

# READING LIKE A PRO

PT.1

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## THE WHOLE DECK



# EVERY CARD MATTERS

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# USING THE WHOLE DECK

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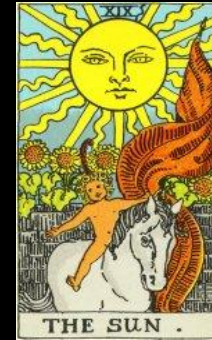
NEXT, I'D LIKE TO WALK YOU THROUGH SOME OF THE FUNDAMENTALS OF A TAROT READING TO HELP YOU GET A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO TO GET UNDER WAY.

WHILE THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE PRETTY STANDARDIZED BY MOST PROFESSIONAL TAROT READERS, THERE'S CERTAINLY SOME WIGGLE ROOM.

WITHOUT A DOUBT YOU WILL DEVELOP YOUR OWN SENSE STYLE AS YOU GROW AND YOU WILL DISCOVER WHAT WORKS BEST FOR YOU AS A READER. SO LET'S GET TO IT!



Some people say that they only need to read cards from the Major Arcana and that it is enough for them to provide an accurate reading. For some readers this may be true. However, I'd like to offer a couple of points about reading with a partial deck.



As you know, The Major Arcana metaphorically depicts the major themes of life that we will all come to experience at some point. Whether that is chronologically as from The Fool to The world or anecdotally reflecting one archetype or another at any given time, the Major Arcana represents BIG energy.

The Minor Arcana reflects the subtleties and mundanities of life that is experienced by every human being regardless of where they are in their life's journey. As I'm sure you will agree life consists of both big and little events.

Though in many ways there are similarities, the Minor Arcana gives the reading more depth, it tells us how the energy or message of the Major Arcana is modified. The Minor Arcana fine tunes the sometimes nebulous messages of the Major Arcana. It grounds the realm of spirit into the experiential world of human beings by relating and corresponding symbols to the physical world that we all inhabit.

Please understand there is no rule stating that you must use the entire deck, none the less I strongly encourage you to use all of your cards unless you have a specific type of reading that specifically designed for using the Major Arcana only.



## THERE IS NO WASTED SPACE

As you learn the meanings of each card you will quickly discover that there is no wasted space in the images of the cards. Everything within the borders of the card has meaning and is purposeful by design. What might seem to be an insignificant flourish or detail at first glance, can in fact really have a deeply symbolic meaning.

The rule of thumb in Tarot is that **everything has meaning**; from the color of the sky to the slant of a mountain to whether or not there is a person present in the card.

Tarot should be read in **layers or increments**.

You will start at the surface meaning once you reveal the card then as you go, more and more information will be displayed for you to interpret.

A dramatic landscape photograph of a mountain range reflected in a lake. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and the mountains are covered in dense evergreen forests. The scene is reflected in the calm water of the lake in the foreground. A purple banner with the text "READING THE LAYERS" is centered over the image.

# READING THE LAYERS



## READING THE LAYERS

To start with many beginners think they have to read the card as whole and separate from the surrounding cards, in the spread.

Most beginners feel as though they need to look at each card as a singular message. This kind of makes the reading very difficult, causing it to be disjointed and hard for the reader to connect the information. I'm sure you want your readings to feel smooth and the information to flow from your lips like water washing over river stones.

The best method to achieve this is to do your readings in layers.

## THE FIGURE



THE POSTURE

## THE SUIT



NUMBER

## THE SYMBOLS



WHAT STANDS OUT

# READING THE LAYERS

For example let's use a three card spread.

- Choose and designate placements and meanings for each card in the spread.
- Lay out your cards.
- Start with the first card in your spread, look at the card and take a moment to feel its energy.
- Notice what stands out to you first - make a mental note of it.
- Now, depending on the designated meaning of the card see how you can adapt the first card's interpretation to apply to the cards spot in the spread as well as the question.
- As you reveal each card take time to notice what stands out to you most.
- Your attention is being attracted to the element of the card because there is something in that symbol which will begin to unveil an answer for your querent.
- Starting from your first card, begin to build a story.
- Each card you reveal will build on the last, enriching the story.

## THE PAST



## THE PRESENT



## THE FUTURE



A dramatic landscape photograph of a mountain range reflected in a lake. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and the mountains are covered in dense evergreen forests. The scene is reflected in the calm water of the lake in the foreground. A purple banner with a gradient is centered over the image, containing the title in a light blue serif font.

# SHUFFLING THE CARDS

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You might be surprised to know that there is **no prescribed way to shuffle cards**. Some people can shuffle cards fancily like they are preparing to deal out hands to players in a high stakes poker game.

Other people shuffle the cards by sort of tossing them between their hands mixing them up a bit at a time, this is just fine too. Then there are shufflers who will lay out all the cards on a table and sort of wipe them around until they are ready to choose, lay and read their cards.

To be honest, this has **exactly zero effect on the quality of the reading**. As a reader or a querent, whoever is handling the cards is touching them less for performance and more for **immersing them in their energy**.

So I say whatever floats your boat is the right way to shuffle.



A dramatic landscape photograph of a mountain range reflected in a lake. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and the mountains are covered in dense evergreen forests. The water in the foreground is calm, creating a clear reflection of the mountains and the sky. A purple banner with the text "HOLISTIC READINGS" is centered over the image.

# HOLISTIC READINGS

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Reading the Tarot can **only be done well when it is done holistically.**

There are many people who feel that inversions are not helpful or necessary. They feel upside down cards bring in negativity and will discourage the person they are reading for.

**However much like life, the Tarot has a dualistic nature.**

There is **both good and bad present in the cards** and they should be read as such.

Generally people will tell you right away what they want in a reading. They will let you know if they are the **"tell it like it is"** kind of people or if they are afraid of what the cards might say.

Also worth noting, **not every inverted card means a bad situation is afoot.** Sometimes an inverted card can be the best thing you could see in a reading and if you choose not to use inversions you would be missing a piece that could bring the person you're reading for a great deal of relief or satisfaction.

**Bottom line - don't be afraid of upside down cards!**



A dramatic landscape photograph featuring a mountain range with dark, jagged peaks and dense evergreen forests. The mountains are reflected in a calm body of water in the foreground. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, and some light breaks through near the horizon. A purple banner with a gradient from dark purple to a lighter shade is centered horizontally across the middle of the image. The text "REVEALING CARDS" is written in a light blue, serif font on this banner. The overall mood is mysterious and serene.

# REVEALING CARDS

# REVEALING CARDS

How you reveal the cards matters!

The way you turn a card over is **very important and will affect the layout and meaning** of the cards in your spread.

The direction in which you flip a card will impact its meaning so you will want to decide on a direction before starting. I recommend turning the cards from right to left much like turning a page in a book. If you choose to turn the cards in another way, do your very best to **be consistent with the way you reveal your cards.**

You will find that if you are consistent with your method for revealing cards **your readings will also be more consistent and more accurate** as you will have created a system to rely on.



A dramatic landscape photograph featuring a calm lake in the foreground, reflecting the surrounding environment. In the background, there are dark, forested mountains under a sky filled with heavy, grey clouds. The overall mood is somber and majestic. A semi-transparent purple rectangular box is centered over the image, containing text in a light blue, serif font.

ONE CARD AT A TIME VS ALL  
THE CARDS AT ONCE



## ONE CARD AT A TIME VS ALL AT ONCE

If you choose to reveal them all at once, as you deal them, or in sequence is really a **matter of personal choice**. It really depends on how you best receive your information and can interpret it with the most ease.

I recommend practicing each way until you find your preferred method. Also, **don't be afraid to adapt your method according to your need**. That being said, you don't have to have a strict structure that you must adhere to unyieldingly. When you find your groove you'll know it and it will become as natural as breathing to you.

# REVIEW

## KEY NOTES

- USE THE WHOLE DECK
- READ INVERTED CARDS
- READ THEIR LAYERS
- CREATE YOUR OWN SYSTEMS

## KEY CONCEPTS

READING TAROT HOLISTICALLY IS THE KEY TO GIVING POWERFUL AND ACCURATE READINGS. EVERYTHING YOU DO FROM THE WAY YOU SHUFFLE, TO HOW YOU ORIENT YOUR CARDS, TO HOW YOU REVEAL EACH CARD IN YOUR SPREAD IS ALL KEY IN DELIVERING THE BEST READING POSSIBLE.

AS YOU ARE GROWING AS A READER DEVELOPING YOUR OWN SYSTEM AND STYLE OF READING WILL NATURALLY EVOLVE. THE MORE EFFORT YOU PUT INTO GENERATING YOUR OWN SYSTEM OF SHUFFLING, LAYING AND READING THE CARDS THE MORE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FOCUS ON PROVIDING AN EXCEPTIONAL READING.

