

13 Magickal Cards

Tarot Insights By JohnnieTwoBrows

Aquarius: Universal Appeal

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

No newsletter would be complete without a birthday shout out to our sign of the month, the Water-Bearers, so Happy Birthday to all of you born under the sign of Aquarius. You show us all how to appeal to a larger audience and widen our circle of friends. But emotional intimacy with one or two of us couldn't hurt.

We'll ignore the typical Aquarian's statement of "Astrology is bunk!"—which is surprising given the Water-Bearer's affinity for appealing to lots of people—and discuss the natural ruler of astrology's 11th house. Hopes, dreams, and goals for the future are a part of it, but other facets of that house deal with what groups we choose to identify ourselves with, technology (the Internet falls in this house!), humanitarian and universal concerns, the unexpected, and extraterrestrials. (You know they HAD to put extraterrestrials in the most quirky of the astrological signs. Wear that label with PRIDE, Water-Bearers! ☺)

In the Tarot, The Star represents Water-Bearers in Major Arcana, but remembering that won't be hard; the Rider-Waite has a woman pouring water out of a vessel. Aquarius' ruling planet, Uranus the Light-Bringer, is represented appropriately enough by The Fool.

Well, I've noticed a lot of disappointment since the Sun entered Aquarius. It seems that for many of us, things just haven't been going too well lately. I wish I could say it's one particular area but it's really not; I know people who are trying to find (more) work, end relationships, fight depression, and make ends meet financially. And while into each life a little rain must fall, or so the saying goes, it's rare that so

many people I know seem to be struggling at the same time. And if that isn't enough, Mercury went into retrograde last Monday night and is scheduled to potentially wreak havoc on our ability to communicate, transmit and receive information until Mercury returns to direct motion on February 19. Then we'll all breathe a little easier.

So what do we do now with our pet problem, whatever it may be? Aquarius is an air sign, which means that we should take a page out of the Water-Bearer's book and try not to focus so much on what ails us, especially once you have done all you can about the problem. I know, I know, easier said than done. Then, if you can help someone around you, by all means do it. Do you know someone who's looking for work? Keep your eyes and ears open. Is someone in your life pulling away from people? Try to find out why. If you need help, don't sit on the sidelines waiting for someone to notice you're in trouble; ask for what you need. You may be surprised at how much support, caring and concern are shown to you.

Keep reaching out to people in your life, especially when you feel overwhelmed. It will help you put your own concerns into perspective, and eventually you will see that no matter how different we think we are, we share many of the same hopes, dreams, problems, worries, and feelings.

At the same time, remember that you get back from the Universe what you put out into it. A little help from you for someone you know, or even for someone you don't, can make a big difference, in your life and theirs.

I hope to see you across my Tarot table soon.
Blessed Be, J2B



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Tarot Deck Review

Nefertari's Tarots

I saw this deck sitting on the Tarot display area at 13 Magickal Moons and knew that I was about to buy a new deck. I tried avoiding it for a few days but eventually my resolve crumbled. OK, well, I had some help; someone who lives with me, but who, out of respect, will remain nameless, placed the deck in my basket along with several other items and told me to buy them. Despite the bizarre circumstances, I'm awfully glad that this mysterious person put this deck in my basket. ☺

Egypt lovers, I tell you to beware this deck. It is just beautiful. I have never seen more gold on a set of cards than on these, but the other colors, while less present, are vibrant. They are intricately detailed and put the other Egyptian-themed deck I have to shame.

Large gold numbers at the top center of each card make it easy to see what the card is (Roman numerals for the majors, Arabic numerals for the pips), except for the Court cards. In typical Lo Scarabeo style, five languages adorn the card. The standard suits are represented with some slight differences; "pentacles" are actually round

disks decorated with a large ankh, and the suit of cups is named "chalices".

Rider-Waite imagery is present but is inconsistent, which is why I wouldn't recommend this deck for novice Tarot students. The Moon, for example, has only two dogs on the card and lacks the river that flows down the middle of the Rider-Waite version. The High Priestess card has two pillars on it, one dark and one light, decorated with hieroglyphics. The Ace of Chalices has a large chalice on it but an enormous scarab fills the entire center of the card, surrounded by hieroglyphs. The Seven of Wands shows a man poling across a body of water while two alligators lie in wait; sometimes when people are challenging you they look at you like they want to tear you apart, don't they? ☺

The Knights are very interesting because no human is actually on the cards. Only the horses are present. All of the horses face the left hand side of the card, except for the Knight of Swords, who always has to be contrary and faces the right. This idea, that the Knight of Swords pushes forward against opposition (even when compared to the other Knights in the deck), is shown on the Rider-Waite by the trees in the background that are being blown the opposite way. I found that this method of showing the stubborn nature of those

looking for a verbal fight was rather ingenious.

The backs of the cards show a simple, black back covered with rows of white Eyes of Horus. I think it's very tasteful and goes well with the theme of the deck.

The most interesting card for me in this deck is the Five of Cups. Let me start by telling you about the Rider-Waite imagery: a man whose face is hidden looking out over a river looking at three spilled cups while two others are behind him, representing the support system that we are choosing not to use. It typically represents great grief, loss, or a pity party for one. Nefertari's Tarots shows a young man wading across a river with reeds in the background. On his back, he's carrying a cow. Five cups float in the sky above the man, two turned upside down, while three are right side up. If you think about it, the image does help you know what the card means to some degree. The man is crossing water (emotion) carrying a large weight on this back (grief or loss bearing down on us) alone (he chooses not to share his burden with anyone).

As you can see from my description of the Five of Cups, the card meanings can be discerned but not easily unless you are very familiar with the Tarot. So my advice is for intermediate to advanced users of the Tarot who love Egyptian-themed decks to give this one a whirl.

Of course, I will have it during Aquarius as my featured deck, and it is a stunning deck, so tell Sam to order you one if you like what you see.

Next month's review: The Grail Tarot

Spreads for Aquarius

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. It can be done anytime and has become a permanent part of my repertoire.

For February, the focus will be on love and relationships. For Querents in a relationship, I'll have a "**S/he Said, S/he Said**" **Spread** that will examine various current and future aspects of it. It will cost \$30 and have no less than 14 cards. This reading is an excellent choice for couples who would like to be read together.

Of course, I'll do expanded Celtic Cross readings about love, or any other topic of your choice for \$20.

Shameless Marketing Rhyming Poem

*Here is my Shameless Marketing
And I hope you think it's funny
Because I have to be original
As I ask you for your money*

*Valentine's Day is coming soon
So please don't cause a rift
With your beloved this February
Tarot readings make great gifts!*

*A Tarot party would be great
To show your friends the way
To the deeper wisdom that can be theirs
But be sure that they help pay!*

*13 Magickal Moons is awesome
But if we cannot meet
Email me and schedule a reading
On the phone; it will be sweet!*

*So ladies and gents I bid you adieu
I suppose I'm really in luck
That I do this section every month
And you don't say, "Go get a life!"**

*Author's note: The last line of the poem doesn't exactly rhyme. I would correct it, but feel that in doing so I would ruin the delicate balance of the last stanza. I encourage you to tap into your creative side and imagine other possible endings.

Card of the Month: The Star

One of the most positive cards in the Tarot deck, some standard divinatory meanings of the Star include generosity, hope, and serenity. Of course, it also represents the sign of Aquarius; the Universe had a sense of humor telling me to do this card during the Aquarius newsletter, and yes, I shuffled the deck and pulled a card at random.

For me, the card is one of the "wish cards" in the Tarot (one of the others is the Nine of Cups), and when it comes up in a reading it can indicate that you will get what your heart desires. If reading for others, just be sure to warn them to be careful what they wish for; sometimes what our heart desires is not what's best for us.

This card also appears to those people who are in despair, and if so, the message is not to give up hope. Sometimes hope is all we have when negative things occur in our lives, and it can be a challenge to be optimistic. The Star represents the ultimate "Chin up!" card.

There are very few circumstances where I would see this card as negative. For health readings, however, this card can mean

overall weakness, dizziness, or fainting spells, and if a Querent has experienced any of these I encourage the person visit to a doctor.

Some of the opposing cards for the Star include the Devil (despair), the Five of Swords (selfishness), and the Nine of Swords (excessive worry).

Welcome to Whispering Bear!

For those of you who may not know, Whispering Bear is now a sister store to 13 Magickal Moons. More Tradition of the Witches Circle classes and other healing services are being offered just around the corner (literally)! I'm teaching a Reiki I class in February starting on February 7. In addition, Reiki sessions and massages are now being offered there as well. I encourage you to dive right in and take advantage of the incredibly talented Reiki masters and massage therapists in the area. For any questions about classes or to schedule a Reiki session or massage, contact Rev. Sam at 703-492-2211.

Upcoming Dates

I'll be reading Tarot for the following dates for Aquarius and Pisces at 13 Magickal Moons. Readings will be done on a first-come, first-served basis. Just go to the Tarot table and sign up when you get to the store. All of these dates are tentative. Please check www.13magickalmoons.com for an up-to-date schedule. This is especially true for weekend dates.

Saturday, February 9	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, February 13	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, February 23	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, February 27	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, March 8	11:30am-5:30pm
Saturday, March 15	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, March 19 (Open Ostara Ritual)	6:00-9:00pm