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
Pythagoreans called the number six the Number of the Soul. This is harmony between heaven, earth, and man. After the material world is formed, it remains connected to the spirit realm from where it came, and the sixes in the Minor Arcana are the remaining tethers and bridge between the material and spirit. In the Kabbalistic Tree of Life, the Realm of Sixes arises from the sefirah Tiferet, the emanation of heart-centered consciousness, the quest for balance, and pulchritude. This is the consciousness of spiritual teaching. Six is of particular importance in the tarot, as the deck itself resonates with the numerological frequency wave of six \((7+8=15, 1+5=6)\).

** Numerological Progenitors in the Major Arcana:**
Ave Maria
The Hail Mary Prayer

Áve María, grátia pléna, Dóminus técum.
Benedicta tú in muliéribus, et benedíctus frúctus véntris túi, lésus.
Sánta María, Máter Déi, óra pro nóbis peccatóribus, nunc et in hóra mórtis nóstrae. Ámen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Images from Valentin Weigel’s Astrology Theologized (1886).
Six of Scepters: The Champion

Angels of the Shem HaMephorash

Upright: Achaiah  Ruling Angel: Metatron
Reversed: Cahetel  Ruling Angel: Metatron

The prince in the Five of Scepters who was prophesied to become king is now crowned ruler of the realm. It's revealed that this prince was a princess in disguise. The crowned princess wears a laurel wreath upon her head. Another wreath hangs from her scepter, which has punctured her leg, though she appears oblivious to the pain. Upon closer study of her expression, she is beset with pride, self-regard, just a trace of entitlement, and even self-congratulation. The Champion is the spirit of confidence and conviction: it is the resolve, confidence, and conviction needed for Victory.

In the foreground, five scepters guard her dominion. At the steps of her feet is a harvested single born fruit from the Tree of Knowledge, which the phoenix in Key 6, The Lovers had guarded. The floor of her dominion is checkeret in a Masonic black and white, symbolic of an initiation ceremony—a reminder of the checkered dark and light of the Initiate’s path to come. Along the back wall are archways that, counter-clockwise, featuring the Seven Double Letters corresponding with the seven planetary cards. This is the Victory of Wisdom, Wealth, Seed, Life, Dominance, Peace, and Grace, but also the opposites: Folly, Poverty, Desolation, Death, Subjugation, War, and Ugliness.

The narrative links the Five of Scepters and the Six of Scepters, where in the Five, it was prophesied that a prince would be the champion, and here in the Six we learn that prince is in fact the crown princess: thus, we understand that how prophecies manifest will not always align with our preconceived socialized notions (be careful what you wish for?).

Spirit Occupant: The Champion

The spirit resident in this card is the Champion, the spirit that defeats all opponents in competition or combat. This is also the spirit of confidence. The spirit of the Champion lifts the Initiate up to the top, but never forget that even when earned through merit, victory always comes with a price.

Primordial Influences:
- Astrological: Wheel of Life, The Force
- Numerological: The Lovers, The Demon

Mathers Attribution:
Victory
Six of Scepters
Six of Chalices: The Memory Keeper

ANGELS OF THE SHEM HAMEPHORASH

Upright: Nilaih  Ruling Angel: Zadkiel
Reversed: Haaiah  Ruling Angel: Zadkiel

An infant phoenix and infant dragon are on either side of a chalice. Within each of the six chalices, a single white daffodil, or a narcissus, a flower that can bloom even in the cold of winter.

Here, the daffodils in the six chalices symbolize six aspects: top left for hope, top center for honor, top right for joy and cheer, middle left for good fortune, middle right for self-love, and one, the center bottom, between the phoenix and dragon, for unrequited love. The chalice that the Seeker’s attention had been first attracted to on the card reveals which of the six aspects is coming through in the divinatory message.

In the background stands an old manorial house. Smoke rises from the chimney, indicating that it is occupied. After calling upon The Recording Angel to give access to the Records and reveal to the Seeker insights into a past life or latent memory long forgotten, pathwork through the imagery of The Memory Keeper (or call upon The Memory Keeper directly, whichever approach feels more resonant to you) to retrieve the lost memory, in particular childhood memories. For deeper Inner Child workings, work directly or in conjunction with the Six of Chalices: The Memory Keeper.

SPIRIT OCCUPANT: The Memory Keeper

The spirit resident in this card is the Memory Keeper, the custodian of the Initiate’s past memories, both fond and adverse. To access such past memories, call upon the spirit of the Memory Keeper. This is the spirit of recollection, of a return to the inner child.

PRIMORDIAL INFLUENCES:

- Astrological: The Warrior, The Reaper
- Numerological: The Lovers, The Demon

MATHERS ATTRIBUTION:
Pleasure
Six of Chalices
Six of Swords: The Ferryman

Angels of the SheM HaMephorash

Upright: Veuliah Ruling Angel: Raphael
Reversed: Yelahiah Ruling Angel: Raphael

A cloaked ferryman wields a sword in the left hand, and in the right, presents the astrological glyph for mercury. This is the Universal Alchemical Mercury wielded when you have activated engagement in the alchemist’s Red Work. The amulet here gives the power of Enforcement. The key to navigating the turbulent waters here is from the Intellectual Plane: analysis, logic, rationalism, to be the warrior, to be the advocate, to use communication and to outsmart the adversary.

Behind the ferryman, five more swords are propped up inside the boat. Along one side of the boat, behind it, the waters are turbulent; in the foreground, the waters are calmer and smooth. The boat makes its way down a winding river that snakes through a ravine. An alchemical symbol for Squaring the Circle symbolizes the quest for the philosopher’s stone and about having panoramic, holistic vision of the circumstances at hand (the Squared Circle meaning unity of the four directions). Compare: This is the card of Earned Success, whereas the Six of Orbs is the card of Material Success. The success factors here that empower the Keeper when The Ferryman is invoked are intellectualism, acute and accurate analysis, and claircognizance.

Note here how The Ferryman is also the passenger on the boat. To some, Arianrhod may appear disguised as the Ferryman, her Silver Wheel concealed from view. When she appears in the Six of Swords, the key indicates reincarnation, the full moon, perhaps even retribution, and the river is the Aurora Borealis.

Spirit Occupant: The Ferryman

The spirit resident in this card is the Ferryman, a guide to help the Initiate navigate through difficult travels. The Ferryman is the spirit of navigating troubled waters. This is the archetype of Charon of the River Styx.

Primordial Influences:
- Astrological: The Magus, The Healer
- Numerological: The Lovers, The Demon

Mathers Attribution:
Earned Success
THE FERRYMEN

Six of Swords
Six of Orbs: The Giver

ANGELS OF THE SHEM HAMEPHORASH

Upright: Umabel  Ruling Angel: Michael
Reversed: Iahhel  Ruling Angel: Michael

Above, a hand reaches down to give. Below, a hand reaches up to receive...or is the hand above receiving from an unseen giver even higher up, and the hand below gives in offering? Let the karmic circle remain unbroken: give to receive; receive, but give back.

At the center appears balancing scales where two orbs are being measured and found to be of equivalent weight. The balancing scales feature an emblem: the five-petal mystic rose, a cross at its center, and four leaves pointing out at the four directions.

In the background, pathways of energy lines are marked to form hexagons arranged in bands of six.

Compare: Where the Six of Chalices is the spirit of the Memory Keeper, here the Six of Orbs is the spirit of the Giver.

SPIRIT OCCUPANT: The Giver

The spirit resident in this card is the Giver, a spirit of provision. It is not about exchange, but of gifting, to transmit to another without expecting compensation or anything in return. The Giver bestows. It is one of the most beneficent of spirits in the Lower Realm, one who gives freely, mercifully, and one who seeks to nurture.

The Giver is a Knowledgeable One, with vast and immeasurable access to the Akashic Records, and who transmits that information to the Keeper.

PRIMORDIAL INFLUENCES:

- Astrological: The Priestess, The Holy See
- Numerological: The Lovers, The Demon

MATHERS ATTRACTION:
Material Success
Six of Orbs