



Angel Paths Tarot

THIS TIME IT'S PERSONAL
Living Life in Line with Tarot



written by Jan Shepherd

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Fortune

Embedded deep within the card Fortune is the secret of knowing our own Life Goals. Once upon the spiritual path it is not long before the journeyer begins to ask “What’s it all for? What am I meant to be doing?” The belief that there is a point to life is inherent to the search for the vast ‘itness’ of spirituality. We may come to believe that we do not live just one life....or that once we move on from this life there is something infinitely more rewarding waiting on the other side. We assess thoughts and ideas about Karma, trying to understand how our actions affect the things that manifest in our lives. It is fair to say that we are questing...and this raises many questions.



One of the most personal questions to which we shall ever seek the answer is “Where do I fit in the fullness of life?” This can reach the proportions of yearning if we find it difficult to form an answer – and we often do.

It is this area that the Wheel of Fortune helps us to uncover. Return often to quiet meditation of this card, whilst holding the question in mind. Let yourself think over the things you love to do, the activities that most reward you, the interests you return to again and again. When you can achieve an overview of all these areas, you will see a certain coherence. Somewhere in there is your Life Goal.

Some people believe that, before returning to ‘the redness of life’, we pause and take stock of what we have learned in preceding lives. Then we decide what it is we need to experience or learn this time around. Once we have set our goals, we select an environment in which we may achieve our aspirations and learn our lessons.

Opponents of this view often counter it by saying “But who would choose to experience terrible events which scar them for life?” The answer to that question would probably be “In order that the rounded spirit can empathise, it must enter into dark events, as well as happy ones”.

Another perspective on the birth environment is that it comes as a direct check and balance against the individual’s Karmic development. In this case, if a person has sinned against another at some time in their past, they will be placed in a circumstance which teaches them not to deal so unkindly with others again.

I don’t know which of these viewpoints is true – though I ascribe to the first one. I prefer to believe that we select certain learning experiences in order to grow our spirits. However perhaps each viewpoint is true to a certain extent – maybe events are imposed on a younger spirit and selected by a more experienced one.

Either way – the search for the Life Goal, and your subsequent attempts to fulfil that goal, are part of your driving force in search for spiritual development, so it’s as well to give the subject some thought.

The Star

This is a buoyant and joyful card, filled with a kind of irresponsibility born of total trust. When we can achieve complete and faithful trust in the beneficence of the highest powers in life, there comes this mighty realisation that we may be free of worry and clutter. So long as we tread the path of gods and goddesses, our destiny will unfold, unfettered and even.

As we have already seen, this card brings in remarkable periods of opportunity and good fortune. The reason this happens is because, sometimes by accident, we manage to align ourselves with the Universal flow that passes through and around us in every second of our lives. It may be that, for a brief few weeks, planetary alignments influence us so favourably that we move into a period of success and achievement. We need to try as hard as we can to take advantage of such periods.

But more than that, we need to learn how to activate these favourable energies at will. Lust (Strength) has much to tell us about how we can create the harmony required to achieve this sense of at-oneness and equilibrium. If you're interested there's an exercise for beginning to develop this ability in the "Working with" commentary on this card.



At its highest point, the Star marks the massive and irresistible down-rushing of energy which occurs whenever we are able to open ourselves consciously to the powers around us. When we can allow ourselves to become conduits of such energy, we become, albeit unknowingly, lightbearers who flood the world with brightness and colour. In so doing, we become beacons for the good things in life...and they are drawn to us as surely as a moth flies to a flame. Not only do we shower blessings upon ourselves, but we also bring brilliance to others.

Whilst the technique of learning how to do this is demanding, it is worth perfecting the art, considering the amount of miracles we shall make once we have got the hang of it.

Imagine the feeling you might experience if, when you walk into a room, you fill it with the radiance of the light you carry through your life. You will have surely met people who are able, purely by their presence, to introduce such luminosity wherever they go. The ease of spirit and optimism such a presence brings to our world is completely invaluable. Such bright spirits sprinkle all of us with stardust!

Ace of Wands

At the deep level of understanding, the suit of Swords represents the formulation of the Will, and the suit of Wands indicates its implementation. It is only by harnessing these two skills that we can direct our lives more consciously, engaging with the energies of the Universe in order to realise our deepest hopes and dreams. A thorough study of the suit of Wands will give us insight about the implementation of Will – an area in which many of us struggle sometimes. I will examine the practicalities involved in future commentaries on these suits...but first we need to get to know them.



The energy behind the Ace of Wands is mighty. On a mundane level we will see it manifest during periods of healing, and times when we create or re-create new lives. It's a fast bubbling energy, bringing an inner sense of exhilaration and excitement - even when we can't work out what we're feeling good about. At times like this, our sense of self will be positive and confident (even if we are usually the most shy person in the town}. The way we will project ourselves will be more outgoing, more interested, more relaxed.

Part of the higher lore connected to the Ace of Wands focuses on developing that sense of buoyancy at will – thereby creating the right environment to paint our lives the colours we choose rather than having to put up with municipal grey. When we set out to focus and direct our Will, we need to have a certain confidence that we will achieve our ends. We

need the energy and self-certainty to turn ideas into possibilities – for without this our ideas remain pipedreams, never to be realised, or even truly aspired to.

Aces are all beginnings – the start of a new stream of force. By definition they imply change, different levels of energy and force. Because of this there is a degree of instability – we are changing direction, selecting a new course. At times like this there will always be some doubt, because as we break away from the familiar, and experience the flux of changes, we can feel as though we are standing, stork-fashion, on one leg. One strong gust of wind could send us scuttling back to the 'good old ways'. To have the trust, both in ourselves and in our Gods, to simply allow the force to flow, can be one of the hardest things under the Sun. Yet it is a fact that, in order to truly direct our lives, we first have to surrender the stranglehold of control.

And having mentioned the Sun up there, it's important to point out that the Ace of Wands and the Sun Major are almost inseparable. The Sun indicates the high level of harmony that can be achieved by harmonising with life's forces...the Ace indicates the way that force filters down into daily life.

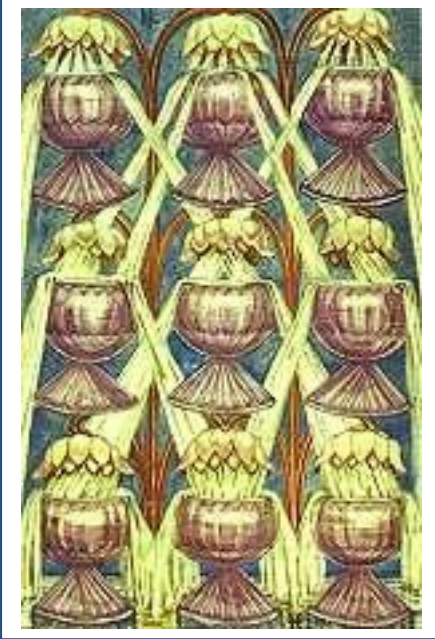
The first step along the path to achieving direction of your Will comes here, with this Ace. You need to become familiar with feeling buoyant – with believing in yourself and your abilities. Self-esteem and self-confidence are hard-won qualities, and can be damaged by life's bumps and bangs. They are also often misconstrued by others who feel themselves lacking.

A truly confident person will tell you that they do not live life doubt-free and in utter certainty. They have their worries and concerns as much as anybody. What they also have is the belief that, given that they listen to their deepest feelings, observe their underlying worries, take account of any thorny issues that present themselves – that given all this, they will make sound decisions, will be respected and liked by those who matter, will achieve their goals and follow their destiny. This wisdom is born of practice, experience and self acceptance. And we can all work to cultivate a healthy sense of it on a minute by minute basis.

First and foremost, the next time you feel joyous, buoyed up, more confident than usual, make time to sit and examine the feeling. Notice how it changes even the very fundamental things like the way you hold your body. Really think about how you feel, how you think, what you do. And try to fix those feelings firmly in your memory so that you can return to them in future days. Practise feeling good about yourself and life. You will have a lot of fun.

Nine of Cups

The Lord of Happiness has the inner title of the Wish Card. When this card is dominant it indicates a great period where you can impress your Will upon the Universe. Coincidentally one thing I have noticed when I draw this card for the card of the day, it is often during the first few days of a New Moon – which is also a very good time for directed acts of Will.



We wish for things all the time...when we daydream, when we wonder, when we are subject to any sort of external stimulus....but we rarely aim at wishing in a way that is likely to make our dreams come true. There is a process known as creative visualisation which can make our wishing much more effective and beneficial if we employ it.

Mind you, like most skills, it takes a bit of practice to begin with. One method I found very helpful when attempting to develop my visualisation techniques was to take a common object and examine it, very carefully. Then I would put the object down, and close my eyes. I would try to imagine every single detail of the object – checking against the real thing from time to time. I often surprised myself by discovering this process is not as easy as it sounds.

Try this – take, for example, a ballpoint pen and study it very carefully. Look with detail at the barrel, the design, any writing on it, then try to visualise it in your mind. When you compare your imaginal pen against the real thing, take note of things you forgot, or could not create in your mind's eye. And then try again.

What is the point of this exercise? To help you to strengthen your ability to visualise what you want in your life, in detail. That way, when you wish, you will be able to visualise your wish – or the result of your wish, more clearly, more effectively. Being able to do this means that, when you throw your wish out into the Universe, empowered by your Will and longing, you give the High Powers a clearly defined blueprint of what you actually want to materialise. I could tell you numerous amusing (and not so amusing) tales of what happens when a hazy desire is cast for recreation. It is as well to get your aims properly sorted out in advance.

Special and important thanks:

When you get to the point where a work like this is finished, and you look back across the journey you have just taken, there are always so many people to thank – so – it's that time again: these are the people who made this book happen.

All of the Healing Team and the subscribers to the erstwhile private area on Angel Paths - your interest and feedback drove me on, even when I felt much more inclined to lie down and have a nice rest; to each and all visitors to Angel Paths whose contributions make the site the place it is; to my animals who have, in their various ways, got in my way, cuddled me, patted me on the nose and generally told me it was time for tea; to Eleanor – a more faithful, encouraging and generous editor/friend/supporter/thing-monster (private joke and no I am not explaining it unless she demands it) person you would not find anywhere else at all; Amanda Weibe, whose artistry and vision has once again made my images for me (check out the aura man – he's lovely); and finally, to each and every one of you who purchase and read this eBook.

I wish you well on your personal journeys, and trust that we will meet along the path, to sit down and share our experiences, our ups, our downs and our visions one with another. Light Bearers are the essence of hope. Never stop believing that each and every one of us can, and does, make a difference.

We are going to have the BIGGEST celebrational party EVER at the end of all this you know. Thank you all. Each of you is precious.

Loads of love
Jan Shepherd
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