

Putting the numerology into practice.

Four Aces, four tens.

You can tell a lot about a suit by comparing the ace with the ten. This shows you the point of origin, and the excess of a suit.

Wands is energy, they need to move, be grounded. Too many wands will lead to overwhelm, confusion (he can't see the way ahead) and creative block. That point where we keep ploughing on even though we know we aren't really being productive.

Cups is love- and we can't have too much true, unconditional love. There is a creativeness, an openness about the 10 of cups- we can feel the new start emerging from this card. Love begets more love.

Swords is the mind- and boy what a trap we can make of our own mind if we are not careful. Thoughts need to be expressed, and when we keep them in our mind- hoarding and running over and over the same thoughts they affect our mental, physical, and emotional health. That breakdown can be seen in the 10 of swords.

Pentacles is the physical world- and an excess of physical possessions is hoarding- of belongings, or money. I find the 10 of pentacles to be an overcrowded card, and the arch in the 10 reminds me of the arch in the ace- a desire to reconnect with a simpler experience.

Explore how each ace/10 combination feels to you.

Core 1's. A new start.

There are 11 core 1's (including 10s, magician, wheel, sun) in the deck. This is how many new starting points you get in a deck of 78 cards! I would include the Fool & World as well – so that's 13 new start cards.

What a gift from the Tarot! Perhaps a gentle reminder that each moon, week, each day, each breath is a new start in some form.

Constellations

It is relatively easy to understand the basic numerology- all the numbers 1-10 fit with some ease.

When we work with reducing numbers to single digits we create constellations, groups with a powerful connection that may not be obvious at first sight.

Try to find a phrase, keywords, link that works for all the cards in each constellation.

I'm sharing mine- for reference, this is an exercise in understanding the cards rather than a definitive list.

1 /10/19

The need for a new start.

Some of the cards show overwhelm and burden, others safety and security, with the aces & magician more clearly showing the moment of the new start.

Tarot teaches us that life is movement, and once we find that place of comfort and safety (sun) the trick is to know when to move on.

2/11/20

Through duality I seek balance.

2: black & white pillars.

11: pillars, and the scales.

20: heaven & earth.

There is a "push me, pull me" kind of tension in each of these cards. The tension of potential as yet unformed. We can become caught in the space between, it is too easy to pause and stay in the peace of the High Priestess, or the fear of the 2 of wands.

3/13/21

A moment of creation.

Each of the minor 3's show what can be achieved within the suit (and do read the positive aspect of the 3 swords).

Its fascinating to see the Empress, Hanged man and World in one constellation.

The Empress and the World are perhaps more obvious moments of creation. The Hanged Man is the moment of surrender, when we let go of who we think we are and allow ourselves to step into who we really are. When we let go of conditioning and societies expectations and allow ourselves to really be ourselves.

4/13

Certainty

Isn't it curious to see Death and the Emperor so closely linked, yet when we see the Emperor in the Death card, we see how he is toppled.

The emperor has the early sense of certainty- but the only real certainty is death. To live well is to have made peace with your own mortality.

I almost want to whisper to each of the minor 4's, it is only temporary- for nothing remains unchanged with time.

5/14.

Understanding the bigger picture.

Ha! How I laughed to see my nemesis in the tough love constellation of 5's

From the stability of the 4's, we now have to roll with the punches and see life from a bigger perspective. Whether that is letting go of grief, working hard to get ahead, leaving home to go to school or university, or getting a taste of bliss in Temperance- and still carrying on with the everyday life.

6/12

Juggling relationship dynamics

Ok, this is probably the constellation that makes THE MOST SENSE, after all Arthur Waite redesigned the Lovers card to reflect the Devil card.

Each one of the 6's shows an unequal relationship. Is it good? Is it bad? Depends on the card, the question, and the other cards in a spread.

7/16

Anything is possible

I struggled with this constellation-from Chariot to the Tower- success to destruction!

The 7's are somehow unexpected, magical, yet chaotic. (love a 7!), the sheer difference between the 7's perfectly expresses the essence of a 7.

8/17

Hope.

I sat with this a while, Strength and Star are such kind, hopeful cards. The apprentice working so diligently, the 8 of cups leaving behind all his upright cups, the 8 of swords peeking beneath her blindfold.

The position of star in the majors.

Only one word bridged all of these. They are all cards of hope.

9/18

I know what I need to do.

Interestingly when I sat with this constellation the word that came to me was “Alone”.

There is a toughness to the 9’s, a testing. With the 9 of wands & swords we have come to a point where something must be done, with the pentacles & cups we see manifesting in action.

Yet each of the 9’s either shows a person alone, or no-one at all. And whilst this is true of other constellations, the way the cards are designed seemed to heighten the feeling of alone.

“Alone” felt a little harsh, my sentence with the double “I” is perhaps just a little softer.