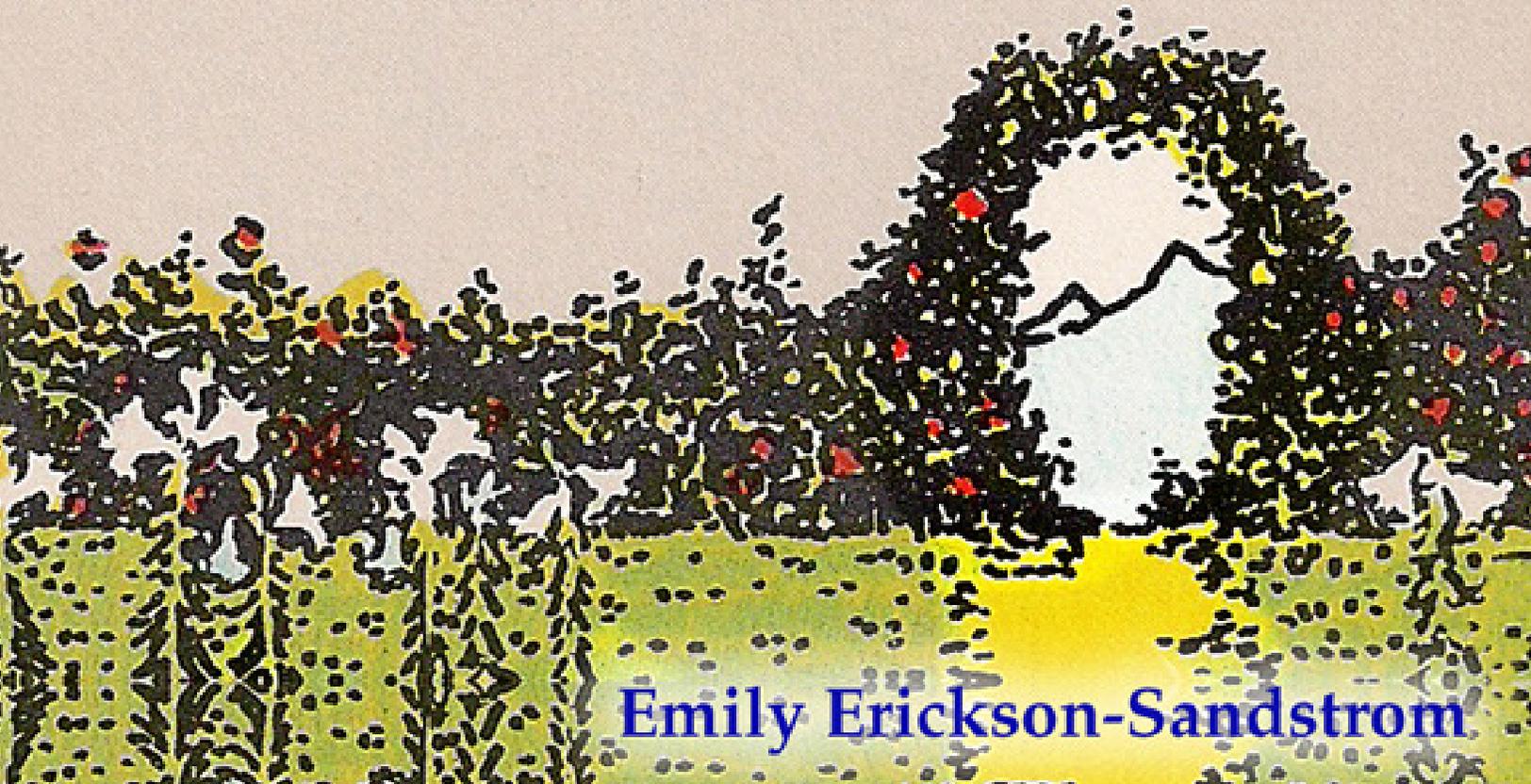


TarotVerbatim.com



WHAT CAN
TAROT
GIVE ME
& How Do I Get It?



Emily Erickson-Sandstrom

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What Are Tarot Cards?

Chapter One

Once upon a time I did not know what Tarot cards were. A science experiment about consistent violators of The Laws of Random Distribution, back when I had my court reporting office, caused me to haunt toy stores looking for Tarot cards (one of those consistent violators) until someone mercifully told me to go to an occult shop. I didn't know what that was either. When I got there, I was shocked to find there were many different decks from which to choose. I chose the ones on the big table, the ones there were the most of. I chose right.

There are hundreds of Tarot decks - all kinds. Just go over to U. S. Games on your computer and see. Ancient ones and modern, serious ones and goofy ones and irrelevant ones. Pretty artsy ones. Evil looking ones. Lots of out-of-print ones too. I can remember an elaborate one based on the life of Jesus, and a modern American Indian one that really connected with daily life situations. And some round ones called the Mother Peace deck, if I recall.

Tarot cards are cards with text and/or illustrations printed on them that are intended to prompt a person's imagination to insights. You can make your own deck. I have made several. To succeed, their illustrations and/or text must be based on things people in your culture are familiar with and relate to. If you create a deck just for yourself, though, it can be about your own personal associations. Some people cut pictures out of magazines for that project.

The decks that are most useful are ones that are based on situations you are familiar with in your native culture. *A deck that accesses group consciousness is of use for the purpose of insight and predictions based on that insight.*

The most useful, most popular Tarot deck is Rider Waite, illustrated by a Jamaican lady named Pamela Coleman Smith. Arthur Waite added various occult symbols to its illustrations, but it is the scenes drawn by Pamela Coleman Smith, whose art profession was creating theater stage sets, that resonate with most people and make Rider Waite a live thing. Those cards are large, but there is a deck that is about the size of a credit card, the English deck, that is more comfortable physically to use. Same illustrations. It's over at U. S. Games.

Other popular decks are the Marseilles, the Oracle Dessuart - both out of France - and the Gypsy Witch Deck which has the meanings printed on them. Don't laugh - I know a professional psychic who uses them. The Oracle deck is a modern one. Its scenes interconnect with one another by virtue of each scene being surrounded by desert. It has a card about documents - very useful. The Marseilles is popular, I read, with Latin peoples. I also read that the Devil card in that deck is more like Loki, the Norse god of mischief - more a prankster than the full-fledged dedicated troublemaker pictured on the Rider Waite which is of Western and Christian culture.

Physical cards are not necessary to the process. Tarot, too, has moved to cyberspace. You can go to, say, tarot.com and get a machine to read your cards. The mechanized rendition of Tarot necessarily has to rely on language in its programming. A lady asked such a Tarot machine 'My husband is endeavoring to kill me. What shall I do?' Her answer was 'Help your husband in his endeavor.' You can see the programming logic there, see it fail hilariously. This same lady asked that machine a cryptic esoteric question and received, mysteriously, a brilliant response.

What Exactly is a Tarot Reading?

Chapter Two

Getting information out of your Tarot deck is called reading that deck. You choose some of the cards, usually in a configuration such as the famous Celtic Cross, or just three across, or three across with one on top - these are the most frequent configurations. Or some people get up in the morning and choose one card to represent the day. You look at the cards you have chosen until you get an idea, a meaning that applies to what you were thinking of when you put those cards down, or that applies to your life in any way. Voila! - you have done a reading. Your mind, forced to make an association between disparate entries - the question and the visible item(s) - creates. On a good day, it creates useful information.

The idea in your spread will address what you were *actually* thinking, not what you *thought* you were thinking. When I was teaching myself Rider Waite Tarot, I asked questions I knew the answer to in order to have only one 'unknown' in my equation, to find the meanings the deck had for itself. The questions were boring. I got up one very hot Florida morning, dressed too warmly for that, and stood outside hoping my Venus Fly Trap plant had caught a bug. It had not. I was disappointed. Then the heat got to me. I went in to the desk and asked the boring question. The answer was "Your death wish is granted." And, sure enough, the plant had caught a fly.

But what most people are thinking of when they think of 'a Tarot reading' is having another person read the deck to answer questions they ask that

person. There's a whole industry based on this, of course, and all kinds of ways it is done. But the way it starts is usually someone acquires a deck and a book that purports to explain the deck, and gets tired of just asking their own questions ... maybe runs out of questions after a while ... and invites a person he or she knows to join in. It is like getting tired of solitaire and wanting to play real card games.

There is a difference between 'a Tarot reading' and having a psychic reading. Only some psychics use Tarot. As a matter of fact, psychics as a group look down upon Tarot readers as wannabes, amateurs who need 'tools.' The psychics who do use Tarot very seldom actually read Tarot per se: They are bouncing off maybe the colors they see, or a particular scene on one of the cards - anything to get them started with the impressions they usually attribute to 'spirit guides.' They see things (clairvoyant) and hear things (clairaudient) and feel sensations (clairsentient) upon which they base their readings. Almost all psychics fit into one or more of these three categories.

The strength of this spontaneous kind of psychic reading, with or without Tarot, is that, *without a question*, it brings up useful information and predictions. You just present yourself and listen. Its weakness is that *it is what it is*: Sometimes if you want specific information or details about what was said, that information is not available. And if there's a factual deviation in the reading, you can't argue or correct it. It is a one-way conversation with those spirit guides! So this experience can be tantalizing ... kind of like the cryptic quatrains of Nostradamus. But of course it isn't always scanty in detail even as it is broad in scope: When I was in third grade, a gypsy mother of a classmate told me my life story up to age 50

and beyond, clearly and accurately. Forty years. And it wasn't your average story, either; it was very unlikely.

On the other hand, a friend asked her psychic where the letter was that she wrote to her love interest. She was very annoyed when the psychic said it was in an airplane not visible, hidden somewhere. My friend wrote the letter in her house, and it disappeared from there. Later, she told me she found the letter, that psychic was all wrong. "Where did you find it?" I asked. "When I cleaned the house, I moved the desk I wrote the letter on, and it was wedged in the wooden pieces in the back."

I explained to her what happened. Instead of delivering the raw material to the client, psychics package it to make sense of it. They receive the impressions and then they interpret the impressions. So there are actually these two phases to your reading when someone else is doing it. It is this interpretation phase that sometimes snags the reading. Seeing the letter suspended in the air ... "I can't say *that!*" And up comes the airplane idea which was the psychic's *explanation* of the picture the psychic received. Making sense of things is often dangerous. What if the psychic had said the letter was suspended in the air? Remember, spirit guides don't usually answer details or explain things.

This interpretation phase of the information is the psychic's bane. A smart psychic will try to deliver the material as raw as the client can apprehend. The most accurate psychic reading is one in which the reader is not afraid to be ridiculous. Some of the dumbest things I ever told clients turned out to be brilliant in retrospect. Some of the things I refused to say because they were too stupid turned out to have been so true! Missed that boat!

But a *Tarot reading* can be just that. Tarot - at least Rider Waite Tarot - is standalone if you let it be. Those scenes illustrated by Pamela Coleman Smith give rise to *phrases which make sentences* using material from the Question.

This is a logic- and language- based system that answers questions literally and in even exhaustive detail. It can do criminal investigations that way. No spirit guide need apply. And you can learn and use this system *really* well, depending on how much time and effort you put into the training, *without using any psychic ability whatsoever*. Yes, we all have some psychic ability available to us, most of us anyway. This system is demonstrated every day at <http://TarotVerbatim.com>.

Deep inquiry, detailed investigation, exact analysis: Those are some of the strengths of the Tarot verbatim system. Its weakness is that *it is what it is*: "What's up?" is not a question. You need a question here! "What will come of this particular action?" is. Time and parties have to be stated in the Question because there's no names and dates printed on those cards. And a question has to be phrased just right to get the information you actually want, because the system is Tarot *verbatim*. That is its beauty and that is its limitation.

The ideal inquiry is to combine these two. Let each professional remain expert in his field ... That is always a good plan! ... and consult one spontaneous psychic reader and one verbatim Tarot reader with your concerns. If each of these professionals agrees, the information you have received is almost certainly correct because your information has come from *these two very separate disciplines!*

If you are a spontaneous psychic, learning Tarot verbatim would be very useful, especially for when your spirit guide's phone lines are busy. You could also receive your usual impressions and then go into Tarot verbatim for details and followup questions. It is two different frames of mind, and a period of adjustment might be awkward for you. Eventually the two systems might combine for you.

Remember, however a psychic or card reader gets his or her information, he or she is *consulting* the muse or oracle (or whatever you want to think of that state of mind as); he or she is not the oracle. If you meet with someone who declares something like "What I say is true, don't argue with it," just leave; this person has gone astray.

How Does a Tarot Reading Work? -

The Nuts-and-Bolts Philosophy Behind Your Answers

Chapter Three

Taking the Known and extending it unto the Unknown to get an answer is the process - like Algebra.

Sometimes they say you don't want to know how a sausage is made. Sometimes you feel these people who demonstrate how magic tricks artfully make you see something that isn't there simply ruin your faith in fun magic. So my explanations of the nuts-and-bolts process of Tarot readings may be like that for you.

Well, first off, *there isn't really such a thing as 'a Tarot reading' generically.* There are several types and kinds ... and there are at least as many ways of reading Tarot as there are people who do it. So explaining how it is done sometimes has to honor these distinctions. So we will be in Principle Land rather than in Practice Land for most of our discussion here. But we will be ever so pragmatic and practical in our approach: No dogmas allowed.

Experiments in the lab have taken people off the street, hypnotized them, and asked them to read the headlines in the newspapers on some near date in the future. Many of them did exactly that. (These experiments were reported, many of them, in Psychology Today in the Seventies, when people commonly did read print newspapers.)

So there are talents within the normal person that are considered supernormal by the normal person. (Things like hunches and the eureka experience and the deja vu experience.) That's a fact. When you turn your imagination loose, and put faith behind what you are imagining - especially if you are a little kid - you create! The Law of Attraction concept is an example of this process of turning imagination loose. So are unexplained spontaneous acts that are impossible, which people have done in dire emergencies. So is telepathy, which happens spontaneously to all of us sometime or another. So is the experience of hearing someone say something and a bolt of realization slams into your skull that that will really happen. And it does. I call that activation experiences, as if you somehow anchored the idea to physical reality and were the bridge or conduit over which it happens.

Daydreams are another example of the imagination-as-creation process. If you have a reverie you often find yourself in, it is likely to become real, even if it is a fearful reverie. "Be careful what you wish for," we say.

Daydreaming is a form of meditation often overlooked. I highly recommend pleasant daydreaming. If your daydream moves into your sleep dreams, you are likely to be concreting your concept into daytime reality. It's a process of, yes, attraction. With practice, you can exert control in your dreams and order 'Re-shoot the picture.' if you don't approve of it. When you can create that, you are more in control of the events of your life.

The scaremongering media recklessly and gleefully throws out horrible examples of things to come, and government propaganda confidently says we will all be richer next quarter, not to worry: These too are examples of pictures in the mind that may trigger or create the described events. These too are examples of imagination-as-creation. (Shutting off the tv is the beginning of tuning in instead to your self under there somewhere and its connections.)

Back to our analysis of How Tarot Readings Work. *Taking what is known and extending it into the unknown to get an answer is the process.* Several professions do this: police investigations, intelligence operations, medical practice (especially emergency medicine), design engineers who are working on experimental aircraft or whatever, and fiction writers are a few examples. There is a frame of mind to this. There is probably a location in the brain to this process. Artists refer to it as The Muse, but the Muse gets around and isn't limited to artworks. The Muse happens in the shower and in the kitchen, at the ocean and in the auto body shop and at the inventor's bench. The Muse is a place in your brain that you visit that is connected to everything. You route the electrical impulses there. It is a very psychic acre. (So say I. I am not aware of any hard evidence on this notion.)

Some of the people in these professions are uniquely suited to be professional psychics if they choose. Court reporters access the subconscious of people through listening intensely to the voices of many different people in the same types of cases over and over, listening 'on autopilot' to punctuate accurately. They become human lie detectors, and they 'read' people they are writing and the people those people are talking about. They pick up on the subtle inflections that people's voices have

when they speak of or quote another person ... inflections that really belong to that other person! They do these things instinctually without realizing. That court reporting background is a good preparation for being a Tarot reader for many different types of people - especially for reading Tarot verbatim, like court reporting notes are read. Being a court reporter is what led me to instinctually find verbatim phrases for the Rider Waite Tarot, rather than just express the cards as concepts.

Now, *what is known* can be scant. It can be a voice on the phone asking about two other people he/she knows nothing of. It can be a question in Email. It can be a person asking 'Why?' doing his/her own reading, and not having a clue, consciously, why. And sometimes nothing is known - as in a sudden realization - whoosh - of a particular truth or event, which is the eureka experience. The activation experience also has no known to introduce it. Often the eureka experience is the result of the subconscious connecting up two or more items that were in different boxes as it constantly sifts 'in the back of your mind' through the mental debris. (*Wit* is a similar process of connecting unconnected things.)

Accessing your own subconscious accesses the subconscious of the person at the other end of the process, whom we refer to as the Querant. (More of this 'access' later, and the rapport that enables it.) The question itself is the unknown ... as in algebra, the X. You know how someone can be telling you something and you quietly realize something about that person?: You have accessed their mentality.

Language has a whole lot to do with those concepts filed away in your subconscious, since you are a human (I presume). Your subconscious can

take this question, the unknown or X, and float it over everything you ever experienced, heard of, read or imagined, pulling up (as a magnet would pull up iron) whatever parallels it or reflects it, whatever has a similar pattern. This raw material is dumped into your conscious mind which has a direct connection to your tongue and therefore to language. *Language is a major bridge here.* Material that has no language reference is likely to be lost. (There is an emotion matrix or bridge that is more subtle, less capable of being pinned down, than the language matrix or bridge we speak of here; and there is a spiritual one too that is way beyond language.)

Your conscious mind then sorts through and interprets the raw material. It is the rag-picker. Here is the crux, the point at which the process can go kablooey. There are dominant themes in that raw material! Being a good Tarot reader or psychic means mastering this turning point in the flow of information, turning the raw material into language. Being a good Tarot reader means finding the double meanings the phrases are making, or the double application of the scenes you see on the cards, and making sense of whatever all those cards do have in common.

There are themes in the Rider Waite Tarot deck that are key to what it is saying in the spread. The themes appear in cards that have meanings in common. If you are reading Tarot verbatim, themes occur in repeated phrases or repeated ideas. Ideas that are repeated are the dominant items and are the most accurate. They are the skeleton and the other cards are the flesh. They are the nouns and verbs, and the other cards are the modifiers.

- *The more types of people the Tarot reader is familiar with,**
 - *the more objectively that person is willing to see, the fewer 'articles of faith' the reader honors, the fewer things that are 'unthinkable,'**
 - *the more life experience the Tarot reader has, including blunders in life,**
 - *the more education in multiple fields the Tarot reader has been exposed to,**
 - *the more expressive in language the Tarot reader can be, to various types of people who have various vocabularies,**
 - *and of course the more analytical and insightful the personality of the Tarot reader is,**
- the more well-rounded and full-fledged your reading will turn out to be.**

Being culture-bound or limited to a particular strata of society is a huge handicap to accurate vision not just in psychic readings but in life. Being unable to express what you are thinking, for whatever reason, is also a handicap. You want as many doors to be open as possible in your reader's personality, because putting a picture together from impressions in a reading is like looking through the keyholes of lots of doors to a ballroom where a public New Year's party is going on, and reporting who is doing what with whom and how they are dressed.

Let's say the answers are Out There. You, the reader are in one spot in physical reality with your personality and your abilities to read. You, the Querant are in another spot in physical reality with *your* concern and your emotions about it. Let's say in this triangle what we need to complete the

circuit that makes the information flow smoothly are *bridges*. Conduits would be another good word for it, those gutter-things that carry water.

I have already explained the bridges within the reader's mind and experience. That is the bridge from the reader to Out There. We obviously need a bridge from the Querant to the reader. The major span in this bridge is rapport. (Remember, I said "More of this 'access' later, and the rapport that enables it"?) We need a smooth and comfortable connection between the two humans. If one of these humans rubs the other the wrong way, information will likely be compromised. If they relate to one another well - which is not necessarily the same thing as liking one another - the flow will be efficient. When this rapport-that-enables happens, remember the phone number or address of that worker! If a client has decided to trick the person who is accessing the muse, this violates that rapport and strange things can happen.

We also need a bridge of language between the humans. If 'two people don't speak the same language' communication is compromised. The impediment or barrier to communication could be an accent. It could be age. It could be a Querant who is inexperienced in life who is talking to an 'old hand,' or vice versa. It could be one very mellow laid-back person and another who is driven and precise; it could be an unemotional no-nonsense person at one end and bleeding-heart warm puppy at the other. It could be that 'you remind me of my ... whoever.' It all boils down to bugs on the windshield. The windshield needs to be fairly clear of those bugs. A psychic who isn't in rapport with a client had best be careful. A few times in my long career, I have told an individual 'We lack rapport, and you would do better with another worker.'

In the *very* best of psychic reading (of any kind), the Querant makes a bridge to 'Out There' and directly receives impressions regarding his or her concern, maybe regarding other things. The 'regarding other things' can activate later. Clients have dreamed of me talking to them about their personal growth. They have made their own connection to 'out there' as a result of our conversation(s).

Can Tarot Actually Provide Me with Accurate Guidance in My Life?

Chapter Four

The short answer is : YES IT CAN.

I will let you in on a dirty little secret. You could call it a trade secret. When you know Tarot, you can explore and analyze the darker corners of your own psyche, and fill in lost memories to your heart's content, with no other human involved, taking as long as it takes in as much detail as you like - just you-on-you, no human interface. Tarot can be your guru that way.

The more complete answer is: *If guidance is what you are seeking, yes.* The lady who asks "Did he see me in my short-shorts; did he see me in my bikini?" receives very little guidance per se from Tarot. That is not what she is looking for.

The person who asks "Why did I do that?" on the other hand, will receive a detailed analytical Tarot report of his or her motives and motivations. The person who asks "Why did I do that?" is someone who realizes we humans are multidimensional entities whose levels do not talk to or necessarily trust one another.

One of the reasons I am so comfortable working with Tarot is that Tarot has a 'safety valve' as if it were live. It dispenses only the information its Querant is ready to receive today. If the reason his or her love

relationship is strained has to do with partner's gender preference, and Querant is not ready to deal with that today, Tarot will report facts the Querant *is* ready to receive until in client's own time and in client's own way, the light bulb goes on, a stance is taken, a choice is made. The shock of an overdose of truth inoculates us against its realization. Accurate guidance includes not pushing a person into denial.

Guidance is most abundant for people who consult Tarot regularly. *The most valuable question to ask Tarot for insight is 'His view of me, Her view of me, Their view of me, Its (group or company) view of me.'* These questions over time have a cumulative effect. A composite of others' views of you bequeaths 'seeing ourselves as others see us' - Who said that?! - which is the epitome of guidance and the ultimate insight.

The next most useful question to ask Tarot is "What do I do to make this happen the best way?" When the answer to that question is to do the very last thing I would ever think of doing, and when I follow the guidance anyway ... and it does produce my desired event ... I am left with a puzzle: *Why have I dreaded to do what works?* This is the kind of puzzle that grows a person up.

If in addition to asking those two questions that provide the insight and guidance, you also ask a question in the middle (as the second question, in other words) *"What will I see this other person do in the next, say, three months?"* then you have your future prediction along with the recipe for concreting a good outcome. Notice the action, the prediction, is from you-the-Querant's perspective, using *your* definitions.

To recapitulate, the three questions are

- (1) How does Another view me? - motives, intentions, attitude toward me.
- (2) What will I see Another do in the next ... three months?
- (3) What do I do to make our situation happen as I would like?

These three questions serve business inquiries as easily as romantic, family, legal, social and any other relationship inquiries. They even serve situations where one of the parties is unknown, as in a job interview

where you don't even know whether one person or more than one will interrogate you.

Life is relationship, even among nations. In business, if you know how the potential client, the coworker, the employer is thinking, if you know the attitudes, you know the best way to deal with each of them successfully, which is the next question anyway. Clients call me from work with 'What shall I do right now?' in a confrontational situation, or 'The boss sent me an email to meet with him in an hour. What is this about and what should I say?' and they receive cogent guidance.

A big advantage of using these three Tarot questions for guidance in business life is: When you understand people, when you anticipate where they are coming from, why they are acting the way they do, and what is important to them, they remember you and remember you in a good way.

***These three questions* should take around 12 minutes and perhaps save you time and money on your analytical Tarot session. These three questions work together and dovetail so that you remember the material from your own perspective. They are the best guideline for guidance I know of.**

How Well Does Tarot Answer Questions About Relationships, Finances and Health?

Chapter Five

YES, TAROT CAN answer questions about relationships, finances and health - especially Rider Waite Tarot. Tarot can answer questions about these and any other subjects you can dream up, even imaginary or hypothetical ones. As a matter of fact, in the Tarot Verbatim system, if you accidentally assume something that isn't factual in your Question, you may very well receive a hypothetical answer.

It is not the Tarot that determines, but equally the skill of the person who is accessing and interpreting Tarot *and* the level of participation of you-the-Querant, that determines (1) whether a question can be answered and (2) the quality of that answer. Some experienced readers can serve a bad-attitude client well, though. *The background of the reader directly relates to the quality of the answer:* A reader who has some medical or business background can give better answers on those subjects. A Querant who has a medical background will receive better medical answers too. I know this from experience: Many of my good clients are in that field, and their answers to medical questions are very high quality.

Did you know it takes two to Tarot? - *that you are half your reading?* or more than half, even? Yes, one can intimately solitaire with the deck, but we are speaking here of the distinction that you as a caller or Querant are a significant factor in the quality of life of your Tarot session. There are at

least as many levels and ways of using Tarot as there are people using it, and *you, the Querant* can optimize your answers in any of them.

Relationships. The scenes in Rider Waite depict types of people precisely and kinds of relationships specifically. Relationships of any kind, in utter detail, are the specialty of this deck of Tarot - even relationships among animals or entities. Do you want to know what General Motors thinks of the U. S. government? You're on! - What your dog thinks of the dog next door? - You're on! Maybe even the fire hydrant's view of the dog.

His View of You is the kind of question that, over time, makes the price of a relationship obvious. If I have *my* vision of what our relationship is all about, and I find that your view of our relationship is entirely different, and this view of yours doesn't change over time in my Tarot sessions, I must realize my options: leave, compromise, or suffer. The price of that relationship, myself being informed by Tarot, may not be worth its cost to me.

The relationship isn't useful to me: That is an objective measure! (As much as I admire the curves of the Baby Princess Rolls convertible, it is of no earthly use to me here in the animal sanctuary in the Rocky Mountain wilderness; but I did purchase a homely backhoe of equal enormous price because it *is* useful to me.) Knowing the other party's or parties' needs in your mutual circumstance informs you to what extent the relationship is working or can work.

See how this His View of You question, over time, shows the distinction between the *person* you want and the *relationship* you want? Sigh. Never assume because you have found one you have found the other. We often get one or the other, as I did with the backhoe. Having both at the same time with the same person ... that is the Soul Mate thing we seek. Having that distinction in the back of our minds (person vs. relationship distinction) greases our way down Relationship Thoroughfare. Very few Baby Princess Rolls convertibles can clear your ditches, though.

Finances. YES, business as well as personal finances are expressed exhaustively in Rider Waite Tarot. Most of the pentacles are about money, commerce, exchanges and budgeting. Pentacles is the suit of Tarot that shows coins as its symbol. Income is differentiated from windfalls; lump sums are differentiated from periodic payments. Being short of money is differentiated in degree as well. It is also beautifully capable of analyzing that risky intersection of finance and romance!

When the question is how to make more money, the Tarot answer is sometimes social advice or information about *who to associate yourself with* and *how to conduct and present yourself*, to prosper. It will describe how you know that person you should associate with in such a way that you recognize who it is even if it is someone you do not yet know. (Or if it is *someones*.)

The answers to why a person isn't making more money are sometimes as blunt and as specific as they are analytical. Like get out of that town.

One way to determine an amount, without stating a figure in the question, is to ask "How happy will I be with the outcome?" As a matter of fact, that question is a useful-tool question, a one-size-fits-all handy-dandy Swiss knife tool: 'How happy will I be if?'

Health. What will your relative hear the doctor say? The doctor's assessment of the situation, privately within himself or herself. What to do to optimize energy level? Is that a good day for the procedure? How will I feel and what will I be doing a week after the procedure? Ask the lungs how they are doing now and how they will be. There are a number of techniques to get useful information without being 'a doctor.' I have never met a client who relied on Tarot for a real diagnosis. (But Tarot is capable of coming up with descriptions of a problem not yet known.) As a matter of fact, everybody who has asked me about things medical in any depth *is* a medical doctor. Someone once asked question-by-question about how a surgeon would do some operation. That person was a medic, and that is how I learned what a *clowered sleeve* was (a funnel thing, a medical instrument, used to steady the surgeon's hand).

Remember, if you ask what the doctor will *say*, to differentiate that from what *is*. "What will the doctor say when my sister goes to see him for her first pregnancy checkup?" asked an M. D. Tarot insisted "One fetus is dead; one is alive; and we don't know about the other one." No one knew about triplets, but this is what the doctor did say, exactly, to her sister. My client and I forgot to ask what the fact was! Duh. It turned out the mystery fetus was alive. But the doctor did not say that then, so we did not find that out *because of the phrasing of our question*.

A client with a medical background will get far more detailed and specific medical information. The Tarot worker accesses the subconscious and the conscious mentality of the client, including the client's knowledge, I find. As a court reporter, I am familiar with a lot of medical terms, and my Tarot Verbatim system is based on words, so good information about ailments has come to those medic clients. A reader who has no background in medicine, speaking to a Querant who also does not have medical knowledge, would have less of a chance for much specific medical information in the answers. So Tarot can answer health questions, but can we?

Health advice can be both general and specific. Amazing how often 'Get out in the sun. Go outdoors.' is mentioned there. Tarot relates to liquid flows; there are several cards that show that. There are also several cards about blockages of flow. Head injury, heart damage and crippling are represented. Insanity, of course. A number of cards show vigorous exercise or sedentary figures. Stress - several cards. Anxiety - several cards. Feeling great - several cards. 'Don't worry about that' is also standing by, as an answer. Health advice is available in that Tarot deck.

How Can I Tell Whether the Person Doing My Tarot Reading is For Real?

Chapter Six

How do you tell if anyone is for real? Feedback. Observation. You look, you listen, you size a person up. It's a normal day. What he or she is saying makes sense; it is what has happened and what is happening. Or it doesn't make sense, and it smells.

You are the expert on your life. This is your subject. In order for you to be misled on *this* subject, you must suspend your good sense entirely, suspend reality testing. We sometimes do that. Let's be mindful of the circumstances under which we do that!

Practical pointers on how to find somebody to give you an accurate Tarot reading are in the next chapter.

FIRST THERE'S THE STATE YOU'RE IN

The main difference between your being able to tell your Tarot person is real and your being able to tell any other person is real is you, your state. We have common sense about the dry cleaners.

Hope has made many a bright person so foolish in the clutches of a con artist ... because of that moment of suspending common sense in favor of a sizzle of hope. The first call or visit leads to others: The cons are good at that! So your first connection with a psychic is where to put your sentry.

When you want to talk to somebody, and it's night time, and you're alone, and you have had a drink or a toke, you will at least talk longer than you mean to. And you may not remember all that information you paid for.

Ideally, for your first session with a new provider of information, you interview the person - chat with him or her - first. If this is the usual telephone Tarot, you are seeking a 'professional phone buddy' here. Tune in to the person's voice and personality. Are you comfortable? How's the belly? How are you breathing? Are you being listened to? Is this person pressuring you, keeping you on the line, tantalizing you? Are you two in rapport? Do you 'speak the same language'? Do you feel better already? Do you smell b.s.? Is there a 'suck' - is it *too* cloyingly warm?

Just as there are three important factors to real estate (location, location and location), there are three important factors to Tarot readings (rapport, rapport and rapport).

Ideally, record that first session and play it back when you are not distracted by participating. Listen to yourself and listen for the quality of information now that the session is 'cold.' In the next session, you can let your hair down more because the ground is no longer totally unfamiliar.

THEN THERE'S RE-FRAMING

Jurors walk into the courtroom straight out of real life. In Courtroom's formal insular indoorsy world, there's this black-robed god who can tell

you-the-Juror when to go to the bathroom and what chair to sit in. There's someone with a hypnotized look writing every word that is said. No sounds of the real world intrude. Only the large clock to tell you it's lunchtime. Nothing to tell you it's storming outside. Suited up lawyers seem the activists in this world, with their captive clients. All eyeballs are appraising you the Juror.

One or both of the attorneys, and later the judge in his Instructions, will tell you the Juror not to suspend your ordinary judgment, 'just apply your normal way of thinking to the 'Facts in The Case.'

Then the lawyers and the judge apply outlandish concepts to the fact that Dick tripped on the steps to Jane's candy store. They examine for three days each step and the paint on it, each move that Dick made, his shoes, the weather, the time of day for the shadows. Everything but his birth chart.

Jurors are told these things are Evidence they must consider. They also are told they mustn't be swayed by anything that isn't Evidence.

Jurors' view of Dick's tripping is skewed. Their reality has been re-framed and their reality testing suspended. The paint on the steps becomes a focus because of some remarks a lawyer made.

Their verdict will be appealed.

In the unfamiliar world of a psychic reading with a reader who has a dogma that is foreign to you, a similar process can occur. New concepts re-frame elements of your story. You suspend ordinary judgment because this is Magic. (It's wrong to be angry and you mustn't be judgmental to the culprit who ...)

If you are not comfortable with the Magic world, find a down-to-earth Tarot professional, by the feedback. A skilled Tarot reader reflects your values, your perspective. Tarot is especially sensitive to a person's style.

So the Courtroom and Magic can re-frame your reality.

THEN THERE'S THE RATTLESNAKE

But that is not the whole scenario. We have a rattlesnake in the woodpile here. Elmer Gantry lives in Tarot Land too. The generations-old routine, the up-and-down pitch and pounding intonation of the voice the con artists use on first contact with you, is strangely effective, maybe aided by some unclean spirit guide. It's not an experience anything else prepares you for, although it's similar to a dude who aims to get a gal in bed.

One day I was moving the office supply room when one of these *artistes* called looking for a job and I was privileged to listen first hand to the routine. When told I don't work with others, she began the routine, and I was all ears. She blatantly changed her story a number of times. She

ordered me to quit moving those boxes and listen to her. Suddenly her 'high priest' was involved.

Even under those circumstances, even my being in the same field, and even as annoying as that voice was ... smarmy as it was ... I could feel the insistence, the 'rhythmic suck' of the con. Oh, my life was in danger and only she could fix it. The first part was true; the second surely wasn't. These people do have psychic talent.

The routine I speak of here is about the money for the doll, the candle. 'Negativity' is a poison word: run when they are going to 'remove the negativity.' They even tell you to send your rent money to them in cash, and they will send it back after they sleep with it at the full of the moon or some fool thing. Someone has put a curse on you, he/she is jealous of you. Only I can remove the curse.

WHY THE STRUGGLE IS WORTH IT

When you know the person who reads for you is real ... when you have found one or more light workers who function well for you, you are set. You can bare as much of your soul as you choose. You can ask anything, talk about anything, can even vent. You can become someone else and not be embarrassed while shedding the old skin. Your budget will be honored.

I have many clients who have been calling since '94. They are not the same people they were in '94; they have left that person in the dust and come ahead several lifetimes in seventeen years.

HOW DO I FIND SOMEONE TO GET AN ACCURATE TAROT READING?

Chapter Seven

The only other industry that demands payment in advance for services not yet rendered by an unknown person is prostitution. Remember that you should be able to see the goods and know to whom you will be speaking about what before you open your wallet, your credit card.

The psychic industry is a minefield on both sides. There are bandits posing as Tarot masters and psychics, and there are bandits posing as clients. The law doesn't care. It's up to you and me to meet instead of each meeting with the bandit.

FIRST, WHAT NOT TO DO: Caveats galore here ...

First caveat is don't click on the small 'standing by with the free question 24 hours' ad. 'Give us your credit card so you can pay us if you choose to even though it's free,' they may say when you do. The picture of the psychic is almost always blond. An advertising broker constantly uses the url of my blog, and its language, to advertise this and other spam. When I write a cease-and-desist email demand, that site is replaced by another offending one in a day or two - same advertising broker's name.

Clients tell me even the most reputable frequent advertisers who have the most elaborate sites will bill for sessions clients did not have - not small amounts on their credit cards either. Especially married women. \$70

reading, honestly billed. Then \$280 imaginary one two or three months later. Backcharged. Then another imaginary one!

What to do if you want to call Biggest with the Mostest? Acquire a one-time-use prepaid credit card. Say something like 'I have \$50 for today and these are the questions I want to know about. Can you do this for that amount?' If the site doesn't accept that card, there's a reason.

On some of these sites, you can get an idea of the kind of reading and the style of the reader that you want, though, which is good information. Just remember, your psychic is actually working for less than 50 cents a talk minute, often 25, while you pay \$4 or more. The middle man here could be dirty. A self-employed worker, sans middle man, is a more honest exchange.

Never ever ever do business with anyone who wants cash, money order, Western Union or Moneygram, or even cashier's check or bank wire. That person knows you are going to want your money back when you are defrauded, and also does not want the income to be traced - he/she isn't paying taxes and may be illegally in the country. It's a fact the credit card company will take your money back from the merchant if he/she has defrauded you. One has to qualify to be a credit card merchant, especially for American Express; so a worker or company who takes American Express in the name you associate with that person or company is a better gamble. (Running card charges through another business happens.) An individual worker who does take American Express in his/her own account and is established in business for years is the very best gamble.

I also hear clients report that long-time print advertisers, even the most familiar names with the highest prices, are 'not real' or took advantage.

Beware of the 'free question' folks. As I beware the client who 'just has one question and wants to see if I'm real.' The answer to the free question for you is usually the person who has the curse on you, and they usually want your credit card first too. The client who is asking me for the free reading or free question is going to hang up immediately and call the next freebie.

You have heard the stories, too. And you don't want to star in one any more than I do.

SO, WHAT TO DO

Friends may ... or may not ... tell you about their reliable professional. I swear, it's like sharing a toothbrush or something! They don't want to admit they consult a counselor, and they fear you will learn about them through their person. (This is the reason the wildlife calendars I give clients every year have only the Idaho Elk corporate name on them, no location or phone.)

If a friend does tell, try that person, because you and the friend probably have similar preferences, similar situations. Perhaps have a joint session, or ask the friend to ask a question for you. (Every once in a while a client says 'my friend wants to know about her boyfriend.') If the answer

through the friend is accurate or resonates with you, a direct reading will go well.

A psychic fair is a great place to meet Tarot and psychic workers face to face. Many of them will be beginners or even non-professionals. Prices here probably are less; there is no middle man other than the price they pay for the table. You can sometimes tell the phony ones by the way they dress, too.

At a psychic fair, an individual's ability is demonstrated, and so is the person's ability to relate to you.

Interviews on internet radio or video also demonstrate both ability and style of the professional. These are easy to find. Steve Toth's Real Coaching Network is one. Blog Talk is another.

Messages for visitors are on my blog every day with comments from people as to whether those sentences apply to them. That is a demonstration of ability, and a demonstration of how word-for-word Tarot is done. That's at <http://TarotVerbatim>, of course.

Many psychics have personal pages on Facebook. Friend them and you receive some information about them and how they communicate. Most of them use their own photo.

Linked-In's Tarot professionals are just that, professional. They are few. Linked-In is no place for mama swamis; the atmosphere there is business. You can read Tarot professionals discussing aspects of their business with one another, discussing how they do various things.

NOW THAT YOU HAVE FOUND SOMEONE, CONDUCT A JOB INTERVIEW

Yes, a job interview. You are hiring this person. This is like having a phone buddy, but it is business. You want to know ability, price and rapport. If you cannot do that but must choose an applicant blindly from a list, then you are conducting a job interview whilst paying the applicant!

Here are your job interview questions:

- 1. What are you good at; what are your specialties? ('I'm equally good at everything' is the usual lame answer. Try to pin the person down.)**
- 2. How much will it cost for me to do ... describe your issue. or I have \$50 and I want to know if this nursing home is a good fit for my parent. Can you do that?**

This is a nice clear offer. Do you get a clear acceptance? or rejection? People have called me wanting lottery numbers. I tell them 'I can tell you how to win but cannot give you numbers. No guarantee you will succeed at the winning. Would you like to know that? - it will take five minutes or less.' This is a rejection of the offer and a counteroffer.

This is how to find someone to get an accurate Tarot reading.

NOW, let's suppose you are going to make that cold call anyway, dial up and give a credit card, and just let them talk to you, or ask questions. What is the best way to do that?

Ask, always "What are you good at?" - because that is the most service available from that worker. If the answer is some other talent than your issue involves, you have a choice: Go with what this person does well, and make use of it; or ask "How well can you ..." and describe your issue. (Or you could excuse yourself and dial again for another worker.)

Now you are off into a discussion. As you converse, make use of the information in Chapter Six, 'How Can I Tell Whether the Person Doing My Tarot Reading is for Real?'

If you would like to read more articles by Emily Erickson-Sandstrom, you can find them under her name as Official Tarot Guide at <http://SelfGrowth.com>.

About the Author, Emily Erickson-Sandstrom

If you were going to work more than twelve hours a day for the rest of your life every day as a psychic on the telephone and love it, where would you chose to live?

Emily's ranch, of course! This is a remote wildlife sanctuary mainly for elk. It is gorgeous and it is deeply peaceful. Elk are very aware animals. You can see that in the closeup portraits of them posted in Facebook under Emily Erickson-Sandstrom. This ranch refuge is the perfect setting. Mountains. Rocks. Streams. Lots of sky. All 500 acres totally supported by people who call for Tarot Verbatim guidance and advice. She inherited it as a hunting ranch and it became a refuge instead.

What kind of person do you think you would best *be* to do this twelve-hour telephone stint every day? How about 25 years of technical court reporting in steamy and unsavory south Florida during the famous Seventies and Eighties? How about a mad Hastings-on-the-Hudson debutante mama and a daddy who was a spy working with the French Resistance for the American army precursor agency to the CIA, the OSS? I could go on Lots of background life experience to work with.

Tarot Verbatim was discovered by Emily's listening to some lectures by a professor on Consistent Violators of the Laws of Random Distribution, a big interest still. Tarot is one of five known consistent violators, said the professor.

Which led Emily to hunt down this Tarot item. After 12 books of meanings, one of which was not too bad, Emily embarks on eleven years of asking a Rider Waite Tarot deck questions she knows the answers to in order to get the (unknown) meanings from Rider Waite Tarot itself. Notebooks galore, here. Mission accomplished. She names the system Tarot Verbatim.

Why Tarot Verbatim? - because, happy accident, Emily read Tarot like she read her court reporting notes, verbatim phrases making sentences! So direct answers to specific questions ... answers that speak straight to the person who is asking, in detail. Just like a court reporting transcript! A mechanical and logical system that needs not one shred of information (no birthday, no name even) and also answers questions about third parties (or even the environment) accurately. (What will the doctor tell my cousin about her child?)

Another happy accident is that adding two cards to the standard Celtic Cross spread created a system that indicates how accurate each answer is (because it created three divisions of enough cards to make a sentence, and those should repeat what is being said to the extent the information is accurate.)

Want to know more about the system? <http://TarotVerbatim.com> demonstrates how four Rider Waite Tarot cards mean quite a few very different and even conflicting sentences, each day. The sentences are group messages (like horoscopes, only better because horoscopes have to be cast for someone else's birth data) for the day for the blog's visitors. You choose ones that apply to you, and choose whether to embrace them or resist them. You can comment too.

Want to know more about Emily Erickson-Sandstrom and what she can do for you, and how she does it? A gorgeous text-rich web site tells all at <http://EmilysInsight>. It has Emily's voice on it, and several testimonials.

Want to see the sanctuary? This is a link to the photos of it on Facebook. Scroll down for elk, and click on the ones that have multiple photos in them. There are several newborn llama! <https://www.facebook.com/emilysinsight#!/media/albums/?id=1605109545>

<https://www.facebook.com/notifications#!/groups/210571069017986/> is the address for the Three Six Nine Twelve Club. Members, at the quarters of the clock both a.m. and p.m. support one another however and whenever it strikes them to do so, without any more contact than that - or you can participate in the page. For members to be supporting you, you join there.

This is the Twitter link Emily posts part of the blog to:

<https://twitter.com/#!/EmilySandstrom>

Many articles Emily has written on Tarot, consciousness, recipes, supplements, business and psychic subjects can be found here on Self Growth, the largest self-improvement web site:

<http://www.selfgrowth.com/articles/user/189590>

Skype Telephone Number: 1-208 209-3348