

La Cartomancie Lenormand Complète

Avec Mlle. TaliTarot

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

We have here a detailed and exhaustive method by which the cards may be read. The beginner may feel somewhat alarmed at the mass of explanatory matter there is for him to study, but once the information has been acquired, the would-be cartomancer will find he possesses a sense of power and comprehension, that will give both confidence and dexterity to his attempts to unravel the thread of destiny.

Professor P. R. S. Foli, *Fortune-Telling by Playing Cards*

(1903)

Quatrième Leçon: Les Châteaux de Cartes

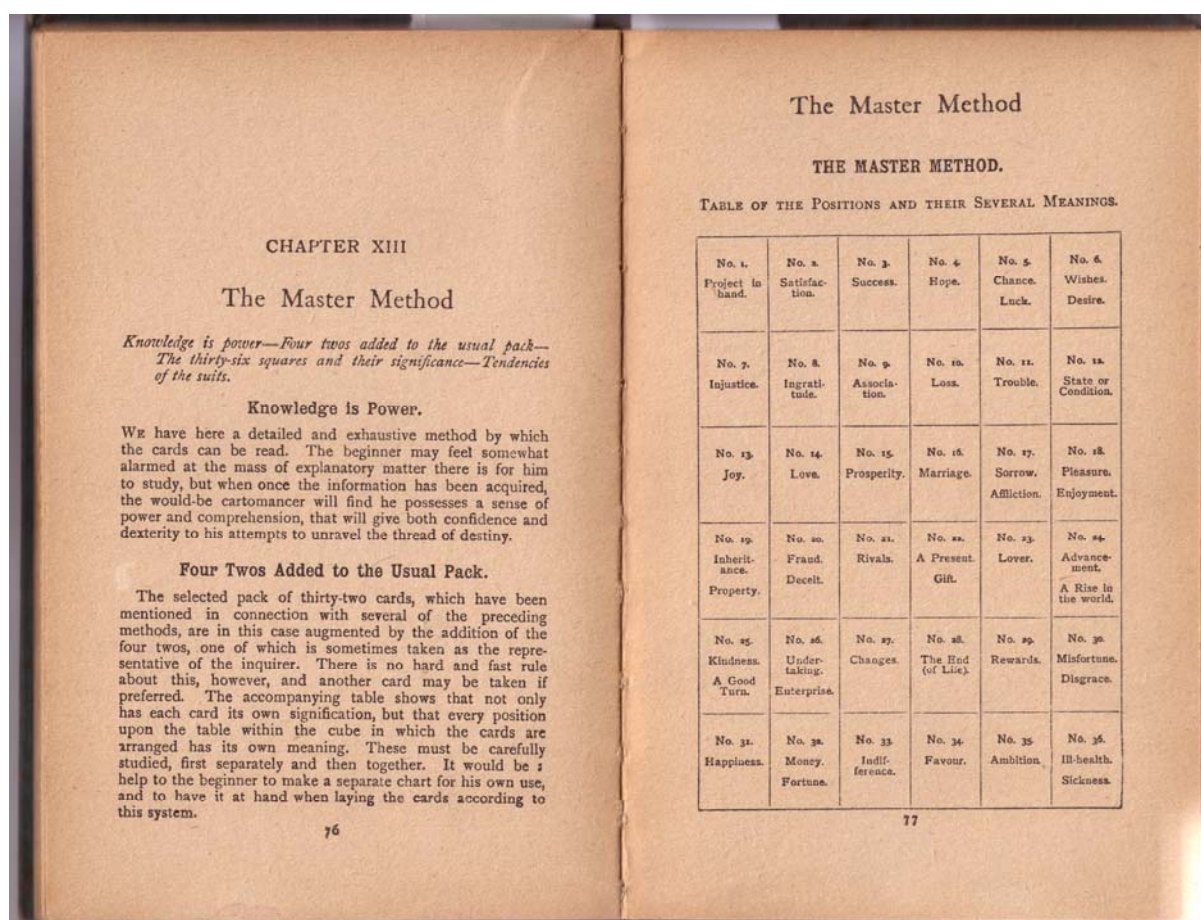
Hello fellow *Cartomanciens*, and welcome to the fourth lesson of my Lenormand introduction course, which covers this salon-style reading of cards.

In this lesson I will introduce the *Houses*, which uses our existing knowledge of the cards to add another layer or lens to our GT reading. Again, we must completely disconnect our T-Space (Tarot-Space) Head to enter into L-Space, which is here very different. I'd also like to touch on a slight difference as well in my own style rather than the usual book-given methods (usually in German) or online explanations.

Whilst this lesson is delivered in only a small amount of material, you'll appreciate how widely it opens up your readings and provides even more depth and possibility to interpretation. There are several further ways of understanding Houses which I may return to in later courses.

The Houses

In the 1903 book I quoted at the start of this lesson, Foli is introducing the cartomantic student into a Master Method which appears towards the end of his book on card-reading. It simply provides a 36-card layout where each position of the layout has a particular meaning. This is the only method in the book which uses “positional readings”, as all those prior are layouts and lines where one looks at pairings of cards, their reading in a line, the types of cards and their frequency, etc.



ILLUS 1. The Foli Master Method

This demonstrates that the earlier cartomantic methods were more often than not, non-positional. It is only in our T-Space that many readers have become used to “the card here relates to your future” or “the card at the top of this layout is your outcome”.

We know that the Golden Dawn “Opening of the Key” method, which derived from these earlier methods, was non-positional, and it was only a member of the Golden Dawn who wanted a short-cut (or a method that could be used with non-members without revealing the secret correspondences) that devised the “Celtic Cross” with its ten fixed positional meanings.

The Surprise Card

In earlier methods, a “surprise” card was drawn and left face-down until the rest of the reading was performed, and only then turned-up to give an outcome, final verdict or “surprise” (perhaps a key to interpretation) to the Sitter – and the Reader.

This may be a method you use with smaller readings of the Lenormand. It provides a novel twist, yet rooted in early cartomancy for Salon-Style readings.

So that is likely something many Tarot-readers will find most difficult with L-Space, and I am going to give it another jolt again in this lesson.

I am also going to provide another cartomantic revelation;

You correspond the *arising meaning* of the card with its house, not the individual card.

Many books give a simple method of using houses, but this can lead us to a narrow avenue if we learn it, so I want to ensure you learn the wide way! Let’s look at what the Houses actually are first – you’ll see an echo of Foli here.

The 36 Houses

The Houses of the GT are very simple. They are the “meanings” of the 36 positions given by laying out the 36 cards in order. That is to say, the first house is that of the first card, number 1, The Messenger/Rider. The second house is that of the second card, number 2, the Clover. The final house is of course number 36, the Cross.

You can see the houses laid out in the following diagram. I have just put the cards in order and laid them left-to-right and from top-left to bottom-right.

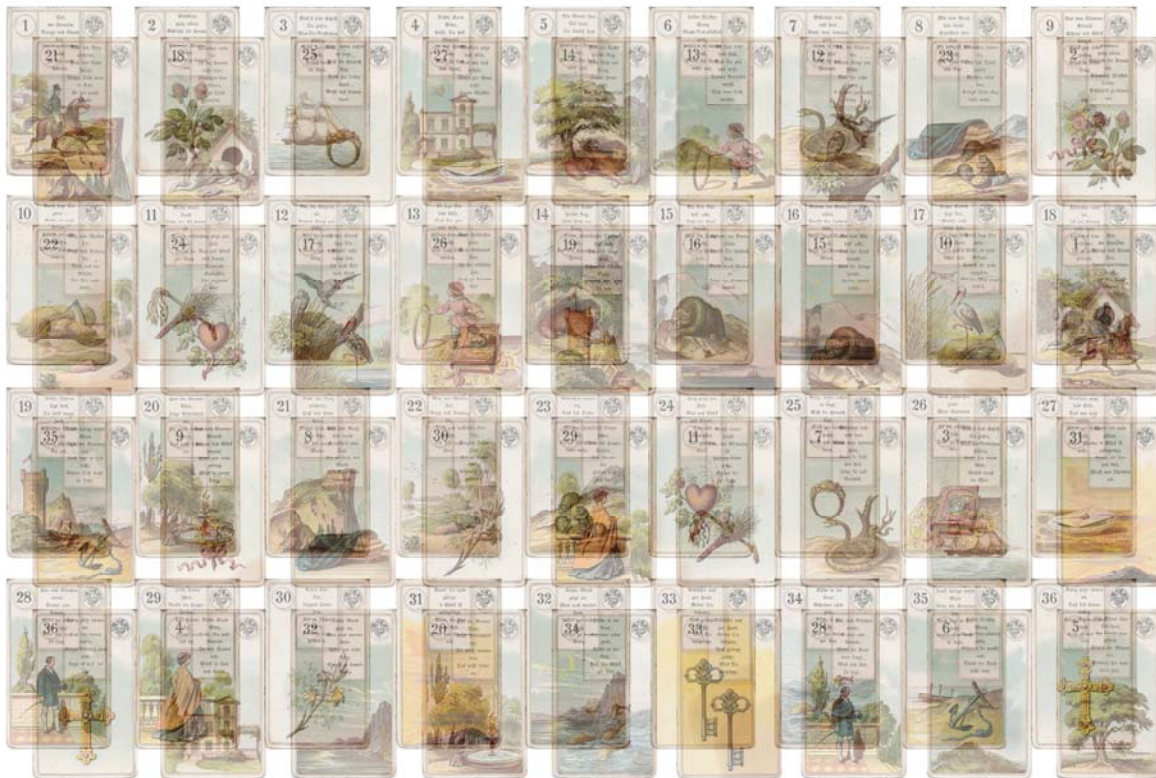


ILLUS 2. The Houses



ILLUS 3. A Grand Tableau

Now, each of these Houses has a particular meaning which obviously relates to the card to which the position corresponds. But before we go into those meanings – the card that then falls into this “house” when we do a GT is **not** like a card falling into a position on a tarot spread. We do **not** simply “pair and compare” the card and the position. This is a T-Space headset and will limit what you can do in L-Space!



ILLUS 4. A GT Layout superimposed on the House Cards

As an illustration, if we laid out the GT from the previous lesson and now read it with the houses, we do not simply take the first card, the Mountain, which is in the House of the Messenger (see ILLUS 3 and ILLUS 2) and pair the Mountain (meaning in itself, “stability” for example) with the Messenger, meaning “communication”, etc. I know many books may teach this, because it appears a “simple” way of presenting the Houses – but it is not (à mon avis) the most powerful way to use Houses in L-Space.

You can start in this way, if you must, and you can also do it intuitively. Here the Messenger is seen riding over the Mountain – what might that mean?

If you recall our previous lesson, you'll remember that the Coffin showed a positive transition as a result of learning and education – a new state of mind was to be reached. Now we can see in the Houses that the Coffin is in the House of the Mountain. If you read my own take on this House in the list below, you'll see how even a simple card comparison can be layered by the House; the Coffin, showing how my Sitter will be changed by their new education, in this House, informs us that the change will be long-lasting and not without opposition. They will have to find sanctuary and dig deep into their own resources to “survive” the course or new education, for a longer time than they may see. This is very useful to warn the Sitter so they can take steps to prepare and pack for an “unexpected adventure”.

Cards in Their Own House

And what do we make of the Key being in its own House? Again, head back to the previous lesson and see how we might add the **Key** to that reading (which we didn't read in the lesson as it was not close to a constellation we were examining, such as the Bear for Health, etc.). This is the only card in its own House – usually there will be one such card.

A Card in its own House can be a double-whammy or a Feedback Loop; depending on the context, it can provide a point of significance or a black hole of wasted energy.

For now, just take such a card as calling attention to itself, like looking at itself in a mirror and saying, “Hey, Check me out!”.

So, whilst we can read in a simple manner with the Houses, what we must rather do is see the Mountain in the context of the other cards first and its overall significance in the Tableau. This includes those cards surrounding it through the Keyword Kaleidoscope approach, diagonals, shadow cards, and near-and-far, some of which we haven't done yet, And only then place its **arising significance** into the context of the House.

Having said that, it'll be easier to explain after we have looked at the meanings of the Houses, and their “focus” individually.

The Meaning of the 36 Houses

1. Rider/Messenger: Communications/Liaison

This house relates to the sitter's engagement with the world, it can indicate the message that is being transmitted to the world by their behaviour.

2. The Clover Leaf: Identity

This house relates to self discovery and belonging, who you are, who you will become, and where you are going to.

3. The Ship: Adventure

This house is about your purpose and the processes you will go through to fulfil your true destiny.

4. The House: Security

This house is about what makes you feel safe, it is what keeps you grounded and safe, it is what you work towards to maintain a happy life, it can also be the centre of your spiritual being, it is you and it contains your own inner light, your soul and your strength, it is your earthly anchor.

5. The Tree: Longevity

This is the house of the ancestor, the source of our life blood, and it is testament to our survival. Family and the support that comes with being part of a lineage.

6. The Clouds: Transition

This is the house of change and movement, it is all about the times in between, where we rest and take stock of who we are, and what we want, and where we are going on our journey .

7. The Snake: Stealth

This is the house of temptation and timing knowing when to act on your impulses and when not to. 'Slowly, slowly catchy monkey'. He who waits will gain the prize.

8. The Coffin: Initiation

This is the house of facing your inner demons, and looking within yourself to hunt them down, this is the house the shadow world, where you take the step beyond fear itself and turn and face it. This is the house of harnessing great power if the sitter approaches the situation/experience with awareness.

9. The Bouquet: Appreciation

The house of being aware that we are not alone, that we need to appreciate that we need to recognise the needs of others and they need to do likewise, the world needs to be a more generous place. This house could be said to be the house of philanthropy.

10. The Scythe: Clearing

This is the house of regeneration, if we do not clear out the old, there will never be a place for the new, this has always been the way and it always will be. This is the law of creation, life and nature.

11. The Rod/Whip: Service

This is the house of discipline, work and maintenance and striving towards the good of the whole.

12. The Birds/Owls: Divination

This is the house of looking out for signs, this could be being aware of the meanings behind the meanings of your dream. The ancient Romans would watch the movement of birds to interpret the signs behind their behaviour. 'This was known as taking the Auspices'. It is therefore the house of the spiritual messengers. This house warns to consider well before making decisions, check that 'auspices' are good and true.

13. The Child/Little Girl: Ingenue/innocence

This is the house of purity and action without guile; this is the realm of doing something for the pure joy, without care of result. This is a world devoid of superficiality.

14. The Fox: Cunning

This is the house of the scavenger and the opportunist, it is here, that it situations will arise where you may need to be wary of the behaviour of the flatterer the charmer, do not go off your guard to readily.

15. The Bear: Headstrong

This is the house of stubbornness and situations where you will find no joy in trying to dissuade somebody to change their mind. You could find yourself up against an immovable force that you had not planned to meet.

16. The Stars: Creation

This is the house of beginnings and endings, with death of a star comes great brilliance.

17. The Stork: Deliverance

This is the house of benefiting from something you worked towards earlier, this is a house of timing and productivity coming together to create joy and continuation.

18. The Dog: Co-dependency

This is the house of need and being needed in return. There is a strong emphasis on loyalty and responsibility.

19. The Tower: Vision

This is the house of getting the bigger picture, being aware of what is going on in your life, and in the neighbourhood as a whole. It is the world of seeing beyond the obvious.

20. The Garden: communing

This is the house of getting out and about and mixing in the world, this is the world of social engagement, and entertainment.

21. The Mountain: Durability

This house relates to and describes the enduring nature of survival and growth. The mountains were carved out by glaciers and stand as testament to great

strength. This house shows the sitters essential backbone, a place of sanctuary, and protection from hostility. Furthermore it shows the potential for drawing upon hidden resources which are naturally available when we are forced to extract them.

22. The Ways: Choice/Decision

This is the house of making decisions and acting upon them, and considering the long term implications of these choices, it can however, be a case of the 'road less travelled', that turns out to be the best one. There is no right or wrong way, and you must choose your way, you will just take your pick, as you cannot go both ways at once.

23. The Mice: Productivity

This is the house of being busy and getting the work done, it is the house of the silent worker, the worker who is working away, slaving for the good of the whole, but is often not recognised, the work is often done by the little people, who get little reward in return.

24. The Heart: Courage

In this house, like the Cowardly Lion in the Wizard of Oz, this is the centre of your courage and being true to your own self. It is the house of exposing your centre and being "strong in the broken places".

25. The Ring: Continuity

The Ring gives this house the sense of sealing a deal. It is the House of the pledge and shines out into the card above it and around it the sense of commitment, a cause, a bond and oath. It can be a promise to oneself that has to be made in the context of the cards which fall in and around this house.

26. The Book: Knowledge

The House of the Book shows where knowledge may be gained – within or without. It gives to the card above it and about it the light of clarity and preservation. It can mean that the information required is easily found and shared.

27. The letter: Sentiment

The House of the Letter is where considered communications must be made. The card in this house must be more considered than not, and those around it should be seen in the light of consideration and sympathy.

28. The Gentleman: Analytical

The House of the Gentleman is the masculine house with all the stereotypes and archetypes of masculinity.

29. The Lady: Intuitive

The House of the Lady is the feminine house with all the stereotypes and archetypes of that image.

30. The Lily: Purity

What falls in and around this house should be considered in the light of memory and the past. There is a certain honour required in this House.

31. The Sun: Will

The Sun shines brightly and illuminates the card in its house, giving it focus, intent and more power than it might otherwise warrant in a reading.

32. The Moon: Mediumistic

The Moon reflects into its own House and gives the card above a deeper meaning, which should be delved into below the surface.

33. The Key: Access

The House of the Key can easily unlock the rest of the reading, so give due consideration to this card. It can also lock something, so the cards around this House may be barriers.

34. The Fish: Resources

The House of the Fish is where resources can be drawn upon.

35. The Anchor: Standstill

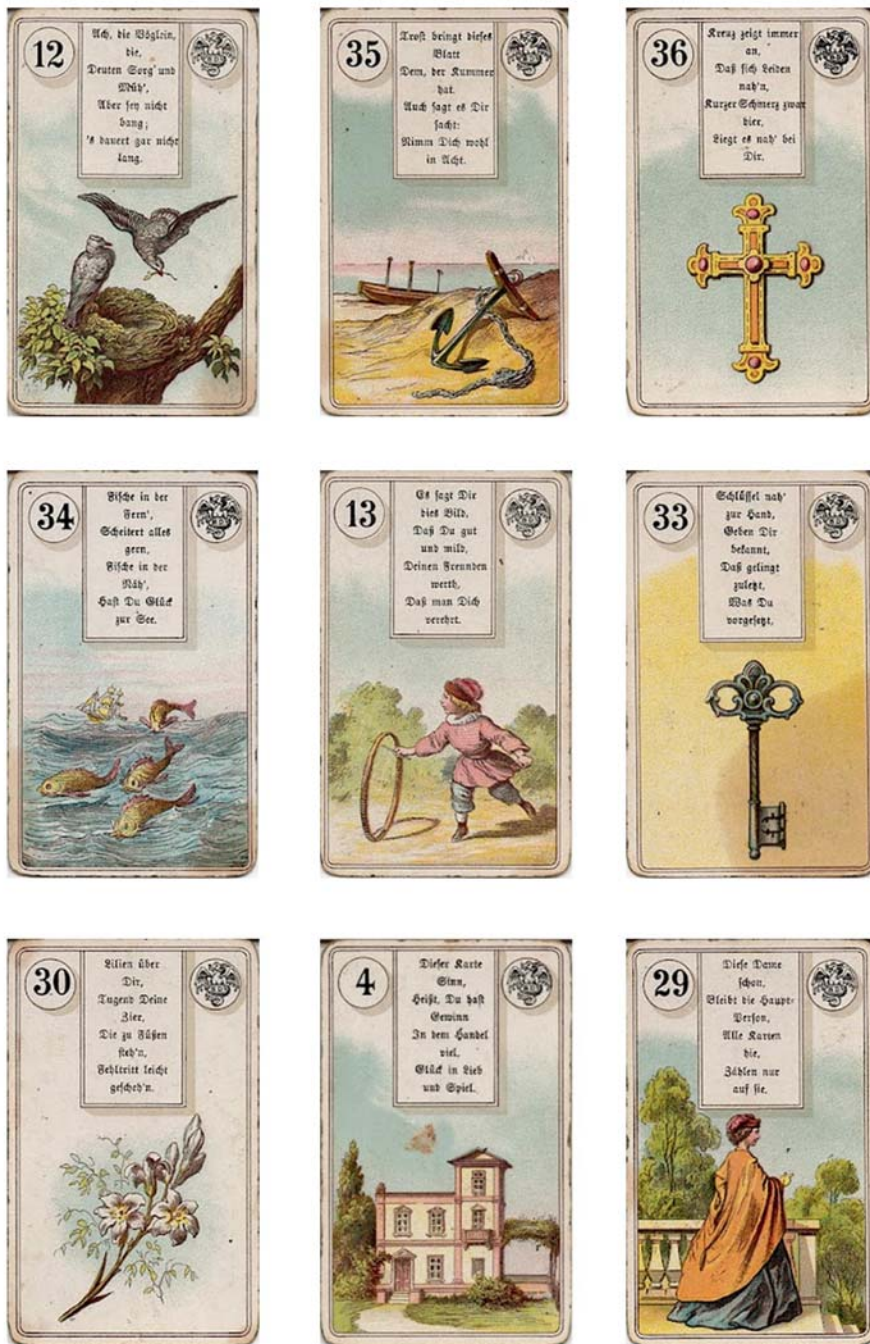
The House of the Anchor is where the reading may be held firm or fastened, depending on the questions and the context of the interpretation.

36. The Cross: Faith

The House of the Cross shows the resolution and acceptance of the reading, the context and the cards. It is the grace of solution and resolution.

Now we have seen how the Houses might be considered as another layer to our overall reading, let us look at an example of how the House of the Owl might be seen in two very different readings. This will give us a good way of seeing how flexible this approach is, intuitive and powerful – particularly if you do not fix yourself to “compare this card to the card of the house”.

There are many other methods of using Houses, for example, to bridge from a card being read to its house, then read the card in that house, and bridge to the house of that card, until one returns to a card which has already been read – and you thought the Golden Dawn “Opening of the Key” was complex?!



ILLUS 5. Work/Career in the House of the Owl

A Career Question in the House of the Owl

In this example, we have simply imagined looking at a spread (or part of a GT) where the central card is in the House of the Owl. There is no particular significance of this other than to demonstrate Houses. Any card can fall in any House in any reading of a GT, whatever the question.

In this scenario, the sitters question is regarding work life, and she wants to know “if all the hard work will pay off in the long term?”

Looking at the 9 cards arranged 3x3 we can interpret an answer using the key-word kaleidoscope and our own intuition. Again we must consider each card and image as part of the whole – unlike tarot these cards cannot be read singularly.

So let us consider that the **Little Girl** here represents her determination to succeed at her venture, however we must look at the cards around her, and the influence they exert on the issue at hand. We see how her enthusiasm is driving **The Fish** (resources) onwards, this can be seen as positive, however there could be too much will-power being exerted, danger of being perceived as pushy. Directly beneath her is **The House**, so security is safe and sound like the foundations of the house, as long as she keeps focused on the goal.

The Key behind her indicates that play-power (not power-play!) is a means to un-locking fulfilment in the long-term. The key that unlocks the house points to the Grown-up **Lady** who looks towards the security of the house, she is the same child who has matured and she stands in the grounds of the house, she is a part of the cycle of the hoop.

The play-power can be seen to have been paid off, then. **The Anchor** card emphasises rest and recuperation on the journey, maintaining the purity/authenticity of **The Lily**, child-like innocence, keeping simple faith (**The Cross**) of convictions, but taking some care to practically feather your nest (**The Birds**). The overall influence of the house of the child on the cards around it is one of forging on with childlike authenticity.

So in summary, be resourceful, feather your nest, but rest in between, this will bring success, well-being and satisfaction making an opening for long term security.

Adding the House of the Owl

Let us now imagine that the central card here is in the house of the Owl. As we have seen the house adds a tincture to the overall taste of the interpretation.

The Owl could be said to have an influence of hidden wisdom and it indicates that we have to look for signs and portents. This does not mean anything in isolation for we are not reading it as a card, merely a nuance to the interpretation. Sometimes this will give an added layer to the reading, sometimes a new twist or solution and sometimes new depth. There is no one rule.

In this example I feel that the Child in the house of the Owl would indicate that the very situation is its own solution. The energy of keeping the hoop going, the momentum, is a sign and portent of the problem itself. The Owl is not a creature that lives in a House, so it indicates that the security of the situation must be observed from a further perspective – the Sitter cannot see it.

In fact thinking about it in this light I am reminded that the rod which keeps the hoop upright and moving is the very same rod which can become a rod for your own back.

Perhaps the Owl also looks upon the child playing (and scaring **The Fish** away) and opines “She will never catch anything that way”. So I would tell my sitter she needs to learn to perch and swoop when the time is ready, not to be over enthusiastic. In order to “feather the nest” (as we saw in the combination of Lilly, Cross and Birds) the “House of the Owl” tells us that there may be another solution. In fact, **it is that Owls do not build their own nests** – they inhabit old dwellings; in this, the deeper answer to the question “will my hard work pay off” is more, “lessen the work, and build on the work of others”.

If I was advising from this reading, I would ask the Sitter to look at taking over a failing or abandoned piece of work, make it her own, and use that to demonstrate to others her capability. This would get her out of her loop.

Here are some of my notes for this reading:

Fish+ Birds + Anchor = Resources + feathering nest+ recuperation = Wellbeing/satisfaction

Cross + Key + Lady = Faith + Access+ Feminine = Open

House + Lily = security

Birds, influenced by the house of the child, too eager and impatient for signs

Anchor: Being too reckless and not heeding the conditions, not putting down anchor.

Cross: Too reliant on blind faith

Key: Too much responsibility

Lady: Too sensitive/responsive to emotional stimulus

House: Too driven by desire for security

Lily: Hot housing, forcing on artificially, not being natural

Fishes: Over fishing, not replenishing resources.

In this next example, I will ask you to consider how the same “House of the Owl” might influence the following 3x3 constellation of cards in a Love/Relationship reading. Here my Sitter has asked me about matters of trust in relationship and how that impacts her new relationship. Don’t forget, this is not a method or reading, it is a scenario for practising the Houses in a particular manner – to get you using them as a layer for the overall meaning of the cards in combination.



ILLUS 6. Love/Relationship in The House of the Owl

Premier Exercise: Love in the House of the Owl

The sitter is represented in the tableau by the Lady card, she looks ahead to the Stork expectantly, the Stork looks ahead to the Owls/ Birds card as it to point to her listening to her inner wisdom, to read the signs, this is confirmed by the presence of the Tower card, it advises her to look around and await developments.

The Ring, Sun and the Bear 'Proclamation, Will and Strength', speak of being true to one's own core values. The Bear looks down on the Coffin, a sign that the Sitter needs to have strength to rely on the natural order, she needs to put aside old doubts and stop questioning other peoples intent to be able to welcome in new relationships. The Garden card is below the Sun, which illuminates it, the Garden is a place of Liaison and meeting people, being open and friendly.

Now look at the Garden card in the House of the Owl, having already read the Garden in this context – this context provides a different type of garden, a different function and reading of the garden, than other readings you will do – this is the power of the L-Space. And when you have this unique garden arise in this one reading, then you can see it in the House in which it falls, bringing with it all of the other cards.

And of course, this goes for every card in every House, they all interweave in a massive matrix of potential perspective and meaning – our methods are only to provide the most illuminating lines of sight.

Deuxième Exercise: The Ship in the House of the Book

For your second exercise, go back to the GT in Lesson 2 and consider the reading for "travel" we gave to the young man. We used the charged card of the Ship, which we can now see fell into the House of the Book. Without doing a simple comparison of Ship + Book, look over the whole Tableau, or just the 3x3 cards around the Ship, and suggest how the House of the Book may actually provide deeper insight into his travel.

Conclusion

In this lesson we have seen how the Houses provide a huge template underneath/above the GT and how that can provide a multi-dimensional lens on the whole reading. Every card should be considered a reflecting surface of all the cards around it, and the Houses should be considered as light sources illuminating not only the card above them, but from it, every card in different ways. This is why you may need to book more than an hour to read a GT.

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 3: Open Your House

As an optional exercise, perform a GT for a particular and specific question with a specific charged card. Then interpret the GT with that in mind, and then look up the House in which the charged card has fallen and use that to deepen your reading.

Votre très-humble et très-obéissante servante,

Mlle. TaliTarot