

32 Senet Oracle Practice, Part A

We are going to begin practicing how to consult the Senet Oracle. We already have introduced the 30 Trump cards and Major Court Cards that are on the Senet Oracle Board. We mentioned that each House on the Board is an archetype, so it can represent a topic in human life for exploration.

Here is a list of suggested topics. Your question does not have to fit exactly to this list. Just go with what feels most appropriate and choose one House on the Board. That will be your starting point for the Oracle.

List of Suggested Topics

Sun	Starting; Source; Creativity; Higher Self; Viewpoint
Tower	Sudden change; New Direction; Breakthrough
Emperor	Boss; Administration; General Health
Strength	Technique for Handling Something; Talent
World	Environment; Location; Now; Travel; Moving House
Star	Future; Intention; Possibilities
Chariot	Challenge; Leadership
Empress	Family; Caring; Nurturing; Motherhood
Priestess	Life Mission; Secrets; Mysteries
Temperance	Experience; Attraction; Blending; Food and Drink
Hearing	Orientation; Advice
Magician	Insight; Transformation; Observation
Vision	Perspective; Seeking Something
Fire King	Skill; Attention; Technology; Authority
Earth King	Asset Management; Preservation; Accumulation
Water King	Aspiration; Generosity; Happiness
Wind King	Intuition; Responsibility
Touch	Feeling; Social Relation; Contact
Hanged Man	Patience; Learning; Growth
Taste	Initiation; Broadening Tastes
High Priest	Education; Communication; Knowledge
Justice	Laws; Fairness; Balance; Reciprocity; Truth
Death	Results; Harvest; Letting Go; What is Next
Fool	Leisure; Fun; Play; Foolishness; Humor; Openness
Fortune	Fame and Fortune; Career; Service
Hermit	Honesty; Spiritual Development

Devil	Blockage; Resistance; Conflict; Contradiction; Fear; Doubts; Illusions; Rebellious Teenagers
Moon	Emotions; Children; Memory or lack thereof; Phases
Judgment	New Life; Thought becomes Reality; Birth; Responsibility
Lovers	Love; Romance; Intimacy; Partnership; Marriage

Once you have chosen a topic that fits your question fairly well, find that House on the Senet Oracle Board. That will be where you place your first card.

Initially we will just be using the 30 cards that are on the Senet Oracle Board, so you can separate them from the rest of the deck. You may also include the two transcendental “wild” cards. One is the cover card for the deck and has a picture of Thoth plus the publication information. It stands for the total knowledge and wisdom in the deck. The other is from a wall etching made under the direction of Tutmose IV in the temple at Luxor. It represents the Pharaoh and his queen in the role of Amen and Amenet-Mut sitting on top of heaven and supported by two angels. This card represents the idyllic realm of transcendental love when two people completely love and trust each other.

Once you have prepared the deck, shuffle it slowly while thinking deeply about your question. Then fan the cards out face down next to the Oracle Board and intuitively choose a card from the spread out deck. Turn the card over and place it over the House that you have chosen as your starting point.

The simplest reading is just a single-card draw. That one card will give you a deep insight into the nature of your question.

For example, suppose I have come to a town and want to buy an apartment that is comfortable, convenient, and quiet. From the suggestion list I select World, because that deals with a location where I live now or want to live and spend time or possibly a place I want to go visit.

To select a card the easiest way is just to shuffle the deck of 32 cards, spread it out on the table next to the Oracle Board, and select a card from the spread. The ancient Egyptians apparently did not use cards made of papyrus, perhaps because it did not wear well with use.

Perhaps they used little scarab talismans or Eye of Horus amulets that they could pull from a bag. Each would be marked with a sign for one of the Houses on the board. Another approach was to simply use the throwing sticks that they used during the game of Senet. The throwing sticks had two sides, one plain and one colored or somehow marked. Five sticks can give 32 different combinations if you toss them so that they stay in an order, more or less parallel. You simply assign each House on the Board one of the binary combinations. Whatever binary number comes up when you toss the sticks tells you which House you selected.



A Senet Board available online with 5 pawns for each player, 4 throwing sticks, and a die. Use 5 throwing sticks for 32 possible cards labeled with binary numbers. Wild Card Pure Wisdom is 00000 and Wild Card Pure Love is 11111.

The 32 Possible Binary Numbers with 5 Throwing Sticks

Sequence is from Right Side of Senet Oracle Board to Left Side

Top Row		Middle Row		Bottom Row	
00000	Pure Wisdom (wild card)	00110	Hearing Lord	01000	High Priest
00001	Sun	00111	Magician	01001	Justice
00010	Tower	01111	Vision Lord	01010	Death
00011	Emperor	01110	Fire King	01011	Fool
00100	Strength	01101	Earth King	01100	Wheel of Fortune
00101	World	10101	Water King	11010	Hermit
10000	Star	10110	Wind King	11011	Devil
10001	Chariot	10111	Touch Lord	11100	Moon
10010	Empress	11000	Hanged Man	11101	Judgment
10011	High Priestess	11001	Taste Lord	11110	Lovers
10100	Temperance			11111	Pure Love (wild card)

Put the 1st marker pawn on the World House. After you throw the sticks, you put a second marker pawn on the House with the number on the sticks. (Refer to the above chart with my assignment of binary numbers. Numbers 00000 and 11111 represent the two Wild Cards.) Regardless of how I decide on the card (using paper cards, amulets, numbered lots, or throwing sticks), the number that comes up from the

sticks or for the card matches the House of Vision (Maa is 01111 on the list above).

If I am drawing cards from the Senet Tarot deck or some form of equivalent talismans, then I put the Vision card (or the Vision talisman) on the World House. If I use the throwing sticks, I put the 2nd marker pawn on the House of Vision. In the game each opponent has a differently shaped set of pawns. You can color or otherwise mark a set of similar pawns so that you know their sequence, and then you follow the sequence as you put pawns on the board.

The first card (Vision) suggests that we open our eyes and look around for the right neighborhood and the right type of building. Go visit a few available apartments and look at what they have to offer, the room layout, view, shopping convenience, appliances, construction quality, and so on.

The next card we get has the number 00101. This is the number for the House of World (Geb), which is where we started. That means we have reached the end of the oracle. If you see an apartment that you like, and it fulfills the conditions you have in mind, then close the deal. You are finished. In our particular case it happened to be the very apartment we had temporarily rented. After looking at a number of places we decided that we were already in a place that fitted us very well, so we talked to the landlady, and she agreed to sell it to us at a reasonable price. So we closed the deal and were done.

If you use the deck of cards, you put Vision in the House of World. Then you put World in the House of Vision. The next card would be in the House of World, but you already have a card there, so your Vision is already there, and that is the end of the oracle. We could have pulled any of the other 31 cards and continued the search, but we pulled World, and the oracle said we were already in our new home. That was so easy it was a shock. This was a true oracle that happened just as described.

Usually in this kind of a consultation I limit the reading to 3 cards and that already says enough. Occasionally I add one or two more if there are still some unclear aspects to the oracle but that is not often the case.

Using throwing sticks or amulets is probably how the Egyptians did the oracle in ancient times. We simply do not know for sure. Pictures show they used the pawns as markers on the board, so I believe they mostly used the throwing sticks to decide which House the oracle indicated.

We will see that the ancient Chinese had a board game that was also a calendar and could be used as an oracle. They also used throwing sticks to determine both game moves and oracle messages. I will discuss this in a later article, because it forms an important link between the ancient Egyptian and ancient Chinese traditions. I believe the influence went from Egypt to China because of the chronology.

For our second practice oracle consultation we will take a question about a young man who has a girl friend. They have known each other and dated regularly for about a year and are already considering the possibility of marriage within the next year or two.

This time we will expand our approach and allow up to 5 cards, still using our throwing stick method (although we could also just pull cards from our deck of 32.) Our question is as follows: now that the couple is starting to consider marriage, what sort of issues should they pay special attention to? So the cards may suggest things they should focus on in their plans.

We start our consultation from the House of the Lovers, because this couple is already starting to move toward a serious romantic relationship and perhaps a life partnership in marriage with a family.

We put our 1st pawn on the House of Lovers and throw the sticks. We get 01100, which begins with 0 and is thus on the right side of the Oracle Board. We look on the list and find it is Wheel of Fortune (Shay), so we put our 2nd pawn there. This brings up a very important issue. If these two people plan to live together in a long term intimate relationship, they would do well to look at their mutual fortunes. That usually means their careers, which is how they will spend a lot of their time and will also influence their economic stability. If they have wealth or the man has a good-paying career, then the wife could choose to be a housewife and homemaker raising a family. The Wheel is on

the right side of the Oracle Board, and the career aspect of a family is traditionally led by the male member of the household.

The Wheel goes around and around, shaping their lives. If they move together on the Wheel, they can shape their lives into a unified work of art. However, if their careers (how they spend a large part of their time and energy) happen to be in different kinds of activities, they may find themselves drifting apart over time just due to lack of time living and working together. In ancient times a farmer and his wife both worked the farm, dividing some duties, and sharing others. But they ran their enterprise together, and even the children soon pitched in with the farm duties and were part of the team.

If the husband is at an office all day and the wife is at home or just socializing or mothering, their lives begin to be spent with different groups of people. They develop different values and points of view. If they both are professionals but have different careers, this issue is even more extreme. You want to live comfortably together, so it is a good idea to look at your practical daily lives to see if there are areas that will give rise to friction.

The 2nd oracle card number is 10111, which is on the left side of the Oracle Board in the more feminine side. It belongs to the House of Touch (Saa). Handling a household involves a lot of touch involving cleaning, cooking, caring for children and so on. This also refers to the physical intimacy of the relationship of a husband and wife, which should involve time for loving touches, not only in the bedroom, but at various times during the daily routine -- greeting and parting, appreciation and courtesy, even touching signals at moments during conversations.

Touching is also very important with infants and small children. They need bonding and a sense of security to know that they are loved and being cared for. So touching is a very important part of family life to ensure family comfort and cohesion.

Now we come to tossing the sticks for the 3rd card. We get 11001, which is the number for the House of Taste, Hew. We put a marker pawn there. This right away reminds us that in family life it is very important for the Lovers and their offspring to eat together. The family

should eat together before work and after work, and even between work periods, if possible. The food should be tasty and nutritious for the family members and not just a rush job with fast food or junk snacks. This is for the overall health of the family. If proper food is neglected, the health and energy of family members begins to deteriorate over time, and this can lead to all sorts of inconveniences for the whole family. The food should taste and smell good, creating an uplifting atmosphere. So if the wife does not cook or have a hired cook, this can become a problem for everyone. Food can be prepared outside and brought in, but that is an extra hassle and expense.

Above the House of Taste is the House of Temperance, which is especially concerned with food and beverages of high quality and balanced nutrition. Along with the food there may be pleasant conversation and sharing of experiences. These two houses are right over the House of Lovers, indicating they are essential for success in the romance department.

The House of Taste has a special aspect in that we only taste 5 flavors with the tongue, so we have to augment that with an olfactory nerve that picks up a huge variety of flavors in the smells of food and combines these with the 5 elementary flavors to create a panoply of culinary delights. This symbolizes how a well-tuned intimate relation can take the basic senses of life and transform them into a wealth of exquisite shared experiences. So family life can be rich with variety and not just a monotonous daily routine.

Finally it is time for the 4th oracle card. We throw out the sticks and get 10101, which is the number for the House of the King of Water, Hepy. This tells us that a successful relationship between Lovers leads to Happiness, which is the aim of life and is the enlivenment of the heart toward an unlimited future of growth and fulfillment. Water is the essence of life, and Hepy (Happy) is the King of Happiness. Without water life is suffering. Sufficient Nile water led to great happiness in the culture of Egypt and a great appreciation for family life.

The 5th throw gives us 11010, which is the number for the House of the Hermit, the Keeper of the Heart. Happiness allows the heart to grow and expand. The Egyptians included in the family not only all their children, but also their servants and other hired help. The even

included them etched into memorial tablets they erected at pilgrimage sites like Abydos and painted on the walls of their tombs. Every member of such a family was an individual with his own spiritual life. Each individual is a sort of a lonely hermit living all alone. But through gracious social interactions we can bond groups of people into happy collections of individuals who live together in comfort by helping and cooperating together to keep the social organism going in a healthy manner.

So “Happy” is not enough. We each have to go deeper into the inner spiritual life of the heart and develop the spiritual root that always connects us into a social unity in the quiet underground realm of pure awareness. The fruit of such a Tree of Family Life is an unlimited future of growth and evolution pointing toward the House of Stars on the Top Row of the Oracle Board.

The above advice from the Senet Oracle Board is not just aimed at the young man and his future wife. It applies to all who aspire to or are currently in an intimate relation of some sort. The wisdom of the Senet Oracle Board is transcendental and is applicable to anyone, so anyone who hears the oracle can learn from it and prosper. This is the pathway of archetypes. Doing a reading before a group of people allows everyone in the group to benefit from the archetypal wisdom. The key is for the reader to learn how to express these archetypes in a clear and gentle fashion. This includes the card reader himself or herself. The reader may learn as much or more from a reading than the questioner.

32 Study Questions

- * Practice doing readings with the 32-card Senet Tarot deck. Ask various questions on various topics.
- * You can practice doing readings with friends and family.
- * Keep a notebook logging the date, the question, the person(s) involved, the cards drawn (or numbers thrown), the reading, and then later record how the reading turned out. If your reading was off in some way, review the sequence of cards with an eye to discovering new insights that you missed the first time. Broaden your perspective.