## THE TAROT AS A TOOL

The Tarot is a powerful tool for gaining insight into yourself and your life. As with many techniques that are used for self-improvement, the Tarot has benefits and limitations. While it can do quite a lot for you, it cannot solve all problems, and is not designed to make decisions for you or tell you what to do.

A Tarot reading is like a snapshot of what your life looks like at the time of the reading. The cards tune into your energy and aim to give you a picture of unseen influences, patterns of behaviour, obstacles, and strengths. A reading can give you an idea of where you are now, where you've come from, where you want to be, and how to get there.

While the Tarot gives suggested actions to take and a likely outcome if you take them, it does not predict the future. The future is not a static or unchangeable thing. You make choices and decisions each moment of your life, whether or not you are conscious of them. The gift of free will allows each person the ability to create the future he or she wants. With the insight gained through a Tarot reading, you will be better equipped to make decisions and take action that is in line with your best interests, growth and development.

Whenever a Tarot reading contains a future or outcome card, it should be understood to be a projected or likely result if all aspects of your life remain as they are at the time of the reading. If you continue to think, act, feel, and see things the same way, the result will likely be what the outcome card reveals. But change just one factor, adjust just one viewpoint, walk down a different path, and the outcome and your future can change.

The Tarot can help you to take responsibility for the life you have helped to create. It offers guidance and empowerment to make the changes you want to make. A reading invites you to take an honest look at your situation, and can give you key information that will help you create the life and future of your choosing. Crossroads or choice points in life are where we grow, and the Tarot will not take that experience away from you. While advice is given, no one should make important decisions or take big steps in life based only on a reading.

A Tarot reading is essentially a insight snap shot into your life but remember you have freewill and still need to live your material life. A reader is like a friend or companion who listens and offers advice in a caring, non-judgemental and supporting way and can give a deeper understanding of the situation. Sometimes a conflict or block in life is so severe that it needs professional help before you are ready to look at deeper issues. Yet the insight gained in a Tarot reading can reveal the tendencies and patterns within that led to that outcome.

For example, it is responsible to take care of your money problems by consulting a financial advisor and working to create and stick to a financial plan that works for you. If you were to also receive a Tarot reading, you could begin the work of looking at your relationship with money as a pattern in your life. What does money represent to you? How have you used it in ways that were helpful and not so helpful to you? This kind of knowledge can help prevent you from getting into the same cycle again later. You are then working on the external level by taking care of the immediate problem, and on the inner level by adjusting your attitudes and ways of behaving.

This sets you up nicely to make real and lasting change in your life, and find fulfilment. The Tarot can provide possible outcomes but it is based on the vibrations at the time of the reading. It is not designed to pinpoint exact dates, times, and locations. Yet, the Tarot is excellent with sequences of events. It will show you what needs to happen, be changed, or be adjusted before you are ready for that change. The cards tune into the whole of your life, revealing important steps you can take to achieve your goals. Of course, you must be willing to take these steps.

In summary, you can gain insight into hidden factors of a problem, ideas about how to deal with your dilemma, and provide you with hope, faith and belief that you do not have to remain locked into any situation, wherever you are. You can also find answers to deeper questions that you were not even aware you wanted the answers to. You can receive spiritual guidance that will help you on your chosen path. You will be empowered to help yourself create a more satisfying and fulfilling life. All this and more is what a Tarot reading can do for you.