



“The most important thing about going somewhere is starting right where we are.”

Bruce Barton

“The Fool’s Journey”

The Fool’s Journey is a metaphor for our journey through the various stages of life. The journey begins with Zero, or The Fool, our guide through the rest of the cards, each representing life’s lessons and experiences. The Fool’s message is to meet the adventures of life with eager anticipation and good humor; to gladly greet all challenges and opportunities; to learn our lessons well and to travel lightly as we go.

Practically, the tarot is a tool that can make life’s dramas a bit more understandable, in turn creating a life that is better managed. While the tarot can provide information about actual events, more importantly, it supplies direction as to how best to respond to these events.

In this book we will approach study and application of the tarot by looking at the energy of each card and by seeing what’s going on in the various scenes. The ***Practical Application*** portion on Major and Minor Arcana pages provides a way to look at and apply the concept of an individual card. Although some cards may seem similar, they are all uniquely different and can provide a new way of thinking about ordinary events that occur within the context of daily life.

Each reader is encouraged to look first at a card for its general energy and then to find the specific message carried by that card. The words in this book are meant merely as a beginning to explore what you think, feel and perceive about your own cards. The key to unlocking the tarot is to ***understand the message of each card***, as opposed to memorizing arcane interpretations and a series of incomprehensible formulas.

FORGET THE FORMULAS – LEARN THE MESSAGE OF EACH CARD

Divided into two sections, the Major and Minor Arcana cards are of equal interest and importance and are linked in the learning process. Because of this interplay between the Major and Minor Arcana, it makes more sense to learn both at the same time while performing actual spreads, as opposed to trying to sequentially memorize meanings and precise guidelines.

Another way of getting acquainted with the deck is with individual meditations or visualization exercises for each of the Major and Minor Arcana cards. Once again, there is no right or wrong approach - it is a completely individual and personal experience for each reader. The tarot cards are intended as a starting point, or a springboard for your intuitive powers to work from the images in the spreads. The more time spent with the cards and the meaning behind them will heighten your intuitive powers and increase your sensitivity as a reader. By initially devoting time and attention in getting to know your cards, the easier it will be to intuitively interpret readings for yourself or others.

Then let us set off on the tarot journey with Zero or *The Fool*, who begins, ends and begins again.

*“What we call the beginning is often the end.
And to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from.”*

T.S. Eliot