

13 Magickal Cards Tarot Insights By JohnnieTwoBrows

Libra: Fairness for Querent and Reader

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

Happy Birthday to my two favorite store owners, Summer and Sam, who were born under the sign of the Scales. There are very few other places I'd rather be than 13 Magickal Moons, which is why I don't (and won't) read at any other store. Thanks for sharing so much of your lives and your space with everyone. It is truly appreciated!

Honesty and fairness are two traits that are near and dear to the hearts of Libras. And as a Tarot reader or Querent, we should take a page from their book.

As a Querent, there are three main things to look for in a Tarot reader to determine if s/he is honest and fair: up-front pricing; a straightforward, empowering reading style; and a code of ethics.

You should know how much you are going to be paying for a Tarot reading before it begins. This is why I ask people what kind of reading they want and provide descriptions of types of readings. If there is a specific spread that is not advertised, I tell the Querent what I'm going to do and how much it will cost before I lay one card out. (See the "Questions Across the Table" section for more on paying for Tarot readings.)

Also, an honest Tarot reader does not tell you only what you want to hear; that's not why you consult one. S/he tells you honestly what is seen in the cards—good, bad, or indifferent—and suggests ways that *you* can improve. As I've said in the past, the direction of your life can be divined to some degree, but your decisions, including how

you decide to react to things in life that happen to you, determine your life's course. An honest reader isn't going to say, "The picture would become clearer if you pay me more". If someone tells you that they're the only person who can help you, or offers to remove a curse that they "see" for additional money, emulate *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* and "RUN AWAY!" You should have the same reaction if your reader is telling others about readings that you had with him or her. If you share what happens in a Tarot reading it should be your choice.

Finally, every professional Tarot reader should have a code of ethics, and have it available for a Querent to look at before starting a reading. In my case, I follow the code of ethics that is available online at the American Tarot Association's web site (www.ata-tarot.com/ethics.htm).

What can you do as a Querent to be fair and honest when having a Tarot reading? It starts with being a fair and honest person and telling the truth. There's no point in getting a Tarot reading if you're not prepared to be honest. If you have a very sensitive question, schedule a private reading so you won't feel inhibited about discussing the matter freely.

Another part of being honest is by paying for services that you request. If you don't have the money, do not expect the reader to extend you credit or give a free reading. Wait until you have money and then request a reading.

Finally, if a reader is good, you should not be afraid to recommend them to someone. By the same token, if you have a truly negative experience with a reader, you should be honest enough to tell the reader

(calmly of course) that you were dissatisfied and why. Many Tarot readers will refund money to customers who are unhappy with their services.

The Wiccan Rede says it best: “Fairly take and fairly give.” All of us can do a better job

Questions Across the Table

“How can you charge money for a Tarot reading? Isn't it a gift to be shared with everyone?”

I believe my ability to read the Tarot is a gift that I share with people; those of you who know me very well know that helping people is the main reason I read Tarot professionally. And when I started reading 17 years ago, I wasn't charging anyone; I was doing it purely for friends and family. Choosing to charge money was not an easy choice for me, and many Tarot readers do not read professionally because they don't want to deal with this issue.

When you pay a Tarot reader, you are paying for the Tarot reader's time and experience. With me, you are paying for the 17 years of experience and study that I have put into the Tarot. I had to develop this gift by attending classes, buying cards and books, and spending time studying. As a Querent you see the direct result of that effort. In this way, the Tarot reader is no different from a translator, an auto mechanic, or an interior designer; we are experts in what we do and should be compensated for our expertise.

Tarot Class Series Coming Up Soon

If you're interested in learning the Tarot, the series of five Tarot classes taught by Samantha Beaty at the Tradition of the Witches Circle School will be offered again soon.

of being fair to ourselves and to others; this time of year seems like a good time to make sure we give and receive in equal measure.

I hope to see you across my table soon. Blessed be! **J2B**

Also, while the Tarot is spiritual in nature, it is a service, and if you request a service you should be prepared to offer compensation. Whether it's tax preparation, massage therapy, financial planning, or Tarot is not really relevant. Services are not rendered without cost to the person giving the service. In my case, besides the preparatory items listed above, I spend gas money to get to 13 Magickal Moons, use toner to print Tarot sign-up sheets and business cards, and burn sage bundles to purify the cards as I read. If I wasn't compensated for these expenses I wouldn't be able to read Tarot professionally; it's as simple as that.

Finally, the insights that the Tarot provides are extremely valuable. I don't think anyone would disagree with that statement. But when you receive something of value, you should give something of value in return. When you pay a Tarot reader, you are not only compensating the reader for his/her time, but also showing appreciation for the insights that s/he has made you aware of. While anyone can learn the Tarot, of course—in many areas, it's much easier to trust an expert than to train to do it yourself.

If you've taken Sam's Tarot classes and would like additional Tarot education, I offer private lessons on the Tarot to anyone who is interested and motivated. Email me at hierophant@cox.net for the details.



Tarot Deck Review

The Arthurian Tarot

King Arthur was a legendary ruler who had the unenviable task of balancing the old Pagan world with a “new” Christian one. So it’s only fitting that this deck be reviewed in the Libra issue.

Arthurian and Camelot enthusiasts like Summer will flip for this deck. However, to get the most out of it, though, it’s best to brush up your knowledge of Arthurian lore; the book that accompanies this deck is an excellent way to do just that.

Each card has the Tarot name on the top of the card as well as an Arthurian correspondence on the bottom. For example, the King of Shields (Pentacles) is represented by Uther Pendragon, Arthur’s father; Guinevere and Arthur figure as The Empress and Emperor respectively.

This deck has a much more Wiccan feel than many of my other decks, due to the extensive use of nature and the elements in almost all of the cards. Even many of the scenes that are depicted as “indoor” have a very sylvan feel to them. To reinforce this, the Pages are the only court cards not represented by humans; each of them has the image of an animal. And while there are a few “Christian” images—“The Holy Grail” as the Ace of Cups is the first one that jumps to mind—that great Pagan feeling prevails.

The colors are much more muted than in many decks, like faded tapestry colors. It was done specifically to give the deck an “old world” look, and in my opinion, they were successful in doing so.

The one small thing that bothers me is the backs of these cards. They are purple with a spiral design on them. I was hoping for something that didn’t clash so much with the soft colors of the deck itself. Thankfully the back of the card is not the side we’re really interested in.

My favorite card in this deck is “The Devil” which is represented by Cernunnos, “The Horned One”. He is seated cross-legged in a forest, has deer horns on his head, and is surrounded by animals. The card looks a little ominous—the moon in the background and light it casts over the scene is a little eerie—but it certainly gives less of a shock to Querents than its Rider-Waite counterpart.

I highly encourage you to give this deck a try, if only for the excuse to brush up on your knowledge of the Arthur legend. **13 Magickal Moons** has two copies on hand, both in kits that contain the trade paperback. Pick one up today!

Next month’s review: Tarot de los Muertos (Tarot of the Dead)

Querent’s Queries

Q: *Why don't you use reversals when you read? - Kayt*

A: Excellent question! If you're not familiar with reversals, here's a quick explanation: Many Tarot card readers have the Querent start with all of the cards facing "up" and ask the Querent to shuffle in such a way as to keep all of the cards pointing the same direction. Then, if a card is "reversed" (facing in the opposite direction of all the other cards) then the meaning of the card is opposite of that of the "upright" card.

The simple reason that I don't use reversals is that it never seemed natural to me. Besides, I don't believe I should dictate to the Querent how they shuffle, cut, or otherwise manipulate the cards before I read them, which I had to do when I was using reversals.

Also, Rev. Sam is fond of saying that the Tarot has enough good and bad in its upright form that using reversals is unnecessary. I couldn't agree with her more. If I need additional information I'll use a clarification card.

Let me end by saying that just because I don't use reversals doesn't mean it's not the right choice for someone else. Always do what feels best to you.

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

Yule is just around the corner. Did you feel like The Fool or The Hermit last holiday season when it came to gift-giving? I am now offering **gift certificates** in any denomination that be used for Tarot readings, private Tarot lessons, and Tarot parties. If Tarot gifts aren't your speed, or if you'd rather let the recipient choose their own deck, **13 Magickal Moons Gift Certificates** are the perfect compromise.

Also, don't forget that a giving a Tarot deck to someone is an extremely thoughtful gift. In addition to the **Arthurian Tarot**, **13 Magickal Moons** also has a few copies of the **Gilded Tarot** (from the Leo issue and which never stay in stock long!) and other Tarot decks. Don't see one that strikes your fancy? Ask Summer or Sam to order you one that suits you!

And by the way, are you sick of hearing about Tarot parties yet? Apparently not, since prime dates are still available. My rates are very reasonable. For more information, including dates and pricing, email me at hierophant@cox.net. Dates are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. But you knew all this already, right? So get some friends together and see what the future holds.

Upcoming Dates

I'll be reading Tarot for the following dates for Libra and Scorpio 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.

Wednesday, September 27	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, September 30	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, October 4	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, October 7	11:30am-5:30pm
Monday, October 9* (Columbus Day)	12-5:30pm
Wednesday, October 11	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, October 18	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, October 21	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, October 25	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, October 28	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, November 1	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, November 4	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, November 8	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, November 15	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, November 18	11:30am-5:30pm