MODULE THREE · A COMPLETE OVERVIEW OF THE LENORMAND SYSTEM

The 36 Cards

Now that you speak the language — meet the vocabulary. All 36 cards, organized not as a list to memorize, but as a living system to understand. By the end of this module, you will know every card by group, by energy, and by its place in the larger story.

HOW TO USE THIS CHAPTER

Read one Part at a time. The Pause marks are good places to stop, or to listen in segments. Write in the ruled spaces at the end.

PART 1

Why 36?

The Architecture of the Deck

- **36 is not an arbitrary number**
  - Rooted in the original **Game of Hope** board (1799)
  - Numerologically: 36 = 3 + 6 = **9** — the number of completion, wisdom & cycles
  - 36 cards × their combinations = virtually infinite narrative possibilities
- **Each card carries three identity layers:**
  - A **name & image** — the symbolic face of the card
  - A **number (1–36)** — its position in the system
  - A **playing card insert** — its cartomantic root
- **The deck has no Major or Minor Arcana**
  - Unlike Tarot, there is no hierarchy

- All 36 cards hold equal weight
- Context and combination determine importance — not the card's rank

PART 2

The Playing Card Insert System

Why Every Lenormand Card Carries a Playing Card

- **Every Lenormand card contains a small playing card image** in one corner
  - This is not decorative — it is **functional**
  - It connects Lenormand to the much older European **cartomancy** tradition
  - Before Lenormand had its own imagery, readers used standard playing cards
  - The insert is the ancestral memory of the card

The Four Suits & Their Energetic Territory

SUIT	ELEMENT	TRADITIONAL DOMAIN
♥ Hearts	Water / Emotion	Love · Relationships · Home · Family · Feelings
♦ Diamonds	Earth / Material	Money · Messages · Career · Physical world
♣ Clubs	Fire / Action	Work · Enterprise · Challenge · Creativity · Will
♠ Spades	Air / Truth	Difficulty · Endings · Truth · Wisdom · Transformation

The Court Cards & Number Values

- **Aces** — Singular force, pure beginning, powerful initiation
- **Kings** — Authority, mastery, established power, mature energy

- **Queens** — Intuition, social intelligence, receptive wisdom
- **Jacks** — Youth, messages in motion, action-oriented, exploratory
- **Numbers 6–10** — Specific situational energies (vary by suit)

LESSER-KNOWN FACT #7

You can read Lenormand using only a standard playing card deck

- This is how the tradition was practiced before illustrated decks existed
- Many old-school cartomancers still prefer it
- Knowing the insert system gives you a **backup reading tool** you carry everywhere

PART 3

The 8 Card Groups

How the 36 Cards Organize Themselves by Energy

Learning cards by group is far more effective than rote memorization. Each group shares a core energetic theme — once you feel the theme, the cards within it become intuitive.

GROUP 1 — THE MESSENGERS

Cards about arrival, communication & movement

#	CARD	CORE MEANING	VERB
1	Rider	News arriving · Young man · Swift movement	To arrive · To deliver
12	Birds	Conversation · Anxiety · A couple talking	To chatter · To negotiate
27	Letter	Written message · Document · Official news	To communicate · To document

GROUP 2 — THE PEOPLE

Cards representing individuals in the querent's world

#	CARD	CORE MEANING	VERB
15	Bear	Authority · Boss · Mother · Financial power	To dominate · To protect · To finance
18	Dog	Loyal friend · Companion · Faithful support	To follow · To accompany · To serve
24	Heart	Love · Emotion · Compassion · Romance · Vulnerability	To love · To feel deeply
28	Man	Male significator · A man in the situation	To act · To represent
29	Woman	Female significator · A woman in the situation	To act · To represent
30	Lily	Elder · Virtue · Wisdom · Sensuality · Winter	To mature · To withdraw · To refine

GROUP 3 — THE PLACES

Cards representing environments, locations & structures

#	CARD	CORE MEANING	VERB
3	Ship	Journey · Travel · Longing · Foreign · Trade	To travel · To seek · To long for
4	House	Home · Family · Stability · Property · Tradition	To shelter · To establish · To contain
19	Tower	Institution · Authority · Isolation · Ego · Structure	To isolate · To govern · To oversee
20	Garden	Public · Community · Social gatherings · Internet	To gather · To network · To display

GROUP 4 — THE NATURAL FORCES

Cards drawing from the living, breathing world

#	CARD	CORE MEANING	VERB
2	Clover	Luck · Small opportunity · Brief joy	To chance upon · To seize quickly
5	Tree	Health · Growth · Roots · Ancestry · Slow time	To grow · To root · To heal
16	Stars	Hope · Guidance · Clarity · Technology · Inspiration	To guide · To illuminate · To aspire
31	Sun	Success · Vitality · Clarity · Achievement · Joy	To succeed · To shine · To reveal
32	Moon	Intuition · Subconscious · Recognition · Fame · Dreams	To dream · To sense · To create

GROUP 5 — THE CHALLENGERS

Cards that carry weight, resistance or shadow energy

#	CARD	CORE MEANING	VERB
6	Clouds	Confusion · Mixed signals · Hidden trouble	To cloud · To confuse
7	Snake	Rival · Wise woman · Detour · Complication	To deceive · To wind · To complicate
11	Whip	Conflict · Repetition · Argument · Discipline	To strike · To repeat · To argue
21	Mountain	Obstacle · Delay · Blockage · Endurance	To block · To challenge · To endure
23	Mice	Loss · Erosion · Anxiety · Theft · Stress	To gnaw · To erode · To steal away

GROUP 6 — THE TRANSFORMERS

Cards about endings, beginnings & fundamental change

#	CARD	CORE MEANING	VERB
8	Coffin	Ending · Transformation · Illness · Deep change	To end · To transform · To release
10	Scythe	Sudden cut · Harvest · Swift decision · Danger	To cut · To harvest · To decide swiftly
13	Child	New beginning · Innocence · Small matter · Youth	To begin · To discover · To trust
17	Stork	Positive change · Return · Birth · Movement	To return · To evolve · To birth

GROUP 7 — THE BINDING CARDS

Cards about commitment, foundation & long-term structure

#	CARD	CORE MEANING	VERB
25	Ring	Commitment · Contract · Cycle · Relationship	To bind · To renew · To commit
34	Fish	Finances · Abundance · Flow · Business · Depth	To flow · To multiply · To dive deep
35	Anchor	Stability · Permanence · Long-term career	To anchor · To stabilize · To stay
36	Cross	Burden · Fate · Karma · Obligation · Suffering	To bear · To carry · To endure

GROUP 8 — THE KEYS & OPENERS

Cards that unlock, reveal or illuminate

#	CARD	CORE MEANING	VERB
9	Bouquet	Gift · Beauty · Invitation · Social grace	To offer · To beautify · To invite
14	Fox	Strategy · Cunning · Self-interest · Career	To scheme · To work · To investigate
22	Crossroads	Choice · Decision · New direction · Multiple paths	To choose · To decide · To branch
26	Book	Secret · Hidden knowledge · Education · Mystery	To reveal · To study · To conceal
33	Key	Solution · Certainty · Yes · Destiny · Opening	To unlock · To solve · To confirm

PAUSE

Audio break point for podcast/recording

PART 4

The Complete 36-Card Master Reference

All Cards · Number · Playing Card Insert · Core Meaning

#	CARD	INSERT	LIGHT MEANING	SHADOW MEANING
1	Rider	9♥	Good news arriving	Impulsive decisions · Restlessness
2	Clover	6♦	Luck · Small joy	Fleeting opportunity missed

#	CARD	INSERT	LIGHT MEANING	SHADOW MEANING
3	Ship	10♠	Journey · Expansion	Escapism · Running away
4	House	K♥	Home · Stability	Rigidity · Domestic entrapment
5	Tree	7♥	Health · Deep roots	Stagnation · Disease · Being stuck
6	Clouds	K♣	Temporary confusion	Chronic uncertainty · Willful blindness
7	Snake	Q♣	Wisdom · Detour	Deception · Betrayal · Manipulation
8	Coffin	9♦	Transformation · Release	Illness · Grief · Denial of endings
9	Bouquet	Q♠	Gift · Beauty · Invitation	Superficiality · Bribery
10	Scythe	J♦	Swift decision · Harvest	Recklessness · Sudden loss
11	Whip	J♣	Discipline · Resolution	Abuse · Repetitive patterns · Self-flagellation
12	Birds	7♦	Communication · Couple	Gossip · Anxiety · Overwhelm
13	Child	J♠	New beginning · Innocence	Naivety exploited · Immaturity
14	Fox	9♣	Strategy · Resourcefulness	Self-deception · Cunning against you
15	Bear	10♣	Strength · Financial power	Control · Overbearing authority
16	Stars	6♥	Hope · Guidance · Clarity	False hope · Scattered energy

#	CARD	INSERT	LIGHT MEANING	SHADOW MEANING
17	Stork	Q♥	Positive change · Return	Restless instability · Unwanted change
18	Dog	10♥	Loyalty · True friendship	Blind loyalty · Codependence
19	Tower	6♠	Structure · Solitude	Ego isolation · Authoritarianism
20	Garden	8♠	Community · Public life	Exposure · Loss of privacy
21	Mountain	8♣	Endurance · Strength	Blockage · Impossible obstacles
22	Crossroads	Q♦	Choice · New direction	Indecision · Paralysis
23	Mice	7♣	Loss · Letting go	Theft · Erosion · Toxic environment
24	Heart	J♥	Love · Compassion	Codependency · Emotional manipulation
25	Ring	A♣	Commitment · Cycle	Entrapment · Binding obligation
26	Book	10♦	Knowledge · Mystery	Dangerous secrets · Hidden agenda
27	Letter	7♠	Message · News · Document	Deceptive communication · Bad news
28	Man	A♥	Male querent · A man	Ego · Disconnection
29	Woman	A♠	Female querent · A woman	Repression · Hidden power
30	Lily	K♠	Wisdom · Virtue · Sensuality	Coldness · Repressed desire

#	CARD	INSERT	LIGHT MEANING	SHADOW MEANING
31	Sun	A♦	Success · Clarity · Joy	Arrogance · Burned by ambition
32	Moon	8♥	Intuition · Recognition	Illusion · Emotional instability
33	Key	8♦	Solution · Yes · Certainty	False certainty · Overconfidence
34	Fish	K♦	Abundance · Flow · Business	Greed · Financial instability
35	Anchor	9♠	Stability · Long-term	Being anchored in the wrong place
36	Cross	6♣	Spiritual path · Karma	Martyrdom · Unearned guilt

PART 5

The Yes/No Quick Reference

Reading Lenormand for Direct Answers

- **Lenormand is one of the most direct yes/no systems in divination**
- Certain cards carry inherent positive or negative charge
- **Always read YES/NO in combination** — never from a single card alone

RESPONSE	CARDS
Strong YES	Sun (31) · Key (33) · Clover (2) · Stars (16) · Bouquet (9) · Heart (24)
Strong NO	Clouds (6) · Mountain (21) · Cross (36) · Coffin (8) · Mice (23) · Scythe (10)
Depends on Context	All remaining cards — read by combination

PART 6

The Grand Tableau Preview Map

All 36 Cards in Their Spread Formation

This is how the cards look when all 36 are laid for a Grand Tableau reading — we will go deep on this in Module 7. For now, simply feel the scope of the system.

ROW 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ROW 2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
ROW 3	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
ROW 4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
ROW 5		33	34	35	36			

- **Rows 1–4** contain 8 cards each
- **Row 5** holds the final 4 cards — centered
- The **significator card** (28 or 29) anchors the entire reading
- Every card's position relative to the significator carries meaning
- *Full Grand Tableau breakdown — Module 7*

PAUSE

Audio break point for podcast/recording

MODULE THREE

Journal Prompts & Reflection

SIT WITH THIS · PROMPT 1

Your First Impressions

Look through all 36 card names without their meanings. Which three cards immediately drew your attention? Which three created a feeling of resistance or discomfort? Write without analyzing — just note what arose and why you think those particular cards called to you.

SIT WITH THIS · PROMPT 2

Your Personal Significator

The Man and Woman cards are the traditional significators — but in modern practice, you choose your anchor. What card from the 36 feels most like *you* right now — not who you always are, but who you are *in this season of your life*? Write about why.

SIT WITH THIS · PROMPT 3

Shadow Inventory

Look at the Strong NO cards: Clouds, Mountain, Cross, Coffin, Mice, Scythe. Which one feels most present in your life right now? Don't avoid it — describe exactly what it looks like in your current situation. Name it. That's where your shadow work begins.

Let Your Light Shine & Keep Your Compass Cosmic