

HOLISTIC TAROT SUPPLEMENT

This text is offered as a supplement to *Holistic Tarot: An Integrative Approach to Using Tarot for Personal Growth* (North Atlantic Books, 2015) by Benebell Wen.



Study Guide for the Advanced Tarot Student

This study guide presumes that you have a tarot deck in the Rider Waite Smith tradition, a copy of *Holistic Tarot*, and have completed the Study Guide for the Intermediate Tarot Student.

Session	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reading from <i>Holistic Tarot</i> Text	Ruminations & Practicum; Rec. Additional Reading
1	Using Tarot to Build Resilience		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Chapter 28: Using Tarot to Build Resilience p. 593-608</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Optimism ▪ Confidence ▪ Humor ▪ Expression ▪ Focus ▪ Connections ▪ Devotion 	<p>Listing the Seven Characteristics Create seven lists, one for each of the seven characteristics of resilient people: optimism, confidence, humor, expression, focus, connections, and devotion.</p> <p>Begin with an ordered deck and study each card intently, looking for these characteristics.</p> <p>Decide for yourself whether the card expresses optimism, confidence, humor, expression, focus, connections, and devotion. Write the card down in the corresponding list. Note that one card may appear on more than one list.</p> <p>Keep these lists in your tarot journal. Thinking about tarot through the framework of the characteristics needed to build resilience will further empower your readings and enable you to pinpoint exactly which traits a seeker needs to develop for success when the corresponding cards come up in a reading.</p> <p>Celtic Cross Resilience Reading Practice a Celtic Cross reading, and as you interpret the cards, analyze each card as denoting the presence or absence of the seven</p>

		<p>characteristics of resilience. Note the analytical method set forth in the case study for Jane. The analytical method is explained on p. 605-608. Apply the same methodology to your Celtic Cross reading.</p>
	<p>□ Chapter 28, “Positive Affirmations in Tarot”</p> <p><i>Note.</i> Sessions 4-8 of the Study Guide for the Beginner Tarot Student covers Positive Affirmations. If you did not complete the Beginner sessions, then review the following:</p> <p><i>See also Chapter 14, “The Adjustment Card” and “The Shadow Card.”</i> p. 400-404</p> <p>Chapter 28 “Affirmations in the Major Arcana” (p. 609-610); “Affirmations in the Suit of Wands” (p. 611); “Affirmations in the Suit of Cups” (p. 612); “Affirmations in the Suit of Swords” (p. 613); “Affirmations in the Suit of Pentacles” (p. 614).</p>	<p>Today, oracle cards are often used to tailor positive affirmations for seekers, with keywords or phrases appearing on the oracle cards to emphasize the positive message. Such affirmations are latent within the tarot already.</p> <p>The author’s suggested affirmations for the cards appear on p. 609-614.</p> <p>Initial Practicum To see whether the positive affirmations approach resonates with your practice, wait for a moment when you are not feeling your full optimistic self and in solitude, shuffle your tarot deck, fan out the cards, reflect inward, being open and receptive, and draw a single card. No reversals will be observed.</p> <p>Look up the corresponding affirmation for that card on p. 609-614.</p> <p>Did the affirmation resonate with you in the moment? Write down the affirmation and keep it on you for the next few days, remembering to take time out to look at it and let the message absorb.</p> <p>If the initial practicum yields positive results for you, then consider incorporating the technique into your practice.</p> <p>Practicum: The Adjustment Card and Positive Affirmations Note the technique of using Adjustment or Shadow cards, p. 400-404. Practice reading a spread for a question and at the close, draw a final card and look up the corresponding affirmation on p. 609-614. That corresponding affirmation is the final uplifting message to leave the seeker with.</p>

		<p>Formulating Your Own Affirmations Read through the given affirmations in the text. Keep and use the ones that resonate with you, but cross out the ones that do not and write in your own.</p>
2	Tarot Ethics	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 19: Assuaging Seekers When a Reading Seems Negative p. 499-505	<p><i>Note.</i> There is a typographical and image error under the section title, "'NEGATIVE' MAJOR ARCANA CARDS" on p. 503. The Ten of Swords pictured under the Major Arcana cards should appear under Minor Arcana cards on p. 504-505. Apologies for any confusion.</p>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 24: Inappropriate Questions p. 540-558	<p>Rephrasing Questions How a question is phrased can greatly determine the quality and utility of a reading. Create a master reference list in your tarot journal with the following suggested methods for rephrasing seeker questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What energies are relevant to...? ▪ What do I need to know about...? ▪ How do I obtain/achieve/overcome...? ▪ Where am I most blind when it comes to...? ▪ What am I not seeing or refusing to see about...? ▪ What do I need to understand to progress positively from my present situation? <p>Practicum on Rephrasing Questions On the bottom of p. 544, see the first question: "I've been diagnosed with cancer. Should I proceed with chemotherapy or try a natural, holistic approach?"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Per your own personal ethical guidelines, does the question presented need to be rephrased? 2. If not, then continue to the next practice question on the bottom of p. 545 ("I just found out I'm pregnant, and I'm only fifteen. Should I keep the baby?"). If yes, you would rephrase

		<p>the question, then write out how you would rephrase the question and how you would approach the issue of rephrasing with the seeker.</p> <p>Continue the above two-step inquiry with each question presented in the chapter, p. 544-558. Be sure to review the author's suggested approach to rephrasing and consider how your own approach might be similar or different from the author's. Think about what ways you agree with the author's approach and what ways you disagree, and how these points can better help you define your own ethical approach to rephrasing questions.</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 25: Ethical Considerations p. 559-563</p> <p>Supplement: Sample Code of Ethical Conduct for Tarot Professionals</p> <p>(Download from Website: http://benebellwen.com/about-the-book/holistic-tarot-supplements/)</p>	<p>Your Code of Ethics</p> <p>At this time there is no universally agreed upon ethical code governing tarot practitioners, though private tarot associations may govern the ethical code of conduct that its members are required to uphold (such as the American Tarot Association or the Tarot Association of the British Isles). For the advanced tarot practitioner, especially one with aspirations to become a professional, a personal code of ethics is imperative.</p> <p>Draft your personal code of ethics to apply to your tarot practice and keep that code in your tarot journal.</p> <p>The supplemental download provides a sample code of ethics that can be used as reference, written with the tarot professional in mind.</p>

3	The Opening of the Key	
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 30, Introduction p. 630-631</p> <p>The particular instructions to the Opening of the Key set forth in the <i>Holistic Tarot</i> text are based on publicly available writings by MacGregor Mathers, Aleister Crowley, and Paul Foster Case.</p>	<p>Although the Opening of the Key divination method may not have been considered advanced in the context of how it was taught, today for most practitioners, it is considered a more advanced technique. The methods set forth in <i>Holistic Tarot</i> represents a contemporary and personal reconciliation of the many texts publicly available about the Opening of the Key, much of which contradicts one another (hence the need for reconciliation). As a result, the methods instructed are at best mere derivatives of the original Opening of the Key, whatever that “original” might be. The end notes in the book provide sources and references if you would like to learn more about the method. Today, Paul Hughes-Barlow would be considered one of the preeminent masters on the Opening of the Key.</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 12, “Left-Right Symbolism in the Court Cards” p. 275-276</p> <p><i>See also</i> End Notes for Chapter 11, note 1 (p. 882); Chapter 12, note 7 (p. 833)</p>	<p>Rumination</p> <p>When a signifier faces left at the opening in the First Operation, what might that indicate about the seeker’s disposition or outlook toward the situation? What about when a signifier faces right? How might a practitioner incorporate these general metaphysical insights into the reading?</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 30, “First Operation: The Opening and the Narrative” p. 631-639</p> <p>Appendix B1. Solar System Symbols (<i>for 9 planetary correspondences</i>) p. 741</p> <p>For the purposes of the Opening of the Key, note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key 0: The Fool is an Elemental, and so instead of the Uranus correspondence, is Air ▪ Key 12: The Hanged Man is an 	<p>Perform the First Operation as taught earlier in Chapter 11. However, the operation in the Opening of the Key (“OOTK”) continues from the instructions in Chapter 11. Here in the OOTK, the cards in the relevant pile are laid out in a circle and card counting is employed. Selected cards are read as a narrative and then paired off as discussed in Chapter 30. The pairs are assessed per elemental dignities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—•—</p> <p>Supplement: Glyph Correspondences for the Opening of the Key</p>

	<p>Elemental, and so instead of the Neptune correspondence, is Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key 20: Judgement is an Elemental, and so instead of the Pluto correspondence, is Fire <p>Appendix B2. Zodiac Constellations (<i>for 12 zodiac sign correspondences</i>) p. 742</p> <p>Appendix B12. Astrological Correspondences of the Minor Arcana (<i>for the 36 decans</i>) p. 755-757</p> <p>Video Supplement: The First Operation of the Opening of the Key (OOTK)</p> <p>(Link to Video: http://benebellwen.com/about-the-book/holistic-tarot-supplements/)</p>	<p>(Download from Website: http://benebellwen.com/about-the-book/holistic-tarot-supplements/)</p> <p>The foregoing supplement provides the correspondences needed to execute the Opening of the Key. If a practitioner will be adopting the method into regular practice, then set aside one tarot deck for the Opening of the Key and write in the corresponding glyphs. For one familiar with astrology, the glyphs will make it immediately apparent to the practitioner whether a card is elemental, planetary, or a zodiac card, per the reference chart on p. 634. The corresponding numerical values should be a simple matter to commit to memory. Note that the majority view is shown, and does not reflect the author’s personal approach or practices. Also note the Key 8 and Key 11 correspondences, which will be dependent on whether a Tarot de Marseille (TDM), Rider-Waite-Smith (RWS), or Thoth deck is used.</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 30, “Second Operation: The Twelve Astrological Houses” p. 639-647</p> <p>Supplement: Glyph Correspondences for the Opening of the Key</p> <p>(Download from Website: http://benebellwen.com/about-the-book/holistic-tarot-supplements/)</p> <p>Video Supplement: The Second Operation of the OOTK</p> <p>(Link to Video: http://benebellwen.com/about-the-book/holistic-tarot-supplements/)</p>	<p>Basic knowledge of astrological houses would be helpful here. The deck is distributed into twelve piles that correspond with the twelve houses in an astrological chart. Each pile expresses the area of life that corresponds with its astrological house. Locate the house that the signifier is in and read that string of cards as a narrative, then pair off and assess the pairs per elemental dignities. The text illustrates both the Clock Hour Position and the Zodiac Position for the placement of cards.</p>

	<p>the-book/holistic-tarot-supplements/)</p>	
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 30, “Third Operation: The Twelve Astrological Signs” p. 647-651</p> <p>Video Supplement: The Third Operation of the OOTK</p> <p>(Download from Website: http://benebellwen.com/about-the-book/holistic-tarot-supplements/)</p>	<p>Basic knowledge of astrological signs would be helpful here. The deck is distributed into twelve piles again, either in the Clock Hour Position or Zodiac Position, at the practitioner’s discretion. Then only the top-most card of each of the twelve piles is turned over and read. The twelve turned cards are read as a zodiac spread per the topic associations of the twelve signs. House correspondences are also considered.</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 30, “Fourth Operation: The Thirty-Six Decans (The Key)” p. 651-656</p> <p>Supplement: Glyph Correspondences for the Opening of the Key</p> <p>(Download from Website: http://benebellwen.com/about-the-book/holistic-tarot-supplements/)</p> <p>Video Supplement: The Fourth Operation of the OOTK</p> <p>(Download from Website: http://benebellwen.com/about-the-book/holistic-tarot-supplements/)</p>	<p>For the Fourth Operation, the cards can be distributed either of two ways.</p> <p>The first is illustrated in the text (i.e., the illustrations on p. 652 and 653), with the signifier card face up, but the rest of the cards distributed face down. In doing so, after setting down the signifier, the deck in your hands would be flipped over and in effect, the bottom-most card that was in your hands becomes the top-most card, and the first card set down into the thirty-six decans. Then, once all cards have been distributed into the thirty-six piles corresponding with the thirty-six decans in traditional Western astrology, you commence card counting from the signifier, and each pile you land on, the top-most card is turned over face up, read, and the card counting continues.</p> <p>The second method, which is not illustrated in the text but is demonstrated in the video supplement, the cards are distributed <i>card faces up</i>, but once all cards have been distributed and the card-counting commences, only the top-most face up card is read.</p> <p>The author’s personal approach for the Fourth</p>

		<p>Operation is to distribute the cards in the deck <i>face up</i>, which is not the method illustrated in the book.</p> <p>Some practitioners will also employ card pairing again for the Fourth Operation after reading the narrative, and assess the pairs per elemental dignities. Some practitioners will skip the pairing technique for the Fourth Operation. In the text, card pairing is skipped for the Fourth Operation. The author’s typical approach is to skip card pairing in the Fourth Operation, and to only read the selected cards as a narrative, but for certain seeker inquiries, if the author as practitioner feels called to do so, card pairing will be employed in the Fourth Operation.</p> <p>Note also the author’s suggested alternative spread to the thirty-six decans of the Fourth Operation. You are encouraged to learn the OOTK technique as instructed in the book per publicly available primary texts and then modify it according to your intuitive needs and practices, as the author has done per p. 655.</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 30, “Fifth Operation: The Ten Sephiroth” p. 657-663</p> <p>Video Supplement: The Fifth Operation of the OOTK</p> <p>(Download from Website: http://benebellwen.com/about-the-book/holistic-tarot-supplements/)</p>	<p>The deck is distributed <i>card faces down</i> into the ten piles corresponding with the ten sephiroth of the Tree of Life. The diagram for the spread is on p. 658.</p> <p>Once all cards have been distributed into the ten piles, start with Card Pile 1, corresponding with the Crown Sephirot, and search for the signifier. The pile or corresponding Sephirot that the signifier card is found in will indicate further development of the Key to the seeker’s inquiry. See p. 659-660 for the Sephiroth correspondences.</p> <p>Note also the author’s personal alternative approach to the Fifth Operation on p. 660.</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Reading End Notes End notes that you may find</p>	<p><i>For a more in-depth study of the Opening of the Key, the following books are recommended:</i></p>

	<p>interesting or helpful in understanding the main text: 2, 3, 4 (p. 840); 5 (p. 840-841); 6, 7 (p. 8410); 8 (p. 841-842); 9, 10, 11 (p. 842); 12 (p. 842-843); 14 (p. 843); 16 (p. 843-844); 17, 20 (p. 844).</p>	<p>Paul Hughes-Barlow and Catherine Chapman, <i>Beyond the Celtic Cross: Secret Techniques for Taking Tarot to an Exciting New Level</i> (Aeon Books, 2009) and Paul Hughes-Barlow, <i>Tarot and the Magus: Opening the Key to Divination, Magick and the Holy Guardian Angel</i> (Aeon Books, 2004).</p>
<h2 style="text-align: center;">4 The Tarot de Marseille and the Thoth</h2>		
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 31: Tarot de Marseille and Thoth p. 664-669</p>	<p>While <i>Holistic Tarot</i> and these study guides are keyed to the Rider-Waite-Smith system, the advanced practitioner should be readily familiar with all three, including the Tarot de Marseille and Thoth. At this time it is recommended that the practitioner invest in both a Tarot de Marseille and a Thoth deck to work and practice with.</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> THE TAROT DE MARSEILLE</p> <p>With Marseille-based decks, a common approach is to have the Majors that appear in a spread lead the reading. Courts then take on a literal or figurative meaning, not unlike the interpretive approaches from <i>Holistic Tarot</i>.</p> <p>For the Minors, one method is creative-intuitive, which is to essentially scribe into the forms and figures on the card and have the imagination pick up where the lines of the drawings end to create narratives out of the blended imagery.</p> <p>The other is more analytical, and yet integrates a variety of esoteric studies, such as astrological correspondences, numerology, elemental dignities and affinities,</p>	<p>Practicum</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Keywords.</i> Order the deck and create a master reference sheet of keywords for each card. Compare and contrast with your RWS interpretive approach.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Spreads.</i> Practice reading with the deck using spreads from your repertoire.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—•—</p> <p>For reading with the Tarot de Marseille, the <i>Cyclopedia</i> chapter of the <i>Holistic Tarot</i> text can be used for the Major Arcana (although note the Key 8 and Key 11 switch) and the relevant sections on court cards.</p> <p>For learning how to read the pips in the Minor Arcana, review the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Significance of Numbers, p. 432 • The Significance of Suits, p. 435 • Elemental Dignities, p. 437 • Elemental Affinities in the Minor Arcana, p. 449 • Intuitive Reading, p. 454

	<p>and Qabalistic Tree of Life sephiroth correspondences.</p> <p>Late 19th century and early 20th century Marseille-based decks reinterpreted by occultists, such as the Oswald Wirth Tarot, embed rich esoteric symbology into the Minors, and so a much greater knowledge of traditions is often required to read holistically with an esoteric Marseille-based deck.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Astrological Complements, p. 745 • Major Arcana and Minor Arcana elemental combinations, p. 746-750 • General Numerological Associations, p. 784 • Numerology and the Four Suits, p. 785 • The Decans, p. 755-757 • Glyph Correspondences for the Opening of the Key (Supplemental Download, http://benebellwen.com/about-the-book/holistic-tarot-supplements/) • Interpreting Tarot through Astrology (Supplemental Download, http://benebellwen.com/about-the-book/holistic-tarot-supplements/) (although note the Key 8 and Key 11 switch) <p style="text-align: center;">—•—</p> <p><i>Recommended Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ben-Dov Yoav, <i>Tarot: The Open Reading</i> (self published through Amazon Digital Services, 2013) • Alejandro Jodorowsky and Marianne Costa, <i>The Way of Tarot: The Spiritual Teacher in the Cards</i> (Destiny Books, 2011).
<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>THE THOTH TAROT</p> <p>The author views the Thoth Tarot as the most powerful of the three tarot systems, and is less inclined to recommend it to beginners because a certain level of proficiency with esoteric knowledge and occult practice should be attained prior to working with the Thoth. It <i>can</i> work as a beginner’s deck for those individuals who have some foundational knowledge in</p>	<p>Practicum</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Keywords.</i> Order the deck and create a master reference sheet of keywords for each card. Compare and contrast with your RWS interpretive approach.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Spreads.</i> Practice reading with the deck using spreads from your repertoire.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—•—</p> <p><i>Recommended Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lon Milo DuQuette, <i>Understanding Aleister Crowley’s Thoth Tarot</i> (Weiser Books, 2003)

	<p>esotericism or who know they will be using the tarot primarily for occult practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerd Ziegler, <i>Tarot: Mirror of the Soul: Handbook for the Aleister Crowley Tarot</i> (Weiser Books, 2011) • Michael Osiris Snuffin, <i>The Thoth Companion: The Key to the True Symbolic Meaning of the Thoth Tarot</i> (Llewellyn, 2007) • Angeles Arrien, <i>The Tarot Handbook: Practical Applications of Ancient Visual Symbols</i> (Putnam/Tarcher, 1997)
<h2>5 The Holistic Practice of Tarot</h2>		
	<p>□ The Anatomy of a Professional Tarot Reading</p> <p><i>Review Chapter 17: Tarot Reading: A Step-by-Step Analytical Process</i> p. 478-453</p>	<p>General Inquiry with First Operation This will be a writing exercise. Start by referring to the step-by-step analytical process outlined on p. 478-479 in the text. Locate your signifier card. Perform the First Operation. Note the pile that the signifier is located in. Begin with “STEP ONE” on p. 478 under the “General Inquiry – First Operation” column and write down your analysis, following the Step One. Collect the cards together again, shuffle and cut per your custom, and draw a single card. Proceed to “STEP TWO” and write down your analysis of the results per the step. Follow through to the “CONCLUSION” of the same column on p. 479, writing your analysis per the steps.</p> <p>General Inquiry, Direct Reading This will be a writing exercise following the step-by-step analytical process on p. 478-479. Without formulating any specific questions, perform a three-card reading and <i>for each card drawn</i>, follow from Step One to Conclusion <i>for each card</i>. Thus, you should cycle through the analytical steps three times.</p> <p>Specific Inquiry This will be a writing exercise following the step-by-step analytical process on p. 478-479.</p>

		<p>Formulate a question to read for and select a spread of your choosing to read for that question. Then write out the interpretation for that reading by following the steps <i>for each card drawn</i>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—•—</p> <p>The purpose of these overly-exhaustive and cumbersome exercises is to teach you how to organize the contents of a professional reading. An actual professional reading need not exhaust each every single step as outlined in these exercises, but once you master the technique, the skeleton of your readings will more or less reflect these steps and maintaining a cohesive structure to all your readings will come as second nature.</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 29: Depth Diagnostics p. 615-629</p>	<p>Rumination and Practicum The Tina case study in the chapter illustrates how to apply Depth Diagnostics. Practice at least one reading using the six steps outlined in the chapter. Note the efficacy of the method for yourself and confirm whether to adopt any part of the methodology to your personal practice or modify it to better fit your style.</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Integrating Numerology</p> <p><i>See also</i> Chapter 14, "The Essence Card" p. 404-407</p> <p>Appendix F: Numerological Associations p. 783-785</p> <p>Appendix G: Pythagorean Numerology p. 786-799</p>	<p>Practicum: Louisa May Alcott Louisa May Alcott comes to you, the practitioner, for a tarot reading. Louisa's date of birth is November 29, 1832. Louisa requests a tarot reading about her life purpose.</p> <p>Prior to the tarot reading, consider calculating Louisa's Essence Card to get a sense of her personal disposition. Use the reference chart on p. 406 as a starting point, but be sure to exercise your own intuition and interpretive process to talk about Louisa's Essence Card.</p> <p>Next, calculate Louisa's Life Path number. Use Appendix G as reference. What basic</p>

		<p>information about Louisa’s life purpose can be gleaned from her Life Path number?</p> <p>Review Appendix G2, specifically the reference tables on p. 796-797. Assess some basic character traits from the letters in Louisa’s name. The first letter of her first name (L) and the first letter of her last name (A) will be the most relevant. Her middle initial (M) can offer insights into subconscious or latent traits.</p> <p>Calculate Louisa’s Decisive Age. Using basic math, determine the year that her Decisive Age falls in. Generally, the impact of the Decisive Age will begin to trigger the preceding year and can still be felt in the subsequent year, so be sure to talk about all three years as a range. Using Appendix G3 as reference, explain the significance of the Decisive Age to Louisa.</p> <p><i>[Historical Note: Alcott first began receiving critical acclaim and success for her writings in the 1860s.]</i></p> <p>Before commencing the tarot reading, consider using a signifier, and select Louisa’s signifier card based on her astrological sun sign, and select from the court cards. Note general characteristics attributed to her signifier.</p> <p>Use the following pages as reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun Sign Dates in Appendix B2, “Zodiac Signs,” p. 742 • Reference tables on p. 237-238 • Elemental character attributions on p. 239
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- *Note:* Corresponding birth month and dates for each of the 12 zodiac signs are found in the reference table on p. 240
- Court card characteristics, p. 270-276
- Appendix E, p. 774

Finally, for the tarot reading, use a spread that can best answer Louisa's question about her life purpose, or use a spread that you have devised on your own. The following spreads from the book could work well for Louisa's inquiry:

- Six Points Spread (p.319),
- V Formation or Horseshoe Spread (p. 322),
- Seven Chakras Spread (p. 324),
- Insight Spread (p. 330),
- Ba Gua Spread (p. 377),
- The Rose (p. 389), or
- The Seashell (p. 396).

Again, it is strongly recommended that you think about the inquiry at hand and devise your own spread for answering life purpose questions. Chapter 16 (p. 462) instructs on devising your own tarot spreads and the supplemental download "Worksheet for Devising Your Own Spread" that accompanied the Intermediate Study Guide can be used.

Practicum: Pamela Colman Smith

Pamela Colman Smith comes to you, the practitioner, for a tarot reading. Pamela's date of birth is February 16, 1878. Pamela requests a tarot reading about her life path.

1. Determine her Essence Card and tell her about her life path through her

		<p>Essence Card. <i>Note:</i> Beyond the reference chart provided on p. 406, interpret the given Major Arcanum's traditional meaning as it might apply to life purpose</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Assess some basic character traits from the letters in Pamela's name. The first letter of her first name (P) and the first letter of her last name (S) will be the most relevant. Her middle initial (C) can offer insights into subconscious or latent traits. 3. Calculate Pamela's Decisive Age and determine what year her Decisive Age will fall in. 4. Select Pamela's signifier card based on her astrological sun sign. Note general characteristics attributed to her signifier. 5. Perform a tarot reading to help Pamela get a more detailed sense of her life path (expanding on her Life Path number) and what her life purpose might be. <i>Note:</i> Create your own spread for this purpose or try one of the spreads as suggested under the Louisa practicum. <p>[<i>Historical Note:</i> In 1911, Smith converted to Catholicism.]</p> <p>Practicum: Your Life Purpose Do a tarot reading for yourself to consider your own life purpose, integrating basic numerology. First, consider your Essence Card. Then consider your Life Path number, the numerological significance of the letters of your name, and your Decisive Age. Then consider the corresponding character traits of</p>
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		<p>the court card that is your signifier. Finally, select a tarot spread for your life purpose reading. Log the reading in your tarot journal.</p>
	<p>□ Integrating Basic Astrology</p> <p><i>See also</i> Appendix B: Astrological Symbols and Elemental Associations p. 740-757</p> <p>Supplement: Interpreting Tarot through Astrology</p> <p>(Download from Website: http://benebellwen.com/about-the-book/holistic-tarot-supplements/)</p> <p>Appendix B6, “Astrological Complements” p. 745</p> <p>Appendices B7-10 p. 746-750</p>	<p>Rumination and Practicum</p> <p>The attributions in the right-most column of the “Interpreting Tarot through Astrology” supplement are attributions relating directly to the elemental, planetary, zodiac sign, or decan attribution that corresponds with each of the 78 cards. Compare these astrological attributions with the traditional textbook meanings of the cards. How might you integrate these astrological attributions into your interpretive approach to the cards? The astrological attributions on the supplemental download that resonate with you should be noted in either your tarot journal or written into the margins of the corresponding card entry in the Cyclopedia.</p> <p>Practicum</p> <p>Read about the Zodiac spread starting on p. 342 in Chapter 14. Use a signifier, selected based on your astrological sun sign. Following the text, perform a Zodiac reading for yourself. Note the quick reference sheet for the Zodiac spread in Appendix A, p. 713-714. To understand why the twelve card positions correspond with the given position meanings, review the House correspondence table on p. 631 and the Signs correspondence table on p. 649.</p> <p>Practicum</p> <p>Separate out the Majors only from your tarot deck. Shuffle the Majors well and draw out 7 cards into the V Formation or Horseshoe Spread. See the quick reference pages for the spread on p. 702-703. Turn to page 745. Did</p>

any combinations of Majors create astrological complements? What is the significance of the astrological complements in your reading?

Practicum

Perform the First Operation (per Chapter 11, not per the OOTK) to see which area of your life the reading will focus on. Then proceed with The Rose spread. The quick reference for The Rose begins on p. 732. After the First Operation, note which element corresponded with the card pile the signifier was found in. Separate out the Minors suit attributed to that element. Also separate out the Majors. Shuffle the remaining Minors and lay out the first 7 cards of the spread. With the Suit pile that was separated out per the First Operation results, lay out the next 3 cards in The Rose spread. Then draw 2 cards from the Majors to complete The Rose spread. Turn to Appendices B7-10. Read the section corresponding with the element represented by the Suit pile that was separated out. Note whether any of the Majors noted in the Appendix appeared and the significance of the combinations. In the remaining Minors, note which suit dominates and whether any Majors associated with that suit per Appendices B7-10 appeared in combinations. Note the significance.



Additional Recommended Reading:

- Elizabeth Hazel, *Tarot Decoded: Understanding and Using Dignities and Correspondences* (Red Wheel, 2004)
- Corrine Kenner, *Tarot and Astrology: Enhance Your Readings With the Wisdom*

		<p>of the Zodiac (Llewellyn, 2011).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oswald Wirth, <i>Tarot of the Magicians</i> (first published in 1927) (Samuel Weiser, 1985), Chapter 4, “The Astronomical Tarot,” p. 43-47.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Tarot and the Qabalah</p> <p>Chapter 14, “Tree of Life Spread” p. 339-340 Quick Reference Sheet, p. 710-711</p> <p>“The Ten Sephiroth” p. 659-660</p> <p>See also Appendix B13. Tarot and the Tree of Life</p>	<p>Practicum</p> <p>Read about the Tree of Life spread starting on p. 339 in Chapter 14. Using a signifier is optional. Following the text, perform a Tree of Life reading for yourself. Note the quick reference sheet for the Tree of Life spread in Appendix A, p. 710-711. To understand why the ten card positions correspond with the given position meanings, review the reference chart on p. 659-660 on the Ten Sephiroth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—•—</p> <p><i>Additional Recommended Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Wang, <i>The Qabalistic Tarot</i> (Weiser Books, 1987). • Dovid Krafchow, <i>Kabbalistic Tarot: Hebraic Wisdom in the Major and Minor Arcana</i> (Inner Traditions, 2005). • Oswald Wirth, <i>Tarot of the Magicians</i> (first published in 1927) (Samuel Weiser, 1985), Chapter 3, “The Kabbalistic Tarot,” p. 36-42.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Notes, p. 815-845</p>	<p>Starting on p. 815 with Chapter 1, Note 1, read the end notes that most pique your interest. Skip the notes that are mere citations. There are, however, notes that may be of interest to you.</p> <p>For example, Chapter 2, Notes 15 and 16 perhaps (p. 817), the note on the Akashic Records on p. 822, the Emerald Tablet by Hermes Trismegistus on p. 823, the significance of the esoteric Christian symbol of the sun rising from the waters, p. 827, duality and dichotomy in the Major Arcana, p. 829, chaos theory and the butterfly effect, p. 844, etc.</p>

	<p>□ Chapter 33, A Personal Essay p. 686-691</p>	<p>Rumination: Your Most Memorable Reading By now you will have done many readings for yourself and for others. To date, which reading has been the most memorable to you? Recount that reading and write a reflection on it. Since you performed that reading, have you gained any new insights into tarot that might have changed your approach to that reading? Log your personal essay in your tarot journal.</p> <p>Rumination: Your Tarot Approach Scan the cards in the Major Arcana. Which card best expresses your reading approach, philosophy, and outlook for tarot? Ruminates on how and why that card expresses your tarot approach. Then take the 22 cards of the Majors, shuffle, and ask the cards which Major Arcanum best represents your current relationship with the deck. Note the card drawn and consider its implications. Log and date the writings in your tarot journal.</p>
	<p>□ <i>Optional Reading. Chapter 32: The Professional Practice of Tarot</i> p. 670-685</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—•—</p> <p><i>Additional Recommended Reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christiana Gaudet, <i>Fortune Stellar: What Every Professional Tarot Reader Needs to Know</i> (Jupiter Gardens, 2010) • Jenna Matlin, <i>Have Tarot, Will Travel: A Comprehensive Guide to Reading at Festivals as a Tarot Professional</i> (Self Published, 2014) • Christine Jette, <i>Professional Tarot: The Business of Reading,</i> 	<p>If you are going professional in the 21st century, then at some point you will be writing out a tarot reading, most likely to be sent electronically to a client far away. The professional tarot reader will have a reading template that can be used for written readings. See the sample written reading template and with it, tailor one for yourself.</p> <p>Supplement: Sample Written Reading Templates</p> <p>(Download from Website: http://benebellwen.com/about-the-book/holistic-tarot-supplements/)</p> <p>Practicum: Hypothetical Reading Bart has requested a three-card e-mail reading from you. He asks you: "Will I find love in the next six months?" He provides you with his date of birth, 04/13/1983.</p>

	<p><i>Consulting and Teaching</i> (Llewellyn, 2003)</p> <p><i>Additional Supplements.</i></p> <p>Supplement: Log of Professional Readings</p> <p>Supplement: Detailed Summary of Readings Log</p> <p>Supplement: Sample Privacy Terms for Tarot Reading Websites</p> <p>Supplement: Sample Schedule of Fees and Business Policy</p> <p>Supplement: Sample Services Agreement</p> <p>(Download from Website: http://benebellwen.com/about-the-book/holistic-tarot-supplements/)</p>	<p>First consider your code of ethics and whether the question as presented needs rephrasing. Then consider whether you will be using a signifier. Proceed with the three-card reading and write it up using your personalized version of the three-card written reading template.</p> <p>A sample of the author’s approach to the reading request is provided at the end of the supplemental download. Note that in the sample written reading for Bart, compatibility is mentioned, since Bart is asking about love. The sign compatibility given in the sample reading comes from elemental dignities. See the diagram on the bottom of p. 436, on p. 438, and the one on p. 445. Also review the “Elemental Dignities and Affinities” supplemental download with the Intermediate Study Guide.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—•—</p> <p>You will want to keep a master log of all professional readings and events. Use the “Log of Professional Readings” template to draft your own master log to record all private readings you do and all tarot reading events or parties. Recording the private readings will become an invaluable reference for you to look back on and review. Recording your events and parties will keep you organized and in slow seasons, you can send marketing materials or contact those who have previously hired you for events and parties. Use the “Detailed Summary of Readings Log” to record individual client readings.</p>
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