

“The beautiful souls are they that are universal, open, and ready for all things.”

Montaigne

The Minor Arcana:

Prior to the Waite deck, the Minor Arcana was considered to be about the mundane or seemingly less important aspects of life, with the Major Arcana almost exclusively used when serious or more weighty issues were being considered. However, over the last hundred years the Minor Arcana has become more integrated into readings and is now considered to be equally as important as the Major Arcana.

The Minor Arcana cards represent the issues and situations involving daily life: Work, worries, hopes, dreams, people, and the dramas that surround us.

It is in these areas all of life's lessons are learned.

The Minor Arcana is made up of four suits that depict the specific elements and energies in play:



Fire Energy:

WANDS

Creative force – business – enterprise – new projects. Wands and the element of *Fire* represent *ideas, activities, enterprises and getting things done.*



Earth Energy:

PENTACLES

Material issues and forces – all things having to do with activities or manifestations on the physical level including general well-being including issues of health, money and work. *Pentacles represent material and physical reality.*



Water Energy:

CUPS

Feelings and experiences; this is the element of emotions, desires, memory, intuition and psychic awareness. *Cups represent the psychic and emotional sphere.*



Air Energy:

SWORDS

Mental activities - ideas – studies - fears – projections. *Swords represent the intellect and rational understanding.*

Wands supply the fire and drive behind achievement and attainment of goals and are grounded by the earth of Pentacles. The sentiment and emotions of the Cups tempered by the calm, cool reason of Swords lends rationality to sentimentality and brings logic to feelings.

Practical application of the tarot can help us look at and deal with constantly fluctuating energies and situations. Instead of moving from one crisis to another, we can use the tarot to focus on issues in real time and to understand that the future is built on the ever-present and always changing *now*.