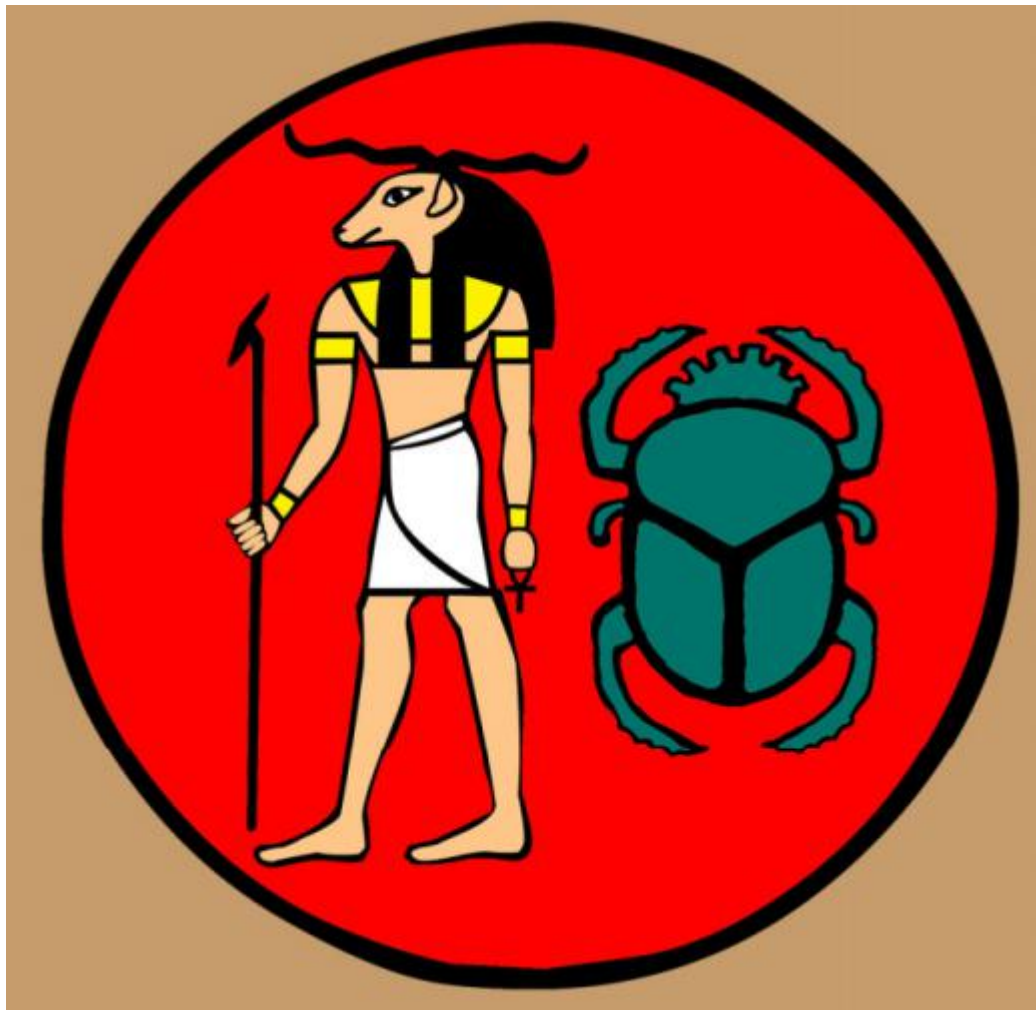


## 19 The Litany of Ra Tarot Deck

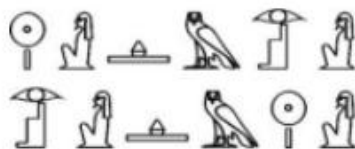


The Sun Trump card designed by Sety I.

To fully understand this card you have to study the **Amduat (What Happens in the Duat)**, an important text that goes with the **Litany of Ra** and explains many of its curious features. On the left is Awef, the Sun at night as he rides through the Duat. On the right is Kheper, the creativity of the Sun. Kheper appears at the beginning and at the end of the **Amduat** and at critical moments in the middle of the book. He is the harbinger of the daylight Sun and flies up to the sun at midday.

This article is dedicated to introducing more details about the content and structure of the **Litany of Ra** Tarot deck. A key principle is to understand that Osiris, who becomes the Lord of the Night World realizes that he is also the Sun. A tableau found in Queen Nefertari's

tomb (Queen of Rameses II), depicts a phrase in the **Litany of Ra** that makes this point. In this picture Osiris has become like the Sun in his ram's head Awef form. His body is in the form of a mummy and holds his scepters of pharaoh authority, the crook and the flail. He stands on the pedestal of Maat, Truth and is supported by Isis and Nephthys.

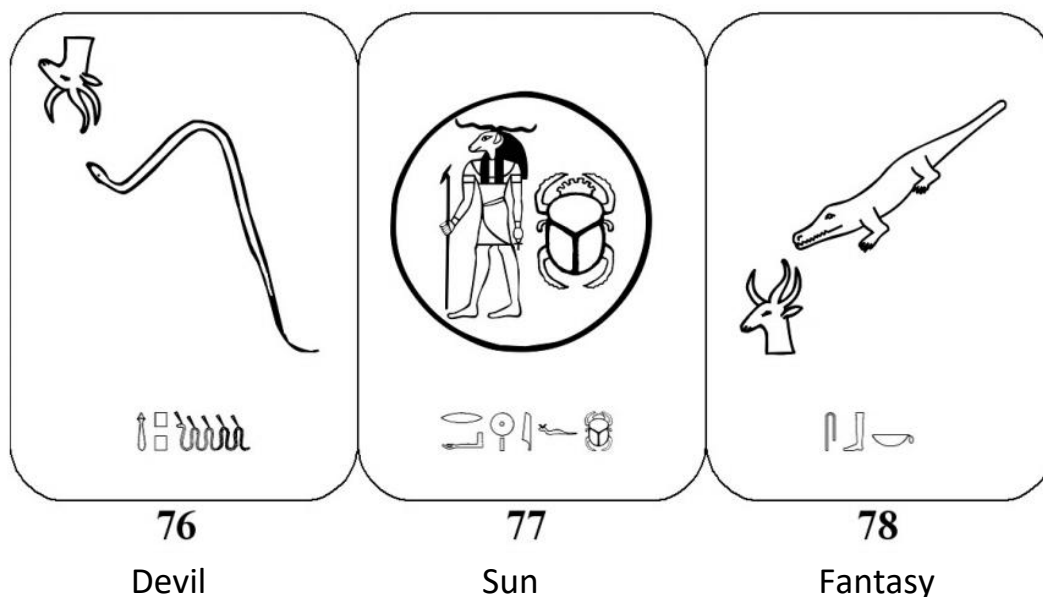


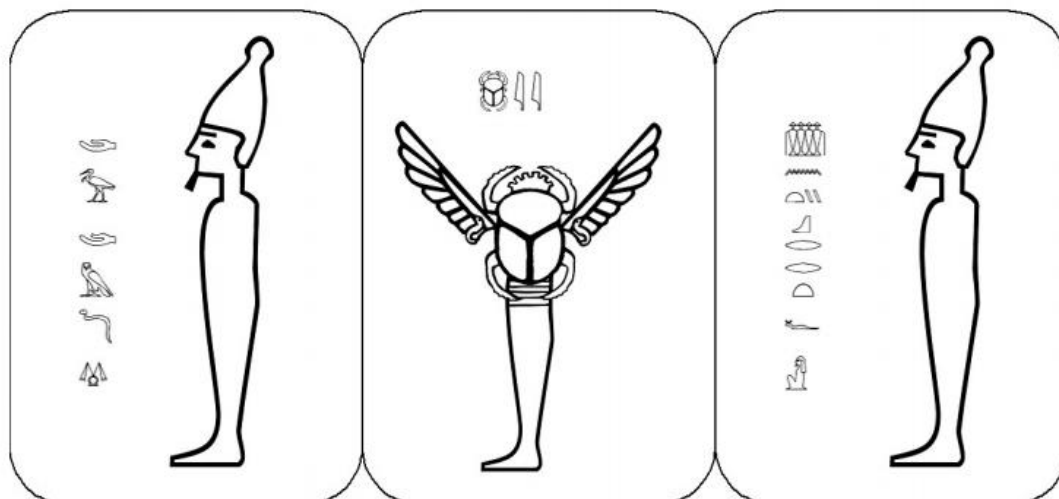
Ra Experiences as Osiris.

Osiris Experiences as Ra.

Based on a wall painting in Queen Nefertari's tomb

Below is a list of the cards in the original order, but beginning with the three cards added by Sety I.





1

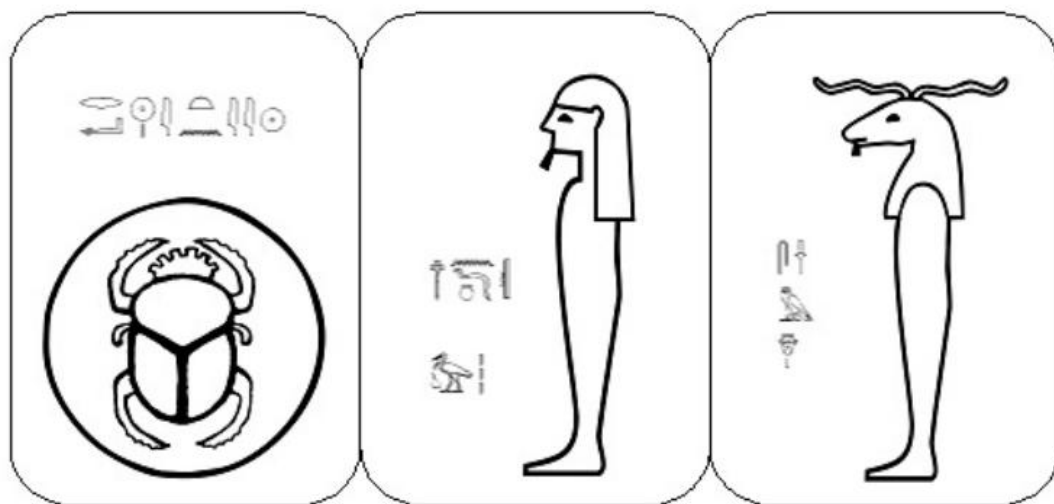
Integration

2

Hanged Man

3

Judgment



4

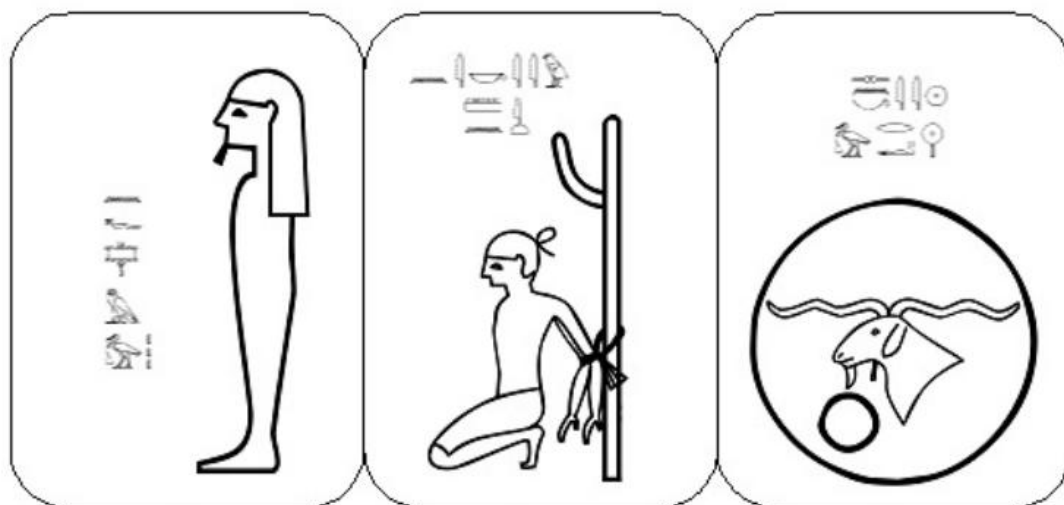
Independence

5

Name Body

6

Heart Body



7

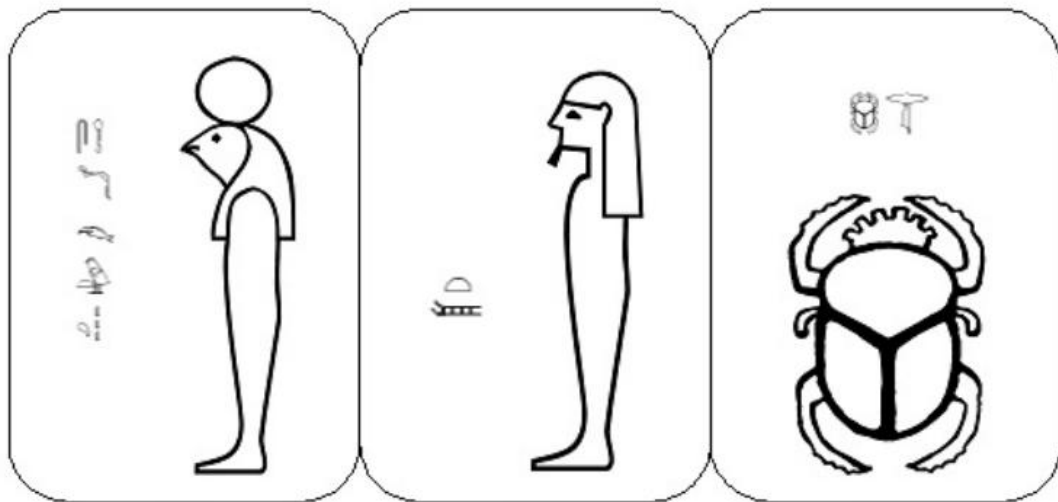
Will

8

King of Mind

9

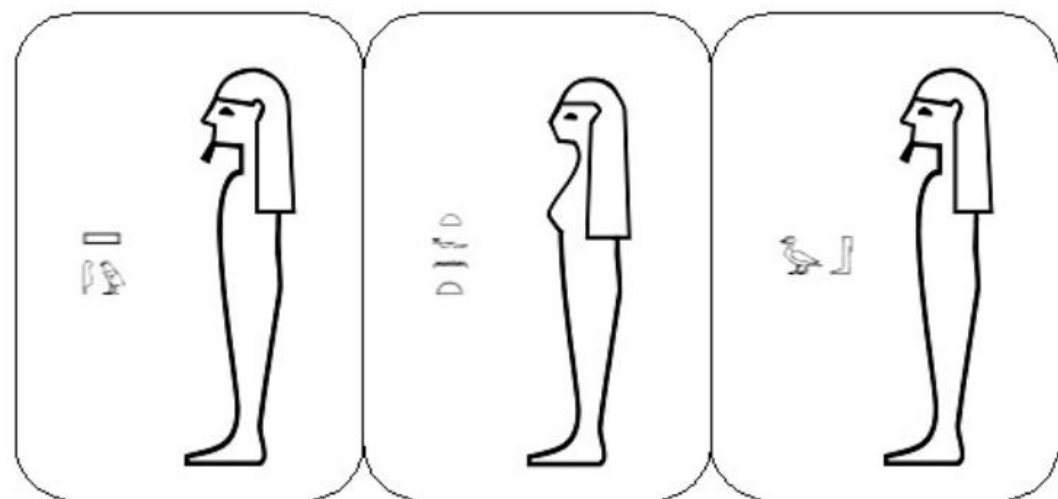
Hermit



10  
Definition

11  
Tower

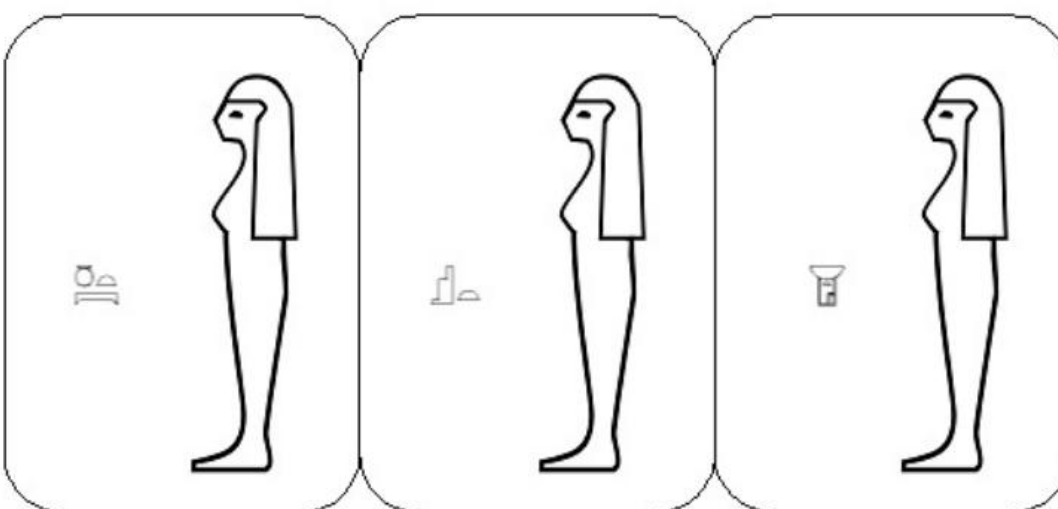
12  
Death



13  
Emperor

14  
Strength

15  
World



16  
Star

17  
Priestess

18  
Temperance



19

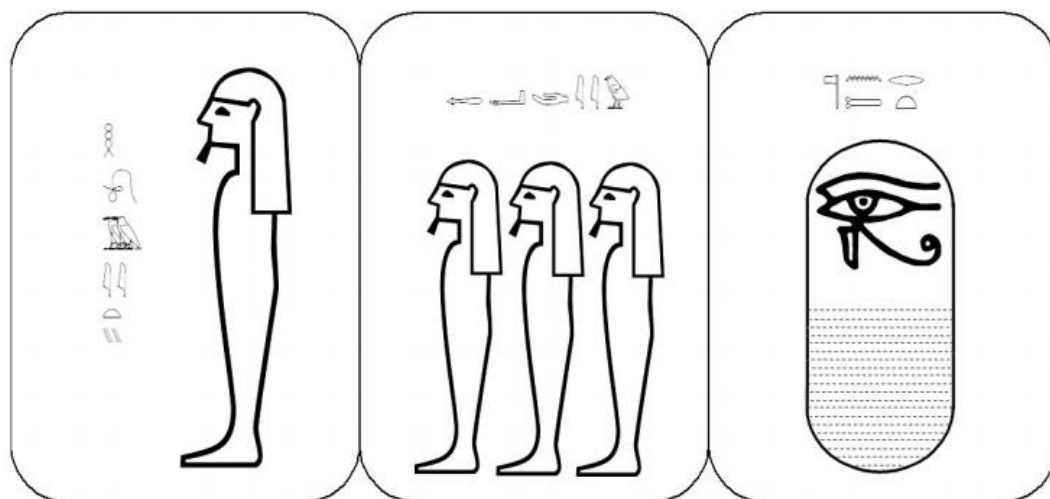
Chariot

20

Enthusiasm

21

Love/Compassion



22

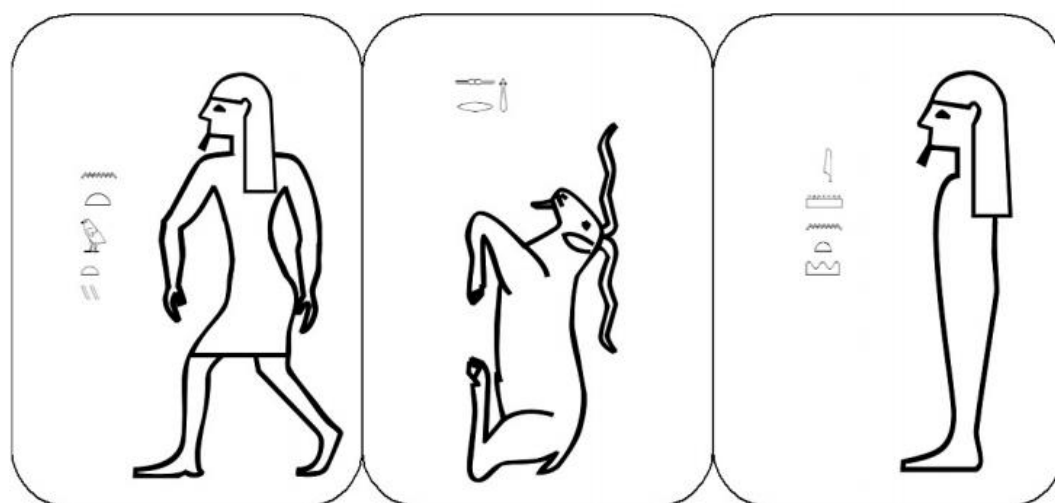
Coherence

23

Efficiency

24

Setting Up



25

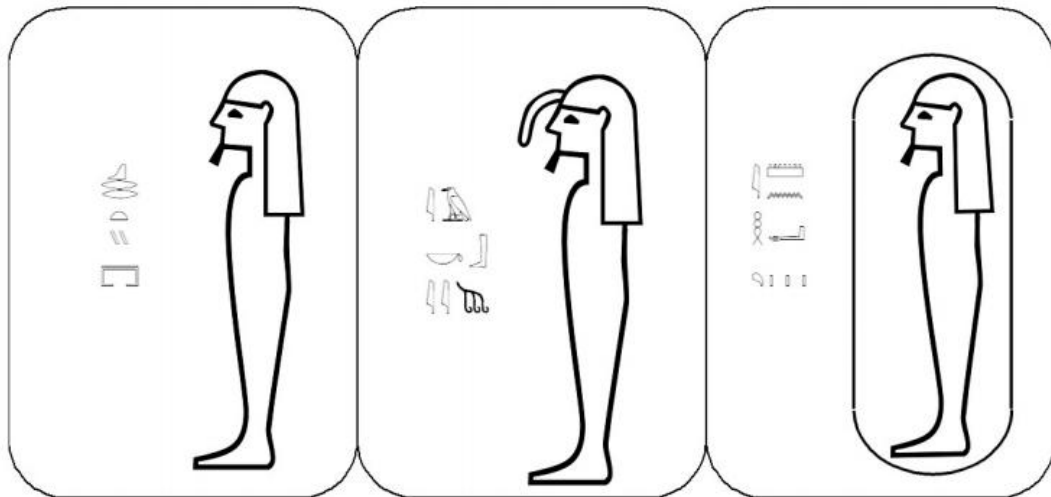
Integrity

26

Cooperation

27

Discipline



28

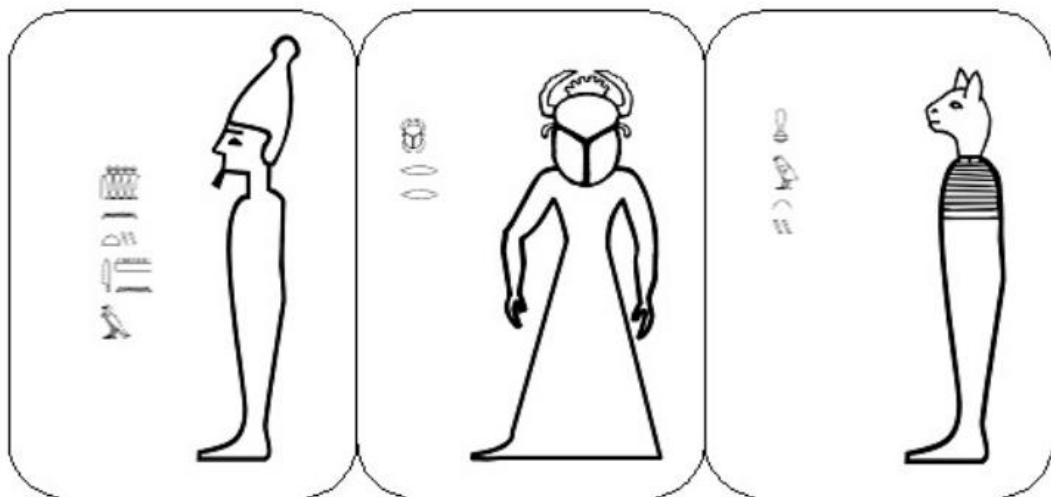
Vision

29

Commitment

30

Persistence



31

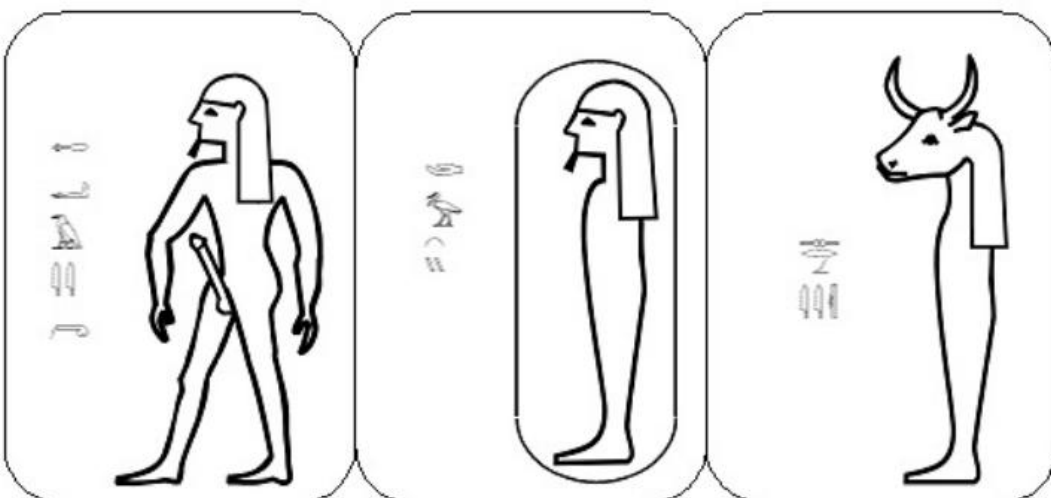
Magician

32

Productivity

33

Team Building



34

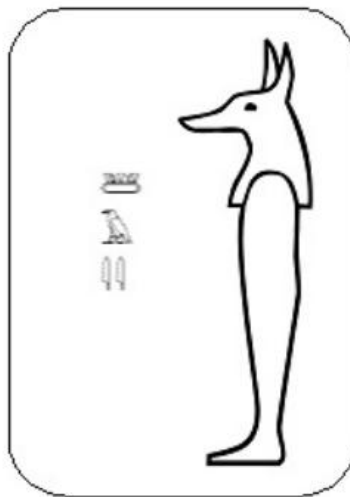
Lover

35

Moon

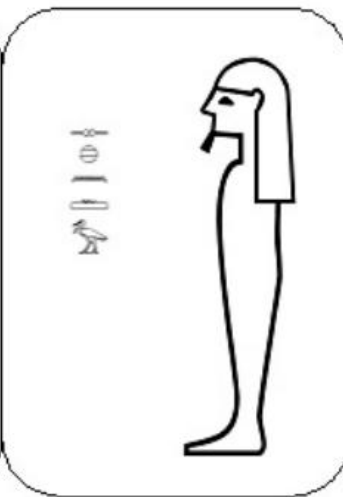
36

Challenge



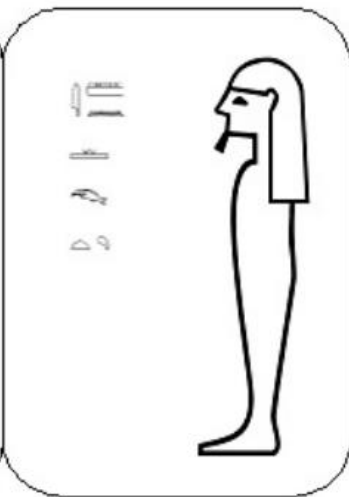
37

Wheel of Fortune



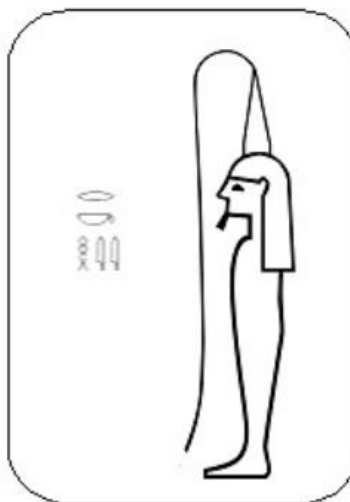
38

King of Water



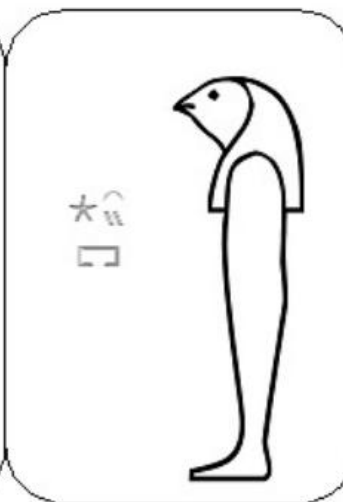
39

Master of Earth



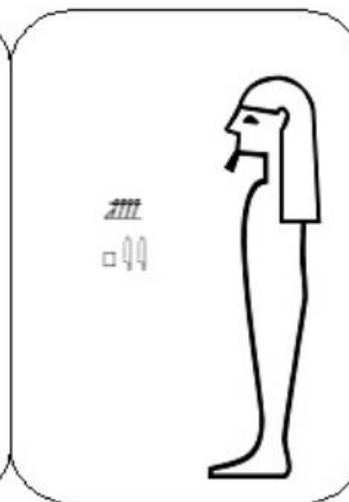
40

Planning



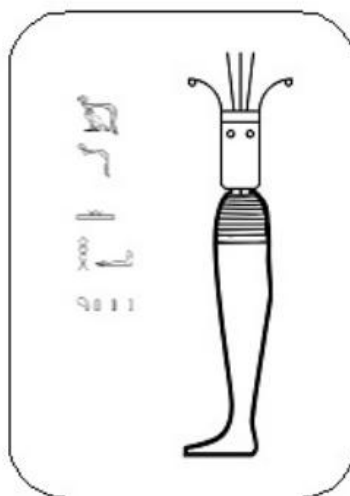
41

Comparison



42

Protocol



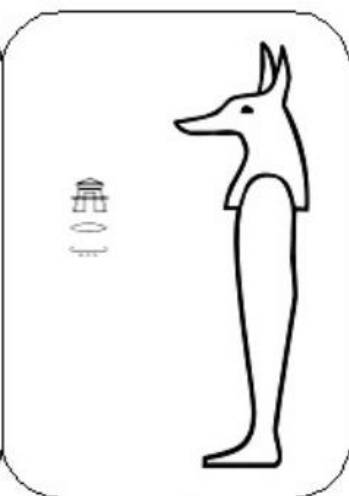
43

Investment



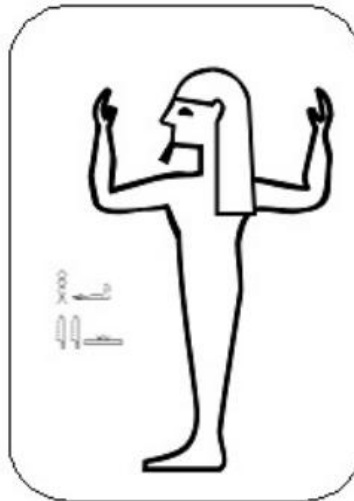
44

Shadow Body



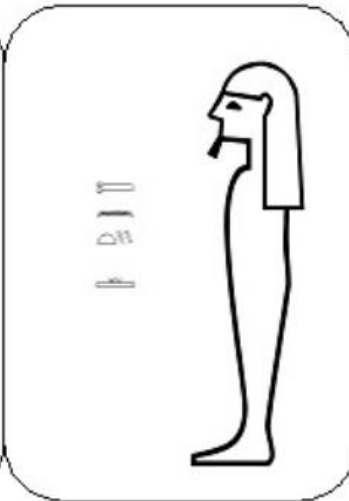
45

Security



46

Silence



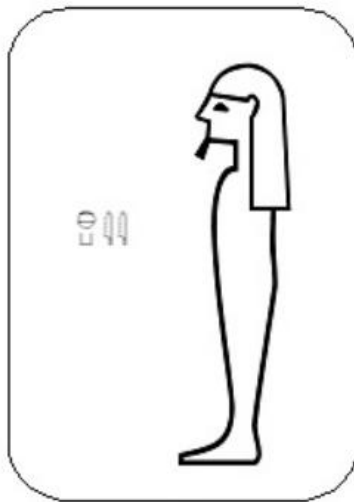
47

Courage



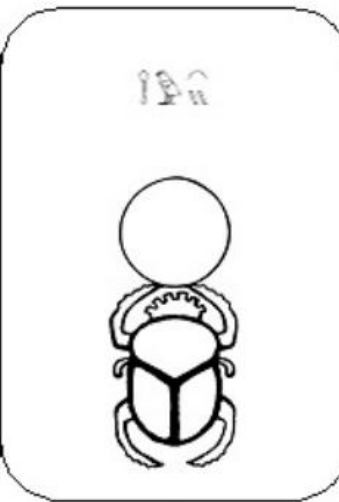
48

Justice/Truth



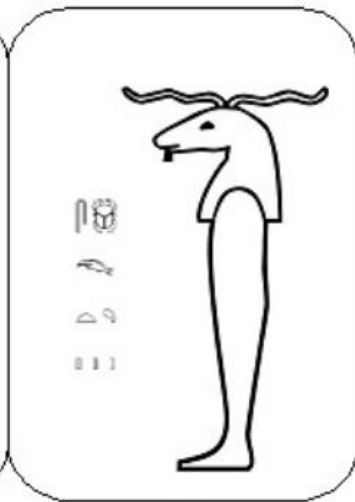
49

Electric Body



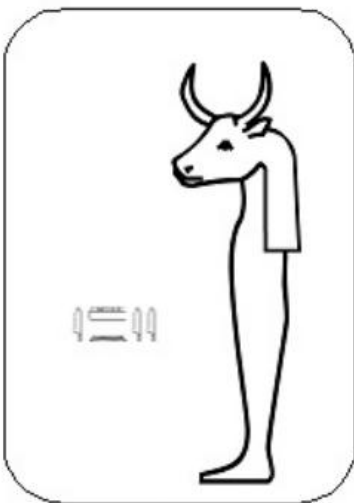
50

Satisfaction



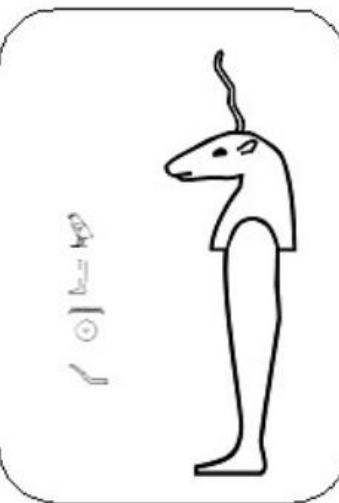
51

Physical Body



52

Question/Life



53

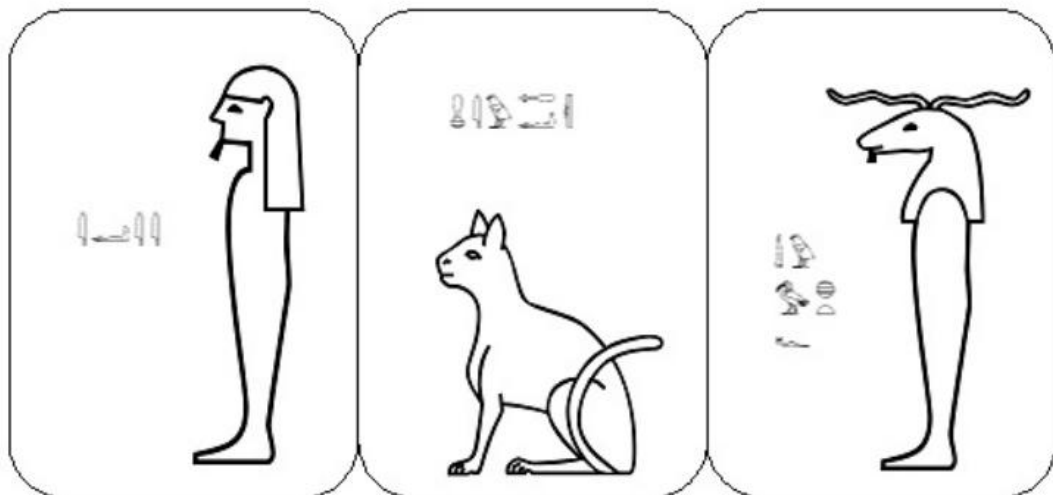
Master of Lotuses



54

King of Towns





55

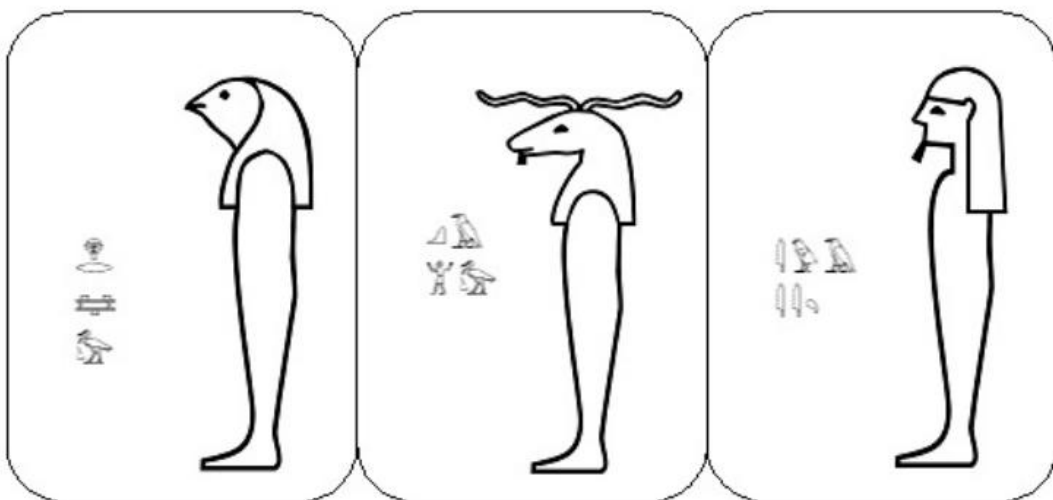
Empress

56

Chemical Body

57

Master of Firesticks



58

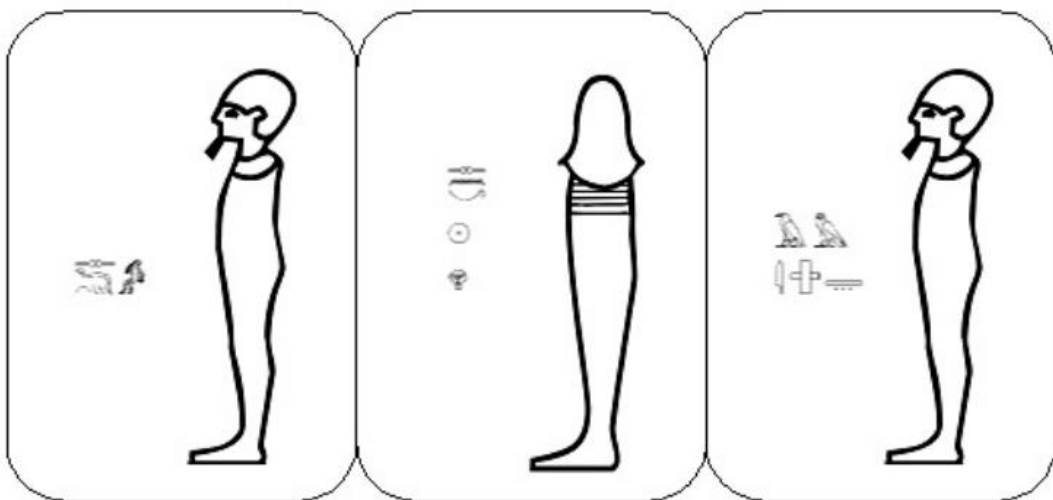
Answer/Heaven

59

Prana Body

60

Decision



61

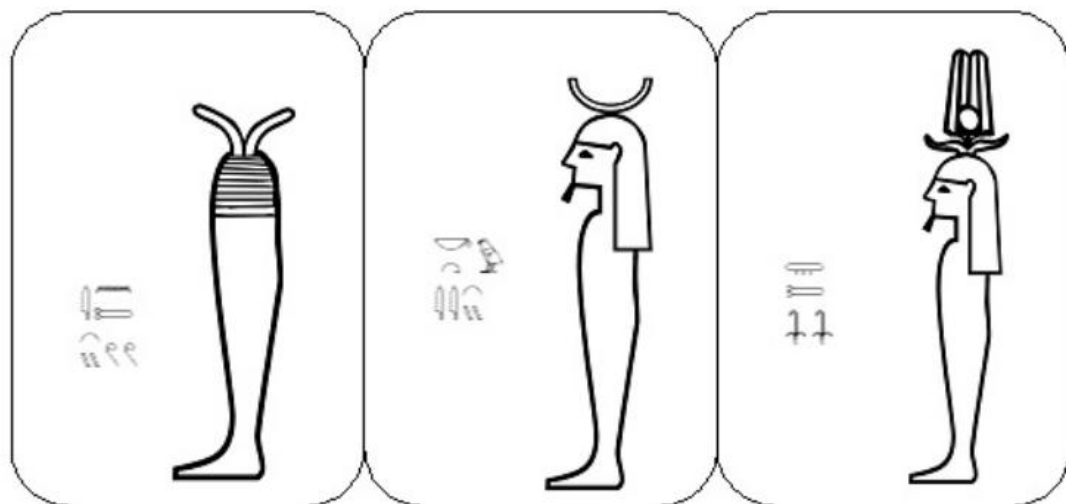
Master of Plumes

62

Nurture

63

Diversity



64

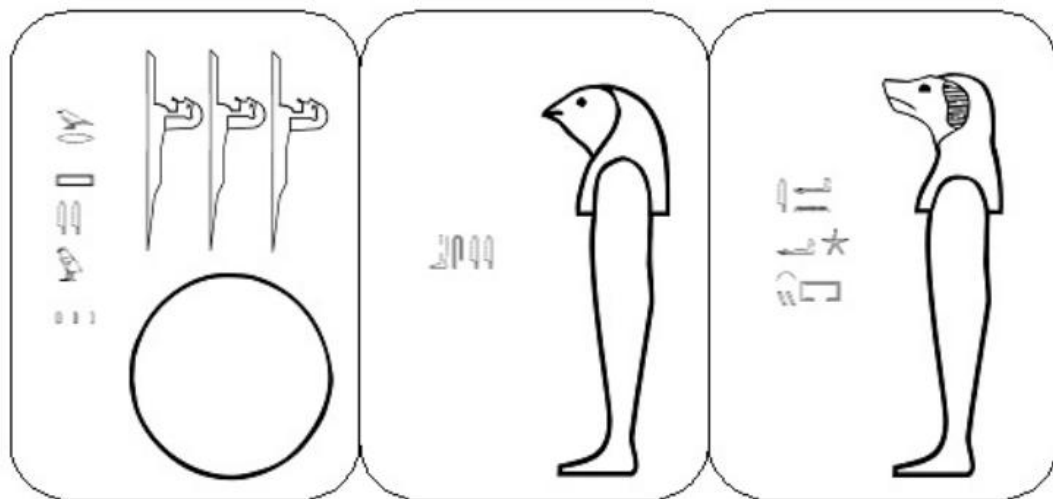
High Priest

65

King of Firesticks

66

Value



67

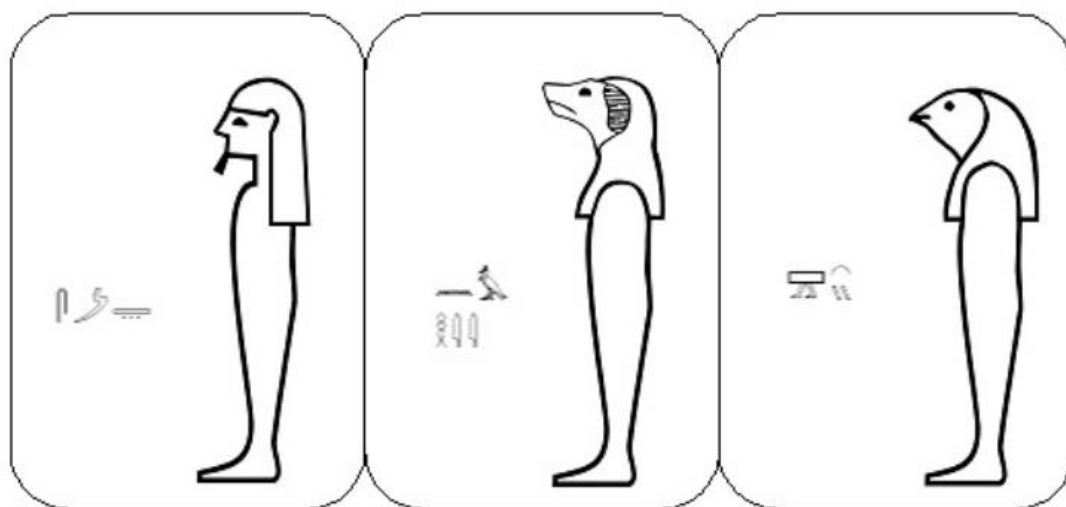
Leisure

68

Celebration

69

Fool



70

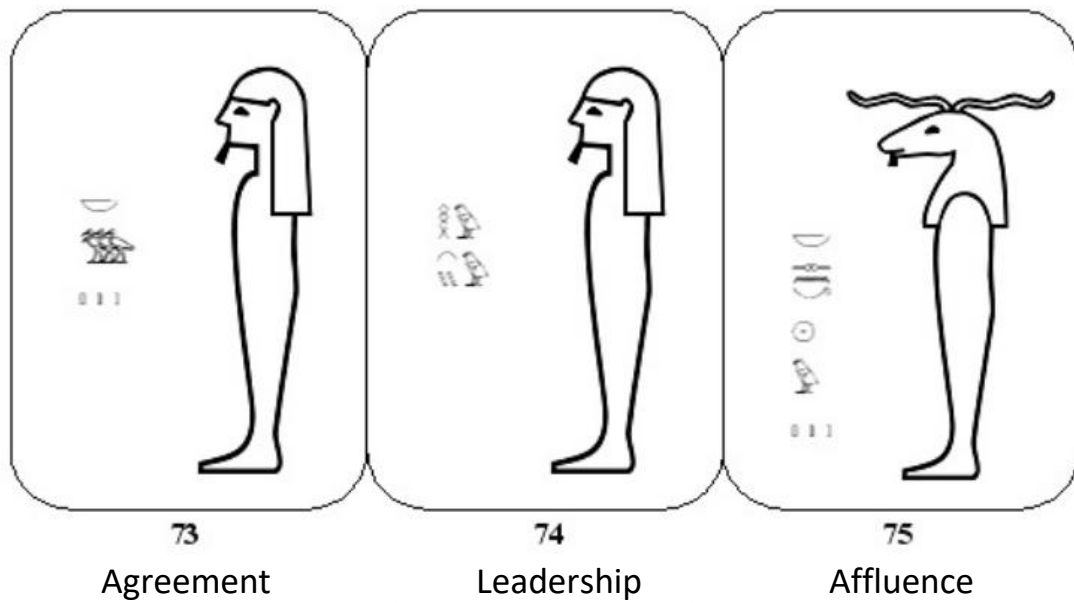
Appreciation

71

Attention

72

Light Body



**Alternate version for Card #9 (Hermit)**

# **Litany of Ra Tarok Naipe**

## **Complete Deck According to Rameses III**

("Odds" Rough Draft)



Cover Card (80)





Cards 76, 77, 78 (Devil, Sun, Fantasy)





Anubis

Nephthys



9a

7

5

3

1





19

17

15

13

11



29

27

25

23

21





39

37

35

33

31



49

47

45

43

41





57

56

55

52

51



66

64

62

60



74

72

70

68

(68 is same image as 72, and 70 is same image as 74, but these two cards each have two labels and two descriptive texts, so we repeat them.)



9b



# **Litany or Ra Tarok Naipe**

## **Complete Deck According to Rameses III**

("Evans" Rough Draft)



Cover Card (80)





Cards 76, 77, 78 (Devil, Sun, Fantasy)





Isis

Anubis



2

4

6

8

10





12

14

16

18

20



22

24

26

28

30





32

34

36

38

40



42

44

46

48

50



53

54

58

59



61

63

65

67





69

71

73

75



9b

(68 is the same image as 72, and 70 is the same image as 74, but these two cards each have two labels and two descriptive texts, so we repeat them.)

Sety I also introduced the practice of placing the Litany deck along the two sides of a hallway. Tutmose III had put his deck on two columns, thus dividing it into two sections. From the text of the **Litany** the sequence was clear, and it alternated between the two sections. So it was a simple matter to put them in order along the two sides of the hallway so the reader would glance back and forth as he went down the hall. The practice continued as the general rule, although later editions, such as Rameses IX only show a selection of the cards. The above photographs of the Rameses III (early 20<sup>th</sup> dynasty) deck are a complete set, although there are a few mistakes made by the artist. The strange part of the alternation is that it is not consistent throughout. About two-thirds of the way through the list the order switches, and odd numbered cards appear on the even side while even numbered cards appear on the odd side. Maybe further research will reveal what happened here. It could just be that the original artist in the tomb of Tutmose III mixed up the order on the columns and then when the conservative Egyptians picked up the “tradition” with Sety I they decided to just keep it that way.

You will notice that there is a large bunch of Trump cards that appear in the beginning of the list. Then the remaining ones appear here and there throughout the rest of the list. Many Trump cards have their standard names. Some use well-known nicknames, such as Amenet for Hathor or Khenty Amenety for Osiris or Chief of the Baboons for Thoth.

Some have the name encoded in the text. For example MesKhenet, the divine midwife has her name appear as “mes” and “khenet” separately in the text. A few are tricky, such as the scarab representing Death. The scarab is the symbol of creative energy. The card reminds us that creation is the beginning of death. Study the Waite or BOTA Death card. You will see the sun about to dawn. Creation and dissolution are inseparable, and we must learn to see the one in the other.

The first card is very important even though it is a Process card. Its name “Deba Jemej” means a restoration of integration -- in other words,

a Return to Source. Ra spreads out his rays of light and emanates into many diverse forms. These forms all eventually return to their Source, the Source of the Light of Awareness. In my deck the symbol is the boat with sails that can sail effortlessly upstream to the source of the Nile. In Egypt this technology was important for keeping the country united. Downstream was easy; just float along down to the delta. Upstream required technology and cooperation to harness the wind and control the direction of the boat against the Nile's current.

Sety made the important additions of the Sun Trump and the Devil Trump. This was perfect, because he called himself "The Devil One" (Sety), so he knew the devil was important and not a "bad guy". He puts the Devil card right next to the Sun.

Here are the numbers for the Trumps in the List.

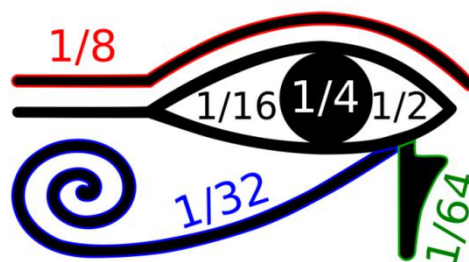
Hanged Man	02
Judgment	03
Hermit	09
Tower	11
Death	12
Emperor	13
Strength	14
World	15
Star	16
Priestess	17
Temperance	18
Chariot	19
Magician	31
Lover	34
Moon	35
Fortune	37
Justice	48
Empress	55
High Priest	64
Fool	69
Devil	76
Sun	77

From 11 to 19 are all basic Trumps and mostly in order on the top line of the Senet Oracle Board. Tem the Tower is the Big Bang emanating

from Ra. Tem also means “complete”, so the whole story of the universe from its creative start to its death are all in that moment. Along the hallway Tower and Death face each other.

The whole notion of cards facing each other across a hall is very interesting and takes us back to our original study of pairing the Trumps. The sequence naturally pairs the cards. For example, Isis and Nephthys face each other as they do in so many tableaux.

It is odd that Thoth is 64, which is the number of phases in his Lunar Eye.



The hieroglyph of the Lunar Eye is made of 6 components that divide unity into 64 equal parts using the powers of 2. Add the 6 fractions together, and you get  $63/64$ . The last  $1/64^{\text{th}}$  is the sum of all further bifurcations. Thus we have the seed of the calculus in the Eye.

Another major issue is the question of why some card images are very explicit and clear, -- even amusing -- whereas many are just repetitions of standard images, the most common being that of a young man with shoulder length hair and a short beard who could be a young pharaoh, but also seems to be in the form of a mummy.

Some of the Process cards have the same symbols I chose, but others do not, so their process values may be a bit different.

## 19 Study Questions

- \* Study the pictures.
- \* Study the sequence.
- \* Set my Senet Tarot cards next to the New Kingdom Tarot images and study the similarities and differences.

- \* Get my current (2018) edition of the **Litany of Ra** and its handbook and study them. I have indexed the work and put the text into a “reader” format that cumulatively introduces the alphabet and hieroglyphs for study of the original text.
- \* Study my edition of the **Amduat** and get familiar with the 12 Hours of Darkness and what each is about.