

Fool

“There is a method in his madness”

Dr Seward

The card depicts Renfield, torn and tattered, with a wolf by his side. In the distance is Castle Dracula. A Full Moon illuminates the scene. As he prepares to leap off the cliff, he offers a rose to the unknown. He has symbolically left behind Castle Dracula, but not before becoming enchanted by its darkness. Renfield is cut free from the ties of society, symbolised both by his ripped clothes and his madness. His ragged clothes also signify the struggle he will have with Count Dracula. The Full Moon signifies Renfield's link to vampires and madness. It is often thought that vampires rise or are rejuvenated by the powers of the Full Moon. Similarly, the word lunatic is derived from “lunar” as many believe that the rays of the Full Moon induce madness. The traditional dog accompanying many tarot Fools is replaced by a wolf as the wolf is one of the animals intimately associated with vampires and Dracula. The wolf is also associated with the moon and is explored further in the Strength and Moon cards. In many decks the Fool holds a white rose to symbolise innocence. Renfield holds a red rose to symbolise the blood of transformation, purification and life. The rose is often thought to ward off vampires and, if placed in the grave of a suspected vampire, was thought to imprison them. The rose is also associated with the Death card in Tarot. Thus it is symbolic of a Fool's journey that begins and ends with Death.

The Fool signifies a new beginning full of naïve hope and adventure.

Reversed – Warns against folly, apathy and negligence.

Magician

“He who is not of nature has yet to obey some of nature's laws”

Van Helsing

The card depicts a youthful Dracula, right hand pointed to the earth, left hand raised to the sky. His fingers mark the sign of the Horned God, an attribute of Dracula explored in the Devil. Floating above him are a Coin, Stake, Knife and Goblet which symbolise the four elements. He wears a black cape, white shirt and gold medallion on a red sash. The colours red, black and white, are often used in rituals symbolising birth, death and rebirth. Red represents the colour of blood, symbolic of birth blood and life. Black represents death and descent into the Underworld. White represents the light of transformation, rebirth and reincarnation. By wearing these colours, Dracula as Magician shows that he is deeply in touch with the cycles of birth, death and rebirth. As a vampire, he is mostly connected to death, both as an undead figure, and one who brings death to others. But he is also a regenerator, for he transforms all he touches and, to a chosen few, he grants the gift of eternal life. With his command over animals, nature and the elements and his intimate connection to birth, death and rebirth, Dracula is a powerful and potent Magician.

The Magician signifies mastery of will, new skills, energy, power and purpose. Communications will flow freely. Self confidence will be abundant.

Reversed – Be diplomatic in dealings with others. Beware of self deceit.

Priestess

“There came a sort of vague beginning of consciousness”

Jonathan

The card depicts the vampiric Countess Dolingen in a white robe. She stands at the entrance of her crypt. A white and a black pillar stand on either side. Behind her are stairs that lead upward to a set of wooden doors. She is proud and regal. The Countess wears the white robes that symbolise both the light of consciousness and the white of a death shroud. The Countess appears to be a young woman, but behind her youthful demeanour lies the face of an ancient Crone. Although the Countess is old, she has kept her youthful persona through her magical consumption of living, human blood. She can therefore possess the face of a traditional young Priestess while containing the awesome powers of the Crone. The black and white pillars beside her represent the union and balance of opposites. The stairs and doorway represent the pathways to the unconscious and the Underworld, the home of the dead and the realm of the Crone. Before true understanding and consciousness can be achieved, you must face the awesome Priestess as Queen of the Night and Death. If you do not journey to her willingly, she will manipulate you and force you to appear before her, as she does with Jonathan by creating a storm. Whether you are a willing or unwilling traveller, the Priestess will always welcome you to her dark and bloody realm.

The Priestess signifies journeys into the unconscious and encounters with secret knowledge and esoteric wisdom.

Reversed – Pay attention to your intuition. Conceit and ignorance will bring disharmony.

Empress

“We women have something of the mother in us”

Mina

The card depicts a pregnant Mina sitting on her throne. She lovingly touches her belly with her right hand and her breast with her left. In her right hand she holds the sign of Venus, in her left, a flower. She wears a flower in her hair. There are flowers behind her and at her feet. She is obviously at home in the outdoors. Mina’s eyes are closed, symbolising her deep focus on herself and her growing child. She caresses her belly and her breasts, potent symbols of female reproduction. The sign of Venus protects her unborn child. Mina knows that the child she carries heralds a new dawn and a new beginning. Her child will bring light into the dark places they have all travelled, symbolised by the lit candles on her throne. When we, like Mina, meditate and draw on the feminine power within, we truly become the Empress. But the feminine power of the Empress is rooted not only in the world of birth and life but in the dark domain of blood and death.

The Empress signifies an encounter with the feeling realm of nurturing and mothering. Fertility, creativity and fruitfulness abound. Can suggest pregnancy or birth.

Reversed – A period of lethargy and inaction may surface.

Emperor

“I have been so long master that I would be master still”

Dracula

The card depicts a young and fierce Dracula, sitting in his throne. In his right hand he holds a Goblet of blood, in his left, a sword. A shield above his throne depicts two dragons. He wears the colours red, white and black, highlighting his link to the Underworld. The Goblet in his right hand also signifies his role as Emperor of the Underworld. The sword in his left hand acknowledges Dracula’s role as warrior Emperor. The dragons on the shield have multiple meanings. Dracula means “Son of the Dragon” and is the name given to the sons of Dracul. Historically Dracula, like his father Dracul, fought like a

dragon to protect his Wallachian homeland from numerous invasions. The historical Dracula was also a member of a sacred organisation called the “Order of the Dragon”. His association with the dragon was meant to signify courage and bravery. Unfortunately, Dracula’s association with the dragon became demonised as the word was sometimes confused with the word for devil and, as we know, dragons have not always had a good reputation in Christian cultures. Stoker’s Dracula, as a literary counterpart to the historical Dracula, also shares this legacy.

The Emperor signifies ambition, achievement, authority, order and organisation. Success will be gained through strength, stability and conviction.

Reversed – Beware of immature, irresponsible and impulsive actions. Obstruction and indecision will adversely affect actions.

Hierophant

“There are mysteries which men can only guess at”

Van Helsing

The card depicts Van Helsing as a teacher, standing in front of a classroom. Before him is a desk with open books. In front of him are students, patiently seated and waiting for the lesson. Behind him is a blackboard with a drawing of a bat, a stake and the word “vampyre”. Van Helsing is the archetypal teacher, the master of the class. He stands commandingly in front of the students, ready to impart his knowledge. However Van Helsing possesses a special kind of knowledge, for it combines the scientific and rationalist theories of the time with the superstitions of the past. The blackboard does not contain scientific formulas or mathematic equations, but ancient and mythic images to do with vampires. Those who are educated by Van Helsing are taught that there are many things in the world, many of which we are unaware of. One such thing is the vampire. Van Helsing has made a study of these dark and deadly supernatural creatures. It is through his vampiric knowledge and guidance that Lucy, Dr Seward, Arthur, Quincey, Jonathan and Mina, win their battles, not for just their lives, but for their immortal souls.

The Hierophant signifies religious guidance and counsel. Can signify a period of meditation and inspiration.

Reversed – Be wary of fanatical views, misleading counsel and dubious advice. Do not be weak or gullible.

Lovers

“If by any act or will of mine anything ever come between us!”

Jonathan

The card depicts Mina and Jonathan holding each other. They are embraced by Dracula who spreads his dark cape, engulfing them. They appear to be resting within Dracula’s blood red heart. Jonathan and Mina are the love couple while Dracula is the force that threatens their union. Jonathan and Mina face an unknown future as they are unaware of what is behind them and what is before them. They begin their marriage with a dark secret which will finally be unveiled. The dark secret will test their marriage, their commitment and their love to its very foundations. Dracula embraces them for it is his dark shadow that threatens their union both in Transylvania and in England. Dracula first spreads his cape around Jonathan as he did not intend for him to escape from his Transylvanian castle, but had left him there as a gift for the voluptuous weird sisters. Had the weird sisters killed Jonathan, Mina would have lost him before they were even married. Dracula again spreads his deadly cape around the couple

in England when he initiates Mina in a vampiric baptism, thus marking her as his own. Again the couple survive the attack, their union unbreakable. The heart stands for love relationships, the red, for the blood that has been shed, symbolically and physically throughout Jonathan and Mina's enduring relationship. Their undying love finally frees them from the dark and deadly shadow of the vampire.

The Lovers signifies a need to choose between many options. The choices may relate to partnerships of any kind, not just love relationships. Suggests a need to accept the consequences for decisions and actions.

Reversed – Obstruction in relationships or partnerships. Indicates postponements, frustration, division or indecision regarding crucial decisions.

Chariot

“For the dead travel fast”

Coach passenger

The card depicts Jonathan, precariously looking out of the window of a carriage. The black carriage is being driven by Dracula and pulled by two horses, one black and one white. Traditional Chariot cards often depict a solitary figure standing in a chariot. In some cards the charioteer is holding the reins, in others, not. The holding of the reins is crucial, for it symbolises whether the charioteer has control of the creatures pulling the carriage; and thus control of their own destiny. The issue of control is significant in this card for it is not Jonathan who holds the reins, but Dracula. This signifies Jonathan's ignorance and impotence. Jonathan thinks he is in control of his destiny, but his Transylvanian journey has been orchestrated and manipulated by others, particularly Dracula. Jonathan is so unaware of what is happening that he does not realise that the carriage driver is Dracula and not a servant. Although the Count's horses are all black in *Dracula*, the black and white horse in this card symbolise Jonathan's inner conflicts. He wants to believe in his rationalism, even when events suggest the presence of the supernatural. He wants to follow his own instincts, and so ignores the advice of those who truly know what is happening. By not fully understanding the powers that surround and control him, Jonathan embarks on a dangerous journey that will challenge his body, mind and soul. It is a journey that will deeply scar him and change the lives of those he loves forever.

The Chariot signifies success through balancing polarities. Negotiation and determination will assure control and triumph over opposing forces.

Reversed – Warns of quarrels and disputes. Pay attention to the needs of others. Be wary of losing control.

Strength

“I shall put a bold face on”

Mina

The card depicts Mina patting a wolf. She is framed by rich, red drapes. The traditional lion in many Strength cards is replaced by a wolf as wolves are one of the traditional animals associated with Dracula and vampires. The wolf in this card represents the curse of Dracula but also Mina's inner strength and courage. After she is bitten by Dracula, Mina gradually becomes less human and more like the animalistic Dracula. She must learn to tame her inner bestial or wolf qualities. Mina must face her inner darkness and do battle with her impending transformation. Mina does this successfully by not openly struggling with or fighting her inner changes but by accepting and understanding them. Her acceptance does not necessitate compliance, for she is committed to her

own death if necessary. The wolf represents her successful battle with her own animal instincts and also her inner strength and intelligence - qualities Van Helsing calls “masculine”. But Mina does not reject these aspects of herself, nor does she see them as “masculine”, she merely utilises her skills for the benefit of herself and others. Mina, like Strength, tames her inner bestial qualities through understanding, not brute strength, thereby allowing her to conquer the powerful Dracula. The red drapes represent the passion, courage and strength with which Mina has successfully faced her challenges.

Strength signifies gaining self control through understanding and accepting inner shadows and beasts. Courage, perseverance and determination overcome all obstacles.

Reversed – Feelings of powerlessness and inadequacy dominate. Wield inner and outer power with care and consideration.

Hermit

“I love the shade and the shadow, and would be alone with my thoughts when I may”

Dracula

The card depicts Dracula looking into a large, oval mirror, his black cape flipped over to highlight the red lining. A candelabra stands nearby on an antique table and is reflected in the mirror. What is not reflected is Dracula’s image. Mirrors are surrounded by myths and legends. The most popular myth is that breaking one ensures seven years of bad luck. In many cultures, particularly Slavic ones, mirrors are often covered when there is a death in the family. As mirrors are believed to be doorways to the soul, the fear is that the dead person’s soul may be trapped in the mirror. A common myth associated with vampires is their inability to cast reflections in mirrors. As vampires are creatures without souls, it is assumed that they cannot cast reflections. Vampires therefore have no way of seeing themselves, they must rely on others for reflections. Vampires such as Dracula may not reflect on their outer persona, but their brooding nature insures centuries of inner reflection. This makes them adept Hermits, for they are all too aware of what they have lost and what they have become. The candelabra symbolises the lantern the Hermit traditionally carries. It signifies the light that illuminates the path of inner journeys through darkness. Dracula’s journey, like that of most vampires, begins and ends in eternal darkness. His constant companion throughout this darkest inner journey is himself.

The Hermit signifies understanding and integration of the inner self through introspection, contemplation and meditation. Indicates a need to access inner wisdom through solitude.

Reversed – Warns against completely closing the heart and mind to the outside world as it may lead to loneliness and spiritual poverty. Remember that introspection is not isolation.

Fortune

“They are devils of the Pit!”

Jonathan

The card depicts the three weird sisters, sensuously draped around a wheel. In the centre of the wheel is Dracula. The three vampire women symbolise the triple Goddess, particularly in her aspect known as the three Fates. The three Fates can represent the Maiden, Mother and Crone, an aspect of the weird sisters explored in the Moon card. More importantly, the three Fates represent the past, present and future. It is these presences that influence our fates. But unlike the three Fates, the weird sisters are not in control of the wheel, they merely swim around it. Like many of the characters in the novel, they have never really been in control of their destinies and the Fortune wheel spins and pushes her spokes

straight through their unguarded hearts. It is Dracula, whose face is in the centre of the wheel, who steers the course of those he chooses to entrap and ensnare. Like a God moving human chess pieces, Dracula controls and manipulates everyone in his path. He is the dark force behind the Fortune wheel. But even Dracula cannot control the Fates. The games he plays, the courses he steers, the traps he sets, all unwind and spring shut around him. Dracula learns the hard way that Fate is no-one's mistress. When his time comes and the wheel spins for him, he is as powerless as those around him to stop it. The wheel is guided by unseen forces darker than Dracula himself. We can only learn to live with the hand that Fate spins us, and than ultimately die.

Fortune signifies the beginning of a new cycle. It can represent either good or bad fortune. Current events are in the hands of fate and destiny.

Reversed – A desire to control fate. Beware of failure and uncertainty.

Justice

“I, too, may need such pity”

Mina

The card depicts Mina, clad in a rich purple gown, sitting on a throne. In her right hand she holds a golden scale, in her left she holds a silver dagger against her heart. The throne and the purple colour of her gown symbolise Justice's connection to royalty and deep spirituality. It is a privileged and powerful position to decide the fates of others. Royalty and other leaders could choose life or death for those that were brought before them. But such ultimate power must be tempered with spiritual knowledge and responsibility. Mina is the perfect image of Justice. She is a symbolic Empress Queen who deeply cares for the fates of those around her. She is spiritually aware and demands the saving of the soul if death is the final verdict. Mina is also able to dispense tough verdicts on herself. When her soul is in danger, she decides death is her only option. If she cannot be the instrument of the verdict, she charges others to do it for her. Mina's keen sense of justice is symbolised by the golden scale, while her brave decision to die rather than transform into a vampire is symbolised by the silver dagger held at her heart. The gold and silver represent balance. With her desire to see that all, human and vampire, are treated with dignity and fairness, Mina illustrates the benevolent powers inherent in the figure of Justice. Mina does not represent “Blind Justice”, but Justice that stares with unflinching open eyes into the darkest of pits.

Justice signifies a need to balance heart and mind. Pay particular attention when weighing up options and decisions. Can indicate legal matters arising.

Reversed – Warns against unfair or biased judgement. Beware of involvement in illegal matters.

Hanged Man

“What manner of man is this, or what manner of creature?”

Jonathan

The card depicts Dracula climbing head first down the wall of his castle. His black cape billows out like bat wings, partially obscuring the Full Moon. A yellow light gleams in the window he is passing. Dracula is the image of the Hanged Man. He lives in an upside down world of night and day, death and life, for he is awake when others sleep and he is dead yet still alive. Dracula is also adept at waiting, as he waits many centuries before travelling to England. The one aspect of the Hanged Man that Dracula does not embody is that of sacrifice. Others must sacrifice their lifeblood for him to survive while he sacrifices nothing, except his soul. Jonathan is truly the Hanged Man for he must learn the art of

waiting and experience personal sacrifice. He must also learn to understand the irrational and the supernatural. The Full Moon and the yellow light from the window reflect the twin worlds embodied by the Hanged Man in the realm of vampires; a world of sun and moon, day and night, life and death, rational and irrational, vampire and human, natural and supernatural. It is this world that Jonathan is forced to embrace during his stay at Castle Dracula.

The Hanged Man signifies a desire to challenge existing belief systems. A greater understanding of the self can be gained by waiting. Some sacrifice may be necessary.

Reversed – Warns against feelings of apathy or selfishness.

Death

*“We thought her dying whilst she slept,
And sleeping when she died”*

Dr Seward

The card depicts Lucy in her blood-red coffin. She wears a white dress, and her black hair floats about her. A white rose is draped around her. Her hands are crossed in the traditional death pose. Two vampire teeth protrude over her lips. On the left side of her neck is the mark of the vampire's bite. She is half alive and half dead, symbolic of her vampiric transformation. She wears a white dress reminiscent of both a nightmarish death shroud and the purity of a wedding gown which symbolises her marriage into the deathly realm of vampires. It is also a sad reminder of the bride she will never be for she dies before she can marry her beloved Arthur Holmwood. In death, Lucy transforms into a bride of Dracula - a predatory creature like he. The red surrounds reflect the blood initiation that she has undergone. The white rose, a feature of many tarot Death cards, symbolises life, love, death and rebirth. Lucy's right side is dead and decaying, her face is shadowed and shrunken and the stem of the rose is dry and cracked. Her left side is alive, her face is flushed and clear and the rose flower full and blossoming. It is this side that sports the bite mark, and represents the vampire's unnatural preservation in the face of death. Her vampire side is not decaying, but is alive. Lucy will face death but her body will not rot. She will simply transform into the beautiful but deadly “bloofer lady”.

Death signifies the end of one cycle and the beginning of a new one. Change, transformation and metamorphosis make way for new growth. Learn to let go.

Reversed – Can represent painful change or a slow and agonising transition. Do not resist necessary change.

Temperance

“She feels influences more acutely than other people do”

Mina

The card depicts Lucy in a gown of white. Spread out behind her are a pair of white batwings. Her hair is wild and untamed, her face, that of a vampire. She holds a goblet in each hand from which she pours blood. The white gown is similar to her bridal gown in Death, and again signifies both her purity and her unholy marriage to the dark forces. It also represents the symbolic marriage she has made with the four vampire hunters through their blood transfusions. In Death, Lucy is only partially transformed into a vampire, but in Temperance, she has fully evolved into a vampire, complete with batwings. Her batwings are white, and not the traditional black, for the dark forces that have touched Lucy's life have not fully corrupted her. Lucy mixes her magic brew of deadly transformations and confrontations, symbolised by the pouring of blood from goblet to goblet. Through the mixing of her blood with

Dracula, Lucy becomes part human, part animal, part living, part dying, part natural, part supernatural. Through the mixing of her blood with the four vampire hunters, Lucy becomes a secret bride and a spiritual icon, forcing the vampire hunters onto their path as hunters of evil. Lucy as Temperance shows us the precarious balance that exists within our fragile lives. One incident can change everything, not only our lives, but also our deaths. Through her spiritually turbulent battle, Lucy valiantly maintains a balance between good and evil and thus secures her final redemption.

Temperance signifies successful integration of the unconscious and conscious aspects of the self. Indicates a need to balance and integrate polarities.

Reversed – Conflicts and competing interests may cause division and hostility. Warns against inconstancy or fickleness.

Devil

“The devil and his children still walk with earthly feet”

Jonathan

The card depicts Dracula, eyes wide open, lying in his blood red coffin. On his forehead is a scar. Dracula is in a traditional pose with arms folded across his body. However his eyes are not shut but wide open. His open eyes symbolise the fact that he is not dead, but undead. More importantly, Dracula's open eyes reflect his hypnotic powers, powers that he uses to bind and enslave the unsuspecting. When Jonathan tries to kill Dracula in his coffin, he finds himself unable to when the full force of Dracula's stare is upon him. Instead he scars Dracula's forehead with a shovel. The scar symbolises the biblical Mark of Cain which identifies Dracula as an evil, unclean creature - a Devil. Dracula's coffin is blood red, reflecting the blood that is his sustenance. Dracula is also sustained by the bed of earth he sleeps on which nourishes as well as restricts him. Dracula, like the tarot Devil, binds others to him. What is interesting is that he in turn is bound.

The Devil signifies a need to explore the realm of the instincts, particularly in relation to sexuality, fear and power. Suggests a need to understand and accept the darker aspects of the self.

Reversed – Warns against feelings of self loathing and self bondage. Indicates a time of overwhelming frustration or oppression.

Tower

“The walls of my castle are broken”

Dracula

The card depicts Castle Dracula framed against a night sky. The withered branches of trees shroud the foreground. Strange lights illuminate the castle's windows. Castle Dracula stands on a precipice overlooking the Transylvanian forests whose branches caress the castle. The strange lights may seem welcoming, but they hide an all consuming darkness. The castle is a place shrouded in myth and legend; a place where only the brave or foolhardy dare visit. Castle Dracula is like a fairy tale palace, but knights in shining armour, handsome princes or maidens in distress do not inhabit it. Castle Dracula's deadly inhabitant is a brooding Bluebeard, a beast with a lust for human blood. His castle promises death, not marriage or happy ever after. The doomed maidens in the castle - the three weird sisters - do not need rescuing, but like their symbolic husband, require the gift of human life. The castle and its dark host experience many slow centuries of decay, neglect and abandonment while all who visit are dramatically and suddenly changed forever. Dracula is like a bolt of lightning that strips away our pretensions, beliefs and securities and shocks and stuns us to our very core. Like silent sentinels of

the Underworld, Dracula and his castle wait for their next visitor with whom they can share the powerful secrets of the ever changing Tower.

The Tower signifies sudden and overwhelming change. Indicates the disruption or destruction of existing structures.

Reversed – Mild disruptions, disturbances and distractions will plague your progress.

Star

“I see no light in life over her horizon”

Van Helsing

The card depicts Lucy, swathed in an ethereal gown. She stands in a pool of water surrounded by red roses. The starlit night sky highlights a bright shining star, which is shadowed by an image of a bat. Lucy looks like a fairy in a wonderland, her luminous gown reminiscent of gossamer fairy wings. She innocently wanders through her enchanted garden, unaware of the danger lurking in the night. Lucy is a bright star, an innocent maiden and a tempting Venus, who inspires love and loyalty in all who meet her. The blood red roses represent her sexual awakening, initiated both by Dracula’s blood rites and the vampire hunters’ blood transfusions. But Lucy’s awakened and innocent sexuality becomes threatening and deadly, when she is initiated into the world of vampires after her death. Thus the light of Lucy’s bright star is hidden behind a veil of darkness; her innocence, corrupted. The water she stands in represents the unconscious and dream-like realm that she has always been connected to. This realm will become darker and more nightmarish after she is bitten by Dracula. Her namesake, the Luciferian Morning and Evening Star, illuminates the night but is shadowed by the dark wings of a bat. The bat shadow represents the darkness that will intrude on Lucy’s star filled life. It is the dark bat that repeatedly knocks on her window, calling her to the deadly world of vampires.

The Star signifies a renewal of hope, optimism and fulfillment. A return to the world of light, happiness naivety and innocence.

Reversed – Beware of betrayal, loss of innocence or impotence and failure. You may face obstacles to happiness. Prepare for a descent into the darker realms of the psyche.

Moon

“Listen to them - the children of the night. What music they make!”

Dracula

The card depicts the shadowy images of the three weird sisters, shimmering in water. Behind them is the Transylvanian forest illuminated by the light of a glorious Full Moon. Two wolves sit on either side of the moon and howl. The three sisters symbolise the three phases of the moon; Waxing, Full and Waning. These phases are also shadowed in the three different shades seen in the body of the Full Moon. The hidden face behind the weird sisters and the moon is Dracula; the bringer of death and rebirth, the Dark Moon. The water symbolises the realm of dreams and the deep unconscious which is also a realm of the moon and a realm of the vampire. The two wolves symbolise the nocturnal creatures that are one with the night. Their howling at the moon may sound uncanny or frightening, but for those who walk in the night, their howling is sweet music. Wolves are close associates of vampires, as they are animal companions and creatures vampires shapeshift into. Wolves are also associated with werewolves, who like vampires, share a link to the moon and participate in initiatory blood rituals. It is blood that is the ultimate mystery in *Dracula*. The women and their dark lord participate in ancient

blood rites that symbolise the lunar cycle of birth, death and rebirth. These secret blood initiations almost always take place under the watchful eye of the female moon.

The Moon signifies an encounter with the mythic mother archetype. Embracing the ebb and flow of time and fate. Experiencing natural rhythms and cycles. A desire to explore ancient realms. Deep connections with the night.

Reversed – Beware of illusions, depression, instability and inconstancy.

Sun

“I seek not gaiety nor mirth, not the bright voluptuousness of much sunshine”

Dracula

The card depicts Dracula, shying away from the sun. He leans against the brick walls of his castle, an open window next to him. Outside the sun is high above the Transylvanian forest. Two colourful gypsies dance in the forest. Dracula, embraced by his dark cape with arms resolutely folded, shuns the sun. It is in his vampiric nature to be drawn to darkness and morbidity, for he is a creature of death. But he is also a creature that desires life and survives by consuming the life force of others. He is therefore linked to the sun, for it is the sun that nourishes life and growth on this planet. The two gypsies freely playing in the sun's warming rays seem to mock Dracula's solar abhorrence. The sun is not deadly to Dracula, but it does restrict his movements. He naturally resents anything that has power over him. However, his trip to England represents a desire to be in the sun and to embrace life. Unfortunately for Dracula, his embracing of the sun energy is short lived. Dracula, like Icarus, flies too close to the sun and is burnt by its deadly rays. Ironically, Dracula's forays into the sun symbolically cause his death.

The Sun signifies health, happiness, optimism, success and contentment. Indicates a burst of new energy. Feelings of freedom dominate.

Reversed – A need to retreat, rest and recuperate. Warns against feelings of sadness, failure, disillusionment, imprisonment or bondage.

Judgement

“There is work - wild work - to be done”

Van Helsing

The card depicts the five vampire hunters - Professor Van Helsing, Dr John Seward, Jonathan Harker, Quincey Morris and Arthur Holmwood. Each carries an object or weapon of vampiric abjection or destruction. Van Helsing carries a stake, Dr Seward a communion wafer, Jonathan a crucifix, Quincey a knife and Arthur a bottle of holy water. The crucifix, communion wafer and holy water are religious repellents, while the stake and knife are used to kill the vampire. Thus armed, the vampire hunters face us with grim and stern expressions on their faces. They have a mighty task before them and they are determined to succeed. The vampire hunters must seek out vampires and dispatch them, thus releasing their souls for final Judgement. But is their Judgement fair? In the world of *Dracula* there is only good and evil. The vampire hunters are the warriors for the side of good, Dracula a warrior for the side of evil. Like the final battle in the biblical Revelation, the forces of good are pitted against the powers of an ancient and forbidding dragon; Dracula, “Son of the Dragon”. But dragons, like vampires, are not always evil. To be a judge, jury and executioner, is to carry a heavy burden, for those deemed guilty can actually be innocent, depending on which side of the battle you stand. For the vampire hunters there is no such hesitation for they truly believe that the vampire is an evil being. Thus they can hunt and kill vampires with a clear conscience, and hopefully with clean souls.

Judgement signifies a renewal of spirit. Can indicate a call to a sacred or higher duty. A time of completion, change and development.

Reversed – Warns against puritanical, rigid or conservative judgements. Indicates a need to work with group energies.

World

“Flesh of my flesh; blood of my blood; kin of my kin”

Dracula

The card depicts Mina and Dracula as bride and groom. They are surrounded by a dragon eating its own tail. A Coin, Stake, Knife and Goblet, symbols of the four elements, are portrayed below them on a blood red banner. By partaking of the vampire’s baptism of blood Dracula and Mina are married in a ritual more powerful than law or religion - they are married in blood. If Dracula were not destroyed, Mina would eventually have gone to him. Her vampiric transformation would have necessitated the cutting of mortal bonds for the embrace of her vampiric brethren. Dracula and Mina are the archetypal husband and wife, as their union heralds the dawn of a new age of myth, film and literature that focuses on them as a couple. Mina’s child further unites the couple as husband and wife as the child’s paternity is questionable. The dragon eating its own tail is a symbol of the ouroboros, a symbol that reflects the never ending cycle of birth, death and rebirth. The dragon is also a symbol of the Dracul family for their name is derived from this powerful and multifaceted mythical creature. The blood red banner represents the blood rituals that are so much a part of *Dracula* and the four elements represent the union of all possibilities, a union symbolised by the divine marriage of Mina and Dracula.

The World signifies the successful completion of a cycle and the beginning of a new one. Indicates the integration of polarities. May indicate travel.

Reversed – Feelings of separateness and incompleteness abound. Warns against cowardice, stagnation and inertia. Suggests a need to complete unfinished projects or business.

Ace of Coins

“It made me think of the wonderful power of money!”

Mina

The Ace of Coins signifies positive changes in the material, physical or spiritual realms. We see the importance of these realms in *Dracula*, as financial and business partnerships are formed, physical challenges are endured and spiritual rebirth is initiated. This card can also represent the birth of a child. Significantly, *Dracula* ends with a birth which symbolises the successful ending of one cycle and the beginning of a new one.

Reversed – Warns against preoccupations with material pursuits and financial gain.

Two of Coins

“Had there been any alternative I should have taken it”

Jonathan

The Two of Coins signifies the need to make a difficult financial decision. Can also refer to travel.

Reversed – A need to budget wisely. Warns against preoccupations with past events that obstruct the present.

Three of Coins

"I am Dracula; and I bid you welcome"

Dracula

The Three of Coins signifies some financial success, but there is more work to be done. Recognition and renown for jobs well done will be sought and gained.

Reversed – Warns against inefficiency, weakness, pettiness and irresponsibility. Pay close attention to those whom you work with.

Four of Coins

"I do not sup"

Dracula

The Four of Coins signifies the building of foundations that will ensure financial and material success. May indicate an inheritance, legacy or monetary gift is on the way.

Reversed – Be wary of coworkers and partners as they may harbour jealous feelings towards you. Do not covet the wealth of others. Obstacles, delay and loss are par for the course.

Five of Coins

"How can I escape from this dreadful thing of night and gloom and fear?"

Jonathan

The Five of Coins signifies financial, personal or spiritual loss. Feelings of loneliness, abandonment and isolation abound. A need to let go and start anew.

Reversed – Financial difficulty is on the way. Chaos, disorder and loss dominate. Indicates a fear of losing professional status.

Six of Coins

"I want you to make your home here with me"

Mr Hawkins

The Six of Coins signifies an upgrading of financial or material situations through the generosity of others. Unexpected gifts or presents may be received.

Reversed – Warns against uncharitable, envious or selfish actions. Do not let greed dominate thoughts or actions.

Seven of Coins

"Such a sad blow has befallen us"

Mina

The Seven of Coins signifies that a promising project is subject to failure. Hard work is needed to push through limitations in business and financial ventures. Suggests a need to return favours.

Reversed – Warns against being overly concerned with monetary matters. Be wary of friends who ask for loans.

Eight of Coins

"Does what you have to do concern the Count?"

Jonathan

The Eight of Coins signifies the pursuit of skills and knowledge in a specific area. There are bright prospects for employment and work.

Reversed – Indicates a lack of skill and a lack of ambition. Warns against embarking on illegal monetary pursuits.

Nine of Coins

“I shall now settle up all my affairs of earth”

Jonathan

The Nine of Coins signifies that contentment and fulfillment in the material, physical and spiritual realms is possible. Prudent and wise decisions must be made financially and personally.

Reversed – Beware of participating in unsound practices. Approach potentially dangerous situations with care.

Ten of Coins

“You must be our star and our hope”

Van Helsing

The Ten of Coins signifies that a prosperous and successful future is assured. Home and family matters are filled with richness, happiness and contentment. Reward for hard work is indicated.

Reversed – Possible minor setbacks, or losses. A need to accept chance and fate.

Lady of Coins

“It seemed as if all nature were tuned to a different pitch”

Dr Seward

The Lady of Coins signifies success through study, scholarship and application. Financial pursuits require a period of nurturing and gestation. Contemplation and absorption in nature brings peace and harmony.

Reversed – Rebellious actions cause dissipation, concern and disappointment. A need to reconnect with the earth realm is indicated.

Lord of Coins

“He is discreet and silent, and has grown into manhood in my service”

Mr Hawkins

The Lord of Coins signifies success in business through reliable and practical hard work. Dedication, patience and perseverance will reap personal and monetary rewards.

Reversed – Warns against stagnation, idleness and inertia. Ideas and ventures may not progress quickly due to lack of motivation and enthusiasm.

Countess of Coins

“She must have some rare gift or power”

Dr Seward

The Countess of Coins signifies success in personal and financial realms. Approaching matters in an assertive and sensible way will reap rewards.

Reversed – Be wary of being influenced or misled by suspicious, mistrustful or fearful associates and acquaintances.

Count of Coins

“A man who has centuries before him can afford to wait and to go slow”

Van Helsing

The Count of Coins signifies success in business and family affairs through generous and reliable acts. Slow and steady progress will ensure financial and personal security.

Reversed – Warns against feelings of weakness, corruption, vice, perversity and peril. Be wary of those who seek to cause misfortune and harm to others.

Ace of Stakes

“It is a wild adventure we are on”

Jonathan

The Ace of Stakes signifies a new beginning full of possibility, initiative and creativity. *Dracula* is full of new beginnings as most of the characters experience the ending and beginning of many new cycles. The many journeys the characters take, both physically and spiritually, are filled with adventure, excitement and trepidation. Initiative, creativity and energy are also needed to successfully travel through the different realms explored in *Dracula*.

Reversed – Warns against taking matters too seriously. Use tact and guile when dealing with others. Blind optimism may lead to false starts.

Two of Stakes

“To be in the midst of the whirl and rush of humanity”

Dracula

The Two of Stakes signifies a need to explore new horizons. Separation and independence may be needed to realise full potential. Success is gained through hard work, but there is more work ahead.

Reversed – Imminent change leads to an encounter with the unknown. Warns against feelings of loss, sadness and fear.

Three of Stakes

“She is steered mighty strangely”

Coast Guard

The Three of Stakes signifies a time of moving forward and travel. Established strength empowers your endeavours. It is a time for surprises and discoveries.

Reversed – A time for personal reflection and introspection. Be wary of those who may appear to be loyal but are not. Avoid stagnation.

Four of Stakes

“You dwellers in the city cannot enter into the feelings of the hunter”

Dracula

The Four of Stakes signifies the successful completion of a project. Suggests a celebration with friends and family. A period of quiet reflection will bring harmony, peace and happiness.

Reversed – Unconventional pursuits may lead to happiness and prosperity.

Five of Stakes

“Do we not promise to go on to the bitter end?”

Van Helsing

The Five of Stakes signifies that competition, struggle and confrontation will lead to success. A need to work hard to achieve goals. Strength and inner resolve are abundant.

Reversed – Struggle and confrontation will reveal the darker side of friends and associates. You are surrounded by confusion, deception and frustration.

Six of Stakes

“Come in, Lord and Master!”

Renfield

The Six of Stakes signifies victory due to hard work and successfully overcoming obstacles. Attainment of personal desires is possible. Celebrate achievements and victories.

Reversed – A need to face your enemies and adversaries without fear. Beware of treachery and disloyalty.

Seven of Stakes

“My revenge is just begun!”

Dracula

The Seven of Stakes signifies success in chosen ventures despite great obstacles, challenges and difficulty. Strength, valour and negotiation are the keys to success.

Reversed – Indecision and hesitation will lead to failure. Avoid retreat, anxiety and confusion.

Eight of Stakes

“I suppose one ought to pity any thing so hunted as is the Count”

Mina

The Eight of Stakes signifies rapid movement, activity and excitement. A move towards speedy conclusions is indicated. Pursue outcomes vigorously.

Reversed – Disputes, quarrels and disagreements are prevalent. A need to truthfully explore inner thoughts, desires and motives.

Nine of Stakes

“We ride to death of some one”

Dr Seward

The Nine of Stakes signifies that strength of will and purpose will prevail over opposition. Security in business matters and personal affairs can be won.

Reversed – Adversity and obstacles bring calamities. Avoid lack of initiative, disarray and delay.

Ten of Stakes

“There was in the face a look of peace”

Mina

The Ten of Stakes signifies that success is not always desirable as it can also signal defeat. Warns against accepting overwhelming demands, burdens or workloads.

Reversed – Beware of those who conspire against you. Expect treachery and deceit.

Lady of Stakes

“The feet you love must walk in paths of flame!”

Van Helsing

The Lady of Stakes signifies knowledge, growth and rebirth. It is a time of restlessness, curiosity and energy. Disputes within the family will soon be resolved. A message is on its way.

Reversed – Warns against reluctance, instability and indecision. Be prepared for bad news.

Lord of Stakes

“He is like a living flame”

Dr Seward

The Lord of Stakes signifies restlessness, change and travel. A move to a new residence is indicated. It is a time for fun and adventure.

Reversed – Warns of rupture, interruption, division, and discord. A time of conflict and quarrels.

Countess of Stakes

“I am quite heroic”

Mina

The Countess of Stakes signifies versatility, energy and creativity. Heralds success in financial and business matters. Feelings of pride and honour are dominant.

Reversed – Warns of deceit and jealousy. A trusted friend may prove false.

Count of Stakes

“In our veins flows the blood of many brave races who fought as the lion fights”

Dracula

The Count of Stakes signifies enthusiasm, energy, vitality and restlessness. Feelings of nobility and loyalty rein. Indicates valued friendships. Suggests an unexpected windfall may arrive.

Reversed – Warns against accepting others at face value. Calm behaviour is needed during unexpected crises. Heralds a time of bigotry, unpredictability and contradiction.

Ace of Knives

“We are in for a storm”

Mina

The Ace of Knives signifies new beginnings and the initiation and successful completion of projects. It also suggests stressful situations. We see the beginning of many new projects in *Dracula*, such as travel, business meetings, engagements and marriages. Yet many of these beginnings are deluged in grief and loss. The troubled situations many of the characters face in *Dracula* highlight the fact that

successfully completing projects for one character necessitates the unsuccessful finish for another. Thus many of the new beginnings in *Dracula* are fraught with stress and anxiety.
Reversed – Negative forces initiate a downward spiral. Warns of disastrous and destructive situations.

Two of Knives

“I find I must go on sitting over the grave of a suicide”

Lucy

The Two of Knives signifies that a difficult decision must be made. A clear and rational assessment is needed. Can indicate arguments and disputes. A need to acknowledge inner fears.

Reversed – Warns of duplicity, deception, disloyalty and falsehood. Be wary of anyone who asks more of you than they are willing to give of themselves.

Three of Knives

“I called in fright, Lucy! Lucy!”

Mina

The Three of Knives signifies difficulties and disruptions in relationships that could lead to depression, heartbreak or separation. A need to keep emotions in balance.

Reversed – Disorder, distraction, errors, and confusion dominate. Warns against focussing only on negative aspects of situations. Learn to be more objective.

Four of Knives

“She will be dreaming of this to-night, I am sure”

Mina

The Four of Knives signifies a time of meditation, rest and recuperation. Vigilance, retreat, repose and solitude will bring relief from stressful situations. Can also indicate illness.

Reversed – A need to reintegrate and participate in social gatherings. Warns against too much isolation as it can lead to loneliness and depression.

Five of Knives

“She wants blood, and blood she must have or die”

Van Helsing

The Five of Knives signifies struggles, battles and unresolved tension. Warns of failure, defeat, loss and the dominance of negative influences. Avoid overconfidence and unrealistic expectations.

Reversed – Be wary of gossip and rumours. Strength of character is needed to counteract problems, weakness, conflicts and disagreements.

Six of Knives

“It is as if I had passed through some long nightmare”

Lucy

The Six of Knives signifies passing from troubled times into smoother waters. Resolving difficulties and keeping commitments will be easier.

Reversed – Warns of disillusionment, disappointment, sorrow and regret. Suggests a need for a break or a holiday.

Seven of Knives

“If I should not survive this night”

Lucy

The Seven of Knives signifies that a new approach to a situation is needed. Can suggest travel or a change of job or residence.

Reversed – Warns of theft and deception, confusion, lack of concentration or defeat.

Eight of Knives

“There did not seem to be with her now the unconscious struggle for life and strength that had hitherto so marked her illness”

Dr Seward

The Eight of Knives signifies that strength of character is needed to avoid entrapment, censure and restriction. Denotes a deep and innate need for freedom. Suggests an inability to see situations clearly.

Reversed – Disquieting feelings of isolation and hopelessness abound. Warns of difficulty, loss and treachery.

Nine of Knives

“If you were like me - if sleep was to you a presage of horror!”

Lucy

The Nine of Knives signifies grief, worry, depression and suffering. Warns of disappointment, delay, and despair. Can signify a death. A time of introspection and introversion is indicated.

Reversed – Warns against feelings of shame or guilt as these will lead to depression. A need to take care of health issues. Avoid feelings of suspicion and doubt.

Ten of Knives

“She is not a grinning devil now”

Van Helsing

The Ten of Knives signifies the termination of one cycle which clears the way for the beginning of new cycles. Warns of sudden misfortune, disruption and ruin. Suggests a time of sadness and tears.

Reversed – Be wary of those wielding authority and power. Short term profit and success will be gained.

Lady of Knives

“My arms are hungry for you”

Lucy

The Lady of Knives signifies participation in secret affairs and situations. Suggests the need for subtlety, observation, spying and vigilance. Can indicate the beginning of intellectual pursuits.

Reversed – Warns of violent confrontation. A time of deviousness, underhand deeds and deceit.

Lord of Knives

“When a man feels himself face to face with such horrors”

Jonathan

The Lord of Knives signifies a need for enthusiastic, active and decisive actions. Warns against impulsive, erratic or reckless deeds. Indicates skill and bravery.

Reversed – Think objectively about situations rather than acting on poorly thought out plans. Warns against indiscretion and indulgence.

Countess of Knives

“Myriads of horrible fancies began to crowd in upon my mind - all of them connected with death, and vampires; with blood and pain, and trouble”

Mina

The Countess of Knives signifies the ability to act quickly, intelligently, perceptively and severely. Suggests a need to deal with sadness in a rational manner. A sense of humour will ease pain and anxiety.

Reversed – Warns against causing pain or hurt through ill remarks and comments. Do not let sorrow or sadness lead to bitterness.

Count of Knives

“That mighty brain and that iron resolution went with him to the grave”

Van Helsing

The Count of Knives signifies an ability to approach situations in an intelligent, forceful, authoritative powerful and commanding manner. A need for thoughtful, quick and decisive actions.

Reversed – Warns against becoming too detached from feelings and emotions. A calm and confident exterior may hide a tyrannical or cruel interior.

Ace of Goblets

“The blood is the life! The blood is the life!”

Renfield

The Ace of Goblets signifies new relationships and new beginnings, particularly in relation to partnerships. We see the importance of friendships and relationships throughout *Dracula* as ties are formed, friendships are invoked and love relationships are cemented. As with *Dracula*, the path through these relationships and partnerships may be smooth or rocky.

Reversed - Love connections and friendships are tested.

Two of Goblets

“Between husband and wife; there should be no secret, no concealment”

Jonathan

The Two of Goblets signifies reward and success. Partnerships or relationships are extremely beneficial. The card can also indicate a marriage.

Reversed - Disharmony, separation and secrets may disturb important friendships, relationships and partnerships.

Three of Goblets

“Then they all three laughed - such a silvery, musical laugh”

Jonathan

The Three of Goblets signifies celebration for the success of a marriage, relationship, partnership or friendship. Relationships and partnerships experience happiness, optimism, growth and expansion. Reversed - A warning that relationships, partnerships or friendships may be exploitive and distrustful. Friends may be enemies in disguise.

Four of Goblets

“I must open that parcel, and know what is written”

Mina

The Four of Goblets signifies boredom and lethargy in relation to partnerships. Friendships and romances may become tedious as there is a lack of energy and spontaneity.

Reversed - Feelings of lethargy and self indulgence may be undermining previously happy relationships. Remember the grass is not always greener elsewhere.

Five of Goblets

“That poor soul who has wrought all this misery is the saddest case of all”

Mina

The Five of Goblets signifies disruption, separation or loss of friendships, relationships and partnerships. Look for the positive in disruptive outcomes.

Reversed - Relationships, friendships and partnerships are fragile. Feelings of sadness, remorse and guilt will only hasten the end of precarious partnerships.

Six of Goblets

“For a few minutes our sorrowful hearts beat together”

Jonathan

The Six of Goblets signifies strength and bonding in key relationships and partnerships. Friendships become more nurturing and supportive.

Reversed - Warns that too much reminiscing may lead to nostalgic feelings and yearnings for a glorified past. Enjoy the relationships of today.

Seven of Goblets

“I must bear this mark of shame upon my forehead until Judgement Day”

Mina

The Seven of Goblets signifies an important decision or choice that must be made regarding a partnership, friendship or relationship. There are many paths to explore. Make decisions regarding key relationships or partnerships wisely.

Reversed - Too many choices and opportunities are not always beneficial. Think carefully before leaving productive relationships or partnerships.

Eight of Goblets

“Come, sister. Come to us. Come! Come!”

The Weird Sisters

The Eight of Goblets signifies a major turning point in an individual's life. Endings and new beginnings abound. To develop and grow, accepted modes of behaviour may need to be altered. Relationships or friendships may be sacrificed to initiate inner change.

Reversed - Fear of change prevents beneficial growth. Endings also signify new beginnings.

Nine of Goblets

"The curse has passed away!"

Quincey

The Nine of Goblets signifies happiness, success, contentment and the fulfillment of a cherished desire. The rebirth of a difficult relationship or partnership results in happiness, celebration and contentment.

Reversed - The ending of a difficult period in a relationship or partnership. Let go and move away from the negative situation that has finally ended.

Ten of Goblets

"Our souls are knit into one, for all life and all time"

Mina

The Ten of Goblets signifies lasting success in relationships or partnerships. Family, friends and loved ones are a fitting reward for hard work in the area of relationships. It is time to celebrate and chase away the darkness.

Reversed - A happy ending to a troubling relationship or partnership but beware of repeating past mistakes. Unhappiness and disruption lie in wait for the unwary.

Lady of Goblets

"You may kiss her. Kiss her dead lips if you will"

Van Helsing

The Lady of Goblets signifies a message, news or an important event. Can represent a birth, marriage, or the beginning of a new relationship. A need to meditate and reflect deeply on personal and emotional issues.

Reversed – Warns against being deceived or seduced by false promises and fanciful ideas. Do not become overly attached to people or possessions.

Lord of Goblets

"She shall not go into that unknown and terrible land alone"

Jonathan

The Lord of Goblets signifies an offer, proposal or invitation involving personal or emotional issues. A welcome, yet unexpected, guest may arrive. Suggests a need to immerse into the realm of imagination.

Reversed – Warns against being seduced by a charismatic deceiver. Be aware that there are those who will seek to trick, swindle or defraud you.

Countess of Goblets

"I wish I could comfort all who suffer from the heart"

Mina

The Countess of Goblets signifies a need to reconnect with the intuitive and sensitive aspects of the self. Happiness, pleasure, wisdom and love are abundant.

Reversed – Warns against false or dishonest actions. Appearances can be deceptive so be wary of strangers who appear overly dignified or prosperous.

Count of Goblets

“I too can love; you yourselves can tell it from the past”

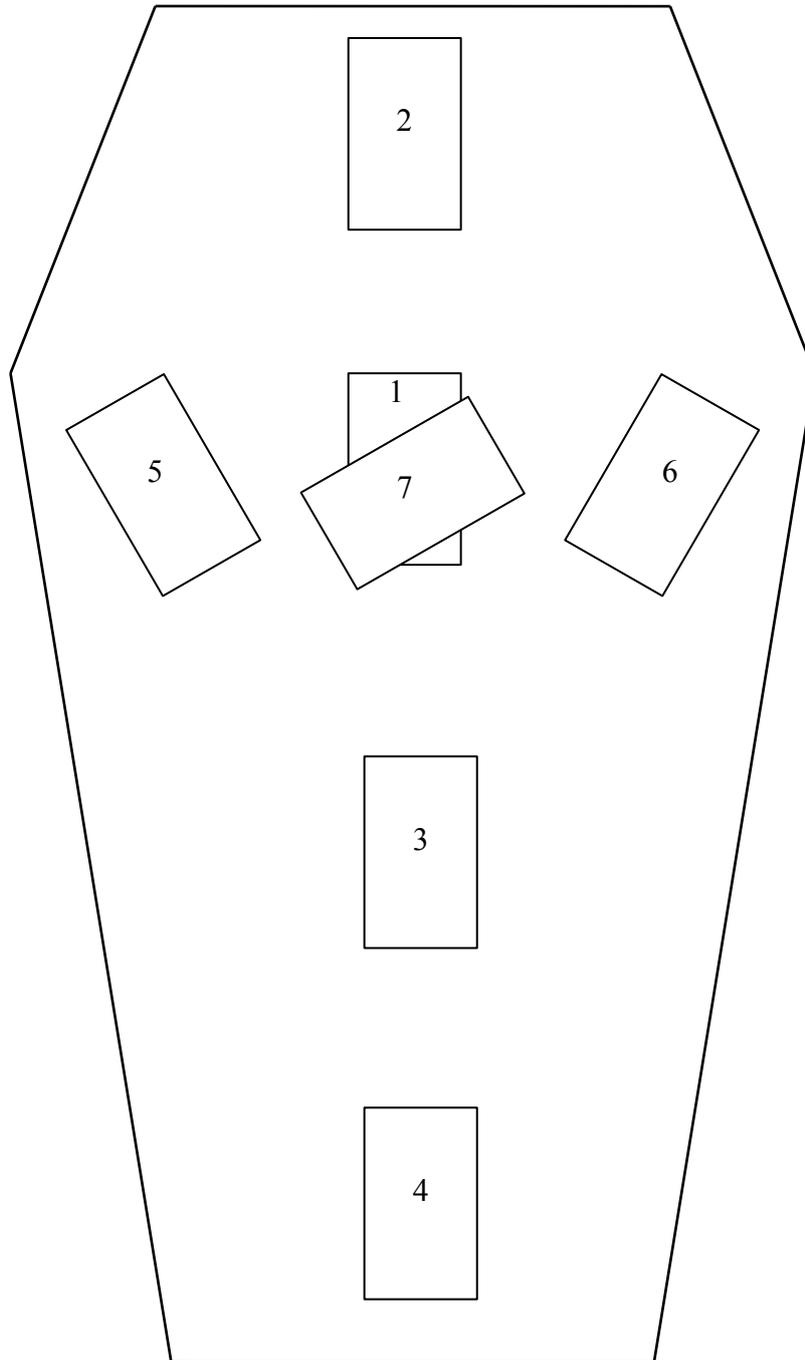
Dracula

The Count of Goblets signifies a need to reconnect with the emotional elements of the self. Loyalty, responsibility, creativity and intelligence will be key aspects of personal or business relationships.

Reversed – Warns against loss, scandal and injustice through involvement with unscrupulous people.

The Coffin Spread

This is an all-purpose problem solving spread. It can be used to answer a specific question or as a more general reading.



Shuffle and cut the cards. Place face down in above order and slowly turn them over in turn.

- Card 1 – The heart of the matter. This card highlights the key problem.
- Card 2 – State of mind. What the querent thinks about the issue.
- Card 3 – Gut feelings. What the querent feels about the issue.
- Card 4 – Where you stand. The querent's foundation and source of strength.
- Card 5 – Outgoing influences. Energies that are now leaving the querent.
- Card 6 – Incoming influences. Energies that are now becoming manifest.
- Card 7 – The answer. What may help solve the problem.