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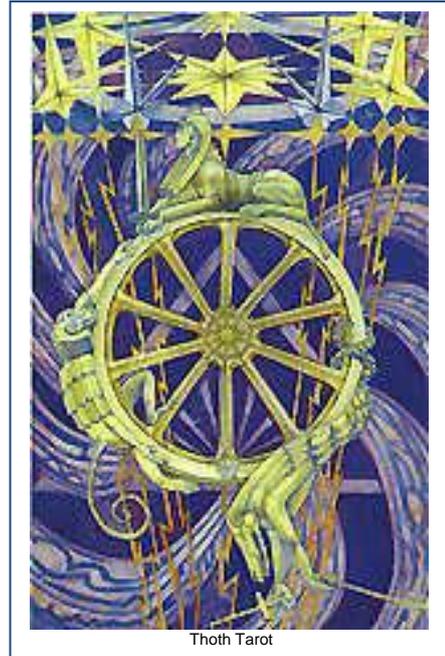
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## X Fortune

The Wheel of Fortune is numbered ten, and Fortuna, Roman Goddess of fortune and fate, is sometimes seen turning the wheel for all eternity. There are usually animals or people shown around the rim of the wheel. Some are falling beneath the bottom edge where, presumably, they are crushed. Others are fighting to keep themselves from that sticky end by scrabbling backwards against the motion of the wheel itself (rather like running up a down escalator backwards). Even more figures are swept upwards to the top from the depths. These represent people on a winning streak, but no more in command than those beneath the wheel. And there is usually a figure at the top of the wheel. This figure seems successful despite exerting no effort to maintain its position. Sometimes this figure is depicted as a sphinx, to represent timelessness, initiation and the harmony of opposites. Sometimes it appears as a king, to indicate supremacy.

The figure at the top of the wheel represents an individual who has mastered the vagaries of luck, and who is not much affected by either good or bad luck anymore. He has the wisdom to rest when the going gets tough, and to get going when there's somewhere to go or something to strive for. Here is an individual who is no longer troubled by the cycles in life, but is in harmony with them; someone who understands that all things have their season, and who has the wisdom to select appropriate modes of behaviour according to the external influences that surround him. This is a master or mistress of life.

So it is with life. If you accept the principle of reincarnation, you have probably thought over how it works happens. Do we catapult out of one body and into another? Do we go somewhere else and think things over (like the [Hermit](#))? Do we select the life, the body, the environment into which we are born? Do we select the moment of birth itself and also the subsequent birth chart which can be drawn from that? Just how much control do we really have in this living business? I would guess the answers to these questions are four 'yes's' and one 'as much as we want to have'.



Thoth Tarot

I think that to begin with, we probably do ricochet out of one life and into the next. But every time, we experience something new and special. Gradually, we must learn to exert a little more selective control over each incarnation. At that point I think we probably do make choices about whom and what we want to be. All along we are trying to get the hang of living successfully - and this entails learning to identify the cycles and rhythms which measure earthly existence. All of life is circles; the days, the months, the years, the seasons, living and dying - all circles.

Astrology teaches us that there are definite influences upon our lives induced by the planets, and that depending on which arrangement of planets we are subject to at the time of our birth, we will respond accordingly. But like the Tarot, astrology indicates that we have choices in opting to get the best or the worst from any influence.

Now, it is this rhythm of life with which the Wheel of Fortune is most closely connected. We all know that there are good times, when we can't put a foot wrong. There are indifferent times, when we only make progress in direct relation to the effort we put in. And then there are bad times when, no matter how hard we try, we mess up. We call this process 'luck'. We regard it as a law unto itself over which we can exert very little control. In fact, this simply is not true.

Fortune is not the same as luck. We make our own luck and follow our own destiny. Good fortune comes from the still centre which contains the very heart of ourselves. The sun will

rise and set, the seasons will continue to turn, and the planets will move in their allotted courses - with or without us.

When considered in the context of a reading, Fortune will most often indicate swings of fate or trends in progress. In a mundane reading, you would interpret this as luck (though always recognizing that luck is not quite the right word). If the reading shows a bad or difficult time, the appearance of Fortune will indicate a change for the better, often as a result of apparently chance occurrences. 'Out of the blue' is a good phrase to remember as far as this card is concerned. It often turns up to show lucky breaks, great opportunities, chance meetings and contacts which bring benefits.



Do not forget, though, that if everything has been absolutely top-hole for a while, Fortune might indicate a resulting negative phase where we will have to work much harder to get what we want from life. Remember, though, that whilst something may appear to be 'lucky' or 'unlucky', we will most certainly have contributed to its appearance, because we make our own lives.

On a higher level, when you find this card in a reading, it is important to try to track down its spiritual implications; it could mark important new phases of development or realization. Because the card indicates mastery at this level, it can be particularly important if it appears with the Star, which is itself a card of destiny and cosmic influences. These cards will often fall together in the reading of someone who is changing their entire philosophy of life. In this case, the combination can indicate a particular stage of attainment which suggests a new freedom and power.

When Fortune comes up with Aces, it will generally relate precisely to the area of life shown by the Ace.

For instance, with the [Ace of Cups](#), we would expect to see the development of deep and lasting love affairs; with the [Ace of Wands](#), we must expect great movement in the life pattern of the querent; with the [Ace of Disks](#), enormous financial progress can be expected; and with the [Ace of Swords](#), greater self-expression and the possibility to resolve long-term conflicts are possible.

Look at the cards surrounding Fortune when it comes up to help you relate its specific area of influence.

### **Some Standard Definitions:**

Luck; opportunity; good fortune; windfalls; success and failure; evolution and change; chance; harmony; balance.

### **Working with:**

As the wheel of life turns and we struggle to get to grips with it, gradually we learn the trick of getting things to go our way. Often we interpret this as luck - although we each make our own luck in life - good and bad! Fortune holds the secret of learning to harness the positive forces in life and to turn these to our advantage.

The very first thing we have to accept is that what we send out is what we get back; its form may be slightly altered, but it remains the fruit of our initial seeding thought. The next thing we have to accept is that good fortune is limitless; you don't take it from somebody else by receiving it yourself. There's more than enough abundance to go around in this Universe. And finally, you have to open yourself to receive your share.

Often we don't like to do this, for fear of disappointment or disillusionment. If we put our hopes on something and it doesn't materialise, does that mean we aren't 'good enough'? Rather than face that dichotomy, we often shut our minds altogether, with the result that we don't get the things we want and need.

When we get stuck in this kind of mind set, we might do well to remember that a day ruled by Fortune is one in which miracles should happen. It is a day to wish with all your heart for the things you need, and then to trust that as they fly out into the Universe, they take shape and prepare to return to you.

Be alert to chance meetings, opportunities and quirky happenings on this day. Fate has a funny way of rearranging things. Be open to receiving things that come as open-hearted gifts. And do the affirmation very often!!

**Affirmation: Great wealth, good health and happy fortune now flow into my life.**



Sky Paths Tarot

## Six of Disks

The 6 of Disks, or the Lord of Success, is a card full of the promise of bounty. When we have achieved a degree of inner confidence and self-belief, we release new streams of energy which create a powerful and rewarding reality around ourselves. New ideas are easy to implement. New projects are fruitful. We are energised and enthusiastic about the work we have in hand.



This level of productive harmony comes from a deep-rooted trust in the self. Once we simply allow our power to flow, we find ourselves capable of high levels of success and fulfilment. These things flow naturally as a reward for the hard work we have invested in ourselves.

The 6 of Disks merges the principles of balance and sharing inherent in the six, with the practical day-to-day solidity of the suit of Disks. Thus, you can see how this card couples the warm generosity of the number with the practical family orientation of the element. Remember, Disks not only relate to material security, but also to basic emotional security. The Earth influence affects all areas of physical life, including things, friends, sexuality, and familial feelings.

The Rider-Waite version of this card illustrates this point of view admirably. The card depicts a man, obviously wealthy, scattering coins to kneeling beggars, whilst holding a pair of scales in one hand. If you can recall, the [4 of Disks](#) implied a possibility of hoarding money. You can see that the six instructs

us in the correct way to deal with wealth; we should acquire enough to meet our needs and to allow for a certain level of comfort.

However, once that level of income is secured, we must then consider what we should do with the surplus. If we keep it to ourselves, we are failing to allow the other facet of the Earth element to shine through – that part which is connected with practical loving relationships with our fellow humans. Therefore, we may be said to be denying the natural flow of the Earth element in our lives, and that which is thwarted will eventually find another course to run. In this sense, we shall lose beneficial aid from a positive energy flow and end up on the receiving end of a negative flow. And so the wealthy man gives away his surplus coins to people who have far less than him, and in so doing, causes the natural flow of energy and ensures his positive supply.

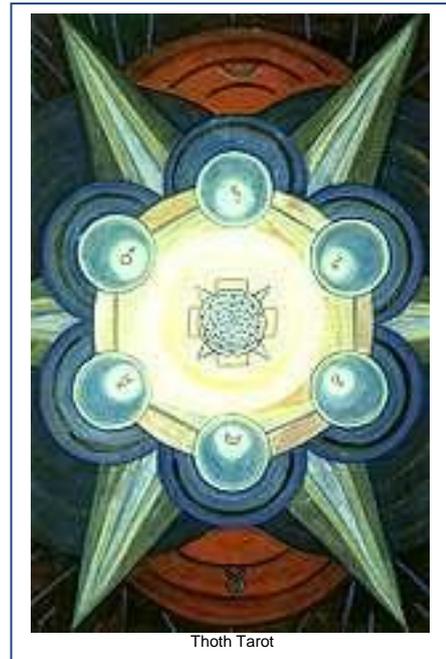
The Thoth deck version takes this love principle much further, thus revealing considerably more about the inner arcane knowledge connected with the suit of Disks. The card shows the Rose Cross symbol flowering on the equal armed cross. This symbol is an ancient and highly revered glyph, developed by the early mystery schools. The forty-nine petals of the rose each relate to a particular principle of 'good' living. The rose is taken to represent the Divine Spirit, which manifests within us as the Essence. The cross represents the four elements of earthly existence – Air, Water, Earth and Fire. The entire symbol is therefore read as the rose of spirit which flowers upon the cross of material life.

This is always considered to refer to the process of developing one's inner contact with the Higher Self to a point where one becomes master or mistress of life, with the ability to live from the Higher Self and to direct life in accordance with one's Will. Ultimately, Tarot is designed to reveal to the sincere seeker a total knowledge of the purpose and process of life.

The reason that the Rose Cross appears on this particular card is that this six indicates a deep understanding and awareness of man's interrelation with man. The spirit has already ascended to the point of balance from which he is most effective in incarnation. He has mastered the process of life for himself, and is now beginning to help others.

In a reading, the 6 of Disks will most often indicate success, usually of a lasting kind. Here we see the obstacles presented by the five overcome, and the querent is beginning to have a surplus. This card usually suggests material security, prosperity and established wealth. Sometimes it can be taken to indicate a generous act by the querent towards another person. Here you would expect to see a court card perhaps to indicate the recipient.

One thing to remember, with regard to this card, is that all wealth is relative. If you are used to a very high income, your idea of security and sufficiency will vary from the expectations of a lower-earning individual. This card does not indicate vast wealth. Rather, it indicates a position where one has more than is sufficient for his or her needs.



The more negative elements of the 6 of Disks are the result of hoarding instead of giving. They include threats to prosperity, possible losses in other areas (like love and affection), and warnings about meanness. You would determine which of these is appropriate by the cards which surround it.

Overall, this is an important and happy card, clearing away dark clouds and oppression. There is often, during a period like this, such good fortune that we end up with more than we actually need. If this happens to you, make sure that you continue to allow money (which is, after all, only energy) to keep flowing. Use the abundance that comes to you and be generous with your bounty. Ensure that others benefit appropriately from your abundance. That's the best way that you can thank the Universe for flowing with you.

### **Some Standard Definitions:**

Material success; gifts and presents; philanthropy; generosity; favours (both as gifts and as acts); successful business dealings; security; charity, charitable actions; present prosperity; desire; sufficiency.

### **Working with:**

The Lord of Success is a delicious card, indicating that we have achieved a natural state of inner balance and harmony which allows us to use our energies with neither diversion nor interference. More often than not, these energies are directed into practical channels – in the workplace and dealing with things in the home environment.

This is because Disks are about the more mundane aspects of everyday life, and about home and family. Some people see Disks as purely money related, but this is a misunderstanding of their deeper function. Rather than interpreting Disks purely in a financial context, we are better served by seeing them as relating to the basic nuts and bolts of security. This includes money and finances, of course, but also covers all sorts of other areas too – the basic trust and reliability of our friends and family, the nature of our home, the set of tasks which form our job. However, I digress ;-)

On a day ruled by the 6 of Disks, we need to be taking stock of our overall position in a practical sense. This is a day to sort out your bank accounts, check your credit card balance, look in your birthday book for upcoming important dates, and check what food you have in the

freezer. It's also a day to think about those people closest to you and consider how they've been doing recently.

The 6 of Disks indicates a practical, down-to-earth day where you look around and feel grateful for the things, creatures and people you have in your life. Everybody has something to be grateful for...and most of us have a lot to be grateful for. And on a day ruled by the Lord of Success, it's time to say thank you!

**Affirmation: I am blessed with the bounty of life.**

## All the Formal Bits

### Special thanks:

At the risk of sounding as though I have just received an Oscar, there really are so many people to say thank you to.

Firstly, to all and each visitor to Angel Paths over the years who have added to its strength, scope and community, I thank you sincerely.

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I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. May your days be lit with sunshine and your lives ever blessed.

Jan Shepherd

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