

# THE BASICS OF EGYPTIAN TAROT

## CLASS NOTES

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### ORAL HISTORY OF EGYPTIAN TAROT

The oral history of Egyptian Tarot begins 4,000 years ago with Hermes Trismegistus (Thrice Great Hermes in Greek) and counterpart of the earlier Egyptian god, Thoth, who guided souls in the afterlife, and delivered wisdom, writing, astrology, alchemy, and magic. The three bodies of Hermeticism are Astrology, Alchemy, and Magic. Tarot is considered part of Magic as it is used in Divination.

The three basic Hermetic tenets are:

- The Universe is Mental and Held in the Mind of The All
- Everything and Everybody in the Universe is part of The All
- The Separation between the Physical, Astral and Spiritual is a function of Vibration

The Church of Light dates back to Akhenaten (ruled approximately 1353-1356BC). It was first called the Brotherhood of Luxor and later known as the Brotherhood of Light. In 1932 the Brotherhood of Light changed its name and designation to the Church of Light to avoid penalty as a result of teaching astrology, which at that time was against the law in the State of California.

*TA* means Path and *RO* means Royal in ancient Egyptian. So the combination of these words means *Royal Path*. Egyptian Tarot is meant to communicate guidelines for the soul's evolution – or return – to The All, Spirit, or God. It is one of two keys to evolution: Astrology is the Golden Key and Tarot is the Silver Key and a pictorial reflection of Astrology.

Because Moses was a member of the Royal family, he attended the Egyptian Mystery School. Initiations were conducted at the Great Pyramid and then the newly initiated were led blindfolded to a secret subterranean chamber beneath the Sphinx. In this chamber were contained the images of the Major Arcana on bas-reliefs and below them Admonitions or spiritual messages that the initiate was to remember. This knowledge was taken out of Egypt when Moses led his people to the promise land and hidden within the Kabala throughout the Dark Ages.

The first Tarot deck appeared in 15<sup>th</sup> century Renaissance Italy as a card game called Tarocchi, a game of Trumps verses Pips, much like our Bridge or Pinnacle. These original decks were hand painted by artisans for the gambling pleasure of the aristocracy. After the invention of the printing press, decks were made available to the general public. The French exploration of Egypt in the 1700's ignited the spread of spiritualism throughout Europe. Spiritualism spread to the United States in the 1850's. It was during this time that a number of prominent scholars of the occult became fascinated by the tarot and recognized that the images on the cards were more powerful than a simple game would suggest. They

connected the cards to Egyptian mysteries, Hermetic philosophy, the Kabala, alchemy, astrology, and other mystical systems culminating in a form of divination that had not existed before. In 1909, William Rider & Son of London, published the Rider-Waite Deck, designed by Arthur Edward Waite and illustrated by Pamela Coleman Smith. Both were members of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. What was to become The Brotherhood of Light Egyptian Tarot was created by a Gloria Beresford in 1936.

## THE ARCHITECTURE OF EGYPTIAN TAROT

### 22 Major Arcana (Secrets)

- Big issues, powerful energies, beginnings, endings, changes, benchmarks
- Correspond to 10 planets and 12 signs of the zodiac
- AKA The Fool's Journey, The Hero's Journey, The Royal Path (to Spirit)

### 33 Minor Arcana

- Pertain to earthly, mundane issues
- Correspond to the 36 Decanates, or 10-degree subdivisions of the 12 zodiacal signs
- Outer (exoteric) meaning relate to their corresponding Major Arcanum
- Inner (esoteric) meaning relate to their corresponding decanate
- Watch **Understanding the Minor Arcana of Egyptian Tarot** (Allyn McCray) at [www.churchoflight.tv](http://www.churchoflight.tv)

**4 Tens** - correspond to the 4 seasons and *change*

**12 Court Cards** - correspond to the 12 signs of the zodiac and represent the personalities of the Tarot

**4 Horseman** – correspond to the four elements Fire, Air, Water, and Earth and represent our thoughts

Many other correspondences relating to the Major Arcana, such as colors, gems, tones, remedies, etc. may be found in *The Sacred Tarot* by C.C. Zain. Universal symbolism is the language of Tarot.

**Reversals:** When a Major, Minor or ten is reversed in a spread, it means that the energy is the same but not as fully expressed, with two exceptions: The Martyr, and The Materialist/Spiritualist. Court Cards reversed indicate a sex change, and Horsemen reversed make the opposite interpretation relevant.

## THE MAJOR ARCANA



**Arcanum I – The Magus - aka The Magician**

Ruled by Mercury

Key Words: Will or (Mental and Physical) Dexterity

Interpretations: Will, Dexterity, Power of the Mind, Thinking before acting, Planning; Wholeness, Oneness, Unity, Beginnings, Mediation, Vigilance, Order, Ratio, Discourse, Reason, Mediation, First Cause, Experiential knowledge, Consciousness, Communication, Thought, Short Journeys, Presence of Mind to Stay in the Moment



**Arcanum II – Veiled Isis - aka The High Priestess, The Papess**

Ruled by Virgo

Key Words: Science, Analysis, Labor

Interpretations: Science, Analysis, Labor, Receptive; Unconscious; Memories; Secret; the Unknown, the Mysterious, the Unrealized or Hidden, discern the truth, half-truths; or something that can be known, realized, or found by utilizing both physical and psychic sense or drawing from memory; Duality; suggestion of keeping silent; suggests the Higher Power; occult or secret principals of Divine energy



**Arcanum III – Isis Unveiled - aka The Empress**

Ruled by Libra

Key Words: Marriage or Action

Interpretations: Balance, Marriage, Action, Union of Polarities, Pregnancy, Motherhood, Gestation, Fruitfulness, a perfect balance or alchemy, making connections, poise, harmony, beauty, artistic expression and love of luxury.



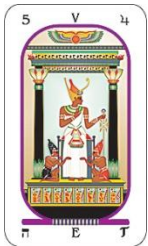
**Arcanum IV – The Sovereign – aka The Emperor**

Ruled by Scorpio

Key Word: Manifestation

Interpretations: Manifestation; Realization; Desire; Sex Drive; Magnetism; Creative Energies; Control over Passions; Power; Sovereignty; Control; Psychism; Legacy; Taxes; other people's money

NOTE: The four principals of Magic are: Thought (The Magus); Reception (Veiled Isis); Action (Isis Unveiled); and Manifestation or Realization (The Sovereign)

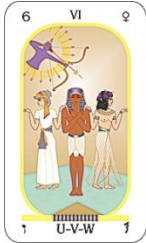


**Arcanum V – The Hierophant – aka The Pope**

Ruled by Jupiter

Key Words: Religion, Law, Abundance

Interpretations: Religion, Law, Abundance, Good Will, Good Luck, Values, Ethics, Faith and Charity, Generosity, Benevolence, Joviality, Religious Urges of the Soul, Power of Discernment; misdirected religious fervor, orthodox dogma, social causes, ideologies, ideals, soap-box subject

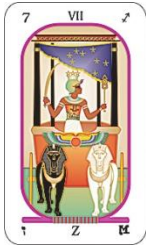


**Arcanum VI – The Two Paths** – aka The Lovers, Temptation, Choice, Dilemma

Ruled by Venus

Key Words: Temptation, Choice, Dilemma

Interpretations: Temptation, Choice, Dilemma, love interest, vacillation, indecision, the arts, love, beauty, affection, sensuality, peer pressure, can't say "No," too much of a good thing.

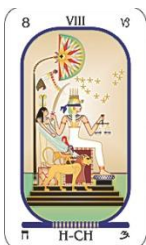


**Arcanum VII – The Conqueror** – aka The Chariot, Victory

Ruled by Sagittarius

Key Word: Victory

Interpretations: Victory, moving on, moving up, a call to adventure, taking action, completion, long trips, religion, philosophy, public expression, on a spiritual path, fair play, honesty, judgment, discernment

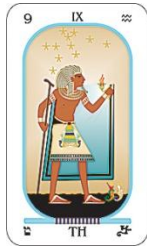


**Arcanum VIII – The Balance** – aka Justice

Ruled by Capricorn

Key Word: Balance

Interpretations: Balance, Equilibrium, Justice, Compliancy, Stasis, Crystallization, Dormancy, Inflexibility, and issues concerning the courts, law and order



**Arcanum IX – The Sage** – aka The Hermit

Ruled by Aquarius

Key Words: Wisdom or Prudence

Interpretations: Wisdom, Prudence, Limit, Boundary, Accumulative Attainment, Ultimate Expression, Political and Spiritual Wisdom, Guidance, Humanitarianism, altruistic activities with groups of people, clubs, and associations., knowledge, and humaneness

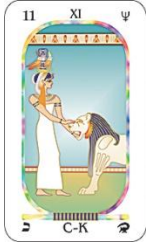


**Arcanum X – The Wheel** – aka The Wheel of Fortune

Ruled by Uranus

Key Phase: Change of Fortune

Interpretations: Change is inevitable; sudden and unexpected change either for the good or unfortunate (usually brought about by someone new in the life of the querent); sudden change of heart, sudden change of mind, sudden change of attitude. Note: The sudden change is usually brought on by a human catalyst, someone new in the querent's life. Look to a nearby Court Card to describe the personality-type of the person bringing about the change.

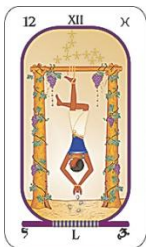


**Arcanum XI – The Enchantress** - Force, Strength, Fortitude

Ruled by Neptune

Key Words: Force, Spiritual Power or Fortitude

Interpretations: Force, Spiritual Power, Fortitude, Universal Love, Creative Imagination, Overcoming our animal instincts, patience, perseverance, spiritual development, spiritual force, directed thinking and induced emotions, visualization, prayer, the use of will to bring about change, highest ideals, only a 10% solution, con artist at work, something not known, illusion, fantasy, being lied to, or being conned.

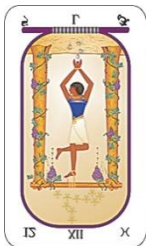


**Arcanum XII – The Martyr** – aka The Hanged Man

Ruled by Pisces

Key Word: Sacrifice

Interpretations: Sacrifice, relationship that enslaves, a habit that enslaves, physical imprisonment, asylum, hospital, socio-political oppression, criminal activity, the end of something (expiration), disappointments, substance abuse, addiction, secret sorrows, atonement, trapped by a belief system, loss of a belief system, struggling for faith, struggling within faith, loss of faith, physical or emotional dissipation, loss of money, loss of hope, despair, suspension, delay, “hung up”



**Arcanum XII – The Martyr Reversed** – aka The Hanged Man

Ruled by Pisces

Key Word: Sacrifice

Reward and blessing as a result of sacrifice, fulfillment, money coming your way, hope faith, charity, and liberation.



**Arcanum XIII – The Reaper** – aka Death or Transformation

Ruled by Aries

Key Word: Transformation

Interpretations: Transformation, great change, time to let go, a sacrifice of one thing for the fulfillment of another, know when to let go and start over, the perpetual destruction and rebirth of all forms of life, new cycle, new life, new thought, brighter days ahead. NEVER NEVER NEVER PREDICT DEATH!



**Arcanum XIV – The Alchemist** – aka Temperance

Ruled by Taurus

Key Words: Regeneration or Temperance

Interpretations: Regeneration, Temperance, healing, balance of opposites, perfect chemistry in a relationship, balanced relationship, beauty and the arts, patience, process, progress through transmutation, slow but steady progress



**Arcanum XV – The Black Magician** – aka The Devil



Ruled by Saturn

Key Words: Fatality or Black Magic

Interpretations: Black Magic, safety urges of the soul, selfishness, separate-selfishness, greed, strife, discord, injustice, taking from others, harm to others, harm to creatures and the environment, enslavement to evil forces, being “in for it” or “asking for it,” cruelty, deceit, gluttony, egotism, list, materialism, temptation, system, form, organization



**Arcanum XVI – The Lightning – aka The Tower**

Ruled by Mars

Key Words: Accident or Catastrophe

Interpretations: Accident, Catastrophe, aggressive urges of the soul, constructive energy, destructive energy, passion and motivation , surgery, brute force, strength, consequences of hubris, getting “put in one’s place,” “getting burned,” false security, humiliation, physical destruction, ammunition, goals based on purely physical and material success, frustrated ambition, projects sterile or failed, feelings of urgency, learning how to lead a fully constructive life, difficult times in a relationship, divorce.



**Arcanum XVII – The Star**

Ruled by Gemini

Key Words: Truth, Hope, or Faith

Interpretations: Truth, Hope, Faith, healing, insight, Assimilation of experiences, epiphany, truth found in more than one place, truth lies in both the emotion and the intellect; truth lies in both reality and appearances; strip oneself of opinions, preconceptions, and prejudices; transformation, transmutation; reason in combination with Intuition

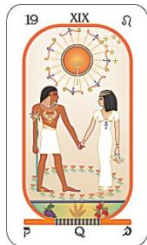


**Arcanum XVIII – The Moon**

Ruled by Cancer

Key Words: Deception, False Friends or Secret Foes

Interpretations: Deception, False Friends, Secret Foes, mystery, secrets withheld, depression, moodiness, insanity, a woman's time, hostility, ambushes, flatteries, backbiting, infighting, confrontation of shadow material, treachery, knowledge used to dominate and control, domestic issues, mediumship, a test of our truths, a "dark night of the soul," danger in the home, pitfalls, initiation process, aide through guides/counselors, moving forward is the only option.



**Arcanum XIX – The Sun**

Ruled by Leo

Key Words: Happiness and Joy

Interpretation: "The Happy Card," Joy, spiritual growth through conjugal union and children, entertainment, entertainment industry, family, speculation, theater, games, romance, courtship, love, unselfishness, marriage, refinement of thoughts and emotions, inspiration, universal love

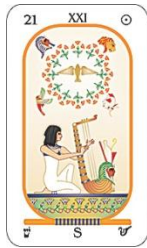


**Arcanum XX – The Sarcophagus – aka Judgment**

Ruled by the Moon

Key Words: Awakening or Resurrection

Interpretations: Awakening, Resurrection, special calling, gradual change, gradual elevation, gradual movement towards a deeper understanding, gradual change for the better, physical act of moving to another place, or a new position at work, slow evolution to a higher vibration, not getting of the box right away, a reluctance to move on

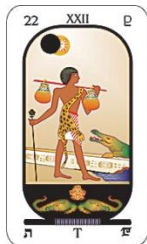


**Arcanum XXI – The Adept – aka The World**

Ruled by the Sun

Key Words: Success or Attainment

Interpretations: Success, Attainment, skill, talent, ability, positive energy, living a spiritual life

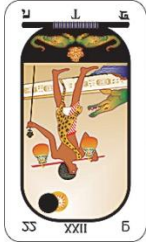


**Arcanum XXII – The Materialist – aka The Fool**

Ruled by Pluto

Key Words: Failure, Folly, or Mistake

Interpretations: Failure, Folly, Mistake, Annihilation, Atheism, Materialism, Coercion, living blindly in self-centeredness, suffer consequences for sin, error, non-spiritual approach; choose between coercion and cooperation; extend greater service to humanity, find pleasure in all do, find harmonious channels for animal urges.



## Arcanum 0 – The Spiritualist

Ruled by Pluto

Key Word: Spirituality

Interpretations: Spirituality, eternal progression, devotion, cooperation, the spiritual approach is taken, reward, evolution, gain, and success

## THE MINOR ARCANA

The Minor Arcana represent the more mundane or earthly experiences, each relating to their corresponding Major Arcana 1-9. They also have inner, or esoteric, meanings that are based on their corresponding decanate. A decanate is a 10-degree subdivision of each of the twelve 30-degree signs of the zodiac.  $12 \times 3 = 36$  decanates, and there are 36 Minors.

Most of the tarot decks published today have pictures on the Minor Arcana based on the artwork of Pamela Coleman Smith, who illustrated the Rider-Waite deck of 1909. Earlier tarot decks, however, did not feature pictures on the Minors. The Minor Arcana pre-dating the Rider-Waite looked much like the pips of our everyday playing cards. The “suits” of the Egyptian Minor Arcana are as follows:

**COINS** (Pentacles) correspond to spring winds, the element of air, money, the exchange of ideas and conversation. The Coins are likened to the suit of Diamonds

**Scepters** (Wands) correspond to the heat of summer, wood and fuel, the element of Fire, ambition, enthusiasm, career, interests and hobbies. The Scepters are likened to the suit of Clubs, the clover (trefoils) of summer.

**Cups** correspond to the fall harvest and holidays, the element of water, the emotions, both positive and negative. The Cups are likened to the suit of Hearts.

**Swords** correspond to the season of winter, the element of earth, hibernation, stasis, and a time of hardship, starvation, lack, illness and struggle. The Swords are likened to the suit of Spades.

**Note:** The interpretations in **bold** below are the key words for *inner* meaning of each Minor Arcanum

### **ACES – MAGUS– MERCURY**

Coins – short journey, news of financial opportunity, new beginning with money, **Policy**

Scepters – news of a business opportunity, starting up a new business, a business meeting, **Activity**

Cups – new love, talk of love, valentine, love email, heard from grandma, **Moods**

Swords – bad news, sickness, strife, something troubling, **Organization**

### **TWOS – VEILED ISIS – VIRGO**

Coins – money that is hard earned through labor, **Independence**

Scepters – business involving science or scientific methods, **Exaltation**

Cups – a work of love, **Revelation**

Swords – sickness through overwork, stress, **Martyrdom**

### **THREES – ISIS UNVEILED - LIBRA**

Coins – marriage or alliance for money, **Expiation**

Scepters – business partnership or relationship based on a common interest, **Propaganda (News)**

Cups – marriage for love, **Research**

Swords – divorce, break-up, separation, heartache, **Idealism**

### **FOURS – THE SOVEREIGN – SCORPIO**

Coins –inheritance, money received from a tax refund, pension plan, monthly stipend, **Originality**

Scepters – legacy (not money, but a family heirloom, business, talent, or skill), **Rulership**

Cups – increase in your family, **Resourcefulness**

Swords – remorse for a past action, self-pity, **Determination**

### **FIVES – THE HEIROPHANT – JUPITER**

Coins – good luck with money, money coming easy, **Inspiration**

Scepters – good fortune in business, **Reformation**

Cups – luck in love, abundant love, romance around you, **Responsibility**

Swords – escape from danger, **Struggle**

#### **SIXES – THE TWO PATHS – VENUS**

Coins – social event, party, museum opening, political rally, money through your art, **Repression**

Scepters – any business that is related to art, music, drama, **Ambition**

Cups – love affair, unrequited love, falling in love with a friend, workplace heartthrob, **Attainment**

Swords – dissipation, undermining yourself through indecision, addition or abuse, passivity, **Mastership**

#### **SEVENS – THE CONQUERER - SAGITTARIUS**

Coins – money made through a journey, flight attendant, import/export, **Intuition**

Scepters – success in teaching or philosophy, **Devotion**

Cups – successful change of home, **Verity (Truth)**

Swords – danger through travel or sport, **Achievement**

#### **EIGHTS – THE BALANCE – CAPRICORN**

Coins – costly law suit or divorce suit, **Fidelity**

Scepters – business promotion, political appointment, given a title, **Exploration**

Cups – extravagance, eating/drinking too much, indulging in a crying jag, **Self-Sacrifice**

Swords – loss of honor, slander, social *fau faux*, **Experience**

#### **NINES – THE SAGE – AQUARIUS**

Coins – money through groups/friends, money spent on friends, **Reason**

Scepters – wise and profitable friendship, **Illumination**

Cups – “wish card” your wishes will be realized, **Vicissitudes (Changes)**

Swords – infighting, quarreling with your friends, change of political party, **Renunciation**

## THE TENS

**TENS – THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE – URANUS - Correspond to the four seasons and *Change***

Coins - (Air and spring) – Alternating and unexpected loss and gain of money, financial insecurity, cyclical or seasonal work. Esoteric meaning: **Aspiration**

Scepters - (Fire and summer) – Bright idea, discovery, invention, or latest hobby or interest. Esoteric meaning: **Enthusiasm**

Cups - (Water and fall) – An unconventional romance. Esoteric Meaning: **Emotion**

Swords - (Earth and winter) – Enormous disruption, the rug’s been pulled out from under foot, loss of job, divorce, in a state of free fall, things may be better after the smoke clears Esoteric meaning: **Practicality**

## THE COURT CARDS

The Court Cards represent the people of the Tarot and they can be described by the 12 zodiacal personality types. Remember not to identify the person as a native of a particular Sun sign; identify them only by a personality-type. Court cards that are reversed in a spread become the opposite sex with the same personality. Court cards can also symbolize an aspect of the querent’s personality. If several court cards appear in a spread, the matter may be influenced by other people.

**THE KINGS – 1<sup>st</sup> Degree of Emanation = Action, mostly concerned about themselves, pioneers, moveable signs (become women when reversed)**

**KING OF SCEPTERS – ARIES – FIRE – I AM** - Headstrong, impulsive, aggressive, assertive, outgoing enthusiastic self-reliant, natural leaders, bossy, competitive, egoistic, combative, want to be in charge, and tend to talk about themselves a lot.

**KING OF SWORDS – TAURUS – EARTH – I HAVE** – Down to earth, practical, slow-moving, persistent, determined, methodical, stable and accountable, can be obstinate and unyielding at times, does not want to give up ground once they’ve acquired it, are collectors, and like money and its usefulness and power.

**KING OF COINS – GEMINI – AIR – I THINK** – Live in the present, can be short-sighted, alert, mental, informative, and like to stay informed, love to talk, talk in their sleep, nervous, fickle, versatile, changeable

**KING OF CUPS – CANCER – WATER – I FEEL** – Emotional, sensitive, nurturing, feeling, compassionate, caring, intuitive, tenacious, moody

**THE QUEENS – 2<sup>ND</sup> Degree of Emanation = Reaction, mostly concerned about others, perfecters, fixed signs (become men when reversed)**

**QUEEN OF SCEPTERS – LEO - FIRE – I WILL** – Enthusiastic, likes to be in charge, likes to be the center of attention, likes to follow protocol, courageous, creative, magnanimous, willful, kind, prideful

**QUEEN OF SWORDS – VIRGO – EARTH – I ANALYZE** – analytical, discerning, quick to figure things out, mechanical, process-oriented, can tend to be critical, petty or cynical sometimes

**QUEEN OF COINS – LIBRA – AIR – I BALANCE** – enjoys partnership, mental, talkative, expressive, social, gregarious, enjoys comfort, enjoys luxury, enjoys the arts, has a sense of justice, likeable, needs to have approval, has a hard time saying *no* to others.

**QUEEN OF CUPS – SCORPIO – WATER – I DESIRE** – Resourceful, determined, skillful, magnetic, ingenious, intense, can be troublesome at times, has powerful likes and dislikes, secretive, goes for immediate satisfaction, and opinionated.

**YOUTHS – 3<sup>RD</sup> Degree of Emanation = Product of action and reaction, influenced by others, adapters, mutable signs (become women when reversed)**

**YOUTH OF SCEPTERS – SAGITTARIUS – FIRE – I SEE** – Loyal, Truthful, blunt, cheerful, independent, charitable, opinionated, eager to give advice, tactless, always looking ahead at the big picture, non-committal in relationship until they finally commit, don't like to be corralled or tethered or bridled in any way, and could be someone foreign.

**YOUTH OF SWORDS – CAPRICORN – EARTH – I USE** – Ambitious, goal oriented, high achievers, expects nothing less than perfection and especially in themselves, practical and resourceful, concerned about the honor, trophy, plaque, title, diplomatic, can be deceitful in order to protect their honor.

**YOUTH OF COINS – AQUARIUS – AIR – I KNOW** – Intelligent, social, altruistic, idealistic, rebellious, friendly but aloof, enjoy their space, argumentative, enjoys friendships and social collaborations, fascinated with psychology, progressive and cutting edge.



**YOUTH OF CUPS – PIECES – WATER – I BELIEVE** – Emotional, sensitive, psychic and intuitive, escape artist, secretive, imaginative, compassionate, worries a lot, loves to dance, religious, mystical and meditative.

## **THE HORSEMEN**

The Horsemen represent the four elements and the thoughts of others or the querent. If a court card is nearby, that is probably the person doing the thinking.

**HORSEMAN OF COINS (AIR) - Upright** - thoughts regarding prosperity and enrichment. **Reversed** - thoughts regarding poverty, lack, and despair

**HORSEMAN OF SCEPTERS (FIRE) - Upright** - positive thoughts regarding business, reputation, authority or interests. **Reversed** - half-baked ideas; go back to the drawing board

**HORSEMAN OF CUPS (WATER) - Upright** - positive thoughts regarding love, kindness, or affection. **Reversed** - negative thoughts regarding love, untrue love, deceptive thoughts, moping around about one's love life

**HORSEMAN OF SWORDS (EARTH) - Upright** – thoughts devoted to the querent's protection defense and well-being. **Reversed** – dangerous thoughts, black magic, sabotage, depression or thoughts of self-destruction.

## **DIVINATION**

An easy way to think about divination is to remember that the speed of light can be thought about as a boundary line between the physical and astral planes. What moves faster than 187,172 miles per second resides in the astral and what moves slower than 187,172 miles per second resides in the physical plane. Everything happens in the astral plane first, and then manifests in the physical plane according to the first law of the occult: As Above, So Below.

Humans are both physical and spiritual beings and thus live in both the physical and astral planes simultaneously. Through Directed Thinking energized by Induced Emotions, human beings have the power to communicate with the astral plane and thus affect their lives, either positively or negatively, according to their thoughts.

As Tarot readers, it's our job to visit the astral plane just long enough to glean the information we are seeking. We do this by creating a ritual we use consistently to "dial up" our subconscious minds. Through the process of psychokinesis (movement through the power of the mind) the cards are shuffled in just the right order to give us an answer. In the astral, there is no past, present, and future. Time is one continuum. This is why, when we glean information from the astral plane, the past, present and future are revealed to us.

A note about divination: While the cards can be used for divination, they are very effective also for self-exploration, problems-solving, and spiritual reflection. They are most compelling in examining a person's present circumstance. Tarot is a bridge to the inner planes in that it:

- Transmutes a problem or question into images, which are sometimes more obvious than words or thoughts
- Mirrors unconscious forces that stem from our physical-plane experience
- Reflects communication from the inner-plane or higher self

## FORMULATING QUESTIONS

Rewrite negative questions: Why can't I get that job? Why isn't Jill calling me? Instead write questions like: What surrounds my perfect employment? How can I live a constructive life? "What do I need to know about my relationship with Jill?"

Rewrite vague questions to avoid vague readings. Make sure that the question posed is as specific as it can be.

Tarot cannot address "when" questions. Rewrite "when" questions to "how" questions, e.g. "When will I meet my future husband?" Rewrite: "How do I attract the perfect man for me?"

Be concerned about yourself when reading for yourself and about your querent when reading for a querent.. "What's going on with my child" Rewrite: "What do I need to know about my child?"

"What's going on with my co-worker?" Rewrite: "Have I done anything to upset my co-worker?"

## CHOOSING A SPREAD

Become familiar with several spreads and their special uses. Invent a spread when necessary. Remember that *less is more*. Using too many cards in a spread may become confusing. NOTE: REMEMBER TO DEAL THE CARDS FACE DOWN AND TURN THEM OVER ONE AT A TIME BY "FLIPPING" THE CARD EITHER FROM TOP TO BOTTOM OR BOTTOM TO TOP.

**ONE CARD SPREADS** are great for learning the cards, daily spreads, and difficult transitions in life. Daily questions could be: What's in store for me today? What will my day be like today? What message will I receive today? What will today teach me? How can I best face my challenges(s) today? Or any questions of your own. Journal your card, question, what you think it means, and how it played out in your life that day. Keep your eyes and ears open. Christiane Northrup, MD question: "What is the highest teaching available to me (today) through this situation?" One card readings are good for characterizing/defining/analyzing a problem because of its imagery and focus. **Exercises** with one card: Sleep with a card under your pillow; meditate on a card by walking into it and interviewing the

characters in the card. Ask “What are your responsibilities?” “Why are you in such a hurry?” “Where are you going?” or whatever occurs to you. The answers you receive are from your higher self.

**THREE CARD SPREADS** are very versatile, and are especially useful for practice by making up a story. (1) Shuffle and cut the cards without a question and deal out three cards. Turn the cards over all at once or one at a time and make up a story, moving from right to left, past to future. (2) Always from right to left, lay down three cards and pick them up one at a time in positions “Who am I?” “What do I need? How will I get it?” (3) This (right) That (left) or the Other Thing (Middle) (4) Root of the problem (right), How the problem has manifested (middle), Solution (left). It is easy to make up your own spreads using three cards.

**FIVE CARD SPREAD, aka YES/NO/MAYBE Spread**, is great for quick answers with information. It reads from right to left: Distant Past – Recent Past – Present – Near Future – Distant Future. The right-side-up cards mean YES; the reversed cards mean NO. Each card gets one point, but the card in the middle gets two points. Count the Yes and No cards, remembering to give the card in the middle two points. It is possible to get a tie of 3 and 3. If that’s the case, then the answer is not clear at this time. Also, pay attention to what the cards actually say. It may be that some of your reversals are just sex changes. This spread may also be used with 3 and 7 cards, the cards in the middle still getting 2 points.

**SEVEN CARD SPREAD, aka THE MAGIC SEVEN SPREAD** is a CofL favorite because it addresses the “What surrounds...” question and the “How can I...” question because of the 4<sup>th</sup> position. Its intertwining triangles represent the CofL Emblem. There is a separate handout for the Magic Seven Spread, which can be used as a record-keeper if copies are made.

**TWELVE CARD SPREAD, aka THE HOROSCOPE SPREAD.** This spread is also called the “Hoop Spread” because it throws out a broad hoop around the querent’s life over a period of time, which must be established by the reader and is usually between six months to a year. It is used to get a broad picture of the querent’s life and to discover which areas are problematic. It is also a great spread for year-end and birthday readings. The twelve cards represent the twelve houses of the zodiac. There is a handout for this spread which can be used for record-keeping if copies are made.

## REVIEW

**The Major Arcana** represent beginnings, endings, changes, benchmarks, and archetypal energies in a spread. There are only two Major Arcana that are read differently when reversed: The Martyr and the Materialist/Spiritualist. Reversed Majors means that they are the same energy, only not fully expressed.

**The Minor Arcana** are first read as mundane experiences and if the more earthly experience doesn’t make sense, move on to the esoteric or “Inner” meaning. Reversed Minors means that they are the same energy, only not fully expressed.

**The Tens** represent change or the unusual. Reversed Tens means that they are the same energy, only not fully expressed.

**The Court Cards** represents the people of the Tarot according to their personality types, not their sun signs. Reversed Court Cards get a sex change.

**The Horsemen** represent the thoughts of other people or the querent. Reversed Horsemen mean the opposite.

The cards in spreads are laid **FACE DOWN** (with the exception of the YES/NO/MAYBE spread) and are picked up **ONE AT A TIME** by “flipping” them, either from top to bottom or bottom to top. The results will be the same.

In Egyptian Tarot, the cards in a spread are **read from right to left**.

The cards are interpreted from the Reader’s point of view.

The cards are shuffled and cut by the Reader and their use of psycho kinesis.

## **GIVING A READING**

Sit across from your client

Consider a question and write it down

Consider an appropriate spread

Ask for silence from your querent until you’re ready to begin

During the silence, “dial up” your subconscious by using your ritual consistently

Clear the cards (this may be optional if you’ve done it ahead of time)

Shuffle and Cut the cards in your usual and customary manner

Read the spread, “flipping” the cards over one at a time, interpreting each card according to its position in the spread, and making a record of your interpretation or asking your querent to take notes

After each card has been turned over and interpretations made, look for an overall message by noticing a preponderance of suits, numbers, majors, minors, court cards, or horsemen in the spread.

Clear the cards by shuffling a few times and saying a silent “thank you” prayer

When reading for more than one person, clear the cards in between each reading

**Cleansing rituals** may be necessary after doing many readings in a row, when you’ve had a particularly challenging reading, or if you need replenishing

**Store your cards** with respect, preferably wrapped in a piece of satin of your favorite color or a color that is harmonious with your chart. Put your wrapped cards in a Tarot Box made of white pine if possible. Tarot bags are also nice for this purpose.

## **It is strongly recommended that as a Tarot Reader you**

### **DON'T...**

PREDICT DEATH!

Repeat a reading because you didn't get the answer you wanted

Drink alcohol or do drugs while doing a reading

Eat while doing a reading

Read with more than one person in the room with you

Continue reading if you feel cold, dizzy, drunk, or drained

Read for minor children without the permission of a parent or adult guardian

Address questions that pertain to financial, legal, or medical matters that are best to the professionals

Address questions that pertain to a third party, past-life or after- life experiences

## **It is strongly recommended that as a Tarot Reader you**

### **DO...**

Drink plenty of water if you're reading for more than one person

Read the message of the cards without interjecting your own opinion

Emphasize the positive aspects of a reading without compromising honesty

## **CONTINUING STUDY SUGGESTIONS**

Recommended reading: *Sacred Tarot* by C.C. Zain

*Spiritual Astrology* by C.C. Zain

***Blending Astrology, Numerology & Tarot*** by Doris Chase Doane

***Secret Symbolism of the Tarot*** by Doris Chase Doane

Take the course, ***Understanding the Minors of Egyptian Tarot***, Instructor Allyn McCray at [Church of Light TV](#).

Organize these class notes into an easy reference binder

Collect the CofL postcards to more fully understand the Minors.

Make copies of the spread handouts to use for record-keeping.

Do daily readings using one card and keep a record of your results.

Reference ***Let's Talk Tarot***, blog by Allyn McCray, linked to [www.light.org](http://www.light.org)

Meditate on a card

Sleep on a card

Write a poem about each Major Arcana

Create your own deck by using family photos or decoupage

Remember that Tarot is a PRACTICE like practicing law, medicine, or astrology. It is ongoing, never-ending, and lots of fun!

For questions or comments, please feel free to email [ali@light.org](mailto:ali@light.org).