

# TWOOFOWLS TAROT

## Tarot Basics III

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### **Tools you will need:**

- a tarot deck (preferably a Waite-Smith style deck)
- a notebook
- pen

The final piece of the puzzle, the Courts, is the smallest piece and only consists of 16 cards across all 4 suits but can be tricky in interpreting and integrating in a tarot reading. Each suit contains 4 court cards, Page, Knight, Queen, and King. Each card represents a transition within a reading and this course is designed to break them down to their very basic nature and simplify them into very manageable pieces of information. It is true that the Courts have representation beyond what will be discussed in this course, but this will give you a starting point so you can begin adding them to your reading repertoire immediately and be able to read with them with confidence and ease.

By the end of Course III you will have unlocked all three parts of the Tarot and will be able to blend all of the cards together seamlessly creating a completed cartomancy experience. We will start by breaking down the energy and the archetypes of the Courts into their basic component. Then we will take that information and place them within the suits and see how that translates card for card. A list of keywords for each court card will then be provided. The final part of Course III will be practical modules to work through to see just how Court cards act in a reading.

Though this is the final, smallest component of the Tarot, these cards seem to the most difficult for all readers to grasp and use efficiently. By breaking them down in this way we can skip right past those road blocks and stave off any unnecessary confusion. As it was with previous courses, take as much time as you need and review as necessary. Take breaks when you need to. Note taking is always encouraged and go through the practice modules at your own pace repeating as many times as you need.

The archetype and the overall energy a Court presents transcends beyond the suit that it plays in. Whether the Page is a cup or a wand matters not. If the Queen is a sword or pentacle does not change its overall transitional message in a reading. The archetype is a constant, and never changes. Decluttering this information allows for simplicity. Below is listed each royal figure within the Courts and the archetype keyword they possess.

**Page**– The pages represent **transition**. Something is moving, whether it is information, circumstance, income, or anything else within the reading.

**Knight**– The knights represent **conflict**. There is tumult somewhere in the reading. It is up to the other cards to specify exactly where the battle lies.

**Queen**– The queens represent **Union**. Things are coming together, a marriage or agreement is happening somewhere in the reading.

**King**– The kings represent **creative mastery**. This shows the star of the reading is manifesting or creating exactly what they desire.

In Course II, we broke down the elemental and overall correspondences of each suit. Let's integrate these royal forces within that to complete the picture. We've learned that the Page represents transition. So within the suit of cups, the Page is a transition of emotions. In the suit of swords, he is the transition of ideas, wands transition of action, and pentacles transition of resources. This same break down can be used for all players of the Courts all the way through the knights into the kings using the archetype keyword they possess. Feel free to create a list of each within your notes to reference whenever you need to.

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## Keywords

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Court cards possess both an archetype keyword and a divinatory keyword, just like the Majors and the Minors. To keep it simple, remember that the archetype keyword, the movement, will take precedence over the divinatory keyword. The divinatory keyword is just a tool to bring another layer into the reading whenever possible. The list break down will be by suit, with each court

card listed and its keyword listed after. For simplicity the single most prevalent keyword for each card will be given.

**Cups**

Page- News

Knight- Trickery

Queen- Good/Fair

King- Creative Intelligence

**Swords**

Page- Authority

Knight- Opposition

Queen- Privation

King- Law

**Wands**

Page- Action

Knight- Flight

Queen- Disposed

King- Honesty

**Pentacles**

Page- Study

Knight- Responsibility

Queen- Generosity

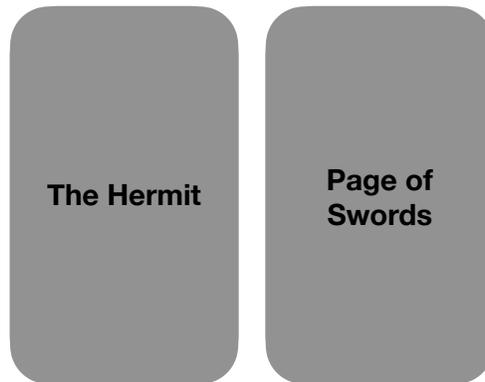
King- Valor

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With both archetypal keywords and divinatory keywords in our pocket let's try some real life application with the following exercises. To ensure we always get a Court card, separate all of the royal players and shuffle them into their own pile. You can approach the other pile of cards two ways, leave it as is with all the Majors and Minors mixed, or separate them into their own respective piles to practice with both individually.

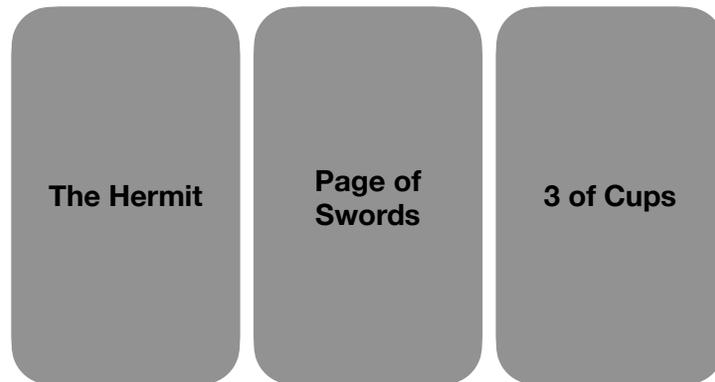
With setup complete, let's try our hand at an easy two card draw. Pull the first card from the Majors/Minors deck and the second from the Courts deck. The following example will show how to progress through interpreting the cards:

Let's say I draw the Hermit and the Page of Swords, as is presented below.



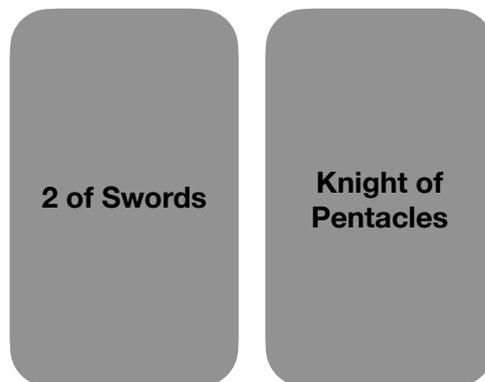
We've already established the keyword for The Hermit is prudence, or discretion. The Page of Swords has the archetype keyword transition. In the suit of swords this shows a transition of thought. This is the action of the Hermit played out in real time. The movement of the Page of Swords is showing The Hermit drawing within himself where he is most comfortable.

Let's take this example one step further by adding a Minor card. After shuffling my deck and picking a card, I've come up with the 3 of Cups.



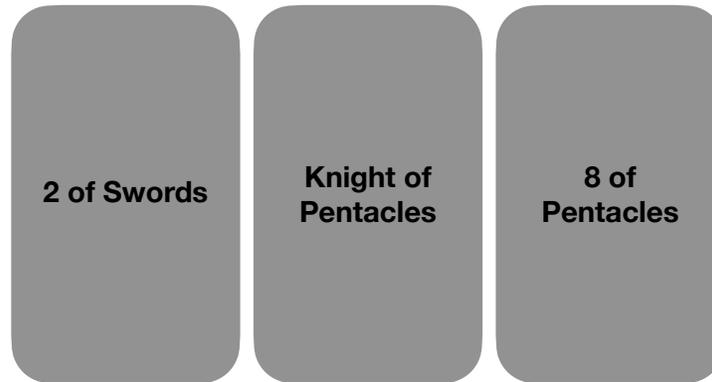
The Hermit is still our lead actor but now we have a supporting actor to change the story of the Hermit. Before, in the two card draw example, the Hermit was drawing into himself by way of the movement of the Page of Swords. Now with the 3 of Cups, the movement shifts from inward to outward. Pictured in the 3 of Cups is a social clinking of chalices suggesting a social gathering.

Let's try another one. Starting again with just two cards, let's leave out the Majors for now and see how the Courts interact with just Minor cards. After shuffling the deck I come up with the 2 of Swords and the Knight of Pentacles.



Without any Majors present we can still discern movement. The 2 of Swords, Courage, shows a blindfolded woman seated bearing two crossed swords. The Knight of Pentacles, conflict of resources, shows trouble in paradise and a loss of courage due to some turmoil in the earthly realm. This is confirmed in the 2 of Swords by the blindfold covering the woman's eyes.

Let's find some clarification by digging deeper. Drawing a third card we come up with the 8 of Pentacles.



Seeking clarification we have found it with the 8 of Pentacles (work). There is a loss of courage due to some conflict in the workplace. This has put a strain on finances (pentacles) leaving the querent unsure how to move forward. If we kept pulling cards we could find some possible solutions by way of a new job or some source of new income.

Use this exercise as many times as you need using the deck however you feel. Feel free to keep it separated into the three different parts, slowly integrating the and Minors and Majors until you are ready to shuffle in the Courts. Just as we did with the examples in Course I, don't stop at 3 cards, as soon as you feel ready, add in another card, and then another, creating stories within the messages as you go. If you get stuck, or overwhelmed, take it back to basics. Start with the keyword and let your intuition guide you from there. There are no wrong answers when we are guided by our intuition. And it can not be said enough, PRACTICE MAKES CONFIDENCE. The more comfortable you are the easier it will be to lean completely into your inner voice letting it steer you where you need to go.

It doesn't happen overnight, it takes repetition and time. The world of Tarot is vast and the methods to learn and the energies therein are innumerable. Never stop thirsting for knowledge and always satiate by exploration. These are just the first steps in your personal cartomancy journey. I've given you the tools to unlock the first door, and explore the first room. Don't let it end there. Find your next key picking up every piece of knowledge you can along the way. Most importantly, enjoy every second of it.

**This concludes Course III**