

# Tarot in a Day

Also described as the  $(4 \times 10 = 40) + (4 \times 4 = 16) + (22) = 78$  Method, this approach to learning the tarot turns almost every other method on its head.

Students new to tarot often complain that they have spent months learning keywords from a book, and then found themselves stuck when trying to interpret those words in the context of a particular question. How does one use the first keyword violence, given to The Devil card in Kaplan's 'little white book' for the Tarot of the Witches, when there is no threat or violence in the situation being discussed? This method of learning often leads to some stretches of interpretation that go beyond the card itself.

Other students have complained that they have read lots of books on the symbolism of the cards and become entirely overwhelmed by the often-contradictory interpretations of the symbols on each card. In the Thoth deck designed by Aleister Crowley and painted by Frieda Harris, there are layers of alchemical, Thelemic, occult, astrological, kabalistic, numerological, geometric, freemasonic, sex magic, and scientific symbols upon every card.

The method of Tarosophy teaching starts at the bottom and works up, introducing you quickly to the same model that was used by some tarot deck creators to choose those images and symbols in the first place. It has the advantage of not tying you to particular keywords or contexts, which then enables a rapid move to confident reading, once you've practiced a few times. If you are already a tarot reader, it may undo some bad teaching of the past.

The method simply requires you to learn four elements, have a clear idea in your head of any particularly creative process that you've experienced for yourself, and know four types of people. We then graft your personal experience into the matrices of Pythagorean numerology, neo-Platonic cosmology, and kabbalah. Don't worry too much about that, it's painless, you won't feel anything, and later on you can learn all you want about those subjects. But for now, here we go!

## **STEP 1: (4X10)**

Imagine a specific creative process that you have personally experienced, anything that comes to mind - drafting a report, making a dress, building a deck, cooking a meal, anything. The important thing is that it is a process where, at first, there's nothing, and then later, there's something that wasn't there before - in a sense, this is the cosmological basis of kabbalah, taught to you right there.

Now think about the start and the end of that process. What is it like at the beginning? At what exact point does it start? And how do you know when it is complete? How are those two stages related? Is it that your ending is almost part of the beginning - a flash of inspiration that gives you the full momentum until it is manifest? When you finish, do you go back to a new beginning?

Let us call the point of starting 1 and the final manifestation 10. On a scale of 1 to 10 let us divide the rest of your creative project. The easiest way to do that is to think of the exact halfway stage (this is around 5 on our scale between 1 and 10, sometimes 6) and consider the attributes of that stage. It is at a stage where we have committed fully to the project, where it would be difficult - but not impossible - to restart without losing too much, and where for the first time, the end is getting closer than the beginning.

Having thought about the 1, 10 and 5 stages, we can easily think about the other stages in a comparable manner. Take 2 and 9, for example.

The 2 stage of a creative process is after the initial burst of the beginning, when everything is ahead: there is optimism, plans can be made, and few obstacles have been encountered. However, there is little to tell us what decisions are going to work out or not - this is something that we'll have to wait until later to discover.

And the 9 stage at the other end of the process is when we're so close to completion that we really can't go back, but the whole process has not come to a complete stop. It is here that the initial impetus seems far away, and we have to remind ourselves why we started this creative project at all.

If we were to use dress making as an example, here's the full sequence:

1. I want to make a new dress.
2. I have time to do it, and the energy and resources.
3. I have a pattern.
4. I can see what I need to do and get on with it.
5. I encounter the difficulties and overcome the constraints.
6. The dress starts to look how I want it to look.
7. It is now easy, but I have to follow what I've already pinned together.
8. I can start to fix everything together now.
9. The dress now looks like the pattern, given the changes that I made.
10. I wear the dress.

Now write down your own stages for the creative process that you have chosen, using the table below.

Stage	Description of Stage in the Creative Process
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1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Every situation that you imagine will have its own version of these 1 to 10 phases, but they will be common to any creative process. The stages can be seen as:

1. Beginning, creation, spark, seed.
2. On the way, but uncertain future.
3. First signs of progress.
4. Results starting, but early days.
5. In the middle, meeting challenges.
6. More results but shouldn't rest on laurels.
7. Lots of energy but keeps focused.
8. Things coming together.
9. Results appearing end in sight.
10. Ending, completion.

## STEP 2: THE ASPECTS OF EXPERIENCE

The four aspects of experience correspond to the four elements - here comes your ancient Greek philosophy now of Water, Air, Fire, and Earth (W.A.F.E. for short). Now you can attribute these to just about anything, as you'll need to if you're going to see anything in the whole Universe as falling into one of only four categories. So, for simplicity, we will learn:

Water corresponds to calm or torrential	EMOTIONS
Air, airy-fairy or high-minded	INTELLECT
Fire, burning	AMBITIONS
Earth, material	MONEY

There's a lot more to it than that, and you can rise through several magical grades in arcane orders just by arguing whether a stick is Fire or Air, if you really want ... but for now, we are wanting to quickly learn tarot, and the easy way to picture the elements is with the four suits found in the deck:

CUP for Water  
SWORD for Air  
WAND for Fire  
COIN for Earth

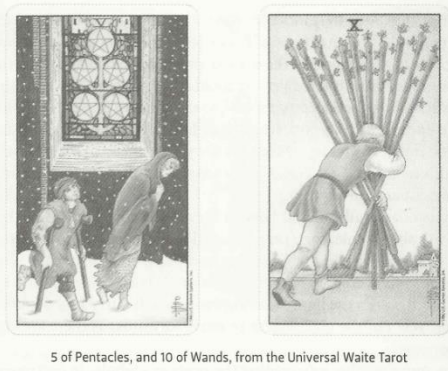
## STEP 3: PUTTING IT TOGETHER (MINORS)

We can now process our 10 stages through these four simple aspects of experience, without even referring to any tarot cards. Then, having learnt this, you'll find it is even easier - not more difficult - to work with the cards, which you'll soon see illustrate what you've now learned, rather than confuse.

Let's take the 5 stage - the challenging halfway house - in the element of Earth, which corresponds to the aspect of experience which is money. We would guess that this is the halfway point of working with money; a point which would be challenging, difficult and hard to know whether to move forwards or go back. There would not yet be any

return for our investment, we might say.

You'll see that it's a challenging part of the whole process of money, finances, that sort of thing. Now, look at the Waite-Smith Tarot image for this stage in this element. I hope you find it is a fitting picture for what you are feeling about this phase in this world, challenge in money.



If you want to check your understanding, go ahead. For example, here's Sasha Fenton in Super Tarot: "The questioner may suffer a financial loss or be over-extended ... " - the rest is merely her commentary on the basic meaning of the card.

This process can be repeated for any card, so long as you keep it quite simple. For example, looking at the 3 of Wands, you should say, "Stage 3 of 10 in the world of ambition." Then see what arises for you. In our system, we know that this card is showing us the first signs of progress in ambition; the first pattern coming together. How better then to describe it as virtue or established strength or success and harmony following struggle?

So, 10 of Wands - the last stage in a process of ambition? This card probably means that you've reached the end of what you aspired to, but there is a 'stuckness' to it that you can't now change. Look at the Waite-Smith Tarot picture of the figure struggling with his ten staves or read Crowley on the 10 of Wands: "It is a Will which has not understood anything beyond its dull purpose ... and will devour itself ... " - yes, you can start to understand more of Crowley's enigmatic The Book of Thoth because you're now working from the same basic system as Crowley.

## EXAMPLES OF ONE-CARD INTERPRETATIONS

So, using this method, if you had the 6 of Pentacles in the 'concerns' position of a reading about the outcome of a court case ... the 6 is just after 5, so the stage is some sign of the end in sight, but not everything is fixed yet - it could still change and go back the other way. Pentacles corresponds to the aspect of money, so the concern is not an emotional issue but a financial one - the querent is concerned that they have not yet got to the point where they are assured financial victory; things are not yet balanced in their favor. Looking at the Waite-Smith card you'll get visual confirmation of this: a figure with scales handing out coins to two other figures.

Now, Rachel Pollack calls this card one of the most complex in the deck - but you've just read it from a simple rule, for a proper question in a proper spread. Not bad going!

And the 2 of Wands in the same reading and position ... just after starting out, so you've got to the second step, at least, in ambitions, plans. You're right - have a look at the card, see how it shows the figure looking out to sea, holding a globe, kind of suggests that very thing, yes? But the challenge is to move forwards, as there are eight steps left to go in that process.

We can now move quickly into reading the cards as a whole, in fact moving immediately to reading 10 cards together in a spread.

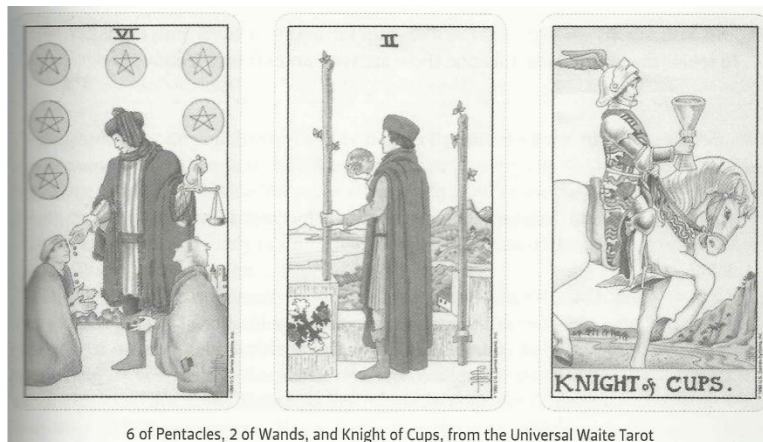
Okay, that's 40 cards learned (don't make it harder than it is, just remember the basic idea and you can work out the derived interpretation) and you're already halfway to learning the 16 Court cards (Page of Wands, Knight of Cups, etc.) because you know the elements, and the 16 Court cards are the four elements multiplied by four levels of energy.

## STEP 4: GROWING UP IS HARD TO DO (COURT CARDS)

What are the four levels of energy? Well, other than the letters of YHVH, the kabbalistic Four Worlds or all sorts of other ideas, you can represent these energies as people. Hey, isn't that what they've done already? You bet it is. Taking a somewhat stereotypical view of people, age and gender, we associate the four types of Court cards with four types of people thus:

Page	Young person	Dynamic, sudden, changeable
Knight	Young adult	Forthright, self-determined, ready
Queen	Adult male or female	Nurturing, patient, enduring, steady
King	Adult male or female	Forceful, directive, fixed

So, you have the young go-get-'em energy of the Page, which is often a flash-in-the-pan; the more aligned energy of the Knight, balanced on his horse, on his way; the receptive, broad, enduring energy of the Queen; and the counter-balanced, established, table energy of the King. Four grades, if you like, of the same energy, moving through four elements, from nothing to something - let's see that in practice.



6 of Pentacles, 2 of Wands, and Knight of Cups, from the Universal Waite Tarot

The Knight of Cups is emotional energy at its more directed, so as a person it's someone who is very influenced and driven by their imagination (you'll be glad to know Rachel Pollack, in her *Seventy-Eight Degrees of Wisdom*, agrees with your reading of this). But suppose that it appears in the 'foundation' card of a question to do with a new business what then? Panic? No, of course not - remember the rules: Knight, energy stabilizing, "Cups, emotions ... sounds like the card here is suggesting that the business should be true the person's emotional desires, and the better that it meets those needs, perhaps even at the expense of immediate financial needs, the stronger the foundation of the business.

Make sense? Easy! Always go back to the root rules and you'll find that you will make the rest up from there - that (with a bit of experience and reading of other people's made-up its) is how everyone else does it. You can read the energy as a person or as a resource that the querent needs to access within themselves. You can now even read a Court card as a change in a situation or as any other force without being tied to the "It's a blonde woman with blue eyes" syndrome.

## FACING THE COURT

To revise the Court cards, imagine these are your notes from a lecture.

The Court cards are 4 x 4 =16 cards

Four elements/'Levels' of operation

Swords	" Air	" Thoughts, learning, ideas, education
Wands	" Fire	" Ambition, lifestyle, spiritual/religious path
Cups	" Water	" Emotions, love, relationships
Pentacles	" Earth	" Material, wealth, house, health

So that's four aspects of life, then seen through four types of energy:

Page	" Child	" Sudden, burst, initiating energy
Knight	" Young adult	" Focused, intensifying energy
Queen	" Adult female	" Patient, nurturing, enduring energy
King	"Adult male	" Powerful, fixed, stabilizing energy

Lecturer also noted that Court cards are stereotypes not archetypes i.e., certain view of male and female energy, also the hierarchy of the Court: Pages being 'lesser' than Knights but having the potential to become Knights. All energy transforming.

Just knowing these types of people and their energy can give way of reading cards, either as:

1. Real people in querent's life.
2. Part of the querent's personality.
3. A necessary energy manifesting in the querent's life.

Difficulty comes in knowing which to interpret - always go for (3) as it can then be seen to manifest as either (1) or (2).

So, looking at these notes, if you see in a spread where the King of Wands appears as 'past':

*Past King (Stabilizing) Wands (Ambitions)*

Hmmm, what do you think? The situation is fixed: the person has had ambition that has become solid in the past, not allowing any new energy in the future. It could also present the 'father' inside the person, being too fixed in the past, or a trusted advisor giving constraining advice that is no longer appropriate - or all three interpretations.

You would think it likely to find a few Aces in the future in that reading, then.

The Court cards also directly symbolizes types of people. One such division is Jungian and groups people into types based upon intuition and knowledge. The role and relationship of intuition and knowledge in tarot is obviously one we looked at in types of retelling. If you would like to find out which of these two approaches (intuitive or rationalist) you are more likely to adopt, you can consider taking a Myers-Briggs Type indicator (MBTI) assessment. This is a psychometric test which groups people - based upon Jung - into four distinct categories:

Type	Categories
Rational (Judging)	Thinking / Feeling
Irrational (sensing)	Sensing / Intuition

There are many quick and rough tests of your Myers- Briggs type online. In our later section on the average tarot reader, we will see what type predominates.

These four personality types can be seen reflected in the four Court suits. There are variations, as ever, but we can start with a standard correspondence:

Thinking	Swords	Logical, rational, cutting, educated
Feeling	Cups	Deep, emotional, dreamy
Sensing	Pentacles	Practical, down-to-earth, stable
Intuition	Wands	Spiritual, insightful, dreamy

The rank of the Court card (Page, Knight, Queen, King) can then split these personality types further - introverted, extroverted, and so forth. We can also consider the energies of these cards as being levels of energy in each element, as we will see shortly.

We can simply go for age ranges at present: the Pages are children; the Knights are the 'Club 18 to 30' range; and the Queens and Kings adults of the respective sex. You'll notice that Pages and Knights are neither necessarily male nor female. Similarly, a man can have more 'feminine' qualities and a woman more 'masculine' qualities than gender alone would stereotype.

Anyway, in terms of the Jungian types, you should now be able to correspond your family and friends into Court cards - is your mother a 'sensing' sort of person, making her a Queen of Pentacles; or is she a 'feeling' person, a Queen of Cups? There's no single answer, of course, we are each a mixture of all types - there is no single Court card that doesn't have a voice inside you. We can also look at organizations as Court cards.

## STEP 5: THE BIG TWO-TWO (MAJORS)

Now, that's what, 40 cards plus 16, that's 56 cards learnt ... let's get the remaining 22 learned shall we? These are actually the easiest to learn, and as such the ones with even more long-term mystery embedded in them. These are your 'learning' cards: they all have scenes of life from which we learn stuff. In a reading they bring a lesson, and the lesson is whatever it shows you on the card.

So, the dreaded Death card, in the Waite-Smith deck, brings a lesson that nothing is permanent, everything changes. You can see that in the card - well, I can ... but you should learn whatever lesson each Major card teaches you, and the simplest way to do that is to look at the card and ask it. Listen for a moment, and if you don't get anything at all - not even a vague feeling - put the card by your bed and wait for a dream to tell you or - even better - an event during the day, a television program, something you hear in passing; you'll know it when you get it.

These 22 cards speak an archetypal language that, by definition, is evident as a pattern underneath everything we perceive, so you just must call them out. This is covered in a following exercise, but first we will look at covering them quickly so that you can get reading straight away.

You can learn the Majors by simple keywords, a sentence to recall the theme of the card, a script, or as a living exercise - a powerful method which takes many months to accomplish. We will now look at sentences, scripts, and the living exercise to learn the Majors.

### SENTENCES TO EMBODY THE MAJORS

Card Number	Title	Sentence
0	The Fool	You have the ability to choose your way
1	The Magician	It is time to get your act together and decide
2	The High Priestess	Things are going on which you cannot see
3	The Empress	Everything will develop naturally
4	The Emperor	There is a lot of direction and advancement
5	The Hierophant	Seek advice of others in authority and wisdom
6	The Lovers	In relationships of all kinds, there is choice
7	The Chariot	Rein things in and you will go forwards
8	Strength	Maintain a gentle balance
9	The Hermit	Trust your own light and step carefully
10	Wheel of Fortune	What comes around, goes around
11	Justice	Everything will come out fairly
12	The Hanged Man	You are seeing things upside down
13	Death	Eventually, everything changes
14	Temperance	It is a testing time, making you stronger
15	The Devil	Don't think that you are seeing the truth!
16	The Blasted Tower	It is unavoidable - time to clear the decks
17	The Star	Keep your vision ahead of you, but keep it real
18	The Moon	What looks daunting ahead must be done
19	The Sun	A time of great delight and contentment
20	The Last Judgment	You are being called to respond, to act
21	The World	Everything will come together

While these sentences give a flavor of the cards' archetypes, they will never be comprehensive.

You should compare these sentences to other meanings that you will learn for each Major card, and continually build up a bank of associations to the archetype of that card (which can never be known).

Carrie Paris - an innovative tarot teacher - has the cards speak their own nature. In this case, we look again at the Majors to see what they would say if they were in the position of a spread called 'Your Heart's Desire'. See if you can imagine each card speaking in its own voice.

### SCRIPTS FOR THE MAJORS AS HEART'S DESIRE



## 0. The Fool

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you a single white rose open to the Sun. I am the highest truth and the greatest secret found within you. I am your innocence and your freedom - return to me and we will confidently travel together into the pathless land.

## 1. The Magician

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you direction and inner strength. Like the conductor, I let all things pass through me and yet am one with the music. Your inner music is ready to be heard - get your things together and go for it!

## 2. The High Priestess

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you a deep mystery. Your heart is hidden and safe, and your intuition is telling you all that you need to know. It is time to lay down your own law.

## 3. The Empress

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you abiding comfort. I am the mother of all things, and you are my child. Find me inside to know your own comfort, and let time heal all wounds.

## 4. The Emperor

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you inner direction and a prompt for action. Open up to the energy I hold and like the ram, we will break through all obstacles ahead!

## 5. The Hierophant

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you all the advice to which you haven't yet listened. You can learn from other people's mistakes and advice - I say to you, trust your heart but hear the wisdom of friends and those who know what is happening.

## 6. The Lovers

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you true love, Every man and every woman can be at one, when they realize that their heart is always open. Accept the Sun and the serpent equally and choose what leads you to me.

## 7. The Chariot

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you great news! Everything is going ahead and pulling together to achieve results. Time will fly and before you know it, everything will have moved ahead.

## 8. Strength

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you your challenge. Is the work effortless, or are you wasting your energies? It is time to decide if you can relate to the lion: the roar of your own heart, or the buried anger underneath the calm. The eternity symbol above my head might tell you that nothing stays the same.

## 9. The Hermit

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you what you know already. Be true to yourself, be clear what it is you want and be strong enough to walk towards it. It is time to join me in the place where you know you want to be.

## 10. The Wheel of Fortune

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you a great mystery. Look into my eyes - I have many! I am the sphinx who asks the question whose answer is life; I am the wheel forever turning; I am the jackal who guides you, and all four angels who guard you. I tell you now that if you stay still nothing will change, and to move forwards you know that things must.

## 11. Justice

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you the measure of truth. You have found the right balance in this relationship and can maintain it truly with your own heart's desire. I would only counsel that you must keep an eye on my sword - it is swift to change judgment should you tip the scales with anger and frustration.

## 12. The Hanged Man

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you a strange picture. When things are upside down, like me, you can see more clearly. What haven't you seen yet? Imagine that a friend, like me, was seeing your relationship now - what would we say to you if we could turn it on its head?

### 13. Death

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you what you see in all Nature: all things change. As the rose of romance fades, families, money, journeys await, and all that life has to offer. But do not forget the love that is at the heart of all things; this must not be buried in life. I am only death if you forget my lesson in your heart: love is life and life is love.

### 14. Temperance

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you glad news that your relationship is able to draw upon so many different things to create a truly tempered couple; balancing, matching' moving in a graceful dance of opposites. I say to you that I can appear angelic, but the energies of the Sun and the mountain are powerful - accept my fire in your heart and together we will forge a powerful relationship.

### 15. The Devil

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you passion, growth, and depth in the dark times. The Sun shines at midnight and there is a fire deep within that will not go out. Hold onto your heart and what you desire - there will be an end to present sorrow.

### 16. The Blasted Tower

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you sudden change, and new horizons. Prepare for an unexpected change but look beyond it when it happens to the longer-term goal that you have set yourself.

### 17. The Star

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you hope. I am the star of vision, the star of your dreams and the star that is clearest in the darkest night. I shine on you now, and whisper in your ear, "Don't give up, follow your dream."

### 18. The Moon

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you a quiet mystery. Look inside yourself now and know that you are more ready than you think to emerge from your hiding place - your shell - and start upon the road ahead. From here, the road looks beset with unknown danger, but when you are on it, I light the way.

### 19. The Sun

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you glad news. The inner light is glowing, shining' bursting, and like a garden of sunflowers, ready to burst! Stay true to yourself, stay open and don't clutch to anyone or anything - just enjoy the ride. You can!

### 20. The Last Judgment

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you an inner calling. The mistakes of the past are forgiven, you are free to make a new day now.

### 21. The World

I represent your heart's advice and I bring you the whole wide world! I am everything you are, and everything around you, and I am in your heart now. In this relationship you are finding everything coming together - welcome me with open arms.