



# Olympias' Tarot Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

SPRING, 2007

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **4/14 NMSU Pagan Student Union's Enlightenment III in Las Cruces, NM**  
<http://psuofnmsu.tripod.com/id7.html>
- **4/28 Kitchen Witchery Class with Enoc**
- **5/25 World Tarot Day**  
<http://www.denelder.com/worldtarotday.html>
- **6/21 - 6/24 Gathering at the Mystical Crossroads in Cloudcroft, NM.**  
<http://www.tarotbyolympias.com/announcementpage.html>

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Historical Tarot Tidbits | 2 |
| Card of the Month        | 2 |
| Coffee with Oly, Q & A   | 2 |
| World Tarot Day          | 3 |
| Contest                  | 3 |
| Contact Information      | 4 |
| Spread 'Em!              | 4 |

## Spring, Good Time to Clean the Deck

Ahh Spring! The grass is growing, the birds are singing and the flowers are blooming. While many of us consider cleaning and airing out in honor of the season, I also recommend this is a good time to cleanse the cards.

Light a white candle and place it at the south end of the table. Take a ceramic or glass bowl of water and place at the west end. 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) at the east end. Place your deck in the middle of the table, between the cardinal points.

Take your deck, to the East. Pass your deck through the incense smoke 3 times and say as

you do, "I cleanse you with Air. May you always bring me true visions of the things to come".

Take the deck to the South and pass them **over** the flame (not too close). Say as you do, "I cleanse 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. Moisten your fingers with water and touch the cards as you say, "I cleanse you with Water. May you always show me truthfulness about myself and the seekers I will help".

Take the deck to the north. Take a little oil or salt on your fingers and touch/rub the cards as you say, "I cleanse 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 and store 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.

Happy Shuffling!

Olympias, (aka Oly)

## Tarot Ethics

Every reader at some time in their reading life will sit upon the bench of ethics and ponder. Ethics make us do a self examination as well as a valuation which can result in deeper convictions as well as personal resolve. With all the warnings (real or imagined) to seekers about readers, I want to warn readers about some seekers! There really

are people out there who like to use Tarot as a means of spying and gathering information for emotional zingers at your expense and reputation. They try and catch you off guard with their requests or even bait with challenges. Don't give in to their petty attempts at nothing short of insidious hijacking. I strongly encourage readers

to take the time and write a personal code of ethics including what you will and will not do in a reading. Sign your ethics like a contract and take it with you to fairs, gathering and conventions. It is your coat and armor that you present to and use with others. Don't ever compromise your self. You'll be a better reader and sleep better as a result.

# Historical Tarot Tidbits



The divination of examining what certain things do in water?  
(answer on Page 4)

Where did the name 'Tarot' come from and what does it mean?

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. The

wheel 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 Kabbalah. Some decks as well as spreads (especially the Tree of Life) are dedicated to this concept. For a matter of point, Kabbalah originated in Spain, which interestingly has no examples of the Ma-

yor Arcana. Also 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. Perhaps we are not meant to, nor is it important to the use of this divination tool.

What we do know is that it has been and is used throughout the world, by many cultures and sects.

## Card of the Month - The High Priestess

The High Priestess from the Global-light Angelic Tarot. Hand-drawn and based on channeling during the 2000 lunar eclipse.



"I am wisdom. Veiled to all but those who seek me.

The triple moon is my crown and symbol of authority. I speak directly to the subconscious..."

excerpt from Oly's Tarot for Beginners book.

The High Priestess represents the 'intuition and memory' and astrologically

relates to the moon. The High Priestess knows the unknown and the unspoken. She is the keeper of secrets as well as fears and desires. She is also concerned with the disclosure of secrets within as person as well as from those around them. In a reading, examine the cards around her and look for secrets that will come to light. Usually within 28 days

which is one rotation of the moon.

Watch your emotions for high and low tides. Keep a log of which moon phase makes you feel your strongest and in which you feel emotionally vulnerable.

Use these times to your advantage in work, relationships and needed rest or downtime.

"Madame Sosostriis, famous clairvoyante, Had a bad cold, nevertheless Is known to be the wisest woman in Europe, with a wicked pack of cards"

--T.S.Eliot,  
*The Waste Land*

## Coffee with Oly -

This is the place to ask Tarot related questions; the why do readers do or think...?

What is the difference in reading the Trumps and Pips? The 21 trumps of a standard Tarot deck are known as the Major Arcana. The remaining 57 cards are the suits and court cards. Some find using the complete deck of 78 cards a

bit intimidating when they first start especially trying to relate cards in a spread.

I read the trumps as being directly connected to the seeker (one being read) and their 'life cycle' with regards to general outlook or the question being asked. 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 takes one back to the beginning – choices.

The Minor Arcana defines the 'whats' & 'hows' of a reading and fleshes out the statement of the Trump cards.



# World Tarot Day, May 25th

By DenElder © [www.denelder.com](http://www.denelder.com)

This is an open invitation to others who love Tarot, to join with me for a few moments of prayer for \*us\* on May 25th of each year. It is a thing not often done on a large scale but for this one time at least, I would like a huge segment of our Tarot community to join together and think about how and why we enjoy this tool. Some of us even make a living with Tarot to some extent, and this is excellent to bring to mind too, as long as you do so with thanks-giving and that your work is an honest effort for an honest dollar... rather than the excessive greed that some of our population is involved with.

It is against those of ...excessive greed... the rest of us must guard against and ask for protection from. Let us who are the majority in our community ask for protection that our thoughts and ideas are not stolen by these others... that the things we teach in our lesson plans and the words we use in our readings aren't taken from us for exploitation... that the labels we use and have used for decades are not monopolized in a ploy to gain exclusive

rights for the reason of excessive profit.

Let us ask that as such people gain notoriety and the animosity of those they abuse and harass... that it not be reflected on the rest of us... that the grievous actions of the one or few, is not reflected back to we who are the honest, sincere and I believe... greater Tarot majority.

May we who are in groups... shake off the slander, threats, and intimidation tactics by the one or the few, as such attempt to monopolize the Tarot community for their own gain. May those of us who have built up Tarot businesses in honest effort and the sweat of our brow... not then have our efforts undermined by lies and/or slander of the one or the few, as they attempt to reduce our groups and institutions for the gain of their own.

May we who are just average Tarot lovers, go about our normal routines unscathed; that we go forward with our best efforts for those we represent and those we come in contact with. May we not stoop to the same level as those who are of

excessively greedy nature and who use any means to gain their goals.

And when we have asked protection against the elitist among us who work without conscious, let us give thanks for our own conscious and for the talents and enjoyments we have through the Tarot tool. Let us give thanks for the friends and camaraderie we have with each other. Let us give thanks for those who share willingly and unselfishly amongst us.

Let us at least for this one day, think of sharing freely... answering questions, teaching, and even doing a Free Reading(s) for others for the sheer joy of giving to others of like mind and interests that we might encourage them in positive manner.

May we ask for Divine Guidance so that we always know the positive path to follow. Let us ask our Supreme Being for continued blessings in our work and other Tarot-related activities as long as we do so with good conscious, firm ethics and love of Tarot.

DenElder, Inter-faith Minister



The High Priestess  
Rider-Waite deck

## Contest - Do You Know Your Divination?

Each issue, a question on divination will be asked. The first person to email Oly with the correct answer will win a FREE 10-card Tarot reading (a \$25 value). The reading will be done either by phone (you pay for the call to Oly) or on America OnLine/AIM.

The questions are not designed to be easy but rather to get you using your noggin and the Internet. It is also hoped the research experience

will generate interest and questions about various forms of divination, the history of divination, use of oracles and just to have really obscure information that you can amaze your family and friends with the next time you sit down to dinner.

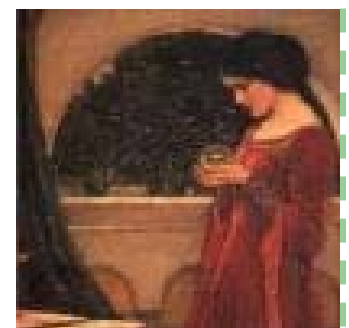
Congrats to Cathy in Florida for knowing Bibliomancy is divination using books. She gifted her reading to a friend. Blessings Cathy!

This issue's question is...

Name the form of divination that uses a burning laurel branch?

You can only win once a year. So put on your thinking caps, and start searching.

Good luck and enjoy!



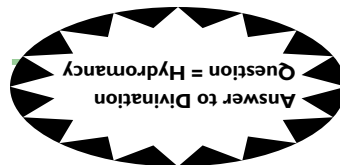


POB 8327  
 Roswell, NM 88202  
 Messages: (505) 624-2126  
 www.tarotbyolympias.com

Olympias' Newsletter is published quarterly by the seasonal changes of Gaea. The mission is to offer a venue for the curious through the experienced reader for discussion, learning and sharing of Tarot and divination.

If you would like to be on E-distribution for this newsletter, please email Olympias for inclusion. Guest writers are welcome as well as Tarot related questions for future issues. Please submit these directly to Olympias at: [olympiasbc@aol.com](mailto:olympiasbc@aol.com).

Oly is also available for private phone or online readings.



## Spread 'EM!

The Romany Spread  
 (by Nemesis/JS)

One of my favorite spreads to use is the Romany Spread. It lends itself well to those long, drawn-out, and in-depth readings. It hails from the Rom, better known as the Gypsies. While it has been proven that they are NOT Egyptians, but are from India, they still retain a lot of their mystique and magical lore. (Two excellent books are: *Gypsy Sorcery and Fortune-Telling* by CG Leland and *Gypsy Witchcraft and Magic* by Ray Buckland).

This spread lends itself well to both playing cards and Tarot cards. It uses 21 cards arranged in 3 rows of 7. One may begin laying the cards from the bottom or

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |

from the top. We'll use the "from the top" as an example.

In this case, the first row represents the past. The middle row, represents the present, including one's environment and emotional state. The last row holds the secrets to the nebulous future, in all its possibilities and potentials.

The cards in each row are read as if telling a story, with the client as the main character.

May Duvvel and Sara-Ma-Kali bless you in your search for the Key to the Unknown!