

## Forward

There are many reasons people explore the tarot, all of them perfectly valid. It may be as simple as curiosity or perhaps because of some difficult situation where the usual means and methods of problem solving no longer succeeds. Generally speaking, people aren't looking at alternative resources like the tarot if their lives are just fine and they have no questions. Disappointment, loss, betrayal, it matters not what prompts the search for answers. The point is to look outside the realm of what is known to NOT work, in an honest effort to find out what does.

The tarot is an ancient yet completely modern method system of self-examination and personal understanding for those brave individuals who are not only looking for answers to life's problems, more importantly, they are willing to re-examine the questions. This is a process of learning how to read energy; and you will find the tarot a remarkably consistent indicator of what is occurring both on and beneath the surface. Remember that hiding from reality is not an option with the tarot. Certain cards or patterns will keep recurring until things become more clear and you understand that external experiences are directly linked to your own thoughts and behavior.

Specifically written for the person who brings to the process no particular metaphysical or esoteric background, the only prerequisite to effectively working with this book is an open mind, an earnestness of purpose, and a firm commitment to better know yourself. When approached with good intentions and a willingness to learn, the tarot is an excellent accompaniment to any religious or philosophical belief system. With a bit of time and effort, your understanding of the universal principles outlined in this book will become more meaningful, positively directing and influencing all areas of your life.

L.J. Ross