

La Cartomancie Lenormand Complète

Avec Mlle. TaliTarot

L'Art de Tirer les Cartes [The Method of Using the Cards]

Cartomancy is a science which can only be attained through reflection and practice, insamuch as the permutations of the cards represent thousands of possible occurrences, and it is through comparison of their respective positions, changing at each deal, that we arrive at their full meaning. Spreading before your eyes a panorama of events passed and present, it becomes easy to institute wise reflections on the past and speculate upon events announced to happen. This is one of the aims of the science, which forewarns you of threatened danger, so that you can avert it in anticipation of its occurrence. The panorama of past events shows to us in what we have failed, and hence we must shun past errors. **In a word, cartomancy teaches the individual the art of self-government.**

Fortune-Telling by Cards, 1872

Cinquième Leçon: Zone d'Action

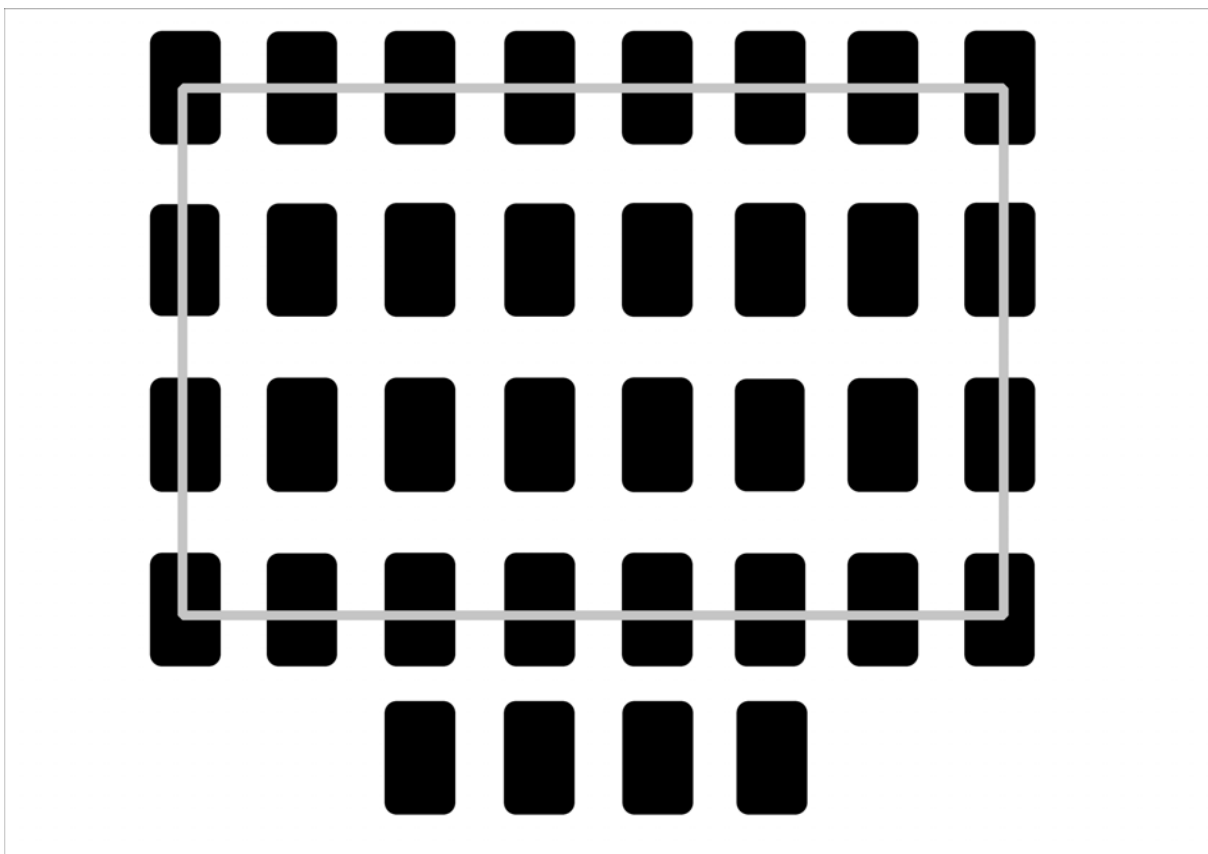
Hello fellow *Cartomanciens*, and welcome to the fifth lesson of my Lenormand introduction course, which covers this salon-style reading of cards.

In this lesson we will consider the whole Tableau and a few smaller areas for your practice. We will look at contemporary methods of considering the whole GT with **zones**, utilising correspondences from other systems. Whilst we only cover the basics here, there are many more templates that can be usefully applied to the GT to provide clarification, correlation and confirmation of a reading. I cover these more in further classes and my book, *The New Lenormand* (pub, May, 2012).

The Zones

We can consider the GT a scenario which reflects upon all aspects of our Sitters field, form and fate (see the book of that same name, *Field, Form and Fate* by Michael Conforti) and when seen as a field we can divide it into different zones. Whilst some of these are dependent on the fall of the cards, others can be seen in the fixed matrix of the GT. When we layer the two, we get a very comprehensive and flexible way of reading Lenormand.

In these illustrations, we will use the 8x4+4 layout so we can learn to use this variation by considering the bottom four cards as a new set called *label cards*.

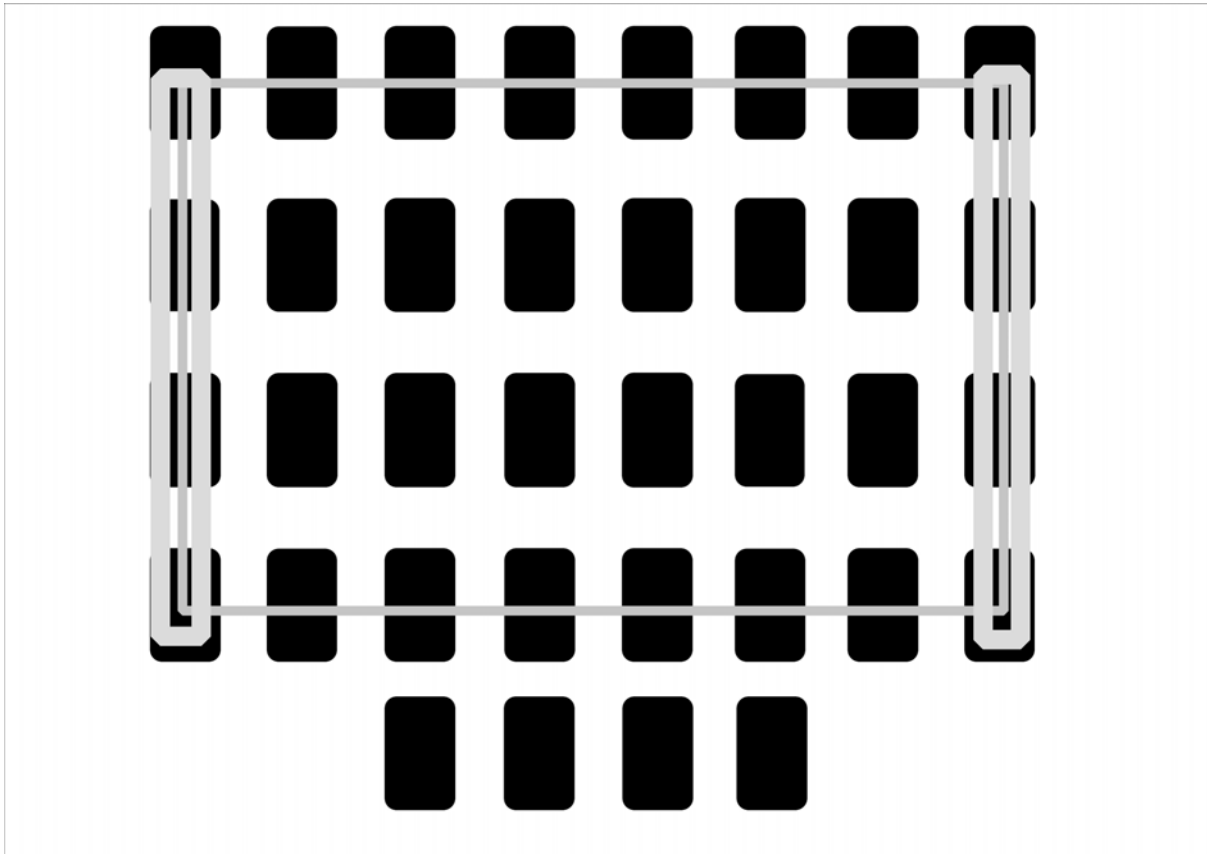


ILLUS 1. The Frame

In this illustration, we see the cards around the edge of the GT are considered the frame. These are often useful to be read together mid-way through the overall reading in order to give some overall context and summary. We can break this frame down into distinct components.

Past and Future Frame

I take the column to the left as a “past frame” and the column to the right as a “future frame”, irrespective of the deck or other elements of the reading.



ILLUS 2. Past Frame and Future Frame

The four cards in the left column give us an indication of the past “edge” of the current situation, in effect, what the Sitter always returns to when considering their life, their old visions, patterns, habits, strongest memories, etc. This column shows us what has made them who they are in the present and what may need uncovering or even redeeming to make substantial changes in the presenting scenario.

The four cards on the right column give us an indication of the future edge – where the Sitter can see from where they are sitting right now. This may be

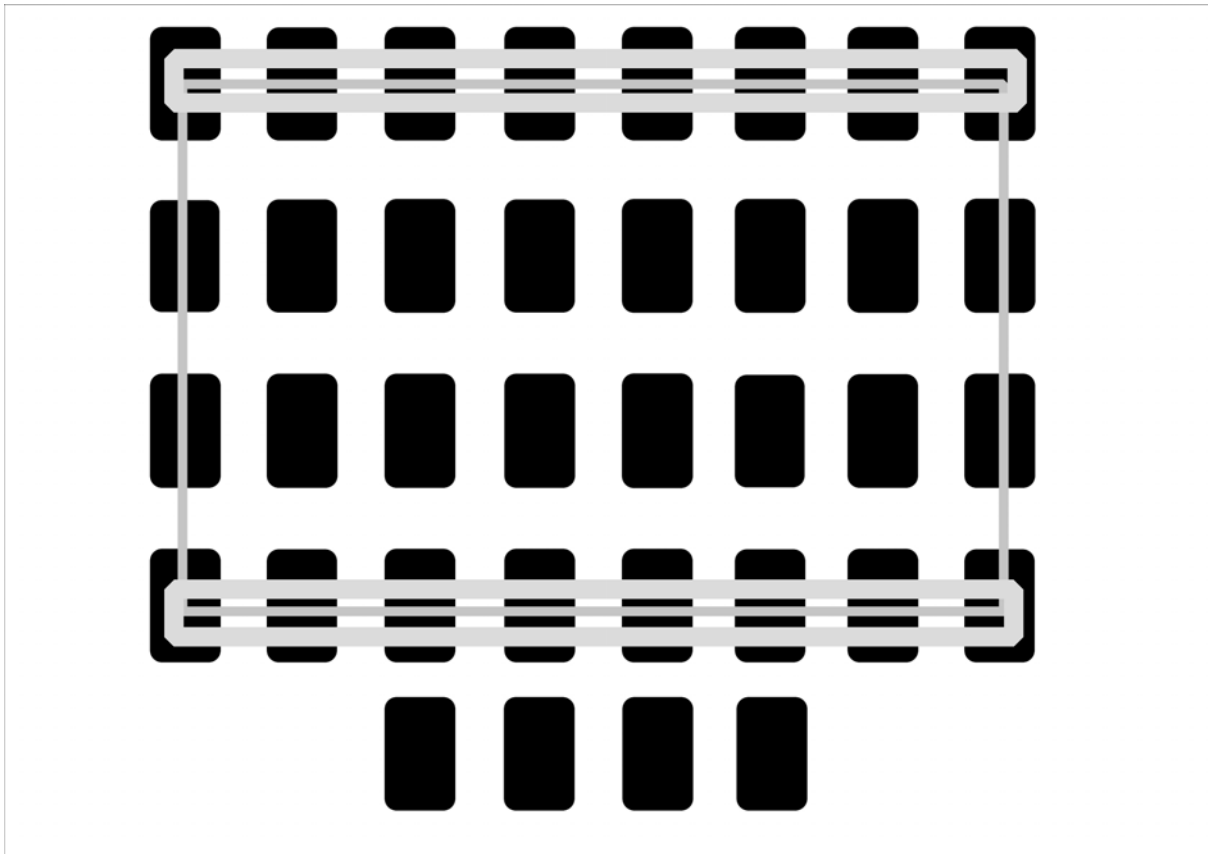
limiting them or stretching them, dependent on the other cards and contexts we have already read in the GT.

You'll note that these two columns are sort of different to the past/future columns dictated by the position and perspective of the charged card, such as the Gentleman, for example. The fall of that card in a male Sitters reading may indicate that the most of the GT to the right is the future, if his card has fallen in the left column and he is facing right. That simply means that he himself is stuck within the far past patterns of his "past frame".

As we saw in the quote at the beginning of this lesson, the aim of our reading should be to promote self-governance, and the use of these frames in combination with our previous lessons gives a powerful mechanism for layering a GT reading.

Zones of the Spiritual and Mundane Life

You can also consider the top and bottom rows as spiritual frame (highest aspirations) and material frame (manifestation, practicalities of life) which is useful in some questions, particularly when pairing.



ILLUS 3. Upper and Lower Frame

As with the past/future columns, you can pair/compare cards to drill down into the detail of the overall reading, without losing the “gestalt” of the whole.

Here is an example of a reading I did where I have taken out just the top row and bottom row of my GT and read them as two rows, then paired.



ILLUS 4. Example of Above and Below Frame

The Above Cards: 1, 31, 34, 36, 23, 30, 2, 20

The above cards speak of a spiritual life that is motivated by the giving of communications; this is evident with card number 1, the **Rider** card. This is powered by the energy of the **Sun** card, so the will-power is there to carry on, and the resources will be provided with the presence of the **Fishes** card, as long as the intent is true.

The **Cross** represents a certain burden that accompanies the journey, yet reassures. The work is done quietly and steadily, slowly prolific in nature, in spirit of the **Mice** card. The **Lilies** card warns against neglecting your inner life, do not think that you have got there already, you have only just begun. It would be better to maintain a life full of simple discipline, which can be done regularly, than to aim too high and be found wanting.

It is about being the best of what you are, rather than being superficial. As Shakespeare wrote, “Lillies that fester smell far worse than weeds”. This life time is about not putting off what you are supposed to do. The **Clover** is about knowing who you are – your identity, with the **Lilly** also indicating an inner purity, which must be preserved even if taken into the garden of external life.

The **Garden** is the “social self” which must be presented, in integrity with the “inner self” of the **Lilly**. The **Garden** must not be a place where you are seduced into behaving in a non-authentic manner.

The Below Cards: 5, 32, 22, 9, 15, 27, 16, 4

In your day-to-day life, these cards show, particularly with the **Tree** and the **House** bordering either end of this row, the importance of keeping ones resources close to hand. The **Tree** can provide a self-sustaining resource if used wisely, and shelter – but it can also be wasted and turned into planks which then rot. The **Moon** casts a light on the practical life of the Sitter which shows they must connect to their intuition along the **Ways** card – that they should listen to that inner voice and find the strength of the **Bear** in their ability to communicate (the **Letter**). The **Stars** show that the practical life of the Sitter must be steady and not burn out, that they should steer their course with long-term planning, and not be prone to crash and burn syndrome.

When we look at the pairs of Above and Below, we can delve into the Sitters most profound issues in their spiritual life – and how that relates to their practical life, and vice-versa. I provide a brief note here of what might be explored, you can see that this would be a session in itself.

1 + 5: Messenger & Tree – the importance of channelling ancestral knowledge and learning from one's own deep history.

31 + 32: Sun & Moon – the balance of Will and Emotive decision-making.

34 + 22: Fishes & Ways – the spiritual resources of the Sitter can be nourished by observing signs and acting upon them. [Even if the Sitter asked, "How should I act?" we can answer this by looking in the original GT at the cards which would be above the Ways card, and we could look at the House in which it had fallen, etc. This is the power of L-Space, it provides what our first quote of this lesson called a "panorama"].

36 + 4: Cross & Bouquet – applying appreciation to ones spiritual life with outside observation and practice, showing reverence.

23 + 15: Mice & Bear – From humility can be drawn strength.

30 + 6: Lilies & Letter – Putting things off will cause festering within.

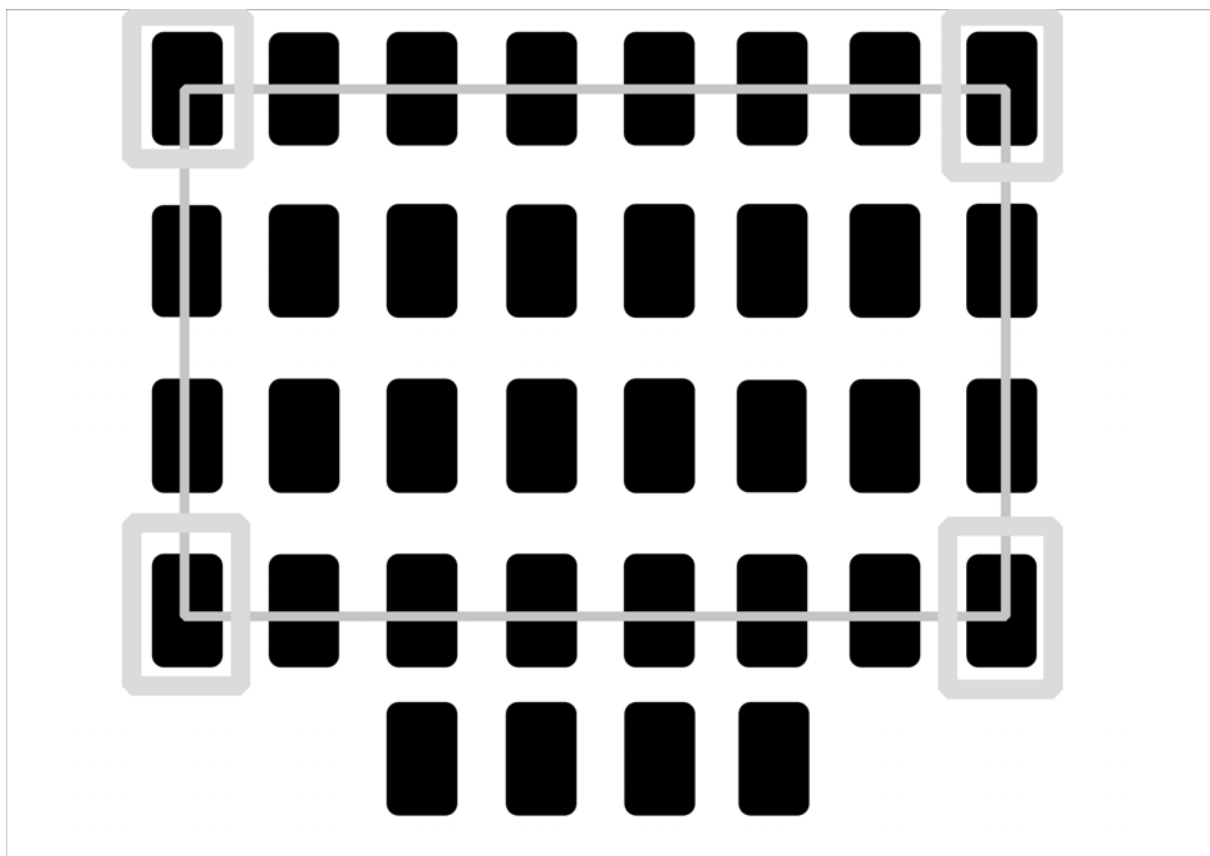
2 + 7: Clover & Stars – Returning to one's own original dreams and visions will bring good fortune.

20 + 4: Garden & House – Finding the balance of inner and outer life.

I hope yet again you will see that even whilst these pairs provide us acres of information to relate to the Sitter, we would be best served by seeing them in the full GT and expanding outwards from each pair. In providing these zones, the aim is to give you lots of diving boards into the full ocean!

The Four Pin Cards

We can then look at what I call the **pin-cards**. These are the four cards that would pin the GT up if it were hung on a wall, and show me how the Sitter is holding themselves in their life situation. These four cards are their unique signature or strategy for dealing with the stresses (and calmness's) of their life.



ILLUS 5. The Four Pin Cards

The Label Cards

Finally, we can also look at those lower four cards in the 4x8+4 version of the GT which I call the **label** cards. If we imagine the GT as a picture, a *tableau vivant*, then the four cards at the bottom are the label. They give the essential details, or characteristics of the image.

For me, the label cards tell me, in no particular order:

- The **history** of the scenario (is it in early stages, middle or late, declining stage).
- The overall **style** of the scenario, that is to say, is it a formal or informal situation, is it a matter of the heart or mind.
- The **subject** matter – what is really being communicated.
- The **uniqueness** at play in this particular Sitter. What sets this scene apart from other depictions of the same?

As an example, if I had the following four cards in the label area:



This would tell me the picture I am about to read in the Sitter's life is:

History: Heritage, long-standing

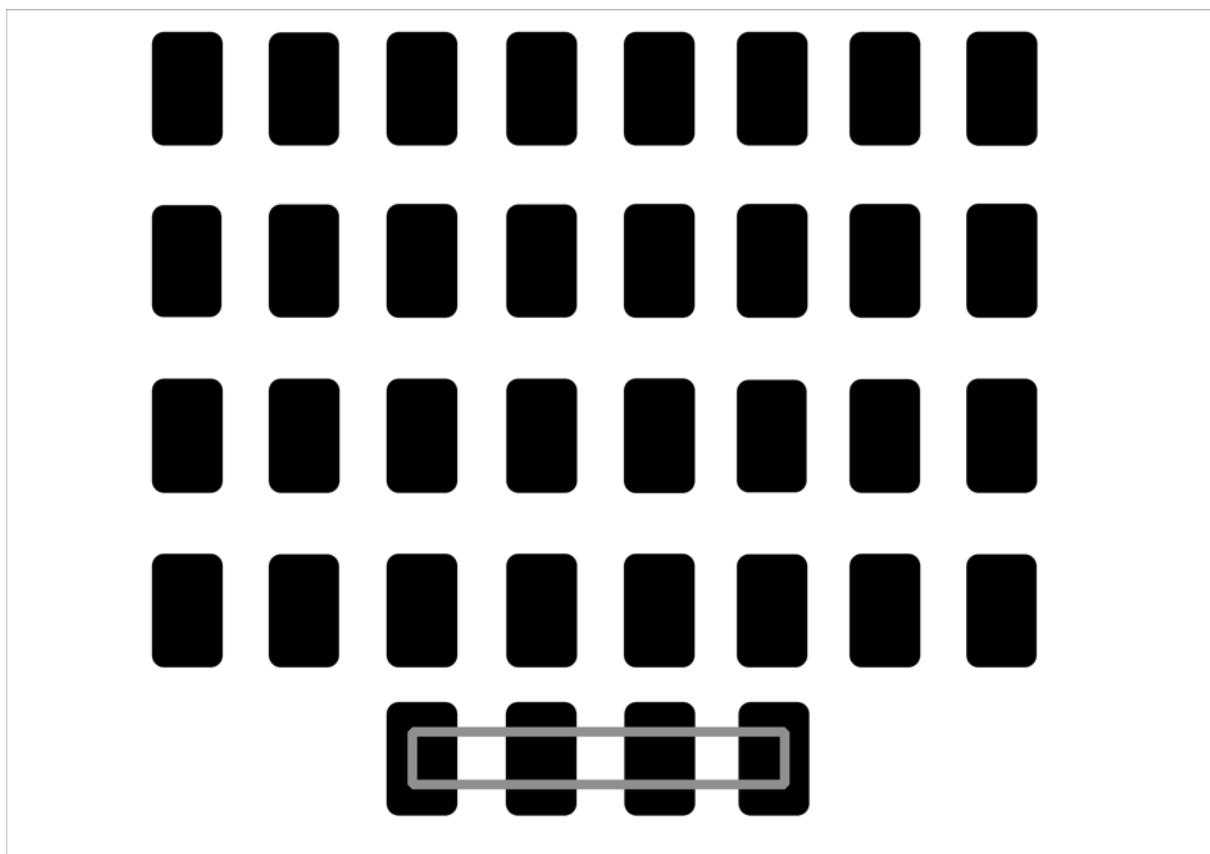
Style: Traditional, following a pattern

Subject: Creating a space by making decisions – finding your place

Uniqueness: Being thrust into what you are supposed to be doing and following it through.

I would suspect that the Sitter had been employed for a long time or in a relationship for a long time, and had now been thrust into a totally new situation. Whilst for many, it is a common subject to “find one’s place”, here, the Sitter has a unique position in that they have been thrust into it, and their immediate decisions will set the course for some time to come.

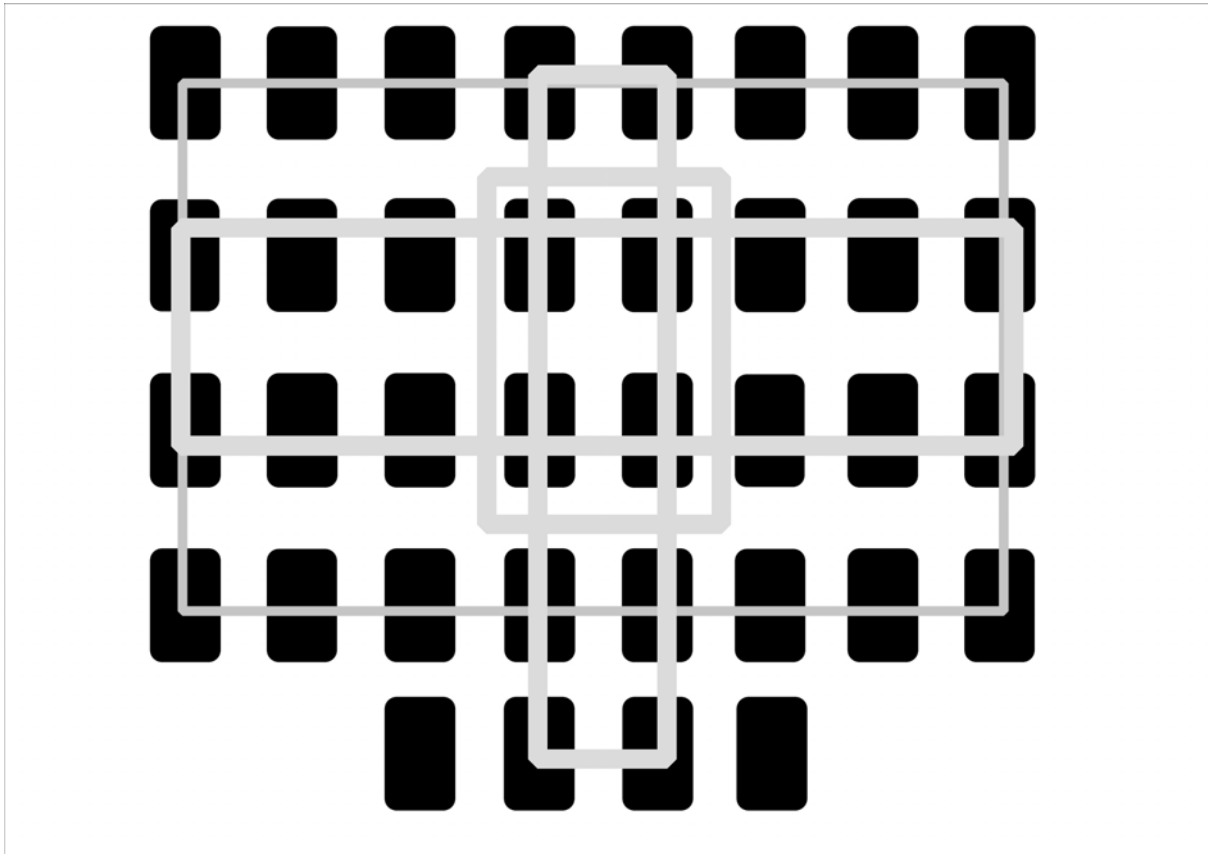
You can assign four fixed positional meanings to these four label cards, however I find that closes you down to the elegance, grace and profound power of L-Space to easily express complex situations.



ILLUS 6. The Label Cards

The Hidden Cross

A more advanced template you can consider is the “hidden cross” which comprises of the following cards.



ILLUS 7. The Hidden Cross

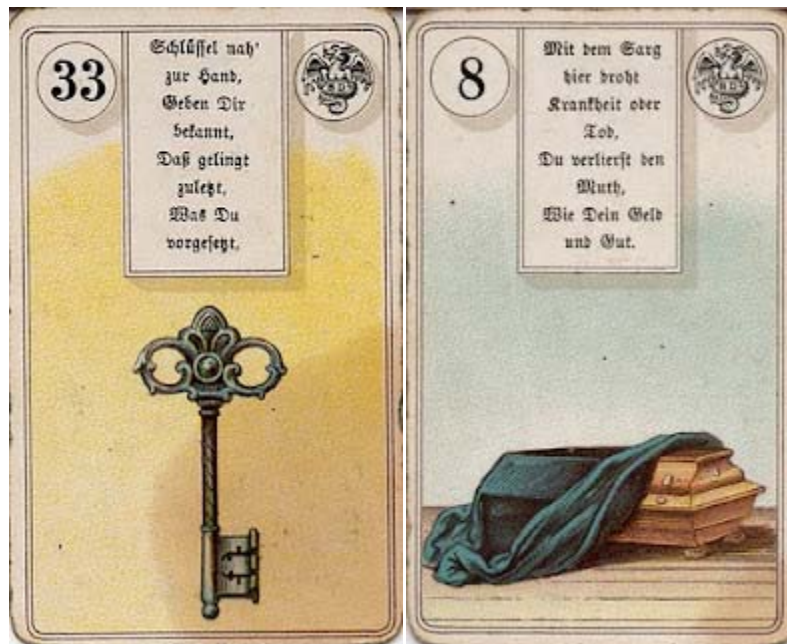
The four cards in the centre of GT give the hidden cross its pivot-point and can be taken as the “hub” or “crux” of the matter, particularly in the daily or mundane world of the Sitter. These four cards are the “hub” of the matter – sometimes I take a peek at these first before I start navigating the whole GT in order to get my bearings – then I go look at the charged card and read on.

Reading Whole or Linear

In all these templates, the cards are read as we have learnt – **together**. They have no unique positional meaning; they are always arising as a whole scenario. If you lay them out as a block or a row, you can decide if you wish to read them left to right, or right to left, in a linear fashion.

If you do, you need to decide in advance which card impacts on the other. Does the first card apply to the second you read, or vice-versa?

As an example, in a linear reading, you might have the first two cards of the Key and the Coffin.



ILLUS 8. Key and Coffin

We might consider it like this – is the Key **in** the Coffin, or on the outside? That might really make a difference! This is where most of the books remain somewhat unclear – when they provide pairings (as many of them do) they remain the same interpretation no matter the relative position of the two cards. This is fine in a “holistic” reading, where all the cards are seen **together** and as a whole, but problematic – well, confusing (mainly to T-Space Readers) - when reading in a linear fashion.

And everyone asks! Particularly those travelling from T-Space to L-Space!

So if we read the Key then the Coffin, according to Treppner, we get a simple interpretation that “it will get better soon”. However, if we read the Coffin, *then* the Key, we get much the same, but with a proviso, “it will get better soon, [however] there will be a minor misfortune affecting your security, but

nothing dramatic”. That is to say, the key (locked) will be breached by the impact of the Coffin.

Generally, a good rule is to say the second card applies to or modifies the reading of the first. So in this case, “security” **first** from the key, **then** the “change” implied by the Coffin. If we were to read them the other way round, it would be the change of the Coffin being locked down by the Key – quite the opposite interpretation.

As usual, find what works best for you and once you have decided on a method, stick to it, reviewing it often, and gradually develop your own methodology. We are all unique oracles.

Fixed Positional Spreads

Whilst decrying these with good reason, as you may find mileage varies with L-cards rather than T-cards, you may like to explore a few positional spreads with your cards and discover how they work in this manner.

Here is a standard pattern with a little twist. I provide others in my book, giving contemporary twists to such classic designs as pyramid, cross, and horseshoe.

Decision Assister (Simple Three Card)



Card 1: What to Do

Card 2: What is needed to be Revealed

Card 3: What NOT to Do

What you can do with this spread is L-tweak it by shuffling all 36 cards and then dealing them face-down into three equal piles of 12 cards. You can then turn up the first card in each pile and read it as a simple 3-card “spread”. Then, if you wish to tweak it, you can turn over the next three cards and lay them underneath the first three, and read them in continuation. This method allows you to build up your confidence, so you can start with just the first 3 cards, and work to doing, in effect, a 3x12 tableau reading.

Conclusion

In my next and final introductory lesson, we will look at “traditional” ideas such as **diagonals** and **knighting**, and I will provide a selection of practice methods to set you on your way into L-Space. There is always more to discover, particularly when we research the roots of the cartomantic tradition, and I look forward to seeing you again on your oracular journey through the cards.

Feel free to share in Tarot-Town or ask questions. Like any practice method, it’s a lot easier to do than explain, you’ll soon see how easy it is, and how it starts to do strange things inside your head when you next read the cards, whether Lenormand or Tarot.

Optional Exercise

Execer 1: Triplets

As an optional exercise for this lesson, I’d like to encourage you to continue to work in montages and scenarios. So here’s a practice method that can build up what I call “chains” in the skillset of the Lenormand Sibyl.

Shuffle your deck.

Take three cards.

Lay them out face-up in a triangle.

Create a story, scene, or situation involving all three cards.

Take another three cards.

Create a separate story, etc., for these three cards.

Now look at both triplets and chain one card from each together by seeing how the two stories might connect through those two particular cards. It can be obvious or surreal – there is no need to make meaning, only connection.

You can keep adding triplets and chaining them through the same or different cards, so long as it is one card only from each triplet, to one card from another.

This practice builds up another essential skill in the cartomancer toolbox.

Votre très-humble et très-obéissante servante,

Mlle. TaliTarot