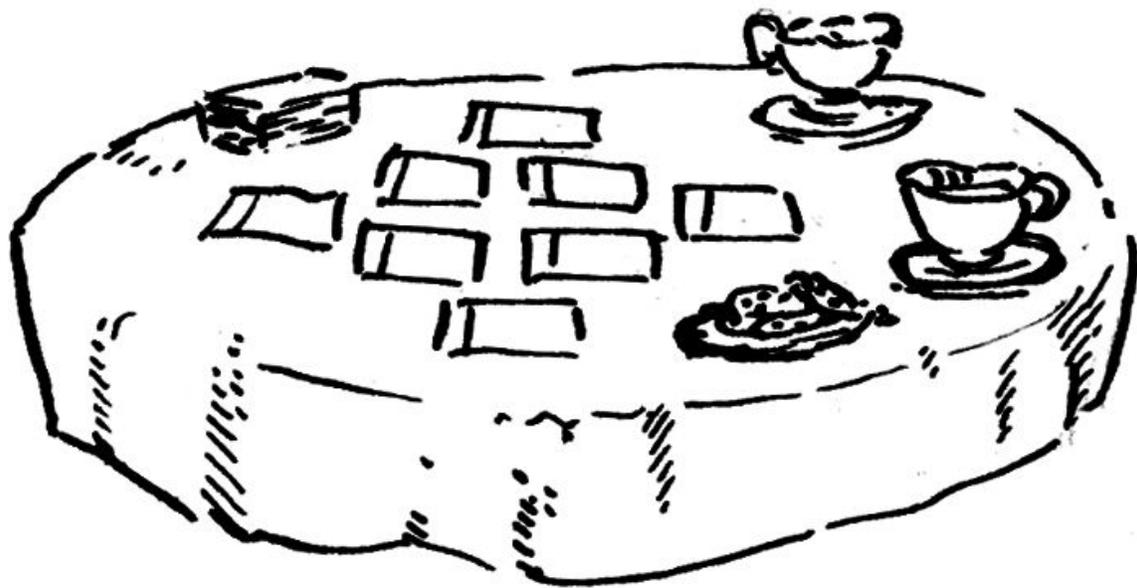


MODERN ORACLE TAROT: HELLO



Modern Oracle: Hello

By
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MODERN ORACLE TAROT: HELLO

If you have had an in-person reading with me, or you follow the “Tarotbytes” blog on ModernOracleTarot.com you may have heard most of this information before. This is the same, basic background information that I give everyone the first time we work together, especially if it your very first Tarot reading. When we are working in person, sharing some background information settles in our energies, put everyone at ease, and builds the intuitive connection that makes a good reading into a great one. When we work by distance (print, video or e-mail) I make that connection by seeing your name in print, reading your question, shuffling the cards in a way that is connected to you (often I’ll shuffle the number of syllables in your name or let you choose how many shuffles). Sometimes writing this background information the “general pattern” section of the reading serves the same ‘settling in’ function of talking in person. This e-booklet gives you that background information with much more depth and detail. Reading this will help you be a pro learner (seeker/sitter/querent/client) at a psychic reading in no time. If you know what to expect and if you are feeling comfortable with the reading *process*, then you can relax and get the most from the reading itself. These background basics will help make sure we are both on the same page...in this case literally.

A LITTLE TAROT HISTORY

Tarot began as a card game sometime around the 16th century, primarily in France and Italy. It isn’t clear exactly when or how it evolved into “fortune telling.” Most believe that evolution happened in England in the mid 19th century and was influenced by the Golden Dawn and other spiritualist movements of the time. In a modern, contemporary reading this mainly helps us understand the cultural context for the images in the cards. That is why I call my books and website “Modern Oracle”. The intent is to interpret Tarot in more current, relatable terms while still touching the timeless wisdom that applies in any era. The challenge in doing that is the all the misunderstandings about Tarot that have cropped up over the years, especially in movies and television.

ART WITH A HEART

The true art of reading tarot cards is all about finding wisdom, advice, guidance and expressing spirituality. There is no predicting the future, no “100% accurate” and no “fortune telling” involved in a genuinely intuitive reading. Tarot can do so much more than than a side-show prediction. I want to share the uplifting, empowering

side of Tarot that respects your ability to reason, choose and act. I will not sit back and give holier-than-thou pronouncements and predictions that limit your thinking. I want no part of a fake "predictions" that only set you up for harmful self-fulfilling prophecies.

NOT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

There is no standard or official way to do a card reading. Readers are each very individual, so you might notice a lot of differences between my style and other readings you've had in the past. Some of us follow some set tradition, other of us create our own way of doing things. As I see it, all paths lead to the same mountaintop. The intuition of the people involved is far more important than any superficial ritual - especially yours.

The vast majority of readers prefer to work in-person. I'm non-standard there, too. E-mail and distance readings are my specialty. There is one big advantage to written/video sessions over live or in-person sessions that no one ever talks about. Working remotely, I can't ask you leading questions or make guesses based on your body language. There is no way for me to "cold read" you the way a mentalist or stage performer might. Working remotely in print or e-mail, you can be sure the information is 100% extrasensory & pure intuition.

In a live session, I'm glad to have clients bring up questions as we go along. You can't do that in an e-mail or printed session, so one follow-up email for clarifications is allowed instead.

DEALING WITH THE CARDS

The tarot deck I use is either the classic Rider Waite Smith deck published circa 1909, or sometimes a more recent deck that is strongly based on the RWS deck. Why? I like them. I resonate with them and have used them the most. RWS style decks are what I know best and that lets me do the best possible reading for you. There are many other types of decks; Thoth, Lenormand, other assorted non-Tarot oracle decks. If you are reading cards for yourself, it takes a little trial and error, but the important thing in a deck is finding the deck that feels right, and 'speaks' to you as the saying goes. If you are getting a reading from a pro, then the cards really don't matter at all. The important thing is that the reader is using a deck that resonates with them in order for them to do a good reading for you.

The bottom-line truth is the cards are actually just bits of paper with pretty pictures. You could do an excellent reading with tea leaves, rune stones, palm lines, head-bumps or chicken guts - all of those things are all just tools to help us access our innate intuition. It is inner wisdom that matters. It is our normal, natural, human insight that matters. The cards just help us uncover that inner knowing and articulate it in a clearer, more understandable way.

The tarot deck is larger than the modern game-playing deck because it has a fifth suit that the modern deck doesn't have. It's called the major arcana, and symbolizes the major life lessons and decisions we all encounter. Think of them as the big green signs at major highway ramps and intersections that help you decide which way to turn. They are sometimes called the trump cards because that is literally how they were used when Tarot cards were used as a game.

The rest of the cards are called the minor arcana (arcana is just an old word for lessons or mysteries.) These cards symbolize less intense, day-to-day advice. Think of them as the signs along the side of the highway that let you know if you are on the right road and headed in the right direction.

On its own, the minor arcana is almost identical to the modern cards we all know. It has four suits, each with ace, number cards, knight (instead of jack), queen and king. Tarot has an additional "court" or "face" card in each suit - the page. The suit of cups symbolize romance and the close relationships in life. Swords symbolize the larger but more distant relationships like the social groups, politics, religions, your relationship with authority and so on. Coins represent your relationship with the physical world...the "nuts and bolts" of life, particularly wealth and career. Wands symbolize your relationship with yourself, the inner world of philosophy, spirituality, and personal growth.

"Reversed" cards appear upside-down relative to the person reading the cards. Some readers change the meaning of the card when that happens, making it the opposite of the right-side-up meaning. I don't. I take all the meanings into consideration in the first place. Reversed cards can hint at blocked energies, frustrations or challenges in general. I purely follow intuition in that regard. If the reversal intuitively seems important, I'll bring it up with you. Otherwise we just turn the card upright and go on as usual. For written sessions, we'll do a little of both. I'll note when it's reversed, but keep the card graphics upright.

The way you place the cards on the table is called the “card spread” or card “layout.” Each position within the pattern has an assigned meaning that is taken into consideration when interpreting the individual card. There are lots of card spreads, with new ones being created all the time. The only requirement is going into a reading with the card layout and what each position means clearly in mind before the reading begins.

I created the “Modern Oracle” card spreads to give depth and detail while still respecting your choice and your power in all of this. Here, we’ll talk about the 7 card ‘expanded’ version. It is the only layout I offer for individual in-person sessions, but have multiple styles available by e-mail and parties. , The pattern of this card layout and the general structure of the reading is the same each time you get a reading with me.

First, in any reading, I listen to your question. Then, especially if you are new to Tarot, I’ll give the background and orientation like we are doing now. That gets both of us on the same wavelength, puts everyone at ease, and connects you to the reading. Don’t worry if some of this is out of order with a remote reading. All the parts are there in the end. For me the really big connection happens at the card shuffle, no matter how the rest of the reading goes.

Again, every Tarot reader does this in their own unique way of doing things. In person, I’ll often ask you if you want 3, 5, or 7 shuffles. If not, then I will shuffle based on the number of syllables in the name or nickname you give when you order. This connects your energy to the reading, no matter if you are across the table or a world away.

When we get to the reading itself, we’ll start with the general pattern. This is the big picture of the cards taken all together as a whole. We’ll talk about the ratio of major and minor arcana and anything else notable such as repeating numbers or dominant minor arcana suit. Sometimes general intuitive impressions about the cards or your questions will come in here.

Then we go card-by-card. Each card has a position meaning in addition to the individual card meaning. We’ll talk about both aspects, one at a time. No matter which cards lands in it, the positions in the expanded Modern Oracle layout are:

1. Lessons from the past the might help you now
2. Understanding now: understanding the current situation

3. Next step forward in your current path
4. Pivot point: advice, or a decision that needs to be made
5. Alternate direction: another way you can potentially turn the path you are on, if you choose to do so.
6. Assets: Things working in your favor or additional advice
7. Challenges: Cautions, areas that need particular attention or change

After the card-by-card, we'll summarize. Sometimes I call this 'scrying' or 'cold reading, even though that isn't technically the right term for it. This part opens up to any intuitive impressions that come through for you, whether it has to do with your question or not, whether it has to do with the cards or not. For reasons I don't know and don't question, this part often starts with colors, but it can include mental images, words, sounds, scents, book titles, movies, TV shows...anything that can help point you toward the message that is trying to get through to you.

HOW DOES THAT SOUND?

If all of that sounds good to you, and you would like a Tarot reading all your own, please visit www.ModernOracleTarot.com or e-mail modernoracletarot@gmail.com for more details.

If you would like a printed, keepsake, autographed and hand illustrated version of a tarot reading with me, please visit www.quirkandflotsam.etsy.com.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ronda Snow writes e-books, reads Tarot cards, and gives meditation tutorials. She has a B.S. Med.Sci. and a non-accredited Ph.D. in Natural Health. Ronda is co-host of Menage A Tarot podcast (available on iTunes) with David Dear of MyOwnMinister.com and Kate of Daily-Tarot-Girl.com. She is a Reiki Master-practitioner, retired Physician Assistant, Taijiquan enthusiast, and gives private individual readings in select Pittsburgh PA locations by appointment.

AVAILABLE E-BOOKS

www.QuirkandFlotsam.etsy.com for .pdf download

- **#PeaceTarot** - easy guide to doing daily meditation style Tarot readings for yourself. Does not require a Tarot Deck, or any Tarot reading experience. Designed to ease stress and help you find a moment of peace in a world that often isn't.
- **Bead Mindful, Begin Meditating** - beginner how-to teaching a simple, secular yet spiritual approach to meditating with beads. Easy to learn and easier to do, this mindfulness style of meditation fits with the busiest modern lifestyle.

On www.amazon.com For Kindle

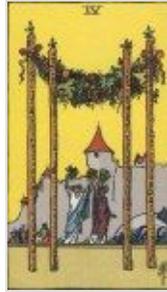
- **Triquetra: The Dance of Worlds** - a collection of poems in three parts. The first part, "The Outer World" contains poems inspired by the images and experience of Nature. "The Inner World" is filled with images of emerging spirituality and growing autonomy. The third part, "The Dance of Worlds," speaks of heartfelt relationships, that place where two worlds meet and begin to dance.

Look For These Upcoming Titles

- Modern Oracle: Cartomancy Primer
- Modern Oracle: Tarotbytes
- Modern Oracle: Arcana in Balance
- Moonlight and Silver

EXAMPLE OF AN E-MAIL ONE CARD "DAILY MEDITATION" READING

Q: I would like general guidance about working with my spirit guides and when will be ready to guide and counsel others?



FOUR OF WANDS

A: That you are asking this question at all shows you are on the right path.

Personal growth is worth asking questions, seeking guidance and respecting the process of it all. Guiding others is ten times so.

It is important to respect and focus on your own growth first, and then you must take great care to give respect to other's path, including the divine (and sometimes difficult) lessons they call to themselves and must experience for themselves to learn what it is they need to learn. Only when you can keep yourself disengaged from their lessons, and focus on your own spiritual growth, can you hope to guide others. A good guide must not tangle their own ego and path with their client's choices. Sometimes we get it wrong. Sometimes the best thing that other person can do is ignore our advice. This concept is essential if you are to do no harm, which I believe is the most important principle of all, especially in spiritual guidance .

So by that same token, to give you that same respect, only you can answer when you are ready to work with other people. My advice is always to approach the learning and experience with a very deliberate intent. You must clearly and deliberately set your intent to work with your guides in an attitude of Love above all, or as one my teachers used to say, only for the "highest and best".

Working with your OWN guides is a crucial step toward helping others – it has to come FIRST.

I've always been taught that working with true guides is a positive, uplifting, loving thing. They want to help and heal...and to be heard. That is my first-hand experience as well.

Just listen, and they will find a way to communicate. If you think something is meaningful...chances are it IS meaningful. Spirit speaks through symbolism, and coincidence, and feelings.

Once you are comfortable working with you own guides, it will be easier to ask the difficult questions that have to be considered before moving into guiding others... WHY do you want to guide others? Is it to help and heal, or is it to gain power and influence? What to you hope to accomplish? Are you the best one to help here, or should you defer to another? Is this the right thing for you? (guiding others is not the best thing for everyone, and it it doesn't have to be permanent...you can quit any time). A healer must keep questioning like that always.

As for the Tarot reading itself, I think a one card, focused, "daily meditation" style reading would be the best choice. Think about the card, research it, learn all you can from it. There are no easy answers in working with guides or guiding others, so a little work on a card is no big deal.

Set your intent to Love, then trust your heart, and strive to do no harm...given those things all will be well.

Not surprising, your card is the **Four of Wands**. It's meaning is "Strong Foundation". The feeling, the message that seems urgent for you (as you can probably tell by what has been said so far) is to build a strong foundation. Build a strong foundation of working with your own guides before you consider trying to guide others.

There is a strong sense of caution...if you try to guide others too early, your own growth might become compromised.

There is a feeling of a cult leader...not saying you will become one, but perhaps you are at danger to follow one. But cult of personality is to be avoided either way. "Anchor" "root" "ground" are all words that come to mind for you.

And there the energy ends, with a strong feeling of you must do this for yourself....find your foundation, and anchor and root. Be strong and wise for yourself...only later consider guiding others once you are on a strong footing for yourself. There is a mental image of a cement slab that must be poured before a tent or shelter is built for the shelter to be long-lasting, and helpful to those who use it. Best Wishes to you on your path of learning!