Practical Readings with the SKT

This handout will showcase how I approach written tarot readings for querents. Three different case studies are covered—one question on family, which veers into the ethically murky territory of third-party readings; a career and employment prospects reading that shows how I integrate natal astrology; and a month to month, card by card projections reading for a period of six months.

These written readings are also going to be annotated in blue font along the right column, to offer explanations and commentary on my particular approach for each case study.

Question Presented: Family Matters

Kyle has always been close to his brother Ken, but in the last few years, they've become distant and estranged. They recently reunited and Kyle believes Ken is suffering from a substance use disorder. Where Kyle's career and family life have been thriving, Ken has struggled to make ends meet.

Kyle wants to know what is going on with his brother Ken and whether there is anything he can do to help Ken.

I asked for both Kyle's and his brother Ken's dates of birth, which you'll see restated in the reading.

Reading

My Written Reading	Case Study Annotations
Kyle,	
You've asked me to read about your brother Ken and how he might possibly be suffering from a substance use disorder. First, it's worth emphasizing that, under no uncertain terms, if you sincerely believe that your brother is suffering from an SUD, then the answer to your question is simple, and doesn't require the cards: Find a treatment program and get a professional consultation on how you can assist Ken. There are so many serious risks of harm to Ken's health and safety, if he is suffering from an SUD, that you cannot delay in getting him qualified counseling. You can start by looking up free government drug rehab centers in your area, or Ken's area.	When a client comes to you for a reading and it's evident that qualified, licensed professional help is needed, make sure to give that referral.
Secondly, many professional tarot readers observe certain ethical codes of conduct that bar us from doing third-party readings. That means professional tarot readers are barred from using the tarot as a "spy tool" to look in on someone else's life in a way that the person wouldn't be comfortable with, just like how someone might	Third-party readings: generally considered taboo in professional tarot circles. Here, however, Kyle has asked

not appreciate a personal phone being wiretapped without knowledge or consent.

However, what I *can* do is read about the relationship between you and Ken, and help clarify what you already know and intuit about your brother. I can help you to better understand what role you can play in helping Ken.

Since I am not qualified to diagnose whether or not Ken has an SUD, I would want to be mindful of how I frame a question presented to the cards. Here, I'm going to ask a yes or no question:

Should Kyle be proactively addressing his brother Ken's substance uses?

I pulled the Four of Wands. Yes, your intuition to take the initiative on this is right. In fact, you have a significant role to play in helping your brother get to a place of health and balance.

what he can do to help Ken out, so that's what my reading will focus on.

For written readings, I like to take photographs of key steps during the reading method and insert the images into the document.

Even though the SKT suit names are Scepters, Chalices, Swords, and Orbs, in professional readings, I'll use the standardized RWS suit names, so clients can look up the card meanings easily, should they so choose.

Here, I am also being guided by the imagery of the castle in this card. The question I ask myself is, what does a castle mean per dream symbolism, and go in that direction of inquiry.

Castles are about financial security, physical safety, and a sense of feeling empowered. You feel in control, and there is a strong sense of personal sovereignty. These are all aspirations you are in a unique position to help your brother achieve.

The suit of Wands (Scepters in this deck) correspond with the element Fire, and I consider that an important omen. Fire corresponds with the physical plane. I read that to mean that the core of the issue here might be physiological rather than just strictly "mental health." Be sure to get Kyle specifically to a psychiatrist who would be able to assess both psychological and physical aspects to what might be going on.

Kyle, something I've found useful is to consult astrological tables for the coming year or so, guided by the planet and sign glyphs presented on a card drawn during a reading to see if significant dates are being shown.

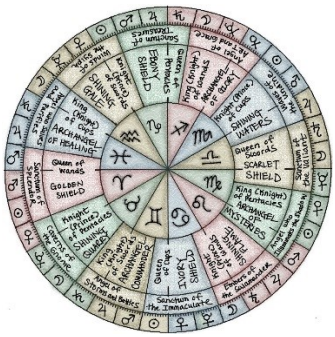
Here, the decanate correspondence for the Four of Wands is Venus in Aries, though in date referencing, I look for transiting Venus in the sign Aries for the next two years. We see May 2, 2022 through May 28, 2022, and then again from February 19, 2023 to March 16, 2023. These may turn out to be significant periods of time relating to the matter of Kyle you've asked about.

Kyle, since your date of birth is August 6, your sun sign is under Jupiter in Leo, you are a Knight of Wands. Per Ken's date of birth, October 18, sun under Jupiter in Libra, he is a Knight of Cups. (Here, the correspondences are based on decan rulers.)

As a reader, what is the most prominent symbol in the imagery that jumps out at you? Consider symbolism specific to that imagery and integrate into your reading interpretation.

In a quick reading like this one where only a few cards are drawn, I'll focus on the elemental correspondence of the single card draw.

Though the glyphs on the cards indicate decan rulerships, for date referencing via ephemeris tables, I treat the decan ruler as a transiting planet, then look for dates over a given period of future time that the planet is in that sign.



You might recall the above court cards to astrological correspondences wheel reference from the SKT course materials. Noting the month and day of the

I've set down onto my reading table the Knight of Wands (The Shining Flame) to represent you and the Knight of Cups (The Shining Waters) to represent Ken.

brothers' births, I select their significators from the courts.

Then I drew a single card and placed it in between the two brothers. The result was the Ten of Pentacles (or Coins), titled The Dynasty.

The two cards pulled in this quick reading are surprisingly positive, and I say "surprisingly" given the circumstances you find yourself in. Has Ken been estranged or distanced from his family? I think perhaps the role you play in all this is to bring the family back together, and once a familial support system is fortified around Ken, he'll progress to a place of stability and success.

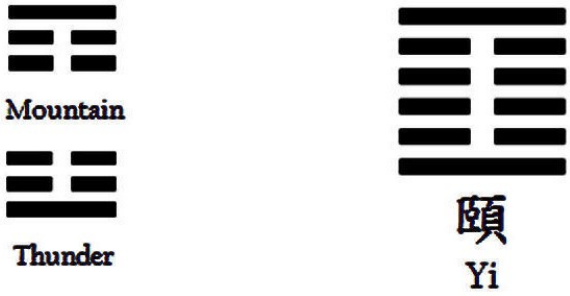
I've repeated the same photograph because this is a new page of the document. This makes it easier for the querent to reference the card imagery while I discuss it. That way the querent doesn't have to keep scrolling back and forth.

Here's an interesting detail: You're represented in the above by The Shining Flame, which is Fire. Your brother is The Shining Waters, which is Water. Notice how the card I drew, The Dynasty, has a sun in the top left corner closest to you, and a moon in the top right corner closest to your brother. And the older male figure in The Dynasty card is closer to you. While I don't know the order of birth between you and your brother, it seems like in many ways, you've always been his caretaker. And now you're being called to assume that role more proactively. I also see that the two of you represent a polarity, and often either balance each other out or cancel each other out (i.e., "like Fire and Water").

Another synchronicity of note: A castle/fortress-like structure is depicted in the background of the Ten of Orbs, just as it was in the earlier Four of Scepters.

27.

Corners of the Mouth: Nourishment



Kyle, I'm going to conclude this reading by casting an I Ching hexagram oracle message based on the two tarot cards we drew, the trigram Thunder corresponding with the Four of Wands and Mountain corresponding with the Ten of Pentacles, which is Hexagram 27. Here is your oracle message from the I Ching Book of Changes:

Open the mouth to begin receiving the nourishment that is sought. Good fortune can be had if affirmative action is taken toward well-being. Point at the self—to know the self is to know what goes in and out of the mouth, what nourishes.

The true measure of the self is how one nourishes the body and what is put into it, balanced with speech and the words you let out of your mouth. Do not abandon your own inner oracle.

Listen to the Divine within. Nourish that Divine within.

For those interested in using the SKT deck and the I Ching oracle messages in the *Book of Maps* in your professional readings, please do so without hesitation! You can take screen shots or find a way to cut and paste the hexagram images from the Oracles section of the *Book*. Likewise, feel free to reproduce verbatim the I Ching oracle messages and send them to your clients.

In this specific case, I retyped the oracle message found in the *Book of Maps* for Hexagram 27, and changed from "you" in second person to third person. As I interpreted the appearance of Hexagram 27, it is about Kyle having a role in helping Ken nourish himself, but in succeeding to help Ken, Kyle will in turn nourish himself.

Question Presented: Career & Employment

Mo has not been able to find a job that fully matches his qualifications or that feels rewarding. He wants to know what insights can be offered on job hunting, what might be a good fit for him, what to look out for in the months ahead, and what he most needs to know about his career path.

Mo's birth details, for the purposes of casting a natal chart, are as follows: Feb. 13, 1992, 5:20 pm, Oakland, California.

Reading

MY WRITTEN READING

Mo, I begin with a significator card, which you see in the photograph above. This card, The Initiate, represents you. We will then do a card reading around this significator to see what universal energies are closest to you at the moment. Those are the cards we read for your divination.

CASE STUDY ANNOTATIONS

In the specific architecture of the SKT, significator cards are always chosen from one of the three Key 0s.

Here, I went with Key 0: The Initiate, because we are trying to find a new beginning for Mo.

This is that initial step of Opening of the Four Worlds in the First Operation of the Opening of the Key (OOTK) reading method.

In the photo, I've placed the significator card, Key 0: The Initiate, at the top

After shuffling your significator card, The Initiate, into the deck, I cut the cards into four piles, each representing one of the four elements, Fire, Water, Air, and Earth, which correspond with certain areas of life.

Here, your significator was found in the Water card pile, which connects to the domestic sphere. This is family, relationships, but can also be your emotional plane.

When someone is asking about career matters, which I often associate with Fire, and the significator is in the Water card pile, which is elementally in opposition to Fire, I wonder if there might be some extent of subconscious self-sabotage going on.

A family member, or it could be a romantic partner, may be unwittingly holding you back in terms of your career ascent. There are many ways this might manifest. Early childhood emotional trauma resulting in you not feeling like you deserve better could then cause you to subconsciously block yourself from high achievement. You cancel yourself before anyone else has the chance to reject you. You rule out aspirational "reach" job postings. You lack the motivation and drive at the workplace to aspire for advancements and promotions.

Another interpretation of The Initiate showing up in the Water card pile for a career question is that your family situation or matters of the heart are tying you down to a specific location, and that "perfect job" for you, strictly career speaking, is not in your current geographic location. That's what's hindering you from attaining your "perfect job." You're not casting the net out wide enough.

Now let's see what exactly is going on with regard to your career situation. From the Water card pile, I've pulled three cards.

of the card pile for the querent's reference.

During the actual divinatory reading, it appeared somewhere in the middle of that Water card pile.

I'm also referencing the four card piles by element rather than by Kabbalistic Worlds, as that is easier for most querents to follow.

For those familiar with the Opening of the Key reading method, notice how here I have opted out of discussion of the card counting method, which is the divinatory method employed for selecting the cards from the Water card pile.

In this quick reading for a querent who doesn't know a whole lot about the tarot, getting into the intricacies of how you

You didn't mention what professional industry you're in, but it looks like the market is very saturated. You've got a lot of cut-throat competition. A much more aggressive and robust approach is called for if you want to rise to the top here.

Whenever the Knight of Swords in this particular tarot deck comes up, I think, "Art of War." Over the centuries, people from all cultures and walks of life have caught on to just how applicable Sun Tzu's Art of War is to areas of life, like business and career ambitions. Thus, an easy action item for you to start on right now, immediately after this reading session is to get yourself a copy of the Art of War and see what insights can be gleaned from it to help you get ahead in your career.

Finally, the Two of Cups showing up in a final position in your reading is a good omen. Perhaps a good friend of yours lends a hand and gets your resume in front of the right pair eyes, getting you the job. To me, I also read this as career advice from Spirit—make sure the future job offer you accept is one where you sincerely enjoy the office culture. Make sure you're going to be working somewhere with people you actually like. It turns out that's more important than you might realize right now.

Let's see if the Venus in Cancer decanate (astrological) correspondence for The Joined One in that final position of the reading gives us any forecasts into dates that will be relevant in your job hunt.

From now until 2023, Venus in Cancer corresponds with the following dates:

- July 17, 2022 – August 11, 2022
- May 7, 2023 – June 5, 2023

These dates signify when "the stars" are best aligned in your favor of a successful job hunt. These are going to be more personally fruitful and productive periods of the years as well.

Mo, you also asked what career paths you're best suited for. My preference is to consult your birth chart, rather than the tarot. Per your birth details, I cast your natal chart under Tropical Whole Signs and did a quick assessment of the key points relating to what sense of a predestined career track you might have been born with. The chart appears on the subsequent page of this reading.

selected the cards is probably of little interest to your querent. They just want to know the plain-speak answer to their question.

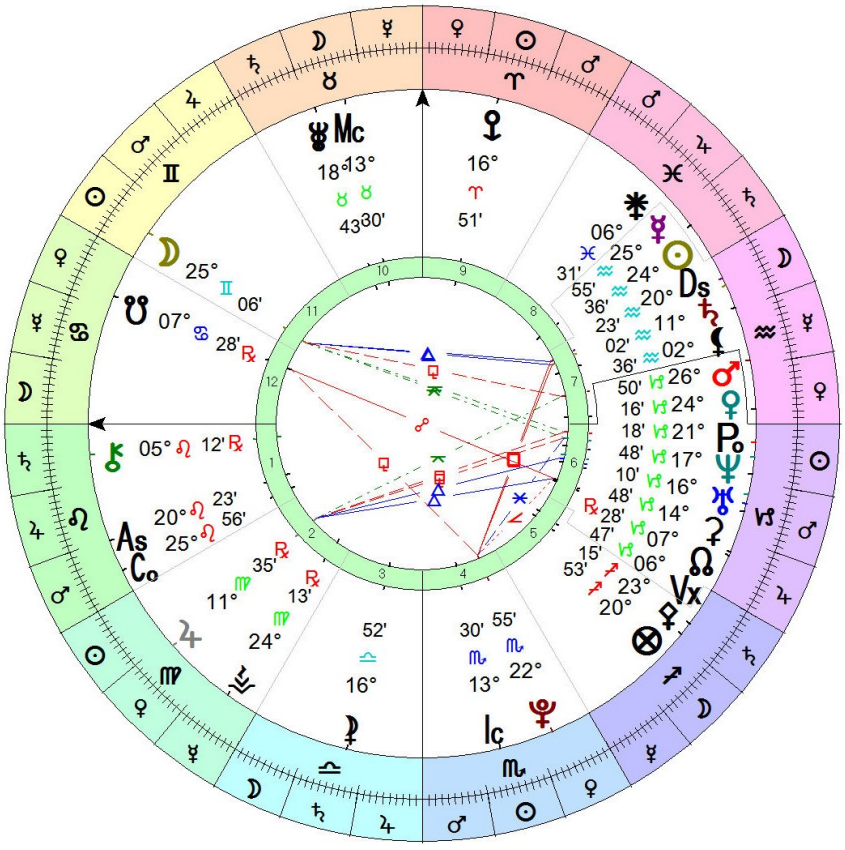
On the other hand, if you're doing a reading for a fellow tarot reader, then you can both nerd out on card counting.

For Mercury, Venus, or Mars, I'll run an Electional Search using my astrology software program for corresponding dates in a 2-year window. So if I see any of these three planets as the decan ruler in a significantly positioned card, I'll include this section.

In my particular approach to readings, if a client is asking about what career paths are best for him, I'll request birth details and explain how I prefer to use a natal chart for answering that type of

A stable and secure corporate career path is an ideal fit for you. Your chart is Earth-dominant and Fixed-dominant, in addition to having your midheaven sign in Taurus and Leo rising. That means I see you potentially in a corporate leadership role.

A midheaven sign Taurus under the decan rulership Moon in Taurus reveals someone who would manage assets and resources well, but with the Moon as the influential decanate, we also see someone who is really good at seeing what no one else can see—you are good at spotting potential. Talent scouts, those at the corporate management level in industries such as retail, fashion, supply chain management, strategic management, mining, or even food services (restaurant management) are industries where you would thrive, and where you would contribute a great deal, due to your innate talents. The close proximity between your midheaven sign in Taurus and Hygeia also suggests an innate connection to the healthcare industry.



The tarot card I link to the decanate Moon in Taurus, which is what rules your midheaven sign (aspirational career matters) is the Six of Pentacles, which suggests to me that you need to do work that makes you feel like you're bringing balance or equity to people from different social classes. If the work you do doesn't feel

question. This is not to say that tarot can't answer such a question; it certainly can. It's just my personal preference to opt for the natal chart.

In Mo's birth chart, you'll see that the decan ruler over his Mc is the Moon in Taurus.

In the SKT (following the Golden Dawn system of correspondences), that's the Six of Orbs, The Giver.

Here, I wove the meaning of The Giver

meaningful to you in terms of it measurably improving the quality of life of others, you're not going to feel fulfilled. So during your job hunt, especially as you are paving a long-term path toward establishing your career, that inner drive might be something to think about.

into how I interpreted Mo's midheaven.

You also asked if the cards might have insight into what to look out for in the coming months, in terms of your job hunt. Focused on that question, I pulled three cards to get an impression. (A photograph of the spread is on the subsequent page.)

I didn't assign fixed meanings to these 3 card positions. I focus on Mo's question, pull three cards, and then assess them in relation to each other. Broadly, I'll look at the left card as causation and the right card as final result. Center card indicates the interim period to come.

Your job hunt in a "midheaven in Taurus" or elementally Earth-dominant industry will be successful. Cast your job search net wide enough to cover the fields discussed, per your midheaven sign, looking specifically at management-level positions.

Note the Ace of Orbs appearing near the "future" position, with strong Earth energies, tying it to Mo's midheaven in an Earth sign.

However, it won't come quickly, and there may be a longer period of waiting, with little positive results. Keep up your faith and don't get too disappointed. The positive news is going to take a little longer than you would like to come.

I read the Five of Orbs in this specific context as indicating delays and disappointments relating perhaps to the pay.

Also, I see that job offers that are a bit disappointing in what they pay may come first, but keep your spirits up. Have faith in the process. It is all to lay a path to get you to the career position you want.

During your free time in the next few months, consider signing up to do forms of community service that are tangentially related to the industries we talked about. This broadens your professional network and might get you connected to the type of people who can open doors of career opportunity for you.

The community service interpretation here for networking comes out of Key 17, which is in the early "causal" position of the spread.

Question Presented: Six-Month Projection

Clarke would like a divinatory projection for the next 6 months. Although she wants all subjects and topics to be accounted for, especially what the cards are saying are important for her to focus on, she would like some particularized insights into personal spirituality.

Reading

MY WRITTEN READING

Clarke,

I've pulled one card for each of the next six months. I am using my own deck that I created, the Spirit Keeper's Tarot, Revelation Edition. You'll see thumbnail images of the cards in the left column.

Here are my projections for the next six months:

January Eight of Swords The Captor	It looks like you carry over a lot of the stress, anxiety, and unfinished business from the previous year into this new year. Don't worry if there isn't a whole lot of progressive action or leaps of improvement. Manage your expectations. There may be greater forces of conflict and crises at play in the external world around you, that have nothing at all to do with you, except they have an impact on your daily life in January. You feel it. It trickles all the way down to you. A good friend of mine from South America shared a folk superstition/protection spell with me that I really love and have continued to both use myself and advise to others: place a pair of scissors underneath your bed, with the points open and facing toward the head of the bed. Do this throughout the month of January, as it will prevent any unwanted harm from coming to you. Also, wear silver jewelry throughout the month of January. Finally, leave out a bowl of salt or a bowl of vinegar on your kitchen counter. You may want to dump it

CASE STUDY ANNOTATIONS

Card from the Swords suit, corresponding with the element Air. Air corresponds with the mental plane. I start by reading this card as indicative of Clarke being too much inside her own head, and because it's The Captor, not in a positive, productive way.

The landscape of the illustration in this specific card reminds me of Capitol Hill at this moment, i.e., politics and government, so I lean into that impression during this reading.

I end January's forecast with folk magical guidance that I've personally found to work for me, and for those I've given this guidance to.

	out and refresh once per week. Let's not underestimate the power and wisdom of folk magic! =)

February Six of Scepters The Champion	February looks better than January. There could be welcomed opportunities for advancement in work, employment, and professional matters. There's also some recognition for the work that you do. Spend some time for yourself in February to do an accounting of your achievements. Reflect on all that you've accomplished and envision what more you seek to accomplish. If you're doing some long-term scheduling, February is an auspicious month for planning any sort of enterprise or ambitious undertakings.

March Key 9: The Erudite Hermit of the Mysteries	Continuing education, taking online classes, or some good old-fashioned study time might not be a bad idea for March. This could turn into a month of planning, researching, and writing. Pictured here in The Erudite from the SKT is an ascetic priestess of the one true Supreme Being. In the Shona religion, the name of this Supreme Being is Mwari, who is described as the author of all life, and all that is of this world is of Mwari (essentially a pantheistic view akin to Spinoza's God). In terms of personal spirituality, March might be the month to focus on some of those Big Picture what-is-the-meaning-of-life questions. Pray. Or take some time to go out hiking or to be alone outdoors, close to God's Creations, close to Mwari, so that you might hear Mwari speaking to you.

I'm drawing a lot from the Virgo correspondence of Key 9 in providing this first paragraph of the divinatory reading.

April Four of Swords The Convalescent	Be mindful of your physical health. Don't put undue stress on your mind or body. Focus on strengthening your immune system. Also focus on respiratory health. April is projected to be a month of challenges and battles. Exhaustion and fatigue are recurring themes. You know some of the folk superstitions or protection spells we covered earlier for January? April might not be a time to reintroduce some of those practices. In sum, April is a month to take it easy on yourself. Seek out medicine and healing. Whatever has battered you since the beginning of the year, now is the time to recover from all that before you continue on to May. Rest, recuperate, and regain your strength before you take on your next battle.

The Four of Swords corresponds with the decan ruler Moon in Cancer (noted for easy reference on the SKT card). I'm incorporating medical astrology here.

May Key 2: The Priestess Sanctuary of Isis	Pay attention to your dreams in May. Your loved ones over and beyond the veil in the spirit world are active in May. Perhaps something has stirred them awake. In any event, they'll be close by this month. Light candles and leave out offerings for them. They'll find you in your visions to relay the messages they've come to bring. Dedicate some of your daily routine to personal spirituality. That could be meditation—whatever form you feel most comfortable with, daily personal tarot or oracle card readings and journaling, or even something as simple as reading a few inspirational books and keeping them by your nightstand. Given The Priestess energy here, might I recommend nonfiction books on philosophy, world religions, or ancient mythology. By the way, pictured on this card is a Sumerian gala priestess of Inanna.

I will try to intuit how open-minded the querent will be to spirituality and mysticism, and adjust my advice accordingly.

June

Herald of the Waters

Ace of Orbs
Bread of Life

A creative vision becomes an initiated undertaking. June is also a good time to consider your financial investments. The two sides—your creativity, artistry on one side, and your personal finances on the other—merge in welcomed ways.

Invite strong Water energy into your environment in June, to make sure your personal powers are amplified. This can be something as seemingly silly as wearing more blues, and colors associated with the element Water. Spend time out in nature by lakes, rivers, and oceans. Take a ritual salt bath every weekend throughout this month. Drink more water to make sure you are always well-hydrated. If you're open to the idea, devote some personal ritual work with a goddess associated with the element Water.

Funny enough, Clarke, we end with a Herald, or messenger card, in the last month. In the way I approach the Heralds (tarot Pages), this is an invitation to draw a second card. That second card here was the Ace of Orbs. Furthermore, together they cast an I Ching hexagram, Hexagram 46: Push Upward.

Earth

Wind

升

Sheng

The trigram Wind corresponding with the Herald of the Waters forms the lower trigram and the Earth corresponding with the Ace of Orbs forms the upper trigram. The resulting hexagram from the I Ching is Hexagram 46: Push Upward and Hoist.

The keywords in the secondary caption, "Inspired Design" really spoke to me here, so I led with that in my interpretation of the Herald of the Grail.

Since I drew a Herald card, I pulled a follow-up second card, which was the Ace of Orbs, and read it as Clarke's creativity blossoming into something financial potential.

In this specific case, the final card draw being a Herald and calling for a second card seemed like a perfect opportunity to close the reading with an I Ching oracle message.

I copied and pasted the hexagram's oracle straight out of the Book of Maps, which you are free to do as well.

Here is the oracle message I leave you with summarizing the next six months:

Hexagram 46
Push Upward; Hoist

A seed deep within the earth begins to push upward as it grows into a tree.

Give the seed time to push through the resistance of the earth.

In time, the seed will flourish. The sage adheres to virtuous practice and grows upward like the tree. Small victories accumulate to become greatness: one victory hoists up another until you attain supreme success.

The winds of change are blowing in your favor and the resources of the earth avail themselves to you.

Note: In this translation of the I Ching Book of Changes, when you see "sage," it means your higher self, your aspirational self.

If you're citing from my translation of the I Ching oracles in a professional reading setting, you may want to make a note of the "sage" reference, which I use in lieu of "*junzi*."

Clarke, I find it helpful to revisit and reread this oracle message throughout the six months, as you'll find new depths of meaning to in each different time and space that you read it, and it is intended to be particularly meaningful over the next six months.

Funny enough, the card we ended on was the Ace of Pentacles (or Ace of Orbs), suggesting the birth of something, and here the oracle message echoes that message of birth—"A seed deep within the earth begins to push upward as it grows into a tree." Furthermore, the suit of Pentacles/Orbs in the tarot corresponds with the element Earth.

Be patient with yourself. You don't need change to happen immediately. That seed doesn't become a tree overnight. The six-month period you've asked me to read about is but a mere gestation phase—note how the *Ace* (a card of beginnings) shows up at the very end of the time period. I read Aces as seeds being planted, not even having sprouted yet, and so here, let these next six months be about sowing the seed. Rest assured Spirit is sending you the prophecy that this seed you sow will grow into a magnificent tree.