

Legends, Heroes,  
*and* Villains Oracle

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Illustrated by Tao Jiang

SAMPLE



BEYOND WORDS  
Portland, Oregon

# FOREWORD

Some of history's most notable personages come to life in this captivating oracle deck by Letao Wang. *Legends, Heroes, and Villains Oracle* assembles a fascinating cast of humanity's most notable and notorious figures, each with an important lesson to teach us. Blending his extensive knowledge of astrology and history, Letao Wang invites you to embrace your highest aspirations while honestly confronting your own inner saboteur.

The revered and reviled archetypes found in our history, in our myths, and even in the tarot resonate with us because they *are* us. The archetypal heroes and villains found in our collective legends are often rooted in actual mortals who achieved either greatness or infamy. We recount the stories of these larger-than-life figures because they stir something deep within us that wishes to be relevant and remembered. As Leonardo da Vinci purportedly said, "It had long come to my attention that people of accomplishment

rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things.” History is messy, and the stories found within this fascinating oracle are no exception. However, if you can fearlessly dialogue with both the heroes and villains of the past, you can step onto a path of empowerment leading you toward the highest expression of your excellence.

Elliot Adam, bestselling author of *Fearless Tarot*  
and *Tarot in Love*

# INTRODUCTION

*Those who cannot remember the past  
are condemned to repeat it.*

**George Santayana**

Are you ready to embark on a journey through time with *Legends, Heroes, and Villains Oracle*? This is a deck of thirty-six cards that whispers the secrets of those who have etched indelible marks on the canvas of our world. These figures, hailing from diverse cultures and epochs, span professions from medicine to the sciences, from the performing arts to royal courts. They represent a global tapestry, including potent voices from American, European, East Asian, Indian, and African societies. Their narratives invite us into a dance of empathy, inclusivity, and understanding. Among this illustrious assembly, you'll find familiar torchbearers like Martin Luther King Jr. and Thomas Edison,

while names like Chiune Sugihara and Lee Kuan Yew might unfurl as beautiful surprises. When crafting *Legends, Heroes, and Villains Oracle*, I mindfully chose each figure. Some, though seen in the shadow of villainy, still offer invaluable insights through their tales. Their sagas have the transformative power to inspire, illuminating the rich contradictions of the human condition. If you thirst for inspiration or yearn to contemplate life's lessons through the prism of history, allow this vibrant oracle deck to be your guide. Each card tells a tale that will leave you marveling at the extraordinary human existence.

The thirty-six illustrated cards are grouped in clusters of three, with each set resonating with one of the twelve celestial zodiac signs. Viewing the figures in this arrangement helps us to unravel life's profound lessons and guide us on the cyclical journey of cosmic karma. One important thing to note is that astrology is far more intricate than just knowing the sun sign. Beyond the sun, elements like our moon, ascendant, Mercury, Venus, Mars, and even the north node can significantly influence the success and prominent qualities we display to the world. In this deck, the zodiac signs associated with each figure in every chapter are not strictly based on their birth sun sign. Instead, these signs are chosen to best represent the qualities and remarkable contributions these individuals made to humanity. Consider the stalwart legends of Taurus, an otherwise unlikely trio of Nelson Mandela, Charles Ponzi,

and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; or the harmonious Libra contingent of Yoshiko Yamaguchi, Mahatma Gandhi, and Martin Luther King Jr. Each figure is bestowed with core meaning, a distillation of their life's saga and the card's essence. To further augment your interpretive journey, each card description includes a set of related keywords. These navigational tools aim to seamlessly integrate the wisdom of the cards into your personal readings.

When interpreting cards, it is crucial to consider both positive and challenging aspects. Each hero's card conveys potential warnings alongside honorable messages; likewise, villain cards may offer positive insights. The final keyword in each chapter represents an extreme or distorted energy of the theme, such as "illusion" for Sigmund Freud's theme of "dream," or the potential positive wisdom from a villain, such as "thoroughness" for Maximilien Robespierre's theme of "extremism." This approach provides a holistic perspective for personal readings. Aside from the keywords provided, I encourage you to



explore both the light and shadow aspects of each historical figure in this deck.

The concept of *spheres* within each zodiac sign in this deck is a unique approach that may diverge from traditional astrological understanding of *decans*. Each sphere is designed to illuminate three significant traits that define each zodiac sign, providing a nuanced and intimate understanding of our celestial identities. Consider, for example, the legendary former CEO of Apple, Steve Jobs. His vision perfectly embodies the pioneering spirit that is hallmarked by the first sphere of Aries. Similarly, Harriet Tubman, with her unwavering dedication to her mission, is a symbol of the tenacity characteristic of the third sphere of Capricorn. Unlike the decan system seen in my previous work *Oracle of the Mythic Heroes*, these spheres don't conform to specific time frames within our solar calendar. They instead offer a timeless lens through which to view and interpret the zodiac.

Additionally, each figure is assigned a specific location, a regional area, and a direction. For instance, Nelson Mandela is paired with South Africa for the country, Southern Africa for the region, and the direction of southwest. The geographical details mentioned are based on the hometown of the individual, regional areas where they spent a considerable amount of time during their lifetime, or locations tied to their significant accomplishments. That flexibility allowed me to assign Korea to the chapter

just as it is an understatement to encapsulate their myriad contributions in one term. Although this deck was not crafted with reversed meanings in mind, seasoned readers are welcome to interpret the cards in reverse, much like with a traditional tarot deck. So, when conducting your own readings, let your intuition be your compass, breaking free from any confines of literal interpretations offered in this guidebook. The divine message you discern in that sacred moment may indeed be a wellspring of inspiration far surpassing any predefined explanation.



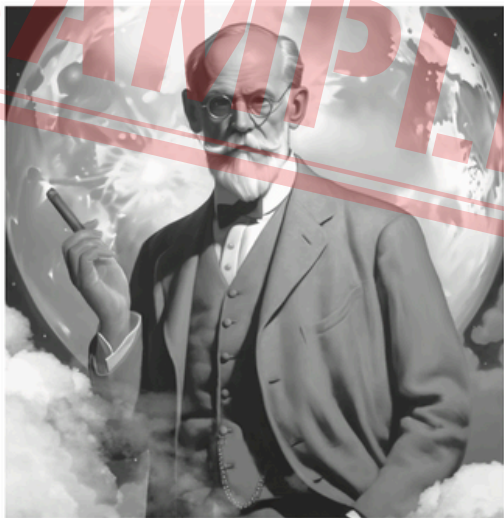
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**SIGMUND FREUD**

# DREAM

United Kingdom and Western Europe; Center

**MEDITATION, MYSTICISM, PSYCHOLOGY,  
SPIRITUALITY, ILLUSION**



Sigmund Freud, the founding father of psychoanalysis, was deeply fascinated with the realm of dreams, considering the interpretation of them as the “royal road to a knowledge of the unconscious activities of the mind.” Through his seminal work, *The Interpretation of Dreams* (1899), Freud introduced the theory that dreams are not mere random nocturnal experiences but meaningful reflections of our deepest desires and fears. His unprecedented exploration into the symbolism of dreams has profoundly impacted both psychology and the way we understand our subconscious minds.

Representing the first sphere of the mutable water sign Pisces, Freud symbolizes *Dream*. When this card surfaces in your reading, it's an explicit signal from the universe to delve deeper into the spiritual and mystical facets of existence. It urges you to cultivate and enrich your personal spirituality and pay attention to your own dreams.

As the father of psychoanalysis, Freud greatly contributed to our understanding of the human mind through dream interpretation. He opened the gateway to our unconscious mind, where our deepest desires and fears lie. He argued that dreams were a manifestation of our subconscious and that decoding their hidden messages could reveal our innermost thoughts and emotions. Even today, his theories about dreams continue to influence modern psychology and help us to better understand the human mind.

Dreams, subconsciousness, and spirituality, ruled under the domain of Pisces, are all interconnected in an intricate and profound way that stretches beyond the physical boundaries of our waking lives. Dreams are the portal through which we gain access to the subconscious mind and spirituality. It is the recognition and understanding of something greater than ourselves: a connection to a higher power, the universe, or a force that transcends physical existence. You might be prompted to pay attention to your own dreams and spiritual life, as they could work as the key to unlocking hidden truths and deeper levels of understanding. Through your dreams, you might gain insights into a spiritual realm that lies beyond your conscious perception, which provide subtle hints and valuable guidance that can be applied to our physical reality. The hour has come to acknowledge and unite with the potent higher force that cradles us all and delve deeper into the mystical enigmas of existence that ripple beneath the surface of our consciousness.