

Wands.

Now all suits are equal, and we shouldn't have favourites. But I apologise because Wands is my favourite suit!

Just recapping the basics.

Wands is masculine (active), and linked to both the element of fire and the psychology of intuition (seeing the bigger picture, abstract thinking).

Exploring a little more widely.

The suit of wands can be hard to express. Its easier to talk about feelings (cups), express our thoughts (swords) or talk about what we are doing (pentacles).

Wands is energy, passion, will, drive, determination, inspiration.

Fire is transformational (everything will change with heat or light at some point), needed for light, heat, and to transform substances so we can better use them.

Fire/Wands is connected with the solar plexus- the divine inner fire where we can safely say "I want" because our wants are in alignment with our higher guidance- the crown chakra, also connected with the suit of wands/fire.

A clear symbol for the solar plexus is the sunflower, which can be found on the Queen of Wands & Sun cards.

The problem with fire is it needs to be controlled, in a safe space (which is why the 4 of wands is such a positive card- fire is strongest when it is within a safe space). Out of control fire/wands is destructive, leading to burn out (take a look at the 10 of wands).

Burning a building down, or a town- "raze to the ground" is to destroy totally, with historical links to the burning of cities. Wands can be a destructive anger that can destroy.

We use words connected to fire/heat a lot in everyday life, and these can give us an interesting insight into the suit.

"In heat" linked to sexuality

“Hot headed” Aggressive, with a strong sense of their own opinion (strong will).

“Fire water” Another name for whisky, as it tends to make people aggressive.

We are starting (hopefully) to get a feel of the raw power that is the suit of wands, and needs the other four suits to allow this power to be manifested in the physical world.

There is a **spiritual element** to the suit of wands, particularly when associated with the crown chakra.

For me this is a suit of magic (rather than magical which is pentacles- more on that when we get to pentacles).

Magic (traditional rather than performance) is when we influence the physical world through intention, or focused will. This can be through affirmations, spell work, or the carefully weaving of words to influence a person’s decision (take a look at Derren Brown). Never under estimate the sheer power of someone with a defined and focused will.

Reading tarot intuitively/psychically (with information coming through the crown chakra) is different to reading tarot empathically (with information coming through the third eye- linked to the suit of cups).

Understanding the narrative between the suits is important.

So far I have used Rachel Pollacks concept of manifesting:

Wands-Inspiration

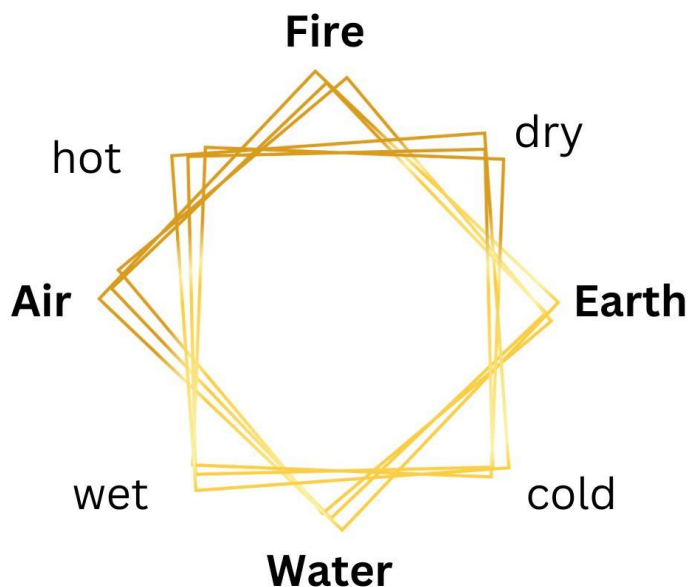
Cups- Emotional connection

Swords- Logical understanding

Pentacles – Manifestation.

Now I’m going to introduce two other ways of understanding the suits (because there is no one “correct” way.) If they help you, fantastic. If they don’t work for you- that’s fine. Come back later, revisit.

Elemental (occult magical)



In this diagram Fire and Water are opposing- having nothing in common, and air and earth are opposing- having nothing in common.

So these pairings can cause a paralysis, as they are pulling in opposite directions.

When two elements share a quality they “dignify” or support each other.

Some people find this system very helpful, and apply it to readings with great success. For others it interrupts the more intuitive flow of a reading.

I will only pay attention to this if I feel drawn to. Every now and again the opposing nature of the elements in a reading catches my eye, and I run with it. Normally its not something I pay much attention to.

Psychological

Based on the Myerrs-Briggs system we covered in the last module;

Wands (iNtuition) is opposing Pentacles (sensation)

Cups (feeling) is opposing Swords (thinking)

This is something I pay attention to- what is the main psychological thrust of a reading. Is someone head strong and determined, thoughtful and logical, heart centred and emotional, or practical.

Remember there is no perfectly right or wrong way to understand the suit of wands, I've tried to share various angles so you can find the best way for you to understand this suit.