



THE FANTASY SHOWCASE
TAROT DECK

PLEASE EXAMINE

Your FANTASY SHOWCASE
TAROT before shuffling.

The cards are packed in the
order in which they are
described in the book.

Compiled and edited 1969-1980
by Bruce Pelz

Rights to individual cards are reserved to the
respective artists. © 1980 by Bruce Pelz.

The Verso of the cards is by Walt Leibscher.



A Brief History of the Fantasy Showcase Tarot Deck

Artists have always been a prominent feature of the science fiction and fantasy milieu. In the early days—from the 1930's through the 1950's—the professionals exhibited their works on the covers of the magazines and paperback books, while the non-professionals had to make do with being published in the amateur journals/fanzines. A number of artists who began in the latter group eventually graduated to the former group, and there were frequent instances of fanzine art being better than that found on the professional publications. Multicolor spirit duplication and hand-drawn fine line mimeography art easily outshone hackwork in four-color process litho.

In 1960, the World Science Fiction Convention added an art show to its features, following a suggestion by the late Seth Johnson and considerable work by Bjo Trimble. The West Coast Science Fantasy Conference followed suit three years later, and other regional conventions in the field were not many years behind. At last there was a means for showing what the amateur artists could do when freed from the limitations of inexpensive reproduction methods. And as the 1960's progressed, more and more artists came to display their works at convention art shows.

The art was in every conceivable style, medium, and format, and of every degree of quality from the

great to the utterly worthless. (Which was which was, of course, a variable dependent upon the viewer.) But almost all of it sold if the artists wished it sold—cartoons, portraits, horror scenes, spacescapes, fantasy scenes, and even the untold hundreds of “Star Trek” art that infested the shows of 1968 and 1969. Besides there being large number of artists in the science fiction and fantasy field, there were obviously large numbers of art appreciators, also.

The Fantasy Showcase Tarot Deck idea came about as a result of the availability of those two groups—and as a result of the lack of availability of Steubenware on the West Coast in 1969.

Steubenware was available in one location in the early 1960’s Los Angeles. Don Simpson, an artist whose versatility includes glass engraving, talked me into purchasing one goblet in October 1963, and promised to engrave it. I couldn’t really afford the thing, but I bought it. Then I tried to think of something worth engraving on a Steuben goblet. It took five years for me to come up with the idea of having the Great Trumps done on a set of such goblets, starting with The Tower. And by then there was no longer a Los Angeles outlet for Steubenware—or any other outside of New York.

So I had one engraved goblet and an aborted idea of a pictorial set of the Great Trumps. A collector finds it difficult to abandon the idea of having a set of something he or she has already deemed collectible. Perhaps the set could be done, instead, as mere two-dimensional artwork. Moreover, perhaps other artists would like to get in on the project...surely I knew at least 22 artists? I began asking artists in the Los Angeles area in August of 1969, and by the time I got to the World Science Fiction Convention in St.

Louis over the Labor Day weekend of that year, I had expanded the project to the complete Tarot Deck of 78 cards. The first card—Doug Lovenstein's Knight of Swords—came in by the end of September, 1969.

Over the months and years, there were changes—not only in the roster of artists, but in the attitudes behind the project. What had started as an amusing idea became a Grand Project, involving publishing plans for the deck, acquisition agreements regarding the original cards, and finally the necessity of replacing those artists who had signed up to do a card but, as months and then years had passed, had done nothing. Fortunately, there have always been new artists available to replace the ones dropped.

As a nonartist, I have always found it difficult to tell artists that their work was bad—or even “not good enough.” Halfway through the 1970's I realized that I had not done so in as many instances as I should have, and I went back to some of the artists and asked them to redo their cards. (In a few instances, the artists realized the need for redoing the cards before I did, and took it upon themselves.)

Some cards I rejected outright: the female nude, surrounded by the four Signs of the Apostles, submitted as The Hierophant; the crownless very young man, submitted as a King; two or three others, perhaps.

There were also cards I happily accepted that may well scandalize, affront, or otherwise put off the serious reader of the Tarot. Cartoons have been viewed as tantamount to sacrilege by one or two viewers of the deck-in-progress; offbeat viewpoints of standard Tarot card characters have been frowned upon as inappropriate, invalid, inaccurate, or some combination of these; and then there are six extra cards, found in this deck but not in the standard Tarot.

The first non-standard card was Gordon Monson's Great Trump XXII: Separation, which he gave to me almost as a joke, after he had done The Emperor. The new card was better art. I got Helmut Pesch to take The Emperor, and kept the Monson invention. If one requires a justification for including Separation among the Major Arcana, when there are cards in the Minor Arcana whose meanings may include those of Separation, consider the much greater importance given to sharing of emotions and such today as compared to that given to it in the last century or even the early part of this century. Or consider the traumatic force assigned by psychologists to loss of someone close.

The other non-standard Great Trump, The Farrier, is a logical extension of the force-flow of the Major Arcana, which ordinarily stops with the World, not taking into consideration the fact that the World is no longer an appropriate final boundary. It quite properly comes as the final Trump. (Separation should probably be something like Trump XIII, with Death and all those that follow advanced by one number, but I decided against changing any of the original Trump numbers.)

The remaining four inventions are long-overdue additions to the Tarot court cards, and I admit that I invented them myself. In selecting court cards to signify persons, the Page has long stood for a child of either sex. The Knight stands for a young man, the Queen for a woman, and the King for a man. Obviously—to me, at least—there was something missing. So there is now the Lady, to represent a young woman. The card ranks above the Knight and below the Queen, as the Knight would defer to the Lady and the Lady defer to the Queen. The meanings of the cards follow naturally from their

relationships to the other court cards in their respective suits.

The additional cards and the variety of interpretations of the standard cards may well daunt someone who is used to reading the standard deck. I offer only two suggestions: First, consider the possibility that a Tarot deck designed by one person has that person's imprint firmly established upon it, and the reader's need to attune the deck to him- or herself requires that the designer's imprint be overcome. In contrast, a deck with 85 designers—86 including the editor—would perhaps have the designers' imprints cancelling each other out, and thus allowing an easier attunement.

Second, one can always pare the deck down to the standard 78 cards before reading it

The only really important thing about the deck is that it should be enjoyed—whether as artwork, as a tool for divination, as a party game, or as some combination of the three.

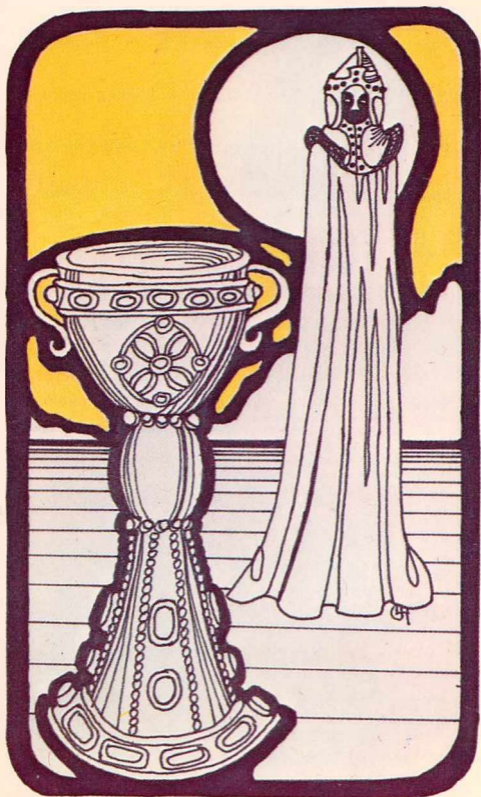
It has been an interesting eleven years

Bruce Pelz

June 1980

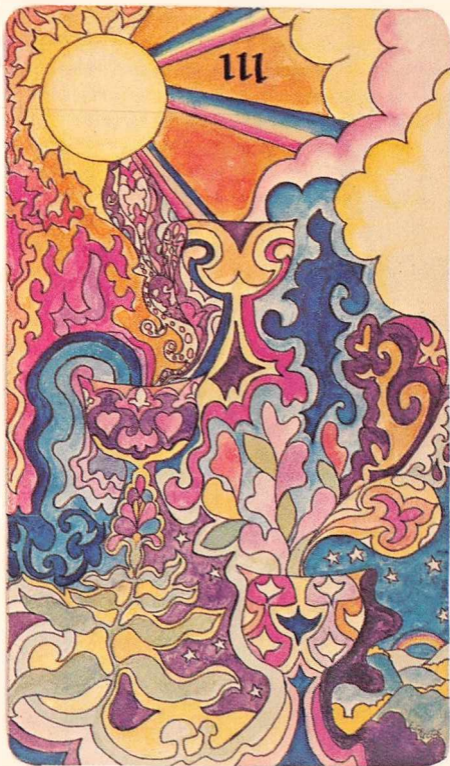
Note:

If you don't already know the basic Tarot reading layout (the Celtic Cross, for instance), you would do well to pick up an introductory book on the subject. I suggest Eden Gray's *The Tarot Revealed* as a good one to begin with. (It's available in paperback.)

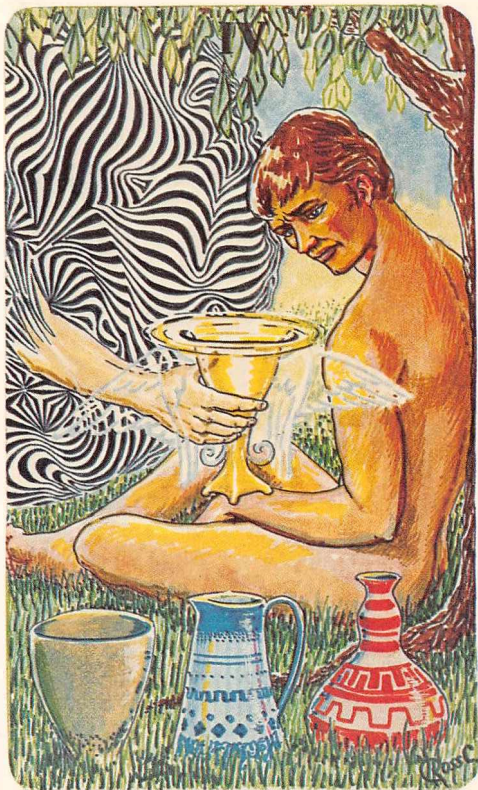


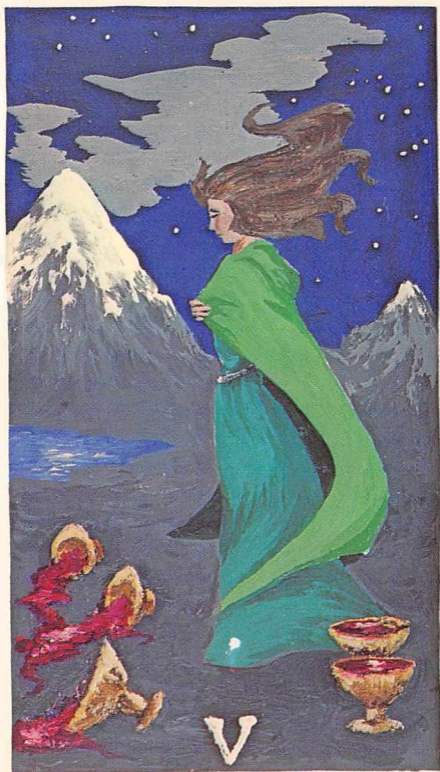
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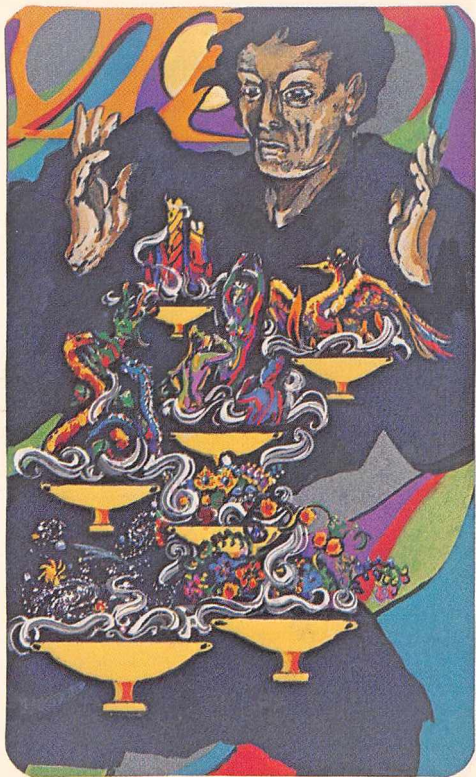
IV



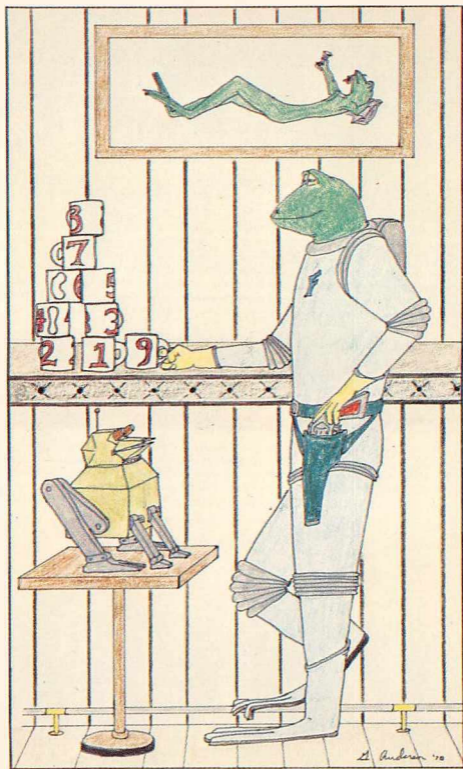




SIX OF CUPS







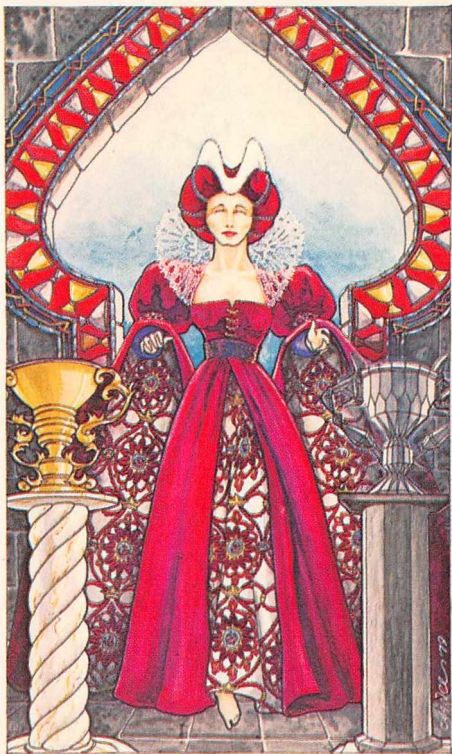


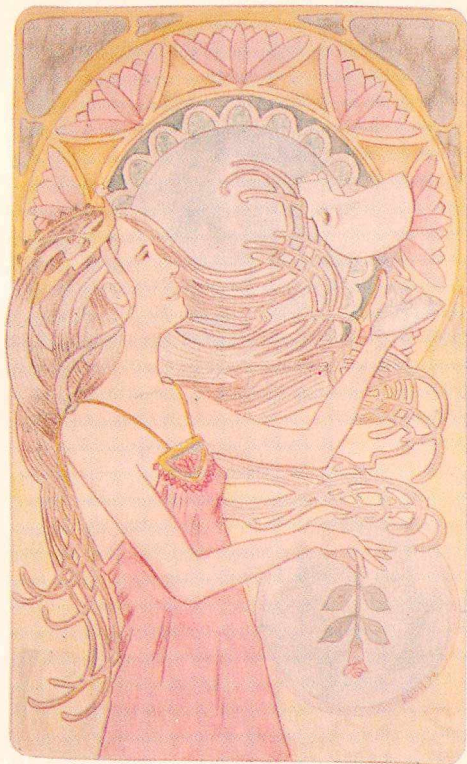


© Felt 1978



KNIGHT of CUPS





IMAGO
REGIS
CALICUM



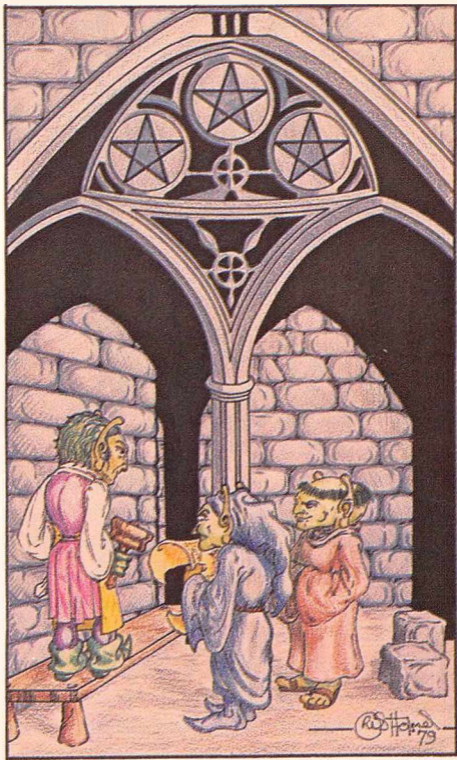


ACE OF

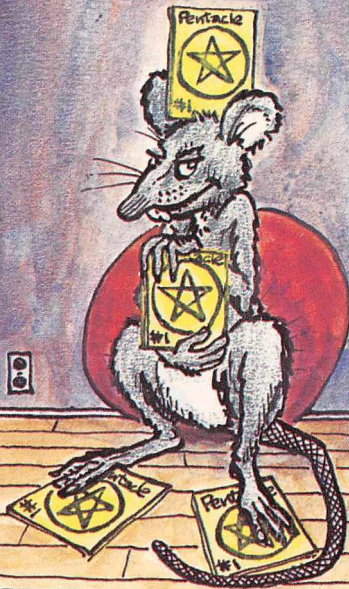
PENTACLES

•LEI•

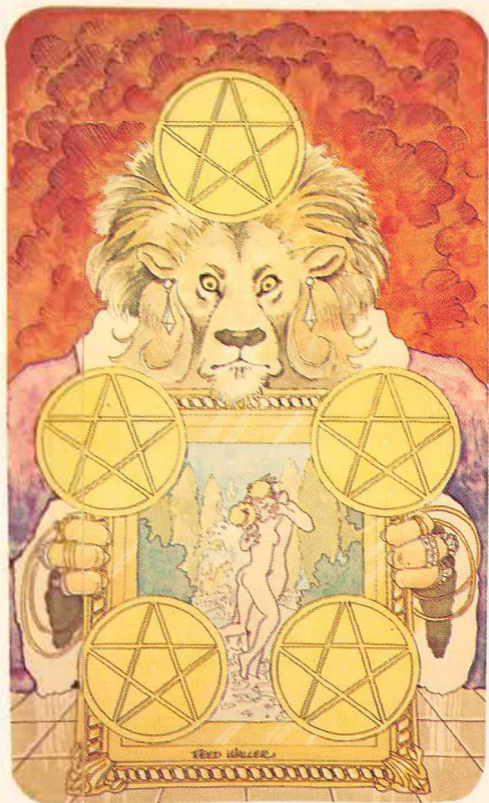


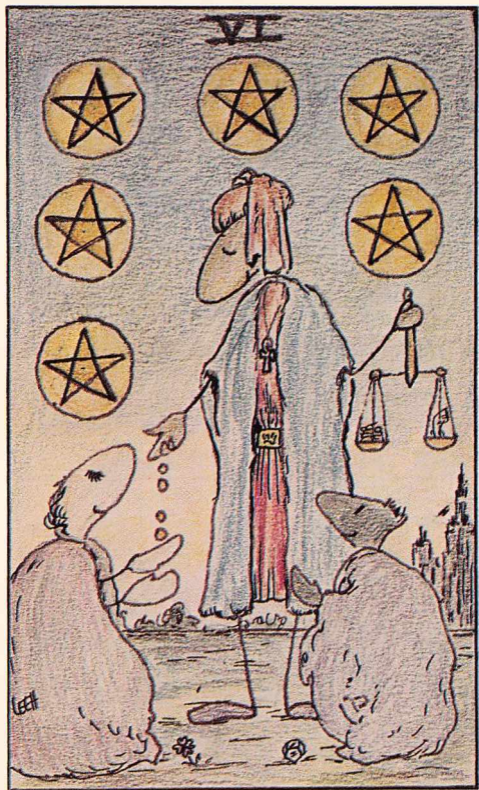


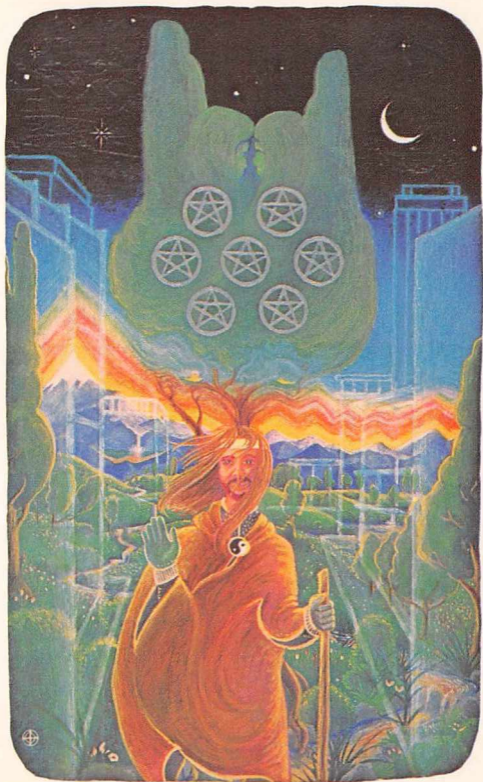
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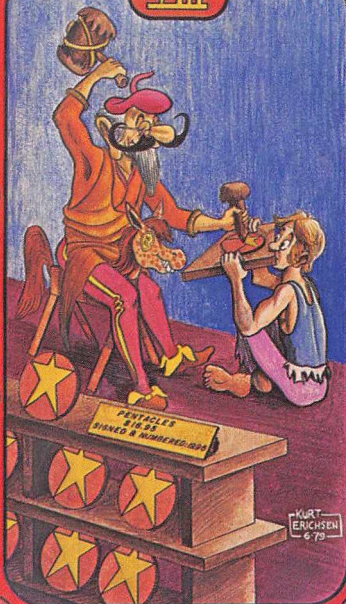
Ken Fletch '71





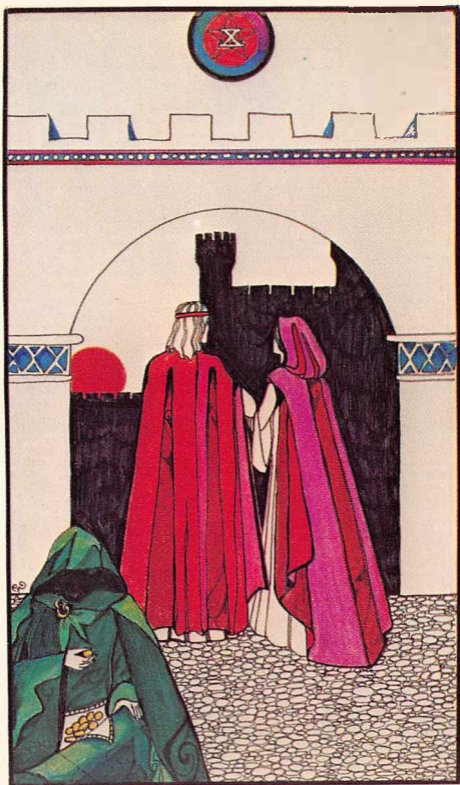


VIII



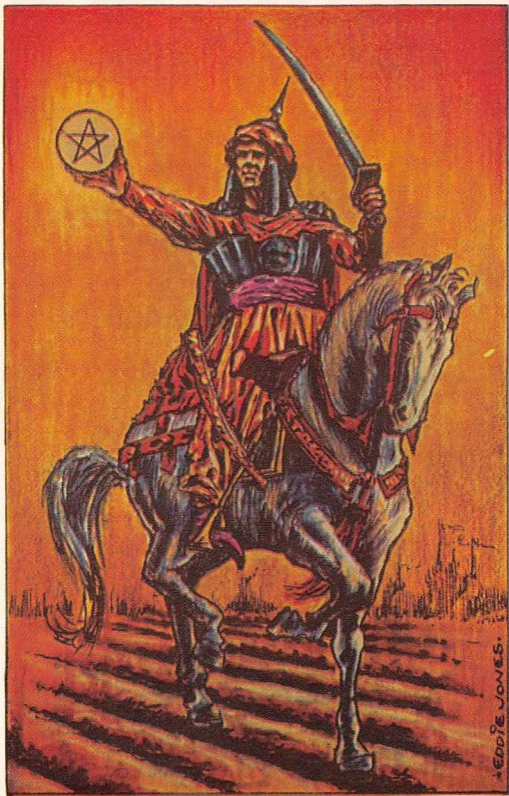


Cathy Hill





PAGE OF PENTICLES



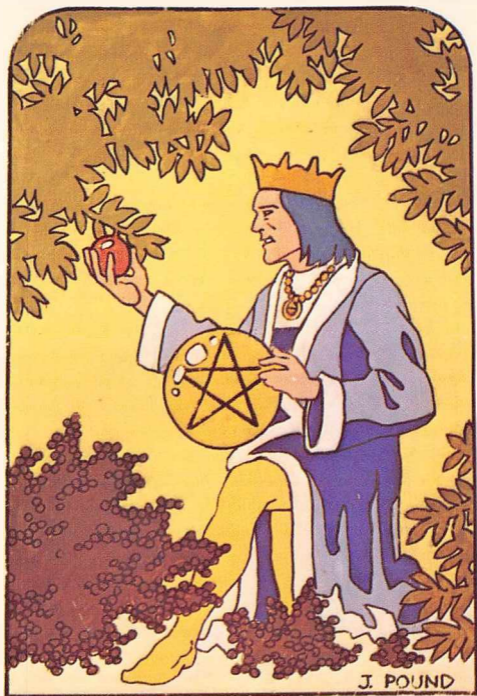
EDDIE JONES.



Lady of Pentacles.



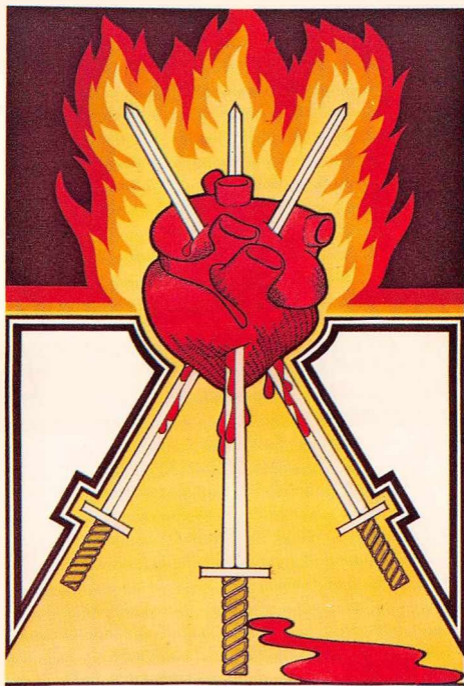
QUEEN OF
PENTACLES



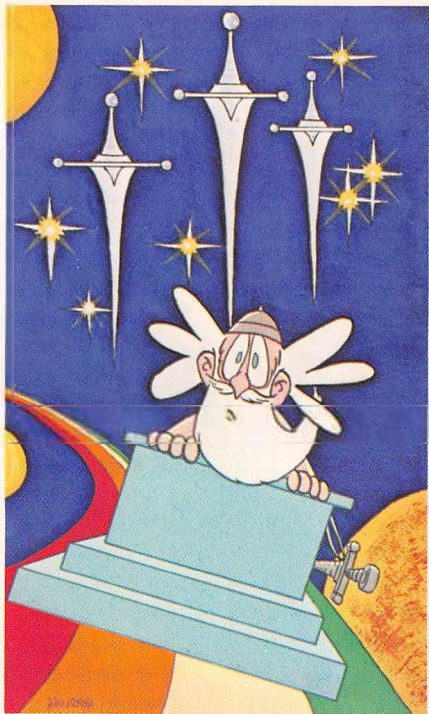
**the KING of
PENTACLES**

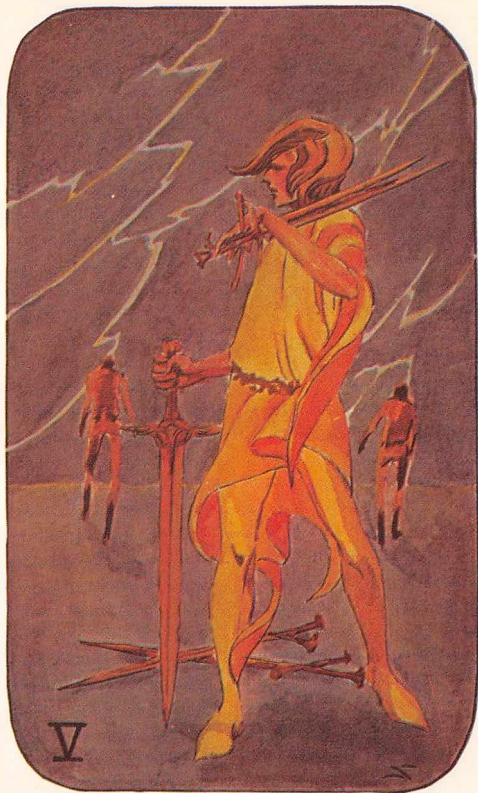






THREE OF SWORDS





VI

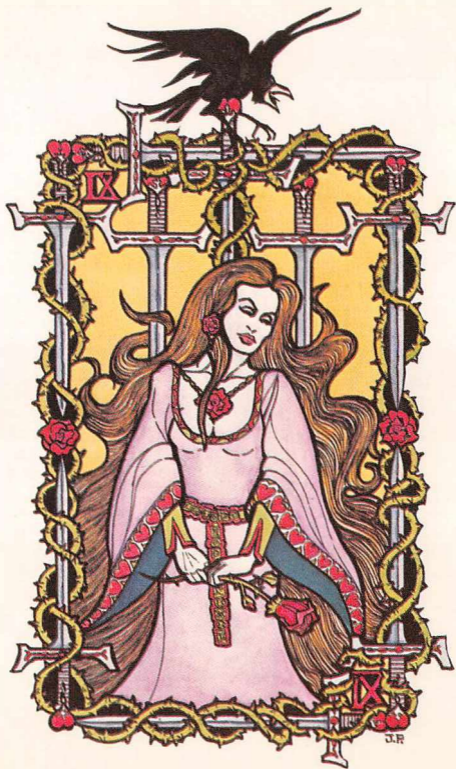




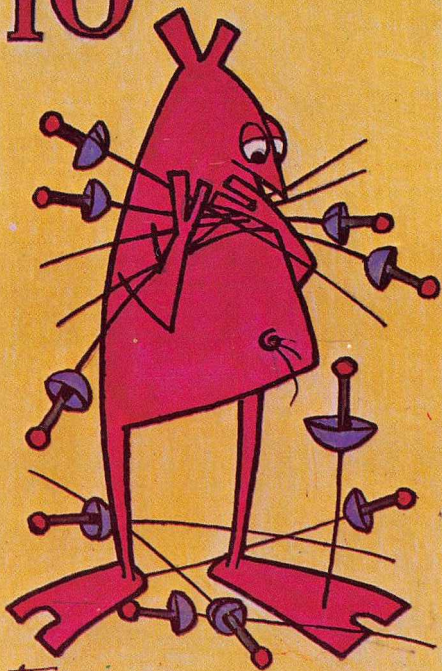
VIII



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77

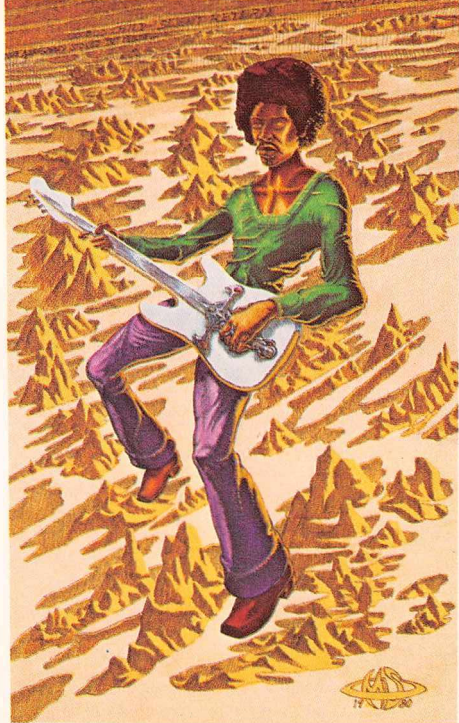


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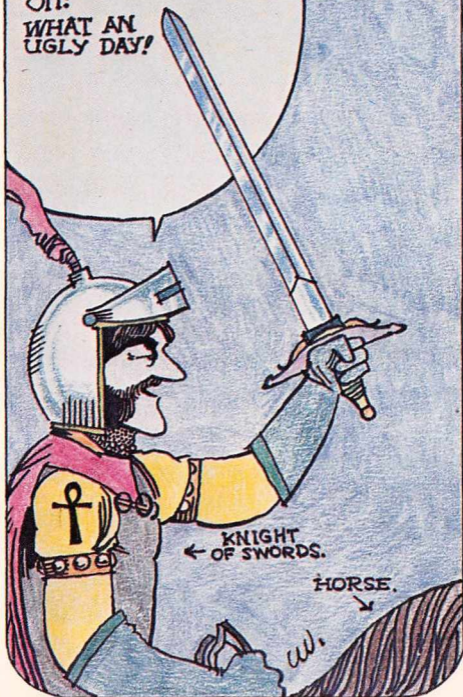


Atary

PAGE OF SWORDS



OH!
WHAT AN
UGLY DAY!



← KNIGHT
OF SWORDS.

HORSE.
↘

W.

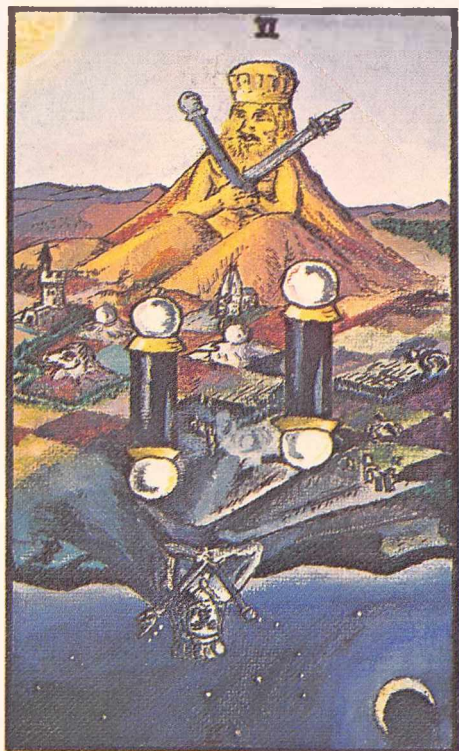


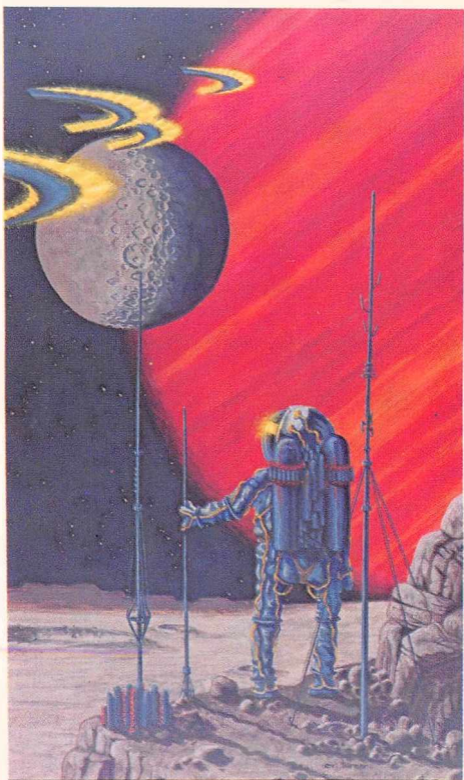
Lady of Swords

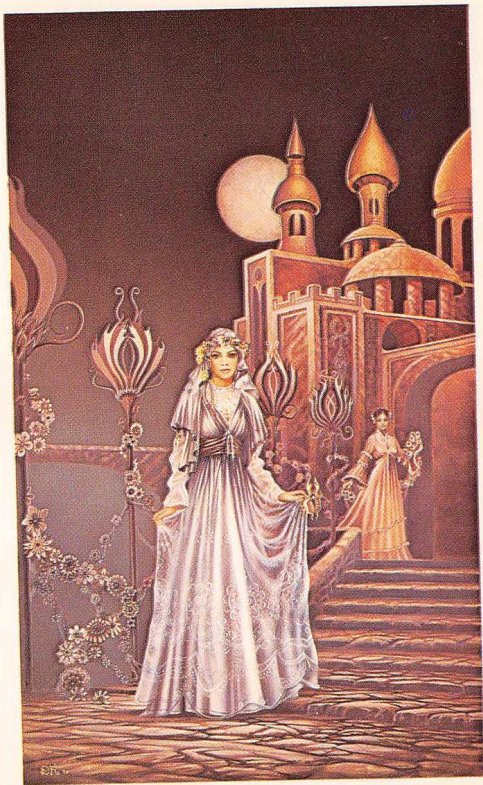


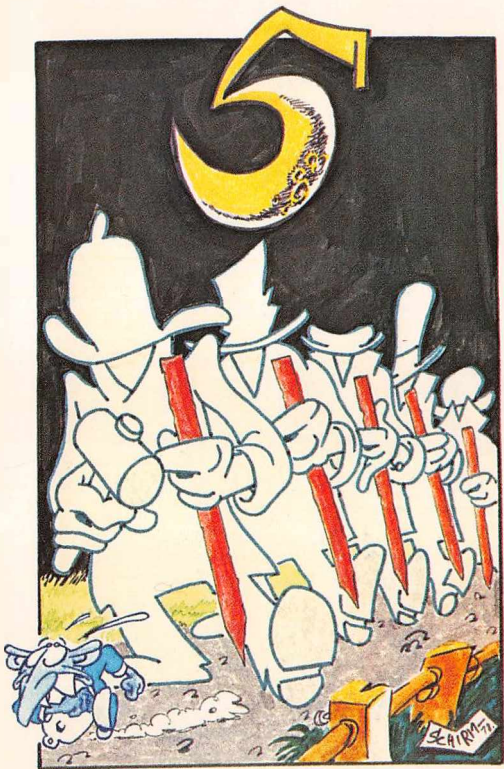




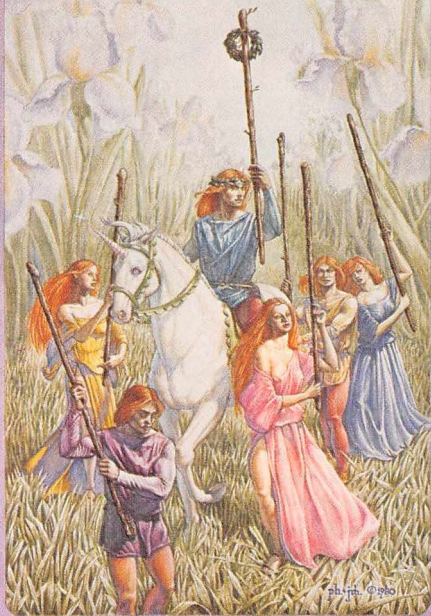








VI



ph. jeh. © 1980

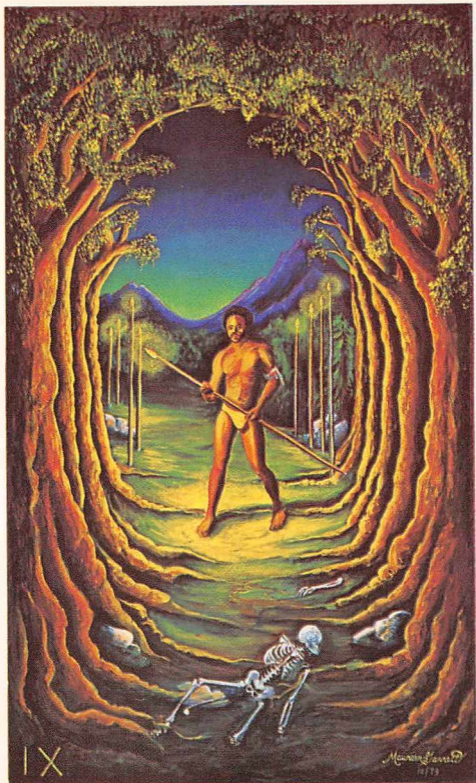
VII

SHFU!

Steve
Stiles







IX

Manuel G. Ferrer
1973







Knight
of
Wands

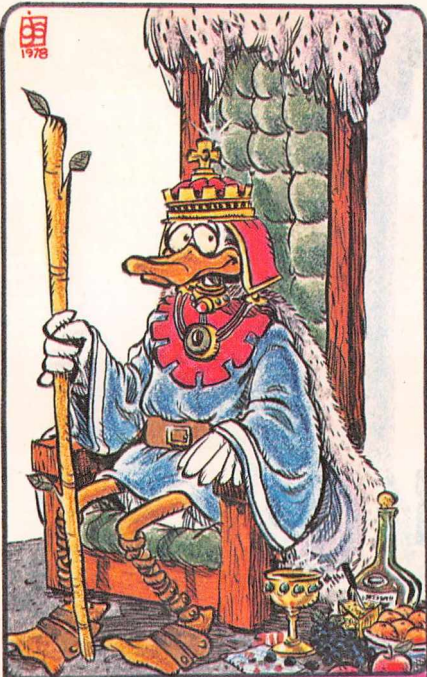


LADY of WANDS

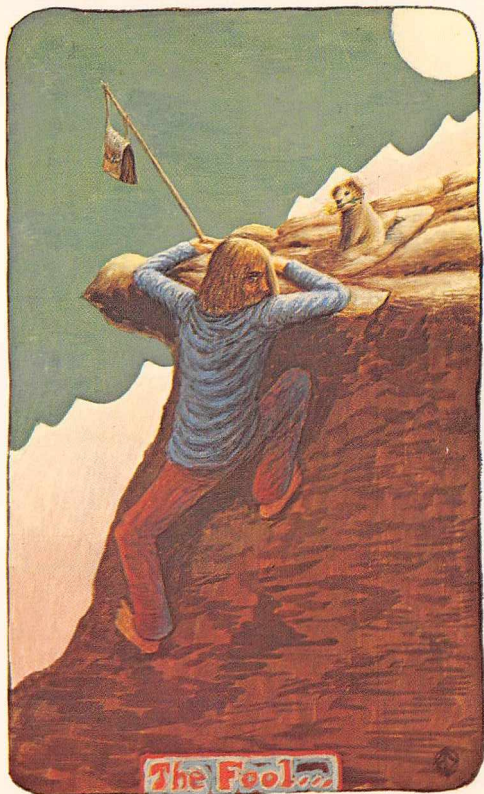
Queen of Wands



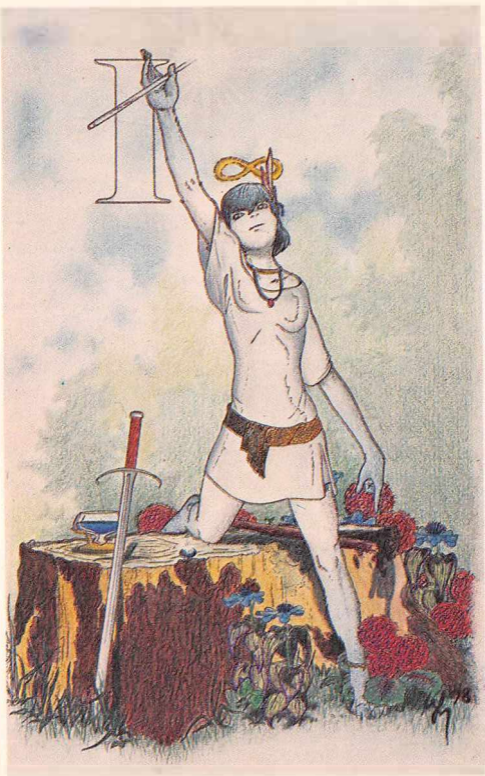
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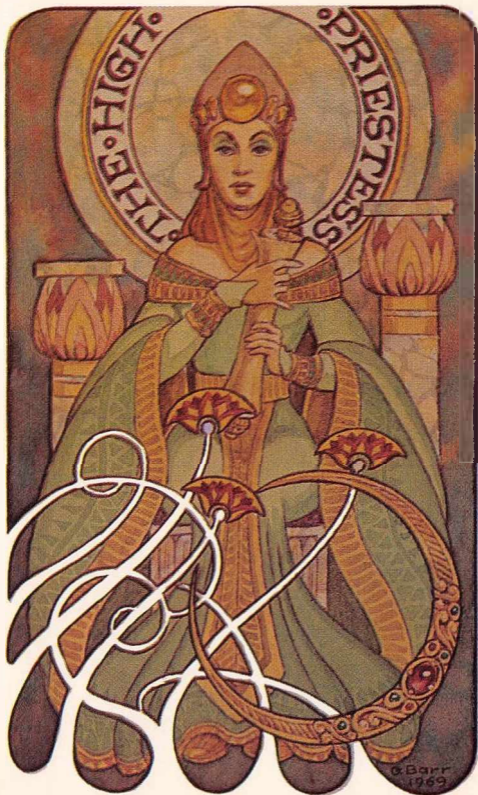


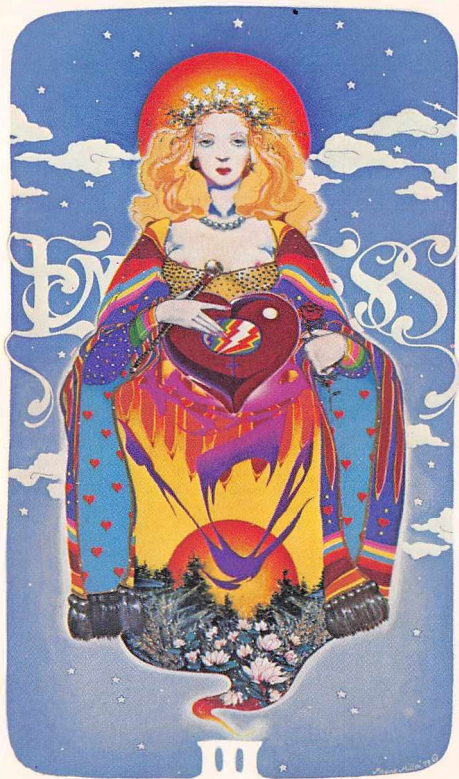
KING OF WANDS



The Fool







IV



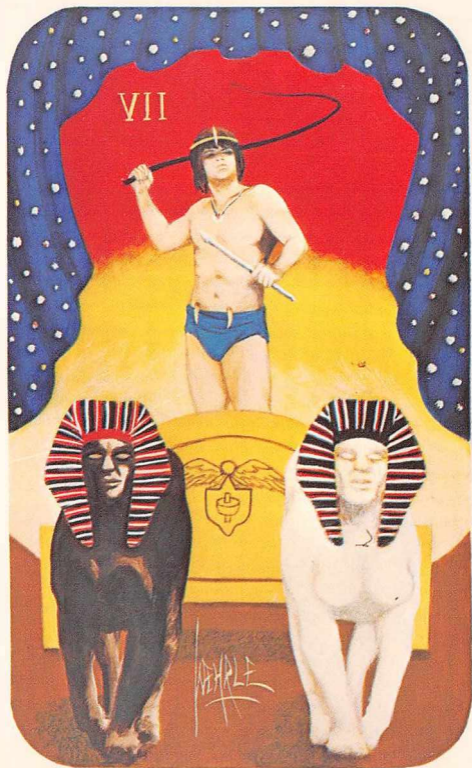
DESC II



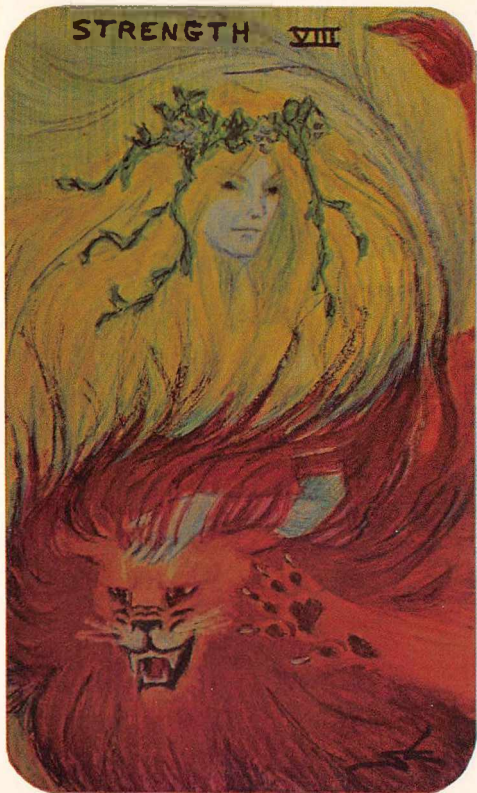
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Karen



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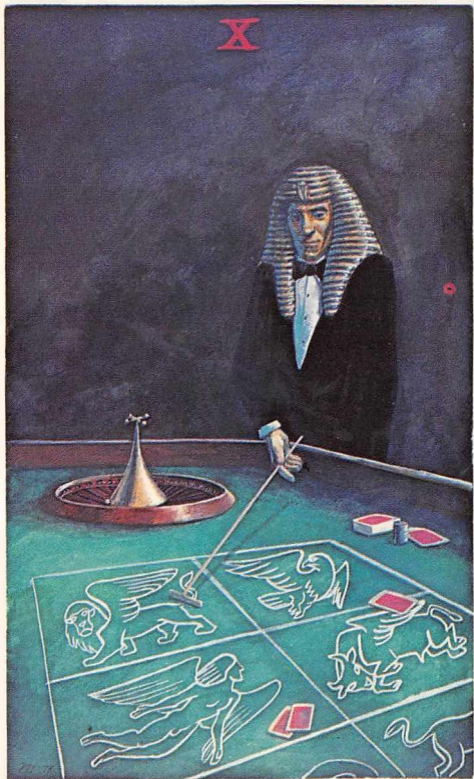


STRENGTH VIII





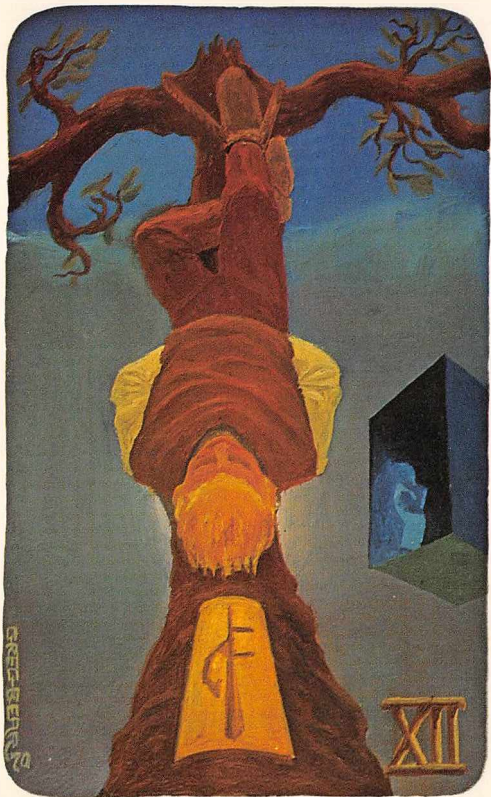
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11

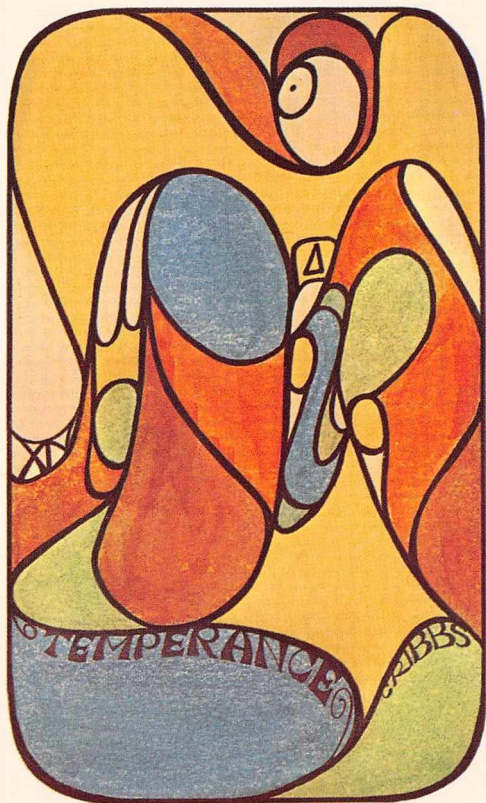


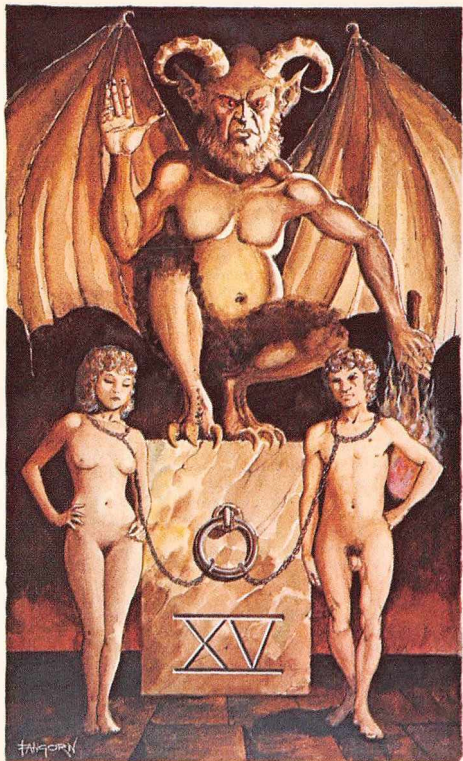
JUSTICE

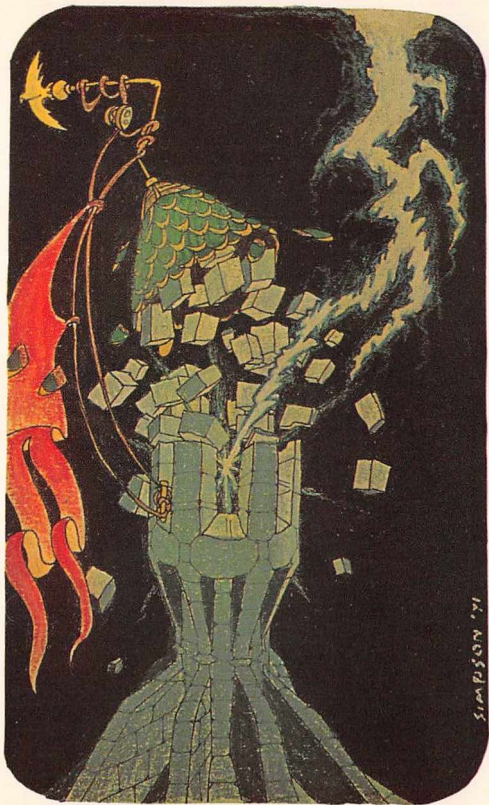


GRECHEN



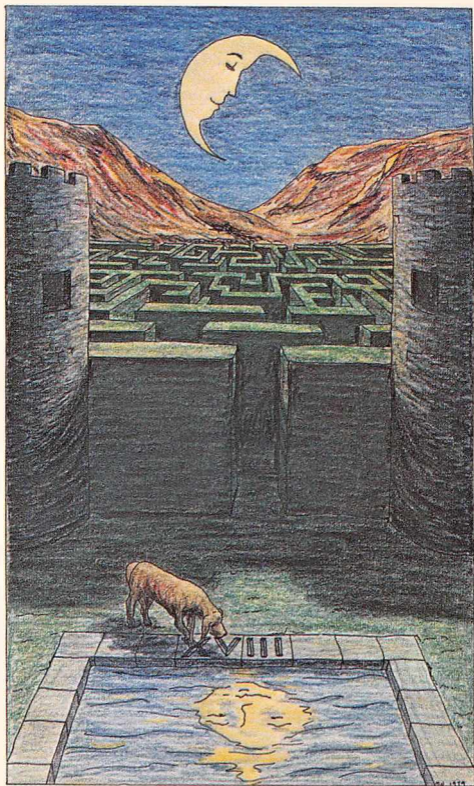






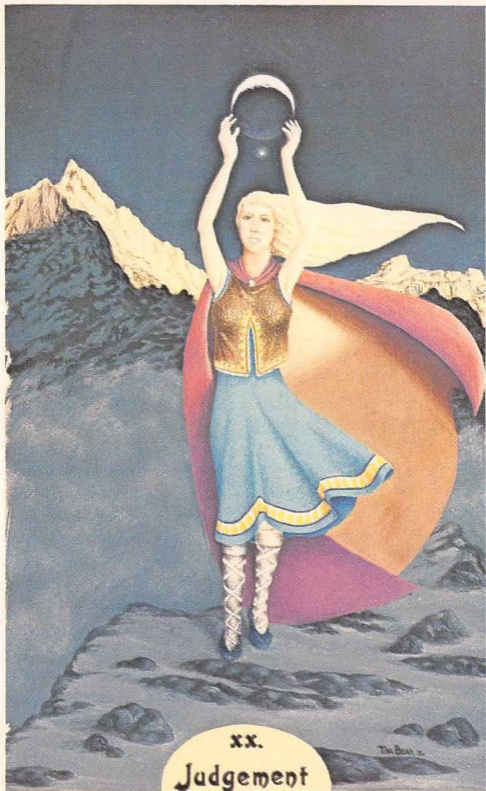
18. KOSCHER





XIX

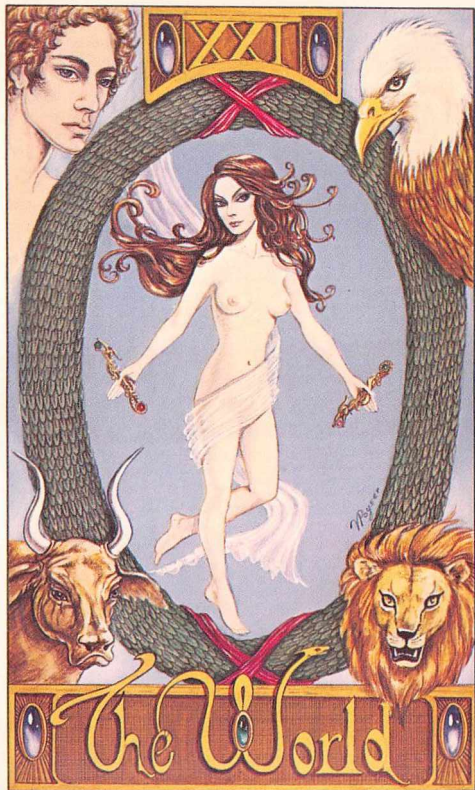




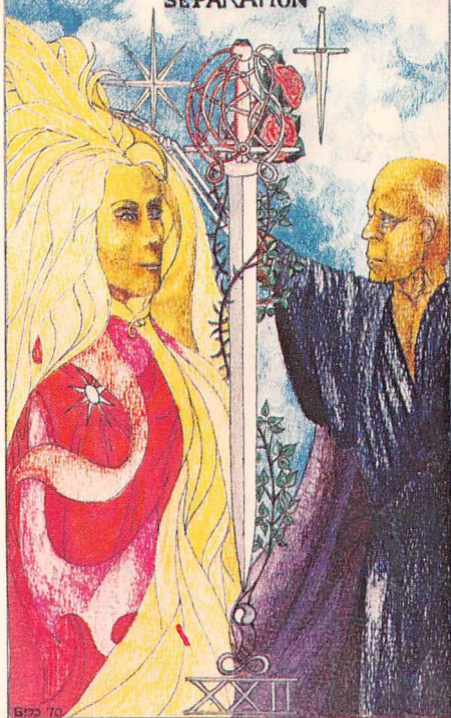
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Judgement

T. B. 11



SEPARATION



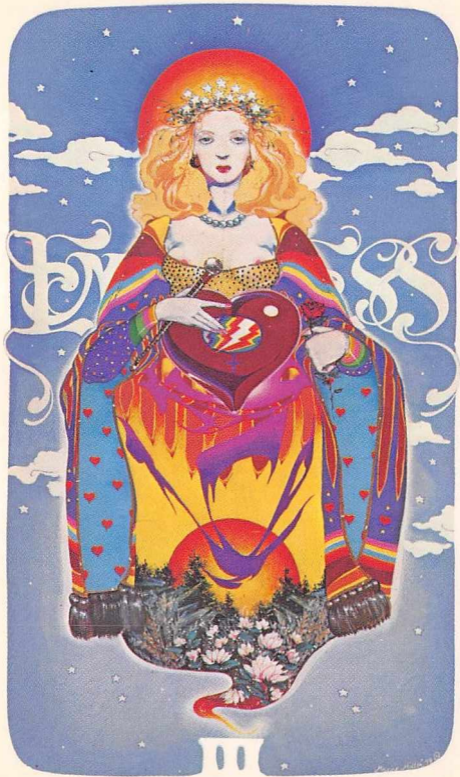


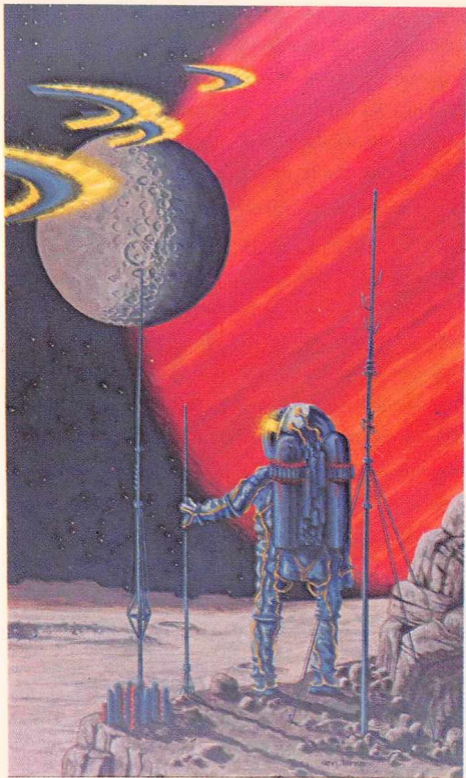
XXIII

THE FARRIER

II







Ace of Cups

Artist: C. Lee Healey

Meaning: Great love; fertility; bounty; productiveness.

Reversed: Impossibility of love; sterility of spirit; false joy.

Two of Cups

Artist: Josh Kirby

Meaning: Companionate love; deep friendship; harmony of the kindred.

Reversed: Broken relationships; disunity; schism of ideas.

Three of Cups

Artist: Ellen Green

Meaning: Successful conclusion; all will end well; fortune; good luck.

Reversed: Overindulgence; ill luck; chimerical success.

Four of Cups

Artist: Ross Chamberlain

Meaning: Re-evaluation of one's life-style; empathy from friends.

Reversed: Re-awakening; possibilities of new beginnings.

Five of Cups

Artist: Debra Bean

Meaning: Disillusionment; disappointment in transitory pleasures; exaggerated loss.

Reversed: Pleasant expectations; return of someone thought lost.

Six of Cups

Artist: Kara Dalkey

Meaning: Nostalgia; pleasant reminders of childhood's past.

Reversed: Dwelling too much on the past; inability to accept modern attitudes or ideas.

Seven of Cups

Artist: Judy Blish

Meaning: Excessive imagination; living in a dream world; dissipated forces.

Reversed: Controlled creativity; intellectual resolve; force of will to carry through.

Eight of Cups

Artist: Bill Rotsler

Meaning: Dissatisfaction with one's success; unsettled spirit; baseless striving; futile quest.

Reversed: Whole-hearted acceptance of success; celebration of achievement.

Nine of Cups

Artist: Gary Anderson

Meaning: Happiness and satisfaction in accomplishment; wealth and well-being; a wish granted.

Reversed: Foolish faith in others; false freedom; serious error in judgement; a wish denied.

Ten of Cups

Artist: Randy Bathurst

Meaning: Lasting happiness and joy; complete contentment; peace.

Reversed: Betrayal of friendship or love; transitory joy yielding sorrow; illicit satisfactions.

Page of Cups

Artist: Freff

Meaning: A quiet, studious child of great imagination; loyalty to close friends; an offer of service or help.

Reversed: Flirtation; avoidance of responsibility; youthful rebellion.

Knight of Cups

Artist: Jackie Causgrove

Meaning: A young man of grace, a dreamer, a sensualist; bringer of a message or invitation.

Reversed: Fraud; deceit; seduction, physical or spiritual.

Lady of Cups

Artist: Ann Chancellor

Meaning: A young woman of trust and affection; a soothing of emotions; encouragement.

Reversed: Abrasiveness; emotional upheaval; a demivierge.

Queen of Cups

Artist: Kathy Bushman Sanders

Meaning: A woman of devotion and loyalty; familial joys and pleasures.

Reversed: Immorality; manipulation of people; overweening self-love.

King of Cups

Artist: Andrew Stephenson

Meaning: A man of kindness and consideration; responsibility; liberality; generosity.

Reversed: Dishonesty; rapaciousness; scandal and trickery.

Ace of Pentacles

Artist: Steve Leialoha

Meaning: Success in material things; wealth; prosperity.

Reversed: Greed; comfort in material things without actual happiness.

Two of Pentacles

Artist: Harry Bell

Meaning: Successful handling of two matters at the same time; balance during a period of change; arrival of written messages.

Reversed: Inability to balance multiple situations; enforced gaiety; anxiety; false-front pleasure.

Three of Pentacles

Artist: Chris Holmes

Meaning: Skill in workmanship; gain in commerce.

Reversed: Mediocrity in workmanship; pettiness; preoccupation with gain.

Four of Pentacles

Artist: Ken Fletcher

Meaning: Miserliness; overemphasis of material possessions.

Reversed: Loss of material wealth; waste of money; hindrances in financial matters.

Five of Pentacles

Artist: Reed Waller

Meaning: Economic affliction; loss of home and other comforts.

Reversed: Charity; financial re-establishment; new occupation.

Six of Pentacles

Artist: Lee Hoffman

Meaning: Shared prosperity; gifts; philanthropy; inheritance.

Reversed: Bribery; condescending charity; unjust business practices.

Seven of Pentacles

Artist: Jim Schumacher

Meaning: Achievement through toil; success in business matters.

Reversed: Financial anxiety; haste in business brings failure.

Eight of Pentacles

Artist: Kurt Erichsen

Meaning: Willingness to learn; the beginning of a career; ambition.

Reversed: Ambition negated; misapplied talents; overconfidence in one's abilities.

Nine of Pentacles

Artist: Cathy Hill

Meaning: Enjoyment of one's own accomplishments; domesticity; an inheritance.

Reversed: Discontent; loss of personal comfort or possessions.

Ten of Pentacles

Artist: Paula Marmor

Meaning: Family wealth; acquisition of a business property; a will brings benefits.

Reversed: Family ill fortune; loss of wealth or honor; bad investments.

Page of Pentacles

Artist: Marti Lands

Meaning: A dark-featured child of scholarly intent; introversion; caution; diligence.

Reversed: Profligacy; excess.

Knight of Pentacles

Artist: Eddie Jones

Meaning: A young man of responsibility; service; laborious toil.

Reversed: Lack of progress; careless habits; stagnation of affairs.

Lady of Pentacles

Artist: Stu Shiffman

Meaning: A young woman of diligence and application; perserverance.

Reversed: Matters in disarray; dilletantism.

Queen of Pentacles

Artist: Kathi Macmillan

Meaning: A woman of generosity and physical creativity; material security.

Reversed: Suspicion; insecurity; fear of want or failure.

King of Pentacles

Artist: John Pound

Meaning: A man of business and industry; reliability; mathematical skills; steady temperament.

Reversed: Gambling and speculation; bribery; talents misused.

Ace of Swords

Artist: Blair Wilkins

Meaning: Triumphant power; championship.

Reversed: Disaster as a result of conquest; tyranny; excessive force.

Two of Swords

Artist: Bea Barrio

Meaning: Temporary truce; balanced forces; indecision.

Reversed: Reactivation of stalled affairs, not always in the right direction; release from tension.

Three of Swords

Artist: Jim Odbert

Meaning: Sorrow; strife in love.

Reversed: Disarray in love affairs; caution against loss.

Four of Swords

Artist: Lee Nordling

Meaning: Rest after struggles; retreat; recuperation from illness.

Reversed: Return to action; unrest; caution against headstrong deeds.

Five of Swords

Artist: Alicia Austin

Meaning: Conquest of others by physical might; self-assurance.

Reversed: Empty victory; caution against boastful pride.

Six of Swords

Artist: George Metzger

Meaning: Escape from oppressions; a water journey; sending forth of a representative in one's stead.

Reversed: Stasis; inescapability of difficulties; unfavorable outcomes.

Seven of Swords

Artist: George Jones

Meaning: Theft; incomplete success; inappropriate plans.

Reversed: Good counsel; unexpected benefit; fortunate innovation.

Eight of Swords

Artist: Alexis Gilliland

Meaning: Captivity of indecision; censure; betrayal.

Reversed: Release from fear; promise of new beginnings; freedom.

Nine of Swords

Artist: Joe Pearson

Meaning: Desolation; suffering; misery; death of someone near.

Reversed: Suspicion; doubt; shame.

Ten of Swords

Artist: Arthur Thomson

Meaning: Sudden anguish; pain and suffering.
(Not: violent death.)

Reversed: Resurgence after defeat.

Page of Swords

Artist: Mike Symes

Meaning: A child of watchfulness and diplomacy;
vigilance.

Reversed: Imposture; unpreparedness; unexpected
crises.

Knight of Swords

Artist: Doug Lovenstein

Meaning: A young man of courage and skill,
though headstrong; conflict; heroism.

Reversed: Extreme impulsiveness; false show of
courage; bragging.

Lady of Swords

Artist: Cecilia Cosentini

Meaning: A young woman of determination and
perseverance; conviction.

Reversed: Insecurity; self-doubt; hesitation.

Queen of Swords

Artist: Juanita Coulson

Meaning: A woman of gravity and rooted power;
privation; strength in sorrow; depth of character.

Reversed: Facetiousness; unreliability; artificiality.

King of Swords

Artist: Mike Gilbert

Meaning: A man of authority and counsel; an affair of law or of the military.

Reversed: Injustice; suspicion; cruelty; scheming.

Ace of Wands

Artist: Ray Capella

Meaning: Creation; invention; birth of family or enterprise.

Reversed: Aborted enterprise; false start; deferred beginning.

Two of Wands

Artist: Gary Benson

Meaning: Balanced enterprise; thought countering desire.

Reversed: Ill-advised affairs; obstinacy; fear; physical pain.

Three of Wands

Artist: Evelyn Turner

Meaning: Hope realized; power of commerce or business established.

Reversed: Caution against offered aid; disappointment in business.

Four of Wands

Artist: David Higgins

Meaning: Harmonious work; peace and prosperity; haven after work.

Reversed: The meaning is the same, though perhaps to a slightly lesser degree.

Five of Wands

Artist: Marc Schirmeister

Meaning: The struggle of life; fierce competition.

Reversed: Obstacles; disputes; legal or contractual complications.

Six of Wands

Artists: Jane & Philip Hagopian

Meaning: Good news; victory after a struggle; success through industry.

Reversed: Rewards delayed; caution against insolence in victory; fear of a victorious foe.

Seven of Wands

Artist: Steve Stiles

Meaning: Success against competition; advantageous position.

Reversed: Confusion; anxiety; warning against indecision.

Eight of Wands

Artist: Rick Sternbach

Meaning: Approach to a goal; activity furthers the undertaking; journey by air; messages arriving.

Reversed: Stagnation in affairs; great delay; misdirected communication.

Nine of Wands

Artist: Maureen Garrett

Meaning: Preparedness; defensive power; a reserve of strength.

Reversed: Adversity; weakness; vulnerability.

Ten of Wands

Artist: Jim Barker

Meaning: A goal will be reached despite oppressive burdens; ill-use of power; a problem soon solved.

Reversed: Failure; departure under duress.

Page of Wands

Artist: Liz Danforth

Meaning: A child of enthusiasm; messenger; bearer of news.

Reversed: Ill tidings; apathy; indecision about a project.

Knight of Wands

Artist: Wendy Fletcher Pini

Meaning: A young man of celerity and great energy; haste; flight.

Reversed: Interruption; discord; interference; listlessness.

Lady of Wands

Artist: Terry Austin

Meaning: A young woman of talent and perspicacity; organizational competence.

Reversed: Mediocrity; casual incompetence.

Queen of Wands

Artist: Bonnie Goodnight

Meaning: A woman of animation and magnetism; domestic success; control of nature.

Reversed: Parsimony; prudery; deceit or infidelity.

King of Wands

Artist: Dan Steffan

Meaning: A man of authority in enterprise; nobility; familial loyalty.

Reversed: Intolerance; severity and ruthlessness in judgement.

Trump 0: The Fool

Artist: Bruce Duncan

Meaning: An important choice is to be made.

Reversed: The choice will be wrong.

Trump I: The Magician

Artist: Taral

Meaning: The power of will; mastery of natural forces; eternity.

Reversed: Destructive power; weakness of will.

Trump II: The High Priestess

Artist: George Barr

Meaning: Spiritual power; mystery; shrouded future.

Reversed: Superficial knowledge; lip-service faith.

Trump III: The Empress

Artist: Maxine Miller

Meaning: Domestic strength; material wealth; fertility.

Reversed: Unsettled home; the disruption of poverty; infertility.

Trump IV: The Emperor

Artist: Helmut Pesch

Meaning: Government; leadership; domination of intellect over emotions.

Reversed: Immaturity of emotion; a slave to parents; subservience.

Trump V: The Hierophant

Artist: Karen Kuykendall

Meaning: Concentration on ritual, ceremony, the trappings of religion; need for social conformity.

Reversed: Unorthodoxy; social revolt.

Trump VI: The Lovers

Artist: Connie Faddis

Meaning: Yang and yin; sexual and spiritual love; a choice of temptations.

Reversed: Sundered relationships; quarrels; disharmony.

Trump VII: The Chariot

Artist: Joe Wehrle

Meaning: Conquest; triumph over foes; control of nature and oneself.

Reversed: Decadence; surrender; victory without right.

Trump VIII: Strength

Artist: Suford Lewis

Meaning: Spiritual power bests material power; love triumphs over hate, a higher nature over a lower.

Reversed: Immorality; abuse of power; rule by lower natures.

Trump IX: The Hermit

Artist: James Patrick

Meaning: Prudence; wise counsel; attainment of appropriate goals.

Reversed: Foolish habits; rejection of maturity; refusal to accept counsel.

Trump X: The Wheel of Fortune

Artist: Linda Miller

Meaning: Success; luck.

Reversed: Ill fortune; setbacks or failures brought upon oneself.

Trump XI: Justice

Artist: Joan Hanke Woods

Meaning: A just result; success at law; balance in one's affairs.

Reversed: Bias; inequality; legal complications; injustice.

Trump XII: The Hanged Man

Artist: Greg Bear

Meaning: Spiritual wisdom; prophecy; self-sacrifice; a pause in one's life or affairs.

Reversed: Pride; arrogance; wasted effort; resistance to spiritual things.

Trump XIII: Death

Artist: Tim Kirk

Meaning: Change; transformation; renewal after a tearing down.

Reversed: Stagnation; inertia.

Trump XIV: Temperance

Artist: Kate Wadey

Meaning: Beneficent control; working harmoniously with others; adaptation; good management.

Reversed: Excess; lack of control; unfortunate combinations; competing interests.

Trump XV: The Devil

Artist: Fangorn

Meaning: Bondage to the material; sensation without understanding; misuse of spiritual power.

Reversed: The start of spiritual understanding; timidity; ineffectuality.

Trump XVI: The Tower

Artist: Don Simpson

Meaning: Violent change; upheaval of existing affairs; destruction of material values.

Reversed: Oppression; imprisonment; false accusations.

Trump XVII: The Star

Artist: Kelly Freas

Meaning: Inspiration; hope; unselfish aid; love.

Reversed: Doubt; pessimism.

Trump XVIII: The Moon

Artist: Mary Jane Hertz

Meaning: Dreams; psychic power; unforeseen dangers; ill fortune to someone close.

Reversed: Imagination ruled by practicality; survival at some cost; risks should be avoided.

Trump XIX: The Sun

Artist: Ingrid Edelfeldt

Meaning: A pleasant; happy life; material or domestic success; achievement in studies.

Reversed: Loss of happiness; success diminished.

Trump XX: Judgement

Artist: Tina Bear

Meaning: Awakening; change in consciousness; renewal.

Reversed: Failure in life's goals; fear of death; weakness.

Trump XXI: The World

Artist: Victoria Poyser

Meaning: Completion; total triumph; movement in one's affairs; travel.

Reversed: Fear of change; stubbornness; success denied.

Trump XXII: Separation

Artist: Gordon Monson

Meaning: Loneliness; inability to communicate with others.

Reversed: Reconciliation; unity of purpose; sharing of emotions.

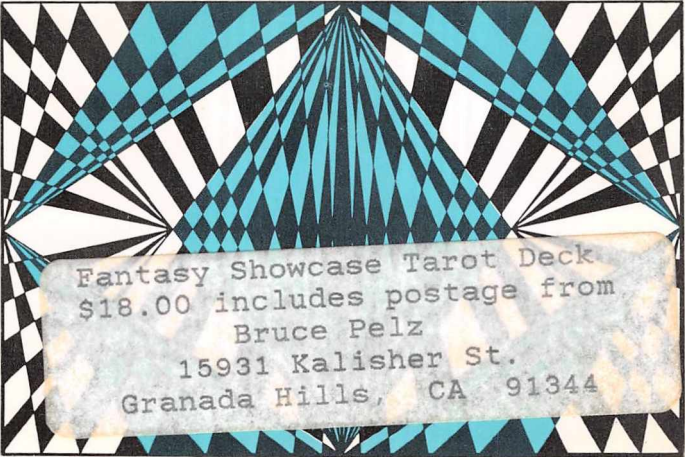
Trump XXIII: The Farrier

Artist: Dian Crayne

Meaning: Forces of the universe; destiny's hand.

Reversed: Chaos; lack of purpose; randomness.

Type by Samuel Edward Konkin III



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