

# The Staves

## 1 OF STAVES

Element: Fire      Root: The Will, The Masculine, The Primal Energy

Associations: Dreams, Passions, Action, Deeds

Symbols: the phallus, the wand, the walking stick, the club, the twig

Astrology: Leo, Sagittarius, Aries

Basic Meaning: Creation, Birth, Action

Reversed: Plagerism, Decline, Ruin

A living, sprouting staff emerges from fire held in the hand of a higher power.

The 1 of Staves celebrates the overwhelming desire to create. Don't negate your ideas and inspiration. What are you not allowing to sprout?

Allow yourself to take action. Have an adventure. Make the blood in your veins run faster. Have courage to take a risk. Believe in yourself. Fire transforms mass into energy. Don't wait, use your Will to drive yourself into action. Just do it.

Seize the day. In the doing, you will find your answers.

## 2 OF STAVES

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Associations: Dreams, Passions, Action, Deeds

Symbols: the phallus, the wand, the walking stick, the club, the twig

Astrology: Leo, Sagittarius, Aries

Basic Meaning: Conflict, Decision, Initiative

Reversed: Trouble, Self-Doubt

Two burning, sprouting, crossed staves, one black, one white, with the globe of the world above them. The three classic colors of alchemy are present. The coarse material of the black is purified by the white to the ethereal, higher energetic material of red.

The 2 of Staves represents basic energies that either complement each other, or are at odds. You must take both energies into account. Solve conflicts through patient, thoughtful work. Have an open minded embrace of new ideas. What energies are in conflict in your life? What persuasive action can you take to make them compliment each other instead?

Have your own personal view of the world but don't mistake fantasy for reality. Have the willpower to overcome conflict. Be patient. Try again. The reward will be great.

The 2 of Staves is about the transformation of energy from question to answer.

## 3 OF STAVES

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Astrology: Leo, Sagittarius, Aries

Basic Meaning: Enterprise, Commerce. Momentum

Reversed: Improvement, Resolution

A golden river flows between the frog on shore who dreams of being king and the frogs on the lilies in the pond. The lily on the shore is a black stave sprouting flames. Out in the water, red and white flowering staves cast their reflection on the water. The ripples break the reflection into patterns. The world rises huge over the water. Does the frog want to get across the water or has he completed his journey to shore?

The 3 of Staves indicates momentum, creativity, and the forming of patterns that create the great whole. It speaks to us of our entrepreneurial spirit, our yearnings, and our golden fulfillment. Make plans, follow them, gain momentum, achieve. Where are you heading? What do you want to do?

Expand your horizons. Explore new paths. Be at home everywhere.



## 4 OF STAVES

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Symbols: the phallus, the wand, the walking stick, the club, the twig

Astrology: Leo, Sagittarius, Aries

Basic Meaning: Satisfaction, Stability, Partnership

Reversed: Insecurity, Falling Short

Four staves bloom in the foreground, festooned with flowers and fruit. Two squirrels munch happily on nuts. A fine home can be seen between them in the distance. Perspective is distorted. Is the house small and the staves large, or vice versa?

The 4 of Staves represents a vigorous celebration of the manifestation of our dreams. Take pride in your achievements, and rest satisfied and secure in the safe haven you have built for yourself. Pause, and appreciate what you have accomplished. For a moment, you have respite from responsibility.

The card also emphasizes the importance of partnership in your success. Both in the home and at work, collaboration will lead to fruitful productivity and achievement of your goals.

Do you have everything in the proper perspective? Do you need to reassess what is big and small, important and not? Are you out of sync with your important collaborators?



Preliminary sketch for the 4 of Staves

## 5 OF STAVES

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Astrology: Leo, Sagittarius, Aries

Basic Meaning: Play, Competition, Rebellion

Reversed: Trickery, Dispute, Litigation

Five staves tipped in flowers like flames. Five wolves play, or fight, or plot rebellion. The fire of their energy burns the night and licks the full moon.

The 5 of Staves is the intrinsic example of the element of fire and represents our Will in progress and development. This is the fire in which we hone our drives; a permanent flow of energy. It is the game of life. Competition challenges us to pursue new heights, to explore new territory, and gives us the internal strength to attain our dreams. What arduous tasks can you approach fresh, with a sense of playfulness, and thus accomplish with less struggle?

Add “play” to your daily routine and allow it to stimulate the manifestation of your dreams.

## 6 OF STAVES

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Associations: Dreams, Passions, Action, Deeds

Symbols: the phallus, the wand, the walking stick, the club, the twig

Astrology: Leo, Sagittarius, Aries

Basic Meaning: Teamwork, Unity, Leadership

Reversed: Pretension, Snobbery

Six perfectly crossed birch staves, flowering with the energies of life. The world is held in the scaffold they create. A victory laurel is wrapped around it.

Be a leader. Mobilize all the forces at your disposal. Part of being a good leader means that you inspire teamwork in others. Set worthwhile goals. Great leadership results in victory shared by many.

Be an active participant. Be engaged. Join forces. Respect the strengths, and intelligently mitigate the weaknesses of others. Ignoring or discounting weaknesses is not a productive way to deal with them. Celebrate your hard won gains and give credit to your team. Remember that family is also a team. Progress for one is progress for all.

Are you neglecting to respect the talents of your teammates?



Incomplete 6 of Staves

## 7 OF STAVES

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Symbols: the phallus, the wand, the walking stick, the club, the twig

Astrology: Leo, Sagittarius, Aries

Basic Meaning: Progress, Development, Valiance

Reversed: Victim-hood, Living in the Past, Passivity

The burning stave is able to block and hold firm against the six striking staves. The 7 of Staves is a warning against choosing to be a victim. Leave the past and its injuries behind; start new. Develop, make progress, achieve a new level in your struggles. Have the courage to move into a new stage of love.

The 7 of Staves is the burning branch that lets you hold off the terrors in the dark and move forward to the new dawn. Be strong. Overcome the monsters. Resolve to be defiant in the face of your fears.

Are you resisting progress and holding on to your scars so that you can indulge your trauma? Are you finding power in your victim? Are you using it to manipulate others?

Don't indulge your inner-victim. Be valiant against the night.



## 8 OF STAVES

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Associations: Dreams, Passions, Action, Deeds

Symbols: the phallus, the wand, the walking stick, the club, the twig

Astrology: Leo, Sagittarius, Aries

Basic Meaning: Effort, Energy, Awareness

Reversed: Quarrels, Conflict, Blockage

Eight staves form a ladder between earth and heaven. The fire salamander, his shape creating the figure 8 and the infinity symbol, climbs the ladder. He is the embodiment of energy and endless cycles of magnetism. Viewed another way however, the staves can be more like a fence or barrier, than a ladder.

Our individual energetic fields can block, or magnify, those of others. Combine your energy, without manipulation, with those you care for, or want to work with. Be the ladder, not the barrier.

Are you allowing your energies to work with another person, or are you blocking the work? If you are blocking it, pause, and consider why.

## 9 OF STAVES

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Associations: Dreams, Passions, Action, Deeds

Symbols: the phallus, the wand, the walking stick, the club, the twig

Astrology: Leo, Sagittarius, Aries

Basic Meaning: Determination, Courage, Perseverance

Reversed: Adversity, Disadvantage, Delay

An injured warrior with an arrow through the shoulder, pauses to water his weary steed but holds the flaming stave close to his heart, ready to continue the fight.

The 9 of Staves encourages us to have the courage to battle towards completion of our goals. We must have the vision, focus, and heart to continue on. We must be ready to change and grow even when we are beat down, exhausted, and disheartened. Take time to tend your wounds but then; fight on!

Are you loosing heart? Move through your difficulties with focus and strength.

## 10 OF STAVES

Element: Fire      Root: The Will, The Masculine, The Primal Energy

Associations: Dreams, Passions, Action, Deeds

Symbols: the phallus, the wand, the walking stick, the club, the twig

Astrology: Leo, Sagittarius, Aries

Basic Meaning: Drive, Momentum

Reversed: Obstacles, Responsibilities

The ten staves are the living woods, overwhelming, dense, yet full of possibility. Magical, yet dangerous, you do not know where the path will take you. The rainbow portal leads to another world, a new place in your life.

This card reminds us that sometimes, it can be all or nothing. That all our vital energies will be required to reach goals larger than ourselves. Sometimes you have to leave all the old ways behind and venture into unexplored territory.

Release your burdens. Sometimes you can't see the forest through the trees. Give your all. Follow your inclinations with your whole heart.

Are you holding on to things (feelings, hurts, responsibilities) that you shouldn't be?

## PAGE OF STAVES

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Associations: Dreams, Passions, Action, Deeds

Symbols: the phallus, the wand, the walking stick, the club, the twig

Astrology: Leo, Sagittarius, Aries

Basic Meaning: Decisiveness, Enthusiasm, Adventure

Reversed: Passivity, Indecision, Instability

Person: The Non-Conformist, The Mischief-Maker, Wild Card

Person Reversed: Conformist, Crowd Pleaser, Image Slave

The Page looks up at the sprouting staff that is bigger than himself. He holds onto it with both hands and lifts it high, as if in proclamation. He has a fairy plume on his cap and the fire salamander on his hand, reminding us of the energy he harnesses.

The Page is an inventor, an innovator, making something tangible from fire. He is the bearer of news that will precipitate action. His freedom is fundamentally important to him, even at great cost. He points the way to a new path or direction. He is a future leader.

He reminds us to grow beyond ourselves. He encourages us to seek adventure and to make decisive movements towards happiness. His youth encourages us to deal in an uncomplicated way with the passionate energies in our lives. Allow the joy of living and love to fill you.

Don't forget to be active in your pursuit of goals and happiness. Don't be passive, but don't overcomplicate things.



## KNIGHT OF STAVES

Element: Fire      Root: The Will, The Masculine, The Primal Energy

Associations: Dreams, Passions, Action, Deeds

Symbols: the phallus, the wand, the walking stick, the club, the twig

Astrology: Leo, Sagittarius, Aries

Basic Meaning: Intensity, Responsibility, Assertive Action

Reversed: Rupture, Discord, Impatience

Person: Instigator, Fire-Starter

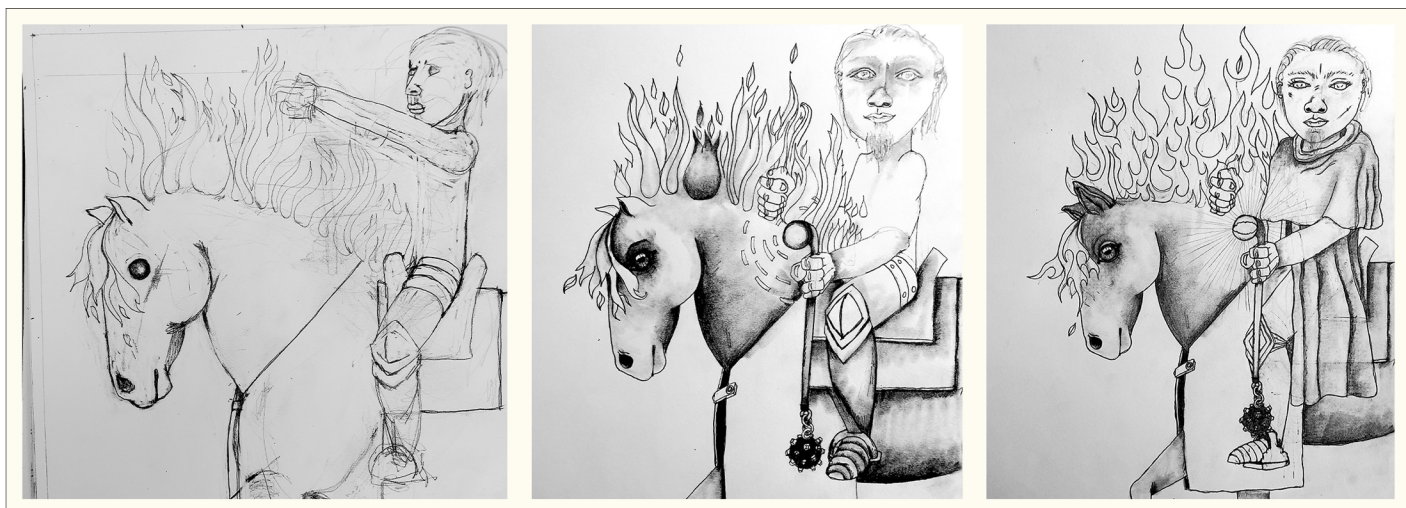
Person Reversed: Transformer, Conqueror, Despot

The Knight's stave is transformed into a flail and a cudgel from which an eye sees and a light beams. His horse's mane is fire and the salamander decorates his clothes. His is the burning of an assertive will.

The Knight of Staves brings light to the darkness. His is the expansive realm of the mind used to achieve his will. He sees clearly with insight and intuition. He exercises his will to impose his sense of order.

He enjoys a fight. Sometimes he is spoiling for it, and a diplomatic solution is a disappointment. It is hard for him to understand another's reticence or disagreement.

The Knight of Staves reminds you to act. About what are you hesitant? The knight is a drawer of consequences, a signifier of action. Action will show you the right path.



Alternate sketches for the Knight of Staves

## QUEEN OF STAVES

Element: Fire      Root: The Will, The Masculine, The Primal Energy

Associations: Dreams, Passions, Action, Deeds

Symbols: the phallus, the wand, the walking stick, the club, the twig

Astrology: Leo, Sagittarius, Aries

Basic Meaning: Creative Potential, Honorable Loving

Reversed: Opposition, Jealousy, Deceit

Person: Team Leader, Organizer, Manager

Person Reversed: Control Freak, Tyrant

The Queen holds a sprouting, flowering stave. She is both fierce and fertile. The royal lions and the crafty black cat have her back.

She reminds us to be undaunted by challenge. Use your creativity to seize success. Be a leader. Be independent.

This card embodies both the masculine (staves) and the feminine (the Queen), fire and water. It is, in one sense, a card of opposites, but can also be seen as the melding of both aspects of ourselves. She is the Warrior Queen. She has perfect mastery over deeds and drives, impulse and emotion. She is a survivor. She is crafty.

She believes in the highest potential of others but if they aren't delivering, she has no sympathy for dead weight.

Be confident in your creative potential. Bring forth new life.

How can you make your opponents and obstacles into allies and opportunity?

## KING OF STAVES

Element: Fire      Root: The Will, The Masculine, The Primal Energy

Associations: Dreams, Passions, Action, Deeds

Symbols: the phallus, the wand, the walking stick, the club, the twig

Astrology: Leo, Sagittarius, Aries

Basic Meaning: Force of Will, Straight Truth, Alchemy

Reversed: Inflexible, Unyielding, Mania

Person: Hero, Charismatic Leader, Crusader

Person Reversed: Domineering Controller, Strongman, Dictator

The King of Staves' fiery hair and beard signify the supremacy of his will and ardor. The black lions show his royal dignity. The salamander tells us he is immune to being burnt by the fire of his passions. They will not consume him, for he is the double masculine, double fire, straight and true. He embodies force of will, and thus can be unyielding, inflexible.

His will is limitless. He determines his own identity. He is restless and easily bored. Alpha male, benevolent dictator, he wants to be served and adored, and will provide a wonderful life for those he loves, and make life hell for those who displease him.

Be unafraid in your loving and find happiness in your fearless actions.

In what sphere of your life do you need to assert your will with clarity and straight forward action to achieve personal catharsis?



Alternate sketch for the King of Staves