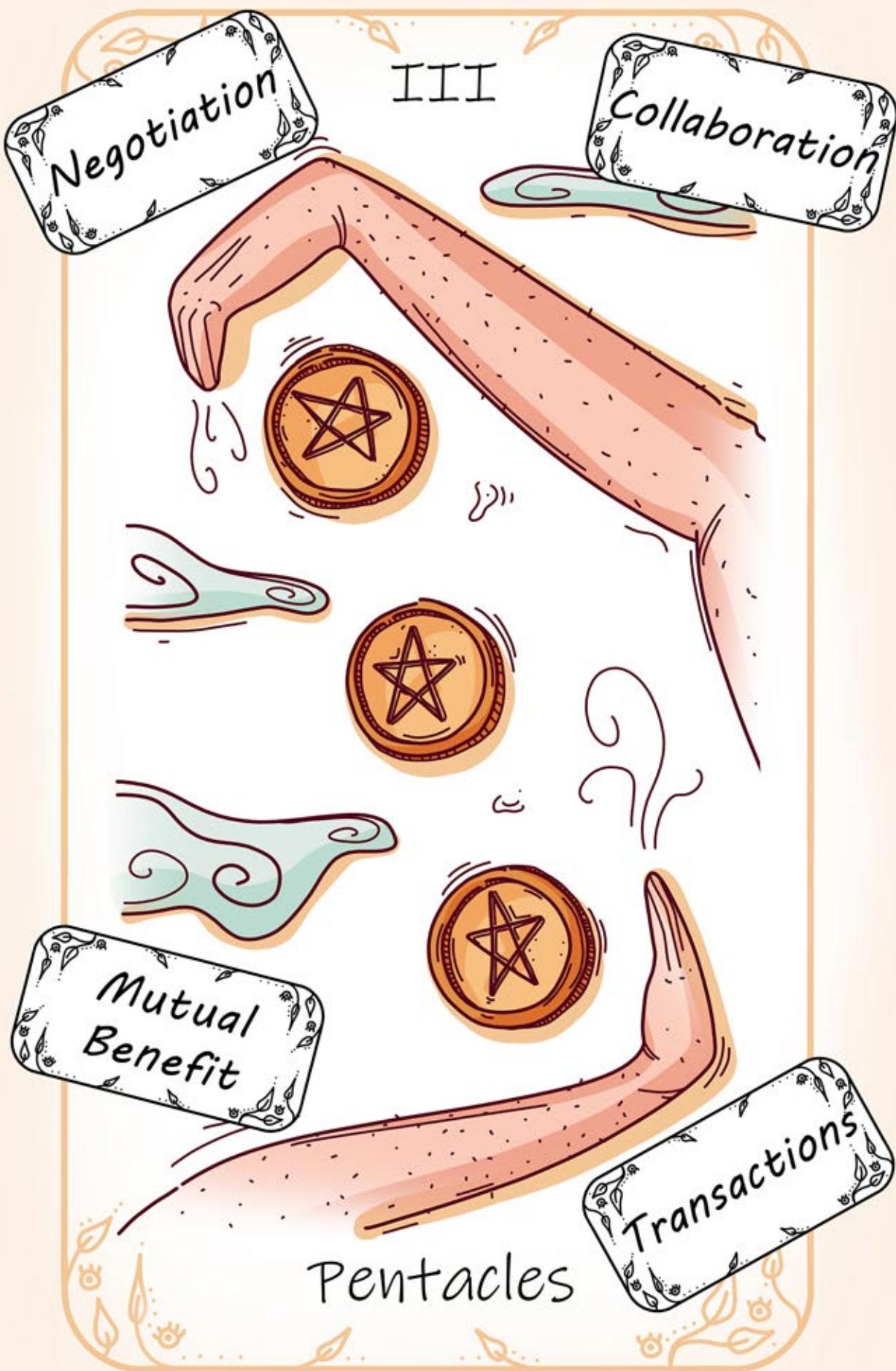
Adaptation

Multitasking

Divided Focus

Pentacles

III



IV

Competition

Status



Rivalry

Pentacles

Influence

Frugality

Isolation



Misplaced  
Priorities

Worry

Pentacles

Sharing

VI

Generosity



Philanthropy

Pentacles

community

VII

Investment

Saving



Sustainability

Pentacles

Practice

VIII

Skills

Pentacles

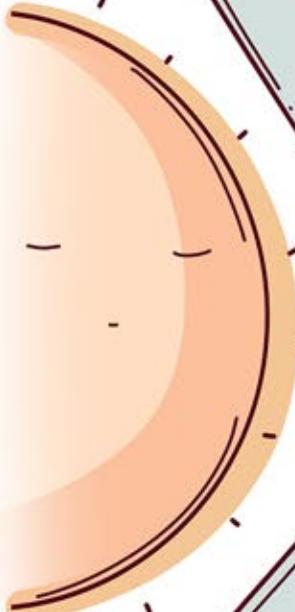
Keeping  
Score

Accounting

Independence

IX

Success



Empowerment

Pentacles

Receptivity

Prosperity

Security

X



Receptivity

Page

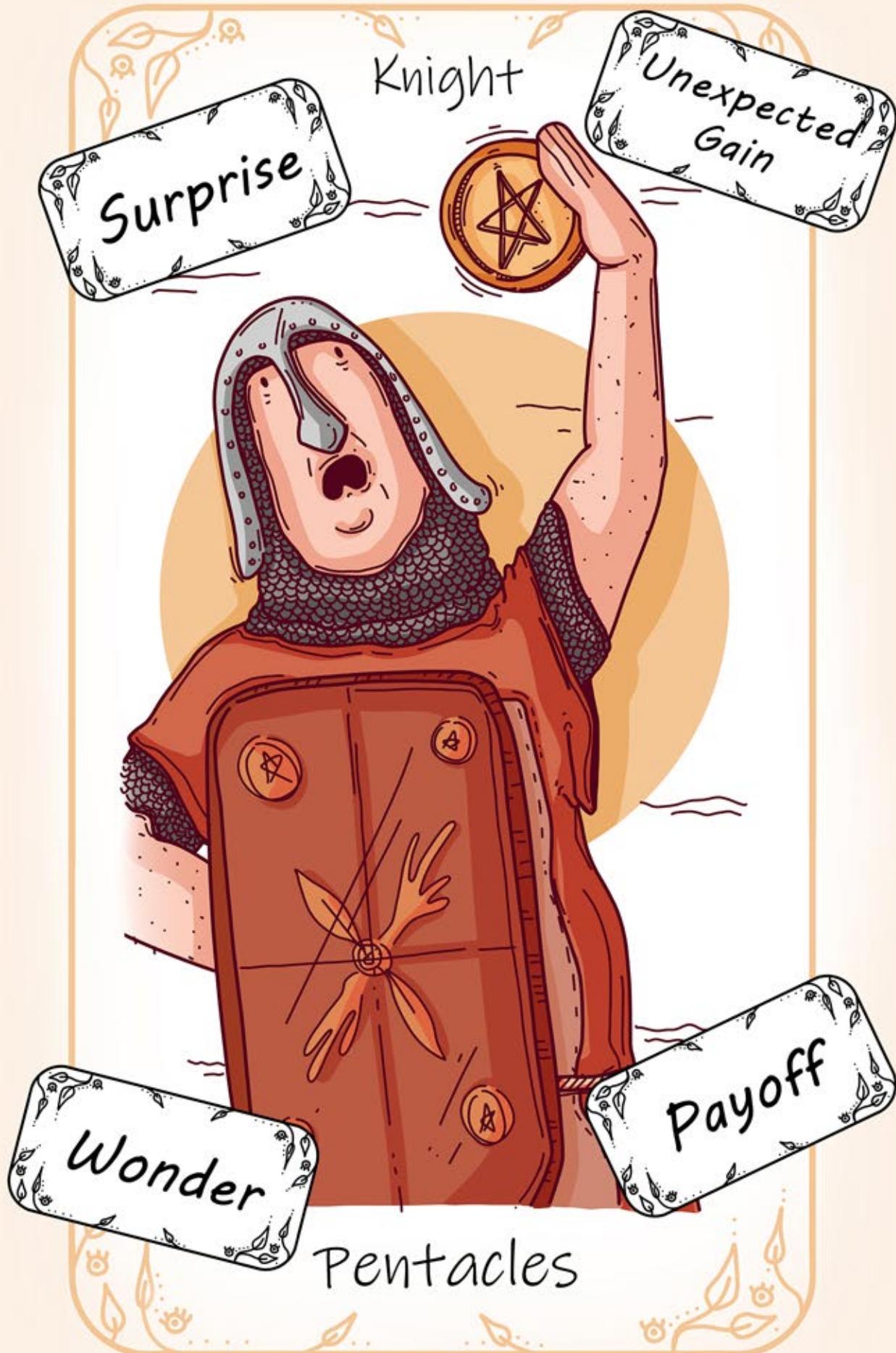
Generosity



Gentle  
Focus

Pentacles

New  
Opportunity





Restfulness

King

Relief



Pentacles

# Cups

Ace

Creativity

Empathy



Deep  
Emotion

Fulfillment

CUPS

II

Partnership

Connection



Close  
Friends

Fellowship

CUPS



III

Relaxation

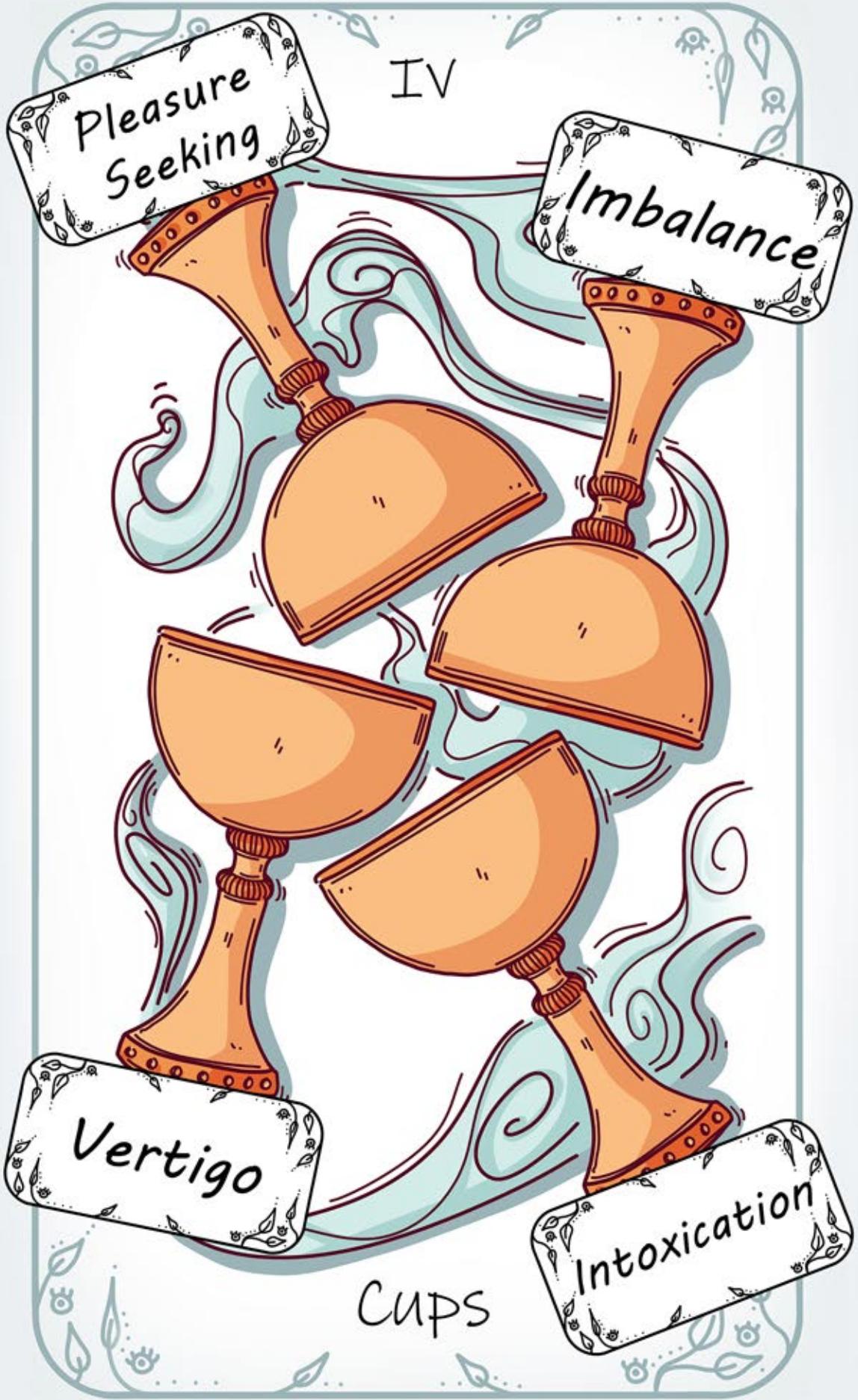
Revelry

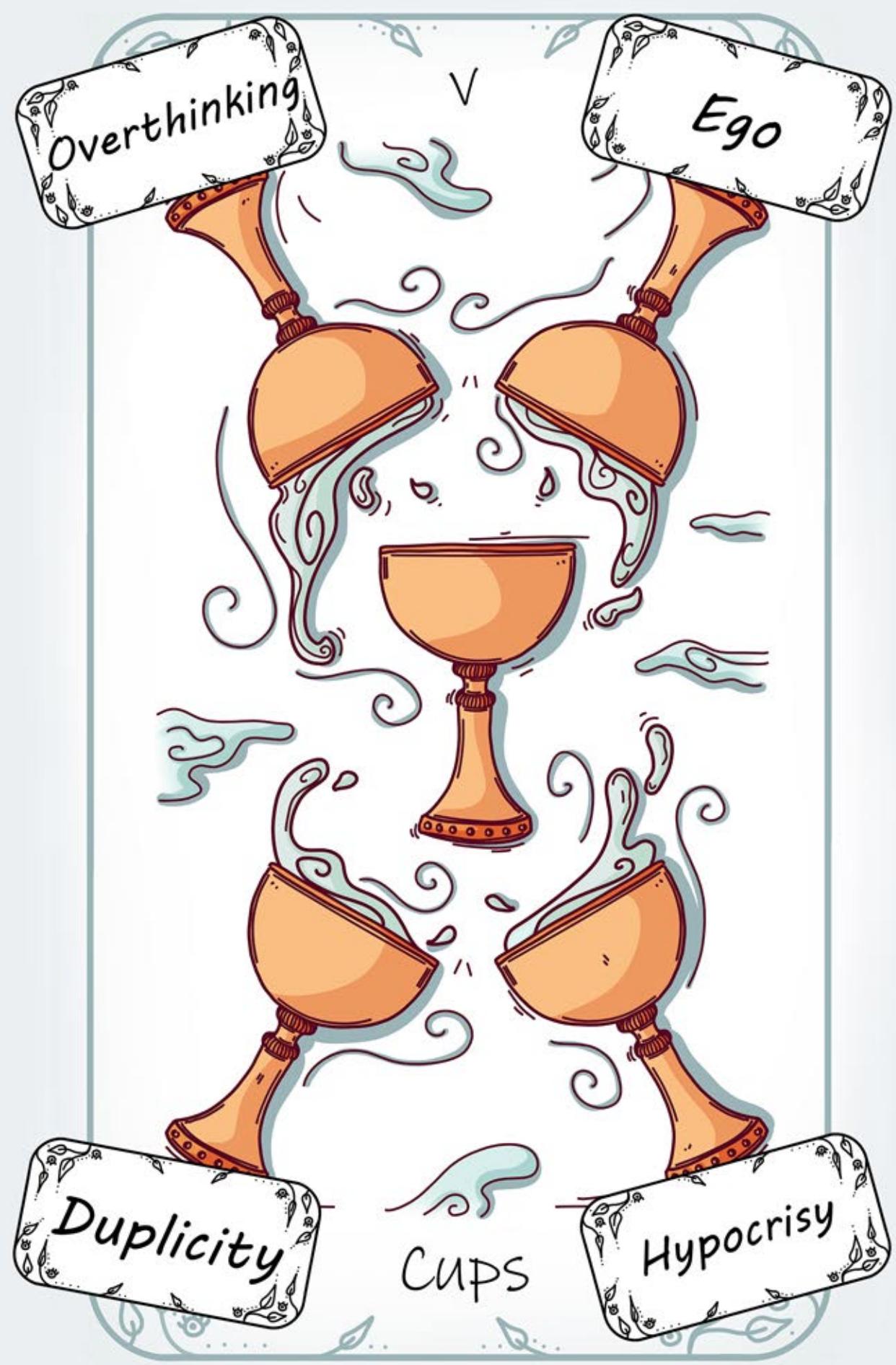


Contentedness

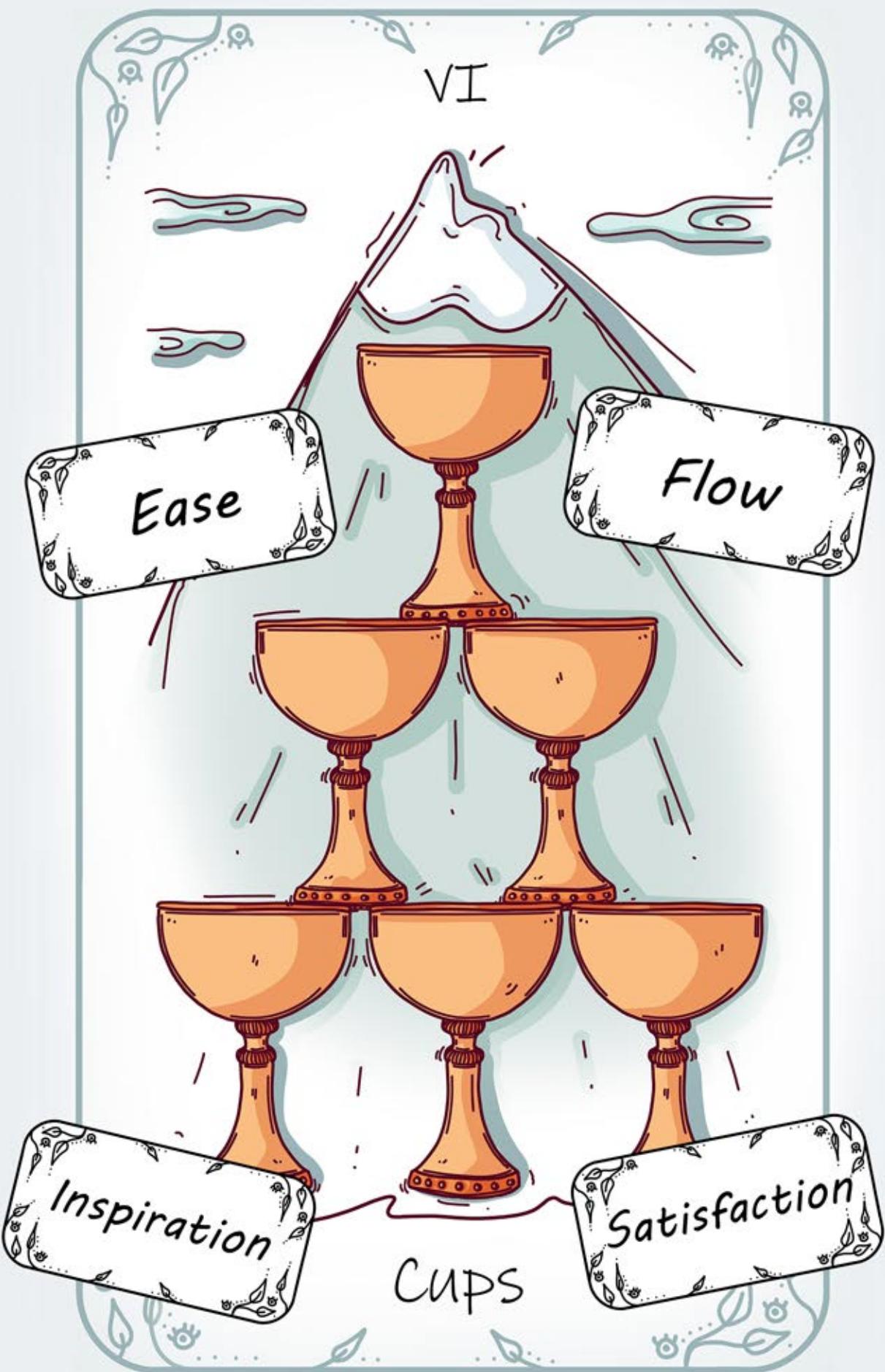
CUPS

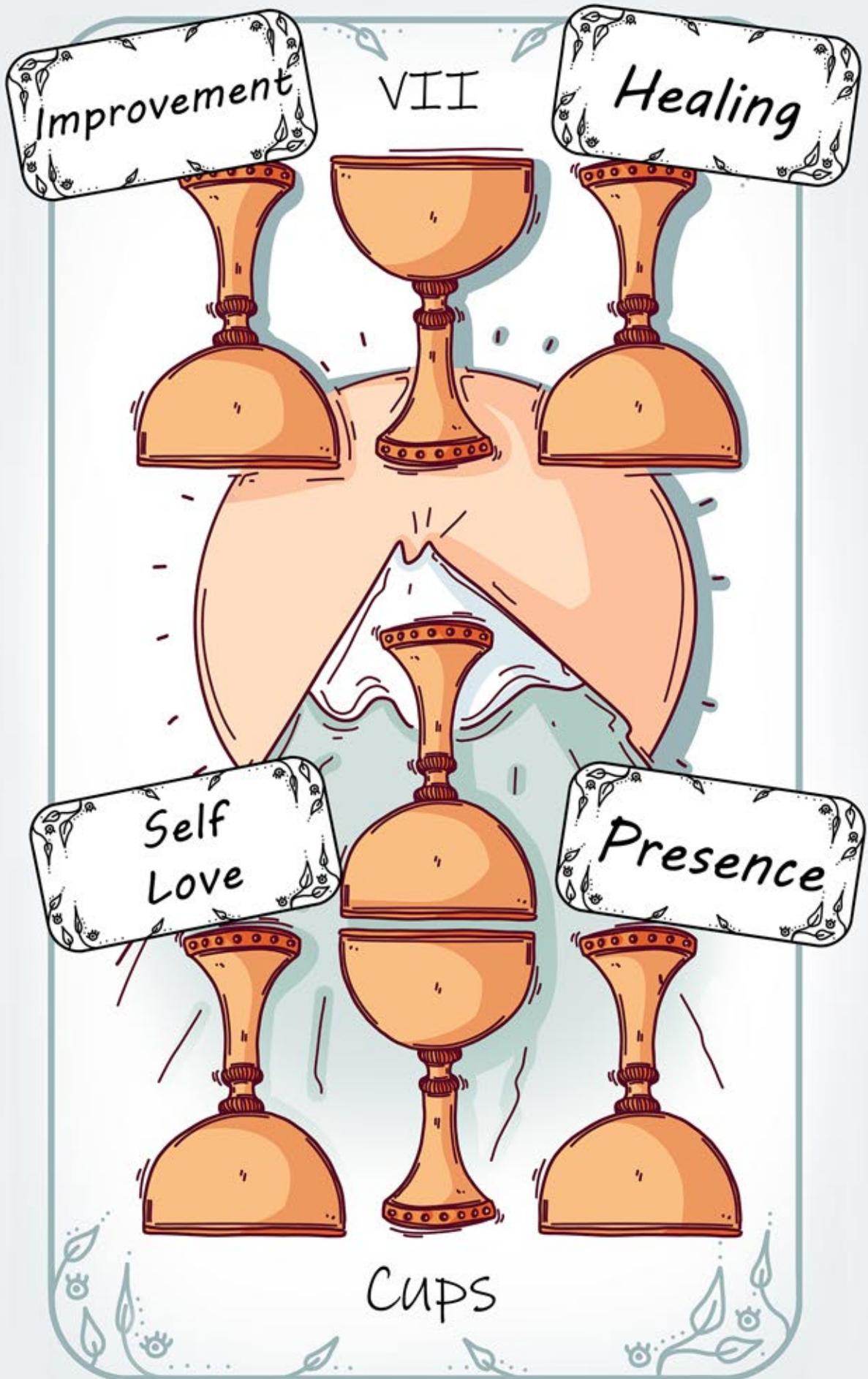
Cheer





VI

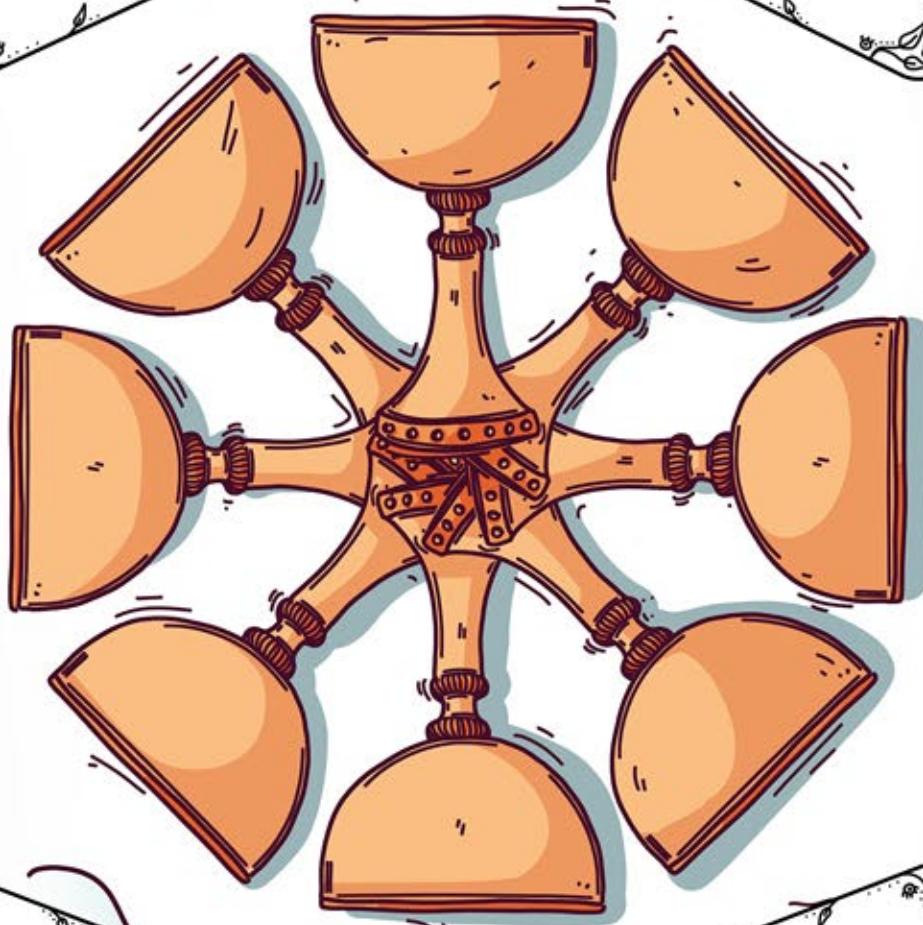




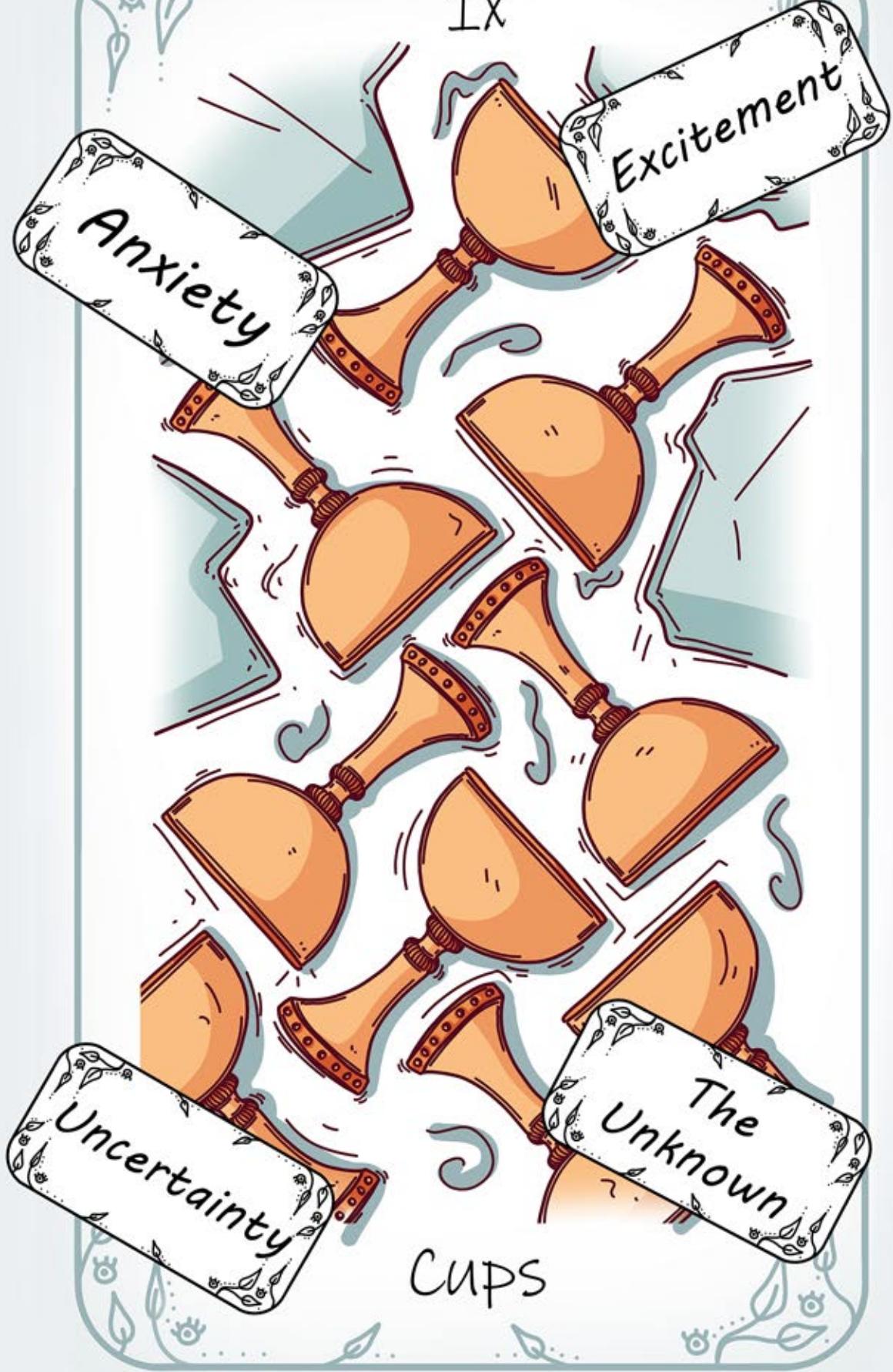
VIII

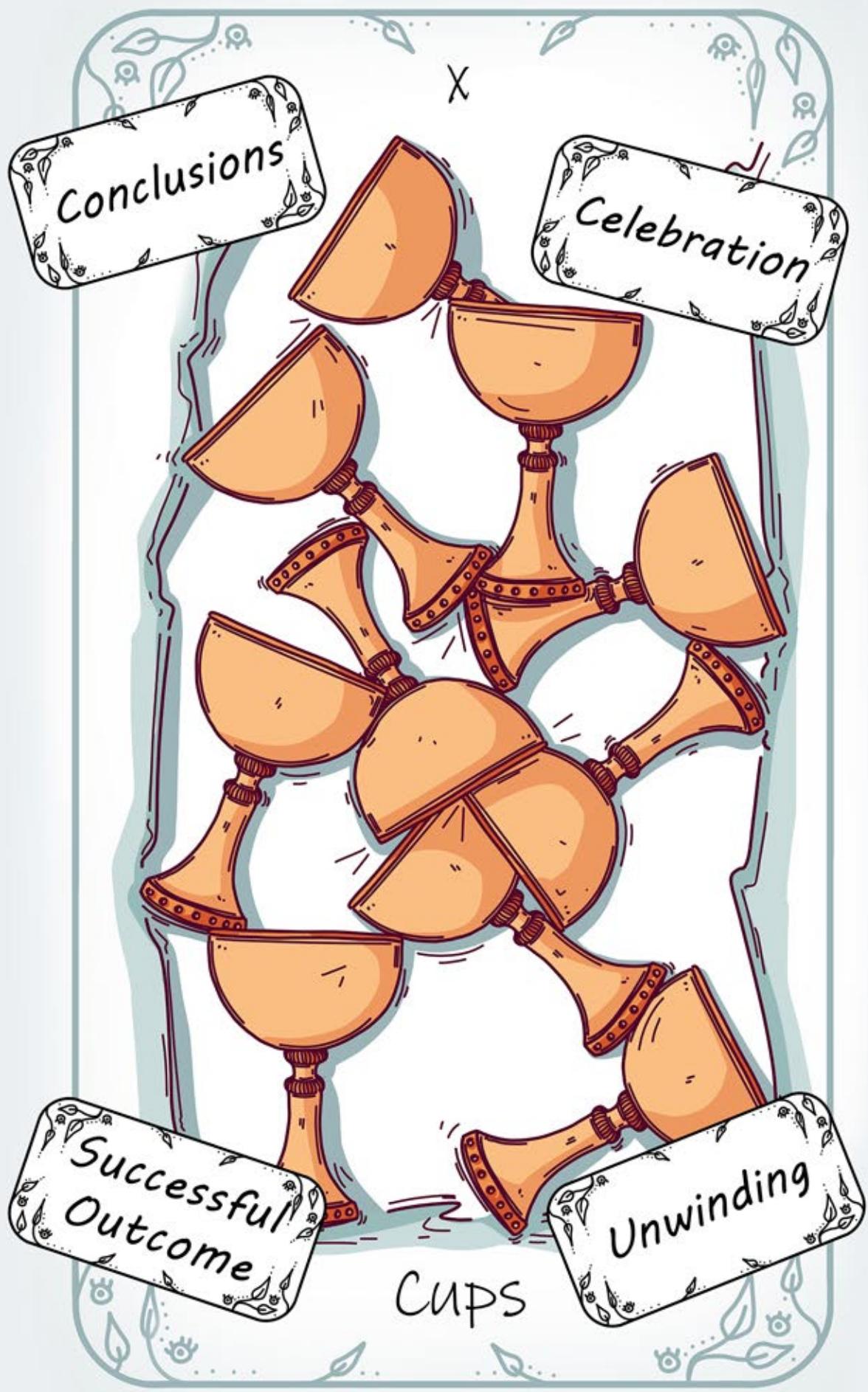
Escapism

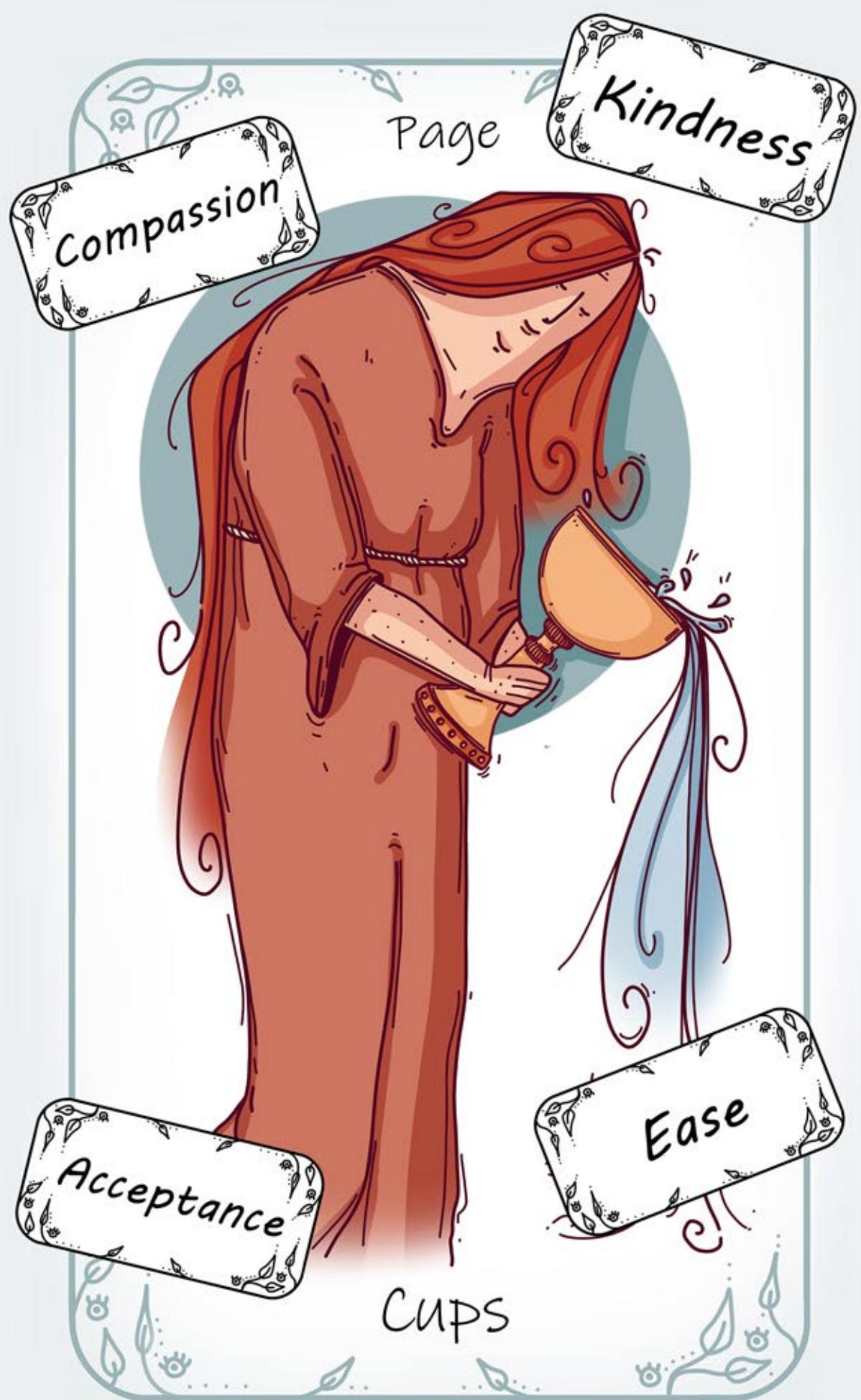
Fear



IX







Cheer

Knight

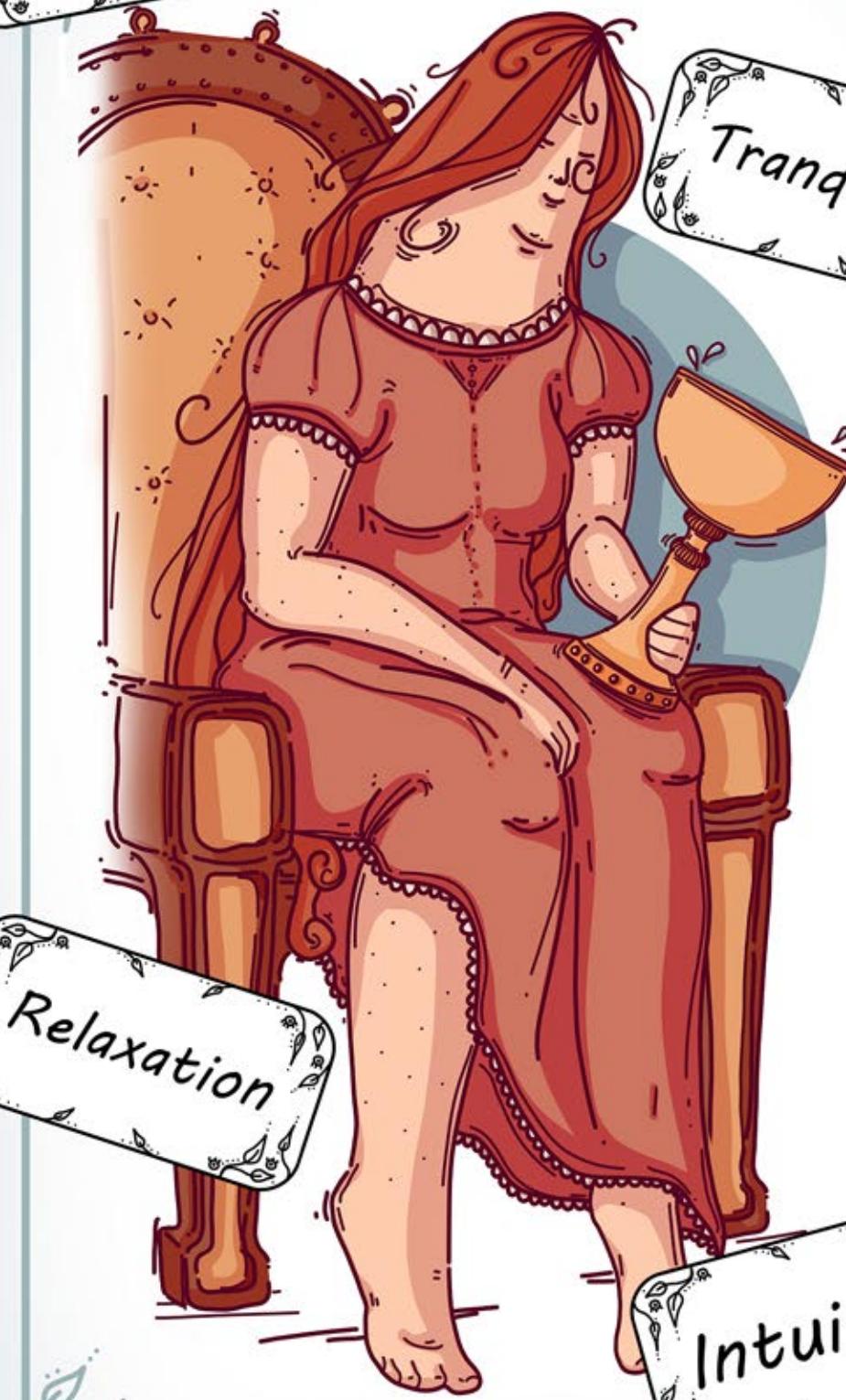
Enthusiasm



Stability

Queen

Tranquility



CUPS



Hiding  
Feelings

CUPS

# Swords

Ace

Wit

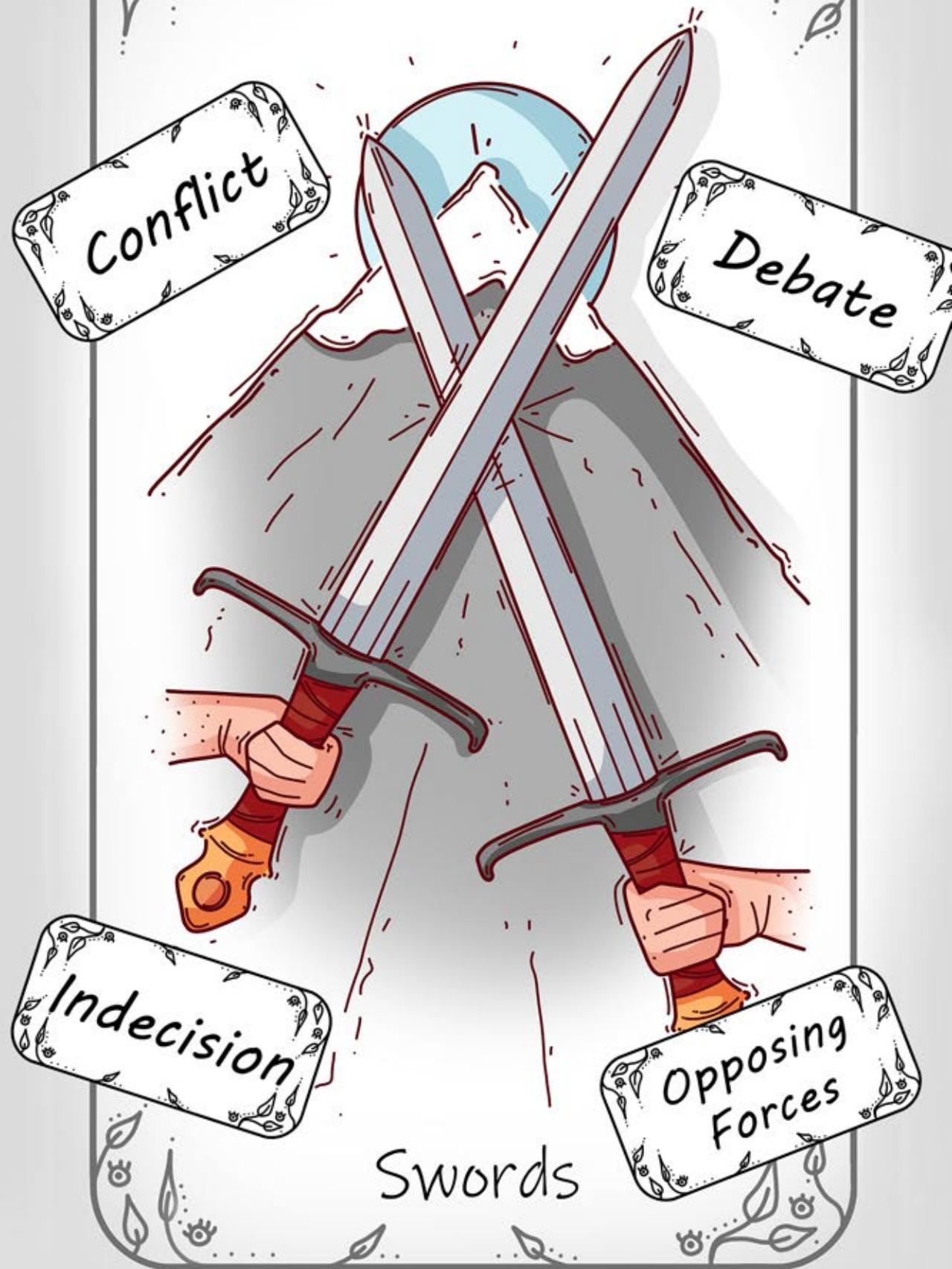
Ideas

Clarity

Lucidity

Swords

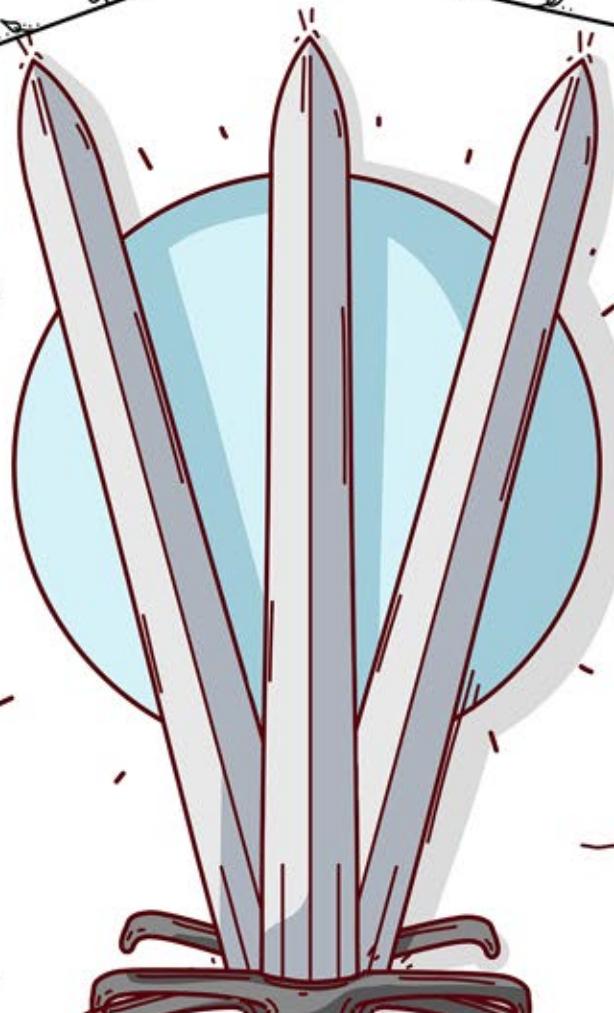
II



III

Pessimism

Doubt



Disconnection

Overthinking

Swords

IV

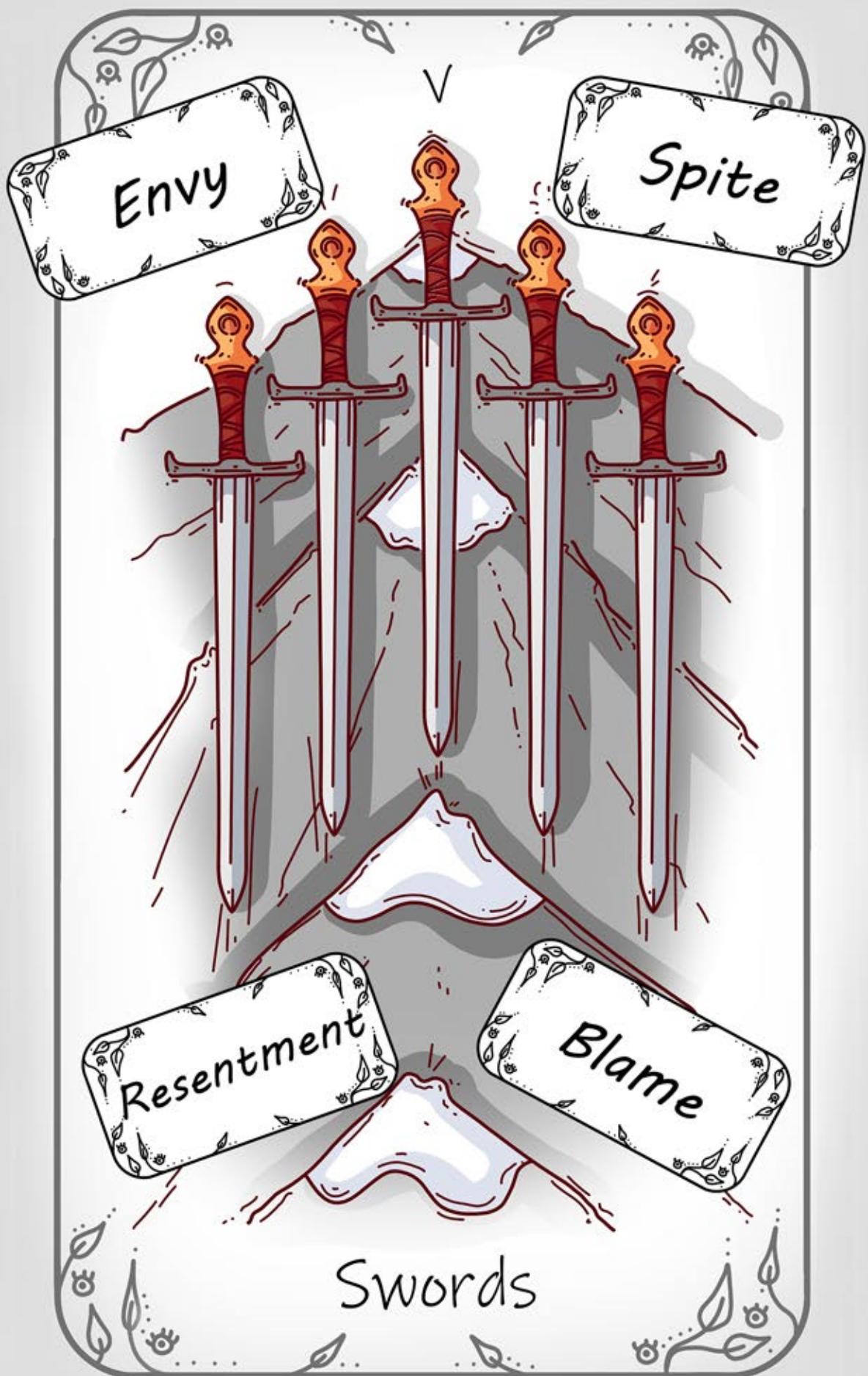
Rest

Regeneration

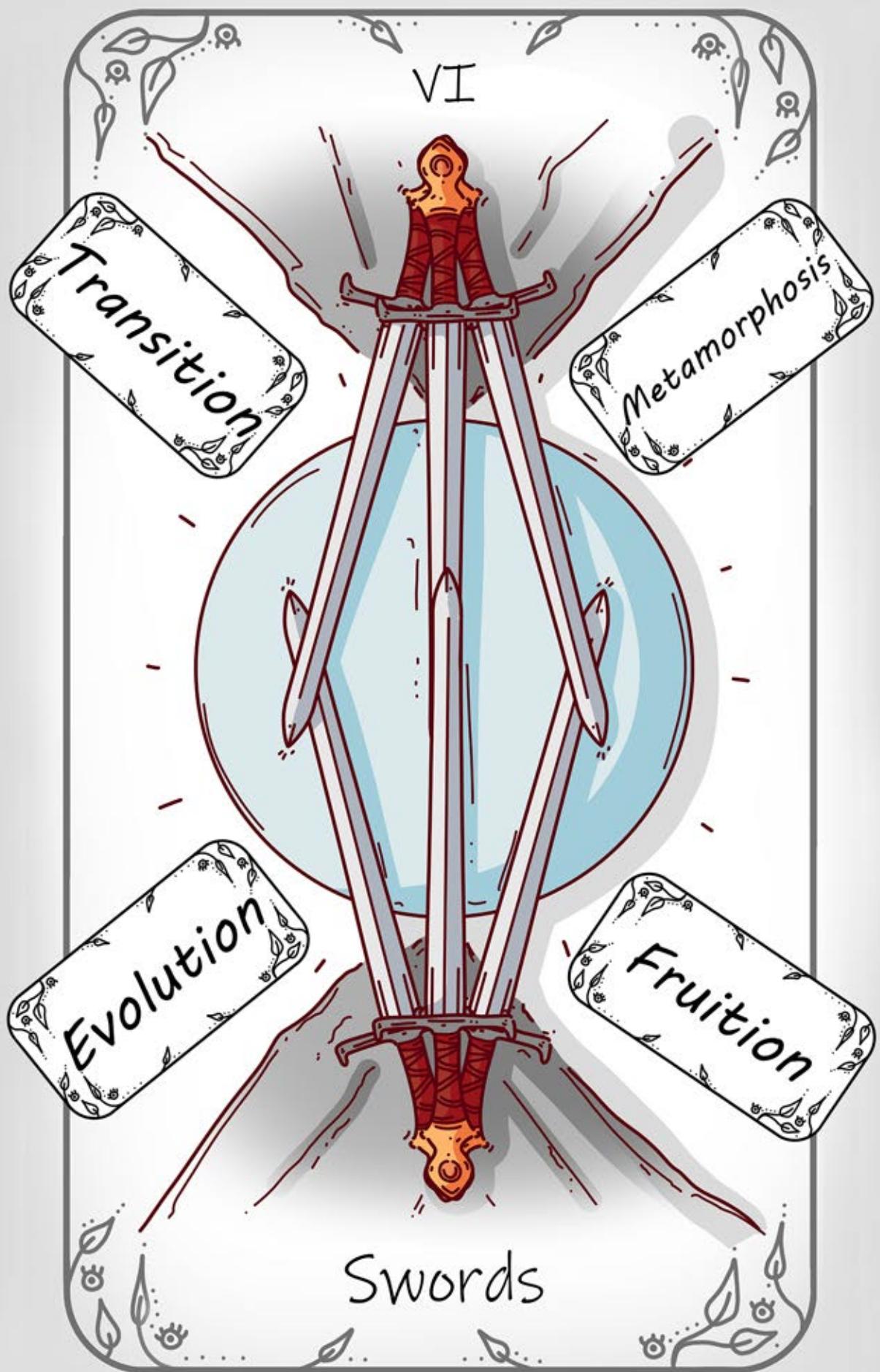
Truce

Release

Swords



VI



VII

Wavering

Instability



Fruitless  
Labor

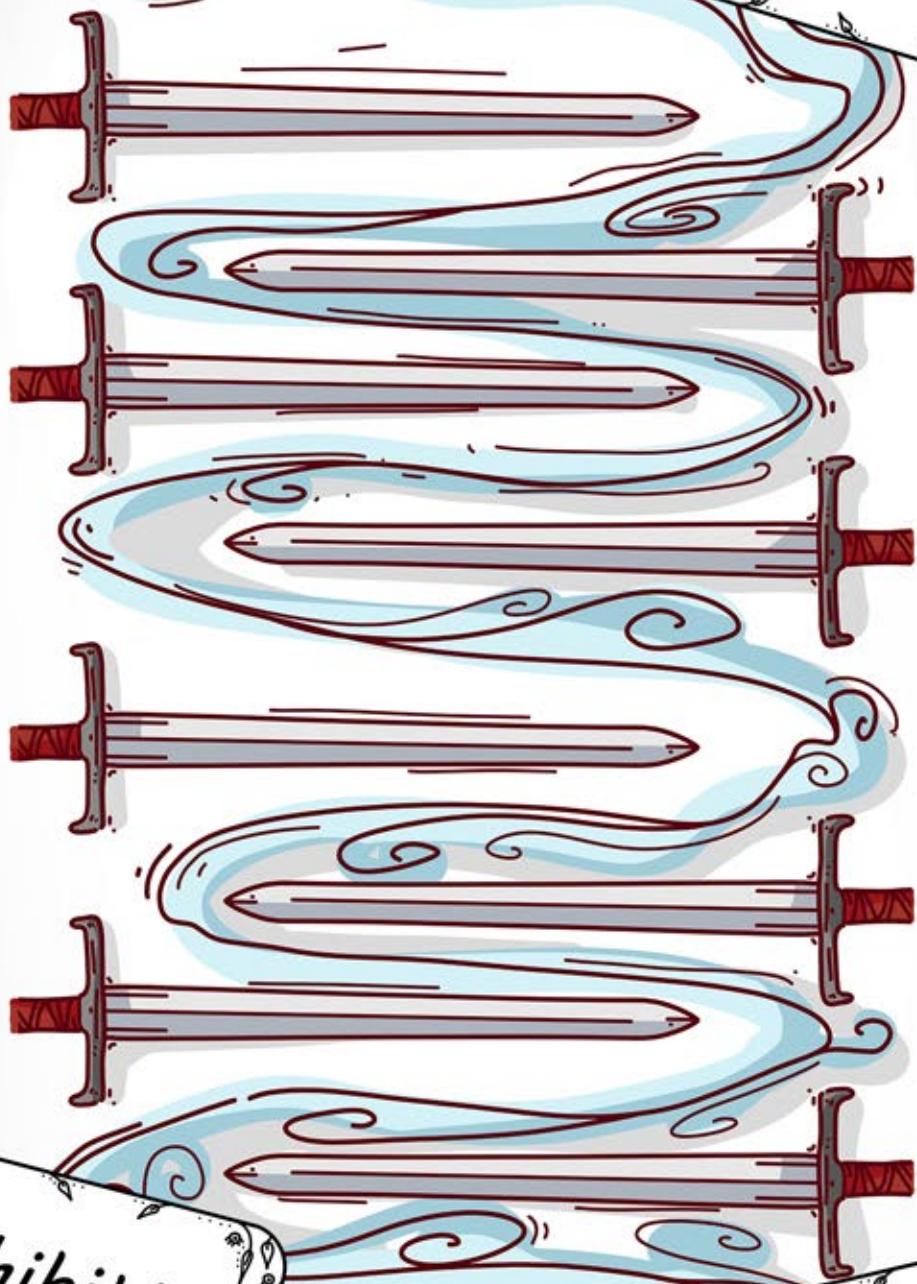
Swords

Scattered  
Focus

False  
Belief

VIII

Fear



Inhibition

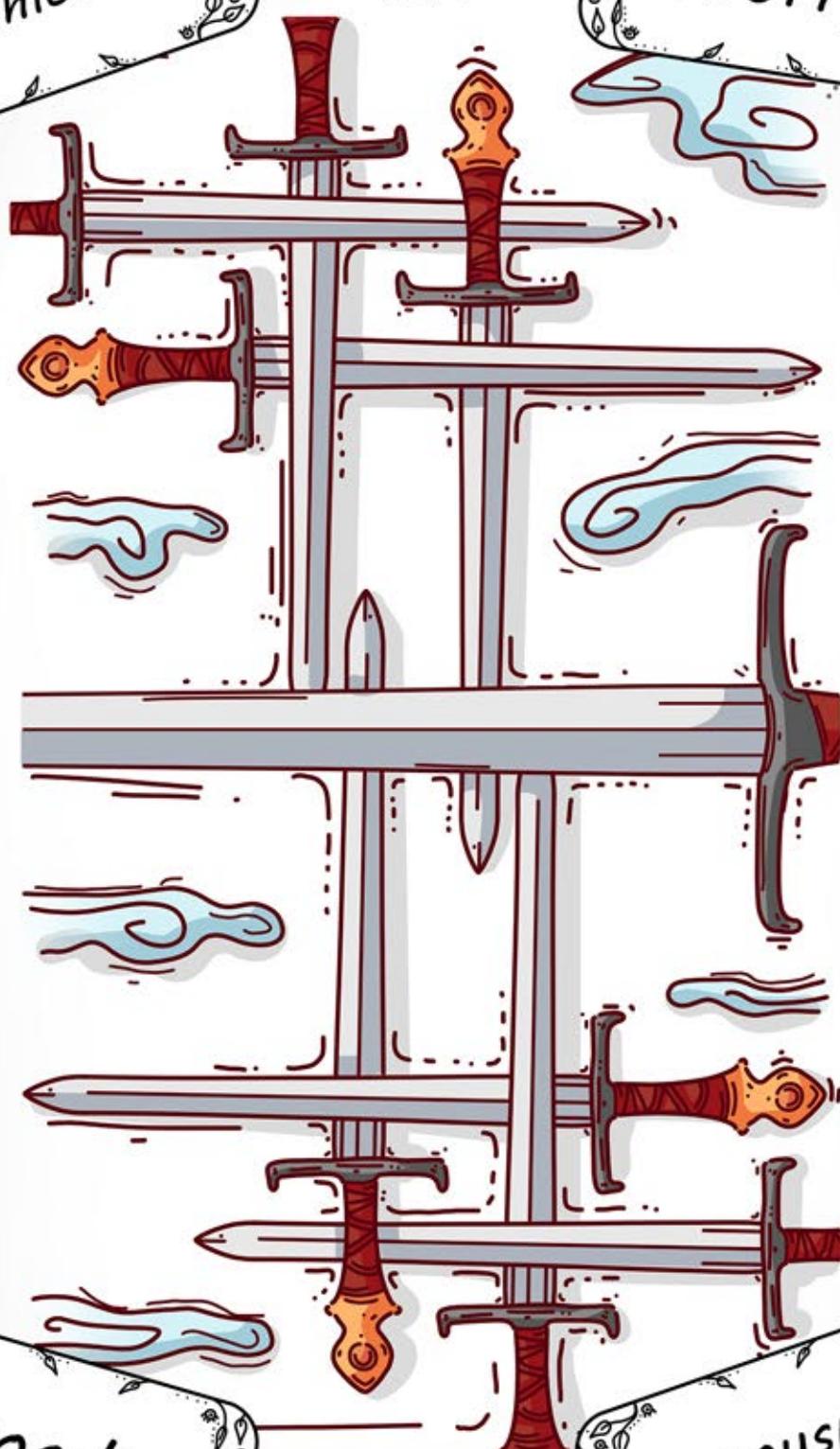
Swords

Playing  
Victim

IX

Faithlessness

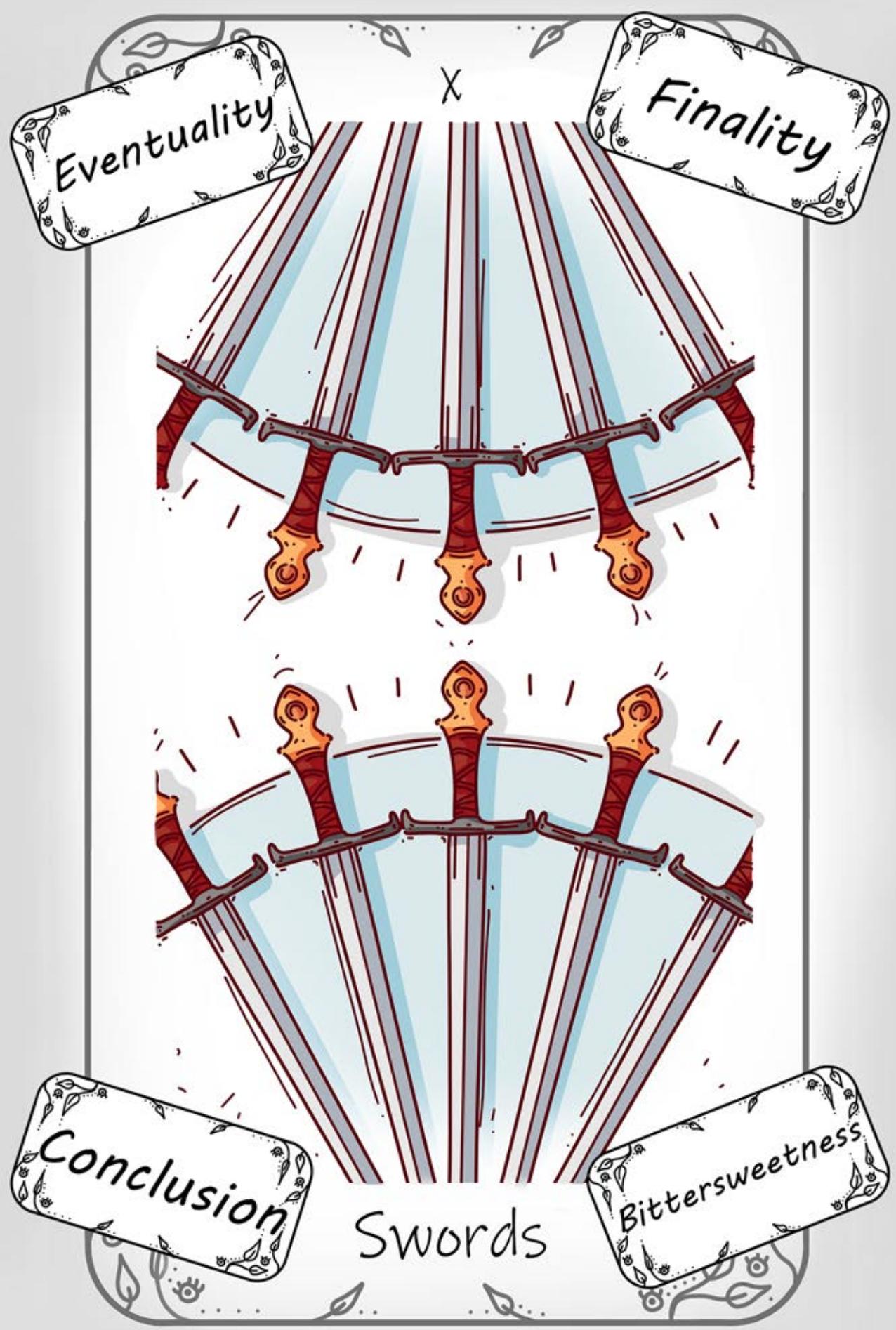
Worry



Brooding

Swords

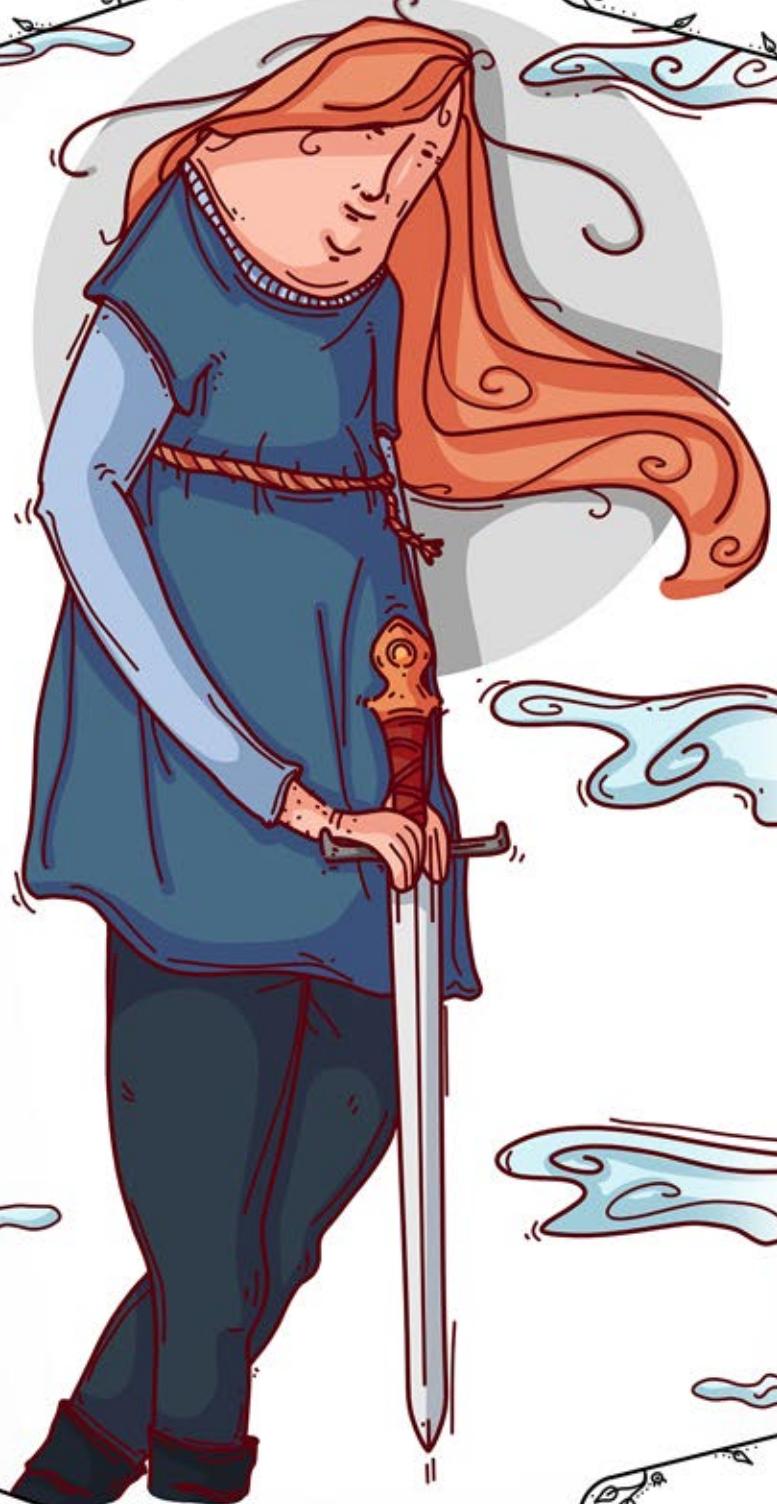
Nervousness



Intelligence

Page

Curiosity



Swords

Expressiveness

Eagerness

Action

Knight

Skill



Swords

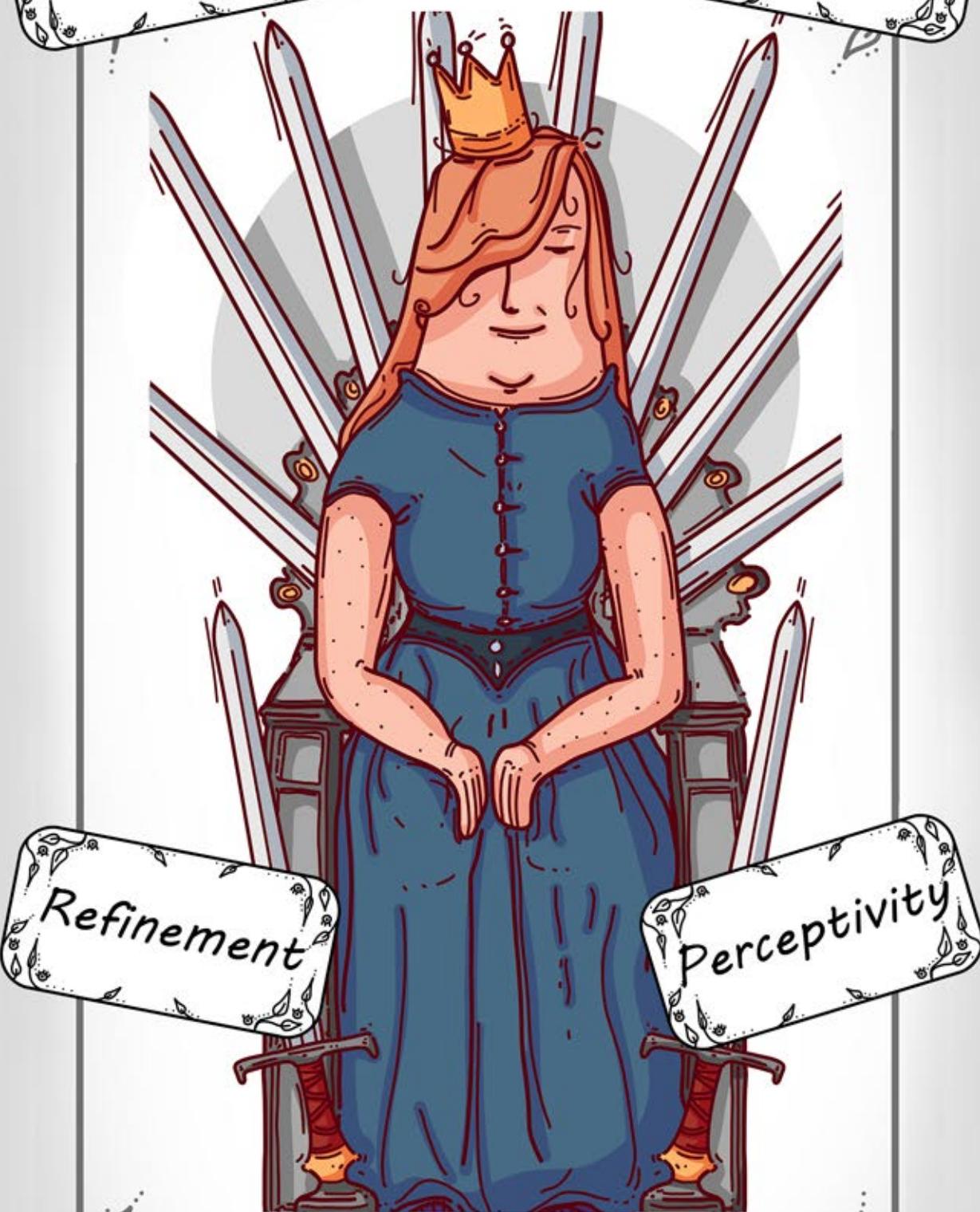
Determination

Willpower

Cunning

Queen

Strategy



Swords

Authority

King

Clarity



Rationality

Logic

Swords



The End

No  
Really



It's  
Over

Nothing  
to see  
here