



SAMPLE



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SAMPLE



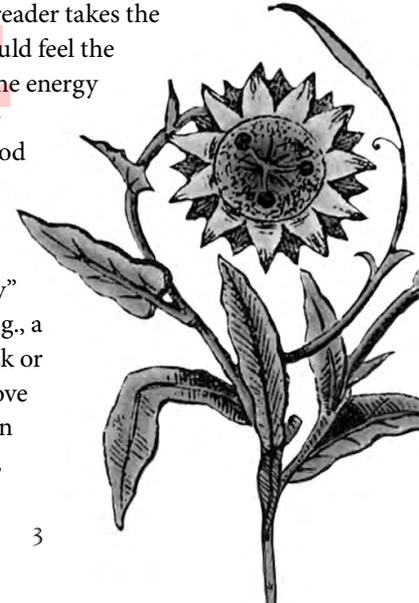
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From the time I was a teenager, I dreamed of creating my own tarot deck. I was fascinated and inspired by the depth and monumental scale of this great mantic system. But I lacked the determination to commit to such a major task. More recently, after the great success of my two Lenormand decks, I finally felt that I was ready. I have always liked illustrations in old books so I knew that was to be the style of my next deck.

However, the thing I wanted to create wasn't simply a set of beautiful pictures that are pleasant to look at.

My goal was to breathe life into each arcana so that when the tarot reader takes the deck in hands, they would feel the warmth of the cards. The energy and the meaning of the card could be understood on an intuitive level.

It was for better understanding that I added "self-explanatory" symbols to the cards, e.g., a sprout splintering a rock or a chrysalis hanging above a sleeping knight. When adding something new,



I was also respectful and passionate about preserving the symbolism of the classic tarot decks.

As I created the images, I tried to feel them with my heart, allowing them to pass through me. Sometimes it was challenging. For example, I attempted and rejected two variants of the Nine of Swords before I found an ideal one. Those castaway variants caused such a strong sense of despair that I couldn't sleep and my chest was aching terribly.

As the result, you are now holding in your hands the very deck I have always dreamed of creating. I sincerely hope, my dear practitioners, that you will feel the great respect and love that I have for tarot. I also hope *Old Style Tarot* won't simply become another deck in your collection but a real "work-horse," a favorite tool that helps you to find the best ways through difficult times in a wonderful life.

With joy and anticipation,

Alexander Ray

INTRODUCTION



USING THE TAROT

What do you need the cards for? Why did you purchase this deck? The most common answer is to read the cards to predict the future. But tarot is capable of so much more. The cards, with their set of symbols and meanings, are conveyors of sheer knowledge.

Tarot isn't something that we use just to peek into the future; tarot has an enormous potential for our spiritual evolution. It is primarily a tool to read the present. The cards can broaden our perspective and insight on a particular issue, helping us to make good decisions and also to avoid mistakes.

Reading tarot is a way to get a deeper understanding

of your own life, your environment, your motivations and fears, and to become a better version of yourself. It's like visiting a good psychologist or getting advice from a wise friend. Tarot gives you an opportunity to decipher your own thoughts, emotions and secret desires with the help of the richest collection of archetypes and metaphors. Reading the cards is a way to help yourself and others.

It doesn't matter whether you are a beginner, holding a deck for the first time, or a professional tarot reader who has been helping people find the right Way for many years. Anyone can find a source of daily inspiration in tarot.

HOW TO READ THE CARDS

There are numerous meanings associated with each of the tarot cards, but for this guidebook I have presented only the ones that seem the most important to me. There is a vast number of wonderful books about the practice and theory of tarot interpretation. If you wish, you can always explore the knowledge and experience of professionals to further develop your skills.

I just want to emphasize that the tarot system is a very flexible structure and quite personal. That's

why when trying to understand the meaning of the card or the spread, I suggest you read them with your intuition rather than relying on precise formulations. If you attune yourself to the deck you can read so much more than what the cards are directly showing you. Feel the information and interpret it in an individual way. What you see in the spread, what you consider important and how you choose to interpret the cards is unique to you. No one else would be able to read the exact same way as you. That is the magic of tarot.



THE STRUCTURE OF TAROT

The traditional tarot deck consists of 78 cards: 22 Major Arcana and 56 Minor Arcana. The Minor Arcana is comprised of four suits (Wands, Cups, Swords, Pentacles), with 14 cards in each suit. I have added a 79th “Blank Card” as I find it very informative and useful.

MAJOR ARCANA

These are the main cards, the trumps. Many people I know use only the Major Arcana for readings. They consider these cards to be extremely informative and sufficient for insightful divination. Each Major Card symbolizes a stage or lesson in life that each one of us meets or experiences. When viewed in numerical order, from the Fool (0) to the World (21), you will notice a story of spiritual evolution.

Try to pay attention to the nuance of each card when studying the Major Arcana. Absorb and integrate the meanings of these cards into yourself. They carry tremendous energy and depth.

MINOR ARCANA

While the Major Arcana is concerned with significant aspects of life, the Minor Arcana deals with the features and details of everyday life. These cards can clarify the big picture. If the Major Arcana are the stage, then the Minor Arcana are the spyglass or even the microscope.

The Court cards from Page to King often represent a specific person and mirror their characteristics. The numbered cards, from 1 to 10, describe life situations and/or the state of mind of the querent (person asking the question).



Reversed: Shattered illusions. Confrontation with reality (often a painful one). Revealing the truth, a fair outlook on the world. Consequences of making the wrong choice and an attempt to correct the mistake.

The warning: By clinging to ideas of things that don't actually exist, you are just worsening the consequences.

Quick Answer: Everything is still vague, there's no certainty.



EIGHT OF CUPS

Upright: This card deals with leaving the past behind and realizing that the things that used to be important are not anymore. Fear of problems, opinions, relations. An attempt to leave the past behind, to find

new goals, to set out on a journey to an unknown but promising future. A difficult decision to sacrifice something important for future success. Breaking up.

Card's advice: Once you make a decision, try not to question it. It's best to focus on the goals you are about to reach by making your decision, rather than to regret not going in a different direction.

Reversed: Something is slowing down your progress, but it's very difficult to break away from it. Quitting a stale relationship. A hasty breakup, a reactive decision to expel somebody or something from your life.

The warning: You can't set off on a big voyage unless you throw away the anchor. The weight will impede your progress.

Quick Answer: You have a long journey ahead of you.



NINE OF CUPS

Upright: This card presents success in your business and complete satisfaction with the present. Finally, there's a chance to relax, have a great time and take a rest. Waiting for positive results. A reason to be joyful. A period of happiness and peace. Belief in a secure and calm future.

Card's advice: Everything is great! It's time to rest and relax. Enjoy feeling unconcerned and carefree.

Reversed: Being spoiled by success. Self-indulgence, greed, gluttony. Inability to be happy with the benefits you have. Focusing only on your own interests, self-centered. Lack of affection and spirituality. Getting what you desired but feeling disappointed afterwards.

The warning: If you don't know how to be happy with the small things, you will still be unhappy when you obtain bigger ones. Happiness is something that happens on the inside.

Quick Answer: Definitely yes.



TEN OF CUPS

Upright: This card is about family, home and close relations. The promise of harmony, successful accomplishments, and wishes coming true. A real, healing love. Unity, understanding, support, a happy private life.

Card's advice: What else does one need for happiness? Just be grateful!

Reversed: Loss of a harmonious relationship. Feelings about someone or something that have cooled down. Unequal union based on convenience or habit rather than spiritual closeness. Small conflicts in the family. Separation, parting with family or friends. Needing to leave a cozy situation. Showing off your prosperity.

The warning: What you have now is the result of your previous actions and it's the best that it can be. Calm down and accept it as it is, and be grateful for it.

Quick Answer: Yes. Your life is a full cup.



PAGE OF CUPS

Upright: This card foretells pleasant emotions, getting new information and planning meetings. Expect some free help and support. An honest impulse to do something nice, to assist. A wish to make the first step and to iron out difficulties, reconciliation. Emotional fullness, an open heart.

Card's advice: Don't be afraid to accept the offer, especially if the offer is made sincerely.

Reversed: Shallow emotions, transient feelings. Emotional sensitivity and immaturity. Flippant. Unwilling to be on speaking terms. Fear of painful emotional stress, denial. Shallow, naive interests that have no serious future. Promiscuous.

The warning: You may lose your way if you're only following your emotions. For clarity, you must think with your head, not with your heart.

Quick Answer: Yes, if you accept your friend's help.



KNIGHT OF CUPS

Upright: The Knight of Cups brings good news, perhaps about a romantic interest. Something new and pleasant is approaching. Mutual feelings, coming together, reconciliation, reaching an agreement and shared understanding.

A loyal ally and friend. Easy period that isn't burdened with any problems. Warmth, showing spontaneous enthusiasm.

Card's advice: Keep trying to reach your goal alongside people that are close to you in spirit.

Reversed: Wrong guesses. Good intentions that lead to problems. Slipping away from your principles. Insincere with others. Disruptions, delays. An attempt to speed up the course of events without any real chance of success. Dreams without any real actions. Feelings and actions that are being hidden from others.

The warning: Your dreams will remain unrealized if you don't start acting on them. Opening up to other people may motivate you to take action.

Quick Answer: An offer or a person is worthy of trust.



QUEEN OF CUPS

Upright: This card suggests feelings of comfort and security, as well as an emotionally full relationship. Everything is clear, calm and easy, especially communication. Connections are based on trust. The help of a wise,

loyal, kind-hearted woman.

Card's advice: Show gentleness, patience and flexibility. Small persistent steps will help you find the right door.

Reversed: Quarrelsome and touchy temper. Hysterical, unprincipled, vicious person who is emotionally unstable and toxic. Inappropriate response to an event. Treacherous, deceitful, hypocritical. A huge scandal. A person with weak moral values who is prone to betrayal and blackmail.

The warning: By indulging yourself you've doomed yourself to eternal unhappiness. Being scandalous and manipulative isn't the right way to get what you want.

Quick Answer: You have a big chance to make your dreams come true.



KING OF CUPS

Upright: This card suggests friendly, close relationships without any disturbance getting in the way. A chance to make plans come to life. Vague hints, implicit suggestions. Light, intellectual communication.

The need to express your feelings. Creative realization. A kind, trustworthy and honest person.

Card's advice: Trust your feelings and intuition. Don't listen to your overly logical mind. Express your emotions freely.

Reversed: Losing control over your feelings. Destructive emotions and the inability to express them, self-destruction. Addiction, emotional disorder. Dangerously trusting a vicious or unreliable person. Blocking feelings because of a traumatic situation. Being hysterical, deceitful, fraudulent.

The warning: Don't bury your feelings. Unexpressed emotions can consume you and make you ill.

Quick Answer: Circumstances favor you but the business details aren't ready yet.

SUIT OF SWORDS

Associated with the element of Air. Mind, logic, intellect. Decisions, authority, power, will, the drive for change, the energy of destruction and conflict. The interplay of thought and action.



ACE OF SWORDS

Upright: The Ace of Swords shows a strong ability to understand the situation and take action. Ready to fight and overcome the obstacles. Powerful and quick response. Understanding your dreams and desires and the

willingness to make them real. Setting personal boundaries, an intention to draw a distinct line. Important decisions. Explaining the situation. Knowledge, determination, power.

Card's advice: Ask yourself as many questions as possible. Your mind is ready to see the truth and you have enough momentum to change your life.

Reversed: Negative energy may be destroying you from the inside; self-destruction. An attempt to run away from problems and difficulties, weak will, unwilling to make a decision. Lack of prospects for

success. A victory with terrible consequences; failure. Fear of being punished. Idle talk that leads to no action whatsoever.

The warning: Make a decision and take action. Maybe you won't be successful. The most important thing is that you start using what you have inside you for good reasons and not for destructive acts.

Quick Answer: Yes, if you channel your mental powers.



TWO OF SWORDS

Upright: This card suggests the need to make a balanced decision and to look for a compromise. The choice is difficult because of two opposite and complex possibilities. Showing firmness in an ambiguous situation. An effort to find balance in hard times. Tense expectations.

Card's advice: Make a principled decision. Show some equanimity. Let practicability become your motivation.

Reversed: Hidden problems are ready to appear

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