

## 13 Magickal Cards Tarot Insights By JohnnieTwoBrows

### Gemini: Your Word is Your Bond

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

A double birthday greeting to everyone born under the sign of the Twins. Since there's more than one of you, multitasking is the easy part. The hard part is making sure you remember what you told everybody, since your brains are going full speed ahead all the time.

The Twins rule astrology's 3rd house, and in addition to multitasking, communications of all kinds, our brothers and sisters, our immediate environment (like our neighbors), transportation, and short getaways are all a part of it. With more and more ways to keep in touch we can't forget about all the ways we communicate—text messaging, instant messaging, email, telephone, videoconference—as they are all under the aegis of the 3rd house. (Keep this last fact in mind; Mercury went retrograde on May 26th and will not be moving forward again until June 17. See the article later on for more details.)

In the Major Arcana, Gemini is ruled by the Lovers, a card that rules not only our personal beliefs but also our sexuality and how it is expressed in our lives. Its ruling planet, Mercury, is expressed in the Major Arcana by the Magician, a card of tremendous personal power if properly expressed. The Magician also can take the form of the trickster, someone who gives the impression of power without really having any.

Gemini folks always seem to be in constant motion, and if their mouths seem to moving a lot, you're not seeing things. They are excellent communicators who possess the gift of gab. They understand the value of making conversation, and being at a party with the Twins is usually quite a treat. As the Zodiac's Jack of All Trades, Gemini never seems to lack for things to say.

What we say to people in our lives, as well as how we say it, can have a significant positive and negative impact. Think about what happens when you say something really nice about someone to a third person, and that person tells the someone about it. Now picture the same scenario, only this time you're being spiteful and nasty and the person finds out. OUCH. I think we've all been there and it is not pretty.

Under Gemini sun we should be taking the time to talk and have conversations

with others, but we need to be careful what we say and think about what would happen if our words were published for all to see. Would we be proud or ashamed?

Also, don't promise what you can't deliver. If you commit to being someplace, make sure you're there. I know that things happen and we can't always be where we want to be when we're supposed to be there, but communicating effectively, like telling others "I'm going to be late!" goes a long way. If you find yourself getting double- and triple-booked, get yourself a calendar, Blackberry or Palm Pilot. Respond to party invitations promptly, especially for larger and more formal gatherings (like weddings).

There is a real danger in not communicating effectively, folks. Just watch how your friends and family react if you don't show up to an event without so much as I "Sorry...I just can't come today." Once can be forgiven, but any more than that and it



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### Tarot Deck Review

starts to become a pattern. Then you get one of the most heinous labels there is, in my opinion: You are deemed **unreliable**. I have a few people in my life who I just can't count on when they say they'll do something, and let me tell you, it's really hard to remove that label, even after years of improvement.

Think of good communication as showing people that you are responsible for your words and are willing to back them up with actions. If you think of the verbal commitments you make as promises, I think you'll be a lot more careful about who you promise to help move out of their apartment. :)

May all of your communications be positive, honest, and direct. Enjoy the Gemini sun and I'll see you across my table soon. Blessed Be! J2B

### *Tarot of the New Vision*

I saw this deck several months ago and was entranced with it almost immediately. There was absolutely no chance of avoiding it for me once I saw what it was: A Rider-Waite deck shown from the **opposite angle**.

This deck blew my mind. I have been reading with the Rider for 19 years now, and I found that two things have happened since I started working with this deck. I started looking at the Rider in a whole new way, seeing things I hadn't focused on in the past, while enjoying the new insights that this deck brought me with its originality. I guess that's why I chose to review it during Gemini: It's familiar and yet has,

well...two faces.

Now before I get a flood of emails denouncing me for extolling the virtues of a copy of the Rider-Waite when that deck is not a Querent favorite, let me highlight what makes it different from the original one.

First of all, the card backs are completely different, with white and blue images of the Ace of Pentacles on each, but the cards are similar overall in size.

The cards themselves don't have that RW "edge" to them and feel a little softer. They are not at all as warm and welcoming as the Hansen-Roberts Tarot deck, however, which has softened the images significantly.

The biggest difference of all is the perspective and I'll describe one of each of the suits for you to try to give you the flavor. Let's start with the Nine of Cups. The satisfied man in the RW is no longer visible, but behind his table

where the cups are placed are three little children doing different activities. To me it reinforces the "I get what I want" message that is inherent in the "wish" of the Nine of Cups.

The Three of Pentacles shows the three Pentacles in the center and the opposite view of the three figures on the card. In the background, a covered wagon and a horse can be seen. This reinforced the idea of "team" for me; a team of horses pulled these wagons, and only teamwork would ensure the survival of pioneers.

The Lovers card shows the backs of the man, woman, and angel on the card, but in the landscape, which looks like plains, there are many animals. To me, the animals reinforce the "what do you believe in?" message; there are many types of animals, just like there are many different types of lifestyles. You just have to figure out where yours fits in the whole scheme of things and do your best to get along with those who act or think differently.

The 9 of Wands shows the wounded man defending his palisade wall of Wands, but in this card we see the threat he is defending against: A bear. While he sees this potential enemy he is not yet at the ready. For me, this reinforces the message of being on the defensive. The bear is not yet a threat, but could become one. Are you always trying to defend yourself when the threat may or may not be real?

The Eight of Swords shows the woman in the circle of Swords choosing not to act because none of her options seem satisfactory. Above her head are three birds which are probably scavengers. So to me the message was quite clear: Decide quickly, because staying still isn't an option forever. Those birds can make a meal out of you too.

Finally, the Knight of Pentacles showed the "workaholic" message loudly and clearly as an ox is plowing the field in the background. Perhaps it's time to take the yoke off for a little while and join the rest of the world.

I chose the Eight of Cups as one of my favorite cards in this deck, but honestly I don't think I could choose just one. You see the man's back in the original, but this time you see his haggard and irritated face as he leaves his Cups behind, crossing a river. In the sky behind him is a city, and there are colorful fireworks all over the sky. To me there was a duality in this card that I really liked. Were the fireworks a celebration of the man's departure (which usually represents a spiritual journey)? Or rather were they showing that the city and its inhabitants were more concerned with play than with more worldly matters, and that the man decided that this particular culture or attitude was no longer for him? It is definitely something to consider.

I really enjoy this deck, and would recommend it for intermediate to advanced Tarot students who have studied for some time and want to have their perspective changed.

### Card of The Month: The Chariot

This card is a card of victory, willpower and hard control. I often see it in situations where people have a hard-fought victory, or when it's time for the Querent to take control and not back down.

Astrologically speaking it represents Cancer people and can indicate that time of year for asking "when" questions.

Its primary opposites include Strength (soft control and persuasion), the Five of Swords (defeat), and the 10 of Swords (bottoming out).

### MERCURY RETROGRADE ALERT!

That's right, folks, it's that time again.

Mercury went into retrograde motion on May 26 as we were barbecuing. It will be going on for the next month or so, but through most of Gemini until June 17.

Keep an eye out for the communications breakdowns that sometimes can occur; check your email, voicemail, and other devices regularly and return messages promptly. For important messages like "I'm buying you this plane ticket, right?" you'll want to make sure that you confirm

all of the information verbally before clicking that BUY button online. If you stop hearing from someone, don't necessarily take it personally; follow up and find out what's going on.

### Shameless Marketing: Welcome to Dragonfly Design!

I am incredibly proud of my beloved Jennie Sunshine and congratulate her on starting her new business, **Dragonfly Design**.

Jennie makes hand-made necklaces, bracelets and earrings with gemstones and beads for women. She specializes in metaphysical jewelry, but also makes pieces in a Tiki and rockabilly style as well. Gentlemen, fear not—Jennie also makes pieces with you in mind.

Jennie is proud to offer her metaphysical products at 13 Magickal Moons. A number of her pieces, like her elemental necklaces (Air, Earth, Fire, Water, and Spirit) are always in the jewelry case at the store. In addition, on Wednesday Tea Nights and Saturdays when I'm reading Tarot, she will be bringing new pieces with her so take the opportunity to buy them before they get on the shelf. Her inventory at the store is always changing so check in frequently!

Any metaphysical jewelry that isn't sold at the store, as well as her Tiki and rockabilly pieces, are being sold online at [dragon-flydesign13.etsy.com](http://dragon-flydesign13.etsy.com). Check out the site as well, and wish Jen well on her new venture! I am sure she'll be wildly successful!



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### Upcoming Dates

I'll be reading Tarot for the following dates for the remainder of Gemini and Cancer at 13 Magickal Moons.

Readings will be done on a first-come, first-served basis; I do not take appointments when I read at 13 Magickal Moons, so please do NOT call the store to try to make one. Just go to the Tarot table and sign up when you get to the store. All of these dates are tentative. Please check [www.13magickalmoons.com](http://www.13magickalmoons.com) for an up-to-date schedule.

Saturday, May 24	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, May 28	6-9pm
Wednesday, June 4	6-9pm
Saturday, June 14	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, June 18	6-9pm (Open Litha Ritual)
Saturday, June 28	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, July 2	6-9pm
Saturday, July 12	11:30am-5:30pm