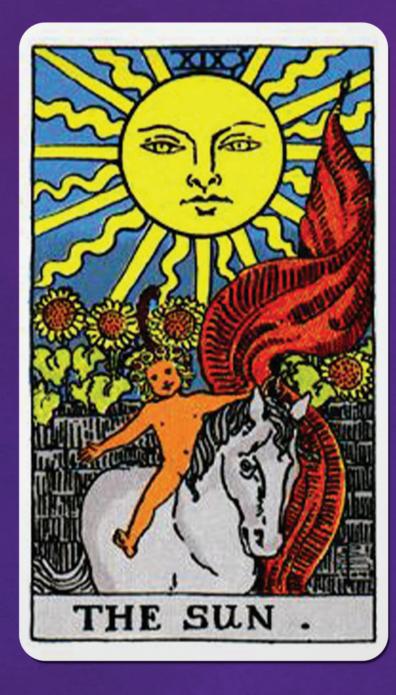


BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO TAROT CARD READING







INTRODUCTION

Tarot Card Reading is one of the most popular psychic divination practices done all over the world.

The origins of the tarot are shrouded in mystery, but the cards were well established in Europe by the late 14th century.

Originally, artists created playing cards for wealthy families to use in their parlour games.

It was in the late 16th century, perhaps when the Romany or gypsies came to Europe and discovered them, that the cards started to be seen as tools of divination. By the 18th century, people began to assign a universal meaning behind the symbolism and the patterns on the Tarot Cards.

A French occultist by the name of Jean-Baptiste Alliette was the first to release a Tarot Card Deck in 1791 for the sole purpose of divination. Though there are different Tarot Card Decks designed by different artists and with varying images, the underlying symbolism these Tarot Cards remain the same. The pictures on the cards are rich in meaning and the pattern they form can help the reader to gain insight into someone's life.

MAJOR & MINOR ARCANA

The Tarot pack is made up of a total of 78 unique cards with different suits, elements, classes, and faculties. All tarot cards fall under two main categories – Major Arcana consisting of 22 cards or Minor Arcana consisting of 56 cards.

MAJOR ARCANA

The Major Arcana tells the story of a person's journey to enlightenment. The deck starts with The Fool (O) and ends with The World (XXI). It tells of The Fool's transformation from a simple-minded person to an enlightened being by meeting the teachers in the numerical order of I to XX of the cards of the Major Arcana. As each card reflects universal imagery and symbolism, The Fool learns of life lessons which transform him to become his best version.

The Major Arcana represents major events or changes in a person's life. They reveal messages about the bigger picture in any given situation and its long-term direction. They are used as "trump" cards, meaning they outrank the Minor Arcana cards. Getting a Major Arcana card in a reading is often viewed as a sign of something larger taking place in your life.

Order of the Major Arcana cards

Following the Rider-Waite Tarot Deck, the most used Tarot card in Western countries and the standard for most Tarot cards, the numerical order of 22 Major Arcana cards are as follows:













































Each of these Tarot cards has numbers associated with numerology and other universal symbolism. For example, the Empress is attributed to the expansive number three, while the Hierophant or the High Priest is attributed the wise number five. All these images and numbers have more symbolism and meanings in numerology, which experienced readers and those with a rich understanding of the Tarot can read into to provide more comprehensive and enriching insight.

MINOR ARCANA

While Major Arcana reflect the larger themes, the Minor Arcana reveals single events, persons, or problems that we are facing. The Minor Arcana are helpful in allowing a person to confront issues and concerns so that they can move on in life and grow from their past experiences.

The 56 cards in the Minor Arcana are divided into four suits – Wands, Cups, Swords and Pentacles. Each suit has IO numbered cards and 4 Court cards namely: the Page, the Knight, the Queen, and the King. The Suits have their corresponding elements and meanings in numerology; and they are also associated with the Seven Chakras.

The 4 Suits of the Minor Arcana cards represent the different categories in a person's life – emotions, finances, thoughts, and motivations.



The **Suit of Cups** often tells about a person's connection to themselves as well as the relationship that they have with others. Associated with the element of water, which is constantly moving, the Suit of Cups reveals feelings and emotions. Though fleeting, these emotions

can give an insight on who the person is and how they respond to the different relationships that they have in their life. The Suit of Cups can also strengthen a person's intuition and creativity.



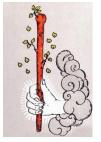
The **Suit of Pentacles** reflects the physical manifestation of a person's material possessions like their finances or homestead. The Suit of Pentacles also reveal details about someone's health especially about the physical condition of their body. Just like the element of earth which

shows the balance and the chaos of the physical world, the Suit of Pentacles also reflects the physical or the material manifestations of a person's life.



The **Suit of Swords** echoes the thoughts, the words, and the actions of a person. Just like the element of air which is formless, remains unseen and always in motion, the Suit of Swords deals with the matter of the mind. Just like a sword with two sides, a mind is a powerful tool

which can be used for destruction or creativity, revealing the nature of a person.



The **Suit of Wands** manifests the energies present in person, driving them to live their life. It represents the passions that they have and the motivations that they live for. Just like the element of fire, the Suit of Wands represents the spirit

which ignites our potential and gives fire to complete one's purpose in life.

Order of the Minor Arcana cards

The 4 Elements play an important part in a Tarot reading. Following the process of creation, fire comes first followed by water and air respectively, and with the earth as the last element. This means that in the order of the Suits, the Wands would be first, followed by the Cups, the Swords, and then the Pentacles. The relevance of this order would depend on the tarot reader and how they interpret the revelations of the cards based on their placements as well as their order of appearance. The order does not connote a hierarchy among the Suits but reflects the interactions of the images and the symbolism behind the cards.

READING THE MAJOR AND MINOR ARKANA CARDS

The Major Arcana cards reveal the large energies and influences in life while the Minor Arcana reveal single events, persons, or the day to day problems.

Getting a card from the Major Arcana can set the tone of the reading because of their large universal images and symbols.

As there are 56 Minor Arcana cards as opposed to the 22 Major Arcana cards, there's a high probability that the person will get more Minor Arcana cards during a reading. Minor Arcana cards are important in helping a person get into the bottom of specific issues they are facing and understand their choices so that they can make informed decisions.

The Major Arcana can connect the story being told by the Minor Arcana and strengthen the revelations provided by the details. In cases where the cards have conflicting or inconsistent symbolism, the Major Arcana can turn around the meanings behind the images being revealed by the Minor Arcana by giving a different connotation based on their larger imagery or symbolism.





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