

What the Fool Sees

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Opening the Pages: The Importance of Tarot Books

When we first step into the world of Tarot, our eager hands reach for books—the ancient tomes that promise to unlock the secrets of the cards. And rightly so! Tarot books serve as our compass, guiding us through the labyrinth of symbols, meanings, and spreads. They introduce us to the Major Arcana, the Minor Arcana, and the Court cards. We learn about numerology, elemental correspondences, and the rich tapestry of history woven into each card.

Why Tarot Books Matter:

1. Foundation and Structure:

- Tarot books lay the groundwork. They teach us the basics—the Fool's leap, the High Priestess's veil, the fiery Wands, the watery Cups, the airy Swords, and the earthy Pentacles.
- We absorb the traditional meanings, the reversed interpretations, and the art of reading spreads. The books provide structure, like the scaffolding around a grand cathedral.

2. Historical Context:

- Tarot books reveal the lineage of the cards. We glimpse their origins in medieval Europe, their connection to alchemy, and their evolution through time.
- We marvel at the symbolism—the Hierophant's keys, the Wheel of Fortune's cycles, and the Hanged Man's surrender.

3. Language of the Cards:

- Books gift us the language to converse with Tarot. We learn to speak its lexicon—archetypes, elements, astrological associations.
- We decipher the courtly dances—the Kings, Queens, Knights, and Pages—and understand their personalities.

4. Guided Exploration:

- Tarot books lead us card by card, unveiling their stories. We meet the Lovers entwined, the Hermit seeking wisdom, and Death's transformative embrace.
- We practice, shuffle, and lay out spreads—the Celtic Cross, the Three-Card Draw, the Horseshoe.

Beyond the Written Word: The Fool's Intuition Beckons

Yet, as we tread deeper, we encounter a crossroads. The Fool—the eternal wanderer—whispers, "Look beyond the inked pages." And so, we step away from the books, not in defiance, but in search of something more.

Why We Move Beyond Tarot Books:

The human brain is a complex organ that processes information in many ways. One of these ways is through non-verbal communication, which includes things like body language, facial expressions, and intuition. This non-verbal side of our brain is always active and aware of our surroundings, even when we're not consciously thinking about it.

In the context of tarot reading, this non-verbal side of our brain plays a crucial role. When we're reading tarot cards, we're not just looking at the images on the cards. We're also tapping into our intuition, our gut feelings, and our subconscious awareness of the world around us. This is the non-verbal side of our brain at work.

Our intuition, or our gut feeling, is often our brain's way of telling us something important. It's a kind of warning system, alerting us to potential dangers or opportunities. When we're reading tarot cards, we're learning to trust this intuition, to listen to what our non-verbal side is trying to tell us.

So, in simple terms, tarot reading is a practice that involves using our intuition and non-verbal awareness to interpret the symbols on the cards and find meaning in them. It's about trusting our gut feelings and using them to guide our understanding of the cards. This can help us gain insights into our lives, make decisions, or understand our feelings and experiences better.

The Emperor's new clothes

Let's weave the tale of the **Emperor's New Clothes** into our exploration of the Fool's perspective in Tarot.

Once upon a time, in a kingdom far away, there lived an Emperor who was obsessed with his appearance. His royal wardrobe was the talk of the land, and he spent fortunes on exquisite fabrics and elaborate garments. The Emperor's vanity knew no bounds, and he reveled in the admiration of his subjects.

One day, two cunning weavers arrived at the palace. They claimed to possess magical skills: they could weave the finest fabric in the world, so delicate and ethereal that it was invisible to anyone who was unfit for their position or "hopelessly stupid."

The Emperor, intrigued by this promise, commissioned them to create a suit of clothes that would be truly extraordinary. The weavers pretended to work tirelessly, their looms empty, but they spoke of the exquisite threads they were using—the threads that only the wise and discerning could perceive.

Word spread throughout the kingdom, and soon everyone was buzzing about the Emperor's magnificent new attire. The courtiers, ministers, and even the common folk pretended to see the fabric, afraid to admit their supposed stupidity. The Emperor himself, eager to prove his wisdom, paraded through the streets wearing nothing but thin air.

And here enters our Fool—a wanderer, unburdened by pretense or social norms. As the parade passed by, the Fool tilted his head, squinting at the Emperor. He scratched his chin, puzzled by the sight. The Fool saw no shimmering silk, no golden embroidery. Instead, he saw a naked man strutting down the road, shivering in the breeze.

The Fool leaned over to the person next to him—a child with wide eyes—and whispered, “Why is the Emperor parading in his underclothes?”

The child giggled and replied, “Because he believes he’s wearing the most magnificent outfit ever made!”

The Fool chuckled. “Ah, the Emperor’s new clothes! But I see nothing. Perhaps I’m hopelessly stupid.”

The child’s laughter grew louder. “No, you’re not stupid. You’re the only one who sees the truth!”

And so, the Fool continued on his way, unimpressed by illusions and unswayed by collective delusions. He didn’t need magical threads to perceive reality. His innocence allowed him to see beyond the façade, beyond the Emperor’s pride and the courtiers’ flattery.

Now, let’s apply this to Tarot reading. Just as the Fool questioned the Emperor’s attire, we too must question the conventional interpretations. When we draw a card, let’s see it through the Fool’s eyes:

The Fool’s Clarity: Like the child who laughed, the Fool sees what’s real. He doesn’t get lost in elaborate explanations or rigid meanings.

The Fool gazes at the cards with wide eyes, unencumbered by definitions. He sees not just the Magician’s tools but the magic itself—the spark between worlds. Intuition blooms when we release rigid meanings. The Fool’s question: “What do you truly see?”

The Invisible Threads: The Emperor’s new clothes—threads woven by the weavers of tradition. But the Fool? He sees the naked truth.

Just as the Emperor’s clothes were invisible, some Tarot truths lie beyond the obvious. Trust your intuition; don’t be afraid to say, “I see nothing.”

Authentic Interpretation: The Fool’s authenticity guides us. When faced with a card, ask, “What do I truly see?” Let go of preconceptions. Tarot transcends logic. It’s not a math problem; it’s a cosmic dance.

Leap of Insight: Leap into the unknown, like the Fool off the cliff. Interpret intuitively, even if it defies tradition.

Embrace the Fool's Journey:

As we venture beyond the books, we become the Fool. We read the cards with fresh eyes, unafraid to say, "I see nothing," or "I see everything." We honor tradition but dance with intuition. We blend knowledge with instinct, and in that alchemical union, the Tarot reveals its deepest secrets.

So step into the Fool's shoes. Leap, laugh, and let your intuition guide you. For the Fool knows: The real magic lies not in the ink but in the spaces between the cards.

Looking at the Minor Arcana from a 15th Century Perspective

In Tarot, the Minor Arcana consists of four suits: Wands, Coins (or Pentacles), Cups, and Swords. Each suit is associated with a different aspect of life, and they can indeed be seen as a reflection of 15th century society. Here's a more detailed explanation:

1. **Wands (Peasant Class):** The suit of Wands is associated with the element of fire, and it represents passion, inspiration, and willpower. In the context of 15th century society, this suit could represent the peasant class - the creators and workers. They are the ones who put their blood, sweat, and tears into their work, much like the fiery energy of the Wands.
2. **Coins (Merchant Class):** The suit of Coins, also known as Pentacles, is associated with the element of earth. It represents material wealth, financial abundance, and physical health. This suit could represent the merchant class of the 15th century - the landowners and homeowners. They are the ones who work hard to grow their wealth and secure their material possessions, much like the earthy energy of the Coins.
3. **Cups (Spiritual Class):** The suit of Cups is associated with the element of water, and it represents emotions, relationships, and creativity. This suit could represent the spiritual or religious class of the 15th century. They are the ones who delve into the emotional and spiritual realms, seeking deeper meaning and connection in life, much like the fluid energy of the Cups.
4. **Swords (Political Class):** The suit of Swords is associated with the element of air, and it represents intellect, communication, and conflict. This suit could represent the political class of the 15th century - the rulers and thinkers. They are the ones who wield power through their intellect and communication skills, often navigating conflicts and making important decisions, much like the sharp and cutting energy of the Swords.

Hard suits and Soft Suits

The “hard suits” in Tarot, which are the Swords and Wands, represent more active, outward-facing aspects of life. They can be seen as “hard” because they often deal with challenges, conflicts, and actions, much like how swords and wands can be used as weapons.

- **Swords** symbolize the realm of the mind, including our thoughts, beliefs, and attitudes. They often deal with conflict, change, and power dynamics, reflecting the challenges we face in our intellectual and communicative endeavors.
- **Wands** represent our ambitions, motivations, and willpower. They are associated with action, creation, and movement, symbolizing the energy and effort we put into achieving our goals.

On the other hand, the “soft suits” in Tarot, which are the Cups and Coins (or Pentacles), represent more passive, inward-facing aspects of life. They are considered “soft” because they often deal with emotions, relationships, resources, and personal values.

- **Cups** symbolize the realm of emotions and relationships. They often deal with love, feelings, and emotional experiences, reflecting our inner emotional landscape and our connections with others.
- **Coins** (or Pentacles) represent the material world, including our physical environment, resources, and financial matters. They often deal with issues of security, stability, and material resources, reflecting our relationship with the physical and material aspects of our lives.

So, when interpreting the Minor Arcana in a Tarot reading, considering whether the card is from a “hard suit” or a “soft suit” can provide additional insights into the nature of the issue at hand and the best approach to deal with it.

One (Beginnings): This is the starting point of the race. In tarot, it represents the seed or the initial spark of an idea. It’s the potential for something new and exciting.

Two (Balance): As we move forward, we encounter the concept of duality and balance. This could represent making a decision, forming a partnership, or balancing opposing forces.

Three (Growth): This stage represents growth and expansion. It’s like the seed sprouting and growing into a plant.

Four (Stability): Four represents stability and structure, like the four legs of a table. It’s a time to consolidate our gains and build a solid foundation.

Five (Challenges): At the halfway point, we encounter challenges or conflicts that test our resolve. This is a crucial turning point in the race.

Six (Harmony): After overcoming the challenges, we find harmony and balance again. It’s a time of peace and recuperation.

Seven (Reflection): This stage is about introspection and self-evaluation. We reflect on how far we’ve come and what we’ve learned.

Eight (Momentum): As we near the end of the race, we build momentum. It's a time of hard work and determination.

Nine (Completion): This is the culmination of our journey. We've reached the end of the race and achieved our goal.

Ten (Transition): Finally, ten re presents the transition to a new cycle. It's not just about winning the race, but also about what we do after we've won. It's a time of endings and new beginnings.

So, in tarot reading, the numbers on the cards aren't just numbers. They tell a story of a journey, and each number represents a different stage in that journey. By understanding the numerological significance of the numbers, we can gain deeper insights into the messages the cards are trying to convey.

The Different Paths of the Hard Suits and the Soft Suits.

Another way to intuitively look at the Minor Arcana. Now let's visualize this journey through the Minor Arcana, with the "soft suits" (Cups and Coins) and "hard suits" (Wands and Swords) taking different paths. As if the journey through the Minor Arcana was like a hike up and down a hill:

For the **soft suits** (Cups and Coins), the journey starts at a comfortable pace (Ace), like the beginning of a race. As they progress, they face choices (Two) and learn new things (Three), similar to encountering different paths and gaining knowledge about the race. The intensity peaks at the midpoint of the race (Five), representing the challenges and conflicts they face, much like reaching the top of a hill. After overcoming these challenges, the intensity decreases as they experience relief (Six), take time for reflection (Seven), and make progress (Eight), akin to moving downhill and nearing the end of the race. Finally, they reach the end of the race (Nine), and the intensity drops to its lowest point, representing the completion of the journey and the start of a new cycle (Ten), much like crossing the finish line and preparing for the next race.

On the other hand, for the **hard suits** (Wands and Swords), the journey is more like an uphill battle. They start the race carrying one wand or sword (Ace), which is manageable, like carrying a light backpack at the start of a race. But as they make choices (Two) and take action (Three), they pick up more wands or swords, increasing the weight they're carrying and the intensity of the race, similar to the backpack getting heavier with each step. By the midpoint (Five), they're carrying a heavy load, representing the challenges and conflicts they're facing, much like reaching the steepest part of the hill. Instead of decreasing, the intensity continues to increase as they carry more weight (Seven and Eight), reaching its peak at Nine, which some people call the "Anxiety" card, akin to the toughest part of the race. Finally, they reach Ten, representing the end of the race and the start of a new cycle, but the intensity remains high because they're still carrying all that weight, much like reaching the finish line exhausted but ready for the next challenge.

In a Tarot reading, the journey through the Minor Arcana isn't just a race—it's a journey of personal growth and transformation. The "soft suits" (Cups and Coins) represent a journey of emotional and material growth, while the "hard suits" (Wands and Swords) represent a journey

of ambition and intellectual growth. By understanding the symbolism of the suits and the numerology of the cards, you can gain deeper insights into your own life journey.

Knowledge can ignite the fire; intuition can harness it.

The transformation of a game created in the 14th and 15th centuries into the Tarot we recognize today mirrors the same curiosity that led people to observe the stars. It echoes the ancient practices of soothsayers who examined animal livers, cast bones, or divined at Delphi in Greece. We all seek answers—answers that span from the profound meaning of life to the minor details that currently nag at us.

Empathy and the Tarot

When I read the cards, I emphasize that no card is entirely good or entirely bad. Much like life itself, Tarot cards reflect the nuanced shades between extremes.

Let me share my approach to interpreting the cards. I don't claim psychic abilities; rather, I've dedicated years to studying Tarot card meanings and their historical context. My role is that of a facilitator—an interpreter. What sets me apart is my commitment to being a clear vessel, reflecting your beliefs without imposing my own.

Also, cultural beliefs significantly influence color symbolism. For instance:

- In Japan, the color green is often associated with love.
- In China, Korea, Japan, and the US, love is typically symbolized by shades of red and purple.
- The color red is considered auspicious in China, Denmark, and Argentina, while in Chad, Nigeria, and Germany, it's often associated with misfortune.
- Cultural traditions impact color choices in significant life events. For example, brides in China traditionally wear red, while in the US, white is the preferred color for bridal attire.

Remember that a Tarot card reading doesn't begin when the cards are dealt and turned over. It starts with all the steps that lead us to this moment. As an experienced Tarot reader, I've learned to develop empathy. Empathy involves cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and moral capacities to understand and respond to the suffering of others. Signs of empathy include being a good listener, having others share their problems with you, and being attuned to how others feel.

Empathy can lead to compassionate behavior—a deep understanding of someone's feelings accompanied by altruism. Cognitive empathy, also known as perspective-taking, allows you to rationally understand another person's thoughts and emotions.

Omen: An occurrence or phenomenon believed to portend a future event (Merriam-Webster Dictionary).

Correspondence: A close similarity, connection, or equivalence (Oxford English Dictionary).

Now, let's delve further into the art of reading Tarot cards with empathy:

1. **Open Yourself to Feelings:** Before starting a reading, take a moment to ground yourself. Clear your mind of distractions and open yourself up to the emotions that may arise during the reading.
2. **Put Yourself in Their Shoes:** As you lay out the cards, try to put yourself in the shoes of the person you're reading for. Imagine their perspective, concerns, and emotions. This is where empathy comes into play—feeling what they might be feeling.
3. **Read Beyond the Cards:** Tarot cards are like a visual language that can tap into deep emotions and subconscious thoughts. Use your empathy to read beyond the literal meanings of the cards. Feel the energy and emotions associated with each card and how they might resonate with the person you're reading for.
4. **Listen Actively:** Pay attention to the person's reactions as you interpret the cards. Active listening is crucial. Notice their body language, facial expressions, and any verbal cues. Adjust your approach based on what seems to resonate with them.
5. **Ask Open-Ended Questions:** Encourage them to share more about their feelings and experiences. Use open-ended questions that invite self-expression. This creates a personal and meaningful reading.
6. **Offer Emotional Support:** Be prepared to provide emotional support if the reading touches on sensitive topics. Empathy goes hand in hand with compassion. Let them know you're there to listen and support them.
7. **Create a Safe and Comfortable Environment:** Ensure the reading space is comfortable and feels safe. Trust fosters openness about thoughts and feelings.
8. **Use Intuition:** Empathy and intuition often go hand in hand. Trust your intuition as you interpret the cards. Share any feelings sparked by specific cards—it might resonate with them.
9. **Empower and Inspire:** Use Tarot insights to empower and inspire. Offer guidance that resonates with their emotions and experiences. Empathy isn't just about understanding; it's about encouraging positive change.

By infusing empathy into Tarot card readings, you create a more personal and enriching experience for those seeking guidance. It allows you to connect on a deeper level and provides a space for genuine understanding and support.

Patterns and Pareidolia: Unraveling the Intricacies of Perception

Unlocking the Hidden Patterns in Tarot Spreads

In the realm of human cognition, our brains are ceaseless pattern-seeking machines. Whether we consciously acknowledge it or not, our minds perpetually strive to make sense of the world around us. This innate tendency is beautifully encapsulated by the phenomenon known as **pareidolia**—the propensity to perceive meaningful patterns or familiar shapes in random stimuli.

Now, let's consider the enigmatic world of tarot cards. For some, tarot holds mystical significance, while others view it as a mere assortment of archetypes and symbols laid out in a seemingly arbitrary fashion. Regardless of our personal beliefs, when we encounter a tarot spread, our brains instinctively spring into action. Like a seasoned detective, they scan the cards, seeking hidden connections and narratives.

The Dance of Wind and Silence: Decoding Nature's Clues

Imagine standing on the edge of a tranquil lake, surrounded by ancient forests and towering mountains. Suddenly, the wind picks up, rustling leaves and unsettling the stillness. Simultaneously, the forest falls eerily silent—a stark departure from its usual symphony of life. What does this atmospheric shift signify? Our primal instincts kick in: **storm**. The wind whispers secrets, and the hushed forest conceals danger.

Tarot Cards: A Canvas of Symbolic Patterns

Tarot spreads mirror this dance of elements. Consider a scenario: You draw a card symbolizing new beginnings, only to be followed by the ominous image of a tower struck by lightning. What does this juxtaposition reveal? We delve deeper, asking questions: Are you embarking on a new project? What pitfalls lie ahead? How can you avert disaster? The cards become our cryptic guides, urging us to explore possibilities and anticipate outcomes.

Intuition Unleashed: Trusting the Subconscious

Intuitive reading transcends rigid scripts. It thrives when we shed filters and embrace authenticity. Imagine a seasoned tarot reader—their intuition finely tuned, their mind uncluttered. They don't second-guess; they trust the whispers of their subconscious. This is where true insight resides.

The Power of Instinct and Omen

Our intuition, akin to the wind and silence, nudges us toward the unseen. It's the quiet voice urging us to take that leap, to trust our gut. When in doubt, we heed its call—the next right thing, the uncharted path. And in those moments, we dance with the patterns of existence, guided by instincts as ancient as time itself.

Intuition Unleashed: Navigating the Non-Verbal Universe

As intuitive readers, we embark on a fascinating journey—one that bridges the gap between the seen and the unseen. Our mission? To translate the cryptic language of the non-verbal universe into something tangible, relatable, and meaningful for others.

Listening to the Whispers of Intuition

Instinct vs. Intuition

Let's dissect this intricate dance. Instinct—the primal, pre-programmed response—courses through our veins. It's the survival code etched into our DNA. From the tiniest single-cell organism to the grandeur of humanity, instinct drives us to eat, procreate, and adapt.

And then there's intuition—a subtler force. It's not a lightning bolt or a grand revelation. Instead, it's the quiet knowing that permeates our existence. Picture yourself in this very moment: senses alert, mind absorbing stimuli from every angle. Intuition is the culmination of these inputs, filtered through the sieve of our life experiences.

The Symphony of Senses

Our senses become instruments in this symphony. Sight, sound, taste, touch—they all contribute to the orchestra of intuition. We perceive patterns, anticipate outcomes, and grasp the unspoken. It's as if the universe whispers its secrets, and we listen with open hearts.

The Continual Flow

Intuition isn't a static entity; it flows like a river. It's the nudge that prompts us to take that leap, to trust the next right step. When doubt clouds our path, intuition clears the fog. It's the compass guiding us through life's labyrinth.

And so over time as we practice the art of tarot, and allow ourselves those quiet moments, it's then that we'll start to hear that silent, non-verbal voice guiding us. And it's in those quiet moments intuition emerges as our silent companion. A knowing that transcends logic—guiding us through the twists and turns of everyday life.

Thank you

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