

Demystifying the minors.

So how do we “Demystify the minors”. First, instead of all the high-falutin astrological, esoteric, new age technobabble, which I truly believe, has its place, but in this discussion, does not have a place at the very beginning of this story. We need to save all that for later. For now let's bring it back down to a more earthly level using plain english, and concepts and ideas, and historical allegories that we can relate to and apply to the minors. First starting with the tarot suits

Suits and their Correspondence.

A "correspondence" is like a connection or link between a tarot card and other things. It's a way to understand the cards better by relating them to familiar ideas.

So what are the Tarot suits? A Tarot Suit refers to one of the four distinct categories of cards within the Minor Arcana of a tarot deck. Each suit typically represents a specific aspect of life, such as:

- Emotions and feelings (Cups),
 - Intellect and thought (Swords),
 - Creativity and passions (Wands),
 - Material matters, Home, Health and Finances - All the things that keep us grounded (Pentacles).
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- Social groups
 - Coins - Merchant
 - Wands - Peasant
 - Cups - Spiritual
 - Swords - Ruling
 - Body
 - Coins - Feet (Ground)
 - Wands - Groin / midsection
 - Cups - Heart / chest
 - Swords- Head
 - Elements
 - Coins - Earth
 - Wands - Fire
 - Cups- Water
 - Swords - Air

Others

Astrological

- Coins: Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn (Earth signs)
- Wands: Aries, Leo, Sagittarius (Fire signs)
- Cups: Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces (Water signs)
- Swords: Gemini, Libra, Aquarius (Air signs)

Colors

- Coins: Green/Brown
- Wands: Red/Orange
- Cups: Blue
- Swords: Yellow/White

So let's look at each of the suits

Wands (Fire)

Wands are linked to fire because they represent energy and action. Just like fire, wands are used to get things moving and make things happen. They symbolize the spark that ignites new ideas and projects, capturing the excitement and energy that come with bringing something new into the world. Wands also represent creativity and passion, embodying the drive and enthusiasm needed to turn ideas into reality. In the Middle ages the Laborers would be the driving force behind physical work and production, embodying these dynamic and transformative qualities.

However, one must stay aware when reading the Tarot that too much of that fire and passion can lead to burnout and stress.

Coins (Earth)

Coins are linked to earth because they represent stability and practicality. Just like the earth, coins are solid and reliable, symbolizing the tangible and material aspects of life. Coins also represent home, health, and financial security—the practical side of managing resources. They embody a down-to-earth approach, focusing on what is necessary and useful in our daily lives. Historically, coins have been used in trade and commerce, often controlled by merchants and landowners, reinforcing their connection to the material world and the element of earth.

However, keep in mind that coins and money can also lead to their own issues. We can become obsessed with money, forgoing our spiritual side in the quest for wealth. It's important to support ourselves and those who depend on us, but sometimes it's easy to equate financial support with love, when all someone really wants is a hug.

Cups (Water)

Cups are linked to water because they symbolize emotions and intuition. Water is fluid and adaptable, much like our feelings, and cups represent the ability to contain and express these emotions. They also symbolize intuition and the subconscious mind, reminding us to trust our

instincts and listen to our inner voice. Additionally, cups represent nurturing and healing, as water is essential for life and has these properties. The spiritual class, including priests, shamans, and other spiritual leaders, embodies these qualities, providing emotional and spiritual support.

However as we are reading this suit in the tarot, let's also remember to remain grounded. Sometimes we can get so lost in looking at the heavens that we forget to see the obvious standing right in front of us.

Swords (Air)

Swords are linked to air because they represent intellect and communication. Just like air, which is invisible but essential, swords symbolize the power of the mind and the clarity of thought. They are associated with logic, reason, and the ability to cut through confusion to find the truth. Swords also represent communication, as air is necessary for speech and the exchange of ideas. In the middle ages, royalty, kings, courtly classes, and thinkers often held positions of power and influence, making decisions that shape society.

However, in the Tarot when we hyper-focus on some of these thoughts and start to get overwhelmed with these truths, they can weigh us down. An anxiety that starts as a seed can quickly grow into a forest of doubt, trapping us in the thickets of our worries and making us lose faith that we will ever find our way out.

Hard suits and soft suits

I had been taught that when reading the early tarot, the Tarot de Marseille, to look at the minors as “Hard suits” and “Soft suits”. Hard suits would be the Swords and Batons because they can be used as weapons. And soft suits, Cups and Coins since these deal with the more spiritual and material. With this in mind you may find this will help as we move on to numerology (the numbers one to ten) and that as we look at the higher the numbers, the more that hard suits and soft suits will come into play.

Numerology in the Tarot - The Basics

Numerology plays a significant role in understanding the Minor Arcana in Tarot. Each card in the Minor Arcana is associated with a number, and these numbers carry specific meanings that add depth to the card's interpretation. Here's a brief overview:

1. **Aces (1):** Represent new beginnings, potential, and opportunities. They are the seeds of the suit's energy.
2. **Twos:** Indicate balance, partnerships, and duality. They often suggest choices or decisions.

3. **Threes:** Symbolize growth, creativity, and expansion. They often represent the initial completion of a phase.
4. **Fours:** Stand for stability, structure, and foundation. They can also indicate stagnation or rest.
5. **Fives:** Represent conflict, change, and challenge. They often bring disruption and transformation.
6. **Sixes:** Indicate harmony, cooperation, and problem-solving. They often suggest a return to balance.
7. **Sevens:** Potentials and ambitions. Assessment, and reevaluation. They often involve a deeper understanding or spiritual insight.
8. **Eights:** Represent movement, power, and progress. They often suggest mastery and action.
9. **Nines:** Indicate completion, fulfillment, and attainment. They often represent the culmination of efforts.
10. **Tens:** Symbolize completion and renewal. They often suggest the end of a cycle and the beginning of a new one.

Each number's meaning is influenced by the suit it belongs to (Wands, Cups, Swords, Pentacles), adding another layer of interpretation. Numerology helps readers understand the underlying themes and energies of the cards, making it a crucial aspect of Tarot reading.

Numerology in Everyday Life

What I have learned over time is that when reading the Tarot, whether for ourselves or for others, we need to tell the story in a clear, tangible way that can be easily understood. We can do this by understanding why the numbers mean what they do. If we take a moment and look, we may find that the meanings given to the numbers are not as arbitrary and random as they may appear at first. Let's start at the beginning:

Aces (Ones): This is the seed of an idea or plan. It may be just the first seed that ultimately grows into a mighty oak. This is the start of something that needs to be nurtured.

Twos: Where do we start? We have decisions to make. We can't move forward until we have weighed our options and finalized our decision. But note! Decisions are there to be made, so beware—if we wait too long or take too much time, something may come along and make that decision for us, and not always for the good.

Threes: A decision made, now what? Threes are about growth and moving forward. Think about an arrowhead; it has three points and moves us along in that direction. In our softer suits, it also represents coming together and working with others.

Fours: Like the four legs on a table or a chair, this is about stability. Stability definitely has its positive sides, especially for something made out of wood like wands, or like swords which represent our thoughts and ideas. It's good to have this stable moment. But when we think about stability with water, for example, a river stays fresh when it's moving and flowing. But if it flows into a lake with no outlet and the water just stands still, it gets stagnant and unhealthy. Water needs to flow.

Fives: Fives are always a challenge. With the fours, we had stability, but nothing can always stay the same. Eventually, something is going to come in and throw a wrench into the system. That extra wand, sword, cup, or coin, and now we are out of balance. But this is inevitable. We are now at the midpoint between one and ten, and we have to decide if we even want to keep going further to six.

Sixes: As we look at the numerology from one to ten, imagine we're going up a hill. One, we've planted a seed; two, we've made choices; three, we are moving forward with the decisions made; in four, we find stability and have accomplished something, but we're not at ten and nowhere near completion. Four is this nice stable place. Then we come to five, and something had to change, something threw a wrench into it. Now imagine we're going up a hill; five is the challenge, and we're trying to crest the hill. We have to make a decision: are we going to make it over the hill? It's not easy. Sometimes we decide it's not worth it and go backwards, maybe resting at three or four until we figure out what we need to do. Sometimes we have to go all the way back to the beginning. But ultimately, we have to get to that five and then make the decision: I'm going to go past the five, I'm going to make it, and then we crest the hill and reach six. Six is about harmony, improvement, and victory. We've accomplished something, we've moved past the fives, and it's a chance to let ourselves celebrate.

Sevens: Now we are getting closer to the end. Sometimes this can make us a bit impatient. We worked hard to get here, we planted the seeds, and we have seen some progress. Now it's about giving time, time and not getting distracted or frustrated.

Eights: So close to ten. This is about progress and moving forward. Are we going to go with precision and introspection like the soft suits, or will we try to do 80% of the work in the last 20% of the time given, therefore dealing with the anxiety that comes with it?

Nines: Completion, fulfillment, and attainment. When I'm reading the Tarot for somebody and explaining the numerology, I tell them that it's like a race. We start at one, move to four, five, seven, but nine is when we win the race, not ten. Ten is what we do with the earnings after we won the race. So nine is about fulfillment. We've accomplished something, we've gotten our battle wounds, we've done what we needed to do. Sometimes we also have to deal with the anxiety that goes with that, as in the hard suits. But regardless, we worked hard to get here, and it's time to think about what we're going to do next.

Tens: As I said, we've won the race, now what do we do? Sometimes it's a time to celebrate and share this with others. Other times we're left with anxiety, a lack of fulfillment, and sometimes wondering why we even put in the effort. But no matter what, a ten is a one with a zero—that's the end of a cycle and time to start thinking about where we go from here.

The Hard Suits and Carrying That Load

Often, when I'm talking to a client and explaining the hard suits, such as the swords, I'll tell them: Imagine you have a sword. It's a new idea, a new thought—that's great. Then you get two swords. It's like, okay, so you have choices to make; maybe you'll sell them on eBay. Three swords—well, that's when we start having some problems. So imagine if you're actually just carrying swords in your arms. They're in their sheaths, so you're not getting cut, but you're carrying the swords. Then someone gives you four swords. That's starting to get a little heavy. And then you get five swords—now the steel is really starting to weigh on you. Then you get eight swords. If you're trying to carry all those swords, that is a lot of weight. Now think about this: remember what swords are? Swords are our thoughts, ideas, and anxieties. So imagine all that weight that you're carrying by the time you get to nine swords and then ten swords, that can be a lot of anxiety.

Same thing with the wands, that's a lot of logs when you're carrying seven, eight, or nine of these logs, and now you're trying to trudge along with them. It takes a lot of work and effort to carry all these logs, and then try to do something productive with them. So yeah, sometimes—that weight that just bears us down.

But that's okay, because again, when we get to ten, we realize something has to change, and now it's time to find a new plan of action! So, let's see what the next cards suggest!