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Your Ezy Guide To TAROT

By Vaughan Midson

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About the Author

Vaughan Midson learned about tarot cards from a friend when he was in college.

Vaughan's friend stopped using her tarot cards because she found it too difficult to learn the system with the heavy demands on her time for her studies and social activities.

But Vaughan found some shortcuts that shortened the time it took him to gain an understanding of the meanings associated with cards and how he could use them.

He still uses his tarot cards because he believes that they help him to gain a better insight into his own aspirations, feelings and potential.

He said, "I don't say that tarot cards are for everyone, but I think they can help many to reflect on and even resolve questions which they have about various aspects of their lives."

"My book is written for anyone with an open mind who wants to learn in a fairly short time how to choose and use their tarot cards.

Vaughan says that his tarot book is written in plain, everyday language and can help anyone to use their tarot cards better.

He includes some information about giving readings for other people and explains some simple ways to make your own exclusive and very personal tarot deck.

"I believe everyone is potentially more creative and intuitive than they may know. Many of us are discouraged by our parents and other well-meaning people from exploring what latent abilities we have in favor of "fitting in".

"Reading the tarot as I explain it in this ebook can help you to find and use some hidden potentials to make your life more enjoyable."

"That's a benefit which you will have for the rest of your life!"

Introduction

I'm not an expert on the tarot or its history.

But, I have benefited from my own use of the tarot cards and got good feedback from the people I have done readings for.

I believe the cards are a tool. I use them to gain a better insight into my own feelings, desires and potential. I have done readings for many other people.

Through the time which I have used tarot cards, friends, relations and even complete strangers have asked me about the subject. Their questions and the positive responses which I got for how I answered them encouraged me to start writing this book.

Even people who say they do not believe in "that mumbo jumbo" are often keen to have a reading.

Selecting Your Tarot Deck

Many people are unsure what particular tarot deck they should get.

I tell people that ask me for suggestions that they should pick any deck which has designs that appeal to them, is affordable and easy for them to handle.

Few people that continue to study and use the tarot system only buy one deck of tarot cards.

They will probably decide to get other decks as they learn more about the tarot and gain more experience.

They find another deck which has greater appeal to them. Perhaps they like the designs. Commercial decks are available with all sorts of images including flowers, animals, new age (of course) and traditional.



There are decks which are based on myths and stories. One deck was even produced which had the theme of a very popular television series called "Lost." Some early decks had images of members of the Royal family or famous people such as the Duke of Wellington.

Many of these decks are probably bought by collectors but some are used for readings. Use whatever deck you feel most in tune with.

You can even produce your own personal deck of tarot cards. I have included some information about doing that in a later chapter.

Caring For Your Cards

Most tarot cards are larger than regular playing cards. This makes them a little more difficult to use until you get some practice.

It also means you need to give careful thought to how you will store and transport them.

Many people keep the deck they buy in the cardboard box supplied with it. But, other people go a step further and get or make a special container for their tarot deck.

I think that you need a box of some kind to give the cards enough protection, though many prefer to store their tarot cards in a bag made of some strong, soft material such as velvet.

I keep my cards in a box made of plywood, which I covered with a dark stain. My cards are wrapped in a silk (part rayon like most "silk" materials today) cloth. You could use a scarf which has pictures like those on your cards or which is your favorite color.

I keep the cloth in place around the cards with a loop of strong elastic cord.

I dusted each card with zinc stearate, a powder which makes the cards more slippery and easier to handle. You only need a very small amount of the powder. It is available from magic shops and some chemical suppliers.

I believe that using the powder increases the time the cards remain usable.

Many people find the cards very difficult to shuffle. You may be surprised to learn that many people do not know how to shuffle regular playing cards well, so they have a real struggle with the larger and often thicker tarot cards.

Some people hold the center of the deck and flick the ends of the cards to loosen them up and make them more flexible. I think this is sure to cause damage to the cards and reduce the length of their useful life.

I don't ask people that I do a reading for to shuffle the cards. I believe it is important to keep other people's handling of my personal tarot deck to a minimum.

In stead of shuffling the cards, I put the deck on the cloth and lift off a few cards. I put them down beside the main stack. Then ask the person I am reading for to do that a few times and then gather up the small stacks in a random order. That gives us a shuffled deck without putting any pressure on the person I am reading for to shuffle the strange deck.

It also reduces the possibility of damage to the cards.

I may also ask them to lift off a random number of cards from the full deck and then place the next card either to the left or the right of the main stack. Then, I ask them to replace the small number of cards they took off the deck on the deck again.

I get them to do this a few times and direct them to place the card they choose in a specific spot to create the layout I will use for their reading.

I always put a velvet cloth on top of the table before I get the cards out.

I don't let anyone else handle my cards unless I am doing a reading for them. I believe this helps me to maintain a connection with the cards which is important for me to do the best readings from them.

Learning what the Cards Represent

Some tarot readers just use the major Arcana for some readings.

This may be helpful when you are just beginning and need to reinforce your own mental images of the different cards and their relationships.

But, you will need to learn to do your readings with all the cards at some point because the presence of the other cards will make it possible for you to produce different and more detailed, probably far more useful, interpretations.

This is not as difficult as it may seem but you probably won't do it in a week.

If you can get a small deck or an extra deck of tarot cards as well as the large deck or decks which you will do your readings with, you could paste a piece of white paper on the back of each of the cards in the other deck and write the keywords which relate to the card's significance in a reading on that.

Then, you can carry the cards with you and, when you have some free time, pick out a random card, face up.

Try to remember the relevant words before looking at the back of the card. You will find this simple tip can help reduce the time it will take you to become comfortable with the cards and what they signify.

If you have a friend who is also learning the tarot, you can test each other with a few cards too.

After you feel you have a basic understanding of the cards, you should try to do some readings for yourself and some perhaps for imaginary people.

Just lay out the three or five cards for a short reading and go through the steps.

Don't worry about any slip-ups at this stage. They are inevitable. If you stumble over one card, just go on to the next.

Try to complete each reading even if you forget the significance of a particular card.

If you stop when you miss a card and then start again, you may build up a pattern which you will find hard to break.

It is much better to complete the reading and then look up the details of the card(s) which you missed on.

You can use this book or a list of the keywords as an occasional prompt during the practice readings but the more trust you put in your own memory and the more work you give it to do, the better your results will be.

Preparing For a Reading



I suggest that you do a few readings for yourself to check whether you have a good recall of the terms which you relate to each card and how to apply them to the questions which the person you read for asks you.

Unless you know someone who is also starting to learn the tarot, I don't recommend that you ask anyone to volunteer to have a reading at this stage. Please wait until you have got a system to follow and a good knowledge of the cards.

If you ask someone to have a reading and you:

Forget what some cards represent and have to refer to a book or cannot bring the points raised in the reading to bear on the question or circumstance which the other person asked you about, you will find it much harder to get them to have another reading and they may discourage others from helping you.

If you wait for them to ask when you are sure that you have a framework in place, you will create a much better impression.

They will even accept an occasional slip much more readily!

I also suggest that you don't put on any special manner when you give your readings. The best readers I have got readings from have been down to earth in their approach. That has helped to make the insights they gave me all the more impressive.

Get some Readings

As part of the learning process, I suggest that you pay for readings from at least a couple of readers in your area. Ask your friends for recommendations.

This can be a good way to let your friends know that you are learning about tarot.

You will probably find that they want to know what you thought of the readings you get.

Always be positive about the other readers. Don't recommend or praise them if you feel they don't deserve it. But be diplomatic.

Criticising others before you have done any readings yourself is unfair.

Giving readings is not as easy as it may seem.

Even the best may have an occasional off-day.

Also, if you criticise a reader that one of your friends recommended, they may take it as criticism of their personal judgement.

Being positive and even generous about others efforts will create a better impression with your friends and they will later on probably give you the same courtesy when you do readings for them.

You will learn something about how to deal with people you read for from the way you are treated when you have a reading. You will also probably get some good insights about your own situation and prospects.

Please don't ask the reader for advice when you go for a reading. If you want face to face instruction, you need to ask them if they give lessons and pay the fee.

If you want their advice about doing tarot, contact them by phone, letter or email after you have had a reading and decided that their advice about doing tarot could help you, and ask them for a professional consultation.

How to Do a Reading

When you are about to do a reading for yourself or another person, set up your table and lay your cloth on it.

Clear the table and the area around it of anything that may distract from you and the other person focusing on the cards and your discussion.

Always, before the other person comes into the room, take a few minutes to clear the deck of any mental impressions left by other people who might have touched it.

Some people pray or do some ritual with the cards to renew their exclusive connection with the deck.

I simply take the deck in one hand and then slowly lift off each card in turn and examine it on both sides before laying them in a new stack on the cloth.

I believe that this focuses my mind on the cards. Some say that it helps form a psychic link between the reader and the cards.

This also helps to clear your conscious mind of irrelevant matters and prepare your subconscious to deliver insights when asked.

I don't rush to start the reading when the person I am reading for comes in and sits in the other chair. I want them to be as relaxed as possible before we start that.

I talk about general things for a couple of minutes to let them settle. Some people will be very stressed either because they have not had much experience of Tarot and other New Age systems or because of whatever is happening in their lives.

I always assure them that nothing which they say or do in the session will ever be revealed to anyone. Some readers think that may cause some people to worry, so they don't say anything like that but put something like, "Your Privacy is Guaranteed" on a small sign.

It is vital that you never repeat anything about anyone you read for even if you know them really well and know that the other person you are reading

for is very close to them. That is often another good reason for not saying anything!

I ask them to mix the cards.

Because it is very difficult to shuffle most tarot decks, I suggest that they lift off a few at a time and put each little stack separately on the table.

Then, I ask them to gather all the little piles into a single stack but selecting the small stacks randomly so the original order is not repeated.

Most people find this much easier than trying to shuffle tarot cards and are happy with that degree of mixing.

Some readers shuffle the cards or mix the cards themselves and only allow the person they are reading for to cut the pack once after they have done the main part of the mixing.

They say that is necessary because it preserves their connection more strongly with the cards.

Don't worry if you cannot shuffle the Tarot cards. Just mix them as I suggested above. It is not your card handling which the people are interested in.

If you use the reverse meanings in your readings, you will ask the other person to take some of the cards at random from the various piles before you re-assemble the deck., turn them end for end and push each card separately somewhere into the deck without looking at the faces of the cards.

Spreading the Cards

There are many ways of setting out the cards for a reading.

These are some of the most popular.

Three Card Spread

Ask the person you are reading for to lift off some cards, take the card which appears on top of the main stack and place it face down in front of them, slightly to their left.

They replace the small stack they lifted off.

Then, they repeat the previous action and put the next card in front of them, slightly to their right.

They do the same thing again and put the selected card down between the other two cards.

The card to their left represents their past, the center card represents their current situation and the right card suggests their prospects.

You should practice this layout by yourself several times. It is a good way to quickly test your grasp of the significant points which each card represents.

Five Card Answer

Each reading can help the person with one or more questions which they have at that time in their lives.

This spread is one layout which I use to focus on a particular question for the person I am doing a reading.

Ask them to mix the deck and then lay down five cards face down in a row from left to right in front of them. They can, if they wish, lay them down in any order they like.

From left to right, I use each card to indicate:

- 1.** The current situation which the question is about.
- 2.** What actually caused the problem?
- 3.** What sort of response is needed?
- 4.** What ill effects might result?
- 5.** The most likely result after action is taken.

This simple format has helped me and others to examine all aspects of a particular situation.

Sometimes, there has been an insight revealed. But, even when there isn't a clear indication from the cards, the exercise can help the questioner to get a better understanding of the situation which they are in.

The Tarot Calendar

Ask the person you are reading for to mix the cards and then deal 12 cards in a rough circle on the cloth in front of them.

They can select the cards from anywhere in the deck but it is much quicker (which helps to keep them more interested) if they just use the top twelve cards on the deck after they mixed it.

They can put each card at any position.

Now, you ask them for the month that their birthday falls in?

Ask them to turn over the card most near the one o'clock position in the circle of cards.

That represents the general situation they will have in the next month.

Proceed around the circle and relate the important aspects of each card to the following month.

Taking Care of Your Clients

Whether or not you ever charge any money for giving a reading for someone, you should treat everyone as if they were paying you a great deal.

Even if you do a free reading, the other person is giving you their time and their trust.

For that they deserve your best efforts at giving a helpful and positive reading and to be treated with respect.

The Tarot Reader's First Rule

Always ensure that every person you give a reading leaves you feeling better than when they arrived.

Many readers that still use the reverse meanings and many put a great deal of negativity in them.

I believe we cannot make everything always positive in all respects – that's just not realistic and people will quickly start to discount the value of our readings if we do that.

But, we have no right to make anyone miserable or cause them to fear the future.

It is vital that you do not ever repeat anything which your visitors say when they come to you for a reading, whether or not it is relevant to the reading or other matters which either of you might mention while you are together.

The most important factor in getting people to have readings is earning and retaining their trust. If someone that you read for hears that you repeated anything about any matter that you discussed with them during a session, they will naturally wonder what else you might have mentioned to other people.

Don't lecture the person you read for. Keep your statements low-key and leave it to the other person to consider them and decide in their own time what they might do or not do.

Interpreting the Cards

Since the tarot cards have a history over many hundreds of years, it's not surprising that there are many systems for applying what you see in them which can you help with your questions or concerns.

It is important to work within a framework of meanings for the cards so that your readings are consistent.

Your understanding of the significance of each card may change over time as you gain more experience and see how the cards which you see and the meanings you get from them compare to your experiences following a reading.

I have adjusted and changed my interpretation of the cards over the years but am now comfortable with the framework which I use in my readings and in writing this ebook.

You can start with this and adjust it as your own experience increases.

Reverse Meanings

The tarot cards are designed with a top and bottom end.

Traditionally, the common practice was to give one interpretation when a card showed the right way up and an opposite meaning to it if it showed with the bottom end at the top.

But, many modern card readers believe that each card has just one basic meaning which can be interpreted in a variety of ways according to the experience and knowledge of the reader. They say that the basic meaning is not altered by the card being upside down.

For completeness, I will give some suggestions about a reversed meaning.

Then, I will leave it to you whether you follow the traditional way of using the reversed meanings or not.

The Cards

Tarot cards have a long history but I have not put much of that in here.

Some people find it very interesting and they devote much time to checking into the various theories.

But, my main focus in this ebook is on how you can use your tarot cards to try to gain a wider perspective about almost every aspect of your life, your past, prospects and place in the World today.

I have used mostly plain images from old decks to illustrate the different cards. These are simple and you should find it easy to follow my instructions with whatever deck you choose to get.

I have seen several books about reading tarot which link the instructions closely to the particular deck which they have used for their illustrations.

That may cause difficulties for some readers who use cards which are significantly different in their design and which don't have some of the embellishments of those in the illustrations.

If you use a deck which has more details in the pictures, you can include them in your readings where you believe they are appropriate.

I think that some cards have too much detail and it can confuse the reader, especially when they are just starting to use their first tarot deck.

But, it's better to start with a deck which has some appeal to you and which is readily available and affordable, rather than delaying your first experience with the cards until you find the "perfect" deck for you. That may take years!

Many readers collect several decks through their years of reading tarot. They are not serious collectors but buy a new deck because it appeals to them more than the deck which they are using at that time.

Setup of the Tarot Deck

A tarot deck has two sections called the Major Arcana and the Minor Arcana which relate roughly to the Court cards and the Spot cards of the modern deck of playing cards.

The Major Arcana

These are the character cards. Their appearance during a tarot reading indicates something of special significance.

These are the cards which can show what is most important for the person the reading is for to focus on at the present time.

The Minor Arcana

Along with the one (Ace) to Ten spot cards, there are equivalents of the King, Queen and Jack that we have in modern playing cards. But there is also another character called the Page for each suit.

The four suits of the modern deck are based on the Swords (Spades), Wands (Clubs), Pentacles (Diamonds) and Cups (Hearts) of the traditional tarot decks.

The Major Arcana



The Fool

Calling the character in this card a fool is not to infer that he is an idiot.

This man is better described as an impressionable person who is about to start on some new adventure or chapter in their life.

This may be something relatively minor such as an actual journey or a new job or relationship.

Someone who gets this card in their reading will have the possibility of joy or disappointment, improvement in their position or greater problems.

They need to make careful preparation before starting their new experience so that they get the best result for themselves from it.

There is some possibility that they may have a good outcome for themselves but their choices and actions may have a negative effect on others if they rush forward without giving adequate thought to others needs and desires.

Reverse Meaning: The reverse meaning usually emphasises that they may rush into the new experience without adequate preparation or even any thought at all.

This can cause new problems and also cause them to suffer loss of some of their current assets and friendships.

The Magician

When someone sees the Magician in the cards which are drawn for their reading, the indication is that they are at a stage where they can start to look for and develop abilities which you have but are not currently using.

Often, the Magician will be shown with items representing the four suits within his reach. This indicates that the Magician can draw the person's talents and abilities together so that much can be accomplished.

This card indicates that all that which may be between the reader and their goals is a lack of confidence to access and use their natural abilities and acquired skills.

Reverse Meaning: The upside down magician may indicate that the reader has valuable skills and talents but is limiting his or her chances of greater success because they are not developing and using them.

This may be because they lack the confidence to do so or because they are being negatively influenced by other people.

The High Priestess

If the High Priestess is revealed as part of a reading, it suggests that the reader should try to develop and use their natural intuition more.

Many people are locked into a dull, dreamless reality and do not listen or trust their inner voice. It is wise to be cautious, but too much caution can prevent us from enjoying many wonderful experiences, making new and deeper friendships and reaching the highest levels of success which we are capable of.



Reverse Meaning: The reversed High Priestess may suggest that the reader tends to spend too much of their time dreaming and being disappointed when their expectations are not met in reality.

The best use you can make of your natural intuition is to use it but not rely solely on it. Always consider all possible outcomes from any major decision which you need to make. Expect the best but be prepared to deal with whatever results occur.

The Empress

This is a wonderful card to get in your reading. The Empress is sign of comfort, bounty and a desire to look after those who depend on you.

The reader has the potential to complete and be very successful with any project which they have confidence in.

They have the capacity and desire to support others well and can expect support and appreciation in return.

Reverse Meaning: When you see the Empress upside down, it is regarded as a sign of turmoil and disappointment in some relationships.

The reader may tend to be overbearing or manipulative. People close to them may resent the probably well-intentioned actions and suggestions they get from the reader.

They may find it worthwhile to step back a little and let the other people make their own decisions or, at least, listen more closely and accept more of the feedback they get.

The Emperor

The Emperor represents someone with knowledge and experience which can be of great benefit to you. You may need their active help and need to give some careful thought about how to make your request to them. Or you may just need their advice or counsel and then trust your own ability to take action.

I also think that it is a sign that the reader may need to give more thought to the decisions which they have to make.

They should learn to be more willing to trust their own judgement and not accept and act on other's advice without serious consideration based on their own experience and values.

Reverse Meaning: When this card appears upside down, it may indicate that the reader tends to take action without enough consideration of all the factors involved or may ignore advice from people with more experience or knowledge of the situation and rely too much on their instincts.

In other circumstances, the reader may need to be wary of advice that is given by people that have their own agenda and are not really focused on the reader's best interests.

The Hierophant or High Priest

This card represents an advisor on spiritual or personal values.

This card may suggest that the reader give more importance to the values which they have been taught rather than ignoring them and indulging themselves without thought for the consequences or any possible negative effects on people that they care about.

Reverse Meaning: This card, when reversed, may indicate that the reader is too easily swayed by other people or circumstances to ignore their best instincts and put immediate gratification ahead of building a more substantial and lasting success.

The Lovers

This card is usually taken to be only about romance but it may also be seen as referring to important relationships of all kinds and how the reader is handling them.

Its presence may indicate that the reader needs to give more consideration to relationships they are involved in or thinking about starting.

There may be problems with some current arrangements or they may be about to rush into something without giving enough thought to all the factors involved, including the possible effects on other people that they also care about.

Reverse Meaning: If the card is upside down, there may be a relationship which is under pressure which the reader thinks is firm.

They may be about to encounter difficulties which could be through someone else's actions or even because they are taking the situation for granted and not paying enough attention to the other person's needs.

The Chariot

This card indicates that the reader is enjoying some success and may believe that their path will continue upward without much effort on their part.

The message which we should get from the Chariot is to not become arrogant or full of our own importance to the point where we start to ignore the contribution which other people have made to our current situation and future potential.

If we believe we are solely responsible for the good things we enjoy, we could alienate people that we may need help and support from when other challenges and opportunities arrive.

Reverse Meaning: This card in the reversed position may indicate that we need to be aware that problems can occur at any time and we all need to develop and work with others for our mutual benefit and support when they do.

Justice

The Justice card reminds us that we all need to give due attention to the written laws of our country and also the conventions which our society has developed to ensure smoothness in our dealings with each other.

The kind but firm expression which this character usually wears suggests that we also need to avoid being too quick or too harsh in our judgement about other people who may have different but equally valuable views to our own.

If the reader is too rigid in the way they view others, they will not be able to develop good relationships. If they ignore the laws and conventions and deal unfairly with those around them, they will lose their trust and find many people they want to associate with start to avoid them wherever possible.

Reverse Meaning: In the reverse position, this card may indicate that the reader is judging others too rigidly from their own viewpoint and according to their own values. Or, they may not be giving enough consideration to the needs of other people involved when making deals and decisions.

The Hermit

This card indicates that the reader needs to give some time for reflection about their current situation and where they are heading before going much further along their current path or starting some new venture.

Many of us tend to be so focused on our current activities and over-committed to fulfilling the demands on us that we have not considered what valuable lessons we might learn from our previous experiences and our present situation.

Are we being held back by regrets and anger about past disappointments and wrongs done to us that we cannot possibly do anything about it anymore?

Can we turn our focus away from those old injuries and use that energy to help build a better future for ourselves?

That is never easy to do because those regrets have engraved tracks in our subconscious which we habitually revisit. But, we can remove them over time by focusing on more positive things.

We can also probably find more that is positive in our surroundings that we are overlooking because we are trying to focus on and deal with too many different activities.

The reader may benefit from thinking more deeply about the requirements, potential and possible risks associated with a new venture, either personal or business, before following their usual practice of rushing into it.

Reverse Meaning: This card can indicate that we are likely to have problems with some of our relationships where we are focused too much on what we get from them and not appreciating the other person's contribution and needs.

Are we taking the love and support from some people close to us for granted? Could we take time to let them know that we value them and know how much they improve our lives?

Research shows that people are often energized as much by genuine expressions of recognition and appreciation as they are by monetary rewards.

People can suffer when they feel undervalued and this can have serious effects on their relationships and even their health.

The Wheel of Fortune

This card indicates that we all have good and bad times in our lives. We can let ourselves be affected by outside forces to a great, possibly harmful degree, if we don't prepare and support ourselves to deal with any future reverses when we are having some success.

The card also reminds us that, even when we are suffering some problems, that it will pass and there are very few situations which cannot be improved if we stay confident in our own abilities and focus on improving our situation. Sometimes, that can be hard and take much more time and effort than we thought, but it is much better than letting ourselves just continue to be beaten down by not taking some positive action, however small.

It is my experience that keeping positive and continuing to apply yourself to finding a solution to a problem also encourages other people to assist you more readily. When people encounter someone that is groaning about their problems and not taking action, they tend to give sympathy and get away from them as soon as possible.

Reverse Meaning: When it is upside down, this card may indicate that the reader's current good fortune may be under threat.

Their present difficulties may continue or get worse if they continue to avoid taking action to resolve them.

Any of us may get into situations which are very difficult. If you have tried but been unable to deal with something, consider getting help from trained or more experienced people. Some people feel they would be considered weak if they let others know that there are some things they cannot handle by themselves.

They don't realize that we all have areas where we may need advice or active support from others at times. Continuing to try to handle it alone may cause the problems and its effects on us and those around us to just get worse.

Strength

This card can help us to deal with our fears and opposition from other people or circumstances.

It reminds the reader that each of us have mental and physical strength. Some have more of one than the other.

But, many of us don't realize how much we have in reserve because we base our self-belief on the judgement of others.

When we look inside ourselves, we may find reserves that we can call on.

Don't meekly accept other people's judgements about your abilities or potential. Give yourself the opportunity to meet and overcome any challenges which you encounter. You may surprise yourself and them. The increased self-confidence will help you in all your future endeavours.

If you don't try, you will condemn yourself to never experiencing the highest levels of success which you are capable of.



Reverse Meaning: This may indicate that the reader is held back by inner, untested fears. They avoid challenges which face them without realizing that this will have on-going negative effects on all areas of their life. Over time, the emotions which this fear causes can seriously affect their health and relationships.

The Hanged Man

This card causes a lot of confusion for many people that are starting to learn to use their tarot cards.

It does not have anything to do with dying from being hanged.

The card indicates that the reader is at a turning point in their life and needs to give careful thought to your current situation and the new developments.

Will the new activity really give you the benefits you have been told. Is there a downside such as affecting some relationship or other activity you currently have?

Are you properly prepared to take advantage of the new opportunity? Will you be able to absorb the extra demands on your time and energy or will you have to reduce the time you give to something else or even eliminate it.

This is a good time to consider whether some things which you are currently doing are still giving you enough value to be worth continuing with.

Reverse Meaning: This may indicate that the reader is in a comfortable but very limited rut, unable or unwilling to grab or even examine new opportunities which might improve their lives.

They may be lacking confidence in their ability to take on something new and do well with it.

Or, they may be held back by pressure from other people who don't want to have less time or attention from them.

They may feel that they owe the other people and fear a negative impact on them if they spend more time and energy elsewhere. If this is the case, the best way forward is to carefully examine all aspects of their current situation so they can be sure that their final decision and subsequent action is what will give the best result for all concerned, especially themselves.

Death

This card can cause a heavily negative reaction in some people but that is out of proportion to the actual message it is meant to convey.

It is an indication of the ending in some situation which is no longer having a positive effect on the reader's situation. We should accept that the change will lead to an improvement in our life, not the end of it.

The change may not be of our choosing and some discomfort may occur.



But the benefits should outweigh any temporary upset so long as the reader focuses on the outcome and does not continue to dwell on the frustrations which they encountered during the transition.

Reverse Meaning: This can suggest that a valued friendship may be near to ending, possible because one of the people in it does not feel they are getting much value from it.

This may be a sign to examine how the reader is treating some of their close friends in case they find that the affected friendship is one they have been neglecting.

They must not dwell on their loss if their efforts do not save the connection. That will cause them to store an increasing amount of negativity as time goes on.

Temperance

This card is focused on the need to achieve balance between the different areas of our lives.

We usually associate temperance with moderation in our use of alcohol and other things but this card might have been called balance instead.

When the various factors in some part of our life are out of synch, stress and disharmony are the results.

If we let the situation continue without taking corrective action, the negativity can spread to affect other areas as well.

A lack of action, which may be due to lack of time or resources or a fear of the possible outcome of any changes which you need to make, will also probably result in the reader becoming less active in most other areas.

The card is a reminder that not taking action will almost always have negative consequences which are far greater than might occur even if the action you do take is less successful than you hope.

Reverse Meaning: This card may signify that the reader is already suffering from the consequences of allowing a bad situation to continue without taking action and may be approaching a time when there will be less chance of being able to do anything which will result in a good outcome.

Inaction causes the probability of the outcome to be negative to increase as well as the ongoing impact on all concerned to be much worse.

The Devil

This card represents a common situation which many people encounter. They are bound by habit or some kind of emotional pressure to a relationship or activity which is having an increasing negative effect on their life and prospects.

They have one or more ways to escape this bondage but choose, usually just by not taking remedial action, to remain bound and continue to suffer the consequences.

It's like choosing to stay in prison on bread and water rather than apply them to escaping even when they are aware that escape is a strong possibility and the obvious benefits of changing their situation.

The bond may be to a poisoned relationship with another person or some luxuries, a job which is affecting the reader's health and offering poor return for their effort, or continued participation in a dangerous or illegal activity because they value the opinions which others have over them more than their own level of self-belief.

The Devil here does not indicate doom for the reader unless they continue to resist the need to take action to improve their situation.

Reverse Meaning: This is usually read as indicating that the reader has all the qualities they need to break the bond and start to more fully enjoy their life. It also indicates that now is the best time for them to take the first step to the greater freedom which they can achieve.

The Tower

This card reminds us that we cannot really wall ourselves away from all the problems and possibilities which the world has.

At some time, we all will face major challenges, however thick the walls of our fortress are. When these incidents occur, no-one is likely to rush to our aid if we



have cut ourselves off from them when things were better.

It also has a warning for people that put a barrier between their views and the opinions and discoveries of others which might challenge them.

People with very fixed views are also unlikely to be prepared for sudden change which is one certainty in the modern World.

The best way to be prepared to deal with unexpected problems is to keep in touch with people who have different views and experiences to us, to give due respect to them and their opinions as they do with us and be prepared to help when they have serious problems which are beyond their individual means to handle.

Reverse Meaning: This can indicate the possibility of having major disagreements because of fixed views, being involved or affected by a major accident or that you're best efforts may not be enough to keep you safe from some sort of catastrophe.

The Star

The Star is considered an indication that the reader can expect good outcomes from anything they undertake at this time. Their appreciation of the beauty and bounty around them is heightened.

They might also find their progress greater and easier for a while, though much effort and due care will still be needed.

The reader should be open to pleasant surprises, suggestions and even unexpected gifts or other kinds of assistance. Remember to show appreciation for all the good things you see, experience and receive. That's the best way to ensure that you will get more and greater bounty in the future.

Reverse Meaning: This might suggest that your opportunities are few at the present time. This may be caused, at least in part, by a lack of self-confidence and a tendency to focus almost entirely on any negative aspects to the reader's current situation. If you don't appreciate the good things

which you have or experience, then you increase your expectation of less good things to come to you in the future.

The Moon

This card marks a period in the reader's life where there is significant change occurring.

This may cause them a lot of worry and doubt but much of it is likely to be shown eventually to have been unnecessary.

Change is a constant and unavoidable part of everyone's life.

We all must learn to call on all our inner resources to handle it to the best of our ability.

If the reader follows their own values and trusts their own instincts, it is likely that they will be better situated after change has completed.

This may be a good time to try some creative activity, making use of your almost limitless imagination. But, don't let your imagination become the guiding force in your life because there will be more challenges later when you will need your intuition to be assisted by your powers of reason.

Reverse Meaning: This card, when shown upside down, indicates that you should take care because not everything or everyone is what they seem to be. You are more vulnerable than usual because of your increased use of your imagination.

The reader may not be ready to take on a venture or a new relationship which they strongly desire and rushing into it may cause the result to be much less pleasant than it might have been if they had taken things more slowly.

The Sun

This card indicates that the reader is in a period of happiness and fruitfulness. They have much to experience and share with those close to them.

Your happiness will attract people with a similar frame of mind and you are likely to meet new friends that will be part of your life for a long time to come.

Your family may expand with the arrival of a new child or in-law.

This is likely to be a good time to travel or change to another location where you have always wanted to settle.

Make the most of this happy and productive time. Make memories which will help to sustain you when problems arise in the future.

Reverse Meaning: This card is a powerful and positive influence. Any setbacks or other problems in this period are likely to be more manageable than at other times. There may sometimes be delays in achieving your desires but the probability of good outcomes is very high at this time.

The Angel

This card is often illustrated with an Angel blowing a trumpet and calling people to final judgement, which explains the alternative title for this card, "Judgement". This card may not have a representation of an angel on it with some designs.

This card indicates that you have or will shortly get access to an opportunity or experience which will have a profound and lasting effect on the whole of the rest of your life.

This chance will probably only be available for a limited time and you will have to decide, then take action without too much checking.

This situation shows why we should try to make the best of any opportunities for new experiences and continuing learning whenever they become available so that we are as well prepared as possible for these rare but exciting opportunities.

Even if we cannot make full advantage of the opportunity, a partial success may provide ongoing benefits which will enrich the rest of our lives.

Reverse Meaning: This is the indicator of abandoned dreams and lost opportunities. It may also be an indicator that the reader lacks a good self-image and routinely avoids opportunities for new experiences which might make their life more enjoyable but could also cause them to abandon their comfortable but limiting rut.

The World

This card indicates that you have achieved some measure of success and possibly have been recognized by others for that.

The reader is at a point where they are capable of achieving almost anything which they undertake. Their record of achievement will make it easier for them to get the support of other people for their plans.

The reader will probably also have some opportunities to share some of the fruits of their success to help others, relieving poverty or providing better opportunities for other people to achieve success like they have.

They will probably be encouraged in this by their experience of the generosity to them by some of the very successful people that they met during their earlier ventures which led to their current level of success.

Reverse Meaning: This can suggest that the reader has gained some of the trappings of success but they are dissatisfied because they have not been successful in their personal life or they may not actually like doing what they have done to reach their current position.

There may have been decisions they made or sacrifices which they made that they have come to regret.

One option they have is to use their current position to refocus themselves and their future plans to bring their lives in closer contact with their inner values and real desires.

The Minor Arcana

The minor Arcana do not have meanings which are as widely agreed on as the cards of the Major Arcana.

You will find that some tarot readers only use the Major Arcana and others will have assigned different meanings to the cards in the Minor Arcana than I have given here.

But, I believe these cards are useful when doing a reading for yourself or others.

You can use them as indicators of some aspects of the person who is having the reading.

These cards are generally accepted to be the source of the modern deck of playing cards although there are some differences, like the presence of an extra card, the Page, in each suit.

They were used for regular card games as well as an extension of the Major Arcana before the development of our modern playing cards.

Quick Guide to the Minor Arcana

Many people have more difficulty giving consistent readings where the suits and values of the Minor Arcana are showing.

You can use the table on the next page as a guide to the aspects which relate to each value, apply them to the main theme of the particular suit and you will have the basis for interpreting each of the 56 cards of the Minor Arcana.

Value	Aspects
One	A new beginning
Two	Between 2 people
Three	Gathering
Four	Fulfillment
Five	Turning Point
Six	Success
Seven	Challenge
Eight	New experience
Nine	Social
Ten	Success
Page	Thoughtful
Knight	Energy Drive
Queen	Mature Caring
King	Unemotional Advisor

Wands

The Wands are associated with the Fire element.

The suit is most closely linked to the Clubs suit in the modern deck of cards.

They are also known by other names including batons and staves.

One Wand

This is thought to indicate a good time for starting a new venture.

Reversed meaning: This suggests that the reader is unhappy in their present position or that they think they could do better somewhere else.

Two Wands

This card suggests that prospects and timing may be good for a temporary or ongoing partnership between the reader and another person.

Reversed meaning: This indicates that the reader should consult with their business associate(s) in case there is some unhappiness or unfulfilled commitments.

Three Wands

Three wands suggest that the state of the reader's current business will improve within a short time or that there will be a better chance to get help if it is in difficulties.

Reversed meaning: This may suggest that the reader's business needs help but they are very unwilling to seek help and their solo efforts may not be working well enough.

Four Wands

The Four indicates that the reader can either gain some direct benefit from their sincere and prolonged efforts up to this time or will soon be able to.

Reversed meaning: This may relate to expectations which have not worked out or the reader feeling discouraged because their efforts to build their business and a better future for their family are unappreciated.

Five Wands

When the Five of Wands is revealed, the reader can expect that their business or their job will reach a significant point when they need to research and decide about possible new directions or changes to their business which could help improve it or make it better able to deal with changes in the business environment.

Reversed meaning: This card upside down may indicate that you are letting events control the success of your business and not taking action to keep it moving forward. This may be because you are trying to do too many things or that you are just becoming very slow to react to changes around you which could have a negative impact on your situation.

Six Wands

The Six of Wands indicates that your position and prospects in the short term are very positive. Action taken now could reap greater rewards than you expect.

Reversed meaning: This can indicate that you are held back from greater success more by doubts that you can handle what confronts you than anything else.

Seven Wands

This card indicates that you are or will shortly have to use your best efforts to face and overcome a challenge or other opposition which will be a great test for your inner qualities. But, you have every chance of succeeding against it if you give your best efforts.

Reversed meaning: This suggests that you face a major setback and that you must overcome inner doubts or you could be defeated.

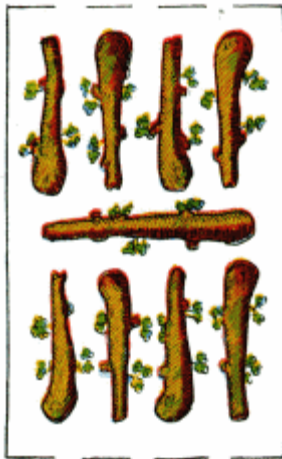
Eight Wands

This card may be a sign that difficulties you have endured in communicating with current or prospective business associates will improve due to your efforts and the impression you have made on them.

Reversed meaning: This card indicates that your interaction with people in your business will suffer from problems which will require strong response from you to be overcome.

Be careful what you put on paper or in an email. Concentrate on what directly affects you and don't spend any time worrying about how much better others are doing in this period. Your time will come if you apply yourself.

Nine Wands



When this card is revealed in a reading, it suggests that your efforts will get some reward that should encourage you to make more progress toward your higher goals.

Reversed meaning: This is a period where you could make great progress because of your sustained efforts but you may not take advantage because you are losing focus about what is really important to you in the longer term.

Ten Wands

This card indicates that you may need to give more help to some who are important to you or have helped you in the past just as you are facing greater than usual pressure which is affecting your ability to keep moving forward toward your own goals.

Reversed meaning: This indicates there may be people that appear to be helpful but do not have your best interests in mind. Be careful who you tell of your plans and important details of your current projects, especially during this time.



Knave of Wands

Your enthusiasm will be greater than usual and you can achieve a lot but you must be careful to focus your efforts on only the most important matters. News of a friend or previous lover will require active response. A good outcome is likely but not certain.

Reversed meaning: Emotional turmoil may cause end of relationship. You could create problems which might not be obvious for yourself and those around you.

Friends may be ready and able to help.

Knight of Wands

A knight always indicates that you are at a time when you can make progress quickly because your energy and enthusiasm are high.

Reversed meaning: This is a time when you take action but you could damage your prospects of further success if you do not continue to pay careful attention to boring but important details which underpin your efforts.



Queen of Wands

If you see this card in your reading, it suggests that you will get support and help with organization of your future efforts from a powerful woman. Show respect and appreciation and their cooperation will continue to be an important factor in the greater success you are likely to enjoy.

Reversed meaning: This may indicate that you will have your progress blocked or slowed by the efforts of a person, probably female, that tries to control you for their own advantage.



King of Wands

This card suggests that there is a man who can and is willing to offer you advice which should be heeded. Show respect for his counsel by applying it and showing gratitude for its effects.

Reversed meaning: This may indicate that someone is more interested in using the reader for their own purposes rather than supporting their quest for greater personal success. They are likely to make demands which show that their focus is only on their own needs rather than in cooperating and helping the reader.

Cups

The Cups are associated with Water, an essential element for our health and well-being.

We use these cards to find what might be affecting our emotions and creativity in both positive and negative ways.

The suit has is most closely linked to the Hearts suit in the modern deck of cards.

One Cup

This card indicates the possibility of starting a new and important personal relationship or taking a friendship the reader already enjoys to a deeper level.

Reversed meaning: This may suggest that a long and enjoyable relationship is under great strain and the reader needs to give more attention to supporting the other person or perhaps make the decision that it would be better to be honest with them and either end or reduce the level of commitment between the reader and the other person.

Two of Cups

This signals that a desire of the reader for a deeper commitment from someone is happening.

Reversed meaning: This can be a sign that either the reader or the other person is becoming too demanding of the relationship and they need to step back a little and make the other person more comfortable or the relationship may fracture and cause distress to them both.

Three Cups

This suggests a period of increased social activity, parties, weddings and other happy affairs.

Reversed meaning: This might be a time when advances are rejected or relationships which seemed to be progressing strike problems or break altogether.



Four Cups

This may indicate the reader is in a period of stress and has a great need to sort out their feelings and plans before much progress can be made.

Reversed meaning: This appears when the reader is just getting a renewed interest in meeting more people and enjoying more social activity.

Five Cups

The reader is burdened by a recent emotional loss. He or she needs to look to the future because there are more wonderful experiences waiting when the reader is ready to take them

Reversed meaning: This suggests that the reader is entering a period when they will have new enjoyable relationships.

Six Cups

When the reader sees the Six of Cups, it suggests that they will find something or someone they thought they might never see again.

Reversed meaning: This suggests that the reader is causing themselves some anxiety because they are slow to recognize that a relationship is no longer working and they may need to let go.

Seven Cups

This card suggests that the reader faces an important decision and has to be very careful which of the better looking options they decide on. Some may not be as good as they seem. Careful checking as well as some intuition is needed because of the potential for very good or bad results from taking a wrong turn at this point.

Reversed meaning: This suggests that a wonderful opportunity has been lost or deferred because of a wrong decision influenced by too much reliance on the reader's vague desires or deception by other people.

Eight Cups

This card suggests that the reader should consider leaving behind something which has been part of their life for a long time but which no longer appeals as much as it did. Travel is likely to be involved. This may help the reader to take action about something which they have been worrying for some time.

Reversed meaning: This may mark a time when the reader is ready to return to something which they have taken a break from.

Nine Cups

Reversed meaning: This suggests that the reader is at or very near a high point in their life where they enjoy the support and friendship of good people and their personal relationships are working well.

Reversed meaning: This has the implication that their strongest desires have been delayed perhaps because they were too eager and over-confident while neglecting important details.

Ten Cups

This card signals there are good prospects for activities which involve the reader's family or others who are especially close to them.

Reversed meaning: This suggests that your plans for the reader to enjoy special times with the people closest to them may be delayed by the intervention of outside events or someone who intrudes but the delay can be dealt with without too much disruption.



Knave of Cups

This card suggests that the reader will receive good news very soon which may involve the appearance someone with strong and admirable qualities.

Reversed meaning: In this period, person having the reading may suffer from deceit or loss of trust. The person being read for could miss out because they don't pay attention to what others ask or tell them.

Knight of Cups

The Knight is like Cupid and brings hints of a new romance which may be with someone the reader has known for some time or someone who is a stranger at this time.

Reversed meaning: This may suggest that someone very close to the reader will be untrue or may leave the relationship.



Queen of Cups

This card signals the appearance in the reader's life of a sincere, loving and supportive woman.

Reversed meaning: This position of the card when revealed suggests that someone the reader is attracted to or involved demands too much attention and is more devoted to their own interests above all else than the reader had thought.

King of Cups

This card suggests that the reader might consult someone they know about their current question. That person is experienced and supportive and their advice could be invaluable.

Reversed meaning: This suggest that someone the reader believes is an uninterested but supportive advisor may not have their interests at heart and their friendly manner may disguise ill will toward the reader.



Swords

The Swords are associated with the Air element, and focuses on our mental activity.

This suit has is most closely linked to the Spades suit in the modern deck of cards.

One Sword

This card suggests that the reader is able and prepared to start on a new venture with good prospects of success.

Reversed meaning: This reversed card suggests that the reader take on any new venture with some degree of caution and be ready for any upsets. That will help to minimize the effect of any mishaps.

Two Swords

This card indicates that the reader should take care and seek guidance from someone that is a true friend before going further into a venture.

Reversed meaning: This card in the upside down position suggests that the reader may get bad advice from someone that only appears to have their well-being in mind.

Three Swords

This card suggests that a close relationship between the reader and one or two other people may be close to an unhappy change. If there is just one other person, they may leave in tears. If there are two other people involved, two may indicate that they want less to do with the other person and that person's unhappiness is likely to be intense. Over time a less close connection may be attained between all the people involved.

Reversed meaning: This card suggests that the reader is unable to forget about the broken relationship and cannot accept that they may have some responsibility for the change. When they are able to see the whole situation more clearly, they will be able to move forward again.

Four Swords

This card's message is that the reader needs some time to collect their thoughts and prepare strategies for the future. They will have problems if they continue their present high rate of activity without it.

Reversed meaning: This suggest that the reader is about to suffer some health problem because they are not getting sufficient rest, exercise or nourishment.

Five Swords

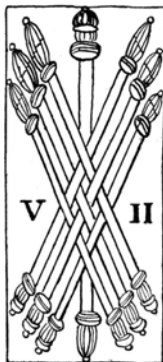
The reader needs to let go of recent past disappointments or loss and deal with imminent change. When they have done so, there are good prospects for greater success.

Reversed meaning: This card suggests that the reader faces a loss of someone or something they feel strongly about. It may signal that they do not get their expected return from a venture they did with some other people for no good reason.

Six Swords

The reader should be careful or they could have unexpected losses. They may be wise to seek the cooperation of like-minded people before they go any further.

Reversed meaning: The reader will have a situation which they feel unable to deal with. Take time to consider all available options and perhaps seek the support of other people with similar goals.



Seven Swords

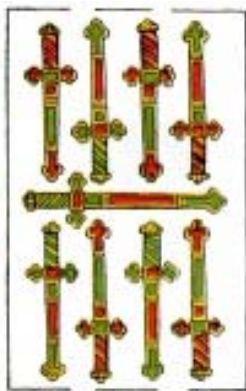
The reader needs to ensure that their assets and family are protected as they may face dishonesty or worse from people they have some trust in.

Reversed meaning: This situation requires that the reader become more cautious about who they tell their plans to and who they give details about their home or business.

Eight Swords

The reader may find that their best efforts don't appear to be enough to avoid a series of problems. But, the problems are not sufficient to do much real damage if the reader has enough trust in their own resources and abilities to survive and even thrive.

Reversed meaning: This is a time when the reader may not have the required faith in their own abilities to deal with external problems. This may make them lash out at those close to them instead of seeking their support.



Nine Swords

The reader may let their troubles make them fearful and restless when the best solution is just to summon their inner strength and start to deal with the problems in an organized fashion.

Reversed meaning: This is a restless, troubled time unless the reader accepts that they can deal with the problems around them because they have done so before and they have good people that will support them if asked.

Ten Swords

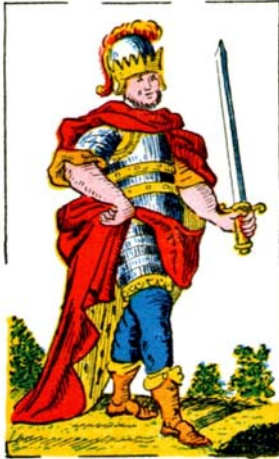
This signals the end of an arrangement which has brought some benefits and subsequent unhappiness. It is time to move on to possible greater success and happiness.

Reversed meaning: This unhappy period will be for longer than the reader hopes or expects. They will be tempted to feel despair and stress but that would give no relief, just more problems.

Knave of Swords

This card alerts the reader to possible trying times ahead. The reader should be ready but not worried because they probably have sufficient courage and support to deal with whatever they will have to face.

Reversed meaning: This suggests that someone who offers their support may not be as honest as they appear.



Knight of Swords

This card may signal conflict, mostly through differences of opinion rather than physical struggle, that the reader should be ready for and deal with as firmly and quickly as possible delay would cause the problems and their effects to be much greater.

Reversed meaning: This suggests that the reader will feel too weak or busy to take the required firm and quick action.



Queen of Swords

This card suggests that the reader knows or will meet a woman with strong skills and superior knowledge who could be a valuable ally and true friend if given the respect and attention which she deserves.

Reversed meaning: This card suggests an encounter or even an ongoing superficial relationship with someone that has strong disapproval to give anyone that doesn't abide by her values and views.

King of Swords

This friend or colleague has much information which could be useful and their support would be willingly given if they are approached properly.

Reversed meaning: This card suggests that someone that has managed to impress the reader may be less trustworthy and respectable than they appear. More like a gilt-covered slug than a real valuable coin of the realm.

Pentacles or Coins

The Pentacles are associated with the Earth, which nourishes us. This suit is most closely linked to the Diamonds in the modern deck of cards.



One Pentacle

The one or Ace of Pentacles is generally interpreted as a sign of good fortune to come which an intelligent person like the reader can use to build personal wealth and business credibility.

Sometimes, this bounty will be, at least in part, from lotteries or gifts. The message is the same; use it wisely to build assets and increase the business.

Reversed meaning: This can be a sign that the reader has wasted the opportunity from early success or the potential offered when they received gifts and frittered the proceeds away.

Two Pentacles

The reader is facing some financial challenges but is still in good standing at this point. They need to keep a firm rein on their spending and make the best use of all their resources to ensure that they come out on top.

Reversed meaning: This suggests that the reader has wasted opportunities and resources because they thought that easy money which they had received would continue to arrive, they need to buckle down and go forward with a solid plan to be able to survive and be ready to thrive when their position improves.

Three Pentacles

This indicates that the reader has achieved some success and the talent or skills to make much more.

Their ability to reach their goals with relative ease may attract envy from some they deal with.

They need to ensure that they do not focus solely on their material needs and neglect their social and spiritual needs and responsibilities.

Reversed meaning: This may suggest that the reader is missing out on many of the pleasurable experiences which are available to them because they are too focused on improving their financial position.



Four Pentacles

This card suggests that the reader needs to focus on securing their financial base and making firm plans for its use.

Reversed meaning: This card, when upside down suggests that the reader is becoming over-cautious with the funds from their success to this point and starting to drive away people that have helped them achieve it by their attitude.

Five Pentacles

This card is traditionally described as warning about possible imminent loss of income or other regular payments which could bring some hardship if other sources are not found quickly.

Worry about this problem could cause problems with people close to the reader and to the reader's health. They must understand that there is still potential to be able to deal with the problem if they take a realistic look at their situation. Then, they can take action to improve the outcome. Delay could make the problem worse.

Reversed meaning: This is a warning of a potential major loss that is inevitable if prompt action is not taken.

Six Pentacles

This card suggests that the reader will receive unexpected bounty because you have made a great impression on someone.

The reader's future success may depend in part on how they use or abuse the other person's generosity. If they can, it might be a good idea to share some of the benefits with others who need help too.

Reversed meaning: This could indicate that the gift they receive may have consequences and commitments attached which cause difficulties for the reader.

Seven Pentacles

This card suggests that the reader make investments from their current resources which will bear fruit in the future when they want to expand their business or perhaps take some time off without draining the business' assets too much.

Reversed meaning: This indicates that the reader is in danger of wasting funds on temporary pleasures which could be better used to support their long-range plans.

Eight Pentacles

This card's message is that further study to improve or update the reader's skills will be a good investment in improving and protecting their business future.

Reversed meaning: This upside down card suggest that the reader may be tempted on a path which offers a quick profit but has little value for their long-term success.

Nine Pentacles

This is a very good card to find in your reading. It indicates that the reader has had some success and can expect more. Now may be a good time to ease back a little and spend some time enjoying some of the fruits of their hard work and strengthening their bonds with family and others close to them.

Reversed meaning: This suggests that the reader's current level of comfort is based more on the generosity of others than their own efforts. They cannot change the situation until they adopt a more realistic outlook and apply themselves to improving their personal situation.

Ten Pentacles

This card is a sign of strong bonds between family members and the reader's friends which can be depended on in good times and bad.

Reversed meaning: This suggests that the reader needs to be open to new ideas from younger members of the family and keep lines of communication open to avoid problems with wills and inheritances.



Knave of Pentacles

This indicates that the reader is a studious person who applies themselves to whatever task they are given and can expect future rewards from their steady efforts.

Reversed meaning: This indicates that the reader may be seduced by schemes and friends that offer shortcuts to quick money with inevitable problems to follow.

Knight of Pentacles

The reader is likely to be a reliable and industrious person who can expect some success from their efforts and thrifty ways.

Reversed meaning: This card suggests that the reader tends to be too ready to accept their current situation and could face future problems and isolation because they don't plan for the future or make any effort to find friends and build lasting relationships.

Queen of Pentacles

This card may refer to a mature, capable and caring woman that is close to the reader or to the reader's own ability to nurture and help their family while helping to build a secure home base for them.

Reversed meaning: This card may suggest that the reader or some woman close to them needs to learn to trust people more and accept that the situation and needs of various family members change and mature as years pass.

King of Pentacles

This card suggests that the reader or someone very close to them is a strong and dependable person who is ready and willing to help others and support their friends and business associates when that is necessary.

Reversed meaning: This is a person who should be avoided but may seem generous and helpful. He is unreliable and devious. The reader needs to be very careful about him.



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Making Your Own Tarot Deck

With the thousands of different designs available on today's tarot cards, you would have to be hard to please if you could not find one, or many, that you would be comfortable using.

When you have used your first deck for some time, you will start to develop some ideas for adjusting the way you interpret them in line with your own beliefs and experience.

After you have thought about and tested those ideas when reading for yourself or your friends, you might start thinking that you might like to include some signs that reflect your own ideas in your own deck of tarot cards.

It is not very hard to make your own tarot deck with designs which you create or select.

Then, you will have something which is unique and personal. That will add a whole new dimension to your use of your tarot cards and increase the pleasure which you get from this activity many times over.

Please don't let any doubts about you having enough creativity or dexterity to make your own deck hold you back. One thing that using the tarot has revealed to me is that we all have creativity and imagination to spare.

Those abilities have often been repressed by the influence of well-meaning parents and other adult role models in our early years that persuaded us to focus on the need to make a living and keep our imagination firmly in check.

You don't have to create everything out of your own head. There are plenty of resources available in your local Art and Craft shops or off the Internet which can help you to express your ideas and aspirations.

Producing your cards will take time effort and involve some expense. I will give you some suggestions where you may be able to reduce these costs.

I have commented below about what I think are the main considerations you need to think about before you start to design your own personal tarot deck.

You may think of other points as well. Don't rush this preparation stage or you may find that you are quickly dissatisfied with the cards you produce.

Experience: You will need to have learned the traditional meanings assigned to all of the 78 cards.

You also need to be comfortable with your personal interpretations of the different symbols.

Design: You can use whatever sort of symbols, text and presentation which you believe is appropriate.

Make sure that your finished deck will be a size that you find comfortable to use.

Your own deck will cost you much more in time, labor and money than any store-bought deck.

Your personal deck will get more use than you are likely to give a standard one which you buy. You need to use only high-quality card stock and possibly protect the finished cards with glaze or by laminating the surfaces so that they continue to be usable for as long as possible.

It must have enough strength to remain usable for a significant period of time. You may want to make two identical decks from your artwork and supply of card. Then, you will be able to replace a card or two which become damaged or lost and continue to use the deck.

Do not use any registered brands, trademarks or copyrighted material in producing your deck unless you have specific written permission to do so.

Time: Producing the designs and then making the cards will probably take more time than you expect.

Please check the resources chapter for some companies which provide services or products which will help you to produce your own unique tarot deck.

You can join clipart.com which is the company that I licensed the pictures for this book from.

You could use other sorts of designs rather than traditional Tarot illustrations. Clipart.com has literally millions for you to look over.

You could print your designs on your computer printer. This would probably mean that you could only use fairly thin and flexible card stock. You might have to glue the printed designs to firmer card before using them.

You could print them on your printer using photo paper and then glue them to thick card.

You might print the designs as outlines, like some of the illustrations in this book. Then, you could color them to suit yourself and produce a truly unique deck.

One thing to be careful with if you get a local printer to cut the blank cards for you from sheets of card stock is that they use card which will not let the design on one side of the card show through the other side if it is under a strong light. Most Tarot readings are done indoors and under artificial light.

If your cards show the design from the other side, the best thing to do is to cover the entire back of each card with some opaque adhesive plastic like they use to cover schoolbooks.

If you want to produce your own designs on your computer or adapt some designs you get elsewhere, you could use almost any graphic editing program to make the changes.

Some I have used (but not for tarot cards) include Paint.net, Serif DrawPlus X4 and Corel® PaintShop Photo™ Pro X3. Paint.net is free.

Resources

Clipart.com

I got the images used in this book from <http://www.clipart.com/> which is part of the Jupiter Images part of Getty Images.

They have millions of illustrations and photos which you can get by subscribing at <http://www.clipart.com/>

This is an overview of the most important points about using their images:

Must join clipart.com.

Check the license agreement at

<http://www.clipart.com/en/company/licensing/>

That has the rules you must follow. This list is my interpretation and does not have any authority or approval from Clipart.com

You should contact clipart.com at the addresses on their website with any questions you have (they are very helpful and prompt).

After selecting the length of time that you want to join (subscribe) clipart.com for and paying the fee, you can select your pictures and download them to your computer.

This is my impression of how members may use pictures which they download from clipart.com. Please check the Terms of Use which are on the site when you join - they do change from time to time.

You may modify pictures:

- > Use parts
- > Combine pictures
- > Color them
- > Remove parts

You can get versions which have no breaks in the lines which are suitable for T-shirts, mugs etc.

Once your subscription expires, you can continue using any image(s) incorporated into a product or service that you prepared during the subscription term in the same product or service.

But, you cannot use any of the images you downloaded for any other product or service after your subscription has expired.

Plain Cards <http://www.plaincards.com/>

This site offers blank playing cards in perforated sheets for printing your own Tarot or other cards. You can download samples of the designs for card backs and full decks of cards. You need to purchase a registration key to be able to print them

The Silver Era Tarot Deck: <http://www.silvereratarot.com> This tarot card deck is a new-age interpretation based on the original Rider-Waite-Smith version. The deck is of classical ideas expressed with artistic breakthroughs in new bold, groundbreaking ideas as we bring tarot into the 21st Century for older generations to rediscover and expose to a whole new generation of learners and thinkers.

This deck is a collaboration between renowned artist Aunia Kahn and published writer Russell J. Moon.

The Hezicos Tarot: <http://www.hezicostarot.com/> This is a bright deck full of fantasy and some humor. Based on Rider-Waite and claimed to be very easy to learn with and popular with experienced readers too.

Ciro Marchetti's Tarot cards:

http://www.ciomarchetti.com/tarotzodiac_td.htm These cards are also works of art. Some decks are only available for a limited time.

U.S.Games Inc: <http://www.usgamesinc.com/> Probably one of the biggest producers of Tarot decks in the World. They add more designs every year. They also sell blank Tarot cards.

Afterword

I hope that my ebook helps you to speed your learning to use your tarot deck and to gain some insight into its power.

Keep studying and helping people.

Vaughan Midson

[Another eBookWholesaler Publication](#)