

TAROT

FOR BEGINNERS

OR

Now I have a deck...

WHAT do I do with it?

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TAROT FOR BEGINNERS

Tarot by Olympias

Welcome! You have taken your first step into understanding and explaining the worlds around you. Notice I did not say 'world', for there is more than one that exists for those of us with eyes to ***SEE***. This is not a religion class. However, I do recommend you take a moment to reflect upon your personal beliefs. You use them every day; consciously or subconsciously. And one way or the other, they led you to this class.

You are to be congratulated! You have overcome hype, hysteria and the opinion of some others to join this class. You are also of a serious mind and be assured, so is this class. I do not see the Tarot as a card game or a means of entertainment (although readings are many times entertaining). Rather, I see and use the sacred Tarot as a end and a means to an end. What I mean by that is the Tarot is a looking glass by which you can be shown past, present and future events, all from the comfort of your reading table. Many situations, people, weather, etc...can be gleaned and acted upon. Nice to work with inside information to the benefit of the 'seeker' be that you or another.

This course contains portions of the older testing material of the Tarot Certification Board of America (TCBA) and the American Tarot Association (ATA). These organizations are committed to the education and honorable usage of the Tarot. They are two of the few groups I personally and professionally advocate and believe worthwhile in belonging to as a formal member. I commend these organizations to you and recommend you consider joining them. The testing given in this class can be used toward your detailed structure of growth. I can personally think of no finer organizations dedicated to Tarot than the TCBA and the ATA. Email addresses for these organizations as well as other email groups are listed in Appendix A.

Class Syllabus

This course is divided into 10 classes. There will be studying and exercises which each student is expected to do and complete. A suggested reading/reference list is included for your further reading, interest and education. Below is the class study breakdown (rate of speed to cover the material can vary with students as Q&A is a major part of the learning experience).

Introduction, Expectations, Ethics, Daily Journals, History of Tarot, Choosing a Deck, Deck Preparation, Meditation and Care of and Getting to Know Your Tarot Deck
Major Arcana, 1-3 Card Draws
Major Arcana, Reversals and Yes/No Readings

Suits, Court Cards and Suits
Pip Numerology and Pips
Pips and Reversals
Spreads and Readings
Spreads and Readings
Personal Ethics
TCBA Preparation Testing
Appendices

Expectations

This is a **HANDS ON** class! Bring your deck to every class session and ask questions. Every student is required to keep a Tarot journal. The importance for this will be discussed in class. It is my expectation to teach you how to read a simple 1-5 card spread for yourself and others. At the end of this course, I will present a copy of the older version of the TCBA Apprentice Tarot Reader test to you. There is no grade on this and the purpose is more academic than a pass or fail situation.

It is my hope you will join the TCBA to continue your Tarot experience. While there are those who condemn the very idea of certification, I compare Tarot certifications to the certifications I received while working in the aerospace industry. Not only did I learn from the processes and classes, the certifications were proof I did the time to gain knowledge. It also speaks to how serious you are about Tarot (or any field). I see no down side to certification. And for those who denounce or condemn those who are certified in Tarot, I consider it simply sour grapes and an attempt to cheapen the arts of divination by dumbing down everyone to their lazy level.

Expectation Exercise

On a piece of paper, write the date and list your major expectations for this class. Make the expectations two lists – one being expectations for yourself and one for the instructor.

Tarot Ethics

Let's discuss a few points about what Tarot is and is not.

What **IS** Tarot:

Tool of divination
Insight
Enlightenment
Inspiring
Can be a religious experience
Warnings of situations
Preparation for events
Confirmation
Affirmation
Suggestive of making changes
Rewarding in usage

What Tarot is **NOT**:

Fortune Telling
A game
Utterly infallible
Unchanging
All knowing
One dimensional
Dictates or runs a life (you are responsible for you)
Evil
Tool of a Devil
Replacement for professional assistance such as health, financial or legal

The American Tarot Association Code Of Ethics:

I recommend you seek competent medical or psychological assistance from a healthcare professional if you have any disease, illness or disorder.

I recommend you seek competent financial assistance from a banker, broker, or financial consultant before you make any financial transactions.

I recommend you seek competent legal assistance from a qualified attorney at law if you have legal problems.

I recommend that every person act according to his or her own conscience for the greater good of all concerned.

I will strive at all times to give you the very best advice of which I am capable.

Tarot cards are not fortune cards and they are not used for fortune telling.

Tarot cards are neither good nor bad though they can be used to encourage, give hope and identify options for future behavior.

You alone are responsible for your own behavior.

Keep these in mind while you are working through this material. Start giving thought to what you will use as your personal code. Make notes in your journal to remember these for formal writing at the end of the class. Bear in mind that you may add or remove from your Code as time goes on. There is no hard, fast rule to writing these. It's what is in your heart and how you will use the Tarot.

You may also find that the code and meditations mean more in your life than you originally think at this point. As a reader, including reading for yourself, you will affect others. You are a messenger, not a judge. You may find yourself in the role of a consultant or guide to someone who needs a helping hand or opinion. People will trust and turn to you in many cases with very personal concerns. You bring to the Tarot yourself, your experiences, compassion, hopes, and fears. The Tarot brings the opportunity of insight, to assist and touch another's life deeply.

To use the Tarot is a commitment to serve yourself and others...for the greater good of all. Your readings will be uniquely you and uniquely tailored for each person you will read for. It is a privilege as well as an awesome responsibility. Consider well then what you will and will not do. This will distinguish you as a great and true reader from the numerous (and usually vocal) frauds in the world.

Daily Journal

Much like a career, it is important to know where you are going and where you have been. In Tarot, you will find that you will ever be the student regardless of how long you read. I am still amazed and in awe of what I continue to learn from the Tarot; especially about myself. I hope I never lose this wonder and child-like quality. A journal will help you to think, consider and work through interpreting Tarot issues; not to mention meanings for each card.

The journal can be of any type that you like; a pad of paper, a notebook or a journal from a specialty store. I don't personally recommend a computer file when you are first starting out. Many times when you write down things, it will bring thought and insights. Starting from this day, write in your journal. Start with the date, your impressions of this class and what you hope to gain from it, and questions you may be formulating. I would also like for you to include your own expectations of yourself and what you are considering doing with Tarot as a result of this class.

Each day, make a quiet moment (usually best to do at the same time each day as much as possible) to record your dated thoughts in your journal. How much you write is up to you. What you write should be directed to your thoughts on the Tarot and how it affects you. Meditations, ethical issues or statements, affirmations and the type of day you had can be mentioned here. The idea is to get in touch with you and use this journal and time to ponder and talk to yourself. Later, card impressions, interpretations and results will be added. This is wonderful way to learn not only Tarot but also about you.

No one needs to see this journal if you don't wish them too. However, I would be happy to look and give suggestions or an opinion. And like other readers, all is in strictest confidence. I never "read and tell" and I hope you will adopt this axiom as well.

I have four personal 'rules' to follow for reading Tarot:

Be honest, truthful and a keeper of confidences with yourself and for others

Be an instrument of hope, courage, and enlightenment to yourself and others

Remember to honor whatever deity you follow for inspiration

Do not fear the challenges of reading, but rather embrace the experiences as adventure



To me, everything else comes from these simple statements. I hope they help you as they have helped me and continue to guide me. In your own words, record in your journal rules/laws that currently fit you personally. Reflect upon them each day. Leave room for change as we are beings of adaptability. Add a daily affirmation for yourself in your journal. You are the **real** magick behind the Tarot. You give the readings life and offer them as a tool for yourself and others. There is no mysticism here...divination comes from the diviner (the reader). I have included a copy of my Trump meditations in an Appendix for your review.

Recall what the word ‘*divination*’ really means.

NOUN: **1.** The art or act of foretelling future events or revealing occult knowledge by means of augury or an alleged supernatural agency. **2.** An inspired guess or presentiment. **3.** Something that has been divined. (The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000).

Foretell:

TRANSITIVE
VERB: Inflected forms: **fore·told** (-tōld'), **fore·tell·ing**, **fore·tells**
To tell of or indicate beforehand; predict.

OTHER
FORMS: **fore·tell'er** —NOUN

SYNONYMS: *foretell, augur, divine, prophesy, vaticinate* These verbs mean to tell about something beforehand by or as if by supernatural means: *foretelling the future; augured a scandal; divined the enemy's victory; prophesying a stock-market boom; atrocities vaticinated by the antifascists*. See also synonyms at **predict**. (The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000.)

Fortunetelling is illegal in each state of the US. As a reader, my definition of fortunetelling is predicting a future set in stone that cannot be changed or altered. No legitimate reader professes to be a fortuneteller. Readers offer insights into a snap shot of a life with all things being equal. This can reflect trends, but rarely fate. No one would go to a reader if they could not have some say or action in their own life. Why know what you will only worry and fret over because you can't change it? Therefore, leave 'fortune telling' to the side shows and Holly-Weird movies.

Too many people don't bother to look up the origins and meanings of words. I suggest you be more than a follower who uses words. Words are vibrations and vibrations are physical power. Therefore, know what words mean before you use them and understand that in using, the power of words is in the world and your life.

A VERY Brief History of the Tarot

Scholars are still arguing over which came first; the Tarot or playing cards. Usually the playing card deck wins out in a test of historical references. Some scholars place the origin of playing cards in China and Korea around the 11 century. The primary design was based on the paper money of the time.

Accordingly to Stuart Kaplan ('The Encyclopedia of Tarot', Volume 1), one of the first references to standard decks or 'Tarocchi' cards in general was in Bern, 1367; with regards to a prohibition about playing cards during this year. In 1377 (or 1472 -- the dates are not verifiable), Brother Johannes von Rheinfelden, German monk in Switzerland, wrote about a card game called 'ludus cartarum'. This game was reputedly used to describe the state of the world as it existed for that time. Four kings are listed and have a suit assigned to them. There were two 'Marschalli' cards assigned to each king.

There were also 10 'pip' cards for each suit. This was probably the parent of the standard playing deck of 52 cards. The Brother did not make any mention to Tarot in his treatise. He did however note that he thought there was value in playing cards which would further morals and education. A playing fete (fair) was recorded in May of 1379 in Brussels. Cards (also known as 'quartes'), dice and other games of chance and betting were routinely banned throughout Europe.

The earliest recorded book that expressly calls out cards used/of divination was published by Marcolino in Venice in the year 1540. Only 9 cards from the suit of coins were noted in the work. They were: king, knight, page, ten, nine, eight, seven, two and the ace. The book was used directly for divination; asking and answering of 50 questions. The book was divided into different question areas; men (13) and women (13) and a remaining total of 24 that related to both genders. It was not a typical card game of the era. It is believed that Marcolino got the idea from an earlier work by Sigismondo Fanti of Ferrara in 1526 who used the zodiac signs/symbols to answer various question.



One of the earliest deck depicting suits was the 1420-1430, hand painted German "Hunting" set of Stuttgart. This deck contained no 'trumps' (major Arcana). All the cards pictured hunting suits including dogs, falcons, ducks and stags. It is interesting to note that the first 'tarocchi' deck from the Visconti-Sforza family dates to about this same time period. The oldest known deck is the Pierpont Morgan-Begamo deck. 74 of the original 78 cards still exist.

Many readers and scholars prefer to take the Tarot back to ancient Egyptian times and some prefer to credit the gypsies of Eastern Europe with humble beginnings. There is no solid evidence for either of these concepts. There is much speculation about how the age of the Tarot. Recorded history lists the much loved standard 56 minor and 22 major Arcanas ('hidden truth' or 'secret knowledge') to be from around the mid-14th century. So, Tarot has been around for roughly 500 years as a form of Cartomancy (a form of divination using playing cards). Today, there are over 1,000 Tarot decks on the market and the number is growing. Tarot enjoyed a renewed interest throughout the 1990s and into the new millennium.

There is also no agreement as to how the word 'Tarot' came about or what it means. Some refer to Egypt and a presumed book of the God Thoth. In this instance, Tarot becomes the Egyptian word 'Ta-rosh' or royal way. No actual Book of Thoth has ever been found to support this idea. Some think the origin is more romantic and Tarot then refers to 'rota' meaning a wheel which in turn refers to the cycle of life.

Some scholars look to the Hebraic Torah for the answer. When the word Tarot is read right to left in the Hebrew fashion, it becomes 'tora' or law. Tarot may also be linked to the mystical Kabala. Some decks as well as spreads (especially the Tree of Life) are dedicated to this concept. For a point of reference, Kabala originated in Spain, which interesting has no examples of the major Arcana or trumps. Also the Gypsies of Hungary have the word 'tar', which means a deck of cards. Confused yet?

Organizations, cultures and religions such as (but not limited to) Hinduism, Masons, Morocco, South American Indian games, Geulphs and Ghibellines, Waldenses, Rosicrucians, Templars, and occult sects claim similarities exist between the symbols and/or numerology associated with the Tarot. In conclusion, no one really knows the exact origin or concept of the Tarot. Perhaps we are not meant to...nor is it important to the use of this tool. What we do know is that it has been and is used throughout the world, by many cultures and sects. Today's Tarot is related to other divination tools such as astrology and numerology. It has a profound affect on most people and is full of symbolism. What it will mean to you...is up to you. I will promise you this, as you use the Tarot, it will accent your life.

Choosing A Deck

There is no right or wrong way to choose a deck. There is no one standard deck better than another. This comes down to preference and what you, the reader, are comfortable with using. If you do not have a deck I suggest browsing your large, neighborhood book store (or Amazon.com) for examples. There are also wonderful sites on the Internet to view examples of decks and read reviews from other readers (See Resources Appendix).



For the purpose of this booklet, I prefer you not use an 'oracle' style of deck. These are not usually the standard 78 cards of the Tarot. However, the Oracle decks can be easily incorporated with standard Tarot readings for greater insight/depth. Also note that some decks such as the Golden Dawn (GD) have an extra Temperance card. The GD people had their own reasons for this but it is not pertinent to this booklet.

In choosing a deck, buy one that appeals to you whether that be the color or symbols on the cards, the subject/topic (such as Arthurian or Dragon). It is your deck and you must be able to connect and bond with it. I prefer not to purchase a new deck where the cards are not factory sealed. I also check the wrapping to ensure it is sealed from the factory and not a store re-wrap. However, with some collector decks, I have been known to patiently stand and count out a deck to make sure all 78 cards are present.

If you do not have a deck as yet and would like a suggestion for a beginner deck, I recommend the Waite/Rider deck or any of the piggy-back decks from the Waite standard. The Waite-Albano was my first deck and is still my favorite. Deck authors usually include some sort of small booklet to help you get started.

For this class...please don't bother with other books. In my opinion, books can cripple you in readings as you rely more on a book than on your own insights and feelings. After finishing this class, I would recommend that you re-read (or in many cases read for the first, real time) the accompanying booklet to your deck. It will round out your insight on that deck and what the author had in mind when they designed the cards. I have also included several books on Tarot in the Resource Appendix to add to your reading list.

For the purposes of this class, I will be taking a Waite/Rider stance in overall and general card interpretations. Most other decks on the market are similar if not a branch from this deck. Please note though, there is no one way to read Tarot. There is no right or wrong. Be open; be receptive to your own feelings towards the deck. How well you read will depend on you. Key words: general knowledge of cards, belief, practice, practice, practice. You'll get the idea.

Deck Preparation

Let's assume you just bought your first deck. Like anything new, you will want to get started touching them. Resist the temptation to open the deck and take them home with you sealed. Find a quiet moment (at least an hour) to yourself. Find a colored scarf that appeals to you or you think fits the deck. You will use these to wrap your deck in during usage. So don't pick that favorite scarf you like to wear. Natural cotton or silk are good choices, but again, I think this is up to the reader.



Open the cards and place your hands on the exposed deck. Sit quietly. ***Feel*** the energy passing from your hands to the cards. Many will feel warmth develop which can make your hands twitch. Separate the cards into the Major Arcana by number and the four Suits by their numbers. Hold and really look at each card in turn. In your journal, write down your impression of each card based on the color, symbols, pictures, etc... Then take each stack and start shuffling. I personally like to say a prayer at this point quietly to myself as I shuffle each suit and the trumps into each other. Do not worry about card reversals and don't worry if you play pick-up now and then. The cards will be stiff and a bit hard to handle at first. This will disappear as you use them. Shuffle until you feel they are 'right'. Pull a card for yourself and write the card name down in your journal. This is your first card, experience and communication with this deck. Study the card (and meaning). This card will hold meaning for you and the deck as you travel together through this human condition we call life. You may find this card sets the mood/tone for how the deck may read. Or it may speak of the relationship you will first experience with the deck. Keep in mind there is **NO** "bad" card in Tarot. Be patient and let the meaning of the card be explored as life evolves.

For three days, I would not try to seriously read with the deck. Rather, pull a daily card for yourself and write it in your journal. When not in use, keep the deck wrapped in the scarf you choose (in or out of box). Sleep with the deck under your pillow for three nights. When you go out anywhere, slip them in a pocket, purse or bag and carry them with you. Strange as this may sound, they will pick up your vibrations, your energy signature, and will with time become an extension of you. I would also not allow anyone else to touch the cards while you are preparing them for use. Some folks have a special place in their home or personal altar to lay the cards when not with them. Again, this is up to the reader. We all have our own ways of doing things.

For those who would like a ritual, here is one I have used. You can also design your own. The idea is make the cards special to you, whatever way you deem that to be.

Oly's Tarot Ritual

Do on the 4th night of the new deck and a table is best for this.

Light a white candle and place it at the south end. Take a ceramic or glass bowl of water and place at the west end of table. Place a bowl of salt or a special essential oil/perfume that you use at the north end. Place burning incense (I personal like sage, myrrh or frankincense for this) at the east end. Place your new deck in the middle of the table, between the cardinal points. Sit quietly and meditate on your deck and what you wish to accomplish with it. It often helps to speak your desires/wishes out loud to affirm them to yourself.

Take the uncovered deck, to the East (the incense). Pass your deck through the incense smoke 3 times. Say the following as you do, "I consecrate you with Air. May you always bring me true visions of the things to come".

Take the deck to the South (the candle) and pass them **over** the flame (not too close). Say as you do, "I consecrate you with Fire. May you always be flamed with hope and compassion in what you will teach and show me".

Take the deck to the West (water). Moisten your fingers and touch the cards as you say, "I consecrate you with Water. May you always show me truthfulness about myself and the seekers I will help".

Take the deck to the North (salt or oil). Again, take a little on your fingers and touch/rub the cards as you say, "I consecrate you with Earth. May you always be grounded in honesty and love".

Sit quietly again and add any other prayer you would like. My personal favorite,
"Lend me your sight so that I too may see with clarity,
Lend me your knowledge so that I too may know truth in my readings,
Lend me your wisdom so that I may communicate with love to the
betterment of the seeker".

Wrap the cards back up and find a safe place where you can store them (ideally where you will see them every day). I do suggest you get used to carrying them around. You never know when you may feel the need to read, not to mention it strengthens the connection between you and the deck. To this day, whenever I leave the house, at least one deck goes with me.



Remember to record your own preparation ritual in your journal.

Getting to Know Your Tarot Deck

No two decks will read exactly the same. Nor should you treat all your decks the same. Some will be your favorites and some you may designate for special types of readings. Whichever deck you choose, use that deck every day, whether or not you are doing a reading. Shuffle the cards, hold them, look at the pictures and notice the details. Do the following exercise daily and remember to record in your journal.

This exercise is best to do first thing in the morning or right before bed at night. After you shuffle, fan the cards face down and run your hand over them. Feel or sense what card is pulling you towards it. Many feel this as warmth or prickling on their hand. Take your time with this and don't rush through it. Once you have found a card that is 'calling' to you, pull the card from the fan and flip it over. Record the card in your journal. Look up in this book that came with your deck and see what it says for that card. For this exercise, always read the card, right-side-up. Record the meaning from this book in your journal. Include any other personal impressions or sensations from the card. In other words, what do you think it means to you? Narrow down your answer to one word for the day.

Remember to record your dreams in your journal too.

The Major Arcana

There are 22 cards in the Major Arcana, also called 'Trumps'. They are considered the most important cards in the entire deck. In essence, they tell a story from start to finish about a journey. The vagabond is you or the seeker. The numbers on the top of each card has significance and pertains to the journey as well as the seeker. These cards are used to gain insight about the person you are reading for and how they react and interact with the world (inner and physical). They will give you insight into the psyche of the person being read; even if that is you.

The cards of the Major Arcana are (in up-right position):

0	The Fool	Astrologically - Uranus	Super consciousness
Beginnings, choices, movement, hidden talents, spiritual forces			
I	The Magician	Astrologically - Mercury	Self-Consciousness
Will power, skills, knowledge of self, power and energy, timing, self confidence, creative			
II	The High Priestess	Astrologically - Moon	Subconscious/Memory
Hidden knowledge or secrets, mystery, occult			
III	The Empress	Astrologically - Venus	Creative Imagination
Marriage, pregnancy/fertility, material wealth, parenthood, farming, emotionally secure			

IV	The Emperor	Astrologically - Aries	Reason/Will Power
Leadership, authority, control of intelligence over passion, reason, planning			
V	The Hierophant	Astrologically – Taurus	Intuition/Psychic
Ritual, dogma, religious, creed, need to conform, conventional, Karma			
VI	The Lovers	Astrologically - Gemini	Discrimination
Choices in love/relationships, attraction, decisions affect more than themselves, heart over reason, conflict in love			
VII	The Chariot	Astrologically - Cancer	Receptivity
Conquest, triumph, victory, success by force of will, advantages, self control, warrior, health			
VIII	Strength	Astrologically - Leo	Spiritual Activity
Courage, higher nature over physical, health, strength, victory after difficulties, sees issue to conclusion			
IX	The Hermit	Astrologically - Virgo	Responsiveness
Introspection, wisdom from experience or spiritual enlightenment, meeting, possible journey, teacher, meditation			
X	The Wheel of Fortune	Astrologically - Jupiter	Interim Reward
Good fortune, luck, success, increase, cyclical life cycles (beginnings and endings)			
XI	Justice	Astrologically - Libra	Equilibration
Balance, well balanced personality, legal aspects, contracts, ridding of outworn ideas and beliefs, education			
XII	The Hanged Man	Astrologically - Neptune	Reversal of Ideas
Surrender of physical to mental, prophecy, wisdom from spiritual, self sacrifice, a pause of reflection, rethinking position, spirituality			
XIII	Death	Astrologically - Scorpio	Transformation
Transformation as a result of change, a renewal or rebirth, new in favor of the old			
XIV	Temperance	Astrologically - Sagittarius	Spiritually Verify
Good combinations: mixing, matching and blending, coordination and modification, adaptability, management			
XV	The Devil	Astrologically - Capricorn	Spiritually Renewing
Bondage by thought, actions, or agreements; materiality, domination, illness, violence, acting out emotions without reason, desperation			

XVI The Tower Astrologically - Mars Spiritual Awakening
Radical and drastic change in lifestyle, conflict, situation/relationship breakdown, major setbacks, unexpected reactions/repercussions, disruption

XVII The Star Astrologically - Aquarius Spiritual Revelation
Hope, courage, inspiration, aid, health, spiritual love, confidence, new life, motivation

XVIII The Moon Astrologically - Pisces Spiritualize the Body
Imagination, intuition, dreams, deception, secret foes, fears, too emotional, anxiety, pulled different directions at once; reactionary, psychic powers

XIX The Sun Astrologically - Sun Regeneration
Completion, attainment, satisfaction, marriage, reunions, happiness, joy, achievements and recognition, rewards, contentment

XX Judgment Astrologically - Pluto Realization
Awakening, renewal, self changes in personality, dropping emotional baggage, final decisions, long project completions, possible unexpected conclusions, revelations, retrospection

XXI The World Astrologically – Saturn Cosmic Consciousness
Conclusion, completion and new beginnings, reward, success, travel, movement in affairs - step ups with new adventures



Major Arcana Exercise

Post-Its are great for this activity. Take each of the Major Arcana and write down a short sentence and one word meaning for each card. Stick this to the back of each card. Also write your answers in your journal. Practice looking at cards and saying the meaning you have assigned for each. Remember using flash cards as a kid? Use the same purpose and idea for your Tarot education. When you are comfortable with the card to meaning, remove the Post-Its.

Increase your daily card draws, from 1 to 3 cards. From now on, ask the cards during the shuffle to show you what you need to know for the next day. Remember to record your cards in your journal. At the end of each day, write in your journal what happened and did the cards assist in preparing you or predicting what you would experience.

Major Arcana Reversals

These are not as hard as they may look. I am sure you noticed that many of the cards are not so **nice** or positive right-side up. In reversals, you cannot just take the opposite meaning of a card and settle as an answer. Here are the meanings I generally use for each card as a stand alone.

0	The Fool	Astrologically - Uranus	Superconsciousness
Bad choice, quick decision with unexpected results			
I	The Magician	Astrologically - Mercury	Self-Consciousness
Wrong use of creative abilities, indecisive, weakness			
II	The High Priestess	Astrologically - Moon	Subconscious/Memory
Secrets are revealed, deception is uncovered, emotional time			
III	The Empress	Astrologically - Venus	Creative Imagination
Fertility problems, non communication in marriage/relationship, demanding			
IV	The Emperor	Astrologically - Aries	Reason/Will Power
Misuse of authority, too controlling, paranoid, immature, puts self in harms way			
V	The Hierophant	Astrologically - Taurus	Intuition/Psychic
Non-conformist, free spirit, can be gullible and too trusting at face value			
VI	The Lovers	Astrologically - Gemini	Discrimination
Possible breakup in relationship, non-communicative, possible wrong choice in love			
VII	The Chariot	Astrologically - Cancer	Receptivity
Sudden collapse of a project, desires rule over reason, vengeance, unethical, anger			
VIII	Strength	Astrologically - Leo	Spiritual Activity
Abuse of power over self and others, ill health from stress, addictions, discord			
IX	The Hermit	Astrologically - Virgo	Responsiveness
Refusal to accept responsibility for self actions, chronic excuses, immature behavior			
X	The Wheel of Fortune	Astrologically - Jupiter	Interim Reward
Luck has ups and downs, unpredictable behavior, and moody, bi-polar tendencies			
XI	Justice	Astrologically - Libra	Equilibration
Injustice, legal complications, self punishing, refusal to help self			
XII	The Hanged Man	Astrologically - Neptune	Reversal of Ideas
Too preoccupied with physical pleasures/sensations, narcissus, arrogance, prideful, misleads self in false sense of security			
XIII	Death	Astrologically - Scorpio	Transformation
Stagnation and procrastination, tired, misses opportunities, loner, and depression			
XIV	Temperance	Astrologically - Sagittarius	Spiritually Verify
Competing interests, bad combinations, plans need modifications			

XV The Devil Astrologically - Capricorn Spiritually Renewing
Spiritual, physical and emotional healing in progress, past is over, indecision

XVI The Tower Astrologically - Mars Spiritual Awakening
Oppression and opposition from outside, disruption, conflict, major upheaval

XVII The Star Astrologically - Aquarius Spiritual Revelation
Stubborn and pessimistic, self doubt, shuts self away from world, bitterness

XVIII The Moon Astrologically - Pisces Spiritualize the Body
Peacemaker, practical use of imagination pays off, risk taker, good timing

XIX The Sun Astrologically - Sun Regeneration
Not paying attention, plans are on hold temporarily, broken engagements, loss of valued object, voided contract

XX Judgment Astrologically - Pluto Realization
Failure to be happy in life as they will not change, fear of death, physical weakness, health problems, loss

XXI The World Astrologically - Saturn Cosmic Consciousness
Fear of change, bondage to home or work, stubborn, don't care attitude, complainer

Major Arcana Reversal Exercise

Repeat the exercise you did for the right-side up version and write your own sentence and word for each card in reversal. Record your answers/impressions in your journal. Use Post-Its to help you with learning the word for each card. Include reversals in your daily readings. Test the outcomes.

Yes and No Spread

This will be easy for you to use as you have already been using a 3 card spread. Now, instead of asking for future event knowledge, you will ask a yes or no question. Many count the upright position of cards as yes (or true). I have *not* found this accurate. Instead, note the position of cards and then read each card. In interpreting each card, assign a yes or no value. Try to avoid a maybe situation. Best to start with concluded situations and see how your deck answers you. Then ask about present situations. This is **NOT** a spread to use for futuristic situations. Keep your questions simple and avoid the use of 'and'. Add this to your daily routine until you are comfortable. Record all of your outcomes.

Quick and Dirty

The same 3 card spread can be used for a quickie answer. In this case, each card represents a certain aspect of the problem you are asking about.



- Card 1 = Nature of or surrounding your problem
- Card 2 = Cause or primary circumstance of your problem
- Card 3 = Solution to your problem

Be very specific what you are asking about, especially as you are only using the Major Arcana at this point. This is an excellent spread to use after we have covered the Minor Arcana where other influences are added.

Another Type Daily Spread

This is a variation of the daily spread you are using. You may want to use this card meaning for yourself.

- Card 1 = What is dominant energy for the day
(could also ask how you will feel physically)
- Card 2 = How will I feel about it or how will others react as a result
(or how you will feel mentally)
- Card 3 = How will I be affected
(how will you feel spiritually)

Tarot Suits

Separate the suits from the Major Arcana (Trumps). Notice there are 4 suits, just like the standard playing card decks. Not unusual as they are joined together throughout history. The suits are also connected to the 4 elements and numbered 1-10 'Pips', with 4 'Court' cards per suit. The suits equate to:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Wands | Element = Fire, Season = Spring
Direction = South, Card = Clubs
Interactions with family/friends, work, ideas, growth, self spirituality |
| Cups | Element = Water, Season = Summer
Direction = West, Card = Hearts
Emotions, relationships, the inner self desires/fears |
| Pentacles | Element = Earth, Season = Autumn
Direction = North, Card = Diamonds
Career, money, material gains/losses, self ambitions |
| Swords | Element = Air, Season = Winter
Direction = East, Card = Spades
Challenges, Intellect, reason, self purpose |

Court Cards

It is interesting to consider that card makers in 15th century France made the King cards look like actual historical figures; King of Pentacles is Julius Caesar, King of Wands is Charlemagne, King of Cups is Alexander the Great, and King of Swords is King David of the Hebrews.

These cards can refer to a person or event. They will often point to the person who is behind the event. Page and Knight cards can represent male or female. Pages are messengers and can be children. Knights can mean travel of some kind related to a

particular situation. Let's take each Court card by Suit. Note: Right-side up is listed first and (r) refers to reversed card meaning.

<u>Wands</u>	Blond hair and blue eyes; adventurers; people associated with country living; usually medium business owners or in a corporations; like to travel
Page	Bearer of news, papers, contracts, writings, testimony, adventurous spirit (r) Unpleasant news about above or a related project, creditors calling, rejections
Knight	Travel related to work, adventurer, change of residence, stay upbeat, do things for yourself that have been put off, be more spontaneous (r) Division and discord, interruptions
Queen	Focus on your needs/wants, new ideas ready to begin, helpful business woman with lots of energy and contacts, mentor (r) Strict woman or situation, opposition, jealousy, deceit or infidelity suggested, meddlesome
King	An older man who supports and encourages you, a father type, usually self-employed working in promotions or sales (r) Severe and uncompromising man, quarrels, in opposition, consider his advice/opinion for peace, unfairness in business
<u>Cups</u>	Light brown/red hair and green in the eyes; Visions and imagination; Family oriented people; people persons; usually in law, divinity or teaching; small business owners
Page	Good student, quiet spoken, sensitive by nature, calm emotional state, renewal to commitments (personal and professional), expansion, coming birth of child (r) Deception uncovered, obstacles that lead to emotional imbalance
Knight	Romantic dreams/aspirations, love coming into life, propositions or invitations, new experiences for the heart, end of loneliness (r) Possible tricks, setups with emotions, brunt of jokes, rivalry, information given is used against the seeker

Queen	<p>Mother type, visions, prophetic dreams and acts on them, love, happy marriage and family, centering around children, animals, metaphysics, intuitive, supporter</p> <p>(r) Bad temper used against others, perverse, abuser, secretive, emotional unstable, tendencies of bi-polar behavior</p>
King	<p>Man of ethics, business, law or divinity, very spiritual, romantic, family/people are most important, gift giver, good listener, relies on feelings for decisions, passion for the arts and sciences</p> <p>(r) Vain, cruel emotionally, violent natured, can be dishonest and a liar, scandal and injustice with loss</p>
<u>Pentacles</u>	<p>Dark hair and eyed; people of high business and/or scholarly pursuits; teachers/students, investors, bankers, stocks; they make money fairly easily, usually big city dwellers; usually large business owners or corporate management</p>
Page	<p>Diligence, student, messages relating to schooling, scholarships or loan, new opinions and ideas as a result of learning, education is primary goal, enthusiasm</p> <p>(r) Wasteful, unfavorable news about money matters (loans), arguing with all around them, feelings that no one understands their ideas</p>
Knight	<p>Hardworking, service to others, patience, responsibility, financial goals: budgets, plans, bank accounts for the future, investing, nurturing others in business</p> <p>(r) Idleness, stagnation, all talk with no action, careless with themselves (dress, etc..) and careless with others money or possessions, live by whim</p>
Queen	<p>Intelligent, thoughtful, careful with words, generous nature, secure in finances, practical, business planner, good with publicity, lover of the arts, counselor</p> <p>(r) Neglectful, depends on others, suspicious and distrustful, argues for sake of arguing, paranoid especially with money/possessions</p>

King Usually head of an industry, respected and admired, intelligent, mathematical, concerned with quality, quiet, many professional contacts, patron of the arts

(r) Gambler, reckless, untrustworthy, fraudulent business(es), mean tempered and thinks all is owed to him; no conscience

Swords Brown hair and eyes; warriors, people of action, crusaders, spies; usually found in law, justice, government, military; risk takers; leadership roles; usually like warmer climes and city living

Page Vigilance, spying, information gatherer, not taken seriously, legal affairs/papers, passion for certain topics and excels in them

(r) Accident prone, leaps before thinking, unforeseen events, illness, cannot take constructive criticism

Knight Rushes in everything, bravery, skillful with battles, likes conflict, challenges, whirl wind of activity, fights moral issues, highly opinionated, good communicator and motivator

(r) Braggart, ineffective, talks more than does, blames others, destructive to self and others, rarely carries out promises, forgetful, double-talker

Queen Can signify widowhood, separation, likes to be alone, has known sadness, strong character, rarely complains or shows emotions to others, judge of character, just, outspoken when necessary, secretive nature, fiercely protective

(r) Vindictive, intolerance, bigotry, too stern and unyielding, never gives in, controlling

King Wise, counselor to others, authority figure, renders judgments, flexible, likes change, fair, logical, negotiator, cool headed, enjoys leadership roles and debates

(r) Cruel, unjust, emotional and physical abuser, abuse of power over others, back stabber, possible ruinous lawsuit or negative brush with the law

Tarot Exercise

Add the Court cards to the Major Arcana and do 3 card spreads with them. Use them in your daily card draws and record your results. Record whether you think the Court card is a person or situation/event you are facing.

The Pips Numerology

The Pip cards are the Aces through the 10s of each suit. There are 40 Pip cards in a standard Tarot deck. The easiest way to begin is to separate the suits and place them in numerical order (ace-10) and look at them. The Pips give meaning to the Trumps. They describe the what, how, where and why of the Trumps. For instance, if the Tower is shown, the surrounding Pip cards will give description of the upheaval. In general the meanings for each number are:

Aces Beginnings, new ideas/methods/challenges, creative power/inspiration, potential, first response.

(r) Delays, false starts, uncertainty, uncomfortable with position, lack of commitment.

Two Partnerships, relationships, cooperation, duality, balancing forces, choices/decisions.

(r) Doubts, low self-esteem, fear of relationships, falsehoods, going in wrong direction.

Three Evaluation, knowledge from experience, growth, expansion, collaborations, travel, satisfaction, planning.

(r) Deception, fear of help/friends, betrayals, excesses, unwanted compromise, going to extremes.

Four Contemplation, understanding, order and discipline, stability, practical achievement/plans, imagination, partial reward, advancement.

(r) Wrong directions, refusal of help, too rigid objectives, unbending, need problem solving, compromising.

Five Adjustments, change for expected outcome, challenges requiring action, opposition, uncertainty of future.

(r) Contradictions, opposition, refusal to change, weakness, hoping and wishing.

Six Victory, balance achieved, health, ability to adapt, contentment/satisfaction.

(r) Imbalance, delays, frustration, inability to change, fear failure, inaction, clinging to the past.

Seven Holding own, luck, wisdom from experience, won some battles, achieving goals.

(r) Embarrassed, too emotional, cannot see from one day to the next, scattered, wait and see attitude.

Eight Rebirth, resurgence of energy, journey, reevaluating, setting order/priorities, decisions made, renewed commitment.

(r) Obstacles, inability to make decision, disputes, anxiety, can give up or give in.

Nine Conclusions, movement, attainment, flexibility, decisions acted upon.

(r) Sorrow, feelings of abandonment, failure, mistakes, abuse of self, no choices left.

Ten Conclusion, success, begin new cycle or transition, abundance

(r) loss, misfortune, sadness, beaten down, blame.

Please keep in mind these are general suit meanings and may not hold true for individual Pip cards. Always look at the pictures on your deck! You can gain insight from these. Does the card look happy, sad, or angry? This is especially true with Cups and Swords. Remember that reversed does not necessarily mean 'bad' nor does right-side up necessarily mean 'good'.

Tarot Exercise

Include the Pips in the deck and from the general meanings, do the daily and 3 card spreads. Record the cards drawn and your interpretations.

Let's examine each suit and Pip in turn. In general each pip represents the following:

Wands Business, relationships, work, skills in writing, growth, self spirituality

Ace Beginning of an enterprise, adventure or challenge; birth of an idea; advancement in employment/new job. Boundless energy is associated with this card meaning the seeker is excited and will look forward to the newness it brings to their life. They are an active participant and will enjoy the change.

(r) Not up to expectations; false starts and delays to the seeker's enjoyment of the task/event; does not wish to participate.

- II Success is within reach; rewards are coming; confidence; interest in methods for time efficiency; seeker knows they are on the right course of action; possible partnership/collaboration; travel.
- (r) Physical suffering, sadness (usually perspective); dragging through the tasks involved; usually feelings of domination and persecution.
- III Past efforts are about to be recognized and rewarded as a result of efforts; reaching of a milestone; usually means work will continue in a small group/partnership (2-3) or help from one who is in the same business; long term plans are realistic to set; a card of a business' increase and can include expansion to far places or foreign country transactions; a card of commerce and merchants.
- (r) Help offered may include treachery; another's secret agenda not in the best interest of the business/company; disappointment from those working on the project/business; lack of energy to carry on a perceived battle with project/work; apathy and avoidance.
- IV Coming/blossoming romance; harmony and prosperity; rite of passage from other cards; possible move or new home; purchase of land for home/business, or change of employment as result of past accomplishments.
- (r) Missing an opportunity mentioned above. Seeker is delaying their action by over analyzing. Usually from fear of change/commitment even though the change in this case is for their betterment.
- V Competition in business, social or spiritual. Heated debates and trying to be first for advantage. Jockeying for a better position in company, usually during an expansion. Seeker will overcome and get what they set out for through out guessing others. Seeker tends to burn candle at both ends between work and personal life.
- (r) Contradictions, disputes, too many fires to put out. Possible complications with a legal matter involving others. Seeker feels overwhelmed by too many things at one time and no time to think.
- VI Victory card; successful completion in spite of problems as a direct result of your efforts, vindication and reward, good news, advancement in arts/sciences.
- (r) Unexpected delays, fear of another beating you.

- VII Holding one's own, take/make a stand, be assertive, ability to succeed over opposition, success over stiff competition.
- (r) Embarrassed, anxiety, doesn't have all facts, mistakes are noticed, caution against indecision - time to act.
- VIII Try new ideas, journey, moving forward seeing the reward in sight, haste and movement, possible love interest.
- (r) Jealousy of another(s), quarrels and fighting, domestic problems, feelings of, "Why me?"
- IX Prepared to finish, strength to defeat opposition, knowing actions are right, courage to dissent.
- (r) Adversity, delays, displeasure, fear of ultimate failure, not caring anymore.
- X Carrying a huge burden(s) of others, workaholic, manages but not easily, driven, inability to delegate, can emotional behave as martyr. Secretly enjoys being overloaded.
- (r) laying down others burdens to fend for themselves usually at wrong time; treachery; in a law suit - loss unless they pay attention and read the details.
- Cups** Friendships, romance, emotions/feelings, personal perspectives and reactions, mental health
- Ace Love, joy, abundance, allowing self to experience feelings of love, pregnancy, fertility
- (r) Rejection of heart matters, insecure with partner, scared of feelings
- II Beginning of romance or partnership, can denote marriage/union, cooperation, harmony
- (r) Non-commitment by one partner, one-sided relationship, falsehoods, relationship moving too fast

- III Parties and social attendance, happy being and sharing with others, emotional healing, a celebration
- (r) Excesses in pleasure and physical, can be self-abusive such as over eating to hide unhappiness, tendency to draw away from others
- IV Apathy and self absorption, frightened to try anything new, discontent and dissatisfaction with life
- (r) Takes chance and starts something new, usually relationship or learning a personal skill, more spontaneity in life
- V Loss and disappointment, grief, relationship does not meet expectations, rejection of situation
- (r) Hopeful with new relationship, reunion with old friend(s), letting go of past and moving on
- VI Pleasant memories, new relationships, friendships, environment or opportunities, remember good things and successes from the past, pat self on back, perk up self-esteem
- (r) Living too much in past, resting on past laurels, a possible unexpected gift from the past coming which sparks memories mostly with regret
- VII Imagination runs wild with ideas and plans; most are not attainable, goes off on tangents and finishes little, reactionary mode of living, pie-in-the-sky
- (r) Focused desires become real and manageable plan, determined, knows what they want and how to go about getting it
- VIII Conscious decision to reject a situation or person, a higher (spiritual) calling, choosing to walk away
- (r) More into material than spiritual, lives for the moment of pleasure can mean dual lives, the adage of 'I work to live, not live to work'
- IX Card of Wishes, material success, material goals met, physical happiness and wellness, contentment with physical health and seeks wealth, make wishes and will improve overall life
- (r) Overindulgence, tendency to be physically self-abusive and have addiction(s)

X Happy family life and lasting friendships, happiness is assured, emotional attainment of inner desires, people are comfortable in their home, prosperity, right ingredients for their circle of family and friends, life is good!

(r) Loss of family harmony or at least one friendship, betrayals, gossip, quarrels in circle of family/friends, imbalance due to too many personalities not willing to compromise

Pentacles Material, worldly possessions, career, money, honor, ambitions, physical health

Ace Rewards, attainment of goal, money (wealth) coming, possible new position or career with large salary, solutions to work issues are found (like a light-bulb coming on), good health assured

(r) Self corruption and overly occupied with power and money, spoiled and conceded person, me-ism

II Juggling act that results in balance, new projects may be hard to start, problem solver and good mediator, likes challenges between business and personal lives, possible travel for work, health issues are usually stress related

(r) Tendency to over-extend self and abilities, not able to juggle several issues and find balance in any, too pragmatic, over analyzing and over documents, worries and works on empty issues rather than address real problems

III Recognition from experience. Skill in a trade, art, apprenticeship or journeyman position, can be a card of building/construction, monetary rewards due to mastering skill, notable renown or reputation coming, paying off a loan/large debt, health issue may require medical tests to determine and correct

(r) Pettiness in work, settles for mediocrity, no ambition, does not fully apply talents or abilities

IV Possessive nature. Can be a miserly person (Scrooge type), possible inheritance or gift coming, has no plans or idea what to do with amassed material gains, hoarder, wastes nothing (good recycler), health affected by attitude(s), inability to let go of things/issues

(r) Obstacles/opposition to material goals/desires, possibility of material loss, bitterness, uncompromising nature

- V Money problems, debts, lonely and fearing ultimate material failure (usually from going out on their own), does not eat properly, pessimist to a fault
(r) Budget is eased, success is coming but rarely seen/believed until in present, pessimistic outlook though really expecting the best, spiritual interests, looking for meaning of life
- VI Generous sharing with others, cause-taker, philanthropy, assisting others, belief in destiny, healing

(r) Jealous of others, a bad debt comes due, unethical in business, uses people, more is never enough
- VII Success and reward through hard work. Possible use of barter or need a loan for business, possibilities of delay in success due to economic conditions and risk taking, be patient for situations to mature, will reap what you sow, copes with ongoing illness(es)

(r) Worried over money and outcomes, anxiety and doubts, utterly no patience, forcing issues before their time
- VIII Education or craftsmanship abilities pay off. Very skilled with hands and a creator, employment to come, has skills but needs to learn more about how business runs, low energy level and more sleep needed, pay attention to diet, possible digestive/intestinal problems

(r) Misuse of skills and abilities, unethical and a cheat, cost of ambition at the expense of others, untrustworthy
- IX Completion, well-being, satisfaction with accomplishments, financial security, a vacation is likely, enjoyment of rewards, promotion, possible property purchase, health improves with rest/retreat

(r) Possible loss of home, possible loss of friendship over unfair practices/narrow-mindedness, discontent with home/property/lifestyle/work, displeasure upsets all aspects of their life
- X Material prosperity. Riches from hard work and a legacy to leave behind, family honor/name is very important, possible purchase of a home or business, influential with others

(r) Possible loss of an inheritance, family misfortune or loss of family honor usually from speculation/gambling, robbery

<u>Swords</u>	Intellect and reason, life challenges, actions and purpose, leadership
Ace	Great strength when faced with opposition, inventive, bold, can be passionate in affairs, powerful and energetic, tends to rush in quickly without all the facts, can mean fertility (r) Oppressive use of power over others and situations, destruction, disaster as a result of over reacting
II	Stalemate. Indecisive and not able to make a move, timeout/truce especially in quarrels, ignoring issues, refusal to make decisions (r) Movement though not always in a positive manner, dam breaking and hope for best, be careful with others' speculations/deals
III	Sorrow. Loss, disappointment, pain and tears, separation from a loved one, ending of a matter the seeker was clinging to and could not move on in their life, get over it and get on with it (r) Resolution that will require compromise, have bottom-line known before making a decision; otherwise a set-up meeting where loss for seeker will be involved due to not being prepared, usually an emotional meeting
IV	Rest, retreat, solitude and recovery, allows time to think and plan moves, can mean stay in hospital or convalescence, physically exhausted and a rest needed, pamper and spoil self a little, retreat to fight another day (r) Activist, usually involving social issues, vocal cause taker of the underdogs, impassioned writer and rights of wrongs, needs to use more caution before plowing into situation(s), shots from hip
V	Conquest involving sheer will and strength. Usually an empty victory or impasse, possible physical threat to the seeker, sabotage and treachery are at work, confrontations, brush with danger, highly emotionally charge situations, avoid giving into anger (r) Weakness, possible loss from defeat, deflated ego, little black cloud following for the moment; it passes, wait it out and re-evaluate plans for mistakes to avoid future problems
VI	A journey usually on, near or involving a large body of water. Moving away from current problem(s), qualified success after a battle, can mean to send someone to represent you in a situation

- (r) Stalemate with no immediate way out, ongoing issue is taking a nasty turn against seeker, action is needed to correct trend(s), confusion, no time to sit idly
- VII Card of a thief. Watch belongings or work projects or they may be stolen by another and not recovered, uncertain and suspicious situation(s), hidden agendas are at work, expect a major setback or failure if no action is taken, being taken advantage of by others
- (r) Seeker receives good advice for handling situation from an unexpected source, guidance and a plan to follow, seeker gains upper hand on competition
- VIII Voluntary immobility. Indecision and feeling cornered or blocked, smoke screens rather than real issues, silence and wasting energy, worry, feelings of bondage, holding back, restrictions
- (r) Action and movement possible, new beginnings, freeing self from bondage and fear of action, can mean removing self from what is perceived an impossible situation
- IX Suffering. Misery, worry and anxiety, possible loss or injury of a loved one, disturbed sleep, depression, tension, (Note: other cards will tell you why/what is causing these feelings)
- (r) Suspicion, regret, shame, doubts, possible imprisonment
- X Sudden and unexpected misfortune. Change, endings, a final resolution with an uncertain outcome, can mean being fired or quitting a job, end of an illusion, loss in speculations, bankruptcy of a company/business
- (r) Some profit and advantage but it will not last, get out while you can and before it is too late, can also mean the selling/take over of a business

Spreads

Time Frame 1 2,4 3
 5
 6

1 = Basis of question
2 = Current situation
3 = Future situation (think 3, 6 months or whatever time frame requested)
4 = Present emotions over situation
5 = Outside influences on situation
6 = Resolution/outcome

Mini-Celtic 3
 5 1,2 6
 4

1 = Current situation status
2 = What crosses or influences in the present (lays cross-wise over card 1)
3 = What crowns or is coming in the immediate future
4 = Past issues that are in basis of present situation
5 = What is behind the situation
6 = What is before or comes (future aspects) of the situation

Magic Cross 6
 1 2 3 4 5
 7
 8
 9

1-2 = Past
3 = Present
4-5 = Opposition
6 = Hopes and Desires
7-9 = Future

Celtic Cross		3		10
	5	1,2	6	9
		4		8
				7

- 1 = Covers the seeker/question; general outlook
- 2 = Crosses or influences in the present (this card lays cross-wise over card 1)
- 3 = Crowns or what comes into the present
- 4 = Basis or past influence(s)
- 5 = Behind or influences that are passing away from the current situation
- 6 = Before, influences that are coming
- 7 = Influences of family and friends
- 8 = Hopes and desires
- 9 = Fears and Opinions
- 10 = Resolution/Outcome

Ethics

Now is a good time for you to come up with your own personal code of ethics that you will use as a reader. I include the standard ethics as presented by the American Tarot Association and a copy of my personal code of ethics. Please write your code and discuss it in class. (See Page 2 for the ATA standard ethics.)

Olympias' Code of Ethics

I will serve with dignity, truthfulness, wisdom and sensitivity.
 It is a privilege and honor to use the Tarot; not a task or chore.
 I am the messenger not the judge for those who seek assistance.
 I am the servant of my Goddess and use the sacred Tarot as one tool to assist others;
 never as a weapon or control device.

I am responsible for the messages I give to seekers; it is not my responsibility to validate or assume the freewill of others.

I will never lie in a reading.
 I will honestly speak what I see and share what I am told with the seeker.
 I may accept offerings, gifts and thanks for readings. I will not allow any monies given to pass directly through my hands for readings.

I will always thank the seeker for allowing me to read for them.
 I shall always keep humility in sight. I am not all knowing; simply a messenger.
 I shall never breach a confidence or 'read and tell'.
 Where there is darkness, I shall bring light...
 Where there is despair, I will bring hope. Where there is hopelessness, I will bring thoughtfulness and options. Where there is fear, I will bring courage. Where there is loneliness, I will bring friendship and sharing.

I shall never turn away someone who will benefit from and wishes a reading.

I will never stop learning and enjoying the wonder of the Tarot.

I accept the responsibility of being a student, counselor, and teacher to others.

I accept the responsibility of the power of the spoken word.



Conclusion

I sincerely hope this booklet and the class discussions were beneficial to you. Remember that as a student of Tarot, you are on a journey that has no destination...it is an ongoing and ever evolving process. Trust and believe in yourself. It is the hardest thing you will ask of yourself. You were already brave and psychically inclined or you would not have taken this course. I hope our time together assisted you further on the road of self-discovery and in service to others.

Please stay in touch and we can share our own adventures with one another. May your deity grace and favor you always with peace, joy and enlightenment. And always remember, the real magick comes from you, the Tarot is a focal tool to your inner abilities.

Blessings to you and yours, always,

Olympias

olympiasbc@aol.com



Appendix A: Testing

PLEASE NOTE: THESE ARE THE OLD REQUIREMENTS. PLEASE VISIT THE TAROT CERTIFICATION BOARD (TCB) WEBSITE AND REVIEW ANY CHANGES OR REFORMAT OF THESE REQUIREMENTS IF YOU PLAN TO JOIN THE TCBA.

<http://www.tarotcertification.org/>

THESE TESTS ARE FOR PRACTICE AND CONSIDERATION ONLY. THESE TESTS ARE LISTED WITH THE PERMISSION OF JOHN GILBERT AS A TEACHING AID.

While I strongly recommend that you DO join the TCBA, these requirements are an excellent tool for yourself as a reader. Enjoy and Blessings!

Assignments for Apprentice Tarot Reader

Tarot 101 Assignment - The Pips

Memorize the list of 40 words for the 4 suits and ten Pip cards in each suit.

List the name, author and publisher for 1 Tarot book you have read recently.

Using only the 40 Pip cards in the upright position, do a 3-card spread using the Past-Present-Future format for the following question:

"Am I doing the right things to learn the Tarot as a tool for me?"

Write out the interpretation of this spread, listing the cards selected, their position and their meaning. Be specific and direct your response to the question in the 1st paragraph. Then in the 2nd paragraph explain what this reading means to your Tarot studies.

Do a second 3-card spread on a different day using the same format for the following question:

"What can I do to improve my ability to learn the tarot?"

As before, write out the interpretation of this spread, listing the cards elected, their position and their meaning. Be specific and direct your response to the question in one paragraph. Then in the 2nd paragraph explain what this reading means to you.

Tarot 102 Assignment - The Court Cards

Make a list of the key meaning you have selected for each Court card. Use only the upright Court card position for this assignment.

Do a 3-card spread using the Past-Present-Future format for the following question:

"Who is my biggest fan right now?"

Shuffle the deck containing the 40 Pip cards and 16 Court cards, cut it and lay it face down in front of you. Turn the cards one at a time until you reach the first Court card. Turn this Court card face down and pick up the next two cards from the deck also face down. Shuffle these 3 cards so you do not know where the Court card is and then turn them up one at a time from left to right. Write out the interpretation of this spread, listing the cards selected, their position and their meaning. Be specific and direct your response to the question in one paragraph.

Do a second 3-card spread on a different day using the same format for the following question:

"What am I supposed to be learning now and who is supposed to help me?"

As before, write out the interpretation of this spread, listing the cards selected, their position and their meaning. Be specific and direct your response to the question in one or two paragraphs.

Do a third 3-card spread on a different day using the same format for the following question:

"Who needs to learn a lesson from me right now and what is that lesson?"

As before, write out the interpretation of this spread, listing the cards selected, their position and their meaning. Be specific and direct your response to the question in one or two paragraphs.

Do a fourth 3-card spread on a different day using the same format for a person who wants to know an answer to the following question:

"Who is going to help me finish the job I have started?"

This time, assume that if you go through 11 cards without reaching a Court card that the answer is "nobody is going to help you right now." As before, write out the interpretation of this spread, listing the cards selected, their position and their meaning. Be specific and direct your response to the question in one or two paragraphs.

Tarot 103 - The Major Arcana

List the key word you have chosen for each upright card in the Major Arcana for the tarot deck of your choice.

Name one Tarot book and author you have read since starting this course.

Name the Tarot deck and spread you will use for you final examination.

Did you keep a notebook containing the list of meanings for the cards in the chosen Tarot deck? If no, why not? If yes, was this helpful?

Did you keep a diary of your Tarot readings and recording the outcome of each reading? If no, why not? If yes, was this helpful?

Do a 3-card reading using only the Major Arcana where the first card indicates an area where you have significantly progressed since starting your Tarot studies, the second card an area where you need to significantly progress in the next set of lessons, and the third card explains what tools you will need to develop in order to significantly progress in this area. Explain what this reading means to you.

Apprentice Tarot Reader Examination

List at least one key word or phrase for each upright card in the 78 card Tarot deck using the deck of your choice. (This question is required though it counts no points on the test score).

Describe in one paragraph how you use your Tarot notebook and diary. (10 points possible)

Do a 1-card reading for yourself to answer the following question and write out this reading in one paragraph: "Where is my Spiritual Path leading me now?" (10 points possible)

Do a 2-card reading for yourself answering the following question and write out this reading in two paragraphs: "What is my greatest asset and my greatest weakness in learning to read Tarot?" (20 points possible)

Do a 3-card reading for another person using the Body-Mind-Speech (Thought, Word or Deed) spread and tape record the entire reading. When you are finished with this 3-card reading, ask them what is the most important question they can think of at this time. When they respond, have them pull one card from the deck which will answer this question and tape record the results on this one card reading. (30 points possible)

Do a second reading for another person using the same format given in the question 5. (30 points possible)

Tarot 201 - Intermediate Tarot Techniques

List the meanings of each of the following Tarot cards, and not including any reversed card meanings, for three different decks and identify the differences in meaning of these cards between these three decks:

- a). Key II High Priestess
- b). Page of Wands
- c). Seven of Cups
- d). Five of Swords
- e). Two of Pentacles

Explain in several paragraphs how you would handle reversed cards and give one meaning for each reversed Tarot card in the deck of your choice and explain how you arrived at this meaning for each card.

List the titles and authors of the last five books on the Tarot you have read.

A 30 year old woman comes to you complaining of headaches and asking for your advice. She has been to several physicians and they are unable to help her. She explains that she works full time as a secretary for a large corporation and makes a modest wage, but she and her husband are comfortable raising their two children. You decide to do a 5-card spread (Past, Present, Physical Situation, Present Mental Situation, Present Emotional Situation, and Probable Outcome) and spread the following cards in that order: The Hermit, Page of Cups (reversed), Ten of Wands (reversed), Two of Pentacles, and The Fool.

Please review your answers with your mentor.

Tarot 202 - Teaching Tarot (Note: All answers are to be in writing)

Explain how you are developing your personal code of ethics for doing Tarot readings for the public. (You do not need to a completed Code of Ethics at this time).

List the areas where your Tarot reading skills are weak and those areas where your Tarot reading skills are strongest.

Do a 7-card spread for yourself using one of your chosen decks containing both upright and reversed cards. The cards chosen are to represent in this order, the influence of:

- a). my father
- b). my mother
- c). my father's parents
- d). my mother's parents
- e). my brother (or close male friend if you have no brother)
- f). my sister (or a close female friend if you have no sister)
- g). myself, my spouse and my children

Name the deck you are using and explain in one paragraph or less why you selected that particular deck. List the cards you have selected and their position (upright or reversed) in that order together with a key word or phrase for each card. Then do a reading for yourself on the question of "Why is it that I desire to become a Certified Tarot Reader?" Using a different deck but following the same procedure as for question #2, answer the question "What have I learned in the past and what do I still need to learn that will assist me in helping others resolve their problems and live a happy life?"

Do a reading for your mentor using the spread and deck of your choice on the question: "What can my mentor do that will be most beneficial for me?"

Tarot Reader Examination

Do a 3-card spread for you to answer the question: "How is my Spiritual life impacting my physical, emotional and mental life?"

Do a reading for a friend, client or acquaintance on any topic using a 4-card spread of your choice. Name the cards and their position, whether upright or reversed, and the meaning of both card and the position in which the card is drawn. Tape record this reading for review.

Do a 2nd reading on any topic for another friend, client or acquaintance using a 5-card spread and following the same procedure. Then explain how the reading would be different if any of the 5 cards were inverted from their original position in this reading; or explain how you might use a different interpretation for each card and when. Tape record both aspects of this reading.

Do a 6-card reading for any person following the same procedure as for the reading in question #3.

Do a 7-card reading for any person following the same procedure as for the last reading and tape record the reading.

Appendix B: Resources

Reading to Further Your Tarot Journey

This is only a few of the many books available to help you as you continue your Tarot studies.

Power Tarot, MacGregor/Vega
The Tarot Revealed, Gray
The Tarot Handbook, Arrien
The New Golden Dawn Ritual Tarot, Cicero
The Book of Thoth, Crowley
The Sacred Tarot, Zain
The Mythic Tarot, Sharman-Burke and Greene
Tarot - Mirror of the Soul, Ziegler
Tarot Decoder, Kathleen McCormack
The Book of Tokens, Tarot Meditations, Case
Tarot-Card Spread Reader, Doane and Keyes
Modern Magick; Second Edition, Kraig
Encyclopedia of Tarot, Stuart R. Kaplan (Volumes 1-3)
Star Signs, Goodman
Sun Signs, Goodman
Tarot Decoder, Kathleen McCormack
Tarot Mirror of Your Relationships, Gerd Ziegler

Websites for your continuing education and networking with others:

<http://www.ata-tarot.com/>
<http://www.denelder.com/church/index.html>
www.tarotbyolympias.com
<http://www.aeclectic.net/tarot/>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TarotNews/>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AllThingsTarot/>
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/world_tarot_network/
<http://tarotinstitute.com/>



*Appendix C: Miscellaneous Meditations, Articles, and
Emergency Numbers*

Oly's Trump Meditations

0 ALEPH The Fool

I am Alpha, without Omega
The vagabond ever searching for the new horizon.
I care not where I have been; nor where I go
There is so much in the world to know.

I am forever young and my free spirit for adventure never fades
I see the wonder in all of life and marvel at the perfection.
My mind's imagination is the fire of inspiration
I am consumed by pure desire to know.

I give life to the spiral wheel
I am the discoverer of mysteries awaiting.
Nothing will be unknown to me...
I have only to seek the as yet inexperienced path.

1 BETH The Magician

I am divine will manifest in the world
My knowledge of 'self' brings the understanding of power.
Fire, Water, Earth and Air obey my word.
As it is above, it is also below -- eternally.

I am the link of knowledge in the chain of the universal source
Forged from the very elements I use for creation.
I know the world's schedule of seasons; days and hours
I am master of communication and speak the language of Life's Magick.

I am cause and causation; creator and transformer.
I am action and reaction.
My tools are Wand, Cup, Pentagram and Sword
My will is power in the world.

2 GIMEL The High Priestess

I am at the center of all matters.
Keeper of knowledge both hidden and known, between the planes of existence.
Truth without emotion or bias.

I am wisdom.
I am the serene and eternal Virgin.
Veiled to all but those who seek me.
The triple moon is my crown and symbol of authority.
I speak directly to the subconscious.

I am unchanging yet know the duality of life
Seek me in the child like innocence of your heart
The soul which is never tarnished.
Be still and listen for my soft, twinkling voice.

3 DALETH The Empress

Through me is the doorway to life and form
Pregnant with boundless energy.
Love's expression is my gift.
I am the Mother.

I am the fertile and tended garden
Seeds of thought take root and thrive.
Emotions, impressions and ideas are harvested here
Weeds of illusion, doubt and fear eventually wither and die.

I am the heart of all beliefs.
Love unites and anger divides.
Take care what seeds are planted in my rows
But never underestimate the power of Love.

4 HEH The Emperor

I am the essence of reason.
My unblinking eyes are windows to the conquering world.
My visions provoke action.
I am lord and master over myself.

Deeds count more than words.
My intellect dominates over my emotions.
Thoughts and actions born from reason and far sightedness
Placed the mantle of leadership upon my shoulders.

I am the nurturing Father; supportive and protective.
My lap is ample for warm security and dispensing worldly wisdom hard won.
My light dispels darkness and fears in others.
I am the guide and encourager of excellence.

5 VAV The Hierophant

I am the Nail that binds all pieces together to form a whole.
I am the teacher of all people and not reserved for initiated students.
Students are not called or forced to my religious class.
I sit quietly and wait knowing all will come to me in their own time.

Do not seek me from without; I can only be found within
My lessons are multidimensional for the student's choice value.
I teach the law of 3s and ask them to consider the questions of life.
There is no one right answer and students write their own notebook.

My students apply their studies to the physical world
Their concept of my teachings are used in everyday life.
In theory of this practice I do not worry.
I pray they use the knowledge as a balanced, measuring tool; and not to extremes.

6 ZAIN The Lovers

I am the sword of understanding.
Which divides myself into two.
The conscious separated from the subconscious.
The gift of choice in relationships was thus conceived.

How intricate are the intertwining dances of relationships
Together, yet apart; the wanting of closeness and the need to be alone.
There need not be binding restrictions to the limits of love
Save what you wish to impose for comfort sake.

Love can be all or nothing, sating or starving.
Love can complete or fracture.
The two can be one again or remain as a separate halves.
The choice is yours and yours -- dual and mutual.

7 CHETH The Chariot

I am the self of defense and protection in darkness.
I am the measure used with others as friend or foe.
Wear me as a mask for others to see; for you to hide behind and think.
I share in your successes and failures.

I will be your barrier in engagements.
I will hold your shield or offer a hand in friendship at your will.
Coiled and ready I ask the question,
Be bold and win the day, or wait and fight another day?

Take care though how long you let me sit
And wait for your directions.
I answer well to decisive, don't-look-back action
But may tear you apart if there is guilt or indecision.

8 TETH Strength

I am the serpent once deviled and demeaned.
I led you out to experience and will lead you home again.
The lesson that I symbolize is old and nothing new,
Learn to tame your beast inside and your spiritual self comes through.

True power is not found outside yourself,
Though many look and try to assert.
Pretty words of explanation or excuses,
Impresses and amuses the masses perhaps, but not me.

For you and I both know the truth and where one day you go,
Be it several lifetimes till you do.
The smoke screen battles may rage without,
But the real war is won from within.

9 YOD The Hermit

I am the creative hand that shows the way to others.
Old and cloaked to the night; walking stick in hand to clear the way
Waiting for those just out of sight to catch up with me,
I stop along the path of life and reflect upon my past.

While holding my star lantern high and peering back into the gloom,
I consider in meditation all that has led to this place in time.
Images flash before my eyes, ones of satisfaction and of shame
The sum of my life to the present, and glimpses of that which has yet to be.

The past is done, the road beckons forward and words are whispered to me
"Teach the ones coming to avoid the stones on the path.
Ask and listen to those ahead so you do not stumble much.
And remember the wisdom of reflection has always been to Know Thy Self."

10 KAPH The Wheel Of Fortune

As a youth, I would reach for the brass ring on the spinning Wheel.
Luck and fortune was never far from my grasp.
I relied on the Wheel to be kind and generous,
For after all, we were young, "..and sure to have our way".

The Wheel turns.
Luck and fortune became items that should be created by my self.
I did not rely on the spin of a wheel to hand them out on whim.
Control and make one's destiny was certainly the answer.

And the Wheel of Life turns and turns.
I clearly see the symbols of unchangeable reality and the law of cause and effect.
I am flexible in the constancy of change and evolution of life.
I pray to my Goddess to complete my personality for the next spin on the Wheel.

11 LAMED Justice

I am the Lady who dispenses Justice.
No blindfold for me as I see and know all deeds.
My sword penetrates the spirit and gives immediate knowledge for action.
The scales create equilibrium.

Do not fear my justice for I am here to help all who enter my hall.
Where my scales dip, I will add education and enlightenment to the other side.
Where necessary, my sword will cut old, clinging and moldy notions from you.
There is no pain, only peace of mind.

My task is to balance and create harmony within.
From me comes understanding and the inspiration to create with new practicality.
I will replace outworn patterns with realistic goals.
Come, let's talk and I will adjust the your carried load.

12 MEM The Hanged Man

The blood rushes to my head, I am fearful and disoriented.
Slowly, ever slowly, I let go of my physical worries and the need to control around me.
I hear a roaring in my ears; it is the sound of sea.
Water rushing onto the shore....soothing and cleansing my mind.

From my new position, I gain a different perspective of my life and choices.
It is not so necessary for me to be ahead or heard above others.
Patterns from my life emerge and float before me.
They are not so important anymore or needed.

I surrender old methods born from anger, bitterness and pain from my experiences.
One by one, they are broken and I am filled with a sense of new found freedom.
Self placed barriers are gone and I feel unbridled love for the world.
I am reborn in mind and spirit and reach out to the universe.

13 NUN Death

The sun rises above the water, yet there is no sound of birds or morning.
The dark, hooded man rides slowly and silently towards me.
The horsed figure stops in front of me and we look upon each other.
I have no fear of him though I know his name is Death.

Suddenly a fish breaks the still surface of the water; flashing sides in the sun.
Brilliant colors against the sun momentarily transform the gray landscape.
Death bends forward and offers me a perfect rose.
I take it above his bony hand and prick my finger on a thorn.

I remove my clothes and finery; the trappings of the old life I leave behind.
I kiss and place the rose on the pile -- a promise of life given.
The flower wilts before my eyes -- the promise life remembered.
I walk to the west; taking nothing but myself; to the realm of rebirth.

14 SAMEKH Temperance

I am synergy in action.
I am an enigma as I stand both on land and in water.
I am the support of the spirit.
The river of life flows past me and over me.

Behold my two cups named Life and Rebirth.
They contain the essence of perceived opposites.
I pour between the cups with ease from one to the other
And never spill a drop.

I combine and blend the self's physical and spiritual ingredients;
Spirit into matter and matter's expression from spirit.
I am the promise giver and keeper of the Tarot.
Follow the stream and know your past, present and future.

15 AYIN The Devil

I am the eye that sees all places.
Both light and darkness are under my gaze.
I have dominion over each and both, for they are one in the same.
My nature has dual aspects but I am not divided into two.

From darkness came light and life.
And light casts a shadow.
All life returns to the darkness of the cauldron to be reborn.
The forces are balanced and neither can exist without the other.

I am the Tempter and the Deliverer.
For I am attraction and resonance.
From me comes creative energies without limit.
Rather than fear; rejoice, laugh and don't be too serious.

16 PEH The Tower

I am the mouth and voice of the divine.
My word immediately topples towers and glass houses.
Falsehoods can not stand before me; real or imagined.
I am the wake up call you cannot avoid.

I clean out the self's closets; out with the old and in with the new!
I tear away stagnation and paralyzing procrastination.
My task is not so much destroying,
As that of sculpting or rebuilding from the old foundation.

I am Truth within blinding lightening.
Be prepared to change your life when I call to you.
And do not think it the end of the world,
For the word I speak is "Enlightenment".

17 TZADDI The Star

The waters of life is my fishing pond.
I am the fish hook that snares the seeking self.
You do not seek me; rather I seek you.
I replace terror with courage; and despair with star-studded hope.

No setback or destruction is ever truly final.
I am the gate through the depths of darkness,
Into the glittering light of pure and clear perception.
And self contemplation happens from my touch.

I pour Inspiration and Confidence from my ewers.
From these comes trust, love and respect in and for your self.
The self is humbled, worthy and open,
And becomes a working vessel for the Goddess.

18 QOPH The Moon

I am the back of the head; more looking than actually there.
I am also known Karma,
"Work that needs to be done."
I link the chains of past and future into the present.

I am the power of the choice of 3,
I can create new possibilities and realities
Or choose to stay where and as I am
Or be done with old ones that do not serve me
I also change my mind a lot.

I speak to the subconscious in dreams within dreams.
And I whisper partial intuitions.
But my messages can be inconstant and deceptive.
I change in my circled orb and few can claim to know the real me.

19 RESH The Sun

I am the face that radiates bliss.
Perfect harmony and balance of all nature within.
My joy brings forth abundance and plenty.
Dance in my light and smile!

I am the squeal in the unexpected gift.
I am the sense of pride in achievements.
I am the disk that shines with your successes.
I am the heat within that glows with your joys.

I am the satisfaction for a job well done.
I am the trust and promise that binds.
I am the reward of a friendship.
And I delight in simple pleasures.

20 SHIN Judgment

I am the tooth or fang.
I am the encompassing circle; that has no beginning or end.
I am self-perpetuating flame and fueled by desire.
Awaken from your complacency and slumber!

I will pull you back
So you have eyes to see,
The total of the forest,
And the difference of the trees.

All ending have beginnings,
So the cycles of life go
Do not strain against these bonds
But rather, learn to tap this flow.

21 TAV The World

I am the conclusion of this journey,
Though there really is no end.
I am the mark in the tally,
And a new journey begins my friend.

I have mastered the lessons of the elements,
And seen behind the veil.
Curiosity answered by knowledge,
I understand me well.

I searched everywhere for pieces.
I followed clues I thought were mine
I found Self was also on the journey,
And was in me all the time.

- Olympias ~

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Tarot Thoughts

The Trumps (Major Arcana) represent the soul's path in life and challenges. Consider each card and the message for you. Let it be a guide and a cosmic hug on your journey. The first line for each Trump is a general meaning; the remaining lines are affirmations for your consideration.

- Fool: Beginnings and choices to be made; inaction is a choice as well.
I am open to the possibilities life presents and ready to forge ahead.
I will explore life and all the paths I find along the way.
- Magician: Will power, abilities and knowledge.
My potential flows from my own creative skills. I make myself happy.
I am the artist of my life's picture.
- High Priestess: Intuitiveness, seeking the unknown, finding answers.
I will allow myself to trust my inner feelings.
I examine my fears without emotion and embrace them as part of
myself.
- Empress: Beauty, nurturing, material well-being, emotions with others.
I feel my inner power, security and experiences.
I create my own harmony. I will treat myself.

Emperor:	Discovery, leadership, reason over emotions. I trust my abilities and power. I lead myself then I can serve others. I have authority in my life.
Hierophant:	Spiritual well-being and contemplation, teacher, advisor. I listen to my own heart and inner voice above all others. I am my own teacher and best friend.
Lovers:	Relationships, heart matters, love of self and people. I accept and love myself. I can accept and love others for themselves.
Chariot:	Advantages through change, imposing of self will and control. I prepare myself for change and being an influence in the world. I have the right to my opinions.
Strength:	Courage, seeing things through to conclusion. I will not give up on myself or give in to others. I will not run away from life for I cannot run away from myself.
Hermit:	Introspective pause, wisdom from experience and enlightenment. I do not fear being alone with myself. I am my own guide and best friend in life. For only I know my life's experiences and lessons.
Wheel of Fortune:	Luck, the unexpected, beginnings, expansions and endings, cyclical life cycles. Life is change and I am flexible to curve balls. I make my own luck by planning for the unexpected, but I do not fear it.
Justice:	Balance and harmony in your personality. I am willing and open to new ideas and learning. There are few if any absolutes in my life unless I choose them for a time.
Hanged Man:	Wisdom from the spiritual, self sacrifice, reflection of position. I will break unhealthy patterns in my life that do not serve me well. I will not allow myself or others to physically or emotionally abuse me.

- Death:** Transformations, renewals or rebirth. Old ways give over to new methods.
I am free and unshackled by my past.
I look ahead, not behind for the future.
- Temperance:** Combinations, coordination, management and adaptability.
I am open to the divine for my creative energy.
I blend the ingredients, which make up my life.
I can change.
- Devil:** Feelings of bondage to others ways or thoughts, acting out emotions, humor or seriousness in your life.
I will not allow myself to be victimized! I will laugh rather than be frightened by situations or others.
I control, create and destroy my own fears.
- Tower:** Change, stubbornness, reactions, results of decisions.
Everything that happens in my life has a reason and is good in hindsight. I will not give in to guilt or regret, as they cannot change the past.
I give myself permission to forgive myself.
- Star:** Possibilities, potential, inspiration, confidence in the future.
I trust my decisions and myself. I embrace the adventure of life.
I heal from new experiences.
- Moon:** Imagination, dreams, psychic abilities. Testing your self.
I use intuitiveness as a tool, not as crutch in my life. It will aid me, but not make my decisions.
I am responsible for my actions.
- Sun:** Attainment, satisfaction, fulfillment, achievements and contentment.
I am happy with my life and myself. I am doing my best and take pride in my personal excellence.
I will reward myself.
- Judgment:** Awakening, renewal, revelations and self-changes.
I will notice situations in my life and not allow them to throw me off balance. I will answer the 'yes' and 'no' answers in my life and minimize the 'maybes' as these can sometimes create extra baggage.
I will begin and end each day with a smile.

World: Conclusions and new beginnings as a result, completion, self-analysis.
I am comfortable myself. I am part of the universal fabric.
“I searched outside myself for answers.
I followed clues I thought were mine
I found Self was also on the journey,
And was in me all the time.”

~Olympias~

October 2000

Article: Tarot Tidbits – Getting Started with the Trumps

Some have said Tarot is ancient and connected to everything from aliens to Egyptian deities. Scholars are still arguing which came first - Tarot or playing cards. Usually the playing card deck wins out in a test of historical references. Some scholars place the origin of playing cards in China and Korea around the 11-century CE. The primary design was based on the paper money of the time.

According to Stuart Kaplan ('The Encyclopedia of Tarot', Volume 1), one of the first references to standard decks or 'tarocchi' cards was in Bern, Switzerland in 1367; with regards to a prohibition about playing cards during this year. In 1377 (or 1472 -- the dates are not verifiable), Brother Johannes von Rheinfelden, a German monk in Switzerland, wrote about a card game called 'ludus cartarum'. This game was reputedly used to describe the state of the world, as it existed for that time. Four kings are listed and have a suit assigned to them. There were two 'Marschalli' cards assigned to each king. There were also 10 'pip' cards for each suit. This was probably the parent of the standard playing deck of 52 cards. The Brother did not make any mention to Tarot in his treatise. He did however note that he thought there was value in playing cards which would further enhance proper morals and education. Cards (also known as 'quartes'), dice and other games of chance and betting were routinely banned throughout Europe throughout the ages.

Many readers and scholars prefer to take the Tarot back to Egyptian times and some prefer to credit the gypsies of Eastern Europe with their humble beginnings. While there is much speculation about how old the Tarot may be, recorded history lists the much loved standard 56 Minor Arcana and 22 Major Arcana to be from around the mid-14th century. So, Tarot has been around for roughly 500 years. Today, there are well over 1000 Tarot decks on the market and the number is growing. Tarot has enjoyed a renewed interest since the 1980s.

There is no agreement as to how the word 'Tarot' came about or what it means. Some refer to Egypt and a presumed book of the god Thoth. In this instance, Tarot becomes the Egyptian word 'Ta-rosh' or 'royal way'. No actual Book of Thoth has ever been found to support this idea. Some think the origin is romantic and Tarot is then 'rota' meaning a wheel and refers to the cycle of life. When the word *Tarot* is read right to left in the

Hebrew fashion, it becomes 'tora' or law. Tarot may also be linked to the mystical Kabbalah. The Gypsies of Hungary have the word 'tar', which means a 'deck of cards'.

In conclusion, no one really knows the exact origin or concept of the Tarot. What we do know is that it has been and is used throughout the world, by many cultures and sects. Tarot gained in popularity during the spiritualism rave of the 19th century. That's also when it took on a mystical attitude. This tone is being weeded out in modern times with the rise of psychic testing and more people being open about their own abilities. ('*A Wicked Pack of Cards*', Decker).

Tarot is not closed to only a select group of mystics or clerics. It is a learned skill that anyone can use. Tarot is closely related to other divination tools such as astrology and numerology. Readings have a profound affect on most people and can be full of both personal and life issues symbolism. Tarot is NOT 'fortune-telling'. The Hollywood image of a gypsy speaking with a poor Slavic accent, warning of death and life events that cannot be changed has nothing to do with Tarot. One consults Tarot for life affirmations as well as instances forth coming that can be altered. 'Prediction' is not a bad word. If it is a taboo, then we better ban daily weather forecasts and stock market trend reports. Tarot readings are a snap shot of the present, looking forward, with all aspects being equal, predicting trends, events and occurrences. Alter one or more aspects and voila, you have changed the future.

There is no right or wrong way to choose a Tarot deck. Many book, occult and New Age stores carry several decks. There are also many Internet web sites that give a pictorial example of the Major and Minor Arcanas. Take your time and find one that appeals to you. Take your deck home, open it and divide the deck into the Major Arcana and suits. Take time to examine each card and the artist's representation within each picture. Find a silk or cotton scarf to wrap your deck in. There are also specific 'X' shaped cloth holders with Velcro you can buy for keeping the cards together. Some also like to have a special box or container for each deck. Sleep with your deck and carry it with you. I never leave the house without a deck tucked in my purse or a pocket. You'd be surprised where and when you may read for yourself or another. You may also consider performing a type of cleansing ritual for the deck and yourself. This can be as simple as meditating with the deck to a more formal consecration. Consider and write down your own personal set of ethics for reading. What questions will you answer? Will you read for others at some point? Will you read for someone who is not present and does not give permission? Will you keep silent to others after a reading? Will you advise someone to seek professional help where you feel it is needed such as from a doctor or lawyer? Your personal ethics are important. Take the time to talk to make a contract with yourself for your reading future.

The standard Tarot (not to be confused with Oracle decks) is divided into the Major Arcana (Trumps) and Minor Arcana (Pips, suits). The trumps are directly connected to the seeker (one being read) and their 'life cycle' with regards to general outlook or the question being asked. Everything has a beginning and an end. Many decks begin the trumps with the Fool – choices. The remaining trumps define where the seeker is in the

cycle, their actions/reactions, consequences; adaptation, review and conclusion which take one back to the beginning – choices.

Depending on the deck you choose, the trumps can be narrowed down to the following descriptions corresponding to the card number: Choices (0 - Fool), Present Skills/Talents (1 – Magician), as yet unknown Knowledge to be gained (2 -High Priestess), Growth or Weeding out (3 – Empress), Authority/Control especially with regards to the perceptions of others (4 – Emperor), Conformity/Assistance (5 – Hierophant), Decisions/Choices especially in relationships (6 – Lovers), Will/Self Control (7 – Chariot), Courage/Staying Power (8 – Strength), Reflection/Review (9 – Hermit), Luck/Advantages taken (10 – Wheel of Fortune), Balance/Adaptation (11 – Justice), Preoccupied/Self Sacrifice/Change (12 – Hanged Man), Transformation as result of change (13 – Death), Combinations/Adjustments (14 – Temperance), Domination/Compromise (15 – Devil), Reactions/Repercussions (16 – Tower), Inspiration/Motivation (17 – Star), Imagination/Fears to wrestle (18 – Moon), Attainment and Satisfaction level (19 – Sun), Renewal/Final Decision (20 – Judgment), Completion/New Beginning (21 – World).

An example of the Trumps life cycle is a trip. Assume you plan a car trip to a city you have never visited to see your cousin. First you would pack and decide which highway/road to take to get there (Fool – choices). Since you know how to drive a car, you'll use this as your transport (Magician – skills). You'll check the car out and make sure you have enough fluids and gas (High Priestess – covering your bases for and anticipating the unknown). You may remove any stuff from your car you don't need for the trip, take some favorite music to listen to and buy some drinks, snacks to take with you (Empress – Growth, material gain or weeding out of junk). You have a general idea how to get to this city and confidently tell others about the trip (Emperor – authority and in charge). Just to be on the safe side, you buy a map (Hierophant – assistance). You decide to have dinner with a good friend and you decide to take them with you on the trip (Lovers – decisions involving others). You resist letting your friend take more than one suitcase and nicely present logical reasons of conserving space (Chariot – will and self control). Your friend gets you both lost using the map but you don't give in to panic or anger (Strength – courage). You stop and look over the map yourself and trace your journey (Hermit – reflection and review). Going on instinct, you get off the highway and find a convenience store to stop and the clerk knows how to give you directions (Wheel of Fortune – luck made or that drops into your lap). Back on the road, you re-chart your trip plans (Justice – adaptation). You miss a highway change and get mad at yourself (Hanged Man – preoccupation and self sacrifice). You double back on a side road and using instincts you talk yourself back to the right highway (Death – change due to transformation). Your friend repeats the instructions from this point and you confirm you're going the right way (Temperance – combinations). Driving faster than the speed limit you are pulled over by a highway patrol officer who lets you go with a warning if you agree to slow down (Devil – compromise). You picked up a nail in your tire when you pulled off for the patrol officer and your tire is now flat (High Priestess – Unknowns and Tower – repercussions). A tow truck happens by; changes your tire and the driver gives it to you and lets you know you're almost at your cousin's turn off (Star – inspiration and motivation). You worry about missing the right turn off and get serious

about reading signs ahead (Moon – fears). You find and take the right turn off (Sun – success). You stop at another convenience store to call your cousin and get explicit directions to their house (Judgment – renewal and final decisions). You finally make it to your cousin’s house (World – completion).

While this is a simplified explanation of the trumps, it is essential a reader take a macro view of the general meaning of each card. When a card spread is read together, it then tells a story. Don’t get bogged down in any absolute meanings.

To assist in learning a general meaning of the Trumps, study each card and agree on a one to two word meaning. Pencil the word(s) on the border of the card or use a Post-It with the word(s). Each day, shuffle just the Trumps and pull 3 cards for yourself with the general question in mind of events in your coming day. The first card represents the past (long or short term) that will influence your outlook. The 2nd card represents the present conditions and your reactions during the course of the day. The 3rd card represents what you may be feeling at the end of your day as a result of events. Keep a journal of dates, what cards you pull each day, your interpretation at the time and most importantly, what happened during the day to confirm the cards. You may decide on a different general meaning of a card(s) as a result of your own experiences. Use your confirmed interpretation. Again, there are no absolute meanings for any card. You’re the reader and it is your impressions and interpretations that are right for how you read with that deck.

~ Olympias ~
September, 2004

National Emergency Numbers

In cases of emergency for yourself or a seeker, here are the telephone numbers of organizations. I carry these with me to every fair and convention just in case.

- Abuse (child, elderly, infirmed): 1-800-422-4453
- Alcohol and Drug Help Line: 1-800-821-HELP
- Boys Town (children, adults and suicide prevention): 1-800-448-3000
- Child Find (missing children): 1-800-426-5678
- National Domestic Violence: 1-800-799-7233
- National Rape Crisis Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE

Appendix D: Complete & Combined Interpretations

To assist you with learning the card interpretations, the following is a complete combination of the card interpretations for all 78 cards starting with the Trumps, then suits (Court and Pip cards combined). As you are learning the individual cards, you may want to pull this section from the book and keep at hand for reference.

Please do **NOT** forever rely on the listed interpretations. Each reader will develop their own style and reading method. This is as it should be. When I was teaching a class, a cynic (one who would never consider the possibility that divination may exist) noted that since there were 25 people in the class, there would be 25 different answers to any question. I replied his logic was faulty since it is all a matter of perception. As a test, I asked the class to divine a resolution to a question. This was not a yes or no question and I already knew the result but did not share the outcome. Each student went off alone and read for the question. When we reconvened, they shared their answers. The majority used different decks from one another and various different spreads. **BUT**, regardless of the deck or spread used, they ALL arrived at the same, correct answer/resolution. **THAT'S DIVINATION!** The cynic was not seen again during the class.

Use the following interpretations to help you lessen frustration, but do not hold on to them as a sort of a sacred text. The best thing that helped me learn the card meanings is when I lost the book and had to rely on myself.

~ Olympias ~

The Major Arcana

- 0 The Fool Astrologically - Uranus Super consciousness
Beginnings, choices, movement, hidden talents, spiritual forces
(r) Bad choice, quick decision with unexpected results
- I The Magician Astrologically - Mercury Self-Consciousness
Will power, skills, knowledge of self, power and energy, timing, self confidence, creative
(r) Wrong use of creative abilities, indecisive, weakness
- II The High Priestess Astrologically - Moon Subconscious/Memory
Hidden knowledge or secrets, mystery, occult
(r) Secrets are revealed, deception is uncovered, emotional time
- III The Empress Astrologically - Venus Creative Imagination
Marriage, pregnancy/fertility, material wealth, parenthood, farming, emotionally secure
(r) Fertility problems, non communication in marriage/relationship, demanding
- IV The Emperor Astrologically - Aries Reason/Will Power
Leadership, authority, control of intelligence over passion, reason, planning
(r) Misuse of authority, too controlling, paranoid, immature, puts self in harms way
- V The Hierophant Astrologically – Taurus Intuition/Psychic
Ritual, dogma, religious, creed, need to conform, conventional, Karma
(r) Non-conformist, free spirit, can be gullible and too trusting at face value
- VI The Lovers Astrologically - Gemini Discrimination
Choices in love/relationships, attraction, decisions affect more than themselves, heart over reason, conflict in love
(r) Possible breakup in relationship, non-communicative, possible wrong choice in love
- VII The Chariot Astrologically - Cancer Receptivity
Conquest, triumph, victory, success by force of will, advantages, self control, warrior, health
(r) Sudden collapse of a project, desires rule over reason, vengeance, unethical, anger

- VIII Strength Astrologically - Leo Spiritual Activity
 Courage, higher nature over physical, health, strength, victory after difficulties,
 sees issue to conclusion
 (r) Abuse of power over self and others, ill health from stress, addictions, discord
- IX The Hermit Astrologically - Virgo Responsiveness
 Introspection, wisdom from experience or spiritual enlightenment, meeting,
 possible journey, teacher, meditation
 (r) Refusal to accept responsibility for self actions, chronic excuses, immature
 behavior
- X The Wheel of Fortune Astrologically - Jupiter Interim Reward
 Good fortune, luck, success, increase, cyclical life cycles (beginnings and
 endings)
 (r) Luck has ups and downs, unpredictable behavior, and moody, bi-polar
 tendencies
- XI Justice Astrologically - Libra Equilibration
 Balance, well balanced personality, legal aspects, contracts, ridding of outworn
 ideas and beliefs, education
 (r) Injustice, legal complications, self punishing, refusal to help self
- XII The Hanged Man Astrologically - Neptune Reversal of Ideas
 Surrender of physical to mental, prophecy, wisdom from spiritual, self sacrifice, a
 pause of reflection, rethinking position, spirituality
 (r) Too preoccupied with physical pleasures/sensations, narcissus, arrogance,
 prideful, misleads self in false sense of security
- XIII Death Astrologically - Scorpio Transformation
 Transformation as a result of change, a renewal or rebirth, new in favor of the old
 (r) Stagnation and procrastination, tired, misses opportunities, loner, and
 depression
- XIV Temperance Astrologically - Sagittarius Spiritually Verify
 Good combinations: mixing, matching and blending, coordination and
 modification, adaptability, management
 (r) Competing interests, bad combinations, plans need modifications
- XV The Devil Astrologically - Capricorn Spiritually Renewing
 Bondage by thought, actions, or agreements; materiality, domination, illness,
 violence, acting out emotions without reason, desperation
 (r) Spiritual, physical and emotional healing in progress, past is over, indecision

- XVI The Tower Astrologically - Mars Spiritual Awakening
 Radical and drastic change in lifestyle, conflict, situation/relationship breakdown, major setbacks, unexpected reactions/repercussions, disruption
 (r) Oppression and opposition from outside, disruption, conflict, major upheaval
- XVII The Star Astrologically - Aquarius Spiritual Revelation
 Hope, courage, inspiration, aid, health, spiritual love, confidence, new life, motivation
 (r) Stubborn and pessimistic, self doubt, shuts self away from world, bitterness
- XVIII The Moon Astrologically - Pisces Spiritualize the Body
 Imagination, intuition, dreams, deception, secret foes, fears, too emotional, anxiety, pulled different directions at once; reactionary, psychic powers
 (r) Peacemaker, practical use of imagination pays off, risk taker, good timing
- XIX The Sun Astrologically - Sun Regeneration
 Completion, attainment, satisfaction, marriage, reunions, happiness, joy, achievements and recognition, rewards, contentment
 (r) Not paying attention, plans are on hold temporarily, broken engagements, loss of valued object, voided contract
- XX Judgment Astrologically - Pluto Realization
 Awakening, renewal, self changes in personality, dropping emotional baggage, final decisions, long project completions, possible unexpected conclusions, revelations, retrospection
 (r) Failure to be happy in life as they will not change, fear of death, physical weakness, health problems, loss
- XXI The World Astrologically – Saturn Cosmic Consciousness
 Conclusion, completion and new beginnings, reward, success, travel, movement in affairs - step ups with new adventures
 (r) Fear of change, bondage to home or work, stubborn, don't care attitude, complainer

Suits, Court Cards and Pips

Wands

Business, relationships, work, skills in writing, growth, self spirituality, adventurers, people associated with rural, often blond haired and blue eyed, medium business owners or in a corporation; like to travel, excellent communicators and into high tech

- Ace Beginning of an enterprise, adventure or challenge; birth of an idea; advancement in employment/new job. Boundless energy is associated with this card meaning the seeker is excited and will look forward to the newness it brings to their life. They are an active participant and will enjoy the change.
(r) Not up to expectations; false starts and delays to the seeker's enjoyment of the task/event; does not wish to participate.
- II Success is within reach; rewards are coming; confidence; interest in methods for time efficiency; seeker knows they are on the right course of action; possible partnership/collaboration; travel.
(r) Physical suffering, sadness (usually perspective); dragging through the tasks involved; usually feelings of domination and persecution.
- III Past efforts are about to be recognized and rewarded as a result of efforts; reaching of a milestone; usually means work will continue in a small group/partnership (2-3) or help from one who is in the same business; long term plans are realistic to set; a card of a business' increase and can include expansion to far places or foreign country transactions; a card of commerce and merchants.
(r) Help offered may include treachery; another's secret agenda not in the best interest of the business/company; disappointment from those working on the project/business; lack of energy to carry on a perceived battle with project/work; apathy and avoidance.
- IV Coming/blossoming romance; harmony and prosperity; rite of passage from other cards; possible move or new home; purchase of land for home/business, or change of employment as result of past accomplishments.
(r) Missing an opportunity mentioned above. Seeker is delaying their action by over analyzing. Usually from fear of change/commitment even though the change in this case is for their betterment.

V	<p>Competition in business, social or spiritual. Heated debates and trying to be first for advantage. Jockeying for a better position in company, usually during an expansion. Seeker will overcome and get what they set out for through out guessing others. Seeker tends to burn candle at both ends between work and personal life.</p> <p>(r) Contradictions, disputes, too many fires to put out. Possible complications with a legal matter involving others. Seeker feels overwhelmed by too many things at one time and no time to think.</p>
VI	<p>Victory card; successful completion in spite of problems as a direct result of your efforts, vindication and reward, good news, advancement in arts/sciences.</p> <p>(r) Unexpected delays, fear of another beating you.</p>
VII	<p>Holding one's own, take/make a stand, be assertive, ability to succeed over opposition, success over stiff competition.</p> <p>(r) Embarrassed, anxiety, doesn't have all facts, mistakes are noticed, caution against indecision - time to act.</p>
VIII	<p>Try new ideas, journey, moving forward seeing the reward in sight, haste and movement, possible love interest.</p> <p>(r) Jealousy of another(s), quarrels and fighting, domestic problems, feelings of, "Why me?"</p>
IX	<p>Prepared to finish, strength to defeat opposition, knowing actions are right, courage to dissent.</p> <p>(r) Adversity, delays, displeasure, fear of ultimate failure, not caring anymore.</p>
X	<p>Carrying a huge burden(s) of others, workaholic, manages but not easily, driven, inability to delegate, can emotional behave as martyr. Secretly enjoys being overloaded.</p> <p>(r) laying down others burdens to fend for themselves usually at wrong time; treachery; in a law suit - loss unless they pay attention and read the details.</p>
Page	<p>Bearer of news, papers, contracts, writings, testimony, adventurous spirit</p> <p>(r) Unpleasant news about above or a related project, creditors calling, rejections</p>
Knight	<p>Travel related to work, adventurer, change of residence, stay upbeat, do things for yourself that have been put off, be more spontaneous</p> <p>(r) Division and discord, interruptions</p>

Queen	Focus on your needs/wants, new ideas ready to begin, helpful business woman with lots of energy and contacts, mentor (r) Strict woman or situation, opposition, jealousy, deceit or infidelity suggested, meddling
King	An older man who supports and encourages you, a father type, usually self-employed working in promotions or sales (r) Severe and uncompromising man, quarrels, in opposition, consider his advice/opinion for peace, unfairness in business
<u>Cups</u>	Light brown/red hair and green in the eyes; Visions and imagination; Family oriented people; people persons; usually in law, divinity or teaching; small business owners. Friendships, romance, emotions/feelings, personal perspectives and reactions, mental health
Ace	Love, joy, abundance, allowing self to experience feelings of love, pregnancy, fertility (r) Rejection of heart matters, insecure with partner, scared of feelings
II	Beginning of romance or partnership, can denote marriage/union, cooperation, harmony (r) Non-commitment by one partner, one-sided relationship, falsehoods, relationship moving too fast
III	Parties and social attendance, happy being and sharing with others, emotional healing, a celebration (r) Excesses in pleasure and physical, can be self-abusive such as over eating to hide unhappiness, tendency to draw away from others
IV	Apathy and self absorption, frightened to try anything new, discontent and dissatisfaction with life (r) Takes chance and starts something new, usually relationship or learning a personal skill, more spontaneity in life
V	Loss and disappointment, grief, relationship does not meet expectations, rejection of situation (r) Hopeful with new relationship, reunion with old friend(s), letting go of past and moving on
VI	Pleasant memories, new relationships, friendships, environment or opportunities, remember good things and successes from the past, pat self on back, perk up self-esteem (r) Living too much in past, resting on past laurels, a possible unexpected gift from the past coming which sparks memories mostly with regret

VII	<p>Imagination runs wild with ideas and plans; most are not attainable, goes off on tangents and finishes little, reactionary mode of living, pie-in-the-sky</p> <p>(r) Focused desires become real and manageable plan, determined, knows what they want and how to go about getting it</p>
VIII	<p>Conscious decision to reject a situation or person, a higher (spiritual) calling, choosing to walk away</p> <p>(r) More into material than spiritual, lives for the moment of pleasure, can mean dual lives, the adage of 'I work to live, not live to work'</p>
IX	<p>Card of Wishes, material success, material goals met, physical happiness and wellness, contentment with physical health and seeks wealth, make wishes and will improve overall life</p> <p>(r) Overindulgence, tendency to be physically self-abusive and have addiction(s)</p>
X	<p>Happy family life and lasting friendships, happiness is assured, emotional attainment of inner desires, people are comfortable in their home, prosperity, right ingredients for their circle of family and friends, life is good!</p> <p>(r) Loss of family harmony or at least one friendship, betrayals, gossip, quarrels in circle of family/friends, imbalance due to too many personalities not willing to compromise</p>
Page	<p>Good student, quiet spoken, sensitive by nature, calm emotional state, renewal to commitments (personal and professional), expansion, coming birth of child</p> <p>(r) Deception uncovered, obstacles that lead to emotional imbalance</p>
Knight	<p>Romantic dreams/aspirations, love coming into life, propositions or invitations, new experiences for the heart, end of loneliness</p> <p>(r) Possible tricks, setups with emotions, brunt of jokes, rivalry, information given is used against the seeker</p>
Queen	<p>Mother type, visions, prophetic dreams and acts on them, love, happy marriage and family, centering around children, animals, metaphysics, intuitive, supporter</p> <p>(r) Bad temper used against others, perverse, abuser, secretive, emotional unstable, tendencies of bi-polar behavior</p>
King	<p>Man of ethics, business, law or divinity, very spiritual, romantic, family/people are most important, gift giver, good listener, relies on feelings for decisions, passion for the arts and sciences</p> <p>(r) Vain, cruel emotionally, violent natured, can be dishonest and a liar, scandal and injustice with loss</p>

- Pentacles** Dark hair and eyed; people of high business and/or scholarly pursuits; teachers/students, investors, bankers, stocks; they make money fairly easily, usually big city dwellers; usually large business owners or corporate management. Material, worldly possessions, career, money, honor, ambitions, physical health
- Ace Rewards, attainment of goal, money (wealth) coming, possible new position or career with large salary, solutions to work issues are found (like a light-bulb coming on), good health assured
(r) Self corruption and overly occupied with power and money, spoiled and conceded person, me-ism
- II Juggling act that results in balance, new projects may be hard to start, problem solver and good mediator, likes challenges between business and personal lives, possible travel for work, health issues are usually stress related
(r) Tendency to over-extend self and abilities, not able to juggle several issues and find balance in any, too pragmatic, over analyzing and over documents, worries and works on empty issues rather than address real problems
- III Recognition from experience. Skill in a trade, art, apprenticeship or journeyman position, can be a card of building/construction, monetary rewards due to mastering skill, notable renown or reputation coming, paying off a loan/large debt, health issue may require medical tests to determine and correct
(r) Pettiness in work, settles for mediocrity, no ambition, does not fully apply talents or abilities
- IV Possessive nature. Can be a miserly person (Scrooge type), possible inheritance or gift coming, has no plans or idea what to do with amassed material gains, hoarder, wastes nothing (good recycler), health affected by attitude(s), inability to let go of things/issues
(r) Obstacles/opposition to material goals/desires, possibility of material loss, bitterness, uncompromising nature
- V Money problems, debts, lonely and fearing ultimate material failure (usually from going out on their own), does not eat properly, pessimist to a fault
(r) Budget is eased, success is coming but rarely seen/believed until in present, pessimistic outlook though really expecting the best, spiritual interests, looking for meaning of life

VI	<p>Generous sharing with others, cause-taker, philanthropy, assisting others, belief in destiny, healing</p> <p>(r) Jealous of others, a bad debt comes due, unethical in business, uses people, more is never enough</p>
VII	<p>Success and reward through hard work. Possible use of barter or need a loan for business, possibilities of delay in success due to economic conditions and risk taking, be patient for situations to mature, will reap what you sow, copes with ongoing illness(es)</p> <p>(r) Worried over money and outcomes, anxiety and doubts, utterly no patience, forcing issues before their time</p>
VIII	<p>Education or craftsmanship abilities pay off. Very skilled with hands and a creator, employment to come, has skills but needs to learn more about how business runs, low energy level and more sleep needed, pay attention to diet, possible digestive/intestinal problems</p> <p>(r) Misuse of skills and abilities, unethical and a cheat, cost of ambition at the expense of others, untrustworthy</p>
IX	<p>Completion, well-being, satisfaction with accomplishments, financial security, a vacation is likely, enjoyment of rewards, promotion, possible property purchase, health improves with rest/retreat</p> <p>(r) Possible loss of home, possible loss of friendship over unfair practices/narrow-mindedness, discontent with home/property/lifestyle/work, displeasure upsets all aspects of their life</p>
X	<p>Material prosperity. Riches from hard work and a legacy to leave behind, family honor/name is very important, possible purchase of a home or business, influential with others</p> <p>(r) Possible loss of an inheritance, family misfortune or loss of family honor usually from speculation/gambling, robbery</p>
Page	<p>Diligence, student, messages relating to schooling, scholarships or loan, new opinions and ideas as a result of learning, education is primary goal, enthusiasm</p> <p>(r) Wasteful, unfavorable news about money matters (loans), arguing with all around them, feelings that no one understands their ideas</p>
Knight	<p>Hardworking, service to others, patience, responsibility, financial goals: budgets, plans, bank accounts for the future, investing, nurturing others in business</p> <p>(r) Idleness, stagnation, all talk with no action, careless with themselves (dress, etc...) and careless with others money or possessions, live by whim</p>

Queen Intelligent, thoughtful, careful with words, generous nature, secure in finances, practical, business planner, good with publicity, lover of the arts, counselor

(r) Neglectful, depends on others, suspicious and distrustful, argues for sake of arguing, paranoid especially with money/possessions

King Usually head of an industry, respected and admired, intelligent, mathematical, concerned with quality, quiet, many professional contacts, patron of the arts

(r) Gambler, reckless, untrustworthy, fraudulent business(es), mean tempered and thinks all is owed to him; no conscience

Swords Brown hair and eyes; warriors, people of action, crusaders, spies; usually found in law, justice, government, military; risk takers; leadership roles; usually like warmer climes and city living Intellect and reason, life challenges, actions and purpose, leadership

Ace Great strength when faced with opposition, inventive, bold, can be passionate in affairs, powerful and energetic, tends to rush in quickly without all the facts, can mean fertility

(r) Oppressive use of power over others and situations, destruction, disaster as a result of over reacting

II Stalemate. Indecisive and not able to make a move, timeout/truce especially in quarrels, ignoring issues, refusal to make decisions
(r) Movement though not always in a positive manner, dam breaking and hope for best, be careful with others' speculations/deals

III Sorrow. Loss, disappointment, pain and tears, separation from a loved one, ending of a matter the seeker was clinging to and could not move on in their life, get over it and get on with it

(r) Resolution that will require compromise, have bottom-line known before making a decision; otherwise a set-up meeting where loss for seeker will be involved due to not being prepared, usually an emotional meeting

IV Rest, retreat, solitude and recovery, allows time to think and plan moves, can mean stay in hospital or convalescence, physically exhausted and a rest needed, pamper and spoil self a little, retreat to fight another day

(r) Activist, usually involving social issues, vocal cause taker of the underdogs, impassioned writer and rights of wrongs, needs to use more caution before plowing into situation(s), shots from hip

- V Conquest involving sheer will and strength. Usually an empty victory or impasse, possible physical threat to the seeker, sabotage and treachery are at work, confrontations, brush with danger, highly emotionally charge situations, avoid giving into anger
(r) Weakness, possible loss from defeat, deflated ego, little black cloud following for the moment; it passes, wait it out and re-evaluate plans for mistakes to avoid future problems
- VI A journey usually on, near or involving a large body of water. Moving away from current problem(s), qualified success after a battle, can mean to send someone to represent you in a situation
(r) Stalemate with no immediate way out, ongoing issue is taking a nasty turn against seeker, action is needed to correct trend(s), confusion, no time to sit idly
- VII Card of a thief. Watch belongings or work projects or they may be stolen by another and not recovered, uncertain and suspicious situation(s), hidden agendas are at work, expect a major setback or failure if no action is taken, being taken advantage of by others
(r) Seeker receives good advice for handling situation from an unexpected source, guidance and a plan to follow, seeker gains upper hand on competition
- VIII Voluntary immobility. Indecision and feeling cornered or blocked, smoke screens rather than real issues, silence and wasting energy, worry, feelings of bondage, holding back, restrictions
(r) Action and movement possible, new beginnings, freeing self from bondage and fear of action, can mean removing self from what is perceived an impossible situation
- IX Suffering. Misery, worry and anxiety, possible loss or injury of a loved one, disturbed sleep, depression, tension, (Note: other cards will tell you why/what is causing these feelings)
(r) Suspicion, regret, shame, doubts, possible imprisonment
- X Sudden and unexpected misfortune. Change, endings, a final resolution with an uncertain outcome, can mean being fired or quitting a job, end of an illusion, loss in speculations, bankruptcy of a company/business
(r) Some profit and advantage but it will not last, get out while you can and before it is too late, can also mean the selling/take over of a business

Page	Vigilance, spying, information gatherer, not taken seriously, legal affairs/papers, passion for certain topics and excels in them (r) Accident prone, leaps before thinking, unforeseen events, illness, cannot take constructive criticism
Knight	Rushes in everything, bravery, skillful with battles, likes conflict, challenges, whirl wind of activity, fights moral issues, highly opinionated, good communicator and motivator (r) Braggart, ineffective, talks more than does, blames others, destructive to self and others, rarely carries out promises, forgetful, double-talker
Queen	Can signify widowhood, separation, likes to be alone, has known sadness, strong character, rarely complains or shows emotions to others, judge of character, just, outspoken when necessary, secretive nature, fiercely protective (r) Vindictive, intolerance, bigotry, too stern and unyielding, never gives in, controlling
King	Wise, counselor to others, authority figure, renders judgments, flexible, likes change, fair, logical, negotiator, cool headed, enjoys leadership roles and debates (r) Cruel, unjust, emotional and physical abuser, abuse of power over others, back stabber, possible ruinous lawsuit or negative brush with the law