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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Made in China



U.S. GAMES
SYSTEMS, INC.

Published by

U.S. GAMES SYSTEMS, INC.

179 Ludlow Street, Stamford, CT 06902 USA

203-353-8400 • Order Desk 800-544-2637 • FAX 203-353-8431

www.usgamesinc.com



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ABOUT the COVER ILLUSTRATION

For the cover, Holly designed a cosmic version of our Nine of Spirals, a card that features Aeolus, Master of the Four Winds. Wind itself is a symbol of Cosmic Breath, prana or Spirit, the primary attributes of Vayu, the Indo-Iranian wind god. Wind also symbolizes the power of continuous creation and the forging of harmony between the incompleteness of that which was and the fullness of that which shall be. The Greek god Aeolus is the Great Cosmic Organizer.

One of Chrysalis Tarot's tenets is belief in an emerging Aquarian paradigm characterized by unprecedented change. Aeolus, therefore, represents a perhaps overdue reexamination of your own worldview. He ushers in a new belief system distinguished by cooperation rather than competition, of wholeness rather than separateness, and of cosmic consciousness and a rational spirituality unbounded by stale materialist thinking. He is, in short, the perfect icon for the book you are holding.

FOREWORD

When the Chrysalis Tarot was awarded the Tarosophist Award 2014 for Best New Deck, it received plaudits for its accessibility, vibrancy and novelty, particularly with regard to its alternate naming of the Court Cards and the suits. Others praised its diversity and scope by its incorporation of the widest range of myths, images and pantheons. I fell in love with the brilliance of the deck—both in colour and concept. So I was delighted to be asked to write a foreword for this companion book.

My first experience with the Chrysalis Tarot was remarkable. I often get asked about productivity, and how one can sustain a highly creative life whilst also managing everyday life in the mundane world. I decided to turn to the Chrysalis and pull one card to test its ability to immediately answer a real question. The card I drew from the deck was the Empress.

Whilst I was familiar with its usual interpretations, the image created by Toney Brooks and Holly Sierra provided a rich field of further meaning. In it I saw first that she was drawn as Gaia, and the Little White Booklet (LWB) spoke of the card as representing new ideas and beginnings. However, the depth of the image also provided several creatures; the snail, bringing patience; the mouse, bringing trust; the butterfly, bringing transformation, and also a flower—the Lotus Flower, signifying purity of heart.

These living symbols are found in summary in the simple Robins eggs within a nest cradled by Gaia herself. So I was able to discover that creativity is an entirely natural process when we attune ourselves and trust the world, have patience in it, and co-create our own abundance, as the LWB suggests to us. In this companion book we see how much of the deck teaches the lessons of the Personal Transformation Movement, of alignment, mindfulness and attunement to the vibrations of life itself.



I began to appreciate this gentle wisdom of the deck as I used it for self-discovery and insight into matters both mystical and mundane. I was also able to appreciate how it wove seamlessly the spiritual essentials drawn in other decks, particularly the presence of the *Shekinah*, such an intrinsic yet barely mentioned mystery of the Waite-Smith and Waite-Trinick Tarot images. I am impressed by how such concepts are here raised from religious constraints and placed in a space from which we can all draw, universally and compassionately, through the images of the deck.

Toney and Holly have indeed set out with this deck to transform tarot by opening it out to a wider world and range of interpretation. In this companion book you will learn about the relationship of all things in all symbols; a living universe and rich tapestry that is found in the deck. You will experience with your readings that you are connected to this tapestry in both subtle and direct ways.

Tarot, when most profound, takes us entirely out of time. As the authors say to us; “We are all connected. This means not only everything in the *present* universe is connected, but everything that has *ever existed* in the universe in the *past* is also connected.”

In this book, you will also read about Anne Baring’s *Dream of the Cosmos* and one particular dream in which she encountered the vision of the net and the spinning wheel. These motifs are to be found throughout the deck in various guises, as they speak of that interconnectivity and timelessness which is at the true heart of all mystical and spiritual experience.

The deck calls us to explore a living universe, not a dead one. As we read, “In a living universe, separateness is an illusion. Everything in a living universe is interconnected, independent and woven into the fabric of a cosmic web of life.” I agree here that in a dead universe, tarot would be nothing more than a card game—for tarot to work it must exist in a timeless and connected space, one which is woven invisibly into this world. As we say here at Tarosophy Towers, tarot must be to “engage life, not escape it.”

In fact, Toney has written elsewhere on our shared vision to “restore the spiritual dignity of tarot,” and it is this vision that you will find deeply written into every card and every line of this book.

The deck is also shamanic, particularly with regard to its healing and holistic intent. The authors see healing as “an incremental aspect of spiritual growth” and much work goes on in the chrysalis, if we are to change and heal. We see this clearly in the Healer card, the Page of Mirrors, a renamed Page of Cups, where we should “collect honey from the many blossoms of your experience and turn it into a mystical balm of healing.” I believe too that we all grow “strong in our broken places,” to quote the title of the Alice Miller book on the subject of healing childhood trauma.

Whilst the mindfulness of the deck may take us to self-awareness and encourage transformation through recognition of the synchronicity of life, the deck is not without representation of the shadow side of life. The Five of Spirals is here found showing “the repressed feelings of resentment, unhealthy desires and self-centredness or greed.” In this book, we discover more about shadow work, incorpo-

rating compassion, unconditional love, and personal accountability. Most of all, we come to learn about forgiveness, about letting go by acknowledging and utilising these aspects of our experience.

Profound transformation may unsettle those embarked on such a journey. This deck and book is an effective companion in guiding you through a labyrinth of not only discovery, but towards a destination—a destination which is the centre of your being, the connection between your spirit and matter.

Tarot is above all about story-telling, and this is a story-tellers' deck, a deck aware of tradition and the importance of passing on a tradition with the transformation necessary to reach each generation. These cards are new pictures for ancient stories, and those stories are still those we tell ourselves every day. Our ancestors are written into us and we use our tarot to access their wisdom.

During this hero's journey, the quest for higher consciousness, you will encounter what Toney and Holly have cast as "the Troupe." These are the *Chrysalis* counterparts to the standard Court Cards in tarot. It appears that these were the most "talkative" of the cards, and they all certainly have a role to play, from the Acrobat (Page of Pentacles) who is our messenger, to the Watcher (Queen of Cups) who speaks of mysticism and contemplation.

I wonder which member of the Troupe will call you to follow them in their journey.

My favourite member of the Troupe—and perhaps this tells you something about me—is the Page of Scrolls, here named the Pilgrim. She shares certain of the shamanic qualities you will discover throughout the deck, and is someone who is able to embark on a journey with a load upon her back. She stands on the doorway between the worlds, having been—or about to be—experienced in both worlds. She is the mendicant, the voyager, the journeyer, and the deck unfolds before her like the wings of a butterfly, promising not only transformation but flight.

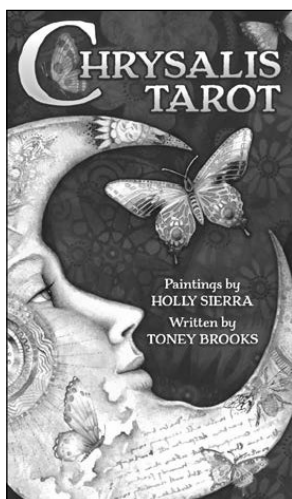
Many are the characters we will meet on the way, drawn from Arthurian myth; ancient civilisations; the Celts and Romans, the vast continents of Africa and Australia; but most of all, drawn deeply from our primal selves. This journey is a story of each of us, told on the grand scale but also on a personal stage, in which the spotlight falls upon us.

Tarot tells a story; it is a fable of the soul's only fallacy; that there is something between us and the universe, between our own self and the divine. As we approach that realisation, the cards unfold before us in a constant message; we live a life of service like the Storyteller or Hermit card; we are each Oneida, the *Shamanka*, healing and using tarot to connect us to all stories. Every question, every situation for which we read our cards, is an opportunity for invoking rejuvenation and restoration in our lives and the lives of our querents.

This deck is indeed a story-tellers deck. This book is for learning to read stories in the world through our cards. It marches to a different drum and it is important that we are "aware of the stories that we read and tell," because these stories shape our world. Tarot should be dangerous in that it should change us, challenge us, uplift us and empower us.

I leave you now in the capable hands of the *Chrysalis Tarot*, recalling that "a tarot deck after all is a metaphysical looking-glass, designed to pinch the higher realms of reality."

Tali Goodwin, Tarosophy Towers, April 2015



INTRODUCTION

by Toney Brooks

The creation of a tarot deck is a transpersonal process that can take years. Holly Sierra and I spent over 3 1/2 years creating Chrysalis and during those months learned many things. Above all else, we learned that our creative process stood on invisible shoulders.

During the 42 months we spent co-creating Chrysalis, I personally had frequent, imaginary conversations with the characters in our *dramatis personae*. In retrospect, I realize the conversations were not so imaginary after all, at least not entirely. So I embarked on an effort to understand more about what actually went on. This two-part book is not only about Chrysalis Tarot but is also the result of my efforts to uncover hidden realities of the universe that shape our lives and compel us toward destiny.

The most talkative of our characters during the process, and perhaps now as well, were the members of the Troupe. These 16 cards are Chrysalis Tarot's stand-ins for the familiar Court Cards—the kings, queens and so on. Since our Troupe characters were new creations,

we expected they might be a wordy lot and have many suggestions to offer. Their suggestions, by the way, were immensely helpful. In effect these characters defined themselves, revealed their personalities and disclosed their functions within Chrysalis. It became readily apparent that the Troupe characters were also archetypes.

Archetypes are pure potential that acquire meaning, definition and resonance through us. Since many Chrysalis archetypes are new to tarot, they learn about themselves just as the universe and everything in it learns about itself: through a feedback, feedforward information (energy) loop. This energy-based network connects everything in our universe, and therefore unifies everything synergistically. The network is holistic and greater than the sum of its parts.

A tarot deck after all is a metaphysical looking-glass designed to pinch the higher realms of reality. In this regard, tarot is a good deal like shamanism. This companion book will acquaint you with the higher realm we call the Otherworld and, hopefully, help you befriend it, learn to communicate with it and listen to it. Hopefully, you will allow the Otherworld to inform you just as you, in turn, inform it. Given the crazed world we live in today, there can be no better time to expand your mind, grow the quality of your consciousness and reexamine your views on the nature of reality.

I personally believe that if something unseen or imagined resonates with consciousness then it is real. Any author who creates a character that subsequently becomes an archetype, such as George Lucas' Darth Vader, will tell you the character is indeed very real. As you write, characters say and do things that surprise the writer. Our mythologies are filled with living characters that resonated in the past and now, as archetypes, transport treasured truths into future ages from one to the next.

Today, perhaps more so than ever before, we humans inhabit a compacted reality in a wounded world. Every time we think we have it completely figured out, we realize that we only found another

piece of the puzzle. Today's cobbled together puzzle is defined by the primacy of matter, separation, and duality, which is a polarity of opposites in pairs such as masculine vs. feminine, good vs. evil, light vs. darkness and separate vs. unified. Unreconciled opposites and the fallacy of separation are egocentric illusions that beget war, pestilence and senseless destruction of planet Earth.

Fortunately, reality isn't set in stone; we changed our perception of it before and we can change it again. Our human nature intuits when profound change is blowing in the wind and readies us to make sense of it. Today, the world around us is experiencing birth pangs that herald a new reality and worldview. What possibly could be more exciting than to experience the birth of a global awakening?

Our unique deck of 78 tarot cards was crafted to help midwife this new existential reality, a reality we describe at times as *holistic consciousness* and at other times as *cosmic consciousness*. They imply the same thing. We symbolize this new consciousness throughout Chrysalis Tarot with beautiful butterflies and striking symbols of personal transformation. Chrysalis marches to a different drum. It seeks to help you forge a pathway to destiny and cosmic consciousness. The pathway is the ageless Hero's Journey, the monomythic quest for unity.

Holistic consciousness, a dimension of higher consciousness, resonates at the highest possible frequency because it is characterized by pure, unconditional love—immaculate love for self, neighbor, the Earth and the Cosmos. The new reality awaiting the conclusion of the Hero's Journey is an experience of spirit *and* matter; unity *and* separateness, divine Self *and* divine other. The philosophy of the new age prefers the term *both/and* rather than *either/or*.

Profound change is unsettling and frustrating, especially to those ill prepared for it. We designed Chrysalis Tarot to help mitigate the stressful tremors of troubled times. When we evolve our

understanding of reality and learn to abide by it, we are able to lower the inevitable stress brought about by change.

So what exactly is going on in this world of ours? That's a question we put to Chrysalis cards. We asked, "Who shall represent these winds of change?" The Nine of Spirals responded. This card depicts the ancient wind god Aeolus who symbolizes cosmic organization. Wind itself symbolizes the invisible spiritual energy that forges new paradigms. Humanity has been on the cusp of this new paradigm, or new age, since the Enlightenment of the 17th century.

Aeolus is pictured on the Nine of Spirals with an astrolabe, a device used at sea for navigation. An astrolabe measures not the speed or direction of the wind, but rather the position of heavenly bodies such as the moon and stars. On the Nine of Spirals, the astrolabe foresees the gentle breeze of the Age of Aquarius entwined with the last snarling gusts of the Age of Pisces. The ramifications of such a shift are stupendous!

Our universe is made of vibrating energy. All that exists in the universe is "energy, frequency and vibration," according to the renowned physicist Nicholas Tesla. All matter is vibrating energy. This book, for example, vibrates at a specific frequency. The furniture around you vibrates at a specific frequency. And your personal energy vibration or *energy signature*, which is affected by your mood and state of mind, broadcasts a specific frequency. Personal energy signatures *resonate* when they come into contact with complementary frequencies, such as other like-minded individuals.

To visualize resonance, imagine a tuning fork. When you tap it, it produces sound at a specific frequency. Say you have two identical tuning forks and you tap one of them, the other fork vibrates at the same frequency and you can hear it.

A radio also comes in handy when visualizing resonance. We know radio stations broadcast on assigned frequencies. When a radio set is tuned to a particular station, the station's frequency resonates

with the radio, which then produces sound you hear through the speakers. If you change frequencies by pushing a button, the sound from a different station begins to resonate.

This companion book to Chrysalis Tarot details a mental and spiritual journey of resonating frequencies. Tarot refers to this journey as *The Hero's Journey*, a catchall that has been a feature of humanity's stories and mythologies since the time of Gilgamesh nearly 5,000 years ago. In our own time, the whole of humanity is embarking on an epic journey of self-discovery and a collective re-examination of values and priorities. Once accomplished, this paradigm shift will redefine humanity's role in a living universe.

This book divides this epic journey into two parts. Part One examines Chrysalis Tarot and other forms of magic, which are the manipulation of subtle energy, and the role they play in the epic. We will examine new ways of thinking. By opening minds, we will learn how the universe really works. Much of what we were taught in school is incorrect. In just the last several decades, new ways of thinking opened the frontier for a New Physics and New Science that present a much clearer and more elegant view of the way the world works.

Part Two of this book provides an in-depth interpretation for each of the 78 Chrysalis cards. The interpretations also include anecdotes written by Holly that include her inspiration for each card's art with images of her original black and white sketches.

In Chapter 1, titled *Elpi's Cosmic Insights*, we'll review, in layman's terms, the New Physics and various scientific discoveries that turned our worldview upside down and inside out.

We'll examine two different views of the universe. The present view is of a cold, mysterious, foreboding place created out of nothing some 14 billion years ago. The greater universe, aside from our own solar system, doesn't appear to serve much purpose or to have much direct bearing on everyday life on Earth in this worldview. We've been taught that it's mostly dead, empty space.

The alternative, and I believe correct view of the universe, differs considerably. While it may indeed appear cold and foreboding, it most certainly is not dead, empty space.

In Chapter 2, *Papa Legba's Unseen Travels* expands upon what we at Chrysalis call the Otherworld, or Collective Unconscious. Chrysalis archetypes depicted on the first 22 cards in the deck are said to exist in this Otherworld, a realm of non-ordinary reality. As we mentioned, the 16 Troupe characters also inhabit this Otherworld.

When a particular Otherworld archetype resonates with your unconscious mind, your imagination and intuition are inspired. You know new things inexplicably. The tarot reading becomes something like a radio that's happened upon an unfamiliar but entertaining station chocked full of information.

Chapter 3, *Merlin's Great Matter*, addresses resonance and the transformation to higher consciousness, the ultimate goal of the Hero's Journey. The word *chrysalis* itself implies either biological metamorphosis or spiritual transformation.

When you read Chrysalis Tarot, you invite the Otherworld into your daily decision-making and discernment to help you make better informed choices. You also become happier, less stressed, more confident, better balanced and, as the frequency of your energy signature rises, so too does consciousness awareness.

We devote Chapter 4, titled *Storyteller's Vision Quest*, to healing. Diseases may be *cured*, psychological disorders may be *treated*, but when subtle energy vibrations become disordered they must be *healed*. Various names for what is called *subtle energy* include *chi* (also spelled *qi*) and *prana*, the Sanskrit word meaning "life force." This energy is subtle only because we lack the technology to measure it.

We'll also discuss the etiology of subtle energy disorder, the telltale symptoms of illness one might encounter and the many effective healing modalities available, which includes Chrysalis readings. We also touch upon chakra work and other forms of subtle energy healing.

Chapter 5 is titled *Morgan's Cauldron of Rebirth*. Morgan le Fay is Chrysalis' sorceress. It's about the magic that happens when you activate your Third Eye, also known as your sixth chakra.

An activated Third Eye stabilizes your frequency so it may resonate *at will* with the unseen world of archetypes and discarnate beings, such as spirits, angels and the ancestors. Fairies, unicorns and fantastical creatures from mythology also populate this imaginal Third Eye theater.

Perhaps of utmost importance, when consciousness is tuned to this stabilized frequency you will also resonate on many levels with fellow human beings committed to evolving beyond the dead-universe materialist paradigm.

Part Two of the book expands on interpretations of Chrysalis cards detailed in the small booklet (Little White Booklet) that comes with each deck. In addition to the card interpretations, Holly's inspirations for her Chrysalis art are included along with her original black and white sketches for all 78 cards.



PART ONE