

## 13 Magickal Cards Tarot Insights By JohnnieTwoBrows

### Sagittarius: Truth, optimism and Fun

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

A sincere Happy Birthday wish to all of my Sagittarians out there. Thanks to all of you for the infectious fun and laughter you bring into our lives...whenever you decide to return our phone calls. We'll ignore the occasional public zinger by knowing that you just want to make sure we're not taking ourselves so seriously. Incidentally, the Tarot is a good ego check for us as well.

Sagittarians and the Tarot have many things in common. First and foremost, both are always in pursuit of "truth". While I'd be the first person to complain that for many people truth is a relative term, that spiritual truth really is relative. Whether we are Sag or not, our spirituality is an intimate, personal search; we search for what seems spiritually truthful for us.

Like the Sag, the Tarot helps us in our search; when used correctly, it can give us insight and guide us on our spiritual quest for the ultimate truth.

In general, the Sagittarius person is the ultimate optimist. They tend to think positively. While we've all had a Tarot reading that seems very pessimistic, a good Tarot reader will show you that you are empowered to make good choices no matter how bad things may seem.

Archers also know how to cut loose. Having fun is an essential part of life. My own life motto is "work hard, play hard". I should put as much effort into having fun as I do working. While I'm better about this than I was as a younger man, my beloved Jennie

Sapphire Sunshine will tell you—when I'm out of the room of course—that I'm still a work in progress on this one, too. Guilty as charged, folks.

But what is kind of scary to me is that one of the most important pieces of information I see as I read Tarot for people regularly is to let loose and have more fun in our lives. What makes it worse is that we say, "Fun? When do we have time for fun?" We act like having fun is just a bonus. It's an essential part of a balanced life.

(By the way, for those of you interested, the 2 of Pentacles, 4 of Wands, and 3 of Cups are the cards that often come up to represent fun, social activities, and enjoying time with friends.)

Sure, the Tarot is sometimes fun in and of itself, but as you know, it's a serious tool. The "fun" in the Tarot comes from avoiding negative events in our lives so we spend less time being worried, sad, or angry and more time being confident, happy, and calm.

Archers innately know that we can't go through life pondering its deepest, darkest mysteries of life every single minute. They're the friend who's constantly saying, "You work too much. Let's go out to a movie!" How often do you accept?

It's easy to dismiss Sagittarians as not serious individuals, but that would be a big mistake. While they are very serious people in search of the truth, they also are serious about having fun. Shouldn't we all be more committed to enjoying our lives?

I look forward to seeing you across my  
table soon! Blessed Be, J2B



**Questions Across the Table**

*“Are you supposed to tip a Tarot reader? If so, how much?”*

I know what you’re thinking. So before I answer the query, let me say this: Yes, ladies and gentlemen, I assure you that I really did get asked this question. It is not a self-serving attempt to make more money. Just making sure we’re all on the same page. Disclaimer completed. ☺

We’re all strapped for cash. I can’t think of anyone, especially this time of year, who is not watching what they spend. So the short answer to the question is this: If you want to tip, feel free. But I do not expect tips, nor do I solicit them from Querents. It should always be your choice to tip me or any other Tarot reader.

In other occupations—restaurant servers come to mind first—the primary form of income is tips. As such, while a tip in a restaurant is still considered “voluntary” people in the United States generally leave around 15% of the bill (not including taxes) as a tip for the server. In my opinion, Tarot card readers don’t really fall into this category; when we charge, we charge the cost of the reading and don’t typically

expect to be paid over and above that amount.

My personal philosophy on the Tarot is that my prices are lower than most readers, because I feel the Tarot should be accessible to more people. The last thing I want to do is *expect* people to tip me. I’d rather have a customer come see me more regularly without tipping than feel expected to tip me and consult the Tarot less often.

If you have an excellent experience with me and extra money to spend, and you would like to show additional appreciation for your reading, I would be honored and humbled to accept a tip of any amount you feel is appropriate.

Still looking for an amount? When I do receive a tip, it’s usually between 10-20% over the cost of the reading. But once again, the amount is up to you and it is completely voluntary.

## Tarot Deck Review

### *Mythic Tarot*

If the Tarot is “all Greek” to you, then you’ll love this deck, which is based on Greek mythology. It is a standard 78-card deck whose imagery is loosely based on that of the Rider-Waite.

I owned this deck once before and lost it somehow, probably in one of my many moves. But I recently purchased it again and I’m very glad I did.

Actually, I bought this deck as a way to bone up on my Greek myths, very similar to what I did with the Arthurian Tarot. A basic knowledge of Greek mythology is helpful, but not required; the book that comes in this set does an excellent job of giving you the background and how it relates to the Tarot.

Each of the Major Arcana have one or more gods and goddesses on them. For example, the Emperor is Zeus, the ultimate male authority figure in Greek mythology, while the Lovers card features Paris having to judge a beauty contest between Hera, mother of the Gods; Athena, Goddess of Wisdom; and Aphrodite, Goddess of Love. Talk about a tough choice! Paris’ choice of Aphrodite ultimately starts the Trojan War when Aphrodite gives Paris his prize for picking her, the beautiful Helen of Troy.

Each set of pips of each suit of the Minor Arcana tells its own story. In the suit of Wands, for example, we see important events from the story of Jason as he goes on his quest for the Golden Fleece.

The Court Cards of each suit have famous Greek mythological figures to round out the deck. However, the names of the deities and figures does not appear on the cards themselves. I’m of two minds about that. It

makes them a little more difficult to learn initially, but at the same time, the name does not draw the Reader’s attention away from the imagery either.

All of the cards are labeled with the name of the card in black print at the top. That way you don’t have to count how many of a particular suit are in the picture.

The backs are a dark blue with a rectangle border of a Greek urn pattern with a few magickal symbols.

There are so many excellent cards in this deck it would be hard for me to choose just one. I happen to like The Star card in this deck very much. The image is that of Pandora (of Pandora’s box fame). She kneels before the box after it has been opened to watch what comes out of it. She is nude and looks very innocent. It shows that inspiration can be a dangerous thing depending on what it inspires us to do.

If you like Greek mythology and are new to the Tarot, I’d recommend this as a starting Tarot deck as well.

This deck has become very popular in the store with Querents. Check it out today!

Next month’s review: The Rider-Waite Tarot

### Querent’s Queries

*Q: You read the Tarot so much. What techniques do you use to stay healthy and not burn out? - Unknown*

*A: Reading Tarot, especially when doing a lot of readings over a specific period of time, can be psychically, emotionally and physically exhausting. So I try to ground and center at least once every half an hour as I am reading, even if it’s only for 30 seconds or a minute.*

I'm aware that I should work as hard keeping myself grounded as I do reading Tarot. I love reading so much I sometimes forget to do it, which is not good. I know it's something I need to work on. In my opinion you can't ground and center too much when reading the Tarot.

Another part of keeping myself grounded and centered is by taking breaks when I read. Sam and Jennie Sunshine do their best to remind me, but I need to do a better job of making it a priority.

Finally, taking time off from it is probably the best way to avoid burning out. I'll be gone for a Tea Night and a Saturday around Thanksgiving so I can spend some time with my family in Massachusetts.

Here's an example of what NOT to do. On the night of the Samhain ritual I read no less than 20 people in a span of about four hours and took basically no break (except for the ritual). Anyone who saw me later that evening probably figured that I didn't take very good care of myself. My Third Eye Chakra was tightly closed when I was done, and I had to turn at least one Querent away because I was so exhausted. Then over the next few days I caught a cold. That was not a good week for me health-wise, and at least part of that was because I pushed myself too hard that Wednesday night. And then like a stubborn fool I went in that Saturday as well to read some more. Clearly I wasn't using the grey matter in my skull.

If you have a question that you'd like me to answer in print, please submit it to [hierophant@cox.net](mailto: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

Tarot card readers have to buy presents this holiday season, too! So order some Tarot **gift certificates** in any denomination that be used for Tarot readings, private Tarot lessons, and Tarot parties.

If the unthinkable happens and you have to buy a gift for someone who's not interested in the Tarot (perish the thought!), **13 Magickal Moons Gift Certificates** also make an outstanding gift. Remember that Summer and Sam will order Tarot cards, Tarot books, and other Tarot accessories at your request. Oh yeah, and I'm sure they'll order other stuff, too.

Finally, here's a bit of subliminal advertising: BLAH BLAH BLAH Tarot parties BLAH BLAH so cool BLAH prices reasonable BLAH I know you want to book one soon BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH contact me via email BLAH BLAH Hierophant@cox.net BLAH BLAH. So there.

### Upcoming Dates

I'll be reading Tarot for the following dates for Sagittarius and Capricorn at 13 Magickal Moons. All of these dates are tentative. Please check [www.13magickalmoons.com](http://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, November 29	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, December 2	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, December 6	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, December 13	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, December 20	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, December 23	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, December 27	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, December 30	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, January 3	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, January 6	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, January 10	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, January 17	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, January 20	11:30am-5:30pm