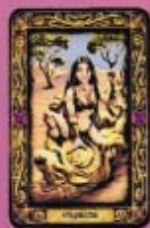


TAROT

the Psychic Journey



maureen dennis

Dedication

This book is dedicated to my husband Rob and three daughters Jacquiline, Bianca and Angelique. I would like to thank them for walking through this life journey with me.

*In the Light, you will find your truth
and finally you will know
the power is within you,
so do as you will
and harm none,
so mote it be...*

go forth and find your magick

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THE TAROT DECK

There are 78 cards in a traditional Tarot deck consisting of 22 Major Arcana cards and 56 Minor Arcana cards.

MAJOR ARCANA

The Major Arcana cards are also known as the Trump or Fate cards. They represent the greater secrets in life, the important or major life issues and things of spiritual importance or mysterious knowledge. These cards tell of the Fool on his journey through life. The Fool, being you and me, starts out at a young and tender age learning all his life's lessons ending up older, wiser and knowledgeable.

MINOR ARCANA

There are 56 Minor Arcana cards which include 40 Pip cards and 16 Court cards. Both the pip and court cards are divided into 4 different suits and four different elements. The four suits are swords, wands, cups and pentacles. The four elements are air, fire, water and earth.

Swords are an air sign and relate to thinking and our reason. Wands are a fire sign and relate to our energy and enthusiasm. Cups are the water sign and relate to feelings and our emotions. Pentacles are the earth sign and relate to sensations and physical reality.

Suit	Element	Represents
Swords	Air	Tension. Intellect. Rationality. Logic.
Wands	Fire	Energy. Passion. Will. Enthusiasm.
Cups	Water	Love. Emotion. Intuition.
Pentacles	Earth	Material world. Money. Practical. Physical.

The **Pip cards** are numbered from Ace to ten and represent the every day situations, attitudes and emotions.

The **Court cards** each have a Page, Knight, Queen and King in each suit. They represent the people in our lives, characters, relationships, talents or faults. When you see the Court cards, ask yourself who these people are, and why are they popping up in your reading.

Pages are seen as children of both sexes. Pages are childlike in their behaviour, and are not afraid to venture forth on missions of discovery.

Knights are seen as young adults of both sexes. Knights carry a youthful energy, and have the reputation of not thinking at times, before they act.

Queens are seen as mature and/or married women. Queens are receptive in nature, nurturing and supportive.

Kings are seen as mature and/or married men. They are seen as active decision makers.

There are 4 ways in which the Court cards function within a reading:

1. As an environmental influence.
2. As representing a person in the clients life.
3. As representing the clients inner potential and talents, capacities and psychological state.
4. As relating to spirituality.

Remember that each reading is an unfolding story about some aspect in the client's life. What is *your* first impression of the card? Ask the client what *their* impression of the card is, and where it might fit into their life. Does the card remind them of someone in their life? Do they see this person as supportive, or as being an obstacle? This would be the outer level of the Court card.

On the inner level, does the client see the Court card as an aspect of themselves? Is this energy within them, a skill or a talent that they can use as a personal resource? Is this something that they need to develop? Is the Court card in question representing a fear that is holding them back?

Look at the number of Court cards appearing in any one reading. What positions do they fall in? Are they more involved with the past, the present or the future? Which cards may be facing each other, and what does that energy look like?

When you first begin to read the cards, go through a reading intuitively, speaking what comes through to you from the images in the cards. Then if you wish, go back and check the “traditional” meaning of the cards. Know that as you do more and more readings, you will develop your own sense of what a card means, and where it is taking you. Keeping a journal of your readings will allow you to see your progress on a very real level, as well as allowing you to see how specific issues develop in your life.

Today so many people are learning to tap into their intuition. The best way to interpret is NOT to question your intuition rather go with the flow of your thoughts. As you read through the cards, look at all the images on the cards, everything has a piece to the story.

HOW TO CHOOSE A TAROT DECK

There are many different decks of Tarot cards to choose from and some decks are difficult to learn. You cannot open a deck of cards in a shop; therefore you cannot view the images or text. There is a way of going with the feeling of the cards. Hold the deck with both hands and see what your feelings are telling you. It's the same when you give a reading, you go with what feels right. Otherwise you can get some knowledge before going out to buy your deck. It's best to get to know one deck completely while you are learning.

Tarot was designed with specific symbols, colours and images for a very good reason. The traditional Tarot cards represent the psychological, spiritual and mundane archetypes. Created in such a way they represent every part of a person's journey. What ever you are experiencing when you do a reading, you will find a card that reflects the situation. The Rider-Waite Tarot deck has been used for this book.

LEARNING TO READ THE TAROT

Tarot is one of the oldest divination oracles still in use today. Divination is a way of finding answers to questions. It comes from the word divine which means 'Higher Power' that guides you all the time, made out by inspiration, magic, intuition or guessing, foresees or predicts.

We use these tools to help us see the answers to the questions that we ask. The future is never set in stone. We can examine situations as they are and can see the direction in which the future is going in the cards. The cards illustrate the situation, including the aspects of which we are unaware of. Your own impressions and feelings are what count.

There is magick in the Tarot, but the key to unlocking that magick lies within the reader. You need to stay open to allow information to come to you. Tarot is not 'instant' and it is not a determined outcome. It can be very overwhelming and intimidating the first time you start learning the cards.

Make it a magick and fun journey. If you start getting impatient, walk away and come back when you feel refreshed. You need patience, time and positive energy. There are 78 different cards to learn, and if you want to master the Tarot cards, you are going to need plenty of time and effort. What you put in, is what you will get out. The more energy you put into your deck the more accurate your readings will be.

I learnt one card at a time. Learn the basic meaning of one card. Pick one randomly or start with the first card, the Fool. You can gather all the information you have on the card, memorise it and write down the symbols, number, star sign and colour meaning, select one or two keywords that will trigger your memory and see your confidence grow. An example is the Fool card. You have already learnt that the first card means new beginnings and fresh starts. It is the first card, that been Zero and also means innocence, letting go of expectations and stupidity.

It is important to learn the meanings of the cards thoroughly so you can tap into the mystery of the cards to give an accurate reading. I know some people that have never learnt the card meaning and still give an accurate reading. I was not one of those lucky ones. Been the Taurus that I am I leant every single card one at a time. Remember it all comes from within.

There are no fast and hard rules. What matters are your own perceptions and insights when you look at the Tarot cards in a reading? Everything here is for you to ensure that your insights are valid, and that you have the confidence to take Tarot further than you could ever have imagined.

REVERSED MEANINGS

This is a personal choice. Some people read only the upright meaning of the cards and do not read the reverse meanings at all. When you first start learning it is best not to read the reversed meaning as there is just so much to learn. Once you are confidence with all the meanings then you can learn the reverse meanings.

Reversed cards have the reversed meaning in most cases. Another way to read a reversed card, if you don't feel the reversed meaning is correct for the reading is by interpreting the cards message as more important than it would normally be.

CLARIFICATION CARDS

A clarification card can be drawn from the deck while you are giving a reading, if you are unsure of a meaning or interpretation of a particular card in a spread. It can be chosen randomly or from the top, bottom or middle of the deck, whatever feels comfortable for you. You or the client can choose the card. Once chosen place the clarification card over the card you are unsure of for more understanding of the cards meaning.

JUMPER OR DROPPER CARDS

If a card 'jumps' out of the deck while you are shuffling, it is called the jumper or dropper card. Jumper or dropper cards can be used as a significator card. You can use them as a clue to see where the reading will go. If you don't feel a connection with the card, just put it back in and carry on shuffling.

SIGNIFICATOR CARDS

Not all spreads have a position for a significator card. This is a personal option. This card is not to be interpreted as part of the reading. There are two ways of choosing a significator card if the spread you are using does not have a position for it.

One option is after shuffling the cards you choose one card from the top, bottom or middle as the significator card. Another option is to let the client go through the deck, not seeing the images, and pick a card at random that will represent them. This card will show how the person sees themselves in the situation.

ASKING THE QUESTION

You need to know what the general issue is about before laying your spread out. Being able to ask the right question is more important than knowing exactly what each card means. Sometimes the cards will not answer what you ask but will instead tell you what you need to know. You will get a better response if you ask "What", rather than "Why". "What is the lesson that I need to learn?" Will be far better than "Why did this happen?"

You can take a few moments before you lay out your spread, and write down all the questions that you might have. An example is if all of the questions are formed around career, a good question to ask might be: "What do I need to know about my work environment, and what actions will allow me to feel more in control of the situation."

THE EQUIVALENTS

The numbers are not always consistent. A common change is the switching of the Justice and Strength cards. Names are changed in the Major and Minor Arcana. Some decks have extra cards. Always make sure you read the booklet that is supplied with the deck to see what their meanings are.

The **Major Arcana** cards are sometimes renamed with the Death card becoming the Transition card.

The Magician becoming the Juggler.

The Hierophant becoming the Teacher, the High Priest, or the Pope.

The High Priestess becoming the Female Pope or the Papess.

Judgement becoming the Angel.

Court cards have different names such as the Page been called Princess or Daughter.

Knights may be called Prince or Son.

Queens may be called Mother.

Kings may be called Father.

Another difference is

Swords may be called Spades.

Wands may be called Clubs, Batons, Rods, Staffs or Staves.

Cups may be called Cauldrons, Chalice or Hearts.

Pentacles may be Coins, Diamonds, Discs or Stones.

0 Zero the FOOL

Beginnings.

Planet: Uranus

Key Points

Acting on impulse. Carefree. Change of direction.
 Complete faith. Continuous cycle. Daydreaming.
 Distraction. Doing the unexpected. Fresh start.
 Innocence. Letting go of expectations.
 New beginnings. New path. New phase. Stupidity.

Symbols

Dog. Ice. Knap sack. Mountains. Rose. Sun.



Interpretation: When the Fool appears in your reading he is telling you to follow your heart and to believe in yourself. This is the start of a new adventure, with wonder and personal growth. It's the beginning of a new journey or the entering of a new phase. No plans are made; he is innocent, eager and lives for the moment. You may need to let go of the traditional way of seeing and doing things, be open to new ideas and new ways of looking at things. If you are having a moment of doubt or facing a decision, you need to believe in yourself and follow your heart no matter how crazy or foolish your impulses may seem. This fresh start may have some dangers so be on the lookout for any obstacles that may be in your way. There may be a new relationship on the way or an unexpected opportunity may appear.

Reversed: Do not be impulsive, as the reversed Fool is not in the real world right now. Look where you are walking and do not take any risks. Take the whole situation into consideration as you may be feeling lost in the head, in hopes and in your imagination. You are on the edge of a cliff and about to fall off, so look before you leap.

1 I the MAGICIAN Juggler. Shaman. Showman. Wizard.
Planet: Mercury

Key Points

Application. Awareness. Creative ability. Cunning.
Energy. Master of own destiny. Power.
Produces magical results. Skill. Self confidence.
Ultimate achiever. Unlimited potential.

Symbols

Baton. Elements. Hand. Lemniscate. Lily. Scroll.
Uroboros/Snake.



Interpretation: The Magician has absolute power over all his circumstances. He is in control of his own thoughts, the ruler of his own reality. When he shows up in your reading he is telling you that you have all the necessary tools to complete your tasks. The trick is to learn how to use your abilities in the best possible way so you can master new situations, create and make anything of your life. This is a good time to start new projects. You have more power and energy than you realise to change your circumstances. You have the ability to manipulate this energy. This card is a signal to act now, as long as you understand exactly what you want and are committed to getting it.

Reversed: You do not have the tools necessary to do the task at hand. You are not using your skills in the correct manner. There may be empty promises. What was possible becomes impossible; you may be made out to be the joker of the party. Everything you had is lost to you.

2 II the HIGH PRIESTESS Female Pope. Planet: Moon

Key Points

Knowing. Instincts. Looking beyond the obvious.
 Mystery. Psychic. Secret knowledge. Sixth sense.
 Unseen forces. Understanding. Using intuition. Wisdom.

Symbols

Cross. Moon. Pillars. Pomegranates. Scroll. Water.



Interpretation: The High Priestess is usually present when things are a little uncertain. She tells you to look beyond the obvious, pay attention to your own inner voice and your dreams. Rely on your own gut instincts, your sixth sense rather than logical answers. She can represent a time of waiting and allowing. It is not always necessary to act to achieve your goals. You need patience, wait for the right time, the secrets will be revealed eventually, you may not be ready to understand them yet. The moon in this card is all about intuition and psychic forces. If you find yourself having hunches, ideas or impressions that come from nowhere, know that this is moon power. If it feels right to go ahead with something, do it, if it doesn't, don't. Go with your inner gut feelings.

Reversed: You may not be willing to listen to your true answers, your own truth. You need to pay proper attention to yourself and your deeper needs. There is a lot going on beneath the surface when the High Priestess appears upside down. You do not have all the facts and it would be best to withdraw from involvement, rather allow the events to proceed without any involvement. Watch out for hidden enemies lurking around.

3 III the EMPRESS

Mother. Goddess.

Planet: Venus

Key Points

Abundance. Action. Birth. Creativity. Fertility. Growth.
 Happiness. Harvest. Initiative. Love. Nature.
 Nourishment. Nurture. Pleasure. Sunshine.

Symbols

Cross. Heart. Pomegranates. River/Waterfall. Shield.
 Throne. Trees. Wheat.



Interpretation: The Empress represents the fertile, life-giving mother who reigns over the bounty of nature and the rhythms of the Earth. From her come all the pleasures and joys of the senses and the abundance of new life in all its forms. The Empress expresses love, beauty, art, work, pleasure; this is a pregnant time with lavish abundance of all kinds. This is a time of giving birth. It could signify a pregnancy or actual birth, or a birth of some creative project or the dawning of a new idea. You are brimming over with creativity. This is a time to expand and grow. Financially and materially you will be provided for. If you are an artist of any kind you will be able to draw on practical energy. This is a ripe time to do whatever your creative impulses draw you to: cooking, gardening, exercise, painting or writing.

Reversed: The reversed Empress can signify a period of poverty, an unwanted child may be conceived, possibly an abortion. Your creativity and ability to bring things to fruition is blocked. There is no material reward.

4 IV the EMPEROR

Father.

Birth sign: Aries

Key Points

Authority. Blocked emotions. Boss. Control.
 Commanding. Creating order out of chaos.
 Firm structure. Go out and get. Leadership. Order.
 Position of strength. Power. Speaks his mind. Stability.
 Stern judgement. Taking a leadership role.

Symbols

Ankh. Beard. Cloak. Crown. Ram. Globe/World.
 Mountains. Throne.



Interpretation: The Emperor is not someone who is easily influenced. In his eyes it is his duty to protect all that is his. His saying “doing” is the only method we have for “knowing”. There is no such word as can’t. Aries is the first birth sign, the infant. He is someone who is in control of his instincts, temper and his environment. He is often associated with legal matters, disciplinary actions, and everything official in all its forms. He is filled with energy, enthusiasm and aggression. He initiates projects, leadership and power. When you get him in your reading you may be getting a promotion, or a position where you will be in control, or a position in which you can advance. He can show up in your life as a strong male influence, a protector or a provider or as a successful and wealthy businessman. In partnership he is someone who usually gets what he wants and tends to dominate his partner. His partner may not feel loved or cherished as he does not show his emotions.

Reversed: The situation is chaotic. There is no organisation or control, as you may be feeling drained, vulnerable, threatened, incompetent or inferior. The reversed Emperor is a cold, calculating person who may be using you to achieve his own ends. He is not working within the legal system.

5 V the HIEROPHANT

the Pope.

Birth sign: Taurus

Key Points

Ancient secrets. Belief systems. Education.
Hidden knowledge. High priest. Sacred mysteries.
Spiritual knowledge. Traditions.

Symbols

Crown. Hand. Keys. Pillars. Staff. Throne.



Interpretation: The Hierophant has a wealth of experience; you can seek his advice in difficult times. In a reading he often represents learning with experts or knowledgeable teachers. This card also stands for institutions and their values. In personality the Hierophant indicates someone who pays great attention to outer details. He plays by the rules. Marriage is another meaning of this card, the solemn ceremony, with its symbolic meaning, is a profoundly important ritual. It suggests the public joining of togetherness, of two families, two sexes, two destinies. You may feel a deep need for routine when this card is drawn, you may also want your routine clearly defined, whether at work, home or in a relationship. When referring to a situation, you need to be careful and play by the rules.

Reversed: You may want to break the rules, as they make you feel claustrophobic; you just do not see the point in them. You may be rebellious against your religious beliefs and seek your own truths. You may be judging a book by its cover. Do not rush into any agreements now as they will prove to be disappointing.

6 VI the LOVERS

the Twins.

Birth sign: Gemini

Key Points

Adam and Eve. Attraction. Choice. Communication. Love. Opposites. Passion. Personal beliefs. Physical union. Relationship. Romance. Romeo and Juliet. Sexual attraction. Soul mates. Temptation. Trust. Values.

Symbols

Angel. Clouds. Mountains. Nudity. Snake. Sun.



Interpretation: The Lovers card is about finding of the other half of you. The urge for union is powerful for a fulfilling emotional bond. This could be an event, idea, person, religion, career or cause. It can be anything that completes you. It usually involves making a crucial decision or choice to go for that something so you can feel whole: romance, love, something spiritual, a sexual relationship, marriage or physical union. These issues should relate to respect, trust, commitment and devotion. Balance is essential. This is a card of choice especially if it involves a sacrifice. It might be a choice between two lovers'; one offering stability and the other excitement. It may also be when you are developing a partnership in business or regarding matters in friendship or family business. You have come to a cross road and need to follow your own path even if it means going against those who are urging you in another direction.

Reversed: Jealousy could be driving a poisonous wedge between two people. This could be sex without love, or adultery. It may be the end of a love affair. A family could be splitting up, because there is no communication. There is no love so it is not a good time to start a new relationship, or to have an affair.

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