

# The Syzygy Oracle: Transformational Tarot and The Tree of Life

Thank you for your interest in this transformative deck that interweaves ego and essence in the evolution of consciousness. Honoring The Sacred Feminine, and as an introduction to the mystical tradition of Kabbalah, this deck of 32 empowering cards accompanies the book of the same title, **The Syzygy Oracle: Transformative Tarot and The Tree of Life**, published by Dodona Books, Nov, 2013. To get the most out of the cards, make sure to get your copy of the book that is available for kindle as well as in hard copy.

'**Syzygy**,' an unfamiliar word to most, pronounced 'scissor-gee' has two meanings: C.G. Jung uses the word to describe of the balancing of the opposites; astronomically, it refers to a conjunction of the sun, moon and earth at certain times in the cosmic dance. On the planet we call home, we are influenced by both of these celestial orbs as we walk between light and darkness, physically and metaphorically. As a deck that describes the mythic hero's journey in 22 steps, **The Syzygy Oracle** uses the analogy of solar energy strengthening our healthy ego functioning, while lunar energy evolves our awareness of the power of our own Soul essence. The interweaving of the two is the goal of the human journey of spiritual beings.

Created as an interpretation of the Tarot's Major Arcana, and more than a prognosticative tool, **The Syzygy Oracle** is offered as a personal spiritual practice for welcoming and strengthening the Intuitive into your life.. Without having to consult an outside reader, **The Syzygy Oracle** allows you to ask, and then answer your own questions, in the privacy of your home. The more you use them, the more easily you understand the teachings. The cards and readings help you to understand your own life journey as a unique and precious gift.

Where the traditional decks start with 0 and end with 21, **The Syzygy Oracle**, associated with Hebrew alphabet, starts with 1/*alef* and end with 22/*tav*. Removing the patriarchal feel of the more traditional decks, elegant feminine archetypes from world culture feature empower each card. Mystics teach that in the physical realm, the soul operates on three levels; in **The Syzygy Oracle**, the *nefesh* (living beat of Life) is represented by **letter** of each card; *ruach* (the spirit) is represented by the associated **number** and *neshama* (soul) can be accessed by individual myths and **stories**, all detailed in the book for a deep understanding of each card. Included in each card are sacred geometric symbols speak to the imaginative and intuitive sense in ways that surpass the limits of language. Finally, each card is associated with an essential oil that enhances a quality under consideration, making the experience a multi-sensory one.

The goal of this guide is to get you started with your cards if you do not yet have the book. By working with the images and paying attention to the multilayered images

included in each one, this guide will assist you to connect with your own intuitive and mythic wisdom that will help you to understand the miraculous blessing that is the hero's journey of your own life story. The 22 cards direct us to consider both the mentors who gift us and the threshold guardians who allow us to monitor what we have learned as we travel through the mystery of our lives.

### **How to use this deck:**

As an experiential introduction to Kabbalah's Tree of Life, whereas the book offers seven levels of contemplation and practice an engage the full power of your intuitive sense, this booklet provides you with a working sample of the themes, the Hebrew letters and numbers, mantras, archetypes, mentors and essential oils associated with each reading.

Of the 32 cards in the deck, the first 22 numbered cards are contemporary interpretations of the traditional Major Arcana; the additional 10 cards, each consisting of a unique kaleidoscopic flower mandala represents one of the 10 *sefirot* (cosmic chakras) of Kabbalah's *Eitz Chaim* or Tree of Life. To honor the mystery and unknown in our lives, each card starts with a black background on to which light and color are added.

There are as many ways to use this deck as there are users. I offer a few suggestions for you to begin to feel comfortable with the cards and find a method that works best for you.

After separating the 2 decks, draw a card from the set of 22. Look carefully at your card before opening the book or guide. Note its theme and number, and as many details as you can about the design. How do you feel about the name of the card as a verb instead of a noun, as used in the traditional decks? What sacred geometric symbols do you see in the design? Do you see the calligraphic grid composed of the Hebrew letter associated with the card — sometimes in the fabric of a robe, at other times, an element of the land, water or sky?

Next, draw a card from the *sefirot* deck. What does the name of the card suggest? What do you see in the design? Together, what does an interweaving of your selected cards suggest to you about your journey at this moment in time?

Drawing the card can be done face down from a shuffled deck or as an alternative, look at the cards and draw the one that calls to you. Other methods of selecting cards is by choosing a number between 1 and 22 and drawing an archetypal card from the first deck, and between 1 and 10 and draw that card from the mandalas.

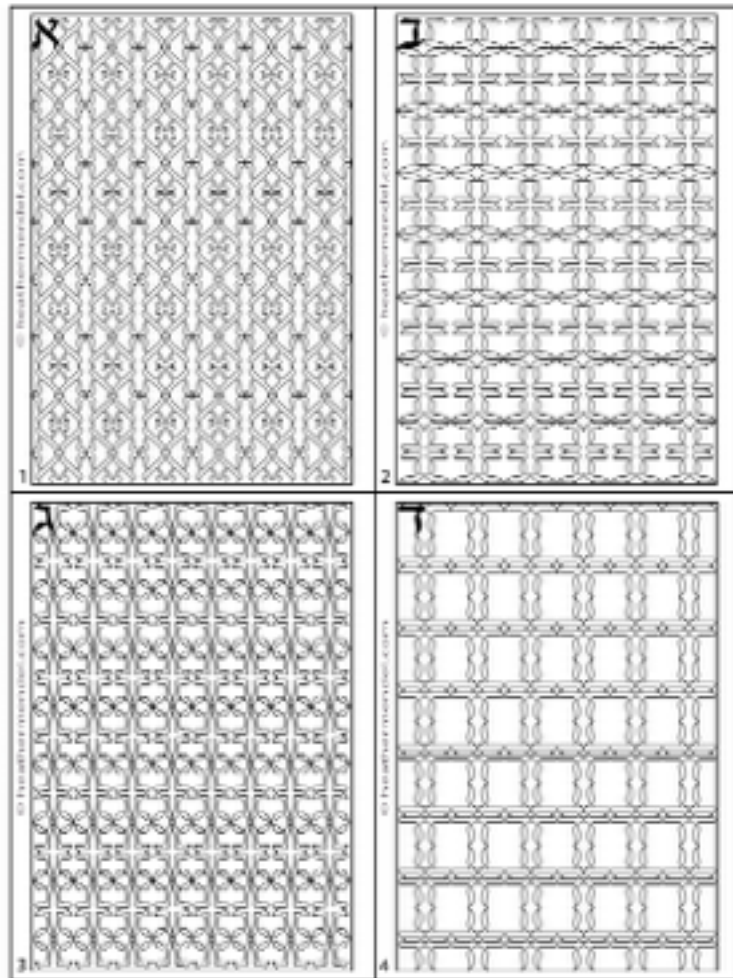
Another method is to select a quality (gift) you want to work on, select the associated card and work through the exercises.

### **The Gifts given by the Mentors in the cards:**

- 1 Trust
- 2 Magic
- 3 Mysticism
- 4 Compassion
- 5 Order
- 6 Listening
- 7 Passion
- 8 Balance
- 9 Discernment
- 10 Curiosity
- 11 Courage
- 12 Confidence
- 13 Perspective
- 14 Freedom
- 15 Transformation
- 16 Re-lease
- 17 Discovery
- 18 Peace
- 19 Imagination
- 20 Harmony
- 21 Clarity
- 22 Joy

For those familiar with the traditional Tarot decks, compare the card you draw from **The Syzygy Oracle** with its counterpart, noting its similarities and differences. Noting the differences in the feel of the two cards.

Finally, as a mediation in ink, and using the calligraphic grids for your coloring pleasure, select a letter that appeals to you and find the reading associated with that specific Hebrew letter. A pack of the grids are available from my website in the store at [www.sacredfemininekabbalah.com](http://www.sacredfemininekabbalah.com)



When ready, turn to the questions in this booklet. In the sanctuary of your own soul, consider carefully what you are being asked. Delve deeply and answer fully, journaling your answers. Work on a single question for each session. The answers may take several sessions to fully express. Reflect on how your present circumstances affect your answers. Note your dreams and the 'coincidences' that seemingly come from nowhere with a 'yesthankyoumoreplease.'

These questions make excellent talking points for group work. If you belong to a spiritual or empowerment circle, see how discussing them with others deepens your understanding of the mythic quality of the cards.

Specially designed journals for this purpose are also available from my website store at [www.sacredfemininekabbalah.com](http://www.sacredfemininekabbalah.com)

## **The Individual cards of the The Syzygy Oracle**

### **1 Initiating: I trust (Based on The Fool in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Initiate

Theme: Innocence

Mentor: Eve

Gift: Trust

Pathway on The Tree of Life: Spark-Wisdom

1. What do you trust to be true?
2. Do you believe curiosity is a blessing?
3. What is emerging for you now?
4. How do you strengthen your courage?

### **2 Focusing: I believe (Based on The Magician in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Magus

Theme: Belief

Mentor: Fairy Godmother

Gift: Magic

Pathway on The Tree of Life: Spark-Harmony

1. Do you believe curiosity is a blessing, and why?
2. How do thoughts shape belief?
3. What role does magic play in your life?
4. How does intuition influence your decisions?

### **3 Allowing: I await (Based on The High Priestess in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The High Priestess

Theme: Ripening

Mentor: Mnemosyne

Gift: Mysticism

Pathway: Wisdom-Harmony

1. What draws your attention away from the present moment?
2. How does memory affect your spiritual life?
3. How does the possible future excite you?
4. How do you access the mysterious Unknown?

### **4 Nurturing: I love (Based on The Empress in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Mother

Theme: Love

Mentor: Demeter

Gift: Compassion

Pathway: Wisdom-compassion

1. Have you experienced giving and/or receiving unconditional love?
2. What is gestating in your spiritual life?
3. What is presently nurturing your creativity?
4. What name/image do you use in thinking about Divinity?

### **5 Structuring: I organize (Based on The Emperor in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Father

Theme: Structure

Mentor: Athena

Gift: Order

Pathway: Compassion-Harmony

1. What needs reorganizing in your life?
2. How do you access your own Sacred Warrior?
3. Why is logic and sequencing important for you?
4. Are the secular and Sacred Masculine the same in your experience?

### **6 Attending: I listen (Based on The Hierophant in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Listener

Theme: Presence

Mentor: Kwan Yin

Gift: Listening

Pathway: Compassion to Innovation

1. How do you still your mind?
2. Can you distinguish intuition, imagination and thought?
3. Do you depend more heavily on intuition or thought?
4. What do listening and love have in common?

### **7 Acknowledging: I respond (Based on The Lovers in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Enthusiast

Theme: Response

Mentor: Aphrodite

Gift: Passion

Pathway: Harmony-Innovation

1. What is calling you forward?
2. What is holding you back?
3. How do you feel about change?
4. Are you aware of the dance between your anima and animus?

## **8 Balancing: I embody (Based on The Chariot in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Adventurer

Theme: Embodiment

Mentor: Artemis

Gift: Balance

Pathway: Harmony-Imagery

1. How do you balance rationality and intuition in your life?
2. How active is your imagination?
3. How do you respond to your 'pain body' as described by Eckhart Tolle?
4. What does transformation mean to you?

## **9 Discerning: I distinguish (Based on Justice in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Sacred Warrior

Theme: Choice

Mentor: White Buffalo Calf Woman

Gift: Discernment

Pathway: Innovation-Imagery

1. Can you honor 'the other' as yourself?
2. Is justice best served by a blind judge?
3. Are discernment and judgment the same thing?
4. Can you 'take a stand without making waves'?

## **10 Questioning: I seek (Based The Hermit in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Illuminator

Theme: Longing

Mentor: Hestia

Gift: Curiosity

Pathway: Innovation-Physicality

1. Who are you?
2. Who/What do you worship?
3. How do you enter the wilderness?
4. Can you be alone without feeling lonely?

## **11 Revolving: I return (Based on The Wheel in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Victim

Theme: Change

Mentor: Persephone

Gift: Courage

Pathway: Imagery-Physicality

1. What repeating themes shape you?
2. How do you deal with change?
3. Does your image of Divinity invite questioning?
4. Does your concept of Divinity change as you evolve?

### **12 Harnessing: I control (Based on Strength in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Animal Whisperer

Theme: Empowerment

Mentor: Ma'at

Gift: Confidence

Pathway: Physicality-Tradition

1. What engages your passionate response?
2. How do you connect with Nature?
3. How do you control fear?
4. Can you express your anger?

### **13 Inverting: I surrender (Based on The Hanging Man in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Acrobat

Theme: Surrender

Mentor: Yemaya

Gift: Perspective

Pathway: Imagery-Tradition

1. What are you ready to release?
2. How do you gain a fresh perspective?
3. What does water symbolize for you?
4. How do you process your fear of the unknown?

### **14 Releasing: I yield (Based on Death in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Suppliant

Theme: Re-lease

Mentor: Three Fates (The Moirae)

Gift: Freedom

Pathway: Tradition-Innovation

1. What do you believe about endings?
2. What endings have been of benefit to you?
3. What do you believe about death?



4. What is struggling to break through right now?

### **15 Transmuting: I transform (Based on Temperance in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Shape-shifter

Theme: Transmutation

Mentor: Changing Woman

Gift: Transformation

Pathway: Tradition-Harmony

1. Is the process of transformation always painful?
2. Is creativity connected to past hurts?
3. Are you turning lead into gold in your life?
4. What polarities seek a middle path for you now?

### **16 Constricting: I review (Based on The Devil in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Pessimist

Theme: Constriction

Mentor: Hecate

Gift: Release

Pathway: Tradition-Strength

1. What 'pushes your buttons?'
2. How do you feel about the dark night?
3. Is pain an indicator of unseen possibilities?
4. How do you release yourself from your ego's negative voice?

### **17 Revealing: I discover (Based on The Tower in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Seeker

Theme: Revelation

Mentor: Pele

Gift: Discovery

Pathway: Harmony-Strength

1. What is burning for expression in you right now?
2. How do you push your boundaries?
3. On what values is your identity built?
4. How do you differentiate your ego from your essence?

### **18 Contemplating: I meditate (Based on The Star in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Contemplative

Theme: Meditation

Mentor: Tara

Gift: Peace

Pathway: Strength-Compassion

1. Do you meditate, and if so, how?
2. Do you create your own destiny?
3. Is everything written in the stars?
4. How do you plant your own garden?

### **19 Reflecting: I imagine (Based on The Moon in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Dreamer

Theme: Creativity

Mentor: Lilith

Gift: Imagination

Pathway: Harmony-Understanding

1. Are you most comfortable in sunlight or moonlight?
2. What would like to reflect in your life?
3. How do the cycles of the moon affect you?
4. Is the smaller, closer moon less significant than the sun?

### **20 Illuminating: I resonate (Based on The Sun in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Adept

Theme: Resonance

Mentor: Hathor

Gift: Harmony

Pathway: Strength-Understanding

1. Can you recall a moment of 'seeing the light?'
2. What is walling you in right now?
3. How and where do you see yourself in 5 years from now?
4. What does the word 'light' mean to you?

### **21 Realizing: I accomplish (Based on Judgement in the traditional deck)**

Archetype: The Mystic

Theme: Realization

Mentor: Sophia

Gift: Clarity

Pathway: Understanding-Wisdom

1. How do you differentiate self from Soul?
2. How do you keep your balance?
3. How does sound affect you?
4. Are you aware of your differing chakra energies?

## 22 Becoming: I dance (Based on The World in the traditional deck)

Archetype: The Celebrant

Theme: Completion

Mentor: Isis

Gift: Joy

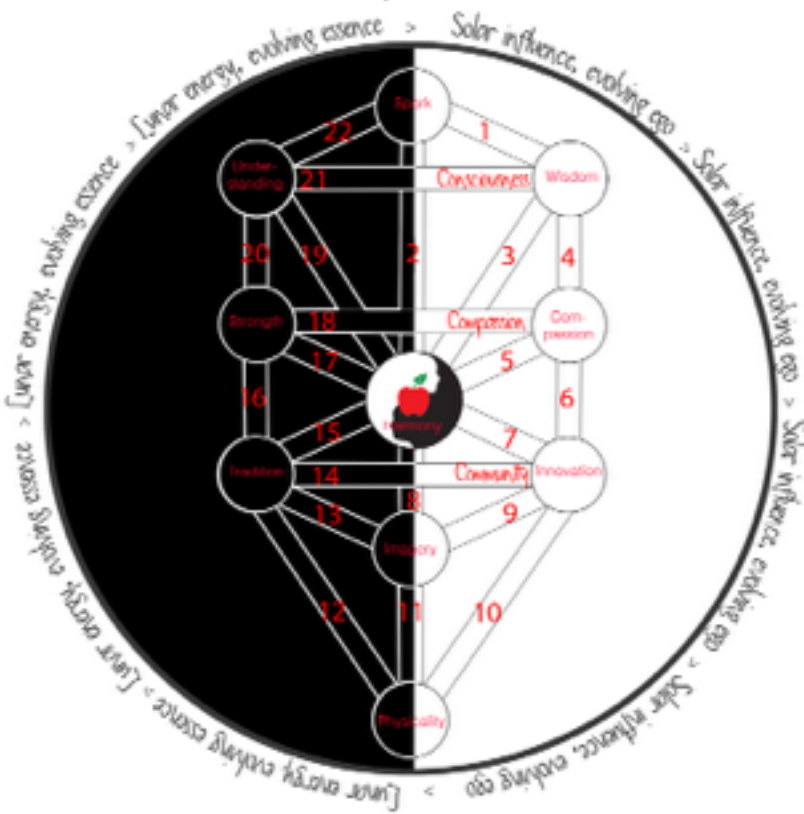
Pathway: Understanding-Spark

1. How does joy differ from happiness?
2. Can you lose yourself in your own creativity?
3. Who are you? Why are you here? Where are you going?
4. What new cycle is opening up for you now?

### The Tree of Life and the Ten *Sefirot* Cards

The Tree of Life, in Hebrew, *Eitz Chaim*, is a sacred map, basic to an understanding of Kabbalah and the interconnection of Divinity and humanity. The tree is comprised of 22 pathways that travel between 10 *sefirot* (cosmic chakras) arranged in 3 columns and on 7 levels. It is a diagram that can be used to explain any paradigm in which the interconnection of the One—of the whole— is great than its parts.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Hebrew</b>	<b>Traditional name in English</b>
1 Spark	<i>Keter</i>	Crown
2 Wisdom	<i>Chochmah</i>	Wisdom
3 Understanding	<i>Binah</i>	Understanding
4 Compassion	<i>Chesed</i>	Kindness
5 Strength	<i>Gevurah</i>	Justice
6 Harmony	<i>Tiferet</i>	Beauty
7 Innovation	<i>Netzach</i>	Eternity
8 Tradition	<i>Hod</i>	Splendor
9 Imagery	<i>Yesod</i>	Foundation
10 Physicality	<i>Malchut</i>	Kingdom



### The Tree of Life, Pathways, Cards and *Sefirot*

By learning to use **The Syzygy Oracle**, we learn to honor our innate, intuitive wisdom. By referring to the book of the same title, discover for yourself how the first 22 cards of the deck offer a contemporary reinterpretation of Tarot's Major Arcana that celebrates The Sacred Feminine. Aligning the cards with the Hebrew alphabet and assigning them to specific pathways on the Tree of Life, gives you access to 3 levels of soul consciousness through the specific **letter**, **number** and **story** of each card, detailed in the book. Meet inspirational archetypes from world culture to light your way. Reflect on the sacred geometric shapes that speak to your soul and your artistic sense of symmetry. Through meditations and mantras, discover your personal hero's journey, crucial to the evolving consciousness of this planet. Find your place in the cosmos and recognize that each one of us is totally unique, and, at the same time, identical to every other God-spark we meet.

My hope is that in addition to the spiritual practice suggested by the readings, you will find the images elegant and empowering, full of mystery and complexity that will forever change the way you think about Tarot.

Please visit my websites:

[www.sacredfemininekabbala.com](http://www.sacredfemininekabbala.com) [www.wordartist.com](http://www.wordartist.com)  
[www.heathermendel.com](http://www.heathermendel.com) and [www.wordartist.com](http://www.wordartist.com)

Finally, I cordially invite you to join the fb group, **Conscious Transformation: Kabbalah, Intuition and Spirituality** in which teachings from **The Syzygy Oracle** are posted almost daily.

[https://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_142131108808](https://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_142131108808)

May your journey to transformation always be filled with love, light and laughter as we evolve into a society and planetary family that celebrates diversity and so sanctifies Life.

Heather Mendel  
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