

Exploring the Symbolic Language of the Tarot

Introduction

What is Tarot?

Tarot is a system of knowledge that speaks completely through pictures and symbols, similar to the hieroglyphs of Ancient Egypt, a possible place of origin of the Major Arcana of the Tarot. An excellent starting point for learning the Tarot is to begin with exploring and understanding this symbolic language.

Where does the Tarot come from?

No one knows for sure where the Tarot comes from, but as mentioned above, the Major Arcana quite possibly originates from the ancient mystery schools of Ancient Egypt. The Minor Arcana is thought to originate from the playing cards that became popular in Europe in the 14th century.

What is the Major Arcana?

The word *arcana* comes from *arcane*, which is a synonym for the word *esoteric*, which means something which has hidden meanings, often spoken through symbolism or a symbolic language. There are 22 cards (Traditionally there are 22 cards, but some modern decks may have one or a few more.) in the Major Arcana, and each teaches us a universal lesson, speaking on a profound, spiritual, and archetypal level. Each card can also represent both a collective or universal meaning as well as an individual or personal meaning.

The number 22 itself is symbolic here. 22 is said to be an angelic number and a powerful and success-bringing “Master Builder” number. It symbolizes:

- Balance and precision
- Turning ambitions and dreams into reality

- The ability to transmute archetypes - universal patterns or motifs which come from the collective unconscious - into material form
- The power to manifest in alignment with one's highest ideals
- Inner wisdom and divine purpose

What is the Minor Arcana?

The Minor Arcana has 56 cards (Again some modern decks may have a few extra cards.), which speak more to everyday life and practical matters, and which may give the finer details to the answers of the question asked. Since their origin as playing cards, the Minor Arcana has long been used for divination and fortune telling.

The Minor Arcana is typically divided into four suits or elements, and consist of the numbers one through ten and four courts cards – pages, knights, queens, and kings – for each suit or element.

Reading the Tarot Intuitively:

In addition to exploring the symbolic language of the Tarot cards, there will be a few journaling exercises within this course to help you practice tapping into your intuitive insights. Developing your intuition, and learning to trust it, will enhance your ability to read the cards and pick up on the messages coming through.

Course Outline

I. Welcome and Introduction

II. The Major Arcana

Lesson 0: The Fool

Lesson 1: The Magician

Lesson 2: The High Priestess

Lesson 3: The Empress

Lesson 4: The Emperor

Lesson 5: The Hierophant

Lesson 6: The Lovers

Lesson 7: The Chariot

Lesson 8: Strength

Lesson 9: The Hermit

Lesson 10: The Wheel of Fortune

Lesson 11: Justice

Lesson 12: The Hanged Man

Lesson 13: Death

Lesson 14: Temperance

Lesson 15: The Devil

Lesson 16: The Tower

Lesson 17: The Star

Lesson 18: The Moon

Lesson 19: The Sun

Lesson 20: Judgment

Lesson 21: The World

III. Journaling Exercise 1: Life Path Numerology & Tarot

IV. The Minor Arcana

Lesson 22: The Elements & The Suits

Lesson 23: The Numbers

a) Numbers 1-5

b) Numbers 6-10

Lesson 24: The Court Cards

V. Journaling Exercise 2: Court Card

VI. Reading the Tarot

Lesson 25: Interpreting the Cards & Reading Reversals

Lesson 26: Spreads: One Card, Three Cards, Relationship, and the Celtic Cross
Spreads

a) Clearing your Deck

b) Setting Intentions & Shuffling

c) One Card and Three Card Readings

d) Relationship Spread

e) Celtic Cross Spread

VI. Journaling Exercise 3: Practice Spread