

13 Magickal Cards

Tarot Insights By JohnnieTwoBrows

Aquarius: Doing Your Own Thing

Merry meet! Welcome to the Aquarius edition of 13 Magickal Cards.

Birthday greetings to all Aquarians! Your independence is something that we all strive for, that ability you have to follow the beat of your own drummer, no matter who may question your motivations. It makes sense to you and that's what important.

Aquarius rules the Zodiac's 11th house, which encompasses hopes and dreams. So while the New Year often prompts us to make resolutions about the things that we should do, it's also important to do the things that we *want* to do. So the question isn't what resolutions you have made but a more complex issue: What do you *want* to do in 2007?

I can only speak for myself. My 2007 goal is twofold. The first part is to finish the Tradition of the Witches' Circle classes, through the 401 level, by the end of the year. I had trouble getting past 201 for some reason—life just got in the way—but I know that the more effort I put into my study of Witchcraft, the more I will benefit spiritually. That spiritual growth is extremely important to me, and will only make me a better person.

The second part of my goal is to make more time in my for things I enjoy. I've got a novel I started during National Novel Writing Month that's not finished, and I've started a few others that I just stopped working on. I was a semi-professional musician in college (I was a woodwind player), but I don't play much anymore. I can only rarely beat Civilization IV: Warlords on my PC on the Warlord level.

And of course my Halo 2 skills need some work as well.

The great thing about Aquarians is that they understand the value of doing what you love and not caring what others think. I don't ever plan to try to get my novels published, nor will I ever be in the Saturday Night Live Band. No one will ever ask me why I can't seem to win Civilization IV consistently, or why I always get killed by one of those Halo 2 sticky grenades thrown by someone half my age. (Well, OK, Jenny Sunshine *does* taunt me when I play Xbox badly sometimes, but I digress.) What is important is that I do these things because they are activities I enjoy; it doesn't matter if others think they're crazy.

Tarot, of course, is a passion of mine, and I'll continue my studies this year so I can be a better, more intuitive reader. If learning the Tarot is one of your goals for the year, try pulling one card a day. Just one. Look up the meaning in your favorite Tarot book, and then consider it as you go through your day. Write a paragraph or so at night to see how events of the day corresponded to it. Take the Tradition of the Witches' Circle Tarot classes coming up in the spring. I am sure that by the end of 2007 you'll be impressed with how much you learned about the Tarot, and about yourself.

Whatever your passion is, don't neglect it in the coming year. As much as we like to take care of other people, we still have to balance things out by taking the time to nourish ourselves with those activities we enjoy. I look forward to seeing you across my table in the coming year, and hope that you will have a safe and prosperous 2007. Blessed be, J2B



Tarot Deck Review

The Aquarian Tarot

This deck is one that I had been eyeing for some time before I purchased it a few weeks ago. I'd considered buying it before and decided that I should wait, but then realized that with the sign of Aquarius coming up, this would be a good deck to review.

I'll say right at the outset that this deck is an acquired taste. The deck was illustrated by David Palladini, who has drawn for the illustrated version of Steven King's *Eyes of the Dragon*. He has also recently (several years ago) released his *New Palladini Tarot*, which I also own (and may review later this year). So the artwork is not what many of us will be used to, given the difference in artistic styles between 1970 and today. That alone may well turn many of you off from it, but since anything "retro" could become popular at any given moment you never know.

The color palette that Palladini uses is heavy on subdued fall colors: oranges, browns, and red-orange hues. There are very few colors that really catch the eye; the one that hits me the most is yellow, which is not used that much but is bright when it

does appear. For this reason I found it difficult to tell many of the cards apart. Palladini tries to help by giving each one of the Major Arcana cards a different font for the name of the card and sometimes a different location. Each card of the Minor Arcana has the card's name clearly indicated at the bottom of each one in the same font for all four suits.

The images themselves are "inspired" by the Rider-Waite, but Palladini clearly takes some liberties with them. For example, this is the first deck in which I have ever seen the Strength card feature a man as the central figure. Also, the lack of a struggle of some kind is interesting. In the Aquarian, the card features a man with a dog that looks like a greyhound, but the dog appears to be the man's companion and not an adversary. Another example is *The Star*, which features no person (a woman is usually present), but has a large peacock in the middle of the image. It appears that Palladini exercised artistic license more with the Major Arcana than the Minor, as the four suits are very close in most cases to those of their Rider-Waite cousins.

What surprised me a lot more than I expected was the backs of the cards, whose loud blue and white pattern is a tremendous

contrast to the cards themselves. I found myself staring at the card backs for some time; they're cool!

My favorite card in this deck is the Five of Pentacles. The reason I like it so much is because while the Five of Pentacles is a card of "when bad things happen to good people" (bankruptcy, illness, rejection, daytime television, etc.), Palladini's rendering enhances the spiritual aspects of life by putting the church window in the sky without a physical church building around it. It gives the interpretation that I like to stress when people draw this card: That the spiritual aspect of your life will see you through when things get rough. Of course, it also means that your personal spirituality is not tied to a physical place; it should always feel like it is an integral part of you. Many times we look outside ourselves for spiritual answers that we already have.

This is not a deck for beginners, as much of the Rider-Waite imagery is lost or distorted. I would recommend it for advanced Tarot readers who feel comfortable enough reading without a book, and who enjoy a 1970s-styled deck.

Of course, I will have it during Aquarius as my featured deck. Let 13 Magickal Moons order you one if you like what you see.

Next month's review: The Llewellyn Tarot

Featured Spread of the Month

I mentioned in an email that I'll be featuring a limited-edition spread each month for the foreseeable future. Since I hadn't designed the New Year's Spread before the Capricorn issue went to press, I'll mention both the January and February featured spreads here.

Until the end of January, I'll be featuring my **New Year Spread**, which has at least

22 cards and costs \$30. It's a combination of a horoscope spread (one card for each of the 12 astrological houses), and three 3-card spreads (past year, present, and coming year) for love/relationship, money/finances, and spirituality. It ends with one card for the overall theme for the year ahead.

For February, the focus will be on love and relationships. For Querents in a relationship, I'll have a "**He Said, She Said**" Spread that will examine various current and future aspects of it. It will cost \$30 and have no less than 14 cards. And let's be honest here...it will have more than 14 cards. You guys know that I never stint with clarification cards!

Of course, I'll also do expanded Celtic Cross readings about love as well.

Shameless Marketing Haiku

*A Tarot party
Perfect for you and your friends
Ask them to help pay*

*Gift certificates
Pure, simple like the lotus
Give the power of choice!*

*For meaningful gifts
13 Magickal Moons has
These in abundance*

*Tarot reading should
Not be dangerous; so don't
Kill the messenger.*

Upcoming Dates

I'll be reading Tarot for the following dates for Aquarius and Pisces at 13 Magickal Moons. All of these dates are tentative. Please check www.13magickalmoons.com for an up-to-date schedule. If you know in advance you're going to be coming to the store for a reading, you may also call the store or email me (hierophant@cox.net) to schedule an appointment. This is especially true for weekend dates.

Wednesday, January 24	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, January 27	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, January 31	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, February 7	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, February 10	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, February 14	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, February 17	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, February 21	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, February 28	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, March 3	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, March 7	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, March 10	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, March 14	6:00-9:00pm