



HELLO - START HERE!!

This is a Work In Progress

What is this?

I am currently in the process of revisiting all the **Tarot of Plants** work I've created in the last decade and bringing it into (yet) another form.

the plan is for another **Tarot of Plants deck** (*unnamed 3rd edition*) to be released in **October 2025** with an accompanying **guidebook** and right now, ***this is the bones of that guide...***

I'm doing a deep dive into tarot meanings, plants and their connection to each other in order to prep for writing the final version of this guidebook. But because i get so many questions on why i connected a certain plant to a specific card i thought it might be helpful for you, dear human, to have access to this information in the meantime.

this information is not set in stone

this is a google doc so it will change and transform over time. information may become more or less coherent. parts may be missing and then added in, and parts that never quite fit in the first place may be let go. I dump a lot of webpages that seem like they might have promising tidbits to go back and reference later. sometimes i pull out text from sources to fact check my own writing, and sometimes i use it so i can begin to write.

this is quite a personal phase of the writing process, and as i invite you in, remember ***you are witnessing something that isn't done unfolding...***

So are there Card Meanings here?

yes and **no**.

this the **working file** for a future guidebook. so if the meaning you're looking for is written and complete, you'll probably find what you're looking for. if it's a card i'm still in the process of working on— the information you're looking for might be a little more loose. there can be disjointed and unfinished sentences. lots of links but no writing. a sentence that just reads "i wish i knew more about this plant." Some cards I haven't even gotten to at all so they're not available yet, and you won't find a meaning for those— yet.

i am actively working on this so check back and see what is new. this is a living, breathing document that i will be dabbling away at for the next few months.

thank you for all your support and enthusiasm over the years.

if you need to reach out feel free to email me **heather@emptyandamazing.com**

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www.emptyandamazing.com



Dandelion, the Fool

0 the Fool : Dandelion

REFERENCES

[Wikipedia - Taraxacum](#)

[Wikipedia - Taraxacum officinale](#)

[Biddy Tarot - the Fool](#)

[Herbal Academy - A Family Herb : Dandelion](#)

[Coastal Maine Botanical Garden : For the Love of Dandelion](#)

[A Modern Herbal - Dandelion](#)

[Colorado School of Clinical Herbalism - Dandelion and its Constituents](#)

[Labyrinthos - the Fool Meaning](#)

[International Herb Symposium - The Amazing Story of Dandelion Ethnobotany](#)

[Rosemary Gladstar : Dandelion Medicine](#)

PLANT NOTES

- The dandelion is a **well known** plant
- And perhaps, next to grass, one of the most **easily recognized** botanical friends.
- “a sea of **cheery yellow blooms**.”
- an early flower, important for **pollinator forage**.
 - “As an early springtime food, dandelions provide important nourishment for bees (Hayes, 2014).” - [Herbal Academy - A Family Herb : Dandelion](#)
 - “More often than not, they’re the first flower of spring” - [Coastal Maine Botanical Garden : For the Love of Dandelion](#)
 - “Even though dandelion pollen is of poor nutritional quality for honey bees, they readily consume it, and it can be an important source of nutritional diversity in heavily managed monocultures such as that of blueberries.” - [Wikipedia - Taraxacum officinale](#)
- The Dandelion is known for its **medicinal properties**.
 - “Dandelion has been used in traditional medicine in Europe, North America, and China” - [Wikipedia - Taraxacum officinale](#)
 - “The leaves of the common dandelion have been used as a diuretic in traditional Chinese medicine for approximately 2,000 years, with other regions of the world using the plant in the same way; in French, a common name for *T. officinale* is *pissenlit*, 'a colorful description of its diuretic activity.'” - [Wikipedia - Taraxacum officinale](#)

"The Latin specific epithet *officinale* refers to the Latin word for 'medicinal' or 'of the apothecaries'." - [Wikipedia - Taraxacum officinale](#)

- It can be a friend to your **liver** - something we see hinted at by the color of the flower and the law of similarities.

"Also, dandelion's beneficial action on the liver can be of help for balancing hormonal production and clearing skin conditions such as acne and eczema (Gladstar, 1993 & Tilgner, 1999)." - [Herbal Academy - A Family Herb : Dandelion](#)

"as a powerhouse liver and kidney tonic, it acts as a diuretic, so wastes are removed quickly from the body" - [Coastal Maine Botanical Garden : For the Love of Dandelion](#)

- helps **digestion**. it's a bitter.

"Often looked to by our ancestors as a spring food to wake up the digestion after a long winter, the bitter flavor of dandelion leaf and root helps to stimulate digestion and the flow of digestive juices. This action helps the body to better break down and absorb nutrients from food." - [Herbal Academy - A Family Herb : Dandelion](#)

"As a bitter herb, it stimulates the digestive system, causing you to absorb nutrients from your food more efficiently so that less metabolic waste is generated" - [Coastal Maine Botanical Garden : For the Love of Dandelion](#)

"*Taraxacum* is derived from the Arabic word *tarakhshagog* (or *tarakhshaqūn*) for a bitter herb" - [Wikipedia - Taraxacum officinale](#)

- an edible **food** plant.

"The plants introduced to North America, originally as a food crop" - [Wikipedia - Taraxacum officinale](#)

- a **coffee substitute** & makes wine

"The plant has several culinary uses: the flowers are used to make dandelion wine, the greens are used in salads, the roots have been used to make a coffee substitute." - [Wikipedia - Taraxacum officinale](#)

- grows in **disturbed** and **less than ideal** areas.

"The dandelion is a common colonizer of disturbed habitats, both from wind blown seeds and seed germination from the seed bank. The seeds remain viable in the seed bank for many years, with one study showing germination after nine years." - [Wikipedia - Taraxacum officinale](#)

"Another added benefit is the vivacious taproot which can help to break up hard, compacted soils (Hayes, 2014)." - [Herbal Academy - A Family Herb : Dandelion](#)

"Dandelion thrives in conditions of elevated carbon dioxide, growing to a higher biomass and producing a larger number of viable seeds. Therefore, it is

anticipated that dandelion will become more competitive and widespread as atmospheric carbon dioxide levels increase.” - [Wikipedia - Taraxacum officinale](#)

“It may be related to the Greek word ταράσσω (*tarasso*) meaning to disturb” - [Wikipedia - Taraxacum officinale](#)

via [Wikipedia - Taraxacum officinale](#)

- “*T. officinale* can serve as an indicator plant for soil potassium and calcium, as the plant favours soils with relatively low concentrations of calcium, but favours soils with relatively high concentrations of potassium.”

via [Herbal Academy - A Family Herb : Dandelion](#)

- “The tenacious nature of dandelion, with it’s strong deep reaching taproot, suggests some of the ability dandelion has to help us be healthy and strong in our own right.”

CARD NOTES

- The fool is a card of **beginning**.
“new beginnings, opportunity and potential” - [Biddy Tarot - the Fool](#)

“The Fool generally means a beginning of a new journey, one where you will be filled with optimism and freedom from the usual constraints in life.” - [Labyrinthos - the Fool Meaning](#)
- Of **pure energy**.
- the **feeling of presence**.
- Of being.
- It is a raw moment of existence - fresh and **new**.
- the time is **now**.
“The time is NOW! Take that leap of faith, even if you do not feel 100% ready or equipped for what is coming” - [Biddy Tarot - the Fool](#)
- There is **innocence**, there is **naivety**.
“Consider him a blank slate, for The Fool has yet to develop a clear personality. He is the symbol of innocence” - [Labyrinthos - the Fool Meaning](#)

“He leads a simple life, having no worries, and does not seem troubled by the fact that he cannot tell what he will encounter ahead.” - [Labyrinthos - the Fool Meaning](#)

"The Fool is your invitation to relax, play, and have fun. Treat life like one big experiment and feel yourself in the flow of whatever comes your way." - [Biddy Tarot - the Fool](#)

- **There is curiosity**

"The Fool encourages you to have an open, curious mind and a sense of excitement" - [Biddy Tarot - the Fool](#)

"He inspires courage, for he understands that every day is a chance to open up new areas in your life, and with that comes a mixture of anticipation, wonder, awe and curiosity. The Fool is there to show that you can never really tell what lies ahead, and you can only greet it with joy." -

[Labyrinthos - the Fool Meaning](#)

- **a carefree release.**

- "The image I see of the Dandelion/Fool is its seed. They accept the unknown and ride the winds of change. They don't need to know the destination, however they are innately equipped to live once they get there."

"Throw caution to the wind and be ready to embrace the unknown, leaving behind any fear, worry or anxiety about what may or may not happen. This is about new experiences, personal growth, development, and adventure." - [Biddy Tarot - the Fool](#)

- **an acceptance of the unknown.**

- **and not knowing.**

"Even though you don't know exactly where you are going, you are being called to commit yourself and follow your heart, no matter how crazy this leap of faith might seem to you. Now is a time when you need to trust where the Universe is taking you." - [Biddy Tarot - the Fool](#)

"Throw caution to the wind and be ready to embrace the unknown, leaving behind any fear, worry or anxiety about what may or may not happen. This is about new experiences, personal growth, development, and adventure." - [Biddy Tarot - the Fool](#)

"Any time you experience fear, remember the essence of The Fool as he encourages you to acknowledge that fear and do it anyway! You never know what the future holds, but like The Fool, you must step into the unknown, trusting that the Universe will catch you and escort you along the way. Take a chance and see what happens." - [Biddy Tarot - the Fool](#)

- It is hard to explain energy because it also just is a state of "is".

- **the fool is a minimalist**

- "This clearing nature does have something in common with the Fool - who exists in a clear space. They only have a small satchel to take with them on their adventures. Whatever happened before is no longer relevant."

"Do you think you need to have everything mapped out before you can begin? No way! Not with The Fool. He ventures out on his journey with just his

essential belongings - and now he invites you to do the same" - [Biddy Tarot - the Fool](#)

WRITING

every story has a beginning. a starting point a place where something spontaneously becomes something. reality is complex, but we need a simple staring point. everything has a beginning. everything has a point where life becomes infused. and while complexities inherently build, and acknowledgements of events happening before this "start" point float into our peripheries— we're not at that moment yet. for now we are clearly, and solidly in the present. a state of being that is interlocked with the small sliver of time that is now.

that is the realm that the Fool begins in : card number 0 in the Tarot. it is the start of a story. the start of an adventure. a place where we are invited to let the sun hit our face and exist in a forward motion. the exact direction we're going in is still to be determined. but that's not the point. the point is we're moving.

and much like the Fool, the Dandelion is a plant that marks the beginning of something coming to life after a period of quiet rest. Dandelions show their sunny faces when the warmth of Spring is clearly in the air. They put on a much needed show of life after a season of stillness. There is a cheeriness that we can feel within ourselves when we see it's yellow blooms— an impressive feat for something we humans love to label as a weed. But Dandelion wasn't always an America's Most Wanted villain. It arose as a friend and a caretaker long before it's rebranding as a nuisance.

 Grass, Magician

I the Magician : Grass

REFERENCES

[Biddy Tarot - The Magician](#)
[Labyrinthos - The Magician](#)
[Wikipedia - Lawn](#)
[NSF - Are Our Lawns Biological Deserts?](#)
[Scientific American - The American Obsession with Lawns](#)
[There Were No Fences - The Importance of Grasses](#)
[CWEP - The Importance of Native Plants](#) (lawn/grass root picture)

[Lawn People : How Grasses, Weeds, and Chemicals Make us Who We Are](#)
[The Lawn : A History of an American Obsession](#)

PLANT NOTES

- **Everyone interacts with grass.**
- Having a lawn doesn't attract a botanist - it attracts an "every kinda working class person".
- It is accessible.
- somehow everyone feels like this is attainable gardening- with its pesticides and weekly trims.
- It is **simple** - even if it is quite complicated if you stop to think.
- It's the building block of it all - much like with the Magician.
- **Native grass expands landscapes.**
- It exists in **both** a **native** situation and an **invasive** one.
- Upright and Reversal meaning ???
- It is complicated to pull apart all the different cultivars and varieties- and yet, most folks can ID a grass.

"A study of residential lawns at National Science Foundation (NSF) Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) sites bordering Phoenix, Baltimore, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Miami, Boston and Los Angeles found that lawn maintenance is contributing to a continental-scale ecological homogenization." - [NSF - Are Our Lawns Biological Deserts?](#)

"Demographic components of the residential areas were incorporated into the study. Researchers found that higher-income households had lawns with significantly less

plant diversity than those of lower-income homes. According to the authors, that's likely due to the fact that high-income households can afford to spend more on lawn care services that remove unwanted plants, ultimately lowering biodiversity." - [NSF - Are Our Lawns Biological Deserts?](#)

"The state of a homeowner's lawn is important in relation to their status within the community and to the status of the community at large." - [Scientific American - The American Obsession with Lawns](#)

"Lawns are indicative of success; they are a physical manifestation of the American Dream of home ownership." - [Scientific American - The American Obsession with Lawns](#)

"This design reflected the emphasis on privacy that had been handed down from European residential design—whereas lawns, as we know them, are connective and communal, gardens are private" - [Scientific American - The American Obsession with Lawns](#)

"The adoption of automobiles and the rise of long distance travel by train in the 1920s pressured homeowners to beautify the fronts of their homes for the sake of passersby" - [Scientific American - The American Obsession with Lawns](#)

"The sheer volume of resources required to keep lawns alive is staggering. And seems particularly wasteful in consideration of drought plagued places, like California." - [Scientific American - The American Obsession with Lawns](#)

"As of 2005, lawns covered an estimated 63,000 square miles of America. That's about the size of Texas. It's the most grown crop in the United States--and it's not one that anyone can eat; it's primary purpose is to make us look and feel good about ourselves." - [Scientific American - The American Obsession with Lawns](#)

CARD NOTES

- Grass and Magician, one of my favorite strange pairings
- It feels clear to me, even if it's kinda a funny path to follow.
- **The Magician simplifies things so that we can get started.**
- He breaks down large, nebulous concepts into four distinct parts.
- "When we don't understand how to take hold of the thing in front of us it becomes impossible to start. Nuance can be built in later. We can't start in the middle of the chaos if we can't even understand what we're looking at."
 - "On the table in front of him are the four symbols of the Tarot suits - a cup, pentacle, sword and wand - each symbolising one of the four elements - water, earth, air and fire. It is also a sign that he has all the tools (and elements) he needs to manifest his intentions into being." - [Biddy Tarot - The Magician](#)

- the magician is **worldbuilding**

- **he creates**

"His positioning represents his connection between the spiritual realms and the material realms. The Magician uses this relationship to create and manifest his goals in the physical realm" - [Biddy Tarot - The Magician](#)

"The Magician is the representation of pure willpower" - [Labyrinthos - The Magician](#)

"everything you need right now is at your fingertips." - [Biddy Tarot - The Magician](#)

"The key is to bring these tools together synergistically so that the impact of what you create is greater than the separate parts. This is alchemy at its best!" - [Biddy Tarot - The Magician](#)

"The seed of potential has sprouted, and you are being called to take action and bring your intention to fruition." - [Biddy Tarot - The Magician](#)

"You are a powerful, creative being, and this is your opportunity to bring your Higher Self in alignment with your day-to-day actions to create the future you want most." - [Biddy Tarot - The Magician](#)

"Focus on the ONE thing that will move you towards your goal." - [Biddy Tarot - The Magician](#)

"With the power of the elements and the suits, he takes the potential innate in the fool and molds it into being with the power of desire." - [Labyrinthos - The Magician](#)

"It shows that the time to take action is now and any signs of holding back would mean missing the opportunity of becoming the best version of yourself." - [Labyrinthos - The Magician](#)

"Harness some of the Magician's power to make the world that you desire most." - [Labyrinthos - The Magician](#)

🌙 Gotu Kola, High Priestess

II High Priestess : Gotu Kola

REFERENCES

[Wikipedia - Centilla asiatica](#)

[Chestnut School of Herbal Medicine - The Healing Benefits of Gotu Kola](#)

[Lady of the Herbs - Gotu Kola an Indigenous Medicinal Botanical](#)

[WishGarden Herbs - The Magic of Gotu Kola](#)

☀️ [Pull up your Plants! Gotu Kola : an inimitably weird and exciting story](#)

[Chani Nicholas - All About Lilith](#)

[Biddy Tarot - The High Priestess](#)

[Labyrinthos - the High Priestess](#)

PLANT NOTES

- Here's little plant I always dreamed of knowing. But due to my lack of time living in the tropics, I'm not quite sure if we will ever meet.
- Gotu Kola is a tropical vine loving heat and humidity.
- a powerful herb, known for Its ability to offer mental clarity.
- Gotu Kola is a wise herb.
- I have used it for meditation and helping me stay clear when offering rapid-fire readings in a chaotic environment.
- Gotu Kola is a herb I feel strongly about but I don't interact with it too much, especially as of late.
- It feels powerful, so putting it in this place of reverence feels totally okay. Totally fair.
- And I think I just need to get lost in the lore of this plant as well. That's what a lot of these free writes have taught me : I could research more.

"It is consumed as a culinary vegetable and is used in traditional medicine." -

[Wikipedia - Centilla asiatica](#)

"Because the plant is aquatic, it is especially sensitive to biological and chemical pollutants in the water, which may be absorbed into the plant." - [Wikipedia - Centilla asiatica](#)

"In Burmese cuisine, raw pennywort is used as the main constituent in a salad mixed with onions, crushed peanuts, bean powder and seasoned with lime juice and fish sauce." - [Wikipedia - Centilla asiatica](#)

"Centella is used as a leafy green in Sri Lankan cuisine, being the predominantly locally available leafy green, where it is called *gotu kola* or *vallaarai*." - [Wikipedia - Centilla asiatica](#)

"Gotu kola (*Centella asiatica*, Apiaceae) has been a legendary herb in India and China for over two thousand years, where it's considered to be one of the best herbs for promoting clarity, focus, and a peaceful, calm nature." - [Chestnut School of Herbal Medicine - The Healing Benefits of Gotu Kola](#)

"Gotu kola is both a medicinal herb and a food plant" - [Chestnut School of Herbal Medicine - The Healing Benefits of Gotu Kola](#)

"This low-growing member of the carrot family, also known as *brahmi* or *mandukaparni* (Sanskrit), is a tonic remedy for assuaging memory loss, stress, worry, and foggy thinking. In Ayurvedic medicine—the ancient healing system of India—gotu kola is used to increase memory, concentration, and comprehension. In the Himalayas, yogis use gotu kola as an aid for meditation." - [Chestnut School of Herbal Medicine - The Healing Benefits of Gotu Kola](#)

"In Southeast Asia, gotu kola has long been credited as the source of elephants' long life spans and exceptional memories." - [Chestnut School of Herbal Medicine - The Healing Benefits of Gotu Kola](#)

"contemporary herbalists use gotu kola as a wound healer, diuretic, antioxidant, nerve tonic, and antibacterial remedy." - [Chestnut School of Herbal Medicine - The Healing Benefits of Gotu Kola](#)

"gotu kola has a long tradition of use as a tonic herb for promoting longevity, vitality, and equanimity." - [Chestnut School of Herbal Medicine - The Healing Benefits of Gotu Kola](#)

"This plant has a long history of use within many healing cultures including Ayurveda, Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), and more recently, the West where it has been introduced into the wetlands of Florida and Oregon." - [WishGarden Herbs - The Magic of Gotu Kola](#)

"gotu Kola a premier plant in cosmetic care and anti-aging formulations." - [WishGarden Herbs - The Magic of Gotu Kola](#)

"Gotu Kola is also utilized to support optimal body temperature and digestive and urinary tract function." - [WishGarden Herbs - The Magic of Gotu Kola](#)

"It encourages optimum brain health, supporting healthy levels of GABA in the brain. This has also been found to promote emotional wellbeing." - [WishGarden Herbs - The Magic of Gotu Kola](#)

"In India, it is used as a nourishing and restorative tonic for the nervous system." - [WishGarden Herbs - The Magic of Gotu Kola](#)

"Known as a "herb of longevity", this tenacious creeper is referred to in numerous ancient pharmacopoeias, and it is cherished in many ancient medicinal systems, including Ayurveda and Traditional Chinese Medicine." - [Lady of the Herbs - Gotu Kola an Indigenous Medicinal Botanical](#)

"Known as "Brahmi" which means "godlike", shows just how revered this herb is in India, where it is used to aid in meditation." - [Lady of the Herbs - Gotu Kola an Indigenous Medicinal Botanical](#)

"It is considered a rejuvenating tonic for the brain, and it is said to revitalize the nervous system, increase attention span, support the immune system and graceful ageing." - [Lady of the Herbs - Gotu Kola an Indigenous Medicinal Botanical](#)

"Gotu Kola falls under a well sought after category of herbs known as adaptogens. As the name suggests, adaptogens help your body to adapt to everyday stressors which include biological, emotional, environmental and physical factors. Adaptogens restore overall balance and strengthen the function of an individual organ or the body as a whole." - [Lady of the Herbs - Gotu Kola an Indigenous Medicinal Botanical](#)

"Gotu Kola is the food of elephants - renowned for their longevity and excellent memories!" - [Lady of the Herbs - Gotu Kola an Indigenous Medicinal Botanical](#)

"Interestingly, the leaf of the Gotu Kola has a similar shape to that of the cerebellum - part of the brain which helps in controlling concentration and memory." - [Lady of the Herbs - Gotu Kola an Indigenous Medicinal Botanical](#)

"In both Chinese and Ayurvedic traditions, Gotu Kola is considered a supreme Shen (spiritual) and Sattva (reality enhancing) tonic herb." - [Lady of the Herbs - Gotu Kola an Indigenous Medicinal Botanical](#)

"Taken long term, Gotu Kola may increase intuitive awareness, an idea that is certainly supported by thousands of years of anecdotal evidence." - [Lady of the Herbs - Gotu Kola an Indigenous Medicinal Botanical](#)

"Gotu Kola prevents gastric ulceration caused by stress, as well as heals present gastric ulceration. Numerous studies showed that Gotu Kola also protected the stomach against ulceration by strengthening the mucosal defence as well as owing to the plant's anti-inflammatory and anti-stress effects." - [Lady of the Herbs - Gotu Kola an Indigenous Medicinal Botanical](#)

"Herbalist David Winston teaches that Gotu Kola is specific for "connective tissue disorders and skin conditions where the tissue is red, hot, and inflamed". He uses Gotu Kola in many formulas for auto-immune conditions and skin conditions, including lupus, scleroderma, psoriasis and eczema" - [Lady of the Herbs - Gotu Kola an Indigenous Medicinal Botanical](#)

"According to the renowned herbalist Matthew Wood, Gotu Kola stimulates blood flow in the capillaries, reduce venous stagnation, helps to break down aged red blood cells, improve cholesterol balance, reduce urea (acidity) in the blood as well as improve circulation to the extremities and brain." - [Lady of the Herbs - Gotu Kola an Indigenous Medicinal Botanical](#)

CARD NOTES

- The High Priestess represents a being who is more comfortable within the shadows than the daylight.
- the High Priestess embodies calm of mind amidst the chaos of the world : both inner and outer.

"She reminds me of the story of Lilith- Adam's first partner who wanted to be seen as an equal. But Adam wanted a partner he could dominate- so Lilith took things into her own hands. She asked God by name to release her out into the wilds of the world. She would rather live in the desert amongst her monster kin than to live in servitude to her partner in the garden of eden."

- Hard relate there Lilith.

"So in a way, the Magician, the High Priestess, and the Empress can be seen as the three characters that appear in the Lilith myth : the one-sided, dominating Adam as the Magician, the unnameable feminine force is the High Priestess, and- in a way- the empress is the well behaved Eve, created from Adam so that she would remain indebted to him."

- But I think that the Empress deserves to have her power too

"While The Magician is the guardian of the conscious mind and the tangible world, The High Priestess is the guardian of the subconscious mind and the teacher of sacred knowledge and hidden mysteries." - [Biddy Tarot - The High Priestess](#)

"The High Priestess signifies spiritual enlightenment, inner illumination, divine knowledge and wisdom." - [Biddy Tarot - The High Priestess](#)

"Now is the time to be still so you can tune in to your intuition." - [Biddy Tarot - The High Priestess](#)

"Your intuitive sense right now is providing you with useful information and is assisting you to become more in touch with your subconscious mind" - [Biddy Tarot - The High Priestess](#)

Feel, rather than think. Collaborate, rather than compete. Create, rather than destroy. Trust your Divine Feminine energy, even if the masculine energy around you may appear to be stronger." - [Biddy Tarot - The High Priestess](#)

"Be proud of your ability to nurture, trust, sense, and empathize instead of hiding it away." - [Biddy Tarot - The High Priestess](#)

 Corn, Empress

III Empress : Corn

REFERENCES

[Wikipedia - Maize](#)

[Corn Tastes Better on the Honor System](#) by Robin Wall Kimmerer

[The Wisdom of the Corn Mother](#) - interview with Robin Wall Kimmerer

[People of Corn, People of Light](#) - from Braiding Sweetgrass

[Biddy Tarot - The Empress](#)

[Labyrinthos - The Empress](#)

PLANT NOTES

via personal writing...

- Corn is the mother.
- It is the giver of life.
- It is so important to the native peoples of the americas, and especially here in the desert southwest.
- A food source, which means it gives life.
- It is a food that nurtures us - and it is in everything.
- GMO Corn / Corporate Corn / Americans are made of Corn

"As an ancient grain it feels so revered. I can't help but think of the church in the Taos Pueblo where they have corn stalks painted on either side of the altar. She found her place, echoing the persona of Mary, mother of Jesus. Bringer of life. The one who offers us her gifts. This feels like a better place for Corn and the Empress to cross paths. But we can't overlook the modern morph of this plant- it's a part of who we are, literally. We eat so much processed corn, but does it truly nurture us?"

via [Robin Wall Kimmerer](#)

- "It's a wonderful example of reciprocity between plants and people. Corn made people and people made corn. They are one of our deepest, oldest relatives"

"It was domesticated by indigenous peoples in southern Mexico about 9,000 years ago from wild teosinte." - [Wikipedia - Maize](#)

"Native Americans planted it alongside beans and squashes in the Three Sisters polyculture." - [Wikipedia - Maize](#)

"Maize relies on humans for its propagation." - [Wikipedia - Maize](#)

"Since the Columbian exchange, it has become a staple food in many parts of the world, with the total production of maize surpassing that of wheat and rice." - [Wikipedia - Maize](#)

"Sugar-rich varieties called sweet corn are grown for human consumption, while field corn varieties are used for animal feed, for uses such as cornmeal or masa, corn

starch, corn syrup, pressing into corn oil, alcoholic beverages like bourbon whiskey, and as chemical feedstocks including ethanol and other biofuels.” - [Wikipedia - Maize](#)

“Modern plant breeding has greatly increased output and qualities such as nutrition, drought tolerance, and tolerance of pests and diseases. Much maize is now genetically modified.” - [Wikipedia - Maize](#)

“In Mesoamerica, maize is deified as a maize god and depicted in sculptures.” - [Wikipedia - Maize](#)

“Maize requires human intervention for its propagation. The kernels of its naturally-propagating teosinte ancestor fall off the cob on their own, while those of domesticated maize do not.” - [Wikipedia - Maize](#)

“All maize arose from a single domestication in southern Mexico about 9,000 years ago. The oldest surviving maize types are those of the Mexican highlands.” - [Wikipedia - Maize](#)

“The Olmec and Maya cultivated maize in numerous varieties throughout Mesoamerica; they cooked, ground and processed it through nixtamalization. By 3000 years ago, maize was central to Olmec culture, including their calendar, language, and myths.” - [Wikipedia - Maize](#)

“After the arrival of Europeans in 1492, Spanish settlers consumed maize, and explorers and traders carried it back to Europe.” - [Wikipedia - Maize](#)

“Maize flour could not be substituted for wheat for communion bread, since in Christian belief at that time only wheat could undergo transubstantiation and be transformed into the body of Christ.” - [Wikipedia - Maize](#)

“Maize spread to the rest of the world because of its ability to grow in diverse climates. It was cultivated in Spain just a few decades after Columbus's voyages and then spread to Italy, West Africa and elsewhere. By the 17th century, it was a common peasant food in Southern Europe. By the 18th century, it was the chief food of the southern French and Italian peasantry, especially as polenta in Italy.” - [Wikipedia - Maize](#)

“When maize was introduced into Western farming systems, it was welcomed for its productivity. However, a widespread problem of malnutrition soon arose wherever it had become a staple food.” - [Wikipedia - Maize](#)

“Indigenous Americans had learned to soak maize in alkali-water – made with ashes and lime – since at least 1200-1500 BC, creating the process of nixtamalization. They did this to liberate the corn hulls, but coincidentally it also liberated the B-vitamin niacin, the lack of which caused pellagra.” - [Wikipedia - Maize](#)

“

CARD NOTES

via personal writing...

- One of the 3 (4?) most essential building blocks for the evolution of the psyche through the Tarot.
- We've moved through the shadowy, changeable side of the feminine archetype, and now we are experiencing the other side of that feminine card : the creator.



Coastal Redwood, Emperor

IV Emperor : Coastal Redwood

Formerly, Pine, Redwood.

REFERENCES

[Wikipedia : Sequoia sempervirens](#) (Costal)
[Sempervirens Fund : Redwood Facts](#)
[Completely Arbortrary : the Other Biggest Tree](#)
[USDA - Sequoia sempervirens](#)
[Ethnobotany in W OR - Chumash people and Redwoods](#)
[Practical Plants - Sequoia sempervirens](#)
[Labyrinthos - Emperor](#)
[Biddy Tarot - Emperor](#)

PLANT NOTES

via personal writing...

- tall trees. Tall trees that sway in the wind.
- The cool thing about Redwoods is that they take moisture from the clouds and let it flow downward- instead of using all this power to pull it up from the ground. A unique trait for a plant.
- there are all these sky forests, plugged into their nooks. They create life within their physical body. They create pockets of life within their branches that never touch the ground.
- These gentle giants embody the leadership we deserve to see in this world. Not the segmented power we are currently plagued with.

CARD NOTES

via personal writing...

- The Emperor is a card of structure and leadership.
- When you are offered power, you are also beholden to those below you.
- You are the father and your people are your children.
- This is true in Managerial positions.
- While it is tempting to lord over those below you ("they're your employees after all") that isn't really what a leadership position entails.
- You are responsible for those below you when you are someone in power.

"When the workers below you are struggling, it is actually your responsibility to intervene. You want to see why they are struggling. Do they need more training? Are you understaffed? Are folks overworked and burnt out? Since you exist on a platform above those doing the work you have the ability to see the big picture of the situation. That is the trade off - you're not doing the grunt work but you better have the ability to see the ins and outs of how it all works together."

- That is what the Emperor card is.
- It isn't someone who is "the Boss" and continually exerts force on the folks below them to "do what they're told."

"Without the Emperor's oversight and ability to puzzle together individual strengths and weaknesses you are left with a Dictator. A rigid leader who puts up walls and makes their demands by force. It is a tactic that can only stand for so long because the more rigid and tall you become- the easier it is for you to topple and crumble."



Datura, Hierophant

V Hierophant : Datura

REFERENCES

[Wikipedia - Datura](#)
[Wikipedia - Datura stramonium](#)
[USDA - the Powerful Solanaceae : Datura](#)
[Archaeology Southwest - Sacred Datura](#)
[Science Direct - Datura, an overview](#)
[Biddy Tarot - Hierophant](#)
[Labyrinthos - Hierophant](#)

PLANT NOTES

via personal writing...

- I don't think I need to go into my story with Datura- I feel like it is one I share over and over again. If I need to revisit it, it is here in my mind, but I don't really need to waste my precious time and brain energy rehashing something I've hashed out several times before.
- But the Datura is a powerful and revered plant.
- known for it's place in the Witches Flying Ointment,
- has been used by Native folks (among others) to connect with other spiritual realms.
- a plant with a connection to spirit, and will be a guide for those who ask and know the risk.
- This isn't a plant that offers a gift without there being a price.
- I still have never read all those books by the guy who was really into taking Datura for a hallucinogenic spiritual trip.
- I've really only read the Erowid entries- which were wonderful, curious, and haunting - all in their own way.
- I especially noticed that folks kept thinking they were smoking cigarettes that weren't there...
- this wasn't my experience, but honestly mine is mostly lost to the Otherworld.
- Is tobacco a good friend of Datura? A Spiritual ally? I'm sure Tobacco was used in Sweat Lodges... was Datura used in that environment ever?
- It seems like, once again, I need to dig deeper into the plant side of things here.

CARD NOTES

via personal writing...

- I think this is why I associate it with the Teacher Card, the Hierophant- it's a plant that demands respect before it will offer its knowledge freely.
- This is how some teachers and mentors are, and I don't think there is anything wrong with that.
- A Mentor or a Spiritual teacher should have some years of knowledge and experience over your own.

- If you are learning alongside someone they might be unknowingly a teacher, but they're not necessarily a Mentor.
- It's hard because I think when the Hierophant card appears we are searching for someone who has knowledge and wisdom beyond our own.
- It doesn't mean we are not smart, capable, able to lean on our intuition- but sometimes you need to ask for help.
- Sometimes you need to learn from someone who has gone through it and can offer wisdom that can't be seen by your eyes.
- That's where the Hierophant comes in.

"In this portion of the Major Arcana it seems like we're running through the characters we both need to embody and sometimes look for outside ourselves. The Magician, Fool, High Priestess, and Empress feel like exploring parts of the self- and as we approach the Emperor (leadership) and the Hierophant (Teacher) it feels suddenly like we're noticing there are people outside ourselves who are different and we interact with - and then we get to the 6, the Lovers Card, where we finally fully realize we can have connections beyond our own inner world."

Trillium, the Lovers

VI The Lovers : Trillium

REFERENCES

[In Defense of Plants](#)

[United Plant Savers](#)

[US Forest Service](#)

[Wikipedia](#)

[Mountain Rose Herbs](#)

[Trillium, a spring flower that lives as long as we do.](#)

[Podcast Ep : In Defense of Plants - Trillium Diversity : A story of Ants & Seed Dispersal](#)

[Dave's Garden - Don't Pick the Trillium](#)

[Biddy Tarot - the Lovers](#)

[Labyrinthos - the Lovers](#)

PLANT NOTES

- trillium need ants

via personal writing...

*"Trillium is a plant I would like to know more about. I think it reminds me of the fairy world - a lot of **ephemerals** do. It shows up at times - when the time is exactly right - and it doesn't stay long. It is endangered. It's rare. When we're in balance in an ecosystem ephemerals thrive. They show up and thrive as a reward for balance."*

CARD NOTES

via personal writing...

- The lovers card is a point of noticing there are individuals out in the world we find connection with.
- It's not everyone, so it is worth paying attention to when they do show up.
- The lovers card is early in the order of the major arcana - those are the building blocks.
- They are the stages of development that we are familiar with. That's why they can feel basic, they are and we've experienced them.
- The lovers card isn't a person. It can be a calling, a way of life, a place.
- It's the momentary attraction of finding your "thing."
- It feels like why you were put on this earth - and it's fleeting.
- it's a momentary experience that fades - but it isn't necessarily gone.
- Drink up those moments of blooming, because they aren't forever,
- but they are a memory, something intangible we can bring with us.
- The lovers teach connection



Peyote, strength

VII Strength : Peyote

REFERENCES

[Wikipedia - Peyote](#)

[AP News - Peyote sacred to Native Americans threatened by psychedelic renaissance and development](#)

[Evergreen State College - Peyote : Testament to the Power of Plants over People](#)

[Crime Pays Botany Doesn't - West Texas Peyote Habitat](#)

[the Plant Whisper - Grandfather Peyote : Some Plants are More Equal Than Others](#)

[Biddy Tarot - Strength](#)

[Labyrinthos - Strength](#)

PLANT NOTES

via personal writing...

"A plant I have strangely known about since being assigned it as a poster topic for High School health class (we each were given a drug or an STI to present on). And I remember, clear as day, telling myself "this is something I'm never going to encounter.""

"Fast forward a decade and I would be invited into the dark, herby kitchen of the Spiritual Lady I was learning from in New Mexico. I was told to stop what I was doing and to go to her house- there was something special. And I was floored to find out what they were talking about was Peyote. I declined at that time. It was late, I had drank a beer and I felt a bit overwhelmed with the casual nature of it all. I wanted to show up with respect to the Peyote. I didn't want to gobble it up. I didn't want to take. I didn't want to be a goddamn white person about it. Because regardless of the insane quantity of this little cacti I was exposed to at this time- it is rare. I've hardly seen it since I left that place."

"But I have had my time with the Peyote Cacti's strong and powerful medicine. It is subtle, and it comes from within. It isn't the crazy punch in the gut mushrooms can give. It's not the dizzying blur of LSD. This cactus is a grounded, ancient power that knows the truth : that inner strength is really what holds power. The ability to weather the storms within and outside yourself. The ability to quell your emotions in order to stay true to your path. To not get sidetracked by emotion. To ask for help is truly one of the strongest things you can do."

CARD NOTES

via personal writing...

- It's not some powerful gym bro tearing through a wall.
- It's a lady petting a powerful lion,
- quieting him with their gentle nature, not a powerful hold around its muzzle.
- strength teaches us to be gentle

 Mullen, Chariot

VIII the Chariot : Mullein

REFERENCES

[Wikipedia - Verbascum thapsus](#)
[CO Dept Ag - Common mullein](#)
[Sawmill Herb Farm - Herb Profile : Mullein](#)
[Modern Herbal - Mullein, great](#)
[Worts + Cunning - Hag's Medicine : Mullein Plant Profile](#)
[Jim McDonald - Mullein](#)
[Biddy Tarot - the Chariot](#)
[Labyrinthos - the Chariot](#)

PLANT NOTES

via personal writing...

- It inhabits disturbed areas.
- It thrives in sandy, rocky, "terrible" soil.
- And it lays the groundwork for what plants will come next.

"The plant world needs the ones who thrive in inhospitable conditions to come in, live their life, and then once their life is over their bodies nourish the soil. They leave the place better than it started- which allows more delicate plants with more specific needs to move in next. Mullein lays the groundwork."

- It starts that first wave of plant inhabitation.
- It charges in and says I'm going to live my life here for the next thing to have a better home.
- It is a do-er.
- A charger.
- A transformer of space and place.
- It stands tall, and you must reckon with it.
- It's fuzzy and soft to the touch- so non-threatening at least.

CARD NOTES

via personal writing...

- A card of getting in the vehicle and taking off.

"There are two horses leading you. One is white and one is black- like the two pillars behind the high priestess- representing feelings and logic. Spirit and the physical. Of reigning in two dualities and using them both to advance."

- Chariot is a card of action.
- It is a moment.
- It is the anticipatory place of checking in amidst movement.
- it's kinda a hard card for me to wrap my head around.

- Much like the Chariot is the first card of movement and action we experience.
- Up until this point it was characters and introduction of some skills.
- the chariot asks us to 'go.'
- Everything we have learned up until this point is set in motion- creating the intricacy of doing.
- We must hold everything at once and stop looking at it as all different parts.
- And once we do this, we will be allowed the space to stop and reflect (hermit)



Mushroom, Hermit

IX Hermit : Mushroom

REFERENCES

[ANR Blogs - The Magic and Benefits of Mushrooms in the Garden](#)
[The Guardian - The Magic of mushrooms : how they connect the plant world](#)
[The Guardian - The earth's secret miracle worker is not a plant or an animal: it's fungi \(Sci Journal\) - The Mycelium as a Network](#)
[Mycelium : The Forest's Secret Communication System](#)
[Data Processing from the Cloud to the Mycelial Network](#)

PLANT NOTES

via personal writing...

- Mushrooms are not plants but they have an alliance we're only beginning to notice.
- They help facilitate resources around the living, breathing landscape around them.
- They are site-specific.
- They are the clean up crew.
- They recycle and bring nutrients back to the living bodies of the great-grandchildren of the ones they just decomposed.
- We would be surrounded by rot and gross matter if we didn't have the decomposers - even if it is a state so different from the living ones we inhabit.
- we can learn lessons from these processes.
- We have to let go and accept there is rest and process in order to see the path forward.

CARD NOTES

via personal writing...

- a very wintertime night mood.
- Its so dark so much of the time it is impossible to know what time it is.
- when you are in a place, alone, off by yourself there is much time to dedicate to yourself and your projects.
- The Hermit reminds us we contain everything we need within.
- There is this illusion that all the solutions to our inner woes exist out there- in the great beyond our reach.

"if you are struggling to survive that can be true. Often it is true. Those folks who could be helped by a raise, a new job, a positive relationship are gaslit into thinking they can do something within themselves to change the situation. Those who can only be changed from going within are encouraged to seek the solution outside themselves."

- The only thing we can control in our lives is ourselves.
- and it's okay to explore what that means to us too.
- We have these libraries of knowing stored within ourselves that we don't even know about.

- But if we get quiet we can find the threads. We can find them and follow them to all the places we never knew we needed until we got quiet and listened.



Tumbleweed, Wheel of Fortune

X Wheel of Fortune : Tumbleweed

PLANT INFO

[Windwitch - Wikipedia](#)

[Southwest Colorado Wildflowers - Salsola](#)

[Santa Fe Botanic Garden - Tumbleweed \(Salsola tragus\)](#)

[Southwest Desert Flora - Prickly Russian Thistle \(Salsola tragus\)](#)

PLANT NOTES

via personal writing...

- I would like to know more about the tenacious little tumbleweed.
- It is a plant more often spotted while it's dead than living.
- it is extremely mobile post-mortem.
- it goes wherever the wind may take it: across great plains, busy highways, and in a matted mess along roadside fences.
- Plants embrace the chance behind the wind. They control what they can : their genetics, evolution, which traits are expressed or not - but they don't try to control where their babies show up.
- They don't control their prodigy.
- They respect that they are creating life that will live on its own terms.
- The Tumbleweed is known as a weed first and foremost.
- It is an undesirable - and while I imagine it can take over, I'm not quite sure why it got the label.
- it all feels fitting because how many of us in modern US society feel like any change that is pushed upon us is unnecessary and we'd be better without it.
- I wonder what value the Tumbleweed actually brings despite our human, knee-jerk reaction to it.

"We are still reeling from our overzealous desire to control the natural world around us. It's been a little over 150 years of industrialization and we still buy into that illusion that we can control everything. But that's just not true. Best to collaborate with change. Best to look to the natural world around us because they're our elders. They've been living in this ever changing world for so much longer than we have..."

CARD NOTES

via personal writing...

- The Wheel of Fortune is a card of change.
- It is the spin of a wheel - something will happen and it is neither good nor bad but we must face it as it comes up
- Life happens, and it happens at random.
- With the Wheel of Fortune we are forced to face this truth.

- The Wheel of Fortune is much like the wind - it is a moving force
- Best not try to control what's going on outside yourself when the Wheel of Fortune arises.
- Change is inevitable. It is the only constant - like the ever wise Octavia Butler says.

☞ Willow, Hanged Man

XI Hanged Man : Willow

REFERENCES

[Wikipedia - Willow](#)

[GRuB - Plant of the Month : Willow](#)

[the Willows of Washington Park Arboretum \(pdf\)](#)

[Nature Collective - Arroyo Willow](#)

[Southwest Desert Flora - Salix exigua](#)

[Native Plants PNW - Willows](#)

[Herbarium World - Ethnobotany and Plant Humanities in the Future](#)

PLANT NOTES

via personal writing...

- Willows bend, are flexible, and re-root anywhere with soil and water easily.

CARD NOTES

via personal writing...

- The willow and the Hanged Man pair well, almost better than the original (if I do say so myself).
- The Hanged Man just feels like one of those cards that's meaning got lost to time.
- Thankfully hangings aren't as day-to-day as they once were in our human history.
- The Hanged Man is a card of being present, still, and open to whatever is about to happen.
- These are the traits we are being asked to embody when the Hanged Man appears to us.
- Be with this moment.
- Take the opportunities as they arise.
- Don't be rigid and inflexible and you will be able to weather any storm.
- Sometimes we need to regenerate after a storm destroys us.
- Sometimes we whip and ride the wind.

🌟 Vetch, 5 of Spring

Vetch, 5 of Spring

REFERENCES

[Biddy Tarot - Five of Wands](#)

[Labyrinthos - Five of Wands](#)

[Wikipedia - Vicia](#)

[USDA - American Vetch](#)

[MSU - Cow Vetch pops up in gardens, but is it a friend or foe?](#)

[UC Davis - Purple Vetch](#)

[DCR - Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia](#)

[Walking Mountain - What are the benefits of Vetch?](#)

[Renaissance of the Earth](#)

PLANT NOTES

- Vetch is a productive little weed - delicate yet tenacious.
- Wandering about and climbing all over anything that stands in its way.
- Vetch finds its way into orchard mixes because of its ability to help and it's ability to not take too much. It fills in space without taking too much from the delicate fruit trees around it.
- I like the idea that this infighting can be a productive part of the process - it is only our own opinion that makes this plant a "weed" or a "helper"

"Vetch does grow in all directions and may become a messy pile where Vetch can smother itself, or those around it. Chop and drop. Tend to the mess. Don't turn away from the inevitable conflict. Try to remain level headed in the chaos. Stay true to your vision. Remember why you're here. Look for a way through."

[Wikipedia - Vicia](#)

"Bitter vetch (*V. ervilia*) was one of the first domesticated crops."

"However, the bitter vetch largely was dropped from human use over time. It was only used to save as a crop of last resort in times of starvation: vetches "featured in the frugal diet of the poor until the eighteenth century, and even reappeared on the black market in the South of France during the Second World War", Maguelonne Toussaint-Samat, of Marseillais background, has remarked"

"nitrogen-fixing plants"

"The main usage of the common vetch is as forage for ruminant animals, both as fodder and legume, but there are other uses, as tufted vetch *V. cracca* is grown as a mid-summer pollen source for honeybees."

"The Hairy Vetch has well-established uses as a green manure and as an allelopathic cover crop."

"it is known to accumulate aluminum in its tissue; in polluted soils it may be useful in phytoremediation, but with one per mil of aluminum in the dry plant (possibly more in the seeds), it might not be edible anymore."

"The robust plants are useful as a beetle bank to provide habitat and shelter for carnivorous beetles and other arthropods to keep down pest invertebrates."

CARD NOTES

- **fighting** from multiple sides

"Five of wands is a card of conflict. It can feel silly, like infighting on a project. Or it can embody the feeling of fighting yourself and being pulled in multiple directions."

"Fives typically represent conflict and change" - [Biddy Tarot - Five of Wands](#)

"you are in the midst of battle, tension, and competition with others and it is impacting your ability to move forward with your goals" - [Biddy Tarot - Five of Wands](#)

- **not listening.**

"it may also depict a problem in communication, for example in a situation where no one really wants to listen to the other - meaning that no agreement or understanding takes place." - [Labyrinthos - Five of Wands](#)

- **competition.**

"The Five of Wands can also mean that you are or will be facing competition in an area that you are not used to." - [Labyrinthos - Five of Wands](#)

"This tarot card encourages that you accept the competition as a way for you to improve yourself without feeling any malice towards them. This means that you should learn how to cope with them in a civil way." - [Labyrinthos - Five of Wands](#)

- I find this card comes up when I am in the middle of tending to **chaos**.

- Tension, challenge, and **chaos doesn't have to be the enemy** - it can also be the future **compost** we need to thrive.

"Five of wands is like a square in astrology - no one is thrilled when seeing it or being actively in this state, however it encourages growth. It makes us better. It is a necessary unpleasant part of being alive - because things become more pleasant when we deal

with it head on. It only complicates and destroys things when it is obsessed over and avoided."

"Sometimes, this type of conflict and discussion can be very productive, such as with group brainstorming and problem-solving." - [Biddy Tarot - Five of Wands](#)

- the chaos is in **our own mind**
- Sometimes we can get lost in the noise of our own head. Sometimes we fight with the **other parts of ourself**.

"The Five of Wands meaning could also be a personal struggle that you are dealing with on your own. This can be on a number of issues that affect you, hence you need to address them and find a solution for them. You will need to identify where the problems are and offer a solution that will handle the case." - [Labyrinthos - Five of Wands](#)

- everyone should be **listened to** in order to work through this problem.

"If you find yourself in this situation, see it as an opportunity to rise above the chaos and disorder. Take a moment to listen to what others have to say - even if you agree to disagree." - [Biddy Tarot - Five of Wands](#)

"try and initiate communication in such a way that you suggest that everyone airs out what they have to say, one at a time." - [Labyrinthos - Five of Wands](#)

[Biddy Tarot - Five of Wands](#)

"The Five of Wands also encourages diversity and differences of opinion."

"The Five of Wands encourages an enthusiastic approach to change."

"Everybody has ideas, but no one is there to bring them into a logical path forward. Your role may be in identifying a clear strategy and purpose that can be implemented by all involved."

 Ghost Pipe, 10 of Winter

Ghost Pipe, 10 of Winter

REFERENCES

[Wikipedia - Monotropa uniflora](#)

[Botanical Society of America - Monotropa uniflora](#)

[Wildflowers of the Adirondacks - Monotropa uniflora](#)

[Garden of Horrors : Monotropa uniflora](#)

[Sean Donahue - Ghost Pipe : a little known nervine](#)

[Public Letter of Support for Survivors of Sean Donahue's Harm \(geneva\)](#)

[this is him now... super fucking weird/ creepy](#)

[Vice Article on susun Weed](#)

[The Poetic Science of the Ghost Pipe : Emily Dickenson and the Secret of Earth's Most Supernatural Flower](#)

[Biddy Tarot - 10 of Swords](#)

PLANT NOTES

- Ghost pipe is a plant that doesn't produce its own chlorophyll. It actually connects with other plants through the mycelial network and receives what it needs to survive through that. Connecting with others and mutual aid is how the Ghost Pipe survives.
- It is a rare plant, only appearing for a moment, and then goo-i-ly turns to black mush and returns to the forest floor. Oftentimes folks will mistake this fleshy plant for a mushroom- but if you look into it's little cupped face you can see a flower. But it does resemble the being it gains help from. A plant-mushroom hybrid in a kinda way.
- Ghost Pipe belongs to the heather family of plants, which also means it prefers the acidic forests of the east and northwest.
- Ghost Pipe is rare, so best to not wildcraft it. However it has been used from time to time as a powerful nervine for PTSD or intense nerve pain. It is a plant that should only be used at last resort and harvested ethically. It is also one that is a poison if taken at too high a dose - another warning to use this medicine wisely. However it is one of the only plants that does the trick for these very specific and deep-rooted nervous system based pains.
- So Ghost Pipe reminds ourselves that in the heart of darkness we do hold the medicine within ourselves to heal. We can ask for support from our community we are interconnected with. We are unafraid of darkness and decomposition. In fact we call upon these powers in order to survive.

CARD NOTES

- This little ephemeral pairing is one of my favorite. It offers some light in the midst of this really dark card.
- The ten of swords is the end of our adventure in this suit and it seems to find us in a place of rock bottom. In the Smith-Rider-Waite illustrations it shows a body on the ground with ten swords poking from his back. This person has been defeated, back stabbed, is left for dead, and it is time to move on.
- Sometimes the end of a storyline in our own lives doesn't have a happy ending. Sometimes things are just over, and there is some silver lining to that - you don't have to deal with this pain and suffering anymore. It is only up from here.
- Just like the death card, this isn't telling us death is the solution. Or that death is even the end of the road. But all this pain will soon be over - that's what the ten of Swords reminds us. This is the ending of one chapter and moving to the next. We can feel relief in this loss. And the ten of swords points no fingers towards anyone being at fault : sometimes life is painful and that's just a part of it. That's something I find reassuring of this card - it shows you things just suck sometimes and the only thing you can do is wrap up and move on.



(he) WORKING OUTLINE

a Field Guide for the Tarot of Plants

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