

DECAN WALK

Aries Decan I · 2 of Wands · Dominion

0°–10° Aries · March 21–30 · Cardinal Fire · Two rulership systems

THE OPENING OF THE ZODIAC YEAR

Mars in both systems - the zodiac year's unambiguous beginning

Both systems converge without qualification: Mars rules the Chaldean face and Mars rules the sign sequence position. This is the only decan in the walk where both systems speak with a completely undivided voice at the very opening of a sign. The zodiac year begins in unambiguous Martian energy - directed will, forward motion, the desire that breaks through.

Mars in Aries is Mars at home: the planet of action and desire in its own domicile, fully itself, with no friction from foreign territory. This is the pure, unmediated expression of initiated creative force. The figure stands on the rampart with the world spread before them, and every planetary system says the same thing: the will is ready. The question is only what it will do next.

TWO RULERSHIP SYSTEMS

CHALDEAN

Mars

1st face of the zodiac. Mars at the very opening of the zodiac year - the planet of action, desire, and directed will fully at home in its own sign. No friction, no foreign territory. This is Mars as pure, unmediated creative force: the will that initiates the entire zodiac cycle.

SIGN SEQUENCE

Mars

Decan I = ruler of the sign itself. Aries is ruled by Mars, so the sign sequence gives Mars again - a complete convergence. Both systems speak with one voice: the zodiac year opens in unambiguous Martian energy. Directed will, forward motion, the desire that breaks through.

WHAT "DOMINION" MEANS - THE THOTH TITLE

Dominion as full potency at the threshold - not conquest but readiness

Dominion does not mean domination over others. It means the full, clear awareness of one's own power and creative capacity at the moment before it is committed. The figure in the 2 of Wands holds a globe in their hand and surveys an enormous landscape. They have not yet moved. The potential is complete precisely because it has not yet been spent.

Mars at this decan is not aggression but the will at its most sovereign and uncompromised - the moment when the creative force is entirely present, entirely available, and entirely one's own. This is the rarest quality in Mars's arc: potency before expenditure, desire before disappointment, the will before the world has had a chance to resist it.

For facilitation: Dominion invites the question of what the participant genuinely wants to initiate - not what they think they should want, not what seems reasonable, but what Mars in them actually desires to move toward. The 2 of Wands is the card of authentic creative will before the compromises begin.

THE ARIES ARC IN CONTEXT

ARIES I · MARS/MARS

2 of Wands

Dominion. Full potency at the threshold.

ARIES II · SUN/SUN

3 of Wands

Virtue. The fire that illuminates.

ARIES III · VENUS/JUPITER

4 of Wands

Completion. The harvest of the first fire.

Cardinal fire's three movements

Aries moves from pure potency (2 of Wands, Mars/Mars) through illuminated virtue (3 of Wands, Sun/Sun) to the completion and celebration of what the first fire arc accomplished (4 of Wands, Venus/Jupiter). The arc of cardinal fire: the will asserts itself, then illuminates its direction, then comes to rest in what has been created.

Notice: both Decan I and Decan II bring complete convergences - Mars in both systems at Decan I, Sun in both at Decan II. The Aries arc opens with two unambiguous statements before Venus and Jupiter bring their relational and philosophical dimensions at the close.

CORRESPONDENCES - TWO SYSTEMS

Tarot card	2 of Wands (Dominion / Full potency at the threshold / The will before its first move)
Chaldean ruler	Mars - pure directed will in its home sign; the desire that initiates; the zodiac year's first voice
Sign sequence	Mars (rules Aries) - Decan I = the sign's own ruler; complete convergence with the Chaldean
Sign ruler	Mars - presiding over the whole Aries arc as the sign's essential nature
Element / Mode	Cardinal Fire - initiating through action and desire; the first fire, the year's ignition
Colors	Crimson red, deep amber-red, the red of living fire; the bright clarity of the vernal equinox sky
Stones	Red jasper, bloodstone, carnelian - Mars's fire stones; iron for the warrior's will
Scent	Black pepper, ginger, warm wood smoke - the sharp, forward-moving scents of Martian fire
Time of day	Dawn - the first light, the moment before the day's full commitment; the threshold of action
Body resonance	The spine upright, gaze at the horizon; feet planted, weight forward; the body of readiness, not yet in motion
Season marker	Vernal equinox - day overtakes night; the year's decisive turn toward life and growth

Mythic figures	The hero at the threshold of the quest; Ares before the battle; the ram breaking through
Keywords	Dominion, full potency, the will at its sovereign peak, desire before expenditure, the threshold before the first move

CORE ENERGY

The full, uncompromised awareness of one's own creative power at the moment before it is committed. Mars in Aries, twice over: directed will in its home sign, at home with itself. The world is spread before the figure. The question is what the will genuinely desires to initiate.

SHADOW ASPECTS

[Mars/Chaldean] The will that acts before it has genuinely chosen - Aries's impulsiveness, the leap without looking. [Mars/sign seq.] The dominion that becomes domination - the creative will asserting itself over others rather than toward its own genuine direction.

THE CARD IMAGE - TWO SYSTEMS

In the Rider-Waite tradition, a figure stands on a stone parapet, richly dressed, holding one wand firmly planted while gripping another. In one hand, a small globe. Before them, an enormous landscape stretches to the sea and mountains. The figure surveys it all.

- 1. The figure on the rampart, surveying the world.** [Mars/Chaldean] The sovereign stance of the will that knows its own power. Mars at home in Aries: no apology, no hesitation, no ambiguity about the right to be here and to desire what is genuinely desired. The view is vast because the will is vast.
- 2. The globe in the hand.** [Mars/sign seq.] The world held lightly - not grasped but known. Dominion is not conquest; it is the clear understanding of the scope of what is possible. The globe represents the full awareness of creative potential at the moment before it is committed to one specific direction.
- 3. Two wands - one planted, one held.** [Mars/Chaldean] The duality of the 2: the will that has found its ground (planted wand) and the will that is still choosing its direction (held wand). The planting is done; the direction is not yet fixed. This is the specific quality of Dominion: rootedness without rigidity.
- 4. The vast horizon, sea, and mountains.** [Mars/sign seq.] The world that is genuinely open. Cardinal fire does not see obstacles first - it sees possibility. The landscape's scale is Mars's scale: enormous, undivided, entirely available to the will that is ready to move into it.

STATION SCRIPT - SPOKEN ALOUD

Let the spine rise. Feel the weight shift slightly forward - not yet moving, but ready. This is the body of Dominion.

We begin at the very first station of the zodiac walk - the first breath of Aries, the opening of the zodiac year. Both rulership systems speak with one voice: Mars. The planet of action, desire, and directed will, fully at home in its own sign, governing the first face of the zodiac without ambiguity or qualification.

The card is the 2 of Wands - Dominion. A figure stands on a rampart holding the world in their hand, surveying an enormous landscape. They have not yet moved. This is the moment before the first move, and the Thoth tradition calls it Dominion because this moment - before expenditure, before resistance, before the world has had a chance to push back - is when the creative will is most completely itself.

What does Mars in you genuinely want to initiate right now? Not what seems reasonable or appropriate - what does the will actually desire to move toward, before the compromises begin?

Both systems agree: this is Mars's territory completely. Let the will speak without apology. The world is spread before you. The globe is in your hand. The wand is planted. What direction does the held wand want to point?

SOMATIC PRACTICE - THE BODY OF READINESS

- 1. Let the spine rise.** Stand or sit with the spine fully lengthened - upright without rigidity, tall without tension. This is Mars in Aries's posture: the body that is fully present and fully capable, neither braced for impact nor collapsed into ease.
- 2. Feel the weight forward.** Without actually moving, let the weight shift very slightly forward - the preparatory lean of readiness. Mars's body is always on the threshold of motion. Feel what it is to be ready without being rushed.
- 3. Let the gaze go to the horizon.** Lift the gaze from the immediate ground to the full distance available. Cardinal fire's quality: seeing the full scope before committing to the specific. Let the eyes register the vastness of what is possible before narrowing to any one direction.
- 4. The will before its first move.** Stay in this posture of full readiness for longer than is comfortable. Feel the specific quality of potency before expenditure - the moment when everything is available and nothing has been committed. This is Dominion. Let it be fully inhabited before moving.

REFLECTION PROMPTS - TWO SYSTEMS

Let Mars speak first and without apology. These prompts are about authentic desire and initiated will.

- [Mars / Chaldean] What does your will genuinely want to initiate right now? Not what seems reasonable or appropriate - what actually desires to move forward, before any compromise?
- [Mars / sign seq.] The globe is in your hand: you have full awareness of the scope of what is possible. Where do you want to point the held wand - what direction is genuinely calling?

- [Mars / both] Dominion is potency before expenditure. What would be lost if you moved too quickly, before the desire was fully formed? What does the quality of this threshold moment have to teach?
- [Mars / both] What is the difference between the will asserting itself toward something genuine (Dominion) and the will asserting itself over others (the shadow)? Where is that line in your current situation?
- [All] Cardinal fire initiates and then moves on. What are you ready to commit to beginning - knowing that Aries starts things that other signs will need to sustain and complete?

JOURNAL SPACE

Write from the will. Let Mars lead - direct, unequivocal, without softening. The desire before the compromise.

The Aries arc ahead

Aries Decan II brings the Sun to both systems - the second complete convergence in the zodiac walk, immediately following the first. Where Mars at Decan I is the will at its sovereign peak, the Sun at Decan II is the illuminating intelligence that gives the will its direction and purpose. The 3 of Wands (Virtue) shows the figure with ships on the sea below - the direction has been chosen, the journey has begun.

Decan III closes the Aries arc with Venus (Chaldean) and Jupiter (sign sequence) - the 4 of Wands (Completion), the harvest and celebration of what the cardinal fire arc built. From pure will through illuminated direction to relational completion: Aries's complete teaching about how the fire of initiation arrives at its first resting place.

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