

Copyright 2020 © Josephine McCarthy

All rights reserved

Without limiting the rights under copyright reserved above, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in, or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise) without prior permission of the copyright owner and the publisher of this book.

Published by TaDehent Books 2020

Exeter UK

ISBN 978-1-911134-48-0

Cover image by Stuart Littlejohn

Typeset by Michael Sheppard

to the other areas of their life that are not working so well. It would be wise to take that opportunity to actively address family, relationships, and emotional issues properly to avoid the outcome being about legal conflict, harshness, and control.

It would be much better to transform that fate path through proactive, balanced, and fair actions so that the fate outcome of the Magician and the King of Swords can express through creativity: through the writing, communication (King of Swords), and systematization (Magician) of something. A perfect fate expression would be giving talks on how to approach financial success, as the person appears to have a good grasp of money, work, and power.

Event layout

QUESTION

“How will this divorce play out for me?” (The person is female.)

This simple layout can help a person not only to know what is coming, but it also gives insight into the underlying issue which caused the event. This can help the person gain a more balanced view of what is happening, why, and where it is going.

POSITION MEANINGS:

1. The current situation.
2. What is now past that contributed to the situation.
3. What triggered the current situation.
4. What the situation gives you.
5. What the situation takes from you.
6. How the situation will unfold.

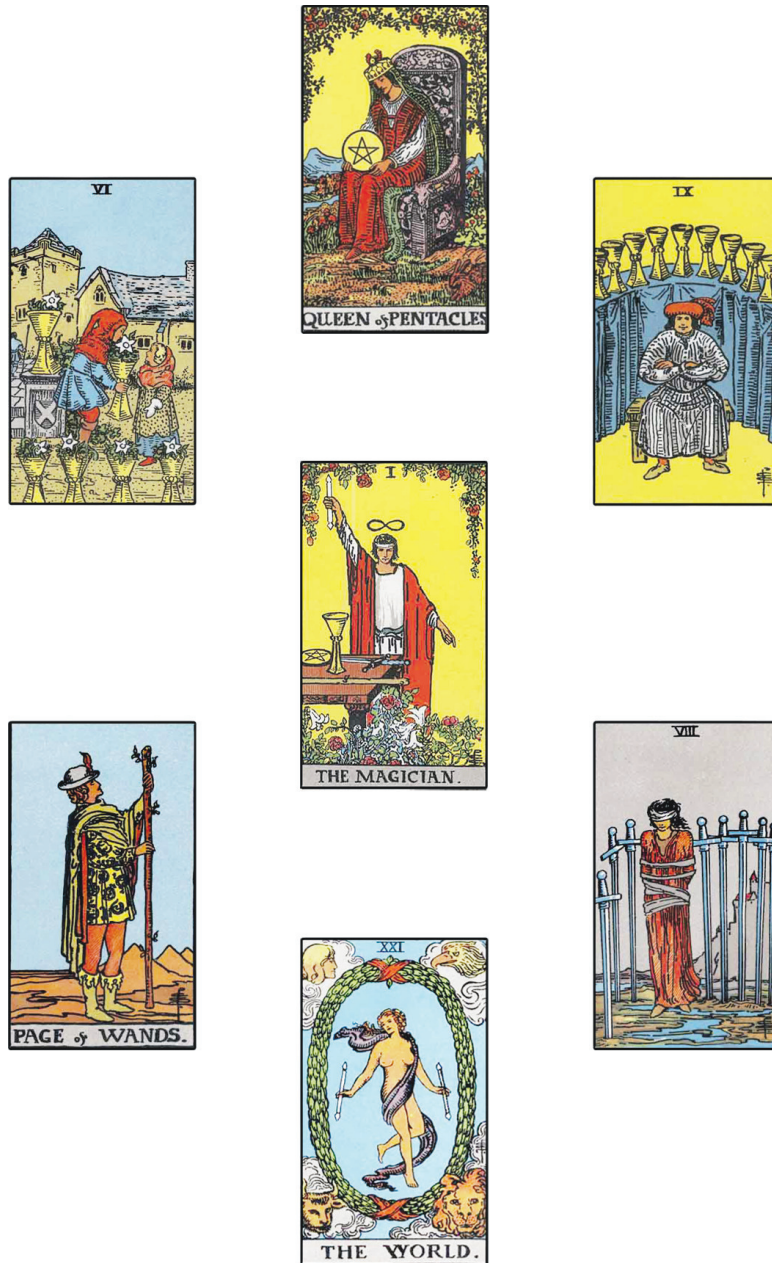


Figure 7.4: Event reading

7. INTERPRETATIONS OF LAYOUTS

7. The conclusion of the situation.

READING RESULTS

1. The Magician. The situation is about control, or a controlling person.
2. The World. The world that the person enjoyed no longer exists.
3. Page of Wands. Small, angry annoyances triggered the event.
4. Six of Cups. The event will provide the chance to move on.
5. Nine of Cups. What is taken away is comfort and stability.
6. Eight of Swords. It will happen by pain, constriction, and feeling helpless.
7. Queen of Coins. The conclusion of the event is stability and strong autonomy.

COMPLETE ANSWER

This woman wants to know how her divorce will play out, and the reading gives a few interesting insights. As she is asking, and it is her divorce, the first card shows her part in the current situation. The Magician tells a story of control and order, of trying to form something that they have power over. If she filed for divorce, then that is what this card is saying. If she didn't file for divorce, then it is likely that her need for control and order was a major factor in triggering the divorce.

What is now past (position two) is her world. Even though the divorce is in the early stages, the world she inhabited with her partner no longer exists. The house, car, and so forth may all still be there, but the actual day-to-day world that she identified with has now gone and cannot be returned to.

The trigger for the divorce, the Page of Wands, tells of either a child or an energy of small but continuous aggravating exchanges. The pages in general are difficult to read, as they can mean so many different things depending on context. In this context it could be a literal child, either a love child from outside the marriage who has come to the attention of one of the partners, or feuding between the partners over a child.

The Page of Wands in the context of this layout and question can also refer to small but ultimately destructive undermining behaviour, like nagging, putting the other partner down, and temper tantrums. A Page can mean 'small,' 'less,' and Wands are fire: so it is something small that ultimately burns away this couple's love and daily life. Small but continuous comments and actions that challenge or undermine another person will eventually damage a relationship. If you then look back at position one, the Magician, then you will start to see a pattern of control, order, and potential nagging or constant undermining.

The divorce gives this woman a chance to move on, often with a feeling of defeat. It is common for marriages to last far longer than they should, with both parties suffering needlessly. The whole idea of breaking up a marriage can be horrifying for people, but once it is done, they often find a whole new world ahead of them. When I see the Six of Cups in the fourth position in the layout, this is the dynamic I am seeing: moving on with a sense of defeat, yet this is a gift as yet unrecognized.

What is taken away from the person is shown in position five, the card of which is the Nine of Cups. The stability and sense of emotional security that comes from the relationship is destroyed by the divorce, which is no surprise, but it also points to a deeper sense of emotional wellbeing being damaged. When we draw our deeper

emotional stability from something outside ourselves, be it a partner, a child, or a job, then we are vulnerable to having that stability destroyed at some point. This will eventually force us to abandon seeking stability outside of ourselves. For this reading, I would say, after looking at all its cards, that the divorce is simply an outer symptom of a much deeper change that is going on.

The 'how it will happen' position has the Eight of Swords, which is a difficult card. The good side is that it is a minor card, but that still doesn't take away from the pain and struggle this card can represent. Whenever a reader is in doubt over the meaning of a card, it is good to refer back to its actual image, and that is particularly true of this card. The person is bound up, blindfolded, and surrounded by Swords. In this position with this question, it shows that the divorce would not unfold in the way the person thinks it will.

The first card, the Magician, suggests that this person is used to being in control. The Eight of Swords takes that control away completely. They are helpless, suffering, and surrounded by threat. In terms of fate, this is what is really necessary for this type of person in this situation: where a person's tight control has begun to destroy something, fate will teach you what it feels like to be on the other side of that tight control, to see if you get the message. Some do and learn from it and adapt their behaviour; others fall into victimhood and blaming others.

It is likely that in this divorce, the settlement will not be what the person wanted, and things will come out in the proceedings that take the power away from this person: a good lawyer may take them apart. It is also a warning card: everything in life is affected by how you stand before life's challenges and how you deal with them. If you act with integrity, then it is irrelevant how others behave or what nasty things are done to you or said about you: your integrity is not dependent on

what others give to you, it is about how you are as a human being. That strengthens you in the face of injustice, and helps you face your own injustice. This card in this situation binds and blinds the person *so that they can truly see.*

Let us see what this person potentially does in that situation. The outcome is the Queen of Coins. She is a lesser version of the Empress, and she is about autonomy, strength, creativity, and self-sovereignty. Once the divorce is done, the person will have a strong potential for really stepping into her own power, a power that is not dependant on controlling others, and which indeed is not dependant on others at all. She finally finds herself and becomes secure in that self. The Queen of Coins also indicates financial stability: not only will she find herself, but she will no longer be dependent on others for her resources.

It would appear that this person, through the suffering of her divorce, will learn a great many lessons; and though the situation will initially force her into a sense of defeat, this will actually be an evolutionary step that will bring her into a better place materially and within herself. The warnings of the reading are clear though, and it is up to the reader to outline those warnings: when it turns bad, do not lash out, but keep honest and always act with integrity. It is also important not to try and control the situation, but to be balanced and fair. By doing so, she will shed a skin and grow into a new and better one.

OBSERVATIONS FOR ESOTERIC STUDY

The pattern of the layout has a central column that tracks the event through time: present, past and future. Magically that would be a directional flow from north/past through the centre/present, to the future/south. How that flow of fate and time presents itself expresses

is through an X pattern, something you should be familiar with by now.

Position three/trigger is diagonal to position five, which represents what is taken away. Something that no longer serves a person's life or personality is brought to the surface usually through a trigger or series of trigger events. It is interesting to note magically that cause and effect are not always what they seem. It would be easy to say that the Page of Wands was the cause and the consequence is that the Nine of Cups is taken away. That would be logical.

However, fate is not often that tidy and obvious. From a magical perspective, looking deeper beyond the surface, a different picture can emerge. If a person has become so settled in a situation that they are starting to 'rot,' i.e. they are no longer evolving but are simply kicking back and enjoying the ride, then at times fate can trigger to kick you out of that comfort zone and push you back on the path through life.

Though at a mundane level the Page of Wands is identifiable as the trigger, at a deeper level it is the *symptom*: often the cause is what is to be taken away. The person became too comfortable and was becoming stagnant, which made them feel irritable. That dynamic made them snap at their partner a lot, which eventually degenerated into fights. The real cause was the comfort and stagnation, and that is what the divorce situation will take away from this person's fate.

The other arm of the X consists of position four/what it gives, and position six/how it will happen. Again, the dynamics between the two positions flow both ways in terms of cause and effect. Position six, how it will happen, shows what level of necessity flows to release what is given in position four. If the card in position six is a really tough one, as in this reading, then it shows the level of impact needed to push the person forward. The more dug in they are in terms of their lack of development, the more fate needs to kick them to get them out of their

comfort zone and move them forward. So looking at position six in relation to position four will tell you a lot about the deeper underlying issues within the person that fate is attempting to remedy.

PANICKED READING

In the reading the Eight of Swords is in position six, the loss of emotional stability in position five, and the loss of the world in position two. This is enough to panic most people who look at such a reading. However, as with all panic readings, it is wise to step back and look at where fate is taking you, what it gives you, and why it is happening.

That enables a person to understand that these painful life events are part of life's normal progression, and as in all panic readings, it is wise to look at the actual outcome. If a person can see the difficulties and, instead of panicking, they prepare to mitigate the worse of the event by adapting their behaviour, then the fear of disruption that causes the panic will be taken away. People do not like change, but change is a necessary part of life. The more we learn to change in a balanced way, the less it will threaten us when it turns up again.

INTERPRETATION AND ADVICE TO CLIENT

My advice to this woman, based on the reading, would be: "Things are not going to play out how you expect, and it could be a difficult time for you. But the whole situation will lead to a much better path ahead for you. You will come more into your power, and this will not depend on anyone else. The future shows you secure in your self-power and content with it: it is important to keep that in mind as you go through the divorce because how you handle the twists and turns of the divorce proceedings will have a direct effect on how strongly you come out the other side of it.

“I would seriously suggest the following: plan for financial loss in some areas of your life. They are not devastating, but they will be cumbersome if you do not prepare for them. When the divorce gets to the stage of negotiating terms and conditions, do not try to control the situation, do not get aggressive or fall into the blame game, and do not try to go beyond what is fair and honest.

“It is likely that the other party in the divorce will be aggressive and will not play fair, but do not get sucked into that as a battle. This part of life, in terms of fate, is about learning to let go. Let go of control, and let go of belongings, even if it means settling for something that is unfair to you. By doing this, you will release the pressure that has been building up within you, and it will cut away all those energetic ties that have been aggravating you at a deep level.

“As a result of letting things go, the fate incident of binding and suffering will manifest in lesser ways that are easier to cope with, and faster to recover from. Through loss in this situation, you will gain in the longer term. You will find your feet, have everything that you need, and will be emotionally and energetically in a much better place. It is better to lose wealth and lose face, but gain stability, strength, and necessary resources, than to win the fight but end up emotionally, mentally, physically, and energetically drained and battered. Fighting this battle would literally put you in the Eight of Swords: in suffering, bound up, and isolated. Walking away from the fight, or just accepting the terms, will give you a new stability and the resources that you need.