

LESSON 131

"OPENING OF THE KEY"

Now that you have studied the Tarot cards you will want to know how to use them. One of their uses is divination. The method of divination taught by the Golden Dawn is the "Opening of the Key". This method along with how to read the Tarot is adequately explained in "The Complete Golden Dawn System of Magic" by I. Regardie, Volume 9 pages 29 to 54. The reader is advised to obtain this book, if not already owning one, and study the above mentioned pages very carefully. For your convenience, described below are side notes to the "Opening of the Key", which provide quick instructions on how to lay out the cards for its various operations.

The full Golden Dawn system of tarot reading is a very complex and analytical task. It can take several hours to do correctly and is usually done for very important questions only. Within the New Zealand Thoth-Hermes Temple this method of operation must be mastered as part of the 5=6 training but it has been brought down to the Outer Order level so that it is now in line with current material that is already published. The full tarot reading is actually done with Order document 'Z2' (divination section) in which each step is planned to coincide with the 'Z2' (see the "Complete Golden Dawn System of Magic"). When relating the Opening of the Key to the 'Z2' there is some confusion because some stages are done together and not in the sequential format (such as sections 'G' to 'K'). Also section 'I' of the 'Z2' refers to an Altar (which is the table the cards are on). When this is banished around and consecrated (as in the O=O opening), it becomes for all intents and purposes a temporary Altar. The Diviner sits in the East if he does the reading for someone else, but faces East if he does it for himself, usually one's Lotus wand is present during this reading though when non Order members are present this is not always advisable (the consecration and uses of the Lotus will be discussed in later lessons but for the moment proceed without it).

You will note in the first operation that the cards are cut and read from right to left. This is a general rule and it is suggested you adhere to, the purpose being that one draws from the positive force.

Divination must be taken seriously and not used for fun and games. Never read the Tarot when under the influence of alcohol or in a disturbed state of mind. You must learn to still your

mind (refer lesson 45 - book and tape), making it free from interfering thoughts that may distaught your perception. Perform a small invocation in your mind and over your cards before each question to clear all vibrations from previous questions. Apart from what is described in "The Complete Golden Dawn System of Magic" and above, the Kabbalistic Cross (and Hebrew words associated) is one example: "Atoh, Malkus, Ve-Gedulah, Ve-Gevurah, Le-Olahm, Amen." Thus drawing the Light down and placing it over the cards. Performing the Middle Pillar before and after a reading session is also suggested.

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### Side Notes to "Opening of the Key"

- STEP 1     Decide on a significator  
 STEP 2     Invoke over cards  
 STEP 3     Shuffle well  
 STEP 4     (if reading for another) hand deck to querent explaining what must be done

#### First Operation: Represents "Opening of Question"

1. Querent cuts cards (concentrating on question ) into two equal piles facing down (all actions with right hand and always cutting from right to left) with space between each pile. Then the pile on the right is cut again, the cut pile placed between the two original piles. The third pile from the right is cut and the cut pile placed to the right of all three piles.

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| H | V | H | Y |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

For example piles 1 to 4 are cut thus: Y is cut once in half to make Y and V, the Y is cut again to make H (pile 2) between Y and V, and then the V is cut to make the final H (pile 4), so you have four piles.

2. The diviner turns over all piles and reads the cards facing up on top of each pile.

The diviner then searches each pile for significator. Removes pile with significator, puts other piles aside. The pile the significator is in signifies the direction the answer will concentrate on.

3. The diviner spreads removed pile with significator on table in horseshoe shape from right to left, one card after

another, in the same order as in the pile.

4. To read:

Groupings (a)

Note majority of suits, courts or trumps (if there is more than two of a number).

Counting (b)

Count from significator and in direction it is facing (note this is contradictory to the right to left method, but is acceptable. If significator faces front, count from right to left). Each card you land on indicates the next number to count, it also indicates the card you read. If you land on the same card twice then the counting and reading of this phase has ended.

e.g. Knights, Queens and Kings count 4 (Knights on horseback, Kings in Chariot)  
Princesses count 7  
Aces count 5  
Minor arcana the number of the card.  
Zodiac Trumps count 12  
Planetary and Element Trumps count 9 (or 3 for Elemental Trumps as in earlier versions)

Pairing (c)

Pair cards from each end of horseshoe and work pairs from each side to middle (reading pairs).

Second Operation: Represents the development of the matter. Gather up all cards and piles formerly placed aside.

1. Shuffle cards (done by querent) and place pack on table face downwards.
2. Diviner takes pack and deals 12 cards (12 houses of astrology) in circle starting east going widdershins then continue around circle again and again until all cards are dealt.
3. Choose house that question pertains to and check to see if significator is in that pile, if not try a house similar to meaning of question. If significator is not there abort question.
4. If significator is found take pile (removing all others) and deal a horseshoe as in first operation then read as in first operation.

Third Operation: Continuing Development of the Question.

As for the second operation but the significator is looked for in all houses. Whatever house the significator is in, that pile is used, but the reading is read with the meaning of the house.

Then read as for 1st operation.

Fourth Operation: Further development.  
Collect up all cards and removed piles.

1. Enquirer shuffles and lays cards face down.
2. Diviner turns pack face upwards dealing cards face down on top of each other until querent's significator is found. Take querent out, place rest of pack face down on top of dealt cards.
3. Place significator in middle of table face upwards.
4. Deal 36 cards only, starting from east, widdershins around significator in a circle.

Read as in 1st operation then pair off and read, pairing the 1st with the 36th, 2nd with 35th and so on.

Gather up all cards again.

Fifth Operation: Final result.

1. Querent shuffles and puts cards face up on table.
2. Diviner deals cards in form of Tree of Life 1 to 10, then repeats operation over the ten cards in same order, repeating until all cards are dealt.
3. Locate the sphere significator is in.
4. The question will now read in relation to the Sephiroth that the significator is found.
5. Take pile the significator is found. Put aside all other piles.
6. Deal selected pile in form of horseshoe and read as per earlier operations.

Comment: Pairing off: The result of combining the basic influences of two cards involved in each pairing.

The above example is a very lengthy operation, so for those who require quick reading methods you may use only one of the above operations for your reading.

A variation of the horoscope reading (second operation) is to deal only 24 cards, 2 cards for each of the 12 positions, and reading each pair in the house it is placed, in context with that houses meaning. A card may be placed in the centre after the circle has been laid out to act as the overall influencing factor.

A 7 card reading can be done for very short answers. Deal 7 cards in a horseshoe (right to left). Card 1 (right-most card) is the past, card 2 the present, card 3 the near future, card 4 hopes and desires, card 5 home environment influencing the matter, card 6 what opposes, and card 7 the result. Some may prefer to deal these seven cards in the shape of a solar hexagram creating the fire triangle first starting from the apex moving deosil, then the water triangle commencing from the apex moving deosil, and with the seventh card in the position of the Sun (centre).

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