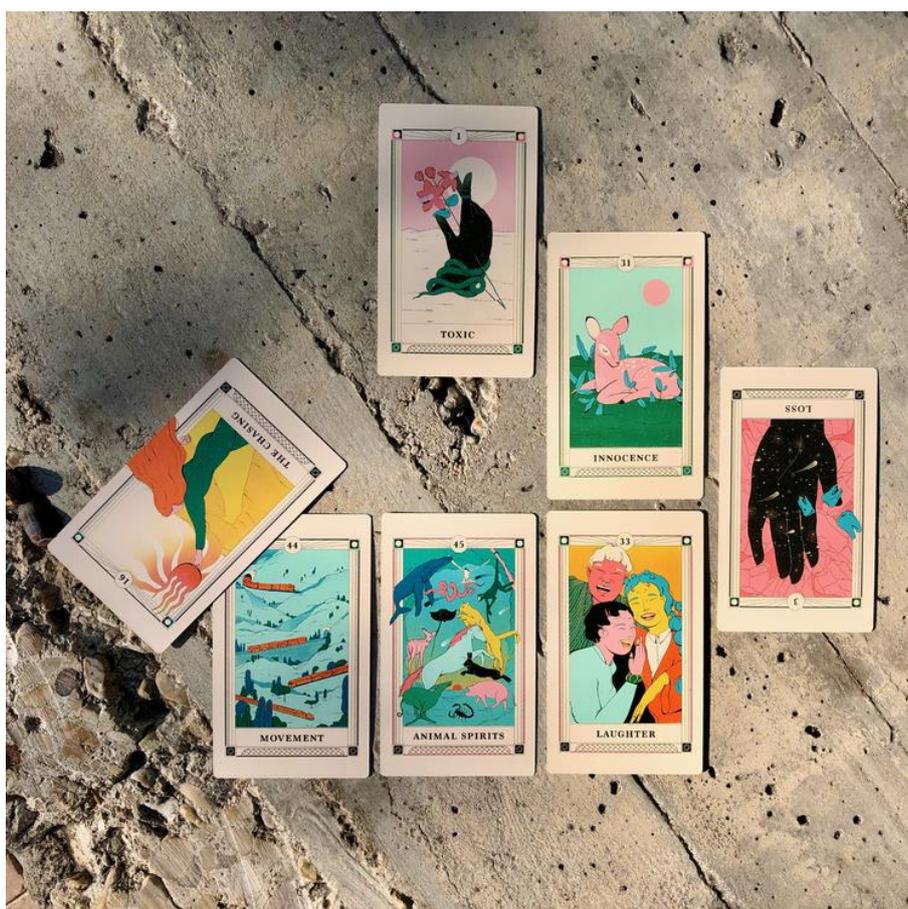


Deck Interview: Alcheringa Oneiromancy Deck

The *Alcheringa Oneiromancy Deck* by [Stephanie Alia](#) is as dreamy as you'd hope (*oneiromancy* is divination through dreams). Much of the imagery is gentle, but it's not all rainbows and butterflies. Dreams reside here as well as nightmares. The cards are ostensibly oracle cards since you use them to divine messages rather than to piece together your dreams, but they do incorporate common dream elements. Alia's guidebook has beautiful takes on these elements, but bringing our own dream experiences into the deck will modify the meanings in ways that you might not expect. Most intuitive tarot and oracle readers learn to rely on their own idiosyncratic meanings and scrying techniques to get the most out of tarot and oracle cards, but it can be hard to feel comfortable doing that. Because the *Alcheringa Oneiromancy Deck* is using dream elements, something with which almost all of us are familiar, it's much easier to adapt them without feeling as though you're breaking some ancient canon of esoteric lore. For that reason, it's a great oracle deck for beginners as well as advanced cartomancers. I, for one, am just really looking forward to playing with this deck and seeing how it improves my ability to remember my dreams.

As always, I'm using [my own deck interview spread](#).



INTERVIEWING THE ALCHERINGA ONEIROMANCY DECK

What major lesson are you here to help me learn? *Animal Spirits*

Through which divine energy can we best communicate? *Toxic*

In what area can you aid me to help others? *Laughter*

In what area could your guidance be easily misunderstood? *Movement*

What can I do to keep our communication clear? *The Chasing (reversed)*

How can I use your guidance for the highest good? *Innocence*

How will I know when we're ready for a new lesson? *Loss (reversed)*

For my interview, I was taken by the mix of caution and joy this deck purports to offer. It's an invitation to stop and pay more attention to one's dreams and the omens and signs in one's surroundings and just enjoy them. If we try to find meaning in all of the stimuli around us, we will be overwhelmed and quickly become paranoid. But if we just notice and sit with our observations, we should be able to see what's important and what's just worth noting for the sake of curiosity and practice before moving on to something more useful. Being overly conscientious can be one's downfall. Just ask a Virgo.

In the interview spread, I see the lesson of Animal Spirits, which makes me think of literal animal medicine, but the card also means signs and spirit guides in general. This is a good time to start to recognize where spiritual guidance is coming from and how I can use spiritually guided wisdom in significant ways. Since my dreams have become more vivid again, I suspect that some of those messages will be channeled through those dreams.

But when actively divining with this deck—to understand my dreams or just to get oracular guidance—I'm encouraged to call on Apollo. That's how I read Toxic, which references poison of course but also beauty and the piercing of arrows. Before reading the guidebook, I immediately thought of the god of sunlight, music, archery, and healing, Apollo. He offers prophetic powers, but his gifts often come with a curse. The oracle's gifts can quickly burn them out, and that's true of modern-day oracles. Calling on Apollo will bring mystical insights but also that fire which can be draining. I'll use this deck cautiously for great insights but only when I can devote proper time to recovery.

For where this deck will help me help others, we have Laughter contrasted with Movement and the Chasing in reverse. This signifies the need to sit in one's space and just enjoy the simple things. There's a social component to Laughter that reminds me of the 3 of Cups in a tarot deck with its intimacy and shared conviviality. Laughter can take many forms, and since I'm at a place of remembering simple joy in the face of a demanding inner task master, I find this an encouraging sign that I can use this deck to help myself and others embrace the simple joys and everyday wonders that bring laughter. Much like dreams, the caution against Movement and clarification through the reversed Chasing signal a need to just sit in the experience and absorb it. This deck isn't about helping make transitions or activating advice. It's much more about understanding and opening up to the experiences in which we're already situated. This is a matter of recapturing childlike wonder in the world, as seen in

Innocence. Almost anything can bring joy and inspire magical thinking, especially in our dreams.

The transition point here (from learning to refocus on the spirit guides all around me and onto something new) will come through a period of voluntary letting go. The Loss card involves the loss of deeply personal aspects of ourselves, but I see this as a voluntary act with this card in the reverse. I find letting go to be a challenging task. It's much easier and more natural for me to just take on more and more until, like the 10 of Wands, I am staggering around, slow as molasses. Hopefully this deck will help me focus on where to let go.

The cards pictured here are from the *Alcheringa Oneiromancy Deck*, created by Stephanie Alia and illustrated by Daniela Efe © 2020.