





**Tarot:  
Voice of the Inner Light**



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**Richard Palmer**

**Custom Book Publishing  
Scotts Valley, CA**

**Tarot: Voice of the Inner Light**

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This book is dedicated to:  
Betty Bradley, M.D.



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**The Way of Simplicity is the Way of Truth**  
**Dr. Arthur Edward Waite**



## **Tarot: Voice of the Inner Light**

### **Introduction**

There are many complex and profound books written on the subject of the Tarot. This isn't one of them. The aim of this work is to bring the practical knowledge of how to use the Tarot into the life of anyone who is willing to put forth the minimum effort necessary to understand this remarkable gift to mankind. Every aspect of its use will be covered in sufficient detail to allow the reader to fully understand its correct usage. No complex spiritual or philosophical concepts will be introduced so as not to create confusion at the beginning stage of use. After the basics have been mastered, there is plenty of material available to interested parties on the advanced aspects of Tarot usage and its underlying philosophy if the reader should desire to pursue this path.

### **The Purpose of the Tarot**

The Tarot cannot predict the future nor can it be used to obtain factual knowledge of particular future events. The Tarot functions as a mirror reflecting psychological issues and external forces acting upon the inquirer or at work in the situation being inquired about. It reveals the atmosphere surrounding the question or situation. It is best looked upon as a counselor or personal advisor. It enables you to discern the forces at work in your situation and empowers you to act accordingly. In my technique of reading, I personify the Tarot as a Sentient Being and I feel that in its response to my question it is rendering an opinion or making an overall statement about the matter I am inquiring about. The Tarot is a tool that can assist the individual in elevating their level of psychological insight and help them evolve towards a higher level of consciousness.

### **Purchase of a Tarot Deck**

It is of the utmost importance that you obtain your own Tarot deck. Only in this way can you form a meaningful personal relationship with the cards. This work is based on the Waite-Smith Tarot, the most popular and widely used Tarot deck in the world. It was

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conceived by the English mystic Dr. Arthur Edward Waite and drawn by the Jamaican-American artist Pamela Coleman Smith®. This deck can be obtained through any large bookseller or purchased online.

### **A Word about Tradition**

The Tarot “appeared” in Western history about 1420. Its exact origins or authorship, according to Dr. Arthur Edward Waite, cannot be precisely determined. In it’s close to six hundred years of known existence in Western civilization several traditions have come to us concerning its proper use. Of course, whether or not you wish to honor these traditions is entirely up to you. The first of these traditions is the use of a meditation. This traces back to the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn and establishes the act of reading the cards as an activity that is essentially spiritual in nature. The second tradition revolves around the care and storage of the cards. By tradition, Tarot cards are kept wrapped in black silk and stored in a wooden box when not in use so as to not only to protect them from physical harm (like spilled coffee) but also to concentrate their “energies”. It is also a matter of showing respect for the cards. Lastly is the use of the left hand to cut and turn over the cards during a reading. This comes to us from the gypsies who were noted for their skill in interpreting the Tarot.

### **The Organization of the Tarot**

A Tarot deck consists of 78 cards divided into two major groupings commonly called “The Major Arcana” and “The Minor Arcana” (Arcana being Latin for “Mystery”). The Major Arcana consists of twenty-two cards numbered from 0 to 21 that represent universal ideas and experiences common to the psyche of all human beings as well as images reflecting the fundamental powers and principals underlying the universe. The Minor Arcana represent situations and experiences inherent in day-to-day life and are divided into four suites of fourteen cards called Wands, Cups, Swords and Pentacles. Each suite contains a series of cards

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beginning with an Ace and continuing to 10 as well as a Royal Family of four Court Cards (Page, Knight, Queen and King) for a total of fourteen cards. Each suit has certain characteristics and associations that are briefly summarized below:

### **The Suites of the Tarot**

**Wands (Fire)** – will, creativity, intuition

**Cups (Water)** – love, feelings, pleasure

**Swords (Air)** - intellect, thought, strife

**Pentacles (Earth)** – money and possessions

### **Getting To Know Your Tarot Deck**

Once you have purchased your Tarot deck the first step is to become familiar with the images on the cards. Go through the deck one card at a time and spend several minutes looking at each card. Then return to the beginning of the deck and go through it again this time using the book and reading the cards written description while looking at the image. After this is accomplished the final step is to read the book from cover to cover thus gaining an overall “feel” for the whole of the Tarot. It is easier to do this if you keep the deck in the order that you received it and start with the Major Arcana and then work your way through the suits of Wands, Cups, Swords and Pentacles. Don’t get in a big hurry. The important thing is to look at and become familiar with every card in the deck and get an overall sense of the Tarot before you perform your first reading.

### **The Polarities of the Cards**

This method of Tarot uses upright and reversed cards (cards that appear upside down from the readers viewpoint when they are drawn from the deck), a subject that is somewhat controversial with many commentators on the Tarot. I will explain why I use them and then you can decide for yourself. By now you have met the High Priestess, the beautiful woman who sits between the two

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