

13 Magickal Cards

Tarot Insights By JohnnieTwoBrows

Capricorn: Taking Stock of Where We've Been and Where We're Going

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

Happy Birthday wishes to all of the sure-footed Goats. Your ambition and thrift are inspirations to us all, especially this time of year. The rest of us might throw a little more praise your way if you picked up the check from time to time and gave out more hugs in public, but you are who you are. ☺

Capricorns excel at knowing where they are in relation to their goals, determined to reach them as they pick their way carefully up the mountains of life. They know where they were and plan where they want to be, and they don't give up until their goal is reached: The top of the mountain.

While the New Year is the time of making plans and setting goals, it's also a natural time of the year to see how well things worked out. This is especially true in business, when financial managers worldwide are preparing end-of-the-year financial reports and comparing them to estimates. Capricorns are the consummate business people and possess the know-how to make excellent short- and long-term financial decisions.

Finally, in contrast to the Sagittarius, the Capricorns tend to look at the less optimistic side of life. This is not to say that they are pessimistic, though it may seem

that way; they are realists in every sense of the word.

So what can we take from the Capricorns of the world that will help us in the New Year? Well, here are some points to ponder.

First, set your expectations accordingly. What this really comes down to is setting goals that are reasonable and attainable. A lot of us get carried away—especially at the New Year—in setting goals (New Year's resolutions) that are way too unrealistic. Then we get angry at ourselves for not attaining them.

Next is determination. If it's important enough to you, you'll do it. If it's not, you won't. It's that simple. Many of you have expressed an interest in learning the Tarot. No amount of material in a newsletter, private lesson, or Tarot reading can take the place of your personal motivation.

Finally, consider your past, today, and all of your tomorrows when setting your goals. We can get too caught up in short-term things that sacrifice our long-term goals.

Personally, as I look back on this year, my first full year as a professional Tarot card reader, I'm very proud of my work, but I know I can improve. I thank all of you for your constant support this past year, and wish you a New Year that sees your goals fulfilled!

Blessed Yule and Happy New Year,
J2B



Questions Across the Table

“Can I sit with someone while they’re having a Tarot reading?”

The answer is easy, but the question can seem a little awkward at times. A whole host of emotions goes through your mind, as the friend/companion of a Querent, when you ask this question.

The short answer is, “It’s up to the Querent.” But that’s not really the question you should be asking. What you should be asking yourself is if it is *appropriate* to be present during someone else’s Tarot reading.

Here are a few questions to consider that might make it easier for you as you think about whether to be present during another’s Tarot reading.

1) *“Why do I want to be present?”*

If you are giving moral support because you know that the question the Querent will ask may be an emotional one, that’s reasonable. Some people also ask others along to take notes or to remember what was said in the reading, which is also acceptable. If you’re coming in just to be entertained, then you should probably excuse yourself.

2) *“Can I remain quiet during the reading?”* Some people just can’t do this. They feel the need to make a running commentary on everything that is being said, supporting the Querent or the reader, and generally making a nuisance of themselves. The reading is for the Querent, not for you. You should be honored that a person trusts you enough to allow you to share in what is an extremely personal experience. Give them the respect of keeping comments to yourself unless (and until) the Querent asks for input.

3) *“Can I keep what I hear to myself?”*

In my opinion, if you are made privy to this reading, you should NOT be sharing it with anyone else unless given the express permission of the Querent.

The bottom line is that if you are paying for a Tarot reading you should not bring along someone who you know will distract you from the message. This is why I encourage Querents with children to come alone so they may get as much out of the reading as possible. Also, as the Tarot is so personal, I encourage people not to bring their significant other to *every* reading unless they are prepared to discuss the contents later.

Tarot Deck Review

Rider-Waite Tarot

Ah yes, the Rider-Waite. The Grande Dame of the Tarot World.

OK, so I am biased here. I adore this deck. I purchased my first Tarot deck in 1989 and it was a Rider-Waite. I still have it today. I never go to read without it, although I have and use many other decks.

Any person who is serious about learning the Tarot needs to start with this deck. The reason is simple: The Rider-Waite imagery, which I refer to often in this newsletter, has been around a long time and will help you make sense of a card's meanings better than any other. The only other deck I could recommend more highly than the Rider-Waite for some people is the Quick and Easy Tarot, which is the Rider-Waite cards with explanations on each card.

If you haven't seen this deck before, please go online and take a look. The images of all the cards can be seen at Joan Bunning's Tarot website, www.learntarot.org. It will help you in understanding certain aspects of this newsletter if you're familiar with it.

I don't plan to say too much about the Rider-Waite, since I know I'd wax rhapsodic it for some time, boring many of you. However, I have a favor to ask of each one of you: Take a look at the images on these cards and tell me what you think of this deck.

Here's why I'm asking for the feedback. Many of my Querents do not like the Rider-Waite. Often I'll get a frown or a grimace as I recite the decks that I have with me when I say the name. Yes, I am biased in the deck's favor for obvious reasons, but I am so curious to know what has engendered these strong feelings of resentment toward it. I just don't understand, and I want to.

Think about it carefully and drop me a line to let me know your feelings. Perhaps in a later issue I'll post some responses. If you have a favorite card in the deck, let me know that, too.

By far, the card I associate with the most in this deck is the Wheel of Fortune. I actually keep my Rider-Waite in a wooden box that has small images of all of the Aces in the corners and the Wheel of Fortune image carved into the middle of it.

Thanks in advance for participating in the discussion.

Next month's review: The Aquarian Tarot

Querent's Queries

Q: *What stones do you use when reading Tarot?*

A: A whole bunch. First and foremost is amethyst, a great stone for calming and clearing the mind for divination work. I will often ask Querents who are nervous, agitated, or unfocused to hold the amethyst in their hand for 20-30 seconds before shuffling the cards. I've had good results with this (and yes, I cleanse the stone with sage after each person touches it). My staff and many of my necklaces also have amethyst for the same reason.

Next is white quartz, which magnifies the power of stones around it. I normally keep this near the other stones.

Hematite comes next, to help keep me grounded and centered so I can see things clearly. I'm going to invest in some more hematite over the coming year.

Finally, a piece of Tiger's Eye for divination, but also to help me be courageous when I have to tell people things they don't like. It also gives my confidence a boost.

If you have a question that you'd like me to answer in print, please submit it to hierophant@cox.net with the subject line "Querent's Queries." Of course, I reserve the right to pick and choose the most appropriate and relevant questions for the newsletter. Also, *your name will be listed as the person who submitted the query unless you tell me otherwise.* Happy writing!

Shameless Marketing

Have any money left after buying all of your Yule presents? Well, give it to me! No, not all of it...I'm a reasonable person. Just some of it. In return, I will give you some Tarot **gift certificates** in any denomination that be used for Tarot readings, private Tarot lessons, and Tarot parties.

13 Magickal Moons Gift Certificates

also make a stellar gift, especially for those people who gave you a gift when you didn't expect one from him or her or for "Secret Santa" events. They make exceptionally good gifts for any hairdressers, Reiki masters, accountants, massage therapists, novelists, paramedics, college students, store owners, or Tarot readers that might be on your list this year that you may have forgotten.

I'll end this section with a story that I think you'll enjoy. There once was a man who invited all of his friends over to his house for a Tarot party. Everyone had a fantastic

time and several of the people who attended the party periodically scheduled Tarot parties of their own, because they were so impressed with the Tarot reader and the insights he provided. The Tarot reader, while very busy, was happy, and the Tarot reader's business manager, his beloved wife, was even more happy because she likes amber jewelry. And they all lived happily ever.

There is a moral to this story, but I'll leave you to ponder it on your own. ☺

Oh by the way...

As a special present at Yule, I've enclosed a crossword puzzle with this email. I did NOT include the answers...email me when you're ready for them. HINT: Look through your past newsletters for the answers. Hope you enjoy it!

Upcoming Dates

I'll be reading Tarot for the following dates for Capricorn and Aquarius 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 to schedule an appointment. This is especially true for weekend dates.

Saturday, December 23	10:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, December 27	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, January 3	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, January 6	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, January 10	6:00-9:00pm

Wednesday, January 17
Saturday, January 20
Wednesday, January 24
Saturday, January 27

6:00-9:00pm
11:30am-5:30pm
6:00-9:00pm
11:30am-5:30pm

Wednesday, January 31
Wednesday, February 7
Saturday, February 10
Wednesday, February 14
Saturday, February 17
Wednesday, February 14

6:00-9:00pm
6:00-9:00pm
11:30am-5:30pm
6:00-9:00pm
11:30am-5:30pm
6:00-9:00pm