

13 Magickal Cards

Tarot Insights By JohnnieTwoBrows

Aries: Charging into Spring

Merry meet! Welcome to the Aries edition of 13 Magickal Cards.

The new astrological year brings us around to Aries once more, and I wish all of my Rams a supremely happy birthday. You always seem to come up with the best ideas, and for that we're extremely jealous. It's probably best, however, to keep that Ram temper in check so we don't feel like we've been burned by that white-hot fire.

It's only appropriate that Aries starts the astrological year in spring, and not during the winter. Now is the time when a re-awakening of our passion and drive can bring us out of our shells again as the weather gets warmer. Instead of looking inward as we do during Pisces, we can now look outside ourselves with confidence knowing that we have a bright new year ahead of us.

As the cardinal fire sign of the Zodiac, Aries people are inspired, and are good at inspiring others to great heights. So this is a great time to begin new creative projects or get a new perspective on a lingering project. Whether it's designing your new herb garden, taking on a new assignment at work, or finding time in your busy schedule to help a friend finish one of their projects (like cleaning out their garage).

Inspiring others is an Aries trait too. I'm incredibly thankful for my Jennie Sunshine, whose Aries moon influence helps a number of us to be better people in many ways. If it weren't for her inspiring me to be a professional Tarot reader (and publishing this newsletter, as I recall, was her idea as well), I wouldn't be where I am today. Her creative side is working

overtime as she finishes our Persephone's Ball costumes while revising her novel and finding innovative ways to keep me from getting food on my shirts.

Wands are the suit of fire energy in the Tarot. If you're having trouble getting inspired when it comes to a new project, hobby, or idea, try working with fire energy. A great way to do this would be meditating using the ultimate creative force in the Tarot, the Ace of Wands.

A lot of us find ourselves in a position where we have left a project or something we enjoy for a time and want to come back to it. The Three of Wands represents exploration, development, and expansion of our skills and ideas after our initial inspiration has waned or if we've been away for a while.

If you're trying to finish up a project and just can't seem to put the finishing touches on it, the energy of the Eight of Wands will help us to focus our energy and make sure all of our Wands hit their mark. Some Tarot decks even have the eight wands on this card depicted as arrows; this card tells you that if you keep at it you'll be "on target" to finish what you set out to do.

Folks, it's time to get back in the saddle, shake things up, and get re-inspired. Getting a new perspective on your life at this time will help you keep your balance as you enter the new astrological year.

Best wishes on all of your new and old projects! May the fire energy of Aries help bring about the results you desire.

I hope to see you across my table soon. Blessed be, J2B



Tarot Deck Review

The Archeon Tarot

If your dark side is itching to be scratched, then you'll want to take a long, hard look at the Archeon Tarot deck. I'm not usually attracted to very dark decks like this one, but it has gained a special place in my Tarot collection. It also is one of the decks most beloved by my favorite store owner, Rev. Samantha Beaty, and she encouraged me to add it to my ever-growing Tarot box.

I wouldn't recommend this deck for beginners at all. Most of the Rider-Waite imagery is not present. This not to say that the cards are meaningless at all; however, you may find yourself giving readings that are more biased toward negative outcomes. Make sure you're considering both the dark and the light when this deck comes out to play.

Many of the Major and Minor Arcana cards have nude figures which are very tastefully portrayed; this is not an erotic Tarot deck at all. Sadly, most of the unclad figures are women; you'll have to go with something a little more racy for male frontal nudity.

The cards are a combination of drawings and photographs, and despite the lack of traditional Tarot imagery, I am impressed with the composition of each card. The Chariot, for example, has a nude woman as its central figure, standing between a blue horse and a red horse. The full moon is behind her, and the artist did keep the image of the stars (which on the Rider-Waite appear in the blue canopy of the Chariot) as symbols of constellations in the background of the cards. These constellations and the moon also appear on several other cards, like The Star. The Devil depicts a nearly naked man (the darkness hides much of him) with a very seductive look on his face, an almost impish grin. He will definitely remind you of Pan. And the one Major Arcana card that is supposed to give you a little nervous rush, the Tower, really fails to do so; I must admit that disappointed me a little bit.

The Court Cards seem very serious; it is hard to see these cards as happy people at all. The Queen of Swords, for example, looks much more unhappy than her Rider-Waite counterpart, while her sister, the Queen of Wands, can't even manage a smile.

My favorite card in this deck is The World, which has one of the brightest images in the entire deck. It depicts a huge tree with bright orange leaves that takes up almost the entire card beneath a starry sky. It exudes a sense of calm completion.

This deck is not for everyone, but if you're doing introspective work, or readings for yourself, you may find it rather useful. I have found that many Querents who are experiencing adversity in their lives tend to gravitate toward it.

Next month's review: The Quest Tarot

Tax-Time Tarot Sale!

April 15th is just around the corner, folks, and it's time to pay the taxman. But some of us are lucky enough to be getting a refund from our dear Uncle Sam.

So I'm doing my part to help you spend your tax refund at the store that is the foundation of my Tarot business, 13 Magickal Moons.

Spend \$35 in merchandise (pre-tax) at 13 Magickal Moons on any Wednesday or Saturday when I'm reading between now and the end of April and receive \$5 discount on any Tarot reading of \$20 and up on the day of your purchase.

Let's face it, folks...it's easy to drop \$35 at 13 Magickal Moons. I do it regularly just on decks of Tarot cards and Tarot books alone. That's not even counting the fantastic spell and spirit candles, jewelry, witch bottles, makeup, tea, statuary and gemstones. And of course, there's sage.

Featured Spread of the Month

For the month of April, I'm featuring a [New Beginnings](#) spread for \$30. It will have no less than 24 cards; it is an astrological house spread that will show you the current challenge in each of the 12 houses and give advice on how to begin overcoming it.

Shameless Marketing: Tarot Card Meanings

Here are some alternate Tarot card interpretations.

The Sun: After a Tarot card reading, you will feel like a sun god or goddess.

The Moon: Confused? Have a Tarot reading, but be sure to tell you reader the truth.

Ten of Pentacles: When flush with cash, host a Tarot party and watch friends flock to you.

Six of Swords: Travel to the Occoquan River to 13 Magickal Moons and watch your day get better instantly.

The Hanged Man: Sacrifice your lattes for a few days and save up for the New Beginnings Tarot spread this month.

The Hermit: Stop hiding out at home and come down to 13 Magickal Moons on Wednesday nights.

The Star: Your Tarot reader's wish for you is to host a Tarot party. His wife wouldn't be upset about it either.

Eight of Swords: Not sure what to do here? Need some guidance? Pull out those Tarot cards you bought at 13 Magickal Moons and do a reading for yourself.

Upcoming Dates

I'll be reading Tarot for the following dates for Aries and Taurus at 13 Magickal Moons. All of these dates are tentative. Please check www.13magickalmoons.com for an up-to-date schedule. If you know in advance you're going to be coming to the store for a reading, you may also call the store or email me (hierophant@cox.net) to schedule an appointment. This is especially true for weekend dates.

Saturday, March 24	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, March 28	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, April 4	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, April 7	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, April 11	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, April 18	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, April 21	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, April 25	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, April 28	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, May 2	6:00pm-9:00pm
Wednesday, May 9	6:00pm-9:00pm
Saturday, May 12	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, May 16	6:00pm-9:00pm
Saturday, May 19	11:30am-5:30pm