

Tasseography by Rissa

Full Sample Reading in Black Tea

Starting at the handle, which represents you, the seeker, there is a large 3-D heart on top of a chunky block. You are love, you just need to allow yourself to go through the process of healing the blockage to feel the love welling up inside you. Just under the heart is a standing greyhound. While all dogs represent loyalty, greyhounds also bring fast speed and prowess to the reading. These dogs are not like others, once engaged, they are among the planet's most successful hunters. This hound is waiting, ready to move, but not yet in action.

Attached to the greyhound is a butterfly, one of two in the cup. Butterflies are harbingers of evolution, of change completing its course. Once you are ready to move forward—once you have released the block holding your heart, the hound and butterfly are going to make good things happen very fast. Change will be swift, as fast as a greyhound!

Still under the handle, moving downward is an anatomical heart. This is an invitation to take better care of your physical well being. This is your love for yourself. It is buried deep under the block and the changes to come, but still, the cup wants to remind you—care for yourself on this basic, fundamental level.

Stacked below the heart is the profile of a horse attached to an arc with a roadrunner perched on it. Horses are considered very lucky in a tea cup. They represent speed, forward movement, freedom, power. But this horse is standing still, waiting, paused—just like the greyhound. It is connected by an arc, which is another symbol of change and processing. The arc is going from one place to the next, and the horse is waiting to gallop there with you. In many Native American systems, road runners are considered so lucky and protective, they are magical. This bird brings courage and awareness. Just under the arc is an upside down or inverted heart. Perhaps your romance is topsy turvy and you aren't sure how to go forward, but have faith. The journey you are on will be deeply protected and you will arrive on the other side or the arc with power and grace from these messenger animals.

Moving into the Emotional side of the cup, the left looking down, there is a large gap. This opening represents the space you are holding for what is to come. At the moment, perhaps you are experiencing loneliness and disconnect. Many people are in the present circumstance, but yours is punctuated by two edges, one is a distinct sharp line, the other is a fuzzy blockage. The hard line is one created by you. This is you putting up a gate around your heart; someone recently hurt you in an unexpected way, someone you had deep trust in. You're not ready to allow anyone else access to your heart. Just underneath the sharp line is a fuzzier blockage; it's stretching from the heart all the way around almost half of the open space. It feels like confusion and scattered thoughts, like you aren't sure how to move forward or who you might want to invite into this space with you, because your trust is broken. It's okay, you don't need to know because as you do the work to release your blocked heart, you will live your way into the answer. Try to rest your mind and have faith that the roadrunner will lead you safely past this pain and into the new you.

About halfway back the left side is the devil. He's holding an ear of corn and above them, a duck floats as if on water. The devil is not a literal summoning of Satan, however it is a symbol that demands attention. When the devil shows up, you are being called to examine bad habits you are clinging onto. What vices are you holding that stop you from moving on? What is it that you can't let go of? This devil is showing up with an ear of corn. Corn can be read many, many ways. Commonly, it's a symbol of nourishment and growth. The devil is perhaps, holding your growth, stopping your deep, soul-level nourishment. Time to dig into the hard questions and examine how you may be self-sabotaging your own happiness. With the duck just above, it's a clue that you can get past this. Birds are among the luckiest symbols in teacups and a bird that can walk, fly and swim—well, ducks are quite capable and

resilient. You can face your shadows and move past them, but you must believe you can, and then follow through with action. The duck wants you to know you can walk, fly or swim through these issues.

Further along on the left side, more into your next few months, there's an image of three people dancing on a large bat with its wings open. Though it might initially sound a little alarming, this is the sign of good things for you. Bats are noted in many cultures as symbols of rebirth, of the old passing into history and the embrace of what's new. This bat not only carries the promise of your rebirth and healing, it's bringing you 3 new friends, all dancing with joy! Dancing is simple symbol of celebration, contentment and great happiness. Let's consider the number 3 for a moment. In numerology, 3 is about creativity, self-expression, and optimism. (This number appears again on the other side of the cup.)

As we finish the emotional side of the cup, we meet a grouping of three more creatures. A thunderbird is rising next to a seated fox. Under the bird's wings is a small turtle. This trio is all the way at the opposite side of the cup from the handle. They're showing you what destiny would like to offer as your path in the next six months. The fox is a mixed message. Foxes are cunning and crafty, but also wise and able to survive in tricky situations. This fox is seated, at rest. He is simply observing for now and invites you to watch out for deceptions that might trip you on the path forward. Attached to him, the thunderbird is a powerful Native American symbol of profound transformation. This bird can literally divide the earth and heavens, and here, it is shielding a slow moving turtle. The turtle is on its way towards you from the back of the cup. Turtles represent patience and change, and can be very positive messengers of waiting for the good things in life, because they are on the way—in this case, escorted by a thunderbird!

The general messages of the Emotional side are of self examination, embracing self love and deeply allowing healing from the past to happen. This is not a moment for sharp action. It's the time for in-depth, quiet reflection.

Moving to the other side of the cup, the Material side, the symbols are going to be more about the physical things in your world and those connected to them: job/career/money, your home/stuff/car, etc. Starting at the handle and moving to the right (looking from above), There is a vulture by the rim of the cup. This bird feeds on what has died and offers renewal with letting go. In your work, perhaps something has dramatically changed. You lost a job, client, or contract that was a "sure thing"—until it wasn't. There is a large opening that spans along almost half the rim on this side of the cup as well. Mirroring the other half, you have room to welcome new opportunities into this part of your life. As the vulture picks away your past, know that more is on the way. Lower in the first part of the cup is a simple smiling face, and holding onto it, two figures, each helping the other forward. Someone is going to help you—you aren't alone on this journey. This could be help with your next career move or a new living arrangement. Next to them, the second butterfly, it's moving just ahead of the climbing duo and letting you know, this evolution is in progress, all you need to do is keep moving forward.

Floating in the scatter (scatter is tea that takes no form, representing confusion or lack of purpose), there's a lobster. It's another symbol of transformation, growth and healing! This little guy is a bottom feeder and he's cleaning up all that scatter/confusion in the material world. He's here to let you know that the professional clarity you long for is on the way.

About half way around this side are 3 twirling, dancing girls on top of an archway. Their long skirts are spinning and they appear to be moving in unison, like a troupe of professional performers. This speaks to your career again. Another very positive sign of change to look for in the next 3-4 months! Dancing in general is a good sign, but these girls are in choreographed action, rushing in the new opportunity the archway offers. Again - 3 dancers. This means that your new professional opportunities are going to require your creativity and artistic skills. Get ready. And the archway is the new beginning, the ushering in of the next start for you. It's not right next to you—the vulture and the lobster still have work to do. This change is on the way, though, and it wants to reach you quickly.

The next set of figures we encounter are a seated black cat looking over its shoulder, flicking its tail. It's boxed in by a 3-pronged solid blockage on one side, a small ridge on the other side and the rim on the top. Cats can have many meanings, but commonly, they are about situations in the literal home. This cat is trapped on three sides. There is one opening available to the cat and it leads to a division symbol (like in math class). The cat's only option is to move towards dividing itself from its current home. Though the cat is sitting and agitated, the best option might be to go towards the divide. Here's why: angels.

Towards the back quarter of the cup on the material side, there are two angels. In the tea reading world, there is no luckier symbol than an angel. An inverse angel (meaning the symbol appears in the empty space, not filled with tea) is the dominant figure in this quarter of the cup. Perching on the inverse angel's shoulder is a large songbird, and this is considered the second luckiest symbol in the tea leaf reading world! Symbols in inverse hint to divine connection, as if an ancestor, spirit guide or true angel has your back.

Inside the large inverse angel, a rooster and hen are perched in conversation with each other, and just under them, another angel. This second smaller angel is next to the division symbol. The message of angels is one of protection. As your living situation becomes more and more strained, the angels are offering safe passage to your next home.

Songbirds, like the one near the back of the cup on the angel's shoulder, are a symbol of freedom and spiritual growth. This bird is free, not caged, and is now resting comfortably with the angel. It invites you to trust the path onward, and know that the possibility of freedom is coming your way. Moving downward to the rooster and hen, also birds; chickens are associated with the literal home. This is about family energy, as if your actual family or someone as close to you as family will be part of the solution for you as far as your home or career in the next six months. The rooster and hen are both protective symbols that offering nurturing, and this duo has been ushered into your life by two angels.

Overall the messages from the cup on the Material side are about letting go of the ventures and material situations that are moving into the past. You have divine protection as you move forward and change is coming in the next six months. Allow those you consider family to help you.

The Bottom of the cup is about the distant future. There's a stingray occupying a huge chunk of the bottom. Water creatures represent emotions and this one is about finding deep peace and harmony in the soul. You've been through a painful journey and long for calm, quiet, safety. The powerful stingray can soar in the water and also hover on the ocean floor. It is letting you know that the chance to rest your spirit and recover is on the way.

Four smaller symbols are on the bottom as well. The letters J and U are floating behind the stingray, as if being pulled in the drag of the water. Letters can be associated with people, places or things. Typically I take the U to mean "you," and the J will immediately resonate, or will be revealed in the future in association with your deep spirit rest. Ahead of the stingray is a blooming tulip. Historically tulips are associated with true love—this doesn't always mean romance. Soul connections come in many forms. Tulips can also be about forgiveness in love. Perhaps forgiving a former lover or soul connection is something you need to do. Forgiving is an act you do to heal, it does not mean what that person did was okay. Further ahead is a wine glass. While this can literally mean drinking wine (be careful not to overdo it, especially if you are in emotional pain) the glass can also be about celebration at the end of a journey. When the stingray reaches the wine glass, it's time to let yourself unwind, it means you have arrived on the other side and can finally enjoy the hard work you've done and the long trek your heart has made.