



HERMIT'S MIRROR

Querent/Client: {Anonymous}

Type of Reading: Firing Up

Dear {Anonymous},

Thank you for letting me complete this reading for you. On the next page, you will find a photo of the cards that I drew in response to your inquiry about how to get yourself fired up. I've also listed the cards that I drew for each position in case you find it difficult to read their names from the image. After that is my interpretation of what the cards mean in terms of the reading you requested and in the basic context of the situation you described to me.

After you've had a chance to read through my interpretation, please let me know if you have any questions or if you need any explanation or clarification. I'll also be interested to know what ideas in the reading resonate with you and what you feel you can do with that information. While I can read messages in the cards that I expect will help you understand your situation more fully, I can't tell you exactly what to do with that information: it's your life, and only you can decide how you approach it.

I'd like to check back in with you in three weeks to see how you're doing and whether the reading helped you decide how to approach your situation. However, I don't want to intrude, so if you would be interested in receiving that follow-up email, *please reply to my email to let me know*. At that time, I'll also offer to draw one card in response to any follow-up question you have at that time and provide a brief reading at no additional charge. I won't draw any additional cards for this reading before then. If you're interested in why, I have a blog post about it: ["When the Reading is Done."](#)

Again, I want to thank you for choosing to work with me on this important part of your life. I also want to remind you to please let me know if you have any questions or need any further clarification about this reading. I'd also love to hear how it resonates with you. I wish you all the best in your upcoming months.

Sincerely,

Thomas of the
Hermit's Mirror



YOUR CARDS from the Tarot del Fuego



What should {Anon} know about the current situation? *10 of Swords (reversed)*

What's dampening your energy? *6 of Wands (reversed)*

What steps can you take now to work to fire yourself up? *9 of Wands*

How can you maintain that inner fire? *Queen of Cups*

What can you expect once you've started this work? *Knight of Wands (reversed)*

What card can serve as a sign (outside of this reading) to remind you that you're a bad-ass and you've got this? *King of Swords*

Extra: What should I, as a reader, know about this situation? *The Hanged Man and the Devil (flipper)*

YOUR READING

I get the impression from these cards that there is actually plenty of fire here within you and within your household, and what's needed now is a bit more water to help not just calm some of that fire but also help create power in the balance. In the elemental basis for the tarot that I often use as a guide, fire and water make steam, signified by air. But steam is also a source of power, as in a steam engine. There are a few reasons I am drawn to this elemental analysis even though the Tarot del Fuego doesn't explicitly use it. One is the prevalence of fire imagery in the first three cards, even though only two are Wands, followed by the ultra-watery Queen of Cups and reversed (ultra-fiery) Knight of Wands. So we move from fire to water. And then outside of the specifics of the reading but giving a lot of additional insight, we have the King of Swords, who is ultra-airy (your steam power), and the Hanged Man, who is the major arcana of water. I was also struck by the way blue that is so prevalent in many of these cards. The deck, as you know, is generally quite fiery, and it uses a primary color scheme, but not all the cards in the deck highlight blue in the way that, say, the 6 of Wands does, and I think that's significant here in the context of the other cards.

This focus on a need for water energy isn't to say that you can't be "fired up" with the Tarot del Fuego, but it might be a useful reminder that what could fire you up is not the sort of thing you're expecting. The Hanged Man confirms a need for fresh perspective. And I think that this all means that you're looking for fire when, if anything, you might have too much fire in your life. I'll go over the cards individually since each answers a different question, but it will be good for you to start thinking about how watery energy



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YOUR READING *(continued)*

might actually help you to get moving in ways that you haven't been and in ways that differ from the sorts of things you're expecting me to say. You may need a way to complement the fire you naturally have with something else, such as more balance with watery elements of your life. Before I get into the individual card analyses, I should note that two of the cards, the Hanged Man and the Devil, are for me as guides to the rest of the reading. They won't come up that much in an explicit way, but they're definitely behind some of the core ideas in the reading.

You mentioned anxiety in your request for this reading, and one of the characteristics of anxiety that I have experienced seems relevant here. In talking with loved ones who have anxiety disorder, there's a feeling that the nervous system is completely fried, as though it's been electrified (or burned) so many times by various stimuli that even minor things can suddenly feel explosive under the wrong conditions. I'm not sure if that's how your own anxiety makes you feel, but it serves as a useful metaphor for what I'm seeing with all of this fiery energy, particularly as we start with a reversed Swords card, which can suggest some difficulty in clear thinking or more basic mental processes.

This first card answers the first question I asked in order to give you a way to help understand your situation better. With this card, we have a house on fire, and volcanoes erupting within a burning eye that is stabbed by ten swords. In its common meanings, this reversed 10 would be a sign of things that aren't coming to their natural end. Now in your case you mentioned some changes that are forthcoming that you aren't as excited about, but I wonder whether there are some other changes that would be useful to make but which you've dreaded making. The visuals of the card signal to me that there may be some aspects of your life, particularly your home life, as seen in the burning house, that may need pruning. These are likely causing you great suffering, but they could also be imprisoning you in some sense. I get the impression that there could be someone in your life who is toxic and keeping you down or pinned in, as the swords trap the eye from all sides. Now it could also be something external from a person, such as the struggles you mentioned you partner facing (rather than their actual behavior), which could be causing you to feel stuck. The Devil card, which flipped over while I was shuffling to make himself known, and the Hanged Man, which serves as my guide in this reading, both strongly encourage my impression that you may be in this type of the situation where you are held in place against your best interests.

In case it's not clear how these cards could play out in a real-life situation, here is an example. A person might feel as though they can't leave a partner who is suffering because it would seem heartless. But the truth is that this person is also suffering because the partner's health problems create a very negative atmosphere. Maybe the partner also occasionally hurls abuse at their loved ones, thereby increasing the negativity of the environment and causing this person to doubt whether they deserve a better life.

I'm not saying that this is what's happening in your household—you would know that better than I possibly could—but it's an example of the sort of situation I'm describing when I say that a toxic person or destructive external factor could very well be a major source for the problems you've described. And if that's something that you already know, then this card is just here to remind you that it is in fact important, and you have been underestimating the way it affects your current situation. While that could sound quite dire and as though I'm recommending that you abandon whatever or whoever it is that may be pinning you down, there are ideas within these cards that suggest you may be able to work with the factors currently in play, if that is what you want to do.



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YOUR READING *(continued)*

The second card shows the primary source of what's dampening your energy, the reversed 6 of Wands, and this is actually where I got some of my ideas for the example above. To me, this card, especially with all of its blues, is about the emotional toll of unrecognized virtue. I get the impression from this card (paired with the first card), that you may be feeling down on yourself because you don't seem to have the appropriate recognition of people whose opinions you really respect, and you don't have the full support of the people whose love you crave. This may not be true in an objective sense, but just feeling this in a subjective way can be enough to just crush the will out of someone. And that would certainly have a dampening effect.

If you try things that are challenging and which could very well end in failure, but no one is there to cheer you on, the odds of your pushing through to the point of success are not in your favor. It doesn't mean that you can't achieve great things without others' support, but the reversed 6 of Wands does serve as a reminder that it's easy to give up when no one else expects you to succeed. When we take risks, we become vulnerable, and the last thing we need at that point is someone else's doubts digging into our exposed and tender hearts. Do you feel as though you have the support and validation (and faith in you) that you want? Note that I'm not asking you whether you have what you need or what you think a reasonable outsider would say is enough. Frankly, that may not be enough here, especially when you're already feeling stuck. I want you to think about what support and validation and trust you want. What would it look like if you had that? How would you feel? What would it take to get that for yourself?

Now with those ideas and questions in mind, let's move onto the next set of cards, which are about steps you can take to get moving again, to light the proverbial fire under your ass and keep it going.

The third card is the 9 of Wands, which in this deck shows someone climbing towards a glass of water while surrounded by fire. Is that water enough to put the fire out? No, but it might be all that the climber needs right now to keep going to get out from under their current problems. Here again we have a large blue patch to suggest watery energy, but the real power of this card is in the figure's push to get that little bit of water. If water energy is emotions and emotional support, then the struggle of the 9 seems to be about finding that first little bit of emotional support (water) that you can help you into the next phase of things. If you don't have the emotional support that you want but that support is important to help motivate you to get back into the swing of things, then you might want to take the first step toward finding just a little bit more support than you have now.

Now, the person climbing the rope ladder through fire to get a little glass of water is doing a lot of work for very little gain, but it's part of the long-game efforts represented by the 9 of Wands. This card is telling me that you may have to work hard for that first sip of water—whether that's the emotional support I've been referencing, or another form of recognition as seen in the 6 of Wands, or more freedom in your domestic life as seen in the 10 of Swords, or even a form of medicine or healing for your anxiety. But that first sip will hopefully refresh you enough to go after a second glass of water. I realize that this could sound a bit like an addict, but I'd prefer to see it as a dehydrated wanderer in the desert desperate for just a little bit of water. They're a survivor, so they just need the tiniest refreshment to help get them started back on their feet and toward that next checkpoint. What would be that first sip for you? Can you make that happen for yourself? Can you ask for assistance to get you that glass of water? It's such a small glass. How could anyone reject such a humble request?



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YOUR READING *(continued)*

We can see in the Queen of Cups in the third card that the first glass could eventually develop into a life-giving chalice that not only nurtures the Queen but also brings this gift forward for others. The Queen is the court member associated with water, and Cups are the suit of water, so there's a lot of water here, and the Queen offers a source that never dries out. In some ways, the constant quest of the 9 of Wands for the next glass of water to help them survive is its own form of constant refreshment, but I think that the Queen offers more than the bare minimum for survival. To me, this Queen is a celebration of mutual giving. She can certainly give a lot, and you may find that you eventually have the internal resources to keep motivating yourself to move forward. But the Queen is a member of a larger court family, and that signals to me that you will benefit from a more constant supply of support and love from others that you take in and magnify as you return it. This might seem incredibly generic—after all, who wouldn't benefit from a constant supply of support and love?—but the reversed 6 of Wands makes me think that this will be especially true for you, above and beyond any general advice.

After all that fire we have in the current situation, you can think of your situation as something of a drought, and the Queen promises much-needed rain to arid land. She will bring not only the basic water energy of emotional support that we'd all like, but she also promises new growth as the land heals. Although the Queen of Cups is a watery figure, this card features new life and growth rather than water: the Queen is pregnant; she is surrounded by flowers and butterflies (pollinators); and the cup in her belly sprouts a new flower from well-watered soil. This suggests to me that you may find your new source of energy sustained by a mutual give-and-take of healing and love. As parched land heals, it can hold more water that will then help it resist drought the next time. Healing land attracts new life to it that will enjoy its bounty but also continue the process of flourishing. I see you being able to sustain this new "fire" (or water) by cultivating that healing in others and helping others grow, something that may very well come naturally once you've found that first glass of water.

While all of this may sound beautiful and harmonious—and it certainly looks like it could be from where I'm standing—it probably will not start that way. The reversed Knight of Wands suggests that the initial stages of this process could be a time of extremes. There may be starts and stops brought on by extreme emotions or extreme reactions to minor changes. As this newfound water energy starts to heal you, you may find that the rawness of anxious nerves that once seemed natural now somehow causes you more pain because you know how good the alternative is. It may be painful at first, but it should pass before too long. The Knight is not a slow-moving creature, and reversed he is more extreme than normal. All of that fire could come bursting out of the volcanoes in the 10 of Swords. That will give a lot of momentum, but it could also cause a lot of chaos at first. Eventually things will settle down, and that longer-term healing process and beautiful cultivation of new life will have the chance to begin. It might seem frightening at first, and it will be easy to think that things are getting worse before they get better, so I would caution you to be prepared for that tumult. Don't let the wrong expectations make the situation worse or keep you from seeing your way through. A little pain or confusion is a natural part of change, and it should pass before too long.

The last card for you is the King of Swords. I drew a card to help you recall your own personal bad-assery when you need a little reminder. The King of Swords shows control over one's own mental state and an ability to create one's own internal reality while withstanding just about anything that could get one down in the world around you. The card shows a robed man stabbing himself in the chest with a sword, while



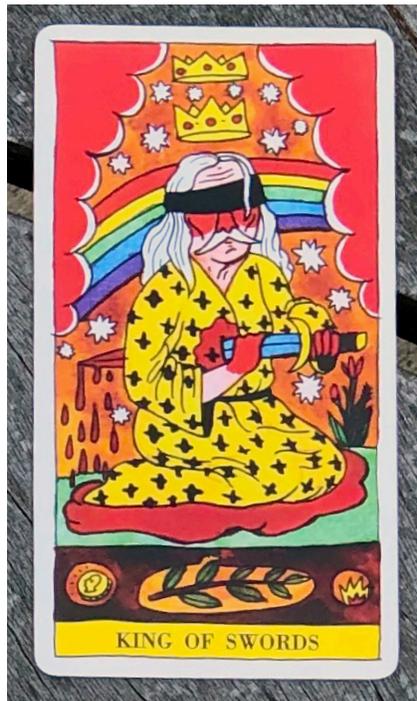
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YOUR READING *(continued)*

a rainbow shoots through his mind, and crowns float above him. He has inflicted an enormous wound on himself, but he seems to be able to block out the pain. He has blinded himself to both the mess he's created and to the beautiful rainbow behind him. Regardless of whether he likes what's happening, he's in control. To me this card speaks to a survivor mentality and the promise of control over your internal landscape, whatever may be going on in the physical realm. This King is able to shut out pain, as well as pleasure, in order to focus. I definitely can't recommend his precise form of testing that ability to shut out pain, but I think the card is asking you to take heart in all that you have been able to do and in what you have been able to move past or block out despite your circumstances. Even though you may not always feel that strong right now, that mental strength and fortitude are part of you, and you can experience the world the way you want to experience it.

I'm including a close-up of the card at the bottom of this letter so that you can explore it for yourself. You may get some intuitive hits from seeing it here, but I would also encourage you to look for sensory cues that will help you remember this card in when you're just going about everyday life. If you need help understanding sensory cues or guidance on sensory cue exercises, I have a blog post for it that you might appreciate: "[Sensory Cues and Intuition.](#)"

I hope that you find these ideas helpful in thinking through what's been keeping you from moving forward and getting moving again. And even though they were very much about water, I hope that you're able to use them to "fire up" your drive to do new things and feel powerful in yourself. If you have any questions or if you need anything clarification, please let me know. As a reminder, I can check back in with you in three weeks, but I will wait to hear from you that you want that.



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