



## The Tarot Shaman

A **Gated Spread** is one of over fifty new methods of engaging Tarot in real life featured in the forthcoming book, *Tarosophy*. These are spreads arrayed across a period of time, where each spread is reliant not only upon the previous spread - but on actions carried out in real life (and arising results) which feed into the next spread. Thus a series of "gates" are created through which the activity of life is channelled. As the cards represent fundamental patterns in life, this channelling produces often profound life-changing effects beyond the obvious connectivity of life. It is a way of fully experiencing that the world is indeed "bound by invisible knots".

The Gated Spreads already taught within Tarot Professionals include one of Relationships - the Gates of Valentine week, one on Creativity - the Garden of Forking Paths, and the powerful Resurrection Engine - a totally life-changing week experience. You can discover more about this method and many other spreads such as the Palace of the Phoenix (using Alchemy) and the Temple of Thoth (using the Thoth deck and Egyptian mythology) at <http://www.tarotprofessionals.com/gates.html>.

In this exclusive Gated Spreads offered to all Townsfolk & Citizens of Tarot Town, we are going to take a gentler journey into the animal symbolism of Tarot and engage with the living life with which we are surrounded. Indeed this may be a powerful week - whilst writing this today I looked out the library window and saw a Deer staring back in at me!

## The Shaman

In the *Teachings of Don Juan*, Carlos Castenda gives an account of the requirements of the Shaman, the Person of Knowledge. The Shaman must be:

1. Learned
2. Of Unbending Intent
3. Clear of Mind
4. Laborious
5. A Warrior

## 6. Unceasing

## 7. Possess an Ally

Whilst we see that the Tarot cards of the Magician, the Chariot, the Hermit, Strength, Emperor and the Wheel may symbolise the archetypal qualities of the first six of these qualities, we may also need to locate an Ally - in this case, the Spirit of the Tarot itself, to guide us further. But first we must encounter the Dweller on the Threshold - the Guardian of the Gate.

You may like to discuss on the forum or note in your journal which cards you personally see associated with the first six qualities that Castenda gives for a Shaman. You may also like to record your dreams during this week which will often become more vivid.

### Gate 1: The Guardian of the Gate Spread

Our first Gated Spread tells us what we must overcome to go onto the next gate - it is a warrior's challenge. We cannot even begin to approach the mysteries unless we prove ourselves in some serious manner.

So for your first Gate, take a deck and shuffle, considering everything that frightens you, then lay out 3 cards in a line (vertical or horizontal) as follows:

1. What is the Guardian?
2. How must I Fight?
3. What is the Reward?

Take these three cards and consider how they might relate to your life over the next day. What is the nature of the "fear" that has been divined by the first card? What is the manner in which you must overcome this fear indicated by the second card? What does the third card suggest you will gain as a reward?

I take out these cards in my reading:

1 Guardian - The Blasted Tower

2 Fight - Ace of Swords

3 Reward - Empress

I guess I start to see the Guardian as a fear of disruption and sudden failure. The fight is keeping clear to an idea, and the reward is a general natural growth.

Now - most importantly, decide on a definite ACTION tomorrow that will meet the requirements of this gate. Something in your life - not too dramatic unless you feel called to do so - that will respond to the divination of these three cards. Discuss on the forum if you are unsure - but it must be enacted within the following day.

So I decide in my case that tomorrow, Saturday, I will try and do something extremely surprising, that fits to my ideas, I'll overturn an expectation and overcome a barrier by starting to write an essay I have been prevaricating over. It's not much of a challenge in terms of being a warrior, but I'll determine to do it. The Ace of Swords!

You are encouraged to share your decisions, actions and experiences on the forum, but only if you wish to do so. We have found in previous gated spreads that sharing often reveals profound similarities and interesting differences in the lives of those sharing the experience.

We will then be given the next Gate by the Tarot Shaman tomorrow and continue our journey into the Tarot Shaman's Path and meet our animal guide in the Tarot, having proven our worth at the first Gate.