

## The Tarot of Sister Who – The Court Cards Reimagined

For many tarot card readers the 'Court cards' (the Page, Knight, Queen and King of each of the minor arcana suits) are the most challenging. Do they represent specific people in, or near, the subject of the reading, or are they symbolic of certain character traits or life experience? There has been at least one book dedicated to just those cards, as well as lectures and classes expounding upon them.

*The Tarot of Sister Who* is designed primarily as a meditation, rather than divination, tool. Sister Who has replaced the traditional Court cards of each suit with Confessor, Celebrant, Angel and Saint. The four roles serve as guides on interacting with all of creation.

They resonate very strongly with my deep calling as a Sister- I am called to listen, to celebrate, to love and to actively support the gathered fruitful. For me, these cards are a reminder that the work is ever-present; whether I'm manifesting as Sister Flirt, or am in stealth mode.

Here is an introduction to those four roles in this deck, as well as how they manifest in the minor suits. In the book that accompanies the deck, Sister Who summarizes the four roles as follows.

“**The Confessor** is that voice that listens and cares without making demands; the one who bears with absolute confidentiality and trustworthiness the deepest joys, pains, and truth of the individual's heart and mind. Embodying sensitivity, awareness, thoughtful consideration, and wise decision-making, yet in ways that abhor any dictatorial imposition, the interaction is deeply internal. Indeed, if movement and growth do not arise from deep within the individual, then no true movement or growth has occurred.

“**The Celebrant** is that voice that leads actions of deep experience of life, binding spiritual significance to physical action. Embodying recognition of the spiritual within the physical, of participation in the greater harmonies of the universe, and of dutiful maintenance of a high quality of life, it matters not whether any associated quantity is great or small.

“**The Angel** is that voice which directs protecting love and willing involvement toward every spirit in need--sometimes to the individual and sometimes through the individual. Within the interconnectedness of all things and the symbiotic nature of all healthy relationships, whatever good is possible is extended to all that is ultimately also an extension of the self. Yet the starting point is not selfishness, but rather dedication to service, so that love may encourage all good things to follow.

“**The Saint** is that voice which lives in harmony with spiritual beings of both more and less evolved states. Embodying the ability to hold on or to let go, as greatest wisdom directs, there is also the ability to move in harmony with the larger sea of spirituality from which all good is truthfully drawn. Having traveled a path to the present moment that warrants deep contemplation of both what may have been overlooked along the way, as well as what possibilities creative imagination has suggested, a sense of inclusive timelessness is a signature quality.” (page 6,7- emphasis added)

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Although Sister Who uses different names for the minor suits, they do map pretty neatly with those found in most traditional decks.

“The suit of **Candles** draws upon symbolisms of fire, of spirit, of *wands*, and of summer. A candle is a rod that bears a flame, which is also a transformative agent or bridge between the physical and the non-physical; between that which is seen and that which is unseen.

“The suit of **Chalices** draws upon symbolisms of water, of emotion, of *cups*, and of autumn. A chalice is a vessel like ourselves that provides containment and expression for what might otherwise be overwhelming or confusing, yet its contents cannot remain as they are (being subject to evaporation), but rather both invite and require meaningful interaction. Like feelings which are forever swirling and evolving from one expression to another, calmness may be empowering, but stagnation is to be avoided. One can never stop within a present moment and go no further; humanity is a species defined in a myriad of ways by time.

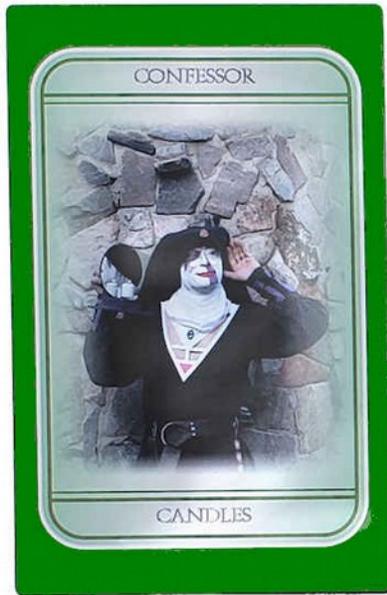
“The suit of **Thuribles** draws upon symbolisms of air, of intellect, of *swords*, and of spring. A Thurible embraces paradoxes, utilizing smoke for spiritual cleansing and also formlessness to alter the invisible nature of forms; making precise shifts and distinctions according to the specific understandings of its bearer, whose energy charges the smoke with purpose and meaning. As winter and spring do their spiral dance, one slowly giving way to the other, this tool moves around and among individuals, granting possibilities of rebirth.

“The suit of **Paraments** draws upon the symbolism of earth, of physical forms, of *pentacles*, and of winter. In and of itself a mere piece of cloth, the signature quality of this ritual tool is the immediate transformation of physical space from mundane to sacred; from mere pragmatism to realms of higher meaning. As the mountains are the fingers of earth, touching the sky, so does the cloth form a stage upon which the spirit can dance its individual voice and expression.” (page 6- emphasis added)

The suits match up more easily to traditional decks than do the four new cards. As of this writing, I am using the deck for a spirituality-focused *Harvest Spread*, as well as drawing one card from the 16 new ones for the *Guidance Card* in my *GPS (Guidance & Purpose) Spread*. Whether you assign a traditional Court Card title to a specific new role, use the new names and images to intuit a meaning specific to each reading, or find your own method, the *The Tarot of Sister Who* can be a powerful tool.

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### The 'Court Cards' in the Tarot of Sister Who

The Confessor is that voice that listens and cares without making demands; the one who bears with absolute confidentiality and trustworthiness the deepest joys, pains, and truth of the individual's heart and mind.

The Celebrant is that voice that leads actions of deep experience of life, binding spiritual significance to physical action. Embodying recognition of the spiritual within the physical.

The Angel is that voice which directs protecting love and willing involvement toward every spirit in need--sometimes to the individual and sometimes through the individual.

The Saint is that voice which lives in harmony with spiritual beings of both more and less evolved states. Embodying the ability to hold on or to let go, as greatest wisdom directs.

