

13 Magickal Cards—Virgo 06

Tarot Insights by JohnnieTwoBrows

Learning the Tarot: The Tarot Mindset

Hello everyone and merry meet! Welcome back to the Virgo issue of 13 Magickal cards.

In the interest of the focused, mentally-organized Virgos of the world—including my gorgeous and beloved Virgo girl, Sapphire Sunshine, this article will give some tips on the mindset you need to have if you're just starting to learn the Tarot.

The most important thing to remember as you start is that anyone, even non-Virgos, can learn the Tarot. *Anyone*. Some may be more predisposed to learning it than others, but anyone who is motivated to do so can get the wisdom of the Tarot. That being said, learning anything well takes time and practice. You have to be motivated and persistent to learn anything well, but in my opinion it's also necessary to be open-minded and humble to learn the Tarot well.

You have to keep an open mind when you learn the Tarot. There are hundreds of books on the Tarot out there, and many more will come in the future. There are a host of Tarot internet sites. And, of course, plenty of Tarot readers will want to give you their opinion of what is "right" (I think I'm sort of doing that now). It's important for you to take what you can from each resource and not decide that a particular card has just one interpretation, for example. Also, never assume that you have all the answers; I have had Querents give me insights into cards that were very valuable to me. And finally...you can never stop learning. The moment you think you know it all, the Tarot will be no longer of any use to you.

Speaking of "knowing it all", I also said that humility—being humble—is essential when

learning the Tarot. The knowledge gained from the Tarot is, in my opinion, priceless. It's easy to think that you are important and powerful when you use the Tarot, especially when you read for others. Students of the Tarot who act arrogantly, as if the Divine is only talking to them and no one else through the cards, are missing the point entirely. We need to put our egos aside when working with the Tarot, which is not an easy thing to do. We are no better or worse than other people; we have chosen to gain the wisdom the Tarot provides, and that's all. I'm just a regular guy who has developed this gift, and I'm a student of the Tarot as much as anyone else. I feel I can always learn something new, and if you study the Tarot with this mindset you will be successful.

How do I stay humble? Well, of course, I accept that I do not have all the answers, and read every book and website on the Tarot that I can. Then I have other people read for me, and when I do I don't second-guess their interpretations. When I was read by Dorothy Morrison, she knew I read also; she asked me afterward why I didn't question any of her card interpretations. I told her that *she* was reading the cards today, and that I was trying to learn things about myself that the Tarot was telling me through her. She admitted she always gets nervous reading for other readers for that reason. I know that should I get the opportunity to read for her she will offer me the same courtesy. (By the way, if you haven't had your cards read by Dorothy Morrison, take the opportunity if you can get it. Her reading for me was by far the best one I've ever had!).

I hope these mindset tips have been helpful. Good luck on the Fool's Journey, and I'll see you across the table soon. Blessed be! **J2B**



Questions Across the Table

“How often should I have a Tarot reading?”

I know you’ll hate this answer, but here it is: It depends. Let me make this clearer with a few examples:

- One general, expanded Celtic Cross Tarot reading should occur about once every six months.
- Once a year, on or around your birthday, using the horoscope spread (1 card per month and an overall theme card for the year).
- If you are read once a week, then get smaller readings like the 13 Magickal Moons spread. There’s no need to have a general reading using an expanded Celtic spread each week; too much information can lead to confusion.
- If you have a specific question you’d like to address in a reading you had, or if you have specific questions about events in your life, like “I just applied for this job today. Will I get it?”, then an expanded Celtic that is specific to this event is appropriate.

It is not useful to have your cards read, professionally or by a friend, more than once per week. Nor would I advise getting a reading repeatedly on the same topic over a short period of time. Once the Tarot has answered, then it’s important to move forward and put that knowledge to use.

If you are learning the Tarot, my advice would be to start doing a one-day reading for yourself each morning, recording your thoughts, and then writing out the applicable events of your day at night.

Please keep one important fact in mind: The Tarot is not entertainment; I respect its power, and so should you. Be receptive to its messages and use the information to make good decisions.

Tarot Deck Review

The Revelations Tarot

The past few years have been huge for me in buying Tarot decks; my own collection numbers just over 30 and is growing every month. I purchased it at 13 Magickal Moons last summer, and felt that it certainly deserves a place in my collection.

Artistically, I really like the work. The colors are vibrant, but clearly muted and running toward more deep shades of purple, red, and blue. While the artwork is nice, I found it lacking a little symbolically; the cards seem more abstract than direct to me on that level. I found that I had images didn't jump out at me as quickly with this deck at first.

White orbs at the top of each card have either a Roman numeral (for Major Arcana), a letter (for aces and court cards), or a number (for the remainder of the Minor Arcana). I like this feature for all of the cards except the Knights; since they can't have a "K" for both kings and knights, they use a special symbol next to the "K" for the knights. At the moment, I have no idea what that symbol is.

If you work with reversals, you will find this deck appealing. Many of the images are shown "upright" and "reversed" on the card, so you will see a different image if the card is turned around. Since I do not work with reversals when I read, I find this quality a little distracting. But it is uncommon to find a deck with this attribute.

The Revelations Tarot Deck does not possess the unbridled joy of the Gilded Tarot Deck, but it's not as severe in its imagery as the Rider-Waite. This deck definitely has a "darker" feel to it that may appeal to the more realistic/pessimistic Virgo types out there.

My favorite card in this deck is Justice. It has a sword pointing both upward and downward, and to me that exemplifies card's meaning very well: That you will be measured and you will be held accountable for your actions, both good and bad. The face of the individual holding the sword also cannot be seen, giving the idea of "blind Justice". Finally, two sets of scales finish this image and represent the idea of all of us being "weighed and measured".

I'd recommend this Tarot deck for intermediate students of the Tarot, especially those who plan to read with reversals, who are looking for a deck with a little bit of a dark "edge" to it.

13 Magickal Moons has ordered a few of these decks. Pick them up while you can!

Querent's Queries

Q: How do you tell time in the Tarot? - Holly

A: Usually it has to do with the spread that you pick. For example, in the Expanded Celtic Cross that I use for larger readings, I have a 3-month pile and a 6-month pile, so that provides the timeframe for me. If you're using a three-card spread, with the cards representing past, present, and future, you'll want to have the timeframe of "past" and "future" in mind before you read. Three months in either direction is usually a figure I use for those readings. For birthday (horoscope) readings, I pull out thirteen cards, and 12 of them represent each one of the next 12 months (with the 13th giving an overall focus of the next year).

The Tarot can also be more specific about when a particular event will happen. I often use clarifying cards to get an idea of when something will occur. Court cards can represent signs of the Zodiac during which an event might occur. Different minor arcana cards can indicate a length in days, weeks, or months. For example, a two could represent two days, weeks or months. Major arcana cards usually mean the event will happen "soon", sometimes hours after a reading. While I don't want to discourage anyone, getting a timeframe with the Tarot this way is a more advanced skill that takes some honing.

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!

For Your Information

Here are a few things I keep forgetting to tell you about:

1. Payment Policies for Readings—All things must evolve. I am no exception. My payment policies now match those of the store: Payment in cash to me directly, or at the register with a credit card with a 10% surcharge to cover the cost of processing. *I no longer extend credit for readings.*
2. Newsletter sign-up—Just to clarify, You do NOT need to sign up again each month to receive this newsletter. There is always a sign-up sheet at 13 Magickal Moons for new clients. If you know someone who signed up for the newsletter and is not receiving it, or if for any reason you do not want to receive the newsletter anymore, please email me at Hierophant@cox.net.

Upcoming Dates 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 me to schedule an appointment. This is especially true for weekend dates.

I’ll be taking off one weekend a month to avoid the dreaded TRBO (Tarot Reader Burn-Out).

Wednesday, August 16	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, August 19	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, August 23	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, August 26	10:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, August 30	6:00-9:00pm

Tarot Web Sites

Here are a few Tarot web sites you might find interesting:

www.Aeclectic.net—This is a site that has an excellent set of links to various Tarot topics. I like it because it allows you to view prospective decks before buying them.

www.learntarot.org—This is Joan Bunning’s online Tarot class. It is an excellent place to get started learning the Tarot; it’s where I started learning when I finally decided to get serious about it. Keep in mind that online classes require more motivation because there’s no one checking up on you; if this way is not for you, Rev. Samantha Beaty’s classes are the way to go.

Shameless Marketing

Surprising even me, dates are still available for Tarot parties in September and October!

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. My schedule is fairly open right now, but dates tend to fill up quickly, *especially around Samhain (Halloween).*

Saturday, September 2	11:30am-5:30pm
Monday, September 4	12:00-5:30pm
Wednesday, September 6	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, September 13	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, September 16	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, September 20	6:00-9:00pm
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	12-5:30pm
Wednesday, October 11	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, October 18	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, October 21	11:30am-5:30pm