

## Welcome!

The Golden Moth Illumination Deck is a set of symbolic cards that can be used for divination, creative play, and personal reflection. There are endless ways to use the deck: to generate ideas, invent stories, educate, and more. 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.



## Giving a Reading

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. Here is my basic method, but feel free to make up your own.

1. *Take Pause Before Reading.* Center yourself by closing your eyes, conjuring mental imagery, lighting a candle – anything to create an atmosphere of receptivity for gathering insights from the cards.
2. *Choose a Spread and Ask a Question.* The spread pattern and query should be decided upon before you shuffle the cards (see opposite side for a spread layout). 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...”
3. *Shuffle 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 and have the Querent cut the deck into three piles with their non-dominant hand.
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, in the order that you chose them. Name each position in the spread as you turn over the cards.
6. *Interpret the Cards.* Look over the reading and give yourself a moment to absorb the images. 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 details about their situation so we can take a second look at the cards in context.
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 remove unwanted energies by placing a quartz crystal on or near the cards, leaving them to sit in the moonlight for several hours, or simply creating an intention.

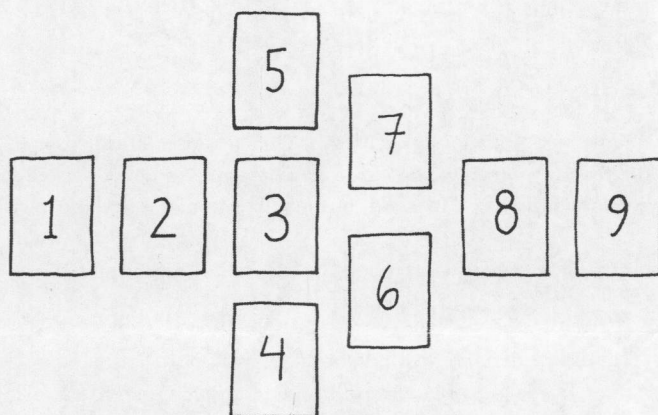
## Interpreting the Symbols

Use your intuition when interpreting the symbols and remember that there are no right or wrong answers. 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?

## ***"The Arrow" Spread***

Choose spreads that best address the question or area of interest you're exploring. You can find more information on divination spreads by reading books and online resources. After you become familiar with a spread or two, you may be compelled to make up your own. Experiment and create spreads to suit your needs. "The Arrow" spread is good 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

## ***General Advice on Reading the Cards***

- \* Read the cards like you're reading a story. Look at each image and find concepts that unify the reading.
- \* Every card has both positive and negative attributes and should be interpreted according to its placement in the spread and interaction with other cards.
- \* Not every reading makes sense right away. If a card seems incongruous or even opposing, find a way to weave it into the story.
- \* 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.
- \* If you truly have no idea what a card means, give your best guess! 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 leave the cards blank. 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.

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. Bring to mind the qualities that a spider possesses and apply that knowledge to the reading.

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.

## ***Good Luck!***

Using the cards is an ever-unfolding journey full of surprises. Best to you on your way!

- Aijung Kim,  
Creator of The Golden Moth Illumination Deck

*This is an abbreviated guide. If you would like a more in-depth read, please consider purchasing The Golden Moth Illumination Deck Handbook from my online shop: [www.sprouthead.etsy.com](http://www.sprouthead.etsy.com).*