

The TAROT

Are you getting Value for Money?

As the title of this article states when it comes to the Ancient Art of Tarot reading “**Are You really getting Value for your Money or more precisely are you getting what You Pay for.....a True Tarot Reading**”.

Question:

Here is food for thought for you the reader when it comes the large percentage of the so called professional Tarot readers operating today are they really reading your Tarot Cards, or are they actually reading you, your aura or your energy?

A Tarot reading is a very different experience from visiting a Psychic or Clairvoyant and while **all** have their place in the Metaphysical world and community; they are distinctly different in both skills and outcome and therefore should not be intermingled, as its called cross contamination.

So then the question begs asking just how do you identify a True Tarot reader of skill from the amateur's and charlatans.

Answer:

Allow me to digress for a moment, any member of the general public who is a potential client (myself including) has the right to assess a prospective reader's skill and ability by asking a few relevant yet simple questions that will confirm their authenticity of your potential reader.

You the client can ask any **FOUR** of the following questions.

Q1. Which is the most powerful card in the Major Arcana?

- Q2.** Who is the Grand Master and King of the Major Arcana?
- Q3.** Which is the Death card of the Major Arcana and no it's not the death card?
- Q4.** Which is the Marriage card in the suit of Pentacles?
- Q5.** Which is the card of Engagement and impending birth in the suit of Pentacles?
- Q6.** Which card is the young Blond girl in the suit of Cups?
- Q7.** Which card is the young Brunette girl in the suit of Pentacles?
- Q8.** What are the Four Primary Colours of the Tarot?
- Q9.** What do the Four Primary Colours mean and represent?
- Q10.** Where is the timing system to be found in the Major and Minor Arcana cards?
- Q11.** Where does the Fool card fit in the **22** Major Arcana, is he the First, the Last card

or is there another answer to this question?

Q12. Name the Four Cardinal Virtues of the Major Arcana and of life?

“Actually there are Seven Cardinal Virtues in the Major Arcana, but we won't go into them here that's another question for another day”.

Q13. Name the cards to which the four cardinal virtues belong to?

Q14. Can you read the Tarot with just the Major Arcana or just the Minor Arcana?

I will answer this question for you; actually there are two answers to this question:

Firstly, **NO You Can't**, you absolutely need both halves; if you don't have both halves of a deck it's like tearing a Harry Potter book in half and saying to your child, go figure out what happens next.

The second answer to this question is:

The Major Arcana refers to the **Three Cycles of Life** while the Minor Arcana refers to the **Cycle of Everyday Events**; that is why you cannot read one without the other, for together they form the book that is the Encyclopaedia of ancient knowledge. That is the Tarot and that's a fact.

“A True Tarot reader in giving their replies should be able to proficiently answer these simple questions, **without Evasion, Hesitation, Reservation or Doubt in their voice**. Remembering that a highly and truly skilled Tarot reader ought to be able to write a **300** word essay on any one of the **78** cards in the deck and be able to speak competently on anyone of the cards for at least **10** minutes without ever repeating themselves in that time”.

What should you be looking for in a True Tarot reader?

There are many myths and misconceptions regarding the Study, Reading and use of the Tarot, but the most obvious one is the use of the **Arthur Edward Waite** or **Rider Waite Tarot deck** and system.

As ubiquitous as this deck is, it is also highly erroneous; that is to say it is greatly flawed.

Mr. Waite was in all his genius also culpable of significantly changing a large number of the Traditional Images and meanings of the Tarot in order to suit his adoption of Christian Mysticism, which was achieved following his initiation into the Ancient Order of Freemasonry as part of his move away from the Order of the Golden Dawn and its mystical influences, Fact.

The Rider-Waite deck has certainly lost a great deal of its key insights and messages that were inherent through deliberate ambiguity of imagery, which previously allowed for a far greater interpretation. The practical upshot is that this deck is of little or NO use to the true professional Tarot reader and is therefore NO use to the client.

* [See the comment section at the end of this article](#)

Another obvious misconception is the use of theatrics to beguile a client, it is said that a good Witch needs no athame and a good Tarot reader needs neither a velvet cloth nor incense, nor crystal ball, for although they may look impressive in making a reader look the part. There are few Romany Gypsies reading Tarot therefore looks can be very deceiving.

There are several things you need to bear in mind when looking for a skilled practitioner of the Tarot.

- 1) Have they done a recognised and certificated course of study into the Tarot and Tarot reading.
- 2) Are they a member of a national or international body/guild or association for professional tarot readers.
- 3) Can they answer any of the above 14 questions which any half skilled practitioner ought to be able to answer with equivocation
- 4) Do they have a good professional reputation for their forecasting skills etc.

The skill in finding a good Tarot reader is in asking the right questions and above all in ascertaining their level of skill and proficiency, for I personally prefer to read the Spanish way and that is the reading first, payment second, for in Spain if you don't like what you are hearing because the reader does not know what they are talking about, you can get up walkway and don't have to pay for it up to that point.

What does a Tarot reader truly do?

This may appear to be an obvious question; however a true Tarot reader

Does Not Do Any Of The Following

- 01) They do not read your Aura
- 02) They do not read your Energy
- 03) They do not read your Palm or palms
“That is unless it is for confirmation as part of the reading”
- 04) They do not read your energy from an Article of Jewellery
- 05) They do not consult with the Spirit realm
- 06) They do not provide automatic and channelled counsel, “Because whenever I hear another Tarot reader say **I’m being impressed to tell you**, or **I’m getting very strongly**, or **I’m sensing you should be**, or **Spirit is impressing me strongly to tell you**, I am hearing a Channelling and a so called channeller at work, I am not hearing a True Tarot practitioner and reader at work” Fact.

- 07) They do not Skry into a crystal ball, Skrying is the reading of Crystal balls, Water, Mirrors etc.
- 08) They do not perform ritual/s
- 09) They do not chant or Meditate in front of you etc
- 10) Tarot reader must use the whole 78-card deck, and not just the Major or Minor Arcana of the deck, as do some so called Tarot readers.
- 11) They do not consult with or cast Rune stones.
- 12) They do not consult with or cast the Bones of the ancestors.
- 13) [Trance work](#). “Which is a disturbing trend with a growing number of so called Tarot readers at this moment in time”.

This is because the Ancient Art of reading the Tarot is born out of years of study and practice; it takes at least 5 – 10 years to understand the meanings, the inter-relatedness, correspondences, colours, timing systems and that is before the metaphysical and esoteric aspects of the Tarot are added.

It is this depth of knowledge that will distinguish the truly professional readers from the amateurs and charlatans.

As with any study the student who takes the time to accept and understand, then has the mental aptitude to bring this to fruition in each reading and is a godsend to his / her community.

This brings me to my last point on readers; word of mouth is a reader’s reputation and is based on his / her skill. Always listen for good reports of accuracy, and you’ll uncover some treasures to be sure.

The reading itself:

Most people go to Tarot readers for insight into their lives and future direction; to help them make decisions and to give them possibilities and probabilities as well as potentials and outcomes and areas of potential growth etc.

It is the reader’s job to ensure that the person’s question/s is articulated by the soul. It is the Tarot reader’s skill to provide a sanctuary in space and time to facilitate this process.

For every moment and the manner in which the reading is performed there is a reason for it. From the cutting of the cards with one’s left hand to the order in which the cards are spread and revealed.

Every aspect has been honed through centuries of study and it forms part of a metaphysical continuum that predates Christianity. Fact.

It is an honoured and revered form of divination not to be attempted by the untrained; it is not a parlour game nor is it a form of entertainment.

A good Tarot reader will show his / her skill foremost in how he /she treat's each client however, it will also be evident in the reverence he / she gives to his / her craft.

Illumination:

The anecdotes throughout this article have been to highlight the less than ethical practices and approach some readers have taken when it comes to reading Tarot cards.

Like any skill it can be quickly learnt however it may take a lifetime to truly master. Mastery of any skill requires dedication, commitment and, if available, a very good mentor.

It is a skill that was once handed down through family lines but like many arcane sciences, its knowledge was lost or scattered, hidden behind myth and veiled in language.

But the good news is that ardent students and skilful masters have re-discovered the ancient meanings and are out and about working, teaching this ancient skill of Tarot reading.

This is of great importance to us all, for with ethics and integrity the charlatans masquerading as Tarot readers are being unveiled, with knowledge the Tarot is being illuminated, for the benefit of all.

It is a wonderful time to be working in this field when the misconceptions are being revealed and the light of truth is being held ever higher.

The Tarot above all other forms of divination is a gift of light and truth so the perennial question is are you getting value for money should rise a few eyebrows and make the less than worthy avert your gaze but for a true professional Tarot reader it should produce a sigh of relief, a glint of an enlightened smile and peel of laughter that the age of reason has finally arrived.....as predicted.

Anecdote:

During the course of this year **2005** I have personally seen and witnessed some bizarre and absolutely blatantly ridiculous explanations to some Tarot spreads by some so called Tarot readers. For instance, one person I know personally was told that the Death card surmounted by the Six of Wands meant she was coming into a lot of money real soon, "Really, I beg to differ, did she? **NO**" how on earth some of these so called Tarot readers get away with telling their clients such blatant mistruths is beyond me, when such practices are beneath contempt.

Don't the Psychic/Clairvoyants masquerading as Tarot readers know that a persons MIND is a very Fertile Bed; that what you are playing with is people's Minds, Hearts, Souls and Destiny's, PLEASE be extremely careful what you tell your clients, you are sowing seeds with your words, in telling a client a mistruth you are not only doing yourself an injustice as well but you are brining the industry into considerable disrepute.

It is a crying shame that there are not more Professional bodies around to regulate and hold the charlatans, cons and fakers accountable for their actions.

A **57** year old woman the picture of health called me recently in a significant state of distress after being told by a Psychic Clairvoyant Tarot reader, that she would be dead within Twelve months, for as she said it was on the cards, "**Really, again I beg to differ**" the reader concerned could not have been more mistaken, not to mention the fact she should be ashamed of herself for breaking one of the cardinal rules of the Tarot.

I spent **1½** hours doing several spreads for this woman and the only death there was going to be in the foreseeable future was the impending death of her mother who was dying a slow lingering death in a nursing home. This unfortunate episode only goes to graphically illustrate what happens when people who are not trained to read the Tarot and who are reading anything and everything but the cards, then try to pass themselves off as Tarot readers and Fail miserably in their duty of care to the client.

I have seen members of the general public "that goes for men and woman alike" who use the Tarot and Tarot readers as a crutch instead of taking **RESPOSABILITY for Their Lives**, one woman in particular springs to mind, she came into the shop every day on her way to work to draw one card so she could see what sort of a day she would have, another woman did a similar thing, she would come into the shop once a week to see what sort of week she would have.

('If members of the general public want to use cards a crutch by drawing a card a day for themselves, then I advise they spend **\$25:00** and buy an oracle deck or set of Angel cards etc'.)

I recently told a client that I would not read for her any longer "**WHY**" this was her Fourth visit to me in as many months every time for the same Question / reason. There comes a time when some people have to stop playing **VICTIM, MARTYR or RESCUER** and get on with living, life is not a dress rehearsal, if you want a second chance at life start taking responsibility for your actions and make it happen, now today, tomorrow is too late and for some tomorrow never comes.

"No one wants to get to **75** yrs of age and be sitting in a chair saying what if while drinking from the cup of poison and regret; you would be surprised at the number of clients I tell this to.

The Tarot is not to be used as a Quick Fix or game of chance or what ever some of the general public think the Tarot is, in my personal and professional opinion if I see most of my clients more than **TWICE** a year that's too many times, Once a year should be sufficient, Twice is more than adequate, Three times is the absolute maximum any more than that and your starting to use the Tarot as a Co-dependant crutch to lean on.

I recently tried an experiment for the benefit of my class of Tarot students, one of the students meditated for a while, cleared her head of negative thoughts, asked the question while shuffling the cards, laid the spread out in front of everyone, then we phoned a Psychic Tarot hot line for a Tarot reading, the student asked the same question over the phone as she had less than five minutes earlier and to our surprise not one of the cards or the explanation given matched, “**WHY**” because it relates to the Law of energy and intent.

Its not your the clients energy going into the cards it’s the energy of the so called psychics energy going into the cards, how are they supposed to know what your soul is trying to tell you if they don’t know what your question is about and if you don’t tell them and you are not putting your energy into the cards. Another student used the internet for a Tarot reading again it was way off the mark “I ask you, are you the general public that gullible that you really believe some of the utter rubbish you get over the phone or internet from so called psychic Tarot readings, I for one sure as hell don’t” **The fact is simple the cards Don’t, Wont and Cannot lie to you, only people lie which is a pathetic indictment of life today.**

C l o s i n g :

Being a real true Tarot readers is about providing a quality of guidance and service its about being a Facilitator and Catalyst for change and growth, its about giving hope wherever possible to those who cant see the truth or realities of life, its about showing every day people there’s more to life than the smoke and mirrors of the church.

We all have freewill when it comes to our daily lives but do you want to be sitting in a nursing home when your **80** drinking from the cup of poison and regret because you didn’t heed the sound advice of a Tarot reader all those years ago?

I for one will not rest on my laurels nor should any other professional reader of worth, there is no such thing as a Tarot reader who knows it all, I or any other Tarot reader are only as good as our last reading.

I do not measure my success by the number of confirmations I receive from National or Internationally recognised Clairvoyants, sure it’s nice to receive from time to time, but that only confirms the accuracy of my forecasting abilities and my skill as a professional Tarot reader to my clients.

The skill of a Real True Tarot reader lies not only in being able to discern and clarify what the soul of the client is trying to say to them, it is about identifying the realities of what is going on in and around them in their daily lives, whether positive or negative, it is about establishing the possibilities and probabilities for Today, Tomorrow and the Future, settling for anything else is unworthy of your time and money.

Comments:

To you the general public I give you this advice, when you find a prospective Tarot reader that you think might be able to read the cards, you don't have to ask them any **4** of the above **14** questions just yet, **first off you only need to ask them what Tarot deck they use.**

If they should say the Rider Waite deck walk away for as I have already stated the deck and system are flawed, for the Tarot deck a reader uses say a lot about the reader and their skill. What if they don't use a Rider Waite deck and they use say the Tarot of the Witches or the Tarot of the Cat people or some other less than traditional gimmick deck? Simply walk away; it's the same with readers who use the mythic deck, unless the reader has a BA in ancient Greek history, why are they using this deck, because the whole deck is structured around the evolution of the Greek nation. What you are looking for is someone who uses an established time honoured deck and system, then you may ask them any **4** of the above **14** questions if you so desire, should they prevaricate in the affirmative you may sit and gladly have your cards read.

* The following is a list of recommended and established decks which, if you're a professional tarot reader you ought to be reading with:

1) The Tarot Classic

“This is the deck I myself use, my students learn with and most of the fellow guild member's use, as it quite possibly the most accurate deck and system available today”

2) The 1JJ Swiss Tarot deck

3) The Tarot de Marseille deck

The following is a short list of decks for the extremely advanced readers who want to appear different; however I would still be asking them any of the **4** questions from the above **14**.

4) The Scapini Medieval Tarot deck

5) The Visconti Sforza Tarot deck

6) The Thoth deck by The Late Aleister Crowley

7) The Ibis Tarot “The Colour version”

8) The Mythic Tarot deck “This deck is only recommended if the reader/user has an extremely good working knowledge of Greek mythology as the whole deck is based on and around this subject.

Anything less is considered gimmickry and totally unworthy of your Time, your Money and Attention.

Here's something for you to think about

Let's say a person designs a Tarot deck and removes all the Court cards out of the Minor Arcana which after all purport to the everyday events of life. Can it then truly be called a Tarot deck? You tell me. Would you in your right mind as a paying customer have your cards read by any so called professional Tarot reader using just such a deck?

My question to you is this; would you be getting a true interpretation of what your soul is really trying to tell you through the cards?

Do you know that you're born under three Tarot cards? ([that's two Major and Minor Arcana](#)) and do you know that the first question a professional Tarot reader should ask you is your date of birth so as they can clearly identify if and when your personal Ruling card ([found in the Major Arcana](#)) and your Life lesson card ([found in the Minor Arcana](#)) should appear in your reading, otherwise your so called Tarot readers aren't reading your cards there reading You, your Energy, your Aura or what ever it is there reading or listening to, Fact, and for me it will always come back to one point will I or wont I be getting value for money.

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The Founder and current President of the Australian Guild of Oracular Practitioners. A regulatory body of professional Tarot readers set up by Tarot readers for Tarot readers, ensuing the best practices for the paying public.