

Media Kit: The Gaian Tarot

Press Release

The Gaian Tarot is a beautiful 78-card contemporary, multicultural and mythical Tarot deck with accompanying spiritual guide. It has a focus on the healing of the earth and of the self. Interpretations include uprights and reverse divinatory meanings, themes, exercises, symbolism, journal questions, affirmations, and ten spreads.

Joanna Powell Colbert — named one of the Wisdom Keepers of the Goddess Spirituality movement by SageWoman magazine — breathes new life into traditional Tarot archetypes with rich images that are multicultural and contemporary. Gaian spirituality understands that humans, plants, animals, stones, and stars are all inextricably linked—when one strand is pulled, the entire web is affected. This deck is especially intended for those who practice earth-centered spirituality.

Size: box set 6" x 9" x 1 3/4" | 78 art cards | 184 pp

ISBN13: 9780764350627 | **Binding:** box set

\$34.99 | July 2016

Schiffer Publishing, Ltd, is a family-owned, independent publisher of high-quality books. Since 1974, Schiffer has published thousands of titles on the diverse subjects that fuel their readers' passions. Visit www.schifferbooks.com to explore their backlist of over 5000 titles.

For press inquiries, or to request a review copy, please contact Chris McClure at 610-593-1777 or chrism@schifferbooks.com

About the Author

1. Short (25-40 words):

Joanna Powell Colbert is an artist, teacher, and convener of circles, named by *SageWoman* magazine as one of the Wisdom Keepers of the Goddess Spirituality movement. The Gaian Tarot combines her love of symbolic, archetypal art with the mysteries of the natural world.

2. Longer (50-125 words):

Joanna Powell Colbert has been an artist, teacher, and convener of circles for over thirty years. She was named by *SageWoman* magazine as one of the Wisdom Keepers of the Goddess Spirituality movement. Joanna teaches workshops and e-courses on earth-centered spirituality, seasonal contemplative practices, creativity as a devotional path, the Divine Feminine, and using tarot as a tool for inner guidance and self-exploration. She joyfully hosts Gaian Soul Retreats several times each year. The Gaian Tarot, nine years in the making, combines her love of symbolic, archetypal art with the mysteries of the natural world. She lives on a small, magical island in the Salish Sea near Bellingham, Washington. There, daily encounters with the mysteries of the natural world continue to inspire and inform her work.

Joanna can be found online here:

www.GaianTarot.com

www.GaianSoul.com

www.facebook.com/joannapowellcolbertartist/

www.facebook.com/GaianTarot/

www.twitter.com/joannapcolbert

www.instagram.com/joannapcolbert

Sample Q&A

How is this version of the Gaian Tarot different from previous ones?

This is actually the fourth incarnation of the Gaian Tarot. I self-published a handmade, majors-only deck in 2004, followed by a Collector's Edition of the entire 78-card deck in 2010. Llewellyn Worldwide published a mass market edition in 2011, and now in 2016 Schiffer Books is publishing a beautiful new edition.

Most people want to know how the Schiffer version is different from the Llewellyn version. First, the cards are bigger. They are 4"x6" and have a silver gilding on the edges. The graphic design is very different, with a new font and a blue border around each card. The book is full color on the inside, and the set comes in a sturdy, beautiful box.

I made a few changes in the text of the book, updating some of the divinatory meanings based on things I learned over the last few years. I also added a few new spreads at the back of the book. The artwork in the cards is the same, except I added a new detail to one card that was important to me. I'll see if anyone notices!

Where did the Gaian Tarot begin for you?

I had the desire to create a deck of my own back in the mid-1980s when I was deep into Goddess and Tarot studies, especially of the Motherpeace and Rider Waite Smith decks. But the thought of painting 78 cards was daunting. Later on, in the late 1990s, I went through a period of time where I let go of all my esoteric interests like tarot, astrology, and ritual. I moved to a small, rural island, built a straw bale house with my husband and started a wilderness awareness course of studies — learning about the native plants and animals, going deep into the spirit of Place.

Around 1999, I had a strong calling to create a deck, but I was not sure what the theme should be. I didn't want to do yet another RWS, because — why bother doing something that has been done so well, so many other times? I did not want to do a Goddess-themed deck for the same reason; I didn't feel that I had anything new to bring to yet another Goddess deck.

Then I realized I could bring together two great passions of mine — my love for the natural world as teacher and healer with my love for the rich, archetypal imagery of the tarot. I brought those two loves together in the Gaian Tarot.

How is the Gaian Tarot different from other tarot decks?

It's multicultural and contemporary, and is not an overtly esoteric deck. While I stayed true to the classic tarot structure and was inspired by the Rider Waite Smith deck, the deck is not a reworking of familiar RWS imagery. With each card, I asked myself: *Where is the voice of Nature in this card?*

I wanted to show a community of people, plants and animals all living in harmony with each other and the planet. In some ways the deck is a vision of what it could be like to live in the world. But it is a vision rooted in reality. All the figures in the deck are based on people that I know. Also, every card, even the challenging ones, offer advice and counsel on how to triumph over that particular challenge.

The Gaian Tarot was nine years in the making. Why so long?

A number of reasons, the first being the time-intensive nature of the medium I chose (colored pencil painting). There are 50 to 100 hours in each card, including 10-20 hours on each face alone. I completed the Majors first, and the originals are around 13"x19". I worked smaller for the Minors, at about 10"x15". I wasn't able to work full time on the artwork, as I had to earn a living and have a personal life as well. In retrospect, I think that the depth of my life experience during those nine years found its way into the deck and made it all the richer.

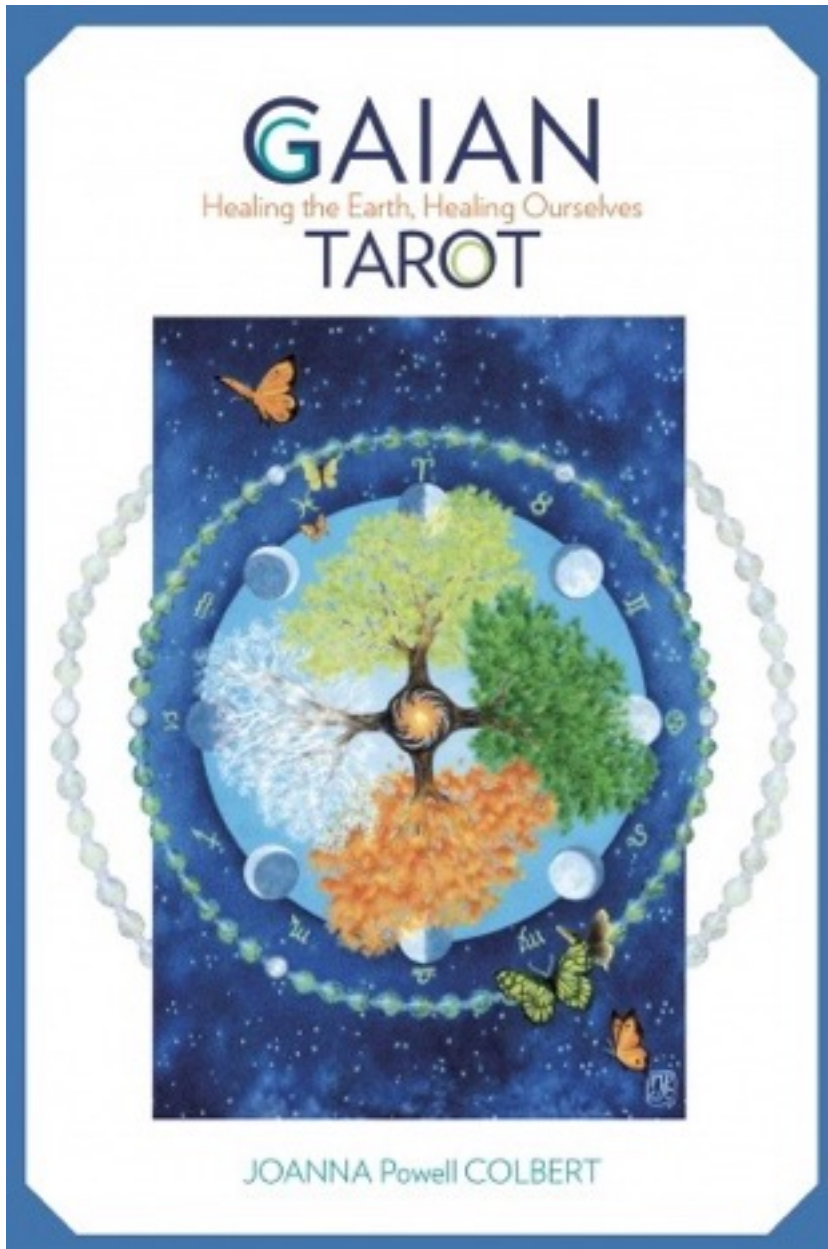
What can users of the deck expect from The Gaian Tarot?

They can expect to recognize themselves in the images, and to see the bonds of community and friendship. They can expect the Green Ones of the forest and shore to speak to them. They can expect to see many symbols in the suits and not just one (like swords or cups). They can expect to be delighted — and perhaps challenged — by the gender reversals in many of the cards. They can expect to see radically re-visioned Emperor, Hierophant and

court cards. They can expect to internalize the cycle of descent and return as mirrored in the Moon and Wheel cards, and in the structure of the Minors. They can expect to find a vision of hope and healing for themselves, and for our beloved Mother Earth.

Photos

Deck and Book Set Cover:



Interior of Book:

PREFACE 9

THE MAJOR ARCANA *Full Lessons* 10

- The Fool's A New Beginning 10
- The Magician Speaks Into Reality 11
- The Priestess Chooses Her Fate 12
- The Foolborn's Unlikely Creativity Abounds 13
- The High Priestess's Questions, Answers 14
- The Two Aces Looking and Feeling 15
- The Lovers Follow Your Heart 16
- The Tower: Big Changes in the Field 17
- Strength: Courage and Love 18
- The Hermit: Search Inside 19
- The Wheel: Cycle and Change 20
- Justice: Great Matters 21
- The Sun: Living in 22
- Death: Saying and Doing 23
- Temperance: Creating Spirit 24
- Modesty: Life's Affliction 25
- Lightning: Public Awareness Change 26
- The Star: Hoping to Dream 27
- The Moon: Dreams, Hidden Changes 28
- The Sun: Hidden Eye 29
- Enduring Living Lessons 30
- Love, the World: Big All-Being in Mind 31

The World's All-Being, Elements, Numbers, People 32

- Academy Award, All of Love 32
- How Women, Deeply, Attract the All-Being 33
- How Women, Deeply, Attract 34
- Academy Award, Academy Award 35
- How Challenge, Change, the All-Being 36
- How Challenge, Change, the All-Being 37
- How Award to a Girl, the All-Being 38
- Right: Why, After, the All-Being, the All-Being 39
- How Award, the All-Being 40
- How Award 41
- Children: Learning, the All-Being 42
- Children: Learning, the All-Being 43
- Children: Learning, the All-Being 44
- Children: Learning, the All-Being 45
- Children: Learning, the All-Being 46
- Children: Learning, the All-Being 47
- Children: Learning, the All-Being 48
- Children: Learning, the All-Being 49
- Children: Learning, the All-Being 50

WORKING WITH THE CARDS 51

- Guidelines 51
- Guidelines 52

THE MAJOR ARCANA
FULL LESSONS

12 THE TREE

**(THE HANGED MAN)
LETTING GO**



The Hanged Man has often been one of the most appreciated and compelling images in the Tarot. Here the divine Agon is represented in the young person called *the hanged man*—the tree, the grass and foliage in a mirror of the anatomy of the man being. He is able to stay suspended even when his world is in upheaval, when the balance is off-kilter and all things are very scary.

Perhaps our eyes in right side up in an upside down world, the practice and devotion are evident in the way that the tree becomes a tree with the sky and sun. The image, the discomfort of her position, feeling heavy with a deeper vision, she does not have to "let go and let God do."

When you get this card in a reading . . .

In a case to face the work that the right vision of being is needed to identify the work in the work to do. The work is because the work is needed to identify the work in the work to do. The work is because the work is needed to identify the work in the work to do. The work is because the work is needed to identify the work in the work to do.

When you read the Shadow side of this card . . .

The eye refuses to surrender, and chooses instead to be seized in an unbearable situation. Heals and long-up may become increasingly frustrating as become an abandoned. When inevitably is being ignored? Who is it doing? If justice is called for, be sure to take it much more in necessary. There is opportunity and understand the balance in given.

DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE TREE

Themes

Surrender	Find a new perspective	Justice
Letting go of control	Insights	Revelation
Release		

Symbols

Tree (Right Hand): The Tree of Life appears in cross-cultural mythology as a symbol of fertility or everlasting life. In nature, it is a metaphor for the evolutionary interconnectedness of living things. In the Kabbalah, it is a diagram of the creation of the world. The World Tree is another cross-cultural symbol that depicts a Tree connecting the heavens, the earth and, with its roots, the underworld. The religious Pacific Northwest people called the Right Hand the "pacific tree," were they correct? Justice, justice, and other words are of its symbolism. The tree of life also provided them with food and shelter.

Right Hand and symbols: The tree, justice, justice, justice that have defined their existence. The end of a man in cycle, the end of a man in cycle, justice and justice.

Chickadee: Chickadee bird while hanging upside down.

Flower: (Government of Justice) The Tree is seen from the Tree in you.


THE MAJOR ARCANA
FULL LESSONS

- When best of study spiritual practice do I need?
- When a day, returning, with the work?
- When do I believe about the work in, the work, and the work?
- When best of studying, the work, the work, the work?
- When best of studying, the work, the work, the work?

Attention:

All that is well, all that is well, all that is well, all that is well.

THE MINOR ARCANA
Elements, Numbers, People



The Minor Arcana is the most practical of the Tarot. It is the most practical of the Tarot. It is the most practical of the Tarot. It is the most practical of the Tarot. It is the most practical of the Tarot.

Sample Card:



Artist / Author, Joanna Powell Colbert:

