

13 Magickal Cards

Tarot Insights By JohnnieTwoBrows

Libra: The Double-Edged Sword

Merry meet! Welcome to the Libra issue of 13 Magickal Cards.

Happy Birthday to all my Libra people, especially the Rev. Samantha Beaty. True to Libra form, Sam's insights and her ability to see things from the perspective of others is a tremendous help to all of us seeking deeper spiritual wisdom. Another Libra trait that she embodies is loyalty; she stands up for people who are close to her.

The other edge of the Libra sword, however, is indecision. When you're seeing the situation from so many different angles, it's hard to make a call. So those born under the sign of the Scales need to learn to "balance" the need to be decisive with their uncanny ability to be fair to everyone.

In the Tarot, Libra, the Cardinal Air sign, is represented in the Major Arcana by Justice, who, appropriately enough, is usually shown wielding a sword, the Tarot's Air energy suit. This card represents fairness, justice, and the good and bad consequences of our decisions, better known as karma. What you put out into the universe does indeed come back to you eventually. I prefer the more archaic, "As ye reap, so shall ye sow," or even the modern sentiment of, "What comes around goes around."

What I find so fascinating about the Tarot is that it's so even-handed, very much like Libras are. It will tell us the straight truth, not just what we'd like to hear. And that's why it takes courage to consult the Tarot; you must be prepared for both the light and the dark, and to "own it", as Rev. Sam

would say. In other words, the Tarot can be rather painful if you are not ready to take responsibility for your actions. While I would never want to hurt anyone, I believe that the Tarot gives you the message you're supposed to hear.

In my Tarot practice, I have a few standing rules, and they have to do with the ability of the Querent to accept responsibility for his/her actions. For example, unless I have the permission of a parent or guardian, I don't read for people under 18. The teenage years are a time of selfishness and irresponsibility, and most minors are not ready for the hard truth that the Tarot gives. When I do read for minors, I tread very carefully.

A second rule that you might not be aware of is that I don't read for anyone who says, "Only tell me the good things." My response is, "Then you don't want a Tarot reading." This is not to say that you won't ever have a good Tarot reading. Of course that's ridiculous. But I find that people who start off with a statement like the one above may consider the Tarot to be a form of entertainment, a pleasant diversion, and as such may not be ready to hear the message they're supposed to receive.

If you read Tarot for others, I suggest you follow these two rules. In this way, you're being fair to the Querent and fair to yourself as a reader by protecting yourself from potentially upset parents and those adults not ready for the message yet.

I wish you a fair and balanced month in the Libra sun, and I hope to see you across my table soon. Blessed be, J2B



Tarot Deck Review

The Lovers Tarot

This deck was a gift from one of my favorite people, the Rev. Samantha Beaty. Since she was born under the sign of Libra I decided to review this deck under Libra sun.

It is definitely one of the more interesting decks I have come across, and its art is a cross between Renaissance figures and modern graphics-enhancement tools. I like the deck mainly because it is very simple in many respects. The card backs, for example, are a deep blue with a small tan frame and a small amount of filigree work at the top and bottom.

The imagery is Rider-Waite based but there are many significant differences, and the symbols in some way seem even more Christian than in the original Rider-Waite. For example, the Lovers card is very clearly a reference to Adam and Eve, complete with fig leaves, and a Cupid with bow drawn back above their heads. The woman on the Strength card is petting a lion but not trying to hold its mouth open or otherwise restrain it. Lady Justice holds a sword but no scales are in evidence.

However, it is not a deck for Tarot novices. The total absence of any figure or imagery

on the pip cards is a problem for novice Tarot practitioners. Only the image of the appropriate number of the object is on the card. On the 3 of Swords, there are three swords...and nothing else. So if you are going to use this deck make sure you know your card meanings very well.

Luckily, the Court Cards do have images of people and landscapes on them so you can draw some information out of them. I noticed that the Pages look VERY young, especially the Page of Cups. This can reinforce the message that Pages represent young, young-at-heart or immature people in the life of the Querent.

Each card does have its full name written on the bottom in legible script so you don't have to count all the objects on a card to know which one it is. It's distracting to have to do so in the middle of a reading.

My favorite card has got to be the Devil. There are tons of people in chaos on this card, and the head of the Devil, who looks very much like The Horned God rather than a "demonic" being, is smirking over this group of people in turmoil. But no chains or other implements of torture grace this card.

All in all, the deck is great for those who like Renaissance art and simple imagery, and for those who are more advanced students

of the Tarot. I really enjoy reading with this deck but it's not for everyone.

13 Magickal Moons Expands Tarot Deck and Book Selection!

Those of you who have been in 13 Magickal Moons recently have noticed a significant increase in the space allotted for decks of Tarot cards on the shelves. Next time you're in the area, pop in and take a look...a lot of great Tarot decks, deck and book sets and books and on display. One of my favorite books, Tarot Tips, which is part of the "Special Topics in Tarot" series, is there now and is a must for Tarot readers of any level. It answers a lot of basic (and not-so-basic) questions about reading the Tarot.

Another book, "Professional Tarot" by Christine Jette, is essential for anyone who would like to make money reading Tarot professionally. It's the best book I've seen to date on this topic. 13 Magickal Moons has this one as well. So stop in and start shopping for Samhain (Halloween) and Yule (Christmas) sooner rather than later. You'll be glad you did.

Astrological Alert: Mercury Retrograde!

Beginning on October 12, 2007, Mercury will begin its final retrograde period of the calendar year.

For those of you not familiar with the concept, planets travel in their orbits, but sometimes they appear to travel backwards (or in retrograde motion) when viewed from the Earth. Depending on the planet, it may happen very rarely to several times a year (like Mercury).

Mercury rules communication, and when Mercury goes into retrograde all forms of communication and associated devices (cell phones, pagers, email, etc.) have a

tendency to go awry during this time, so here's how to protect yourself.

- 1) Get your message across clearly. Misunderstandings are significant during this period. Saying what you mean is essential.
- 2) If you are signing contracts of any kind, getting a new job, or making a large purchase (like a home), triple check all of the associated details.
- 3) If traveling for business or pleasure, confirm all reservations (transportation, lodging, etc.) and plans involving other people.

Shameless Marketing: Contest Extended

A lot of you wonder how many Tarot decks I actually own. Good question, isn't it? I buy new decks on a pretty regular basis.

Well, here's your chance to answer it. Give me your best guess of the amount of decks I will own on **September 30, 2007**. I'll give the closest guess to the actual number **\$15 off a Tarot party** (party must be at least two hours), and the second closest guess **\$10 off any Tarot reading of \$20 or more** during any session I am reading at 13 Magickal Moons (phone readings are not eligible.)

I had so few guesses for this contest that I'm extending it another month so now's your chance to win! Submit your guess to hierophant@cox.net no later than October 31. Good luck!

Limited Edition Spread Extended!

From now through the end of October, I'll be doing a **Planetary Spread**, which has no less than 15 cards and will cost **\$30**. Each card describes an area of your life based on the planet the position represents;

the Sun, for example, represents your will, vitality, and “masculine” principles, while the Moon represents emotions and “feminine” principles and energy. Only a select few people have taken advantage of

this spread so ask for it the next time you contact me for a reading!

Upcoming Dates

I’ll be reading Tarot for the following dates for the remainder of Libra and Scorpio at 13 Magickal Moons. All of these dates are tentative. Readings are done on a first come, first served basis; when I arrive at the store I start a list, and you may sign up at that time. I do not take appointments, so please do not call 13 Magickal Moons asking for one. Please check www.13magickalmoons.com for an up-to-date reading schedule.

Saturday, October 6	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, October 10	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, October 17	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, October 27	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, October 31 (Samhain Ritual)	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, November 10	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, November 14	6:00-9:00pm