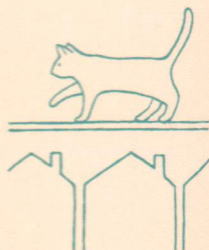
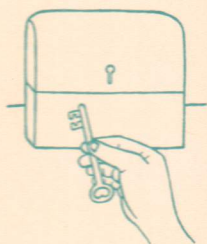
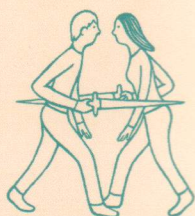


The
GOLDEN MOTH
Illumination Deck
HANDBOOK



by Aijung Kim

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome!

My name is Aijung Kim and I am proud to introduce "The Golden Moth Illumination Deck." Creating the deck has been one of the most far-reaching and positive projects of my life. It has allowed others to become true collaborators – the cards take on different meanings with each new owner and their purpose continues to evolve beyond my original ideas.

I intended this deck to be for anyone to use regardless of age, gender, culture, or previous experience. All you need to do is trust yourself and let the journey unfold!

What Are the Cards?

The Golden Moth Illumination Deck is a set of symbolic cards that can be used for divination, creative play, and personal reflection. Used as divination cards, they act as a tool to access your subconscious mind and make you more alert to your thoughts, actions, and emotional patterns. Everyone has an intuitive understanding of themselves that sometimes gets hidden in the day-to-day drama of living. This deck helps to unveil the knowledge inherent in each individual by providing a visual reference point.

With these cards, you will learn to:

- * Deepen your awareness and connections with yourself and others
- * Develop your intuition
- * Understand inner motivations
- * See situations from a new perspective
- * Heighten your creative perception

How Do I Use Them?

The primary usage discussed in this handbook is reading the cards for divination and personal guidance the way you would with a tarot deck, though there are many other creative ways to use the deck.

When the cards are used to give a reading, the Querent asks to gain insight into a particular situation. The cards are shuffled and chosen from the deck, then laid in a predetermined spread pattern. The Reader interprets the cards and determines how they reflect the situation depending upon the meanings and positions of the cards.

The creative possibilities are endless. Writers, artists, and professionals who experience mental blocks can pull a card to generate ideas and concepts, or simply add an element of surprise to their work. Children can play a game with the cards by inventing a spontaneous story from the images. Educators can incorporate the cards in their lesson plans to spark interest in lackluster students. The cards can be used as a form of creative therapy for people who have trouble verbalizing their issues – seeing their own

thoughts in the form of imagery may induce discussion and emotional outlets. The cards can be used for team-building activities in work groups and communities. Specific cards can be pulled and placed in an often-seen spot of a home or workplace as visual reminders or affirmations. They can be used as a gift to tuck into a letter to a friend.

How Are They Different from Tarot Cards?

Though this deck was originally inspired by the tarot, it differs in several important ways. The traditional tarot deck is comprised of Major and Minor Arcana cards. In the popular Rider-Waite tarot deck, the Major Arcana consists of titles like "The Magician" and "Temperance." These cards symbolize key archetypes and themes in one's life. The Minor Arcana consists of court cards and suits such as cups, pentacles, wands, and swords, which may symbolize secondary themes and everyday details.

"The Golden Moth Illumination Deck" is not steeped in the same symbolic history as tarot. It does not consist of Major or Minor Arcana cards. Each card has equal weight depending on its position in the card spread. The cards are unnamed. I think the language of a name can greatly influence what someone sees in an image, and I would like the Reader's perspective to remain as open-minded as possible. I have numbered the cards only to make it easy to differentiate each particular one, though some card readers may choose to incorporate numerological significance in the numbers.

Why Is It Called "The Golden Moth Illumination Deck?"

After I created the prototype for this deck, I shuffled the cards and asked them what I should name the deck. This is the card I pulled:



After some thought, I arrived at the idea of the moth as a symbol of change. The moth seemed to hover above the hand, not quite within grasp. Moths are short-lived, ephemeral creatures. They lie still for hours, then flutter through the darkness towards the light. I think they are a fitting metaphor for the role of change in human lives. Change can come slowly or suddenly, but it is a prominent force in our lives. Each day represents a possibility for discovery and renewal. The cards are a tool for better understanding these changes and accepting them in our lives.

I believe that with patience and practice, we can shine a light of reflection within ourselves and towards others.

An Artist's Perspective

When I first became interested in tarot several years ago, I thought it seemed like a fascinating way to get a glimpse of my future when I so often felt uncertain. As a visual person, I loved all those images loaded with meaning in the cards - a blindfolded woman holding two swords

across her chest, a fool with his eyes on the sky and one foot ready to step over a cliff, a woman gently holding open the mouth of a lion. The cards ran the gamut of human drama, from joy to trifles to pain.

I no longer think that the cards tell the future per se. I think a good reading is a visual map of the patterns that shape your life at the present moment. The patterns are the story of how you perceive and navigate your world - the influences that shaped your present circumstances, what is going on underneath the surface, and the possible outcomes that may play out based on your choices. I believe that each person has the power to become more aware of themselves and shape their own future. Using the cards can help people to become more conscious and empowered about the choices they make.

The decision to create a deck that would differ from the traditional tarot deck came from my dissatisfaction with giving tarot readings. It didn't feel personal to me. I was too impatient to study the guidebooks in depth and memorize the historical meanings of the cards, and I wasn't able to trust myself and let my intuition flow. I decided to create my own cards with symbols that I thought would connect on a personal and universal level. The images were inspired by concepts from the divination systems of Tarot, I Ching, and Runes. I was also inspired by images that have appeared in my dreams, symbols of personal significance, and certain recurring images from my other artwork.

Just like making a piece of art, using the cards is a process of planning, applying skill, experimenting, and being open to inspiration. It is a combination of active

problem-solving and allowing mysterious forces to operate.

Everyone has a creative side to them and an instinctive response to visual imagery. I am not a psychic or an expert on mysticism, and you do not have to be either. Trust yourself and use the cards in the way that benefits you the most. Feel free to think like an artist and make it up as you go along.

GIVING A READING

Basic Method

Here is the basic method that I use when giving a reading to another person, however, there are myriad variations you may take on each of these steps and you may develop a completely different method than mine. Some people like to read the cards in a spontaneous manner, and some like to do things the same way every time. The important thing is to find a method that you feel comfortable with.

1. Take Pause Before Reading

When you conduct a reading, it may be helpful to have a ritual or practice that helps to center you. The practice you choose is up to you. You can close your eyes, picture mental imagery, or repeat a phrase that you find helpful. You might want to light a candle or have a special cloth that you place the cards on. It doesn't have to be elaborate, as long as you take a moment to pause and create an atmosphere of receptivity for gathering insights from the cards.

2. Create an Intention and Ask a Question

Set your intentions and make it clear to your Querent what kind of insight the reading will provide. I tend to discourage a Querent from seeking a very specific answer

to a question, because I think it can lead to unrealistic expectations. I tell the Querent that the reading will provide insight and advice, but not definite answers and outcomes – the Querent takes responsibility for choosing what to do with the information that is given. Tailor your spread to what the Querent desires, but always respect your own style of reading and be confident.

The spread pattern and query should be decided upon before you shuffle the cards (see the section on “Choosing a Spread”). Ask your Querent if they have a question or specific area of inquiry. I encourage Querents to ask an open-ended question rather than a yes-or-no kind, for example: “Can you give me insight into...” or “What would be most beneficial for me to hear right now?” I personally prefer that the Querent not tell me their question until after I have laid out the cards and given my first impressions, since I don't like to be swayed by any preconceived notions. However, you may prefer to know the question beforehand or the general area of query to decide which spread best suits the reading.

3. Shuffle and Cut the Deck

Ask the Querent to hold the question in their mind while the cards are being shuffled. Decide whether you want to shuffle the cards yourself or have the Querent shuffle. I prefer to shuffle the cards myself until I feel that they are “ready” – the length of time varies for each reading. During shuffling, I also silently ask the cards to provide the most beneficial information to the Querent, asking internally

"What does this person need to hear right now?" I then ask the Querent to cut the deck into three piles with their non-writing hand (because that hand is ruled by the intuitive side of the brain as opposed to the analytical side), and I re-stack the piles in the order that feels right to me.

4. Choose the Cards

Decide whether you or the Querent will pick the cards. My style is to fan the deck onto the table and ask the Querent to choose a certain number of cards with their non-dominant hand, then place them face-down on the table, one on top of the other. Some Readers prefer to pull cards from the top of the deck.

5. Lay Cards into Position

Place the cards into position face-up or down depending on your preference. I prefer to lay the cards face-down into the spread position, then turn them over one by one and name each position in the spread as I do so.

6. Interpret the Cards

Look over the reading and give yourself a moment to absorb the images. This also gives your Querent a chance to get their own first impressions of the cards. I like to give the Querent my interpretation of the reading by going through each card in order. Then I ask if they'd like to reveal their area of query or give some insight into the situation so we can take a second look at the cards in context. It's helpful to involve the Querent in the

conversation as much as they are willing to share their thoughts, and then talk through any cards they have questions about.

Sometimes if a card doesn't seem to make sense, I will pull a card from the top or within the deck and place it next to the card to clarify it. The new symbol often adds dimension or confirmation to the card.

7. Cleanse the Cards

If you have done many readings or have dealt with a person who seemed to be particularly negative, you should give your cards a break and cleanse them. This removes any unwanted energies from the cards so they are charged and ready to be the conduit for fresh insights. Some methods to cleanse your cards include placing a quartz crystal on or near the cards to absorb unwanted energies, leaving the deck in a safe spot to sit in the sunlight or moonlight for several hours, or simply creating an intent. I often cleanse my cards in between readings by closing my eyes and shuffling the cards, imagining the elements of air, water, fire, and earth cycling out the residual energies in the deck.

Treat your cards with respect. With a little care, these cards should last you for a long time. The more you use the cards, the more of your personal energy you invest into them. For this reason, I usually don't let other people handle my cards too much.

General Advice

It may be helpful to read the cards like a story. I like to look at each image and find concepts that unify the reading, as if I'm looking at a picture book and figuring out the storyline.

Every card has both positive and negative attributes and should be interpreted according to its placement in the spread and interaction with other cards. Be present to what the cards tell you now, not simply what they meant to you in past readings.

Don't ask the same question twice. Trust the answer. I have found that when I ask a question too similar to the last one or don't wait long enough between readings, the readings become diluted or inaccurate.

Your interpretations of some symbols may be influenced by your knowledge of other symbols in the deck. For example, there are four tree cards corresponding to the four seasons. If a tree comes up in your reading, you may decide to interpret "tree" in a general manner, or decide that each individual tree in the deck brings a different energy with it.

If a card seems incongruous or even opposing, don't doubt it. Go with it and weave it into the story. How do the pictures influence each other? Are some cards similar, some contrasting? Not every reading makes sense right away, and if a card seems unclear then I ask the Querent what they think the card means to gain their perspective, or I choose a card from the deck to clarify the mysterious card. Involve your Querent in the discussion and be a good listener.

If you truly have no idea what a card means, just give your best guess! Reading the cards can be a fun and playful activity to bring people together and infuse an element of mystery into a party or gathering. See what happens when you let go and enjoy the process.

There are two blank cards in the deck. Using a permanent marker, you can personalize the cards with your own symbols, or you can keep the cards blank. If you choose the latter, you may decide to keep the blank cards in the deck during a reading and either assign a certain meaning to the blank cards or let them act as "wild cards." Some people read them as a sign to trust their gut.

Reading for Yourself

Some people don't think that it's a good idea to read for yourself. I think it's fine as long as you are aware of the drawbacks.

When you are personally entwined in a situation, it is difficult to interpret the cards objectively. Your own personal biases and/or volatile emotions can affect your reading if you are not aware of these subconscious forces. At worst, it can become addictive and unhealthy to consult the cards every time you face a problem. Try not to use the cards only when you are upset, because the deck will absorb that energy and you will come to associate the deck with those feelings.

Be aware of your own expectations when reading for yourself. It's easy to become so fixated on achieving a

certain outcome that you are no longer creative about the way you find a solution. The cards are simply a tool, not a replacement, for accessing your personal wisdom.

Reading for Others

The Reader plays an important role by helping others to see their behavior patterns, work out issues, and express themselves. When reading for another, be aware that the Querent may be in a sensitive emotional state. Many people who want a reading are confused or distressed about a situation and may not want to share it with you.

Remind the Querent that a reading is not the final say in a given situation. In a spread, the "Probable Outcome" or "Future" is shaped by the state the Querent is in at the moment and is not set in stone. It's helpful to think of the reading as an ongoing dialogue between the conscious and unconscious self. If your Querent is feeling down, let them know that they have free will and the ability to choose their own actions and behaviors. Their troubling circumstance may actually be an opportunity in disguise if they are willing to discard old, unhealthy patterns. Sometimes just seeing a problem for what it is reveals a solution.

In my experience, the best readings occur when a person is receptive and open to the reading. I believe that the Querent should play an active role in finding meaning in the cards even if they don't necessarily share their thoughts out loud. Often, when a Querent is very clear

about their question, the cards provide a clear response. I've also seen the opposite happen when a Querent is not very invested in what the cards will reveal.

The energy dynamic between the Reader and the Querent will affect the quality of the reading. Be flexible and understand that every person and reading will be different. Every Querent brings their personal history to the table, and you can't always know the particulars. The Querent may have unreasonable expectations, be skeptical, or perhaps dislike what the cards tell them. If you feel unsure of yourself as a reader, familiarize yourself with the symbols and give readings to people you trust. There are no right or wrong answers for what the cards mean, only interpretations.

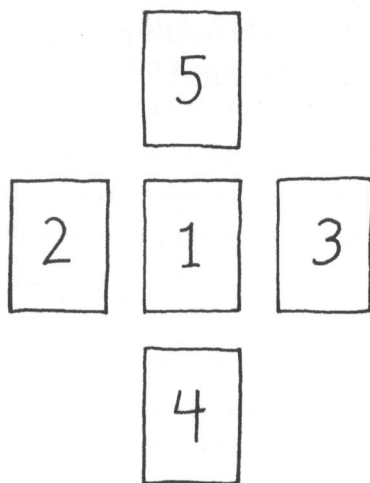
Not every reading I've given has been as spot-on or as helpful as I would have liked. I have felt badly when I thought a Querent left feeling puzzled or unsatisfied with the reading. But I've also felt elated when someone who looked at the cards was able to release a bottled-up emotion and left smiling. That's the magic of the cards!

Choosing a Spread

Study different spreads to understand the advantages and limitations of each one. You can find more information on divination spreads by reading online resources, books, and kits. Choose spreads that best address the question or area of interest you're exploring. After you become familiar with a spread of two, you may be compelled to make up your own. Experiment and create spreads to suit your needs.

"Planting the Seed"

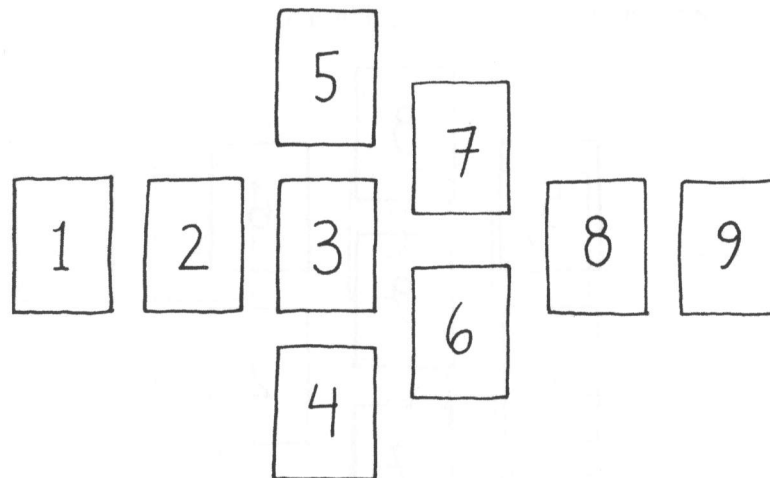
A spread for exploring a new idea of budding situation (the "seed"). The surrounding cards form the "petals" and show how the situation will blossom.



- 1 The Seed: The idea or situation and its potential
- 2 Hidden factors
- 3 What will be revealed
- 4 Your thoughts and feelings about the situation
- 5 The greater significance or lesson to be explored

"The Arrow"

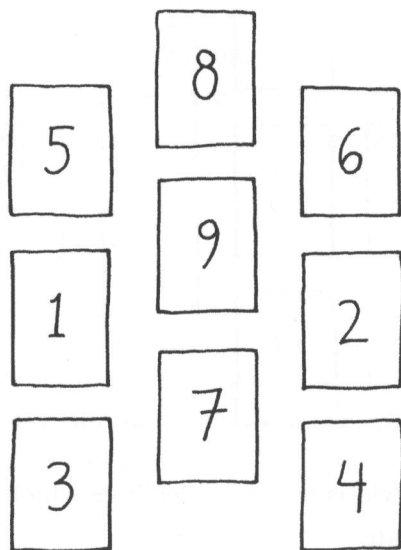
A good spread for gaining general insight into a situation.



- 1 Past: The previous events or feelings which influence your current state
- 2 Present: Where you stand in your life now
- 3 Challenge or Goal: The challenge you must face and/or what you aspire to achieve
- 4 Internal Influence: Your thoughts, feelings, desires
- 5 External Influence: Environmental factors or how you interact with the world
- 6 Release: What you would benefit from letting go of
- 7 Accept: What you would benefit from allowing in
- 8 Possible Outcome: The near future
- 9 Further Possibilities: The extended future

"Meeting in the Middle"

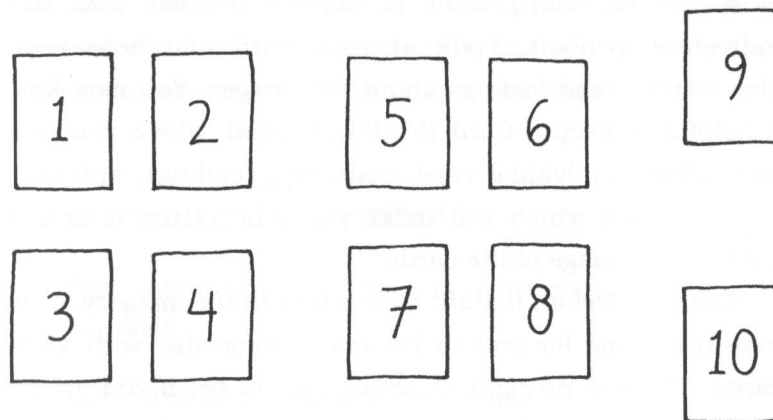
A spread for exploring the relationship dynamics between two people (romantic partners, friends, colleagues, family members, etc.)



- 1 You: The current role you play in the relationship
- 2 The Other: Their role
- 3 Your Foundation: Past history and influences
- 4 The Other's Foundation
- 5 Your Feelings: Thoughts, desires, and fears
- 6 The Other's Feelings
- 7 Challenge: The aspect to improve in the relationship
- 8 Strength: The aspect to be celebrated
- 9 Compromise: The harmonious integration of both

"Decisions"

Use this spread when you have trouble making a decision. If there is more than one alternative you are deciding upon, you can do a separate reading for each one.



- 1 The choice or course of action you are deciding upon
- 2 Your feelings about this choice
- 3 The effects of this choice on yourself
- 4 The effects on others
- 5 What you can control about the situation
- 6 What is out of your control
- 7 The benefits of following through on this choice
- 8 The drawbacks
- 9 Other alternatives to explore
- 10 Possible outcome

INTERPRETING THE CARDS

Getting to Know Your Cards

In order to effectively assess the meaning of the cards in a reading, you'll want to become familiar with the individual symbols. Look at each card and note your observations and feelings about the images. You may find it helpful to keep a Card Reading journal, where you can write about individual card meanings, readings, spreads, and exercises which will make you more attuned to the intuitive language of the cards.

You may feel an instant connection to the imagery, or it may take time for you to become comfortable with your cards. There is no right or wrong way to be. If you are in the latter category, be patient and give yourself some time. You may want to pull a new card each morning and reflect on how the energy of the card comes up in your day. You may also want to read with other people so they can contribute their input. When I created the card images, I had specific ideas of what each symbol meant to me. Yet there were many times that a card appeared in a reading and didn't seem to make any sense at first. In order for you to gain understanding, the cards ask you to be flexible with your thinking and embrace the spontaneity of the moment.

The cards that appear in a reading will be influenced by the personal energy and interpretations of the Reader and Querent. The symbols may have different meanings for people coming from other cultures and perspectives, so

think about both the universal and personal meanings. Your initial idea of a card may evolve after it has appeared in a few different readings. Be flexible and open to new interpretations.

Some tarot readers interpret with reversed cards – cards that are turned upside down and have variant meanings, usually a more diluted version of the upright card meaning. I personally don't reverse my cards, but you may come up with your own reversed meanings if you wish to.

Interpreting the Symbols

When interpreting a symbol, here are some questions to ask yourself:

- * What are your very first impressions?
- * What do you see exactly? Some people might see something quite different than you do.
- * What is the mood of the card?
- * Is there action or lack of movement in the card?
- * Does the main subject in the card interact with its environment or any other elements in the image?
- * If the card has multiple elements, which particular element seems to resonate most strongly to you?
- * Can the image be read literally and/or metaphorically?

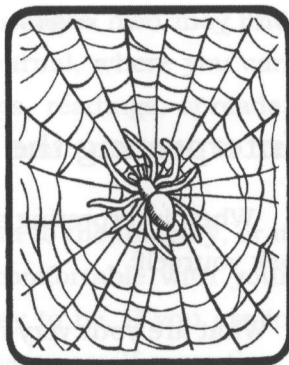
* Does the card seem to represent a specific concept, situation, or a person you know?

* How does the symbol relate (or not relate) to the cards around it?

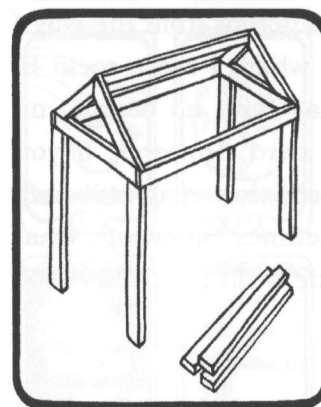
* Does the position where the card is placed change your initial impression of its meaning?

It is important to understand that an image is not inherently positive or negative. It depends on the position in which the card is placed, the cards that surround it, and who is giving and/or receiving the reading. Let's say you turn over Card #30 with the picture of the spider on it. You happen to think spiders are creepy-crawly creatures. Try to go beyond that limited connotation and be open to the broader scope of its meaning.

For example, spiders weave their own homes, so you could focus on the aspect of the web and come up with "connections" or "resourcefulness." On the other hand, you may have a personal association with spiders that may be important to the reading. Perhaps when you were young, there was a spider that you observed living in a corner of your bedroom. If this is the first thought that comes to mind, perhaps this card may represent "childhood" or "curiosity" for you. Focus on the aspect of the image that speaks to you most strongly. Trust your instincts.



In Card #36, I see a young man carrying a sack filled with his minimal necessities. He's walking past a field in the summertime. He seems to be carefree. My impression is that he doesn't like to work and he's running away from responsibility. My initial reaction is that the character in the image might be a bit lazy. But depending on what position the card lies in the reading, this card may represent "freedom" or "peacefulness." Perhaps the young man is walking away from a harmful situation, or going off on his own to start a new life. The figure may represent qualities of an actual person (not necessarily male in gender) or qualities of a situation. If this card came up in another reading, I might have a totally different reaction to the card.



Card #9 shows the foundation of a house in the process of being built. This symbol could be interpreted metaphorically as laying the foundation of an emotion, thought, or situation.

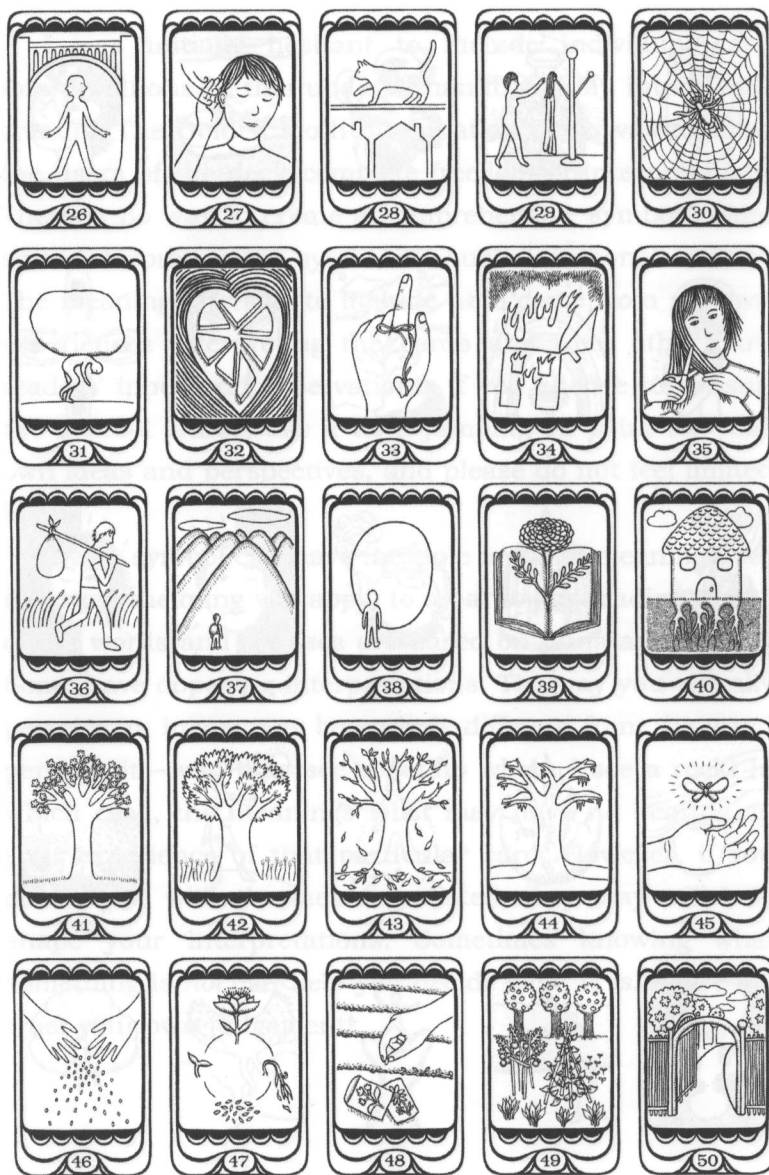
This symbol can also be quite literal, alluding to a situation in which someone is moving into a new home or renovating their current home, or else relating to domesticity in some other manner.

Symbol Guide

I was initially hesitant to include individual card interpretations in this updated handbook. My intent with creating The Golden Moth Illumination Deck was to allow the users of the deck complete freedom of interpretation. There is no way to create a comprehensive symbol guide, since interpreting the symbols is such a personal activity. The meanings I chose to include here came from my own experiences interpreting the cards and from other card readers' input and observations. If you choose to consult the Symbol Guide, use it as a jumping-off point for your own ideas and perspectives, and please do not feel limited by it.

Every symbol can have multiple levels of meaning, and not every meaning will apply to a particular reading. Some of the words and phrases are based on puns and idioms. Some have opposing interpretations. The way you visually perceive an image may be entirely different from the way I perceive it – you may see a potato where I see a rock! In which case, the meanings I list may have no bearing on your experience of that particular card. However, if you don't agree with the meanings listed, they may still help shape your interpretations. Sometimes knowing what something is *not* can help you decide what it *is*. Above all, trust your own judgement!





- 1 Personal direction, control, willfulness, choosing a path, starting a new journey, being a leader, "taking matters into your own hands," following yourself and not others
- 2 Bottled-up emotions, potential energy, being self-contained, harnessing a vast power, containing an element of water
- 3 Outgrowing old ways of being (like snails outgrowing their shells), leaving something behind, turning over the possibilities, having many choices, probing further
- 4 Travel, journey, exploration, adventure, companionship, accepting support, seeking solid ground, drifting without direction
- 5 Masking true self from yourself or others, choosing how you are seen, playing with identity, protecting yourself
- 6 Labyrinth, introspection, having an epiphany, finding your way to center, solving a puzzle, feeling your way in the dark, having a tool to illuminate the path, thinking outside of the box
- 7 Cleansing, distilling, unifying disparate elements, persistent effort over time, a quick fix - "the pot at the end of the rainbow," finding nourishment in adversity
- 8 Dreaming, visions, rest, peacefulness, meditation, giving birth to new possibilities, being unaware

- 9 Shelter, unfinished projects, building a structure, laying the foundation, moving to a new home
- 10 Community, family, commitment, awakening, accepting help, working as a group, strength in numbers
- 11 Avalanche, building up only to be knocked down, sudden change to things formerly "set in stone," facing adversity, obstacles swept away
- 12 Isolation, loneliness, feeling trapped or restricted, feeling protected, staying in one place
- 13 Comforting warmth, intense emotions - "letting off steam," wanting release or outlet, internal brewing, call to action
- 14 Aspect of masculinity, pessimism, warning, concern, discernment, only able to see the negative aspect, expressing worry
- 15 Aspect of femininity, happiness, optimism, confidence, being carefree, only able to see the positive aspect, expressing hopefulness
- 16 Emotional thirst, reflection, containment, stagnation, having an empty cup or "filling the cup," relaxing, finding nourishment
- 17 A shock or sudden change, destruction, fragility,

power, paradigm shift, opening up, "coming out of your shell," finding the inner meaning

18 Protection from harm, facing attack, feeling invincible, feeling threatened, standing up for yourself

19 Cosmic energy, attuned with greater forces - "holding the sun, moon, and stars in the palm of your hand," living the greater picture, controlling your own destiny

20 Illumination, clarity, consciousness, life-giving energy, destructive energy - "burned by the sun", a situation beginning or ending (sunrise or sunset)

21 Mystery, obscurity, passing cycles, the subconscious, non-rational thought, growth during times of rest, embracing the negative spaces, aiming high - "reaching for the moon"

22 Distant, longing, feeling out of place - "like a fish out of water," acting individually instead of with the group, taking a step back

23 Consumed, feeling overwhelmed - "in the mouth of the beast," balancing precariously, keeping everything under control, experiencing a rebirth (the creature resembles a reptile that has the ability to shed its skin/re-grow limbs)

24 Freedom, mobility, assurance, "flying high," achieving a dream, possessing false confidence, wearing a disguise

25 Contemplation, loneliness, taking a step back, seeing the bigger picture, being separate from others, removing yourself from the cares of the world

26 Transitions, being indecisive, being "two-faced," making decisions, bridging the divide, reviewing the past and contemplating the future (like the god Janus)

27 Receptive, contemplative, attentive, seeking advice, listening to your heart, listening to others as opposed to self

28 A precarious situation - "up on the wire," balancing, crossing from one side or situation to another, taking things "one step at time," being careful, being focused

29 Disguise, shedding outward appearances, taking on a new role, letting go of an old role, feeling exposed, choosing how you are seen

30 Resourcefulness, preparation, stagnation, being industrious, building connections, making a home, having structure, being creative, stuck in the middle

31 Setbacks, moving slowly, needing to perform humble tasks, carrying a great responsibility, having obligations, feeling burdened

32 Broken heart, healing heart - "putting the pieces back together," pulled in many directions, having many choices, feeling divided

33 Reminder, memory, need for self-love and self-care, not wanting to let go, being emotional, remembering a past love

34 Endings, destruction, intense emotions - "burning up inside," issues with home/family/domesticity, clearing out old thoughts or emotions, needing to find a new space

35 Self-induced changes, new beginnings, simplifying, trimming back, changing your outward appearance, letting go, taking action

36 Wandering, traveling, adventure, leaving your old home behind, being independent - "going rogue," leaving behind responsibilities

37 An epic journey or adventure, facing many obstacles, ready for something big, an insurmountable task

38 Facing the unknown - "staring into the abyss," facing a big obstacle, clearing the slate, infinite possibilities, needing to make a choice

39 Creativity, imagination, discovery, something blossoming, being like "an open book," seeking knowledge in an organic way

40 Building a home, feeling attached to a home or specific location, staying in one place, discovering your roots, finding where you belong

41 New beginnings, blossoming, having hope, seeing the potential, being inexperienced, corresponding to Spring

42 Growth, health, maturity, stability, something "taking root," corresponding to Summer

43 Shedding outward appearances, letting go, losing something, feeling exposed, preparing for an inward journey, corresponding to Autumn

44 No outward appearance of life or action, dormant, introspection, feeling frozen, gathering energy, moving slowly, corresponding to Winter

45 Transient, delicate, something within or just beyond your grasp, allowing an opportunity to alight, having patience

46 Letting go, planting seeds, allowing the "chips to fall" where they will, trying to catch something intangible

47 A life cycle, ending an old phase or beginning a new one, returning to a similar situation, recognizing the bigger picture

48 Hopefulness, potential, new possibilities, planting seeds, being at the beginning stages of an endeavor

49 Harvest time, abundance, reaping what you sow, connecting with nature, seeing results

50 Leisure, opportune timing, an opportunity presents itself, taking a new path, entering a new situation

51 Restrictions, not being ready, opportunity is unavailable, being denied - "having the door closed in your face"

52 Unknown opportunities, secrets, opening a "can of worms," keeping something hidden away, having the key to unlock a situation

53 Transmutation, expansion, being tested - having a "trial by fire," phoenix-like growth from adversity, having inner strength, manifesting ideas

54 Battle, stalemate, aggression, opposing forces, dichotomy, two sides equally armed, working against yourself or another

55 Pain, wound, loss of control, feeling helpless, healing, being open to vulnerability, in a state of recovery

56 Introspection, going within, digging deeper beneath the surface, processing buried emotions, wanting to be alone, helping others to grow

57 Encountering small obstacles, getting close to accomplishing a task - "getting over the hump," observing from a different perspective, activating energy to achieve a goal, expressing male energy (the snake as a phallic symbol)

58 Working hard, cooperating as a group, having a single goal, being diligent, being mindless, serving a greater purpose through practical tasks

59 Prosperity, financial stress, lack or abundance of material resources, deciding whether to use or save resources

60 Warmth, comfort, nourishment, convalescence, replenishing, taking care of self, resting

61 Balance, fairness, judging or being judged, stability, two sides equally weighted, facing choices, being static

62 Out of balance, not centered, disparity or overabundance - "feast or famine," two choices unequally weighted, having to make a decision, weighing priorities

63 Gestation, waiting, stillness, protection, not ready to reveal oneself to the world, being restful, being infantile

64 Introspection, denial - "burying head in the sand," isolation, pain, creativity through a period of solitude, allowing oneself to grow naturally, allowing new ideas to germinate

65 Creativity, communication, manifesting your ideas, needing a creative outlet, planting seeds, making plans

66 Friendship, companionship, journey with another,

following your instincts, bridging a divide, being in a relationship, leading or being led

67 Union, connection, being deeply involved in a relationship, coming to an agreement, forming an alliance

68 Clarity, communication, alarm, call to action, celebration, being vocal, getting things out in the open, marking an occasion

SAMPLE READING

Here is a real-life sample of a reading. View the spread on the next page.

Ashley's Reading:

"The general area of query is my relationship with my boyfriend and whether I should still be waiting around in the hope that we can make a life for ourselves together."

PAST: The winter tree. Concerning your relationship with your boyfriend, this seems to indicate that in the past there hasn't been as much active energy in the relationship – much of the energy was lying dormant.

PRESENT: Under a full moon, the things you are accustomed to during the day take on an unfamiliar cast. This is a card of creativity, intuition, and the unknown. I think this card speaks of your feelings for your boyfriend. This is not a card to be afraid of, but recognize that your emotions may be heightened at this time because of your feelings of uncertainty.

CHALLENGE or GOAL: The tree in Autumn – a phase of going inward and becoming more introspective, though not quite as dormant as the Winter Tree. This may relate to your feelings for your boyfriend and your desire to become more established with him on a deeper level.



PAST



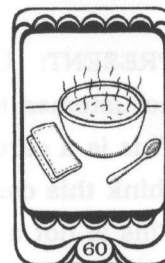
PRESENT



EXTERNAL
INFLUENCE



CHALLENGE
or GOAL



INTERNAL
INFLUENCE

INTERNAL INFLUENCE: The soup bowl indicates nourishment and healing. This may signify that you feel comforted and nurtured by the relationship, in spite of your feelings of frustration at times.

EXTERNAL INFLUENCE: The moth hovers just above the hand – something you can't quite reach. The type of commitment you desire is just not in the cards right now, though that may possibly change in the future.



ACCEPT

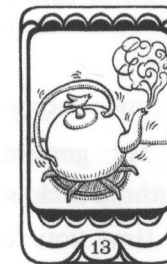


RELEASE

ACCEPT: Diligent ants carry food back to the nest. In your relationship and creative endeavors there are no shortcuts. This card may also mean that you need to work on your relationship on the most practical level, and perhaps not delve into the deeper emotional work just yet.



POSSIBLE
OUTCOME



FURTHER
POSSIBILITIES

RELEASE: The open gate – your hope for your relationship – beckons you with its winding, beautiful path. However, the card's position of "Release" indicates that you may not be ready for this yet.

POSSIBLE OUTCOME: A wonderful card of creativity! Seedlings sprout from your pen. I believe this card is saying that now is an important time to work on creative projects. Your relationship may not receive the attention that you'd like to give it until further down the road.

FURTHER POSSIBILITIES: The boiling tea kettle denotes a desire for release. This may mean more frustration, as well as other emotions simmering inside you - good stuff too, like creativity.

SUMMARY: My general assessment is that you feel uncertainty and a lack of movement in the relationship, yet at the same time you feel internally nourished - through your creative endeavors, relationship, or both. While the commitment you seek does not appear to be in the cards for the near future, the reading indicates that it is best to focus on your creativity right now and allow your relationship to simply be what it is, even if it causes you some frustration.

My advice is to continue to explore the positive aspects of your relationship and not focus on the negative as heavily. In time you will both be ready to decide what it is you want for your long-term future. Perhaps the answers you seek are not available yet because you are still exploring the question.

AFTERWORD

I hope this booklet has inspired you to be creative with your cards. It is always exciting for me to see how other people respond to the deck and personalize it. If you have any questions, suggestions, or insights, I encourage you to check out the The Golden Moth Illumination Deck blog to learn more:

www.goldenmoth.blogspot.com

And join the Facebook Group to engage in an ongoing dialogue about the deck:

www.facebook.com/groups/goldenmoth

For more inspiration, you can explore books and websites on tarot and other forms of divination. Here are some online resources that I have found to be helpful:

www.learntarot.com

www.aeclectictarot.com

Best to you on your journey with the cards!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank You to: My family and friends for their support in all that I do. Greg for his love and appreciation during the creation of this project in all its incarnations. Tiffany Navarro and Katie Green for their friendship. Lizette Gicelle for her advice about the graphic design of the limited-edition version of the deck. Olivia Kim and Yong Bom Kim-Fredell for their insight and guidance in editing this handbook. All the people who contributed their card interpretation ideas (some of which were used verbatim) for the Symbol Guide: Deborah Castellano, Catherine Clements, Phoebe Guider, Sandhya Kiran, Patsy Margraf, Tiffany Navarro, Quincy, Jennifer Vanderbeek, Suzanne L. Vinson, and Joseph Whitfield.

In 2012, the deck was first printed in a limited edition of 300 that was funded through a Kickstarter campaign. A huge thanks to the 127 individuals who funded my campaign – I am forever grateful to you all! And thank you to all my past and present printers, especially Taylor Ball and Travis Robertson of Parcell Press for printing the original version.

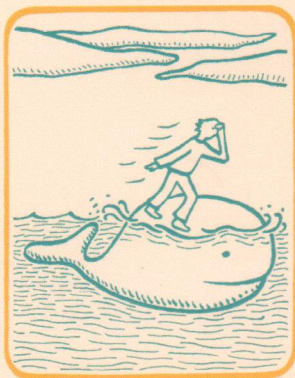
Second Edition, Third Printing

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Printed in Richmond, VA

The Golden Moth Illumination Deck is a set of symbolic cards that can be used for divination, creative play, and personal reflection.

This handbook will guide you through the process of reading the cards for divination purposes. With practice, you will learn to use the cards as a tool to access your subconscious mind and deepen your awareness.



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