

TAROT CLASS NOTES

HOW TAROT CAN IMPROVE YOUR LIFE

Up until this very moment, your life has been shaped by a series of seemingly random events and choices. Many call this "luck" or "fate."

Please take a moment to reflect on this: your friends, job, home, lovers -- every aspect of your "world" is the result of being in the right place at the right time (or the

wrong place at the wrong time).

Have you ever noticed how some people seem to always attract good luck, while others endlessly suffer misfortune? These repeating patterns reflect a person's "karma."

Please know, karma is neither "good" nor

"bad" -- and it's definitely not punishment -- even if it can feel that way at times.

Simply put, karma is a life lesson that hasn't been absorbed. And until it's learned, you're gonna keep attracting the same situation over-and-over in an endlessly frustrating cycle.

We see these patterns in friends who repeatedly date emotionally unavailable partners. And those who always feel taken for granted. Or those who get fired from every job.

These folks aren't "doomed" or "cursed." Instead, there's a karmic message they're not receiving.

Every aspect of your life is reflected by your energy/karma. So when you pull Tarot cards, the "randomness" of these cards syncs up with your energy. If you ask the right questions, you'll gain a different perspective on life -- allowing you to do some powerful soul-searching.

Once lessons are learned, karma unravels, and your "luck" begins to change.

Tarot's wisdom can improve your life. During this process, please be gentle and patient with yourself -- and enjoy this insightful, powerful and rewarding journey!

THE ANATOMY OF THE TAROT DECK

The Tarot typically has 78 cards that depict the full range of the human experience. Most decks have two parts: the Major Arcana and the Minor Arcana.

The 22 Major Arcana are considered "trumps" because they form the foundation of the Tarot deck. These 22 cards represent a path to spiritual self-awareness and depict the various stages we encounter as we search for greater meaning and understanding. In this way, they hold deeply meaningful lessons.

There are also 56 Minor Arcana in a tarot deck. These cards aren't as significant as the Major Arcana, but they allow the reader to understand the subtleties and details that surround the major events and signifiers in a Tarot spread. In general, the Major Arcana represent large turning points and the Minor Arcana represent the day-to-day

insights.

Very similar to a regular deck of playing cards, the Minor Arcana consists of four suits (cups, swords, pentacles, and wands) and 14 cards for each suit. Each suit contains four "court cards" (page, knight, queen and king) which sometimes represent the people in our lives. Each suit also has "pip cards" which are numbered from one to ten (eg. two of swords; 10 of cups, etc.).



THE IMPORTANCE OF ASKING THE "RIGHT" QUESTIONS

Imagine spending weeks climbing a treacherous mountain so you can meet with a wise guru. If you could only ask one question, would this question be vague?

Of course not! How can you expect clarity from the Universe when your intention isn't focused?

Several years ago, I did a reading for a friend who was eager to go to law school. The cards showed a happy outcome and a glorious career in law. After every law school in Canada rejected her, she called me and said the cards were wrong. I reminded her that she didn't give a specific time to reach this goal. Turns out, the following year she was accepted and she's now a very successful lawyer.

The cards weren't wrong. Her question didn't match her expectations.

If you ask the cards how you'll feel after breaking up with your partner, you'll probably get depressing cards. However,



if you adjust this question and ask how you'll feel six-months after the break-up, you'll probably gain much different insights. Similarly, asking the cards about studying photography is pretty vague. You'll get a much better reading if you specify the school you plan on attending and gear the question towards your career prospects three-months after graduating.

Bottom line: never expect the Universe to fill-in-the-blanks when your questions are vague and expectations are assumed.

Also, for best results, please avoid asking "yes" or "no" questions of the Tarot. It's best to let the cards paint a picture so you can make a choice.



WORKING WITH THREE-CARD SPREADS

Three card spreads are a quick and easy way to gain insights.

As each classmate discusses their situation, return all cards to the deck (from the previous reading), shuffle your cards, fan them, and (while concentrating on their situation) pull three cards (placing them from left to right). This entire process should only take 10 seconds.

Working with three cards is like looking at a half-completed jig-saw puzzle. If you look at each puzzle piece close-up, you will be confused. But once you step back and look at the combination of pieces, your mind will

fill-in-the-blanks and an image will appear.

That said, when using a three-card spread, try not to focus too heavily on each individual card. Instead, let your mind fill-in-the-blanks so the combination of these cards can tell a story.

Like anything else in life, the more you practice, the easier it will become. So please don't expect to immediately grasp this.

Over time, you'll build a relationship with the cards. If your interpretation of the cards

deviates from the meanings on the "Cheat Sheet," that's fine. Once you connect with the cards, the Universe will adapt to your unique "language" and the information will start flowing.

To make this process easier, Ralph will provide Worksheets. On them, you make note three things: 1) which card you pulled, 2) what feelings or thoughts each card's visuals conjure, and 3) the card's meaning from the "Cheat Sheet" (which will be provided during class). Please try to do this process as quickly as possible and trust your first instincts. Overthinking is never helpful.