

# Sightsee the Tarot

SIGHTSEE THE TAROT is a YouTube video series that takes you on a tour of the tarot, from discovering new books and tarot thought leaders to workshopping classic tarot spreads and tinkering with particular tarot decks.

*Series Page:* [tinyurl.com/sightseethetarot](http://tinyurl.com/sightseethetarot)  
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## Episode: Tarot and Geopolitical Divination

### Meanings of the Cards

From *Le Monde Primitif* (Antoine Court de Gébelin, 1781)

Keys I through VII mark the Age of Iron.

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#### Key 0 - The Fool

The Fool walks very fast, like the fool that he is, chased by a tiger nipping at his hindquarters. The sack he carries symbolizes the mistakes he prefers not to see. The tiger nipping at him symbolizes regrets jumping at him from behind.

*Carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero.* Seize the day, put no trust in tomorrow. [Court de Gébelin notes that Key 0 should be placed after Key 21]

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#### Key 1 - The Magician

The Magician holds a Jacob's staff, a medieval surveying instrument for making nautical and astronomical measurements. This is the head of all states.

Reminds us that all of life is a dream that will eventually vanish. Life is like a game of chance. In geopolitical divination, this is a nation-state in power and who is perceived by others as the nation-state in control.

Positive mark: miracle worker. Negative mark: misleads the people; takes advantage of their gullibility.

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#### Key 2 - The High Priestess

The female counterpart to The High Priest. The High Priestess can be likened to Isis. Indicates a spiritual leader in society.

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#### Key 3 - The Empress

The female counterpart to The Emperor. This is the Queen. Indicates a cultural or social leader in society.

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#### Key 4 - The Emperor

The male counterpart to The Empress. This is the King. Indicates a government or political leader in society.

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**Key 5 – The High Priest** The male counterpart to The High Priestess. Court de G ebelin attributes the triple cross scepter held by the High Priest as Egyptian in origin, symbolic of the regeneration of Osiris (and thus, the scepter is phallic). Designates a spiritual leader in society.

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**Key 6 – The Marriage** A young man and young woman pledge their mutual faith to one another. A priest blesses them. Cupid with the bow and arrow above symbolizes conjugal relations.

Key 6 is *Fidei Simulacrum*, or Faith Personified. The three figures are named Truth, Honor, and Love, and Court de G ebelin identifies the woman as definitely being Truth.

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**Key 7 – Osiris Triumphant** This is Osiris in his war chariot. This is a king triumphant: after a difficult winter of lost battles, the king now returns victorious, having defeated his enemies in the war. Key 7 is losing the initial battles but winning the war.

This is also the card of resurrection, rebirth, and the afterlife.

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Keys VIII through XIV mark the Age of Silver.

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**Key 8 – Justice** One of the four cardinal virtues: Justice/Morality. Depicted on the Justice card is Astraea (Astraea), the Greek virgin-goddess of justice, seated on her throne

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**Key 9 – The Sage (or the Seeker of Truth and Justice)** This is the venerable philosopher. This is a nation, dominion, or civilization that is self-aware, virtuous, knowledgeable, and wise.

[Court de G ebelin notes that this image represents Diogenes the Cynic, and that card makers have erroneously interpreted the Philosopher-Sage archetype into the Hermit.]

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**Key 10 – Wheel of Fortune** Social criticism of the rise and fall of nation-states: the collective experiences of both positive, negative, and improbable events. Paired with a positive key, drives the fate of the querent with good luck. Paired with a negative key, drives the fate of the querent with bad luck.

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<b>Key 11 – Fortitude</b>	One of the four cardinal virtues: Fortitude/Courage. Peace and unity among nations.
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<b>Key 12 – Prudence [The Hanged Man]</b>	<p>One of the four cardinal virtues: Prudence/Practical Wisdom. This is the correction of abuse. This is the awaiting of the success of our labors and trials.</p> <p>[Court de Gébelin acknowledges that the image of the hanged man doesn't seem to reflect the cardinal virtue of Prudence, but he says that's because the card maker failed to understand the allegory represented in the art and therefore disfigured Key 12 completely. He also notes that this card depicts the High Priestess being hanged and punished for being a female pope.]</p>
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<b>Key 13 – Death</b>	Misfortune. Defeat, loss.
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<b>Key 14 – Temperance</b>	One of the four cardinal virtues: Temperance/Moderation. Compromise and treaties between nations.
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Keys XV through XXI mark the Age of Gold.

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<b>Key 15 – Typhon</b>	<p>This is the Bad Principle, the Great Demon of Hell.</p> <p>Bondage, subjugation, servitude, serfdom, captivity. One who is wholly subject to another and under the domination or influence of one more powerful. Degradation. Can also indicate a nation-state in error or steeped with crime.</p>
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<b>Key 16 – The God-House (or Castle of Plutus)</b>	<p>Key 16 exemplifies a lesson against avarice. This is a tower filled with gold, the Castle of Plutus, falling to ruins.</p> <p>Greed, ambition, and materialism lead to a nation-state's eventual collapse into immorality. The nation-state thus crushes under its own weight.</p>
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<b>Key 17 – The Dog Star [Sirius]</b>	<p>There are seven stars depicted on this card to indicate the Big Dipper. The seven stars also symbolize the Sacred Seven planets. Beside the nude woman, who is the Queen of Heaven, depicted on this card is a butterfly resting on a flower. [Court de Gébelin identifies the lady depicted in the classic Star card as the Sovereign of the Skies, or Isis]</p> <p>Tides are changing. Favors are swaying. Moral reform. That</p>
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which had waned away in power is returning back and rising to power. That which had lost strength is regaining strength. A rising again, after a state of decay or disuse. A revival.

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#### Key 18 – The Moon

Pillars of Hercules—the Gates of Hades: reaching the farthest limits one can go. *Ne plus ultra*: nothing further beyond. And yet Atlantis was said to be situated just beyond the Pillars of Hercules. This card marks a period of uncertainty. The two columns of Hercules are also the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn.

Depicted on The Moon card are the Tears of Isis, which have now flooded the lands. The crayfish, or Cancer, marks the retrograde motion of the moon. Period of trials, chaos, and uncertainty ahead.

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#### Key 19 – The Sun

The biological father of humankind and nature. This is the civilized man, presiding over cities. Illumination over mankind. Intellectual, scientific, and philosophical evolution. Enlightenment and Reason. Liberty, progress, knowledge, and the scientific method prevail.

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#### Key 20 – The Last Judgment

An angel is playing a trumpet. Court de Gébelin notes that the contemporary meaning of this card is creation, even though a card maker has erroneously titled it “Last Judgment.”

Prophecy of a rising power. Resurrection.

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#### Key 21 – Time

Depicted on Key 21 is the Goddess of Time. She is positioned as if running, expressing the movement of Time. The circle around her symbolizes the cyclical nature of Time. At the four corners, the eagle, lion, bull, and young man represent the four seasons—spring (when the birds return), summer (the ardor of the sun), autumn (when we till and sow), and winter (when society reunites), respectively.

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#### S U I T O F W A N D S

<b>Ace of Wands</b>	Upper Egypt Thebes Symbolizes Ophion and the Orphic Egg Announcement or important news forthcoming, relating to agriculture, the environment, the labor class, or the creative or liberal arts	<p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL ATTRIBUTIONS FOR THE PIP CARDS IN THE SUIT OF WANDS</p> <p><i>Consider the following indications for any of the pip cards from the suit of Wands:</i></p> <p><b>Agriculture and artisans</b></p> <p><b>Southern hemisphere</b></p> <p><b>Africa</b></p> <p><b>Negroid/Congoid</b></p> <p><b>Social class: wage-earners; labor force; art and design</b></p> <p><b>Pursuit of humanism, rationalism, empiricism; human progress</b></p> <p><b>Signifies or announces harvests, innovations, or discoveries</b></p> <p><b>If the card's role is to designate timing, then the prognosticated event will take place:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>In the spring, or</b></li> <li>▪ <b>In a matter of days</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Use your intuition to guide a process of elimination and narrow down the possibilities of what the selected Minor Arcanum card might be indicating.</i></p>
<b>Two of Wands</b>	Lower Egypt The Delta	
<b>Three of Wands</b>	Middle Egypt	
<b>Four of Wands</b>	Ethiopia	
<b>Five of Wands</b>	Libya	
<b>Six of Wands</b>	Tunisia	
<b>Seven of Wands</b>	Morocco Atlantis	
<b>Eight of Wands</b>	Algeria Northwest Africa Arab Maghreb	
<b>Nine of Wands</b>	Mauritania The Moors Generally regarded as prognosticating good fortune	
<b>Ten of Wands</b>	West Africa (from Guinea to Nigeria) Atlas Mountains Can also designate the countryside;	

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<b>Page of Wands</b>	<p>An up-and-coming rising star in environmental or agricultural sciences, or the arts</p> <p>An up-and-coming rising star who is African in ethnic heritage</p> <p>Could represent a young person or someone in love, or a noteworthy commoner</p>
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<b>Knight of Wands</b>	<p>Achievements, heroism or the exploits of civilizations in the Southern hemisphere</p> <p>Advancements in the industries of agriculture or in the arts</p>
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<b>Queen of Wands</b>	<p>Culture and politics of the Southern hemisphere nation-states</p> <p>Important developments in agriculture, innovation, or the arts</p> <p>Devotion and blessings of Ceres</p> <p>Designates a woman with circumstances or traits in accordance with the suit</p>
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<b>King of Wands</b>	<p>Head of state in the Southern Hemisphere</p> <p>Influential leader in agriculture, innovation, or the highly-skilled arts</p> <p>King represents a sovereign, parent, general, or older man</p>
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### Meanings of the Cards

#### SUIT OF CUPS

		GENERAL ATTRIBUTIONS FOR THE PIP CARDS IN THE SUIT OF CUPS
<b>Ace of Cups</b>	Armenia Mount Ararat Announcement or important news forthcoming, relating to the clergy, culture, religion, or healthcare	<i>Consider the following indications for any of the pip cards from the suit of Cups:</i>
<b>Two of Cups</b>	Georgia/Eastern Europe (right before West Asia) Devotee to Apis, the Sacred Cow, or a devotee to Isis	<b>Clergy, spiritual leaders</b> <b>Culture, religion of the nation</b> <b>Northern hemisphere</b>
<b>Three of Cups</b>	Central Asia (the Islamic part of Inner Asia— Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan) Devotees to the Queen of Heaven	<b>Celto-Scythians</b> <b>Caucasoid</b> <b>Social class: clergy, medicine, healthcare</b> <b>Pursuit of ethics, moral philosophy, aesthetics, psychology, good vs. evil</b>
<b>Four of Cups</b>	Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, to the Himalayas	<b>That which society holds sacred.</b>
<b>Five of Cups</b>	Turkey; nations around the Black Sea Nomadic Indo-Europeans	<b>Signifies or announces happiness</b>
<b>Six of Cups</b>	Bulgaria, Romania The Goths	<b>If the card's role is to designate timing, then the prognosticated event will take place:</b>
<b>Seven of Cups</b>	Serbia, Moldova, Ukraine, northward to include Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Poland Eastern Europe Carpathian Mountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>In the summer, or</b></li><li>▪ <b>In a matter of months</b></li></ul> <i>Use your intuition to guide a process of elimination and narrow down the possibilities of what the selected Minor Arcanum card might be indicating.</i>
<b>Eight of Cups</b>	Scandinavia The Arctic Circle The Hyperboreans “beyond the North Wind”	

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<b>Nine of Cups</b>	<p>Celtic Europe</p> <p>The “Celts of the cold forests”</p> <p>Generally regarded as prognosticating good fortune</p> <p>A Grand Destiny</p>
<b>Ten of Cups</b>	<p>Greenland and Iceland</p> <p>Can also be the Nordic nations</p> <p>Alternatively, can designate the town, or suburbia</p>
<b>Page of Cups</b>	<p>An up-and-coming rising star who is a spiritual thought leader or in the field of medicine</p> <p>An up-and-coming rising star who is Caucasian in ethnic background</p> <p>One must approach sacred artifacts with a little fear and apprehension: do not seek or desire to know the hidden and veiled mysteries</p> <p>Could represent a young person or someone in love, or a noteworthy commoner</p>
<b>Knight of Cups</b>	<p>Achievements, heroism or the exploits of civilizations in the Northern hemisphere</p> <p>Advancements in the industries of medicine</p>
<b>Queen of Cups</b>	<p>Culture and politics of the Northern hemisphere nation-states</p> <p>Important developments in spirituality and religion</p> <p>Designates a woman with circumstances or traits in accordance with the suit</p>
<b>King of Cups</b>	<p>Head of state in the Northern Hemisphere</p> <p>Influential leader in a religious institution; religious or spiritual leader</p> <p>King represents a sovereign, parent, general, or older man</p>

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#### SUIT OF SWORDS

		GENERAL ATTRIBUTIONS FOR THE PIP CARDS IN THE SUIT OF SWORDS
<b>Ace of Swords</b>	<p>Arabian Peninsula Arabia</p> <p>Devotion and blessing of Mars</p> <p>Only card in the suit of Swords that is a sign of victory and a happy event (all other Swords cards predict misfortune)</p> <p>Announcement or important news forthcoming, relating to conflict, controversial law or policy, science or technology</p>	<p><i>Consider the following indications for any of the pip cards from the suit of Swords:</i></p> <p><b>Military, lawyers, magistrates, judges, nobility</b></p> <p><b>Civil law and policy of a people</b></p> <p><b>The occidental people; continent of Asia</b></p> <p><b>Mongoloid</b></p> <p><b>Social class: warriors, government officials, legal; science and technology</b></p> <p><b>Pursuit of power, conquest, or revolution</b></p> <p><b>Suit of swords predicts only misfortunes, especially the odd-numbered Swords</b></p> <p><b>If the card's role is to designate timing, then the prognosticated event will take place:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>In the autumn, or</b></li> <li>▪ <b>In a matter of weeks</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Use your intuition to guide a process of elimination and narrow down the possibilities of what the selected Minor Arcanum card might be indicating.</i></p>
<b>Two of Swords</b>	<p>Israel; Jordan</p> <p>Edom</p>	
<b>Three of Swords</b>	<p>Palestine</p>	
<b>Four of Swords</b>	<p>Lebanon</p> <p>The Phoenicians</p>	
<b>Five of Swords</b>	<p>Syria</p> <p>Levant</p> <p>Fertile Crescent</p>	
<b>Six of Swords</b>	<p>Iraq; Kuwait</p> <p>Mesopotamia</p> <p>Chaldea</p>	
<b>Seven of Swords</b>	<p>Western and northern Iran</p> <p>The former Median Empire</p>	
<b>Eight of Swords</b>	<p>Coastal Iran by the Persian Gulf</p> <p>Elam</p>	
<b>Nine of Swords</b>	<p>The former Persian Empire</p>	

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	This is a “disastrous card”	
<b>Ten of Swords</b>	East Indies Southeast Asia (Indochina and Maritime Southeast Asia)	
<b>Page of Swords</b>	An up-and-coming rising star in law, politics, the military, or the sciences An up-and-coming rising star who is Asian in ethnic background Could represent a young person or someone in love, or a noteworthy commoner	
<b>Knight of Swords</b>	Achievements, heroism or the exploits of civilizations in the Eastern hemisphere Advancements in the industries of social policies, military technology, or the sciences	
<b>Queen of Swords</b>	Culture and politics of the Asian nation-states Important developments in civil law, social policies, sciences, or military technology Designates a woman with circumstances or traits in accordance with the suit	
<b>King of Swords</b>	Head of state in East Asia Influential leader in law, the military; an important judge or lawmaker King represents a sovereign, parent, general, or older man	

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### SUIT OF PENTACLES

		GENERAL ATTRIBUTIONS FOR THE PIP CARDS IN THE SUIT OF PENTACLES
<b>Ace of Pentacles</b>	<p>Island of Crete</p> <p>The One-Eyed; this is the Light of the Sun</p> <p>Associated with Apollo</p> <p>Announcement or important news forthcoming, relating to economics, money, financial exchange, trade, business or banking</p>	<p><i>Consider the following indications for any of the pip cards from the suit of Pentacles:</i></p> <p><b>Commerce, banking, money</b></p> <p><b>Economies of a region</b></p> <p><b>Western hemisphere; Europe and Americas</b></p> <p><b>Caucasoid</b></p> <p><b>Social class: sales; merchants and traders; middle management</b></p> <p><b>Large-scale exchange of economic, social, or cultural goods; trade and currency</b></p> <p><b>Signifies or announces wealth and socioeconomic exchanges</b></p> <p><b>If the card's role is to designate timing, then the prognosticated event will take place:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>In the winter, or</b></li> <li>▪ <b>In a matter of years</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Use your intuition to guide a process of elimination and narrow down the possibilities of what the selected Minor Arcanum card might be indicating.</i></p>
<b>Two of Pentacles</b>	<p>Aegean Islands</p> <p>Depicts the mystical Belt of Isis</p>	
<b>Three of Pentacles</b>	<p>Greece</p> <p>A mysterious key that the Spaniards called the Lord and Master: indicates devotion to a supreme God</p>	
<b>Four of Pentacles</b>	<p>Italy</p> <p>Mark of Good Fortune</p>	
<b>Five of Pentacles</b>	<p>Island of Sicily</p> <p>Mount Etna</p>	
<b>Six of Pentacles</b>	<p>Balearic Islands (including Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza, and Formentera)</p>	
<b>Seven of Pentacles</b>	<p>Southern region of the Iberian Peninsula</p>	
<b>Eight of Pentacles</b>	<p>Central and eastern regions of the Iberian Peninsula</p>	
<b>Nine of Pentacles</b>	<p>South and southwest region of the Iberian Peninsula</p> <p>Andalusia</p>	

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<b>Ten of Pentacles</b>	Portugal Canary Islands Hispania Lusitana Can also designate the countryside; rural region	
<b>Page of Pentacles</b>	An up-and-coming rising star in money, business, or commerce An up-and-coming rising star who is Caucasian in ethnic background Could represent a young person or someone in love, or a noteworthy commoner	
<b>Knight of Pentacles</b>	Achievements, heroism or the exploits of civilizations in the Western hemisphere Advancements in the industries of finance, banking, capital markets, real estate or property development	
<b>Queen of Pentacles</b>	Culture and politics of the Western hemisphere nation-states Important developments in business, commerce, finance, banking, or real estate Designates a woman with circumstances or traits in accordance with the suit	
<b>King of Pentacles</b>	Head of state in the Western hemisphere, Europe, or Americas Influential leader in the economy, finance, or in business King represents a sovereign, parent, general, or older man	