

Basics of Tarot



Reading Tarot involves a combination of using your conscious desire to search for truth, meaning and purpose alongside your ability to listen to and interpret the voice of your unconscious, which finds its mirror image in the cards.

Reading Reversed Cards

If you get a reverse card you dislike, don't be afraid to work with it and explore how to shift your take on it in your readings. Consider what it means for the reversed card to become upright again, what you need to do in order to remove the blockage or create balance.

When you change the card to its upright position with your hands, feel whatever is represented by that spread position flow more openly and correct itself.

Tips on how you can interpret them in a healthier way.

Ideally we can learn not to avoid perceived negativity, but face these cards with openness and courage.

Light and Shadow: each card is an archetype and it holds both a light and a shadow

Symbols, not omens: see the cards as a tool that gives a voice to our inner world. The cards can help you practice thinking about things in a symbolic way.

A larger story: each card is a part of a larger tale and the wheel always turns

Reframe negative cards: consider card reversals as an opportunity to find areas of improvement

The Major Arcana

The Conscious - body, social, external, outer concerns, youth, personal.

This stage looks at material concerns that affect our worldly lives.

1- The Magician, 2 - The High Priestess, 3 - The Empress, 4 - The Emperor, 5 - The Hierophant, 6 - The Lovers, 7 - The Chariot

The Unconscious - mind, moral, internal, inward search, adulthood, collective

This stage focuses on one's inner world and search for identity.

8 - Strength, 9 - The Hermit, 10 - Wheel of Fortune, 11 - Justice, 12 - The Hanged Man, 13 - Death, 14 - Temperance

The Superconscious - emotional, hidden, maturity, divine, universal, spiritual awareness

This stage deals with the Fool's experiences as they develop awareness of their role and place within the greater universe.

15 - The Devil, 16 - The Tower, 17 - The Star, 18 - The Moon, 19 - The Sun, 20 - Judgement, 21 - The World.

The Minor Arcana and Numerology

These generally concern mundane matters in the course of one's life, aspects of the self or literal people in one's life.

Ace - Individuality, beginnings, potential, momentum, inspiration

Two - Duality, choices, balance, cooperation

Three - Groups, raw energy, development, expression, creativity

Four - Structure, manifestation, foundations, stability, endurance

Five - Conflict, fluctuation, change, challenges

Six - Harmony, adjustment, alignment, commitment, pleasure

Seven - Introspection, investigation, reflection, spirituality

Eight - Achievement, rebirth, perfection, action

Nine - Attainment, nearing completion, abundance, idealism

Ten - Completion, fulfillment, success, full circle

The Suits and the Elements

Wands = Fire: will power, creativity, passion, inspiration, energy. The wands represents the first spark of life within humanity – giving energy to create as well as the passion and will power to sustain creation.

Cups = Water: emotions, intuition, instincts, relationships, love. Water is adaptable, changing its form as it needs to, alluding to its resilience but also reactivity.

Swords = Air: ideas, thoughts, communication, conflict. The air carries messages, so we associate it with communication. When we focus our thoughts and intellect, they become like swords.

Pentacles = Earth: material world, nature, resources, finances, health. Pentacles represents the earth because its stability, nourishment, and fertility allows things to flourish, it also symbolizes our resources; finance, prosperity, business and possessions.

The Court Cards

Based on universal archetypes whose reflections we can see within the family unit.

Pages = Children: Focus – Internal; Events – Messages; Actions – Learn

Inexperienced but curious, their role is to be an observer and a student, trying to decipher messages and learn as much as they can.

Knights = Adolescents: Focus – External; Events – Movements; Actions – Act

Rowdy teens eager to prove their worth and make their mark on the world. Brave and Passionate but sometimes can go overboard. Their role is to move forward and turn their suit into action.

Queens = Mothers: Focus – Internal; Events – Creativity; Actions – Develop

More spirituality connected than their less mature counterparts. Their role is to develop and nurture the elements of their suits – both within as well as alongside others. They are the creators of their suit and express it's power.

Kings = Fathers: Focus – External; Events – Authority; Actions – Control

Authority figures in high positions of power. Their role is to create order and structure, develop and enforce boundaries, and protect their suit. They control the elements of their suit.