

# GUIDE TO THE THINNING VEIL ORACLE

The Thinning Veil Oracle is the result of a deeply personal journey and reflection, that is at the same time, a universal experience. If you have this deck in your hands, you have probably loved and lost, you have someone dear on the other side of the veil, you have your moments of feeling lost, of not knowing what the next steps are or maybe not being certain of what your spiritual team are trying to communicate.

With this deck, I hope that you connect with your spiritual team, that you identify with some of these meanings based on my own experience, and that you are able to relate in your own way with those cards that you don't so closely identify with at first glance.

May this be a rich and successful journey for you.

~ María Alviz Hernando.

## Meanings (In Alphabetical Order)

### **Air (Spiritual Body | Mind)**

Air is the first of the elements. Everything starts with an idea! In the context of this deck, Air refers to our spiritual body and calls us to pay attention to what's going on there on an energetic level. It can also refer to our mind and our mental state.

When referring to our spirituality, it can be a sign that we are about to receive a message. Pay attention to any thoughts that may pop up in your mind unexpectedly or what comes to you through the air, with sounds or music. Additionally, it can indicate an ever present energy that cannot be seen but can definitely be felt.

## **Ancestors (Protection | Guidance)**

This is, without a doubt, the most special and personal card in this deck (along with St. Mary of Mt. Carmel). The woman in the picture was my beloved grandmother, Julia, who inspired this entire deck, along with many other things. The design of this card is a memorial picture with its offering of flowers, but there's a little detail, that may look like a misprint but is definitely not! There's a little orb of light on the bottom right quarter of the frame, a sign of the ever-present guidance and protection that comes from our ancestral line.

I don't recall where I read it, but once I read "nobody is more invested in your well-being than your ancestral line" and that stuck with me. When you draw this card, know that your ancestors are backing you up.

In a more practical way, this may have to do with something that's resurfacing, an issue or character trait that may be generational, or you may be called to compare your current situation with events from your past to see if there's a repeating pattern that you need to pay attention to.

## **Crow (Transformation | Warning)**

Crows are widely considered to be spiritual messengers of sorts, but they also get a bit of a bad rap depending on who you ask! When this card appears in your reading, you may be undergoing a spiritual transformation of sorts or opening up to new spiritual realities.

On the other hand, this can be your sign not to take everything that you are told, hear or experience as good and true, and consider whether there's room for misinterpretation or whether there could be a hidden interest behind. Who's the message or idea coming from? Are you feeling uneasy? If so, this may be your confirmation to look deeper into it.

## **Crystal Ball (Visions | Focus)**

Whether or not you're able to see something in a crystal ball (I'm not) it is an universal symbol of divination and insight. This method of divination through scrying requires focusing on the task at hand, relaxing the gaze, and letting go of any pre-conceived ideas to awaken the diviner's vision.

When this card shows up, it suggests centering yourself and focusing on your goal while stripping away your expectations about what you believe needs to happen. It also calls you to interpret what you see happening in your life beyond its obvious meaning. In a more practical sense, it can encourage you to sit with yourself in the dark and let the answers come to you.

## **Earth (Physical Body | Material)**

Earth represents the materialization of ideas, once that action and investment has occurred. This card may indicate that it is essential to focus on the mundane, or may discard what can be thought of as an otherworldly experience in favour of more tangible explanations. This card grounds you to the material realm and focuses on the physical body. In relation to your ancestors, a visit to their resting place or a way to materially commemorate them (through maybe using their belongings or having a keepsake close by) may help you feel their presence.

When this card shows up in a reading, it makes you question: Are your actions aligned with your desires? Are you walking the walk? This can be a reminder to keep consistency in order to materialize the results that you're working for.

## **Fire (Life Force | Willpower)**

Fire is the element of action that calls on our life force and invites us to keep going. This card can address a spark that has been recently ignited and will grow through your dedication, or it can be a call to gather up your strength and resources and go to battle. When referring to the spiritual aspect, consider lighting a candle to call upon your ancestors and letting them know of your desire to connect and receive their messages.

In a more practical sense, this card suggests that the results are up to you and that your determination, willpower and actions will determine the outcome of this situation.

## **Flickering Lights (Company | Presence)**

Whether through supernatural means or due to an actual wiring issue, everyone has experienced some weird flickering lights situation at least once (I know I have!). This is widely accepted as a sign of immaterial company -of a good, or not so good origin- and it can be an indicator that there's a presence around you.

This card invites you to pay attention to the energetic sensations around you. You may be having some spiritual interactions that can be easily brushed off as worldly happenings. How do you feel when "the lights flicker"? Sense what your environment is like. A cleansing may be in order.

## **Fresh Flowers (Memory | Homage)**

I refuse to take plastic flowers to the cemetery. It's a personal principle and it was an thing that made me roll my eyes when my aunt bought the most big and eye-painful plasticky flower centre she could find. I jokingly said "imagine taking care of a bunch of ungrateful children all your life and all you get for it are some flashy synthetic flowers. I'd haunt them!"

Whether the flowers are plastic or fresh, though, the bringing of flowers (or stones, did you know that the Jewish bring stones to graves as a sign of an ever-lasting memory, since they don't wilt as flowers do? Probably you did, but I when I learnt it I thought it was really beautiful) to a grave is a way to show remembrance and keep the connection alive.

This card speaks of a solid and ongoing connection with your ancestors on the other side and calls you to keep their memory alive. It indicates that your relationship with the other side is flourishing, and calls you to reflect on the ways that your own actions memorialize those who came before you. This card, also reflects to your more recent ancestors.

In a more practical way, it shows that you're on the right track.

### **Grief (Void | Longing)**

There's a detail in this card that symbolizes grief really well for me. In the midst of an array of black flowers, representing the rawest stages of grief, is a stem of hydrangeas (my grandma's favourite). Grief is always there as an ongoing process, it's not always as raw as in the early stages, yet it can reappear in the most random ways

The feeling of grief can be an absolute void, it can stop time, but it can also be a longing for something cherished, that hurts but also brings a warmth to the heart for what we did have. When this card shows up, it can be a call to reflect on your grief. Is it keeping you numb or is it a catalyst to savour the present?

Look at what falls around this card when you pull it and see what's falling into that void, what you may be blinded to by your pain. In a practical way, it can speak about sadness, letting go, or a difficult time.

### **Hamsa (Divine Protection | Defense)**

The Hamsa or The Hand of Fatima is a powerful symbol of supreme protection and defense against all evil. Drawing this card is a sign that your back is covered by something bigger than yourself, or it can be perceived as a gentle nudge from above to let you know that you're on the right path and that you are being blessed.

Alternatively, this can be a card that highlights the need to defend / protect yourself, or call upon a higher power to aid you in matters or situations in which you require an extra hand to help. In more day to day aspects, this card might call you to stand your ground.

### **Haunting (Call for Help | Unresolved)**

A haunting can be literal or figurative, but when this card shows up, it is time to examine what is haunting you. Whether you've been feeling that there's a weird energy around you or whether it is your thoughts or regrets that are hovering over you, there's something unresolved that needs your attention.

This can also refer to a call for help from beyond or from the terrestrial plane, but more practically it can refer to potential regrets. What are you doing (or not doing) that may come back to haunt you? Haunting has to do with our fears as well, so if you feel that none of the above applies, you may want to consider what are you afraid of and how is it holding you back.

### **Healer (Balance | Restoration)**

Healer is a card that invites you to consider what needs to be fixed or healed in this situation. Whether that's within yourself or without, there's a need to restore balance and to replenish. Pay attention to your energetical body as well as the physical one and take action to maintain healthy habits both physically and spiritually.

A cleanse or alignment may be recommendable depending on the situation, as well as drawing healing energy from the sources that are available to you, whatever that may mean in your personal path.

### **Heirloom (Carry on | Influence)**

Heirlooms are a very special, somewhat liminal thing. They are yours but they're not. Have you ever heard someone say "this is my great-grandmother's ring" even when they may have never even met her? Heirlooms are very often the way in which those that have already departed carry on in our plane, a tangible memory of those that came before us who continue to have an influence in our lives today.

When this card appears, it suggests a time of reflection about the influence that your ancestors have on you to this day, whether in a positive or in a not so positive way. It may also speak about what is inherited, whether that's a ring, a house or a tea set, or behaviours, trauma and limitations. How will you carry on your line? What will you leave behind you when the time comes?

### **Lavender (Dreams | Serenity)**

If dreamwork is your thing, then lavender is here to tell you to pay attention to what may be happening or to messages or visitations that you may be receiving when you sleep. That dream about a loved one long lost may be more than the whim of a sleeping brain. Consider anoting your dreams, they can be a well of information to help you.

Lavender calls you to stay serene and find calm in your environment, as well as paying attention to your sleep and to the environment in which you do it. Prioritize your tranquility and your rest and, if need be, consider withdrawing from the world for a little bit to make sure that you are replenished and in full form before tackling the next thing!

### **Lit Candle (Call | Beacon)**

The lit candle is different from an offering. It is a lighthouse, letting those in the spiritual world know where you are so that they can find you, or displaying your willingness to be found. This card is a call for guidance, and suggests that you may contact your ancestral line so that they can help you find the path ahead or illuminate the next step.

If you are at a loss, you can physically lit a candle and ask for that help or guidance to be given, or sit alone with yourself to emit that readiness. Find a lighthouse or be the lighthouse!

On a more practical level this can be a card of mentorship, whether giving or receiving it. Find a way to illuminate others or receive that illumination from someone that you trust in the physical world.

### **Magic (Intention| Breakthrough)**

When Magic comes up in a reading it indicates that you're close to making those changes that you have been longing for and it calls you to set your intentions firmly. Whether or not you want to accompany this by a ritual doesn't really matter, although the practice of magic or the use of additional energetic support will be to your benefit when this card pops on your table.

Use the elements at your disposal to manifest the reality that you want to create and trust your inner power to make it happen. A breakthrough is imminent! It is recommendable to pay special attention to the cards around this one when it comes to the table to see what it affects / is affected by, as means to gain greater insight on the situation.

### **Memento Mori (Don't Dwell | Impermanence)**

Remember that you will die is not just a call to stay in the moment, appreciate life and it's brevity, but also a reminder that nothing is permanent, and that this, too, shall pass. When this card shows up, it calls you to relativize any issue that concerns you at the time and consider that it probably will not matter down the line. This card can also tell you to act now and stop postponing what you want to do or what needs to be done.

How do you want to live? What are you waiting for? What's the worse that can happen? Whatever it is, chances are it's nothing you can't fix or move past.

### **Memento Vivere (Fulfilment | Present)**

Memento Vivere is the evolution of Memento Mori. While the latter calls us to reflect upon impermanence, Memento Vivere is a call to be in the here and now and remember that as much as we shall die, we shall also live and enjoy what we have. Drawing this card

indicates that you have what you need in the here and now and suggests focusing in the present and in how to maximize it.

You shall live and have a fulfilling life, seek joy, and meaning. Remember to live is also a call to have more fun and not postpone enjoyable moments and pleasures for a future that is not guaranteed.

### **Moon (Power | Light in the Dark)**

The Moon is a powerful source of energy and magic that reigns above us. This card calls you to reflect on your sources of power and to align with cycles (whether those are your own or the Moon's) to make the most of each moment and its potential.

This card refers to the night as a moment of power, where the energies are the most high. What phase of the moon is it and how does it align with your current situation? Pay attention to it and use it as a way to act with the support of this energy. Additionally, it can be a moment to give a look into the dark places (physical or not, but mostly not) that scare you and that keep truths hidden. Use your inner power to reveal what hides in the shadows.

### **Moth (Spiritual Message | Sign)**

Moths are known to be symbols of spiritual growth and transformation, and they refer specially to messages that have to do with where you are and where you aim to go in this area. This card is a sign to transform on a spiritual level and pursue the light.

Next to a warning card, it can be a message that calls you not to get so close to the flame that you are burnt, and to trust your intuition and your gut regarding anything that doesn't feel good or right for you.

### **Old Grimoire (Inherited Skills | Wisdom)**

Old Grimoire makes reference to ancestral wisdom (direct or indirect) and it calls you to find answers in the knowledge of those that came before you or in the old ways. This can be magical or not, as well as it can refer to the inherited skills from your direct ancestral line.

When this card shows up in a reading, it may be time to consider if you have an inherited gift that you are not making the most of (again, it doesn't have to be woo-woo). What did your grandparents use to say? What is the wisdom that has been passed on to you or the old secrets that may be affecting your life today?

### **Offering (Gift | Sharing)**

An offering is a way to commune with your ancestors or with your spiritual team, as well as a way to share with them and memorialize them. Most of all, it is a gift that is meant to nourish a relationship. The appearance of this card can indicate something as simple as making a small offering to your ancestors, but it can also remind you of the beauty in sharing, whether spiritually or physically.

What are you offering to those around you? How do you enrich the lives of others and how do those in your environment enrich yours? This is a card about giving and receiving, and about making sure that you're leaving the place better than you found it!

### **Paranormal Investigator (The Querent)**

This card represents you in the reading and acts as a significator. Pay attention at what's around you. It can be interesting to situate it in the middle of a reading and surround it by eight other cards, forming a nine card box as means to check on your current spiritual surroundings. Additionally, you can shuffle it in with eight other cards and pay special attention to where it falls in the reading.

### **Pendulum (Direction | Testing)**

A pendulum is used to give us answers but also to find things and conduct energetic testing. If you are at a loss, Pendulum calls you to analyze your energetic environment. This can also refer to working with an actual pendulum to get answers that point you in the right direction.

In a wider sense, it can make reference to a testing moment in your life. Are you repeating a cycle or maybe stuck in a pattern? When you draw this card, it is time to become analytic and read deeper into the situation to gain insight so that you can make the best possible decisions.

### **Spiderweb (Entanglement | Trap)**

This card represents those sticky situations that don't let us move forward and keep us trapped or warns us against getting into one of those. As well, this card poses the question: Are you too entangled in this question or situation to see the danger that's coming your way? Is this a trap that prevents you from moving forward? Do you feel that you're in someone else's web, at their mercy? Or are you in a situation in which you feel trapped and powerless?

If you identify with the statements above, call upon your ancestors and your spiritual team to help you get rid of the influence of this person or situation, so that you can break free from the trap.



## **Spirit Board (Messages | Communication)**

The Spirit board speaks about communication with the other side and messages of all kinds. It can encourage you to find a way to open that line with those that are beyond the veil or pay attention to messages that may come in different ways. Have you just read something that deeply resonates with you? Is there a word that you keep seeing? The lyrics of a song that you just heard? Look at the world around you and become aware of the messages that you may be receiving.

In a different interpretation, if you are doubting your ability to connect with the beyond, this card can be a call to open up and put that intention to communicate out there, confronting the fears of not receiving a result.

## **Spiritual Team (Support | Guides)**

This card refers to your spiritual team as a whole; Ancestors, spirit guides, deities or energies that you may be working with. When you draw it, know that you've got a backup team that will support you and guide you whatever you are going through.

In a more practical sense, drawing this card may indicate that receiving support from others or offering it may be in order.

## **St. Mary of Mt. Carmel (Ancestral Prayers)**

This is, along with Ancestors, a very personal card. While you may not personally recognize the figure of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel or Our Lady of Mount Carmel, think of it as a placeholder for your inherited spiritual relationships. Yes! You don't just inherit bad genetics or houses, you also inherit the spiritual relationships that your ancestors created before your time. Have you ever seen that quote that goes around on the internet that says "your grandma's prayers are still protecting you"?

Those that your ancestors prayed to, know who you are, and it may be easier for you to connect with them or nurture one of these inherited relationships, even if they differ from your current belief system. Who did your ancestors pray to and how do you feel about it? When you draw St. Mary of Mt. Carmel, you're being called to explore the connections of your ancestors, or to know that the intentions that they set for your well-being and protection during their lifetime are still current.

## **Tempus Fugit (Seize the Day | Prioritize)**

Time flies and it doesn't come back! It is your most valuable resource, so be mindful of how you spend it. When this card shows up, there's no time to waste and you are being called to prioritize what is truly important for you and leave the rest.

Let go of any excuses that you may be protecting yourself behind and get going! If you

were waiting for a call to action, this is it.

### **Undying Love (Eternal | Connection)**

Undying love is the inseparable companion of Grief. This card speaks about the connections that go on beyond realms and how the force of love lives on, regardless of loss and death. Love cannot die, and the connections that we form in our lifetime with those that we truly love will remain, even if they're different once that they have crossed over.

Drawing this card is a sign that your ancestors are around you, that this magic beyond comprehension is eternal and knows no boundaries.

More practically, this is a card about meaningful connections and nurturing relationships. Observe how intertwined your life is with those around you and be aware of the many things that needed to happen just for you to be here today.

### **Water (Emotional Body | Heart)**

Water is the element that relates to our emotional body and this card indicates that our emotions require your attention. Are you bottling up some feelings? This can be a call to let it flow, get into your emotions and experience them instead of trying to avoid them or brush them off.

As well, this card speaks about the consistency between your feelings and your actions. Are you going against your heart? And if you are, is it for a good reason, or is it a result of fear?

In a practical way, this card indicates that you may receive messages from the other side through scrying and connecting with your intuition.

### **Wilted Flowers (Oblivion | Neglect)**

As opposed to "Fresh Flowers" this is a card that speaks of a connection that needs to be rekindled or may be a call to refresh your relationship with the other side. You may be neglecting the matter that you're asking about or your own spiritual life. This is a card that is also associated to the forgotten ancestors; those that you don't know about, that maybe no-one remembers, but that are still part of your ancestral line.

In a practical sense, this card can act as a bit of a wake-up call to get back on tracks with something that has been left aside for too long or that you have been postponing.

## How to use this oracle?

The idea behind this oracle is for you to develop your own relationship with it and to feel free to explore and investigate its possibilities! However, the inclusion of a card that solely represents the querent has a couple of interesting possibilities that I would like for you to consider.

Read using the significator card “Paranormal Investigator” representing you in the spread and in your relationship with the spiritual realm.

A way of doing this is by setting this card apart and either shuffling it into a selected amount of cards (another eight cards to do a box spread or, as I call it, a nine card tableau is a good idea) to see where you fit in the story. Additionally, you can put it in the centre and surround it by eight other cards (three on top, three below, and one on each side) to get a sense of your spiritual map.