

Kingdom

Card Divination

Developed by Pearl A. Hodges

All divination systems seek to find knowledge and order out of chaos and randomness. The fundamentally random nature of a card draw is able to be used to shape understanding if placed in a context of meaning by the person who draws it. Tarot is the most popular and well known card divination system but there are others, and Kingdom seeks to define itself among them with its biological basis and easily approachable form and meaning. There is no more chaos than attempting to categorize all life on earth, and that randomness is used to give meaning to the card draw. By focusing on the breadth of life on this planet and its myriad of forms, we can see how small humans are as a single species of animal are among many wild and variable creatures which outnumber us in population and also in diversity. This universal view looks to take the emotions, history, and thoughts of a singular individual and allow them to divine their own meaning from colorful illustrations of various animals, plants, and fungi.

Kingdom is a card divination system based on the Phyla of all multi-cellular life on earth (Animals, Plants, and Fungi), presented with a single indicative species on each card. Bacteria, Archaea, Chromista, and Protista are brought together into a single 'joker' type card, indicative of their complex, diverse, and alien nature. As the debate remains as to whether or not viri are or are not 'alive' in any meaningful sense, they are excluded here.

Each card features an indicative species for the phylum, but one should consider how varied each phylum is. All vertebrates, for example, are here represented by the Blue Whale, the largest animal to have ever lived, and yet the phylum includes all mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. The representative species has been chosen either for its ubiquitous nature among the phylum, its exemplary and indicative characteristics, or its aesthetic and memorable visual appeal unique to the phylum. Exact species names are given in this accompanying material. Please note that sizes given are approximate, and the illustrations, while aiming for accuracy, are not meant as fully detailed scientific diagrams.

One can divine from a standard deck of playing cards alone, but more color and imagery makes for more layers of meaning. A suggested list of interpretation is included here, although those using this set are welcome to interpret their own meaning. Kingdom is meant to be an accessible form of divination, and while the creator endeavors to make professionally printed sets of cards available, a reading can be done with a home printed or derived version of the material provided. The creator of Kingdom has allowed for non-commercial self-printing in an effort to share and spread this divination system.

As a small aside, this deck also serves as a simple memorization/flash card tool for the phyla of multi-cellular life. It can be appreciated as a simple means to understand the incredible diversity of life on earth and a jumping off point for further study. Although this should be taken with a grain of salt – taxonomy is an ever changing thing as new discoveries change how we view the many branches on the tree of life, and while this set is as current as possible as of the year 2020, the way in which life is categorized is always subject to change as our knowledge increases.

Kingdom is based on the seven kingdom model proposed by Ruggiero *et al.* in 2015.

Kingdom features 57 cards, falling into three Kingdoms of life – 34 Animal, 14 Plant, 8 Fungi cards, and 1 Other card (grouping together the four other Kingdoms as something of a Joker card).

Animal Cards:

1. Acanthocephala	Thorny-headed worms	Hook	<i>Corynosoma wegeneri</i>
2. Annelida	Segmented worms	Interlinked	<i>Eurythoe sp</i>
3. Arthropoda	Insects, crustaceans	Branching Paths	<i>Hoplia coerulea</i>
4. Brachiopoda	Lampshells	Survival	<i>Terebratalia transversa</i>
5. Bryozoa	Moss animals, sea mats	Community	<i>Pectinatella magnifica</i>
6. Chaetognatha	Arrow worms	Touch	<i>Sagitta sp</i>
7. Chordata	Chordates	Comfort	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>
8. Cnidaria	Cnidarians	Sharpness	<i>Chrysaora fuscescens</i>
9. Ctenophora	Comb jellies	Glamour	<i>Mertensia ovum</i>
10. Cycliophora	Symbion	Unique Situation	<i>Symbion pandora</i>
11. Echinodermata	Echinoderms	Symmetry	<i>Strongylocentrotus purpuratus</i>
12. Entoprocta	Goblet worms	Cup	<i>Pedicellina cernua</i>
13. Gastrotricha	Gastrotrich worms	Quickness	<i>Lepidodermella squamata</i>

14. Gnathostomulida	Jaw worms	Teeth	<i>Gnathostomula paradoxa</i>
15. Hemichordata	Acorn worms, hemichordates	Almost	<i>Schizocardium sp</i>
16. Kinorhyncha	Mud dragons	Obscured	<i>Echinoderes sp</i>
17. Loricifera	Brush heads	Smothering	<i>Nanaloricus mysticus</i>
18. Micrognathozoa	Limnognathia	Luck	<i>Limnognathia maerski</i>
19. Mollusca	Mollusks	Intelligence	<i>Wunderpus photogenicus</i>
20. Nematoda	Round worms, thread worms	Key	<i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i>
21. Nematomorpha	Horsehair worms, gordian worms	Knot	<i>Gordius sp</i>
22. Nemertea	Ribbon worms, rynchocoela	Fragility	<i>Lineus sp</i>
23. Onychophora	Velvet worms	Stickiness	<i>Peripatoides novaezealandiae</i>
24. Orthonectida	Orthonectids	Parallel	<i>Rhopalura ophiocomae</i>
25. Phoronida	Horseshoe worms	Return	<i>Phoronis australis</i>
26. Placozoa	Trichoplaxes	Simplicity	<i>Trichoplax adhaerens</i>
27. Platyhelminthes	Flatworms	Multiple Outcomes	<i>Dugesia subtentaculata</i>
28. Porifera	Sponges	Inner Peace	<i>Aplysina fistularis</i>
29. Priapulida	Penis worms	Abundance	<i>Priapulius caudatus</i>
30. Rhombozoa	Rhombozoans	Dispute	<i>Dicyema macrocephalum</i>
31. Rotifera	Rotifers	Wheel	Bdelloid rotifer
32. Sipuncula	Peanut worms	Net	<i>Antillesoma antillarum</i>
33. Tardigrada	Water bears	Resiliency	<i>Macrobiotus sapiens</i>
34. Xenacoelomorpha	Acoels, xenoturbellids	Reduction	<i>Xenoturbella bocki</i>

Plant Cards:

35. Anthocerotophyta	Hornworts	Softness	<i>Phaetaev sp</i>
36. Bryophyta	Mosses	Retention	<i>Thuidium delicatulum</i>
37. Charophyta	Charophytes	Scaffold	<i>Chara braunii</i>
38. Chlorophyta	Chlorophytes	Battery	<i>Codium fragile</i>
39. Cycadophyta	Cycads	Primeval	<i>Cycas revoluta</i>
40. Ginkgophyta	Ginkgo	Dignity	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
41. Glaucophyta	Glaucophytes	Catalyst	<i>Glaucocystis sp</i>
42. Gnetophyta	Gnetophytes	Strangeness	<i>Welwitschia mirabilis</i>
43. Lycopodiopsida	Clubmosses, Spikemosses	Path	<i>Isoetes sp</i>
44. Magnoliophyta	Flowering plants, angiosperms	Ephemeral	<i>Cereus Peruvianus</i>
45. Marchantiophyta	Liverworts	Ambiguity	<i>Marchantia polymorpha</i>
46. Pinophyta	Conifers	Dedication	<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i>
47. Polypodiopsida	Ferns	Vacillation	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>
48. Rhodophyta	Red Alge	Death	<i>Ceratium furca</i>

Fungi Cards:

49. Ascomycota	Ascomycetes	Transmogrification	<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>
50. Basidiomycota	Basidiomycetes	Renewal	<i>Amanita muscaria</i>
51. Blastocladiomycota	Blastoclads	Minutia	<i>Allomyces sp</i>
52. Chytridiomycota	Chytrids	Cooking	<i>Rhizophydium sphaerotheca</i>
53. Glomeromycota	Glomeromycetes	Growth	<i>Gigaspora margarita</i>
54. Microsporidia	Microsporans	Control	<i>Fibrillanosema crangonycis</i>
55. Neocallimastigomycota	Neocallimastigomycetes	Rumination	<i>Neocallimastix sp</i>
56. Zygomycota	Zygomycetes	Pair	<i>Pilobolus crystallinus</i>

Single Cell Card

0. Archaea, Chromista, Protizoans, Bacteria	Freedom	<i>Halobacterium sp, Gephyrocapsa oceanic,</i> <i>Paramecium sp, Escherichia coli</i>
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Card Meanings

These card readings are merely suggestions based on the characteristics and known phylogeny of these different phyla of organisms. Taking their cue from overall trends within each phyla, or from overall descriptive anatomy of them, or exemplary and notable species therein, they look to find meaning from biological similarity within each. The reader is

welcomed to interpret their own meanings. However, when looking at all phyla of life and its place on our planet, it is important to consider all living things free of a context of 'good' or 'evil' (or any kind of morality). Similarly, one should be judicious in the meaning of their reading. Every creature we know living today has evolved to fill a niche, and its importance or aesthetic to our own species has no bearing on how successful it is at this. There is a greater context of the life on our planet with which human notions of ethics have no bearing.

Animalia

The animal kingdom is most familiar to those within it. No matter how alien a form and lifestyle the members of this kingdom take, they are still recognizably animals – all are multi-cellular, consume organic material, reproduce sexually, move under their own power, and breathe oxygen. While there are some exceptions, they stay within familiar realms of these various qualities. Therefore the meanings of cards within this kingdom are the most familiar, encompassing concepts from the mundane to the personal, but all within a scope that is worldly and familiar. A reading full of cards from this Kingdom will show many familial, societal, and personal concepts, and one should consider those things that are closest to them.

Acanthocephala – The Thorny-Headed Worm's card represents a hook, whether it is a proverbial one or a literal one. A hook is something that can be used to grasp attention and hold it, it can be a favorable chance to hold another's attention, or a negative chance to incur unwanted attention. It can be a boon or a warning depending on the subject of the reading and their surrounding life events. The Thorny-Headed Worm grips the interior of its hosts intestines, and is very difficult to release – beneficial for the worm but not for the host.

Annelida – The Polychaete Worm card's biology represents its meaning as a thing interlinked. With its segmented body plan, each distinct joint of the animal chains together to form the whole. Oftentimes each unit of the chain possesses the same organs as the others. In reading, this card is one to look for connections between others, to find interlined meanings behind disparate elements, and to understand the similarity between all things – mind, body, feeling, being. This phyla is diverse – many species have very different lifestyles and biology, however, they are interlinked in ways deeper than first glance may show.

Arthropoda – The Beetle card represents a branched path. The future may come to a point where there are several different means to an end, or the subject may have just come to their own personal conclusions after working through a myriad of choice. These choices may be positive or negative, but it is important to embrace their variety, and inspect the different means to an end. Arthropoda is the most numerous and diverse phyla in the tree of life, hosting the most variety of speciation of all branches. These diverse animals have evolved to fill all kinds of incredible niches in the world.

Brachiopoda – The Lamp Shell card represents survival. Pulling through a difficult situation may prove traumatic and scarring, but it is nearly always, if only in the slimmest way, possible. Survival can mean many things in any situation, but it is possible to pull through for better or for worse. With their hard shells and long life history on earth these creatures have proven surprisingly resilient given multiple mass extinctions throughout their phylum's history. On their own they are often more fragile than bivalves, but despite this, they still thrive.

Bryozoa – The Moss Animal card represents community. A community supports an individual in ways that would be impossible for a single unit alone. One should look to one's community for support, or seek ways in which they can return the support of the community in their way. If rejected by the community, one should seek another, better suited to their unique offerings. Animals that need each other, bryozoa exist in colonies of zooids which cannot survive alone, often serving a specific task for the group as a whole.

Chaetognatha – The Arrow Worm card represents touch. Touch is so critical a sensation to us that we ascribe it to emotional impact, we need not physically reach out to find something 'touching'. What touch means in the context of the card reading can be quite varied, but one should consider where some element of physical or emotional connection may be missing or need to be repaired. Where is touch absent and how can it help? Arrow worms navigate via touch, they have sensitive bristles that allow them to be effective predators in their environment, and while this phylum does not have much diversity, it has a huge biomass of individual animals.

Chordata – The Blue Whale card represents comfort and familiarity. In a reading this could be interpreted as finding solace in the event, person, thing, or place the reading is done for. One should embrace the known comforts of the past, or look to the welcome nature of familiarity in the future. As the reader belongs to this Phyla, one should consider the diversity within it, yet the commonality to all animals therein (with bones, symmetry, and familiar body plans), especially compared to the

vast myriad of life in the world.

Cnidaria – The Jellyfish card, through its biology, represents sharpness – of wit, of thought, or of future or past events. Sharpness may be severe pain or the ability to fight it off, it could also indicate a direct and different turn of events. One should look for the point when this card is drawn, and what direction it leads. If there is no point, then it may be time to hone in on looking for one, or deriving one from the means available. Named for the stinging cells that allow them to envenom their prey, all animals in this phyla contain cnidocytes which fire a harpoon-like structure into prey or substrate.

Ctenophora – The Comb Jelly card represents glamour, elegance, and allure. Beauty may be found past or present in events, no matter how strange or confusing they may be. Look to find the wonder of that which has or will happen, especially finding love for an aesthetic that may be unfamiliar or confusing. Despite their alien form, the elegantly undulating 'combs' of these animals shimmer with a rainbow of iridescence as they move through the water.

Cycliophora – The Symbion card represents a unique situation, opportunity, or event. This may be something to be grasped at or avoided based on the surrounding cards. If considered in a past sense it could be a particularly difficult adversity overcome, or a singular opportunity taken in hand. If looking toward the future this may foresee some very different event in the subject's life about to take place, something they have not yet dealt with before. These highly specific animals exist only on the whiskers of a few species of lobsters, living out their lives neither helping or harming their hosts. Their unique place in the tree of life gives them a highly specialized lifestyle, and make them stand out among more diverse phyla.

Echinodermata – The Urchin card represents symmetry. Look for balanced aspects of events past and future. If something seems amiss in a reading, or looking forward or back, look to find its paired meaning – something which exists in harmony with or in opposition to what you find, depending on where the hole may lie. This may be a call to action or simply an act of introspection. While not everything will have a pair, knowing its vacancy may assist in finding meaning or understanding. With their radial symmetry, this phyla is possessed of body plans which extensively feature symmetry in all aspects.

Entoprocta – The Goblet worm's distinct phylogeny gives it an overt meaning, symbolizing a cup. A cup, or vessel holds and contains. It can be filled or poured over. This can represent a bountiful thing or perhaps something that is too much. A cup can be empty, drained, and this can be represented as well. The subject of the reading will determine what meaning can be best understood, but look for fullness or emptiness and a willingness to contain what will be offered in the future. Entoprocta overall bear a superficial resemblance to a cup or goblet, sharing many similarities with other aquatic colonial animals composed of zooids.

Gastrotricha – The Gastrotric worm card represents quickness. Move with haste toward both goals and obstacles. Think quickly and move with speed. Linger on decisions and options and wondering over various outcomes overburdens the point, simply live and keep living. On a whole, the members of this phyla have very short lives, generally a few days to a couple weeks, and must therefore live quickly. They are complex, but small, and must keep going with haste in order to live their lives thoroughly and efficiently.

Gnathostomulida – The Jaw Worm card represents teeth. Arm yourself tooth and nail, bare your fangs, and bite. Gnathostomulids are small, substrate dwelling worms, many of which survive in extremely anerobic environments. Their most notable feature is their pointy teeth and strong jaws.

Hemichordata – The Acorn Worm card represents the rather nebulous idea of 'almost'. In life, no matter how hard one tries, or sometimes simply by chance there will be 'almost' moments. Times when things almost came together, almost worked, almost won. While it is easy to feel these times a disappointment, it is important to remember the strength of almost as well – almost hit, almost out, almost missed. Consider where there has been an almost, and look to accept the outcomes it may have presented. Hemichordata are a phylum of worm-like animals who are the closest related extant phyla to chordates (along with echinoderms), possessing a stomochord – a hollow tube which serves to communicate with the oral cavity. Despite the rough physiological resemblance, it is not entirely akin to a notochord, and not necessarily evolutionarily related.

Kinorhyncha – The Mud Dragon card finds its meaning in its namesake's lifestyle, obscured within the mud, much is unknown about this phyla. A reading including this card may mean that its own meaning could be obscured, something may be unclear or difficult to find either in life or in the layout of the cards. It may be prudent to deeply consider each card and its meaning within a reading, rather than to look for quick and easy connections. Small invertebrates, this cosmopolitan species is found in most marine sediment around the world, and yet their classification remains elusive.

Loricifera - The Brush Head card represents smothering. It can be possible to hold on too tightly, squeezing the air and life out of something simply for the sake of holding tight. In a reading this card is a warning – do not allow thoughts, emotions, people, or any other outside source to smother something, to keep it from breathing and allowing it to live. This can include the subject of the reading. This fascinating phylum of animals contains some of the first known multi cellular creatures to survive in completely anaerobic environments. They have specifically evolved to live without an element crucial to nearly all other members of the kingdom – oxygen.

Micrognathozoa – The Limnognathia card represents luck. Sometimes, even when everything is lined up, carefully considered, and greatly planned for, it is all down to luck. At other times, without planning, thought, or meaning, luck brings something along. Luck is an arbitrary turn of fate or sequence of events. Even with all other cards in the reading carefully considered, one must always account for luck, good or bad, in anything that happens. There is always random chance, and in that chance, it may be important to let go of plans and schemes, or to simply understand that there is no greater machination in the world than chance. This phyla, only recently discovered in the 90s, constitutes one species of incredibly tiny multi-cellular animals which are located solely in warm springs in Greenland. Their discovery is a thing of chance, so small and easily missed, and yet discovered to be unique and interesting.

Mollusca – The Octopus card represents intelligence. And just as diverse as this phylum is, intelligence comes in many diverse forms. In a reading, one should consider where one can use one's own kind of intelligence to work through whatever the issue at hand or question before them there may be. Intelligence may not be of a scholastic kind, there are many others that have allowed our species to thrive. And just as we thrive on our own intelligence, the many diverse and branching kinds of intelligence in this phylum are well noted. These are alien intelligence meant to solve specific problems, but the strength and incredible diversity of this phylum points to the strength of varied intelligence.

Nematoda – The Nematode card represents a key. Any lock without a key is a barrier which cannot easily be surpassed. With the right key, however, that which blocks the way can be removed with ease. It may be time to look for the key, rather than beating one's head on the lock. Does the key lie in the other cards in the reading? Or is the key something from the outside needed to contextualize and understand them? That will depend on the subject and surroundings, but regardless, consider where something may be critical to unlocking a stubborn thing. Nematodes are an incredibly vast and bio-diverse phyla, with lifestyles ranging from predator to prey to parasite with every variation in between. Their biomass makes up an incredible volume of life on earth, and they are absolutely critical to many systems, such as soil quality, water quality, aquatic food webs, terrestrial food webs, and others.

Nematomorpha – The Gordian Worm card represents a knot. A knot is a tangle to be undone or something that binds together. In a reading this can represent a mess to be worked through, or a binding not to be undone. Nematomorpha are known to tie themselves in knots, alone or in groups when mating.

Nemertea – The Ribbon Worm card represents fragility. Within a reading one should look to where fragility lies in the subject. Whether it is a physical fragility, a metaphorical one or an emotional or mental one. In finding fragility, it is important to realize its nature, not forcing stress upon something which may be prone to break. A delicate touch is important and good to have, and recognizing where sensitivity and gentleness are needed is important to understand in many situations. This phyla is host to some truly stunning animals, however, many of the marine members of this species are extremely fragile without the electrostatic pressure of water to keep their bodies together, they simply fall apart on land.

Onychophora – The Velvet Worm card represents stickiness in a metaphorical sense. Sticking to something to see it through to its conclusion, or staying with something despite difficulty can be critical qualities to have. At times, staying with something, and sticking to principles and ethos may see through an otherwise difficult decision or time. When in the reading it should be considered where sticking to something may be needed. This phyla, while having many distinct and interesting characteristics, uses a sticky glue-like slime to catch prey, and demonstrates incredible effectiveness with as much.

Orthonectida – The Orthonectida card represents the parallel. Parallel lines travel along the same path, yet never meet. This is neither positive nor negative this is mathematical. One should consider then, where parallels lie between their lives and others, and whether they dwell on these or accept them as simply things that are. In relation to other cards in the reading, consider where their reading may interact with parallels, how they may reinforce following the same or breaking away from them. This small and poorly known phylum is defined by its extremely simple body plan, consisting of two concentric layers of cells which surround little more than sex cells and possibly pigments. They are known only as parasites of various marine invertebrates.

Phoronida – The Horseshoe Worm card represents a return – something that has come full circle to return to its base state. Through change, or perhaps in spite of it, something that has been brought back to light or returned to comfort or perhaps even discomfort. Whether this return is a physical or an emotional one, to home, to health, or a negative one will depend on the subject of the reading. One should tread with caution when return is forecasted, even as a positive, as growth and change are constants in the world of living beings. Phoronids are defined by their u-shaped internal structures that loop throughout their bodies. Both their gut and their bloodstream circle through their body in this way, ending at the same locus of the body.

Placozoa – The Placozoa card represents simplicity. In a reading this should be considered among other elements, and the reading not over complicated by denial and burden. Look to find the most straightforward paths and meanings, and look to find simplicity in life where complexity has overburdened the subject of the reading. The simplest free-living animals in the Kingdom, these animals live and thrive with only four types of cells in their bodies and almost nothing more to their body plan than a top, bottom, and sides.

Platyhelminthes – The Planarian card represents multiple outcomes. While a singular event may seem to be concrete, there are always variations from one singular point. It is not always possible to control these events, but understanding variation that can exist can be critical to understanding an outcome. Embracing variety brings acceptance. When unsure of the outcome of a major or minor event, understand variation, but limit its scope to plausibility. With their simple body plan, flatworms can often survive major trauma, such as bifurcation of the head, by simply growing two heads where once there was one. Despite this change of perspective to the world, the worms remain able to survive and thrive as they inevitably split into two functional individuals from this trauma.

Porifera – The Sea Sponge card represents inner peace. Not just a nebulous form of serenity, but peace from an internally guided source. Looking inward to find a cohesive calm is a tangible and relevant skill at all times, and it may take careful reconstruction of various internal barriers. The sponge, which is both simple and complex, yet can regrow when ground down to its most base cells, is a halcyon of inner peace. With no brain, it lives, and yet does little harm in doing so.

Priapulida – The Penis Worm card represents abundance. As with many other cards, whether this particular meaning is positive or negative is critical to consider within the context of the reading. Abundance can be wonderful when it applies to something of need and value, but abundance can be detrimental when it applies to the over-saturated. Consider where abundance lies in context of the reading, and whether it is something to embrace or step away from. Some species in this phylum may occupy a small area in incredible abundance, their survival strategies allowing them to make the most of favorable environments and produce many offspring.

Rhombzoa – The Dicyemida card represents dispute. In a reading, it may be time to consider where a dispute lies, and be honest in the nature of disagreement. A dispute, argument, or difference of opinion is not, in and of itself unhealthy (although it can be when views are uninformed or cruel) and should be openly considered and allowed to play out as a dispute until a resolution can be reached. When cards in a reading have conflicting interests and meanings and this card is showing, consider where the discrepancy lie, and embrace the differences between them. This phyla encompasses a group of very small and very specific organisms, all renal parasites of squid, although their classification remains in dispute.

Rotifera – The Rotifer card represents the wheel. Wheels turn, they are an embodiment of a perpetual change of states, one to the next to the next, each following the other in an eternal cyclical loop. To live is to change, and yet change comes in cycles, in following forms, in repeated patterns. This is a chance to look at the grater picture of cycles – seasons, orbits, day and night, the repeated and the predictable. Rotifera are so named for the coronal ring which, with its constant motion, superficially resembles a wheel.

Sipuncula – The Fat Inkeeper Worm card represents a net. Creating a net and casting it wide allows to capture many small things at once that may have even avoided capture all together without it. What these small things are depends on the subject of the reading. Ideas? Opportunities? Whatever it is, it may be time to set a net out to catch them up. While the members of this phylum bear a distinct resemblance to a certain portion of human anatomy, their behavior is far more fascinating than a simple phallic comparison. In order to feed, the worm produces a mucus 'net' in its den, filtering water through it, and then consuming it when it is full of prey. It is a highly efficient predator in this way.

Tardigrada – The Tardigrade card represents resiliency. The ability to persevere through extreme circumstance. In a reading, this card may call for one to act upon internal resiliency and weather through difficulty, or it may be an indication of one's resiliency though a trying time in the past. Consider what gives resiliency and how to embrace it, or respect that

which has been shown. Able to withstand cold, heat, and even the vacuum of space, tardigrades, or water bears, are nearly invincible little animals. While these conditions are not comfortable to them, they endure.

Xenacoelomorpha – The Xenacoelomorph card represents reduction. Reduction eliminates unnecessary function and form, and drives something to its most functional essence. As with alchemy, one should consider where one form can be refined into something of greater use through the reduction of redundant or overburdening elements. More than simplicity this is subtraction. The final result may not be much less complex, but it will be finer for reduction of the superfluous. From more complex ancestors, the xenacoelamorphs have derived a simpler existence, their body plan changing from root elements into something tremendously straightforward and practical for their lifestyle with little else.

Plantae

The plant kingdom has many familiar and unfamiliar species within it. Its diversity is incredible, but the core function of its members is clear within the cycles of animal life. Overall the plant cards focus on life and the myriad of things needed to build and maintain its cycles. When one finds many plant cards in a reading one should consider the core functions and processes of life on earth, and how they are created, maintained, and eventually destroyed.

Anthocerotophyta – The Hornwort card represents softness. Softness is a quality of many things, of heart, of feeling, of mind. To be soft is to be gentle, but it is possible to be too soft and forgiving. In a reading this could be a positive quality to be embraced or a negative one to be overcome. Softness is not idleness or laziness, but it is possible to be too soft to those needing sternness. It is also at times necessary to break through sternness with softness. Physically very soft, this phylum is easily mistaken for mosses, as it often grows in the same biome and is similarly green and low growing.

Bryophyta – The Fern Moss card represents retention. Holding on to the critical and taking in the ephemeral are both qualities of retention, and one should consider that one may need to pay close attention to their surroundings, or give more weight to their studies as they observe this card in their reading. One may also want to look at that which they have retained, their knowledge, skill, and memory, and how it may aid them in relation to the subject of their reading. This phyla is full of a variety of species with different adaptations, but one that is common and important is the ability for moss to retain a tremendous amount of water, up to twenty times its weight, assisting in its survival and growth.

Charophyta – The Charophyta card represents scaffolding. A scaffold is something which reinforces a structure until it can stand on its own. It may be prudent to consider what support is needed, physical or otherwise, before something can come to fruition. It is important to create the framework needed for the final piece, even if it may need to be taken down or destroyed so the creation can finally exist. Look to where support is needed before something can be completed, and consider giving the appropriate development before launching into final conclusions. Charophyta can be difficult to describe as their own phyla, but one unique trait is that in many species, there is the use of phragmoplasts in mitosis (essentially a scaffolding developed to help set the shape of the final cell).

Chlorophyta – The Green Algae card represents a battery. While something with such electronic connections may seem out of place in relation to living things, many species within this phylum serve as a source of energy within other organisms. Their photosynthetic abilities support the animals they live in and are essential to the lives of. So it should be considered in a reading then, where is a support of power, a source of energy needed, or how might energy and inspiration be stored for later use. Consider how a battery powers a device, while existing as a single and independent thing from that device (although it may have no use of its own alone). Is the battery dead or missing? Is it time to consider placing a battery within a device to bring it new life? The meaning is left up to the reading.

Cycadophyta – The King Sago card represents the primeval. Cycads are noted for their persistence throughout the fossil record with very little change to their morphology and evolutionary strategy, what has worked for them throughout their history continues to serve them. In this way, one should look to the adaptations our own kind has employed since its own evolution. Look to whatever 'gut instinct' might apply to the situation at hand. Trust in the nature of basic emotion. Consider the response of instinct when approaching something that has caused vexation.

Ginkgophyta – The Ginkgo card represents dignity. Stately, beautiful, and long lived in the right circumstance, ginkgo trees have an air of ancient authority. While sometimes circumstance dictates a loss of dignity, it can always be carried within. To have dignity though difficulty is a feat, and one that should be lauded. In a reading a call for dignity may take different forms, but one should look to maintain the actions and outlook that retain both their own dignity and decency, and those around them that might suffer a need of it too. While only one extant species remains of this Phylum, its ancient lineage is clear, and its unique nature only makes it more stately.

Glaucomphyta – The Blue Green Algae card represents a catalyst. Whether this is the subject of the reading or something the subject should look for is a question left up to the reader. A catalyst is something that creates great change, for good or ill, or perhaps of neutral value, but something that makes for a very different situation from the starting point regardless. The catalyst may be some other element of the reading, or it may be an outside force ready to act upon it. Containing what are likely remnants of an early fortuitous union with cyanobacteria, blue-green algae carry within them something that literally once completely changed the face of the planet itself, developing the atmosphere as we now know it and making a world familiar to all life now living on earth.

Gnetophyta – The Welwitschia card represents strangeness. That strangeness may be something that overtly differentiates from the norm, something that defies explanation, or something that is simply just plain weird. That which is alien should be accepted as peculiar. It does not hurt to embrace strangeness, it can sometimes mean survival. While this phylum contains a variety of diverse plants with familiar adaptations, it also contains welwitschia, a very peculiar plant with a very distinct appearance. It grows low to the ground but can live upwards of 1,500 years, despite being composed entirely of only two large flat leaves.

Lycopodiopsida – The Quillwort card represents a path. The path may be like a road, long and singular, to be followed to a destination point. It may also twist and turn and require many stops along the way. A path should be followed to prevent loss, but may need more guidance than provided instructions. Consider the way, the path, the journey in regards to the subject of the reading, and look at the relation of other cards and how they may be affecting a considered map along a certain trail, physical, mental, or emotional. Plants within this phylum possess a very interesting microphyllous leaves which, instead of having a branching vascular network only have a singular vascular trace in each leaf (this is also believed to be a very basal characteristic of vascular plants).

Magnoliophyta – The Night-Blooming Cereus card (or cactus card), represents the ephemeral. While something may be perfect for a time, all things are fleeting. Changes of state are both natural and essential to the flow of life. Appreciate that which is beautiful, but know that it is not eternal. The angiosperm flowering plants all have blooms which last a time but eventually fade, they are essential to their life, yet do not span the life of their being.

Marchantiophyta – The Liverwort card represents ambiguity. When in a reading, one should consider it among the other cards, and look to the complexity and variety of their meaning. This may also mean, should conflicting meanings exist between the cards, that a different layout is in order. Life is complex and highly variable, it can be difficult to interpret something when various factors are in opposition. Consider trying again later, or looking for where confusion and lack of evidence may make for an incomplete answer. This phylum is full of moss-like plants, many of which are known for their soft green forms, lacking the shapeliness and structure of leaves or other familiar plant shapes.

Pinophyta – The Cypress card represents dedication. At times, it may become difficult to see something through to its fullest. This reminder should be considered when something may be or has been abandoned due to difficulty or troubling circumstance. While at times it is important to let go, this is a reminder to hold on through adversity. Despite the massive size of many of the plants in this phylum, they are able to persevere through difficult growing conditions, including poor soils, heavy weather, and difficult terrain owing to their various adaptations.

Polypodiopsida – The Fiddlehead Fern card represents vacillation. Moving from state to state, changing from one thing to another throughout one's lifespan, this does not represent a random change, this represents a distinct change from one state to another and back again. In our phylum of life this is sleeping, breathing, pregnancy, generations, sides, opinions, the heartbeat, the bloodflow, where this settles into the reading will depend on where the reader is in life and what it is they read about. This distinct change of state reflects the incredible life cycle of the fern, as it goes from generation to generation changing through a complex cycle where the child is nothing like the parent.

Rhodophyta – The Red Tide card represents death. Multifaceted and complex, death is a requirement of life, not an antithesis of it. In life, death is required for progress, change, and innovation. It defines us as living. In a reading it may be time to consider an end to something which it is time to mourn, but let go. Death may have had a presence in the subject of the reading recently, and it must be acknowledged and understood. While the Red Tide is only a singular aspect of a complex and varied phyla, its huge presence within ecology makes it stand out among all species within its phyla.

Fungi

The fungi are perhaps the most alien kingdom to those of us in kingdom Animalia. With their many strange and incredible lifestyles, differing life cycles, and vastly different appearances, this kingdom features an incredible variety of species. Overall the Fungi cards are themed with very large but nebulous concepts, one should look to complex and interconnected overall changes, needs, and states when Fungi cards are in the reading. These are concepts beyond those that are immediate to life and are more universal in nature.

Ascomycota – The Yeast card represents transmutation, a transformation of one thing into another. While literal change can be seen with metamorphosis, when in a card reading one should look to metaphorical transformation, mental, physical, or emotional, either in the past which may be affecting the present, or to be seen in and embraced in the future. One should not fear change, as fungi as a whole remind us it is inevitable. While Ascomycota encompass a vast variety of fungi, perhaps some of the most notable in the phyla are the yeasts which allow beer and bread to ferment. All fungi are transformative, but these are some of the most notable in our human, everyday lives.

Basidiomycota – The Mushroom card is renewal in its most fundamental state. Beyond death there is decay, from decay there is life. Despite difficulty, tragedy, or death there is promise of renewed life and vitality. Despite vitality, there is always the promise of death. In life there is death. In death there is life. In reading this must be considered with the subject and surrounding circumstance, but a reminder of death is always prudent, and a reminder that it brings life is all the more so. Within this Phylum are some of the most well known mushroom species, and they are the most visible signs of life renewed from death to the human eye. Their interlinked nature to all things that live is a constant reminder that decay is an extant form of life.

Blastocladiomycota – The Blastoclad card represents minutia. The smallest things which are often below notice and require a narrowed and careful view to ascertain. Is there something large ahead which seems insurmountable? Perhaps it is time to look smaller. It could also be that assessment of the smaller things could prove better to create a better working whole. Only recently defined within their own phylum, blastocladiomycota are defined by the ultrastructure of their zoospores, defining their reproduction on a cellular as physically unique among all phyla.

Chytridiomycota – The Chytrid card represents cooking. More than just transforming from one state to another, cooking requires the input of various ingredients and the application of outside sources of energy to see something to a desirable conclusion. If something is not moving forward, it may be time to reconsider what elements are needed for it to improve. Think of where the recipe has deviated or is lacking, and look to apply outside stimulus to the subject of the reading. The name for this phylum derives from the Greek 'little cooking pot' referring to the structure of unreleased zoospores.

Glomeromycota – The Mycorrhizal Fungi card represents growth. To grow is to move beyond what is past and to continue to change and adapt. Growth can be large or small, but it is ever present. Consider in the reading that it may be time to focus on growth. Critical to life on earth, mycorrhizal fungi support the growth of many keystone plant species, which would be unable to thrive without them. Without the plants, ecosystems would collapse. Their existence is absolutely critical to the growth of nearly all plant life on earth.

Microsporidia – The Microsporidia card represents control. In a reading one should consider where control of a situation or thing has been lost, and where it might be regained, refined, or better understood. The overt control of a situation may not be possible, but one can look to elements they can control and act within their own best interest. Control, when left unchecked, can be dangerous and detrimental to others, so it is best to consider the broad scope. Microsporidia are unicellular fungi and the phylum contains a number of parasites capable of controlling various aspects of their host's morphology and biology.

Neocallimastigomycota – The Neocallimastigomycete card represents rumination, or gentle, introspective thought and digestion of complex and hard matters. When coming upon a difficult issue or harsh reality it can be important to take the time to reflect on this and digest it piece by piece. As Neocallimastigomycetes exist in the offal of herbivorous animals and aid in digestion of tough plant matter, they too exist here to reflect upon the need to take the time to digest harsh matters, and allow whatever events that surround us to be taken apart piece by piece until it can be managed by the whole.

Zygomycota – The Zygomycete card represents a pair, or a duality. There is a natural fascination in the human mind for twins, it is unusual for our species, and therefore comes across as something special. Things that are paired are of a natural interest, and one should remark their uniqueness. When one of a pair is missing, it is natural to hurt for its loss, and to look for its replacement. Consider what is missing, and what is lost, and look to find a match to complete it. The name of this phylum refers to the specific visual appearance of the zygospore (spores) formed during sexual reproduction, which appear as two fused but distinct cells.

The Other Card

The other card represents freedom. Representing the other major phyla separate from those most known and visible life forms, this card is almost a 'joker' of sorts. Freedom from the limitations of one's own place in life, one should look to escape that which they both love and fear. To move beyond constraints of worldly concern into the boundless unknown. Archea, Chromista, Protista, and Bacteria all form their own impressive kingdoms full of a variety of important creatures that determine the viability of life on our planet, and yet they do so in novel, incredible ways that science has only yet begun to better understand. While some of their forms are familiar and some have had many centuries of study, these kingdoms still struggle to be defined in meaningful ways among their fellow organisms.

Readings

As with any form of divination, one should enter the reading with a clear sense of self, and a calm mind, open to careful consideration and thought. Kingdom does not look to ascribe direct positive and negative meanings to cards – just as every being, even those with alien or frightening lifestyles, seeks only to exist and live out its life. Instead, this system asks you to consider each element within the context of a whole, and whether that thing is positive or negative to you, personally, within your life and with your own internal framework of understanding.

These are suggested layouts for readings, but the diviner is invited to find their own favored spreads and interpretations. Familiar reading layouts with other card divination systems should work equally well with Kingdom.

In these suggested layouts reversed cards generally do not come into play – meanings are the same upright or inverted, as purely their placing and context within the subject of the reading is critical to their understanding. Kingdom uses symbology and language that is meant for the reader to have control of their understanding of each card within its framework of the reading – whether it is positive or negative. However, if the reader wishes to consider an inverse meaning (if that brings more clarity, or their favored layout uses it), one should consider the challenging aspects of the listed characteristic of the card – how they might bear out in their more difficult or disparaging ways, vs the upright as the more straightforward and simple meaning.

Cards should be thoroughly shuffled before each reading, and drawn from a single draw pile. It may be a good idea to practice readings on the self before doing readings for others to become more familiar with the card meanings in context.

The Three Card Reading

Cause – Effect – Solution

This quick and straightforward reading focuses on immediate events surrounding the subject of the reading. The subject of this reading may be a simple issue or question, a person, an event, or one may simply look to paint a picture of current happenings with a broad brush. As this reading is very open to interpretation, it can be used freely in many ways. The first card drawn is the cause. This card will reflect the reasoning behind the subject of the reading. The second card drawn is the effect. This card will show the outcome of whatever the first card presents. The third card drawn is the solution. Whatever the cause and effect card are, this card offers a broad look into what may ease the issue presented and its subsequent effect.

The Five Card Reading

Want – Need – Desire – Disgust – Compromise

This more complex but still straightforward layout looks to turn questioning inward on the subject of the reading. Generally this layout is best focused on a person (the self or other) or relationship. This layout is meant to help bring insight, rather than to answer a direct question. Each of these cards is of importance to the subject, and acknowledged and embraced (rather than pointed out as a character flaw). The first card drawn is the want. This want is something which the subject of the reading would like to have, with gravity and importance, but may or may not get by without. The next card drawn is the need. This is something the subject of the reading must have, not simply something they would like to have. The third card drawn is the desire. This is something the subject feels passionately about, something that keeps them going forward despite setback. The fourth card drawn is disgust. This is something the subject cannot stand, and has rejected in context of the rest of the cards in the reading. The last card drawn is the compromise. This card helps to rectify the previous four. This is something that will aim to balance all of these things – meeting want and need, embracing desire, and rectifying disgust.

The Seven Card Reading

Beginning	Behind Beside	Now	Away Ahead	Forward
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This longer reading layout is meant to take on more complex subject matter than the first two. This reading is meant for introspection and answers, whether they are more personal or more worldly. The subject of the reading may be a question or simply an event, but something where a sequence of events is occurring or ongoing. The first card drawn is the beginning – whatever the seminal moment or thing that lead to all of the ramification of the subject of the reading. The second card drawn is what is behind, whatever of the event or thing is now past and unreachable. The third card drawn is what is beside, the remnants of the past which are still indirectly or directly affecting the present. The fourth card drawn is the now, the results of the previous and what is exactly within the present frame of reference. The fifth card drawn is what is away from the reader, that which will be impacted by these events but is outside of their own control. The sixth card drawn is what lies ahead for the reader, the events that will directly impact them. The seventh and last card drawn is what the reader can anticipate going forward, what will guide and direct them from these past things, good or bad.

The Twelve Card Reading

The Self	The Others	The World
Drive	Gifts	Moment
Setback	Demands	Crisis
Strength	Middle Ground	Catharsis
Wholeness	Community	Eternity

This long reading is a complex layout meant to explore a variety of things relating to the self, the others, and the world. This could encompass an event, a feeling, a question, or anything that is on the mind of the subject of the reading. Not strongly specific, this reading is most of all a guided meditation for the subject. This reading is divided into three columns, and a card is read in each in turn. Each line of the cards correlates to the others in it.

The first card drawn is in the self column, and it is drive. This is what motivates the subject, be it overtly or more subtly, something that keeps them going forward, moving, and living. The second card drawn is in the others column, and is the gifts. The gifts of others are something which has been given to the subject from outside sources and has served to motivate drive. The third card drawn is in the world column and is the moment. This is the overall state of the world in which the subject of the reading lives in, and affects the subject of reading in the present of their lives.

The second row of cards continues this same pattern. The fourth card drawn is in the self column, and is the setback. This is something that is holding back the previous card, something which the subject needs to overcome. The fifth card drawn is in the others column, again following the pattern, and is the demands. This is something that an outside force is either requiring or wanting of the subject of the reading. This could be fair or unfair, depending on the situation, but it should be acknowledged and resolved in some way, even if it is not giving in to demand. The Sixth card drawn is the in the world column and is the crisis. This is something major that is affecting the world – either an abundance or lack thereof, depending on the card in question and the feeling of the context. This could affect the previous two cards, as something wrong in the world as a whole affects a singular being.

The third row again continues the pattern. The seventh card drawn is again the self column and is the strength. This is some characteristic of the subject of the reading that is a solid and important aspect they carry. With this strength, the subject can begin to look at how the previous issues and aspects may be within their control. The eighth card drawn is in the others column and is the middle ground. This is some area of compromise for all surrounding cards. Something where things can be met half way. The ninth card drawn is in the world column and is catharsis. This is release and relief. Whatever catharsis is in a worldly way is something that the subject of the reading can look ahead to as another form of resolution.

The fourth and final row of cards starts with the tenth card drawn again in the self column and this is wholeness. This is the final result of the cards in this column and is a general card for the whole of the attitude and actions of the self. The eleventh card drawn is the last in the others column and represents the community. This is the final strength and attitude of those that surround the subject of the reading. Strengths and weaknesses from all previous cards considered, this is the complete view. The twelfth and final card drawn in the world column is eternity. This is something that should be

considered as vastly as possible, and all of its far reaching implications.

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