



20 Question Tarot

The Journey Begins



The Fool & The Magician

Your Gateway to Tarot Wisdom



The Fool



The Magician

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The Fool & The Magician - Your Gateway to Tarot Wisdom

Hola, Miracle! Welcome to the threshold of transformation.

You've found your way here because something in you recognizes that tarot is more than fortune-telling – it's a sacred mirror capable of reflecting deep truths and expansive possibilities. And I want to gift you the keys to this kingdom.

In this introduction to 20 Question Tarot, we'll journey together through the first two cards of the Major Arcana: The Fool and The Magician. These aren't just random starting points, they are the match and candle for every reading, every question, every moment of insight you'll ever have with the cards.

The Fool teaches us to trust the leap. The Magician shows us we already have everything we need.

Through my unique 20 Questions approach, you'll discover:

- How to read any card intuitively, even if you've never touched a tarot deck before
- The sacred art of creating Tarot Talismans that carry the medicine of each card into your daily life
- The Broken Place and the Blessing Way hidden within each card

This approach isn't about memorizing meanings from a book, it was actually developed in distinct rejection to and opposition of that. After two decades of teaching Sacred Arts and working with thousands of students worldwide, I've learned that the most profound tarot wisdom comes from asking the right questions, and trusting the answers you discover.

Materials You'll Need

Although this course is pretty materials-light, there are a few things I recommend you have in place:

1. The Rider-Waite-Smith Tarot Deck

This is the industry standard tarot deck and has been in use since the early 1900s. Now, I want to be clear about why I'm recommending this particular deck for our work together:

The RWS deck (as it's commonly called) may not be your favorite personal deck, and that's perfectly fine! I personally adore the traditional Marseilles tarot with its elegant simplicity and my favorite decks do not feature people at all but animals. And yes, you can absolutely read with a regular deck of playing cards, I've done many powerful readings with nothing more than what you'd find at any corner store.

But here's why we're working with the RWS for this course: almost all tarot decks from the 20th and 21st century have been at the very least inspired by this deck, and more often directly informed by its interpretation and understanding of each card. It's become the visual language that most of us share when we talk about tarot. When I ask you to notice the Fool's white rose or the Magician's lemniscate, we're looking at symbols that have shaped how we understand these archetypes for over a century.

2. Your Personal Favorite Tarot Deck

You'll work with this deck in the later sections of each lesson, particularly in the Broken Place and Blessing Way work. This is where your unique relationship with the cards comes alive.

3. Extra Decks and Sharpies (optional)

You may find as you get into the work that you want to mark up a tarot deck. I recommend you grab a couple of inexpensive decks you can work with in this manner as well as some sharpies.

4. A Journal

Keep your notes, observations, and answers to your questions. This becomes your personal record of tarot wisdom.

5. A Quiet Space

Find a place where you can read for yourself and others without distraction.

6. A Medicine Bundle Bag

You'll need a purse, bag, or satchel (medium size) that can be designated as your Tarot Medicine Bundle. This will hold the 78 talismans you'll collect throughout the complete course.

7. Time and an Open Mind

Learning Tarot is not hard, but it takes time – and time is a gift that is becoming harder and harder to give ourselves. This course is meant to be convenient and "ready when you are," but the work will require some presence on your part. The questions only work their magic when you give them the space to breathe.

How to Use This Guidebook

Take your time with these two cards. Answer the questions in whatever way works best for you – write them in your journal, speak them aloud, share them with a study buddy, or simply contemplate them in quiet moments. There's no rush and no "right" way except the way that opens something in you.

By the end of these two lessons, you'll have:

- Answered over 40 transformative questions
- Created your first two talismans
- Begun your Tarot Medicine Bundle
- Learned your first spread
- Connected with the healing dimension of tarot

If this approach speaks to you – if you feel the questions working their unique magic – then the full journey through all 22 Major Arcana awaits.

For Deeper Study

While this course stands complete on its own, if you're hungry for more magical wisdom, you might enjoy my book "Making Magic: Weaving Together the Everyday and the Extraordinary" published by Sounds True, which explores the sacred arts and how to bring magic into daily life.

And for those specifically called to deepen their tarot practice, my book "Making Tarot Magic" from Red Wheel/Weiser will offer additional perspectives on working with the cards as allies in transformation.

*With love, magic & miracles,
Briana Saussy*

Ready to take the first step off the cliff with The Fool? Let's begin.

Card 0: Getting to Know Your Fool

I. Twenty Questions

1. What does this Fool want to be called?
What is his/her/its name?
2. Where did the Fool come from? Tell a story.
3. What does the Fool help you do for other people?
4. What does the Fool prevent you from doing for other people?
5. How do you care for the Fool?
6. What is the best way to summon the Fool?
7. What is the best way to banish the Fool?
8. Where are the Fools in your family, your neighborhood, community, region, and country?
9. What is your favorite depiction of the Fool in arts (movies, books, visual art, stories, dance)?
10. Notice the Fool's dog. What kind of dog is this and what is its purpose?





11. Notice the Fool's white rose. Why is the Fool holding a rose?
12. Notice the Fool's bundle. What kind of necessities might the Fool carry and what would he do with them?
13. Notice the mountains and cliffs in the card. What is the role that high places and vantage points play in this card?
14. Notice the radiant yellow sky and the sun in the card. What do you associate with the sun and the color yellow?
15. What happens when you turn this card upside down; what is the story it tells then?
16. What does it mean to you to be open-hearted?
17. What burden would you most like to set down right now?
18. What happens when you stop looking right at your feet and look farther ahead?
19. Recount a time in your life when you rushed headlong into a situation without thinking and it did not turn out well. How did you recover?
20. What and who do you believe in?

II. Tarot Talismans for the Fool

1. Consider The Fool card. Go outside for a walk, asking to receive/discover a talisman that resonates with the Fool card. Be open to whatever appears - it might be a rock, a feather, a specific plant, a word - there are many possibilities.

2. Either during your walk or in your sacred space begin to work with your talisman. Cultivate Calmness. Ground, Center, and Anchor in the ways that work best for you. Then, holding your talisman ask it the following questions:

- What is your name?
- What do you have to teach me about the Fool card?
- What teachings do you have for me personally?
- What teachings do you have for other people?
- How can I best take care of you?

I recommend that you take some time to make a note of the answers that you receive. If an answer is not forthcoming, come back the next day and try it again.

3. Once you have answered all of the above questions for your talisman, sit with it and the Fool card. Notice how the two objects interact with one another. When you are ready, ask the Fool what his song is. Every object has a song, a beat, a rhythm, and the talismans we work with in this course assist us in hearing the song of each card. So ask and listen. Once you have the song write it down and if possible, record it.

4. Place the talisman in a bag that will be big enough to hold 78 talismans - this is your tarot medicine bundle.

These are the basic steps to finding a talisman for each of your tarot cards. From this point you can begin to naturally grow your own list of unique correspondences. Consider one or more of the following: what kinds of plants, animals, directions, seasons, places, geographical features, planets, zodiac signs, supernatural creatures, Holy Helpers (God, Goddesses, etc), phases of life, people that you know (they can be famous or simply known to you) call to mind the Fool card?



III. The Fool's Broken Place and the Blessing Way

Look at the Fool card with fresh eyes. At this point it can be a card from the Rider Waite Smith (RWS) deck or your own personal favorite deck.

Ask the Fool the following questions:

- 1.) Where have you been hurt? What hurt you?
- 2.) How did you heal from that wound?
- 3.) What is the blessing you found for yourself?
- 4.) What is the blessing you found for others?

For example, when I speak to my favorite Fool card here is what I find:

I have been hurt by and through the fact that I appear to be innocent, that I am innocent and inexperienced in the ways of the world. I am little and small and still very much a child and I have been hurt because the people who were supposed to protect me are not available to help, I've had to figure it all out on my own and others have taken advantage of me.

I have healed from this wound through time and through learning about my own endurance. I have been taken advantage of but I am still here, still growing, still learning. Each day that passes brings new awareness to me and new strength as well.

The blessing I have found for myself is wonder. Through all of the dangers and difficulties I have found kindness, have watched my own endurance and strength grow, and have seen many beautiful and strange things in this wide world. My heart is still full of wonder.

The blessing for others is that I see those who are left alone and uncared for and I will show up to help them and teach them how they can begin to help themselves. I can help them discover how to be more aware and discerning without losing that sense of wonder or belief.

IV. Reading Practicum

Pull out the Fool and observe what you see, sense, touch, know, hear, and feel through its presence.

Select other cards to start to get a feeling of how the Fool interacts with other cards. Throughout this course I will give you different spreads to work with but for right now I am going to give you the one that I started with when I was three years old and that I started my little boy with when he was three. Appropriately enough, it has three cards.

Situation / Challenge / Solution

You can place the Fool in any position you like, perhaps ask him where the best spot is for him today. Then select your other cards at random.

As a final note, I strongly encourage you to get tarot readings! Get them in person, via email, over the phone or through videoconferencing. I even know readers who provide readings via texting. It's a great way to support the sacred arts community and you will learn so much about yourself and different reading styles and the different ways a single card can be understood.

Card 1: Meeting the Magician

I. Twenty Questions

1. What does this Magician want to be called? What is his/her/its name?
2. What kind of Magician are we dealing with here? A ceremonial magician with formal training? A trickster in brotherhood with the Fool? A street performer who may be of dubious reputation?
3. Where did the Magician come from? Tell a story.
4. What does the Magician help you do for other people?
5. What does the Magician prevent you from doing for other people?
6. How do you care for the Magician?
7. What is the best way to summon the Magician?
8. What is the best way to banish the Magician?
9. Where are the Magicians in your family, your neighborhood, community, region, and country?
10. What is your favorite depiction of the Magician in the arts (movies, books, visual art, stories, dance)?
11. Notice the lemniscate (infinity sign) floating above the Magician's head. What is this figure's relationship to time? To past, present, and future?
12. Notice the Magician's arms, one pointing down to the earth and the other pointing up to the sky. Observe what it is that he holds in his hands — a wand? An instrument for measuring? A double-ended candle? What do you make of his stance and the one tool he is actually holding onto?





13. Notice the lasso or ritual cord belt that is wrapped around the Magician's waist. What function does it perform?
14. Notice the similar lasso or headband around the Magician's head. What purpose might it serve?
15. Notice the tools on the Magician's table - a coin, a cup, a short sword or dagger, and a wooden staff. How is the Magician going to work with each of these tools?
16. Notice the colors in this card, we retain the bright yellow sky that we saw in the Fool card but we now have more distinct colors to work with - notably red and white. What do each of these colors signify for you?
17. Notice the red roses and the white lilies in this card. What is the relationship between the two flowers?
18. What happens when you flip this card upside down; what is the story that it tells then?
19. What do you associate with the words magic, alchemy, and transformation?
20. What is the relationship between the Magician and the Fool?

II. Tarot Talismans for the Magician

1.) Consider the Magician card. Go outside for a walk, asking to receive/discover a talisman that resonates with this card. Be open to whatever appears.

2.) Either during your walk or in your sacred space begin to work with your talisman. Cultivate Calmness. Root and Rise in the ways that work best for you. Then, holding your talisman ask it the following questions:

- What is your name?
- What do you have to teach me about the Magician card?
- What teachings do you have for me personally?
- What teachings do you have for other people?
- How can I best take care of you?

I recommend that you take some time to make a note of the answers that you receive. If an answer is not forthcoming, come back the next day and try it again.

3.) Once you have answered all of the above questions for your talisman, sit with it and the Magician card. Notice how the two objects interact with one another. When you are ready, ask the Magician what his song is. Once you have the song write it down and if possible, record it.

4.) Place the talisman in your tarot medicine bundle.

Now consider: what kinds of plants, animals, directions, seasons, places, geographical features, planets, zodiac signs, supernatural creatures, Divine forms (God, Goddesses, etc), phases of life, people that you know (they can be famous or simply known to you) call to mind the Magician card?

For each of the connections you discover, find a way to make that connection concrete - even if it is only having a picture of the correspondence. If the Magician's roses feel very important and vivid then you might find some dried rose petals to work with. Or perhaps you are really caught by the Magician's lasso and would like to create one of your own.

III. The Magician's Broken Place and the Blessing Way

Look at the Magician card with fresh eyes. At this point it can be a card from the Rider Waite Smith (RWS) deck or your own personal favorite deck.

Ask the Magician the following questions:

- 1.) Where have you been hurt? What hurt you?
- 2.) How did you heal from that wound?
- 3.) What is the blessing you found for yourself?
- 4.) What is the blessing you found for others.

When I speak to my favorite Magician card here is what I find:

The wound that I carry is one of lineage and magic being pushed to the sidelines for too long. In this time and in this place I see that creating ceremony and making magic are practices that are no longer valued as they once were and they are often looked at with suspicion and harsh judgement - much like my street performing brothers and sisters are looked at with suspicion and judgment. Magic is now seen as suspect and fake, not the helpful ally that it once was and that hurts.

I have healed from this wound by going straight to the source and creating magic anyway. I am discerning with who I share my gifts with and how I work with my tools - like the roses protecting the lilies in the card, I will protect my vulnerable places. But I do make magic and every time I light the candles and whisper the blessings I feel a deep healing come over me from the sky above and the ground below.

My magic is a blessing for myself. The transformation and alchemy that it creates blessed my life in a hundred different ways. And each day I learn anew what my best tools are and how I can fully make use of them.

The gifts I bring to others are multiple. There is an understanding that each individual has the resources, the tools they need to get the job done. I also bring a sense of being beyond time of beginning to walk in both worlds at the same time - again, above and below and an ability to see both the particular moment that needs to be addressed as well as the entire picture.

IV. Reading Practicum

Pull out The Magician and observe what you see, sense, touch, know, hear, and feel through its presence.

Select other cards to start to get a feeling of how the Magician interacts with other cards. Continue to work with the three card spread we learned with the Fool.

Situation / Challenge / Solution

Note especially how the Fool and the Magician interact with one another.

What Comes Next?

The Journey Continues...

You've now experienced the first two cards of the Major Arcana - The Fool who leaps and The Magician who lands. You've asked over 40 questions, discovered your first two talismans, and begun your Tarot Medicine Bundle. You've recognized how each card carries both a wound and a blessing, and you've started to see how the cards speak to each other.

But this is just the beginning.

Ahead lie 20 more teachers in the Major Arcana, each one an initiation, each one a doorway:

- The High Priestess waits with her mysteries behind the veil...
- The Empress tends her abundant garden...
- The Emperor holds his throne of manifestation...
- The Hierophant guards the sacred teachings...
- The Lovers dance in divine union...
- The Chariot races forward with focused will...
- Strength gently closes the lion's mouth...
- The Hermit lights the way through darkness...
- The Wheel of Fortune spins its eternal cycles...
- Justice weighs truth in perfect balance...
- The Hanged Man sees the world from a different angle...
- Death transforms what must be released...
- Temperance pours the sacred alchemy...
- The Devil reveals our chains are of our own making...
- The Tower strikes down what no longer serves...
- The Star pours healing waters under infinite sky...
- The Moon illuminates the path through illusion...
- The Sun celebrates in radiant joy...
- Judgement sounds the call to awakening...
- The World dances at the center of completion...

Each of these cards holds:

- 21 questions that will crack you open in new ways
- A unique talisman waiting to be discovered
- A broken place that needs witnessing
- A blessing way that brings healing
- Correspondences that are yours alone to find

Ready for the Full Journey?

If these first two lessons have stirred something in you – if you've felt the questions working their magic, if you've sensed the depth available through this approach – then the complete Major Arcana journey awaits.

The complete Major Arcana course includes:

- All 22 Major Arcana lessons (you've experienced 2, with 20 more to come)
- Over 460 transformative questions
- Instructions for making a complete Major Arcana Medicine Bundle
- Advanced reading techniques for working with Major Arcana
- Spreads designed specifically for archetypal work
- The hidden relationships between the cards
- Your own personal correspondence system

We are going beyond learning "card meanings" and developing a living relationship with 22 aspects of the soul's journey.

Two Paths Forward

Path One: The Major Arcana Journey

Perfect for those ready to master the 22 keys of transformation. This is where the deep work happens, where patterns become clear, where the medicine of tarot reveals itself. A modest investment for a lifetime of wisdom.

Path Two: Sacred Arts Academy Membership

For those called to the complete mysteries, Sacred Arts Academy membership includes not only the full Major Arcana but also all 56 Minor Arcana cards. You'll receive the entire 78-card system as part of your membership, along with access to all my other sacred arts teachings, monthly gatherings, and our community of practitioners.

A Personal Note

After a decade of teaching and refining this course, I can tell you this: the cards you need will find you at exactly the right time. The questions that crack you open are the ones you're ready to hear. The talismans that appear are the medicine you need right now.

Whether you continue this journey or not, you now have two powerful allies in The Fool and The Magician. You know how to ask the questions. You know how to listen for answers. You know how to find the broken places and the blessing ways.

That alone is magic.

But if you're feeling the call to go deeper – if you want to meet all 22 teachers of the Major Arcana, know that I'll be here to guide you through every question, every talisman, every transformation.

The next card is The High Priestess, and she's waiting behind her veil with mysteries ready to be revealed to the soulful seeker.

*With love, magic & miracles,
Briana Saussy*

P.S. – Remember, the best time to begin a journey is always now. The Fool has already shown you how to leap. The Magician has shown you that you have all the tools you need. What will you choose?