

Lesson 1

An Introduction to the Tarot



The tarot is most commonly viewed as a tool for divination. A traditional tarot reading involves a seeker, sometimes known as the querent - someone who is looking for answers to personal questions - and a reader - someone who knows how to interpret the cards. After the querent has shuffled and cut the deck, the reader lays out the chosen cards in a pattern called a spread. Each position in the spread has a meaning, and each card has a meaning as well. The reader combines these two meanings to shed light on the querent's question.

Tarot is used as a means of divination, it is not magic, if anyone tells you they are a fortune teller and can tell you definitely what is going to happen in your future they are not being honest with you. Each and every-one of us has free will and as a result of this free will our paths change frequently.

If there is a meaning in a reading, where does it come from? I believe it comes from that part of our-selves that is aware of the divine source of meaning this is an aspect of the subconscious, your advisor - your soul - Higher self. I call this subconscious knowing your inner guide.

Each of us has an Inner Guide that serves as a fountain of meaning for us. Your Inner Guide is always with you because it is a part of you. You can't destroy this connection, but you can ignore it. When you reach for your tarot deck, you signal to your Inner Guide that you are open to its wisdom. This simple act of faith allows you to become aware of the guidance that was always there for you.

We are meant by nature to rely on the wisdom of our Inner Guide, but somehow we have forgotten how to access it. We trust our conscious minds instead, and forget to look deeper. Our conscious minds are clever, but unfortunately, they just don't have the full awareness we need to make appropriate choices day by day.

When we are operating from our conscious minds, we often feel as if events are forced upon us by chance. Life seems to have little purpose, and we suffer because we do not really understand who we are and what we want. When we know how to access our Inner Guide, we experience life differently. We have the certainty and peace that comes from aligning our conscious will with our inner purpose.

Tarot can help you connect consciously with your own Inner guide. Tarot cards offer a guideline, tarot is a map if you like and the reader (you) are simply translating this map and determining probable solutions and outcomes based upon the forces presently at work.

You will find the ideas, images and feelings emerge as you work through a reading these are messages from your Inner Guide. How can you tell these messages are not just imagination? You can't really you just have to trust yourself to 'know'.

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