

TAROT ODYSSEY



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Dedication

To everyone I have had the honor of providing a Tarot reading: thank you for your time and generosity.

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Introduction

Since I was a teen, I have been enamored with Homer's *The Odyssey*. The mythical creatures and Odysseus's cleverness always resonated with me. The story taught me that life is not always about the destination, but the journey. The focus on the journey over the destination has been a guiding force in my work with Tarot.

Humans have always wanted to peer beyond the curtain that separates the Known from the Unknown. Whether it be the oracles of ancient Greece from the days of *The Odyssey* or modern internet psychics, people have often felt the desire to manifest that special something within themselves.

Of course, many people visit professional readers. My evenings would be spent in silence if they didn't! The expertise of a professional and the outside perspective they provide is of immense value. However, anyone can read the cards for themselves. I suspect some enterprising and not-so-ethical fortune-tellers started to spread the old myth that it is bad luck to read for yourself. Tarot's accessibility is what

makes it so exciting. No unique tool or apparatus besides a deck is required. Many people possess or know someone who has a Tarot deck.

Though it has been long absent, the mystical has been welcomed back into today's society. Tarot cards have become common in homes, crystal stores are popping up in most towns, and astrology is more popular than ever. With this resurgence, many seek ways to get deeper into the mystical.

If you have ever had a Tarot reading, you know it can be an enlightening and mystical experience. When someone receives a reading, they are known as a querent. Querent comes from the Latin *quaerens*, someone seeking or asking something. Although many people are happy to participate as a querent, significant insight can come from being the reader and the querent.

Tarot is an intriguing practice, but it can seem overwhelming at first. Do not fret! It is natural to feel a bit overwhelmed when you first lay the cards onto the table. Doing a little bit of research can be very helpful in understanding the basics of

tarot. With some basic knowledge, anyone can find success with a Tarot deck.

For purposes of this book, we are going to focus on the Rider-Waite-Smith Deck. I find this is the best for introducing someone to how to read the Tarot. It is the deck I use exclusively in many of my workshops and with private students. This is because so much information is available for this particular Tarot deck.

The first step of any journey is often the most intimidating. Learning anything, whether divination or a new recipe, is all about going one step at a time. Remember, Odysseus's journey took ten years. Although no reader would ever claim to have finished their card education, I am confident that any dedicated individual can learn in far fewer than ten years.

One technique many students find successful is learning a single card a day. Simply draw a card every morning. It might seem like a slow process – 78 cards means it would take 78 days – but this allows our minds to absorb the nuance of each card. Begin by simply looking at the card. Don't rush the process of letting your mind absorb the details on each

card. This is not a race! Take time to apply the card's message to your life and activities throughout the day– even dream about it. Trusting your intuition is vital for developing your skill as a Tarot reader. Once you have taken the time to tap into your natural intuition, check the meaning in any Tarot book or online. You will be surprised how close you often are!

A final theme of *The Odyssey* that has stayed with me is perseverance. Penelope and Homer stayed dedicated to one another over many years and various epic challenges. I wish everyone the same perseverance through their lifelong journey with the Tarot. It has brought incredible clarity and magic into my life, and I hope it does the same for you.

Welcome to your Tarot Odyssey!