

13 Magickal Cards Tarot Insights By JohnnieTwoBrows

Aries: Ready or Not...

Merry meet! Welcome to the Aries edition of 13 Magickal Cards, and welcome to a new astrological year.

It is only fitting that we start off the new year the right way with an enthusiastic shout out to everyone born under the sign of Aries the Ram. Aries people are visionaries, and they are excellent at coming up with fantastically creative ideas. What the Ram sometimes lacks is the ability to stick around for a few moments and feel the satisfaction that can be derived from following an idea through to its completion.

Aries is the natural ruler of astrology's 1st house, and it's only appropriate since it comes first that it rules some very personal areas of our lives: our personality, identity, self-expression, attitude, and individuality. Also included in this house is our self image and health and fitness, which is why many of us—including some Scorpio Tarot card readers who will remain nameless—choose to start exercising more frequently during Aries. A lot of us have poor images of our physical selves; guilty as charged, folks. But we have the power to do something about it, and the energy of Aries can propel us off the couch and onto the treadmill or basketball court, or into a pool.

In the Tarot's Major Arcana, Aries is represented by the Emperor. If you forget, look closely at the Rider-Waite version of the card and check out the Ram's heads in the image. The ruling planet of Aries is Mars, the Bringer of War, planet of action and

aggression. Mars is represented by one of the scariest and most misunderstood cards in the Tarot deck, the Tower. Sometimes, we have to knock things down—or things have to be knocked down for us—so rebuilding can occur.

Change is a problem for many of us. Human beings are, in general, creatures of habit. We like predictability...and we like that in ourselves even more than in others. How many times have you said, “I’m back to my old self again,” after an illness or traumatic event?

The energy of Aries sun asks the question, “Here’s who you are. Do you like what you see?” It’s very...well, in your face energy (considering Aries rules the head and face, this expression was literary genius at work!) that forces us to contemplate our very beings and to compare how we see ourselves to how other people see us.

The reason the Tower card scares most of us is the sudden impact that it has on our lives. We may be forced to make

changes that we are not ready for, or at least, that we didn’t *think* we were ready for. It can be very unsettling, but in the long-term, looking back on the event may reveal some very positive changes that occurred in you because of it.

I used to work for a software company as a technical support representative. Soon after I arrived, I changed departments and became a technical instructor. But later in my career, I went back into the office where the technical support department works and saw that they had painted “NRNAO!” on many of the walls. I found out that it was the department’s new motto, which was, “Not ready, not an option!” This sentence sums up the energy of Aries sun perfectly.

While you may not be ready for change, the blazing fire energy of Aries encourages you to make changes on your own rather than having them forced on you later. You have more control than you think over what

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happens to you. The reason why the outcomes of Tarot readings can change is because free will is the most powerful force in the universe, and I truly believe that our choices say a lot about who we are.

I wish you a joyous Spring, and I hope to see you across my Tarot table soon.
Blessed Be, J2B

Tarot Deck Review

The Robin Wood Tarot

This Tarot deck, created by artist Robin Wood, is one of the most popular I have seen; many people own one and use it regularly.

One of the reasons for its popularity, in my opinion, is that it is a beautiful re-

expression of the Rider-Waite cards with the original images reproduced in a brighter, more evocative way.

For example, generally the images are more dramatic and expressive. The High Priestess almost seems to smile in this deck and seems more of a modern version of its Rider-Waite counterpart. This version focuses more on the bust of the High Priestess than the full-length more traditional view, and she is wearing a small pentacle necklace. The Two of Swords, on the other hand, looks even more imposing than the Rider version; the blindfolded woman sits on stone throne and her back is to an ocean. The Page of Wands enthusiastically holds a bright yellow wand topped with a crystal, and s/he is clearly a child. If you put the King next to the Page, the Page is clearly shorter, which can reinforce the lack of maturity

aspect that can come from these cards.

One of the cards that has changed the most from the Rider-Waite is the Death card. Death is standing in a living forest, draped in a long, burgundy robe—I thought of the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come from A Christmas Carol, gesturing with his (her?) right hand. No one is dead, no one is dying, and no kid holding flowers out to Death; it's a much less morbid image. Look closely and you'll see a very nice touch: A butterfly, an image of transformation, which is one of the central themes of this card.

The Ace of Cups shows the way Robin Wood has made the card meanings more accessible. It has a large heart on the side of it, and the water pours brightly out of the top into a pool of green growth below. Ocean life, complete with mermaid, can be seen if you look through the side of the chalice. This card just exudes happiness, joy, and emotional peace.

The backs of the cards are very simple, and are square images of green and white knots cut in half and alternated. On the whole, it is very simple, yet powerful, and doesn't distract from the reading of the cards.

One of my favorite cards in this deck is the Ace of Pentacles. A stone path through a field of beautiful flowers leads to a lone column. In the canopy of the trees overhead is a large pentacle, white on a yellow back intertwined with green vines. It is simple and just beautiful.

That's where the popularity of this deck comes from. If you are a Tarot beginner (or would like to be) and want a deck that is brighter and more expressive in many ways than the Rider-Waite, you'd be hard pressed to find a more appropriate deck for you. Those with Aries Sun or Moon signs will also like this deck; it is truly inspirational and brings out the meanings of the cards very well.

One small note: Normally I don't do this, but I looked through the Little White Book (LWB) that came with this Tarot deck. Typically I don't recommend using the LWB that comes with ANY Tarot deck (even the Rider-Waite's LWB, which is what I used when I was first reading, totally sucked...this guy wants to know about school and I see "furlough for a military man?!?!?!), and I remembered why I don't. The phrase in bold that summarizes the card is listed as "Nyaa-Nya-Nya-Nyaa-Nya". Say it aloud and you'll see what they are trying to get at. I was unimpressed.

Deck Review Correction

Last month, during my review of the Grail Tarot, I said that Jesus was the High Priestess. I realized after I sent it that I was totally wrong; Jesus is on the *Magician* card. My apologies for the oversight.

Card of The Month: The 7 of Wands

The 7 of Wands represents defiance,

aggression, and standing up for yourself and for what you believe in.

I often see this card in readings when people are fighting over little things that don't matter, when people get up on their "high horse", or when people pick fights with others. It also comes when people need to stand up and say "no" to others, and to defend themselves and their choices.

Some opposing cards include the 2 of Cups (reconciliation and harmony), the 10 of Cups (peace), and the Hanged Man (giving in).

Shameless Marketing: Cute Mammals

Meditation Technique

Sadly, I have no actual bunnies, duckies, chicks, kittens or puppies to offer you. I just know that cute animals sell stuff. So please imagine any of them here as you read on so you will be more inclined to purchase my Tarot services.

Thank you very much!

[TAKE A FEW DEEP, CLEANSING BREATHS. VISUALIZE LOTS OF CUTE, CUDDLY MAMMALS OF YOUR CHOICE (YES, EVEN FERRETS WILL DO EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE WEASELS) AS YOU READ ON.]

A Tarot reading will open up new worlds for you, new vistas for your mind, soul, and spirit. *

***With purchase of a Tarot reading. Some restrictions apply. Tipping the Tarot reader is good karma. Not for use with some sets. Offer not good in Alaska and Hawaii unless you are paying for the Tarot reader and Jennie Sunshine to go there with you. Number of new vistas experienced varies by Querent, but will grow exponentially based on the amount of money paid.**

[CONTINUE TO BREATHE DEEPLY. IMAGINE A GORGEOUS SPRING DAY SURROUNDED BY BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS, NONE OF WHOM SEE YOU AS PREY.]

Private Tarot lessons are available for advanced students, those who know the basic meanings of all 78 Tarot cards.

Contact John for more details (hierophant@cox.net) on this mystical journey into the subconscious mind. **

****Mystical journey is a relative term. We'll really just be sitting in chairs. It's just a metaphor. Think of it any way you want. Unmotivated students need not apply, as they irritate the instructor.**

[IMAGINE YOURSELF SAYING FAREWELL TO ALL OF THE CUDDLY ANIMALS AS THEY RETREAT INTO THE COMFORT OF THEIR HUNTER-FREE FOREST. GENTLY, CALMLY, PUT YOURSELF BACK INTO YOUR PHYSICAL BODY. WHENEVER YOU ARE READY, OPEN YOUR EYES; YOU WILL FEEL REFRESHED SO YOU CAN EMAIL HIEROPHANT@COX.NET TO SCHEDULE A TAROT PARTY.]

New Look!

Hope you like the new look of the Newsletter. It's now in PDF, and the layout is a little nicer for those of you who print it out. Let me know what you think.

PLEASE fill Out My SHORT Survey

I'd like to get some feedback from you about my Tarot practice. It is a VERY SHORT SURVEY and should take less than ten minutes. SERIOUSLY. You can find the link to the survey [here](#). THANK YOU.

help! I can't remember the order of the signs in the astrological year!

A lot of us have trouble remembering the order of the astrological signs, their elements (Fire, Earth, Air, and Water) and their qualities (cardinal, fixed, or mutable). Here's something that might help: Think about the progression of the seasons. Every equinox or solstice marks the arrival of a cardinal sign; in this case, spring begins with Aries, the cardinal fire sign. The middle of each season has a fixed sign. In the spring, it's Taurus the Bull, an earth sign. Finally, spring ends with the mutable (the ones that are typically the most adaptable) air sign which is Gemini, the Twins. Summer, of course begins with the cardinal Water

sign, Cancer. The signs always appear in the same element order as well...fire, earth, air, and water.

Dorothy Morrison is Back at 13 Magickal Moons!

Yes, you read that right...the illustrious Dorothy Morrison will be returning to our midst at the end of March...March 29 to be exact. And you know it will be totally awesome. Dorothy is an incredibly talented Witch with a set of Tarot cards. For those of you lucky enough to have scheduled a Tarot reading with Dorothy (Jennie Sunshine and I both got slots... and we were lucky because in less than 12 hours they were all gone!), you are in for a real treat.

Dorothy is also an incredibly talented Witch without a pack of Tarot cards in her hand. Make sure you sign up for **Utterly Fabulous, Taking Control of Your Own Damn Life**, from 7-9pm at the store. More details are available for your perusal at www.13magickalmoons.com.

Upcoming Tarot Dates

I'll be reading Tarot for the following dates during the rest of Aries and Taurus at 13 Magickal Moons. Readings are done on a first-come, first-served basis; no appointments are accepted. Just come to the Tarot table and sign up on the list. All dates are tentative; check the website frequently for updates.

Wednesday, March 26 6-9pm
 Saturday, April 5 11:30am-5:30pm
 Wednesday, April 9 6-9pm
 Saturday, April 26 11:30am-5:30pm
 Wednesday, April 30
 (Open Beltane Ritual) 6-9pm
 Saturday, May 10 11:30am-5:30pm
 Wednesday, May 14 6-9pm