

Spiritual Journey Through the Majors: Part 3

Student/Mentor Document

Session 1: In Balance We Choose



Question: I am sure that we have all had those ' I shouldn't but I can't resist moments', whether it be for an extra cake or some 'other' earthly delight. It is often difficult to reason out why this giving in to the temptation may not be a good idea, when we really want something. When faced with such a dilemma, maybe we do reason out why we should say no but consider for a moment, which Major card could help to make this choice easier and help you to refrain? Please give a basic explanation why you chose the card you did.

Student: When faced with a dilemma the challenge to resist temptation of something I really want it, I would hope I pull The Tower card (XVI). The question could be framed into two parts: Does the negative consequences outweigh the short-lived pleasure? If so, by how much.

The question involves the yin-yang of the universe, because there is always a price to pay in the physical and spiritual worlds. In Tarot reading, it is hard to pick a single Major card that may affect the challenges of temptation, as each Major archetype may have such an effect, depending on the surrounding facts and circumstances. If my choice was not limited to the Majors, I would pick the Ace of Swords. The basis for the Ace of Swords being that there has to be a better idea than the "earthly delight" I am considering pursuit of.

For me, the fear of the Tower card would present an effective cause to refrain. The Tower card sometimes arises as a consequence of a series of bad choices. It represents a downward spiral, where poor decision-making accelerates into a graver position of controversy. The Tower card is the result of temptation not handled properly when it appears with the Devil card. The Tower card places the Querent in a more dire position than the Devil card does, as the options have become more limited or defined than they were with Atu XV.

Mentor: It's a very interesting perspective how you describe the Tower's role in an intended pursuit of one's desires when in the extreme. What goes up must come down and there is a limit to what height we take extremes. This reminds me of the Tower imagery where the two figures are toppled out from the top of the Tower.

If we look to the considered Temperance, do you think that this energy can offer balance in such decision making and thus help prevent the Tower coming into force?

Question: How do you feel the energy of the Devil could actually help Soul development and if so, how do you see his role in this?

Student: Biblically speaking, this consideration about how the Devil could actually help Soul, brings to mind the distinction between Lucifer and Satan. "Lucifer" appears only once in the Bible. Scholars say that is a Roman name, and therefore added during translation under the rule of King James I. The name "Lucifer," scholars say, was used to substitute reference to the King of Babylon that appeared in the original Hebrew text. Lucifer is considered to be the God of Light. Theologians, interwove the doctrine of the Fallen Angel in Christian tradition with Lucifer, who is commonly interpreted to be the same as Satan, the Devil, and the Prince of Darkness. The irony is that "Lucifer" in ancient Latin means morning star, the bringer of light. This is of course, in contrast to Christ as the morning star. No matter one's personal Biblical beliefs, with all operations of the universe there is dark and light. There could not be one without the other. This understanding assists at explaining how the Devil card could actually help as an energy to advance Soul development.

The positive action of the Devil card rests (often unfortunately) on the fact that status quo or complacency eventually gets interrupted by new challenges. Sometimes these challenges are unexpected; other times that are brought about consciously. Inherent in each challenge is the

consideration of possible outcomes and opportunities. In the course of decision-making needed to navigate through such challenge, the opportunity for temptation to arise is high.

To resist potentially hurtful temptation, one should reflect on their motivations and examine each to consider whether he or she is being tempted by ill-fated passions, desires, fears, jealousies, zeal, short-term pleasure, etc., or is he or she motivated to meet the challenge with right action targeted to achieve the highest good. Thus, it is not temptation that the Devil card brings. Rather, the Devil card reminds us to reflect on our motivations for guidance when experiencing temptation. That defines the Devil card's role in Soul development.

Mentor: Thank you for sharing such wonderful insight. He certainly seems to play a role in our Soul development, especially if his energy is understood. Maybe some is incidental and maybe some is purposeful?

I do like how Robert Place describes the Devil as guarding the gates to the higher spiritual realm because it reminds me that the energy of the Devil has his place in challenging us and in spiritually he can teach us so much about ourselves.

Great 1st session Billy and my apologies to the slow start with the mentoring. Blessings,
Lara

Session 2: Spiritual Independence



Question: If the Devil turns up in a relationship reading, we need to consider that there could possibly be an aspect of narcissism. Many find this difficult to break away from. The cards are highlighting a very unhappy situation, with the Tower

being a future card. Write a brief description of how you can best guide this person.

Student: When what was at one time a healthy relationship turns unhealthy, the persons in the relationship can become glued to their best memories so much so that they become willing to tolerate what has now become an unhealthy relationship. That pattern cannot go on forever. The cards highlight two energies not running together. They are competing with each other rather than supporting one another. Yet they continue, as if their diabolical relationship was not meant to last forever, despite the strong presence of opposing forces.

When the Devil card appears I would gently describe to this person the scenario described above, as if it were about someone else; in the third-party. Then, I would suggest The Devil card in the reading may be telling you to consider these aspects of your own relationship. As the reader I would be on the watch for narcissism, knowing that the problem with narcissism is that narcissists are too caught up in themselves to see where they are contributing to the cause of disruption. I would not mention narcissism, but would be mindful of its possible presence. I may say that The Devil card shows there is a temptation to keep the relationship going, despite its damaging effects.

I would warn of the possibility that letting go sooner before things spiral further downward may prevent spiritual damage and physical pain to both parties in the relationship and to other people who are close to the relationship. It is better to deal with it now in a deliberate and careful way. Otherwise, you will likely have to deal with it with The Tower card, where you will be in crisis mode. I might even go so far to suggest The Devil card may also speak of the temptation to let go in a positive sense, with the adage, if you love someone set them free; and add that the "someone" includes his or her self.

Mentor: I think that your guidance and perspective of not labelling the potential presence of a 'Narcissistic energy' in the client's life is excellent. I can see how labelling can create an added issue within itself.

You mention the positive element of the Devil in such a reading and how the presence of the card can be used to encourage a positive outcome with more consideration for themselves and the other.

You are so right on the spiral that can occur if guidance of the cards is not heeded, I have seen deep hurt and two people who almost end up hating each other because of the lack of strength to let go. .

Question: If this situation continues on the same path, the Tower will most likely come into play. Looking back to the course on the section ' Dark Night of the Soul', consider how this situation may initiate this experience. Please explain.

Student: The Tower comes to show the person that there is a way out of this damaging relationship. The Tower shows this in a way that no other Archetype has, thus far. The Tower creates a do or die

reality. The moment to act can no longer be rationalized away or ignored. But The Tower also shows that there is a way out. Helping the person in need to convince themselves that there is a way out will be a real challenge, as the person experiencing the pain will find this quite hard to believe.

When someone's spirit is down, so will their optimism be. Physical ailment may even manifest. Sometimes it is easier to relate spiritual matters to the physical world to illustrate a point by analogy, because the physical realm is easier to see and feel than the spiritual. I may ask the querent if they recall ever being sick, like with influenza, and feeling that the discomfort was going to last forever? This is common. The same is true when you are experiencing the "Dark Night of the Soul." You feel doomed every which way you turn. There is nothing you can do to see your way out of it.

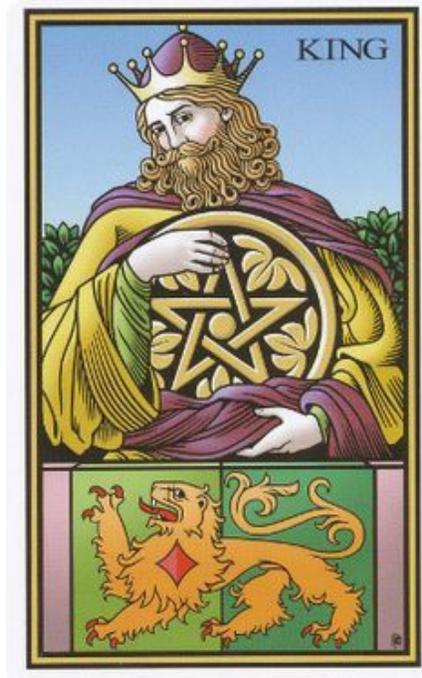
This is where a personal friendship or a Tarot Card Reader can help. The "doomed" lover needs to be reminding that the pain and depression they are experiencing is the universe's way of transforming you to a better spiritual place. Removing something that causes pain can hurt more than the pain itself, but it has to be removed. The "Dark Night" causes one to see and feel how damaging the the relationship has become. Having not addressed it earlier, there is now in a state of urgency. The pain will speak to you when all else fails. The pain makes the dark truths visible. Only when it becomes visible or knowing, can it then be helped or fixed.

Mentor:How true your words are Billy. This is not an easy place to be by any means. I find that this is the harshest reality is when the Tower comes along and influences the situation. The potential for a serious ego stripping can throw one into a Nadir kind of experience.

Excellent session Billy, you are knowledgeable on this subject and stage of the journey!
I enjoy reading your thoughts. Blessings, Lara

Session 3: The Shadow Within Us

King Pentacles - Tarot of the Sevenfold Mystery by Robert Place



Question: The King of Pentacles energy is the cause of some deep rooted issues for our sitter who is male and married. Can you describe how this energy may be presenting itself in the sitter's home life.

Student: It can be a wonderful thing to be married to the King of Pentacles. He knows he can be counted on to provide abundantly for his wife, family and household. This brings the King satisfaction and a sense of true self-worth (and net-worth, too, in the material world). So why his his wife so unhappy?

The King's wife complains he does not spend enough time with her, but he knows he devotes a great deal of time to her by focussing on gain, stability, and building a strong foundation. After all, he is home working on matters of importance, not out foolishing wasting time at sporting events, or dinners for two, dancing, walking in the park, growing flowers or engaging in any other such nonproductive matters.

Somewhere along the way the King of Pentacles' energy transformed from a focus on becoming a loyal provider into an obsession for gain and independence. His indulgence for doing the "right" thing in the material plane is have an adverse effect in his home and spiritual life. This is what he must realize, because only after he realizes this can he begin to work on the cause.

Fixing the cause when used in the context of personal, soul and spiritual development is often referred to as Shadow Work. Shadow Work can be described as learning to understand one's self better by connecting with the shadow aspects - suppressed dark memories or realizations of the present that we turn a blind eye to. Things get suppressed down to our subconscious as a matter of protection, self-preservation or guilt. This is a human phenomena. It is not an absurdity, but is something that should not go on without work and healing. Suppression is only a temporary fix. It is better to bring these less

fortunate recollections or realizations about one's self into consciousness and learn from them. Otherwise, one can become cold and disconcerting. Owning up to our shortcomings in life, even when it hurts to do so, is moving in the direction of achieving our highest good. Certainly, become cold and disconcerting is not.

Mentor: The issues that you have described are s typical in many aspects. I do feel that it is an innate desire for some men to be able to provide and provide well for their family. Maybe the material accumulation reflects and confirms the King's ability to exceed in his role as a man, husband and father.

Maybe the issues that are surfacing are not with the King himself so much but more so with his partner? Could it be that she has insecurities too and lacks confidence and independence which restricts her without her partner by her side?

But then we have the King whose focus (as you correctly mention) is becoming more so on work and less so on family-the distance between the two widens.

Question: The Knight of Cups, is laid in the position of advice for the situation, how may his energy help to improve the situation?

Student:The King of Pentacles fails to see his shadow side. He fails to realize that what he considers to be worldly may appear quite boring from his wife's perspective. What he considers to be targeted to gain security in life, may really be an unwillingness to take risks and be adventurous in an exciting and joyful way. What he considers to be wealth, another man would trade it all away for life of romance on a shoestring-budget where nothing matters more than the love he and his wife share. If the King of Pentacles does not learn these lessons soon, his wife my start looking for the King of Cups.

Fortunately, the King of Cups is in this reading for the King of Pentacles, not for his wife. The influence of the King of Cups laid in the position of advice for the situation can help the King of Pentacles learn the meaning of giving time to his wife. He must understand that she does not want him to ignore his work; she is not selfish. But she does not want him to ignore her, either. The kind of "time" she desires is time together focussed on her. Not for her, but about her. About her feelings, her thoughts, her ambitions, her cooking, and her beauty. These things are important to a woman, says the King of Cups. And important them as a couple in love.

The energy of Kings is air. The King of Pentacles' energy is the airy aspect of focus and success. The energy of the King of Cups is the airy aspect of romance and sensuality. Bringing the influence of romance and sensuality into the King of Pentacles' mindfulness can improve his situation at home by adding feelings of love and understanding to everything he does.

Mentor:Billy, the advice card is the Knight of Cups, however the guidance that you have given with the King of Cups is appropriate and also very guiding!

Great session again Billy! Blessings, Lara

Session 4: Purification

The Tower - Tarot of the Sevenfold Mystery by Robert Place



Question: The Tower helps to remove negativity from our lives and brings forth a symbolic cleansing, that opens up the doorway to the Star's energy. There is a saying 'The truth will set you free; this can be said for the energy of the Tower'. Please describe your thoughts on this?

Student: The Tower (XVI) brings truth to light. It may cause upset, confusion, and disorder. Its causation is tumultuous. It brings about endings, thus new beginnings. The Tower card breaks down illusions and allows clarity of thought to come into fruition. The end result of the breakdown at The Tower card is a new foundation to build upon. The new foundation is freedom from the accumulative effects of poor judgment, bad karma, and the bondage of indecision. I sometimes liken The Tower card to house cleaning. To deep clean a home you have to tear it apart, move everything around, and essentially create a mess. Then put it all back together with an organized methodology. When completed, you are then free to enjoy a freshly cleaned environment.

Mentor: What a wonderful way to describe the Tower Billy, a house clearing is a great example. We are indeed creating order in our lives but not without work.

Question: The Majors seem to develop in a more spiritual sense after the Tower, with a higher level of consciousness. Do you think that the Tower and maybe

other not so positively viewed cards, such as Death and Devil play an important role in this development?

Student: Yes, indeed, the darker cards including The Hanged Man, Death, and The Devil card, cause issues that hide in the shadows to come out into the light where they can be dealt with on a path of spiritual development. They are a necessary part of the universal yin-yang. Without darkness we would not know light. But along the path of the evolving spiritual level of consciousness, other cards illuminate the shadow aspects, too, like The Moon card.

Mentor: Yes, very nicely explained Billy and your answer expresses the degree of challenge and spiritual awakening of the journey when we reach this section of the Majors

Great session Billy! Blessings, Lara.

Session 5: An Act of the Gods or Not.

The Tower - Rider Waite Tarot 1971 Us Games



Question: It is often considered that the Tower comes into effect via Divine influence, hence why the card often shows 'yods' sparking from the Tower. If we accept the possible presence of the Divine in the situation, is it possible that this relationship is taking one or both away from their rightful path or journey?

Student: This is a complex inquiry. I have no difficulty accepting the possible presence of the Divine when the Tower card appears, as I believe the Divine is omnipresent and omniscient. The Divine is everywhere and knows everything. (Whether the Divine is also omnipotent I am not sure.) The present query asks, is it possible that the Divine would purposefully set one or both parties to a relationship down a less than best path? If that be the question my belief is no, the Divine does not work that way. The Divine is there to help us achieve our highest good. Indeed, the Divine is representative of the highest good.

It is said that only Jesus Christ and Siddhartha Gautama achieved this ideal in the mortal world. Were they tempted? Yes. Did they have to make hard decisions? Yes. Would it appear that the Divine mislead them at times? Yes. But did the Divine mislead them? No.

This is much easier to realize when you are not the one going through the confusion of falling into the abyss when The Tower comes crashing down. It can be so challenging to the point where one may question their faith in the Divine. Even Jesus said, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" ("My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")

Mentor: Excellent discussion points Billy and I can see your perspective. Do you think that the Tower could be sent to help the individuals to get back on their rightful path?

Question: In readings for others for similar situations, I have sometimes seen the couple still holding on but almost hating each other. I have often thought that at the point of the Hanged Man's presence within their relationship reading, they would have avoided such an extreme in feelings? Please share your thoughts on this.

Student: It is no surprise that the Hanged Man card appeared in a querent's past who is now in a do-or-die situation. When faced with the presence of the Hanged Man in the past, this querent decided to continue battling with opposing elements rather than find resolution. The classic definition of insanity (although I am not suggesting insanity is an element of couples that hate each other) is doing the same thing and expecting different results. By analogy, ignoring the Hanged Man creates the same expectations and result.

We recognize that smart people when grounded in pure emotion or pure logic are prone to make poor decisions. A querent grounded in emotion could not let go at the

point of the Hanged Man's presence, because of the excitement and joy the relationship or situation brought in the past; or still does, but for its negative impact on other aspects of the querent's life and the lives of people around them.

The querent grounded in logic could not let go at the point of the Hanged Man's presence, because it made perfect sense to continue the path he or she was on, logically speaking. But logic is static and emotions are dynamic. The two can work fabulously well together, but the two cannot stand independently apart for too long.

For example, when the Hanged Man appeared in a past relationship reading, one or both of the parties in this couples' relationship had likely held out hoping for an ideal outcome, whatever that may be. Whereas, clearer minds may have perceived the presence of the Hanged Man to be signalling a good time for relationship counseling or reaching out to friends and family. A clearer mind may have seen the Hanged Man signalling a good time for introspection, reflection, and self-analysis. It may also have been a good time to part ways, break up and stop the proverbial bleeding. When the Hanged Man card appeared in the past, it was likely ignored by this couple.

During divorce there can be much that appears as "hateful" emanating from both sides. It is helpful to remember that during divorce or break-up, we often see good people at their worst point of self-expression. Although it would be smart to avoid reaching this point, many people deal with the presence of the Hanged Man as the proverbial elephant in the room: Everyone sees it and no one says a word about it.

Mentor: Indeed there is a tendency to avoid the insight of the Hanged Man and this could save one or both parties from more difficult and challenging lessons down the road. I do like how you talk of logic and emotions not functioning effectively on an individual basis.

Wonderful insight again Billy, great to read! Blessings, Lara

Session 6: The Enlightened State of Being

The Star- Tarot of the Sevenfold Mystery by Robert M Place



Question: Looking at the 'Star' card above, there is an aspect of 'lightness' to the way the figure hovers higher towards the planets. How can you describe this 'lightness' of spirit? Please say how you feel, there is no 'right or wrong'.

Student: The sense of lightness displayed in the image of the Tarot of The Sevenfold Mystery Star card projects multiple meanings. Light as the opposite a heavy burden; light as the opposite of darkness; light as a mood opposite of noir; light as opposed to nighttime; light in attitude as opposed to rigid, etc. The sitter's recently resolved appetite for earthly desires is no longer pulling her down. Because of her resolve, the higher path of spirituality is pulling her upward. Her soul development is ascending into an enlightened state of being.

The heavy load that was imposed by the prior Majors has been lifted, like the proverbial monkey on her back. The Universe is bringing a higher level of consciousness her, because of the sitter's spiritual awakesness or heightened awareness. The Star is also the card of hope. Hope is naturally spiritually uplifting.

Mentor: Oh how beautifully described, I love how you say the earthly desires no longer pull the individual down. I find the Star such a lovely and ethereal energy and the way you describe the varied aspects of this lightness really does resonate with my feel for this card's energy.

Question: If we look at the image again, we see that the figure hovers above the ground bringing her closer to the stars. Can you relate this card's presence and energy to connecting the sitter spiritually?

Student: The Star card's energy emanates from the Archetype's movement toward the light shining through the seven planets, the seven stars. Her path is an ascension to Heaven, as did the Christ, the way-shower. "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. JOHN 1:4." She is retaking her first step upward when the Star card appears. She is cleansing her spirit of the negativity that was banished with The Tower card. Her experience is no longer a continuous downward spiral, but is a climb out of the abyss.

She begins to float above the mountains and the sea, as only one who is pure in heart and pure in spirit can rise. The energy of her progression upward radiates the higher aspects of soul development for her to grasp.

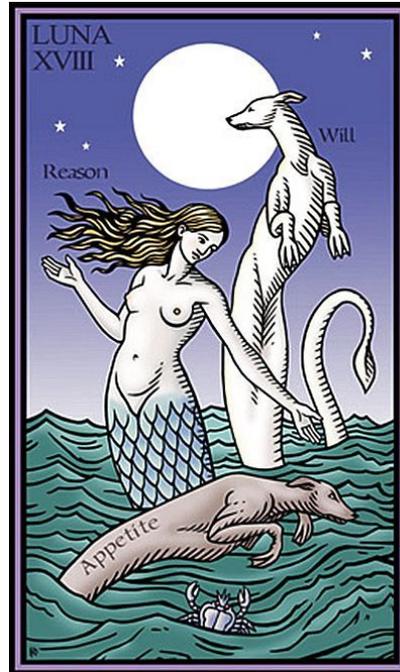
Before moving into this higher realm of energy the sitter had to get past a Devil. She did and this and is now better for it. She is now on a healing path. Spiritual healing begins at The Star card and moves toward the Sun card.

Mentor: It reminds me somewhat of Babel's Tower which was built with the attempt to become closer to God and then our Tarot Tower which is a man made falsehood..Again, neither offered the ability for man to attain a higher state of being, neither physically or spiritually. The Star, on the other hand, is the energy of such attainment in progress. You again describe it wonderfully Billy.

Lovely session to read, thankyou Billy
, Blessings, Lara

Session 7: The Hidden Comes to Light

Luna - Tarot of the Sevenfold Mystery by Robert M Place



Question: The depth of the unconscious is represented as the deep waters and the conscious thought as the Moon. Luna - The Moon Goddess (Diana the Goddess of the Hunt) connects the two. How is this union and balance of the two important?

Please say how you feel, there is no 'right or wrong'.

Student: The visual impression of LUNA XVIII shows unconscious as the deep waters of the sea with waves and creatures arising in and out of the unconscious, while the conscious thought represented as by the moon, is a much smaller and static image. It is one shade of white, pure without layers of dimension and perfectly round. These are not of equal energy. One is massive and dynamic, the other finite and static.

The Moon Goddess, Diana the Goddess of the Hunt, connects the conscious with the unconscious by shadowing the feelings of vulnerability that follow the climb toward the Light following the fall at The Tower card. Diana is in the form of a mermaid whose tail is within the sea and her body in the sky, rising toward the Light of the moon. She is Reason, dealing with Will, the dog-like amphibian figure, who is also in the sea, but more so in the air, who bridges the conscious with the unconscious. Will has reached the light of the moon, to counterbalance Reason's opposing force of appetite.

Appetite is further from the light of the moon, closer to the unconsciousness of the sea. The Cancer symbol of the crab is rising from the sea of unconsciousness, reminding the reader that the pull of the moon brings us out into the light. When I was young we caught crabs this way. When "night crabbing" you do not use bait; instead you use a flashlight. You shine the light onto the bay water and the crab will

surface into the light. Then, you softly sneak a net under the crab to pull it out of the water and into your basket. Being drawn into the light created a risk for the crab, as it does for the crabber.

Mentor: How wonderful, such interesting insight, I love your reference and experience of 'night crabbing'. It parallels the experience and fears of the crayfish (the individual), there is a desire to move into the light but so much uncertainty accompanies the journey.

Question: Considering Robert's reference to the Waite Smith Moon card, how can you relate this 'rest' to be represented in one's life?

Student: Author, artist, and speaker Robert Place suggests that the RWS Moon card is a sign to take rest prior to embarking on the path that leads to the Sun, Judgement, and The World or Universe. He writes, "It is not yet time to act but the seeds of action are being planted." The period of rest he describes is when the conscious is set to rest. When the conscious is at rest, it cause a period of unrest for the unconscious. With the busy mind subdued, the daydream or deep dream states are invoked. In this state of unconscious thought the veil is lifted and we see things in ways not visible when fully awake. In the dream state we can approach our fears without risk of manifested harm. Here we can plan out our life's path by navigating through things seen and unseen to prepare or strategize the journey toward the Sun card and beyond.

Mentor: Absolutely, yes Billy. This rest state allows us to venture beyond the veil, find our truths and face our fears.

Question: The extract that you read from the magazine that discusses the unconscious thought relates to what is discussed by Robert in the Waite Smith Moon card. Can you see the link between the two that is discussed? Please share your thoughts

Student: Mortal consciousness is a smaller and less dynamic state of awareness than the body of unconscious thought, i.e., the sea where Reason floats in Card XVII. What Mr. Place describes as rest-before-action is consistent with the "Passive Frame Theory" reference in the text, as both are premised on the belief that during conscious awareness we act out that which we have become familiar with during an unconscious state of being. What Mr. Place describes as the period following rest, the articles describes as a small fraction of brain activity being guided by unconsciousness as the real the driving force of our overt action and motivations. Likewise, it is our inner strength or will the enables us to know right from wrong. The resulting outward manifestations are but a reflection of a multitude of thoughts, emotions, memories, dreams, and ambitions that lie in our unconscious awareness.

Mentor: Very nicely explained Billy. Great understanding and insight. Excellent reference to the 'Passive Frame Theory', I found it such an interesting article and sent it

to Robert when i came across, he found it equally interesting. It is quite amazing what we are in fact able to manifest from this state of being.

Wonderful session Billy! Blessings, Lara

Session 8: A New Day in the Sun



The Sun- Rider Waite Tarot 1971 Us Games



Question: The presence of the Sun card in a future reading, especially on this journey, would be a wonderful sight and reassurance for the 'sitter'. Although this

experience and feeling will be of a spiritual nature, how would you describe this the card to your 'sitter', who may not have any spiritual faith?

Student: If the sitter has no spiritual faith I would not speak in terms of The Sun card representing logos or the word of God or the Creator. I would not speak of The Sun as a sign of God or sunflowers as a sign of faith.

Instead, I would make planetary references about the positioning of the Sun behind the Moon and the light of day coming after the shadow of night, and successes following failure. I would compare this to the sitter's plight out of the abyss, with the transition of The Star card and how she is now moving past The Moon's shadow and into the realm of sunlight, as the sun resides behind the moon.

I would also reflect upon the strength of the wall behind the child on the horse, being in contrast with the watery aspects of The Moon card. I would reflect on nature, in that the light of The Sun causes nature to grow and flourish. I would speak in terms of colors, with the horse being white, as a sign of purity, the blue sky, as a sign of good cheer and prosperity, and the yellow sunflowers abounding, as a sign of longevity and happiness. All of these good signs now shine for the sitter and the sitter is approaching all these goods things.

Mentor: Very thoughtful yes Billy. I think that as a reader we also read the client as much as we do the cards too. I love the Sun card as it is such a positive card on so many levels!

This is wonderful Billy:

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Question: If you look to the Waite Smith Sun card, you will see a small child sat upon a horse. What do you feel the significance of the child may be as an aspect of the insight?

Student: The child represent an aspect of being born again. The white horse reflects the purity of nature. The child's red banner is a sign of success, like a warrior would carry upon return from a victorious battle. The child on the horse may also symbolize the Christian allegory of Jesus riding a donkey into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, reflecting inner strength or Christ consciousness gaining control over innate animal nature or appetite. flowers in the child's hair are like the sunflowers that grow on the wall behind her. Sunflowers are a Christian symbol of God's love. Sunflowers are symbolic of health, happiness, and adoration.

The sunflower always turns its face to the sun, being symbolic of people of faith who turn to their God, Goddess, Gods, or Goddesses. In this regard, Jesus said to Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3 KJV. The child reflects the sitter being born again. New beginnings are approaching with The Sun card (XIX).

Mentor I am not surprised to read your insightful reply to the questions within this Session Billy. You really do have such wonderful understanding and wisdom. This extract from the (Bible?) is the very expression of the Sun card's insight- Spiritually speaking especially. I love the symbolic reference to the sunflowers too!

Excellent Session Billy! Blessings, Lara

Session 9: Attainment of the Higher Self

Judgement - Tarot of the Sevenfold Mystery by Robert M Place



Question: If we consider Plato's thoughts on how we know things that we have not yet learnt in this life, then the Higher Self has stored knowledge? What are your thoughts on this possibly explaining that our Higher Self is in fact immortal?

Student: Plato reasoned that since we immediately grasp things that seem right and become instantly familiar with them, therefore our souls have existed before this current conscious life; and therefore will live again, hereafter. I cannot add or subtract from the wisdom of one of recorded civilization's greatest minds, but could only offer some additional discussion on this sense of familiarity. The phenomenon of deja vu comes to

mind. A school of thought believes that it is not solely a past life experiences to causes a present sense of deja vu, but that the sense is triggered by some contemporaneous response of the 5 senses to a prior state of being For example, one may hear a song or verse, or smell a scent that holds a beloved place in the unconscious or untapped memory of past lives, while at the same time something else appears. The combination of the two events synthesize causing something from the soul's past experience to be present at that moment.

Personally, I believe we live in the present in-harmony with those souls who have passed; that we are divided by a veil that is sometimes thick and sometimes thin. I believe the veil thins during different seasons and when in a dream state.

Other support of soul reincarnation is readily seen when observing how some people are so much more evolved than others, whether spiritually, physically, mentally, etc. There is a huge difference between Olympic athletes and the physical abilities of the average man or woman. It is but a microcosm of the Universe that develop the skills of Olympic athletes. Likewise, there is a stark difference between the very few people who choose to live ascetic lives like the Great Mystics (or The Hermit) for spiritual reasons, while the vast majority of people range from being people with modest spiritual faith to those who are oblivious to anything beyond the existence of their material plane.

And there are those who can love wholeheartedly, be good with children, be healers, and model citizens, while society continues to be plagued with people who take pride in committing heinous acts with absolute indifference to life and property rights. I believe these extraordinary variations are a reflection of evolution of the soul through prior life experiences. Some people seem to be more or less evolved than others. I am not making a characterization as to which qualities are of most important, just observing that some people appear to be "old souls."

I would not feel complete if I did not give the example of a guy I graduated high school with. He was the valedictorian of our graduating class, he scored an absolute perfect score on both the math and English categories of the scholastic aptitude tests taken as college entrance exams, he was our baseball team's star pitcher and our football team's star quarterback. He was very polite and never boisterous and always peaceful. He mostly kept to himself and his 9th grade girlfriend, who he married. They are still together today at age 63. I can go on. How is all this possible when the mass of our peers had the some upbringing in the same town with similar family structures?

Mentor: You certainly give good reasoning to the potential of the immortal Soul Billy, you would certainly think that there would be more even development throughout the human race otherwise.

Deja vu is such an unusual occurrence, it would seem that for that one moment, we have lived that experience before. Imagine if these were frequent during the day and how troubling they could become. Maybe this is why our unconscious thoughts surface in our sleeping state, where we can better process the details.

Thankyou again for such a wonderful reference from your own experience!

Question: **Form of Life argument. Source: Phaedo 102b–107b. Summary: The soul is not only alive itself, but gives life to the body. Therefore it is intimately connected with the essence or Form of Life. Hence it would be illogical or inconsistent for the soul itself to perish. Please discuss your thoughts on the above statement**

Student: For anyone who has studied Christian Science, this question strikes a chord. I do not subscribe to Christian Science's premises that there is no life in matter, but it serves well to an extreme application of the Form of Life argument. Christian Science believe all life emanates from the Father-Mother God and are reflected in the souls of the Human race, but their premises goes one step further and holds that there is no life in the body. The body is simply "matter" and there is no life in matter, therefore no spirit, either. The "Mother Church's" "Scientific Statement of Being" is akin to the Form of Life argument. It reads as follows:

"There is no life, truth, intelligence, nor substance in matter. All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All-in-all. Spirit is immortal Truth; matter is mortal error. Spirit is the real and eternal; matter is the unreal and temporal. Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness. Therefore man is not material; he is spiritual."

This time-honored "Statement of Being" not only explains the Form of Life Argument, but uses it as the core belief upon which a Church was built. Upon this premise Christ-Scientists are faith healers. They believe the body never dies because it never lives, therefore any ailment is curable through prayer. If prayer is properly deployed it will correct erroneous misbeliefs in soul development about one's "perceived" body pain and discomfort. Strict Christian Scientists do not see physicians nor use materia medicine. It is a beautiful religion for someone who relies solely on a faith and fate, as it places the evolution of life on the soul, not the body.

Soul, they believe, is developed by right action, as defined by the Mother-Church's interpretation of the Father-Mother God's will, as explained by the prophets of the Old Testament and as demonstrated by Jesus Christ. As such, it is a hard premise to argue against. Again, that the soul never dies is consistent with the Form of Life argument; that death is a mere illusion of mortal mind is also consistent, but that pain is unreal and that there is no spirit in matter do not logically flow from a belief in immortality of the soul.

(N.B.: As you may suspect, I have studied, practiced, and still subscribe to some of the premises of Christian Science, but my Pagan beliefs make it impossible to reconcile the expansion of the Form of Life Argument into a full-fledged religion that blames the victim for pain it cannot overcome or disease the soul cannot cure. Moreover, believers must condemn esoteric or occult practices and deny there is spirit in the earth, water, air, and fire from which we are in fact energized. Also, the Church does not believe in communication between the living and the dead. All communication is with God,

Mentor: Thank you Billy for your very knowledgeable understanding that your session response very evidently expresses. It brings fascinating food for thought on the subject and reminds me how our perception and reason plays such an important part in this understanding. Whilst we are willing to consider and contemplate broader spiritual aspects, we can form an understanding that makes sense to us.

Great session Billy, thank you for the sharing once more. Blessings, Lara

Session 10: The Prudent Soul

Prudence - Tarot of the Sevenfold Mystery by Robert M Place



Question: Proof that the Soul is immortal: Purification. Source: Republic 10.611b–612a; cf. Plotinus Enneads 1.1.12 and especially 4.7.10. A proof by demonstration. One who is suitably purified, intellectually and morally, may obtain immediate awareness of the soul’s true nature and its immortality. Please describe your thoughts on Plato’s reasoning as ‘Purification’ as a proof.

Student: “One who is suitably purified, intellectually and morally, may obtain immediate awareness of the soul’s true nature and its immortality.” I note the emphasis on intellectually and morally; not just morally; not just intellectually; not physically; not materially.

Plato, in recognizing that purification results in the ability to see through the mind/body phenomenon, bring to light the understanding that the soul is immortal despite the finite body’s immortality. This is among the greatest realizations any individual may make in their lifetime (and we all can realize this).

Whether we see this realization in The World card (RWS), The Universe card (Crowley), or the Prudence card (Place) each card bears an image of Temperance, Strength, Justice, and Prudence. Why Mr. Place chose “Prudence” as the card XXI’s name over the other three virtues, is probably because Temperance, Strength, and Justice can each stand alone, while Prudence requires the incorporation of each of the other three virtues. These four virtues are often reflected in Tarot cards by images akin to the four faces of the four cherubim seen by the prophet Ezekiel. “And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and

the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.” Ezekiel 10:14.

What matters most is understanding how these characteristics affect our querent and how we as readers may help them realize how use of knowledge from their past experiences, as a present resource, can place them on a continuum toward Prudence.

As to how Plato concluded that the soul is immortal; four possibilities come to mind:

- 1) He either learned this from his teacher, Socrates;
- 2) He deduced the correlation between purification and the meaning of life following a series of analytic reasoning, as philosophers do;
- 3) He learned this from the Creator; or
- 4) He reached the level of purification he speaks of, and that is how he knew it to be true.

Mentor:Very interesting and thought provoking Billy, it fascinates me how the Tarot cards and especially the World card and other majors are so much more than they would seem. I have considered the spiritual journey long and hard and to be honest, I do not feel that I could have put this course together if I had not experienced parts of this journey.

How wonderful it would be to be able to ask Plato how he brought these thoughts, belief and understanding together but I love how you present the potentials of how he may have reached the understanding that he did. I can imagine that it includes all of the 4 that you present.

I appreciate your level of thought here Billy, it's fascinating in itself!

Question: Reaching this attainment of the Word card (Prudence) will give the individual a higher level of consciousness which is similar to the described above.

How do you imagine this will transpire into the individual's actual everyday life?

Student:First the downside, because there is always an opposing force. Once one realizes the true essence of the higher realm, coping skills need to be employed for dealing with lesser enlightened people. Yes, the greater knowledge one attains, the more you realize how little you knew about the Universe and enlightenment. This

creates an innate driving force to learn more, but there is a backlash. A new tolerance needs to be developed when dealing with people whom never think about soul energy or the power of higher virtues. At times, this can be frustrating; even ostracizing.

The upside is that with each higher level of consciousness attained, we come closer to Christ consciousness or Buddha enlightenment. Not that these level are actually attainable, but they serve as guiding lights toward achieving our highest good. The closer one gets to a desired goal or level, the harder they tend to work at it. I believe this is so because the struggle becomes more enjoyable once a certain competency or understanding is in place.

When one is prudent, they less often repeat the mistakes of their past. The more errors made, the more energy is lost on damage control. Thus, with more prudent decision-making, more energy is available to continue on the path of enlightenment. The good in all things once unnoticed now appears as if it were never there before. Right action attracts right people. Inner strength will be there when it is needed and temptation will be easier to overcome.

Plato's belief in the pre-existence and immortality of the soul and that life is nothing more than an experience of the imprisonment of the soul in the body gives hope for reincarnation, whether in a next life, or reincarnation everyday, as some believe occurs - even if just symbolically. With this understanding the objective to do our best becomes a task of fulfilling a life of heaven on earth. This is plainly seen in the ideals of equality, justice, and humanity.

The Cardinal Virtues of temperance, justice, compassion, and prudence, and the Christian virtues of faith, hope, and charity, complete the images on Robert Place's Prudence card and act as a soul map for all to follow.

Mentor: Wonderful Billy thank you. Indeed I do also feel that an individual who exists at this level of consciousness will be ostracized by pure nature alone. Do you think that we are seeing the Hermit, someone who stands apart and his light is visible, he reflects his light?

Question: There is still a possibility that this attainment and its secured state is tested in some way. Can you suggest a 3 card reading that may reflect this?

Student: The following reading does not include any Majors, despite this Lesson part being the last in the most complete ITF course, Spiritual Journey Through the Major

Arcana. We know the influence of Major Archetypes represent stronger forces than the Court Cards and Pip cards do, and that the Major Arcana presents new energies that can steer one away from enlightenment once attained. We know that despite our achievements, the next path ahead will tests us with new Major Archetypal influences: but so too can people inject interference and test our secured state. Thus, I selected the following 3 cards from the lower arcana:

Two of Cups
King of Pentacles
Knight of Wands

Briefly, two people meet; a man and a woman, with co-supporting positive and negative energies. The relationship is very good for the man. He quickly achieves status and abundance in the material plane, which provides a good environment for each to grow in intellectually and morally, individually and together as one. But the woman is not seen in the surrounding cards, but for the initial encounter. Will they reach purification alone, together, or not at all? It appears that someone is about to throw an obstacle into their journey. The King of Pentacles would be well advised to bring the energies of water and fire into his world.

Mentor: I like how you bring the Lower Arcana to this part of the course, it is very appropriate that they represent the daily life occurrences that work towards the bigger scheme of things.

The obstacle seems critical to the journey and to the purification progress and process. It reminds me of how Robert Place discusses the Devil guarding the gates to the Higher Realm!

Great choice of cards, I can see your reasoning here.

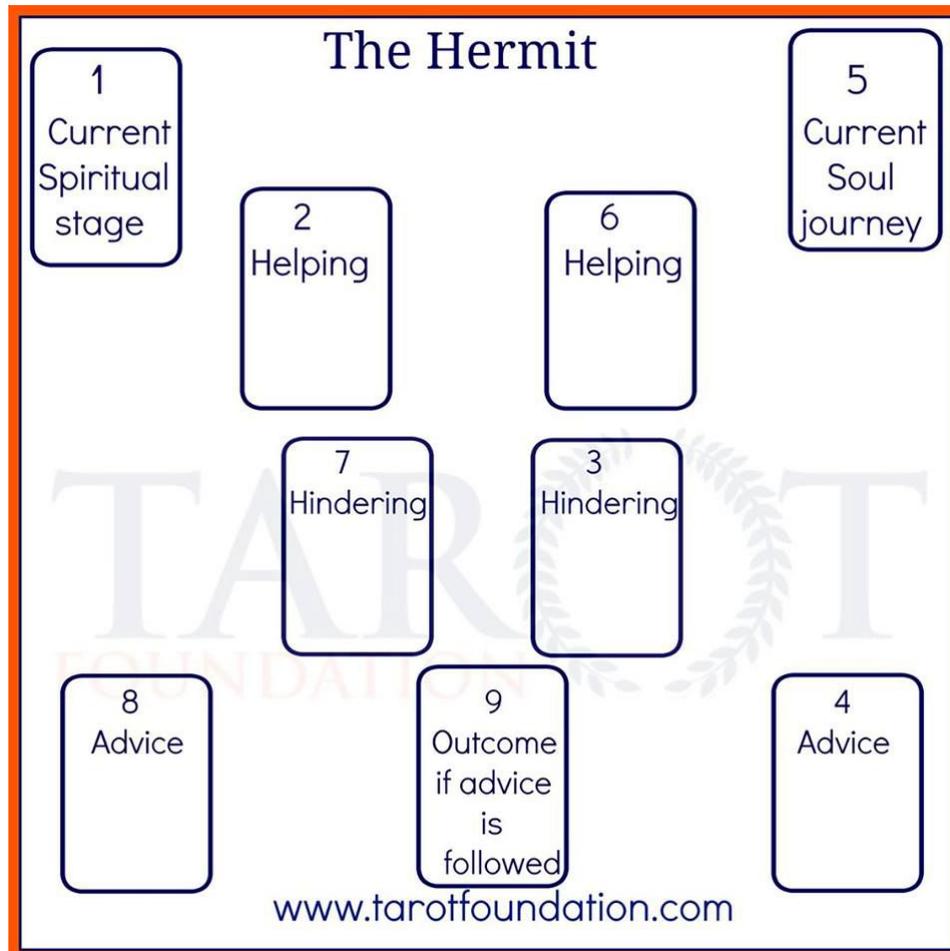
Great job Billy! Blessings, Lara

Soul Development Guidance

Please feel free to try out the spread below, you can choose to share the spread with your mentor or not.

If you feel that you will benefit from assistance or mentoring then please add the cards laid and the interpretation to the shared document

between yourself and your mentor.



Part Three Completed