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