

KOOCH N. DANIELS, MA.

# STARS, CARDS, AND STONES



Exploring Cosmic Connections between  
Astrology, Tarot, and Runestones

# ENDORSEMENTS

"Having had the pleasure of working with Kooch in her capacity as a reader and teacher in the divinatory arts for many years, I can freely express my admiration for her energy, wisdom, and willingness to explore the frontiers of spirit. Be it palmistry, astrology, Tarot, runes, or any one of several disciplines, her skill, compassion, and devotion to giving her best in every circumstance is truly inspirational. Her wide-ranging, frequently eclectic, knowledge base deepens what she brings to every class she teaches, every book she writes, and every reading table she joins."

—Thalassa, event producer & divinista, oracular readings, instruction, and events, [www.dodivination.com](http://www.dodivination.com)

"Kooch Daniels is an 'opti-mystic intuitive' whose inner sight into symbols, images, and runes demystifies the hidden treasures deep inside each of us. Her ability to help us see our own inner magic is also one of her unique skills."

—Jeanne M. House, editor of *Peak Vitality: Raising the Threshold of Abundance in Our Material, Spiritual, and Emotional Lives*

"A lifetime of experience and passion pours into this book. Kooch Daniels has been an inspiration sharing her knowledge of the hidden mysteries to her readers. I look forward to taking a deep dive into this work. It has a spot on the 'Top Shelf' in my library."

—Peter Coe, Peter Michael Practical Tarot

"Kooch Daniels, MA, is a popular and professional intuitive that has created another original book, *Stars, Cards, and Stones*. The student will learn to work with ancient oracles, astrology, Tarot, and runestones. The reader, through discussions of traditional chart interpretation, can improve their lives as well as others while building a foundation with zodiac templates and cards and runestones. This brilliant author has published an array of books to aide any student in the mystical realm.

—Jeane Slone, local-authors distributor and author of four historical novels

"I have known Kooch Daniels for fifty years, during which she has continuously developed her skills as a psychic reader and teacher. In this book, she integrates the three divination techniques of astrology, the Tarot, and the runes into a comprehensive system that provides far more information about life decisions than any one of the techniques could do by itself. This book will teach you how to use this ingenious system for yourself and for others. I highly recommend it."

—Aidan A. Kelly, PhD, professor of theology and religious history, Cherry Hill Seminary

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## MYSTICAL MUSINGS

A warm autumn wind whispered through the oaks that shaded the many booths in Witches Woods—an area at the end of a leaf-strewn earthen path that meandered through the Renaissance Pleasure Faire just north of San Francisco. People sat in line on hay bales waiting for a reading, hoping their questions, great and small, would soon be answered.

A woman in her thirties, with eyes as blue as her Elizabethan gown, sat across from me. “Do the cards tell whether I have a future with my boyfriend?” she asked. She smiled shyly, obviously hoping the answer would be yes. “We enjoy each other and our intimacy, but he never says anything about our future and starts getting nervous if I do. He was married for six years and says it hurt him badly when his wife left unexpectedly and never told him why. I think he’s afraid to get too close to anyone again. Is that true or is it just me?”

The final or resolution card in her spread was the third Major Arcana card, The Empress, linked with Venus, the goddess of love, nurturing, and compassion. Because of this card’s auspicious significance, I hinted that her romance was moving in a positive direction and might turn out well.

Her eyes smiled, but her self-doubt made it hard for her to believe the card could be right. After all, if she got her hopes up, they might be painfully dashed.

“Can we try the runes also?” she asked, pointing to my nearby stones.

I obliged, opened my Nordic cloth, and invited her to throw the stones. She hesitated, then picked them up and fiercely tossed them across my table. The overseeing muses continued their dialogue, silently speaking through various upward-facing runes.

“What do they say?” she asked.

I saw instantly that they were an uncanny reflection of the Tarot spread, but I left her to a moment of tense anticipation while I continued to fathom their message. Then I nodded slightly and said, “The stone that represents your potential direction is Beorc, associated with Venus, the planet of fertility and sensuality, and Freyja, Norse goddess of love and sorcery. Since the Empress card and this stone honor the blossoming of passion, both of your readings show a rich potential to find happiness. The runes don’t say for certain that you’ll find it with this partner, but they certainly suggest that it’s worth persevering with your relationship to find out.”

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Years later, the memory of this reading and others like it developed into the recurring theme that astrology can play an equal role in the interpretation both of Tarot cards and runestones. When I've offered readings that combine these divinatory arts, their messages usually reinforce each other through shared archetypal themes and universal symbols. My decades of doing readings in settings ranging from colorful fairs to corporate parties, and for querents who range from the rich to those down on their luck, became the inspiration for this guide to explain how the stars, cards, and stones connect.

When you can communicate using the star power of astrology, you have the knowledge to speak a symbolic language that runs through other esoteric mediums. Without studying the conceptual framework of the Tarot and runes, you may not understand how to transfer this knowledge, but you have it. As you learn the celestial connections these mystical arts share, your ability to create useful interpretations based on their comparable keywords and themes can grow quickly.

Once considered a science, astrology has been used throughout history to help with inner understanding of life's outer complexities. A primary root supporting the tree of divination, it can also illuminate hidden meanings encoded on the cards and stones. The more you understand basic astrology, the more easily you'll be able to unveil the secrets and significance of each card and stone.

When viewed as a cosmic calendar, astrology's precise measurements of time can be used to contemplate how one might best move through life, navigate challenges, and awaken a higher sense of worldly and spiritual purpose. As you search its vivid imagery for clues to patterns of thinking, feeling, and acting—in each moment and also larger life cycles—you open your mind knowingly or unknowingly to the realm of archetypal possibilities.

Carl Jung described archetypes as the universal patterns, themes, and qualities reflected within the psyche that are timelessly played out in the conscious and unconscious collective minds of humanity.<sup>1</sup> When you light the lamp of astrological wisdom, you also open a portal to viewing these shared conceptual patterns. Every zodiac sign and planet, every Major Arcana card, and every runestone is linked with an archetype. Understanding archetypal symbols in the zodiac is like having a magic compass that points to the shared potentials, the secrets, and the messages within the stars, cards, and runestones.

As you journey through these pages, you'll be invited to explore the parallel connections and possibilities interwoven among these symbolic arts. You'll also learn how you can use the wheel of the zodiac for creating card spreads and rune casts.

## THE TWELVE SUN SIGNS

The zodiac is a brilliant ring of constellations that the sun, moon, and planets appear to move through during each year as the earth circles the sun. Like all the stars, these constellations don't stand still relative to the spinning earth but appear to rotate around us during each cycle of night and day. Around five thousand years ago, the Sumerians divided this band into twelve signs, each representing 30 degrees of space. Each sign was named after the most prominent constellation in that part of the band. Although there is debate concerning the Babylonian versus Sumerian naming of the sun signs, the following names and their dates are those used in Western astrology:

<b>The Sun Signs</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Aries, the Ram	March 21–April 20
Taurus, the Bull	April 21–May 20
Gemini, the Twins	May 21–June 20
Cancer, the Crab	June 21–July 20
Leo, the Lion	July 21–Aug. 20
Virgo, the Virgin	Aug. 21–Sept. 20
Libra, the Scales	Sept. 21–Oct. 20
Scorpio, the Scorpion	Oct. 21–Nov. 20
Sagittarius, the Archer	Nov. 21–Dec. 20
Capricorn, the Goat	Dec. 21–Jan. 20
Aquarius, the Water Bearer	Jan. 21–Feb. 20
Pisces, the Fish	Feb. 21–March 20

About 2,500 to 3,000 years ago, the Babylonians divided the circle of the zodiac into 360 degrees. They defined each sign as covering 30 degrees of arc in the sky, making the zodiac appear as a wheel with twelve equal spokes. Each sun sign was seen as an expression of natural forces related to the conditions of human life. Many of their influences were described in comparison to the attributes of the gods or goddesses that were revered in relation to the energy of the sun's light when coming through specific constellations. These characteristics have been passed on through the portals of time by all those who have influenced the meanings assigned to the signs and planets as we understand them today. If you're planning to interpret astrology charts, you'll need to know the twelve sun signs, their natural order, and their principal qualities. To help you become familiar with the twelve signs, the following list offers some of their time-honored associations:



## GETTING TO KNOW THE SUN SIGNS



*Aries,  
the Ram*

Ruler:	Mars
Phrase:	I am
House:	First
Quality:	Cardinal
Element:	Fire
Body:	Head
Gem:	Coral



*Taurus,  
the Bull*

Ruler:	Venus
Phrase:	I have
House:	Second
Quality:	Fixed
Element:	Earth
Body:	Throat, Neck
Gem:	Emerald



*Gemini,  
the Twins*

Ruler:	Mercury
Phrase:	I think
House:	Third
Quality:	Mutable
Element:	Air
Body:	Lungs, nerves, hands
Gem:	Aquamarine, tourmaline



*Cancer,  
the Crab*

Ruler:	Moon
Phrase:	I feel
House:	Fourth
Quality:	Cardinal
Element:	Water
Body:	Breasts, chest, stomach
Gem:	Pearl, Moonstone



*Leo,  
the Lion*

Ruler:	Sun
Phrase:	I will
House:	Fifth
Quality:	Fixed
Element:	Fire
Body:	Heart, upper back
Gem:	Ruby



*Virgo, the  
Virgin*

Ruler:	Mercury
Phrase:	I analyze
House:	Sixth
Quality:	Mutable
Element:	Earth
Body:	Intestines, bowels
Gem:	Jasper

Because these cards can be studied in relation to archetypes, mythology, the Kabbalah, the zodiac, alchemy, numerology, colors, the elements, facial directions and expressions, gender, philosophical content, sacred rites, and other potential classifications, there are various interpretations you can consider, depending on your personal views. Instead of worrying about how much there is to learn in order to read the cards, it's best to enjoy the journey. While viewing your cards, look for symbols that you recognize, and free-associate any ideas they might evoke in you. Free association is an internal process of thinking about one thing—for instance, a rabbit. Then, without controlling or criticizing where your mind goes, you watch the next idea arise in relation to it—perhaps fertility or Easter. Here's a Tarot example: Most cards titled The Hermit are illustrated with a flame in a lantern. In one person's mind after viewing this lantern, their thoughts go to their childhood camping trips. Because of this association, they view the flame as freedom from their norm. Another viewer might look at this flame and compare it to their religious beliefs, interpreting it as the Light of Christ or illumination on the path to awakening. All of these associations with the flame are personal and valid when discussing the Hermit's lantern.

Perhaps when viewing a card, you'll recognize a myth or story that relates to its image. Some images point to a card's astrological relationship. Any symbol you recognize can join your dialogue about the meaning of a card. For example, the first major card, The Magician, often shows a person wearing majestic robes. Over his (or, in some decks, her) head floats the infinity sign, indicating his cosmic nature. The Magician stands in front of a table decorated with four symbols that represent the four elemental energies: fire, earth, air, and water. Because of his charming appearance, you may view him as Merlin, the mythical wizard who possessed transcendent power in the legend of King Arthur. If you're a fan of Harry Potter, you might compare him with the magician Albus Dumbledore. As different as they are, both associations are valid and add meaning to this card's description.

The other fifty-six cards in the deck are called the Minor Arcana or lesser trump. They are equally divided among four suits. Each of the four suits has fourteen cards numbered from one to ten, and four court cards that traditionally depict noble royalty, starting with the page, then the knight, the queen, and, last, the king. Each suit represents one of the four elements, depicted as follows: wands equal the fire element (spirit), pentacles denote the earth element (body), swords stand for the air element (mind), and cups indicate the water element (emotions).

Although some modern deck creators may give other names to the major cards, their popular titles are as follows:

Number	Title	Number	Title
1:	The Magician	12:	The Hanged Man
2:	The High Priestess	13:	Death
3:	The Empress	14:	Temperance
4:	The Emperor	15:	The Devil
5:	The High Priest	16:	The Tower
6:	The Lovers	17:	The Star
7:	The Chariot	18:	The Moon
8:	Strength	19:	The Sun
9:	The Hermit	20:	Judgement
10:	The Wheel of Fortune	21:	The World
11:	Justice	0:	The Fool

Below is a chart showing some of the correspondences between the elements and the stars, cards, and stones:

### The Four Elements and Esoteric Correspondences

Element	Astrology	Rune Spirits	Tarot
Fire	Spirit	Elves	Wands
Water	Emotions	Undines	Cups
Air	Mind	Sylphs	Swords
Earth	Body	Gnomes	Pentacles

Some deem the minor cards as less significant than the twenty-two major cards. However, every minor card points to the thoughts, feelings, or actions that might influence a person's choices. Each can widen the vista of a discussion's potentials, awaken the sleepy mind to new insights, and unveil the potential for earthly choices.

When viewing the cards, you'll see symbols that represent the natural forces and the influences of the four classical elements. When decoded, they offer clues to help you discover the messages within a card.



## CHAPTER 8

# TWENTY-FOUR SECRETS CHISELED IN STONE

### **Newsworthy Notes**

The time you spend playing with your runes helps you build a personal connection with each stone. Using the term “stone” does not ignore the momentum they’ve gathered over thousands of years, with people using them to look at life through oracular eyes.

To truly have a personal relationship with the runes, you need to investigate their various symbols in terms of what they mean to you. When you are familiar with the zodiac and know the rune-astrological correlations, you have a fantastic tool to unlock their meanings and mysteries.

### **Aligning Runes with Astrological Keys**

When divining, you can hope to connect intuitively with the runes, but when first learning to work with them, it’s useful to call upon their astrological connections to gain understanding of their core qualities. Despite the wise tracing their meanings to the fabled world of their early beginnings, many

scholars present insightful and worthwhile revelations in relation to their astrological correlations.

My correlations are influenced by my initial teachers many decades ago. I was first introduced to runes by Ralph Blum and Deon Dolphin, both longtime rune casters. My humble thanks to both of these remarkable teachers, who spent their life sharing their ideas and rune writings before passing to the other side.

## **Keyword Meanings**

You'll find upright rune meanings listed under the keyword heading titled "The Self." Reversed rune meanings are listed under the keyword heading "The Shadow."

A general rule: If a rune is neither upright nor reversed, read it as upright or reversed, depending on the degree of the slant of a symbol after it falls on your table. If it is only slightly slanted downward, its interpretations should be discussed mostly as an upright stone. If a symbol slants mostly downward, it can be read using more of its shadow interpretations.

Because interpretations for the stones are influenced by the cultural backgrounds of the people citing them, an open mind is a valuable asset when you are learning about them. Think about creating your own keyword list of their attributes when and if you're reading different modern rune authors. In time, your list can evolve to help you assess and integrate their central meanings into your practice.

## **Daeg and Ethel**

You may notice that the twenty-third and twenty-fourth runes are in a disputed order. The scholarly controversy concerning the placement of Daeg and Ethel and which rune comes before or after the other is not resolved. Both systems are in current use.

## **The Blank Rune**

There aren't any records of the ancients using a blank stone. Also called the Rune of Wyrð (fate), it is used by some modern rune casters but not by others, who follow the ancient ways. It's up to you if you include a blank stone with your set or not. For those who keep a blank stone in their bag, its meanings can include the following: the answer to a question is unknowable, it's the wrong time to ask your question, let your intuition fill in the blank, or it isn't the right time to ask your question.

## READING THE CARDS AND STONES

You can offer short readings—maybe fifteen minutes or less, or you can spend much more time and dive into them with lengthy depth. The amount of time it takes for you to give a reading is up to you and your client. Giving a reading is like telling a story with a beginning, a middle, and an end. Either you can give a reading as a monologue, or you can interact with your client and have a dialogue that includes reflections and responses to your interpretations. How you structure your readings depends on what you deem important, and your time, energy, and inclinations.

Don't overthink how to do divination. Having confidence is the first thing you need. You can't do readings without it.

The readings that accompany the following discussions are not hypothetical illustrations, but questions that people have asked me during readings. I'm presenting these illustrations to help you have a sense of what issues might underlie a person's request for a reading. People's names have been altered to honor the reader's code of client confidentiality.

All the spreads and rune casts illustrated in the following pages can be equally created using either the cards or stones. For example, if you want to work with your runes instead of the cards when you are reading instructions for a specific card spread, toss your stones and use them in place of your cards while you follow with the card spread instructions and discussion.

### Readings with One-Card and One-Stone Sun Signs

For people who judge the one-card spread or one-stone rune cast as being too simple, they're missing the magic of how much can be learned about one's client in a single image. The one-card spread or single-stone rune cast is most often used for answering a short question. It can also be used to break the ice with a client before giving a longer reading.

Your answer during a short reading should be brief because you need to interpret only one card or stone. If your discussion becomes too long, most likely you'll be drawing more cards and stones to answer more questions. Narrow your focus to the one question and trust that you can find a meaningful brief answer to share.

You can start a one-card or one-stone reading by asking your client whether he or she has a question. It's your choice to have the person ask their question out loud or silently in his or her mind. The practice is simple. Either you or your

person shuffles and cuts the cards or throws your stones. After a card or a stone is selected and viewed, it's time to interpret its message. Listen to the ideas and feelings that come into your mind concerning the image you are viewing.

If, when doing real-life readings, a person's question does not relate to the designated card or stone that has been selected, it may be necessary to start over and select a different card or stone. And yes, this may feel a bit awkward, but remember to enjoy the moment and forge ahead. Your role as the voice for your oracle is to offer benefit, not to get caught up in thoughts of doing psychic gymnastics. (This insight comes from the multitude of times I've had to awkwardly smile and answer the question "Are you a *real* psychic?")

The card and stone interpretations in each of the following twelve sun sign readings use one common keyword. Each keyword can be found in the section titled "Qualities They Share" in the star, card, and stone discussions within the Mystical Library. The keywords used in the following examples are written in italics to show you how divinatory arts share thematic concepts.

While reading the short questions and answers, if you're willing, take a few moments and practice giving your own replies to each of the twelve questions. This practice can help you develop your understanding of how to discuss interpretations.



Star, rune, and card representations of the Sun.