

31 Oracle Setup and Checklist

We can learn to directly observe and know what to do in life without an oracle. A person who has found his Life Mission may still face some challenges, but he moves through them smoothly and enjoys the process, acts in service to society, and moves toward his goals and the expansion of his Mission. However, people who are at a crossroad in life find it useful to seek consultation, and Tarot can be useful in these matters.

Tarot reading is a game, not to be taken too seriously. You can read books on the subject, but nothing replaces practice with actual readings.

Attention to the Oracle Board and the cards that appear must be focused. It is good to have a quiet environment. Set up a table with the Oracle Board. Under it place a clean cloth of a plain color with enough extra space to allow the cards to be spread on the cloth. I like velvet of a dark blue or crimson or purple color. Some people like to burn incense, but that is not necessary. Begin with a little discussion of the querent's question so as to better understand the issue at hand. Because the Oracle Board itself is a selection of archetypal topics in human life, such a discussion can reveal the best place on the board to begin the reading. Sometimes it may be useful to give a range of starting point choices and let the querent decide intuitively what fits the question best.

It is helpful for the querent to be truly concerned about his question and not just ask a frivolous question. The board may give a frivolous or humorous answer to a frivolous question. The Tarot tends to reflect the attitudes and sincerity of a querent. At times the cards will approach an issue from an entirely different view point than what the querent expects. This often reveals subconscious agendas that the querent has not expressed verbally in the initial discussion but that may be key aspects of resolving the issue.

The most common type of question has to do with personal relations. Sometimes these are romantic relations or questions that arise in a marriage. But there are also questions about family or friendly relations or even business partnerships. The key in all these questions is that there is an emotional involvement that has led to conflict or misunderstanding. The relationship is somehow out of tune. People want to love others and they very much want to be loved and appreciated. Life becomes difficult when people are confused about matters of the heart in relationships. They may feel rejection or lack of understanding. Relationships are about communication, so sometimes it is a good idea to ask the High Priest rather than the Lovers. Many solutions lie in a willingness to communicate with sincerity and openness.

The second most common type of question is about career. This may be about work conditions, type of work, intent to change a line of work, financial difficulties, and any problems in managing a person's way of earning a living and advancing a career.

The third most common question deals with issues around health. Nowadays reasonably good health is quite common, but there are chronic ailments and suddenly appearing illnesses plus various kinds of accidents and injuries that may come up.

The truth is that a person may ask the Tarot any question on any subject. People usually just have their attention stuck on their personal issues in the three above categories. One may ask philosophical questions, scientific questions, probe history and politics, reach into the past even for past life experiences, or into future lives and the future evolution of communities, societies, and civilizations. There is no limit to where your curiosity may probe with the Tarot technology. As your intuitive skills increase, you will become more creative in your questioning as well as your ability to interpret.

When a person faces a problem he tends to look around for someone or something to blame as the cause of the problem. He very seldom wants to consider the possibility that he may have set up the situation that puts him in the problem. So the secret of Tarot readings is that it is a management

course on how to make decisions and take full responsibility rather than trying to find someone else to blame. This is a challenge in today's world where the popular hobby, especially in the media, wants to explain how bad or wrong somebody else is, all the while presenting a facade of moral uprightness. Criticism is fine, but belongs on the issue rather than on the person. A leader who is an effective executive focuses on the issues, makes appropriate decisions about how to deal with them, and then takes executive action to resolve the situation.

On the other hand, as a reader of cards one must have an attitude of love and appreciation for the querent and his or her situation. Speak with compassion and caring, but always leave the decision of how to deal with an issue up to the querent. The Oracle Board and its cards will not take responsibility for the decision, nor should you as a reader unless you are reading cards for your own question. The person facing any issue will have to live through the experience it entails. Life experience is the path to wisdom. Avoidance of experience is a resistance that tends to prolong or even exacerbate the problem. In Tarot there is no good or bad news; there are only suggestions to consider that can throw light on a situation.

Here is a checklist of items that I suggest when doing a Tarot reading.

How to Do Readings

There are many ways to do readings, and there is no standard method. But, if you want some advice, here are a few general suggestions.

- * Read this set of articles, get a Senet deck and Oracle Board and play around with them.
- * Open and expand your intuition and be observant.
- * Live in the world of Love, Peace, Happiness, Awareness, Compassion, Harmony, Cooperation, and Service.
- * Meditate regularly.
- * Study the science of deliberate breathing.
- * As much as possible clear up your own issues in life so that they do not impinge on your awareness and influence your readings for other people.
- * Have fun. Don't be too serious about readings. Lighten up. Remember that Thoth, the great master of science, inventor of technology, and Grand Wizard of Alchemy, also loves to monkey around. He can be dignified, but he also has a wonderful sense of humor.
- * On the other hand, you are responsible for what you tell people, so try not to make statements you may regret. For example, be tactful when discussing issues in regard to which people are blocked up with doubts, fears, and conflicting or negative emotions. People tend to consult the Tarot when they are confused about how to deal with an issue. The purpose of reading the Tarot is to gain the insight and the encouragement that a person can and will move beyond problems, not to give people more depressing news.
- * We do not tell people what to do or get involved with solving their difficulties, but we can help them get to the core of an issue and open a space in which they can discover how to solve their own problems.
- * You can use the layouts in this series of articles, other books, or make up your own.
- * When you do readings use the **Senet** Tarot deck or use a deck that feels right for the occasion and right for you. Sometimes I let the questioner choose a deck and a layout. Sometimes I make that choice myself. The **Senet** Tarot deck is the earliest Tarot system that we can document in human history. However, any

traditional Tarot deck will usually work well. There are many non-Tarot decks that also give insightful readings.

- * Once your intuition is developed, you do not even need a deck of cards or any other tool to do “readings”. You simply observe the situation and you can interpret an appropriate response. When you operate as a Source Being, you can deliberately create an enlightened path for any situation. You may also be able to facilitate others to become Source Beings.
- * Be in the moment as you make readings.
- * Do not merely go by the book. Be flexible in your readings and responses. The facts of the situation and your informed, intuitive insight into the situation override anything in this book or other books about Tarot.
- * Have a reasonably stable and quiet environment and if possible spread a clean cloth as a space on which to lay the cards. I prefer velvet in a plain color of dark blue, crimson, or purple. The cloth helps to keep the cards clean, easy to handle, and easy to observe. Some people like to light incense or add some other ritual to generate atmosphere, but that is more a matter of personal taste rather than a necessity. Tarot reading is not about mood-making. It is about getting some clear insights into how to deal with a situation.
- * Before you begin the reading have the questioner tell you about the question. Blind divination can also work, but runs the risk of the questioner misinterpreting what you are saying. Sometimes you will have to probe a bit. For example, if the questioner says he has a problem with his business. That is a broad area, and you may want to probe for a more precise starting point. Is it about money (income, cash flow financial management, etc.), or about the job, the work environment, employees, suppliers, or customers? The cards will tell a lot, but the questioner can tell you a lot if you ask the right questions and get the question as specific as possible.
- * I shuffle the cards slowly not using fast riffing that snaps and bends cards, and also invite the questioner to shuffle or at least cut the cards. Tarot cards are generally larger than poker cards, because poker cards are mostly number cards made to be held in the hands. Tarot cards are to be spread on a table and are very pictorial.
- * I have the questioner spread out the cards face down on the table. Some prefer to use the left hand (more intuitive) to spread cards and select cards, but either hand will do. Slide the cards horizontally from the pack or gently pat the cards loose from the pack to form a line or fan shape. This generates a quantum wave function. When the questioner picks a card and turns it over, that collapses the wave function relative to the viewpoint of the question into a specific result. Yes, Tarot readings are adventures in quantum mechanics, and your lab tools are very inexpensive and easy to operate.
- * If you are using a specific layout, you may want to first place the selected cards face down into the layout and then when the layout is complete, turn the cards over one by one and discuss the interpretation that unfolds. Another approach is to lay each card out face up once it is selected by the questioner (or by you if you prefer to handle the cards).

- * As you read the cards, discuss them with the questioner and ask more questions. Let the questioner's intuition work with you to find the proper interpretation of the cards.
- * Sometimes the questioner thinks the problem is in one area, but the cards will say it is really about something else. Everything is connected. For example, a person may consult about a problem with his girlfriend, as if it is a matter of the heart. The cards may answer that the crux of the matter has more to do with money than with romance. The cards have been randomly shuffled, so they respond to a question with complete objectivity. The cards are not concerned with questions. They just exist. The questioner selects the question from a subjective viewpoint and then selects a card while intuitively reaching into the unknown from the subjective viewpoint of the problem.
- * From the viewpoint of the Tarot there are no problems. All possibilities coexist with full acceptance. This is the holistic viewpoint of wisdom. That is why the cards are never wrong. If the reader attunes to that holistic wisdom, the reading will reflect that holistic wisdom and naturally guide the questioner toward the resolution of the question.
- * Look at the selected cards for Trumps, Court Cards, Aces, and cards that specifically speak to the issue. They often act as themes or keys. For example, if the question is about how to make a business decision and a card labeled decision appears, that suggests the questioner must look into how he or she makes decisions in general and understand the process better. See how that fits into the context of the other cards in the layout.
- * Feel the energy of the layout as a whole as well as the energy of individual cards.
- * Feel the energy of the particular deck you are using and the artist's designs, use of symbols and colors, etc., especially if they chose the deck you are using. Be aware of how all that relates to your questioner's energy (body language, emotional responses, spontaneous comments, etc.), and the question.
- * Pay attention to special patterns of Suits or Card designs that appear. They often connect components of a layout in interesting ways. On the Senet Oracle Board the "Houses" surrounding where a card is placed will tell you many details about the situation. The House on which a card is placed is of course important.
- * You may want to record on tape or in a notebook the results of readings. This is a reference to compare against how things actually turn out. It also is a log of your experiences. But do not get stuck on certain layouts or approaches to interpretation.
- * Experiment. Try out different layouts and approaches from time to time, especially if they feel right for a particular occasion. Be imaginative and explore.
- * People tend to ask about romance (personal relationships they care about), career (money, job, etc.), and health most often – in that order of priority. The cards have no such limitation on viewpoint. Ask the cards any question you like on any topic. You can explore travel, study, science, religion, philosophy, social and political issues, historical questions concerning past and future events, development, evolution, spiritual development, and so on. If you can imagine it, the Tarot can handle it.

- * However, be sure to ground your readings in the objective facts as much as possible. In other words, if you find that your reading misses the mark and does not fit the reality of experience, then you need to widen your viewpoint and see where you misinterpreted the cards or even misunderstood the questioner's situation. The cards can not be at fault, because they are simply phenomena and all contain wisdom. The card that turns up is the card that turns up. Every phenomenon is linked to every other phenomenon in the holistic universe, so the problem with a "wrong" reading is that you were not observant enough and missed the insight to which the card drew attention.
- * Sometimes, if the questioner is not asking a question he or she sincerely cares about, the Tarot may respond with a joke or a puzzling apparently inappropriate response. It echoes the inappropriateness of the questioner's attitude. The more deeply and sincerely a person is concerned about or interested in the question, the more profound the cards will be in their response.
- * Develop your own style of reading that feels right for you.
- * Practice regularly and keep a journal of your readings until you have full confidence in your skill to interpret the cards. You will sometimes discover that insights about a reading continue to come to you after a questioner has left, and even days after a particularly interesting reading. If a new insight is of major significance to the questioner, you may even contact them and tell them about it.
- * Charging for readings is a personal matter. Some readers charge and others do readings as a gift or a service. On the other hand, many people do not take a reading seriously unless they have made a commitment in some form, and that may lead to readings being useful for you but not so useful for the intended questioner. In general, I recommend that you start out doing readings for yourself, your family, and friends as a hobby for fun, exploration, and as a gift of sharing. Once you have mastered the cards and are confident in your ability to read cards, then you may charge whatever seems appropriate, for you are rendering a valuable service to the questioner.
- * When you do a reading you must let the questioner know that you are not guaranteeing to solve any problem. The questioner must be responsible to solve his or her own problems. You are not acting in the role of a health professional or a lawyer, but simply discussing a matter with the questioner as a friend to explore ways of understanding the situation and possibly attaining some insight.
- * Ultimately you are acting as a friendly facilitator on the path to enlightenment, and all readings are in the spirit of everyone learning and evolving. The reader gains as much or more than the questioner in a reading because each questioner reveals to the reader some aspects of the reader that are worthy of further exploration. Thus the reader learns from each reading.
- * Some people like to read special meanings into inverted cards. This is only a recent innovation, probably no more than a century or so old. If you want to read inverted cards you must remember to shuffle the cards by stirring them on the table face down the way the Chinese stir Mahjong tiles. This gives paper cards a bit of extra wear and tear, but can be done. Inverted readings may lead to readings with a more negative slant, which is one reason I do not strongly favor them. Our purpose is to solve problems, uplift, and encourage the questioner.

Inverted cards can reverse the meaning, reduce the intensity of the card's quality, and generally do not enhance the reading. If you do not use inverted readings, be sure to keep track of which way the cards are oriented when you handle them. If inverted cards appear by accident, I usually just turn them around. I favor orienting the layout so the questioner sees the cards upside right. The card reader can learn to read from any angle.