

VII THE CHARIOT

Key Words: *Cancer; new beginning, change for the good; introspection, meditation, spiritual path.*

The driver sits in meditation posture in a chariot which has not yet begun to move. He is clothed in golden armor and is meditating on the Holy Grail which is rotating in his hands. The Grail symbolizes the Wheel of Fortune. The driver is examining all possible consequences before daring to set the chariot in motion on a new beginning, for once the driver has chosen to start, there is no turning back. Nothing will be able to arrest the journey.

This card refers generally to imminent new beginnings. It can point to a journey, or the start of some new phase (relationship, living situation, job) of life. Nothing should be decided precipitously. Everything requires exact examination and preparation. But once all the groundwork is done, the new start should not be put off unnecessarily. Everything points toward favorable developments.

The driver's armor is golden and set with ten crystals. It is a symbol of Cancer's protective shell, providing shelter and protection for the inner transformation (the color gold) and the development of clarity (crystals). In times of breakthrough or new beginnings you need the protection and support of a loving atmosphere which provides a sense of safety and security. The oncoming change brings with it much excitement and unrest. This is a time to avoid chaotic, disorganized, or loveless relationships.

The new start leaves behind the boring routine of daily life. Inspiration and ideas abound, and expand your areas of activity. This is symbolized by the concentric blue circles in the background. You are now in a position to engage successfully in many different activities. This variety of activity will enrich and stimulate you. Despite the bustle, your highest goal will not be forgotten. The road upon which the chariot stands is paved with golden stones. This is the regal path travelled by every spiritual seeker in search of self-knowledge and inner transformation.

The four sphinxes (bull, lion, person, eagle) are the energies which will set the chariot in motion. They have exchanged heads and bodies and assist each other. Once the right direction is chosen, their energies will combine and be set in motion to assure successful progress. Your trust in your own powers and perceptions will grow.

Indication: *The oncoming change promises to lead to a positive phase of your life. Ready yourself, put your affairs in order, examine the possibilities. You will leave much behind.*

Questions: *What area of your life will be changing? Are you ready to ring out the old and ring in the new?*

Suggestion: *Seek or create for yourself a loving, secure environment. There you can plan the change or journey. Your body also needs attention and activity now.*

Affirmation: *I am putting my life in order and preparing for the new beginning.*

Motion or change and identity or rest are the first and second secrets of nature: Motion and Rest. The whole code of her laws may be written on the thumbnail. - Emerson

The Chariot represents the universal principle of change and causation. Taoist philosophy states that change is successful when both "the great rooted tree by the flowing river" are combined within a natural setting. This Oriental nature metaphor is a reminder that during times of change it is necessary to incorporate in equal proportion the qualities of quietude (the great rooted tree) with activity (the flowing river). The Chariot depicts a figure in contemplation or quietude sitting within a chariot readied for activity.

The Chariot illustrates that change is pervasive in that it touches every individual multi-dimensionally, which is pictured by the four pillars, the four wheels, and the four animals - all of these symbols represent the four elements or the elemental aspects of who we are mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. The charioteer holds the Wheel of Fortune in his or her hands reminding us that through choice we have the ability to select fortunate, positive, and abundant changes for ourselves. In times of contemplating the changes that we want to make, it is important for us to assess which changes will assist our growth and evolution and which ones will be nurturing, comforting, and supporting to us at this point in time. The choice of selecting change that is fortunate, and nurturing is not only revealed by the spinning Wheel of Fortune, but it is also represented by Cancer, the crab, which is sitting on the charioteer's head. The ten crystals on the figures' golden armor also serve as reminders of clear choices made in the past. The number 10 corresponds with the Wheel of Fortune; therefore, the ten crystals are fortunate changes that an individual has made and thus carries past memories of those changes within the heart and torso of self. These crystalline motivating memories remind us that change is an opportunity for creating new realities that expand and deepen our nature.

PRINCIPLES OF CHANGE MOVEMENT COMBINATION OF STILLNESS-ACTIVITY

The four animals in front of the chariot are symbolic representations of the essential ingredients that are necessary for implementing the kinds of changes that are important personally and professionally. These ingredients are: 1) like Taurus (the bull's head and feet), it is important to see tangible results; 2) like Leo (the lion's head and feet), all change requires that we access qualities of our creativity that we have not touched before, and the mutation of combining the bull's head with the lion's feet and the lion's head with the bull's feet illustrates that creativity (Leo, the lion) always wants to come into some tangible and useable form (Taurus, the bull); 3) like Aquarius (the human's head and feet), all changes demand that we risk and initiate something new; and 4) like Scorpio (the bird's head and feet), successful change requires that we follow what has heart and meaning. The mutation of combining the human head with the bird's feet and the bird's head with the

human's feet illustrates that in initiating anything new (Aquarius, the human head and feet), it is important to follow what has heart and meaning (Scorpio, the bird).

Change is magical, like the Abracadabra writing on the canopy of the chariot. When we combine our emotional nature (the blue, oceanic canopy) with our mind and life force (the white air and uncontainable wind), we can produce tangible results (the earth animals) that have been fired and stimulated by the motivating force of intuition (the fire chariot).

Change is for the purpose of reminding us of who we really are. The yellow brick road is the royal road of spiritual growth and evolution. Our choices during times of change are ultimately correct and motivate a deeper commitment to the original purpose of personal and transpersonal existence.

The Chariot as a Life-Time Symbol

For those individuals whose birthday adds up to the number 16 or 7, the Chariot represents your life-time spiritual symbol. Chariot people need variety and are successful in executing multiple tasks at the same time. If this is your life-time spiritual card, change and variety are necessary components in your life. For you, it is not a question of what it is that you want to do, but how many things you can do simultaneously. You can stay in one situation, personally or professionally, if it provides the variety and challenge that you need and want. You are constantly balancing your needs for quietude and activity and implementing changes in your life that are both nurturing and fortunate.

There are five times out of the year where it is essential that you experience movement, change, and activity in your life which are represented by Cancer, the crab and the four animals in front of the chariot. Those months of the year are: 1) Aquarius (January 21- February 21), which is the most restless time of year for you; therefore, it is a good month to initiate new projects or do something entirely different. This is represented by the human head and human feet in front of the Chariot, 2) Taurus, the bull (April 21 - May 21) is your most active and productive month, It is a time to implement and produce in tangible ways that which is important to you. 3) Cancer, the Crab (June 21 - July 21) is an important time to actively nurture, comfort, and support yourself. It is an essential time to support Your needs for quietude, nurturement, and reconnection with family and extended family 4) Leo, the lion, (July 21 - August 21) is the time to be open to new creative opportunities, to explore avenues of your creativity that have been dormant, and to dynamically express your creativity without reservation. 5) Scorpio, the bird (October 21 - November 21) is the best time of year to make emotional decisions or to act upon what has heart and meaning for you. The Scorpio month allows you to make emotional decisions that are important to you which ignite and motivate the need for new experiences in Aquarius, find you busy and productive in Taurus, actively nurtured in the month of Cancer, and open to new opportunities and creative expression in the month of Leo.

With the Chariot as your life-time spiritual symbol, you enjoy family and home for the stability that it provides; you love to travel and do multiple things at the same time. You are a natural generator, motivator, and stimulator. You have an equal love for quietude and activity. If things become too boring in relationships or in work, you will generate change to break the monotony. For you, movement and quietude in combination are essential. Too much quietude is intolerable and dull. Activity that produces unseen results is anxiety-producing. Change is important as long as it produces some kind of tangible result.

The Chariot as a Growth Symbol

During the Chariot year (a year where your birthday plus the current year adds up to 7), is the best year to move, relocate, travel, or make career changes. Persons in their Chariot year experience changes tied with the family and the home, which could be a move, or to remodel or redecorate the house or to have people move in or out of the home. Career changes or promotions are not unexpected events during a Chariot year. In hindsight, the changes that take place during a Chariot year are ultimately positive and expansive changes which further personal and professional growth and development.

Your Chariot year requires that you make changes that are nurturing and fortunate in all arenas of your life. Cancer people, anyone born June 21 - August 21, will function as mirrors to you as to what is needed for your personal and professional growth; or, the month of Cancer could be a time where it is important for you to entertain activities which support and nurture the deepest core of who you are.

The Chariot as a Visual Affirmation and Meditative Symbol

The Chariot supports the integration of quietude and activity in your life. It is the best symbol to use to support desired changes that involve moving, traveling, or making career changes. If you desire to make changes that are positive and nurturing, the Chariot is an excellent symbol to use in meditation or within creative visualization exercises to assist your process.

Sample Affirmations To Use While Looking at The Chariot

I stimulate and motivate others positively.
I am responsible for what I cause.
I accomplish things effortlessly and well.
I enjoy the combination of quietude and activity