

The Worlds of Tarot

by
Sharddaramon

The Worlds of Tarot

The Worlds of
Tarot:
Expanding the Tarot
Universe

by Shanddaramon

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Expanding the Tarot Universe
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I would like to thank and congratulate Joseph Ernest Martin for creating the Quest Tarot Deck. It is the deck used through out this text because of its flexibility and wealth of information.

I am also indebted to Reverend Gretchen Woods for her guidance in understanding the process of moral decision making which helped me think through some tough choices during the writing of this text.



Dedication

This book is dedicated to all the people who suffer the stares and taunts of those who do not understand how the secrets of the universe can be found in a little pack of cards.



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Foreword

Preface



I have been a fan, admirer, student, and practitioner of Tarot for over many, many years now. I have always been fascinated with symbolism - how a simple image can contain deep layers of meaning. Of course, we are the ones who instill that meaning into those symbols but it has always amazed me how we can attribute so many things to just a few images. The seemingly innocent deck of 78 (or so) cards known as the Tarot contains a wide variety of symbols and images from which we can derive meanings. What is more fascinating to me, however, is the way in which cards can be joined in different combinations to create even more meanings. Once I started working with these symbols and realized the seemingly endless ways in which they could be used, I became hooked. I took the standard route of most Tarot students: I studied the cards, the spreads, and the reading techniques. I read cards professionally for a year and then decided that I preferred, instead, to just study the cards and do free readings only for friends. It was during that time that I began exploring other ways of using the cards and new worlds began to open for me. I learned how to use the deck for self-exploration, for helping others, and for, well, just playing. (I think we sometimes take those cards a little too seriously.) The Tarot can teach us secrets to the universe while it can also teach us how to relax and have fun. Staying happy is no less challenging and important than remaining focused on an object of meditation. So, I developed new ways to use the cards and have compiled many of them here.

Introduction

When I first began writing this book, I was determined not to write yet another beginning Tarot book that would describe meanings for each card and talk about spread and readings. There are plenty of books like that already but I believe I have found a unique way of reading the cards that allow people to understand cards regardless of which deck they may happen to use. This method has worked very well for my Tarot classes and many students who have never used Tarot cards were able to successfully read a complex spread after only a week of training. Of course, all readers improve through years of practice and experience but a solid early foundation in reading Tarot cards can help people feel confident and interested in the cards. I will introduce that system here for those who may be new to the Tarot. Experienced readers should feel free to continue whatever system works best for them.

This book will go well beyond the basics, however. Its primary purpose is to expand the possible uses of the Tarot beyond just doing simple readings for yourself or others. With these many new ways to use the cards, I suggest that you have several decks to use for several purposes. These decks can include: one deck for your own personal readings, a deck or two for reading for others, a meditation and ritual deck, and a deck just for fun and games.

Invariably when writing a book like this, the question about which deck to use will come up. I have used many different decks. For a long time I was attracted to Aleister Crowley's Thoth deck. The deck that seems to be the standard for most is the pack known as the Rider-Waite deck. On a personal side note, I think it is a disservice to the creative woman who contributed to the art work in this deck to call it only the Rider-Waite deck. A. E. Waite was the creator of the ideas for the cards but Pamela Colman Smith designed the images. Rider was the name of the company that published them. Why is Mrs. Smith's name not mentioned? I prefer to call this deck the Waite-Smith deck. Though both the Crowley deck and the Waite-Smith deck have great wisdom within them, I have chosen to use a different deck in connection with this book. The deck I have chosen is called the Quest Tarot deck created by Joseph Ernest Martin.

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Table A.1 - Minor Arcana Deck Comparison

Waite-Smith		Thoth		Quest	
Ace of Pentacles		Ace of Disks		Ace of Stones	abundance
2 of Pentacles		2 of Disks	change	2 of Stones	harmony
3 of Pentacles		3 of Disks	works	3 of Stones	work
4 of Pentacles		4 of Disks	power	4 of Stones	power of the earth
5 of Pentacles		5 of Disks	worry	5 of Stones	material difficulty
6 of Pentacles		6 of Disks	success	6 of Stones	success
7 of Pentacles		7 of Disks	failure	7 of Stones	failure
8 of Pentacles		8 of Disks	prudence	8 of Stones	knowledge
9 of Pentacles		9 of Disks	gain	9 of Stones	material gain
10 of Pentacles		10 of Disks	wealth	10 of Stones	richness
Ace of Swords		Ace of Swords		Ace of Swords	cognition
2 of Swords		2 of Swords	peace	2 of Swords	peace
3 of Swords		3 of Swords	sorrow	3 of Swords	mourning
4 of Swords		4 of Swords	truce	4 of Swords	truce
5 of Swords		5 of Swords	defeat	5 of Swords	defeat
6 of Swords		6 of Swords	science	6 of Swords	science
7 of Swords		7 of Swords	futility	7 of Swords	uselessness
8 of Swords		8 of Swords	interference	8 of Swords	interference
9 of Swords		9 of Swords	cruelty	9 of Swords	cruelty

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Waite-Smith		Thoth		Quest	
10 of Swords		10 of Swords	ruin	10 of Swords	ruin
Ace of Wands		Ace of Wands		Ace of Wands	passion
2 of Wands		2 of Wands	dominion	2 of Wands	dominion
3 of Wands		3 of Wands	virtue	3 of Wands	virtue
4 of Wands		4 of Wands	completion	4 of Wands	perfection
5 of Wands		5 of Wands	strife	5 of Wands	defeat
6 of Wands		6 of Wands	victory	6 of Wands	victory
7 of Wands		7 of Wands	valour	7 of Wands	courage
8 of Wands		8 of Wands	swiftness	8 of Wands	swiftness
9 of Wands		9 of Wands	strength	9 of Wands	power
10 of Wands		10 of Wands	oppression	10 of Wands	oppression
Ace of Cups		Ace of Cups		Ace of Cups	emotion
2 of Cups		2 of Cups	love	2 of Cups	love
3 of Cups		3 of Cups	abundance	3 of Cups	overflowing
4 of Cups		4 of Cups	luxury	4 of Cups	mixed emotions
5 of Cups		5 of Cups	disappointment	5 of Cups	disappointment
6 of Cups		6 of Cups	pleasure	6 of Cups	happiness
7 of Cups		7 of Cups	debauch	7 of Cups	illusions of success
8 of Cups		8 of Cups	indolence	8 of Cups	failure
9 of Cups		9 of Cups	happiness	9 of Cups	fortune
10 of Cups		10 of Cups	satiety	10 of Cups	success

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Table A.2 - Court Card Deck Comparison

Waite-Smith		Thoth		Quest	
King of Pentacles		King of Disks		Mother of Stones	perception
Queen of Pentacles		Queen of Disks		Father of Stones	guardian
Knight of Pentacles		Knight of Disks		Daughter of Stones	possibilities
Page of Pentacles		Page of Disks		Son of Stones	advocate
King of Swords		King of Swords		Mother of Swords	mystery
Queen of Swords		Queen of Swords		Father of Swords	leadership
Knight of Swords		Knight of Swords		Daughter of Swords	confidence
Page of Swords		Page of Swords		Son of Swords	fairness
King of Wands		King of Wands		Mother of Wands	creator
Queen of Wands		Queen of Wands		Father of Wands	intelligence
Knight of Wands		Knight of Wands		Daughter of Wands	luxury
Page of Wands		Page of Wands		Son of Wands	charisma
King of Cups		King of Cups		Mother of Cups	motherhood
Queen of Cups		Queen of Cups		Father of Cups	fatherhood
Knight of Cups		Knight of Cups		Daughter of Cups	connection
Page of Cups		Page of Cups		Son of Cups	seeker

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Table A. 3 - Major Arcana Deck Comparison

Waite-Smith		Thoth		Quest	
0 The Fool		0 The Fool		0 The Fool	beginnings
I The Magician		I The Magus		I The Magician	transmutation
II The High Priestess		II The Priestess		II The High Priestess	meditation
III The Empress		III The Empress		III The Empress	femininity
IV The Emperor		IV The Emperor		IV The Emperor	establishment
V Hierophant		V The Hierophant		V Hierophant	tradition
VI The Lovers		VI The Lovers		VI The Lovers	relationship
VII The Chariot		VII The Chariot		VII Chariot	willpower
VIII Strength		VIII Adjustment		VIII Strength	confidence
IX The Hermit		IX The Hermit		IX The Hermit	reflection
X Wheel of Fortune		X Fortune		X The Wheel of Fortune	chance
XI Justice		XI Lust		XI Justice	balance
XII The Hanged Man		XII The Hanged Man		XII The Hanged Man	uniqueness
XIII Death		XIII Death		XIII Death	endings
XIV Temperance		XIV Art		XIV Alchemy	restraint
XV The		XV The		XV The	temptation

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Waite-Smith		Thoth		Quest	
Devil		Devil		Devil	
XVI The Tower		XVI The Tower		XVI The Tower	demolition
XVII The Star		XVII The Star		XVII The Star	hope
XVIII The Moon		XVIII The Moon		XVIII The Moon	dreams
XIX The Sun		XIX The Sun		XIX The Sun	life
XX Judgement		XX The Aeon		XX Aeon	rebirth
XXI The World		XXI The Universe		XXI The Universe	oneness
				0 The Multiverse	unbound
				blank card	

I have decided to use the Quest deck because of its amazing versatility. Not only does it have the standard cards used in almost all Tarot systems, it also has a wealth of additional information on each card. Embedded within the deck are features that allow you to answer yes/no questions, pursue questions about time, and identify physical characteristics about people. Its cards contain symbols of the I-Ching, the Elder Futhark Runes, Hebrew letters, astrological symbols, and letters of the alphabet. I also like the addition of the Multiverse and blank cards. The Multiverse card is really another 0 card like the Fool card symbolizing the the complete cycle made after the Fool has returned past the World or Universe card. Some decks have a blank or void card. In the book accompanying the Quest deck, Martin suggests using the blank card to create a personal card for your deck. I prefer to leave the card blank to represent the void - the mysterious everything/nothingness that precedes existence. It is not my aim to describe to you how to use any of these systems or special cards nor it is necessary for you to own this particular deck to do any of the

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exercises in this book. We will be doing activities that can be adapted for use with any standard Tarot deck.

I have divided the book into nine chapters each of which represents the seven planets and the realm of the stars as well as the introductory chapter on how to read the cards. Each subsequent chapter will focus on some of the particular influences of each planet and will offer interesting techniques for exploring those influences through the use of the Tarot cards. Each chapter except Chapter One (How To Read the Cards) and Chapter Eight (The Realm of the Stars) has ten exercises for each related planet. The following chart lists the seven planets and their influences used in this book.

Table A.4 – The Seven Planets

Planet	Influences
Sun	Self-expression, Health, Improving the self
Moon	Dreams, Dreamwork, Magick
Mercury	The Mind, Communication, Counseling, Meditation
Venus	Love, Relationships, Harmony, The Arts
Mars	Energy, Games, Fun, Sex
Jupiter	Expansion, Philosophy, Divination
Saturn	Limitation, Perseverance, Health, Time
Stars	New Possibilities

What I am calling the seven planets are, of course, those objects that were once thought of as the heavenly bodies that circled Earth. Ancient philosophy once believed that when we were about to be born on Earth, our souls traveled from the realm of the stars through seven spheres of influence each dominated by a planet until that soul reached Earth and was born. As the soul passed through each sphere, it was influenced by the characteristics of the planet that ruled that sphere. The strength and type of influence was determined by the position of the planet within its sphere as the soul passed through it. The purpose of an astrological natal (birth) chart is to determine exactly how each planet influenced us as our souls made their way to Earth just before we were born. The Tarot, too, has its

own universe. Each card is only a card until you influence it with your thoughts and energy. We determine what each card represents and, thus, give birth to its own unique characteristics. Any card can represent whatever you wish it to be. Once you begin working with a card and establishing its meaning, it will begin to take on those characteristics in your readings of that card. The mystery of the cards is that they signify nothing until you give them meaning – until you give them life. We will use the significance of the planets and several different activities to give the cards new uses and meanings.

In this text you will find new and interesting card spreads; games exclusively for the Tarot; ways to explore who you are; ideas for ritual and magick; ideas for meditation; suggestions on how to explore relationships; ways to be creative with the cards; ideas for how to use the cards to have better sex; suggestions on how to explore your own spiritual growth, health, and well being; and a whole host of other interesting ways to use the cards. In each chapter, we will explore at least two characteristics of each planet and how those characteristic can be explored through the cards with several different activities. These activities will come in four different varieties: spreads, discoveries, correspondences, and games. Many of you will already be familiar with card *spreads*. They are patterns of cards lain out on a table. Each of the cards in the various positions of the spread represent something in relation to the other cards. Together, the entire spread is used to derive a total reading of the cards. In a *discovery*, you will be using the cards as a guide to discover something about yourself or the world. A *correspondence* allows you to assign specific meanings or choices to the cards so that the cards can be used to choose an answer for you from several possibilities. Most often the Major Arcana cards are used in correspondences. A *game* is an activity that involves using the cards for play – usually with others.

Each activity contains detailed instructions. In many cases, the activities, especially spreads, will also contain a sample reading to give you an idea on how the activity actually works. All the sample readings in this book were done as instructed in the activity giving me quite a few new insights along the way. Many of the instructions use the words “choose” and “pull” when describing how to pick cards. Each of these words has a different meaning in this book. When the word “pull” is used, it means to take a card from the deck in whatever

random manner you have chosen to use. This means that you can pick the top card in the deck after shuffling or you can use another method for selecting cards. One method I often use is to place my sending hand (the power hand) on the deck and concentrate on sending energy into the deck while also focusing on my question or objective. Then I spread the cards out in on the table in a long row. With my receiving hand (the other hand) I feel the energy of the cards by slowly moving my hand above the cards until I feel one call to me. I then pull that card from the rest. To “choose” a card means to turn the cards face up and look through them until you find one that has the qualities you seek. An example of a card that may need to be chosen is the significator. This is a card which can be used to represent a person. In some cases, readers prefer to put a card in the center of their reading which closely represents the querent (the person seeking answers from the Tarot). Instead of pulling this card randomly, it is often necessary to search the cards to find the perfect representation.

How To Use This Book

There are several ways to use this book. The standard way, of course, is to read it from cover to cover and do all the exercises in the order they appear. This is a very fine way to read any book and you would get the full breadth of all the different uses of the Tarot demonstrated within, but there are other ways to use this book as well. A second way would to focus on a particular issue or concern that you may have in this time of your life. For example, if you are seeking to find a new relationship or you need to work on a current relationship, you may want to begin with the chapter entitled Venus and Love. If you are seeking ways of improving yourself, you may want to begin with the chapter entitled the Sun and Self. Yet another way to use this book would be to go to the chapter of a particular planet during the time when the moon enters the sign under the influence of that planet. For example, when the moon is full and rises in the house of Capricorn, you may want to go to the chapter on Saturn since Saturn rules the sign of Capricorn and then select an exercise from that chapter. In this way, you could make one of these Tarot activities part of each of your full moon rituals. Below are listed all the planets and their houses of influence. Since I am using only the original seven

planets, I am not including Neptune, Uranus, or Pluto

Table A.5 Planets and Activities

Sign	Planet	Activity
Aries	Mars	an exercise from chapter five
Taurus	Venus	an exercise from chapter four
Gemini	Mercury	an exercise from chapter three
Cancer	Moon	an exercise from chapter two
Leo	Sun	an exercise from chapter one
Virgo	Mercury	an exercise from chapter three
Libra	Venus	an exercise from chapter four
Scorpio	Mars	an exercise from chapter five
Sagittarius	Jupiter	an exercise from chapter six
Capricorn	Saturn	an exercise from chapter seven
Aquarius	Saturn	an exercise from chapter seven
Pisces	Jupiter	an exercise from chapter six

Yet another way would be to use the entire Tarot deck to choose a specific exercise from the book. There are seven chapters with 10 activities and one chapter with eight activities totaling 78 activities. By choosing one Tarot card and referring to the numbered chart below, the cards can be used to randomly choose an exercise. After pulling a card, refer to the chart below to view the related activity number. A complete list of activities is listed in the appendix of this book.

Table A.6 Card Numbers

Number	Card	Number	Card
1	Ace of Stones	41	Mother of Stones
2	2 of Stones	42	Father of Stones
3	3 of Stones	43	Daughter of Stones
4	4 of Stones	44	Son of Stones

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Number	Card	Number	Card
5	5 of Stones	45	Mother of Swords
6	6 of Stones	46	Father of Swords
7	7 of Stones	47	Daughter of Swords
8	8 of Stones	48	Son of Swords
9	9 of Stones	49	Mother of Wands
10	10 of Stones	50	Father of Wands
11	Ace of Swords	51	Daughter of Wands
12	2 of Swords	52	Son of Wands
13	3 of Swords	53	Mother of Cups
14	4 of Swords	54	Father of Cups
15	5 of Swords	55	Daughter of Cups
16	6 of Swords	56	Son of Cups
17	7 of Swords	57	The Fool
18	8 of Swords	58	The Magician
19	9 of Swords	59	The High Priestess
20	10 of Swords	60	The Empress
21	Ace of Wands	61	The Emperor
22	2 of Wands	62	The Hierophant
23	3 of Wands	63	The Lovers
24	4 of Wands	64	The Chariot
25	5 of Wands	65	Strength
26	6 of Wands	66	The Hermit
27	7 of Wands	67	The Wheel of Fortune
28	8 of Wands	68	Justice
29	9 of Wands	69	The Hanged Man
30	10 of Wands	70	Death
31	Ace of Cups	71	Alchemy

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Number	Card	Number	Card
32	2 of Cups	72	The Devil
33	3 of Cups	73	The Tower
34	4 of Cups	74	The Star
35	5 of Cups	75	The Moon
36	6 of Cups	76	The Sun
37	7 of Cups	77	Aeon
38	8 of Cups	78	The Universe
39	9 of Cups		
40	10 of Cups		

One tried and true method for discovery with the cards is by doing card spreads. Almost all Tarot books list at least one spread. There are also several books with a wide range of interesting spreads. This book will provide you with many new and interesting spreads but each will have a specific which will go beyond the traditional process of trying to read “the future.” It should be noted that all exercises in this book are designed for exploration. Feel free to change and use them for yourself to make each work best for you. I recommend that you try the spread as it is explained and then experiment with alterations. Some ways to explore alternatives are to: change the function of certain positions or add more positions, use different decks with the same spreads, use doublings or reversals, or add other tools to the reading. A doubling is done when you place additional cards one top of a card already placed in a spread. Doubling allows you to obtain additional information about a particular position or card. Usually, not all cards within a spread are doubled (unless, of course, the spread calls for that). Doubling is mostly used when a particular card seems confusing or inadequate to answer the question and the reader feels that an additional card is needed to amplify or clarify the information given by the original card. Other tools can be used in conjunction with the cards. One of my first Tarot teachers used rune stones that he placed on each card to amplify its meaning. If a certain position or definition of a position within a spread does not speak to you then change it to suit your needs. Whatever method or

procedures you choose should work well within the whole spread and help to illuminate the chosen goal or theme for the reading. Additional positions can be included with any spread but, again, should be done in order to amplify or clarify the overall reading.

Readings can also be altered by the use of different Tarot decks; there are so many varied and interesting decks out there. Each one is sure to give one spread different meanings and nuances to a reading. If you have several decks, try using each in the same spread and compare the readings. There is always a controversy about reading reversed (upside-down) cards. You should decide for yourself whether or not you wish to use reversals and the meanings they may provide to your readings.

No matter which way you choose to use this book, I hope you will feel free to explore the universe of possibilities with your cards and that you will have fun in the process - which brings me to another point. This book is about having fun. There are already plenty of serious books about Tarot out there. Tarot can be a very serious study, indeed, but it does not have to only be about quietly unlocking the mysteries of the universe in some darkly lit study. One of the mysteries of the universe is to learn how to go through life with joy. Some of the exercises in this book will be about self discovery and learning but there also exercises which are designed just for having fun. By all means, I hope this book will help you take yourself and others seriously - but not too seriously! Enjoy your journey with the cards into the universe of new possibilities!

A Brief Explanation of the Chapters

In Chapter One: *The Sun and the Self*, you will explore who you are and how you can better become who you are. This is the stuff of traditional Tarot readings but I have added some new and interesting ideas such as discovering your Tarot personality and then using that information to learn how you can better deal with others in your life. With Chapter Two: *The Moon and Magick*, we take a look at how you

can perform magick and do other methods of deep work with Tarot. The symbolism in the cards is an excellent tool for use with visualization and representations. This chapter also helps you learn to better interpret your dreams and offers you some unique methods for practicing meditation. Chapter Three: *Mercury and the Mind* deals with the two ways that information can flow - in through learning and out through communication. The exercises in learning help you to focus on what we need to know while the exercises in communication help us learn to express your thoughts and feelings to others.

Chapter Four: *Venus and Love* offers you some ways to help develop and strengthen all the many relationships you have with other people. The chapter also deals with another form of passion which is expressed through the arts. Tarot offers some very unique ways to inspire us to create and express works of art. Chapter Five: *Mars and Energy* takes into account the powerful energies represented by the planet Mars. You will observe how to use the energy of Earth. You will also learn to better use one of the strongest energies of the universe - the energy of sexuality. Finally, the chapter will offer some ways to use your own energy to have fun through games and sports. In Chapter Six: *Jupiter and Transcendence*, you will be introduced with the more mysterious energies of the universe through developing your spiritual side and your own powers of divination. In this section you learn how to combine Tarot with other methods of spiritual learning and divination. Chapter Seven: *Saturn and Limitations* uses the powers of Saturn to explore limitations. Physical limitations are often defined by health. This chapter will help you examine your physical strength and offer guidance in learning how to strengthen yourself. The chapter will also look at the physical limitations of the universe which we experience through space and time. Beyond the physical, you will also explore limitations of the mind, the heart, and the soul. Chapter Eight: *The Stars and New Possibilities* brings you beyond the ancient seven planet solar system into the mysterious sphere beyond which holds the bright jewels of the night sky we call stars. This chapter will include ways to help you learn your own cards and will teach you some new general divination spreads.

The Appendices contain a wealth of information as well. The first appendix contains 14 new and fun games for use exclusively with Tarot cards. The remaining appendices list all the different activities

Foreword

through out the book for easy reference.

