



SIGHTSEE THE TAROT is a YouTube video series that takes you on a tour of the tarot, from discovering new books and tarot thought leaders to workshoping classic tarot spreads and tinkering with particular tarot decks.

Series Page: tinyurl.com/sightseethetarot

Your Host: BENEDELL WEN [benebellwen.com]

Episode: Tarot Divination with Papus

The Twelve Astrological Houses: Reading Spread

From *Tarot of the Bohemians* (Papus, 1889)

Papus instructs on a three-tier divination method for the cards. We walked through the first tier of four cards in a diamond or cross formation that calls upon the quaternary or ROTA of TARO. Then we walked through the second tier of three cards for the sacred trinity embedded within the quaternary. (All this makes sense if you've sat through the "Tarot of the Bohemians, Condensed" lecture.)

An optional third tier of cards can be added to a reading for more detailed insights, and the third formation after you've constructed the first and second is a ring of twelve cards around the quaternary and trinity, to signify the union of space-time and the connection between tarot and astrology.

After completing the first two tiers workshoped during the video, if you want to augment it and complete the third tier as well, then this handout is a reference guide for those who are not familiar with the correspondences for the twelve astrological houses.

First, note that for each Card Position, the element is provided (e.g., House 1 is Fire, House 2 is Earth, etc.). This is helpful for consideration of elemental dignities (i.e., a Fire or Air card showing up in House 1 will emphasize the importance of House 1 in your overall reading, whereas a Water card showing up in the House 1 position weakens its significance to the matter at hand). Planetary rulerships over the houses reconciled with the astrological correspondence of the card in that position can also be accounted for, though that brings in an intermediate level of astrological knowledge.

Treat the Card Position notes as indications of what the card you drew for that position is referring to. For example, the tarot card pulled into the Card Position for House 1 is a summary of what is going on right now or what is on the verge of happening. This is a "you are here" signal. The card drawn for House 2 will relate to the material resources availed to you or the economics of the situation. House 3 reveals your mental state and maybe some of what's going on in the subconscious, etc.

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Meanings of the Cards

Card Position	Your Tarot Reading Result
<p>House 1: Fire, Mars, Aries LIFE, BODY, SPIRIT, BEGINNINGS Present Status</p> <p>THE HELM: Self, identity: external character; physical appearance; highest potential; life path; awakening consciousness; core persona; complexion; characterization of free will</p> <p>Card Position 1 is the “You are Here” sign post. Due to the most active energies in motion, this is where you are right now or what is on the verge of happening. Card 1 can also reveal the most relevant personality trait of the querent that is driving the situation at hand.</p>	
<p>House 2: Earth, Venus, Taurus LIVELIHOOD; POSSESSIONS Money Matters; Access to Resources</p> <p>GATE OF HADES: Wealth, resources, the body; possessions: tradition, stability, security; how you value money, how you earn money; material support; commerce; livelihood; fiscal policy</p> <p>Card Position 2 indicates the material resources availed to you or the economics of the situation at hand. Some of the more (or seemingly) immutable cultural influences can also be revealed here. The querent’s money matters can come up in Card 2.</p>	
<p>House 3: Air, Mercury, Gemini SIBLINGS, TRAVEL, THE QUEEN Thoughts; Mental State; Communication</p> <p>GODDESS: Communications, early childhood, thought process; opinions; writing, rhetoric, mental plane, how you express yourself; logical reasoning; politics; social engagement</p> <p>Card Position 3 reveals the querent’s mental state and thoughts going on at the subconscious level that impact the situation at hand. Card Position 3 can also indicate immediate family (especially siblings or close cousins) who may be part of the influential forces of the matter at hand.</p>	

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Card Position	Your Tarot Reading Result
<p>House 4: Water, Moon, Cancer PARENTS, CITY, MYSTICAL MATTERS Past Influences; Inner Sanctum; Emotions</p> <p>SUBTERRANEAN ANGLE: Seat of the soul; home and hearth, childhood, roots, heritage, domestic affairs, subconscious, hereditary tendencies, past lives; ancestry; city; genetic memory</p> <p>Card Position 4 can indicate domestic affairs, home and family matters, hereditary tendencies or genetic patterns that are coming in to play in the querent's decision-making or conduct, or can indicate unconscious parental influences. Generally, Card 4 can indicate the emotional values of the querent that he or she is not willing to confront directly. Card 4 reveals localized influences.</p>	
<p>House 5: Fire, Sun, Leo CHILDREN, GOOD DEEDS Pursuit of Happiness; Leisure; Desires</p> <p>GOOD FORTUNE: Procreation, recreation; minor love affairs; how we navigate society; progeny; legacies; type of parent we become; pleasure; courtship; free time; benevolence; creations</p> <p>Card Position 5 can reveal the status of creative projects and undertakings and creative work that's deeply personal to the querent and its developmental progress. More traditionally, it can relate to the querent's children or progeny.</p>	
<p>House 6: Earth, Mercury, Virgo SERVITUDE Occupation; Health; Productivity; Service</p> <p>BAD FORTUNE: Everyday life, daily work, labors, job, health, the mundane, social environment, professional setting; who we serve; employment; routine; illness; enmities</p> <p>Card Position 6 relates to employment, the querent's occupation, or physical health. Illnesses, challenges, and difficulties hindering progress or happiness can also be revealed here in Card Position 6.</p>	

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Card Position	Your Tarot Reading Result
<p>House 7: Air, Venus, Libra SPOUSE, MARRIAGE Alliances; Relations; Institutions; Judgment</p> <p>SETTING ANGLE: Qualities in spouse you most value; unions, legal bondages, associations, conjugal life, alliances, partners and relationships; who loves us; old age</p> <p>Card Position 7 can indicate institutional or establishment forces at play or legal matters. Matters pertaining to love, romantic relationships, our commitments and vows, and alliances can also be revealed here.</p>	
<p>House 8: Water, Pluto/Mars, Scorpio DEATH, INHERITANCE, IDLENESS Transformations; Unseen Influences; Malefic</p> <p>INACTIVE POWER: Passions, transformations, changes, sexuality, power and risk, losses, sorrows, physical external crises; the power we seek to wield; death, inheritance; idleness</p> <p>Card Position 8 reveals possibilities, what <i>could</i> be the outcome as a result of the unseen influences that the querent is not keeping in check. Matters pertaining to sexuality or our inner shadow can also be raised by Card 8. Card 8 reveals latent forces.</p>	
<p>House 9: Fire, Jupiter, Sagittarius MYSTICAL MATTERS, KING, DIVINATION Expansion; Journeys; The Great Work</p> <p>HOUSE OF GOD: Spiritual exploration, higher learning, long-term journeys, fate and fortune, religion, philosophy, faith, ideologies; culture; belief systems; mystical matters; divination</p> <p>Card Position 9 can reveal the greater archetypal journey the querent is on. It can indicate matters pertaining to the pursuit or higher education. Card 9 can also reveal spiritual or divine influences. Spirit guides influencing the matter might make their presence known here. Concepts of predetermined destiny or higher purpose might come in to play.</p>	

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Card Position	Your Tarot Reading Result
<p>House 10: Earth, Saturn, Capricorn ADVANCEMENT, REPUTATION, ACTION Completion of the Great Work; Impact</p> <p>CULMINATING ANGLE: Optimal career, social status, professional destiny; achievements; aim in life; public reputation; social successes; achievements; who we become; highest point</p> <p>Card Position 10 relates to the querent's career or professional trajectory. Destiny, social successes, potential for glory, public reputation, and the querent's social influence over others can be revealed here.</p>	
<p>House 11: Air, Uranus/Saturn, Aquarius HOPES, GIFTS Future; Collectivism; Greater Good Served</p> <p>GOOD SPIRIT: Friendships, support, community, involvements with the group; humanitarianism, support network; civic engagement; social responsibility; contribution to others</p> <p>Card Position 11 indicates community relations and the influences of the collective on the individual's matter at hand. This can also be the querent's support network or how others contribute to the predicament that the querent is in.</p>	
<p>House 12: Water, Neptune/Jupiter, Pisces SUFFERING, WEAKNESS, DANGERS Warnings, Obstacles, Epiphanies; Limitations</p> <p>BAD SPIRIT: Shortcomings, self-knowledge, confinements, enemies, obstacles, personal trials, that which we waste; losses and impediments; secret gifts; hidden talents</p> <p>Card Position 12, like Card Position 8, can also reveal the querent's shadow. This card can warn of difficulties ahead or what is holding the querent back from achieving success. Notes of caution of revelation of personal trials ahead can come up in Card Position 12.</p>	