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# Introduction to Tarot

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An Introduction to the  
Tarot & Tarot Reading

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Alizon

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# Introduction to Tarot

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## The Tarot

The origin of the Tarot is clouded in mystery. No one knows exactly where the true origins of the Tarot lie. Some say Egypt, China, Greece ..... What is certain is that the cards were used in Italy in the fifteenth century as a popular card game. Later they were used as a form of divination or fortune telling.

A modern day Tarot deck consists of 78 picture cards. Each of the 78 cards has a basic meaning (or more accurately several meanings) attached to it.

Nowadays there are many variations and themes to Tarot decks and the names assigned to each card and suit. But usually there contains within each Tarot pack 22 Major Arcana cards and 56 Minor Arcana cards. The word 'Arcana' means 'secret'.

In this Introduction to the Tarot I've used the traditional Ryder Waite Tarot Deck illustrations, but you can substitute any Tarot deck you may have and still gain from it. Other decks may substitute another name for these traditional cards. However, no matter what name is given to the particular card it still carries the same essence, message and meaning of the traditional cards.

To 'Read' the cards in a Tarot Reading means simply to interpret the meanings of the cards to the Querant (person who wants answers from the Tarot).

## The Major Arcana

More importance and significance should be placed on interpreting a Major Arcana card as these represent major events, emotions and deciding factors in any Tarot Reading. The Minor Arcana cards represent the more mundane, everyday aspects in a Tarot Reading.

Most packs follow the same specific order in the Major Arcana, but some packs switch the Justice card and the Strength card numbering 8 or 11.

Every Tarot card both Major and Minor Arcana have a positive meaning and a reversed or negative meaning. The following definitions for each of the 22 Major Arcana cards include key words associated with that card and the positive and reversed (negative) meanings. You can choose to use reversed cards in your Tarot Readings if you want to.

Many Tarot Readers do not use reversed meanings and just use upright cards.

## The Fool



The Fool symbolises an enthusiastic and passionate but naïve person eager to set out on his new life path, regardless of what lies ahead. It indicates the beginnings or a change of direction. The Querant should expect the unexpected when The Fool turns up in a Reading and be aware that influences coming into play could have a dramatic affect on the decisions and choices they make.

When The Fool appears it is a time for new beginnings, a journey perhaps into the unknown that will be both exciting and challenging. These challenges will allow the Querant to gain strength and confidence and become a much wiser person. The Fool also suggests that the Querant should have faith in themselves no matter what others might do or say.

But it can also act as a warning to the Querant not to go blindly into a situation without researching all the facts. The Fool can show a need to exercise caution or it could indicate foolhardiness. It warns not to behave in an unrealistic, irresponsible manner.

Positive connotations associated with this card are optimism, new beginnings, spontaneity, fearlessness and excitement.

Negative connotations associated with this card are lack of responsibility, naïveté, thoughtlessness, immaturity and impulsiveness.

## The Magician



The Magician is a skilled and talented person. As an alchemist he epitomizes the ability to translate ideas into action. This card symbolises that there is great creativity around for the Querant if they are willing to put their ideas into action. The Magician card is a representative of good and full use of one's talents and skills. It also indicates unseen powers and psychic ability. It also represents a connection to the divine and is a sign that some magical influences could be coming into the Querants' life or that their intuition will become stronger.

For the Querant this card shows that they need to make a choice of what they want to focus on before they can become successful. Above all else this card is issuing a challenge to the Querant to take action and put talents to the best use to create success.

This card can also act as warning of being tricked or deceived by a sly person.

Positive connotations associated with this card are action, confidence, individuality, and willpower.

Negative connotations associated with this card are deception, lack of self-confidence and indecision.

## The High Priestess



The High Priestess represents wisdom, knowledge, intuition and education. She is the guardian of secrets so when she shows up in a Reading it can mean a secret is to be revealed to the Querant or the Querant wants to reveal a secret. She represents the feminine consciousness and challenges the Querant to find what is hidden below the surface of a situation. The Querant should be urged to be guided by their intuition and receptive to their dreams and psychic connection. This card can also signal the need for solitude, seclusion and meditation as well as wisdom and education.

For the Querant the High Priestess can represent a person who will provide trusted advice and guidance. If the Querant is male the High Priestess can represent the most important woman in his life.

Positive connotations associated with this card are intuition, feminine wisdom, and psychic ability.

Negative connotations associated with this card are emotional insecurity, secretiveness or hidden obstacles.

## The Empress



The Empress governs the cycle of birth, death and rebirth. She represents attainment in all things traditionally feminine, such as fertility, family, home, marriage and motherhood. The Empress represents love, prosperity and birth so when this card shows up for a Querant in a Reading in a favourable position it is a very welcome card. This card can represent pregnancy or actual birth of a child or it can also represent the creation or birth of a creative project or involvement with nature.

For the Querant it can herald a time of abundance, domestic stability and material wealth. This card also represents the abundance of all things that come with an open mind and generous spirit. This card can also be a representative of the Querant's mother or someone with maternal traits. It can also represent a woman in a position of power or authority. It can show the Querant that they, or a woman in their life, is being too protective for comfort and may even resort to emotional blackmail to get what they want.

Positive connotations associated with this card are creativity, fertility, abundance, wealth.

Negative connotations associated with this card are infertility, inability to count ones blessings, blocked creativity.



## The Emperor



The Emperor card represents power, authority and attainment in all things traditionally masculine. The Emperor card is a sign of achievement and admiration and can represent to the Querant a strong male influence such as a father, husband/partner or man of significance in their life. When this card shows up in a Reading he can suggest that a man of authority or significance will stand by the Querant and support them, in personal as well as professional matters

It can also show the Querant that they will be able to influence people and have a great sense of their own authority. It also indicates to the Querant a time to take control of material and financial matters and make definite changes. The Emperor can also show a competitive edge with desire to overcome challenges and bring ideas into reality.

Positive connotations associated with this card are achievement, protection, support and discipline.

Negative connotations associated with this card are weakness, failed ambition and immaturity.

## The Hierophant



The Hierophant represents a symbol of moral law, a wise and capable adviser, a practical instructor and spiritual guide. It shows the need to follow tradition or a path of ideas and beliefs, even if they are outdated. This card can represent any structured group with rules and assigned roles. It can show a need for group activities and learning.

The Hierophant also represents an interest in spiritual matters. The Hierophant may actually represent a teacher, spiritual guru or adviser but is more likely to symbolise moral lessons to be learned from events.

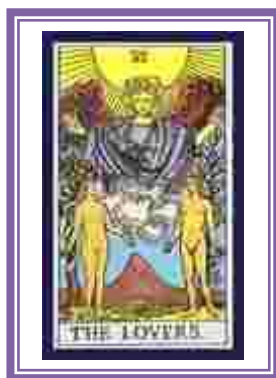
For the Querant this card can be an indicator of marriage or commitment as well as pointing to legal responsibilities and official documents.

It also represents humilities, kindness, goodness, forgiveness and companionship. It can represent a lack of conviction and inactivity. Being captive to your own ideas. Feeling constricted by the attitudes of society as a whole. Pressure to live up to the expectations of others.

Positive connotations associated with this card are advice, knowledge, faith and tradition.

Negative connotations associated with this card are misinformation, lack of faith or bad advice.

## The Lovers



The Lovers can indicate that the Querant is at a crossroads where a decision must be made. This decision could go against what others are telling the Querant. It represents an important choice that could affect the rest of the Querants life. The Lovers symbolises a choice between duty versus the Querants heart's desire. By taking a gamble it could lead to greater happiness and emotional fulfilment, staying dutiful then life will simply remain the same.

The Lovers can symbolise that a new love is going to enter into the Querants life or that a current relationship is going through a big change. The Lovers can also symbolise a deep love or a powerful drawing together of two entities, be it people, ideas, circumstances, etc. This card means that the Querants heart rules their head and a dramatic change of attitude will lead to happier times.

Positive connotations associated with this card are a new lover, physical attraction, love, sex or commitment.

Negative connotations associated with this card are lust, temptation, separation, failed love affair or emotional loss.

## The Chariot



The Chariot symbolises conflicts ending in victory, so instructs the Querant that sustained efforts to overcome obstacles will win through in the end. The Chariot suggests that the Querant actually has a good chance of real success and accomplishment if they do not give up. Accomplishment can be achieved with effort and resourcefulness and strong direction.

For the Querant this is a very motivating card and urges direct action, determination and harnessing of power and talents to move ahead. This card can also show unexpected good news and represents assertiveness, self-belief and faith in the Querants own abilities.

It can also mean travel and change and movement and can represent a possible voyage or journey. The journey can be a physical one or one of spiritual discovery.

Positive connotations associated with this card are movement, change, self-belief and good news.

Negative connotations associated with this card are rage, selfishness, arrogance and, frustrating delays.

## Strength



When the Strength card shows up it represents not just physical strength but the ability to cope with extreme pressure and win through in the end. For the Querant it represents courage and determination and trusting their own abilities. It also represents compassion. In a Reading this card represents the Querants need to use intellect and reason coupled with enthusiasm and energy. It shows to the Querant that they are able to deal with whatever life throws at them and are equipped to overcome obstacles.

The Strength card indicates triumph over most things; challenges in relationships, career and even ill health. If illness has been an issue for the Querant this card indicates good recovery. If the Querant has been considering ridding themselves of an unhealthy habit or bad relationship this card indicates a good time to put plans into action. It is a time for being constructive, not destructive and understanding the consequences of actions.

Positive connotations associated with this card are strength, willpower, patience, and courage.

Negative connotations associated with this card are fear, inertia, defeat or loss of opportunity.

## The Hermit



The Hermit represents a time when the Querant may wish to draw inwards, away from the outside world and gain perspective. For the Querant this may represent a time for soul searching or looking inwards for answers or maybe just the need for some alone time. The Hermit warns against making hasty decisions and recommends taking advice from a trusted source before making any decisions. In regard to health the Hermit indicates a time of convalescence and rest.

It can also reflect an acceptance and understanding of things that can't be changed as well as wisdom, patience and a new appreciation of life. When dealing with conflict, the Hermit can also represent a time for backing down or retreating.

The Hermit can also indicate a personality in the Querants life who is a quiet, withdrawn person who is a loner and one who withholds information or keeps secrets.

Positive connotations associated with this card are introspection, solitude, guidance and patience.

Negative connotations associated with this card are obstinacy, fear, impatience and arrogance.

## The Wheel of Fortune



The Wheel of Fortune is representative of whatever point the Querant is in life; he or she is able to change at a moment's notice. The fairground image of the spinning the wheel of fate: "round and round she goes, where she stops, no one knows" is very evocative of the meaning of this Tarot card. If the Querant is at the bottom of the wheel, things may start looking up. If the Querant is at the top of the wheel, they can just as easily fall off. Basically it indicates a change of fortune or a turning point in life.

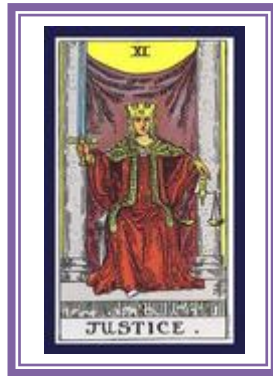
This card can also show that an opportunity will present itself, but only for a limited time. The Querant must take action during that time or the opportunity will be lost.

NB: With this card, it is important to look at it in context with the surrounding cards to know which way the wheel is turning, so to speak.

Positive connotations associated with this card are destiny, movement, good luck and synchronicity.

Negative connotations associated with this card are obstacles, temporary bad luck or unpleasant surprises.

## Justice



The Justice card represents justice and fairness and balance in all things. Justice also suggests that the Querant may be involved with the legal profession. This card could also indicate that the Querant is concerned with making the right decision or making difficult choices. The Justice card is seen as a good omen concerning partnerships, business deals and legal issues. This card can also mean the Querant needs to make a compromise or be sure that all factors have been weighed before a decision is made.

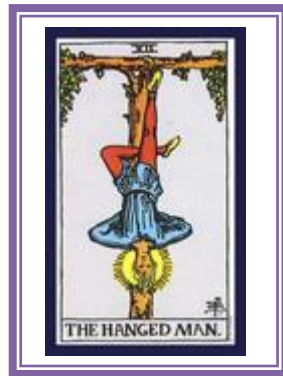
The Justice card also urges the Querant to attempt to achieve a balanced mind through logic and careful thought. It shows a time of rational clear thinking is called for, unemotional judgment, fairness and equality and of achieving a sense of balance and harmony and correcting wrongs.

Positive connotations associated with this card are justice, truth, integrity, responsibility and fairness.

Negative connotations associated with this card are prejudice, injustice, bad judgement or bad advice.



## The Hanged Man



The Hanged Man is a representative of self-sacrifice. The Querant will need to decide to give something up to attain something else. If the Querant can't or won't make that choice, he or she may stagnate and enter a time of limbo. It shows a pause in life until something or perhaps someone is given up for greater gain. The Hanged Man can represent ill health, stress and anxiety and can represent a trial of passage and hence the self-sacrifice aspect of this card.

This card can also show that it is time for the Querant to look at the situation from another angle, as it shows a time to reverse their order of doing things and to get out of a rut. Fixed ideas and concepts may need to be evaluated and changes made in how they think and their associations; they may be outdated.

Positive connotations associated with this card are transition, flexibility, rebirth and release.

Negative connotations associated with this card are materialism, lack of willpower, easily influenced or martyrdom.

## Death



The Death card is probably one of the most misunderstood and most famous cards in the Tarot deck. Without a doubt it is the card that causes most fear in a Reading and yet it rarely, if ever, symbolises an actual physical death.

Most often it indicates a powerful transformation in the life of the Querant as it shows a time of absolute endings and absolute beginnings. It is death followed by rebirth. It is an ending to something in the Querants life that will initiate great change. Rely on the other surrounding cards in the spread when doing a Reading to clarify what this change may be. It must be stressed this change is not optional but something required and unchangeable.

Positive connotations associated with this card are endings, transformation, clearance and change.

Negative connotations associated with this card are stagnation, loss of opportunity or fear of change.

## Temperance



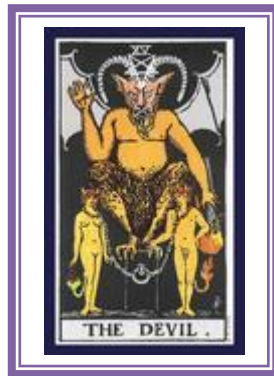
The Temperance card indicates self-control and the ability to handle volatile situations and bring about a positive result. It shows a time of harmonious relationships, peace and harmony and a time to be enjoyed. In conflict situations, Temperance suggests that finding the middle ground may be the best answer.

It is a great indicator of the Querants spirituality and their interest in receiving and passing on knowledge concerned with psychic abilities, healing abilities and connections with nature.

Positive connotations associated with this card are harmony, health, moderation, peace and self-control.

Negative connotations associated with this card are impatience, lack of foresight, conflict and quarrels.

## Devil



The Devil card has several meanings that can be quite negative on first sight. But the Devil is not all bad; if marriage or commitment to a relationship is the subject of consideration and this card is turned in a favourable position in a Reading The Devil is a good omen. In relation to most other issues this card is not a very positive one. The Devil symbolises temptation and addiction, which don't tend to lead to happy outcomes.

The Devil card is a wakeup call and acts as a warning to the Querant of the dangers of being wrapped up in anything that is unhealthy – relationships, habits, and situations. However, sometimes, it can also represent that the Querant needs to relax and have a little fun and perhaps take a risk or two, but not to go too far. It can also represent seduction and sex and being tempted to do things normally against a moral code.

This is yet another card that requires you to use surrounding cards in a spread to determine if it is presented in a positive or negative light.

Positive connotations associated with this card are permanence and commitment

Negative connotations associated with this card are entrapment, lust, greed, anger or obsession.

## Tower



Like the Death card, the Tower represents a very powerful change in the Querant's life, which could leave them feeling in a weak position and helpless. The Tower card can indicate sudden and unexpected changes in events and can often represent problems or delays relating to the home. Whether material or emotional upset, this card encourages the Querant to see that such upheavals can force new directions that in the long run can be more beneficial. The main thing to point out to the Querant with this rather negative card is that this phase will pass and that a new direction or new opportunities can be created from it.

Positive connotations associated with this card are re-evaluation, necessary change and a blessing in disguise.

Negative connotations associated with this card are sudden change, disruption or disaster.

## The Star



The Star is a welcome and positive card promising optimism and hope, renewal of faith and unexpected gifts. This card signals good times for many things, artistic, creative or educational endeavours, travel, health and spiritual awareness or development. In regard to a new relationship, new job or new venture the Star is an excellent omen.

The Star shows the Querant will take the first step on the right path, but it must be accompanied by action for it to be a true success. This card is not just about wishes being granted but urges the Querant to be inspired, motivated and encouraged to make their dreams a reality.

Positive connotations associated with this card are hope, wishes coming true, good health and spiritual awareness.

Negative connotations associated with this card are self-doubt, lack of trust and pessimism.

## The Moon



The Moon itself is associated with mysteries, the female spirit, emotions and intuitions but also can trigger fears of the unknown. When the Moon card appears you can be certain that the Querant will be going through a time of highly charged emotions and confusion. But under that confusion and unseen, situations are resolving themselves. The Querant must allow things to run their course and not try to force issues that they may not fully understand yet.

The Moon card is also the card of illusions, being deceived and taken advantage of. It acts as a warning to the Querant not to rush important decisions and ensure that they are not deceiving themselves or being deceived in any situation.

Positive connotations associated with this card are imagination, unexpected possibilities and illumination.

Negative connotations associated with this card are fear, confusion, deception and highly charged emotions.

## The Sun



The Sun is one of the best, if not the best, cards in the Tarot deck. The Sun indicates satisfaction and happiness in love, marriage, friendship and life in general. The Sun therefore is a most welcome card and a signal of very good news around children or perhaps news of the conception or birth of a much-wanted baby. It also indicates clarity of vision with things suddenly becoming illuminated.

There is also artistic flair and creative connotations attached to this card and can show the Querant that they are heading for success in this area of their lives. And lastly it can also show travel or relocation to warmer climes.

Positive connotations associated with this card are happiness, success, good health and love.

Negative connotations associated with this card are misjudgement, delays, potential failure, and inflated ego



## Judgement



The Judgement card suggests a time of accomplishment and rewards for past efforts. It is time for the Querant to look back and evaluate his or her life or a phase in their life. It's about taking stock of their life and consideration of a brand new phase in life. It is a card of powerful transformative energy. If there has been ill health this card signals a recovery with a new lease of life. It also brings an opportunity to the Querant, which, once given, must not be ignored. Action on a new project or taking a bold decision could change the Querant's life very much for the better.

It also indicates a time of rebirth, a releasing from burdens, overcoming obstacles before moving on. It can also represent a judgement in a legal matter.

Positive connotations associated with this card are rebirth, new potential and rewards for past efforts.

Negative connotations associated with this card are guilt, loss, fear and obstinacy.

## The World



The World represents achievement or completion. Again it is a very positive and uplifting card and can show the Querant they are about to receive their heart's desire. It shows a time of achievement, recognition, success and victory.

The World card can also mark the end of one cycle and the beginning of another. It is important to point out to the Querant that this card is an active and energetic card; the Querant cannot just wait for success to land in their lap. They will need to take action to achieve their goals.

Traditionally this card is very much linked to travel, communication and distance.

Positive connotations associated with this card are fulfilment, completion, satisfaction, joy and success.

Negative connotations associated with this card are stagnation, lack of will or delays

## The Minor Arcana

Similar to traditional playing cards, the 56 Minor Arcana cards are divided into four suits. These are Wands, Cups, Swords and Pentacles.

Some packs assign different names to their suits such as Rods, Staves or Batons in place of Wands. Pentacles in some packs are also known as Coins or Discs.

Again similar to playing cards each suit has numbered cards Ace -10. However unlike the three face cards in a playing card pack, the Tarot pack has four face or court cards – Page, Knight, Queen and King. Again different packs may give alternative names to the Court Cards such as Prince or Princess.

The four elements and Zodiac signs are assigned to each suit.

Swords are from the element of Air – Gemini, Libra, Aquarius and are connected with the intellect, thinking and learning.

Pentacles are from the element of Earth – Virgo, Capricorn and Taurus and are connected with practical, material and financial matters.

Wands are from the element of Fire – Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius and are connected with work, ambition and creativity.

Cups are from the element of Water – Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces. Cups are connected with emotions, feelings and love.

## The Wands

The Wands are a fiery, passionate and creative suit. In the past this suit was associated with peasants and today it is still used to predict changes in work and creativity. The Wand's direction is south; its element fire, its season summer and the astrological corresponding signs are Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius.

Key words associated with the suit of Wands are creativity, growth, ambition, expansion and ventures.

### Ace of Wands

The Ace of Wands indicates the birth of an idea, a promotion or new job or business. It can also show any new venture or challenge including a marriage, pregnancy, the birth of a child or start of a passionate relationship.

Positive connotations associated with this card are creativity, originality, fertility, and new beginnings.

Negative connotations associated with this card are frustration, greed or foolhardiness.

### Two of Wands

The Two of Wands means that things are moving in the right direction for the Querant and success is imminent. It can show the Querant working with a partner and using their creative talents.

Positive connotations associated with this card are earned success and partnership.

Negative connotations associated with this card are pessimism, restraint caused by others or loss of faith.

### **Three of Wands**

The Three of Wands encourages the Querant to take a different look at what is happening and gain a different perspective. It shows that although the Querant has reached an important milestone there is still plenty of work to do. It urges the Querant to ask for and accept help from others as they have gone as far as they can by themselves.

Positive connotations associated with this card are new ventures and group working.

Negative connotations associated with this card are frustration or personality clashes.

### **Four of Wands**

The Four of Wands is traditionally associated with celebrations, holidays or parties. There may be good reason to celebrate, but the Querant must acknowledge once the holiday is over, he or she must get back to work.

The Four of Wands can also signify freedom and the feelings of release that come with it. Its other main associations are related to committed relationships, births, a house purchase or move and sharing one's good fortune with another.

Positive connotations associated with this card are satisfaction, completion or celebration.

Negative connotations associated with this card are lack of progress, impatience or unfulfilled romance.

### **Five of Wands**

The Five of Wands represents struggles and minor obstacles and conflicts. It must be stressed however to the Querant that it's not the

end of the world. The Querant can face all these small irritations and must not let them get the better of him or her.

This card also represents rivalry and competitiveness. It could be healthy competition or the Querant may have hidden rivals. Either way the Querant should not worry unnecessarily about the appearance of this card.

Positive connotations associated with this card are competitiveness and friendly rivalry.

Negative connotations associated with this card are being misinformed, deceived or lead astray.

### **Six of Wands**

The Six of Wands indicates the Querant will achieve recognition for his or her hard work. It also shows good career prospects or business success. Hard work and careful planning will bring to the Querant great satisfaction. This card is traditionally named the victory card and as such is a very welcome card in any Tarot Reading.

Positive connotations associated with this card are victory, fulfilment, and great news.

Negative connotations associated with this card are suspicion, delayed news, anxiety.

### **Seven of Wands**

The Seven of Wands indicates that the Querant will come up against rivalry or competition in work. The Querant will need to decide if it is worth the effort to beat off the competition or accept defeat gracefully.

This card can also represent strong beliefs and principles and a willingness to defend them.

Positive connotations associated with this card are ultimate success and victory.

Negative connotations associated with this card are indecisiveness or lost opportunities.

### **Eight of Wands**

The Eight of Wands indicates the arrival of good news, which could be disguised and very much out of the blue. It marks the end of a period of stagnation and delay and brings to the Querant an opportunity to prove themselves. It can show the beginning of an exciting adventure with the Querant acting upon new ideas or the Querant will take part in the plans laid by others. This action will also be bringing these events to a positive and fulfilling conclusion.

Positive connotations associated with this card are activity, travel or out of the blue good news.

Negative connotations associated with this card are delays, impetuous action, jealousy or domestic quarrels.

### **Nine of Wands**

The Nine of Wands indicates to the Querant that even though obstacles may seem insurmountable the Querant must continue to push toward his or her goal or dream in a safe and informed way. The Querant should heed caution as recklessness could lead to the possibility of harm physically, spiritually or emotionally.

Positive connotations associated with this card are griity dertemination and imminent success.

Negative connotations associated with this card are laziness, lack of direction and irresponsibility.

## Ten of Wands

The Ten of Wands indicates that the Querant must take care not to be overcome by his or her work or success. It is a warning card to the workaholic. The Querant's work life may be threatening to overtake other aspects of their life. It shows that the Querant may need to lighten up a little and take some time for fun. Also this card may also indicate a time when the Querant may need to step up and take on more responsibility because they are the only person one who can in their circumstances. The Querant may feel pressured and overburdened but must be urged to ask for help or delegate.

Positive connotations associated with this card are pressure and hard work.

Negative connotations associated with this card are deceit, burdens or the abuse of power.



## The Swords

The Swords is the suit that can foretell two things – it can herald intellectual or mental changes, since Swords represent air, the element of thought; or it can predict suffering or endings. The Swords are cards of action, conflict and decisive, analytical thinking.

The Sword's direction is east; its element air, its season autumn and the astrological corresponding signs are Gemini, Libra and Aquarius.

Key words associated with the suit of Swords are mental activity, keenness, challenges, intellect and ways of thinking.

### Ace of Swords

The Ace of Swords represents a new idea or a different point of view that may not necessarily appeal to the Querant very much at first, but that turns out much better than expected. This is necessary change for the better. It indicates beginning to think and communicate differently and taking advantage of new ideas. This card can also represent a challenge or a hurdle to overcome by the Querant.

Positive connotations associated with this card are mental clarity and necessary change.

Negative connotations associated with this card are injustice and misuse of power.

### Two of Swords

The Two of Swords represents a stalemate. The Querant maybe in a situation where they need to make a choice but whatever choice they make, someone is going to be left unhappy. This card also shows that the Querant is blindfolded and is not willing to accept some truth about themselves or the situation they are in. But ignoring the problem won't make it go away. They will need to make a decision sooner or later.

Positive connotations associated with this card are friendship in adversity or peace of mind.

Negative connotations associated with this card are tension, deceit and disharmony.

### **Three of Swords**

The Three of Swords indicates some form of heartache, loss, pain or betrayal. The situation that the Querant is facing is now at its worst, so things can only get better. If the Querant is unaware of the heartache this card refers to, then this card acts as a warning. It may show that there is something happening that they don't know about or don't want to acknowledge. This card can also indicate that it is the Querant who is responsible for causing pain to others.

Positive connotations associated with this card are new beginnings and opportunities to start again.

Negative connotations associated with this card are heartache, disharmony and bitterness.

### **Four of Swords**

The Four of Swords indicates a rest after some struggle or a need to take time out in general. The Querant may wish to withdraw and recuperate after a struggle. This card shows that it is time to take a step back and reassess the situation with a clear head.

There is a need for healing, reenergizing and rejuvenation. This card can also mean a feeling of being imprisoned, or to be actually in a place not of the Querants choosing.

Positive connotations associated with this card are healing, rest and recovery.

Negative connotations associated with this card are loneliness, isolation and depression.

### **Five of Swords**

The Five of Swords indicates that the Querant may face defeat in a battle. It indicates hostility coming from others. This card can also represent a need not to be taken advantage of.

Positive connotations associated with this card are acceptance and forgiveness.

Negative connotations associated with this card are unkindness and deception.

### **Six of Swords**

The Six of Swords indicates smoother times ahead after a period of difficult times. This card suggests that the Querant will be moving on from problems either emotionally or physically as in a journey. It shows positive change ahead and can be seen as a turning point.

Positive connotations associated with this card are a better time ahead, a brighter future or a journey.

Negative connotations associated with this card are procrastination and failure to face up to problems.

### **Seven of Swords**

The Seven of Swords indicates that the Querant must be tactful in trying to get to the root of a problem. There should be no direct confrontation with an opponent. The Querant must also be careful whom they place their trust in. This card can also be a sign that the Querant is running from something, which might make the situation worse. They will need to face their fears.

Positive connotations associated with this card are carefulness and being attentive and aware.

Negative connotations associated with this card are indecision and confusion.

### **Eight of Swords**

The Eight of Swords indicates a crisis with a sense of loss of freedom of choice and seemingly no way out. The Querant may feel as though they are trapped or being held at a disadvantage. The Querant must wait until they are in a position to escape their situation. This card is a reminder to the Querant that although solutions might not be easy, they do exist. Careful planning to escape may be necessary.

Positive connotations associated with this card are patience and persistence.

Negative connotations associated with this card are depression and restriction

### **Nine of Swords**

The Nine of Swords is the card of anxiety and worry, sleeplessness and nightmares that have adverse effects on health and well-being. However the card also shows that things are not nearly as bad as the Querant may fear. In fact, the fears may be the Querant's real problem.

This card can also represent guilt and heartache. The card acts as a reminder to the Querant that even the smallest change can make a world of difference.

Unfortunately there are no positive connotations associated with this card.

Negative connotations associated with this card are deception, disillusionment, sadness and loneliness.

## Ten of Swords

The Ten of Swords represents an inevitable ending. It shows despair and mental anguish and indicates a time to give up on a lost cause and get on with life. It's time for a change in thinking and a realisation that although at rock bottom, things can only get better. 'What doesn't kill you makes you stronger' attitude.

Unfortunately there are no positive connotations associated with this card.

Negative connotations associated with this card are continued suffering.

## **The Pentacles**

The Pentacles or Coins represent money, career advancement and material goods and the skills needed to provide security. This suit represents practicality and groundedness. The Pentacles direction is north; its element earth, its season winter and the astrological corresponding signs are Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn.

Key words associated with the suit of Pentacles are manifestation, prosperity, money and material resources.

### **Ace of Pentacles**

The Ace of Pentacles indicates potential in the area of wealth – both financially and spiritually. To make the best of the potential offered in this card the Querant will need to make every effort to practically make this happen.

The card shows also the positive reward for hard work or a fresh start in business and finances.

Positive connotations associated with this card are security and wealth.

Negative connotations associated with this card are greed and materialism.

### **Two of Pentacles**

The Two of Pentacles indicates a time of fluctuation and changes, especially concerning any financial enterprise. The Two of Pentacles shows the Querant that they can juggle all the demands placed upon them so long as they are open to opportunity and are flexible. It can show adjustment to unforeseen financial obstacles so there is need to reassess finances and budget carefully to avoid trouble in the future.

Positive connotations associated with this card are changing fortunes and possible journeys.

Negative connotations associated with this card are being distracted from goals or inconsistency.

### **Three of Pentacles**

The Three of Pentacles indicates the initial completion of a project. Time to look back at what has been achieved but also acknowledgement that there is still a lot of work ahead to gain real success. This card shows a group of people working together toward a team goal. The Querant will need the help and assistance from others and work together to achieve a successful venture.

Positive connotations associated with this card are reward, teamwork and success.

Negative connotations associated with this card are delays and disruption.

### **Four of Pentacles**

The Four of Pentacles indicates the need to take a calculated risk or gamble in order to gain. It shows that the Querant may need to sacrifice something in order to achieve more success and fulfilment.

This card also can show possessiveness and jealousy – either from or directed at the Querant.

Positive connotations associated with this card are emotional and material security.

Negative connotations associated with this card are greed, miser like attitude and material obsession.

### **Five of Pentacles**

The Five of Pentacles indicates some form of loss – financial or emotional. This is just a temporary hardship though and the Querant should view any loss as an opportunity to go in a different way. It is the ‘one door closes and another one opens’ mentality.

Unfortunately there are no positive connotations associated with this card.

Negative connotations associated with this card are loss – financial, means of income, loss of job or livelihood.

### **Six of Pentacles**

The Six of Pentacles indicates that the Querant will have money coming their way. This could come from any source such as pay raise, promotion, inheritance or competition win. The Querant will need to ensure that they share their wealth with others and not be miserly.

Positive connotations associated with this card are charity and prosperity.

Negative connotations associated with this card are being careless with money and overspending.

### **Seven of Pentacles**

The Seven of Pentacles indicates that the Querant will have to make difficult choices to ensure that they will succeed. They will need to reevaluate their goals, lifestyle and finances as this card is showing a need for reassessment and rethinking of priorities. It also shows hard work is about to pay off.

Positive connotations associated with this card are perseverance, determined effort, hard work beginning to pay off.



Negative connotations associated with this card are missed opportunities, despondency, and financial problems due to money mismanagement.

### **Eight of Pentacles**

The Eight of Pentacles shows a gifted apprentice or eager student, working hard towards their diploma and loving every minute of it. It means to the Querant that their talent or gift, developed in the right way will bring many rewards – financially and emotionally. This card also suggests the need for meticulous attention to detail. It can mean that a hobby or interest the Querant has can be turned into a successful career.

Positive connotations associated with this card are change in fortune, talents and gifts and being rewarded and recognised.

Negative connotations associated with this card are lack of direction and missed opportunities.

### **Nine of Pentacles**

The Nine of Pentacles indicates that the Querant has managed to achieve some form of financial security. It shows wise investment of time, energy and money into the right projects have paid off.

The Querant can take a pat on the back and be rightly proud of their achievements. This is earned financial security rather than handouts, inheritances or gambling winnings.

Positive connotations associated with this card are material success and achievement.

Negative connotations associated with this card are financial insecurity.

## Ten of Pentacles

The Ten of Pentacles indicates financial stability and possibly a good amount of wealth and prosperity. It is an excellent card for business endeavours and buying and selling houses and shows great success. In regard to family and relationships this card indicates strong family ties, a family reunion or just enjoying home and family.

Positive connotations associated with this card are inheritance and wealth and family.

Negative connotations associated with this card are financial problems and family restrictions.

## The Cups

The Cups are thought to point to changes in one's emotional life or in relationships. They indicate emotional states and responses, the emotional elements and spiritual experience in our lives, affairs of the heart, love and relationships. The Cups direction is west; its element water, its season spring and the astrological corresponding signs are Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces.

Key words associated with the suit of Cups are intuition, emotions, love and relationships.

### Ace of Cups

The Ace of Cups indicates internally spirituality, a growing intuition, psychic abilities and feelings of inner beauty. Externally this card can show an offer being made, a gift being given or the beginnings of a meaningful relationship.

As with all the aces the Ace of Cups offers new beginnings and fresh starts and in the case of the suit of Cups is related to love, strong emotions and feelings. This could mean for the Querant a new relationship, the birth of a baby or the start of any project that is emotionally satisfying.

Positive connotations associated with this card are contentment, faithfulness, creativity

Negative connotations associated with this card are lost love, rejection and despair.

### Two of Cups

The Two of Cups indicates strong unions with one other person. This could be romantic relationships but can refer to business partnerships, friendships, teacher/students relationships etc. The Querant will need to put every effort into this relationship rather than half-heartedly. It

indicates a time of coming together rather than drifting apart or separating.

Positive connotations associated with this card are partnership, attraction and commitment.

Negative connotations associated with this card are separation, divorce and betrayal.

### **Three of Cups**

The Three of Cups can indicate friendships, celebrations and the strong bond attachment to like-minded people. It is a very joyful card and can show a pregnancy, celebrating a birth or a wedding. Basically it is a group of people enjoying each other's company. It is not a time for solitude but for partying and celebrating.

Positive connotations associated with this card are joy, fertility and happiness.

Negative connotations associated with this card are self-obsession or exploitation.

### **Four of Cups**

The Four of Cups can indicate that the Querant may be becoming self-absorbed and prone to depression. This is the card that shows boredom, dissatisfaction and lack of motivation. The card shows the Querant that it is time for a shakeup, a re-evaluation and reassessment of their life.

Positive connotations associated with this card are reassessment and self-awareness.

Negative connotations associated with this card are overindulgence, boredom and depression.

## **Five of Cups**

The Five of Cups can forewarn the Querant about the possibility of a loss and all that goes with it – sorrow, regret, guilt. This loss could be physical e.g. money, possessions, relationship, job, or intangible, e.g. a dream, opportunity, prospect or reputation. The Querant may feel downcast by this card, but it does have a positive side. Every loss opens new opportunities and again we see the ‘One door closes another one opens’ philosophy.’

Positive connotations associated with this card are reassessment

Negative connotations associated with this card are worry, sense of loss or bad luck.

## **Six of Cups**

The Six of Cups is a sweet natured card and indicates that pleasant things, probably connected with the Querants past are happening. It encourages the Querant to be kind, generous and forgiving. This card can indicate a baby or a young child featuring in the Querant’s life. It also can indicate new elements entering the Querant’s life which are linked to their past.

Positive connotations associated with this card are nostalgia, happy memories or the past shaping the future.

Negative connotations associated with this card are inability to face reality, dwelling too much in the past.

## **Seven of Cups**

The Seven of Cups can indicate too many choices and options are being offered to the Querant. It may refer to a variety of choices of people to form or strengthen relationships with. Or to several job offers presented at the same time. Too much choice can be a bad

thing as a lot of time and effort needs to be invested to ensure the right choice is made.

Positive connotations associated with this card are imagination, choices or aspirations.

Negative connotations associated with this card are living in a daydream, illusions or being deceived by a lover.

### **Eight of Cups**

The Eight of Cups indicates moving on, walking away and positive changes. Emotionally the changes may seem difficult at first but with the passage of time will become easier. It is a card that is putting the past very firmly where it belongs – in the past. The moving on aspect to the card can mean a physical change such as moving jobs, location or leaving a relationship. Or it can mean moving to a new perspective or a change of viewpoint.

Positive connotations associated with this card are positive change, breaking free of ties and development.

Negative connotations associated with this card are abandonment, dissatisfaction or unrealistic goals

### **Nine of Cups**

The Nine of Cups is traditionally known as the Wish Card. It indicates to the Querant that their wishes can really come true. But as the saying goes 'Be careful what you wish for.' The Querant needs to be certain that they know what they really want and accept the responsibilities that go with their wish. Other meanings to the card are satisfaction, contentment and physical well-being.

Positive connotations associated with this card are wishes coming true, emotional satisfaction and total happiness.

Negative connotations associated with this card are vanity and finding fault in others.

### **Ten of Cups**

The Ten of Cups indicates a time of abundant blessings. It shows the Querant that they are in reach of the happiness they deserve. This card is a happy ever after card and indicates strong family bonds, honest and caring friends and love between two people.

Positive connotations associated with this card are contentment, perfect happiness or commitment in love.

Negative connotations associated with this card are bad behaviour or disruption of routine.

## Court Cards

There are 4 Court Cards for each suit – Kings, Queens, Knights, and Pages (sometimes the names differ in different Tarot decks)

Court cards in Tarot Readings can be confusing at first. It can be quite difficult to interpret the meanings of Court Cards and you may need to take some time to get to grips with the several different meanings of each of the cards.

The challenge exists for Tarot Readers in interpreting the Court Cards because the Kings, Queens, Knights, and Pages can represent actual people, events, or aspects of a person's personality.

### **Court Cards as representative of actual people you or the Querant knows**

Court cards can often represent someone who is of significance in your life or the life of the Querant you are Reading for. Parents, siblings, spouses, bosses, tutors and friends can often be recognised within the Court Cards.

### **Court Cards as representative of an event or situation**

The Court Cards can often indicate an event in yours or the Querant's life. For example the Pages of any suit represent an invitation, gift or opportunity related to their specific suit. So if the Page of Cups comes up it can mean a new love, engagement ring or even the birth of a baby as the suit of Cups relates to love.

Knights often show movement in yours or the Querant's life. So if the Knight of Swords shows up it could mean a new course of study to undertake as the suit of Swords relates to the mind.

When Queens show up in a Tarot reading they signify a time of growth and development, a time when you or the Querant is taking practical steps to get the results they want.



When Kings appear in a spread it can show the motivation or inspiration to begin something. Making plans, coming up with ideas and thinking about the future.

### **Court Cards as representative of an aspect of your personality or that of the Querant**

Court Cards in a tarot deck most often describe a certain type of person. The Queen of Wands is passionate, warm and outgoing while the Queen of Swords can be sharp, brittle and aggressive. The King of Cups is a sensitive, caring soul trusting his intuition whereas the King of Swords is very analytical and logical relying on hard evidence rather than gut feelings. When a Court Card appears in a Tarot Reading you are doing for yourself it may be indicating one of your personality traits or qualities that you need to be aware of. Similarly if you are giving a Reading to a Querant it can show some aspect of their personality they need to perhaps subdue or develop.

Bear in mind there is no definitive right or wrong way to interpret the meanings of Court Cards in Tarot Readings. Remember the above possibilities but listen to your intuition for guidance when doing a Reading.

### **Wands**

Don't forget that the suit of Wands are fiery, passionate and creative. In the past this suit was associated with peasants and today it is still used to predict changes in work and creativity. The Wand's direction is south; its element fire, its season summer and the astrological corresponding signs are Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius.

Key words associated with the suit of Wands are creativity, growth, ambition, expansion and ventures.

## **Page of Wands**

The Page of Wands can represent a child of either sex or someone who perhaps behaves like a child. The colouring of the child would be brown hair with blue or hazel eyes.

Positive connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of loyalty, enthusiasm and full of energy.

Negative connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of impatience, selfishness and hyperactivity.

The Page of Wands can indicate messages and communication relating to movement in any area of life but more likely to be concerned with creative projects.

## **Knight of Wands**

The Knight of Wands indicates a man under 35 years of age. The physical characteristics of the man would be fair hair with grey or blue eyes.

Positive connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of strength, vitality and spontaneity.

Negative connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of jealousy, argumentative and possibly a violent temper.

The Knight of Wands can indicate quite dramatic changes in events with movement in home or career and possible overseas travel.

## **Queen of Wands**

The Queen of Wands can represent a woman of any age with blonde or red hair with brown or blue eyes.

Positive connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of a practical nature, warmth and passion.

Negative connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of being too bossy, overbearing and selfish.

The Queen of Wands can indicate a need not to rely on others too much but to take full control of your life.

### **King of Wands**

The King of Wands can represent a man aged 35 or over with blonde or red hair and hazel or grey eyes.

Positive connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of courage, strength and fair mindedness.

Negative connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of intolerance, impatience and demanding.

The King of Wands can indicate a need to gain perspective on a situation. To look closely at all sides and points of view.

### **Swords**

Don't forget that the suit of Swords can foretell two things – it can herald intellectual or mental changes, since swords represent air, the element of thought; or it can predict suffering or endings. The Swords are cards of action, conflict and decisive, analytical thinking.

The Sword's direction is east; its element air, its season autumn and the astrological corresponding signs are Gemini, Libra and Aquarius.

Key words associated with the suit of Swords are mental activity, keenness, challenges, intellect and way of thinking.

### **Page of Swords**

The Page of Swords can represent a child of either sex or someone who perhaps behaves like a child. The colouring of the child would be fair hair and blue eyes.

Positive connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of honesty, loyalty and intelligence.

Negative connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of being overly critical and sarcastic, perhaps with a devious nature.

The Page of Swords can indicate changes and important decisions to be made and can relate to legal matters or other disputes.

### **Knight of Swords**

The Knight of Swords indicates a man under 35 years of age. The physical characteristics of the man would be dark hair and dark eyes.

Positive connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of having a sharp wit, very intelligent and articulate.

Negative connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of recklessness, being hot-headed and stubborn.

The Knight of Swords can indicate unpredictable and unexpected events that can leave you very confused.

### **Queen of Swords**

The Queen of Swords can represent a woman of any age with fair – brown hair and grey or green eyes.

Positive connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of intelligence, independence and insightfulness.

Negative connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of being overly critical, insincerity and sly.

The Queen of Swords can show the need for concentrating fully on ambitions and aspirations and ways to overcome obstacles to achieve them

### **King of Swords**

The King of Swords can represent a man aged 35 or over with black or very dark hair and dark eyes.

Positive connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of being logical and rational and wise.

Negative connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of a tendency to bully, scheming and aloof.

The King of Swords can indicate a need to find the ability to take full control over your life without undue influence of others.

### **Pentacles**

Don't forget that the suit of Pentacles or Coins represent money, career advancement and material goods and the skills needed to provide security. This suit represents practicality and groundedness.

The Pentacles direction is north; its element earth, its season winter and the astrological corresponding signs are Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn.

Key words associated with the suit of Pentacles are manifestation, prosperity, money and material resources.

### **Page of Pentacles**

The Page of Pentacles can represent a child of either sex or someone who perhaps behaves like a child. The colouring of the child would be brown hair with brown or dark eyes.

Positive connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of conscientious and loyalty.

Negative connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of impatience, laziness and greed.

The Page of Pentacles can indicate a need to be careful with money and look at finances seriously. However any news about money will be good news.

### **Knight of Pentacles**

The Knight of Pentacles indicates a man under 35 years of age. The physical characteristics of the man would be brown hair with brown or dark eyes.

Positive connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of being practical, hardworking and honest.

Negative connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of being complacent or lazy.

The Knight of Pentacles can indicate improvements in finances.

### **Queen of Pentacles**

The Queen of Pentacles can represent a woman of any age with black or dark hair and dark eyes.

Positive connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of being financially savvy, practical and down to earth.

Negative connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of being materialistic, sceptical or lacking confidence.

The Queen of Pentacles can indicate too much worry about finances and money matters and of being overly protective of others.

### **King of Pentacles**

The King of Pentacles can represent a man aged 35 or over with black or dark hair and dark eyes.

Positive connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of groundedness, patience and being trustworthy.

Negative connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of being materialistic and insensitive.

The King of Pentacles can indicate a need to take determined action to achieve financial stability and general good fortune in money matters.

### **Cups**

Don't forget that the suit of Cups is thought to point to changes in one's emotional life or in relationships. They indicate emotional states and responses, the emotional elements and spiritual experience in our lives, affairs of the heart, love and relationships. The Cups direction is west; its element water, its season spring and the astrological corresponding signs are Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces.

Key words associated with the suit of Cups are intuition, emotions, love and relationships.

## **Page of Cups**

The Page of Cups can represent a child of either sex or someone who perhaps behaves like a child. The colouring of the child would be fair or brown hair with brown or blue eyes

Positive connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of being loving, caring and creative.

Negative connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of being insecure, selfish and deceitful.

The Page of Cups can indicate a tendency to fall head over heels in love too easily. Caution should be taken in affairs of the heart. The card can also mean invitations and opportunities given regarding love.

## **Knight of Cups**

The Knight of Cups indicates a man under 35 years of age. The physical characteristics of the man would be fair or brown hair with grey or blue eyes.

Positive connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of artistic or creative and passionate.

Negative connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of disloyalty, devious and cunning.

The Knight of Cups can indicate sudden changes in emotions and being instantly attracted to someone that perhaps you shouldn't.

## **Queen of Cups**

The Queen of Cups can represent a woman of any age with brown or brunette hair with blue or brown eyes.



Positive connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of compassion, affectionate and intuitive.

Negative connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of disloyalty and vanity.

The Queen of Cups can indicate that you or the Querant you are Reading for maybe being over emotional and allowing your heart to rule your head.

### **King of Cups**

The King of Cups can represent a man aged 35 or over with blonde hair and blue eyes

Positive connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of being charming, tactful and diplomatic.

Negative connotations associated with this card are the personality traits of being self-centred, secretive and uncaring.

The King of Cups can indicate the need for diplomacy and tact to resolve a situation.

## Reversed Tarot Cards

Using reversed cards is something you may need to think about. You can choose to include reversals in your Tarot Readings if you wish but please remember that many of the most experienced and competent Readers do not use reversed cards at all in their Readings. Whether or not to use reversals is a decision you must make for yourself.

It can be quite overwhelming to use both upright and reversed meanings when you are beginning to use the Tarot, so it is usually best to learn the upright cards first until you have a firm understanding of the numerous layers and dimensions of any one card. It is also useful to remember the many facets of that card in different positions and different spreads. This allows you to add your own meaning to the card through your experience, rather than simply following the 'text book' meanings from a Tarot book.

There has been plenty written both for and against using reversals with many Tarot Readers stating there is no need to use reversals since the entire spectrum of emotion and action is already covered in the 78 cards. Others maintain that a reversed card signals that the energy of the upright card is blocked or may be delayed in some way. Others still believe that a reversed card has the same meaning as an upright card but special attention should be paid to it.

If you feel fully confident in using upright meanings you can, if you choose go on to introduce reversed cards to your Tarot spreads. There are numerous ways you can introduce reversed cards to your Tarot deck. Firstly, you can shuffle, then split the deck in two and turn one half upside-down. Continue doing this until you are satisfied the cards are well reversed. When doing Readings, you can also use this method to ensure that different cards get reversed for different readings. You can also ask the Querant themselves to cut the pack and decide which half gets turned upside-down. Or you can simply allow your cards to naturally reverse themselves.

## Significators

Some Tarot spreads have a built in significator (a card drawn to represent the Querant), and some do not. Some Tarot Readers do not Read with a significator, and simply ignore that position when it is built into a spread. As with many aspects of Tarot Reading there is no hard and fast rule about this and it really comes down to what you the Tarot Reader are comfortable with.

If you decide to Read with a significator, there are various ways that the card can be chosen. Again there is no right or wrong way to choose a significator card. One traditional way is to use the Magician to represent a male Querant and the High Priestess to represent a female Querant. Some Tarot Readers choose a court card based on the physical appearance of the Querant. In the method using physical characteristics, the traditional view is to use Wands for a fair person with blond hair and blue eyes. For a Querant with light to medium skin, brown hair, and blue or hazel eyes, consider using Cups. Choose a Swords significator card if the Querant has olive skin, dark hair, and light eyes. Finally, a Pentacles court card would be used for a Querant with dark skin, dark hair, and dark eyes.

Another traditional way to select the significator card is to base it on the astrological sign of the Querant. The fire signs of Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius would use a Wands court card. The water signs of Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces should use Cups. A Sword significator is suited to the air signs of Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius. Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn, the earth signs, would use Pentacles. In the method using Zodiac signs, once the suit has been defined, the Court Card that best matches your client is chosen. Pages are most often seen as children of either sex, Knights as young adults of either sex; Queens as adult females and Kings as adult males.

In addition to the physical appearance and astrological sign, you can also choose a significator card based on personality. This can be how the Querant sees their personality normally or how they feel based on the matter they are thinking about. A court Wands significator card is

for someone who is passionate and energetic. Cups would be suitable for an emotional and creative person. If the Querant is an intellectual and logical person, they may want to use Swords. Pentacles are good for a practical, down to earth person.

The main disadvantage to finding your significator card in a Tarot deck in these traditional ways is that it cannot be used in other positions in a Reading. That is why some methods have been developed which allow the significator card to have meaning in the Reading.

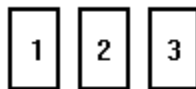
You can do this by letting the deck choose which card will be the significator card. Simply shuffle the cards and use the top one. When you do this, the significator card can show how the Querant feels about the role he or she plays in the situation. If the Querant is unfamiliar with the Tarot deck, you can allow him or her to go through the deck and choose his or her own significator card. This method provides insight in how the Querant sees themselves.

Although the above are all popular methods for finding a significator card in a Tarot deck, don't feel duty bound to adopt them. Experiment using these techniques and your own until you find the ones that you feel lead to the best Readings.

## Tarot Spreads

Tarot spreads are simply the ways that Tarot Readers lay out the cards to give a Reading. Normally, each position in the spread is assigned an area of life such as love, health, work, etc. or past, present, future etc.

### Three Card Spread

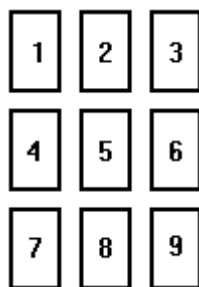


**Card 1.** Represents the current situation

**Card 2.** Represents the advice the card is giving you.

**Card 3.** Represents the predicted outcome the card is giving you.

### Nine Card Spread



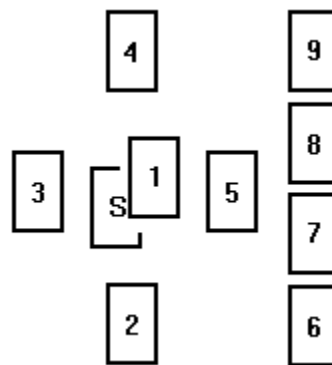
**Cards 1, 2, and 3** Represents the current situation

**Cards 4, 5, and 6** Represents the advice the card is giving you.

**Cards 7, 8, and 9** Represents the predicted outcome the card is giving you.

There are many different Tarot spreads with the Celtic Cross (below) perhaps the most famous. However a great number of Tarot readers develop their own Spreads and use these rather than the traditional ones. The more Readings you do and the more Spreads you try, the more comfortable you'll feel and you will naturally develop your own way to Read the cards.

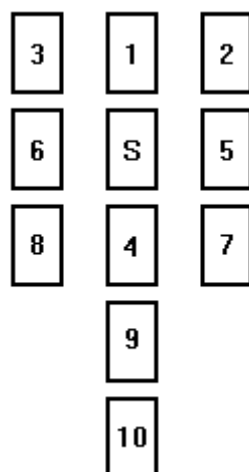
### The Celtic Cross Spread



A Significator card is usually used in the traditional Celtic Cross Spread.

1. What crosses the Querant i.e. their obstacles.
2. Past events that determined the Querant's current situation
3. Resent past; an influence on the current situation that is waning but still there
4. A possible future based upon the Querant's energy at the moment
5. The near future; the short-term outcome of the question at hand
6. How the Querant perceives the situation
7. How others see the Querant
8. The Querant's hopes and fears
9. The final outcome.

## The Tree of Life Spread



A Significator card is usually used in the traditional Tree of Life Spread.

1. **Aims.** This card represents what the Querant would like to achieve.
2. **Influences.** What is influencing the situation.
3. **General Nature.** This is the general nature of the question.
4. **The Key.** This may be something that the Querant isn't aware of.
5. **Influences of the Present.** Influences on the situation or question from present circumstances that the Querant needs to take into account.
6. **Influences of the Future.** Things the Querant will want to look out for.
7. **Effect of the Significator.** This is the effect that the significator (the Querant) has on the situation.
8. **Effect of those around.** The effect that the people around the Querant have on the situation, as well as other things surrounding the Querant.
9. **Hopes and Fears.** These are things that the Querant maybe fears will happen or hopes will happen with the situation.
10. **The Final Outcome.** The ultimate answer to the Querant's question.

## Intuition and Increasing Your Psychic Abilities

Intuition and psychic ability cannot be taught but it can be a crucial part of your Tarot Readings. It is possible to read Tarot cards without intuitive insights, because the symbols on the cards are designed to provide insights and understanding on their own. However, you will find that your Readings become much deeper and richer if you strengthen your intuition and increase your psychic abilities and learn to utilise them during Readings.

Meditation is the very best way to strengthen your intuition and increase your psychic abilities. The conscious mind often holds on to range of pre-conceived ideas and conditioning that we have received throughout our lives. With all the pressures of day-to-day life we find it difficult to focus on anything else but our immediate problems and needs and our minds are full of thoughts.

Simply set aside 10 to 20 minutes a day to sit quietly and empty your mind. This can seem a difficult task at first because you may have a lot of on your mind to distract you. But over time, you will begin to feel more in tune with your inner self, which is where your intuitive insights come from.

Meditating for a few minutes before you perform Tarot Readings can also clear away distractions and put you in a relaxed state of mind, which will automatically heighten your sensitivity.

While performing your Tarot Readings, pay attention to any hunches or feelings you get from both the Querant and from the cards, and just simply trust them. Trusting in yourself can take time, but the more you work with your intuitive abilities, the stronger they'll get. If you feel that a card means something other than the general meaning, go with that feeling. More often than not you'll discover that your hunch is correct.

Yet another way your intuition can lead you in Tarot Readings is by revealing connections between the cards. For example, you might be



focusing the Reading about the Querants career path and a card will come up that seems to point to emotional issues. You might think the card is out of place, but your intuition can alert you to the fact that they may have inner emotional blockages that are stopping them from following a more emotional fulfilling career.

As you become more proficient as a Tarot Reader you will automatically use your ability to tap into the sub-conscious and connect with the Universe to sense, see and hear messages from Spirit through the medium of the Tarot cards. You will be able to divert your conscious mind and contact the subconscious mind, which allows you to concentrate on the Universal consciousness. Within this cosmic force much of the information from past, present and future is available for you to access.

If your intentions are good and full of love and light you will be able to use your psychic abilities wisely. You have the potential to develop your psychic abilities by using Tarot cards and to use them to enhance your professional, personal and spiritual life.

Get certificated!

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