

Tree Card Meanings

As Interpreted by *Euphonia Carstairs*



Acacia Koa-in the Old Testament of the Christian Bible, we're told the Ark of the Covenant was built from Acacia wood. It's easy to see why. It's a strong wood with a very balanced, dualistic energy, and associated with wisdom and strength. Its energy can either destroy or bring some measure of peace. In a reading, it could be saying there needs to be balance in the situation. Or you may need to decide if you're going to create or destroy. Make peace, or make strife. Only you can decide what is right in this situation.



Alder-A wood of resurrection, control of the elements, courage, and passion. In questions of time, it is associated with the month of January. In a reading, this may be talking about the need to have the courage of our convictions, and to take action on our passions. Brave the elements, and know you will always have the chance to start again.



Apple-associated with love-divination practices, particularly on Halloween, and known for its health-promoting properties, the apple tree is also associated with the concept of choice and having to choose. Popular folklore assumes the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Book of Genesis in the Bible was an *apple* tree. So in a reading, the Apple tree card *may* be referring to the need to choose between a tempting offer and one which at first glance, looks less-appealing, but might be healthier for

the inquirer in the long-run. Or the inquirer may be encouraged to see to their health at this time. A visit to a health-care professional may be in order.



Ash-a popular Pagan song invokes 'Oak and Ash and Thorn' hinting at the importance of this wood in tree-lore. This tree was Yggdrasil in Norse Mythology, the World Tree which spanned the worlds above, below and

between. In questions of timing, it is associated with the month of March, when the snows of winter in the northern hemisphere are melting into spring. This is one of those trees which sheds its seeds as 'wing-keys' that flutter away on the wind some little distance from the parent tree. In a reading, this may be calling upon the inquirer to consider the interconnectedness of things. It may be impossible to remove one component without tearing or dislodging others. Known as 'the father of trees', Ash can absorb some abuse, but may fathers will only take so much of it, so consider well whom you may be venting your frustrations on.



Aspen-one key trait noted about Aspens—in the fall, when they change color, *they all change color at the same time*. That's because they're all connected at the roots. Like the Ash tree, it speaks of the inter-connectedness of things. In a

reading, it could mean forcing a change on one means forcing a change on all, including people you didn't realize were part of the whole picture. There could be secret connections here you don't see and aren't aware-of. Things are at work below the surface.



Australian Blackwood-this is a wood of strength and determination, but like the Acacia Koa, it has a dualistic nature. This is a morally-neutral wood. The notion of morally-neutral anything is a disturbing notion to many in this world,

but such things exist, and if you've turned this up in a reading, you may be faced with such a situation now. In wand-lore, this wood can either heal or destroy, send ill-will or repel ill-will.

There may be some amoral people in your life. They do have some *good* qualities, but these qualities can be used for either good or evil, it's all the same to them. Be aware of this and decide how far down the road you feel comfortable traveling with them.



Avodire-an attractive wood whose grain seems to ripple in waves, this card heralds a creative person with a vivid imagination, and who has the power to bring things into physical being from the realm of thought. This wood can also

employ its energy to defend and protect. If you're in a vulnerable situation, this card is suggesting you seek creative, imaginative ways of making yourself more secure.



Basswood-as many a regular customer at craft-supply stores know, most plain wood supplies they sell are made of this wood. So Basswood is both creativity, and the potential for creativity. It is also associated with enchantment,

enlightenment, truth, healing, and love, and the creative process can lead you to *all* of these things. Creativity carves new pathways in the brain. If you have drawn this card in a reading, it may be encouraging you to consider the healing, enchanting, and enlightening potential of taking up a craft.



Beech-this fine-grained, light-colored wood is concerned with the obtaining of ancient knowledge through old objects, old places, old things, or old writings.

The people of past ages, though the events and challenges they endured may have been different, went through many of the same things we do today, and the products they have left behind can still have things to teach us. If you are faced with a problem which is proving resistant to a solution, this card could be telling you to consult an old source of wisdom. You just might find the answer to your newish problem from a very old source.



Birch-this tree, associated with new beginnings, cleansing, and clearing out the old and negative, I have seen associated with both the month of November and with the season of spring. Native Americans used its bark for making

canoes for traveling, and for harvesting fish and wild rice from bodies of water. Its light-weight made it easy to portage between bodies of water. This tree was used for making brooms, but also birch-rods were used by school-masters for correcting errant students. Scandinavians used its branches in saunas, in order to stimulate blood circulation. So in a reading, this could mean either someone needs to 'clean house', needs correction, or needs to purge the old and toxic .



Black Locust-this is considered a good urban-dwelling tree, because it's highly-resistant to air pollution. A druid reported he was once yelled-at by a Black Locust tree for doing increasing-magic during a waning moon. Considered a

tree of protection, prosperity, strength, binding, and physical enchantments, I think we can add forthrightness to this list of qualities. It may be saying you need to set stronger boundaries, and

to be more resistant to the influence and opinions of others. You may even need to go on the offensive; to stand in your own power and tell others your truth fearlessly.



Black Poisonwood-speaking of defensive and offensive power, this tree contains both, along with strength, versatility, and determination. This is great energy to have for any sort of battles or conflicts, but it is ultimately indifferent to the outcome; a true mercenary soldier of a tree. In a reading, this card could be saying you have these powers available to you, in whatever challenge you face, but it is *you* who bring meaning and care to the endeavor. A Black Poisonwood type of person may be available to help you achieve your desired outcome, but they won't care about the outcome like you do—they simply enjoy the challenge.



Bloodwood-so-called, because it appears to 'bleed' when it is cut. Having a passionate and ferocious energy, Bloodwood brings the qualities of strength, energy, and magnetism, as well as being able to draw on and control additional energy. In a reading, someone very-like Bloodwood's strong character could be in the picture. They are likely to be a leader of some kind, or at least, the independent sort. They can only be gotten to be a 'follower' if your aims and purpose aligns and harmonizes with theirs.



Bocote-this tree brings the energies of inspiration, enthusiasm and persuasion, along with a joyousness in striving to achieve whatever aim it's inspired to pursue. You could be dealing with such a person, someone whose energy and enthusiasm for a pursuit leads them to devote their energies to it with self-discipline and dedication. Or it could be asking you to find these qualities in yourself. When

inspired, work becomes more joy than work. If you find the 'bocote' in your life irritating, could it be because they remind you of something lacking in yourself? Or are its energies *too* present in your life?



Bolivian Rosewood-this tree with a straight, calm grain has a very motherly, nurturing energy. This is the mature and wise love of the adult who enters into a binding relationship such as marriage or parenthood, knowing *exactly* what it is they're getting themselves into. Also a spiritual wood, it's concerned with matters of intuitive health. In a reading, you may be fortunate to have someone like this in your life, or soon will. This card may be asking you if you are quite prepared to enter into a relationship you're contemplating. How strong is your intuitive muscle, by the way?



Bubinga-also known as African Rosewood, bubinga is a positive wood of passion, courage, and emotional power. Bubinga can enhance already-existing efforts and influence others in order to bring about the desired change. Like Bloodwood, Bubinga's qualities suggest the presence and effect of a person who can bring energies to bear on the situation. If your worthy cause is struggling, the little-extra *oomph* a person with these qualities can provide may be what is needed here.



Buckeye-this unusual-looking-but-beautiful wood has a natural knack for luck. It has the ability to *create* its own luck by drawing to itself just the right set of circumstances. What an enviable ability to have! Buckeye is the Law of Attraction personified. There may be someone naturally-lucky like this in the inquirer's life now, or in this particular situation. An element of luck might come into play, which resolves the

problem with little or no effort on the inquirer's part. It may be time to try this whole luck-drawing thing; to mull-over who gets lucky, and why.



Butternut-I have seen this wood called, 'a companion to the Cosmic Mind' which makes it sound like a very 'Zen' sort of tree. Perhaps that's why it's also considered a wood of summoning and strength, of wealth, luck and attraction.

It's got a hotline to the Ultimate. This could indicate a quietly-fortunate soul, who always seems to have enough of what they need and who radiates strength. If so, it may do you some good to spend time with this individual. Establishing contact with the Cosmic Mind yourself may also be in order here, for from that can come many other blessings. Consult your local Butternut tree for details.



Canary Wood-this wood is about spiritual inspiration and exploring the non-physical world, that which lies beyond our senses. It can encourage and motivate the interested seeker, but the seeker first has to *want* to undertake

this spiritual exploration. Or this card can indicate a spiritual-seeker the inquirer knows. The inquirer themselves may be feeling the need or urge to go on a spiritual journey.



Cedar-a strong wood with an equally-strong fragrance, Cedar is naturally-resistant to pests and decay, making it a highly-desirable wood in the construction of chests intended to hold clothing and household linens. It is also

associated with purification (cedar has been used as the lining in saunas), protection, influence, and the strengthening of psychic power. Purifying, protective, and resistant to those forces which would harm it, Cedar is a wood to be reckoned-with. Its strong fragrance makes it a

repellant for some. There may be an individual or group which some find beneficial and others find repellant. Cedar could represent one of those individuals about whom almost no one is neutral; they either love them, or hate them. You can't change this individual. They're more likely to influence you, than for you have any effect on them.



Chakte Coc-this wood has a carefree, here-and-now energy that fearlessly follows its whims. It can put fears in perspective, and bring needed-clarity to the situation. The inquirer may need to focus on the here-and-now, and let tomorrow deal with itself. To go where their heart leads them and not come up with a list of fears about what will happen if they do. There could be someone with Chakte Coc's fearless, carefree, here-and-now energy in their life. It may be time to take a good look at the habitual fears which hold them back. Badly-aspected, Chakte Coc could be saying someone is being a little *too* careless, fearless, and unmindful of consequences.



Chakte Viga-this wood has good tonal qualities, making it desirable for use in the construction of some musical instruments. In a reading, the Chakte Viga card could be saying it's time to consider the 'tone' in which communication is conveyed, and not just what is actually said. Given this wood's relationship to music, it could be an encouragement to consider taking up a musical instrument, either as a worthwhile hobby, or for therapeutic purposes. Can also turn up in the reading of a musician.



Chechen-this wood's energy demands the inquirer face those unpleasant realities they'd much rather hide from. If an internal conflict is raging, this wood can lend the spiritual strength to overcome it. Chechen can indicate

someone needs to do an internal housecleaning; to fearlessly face things they may have been avoiding, and to resolve some internal issues they may have been putting off facing and dealing-with.



Cherry-if there is a level-headed, firmly-rooted-in-reality tree anywhere in the world's forests, then the Cherry tree is it. The Cherry wood will always advocate decisions based on an even balance between rational thought and intuition, over decisions based on one's emotions. This card in a reading could be saying to the inquirer, 'never mind what your *heart* tells you to do, what does your *head* tell you to do?'



Chestnut-this wood has a de-toxifying energy. It can banish negativity and clear the home of adverse energies. In a reading, this card may be saying it's time to clear the air of lingering ill-feelings. The phrase 'that old chestnut' refers to a cliché, or an over-used excuse, because such 'old chestnuts' can sometimes be stumbling-blocks in air-clearing arguments. This card could also be hinting that a toxic atmosphere or situation will soon be dissipating.



Cocobolo-this durable and strong wood has stimulating and protective energies, making it an excellent 'battle' wood. In a reading, it could be saying the inquirer is prepared to fight to defend themselves, or to fight for what they perceive to be right. Alternatively, it could be encouraging the inquirer to take up arms and go to battle, for they are stronger and more durable than they think. This wood has a 'go for it' energy, and could be saying 'yes to any course of action the inquirer is contemplating.



Coyote-this is a very neutral wood, whose energy lends itself best to healing and drawing things to oneself. The inquirer may need to maintain a neutral position right now. They should focus on healing and draw to themselves what they need, not going looking for it. The coyote adapts to many environments. In Native American lore, the coyote is considered a Trickster. The inquirer may be called-upon to show the coyote's adaptability and wiliness when this card appears. There may be such a trickster around right now; beware.



Cypress-this is a consolation wood; it has a positive, soothing energy which is very helpful at times of grief or difficult transitions. Cypress oil is prescribed as an aromatherapy-remedy for the grieving (it smells like paint-remover). It's

also a very weather-resistant wood, which makes a sort of sense for a consolation wood.

Someone is grieving and recovering from a loss, or is shortly to suffer a loss. This card can also represent someone who weathers life's misfortunes very well.



Dogwood-similar in nature to the animal it whose name it shares, this wood is loyalty and protection, affection and healing. It also represents wishes, secrets, passion, desire, and will. Someone may have a dog, wants a dog, or will soon

get one. There may be someone loyal, protective and affectionate, whom the inquirer is

fortunate to know and rely on, or they need someone with these qualities in their life. There

could be a secret, a wish, a desire, or a passion someone is reluctant to share with anybody.

This may or may not be a good thing.



East Indian Rosewood-this wood has unique and valuable properties. It can help the user discern secret enemies. It can see into the dark, mysterious, hidden energies that an observer may miss at first glance. There are hidden energies at play here, things going on under the surface they aren't aware of, unknown enemies they don't even realize they have. Caution is advised. Move with care. Alternatively, this card could indicate deep secrets and hidden enemies coming to light, or a sudden realization that this situation goes deeper and darker than they thought.



Ebony-this is dark, powerful wood has a diverse energy that taps into the deeper levels of the mind, and can bring things from those deeper levels to the surface. In wand-lore, it isn't very picky about its user, but once chosen as somebody's owner, it will be protective of them. Thoughts normally kept suppressed may be coming to the surface. The subconscious mind could be making them feeling powerfully-motivated to do things based on thoughts they aren't even aware they have. Someone may not be picky about their friends, but they're loyal to the friends they have.



Elder-this is considered a sacred wood. Banishing evil and protecting from evil are its strong-suits. It is associated with imagination, change and healing, but its patches of red color, which give the appearance of blushing, also cause this wood to be associated with shame. This could indicate a transformative time for the seeker. Someone could be feeling shame over past actions, or over circumstances which make them feel inferior. Consider this wood's healing energy and forgive, allow, use imagination and see it differently. In questions of time, this tree is associated with the month of October.



Elm-this wood has a strong but neutral energy, and is excellent for either destructive or protective purposes. Elm is also associated with death and rebirth. These qualities make it a very good 'warrior' wood, since fearlessness about death or injury, and the ability to either attack or defend are good traits for a warrior to possess. This could indicate someone in the armed forces, the police, or the martial arts. Something could be dying in this situation, only to be re-born in another form. In questions of timing, this represents the winter-into-spring time of year.



Eucalyptus-one of the strongest healing woods known, its oil is used in cough drops. This wood is strongly-associated with matters of health, healing, purity, and cleanliness. This card could indicate someone in a health/healing profession, or someone in sickness and need of healing. Establishing a clean and sterile environment may be important in achieving a cure. Medicine of some variety may be needed.



Fir-considered another sacred wood, fir says your best, and possibly *only* protection right now is to act wisely. This wood is also associated with high-views and long-sight, so the inquirer may need to step back from see their situation from a higher or wider perspective. When you're down there and in the midst of it, it's rather difficult to see how your part in it fits into the bigger picture. Seeing the big picture may help set the mind at ease, and plan moves more wisely.



Goncalo Alves-also known as 'Tigerwood', this wood has a high, generally positive energy. It is associated with authority, kindness and loyalty. It has a 'sealing' sort of protective energy. It could indicate a leader with these qualities, someone with loyalty underlings, because their subordinates know they are working for a good boss who won't abuse them, nor tolerate others abusing them. A kind, positive personality, someone who makes the inquirer feel safe and secure, like a tiger protecting its young. Something may be under-seal until some future time.



Hawthorne-this wood can stimulate creativity, and the urge toward self-development in a person. It is a wood of charm, insight, and protection in the sense of concealment. In questions of time, this card is associated with the month of April. Something is being concealed in order to protect it. Personal insight by the inquirer may stimulate a desire to develop or improve themselves in some way. It could be telling the inquirer to go ahead with self-development or creative projects, but keep them under wraps for now; a too-soon exposure of such endeavors could inhibit or thwart a worthy-undertaking. Show your work only when you've achieved some mastery of it.



Hazel-this is an information-seeking wood, either by divination, or acquiring information via more prosaic and customary means. It is a wood of truth-seeking and positive change, but not a power-oriented nor power-seeking wood. Rather, the information this wood contains can be a catalyst for change in others. This may be saying now is a time for information-gathering. This wood can represent anyone in any line of work which involves the acquisition and dispersal of information, such as journalism, libraries, publishing, diviners, etc. In questions of timing, it is associated with the month of July.



Hickory-this is a wood of balance, nourishment and good intentions. It is concerned with matters of acquisition and finding direction. Think hiker in the forest, who is hungry and has lost their compass. A helpful ranger stumbles across them and directs them accordingly. You may need to establish your good intentions first before any assistance will be rendered, so don't be a smarty-pants to the guide who can point the way *out* of the woods, and *to* the closest food-source.



Holly-this wood has a clear masculine energy to it. It is a wood of strength and goodwill. Known as 'best in the fight', it is an excellent wood for defense and protection. In olden days, it had been used in weapons, such as spears or arrow-shafts. The Holly tree's leaves are soft and pliable in the warm season, but as winter approaches, the leaves grow firm and its spines sharp, to ward off food-seeking predators. Someone of these qualities may be in the picture. Fundamentally good-natured, others may mistake him for an easy mark. But when adversity sets in, he toughens-up accordingly and shows those who underestimated him how wrong they are.



Honduras Rosewood-so-named because of its rosy-brown color, Honduras Rosewood is a spiritually-nourishing wood with the unique ability to mitigate unwanted energy--two beneficial, healing qualities for anyone who has been plagued by negative paranormal activity, such as poltergeists, hostile house spirits, or hostile-spirit possession. This card could turn up in the spread of someone who has recently had such problems, or is currently battling them. It could *also* be hinting at future troubles if they don't take safety precautions before engaging in spiritual activity, such as praying for protection before a séance, or an Ouija-board session, setting protective barriers, etc.



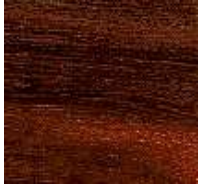
Honey Locust-this attractive wood is associated with the beauty of someone's physical appearance. It's also one of those woods with a protective energy to it, and associated with the fairy realm. Paradoxically, this lovely, light-colored wood's energy is strongest during the dark of the moon, that time just before a new moon phase begins, when it looks like the Earth doesn't have a moon and the night sky is dark. It has been described as a 'challenging' wood. This could be a timing card; if someone is asking when something will happen, this card could be saying 'the next dark of the moon.' The inquirer could be interested in someone who is beautiful, but has an otherworldly, hard-to-pin-down quality to them, as if they came from the fairy realm. Like the moon, they may seem to have the ability to disappear, then reappear when it suits them.



Ipe-another wood with healing and protective energies, Ipe also has the energies of growth, renewal, luck, and success. In questions of timing, this could be spring, since that is the season of growth and renewal. If the inquirer has started a new endeavor, this card indicates it is growing, thriving and will be successful. A rebirth or renewal of some kind will bring the inquirer subsequent good luck.



Hackberry-this tree with many practical uses has the qualities of creative inspiration and wise guidance through transitional periods. This wood can indicate the inquirer is fortunate to have someone in their life who can guide them wisely in unsettled times, or who acts as a muse for their creative impulses. Conversely they may need someone with these qualities in their life, and they either desire someone to fill this role, or they are advised to seek out such a person. An advisor or a muse can get one to see things from a different perspective, and aid them in a transition.



Katalox-this wood has a grounding and insightful energy, which can aid its user in balancing strong emotions and help clear the path to understanding by providing insight. This wood is the calm, wise, phlegmatic family member, quietly stirring cream and sugar into their coffee while somebody else is storming around the kitchen, raging about some injustice. Because they're not *in-it* like the upset family member is, they can, with a clear-eye, point out certain truths, sureties, and still-to-be-determined-outcomes which help calm the upset person down and bring greater understanding. The inquirer who has a person like this in their lives is fortunate.



Kingwood-forms an impenetrable barrier against unwanted energy. You can't *tell* this wood anything; it'll hear you if it *wants* to. But kingwood's principle reason for being is to exert its will on the world to bring about needed and wanted change. This wood in a reading can indicate the presence of a strong-willed person in the situation, someone who is resistant to outside influence and who knows what they want to do and what they think the situation demands, and does it. This wood can indicate someone with a commanding, aggressive energy. You don't influence them, they influence you.



Kou-this wood is all about the cycle of life—birth, growth, fruitfulness, decay, destruction, and rebirth. It's another one of those woods with a morally-neutral energy; it can be used for either good or ill, it's not picky about which. This card could indicate the inquirer is experiencing one of those 'the Cycle of Life' moments and is a little disturbed by it. Remember, sometimes harsh things happen in order to force us to learn and grow. Nature strives for balance, and keeps a constant rotation of resources going. Seemingly-harsh action is one of the means by which it achieves this.



Lacewood-another positive-energy wood, and associated with divination. In a reading, lacewood is indicative of receiving news from afar. It's a luck-bringing wood as well, so it's entirely-possible the news arriving from afar will result in good fortune for the inquirer.



Leopardwood-this oddly-grained wood, with its spots suggestive of a leopard, prefers the strong and creative types. It's also associated with protection and opportunity. This wood could be suggesting that pursuing creative endeavors will result in opportunities and even a measure of security (i.e., protection) for the inquirer. But they need to have a strong-enough belief in themselves and their talent in order to make this a reality.



Lignum Vitae-this unique wood has a few odd properties. This is one of those woods with a healing energy to it, but that's not what makes it unique. It has a greenish cast. It's a *heavy* wood, and not buoyant; drop something made of this wood in water, and it *will* sink. It is self-lubricating, a quality few woods have. Legend has it Merlin's wand was made from this wood. The name 'Lignum Vitae' means 'long life' in Latin. The one outstanding intangible quality associated with this wood is the power and strength of goodness. There may be someone in the situation whose fundamental goodness lends them a power and strength which is recognized by all. Because lignum vitae means 'long life', issues of longevity may be indicated here, either of a particular circumstance or of a person.



Lilac-this wood has several disparate energies. First, it's a wood of growth and expansion. Secondly, it's also a wood of the intellect, communication and concentration, making it a good wood for the student. Thirdly, it's also

associated with physical attraction, eroticism, and sexuality. Which of these meanings will apply will depend on the other cards, and the reader's own intuition. Of course, it can also indicate physical attraction to someone with a keen mind, good communication skills, and an enterprising spirit. The inquirer may need to reach out and communicate with others in order to grow and expand their enterprise.



Mahogany-this rosy brown, richly-grained wood is associated with the elements of fire and earth. It represents strength, energy and protection. The inquirer could be fortunate to be associated with someone of these qualities,

or they could manifest these qualities themselves. In a reading where the inquirer feels beleaguered, it could be saying 'help is on the way.'



Makore-this reddish-light-brown, richly-grained wood is also associated with the elements of fire and earth. Makore wood has a powerful energy which can either improve life or destroy it. This represents powerful energies available to

someone, power which requires strength and self-mastery to handle effectively. This could represent someone in a position of authority who has it in their power to make others' lives pleasant or miserable. Surrounding cards in the reading may indicate in which direction the person in power has gone.



Manzanita-this wood, found in the southwestern United States, is beloved of deer, for when they're being chased by a predator, they have the unique ability to run into a grove of this wood and *they* will escape, while their *pursuer* is trapped. Thus, this wood is associated with the qualities of guiding light, nurturing and protection. It is also associated with trickery, seduction, and the ability to panic and entrap one's enemies. So the meaning is two-fold. If you're in danger, vulnerable to an enemy and seeking a way out, know that help and good luck is on your side, and your means of escape will soon present itself. If you are not the one in danger, beware: someone may be trying to lure you into a trap.



Maple-this light-colored, complex-grained wood has a couple of different energies. It is associated with intelligence, communication, and making either the right decision or a sound decision. It is also associated with travel and spiritual healing. So if you're faced with having to make a choice, think things through, and consult with others whose judgement you trust, before deciding. You may be in a time or spiritual healing—or in need of it. There may be travel in your future. A trip may be in the planning stages.



Mesquite-highly-valued as a barbeque wood for the flavor it imparts to the meat, this wood has the energies of abundance, nurturing, providing, the feast, and strengthening the homestead. Abundance of resources may be at issue here, or simply the question of who's hosting a particular holiday dinner this year. It may be time to work on some delayed home-repair projects. It's not just the 'meat' of something which is the matter, it could be the 'flavor' added to it which is the problem—or the rub.



Monterillo-this wood brings with it the qualities of strength, courage and determination. In wand-lore, the admirable qualities of this wood can be used to ill-effect, if the wielder chooses to do so. Stalkers, controllers and abusers can *also* employ these qualities in order to maintain control over their victim, when you think about it. These are also qualities needed by the person who trains for the Olympics, is chosen for the team, and wins a medal. It all depends on the person's desired outcome. The traits needed to succeed are there, but is it a worthy goal which is the aim?



Mulberry-this wood contains the energy of hermaphroditism, and harkens back to the beginning of time, before the separation of male and female. A balance in one's inner qualities is needed here, leading to greater overall strength.

This card may turn up in the readings of LGBTQ individuals who already, to some degree, embody the qualities of the hermaphrodite. Or, this card could indicate an *actual* hermaphrodite, someone born with the physical traits of both sexes.



Myrtle-this is another wood with a balanced energy to it. This is another, step-back- and-see-the-big-picture wood. In wand-lore, myrtle is a very honest wood which demands honesty in return; lie to a myrtle-wood wand and it will never completely trust you again. Someone may be demanding that you step back, see the big picture, and be brutally-honest about what you see. This can be a difficult, even painful thing to do, but it is time to do it. Failure to do so could disrupt or even end a relationship with someone who refuses to join you in your self-deception anymore.



Narra-this wood is a feminine version of Paduak. It has a powerful but shifting energy to it, which make its energy difficult to control. In a reading, it could be referring to a woman with these qualities, whom the inquirer is finding challenging to deal with. She is like a force of nature, just as powerful and unpredictable, and one isn't certain where she will focus her considerable energies next. You just hope it isn't on *you*.



Red Oak-Kingship, personal sovereignty and authority. Strength, stability, wisdom, and protection. Persistence and endurance. The Oak, in all its varieties, is a veritable *king* of a tree. Its wood is renowned for making sturdy, long-lasting furniture. This could mean someone is being asked to step up to the plate and take command, control, or authority. Being called to an endeavor which will demand persistence and endurance on the inquirer's part. There may be someone strong and wise in the picture, who lends others a sense of being protected and guided.



Olive-Peace and wisdom. Holding out an olive branch has long been understood as a metaphor meaning an offer of peace. The inquirer may receive such an offer now, or be in the position of having to make the first move and attempt peace-making. If being the peace-maker, remember it may require concessions on your part which you are reluctant to surrender. This is also a wood of communication and conversation--sometimes too much of it. Some tree-sensitives reportedly find they can spend only so much time in an olive-grove, because the chatter is just too much. As much talk happens at a party, the inquirer may have a social event to attend soon.



Osage Orange-this wood is concerned with the pursuit of goals and passions.

It is also associated with spiritual matters, with spirit guides and animal

guides. This wood could indicate there is a certain goal or passion the inquirer

has in mind to pursue. Identifying and getting in touch with their spirit guides and/or spirit

animal may benefit them greatly, for they may have an important message for the inquirer right

now. At least, be on the look-out for omens.



Paduak-this wood is a masculine equivalent of Narra. It has a vitality, and a

powerful but shifting energy to it, which is difficult to control. In a reading, this

could be referring to a man of vitality and power whom the inquirer is finding

difficult to deal with, because he's a force of nature, a variable who can't be pinned-down. The

inquirer may be in a situation where they're having to try and corral a person, persons, or

situation which threatens to get out of control at any minute.



Black Palm-the energy of this wood is about encouraging positive changes,

creating opportunities, and deriving knowledge from the surroundings. In

wand-lore, it's also considered a good wood for magic. The inquirer will soon

be afforded an opportunity which will bring about a positive change in their life. Or they could

be encouraged to go with any change they're contemplating, as the outcome will be positive.

They may need to take on the role of observer of their surroundings, to simply take in

information right now, but don't take action on it—yet. Observation may reveal an opportunity

in their environment which had heretofore escaped them.



Red Palm-this is a wood of intuition. All palms are excellent conductors of surrounding energies, and Red Palm can boost the energy of other woods around it. The inquirer may be asked to use their intuition in the situation;

what is their intuition telling them is true, based on the atmosphere around them? There may be someone like Red Palm in the inquirer's environment, a person who energizes others around them and boosts the energy of the whole group. Value people like this, for in addition to energizing others, they can pick up on subtle energies and yield useful insights.



Pear-this is a wood with a grounded energy. It is a wood of inspiration, creativity, and a passion to heal. Pear wood is also associated with money and prosperity. Someone may be considering a career in the healing arts, or is

already in that field. This could indicate a person whose inspired creations bring them a certain amount of prosperity and healing in those who are fans of their work. This could be someone in finance, or considering a career in that field. Money matters could need attention.



Persimmon-this is a wood of protection, love, healing, and luck. Persimmon also is associated with weather-forecasting. Eating its fruit when not-yet-ripe can cause stones to form in the body. This card could be telling the inquirer if

they would garner any of persimmon's benefits for themselves, they need to get a sense of how the winds are blowing, so to speak, and what the temperature is of people around them. Act too swiftly, try to eat the fruits of success too soon (which they may be in danger of doing if this card turns up), and they could only end up hurting themselves. Maybe not immediately, but soon.



Pine-this is a wood of *all* elements—air, fire, earth, water. It has a purifying, dispelling, healing, protective energy to it. Pine is also associated with good intentions. This could forecast a well-intentioned person, with a healing, purifying, dispelling influence will be coming into your life. They will help you feel protected and strong again. Or, you may have to serve this role in someone else's life.



Pink Ivory-In the part of Africa where this wood comes from, once upon a time, only members of the royal family were permitted to own anything made of this wood. Anyone else found in possession of it could merit the death penalty. This wood is a powerful healer and a tension-reliever. Pink Ivory is also about transforming powerful dreams and visions into reality. The inquirer may be nurturing a dream or vision in their mind and heart, which they earnestly desire, and are working, to turn into a reality. If the inquirer has been suffering from tension-related afflictions or ill-health, at its root could be an unrealized dream or vision of how the future could be which is causing them physical distress.



Poculi-this is a wood of femininity, romance and harmony. Poculi is also about binding and healing. In a reading, this could be foretelling the presence or arrival of a woman in the inquirer's life, who will have a beneficial influence on them. She will have a healing effect on their spirit, making them feel more 'together'. If the person being read for is a woman, it could be that she either is or will be called-upon to serve this role in someone else's life.



Poplar-this is a wood of neutrality, versatility and practicality. It is another one of those woods which lends itself well to divinatory purposes (probably because of its neutral energy). Now is not the time for the inquirer to lock

themselves into one position, one role, one viewpoint. Stay neutral and versatile, able to move in any direction on the spur of the moment. A versatile person is one who is good at *many* things, and can shift, change and adapt to the circumstances of the moment. It may be time for the inquirer to widen their repertoire of skills. This light-colored wood may be asking, 'what is the *practical* thing to do right now?' Set aside ideology when Poplar turns up.



Purpleheart-so-named for its purplish-tint when it's varnished, Purpleheart is associated with wisdom and great psychic ability, and has the power to eliminate negative energy. It is also associated with metal and fire

manipulation, i.e., smith-work. Someone in the inquirer's environment may have great psychic ability, which could be either known about this individual, or still a secret from everybody. It could be the inquirer his- or her-self with this ability. If the inquirer has had to operate in an atmosphere of negativity, this card could be glad news the negative energy will soon disperse, one way or another. Someone could be considering taking training in foundry-work, or is advised to.



Red Alder-this wood is about a leader who is able to charm their followers into obeying their directives. One who bravely blocks unwanted forces or influences. It is also a wood of spirituality and healing. This could be indicating a likeable leader who doesn't need *force* to get their followers to do as they say, they *charm* them into *wanting* to do it. Someone has the ability to block an undesirable influence, no matter how intimidating or threatening this undesirable force tries to be. There may be a need for spiritual healing here.



Redbud-this wood carries with it the energies of new love and new relationships, spring-time and new ventures, especially emotional ones, and lightheartedness and warmth. 'In Spring, a young man's fancy turns lightly to thoughts of love' wrote the poet. That is very-much the energy of this wood. Someone is keenly-desirous of finding a lover and beginning a new relationship. At the very least, there is a desire for new friendships here. If the inquirer has been operating under a dark cloud or an oppressive situation, this lighthearted and warm wood can be a happy harbinger of a spring-time of the spirit to come.



Redgum-a wood of protection, fertility and prosperity. The act cannot be separated from the outcome with this wood, so make sure your actions are above-board. This wood is also associated with the sky and faerie magic. Something could drop into the inquirer's lap, seemingly from the sky. Either that or they will be flying soon. The 'faerie magic' part of this wood's energy could be saying there is something 'other-worldly' about the inquirer's life right now, a feeling that the Veil is thin.



Redwood-this extremely long-lived tree carries with it the energies of endurance and strength, focus and discipline. Redwood maintains its serenity in the most chaotic of situations, because it has seen it all and it knows that this, too, shall pass. This could be telling the inquirer to be strong, focused, disciplined, and to endure, no matter what situation they find themselves in. Be serene in the midst of chaos. The mature Redwood tree has been through many a fire, and endured it all. This sort of strength may be demanded of the inquirer now, or it could be they are fortunate to know someone with these qualities.



Rhododendron-this wood has anti-inflammatory properties. It is focused on acquiring knowledge; also awareness of one's enemies. It is concerned with matters of protection and shelter. The inquirer needs to remember: their first line of protection against an enemy is knowing who their enemy is, and what their nature is. 'Know your enemy and know yourself, and you can fight a thousand battles without defeat' says Sun Tzu in his classic work, *The Art of War*. The second line of protection could be having a shelter one can retreat to, someplace where one is protected. With foreknowledge, they can realize ahead of time what is likely to inflame a situation, and take steps to prevent this.



Rowan-this wood carries with it a two-fold protective energy: protection from evil, and protection while traveling. If planning a trip soon, or travels as part of their job, the inquirer may be pleased to know they are protected from misfortune while they're away. If fearful of some evil, this card is glad reassurance they are protected from ill-intent right now. Rowan also enhances psychic abilities, so if the person

being read for has modest psychic gifts, they may find those abilities boosted around now. In questions of time, this tree is associated with the month of December.



Santos Mahogany-this straight-grained, light-red wood enhances intuition and the ability to explore potentials. If the inquirer is investigating any potential course of action right now, whether it's an investment, a partnership of some kind, a course of study, or a line of work, this card is telling them to trust their intuition to guide them when making the decision about pursuing this potentiality and making it a reality.



Sassafras-Native Americans and early settlers from Europe considered this North American tree to be a cure-all for a variety of ailments. The inquirer may be contemplating a course of action which they hope will cure multiple problems. It could be something as simple as adding a nutritional supplement their daily health regimen, or something as complex as adding a person to their living environment. Maybe they just need to talk to one reliable person who can wisely advise them on any problem under the sun. This card hints that something is in need of healing here, possibly a whole bunch of somethings, and the inquirer likely knows what it is.



Shedua-this is an earth-based, neutral-energy wood, which works well with the mind. The inquirer is advised to remain grounded and neutral at the present time. Simply gather information and start putting the pieces of the puzzle together, ruminating over the evidence while doing so. Don't let the mind run riot, just stay sensible and go where the evidence points. When it's time to act, you'll know. For now, remain neutral.



Snakewood-this interestingly-grained wood has an odd feature for the sensitives who use it: the feeling of unfamiliarity, even after years of partnership. Snakewood also has a unique healing energy about it, but it's the feeling of unfamiliarity which stands out. There could be someone in the inquirer's environment who feels familiar, yet *strange* somehow, like they're keeping secrets. Someone whom the inquirer thought they knew well may do something which has the inquirer questioning everything they thought they knew about them. Healing may come from a unique or unexpected source. You may not even realize you're healed until after it happens.



Sycamore-this fine-grained wood has strength, and the ability to thrive in a harsh climate. It is associated with patience and the ability to overcome adversity. The inquirer may have come from a harsh set of circumstances, but they found a way to thrive in spite of it all. Overcoming adversity may simply be a matter of outlasting it; being patient and enduring, and find a way to thrive in harsh conditions.



Vermelha-in wand-lore, this wood seeks out the strong; the weak simply don't show up on its radar. It creates energy and balance, and has a good, protective energy to it. A strong, energetic, well-balanced personality with protective capability—sounds like a person, doesn't it? If the inquirer wasn't chosen for the team, this card could be hinting why—the coach or team leader is a person of these qualities, and they simply don't see these qualities in them, qualities which they like to see in the people they work with. Try not to feel rejected, just pick up and go on.



Walnut-in wand-lore, this wood is good for weather-working magic. Its lightning-averting capability would make it good for use in a Pennsylvania Dutch hex sign that's designed to ward-off lightning, and is hung on barns.

Aside from those qualities, Walnut is a wood of introspection, inner-clarity and inner-travel. A Journey to the Center of Yourself may be what is called-for now. This card in a reading can herald an introspective period, where the inquirer is doing some deep-thinking about themselves and getting clear on who they are and what they want. The way forward may start by going within.



Wenge-this dark wood, which hails from Africa has a patient, friendly energy, and a strong connection with nature. In wand-lore, it is considered an encouraging and supportive wood for the beginner, but its occasionally impish

nature means it's not-above occasionally playing tricks on its user. If this wood were a person, I'd describe it as the friendly neighbor who loves to garden, and will patiently listen to the chatter of their neighbor's children as they attend to garden and lawn maintenance. It's the sort of gardener who will occasionally arrange their planting as a visual joke. This wood is the neighbor who has mastered some magic tricks and will pull quarters from behind children's ears. A patient, friendly attitude will help the inquirer in this situation. Being able to pull coins out of thin air is probably a plus, too.



Willow-its outstanding quality is its flexibility; it bends in strong wind. Salicin is extracted from its bark for use in the treatment of rheumatic fever, so it has healing properties as well, especially for those afflictions common to damp

environments. It will align and share its energy with you, if approach it correctly. Another wood with a strong association with magic. In matters of timing, it is the tree of February. The inquirer may need to be flexible, and be prepared to be the one to bend in this situation. They're encouraged to align with those of like-energy in order to get things done now; don't waste energy trying to convert those of opposing mindsets.



Yellowheart-in wand-lore, this wood seeks out the creative. It has a powerful, positive, yet unpredictable energy (which makes sense, given its association with creativity). It is a beneficial physical and spiritual healer. This could

indicate a powerfully-positive development which seemingly comes out of *nowhere*. Someone who is gifted at healing both body and spirit could be in the picture now, or is desperately needed in this situation. It may be time to indulge your creativity.



Yew-the wood of death and the dead, rebirth and reincarnation. Yew trees can be very old trees, as they have the ability to continually regenerate themselves. You can often find Yew planted in cemeteries. It's associated with

dark magic, but also renewed spiritual strength. A death and rebirth of some kind may be coming, which is good news, if the inquirer has been feeling 'dead' in some regard. Someone deceased may still be around and wants to communicate. Someone may be doing 'dark magic' against the inquirer (thoughts of strong-ill-will, or prayers to God that a certain person will chose a certain course of action, *can* be considered acts of dark magic).



Zebrawood-cleansing, healing, repelling, and neutrality are the chief features of this wood. This is another of those Moon-associated trees. A person in recovery from some affliction, illness, injury, or trauma needs their space for a while, so give it to them. Show concern, but from a distance. The best option for the inquirer in their current situation is to maintain a neutral position. This may entail doing a housecleaning of their life and purging it of all partisanship. Healing may lie in neutrality right now.



Ziricote-this dark wood has a strong masculine energy to it, and relates well to the deeper levels of the mind. It is a protector's wood, but it has an energy which is powerful and dangerous in the wrong hands. Also associated with reversal. 'Beware of the man who wants to protect you; he will protect you from everything but himself' writes Erica Jong in one of her poems. There could be a protector here, or a desire to protect, but what is their subconscious motivation? This may be a question the inquirer will have to resolve for themselves. If something appears certain or set in stone, this card could be warning, be prepared for a reversal.