The following is an excerpt from *The Book of Maps*, the companion guidebook to the *Spirit Keeper’s Tarot*, a hand-illustrated black and white tarot deck crafted with practitioners of the mystic arts in mind. The pen and ink drawings were inspired by woodcut prints from the late Renaissance. Symbology called upon is based predominantly on medieval European alchemy, astrology (the Sacred Seven), Hermeticism, Zoroastrianism, Abrahamic angelology, Kabbalah, Catholicism/Christianity, Sufism, and Egyptian mythology.

For more information about the deck, go to:
https://benebellwen.com/spirit-keepers-tarot
Holy Guardians of the Orbs

**Stronghold of the Vale**

Herald of the Darkening

**The Shining Quarry**

Wild and Fertile Land

**The Ebony Shield**

Power and Authority of Earth

**Archangel of Mysteries**

Angel Who Illuminates the Shadow
Page of Orbs: Stronghold of the Vale

This is the Stronghold of the Vale, a divine messenger from the Active World, harbinger from the Material Plane, bringing an omen of Fruition. She has come to make the Divine Will known to the Keeper, bringing a significant celestial transmission of the Vale—the earthly world of the mortals—and of Darkening. At the Divine’s behest, she performs miracles born of the Daily Bread, from the Palace of the Echoing Hills. She is the herald of transformation.

Here is the guardian angel of the earthly south. The Page of Orbs would be an ideal guide for accompanying the Keeper and navigating the Keeper through the Active World. A chess piece—the rook—symbolizes her stronghold. The large spherical orb marks the realm for which she is a ward. In the foreground, a letter to symbolize a divine message or omen. Upon its wax seal is the alchemical glyph for Earth.

To the right is a howling wolf, an animal spirit guardian of Earth. Above the wolf’s head and to the left are hanging branches of apple blossoms. Visualize their bloom in pale pinks and soft whites.

When the Stronghold of the Vale appears in a reading, the sealed envelope in the bottom right corner suggests an additional divinatory message for the querent. Thus, a clarifying card can be drawn and placed over or next to the Page card to indicate the additional message that the Page, as a divine messenger from the Active World, is bringing. Since it comes from that World, it will relate to matters pertaining to elemental Earth, such as business, money matters, property, commerce, economics, assets and resources, or liabilities, etc.

Divine or do a tarot reading by petitioning the Page specifically. When seeking a tarot reading on a matter that pertains to the elemental suit of Earth, first seek out Key 0, the significator card, and the Page of Orbs. Place Key 0 on your receptive palm, the Page card on top of Key 0, and hover your dominant hand over the two cards. In the form of a prayer, present your question to the Page. Feel energy from your palm connecting to the angelic Stronghold of the Vale. Then shuffle the deck with both the significator and the Page. Turn the deck over and seek out both Key 0 and the Page. The card in front of your significator reveals or reminds you of what you have control over or what is innate within you relevant to success. The card in front of the Page is a revelatory divine message delivered to you by the
Herald of the Darkening
Page, from the angelic realms, about your question presented. If either card is the top-most card when you turn the deck over, the card itself is part of the answer to your question.

**Knight of Orbs: The Shining Quarry**

The Knight of Orbs is an angelic Virtue from the divine choir of beneficients. He is called The Shining Quarry. He is the spirit essence of all that materializes in the physical world as the element Earth. Every stone, speck of dust and dirt upon the terra firma is his dominion. Call upon him to move divine earth through the realms.

A septagon that unites the powers of the Sacred Seven into a concentrated cone of Wild and Fertile Land is the Seal through which a Keeper calls forth The Shining Quarry. Within the seal, mountain peaks are depicted, along with eight evergreen trees, for the primordial eight building blocks of life. The Shining Quarry is an angelic being of the mountains, with dominion over the mountains of the earth. The angel’s black horse is called Denarius. Upon his head is the alchemical glyph for salt.

The Keeper petitioning spirits to assist or lend counsel in a matter that requires a potent dose of the element Earth can call upon The Shining Quarry to unleash that dose of Earth and direct it toward the Keeper’s matter at hand.

The Knight of Orbs is the spirit personification of Earth. He is Earth in action and Earth manifested. Petition him to increase this element in your life and personal environment for greater prosperity, to help reduce or deal with debts, to increase assets and profit, or to help with industry and commerce. The Knight of Orbs can also send to the Keeper a strong dose of Earth energy for grounding and shielding.

A strong dose of Earth sent from the Knight to one endowed with psychic ability or potential will enhance clairaudience.

When The Shining Quarry appears in a divinatory reading, the compendium of spirits is sending a message: let the angel of the Vale help control the metaphysical element of Earth for the Seeker. Call upon The Shining Quarry proactively, with intention, to help build a stronger, earthy foundation, to increase access to the resources needed for success, and to help channel Earth energy in the direction of an Earth circumstance for the Seeker.
THE SHINING QUARRY

Wild and Fertile Land
Queen of Orbs: The Ebony Shield

The Ebony Shield is an angelic Power who appears to the Keeper in female form. This is the power and authority of Earth, whose shield is fortified with the primordial building blocks of Life.

The Ebony Shield’s design consists of four quadrants with a Triskele, or Triple Spiral, at the center. It stands in for goddess protection over the three earthly realms of land, sea, and sky. In the top left quadrant is the West African *adinkra* symbol *eban*, meaning fence, which symbolizes safety, security, and protection. In the top right, *bese saka*, representing a cluster of cola nuts, which symbolizes abundance and affluence. In the bottom two quadrants, *aya*, representing a fern leaf, which symbolizes the Power of Industry. Above and below in total are two orbs of primordial matter encrusted into the Shield, empowering it.

In her right hand, the angelic Power holds an apple for knowledge of the Divine Mysteries per pagan lore. Her earrings are the symbol of the goddess; in her right ear, a crescent waxing moon and in her left, a waning moon. Upon her headdress is the full moon and above it, the rune *fehu* for wealth, luck, gains, fertility, and abundance.

Per Agrippa, Earth corresponds with the south, whereas Aleister Crowley further develops on Agrippa to note that it is Africa, but also Europe. West. Thus, the angelic Power here has taken on fusion features from the pagan cultures of Europe and also Moroccan culture in its revelation to the Keeper.
THE EBONY SHIELD

Power and Authority of Earth
Note: If the Keeper corresponds the suit of Orbs and element Earth with the south, then the image of the Power can be rendered to reflect the African civilizations. If the Keeper associates Orbs and Earth with the north, then render the image of the Power to reflect the European civilizations.

TALISMANIC SHIELD: The Ebony Shield depicted here can be used as a talisman of protection and defense against malefic entities or psychic/metaphysical poisons. Specifically, the Shield protects and defends through the unleashing of potent Earth, by the authority of the angelic Power of Earth.

Invocation: "Holy Guardian, Power and Authority of the Quarry, be the Ebony Shield around me, my protector, my Vale, and the one who guides me on my journeys, who safeguards the path of my feet."

King of Orbs: Archangel of Mysteries

The angelic title for the King of Orbs is the Archangel of Mysteries. She reveals to the Keeper the Sacred Mysteries, of revelations direct from the Divine, and confers the Gift of Prophecy. She is also known by her title Archangel of Revelations.

She is an angel connected to the underworld, one authorized to act as an intermediary and mediator between the angelic realm still subservient to the Divine and the realm of the fallen angels. She can also traverse through all of the lower realms to guide lost souls.

The Archangel of Mysteries illuminates the darkness and assists those who traverse the realms of shadow and helps us to uncover mysteries. This is the Archangel who protects the Keeper against all forms of darkness. Her symbol is the illuminated lantern. Within her six-pointed lantern is a sacred orb.
ARCHANGEL OF MYSTERIES

Angel Who Illuminates the Shadow
"He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new.'
Then he said, 'Write this down, for these words are true and faithful.'
Revelation 21:5.

(continued from Archangel of Mysteries)

The Angel presents her gifts to the Keeper: in the bottom left corner, a Gorgoneion amulet of the Mother Goddess—a symbol of divine protection from the Angel. Two ears of corn (along with the lantern symbolism) call to mind Key 9: The Erudite. The ears of corn symbolize fertility, abundance, and the seeds of spiritual enlightenment. There are two to denote balance, to invoke Key 2: The Priestess, and embody the path of the Minister. Bringing in both Key 2 and Key 9, both Eyes are now present.

Upon a lantern that the Archangel offers as a gift to the Keeper is an open revelation: the magic square for working with the Angel Who Illuminates the Shadow, with the numbers inscribed in Brahmi numerals, the precursor to the Arabic number system, circa 300 BC.

Note that of the four Archangels, the Archangel of Mysteries is the only one depicted as seated upon a throne. This is the symbol of stability, of structured power, and the highest direct authority to transmit the Divine Word. While the Archangel Commander carries out the Word of God; it is the Archangel of Mysteries who reveals the Word of God to the people. (For that reason, the outer walls of the cave in which the sacred orb depicted on the Ace of Orbs is kept is inscribed with ancient languages.) Seated upon a throne also signifies the significance of the King of Orbs—as the last and final card among The Empyrean Courts, similar to the role of the Three of Orbs in the Upper Realms, the Ten of Orbs in the Lower Realms, and Key 21: The New World Order in the Primordial Realm.

Upon the Archangel’s throne are inscribed the Old Languages: Aramaic; Persian Cuneiform; the Geez script from the Horn of Africa; Egyptian hieroglyphs; Chinese oracle bone script; and the Phoenician or Proto-Canaanite script. The Angel Who Illuminates the Shadow is entrusted by the Divine to hold the most sacred of powers: To give Life and administer souls from the formless world into the material.

Prayer: Archangel of Mysteries, Angel of Revelations, unto whom my heart is open, and unto whom I speak, and from whom nothing in my soul is concealed: I pray of you to illuminate the darkness in my heart, the shadows that veil my eyes, I pray for safe journeying through the underworlds I traverse, and I pray of you to shine your Light on the path for me to walk, always. Amen.