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Caring For The Tarot

By Gabianne

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Welcome and congratulations on becoming part of the Tarot Tradition.

If you are new to Tarot, or simply want to get some expert advice on how to look after and cleanse your existing Tarot deck, then this download is for you.

Traditionally Tarot has been linked with darkness, evil, black magic and Satanism, but thankfully, as more is shared about this divination and guidance tool, those affiliations are being seen as misguided and Tarot has taken its rightful place as a useful and safe way of connecting to higher spirit and gaining insight and guidance for questioners.

The Tarot is one of the oldest surviving divination tools in the western world and whether you use it for insight, prophecy or to gain an access to spirit and message, you can be sure that using your cards will provide you with access to a new spiritual realm.

But as with all tools, your cards need to be treated with care. This document will tell you how to store, cleanse and optimize your cards to ensure that you can access their unique powers simply and easily.

Receiving your first tarot cards:

As you may know Tarot cards are traditionally considered more spiritual if given as a gift, and therefore make a lovely present

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for someone who may be looking to get in touch with their higher good, or who is interested in developing spiritually. However it is also perfectly fine to buy cards for yourself as you can activate the “gift” element by making a presentation of them.

In today’s society we so rarely make a fuss of the things we buy for ourselves and honor the “treat” which we are bestowing our true selves. Wrap the cards up and make a ritual of unwrapping and looking through them. Consider these cards as a gift from your higher self or your spirit guide who directed you into the website and helped you choose the right cards for you. Honor that gift just as you would if it was a gift from a friend or relative.

Getting to know your cards:

Once you have your new tarot cards it is important to become comfortable with them. Sit in a slightly darkened space without any distractions and allow yourself to idly shuffle and look through the cards. Allow your eyes to unfocus slightly and let the images on the cards be simple impressions rather than trying to access the deeper symbolic meanings. These meanings will come in time and with further study, but at first simply note how you emotionally respond to each card and anything that jumps out at you.

You may choose to select a card to represent your spirit guide or guardian angel. This card can be used in all spreads as a protector or representation of your pure intent in gaining insight which is you’re your highest spiritual good (or that of your questioner)

The most common cards chosen for this purpose is The High Priestess or the High Priest from the Major Arcana, but this is not compulsory so feel free to choose any card that calls to you. Other good choices may be The Sun, The Star, The Emperor or Empress card.

You may wish to also choose a card which represents your higher self, or your spiritual aspect which clearly indicates the message is for you when this card starts the reading.

The best choice for this card is to choose a Queen in the lower suits for a female questioner, or a King from the lower suits for a male. Each suit, Cups, Pentacles, Swords and Wands have a different meaning and link to different areas of inquiry, astrology and life experience, but for now it is fine to choose the one which you are drawn to without worrying too much about the higher meanings.

Remember you are not tied to this card for ever, but it is useful to intuitively connect to the cards before you undertake formal study on meanings and spreads.

Storing your cards:

The way you store your cards should reflect the respect you have for them as a spiritual tool as well as a way to keep them clean, dust free and energized with positive energy and intentions.

Cards should be kept wrapped, either in a piece of cloth such as silk or cotton, or in a drawstring or zippered bag or even a snugly closing wooden box.

Remember these are your tools in your search for spirit and any one will tell you that the respect you show your tools will reflect the standard of the work you can do.

Cleansing your cards:

Cards should be cleansed before each new reading. There are several ways to cleanse them depending on what tools and cleansing materials you have available and what is feasible in your practice. The following is simply one way in which the cards can be thoroughly cleansed.

White Light Cleansing

When removing the cards from their bag or wrapping, briefly hold the cards and focus on visualizing white or golden light all around them.

This light is a visual representation of truth, spirit and blessing which will insure that the readings given by the cards will reflect the pure intent of the reader.

Between each reading shuffle the cards and then deal them into random piles of 9. This will ensure that the cards will not duplicate readings unless they are spiritually meant to do so.

Some readers do not like others to touch their cards, as they believe this interfere with the energy or spiritual connection of the cards with the questioner and the higher spirit. However if you are doing readings for others you will probably need to insure that there is a connection between the cards and the questioner which is most easily done through the questioner shuffling the cards before their reading.

It is important that the cards and the message are open to the questioner's energy. If you are naturally psychic you may be able to create this connection through holding something of the questioner's, such as a piece of jewellery, however if you are not naturally psychic, or just developing your psychic gifts you may wish to allow the questioner to touch the cards.

For this reason you may well need to perform several cleansings on the cards. But remember that the cards can be cleansed easily after readings simply through repeating the white light blessing.

For stronger cleansing, particularly after very emotional or intense readings, you can smudge the cards with white sage (we have a download where smudging process is clearly explained) or you can keep a crystal such as a fluorite in the wrapping or crystal bag to help absorb any residual negative energy.

Mysterys By Mail has a range of energizing and cleansing crystals available as well as natural smudge sticks, tarot bags and holders.

Remember your cards are your connection to message and spirit, treat them well and you will see great insights and connections form for you.

For those who are interested in gaining more information about how to read the cards, or advanced divination we have some informative downloads and online courses coming soon, including *The Beginner's Guide to Reading The Tarot*.

Please feel free to add yourself to the mailing list or email Mysterys By Mail to find out more about these offers.

We hope this information has proven helpful for you and wish you well on your new spiritual path. Blessed Be from all from us at Mysterys By Mail.