

AFRICAN tarot

journey into the SELF



Marina Romito and Denese Palm

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Dedication

To Joshua and Talia and all those significant others who have guided us through our journey.

Acknowledgments

To Stuart Kaplan of U.S. Games Systems, Inc. for allowing us to share this deck with fellow travelers around the world.

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INTRODUCTION

The African Tarot, "Journey into the Self," is the work of artist Marina Romito, the accompanying text is a joint effort with input from Denese Palm, who is responsible for the production and marketing of the deck in South Africa.

We have experienced great personal healing in working with the tarot over the years. Neither of us claim to be authorities of tarot knowledge, but rather willing participants in sharing what we have found useful in our lives. We set out to demystify the tarot and encourage all who are interested in gaining a better understanding of the values and rhythms that shape our lives to

use this colorful, unintimidating deck. The cards are intended to gently guide us back into ourselves; to lead us through significant past, present, and future influences and provide us with a new awareness, empowering us to overcome obstacles on our path to self-fulfillment. We have tried as far as possible to give the meanings of the cards for the present situation of the reader rather than focusing on divining the future. After all, the only future we face is the one we shape for ourselves.

We believe that it is both pertinent and appropriate that this deck hails from South Africa, a nation that chose to walk the path of "Justice" by "setting things right" with the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as President in 1994. We were blessed to be able to share a tool which enables a deeper look at the interrelatedness of all dimensions of life: access to intuitive knowledge and active participation in the world.

The back design of the cards is inspired by the Shangaan culture (one of the indigenous cultural groups in South Africa): the tortoise symbolizes the "slow coming of justice."

We acknowledge with thanks the writers from whose work we have drawn our inspiration:

Leo Louis Mareello's *Reading the Tarot* for many of the combinations of cards.

Eileen Connolly's *The Complete Handbook for the Apprentice* for both meanings and combinations.

Vicki Noble's *Motherpeace* for insight into the numerology of the suits and clear representations of the court cards.

We thank friends and family for their support and encouragement.

We also extend our thanks for you for choosing this deck, and trust that it will open doors that you need to enter.

IDENTIFYING THE CARDS

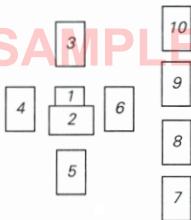
There are 22 trump cards followed by four suits of cards (Swords, Wands, Cups, and Pentacles), each containing four court cards (Pages, Knights, Queens, and Kings) and ten numbered cards.

PREPARING THE CARDS

Check that all cards are in the upright position. Shuffle the cards thoroughly while thinking of a question about your life.

The cards can be used to answer a specific question or to give a general reading for the coming period. "In my journey of self-discovery, what do I need to be aware of right now?" You can also select just one card from the pack to represent yourself. By making this choice you will reveal a great deal about your present condition and attitude.

After the cards are shuffled, without hesitation cut the deck into three piles with the left hand (as this is the hand closest to the heart and therefore more appropriate). Place the top pile to the left of the first, and the third pile to the left of the second. Have the querent (or you, if you are reading alone) choose a pile from the three piles, and lay the cards out as shown below.



THE ANCIENT CELTIC CROSS SPREAD

1. Covering card: your present condition.
2. Crossing card: the external influence on the present condition.
3. Crowning card: suggests advice or conscious thought for the situation.
4. Card behind: a past influence on the situation.
5. Card beneath: subconscious thought regarding the situation.
6. Card ahead: a future influence on the situation.
7. Card of self: internal influences.
8. House card: influences from people very close to you.
9. Card of concern: your concerns that will probably affect the outcome.
10. Card of consequence: most likely future conditions on the subject.

Once you have interpreted each card according to its meaning and position,

examine the entire layout for any patterns. If one suit or value is repeated several times, it is probably significant and should be contemplated.

In the card layout, the trumps focus on the evolutionary development of the soul as it comes into conscious knowledge of itself. The suits deal with day-to-day transient events which include thoughts, emotions, and physical conditions — the tangible world. The court cards represent people who are influential in your life, or aspects of yourself that you need to understand or recognize.

READING THE CARDS

All cards interact with the surrounding cards, and they must be evaluated in relation to each other. When reading the cards, do not get too caught up with technicalities. Your intuition is an important part of reading. The keywords given in the text

SAMPLE



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