

Learning about the Tarot and How to do a Reading

in Part II of the Handbook you can find a [List of Parallel Links between the I Ching and The Tarot](#). When you download The Holistic I Ching, this information already appears in the Pop-up Boxes in the Main Hexagram and at the end of each line or text.

However, if you wish to learn the meaning of the cards in order to do readings (for yourself or others), you need to have an accurate understanding of the symbolism of each card. You can also learn a lot more about a card by comparing it to the Keynotes for the related I Ching hexagrams mentioned in the List. [Hence this can be an invaluable study guide for both the I Ching and the Tarot.](#)

One meaningful way to understand the cards, is to ask a question each day and choose one Tarot Card from a pack. Thus the chosen card has a personal significance and importance. The Universal Waite Pack is highly recommended, for its beauty and the detailed symbolism. Other packs may be just as helpful to many people, e.g. the Hanson Roberts pack.

After you choose one card, you could read its meaning from the list of Parallel Links, then read the Keynotes for the main linked hexagram (* the one with the asterisk). There may also be a specific moving line for that hexagram which is important. Linking one system to the other can provide you with a strong indication of what the card represents. Then closely examine this card for every detail in the drawing. This will also provide a whole story. You could look at this card often during a day.



For example, if you were to examine the Knight of Pentacles card, you would notice that it represents a young man (a youthful approach). In most Tarot packs, he is on a very sturdy work-horse (reliability), holding a Pentacle (financial affairs). He has a feather in his cap (approval). The ground around him is very fertile (productivity) and the sky is golden (clarity and an indication of success). The ground is also recently ploughed (hard work or study done in preparation). He is sturdy in stature (indicating grounding and a stable character). His clothing is like armour against strife (protection). The whole feel of this card is earthiness, thus it is traditionally related to an earthy Virgo/ Taurus/ Capricorn influence, which symbolizes a hard-working attitude with a desire for stability.

He also has a helmet with horns, another allusion to the Bull (Taurus) — work or productivity. These are of course universal symbols which could be found in a myriad of ways around the world, e.g. in heraldry, paintings, frescoes, sculpture and so on.

In a personal reading, the Knight of Pentacles is described as: being organized and dependable. A full-time job, or a youthful, grounded man applying himself to work, saving or study. A trustworthy friend or associate, who helps salvage a risky situation. Mastery through staying power, without drastic changes or short-cuts. Bolstering security. Earthy ventures, gardening, landscaping, farming, etc.

When you look at the List of Parallel Links to the I Ching, it is no wonder that it is related to Hexagram No. 32 - Continuity, which also stands for staying power, not changing course, being dependable, loyal and strong. Likewise Hexagram No. 46 signifies a decade of growth through hard work. It also has a correlation to No. 15 Humility the Fourth Line. The same archetypal meaning can thus be seen in both systems. This is like a large tapestry where the many threads form a whole picture.

After you have closely examined the symbols of most of the cards, over a period of time, you could progress to a reading with three cards.

A Three-card Lay-out



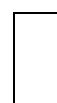
Position No. 1

An Underlying or
Core Issue



Position No. 2

A Current Issue or
present challenge



Position No. 3

A Possible or
Potential Outcome



In this actual reading, done by the author, the Core Issue (Card No 1) did involve a productive investment that needed to be preserved.

The Current Challenge (Card No. 2) was independence, innovation, teaching and multi-tasking.

The Probable Outcome (Card No. 3) was an increase of skills and talents being rewarded.

Below is a sample of two cards, taken from the List in the Handbook — The Magician and the High Priestess, one more-masculine symbol and the either more-feminine. They are both from the **Major Arcana cards which in a spread, relate to your journey on the Path to Wholeness or Self-Realization.** For these cards are more spiritual or universal. They portray archetypal situations with collective themes common to all humanity.

Whereas, **Minor Arcana cards** (from the Four Suits of Cups, Pentacles, Swords and Wands) **apply to material or more mundane concerns, being more personal or individual.**

You can see below that the Magician card is most closely matched in the I Ching to Hexagram No. 1. If you click on the Tab on the Home Page that has a link to Hexagram No. 1, you can see that The Magician Card is mentioned just above the Keynotes and also at the end of the text for the Bottom and Second Lines.

Sample of two PARALLEL LINKS – I CHING & THE TAROT

* The first correlation is the closest match.

TAROT CARDS

and corresponding I Ching Texts.

INTERPRETATIONS

MAJOR ARCANA

MAGICIAN

No. 1 - The Expansive: *
(closest match) or

No. 1 - The Expansive - 2nd Line:
No. 49 - Revolution - 5th Line:
No. 20 - The Overview - 4th Line:

MAGICIAN Reversed

No. 1 - The Expansive - 1st Line: *

No. 62 - Protecting the Small - 5th Line:
No. 31 - Influence & Prestige - 5th Line:

MAGICIAN: A catalyst or agent of radical change, providing magical solutions. Or taking the initiative. A manager, an intermediary agent, or a broker. Seeking patronage. Being self-reliant, yet tapping a network. Teaching others, conducting workshops. Being self-sufficient and original. Creating the best conditions for oneself. Using three or four skills in unison.

MAGICIAN Reversed: Supporting those in authority first. Original ideas, but not in control as yet. Frustration or indecision. Feeling powerless? Lack of self-esteem? Postponement until support or patronage increases. Endorsement via a mediator or agent required to begin again? Preparatory work, for future leadership or self-employment. Finding additional outlets for creative energy.

HIGH PRIESTESS

No. 2 - The Receptive - 5th Line: *

No. 52 - Stillness - 5th Line:

No. 54 - The Subordinate - 5th Line:

No. 24 - The Turning Point - 2nd Line:

No. 62 - Protecting the Small - 5th Line:

No. 2 - The Receptive:

HIGH PRIESTESS: A mystery not revealed for now. Keeping ideas private. Dignity and reserve if denied direct power. A self-contained, mysterious woman. A counsellor or healer. Psychic insight. Independent spirituality. Connection to the Goddess, or women's support networks. Hidden power to transform. Prayer or ritual creating miracles. Unlocking Nature's secrets or hidden scientific truths. Depth-psychology.

HIGH PRIESTESS Reversed

No. 2 - The Receptive - 3rd Line: *

No. 15 - Humility - 1st Line:

No. 6 - Conflict - 3rd Line:

No. 61 - True Insight - 1st Line:

HIGH PRIESTESS Reversed: Keeping a close secret. Concealed motives. A hidden agenda. Secret power. Modesty or hidden talent. Facts will be disclosed, only after a renewal. A mystery kept safe. Secret opposition. Hence not inviting a challenge, or hiding an inner light. Being shrewd and guarded. Insight or soul-qualities not yet fully developed or displayed.

If you download in *The Holistic I Ching* and follow the link to Hexagram No. 2 you can see that the High Priestess Card is shown above the Keynotes and also mentioned at the end of the text for the Third and Fifth Lines. It is very pertinent to the Fifth Line.

This short summary of how to explore the Tarot system (and the I Ching at the same time) can provide you with an understanding of the depth of material that is available in the Handbook, *A Guide to the I Ching, Jung and Taoism*. Undertaking this study can give you a whole new way of understanding symbols, oracles and wisdom traditions, as well as the ability to do readings, even if only for yourself. Thus your unique Path to Wholeness could be illumined by greater self-knowledge.

Black & White Tarot images in the public domain, by Pamela Coleman Smith (from *Pictorial Key to the Tarot 1911*).

Coloured image of Knight of Pentacles from Hanson Roberts Tarot.