

A NUMEROLOGICAL SYSTEM FOR READING TAROT
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PART ZERO INTRODUCTION

This booklet is intended to assist students learn how to use the five elements and the ten numbers zero through nine to build their own individual system of reading tarot cards. All you need is a deck of tarot cards, a notebook which can be used as your tarot journal or diary, an implement of writing and a quiet place to study. As you work your way through this material it's best to forget what other people say about the meanings of the cards. Find meanings for the cards that make sense to you and with which you feel comfortable.

There is no "one perfect system" for using numerology to read tarot cards. Indeed, there's no perfect system for doing anything. But there is a way for doing anything that works best for each of us. That way may be similar to other ways and it may even be the most common way used by lots of people. Or it may be completely different from any other way used by any other person.

It doesn't matter what method you use to read tarot cards in comparison to all the other tarot readers in the world. What matters is that you have a system for reading tarot cards which:

1. You understand
2. You feel comfortable using
3. You remember
4. Your subconscious mind remembers
5. Works for you

You understand, remember and feel comfortable using a system of your own creation much more easily than you understand, remember and feel comfortable using a system created by somebody else. This is because you really are unique. Nobody in the world has exactly the same heredity, environment, knowledge and life experiences as you. Nobody in the world understands these things as well as you. Nobody in the world knows better than you how you can best understand, remember and feel comfortable using the tarot.

Your subconscious mind remembers what you tell it to remember. The more you tell it something the more easily it remembers. So all you have to do is write down the key words, phrases and concepts you want to use for each tarot card and then practice using those key words, phrases and concepts by doing readings for yourself and others. Your subconscious mind will remember what the cards mean and it will always select the best card to communicate with you what it wants to communicate.

Simple? Yes it is, but most people try to make it complicated for themselves by trying to remember the key words, phrases and concepts chosen by another person. And the more they try to replicate the other person the harder it is for them to be the tarot reader they could be.

As you read this booklet, you'll find it teaches you more if you do three simple things:

1. Write down everything that comes to you in a tarot journal or diary. Keep a separate page for each element and number and for each tarot spread you want to remember.
2. Study the material in this booklet and your notes on a regular schedule. Twice a day is better than once a day. Once a day is a lot better than once every few days. The more often you study, the easier it is for you to develop your own system.
3. Use your tarot deck as you study and practice several times a day.

Then remember this simple secret of the tarot: The system for reading the tarot cards you develop for yourself is the best system for you to use!

PART ONE THE ELEMENTS

The mystics believe there is one thing that contains all other things. This one thing, they call Spirit.

Spirit is the first element. From it springs forth all other elements. Generally it's believed there are four other elements. In different parts of the world these four elements have different names. In the orient, for example, Wood and Metal are both considered to be elements but in the West they are not. For our purposes we'll use the traditional Western names for these four elements which are Fire, Air, Water and Earth.

Spirit is generally considered to be the life force, that which gives life to the object, a spiritual path or spiritual undertaking. It's considered to be above the mundane on a higher level, having to do with gods and religion. Spirit can be the life within an object or a living thing.

Fire is generally considered to be the element of desire, determination, intent, internal drive, willpower, will, inspiration, insights, intuition and intuitive insights. It's also the element governing our occupation, business, job, work and career.

Water is generally considered to be the element of relationships, friendships, love, sex, sexual desires and our business and social relationships. It's also our raw emotions such as love, hate, anger, fear and our emotional state of being.

Air is generally considered to be the element of thinking, ideas, thoughts, concepts, plans, words, designs, schemes and similar kinds of mental activity. It's also our attitudes, our philosophy, our way of looking at and evaluating life.

Earth is generally considered to be the element of money, our finances, financial affairs and the way we handle our money. It's also our physical or worldly possessions, the things we own and use, and our health.

How you define the Elements is entirely up to you. There's no law saying you have to do it this way or that. Despite what many authors may tell you, there is no "right or wrong" way to define the elements. There's no "correct or perfect" way just as there's no "incorrect or imperfect way." Generally, however, you'll find it easier to keep your definitions for the elements at least similar to common attributions. But you're not required to make it easier on yourself.

Let's digress for a few minutes. Tarot is a system of symbols used for communicating with our own higher Self, our intuitive mind, and with the universal mind or group consciousness. That communication depends upon the words we assign to each symbol. Our conscious mind thinks in words and numbers. Our Higher Self and the Universal Mind think in symbols. Our subconscious mind is our private translator between our conscious mind and our Higher Self and the Divine.

If we define a symbol to mean a certain thing, our subconscious mind remembers that definition and the symbol assigned to that definition. It always remembers that symbol and it's definition until we change the definition or stop using that symbol.

Now we have a means for communicating. It's a perfect system and it always works as long as we:

- Remember what each symbol means
- Always believe the answers we receive
- Stay with the assigned meanings for each symbol
- Don't let our imaginations run wild
- Don't rationalize the answers (think about them too much)

How you define each of the Elements is up to you. Here's one way (please don't just use my way, create your own way):

Spirit is our present step on our spiritual path

Fire is careers and employment

Water is relationships and friendships

Air is thoughts and ideas

Earth is financial affairs and money

Once you're decided upon a definition for each of the elements, you need to define each of the inverted elements. Again, how you define them is entirely up to you and nobody else but you. Here's one way:

Inverted Spirit	the next step on our spiritual path
Inverted Fire	intuition and intuitive insights
Inverted Water	your emotional state
Inverted Air	your attitude
Inverted Earth	your health issues

We'll use these example definitions throughout this booklet. But please feel free to substitute your own key words or phrases for these definitions as we go. In fact, it's better if you do substitute your own definitions for mine every step along the way.

If you've already assigned different meanings to the elements, please do not change what you've been doing. This will only confuse you. It's far better to do it the way you've been doing it than to make any changes at this stage of the game.

It's usually better for you to do it your way. By doing it my way you may be trying to become just like me. That never happens, of course, because we're all different. We all have different life experiences. We all have different ideas about ourselves and who and what we are. We're all individuals who think, feel, act, and understand things in different ways.

Trying to become somebody else never works. Trying to do everything somebody else's way never works. Being ourselves and trying to become better people always works.

The secret about assigning definitions to the elements is it really doesn't make any difference how you do it. No one way is any better than any other. There's no "perfect" way, no "right" or "correct" way to do it. There's no "wrong" or "incorrect" way either. What matters is that you remember exactly what assignments you've made and use those assignments.

PART TWO

THE ELEMENTS AND THE TAROT CARDS

How you assign the elements to the suits in your tarot deck is a matter of personal preference. We've already discussed the fact it doesn't matter how you define the elements. Neither does it matter how you assign to the suits in your tarot deck. What matters is you remember which element you assigned to each suit.

In any numerological system the numbers always mean approximately the same thing. What makes the numbers tell different stories are the elements and the suits you assign to those elements. The Ace of Fire tells a different story than the Ace of Air. But which Ace in your tarot deck is the Ace of Fire and which is the Ace of Air?

You decide.

Usually Fire and Air are considered to be masculine elements while Water and Earth are considered to be feminine. Wands and Swords, being implements of warfare and hunting, are considered masculine while Cups and Pentacles are more feminine. Just because most authors use these assignments may be a good reason to use them your self. It may also be a good reason not to use those assignments.

You decide.

Here's one way to assign the suites to the elements:

Fire	Wands
Air	Swords
Water	Cups
Earth	Pentacles
Spirit	Major Arcana

Wands can also be Rods, Staves, Spears or any growing wand of any kind. The essence of a Wand is it's a plane stick of wood with or without the bark removed. In some cases it may be adorned with growing leaves or some garlands. It may have one end pointed or carry a spear point. It's generally considered a defensive weapon used to protect the individual.

Swords can also be Daggers, Knives, Foils, Sabers, Rapiers, Machetes, Cutlasses or any other sharpened metal implement of hunting or war. In most cases this is not a defensive but an offensive weapon intended to harm others. The swords may be of many kinds like two-handed swords, bastard or broad swords, short or long swords.

Cups can also be Caldrons, Chalice, Crucibles, Kettles or containers of any kind. Cups can also be lakes, streams or bodies of water. Cups can be growing things such as melons, squashes or fruits. All of these things are containers or allude to them.

Pentacles can also be Coins, Circles, Pentagrams, Disks, Money or things of a mundane or financial nature. Pentacles can be plane or very ornate.

The Major Arcana is composed of twenty-two cards called by various authors Trumps or Keys. We'll use these terms interchangeably in the following sections.

The normal way of assigning the suits to the elements is to assign Cups to Water and Earth to Pentacles. Then Air and Fire become the Swords and Wands. Most authors use the attribution of Fire to Wands and Air to Swords. However, some make the assignment in reverse order, Fire to Swords and Air to Wands.

You may assign any element to any suit.

For our purposes, we'll use the following attribution for this discussion:

Spirit	Major Arcana
Fire	Wands
Water	Cups
Air	Swords
Earth	Pentacles

Before you proceed, make certain you've accomplished the following tasks:

1. Defined each of the five elements
2. Defined each of the five inverted elements
3. Assigned the elements to the suits of your tarot deck
4. Written this all down in your Tarot Journal or Notebook

PART THREE THE NUMBERS

Numerologists usually consider only the single digit numbers from one through nine as they build their system. Most of them agree zero is the absence of numbers and is not a part of the number system itself. If they need to define zero, they do so.

Since there's only one card in the tarot deck numbered zero, and that's usually called The Fool, that's the only card we need to define that's outside the system we're going to build. Following the lead of numerologists before you, define zero to be what you want it to be and assign that meaning to The Fool.

If you want to follow a classical numerological system approach, and you certainly don't need to do that, zero is nothing. Therefore The Fool would have no meaning in such a system or it would represent no thing. Following this line of reasoning, we could say The Fool represents the Divine Child in each of us, since the Divine is no thing. But, however we define The Fool is entirely up to each of us.

Our next task is to lay out the cards in their numerological order. We do this by placing all the Aces and Key I in the first pile, all the twos and Key II in the second and so on through Key IX and all the nines. We now have a row of nine piles of cards representing the numbers one through nine. We also have no more cards with only a single digit on them. All the other cards have double-digit numbers.

Numerologists resolve double-digit numbers by adding the two digits together to form a single digit number. For example, the number ten is resolved by adding the digits one plus zero together to equal the number one. Therefore, the number ten resolves into the number one. As another example, the number fourteen is resolved by adding the digits one and four together to equal the number five. Therefore, the number fourteen resolves into the number five.

Numerologists consider double-digit numbers which are resolved into single digit numbers to be the second octave of the base number. The base number is the single digit number from one to nine into which all double-digit numbers can be resolved. The second octave is a higher level indicating it is more spiritual or more positive in nature than a base number. The number ten means the same thing as the number one except the ten is more positive than the number one.

We lay out the second octave in a row above the base row we just completed. In the first pile we place Key X and all the tens. This pile is placed above the first pile, which contained Key I and the aces.

Before we can proceed, we need to assign numbers to the court cards. This is done by placing them in order from young feminine, to young masculine, to mature feminine to mature masculine in that order. Using the common terminology of Page, Knight, Queen and King in that order, we have the numbers eleven through fourteen.

Place Key XI and the Pages in the second pile of the second octave, Key XII and the Knights in the third and so on. Key XVIII will be the last card in this row since eighteen is resolved by adding the digits one and eight to obtain the digit nine. We have three cards remaining in addition to The Fool.

Take Key XIX. By adding the digits one plus nine we obtain the result ten, which is a double-digit number. So we continue the addition process by adding the digits one plus zero thus resolving nineteen into the number one. But, this time we needed to make two distinct mathematical calculations instead of only one. That means we've entered the third octave which is even more spiritual or more positive than the second. So we place Key XIX above Key X and the tens forming a third row.

Likewise, Key XX resolves into the number two and we place it above Key XI and the Pages. Key XXI is placed above Key XII and the Knights which are already placed above Key III and the threes. Finally we place The Fool either below the whole lot or off to one side.

We now have a Table of Numbers, which is the basis for all numerology work. We only need to define the nine numbers in our table of numbers to know what the cards in each pile means.

CLASSICAL NUMEROLOGY

The classical uses for numerology are to resolve the birth numbers, name numbers and destiny numbers for an individual. The classical system is built on thousands of years of experimentation and observation. It's gotten to be a fairly good science when used in these limited ways.

To calculate your birth number convert the month of your birth to a number from one to twelve. Add the digits of the day, month and year (all four digits) of your birth and resolve this into a single-digit number. This is your Birth Number.

Some numerologists say the number of octaves in your birth number indicates the number of past lives you've lived trying to resolve the issues facing you today. This may be true. If so, more and more people are living higher and higher octave lives as birth dates get closer and closer to the end of a millennium.

You can determine the number of your name by creating a Table of Numbers for the letters of the alphabet. This is done by writing the numbers one through nine in a line across the top of a sheet of paper. Below the number one place the letter "A". The letter "B" goes in the next box all the way up to the letter "I" which is placed beneath the number nine. Start the second row. The letters "J" through "R" are the second octave and the letters "S" through "Z" almost complete the third.

Print out your full name using your middle name or names and your last name as it is now.

This is your Formal Name and the number of your formal name indicates how you act in all formal situations. You can also calculate your Professional Name, Casual Name, Informal Name and so on. Each of these names will have a unique number associated with it that indicates how you act in those situations.

There must be as many ways of calculating your Destiny Number as there are numerologists. Several numerologists define your Destiny Number as your Birth Number. Others have developed their own systems. Here's one of my favorites:

The day of your birth resolves into your first destiny number and indicates how you will live your childhood through adolescence. The month of your birth resolves into your second destiny number and indicates how you will live your early adulthood. The year of your birth resolves into your third destiny number and indicates how you will live your mature adulthood into old age.

We're going to be giving you some or most of the classical interpretations of the numbers in the Table of Numbers so you can experiment with numerology on your own. Please remember these are not the only possible definitions for the numbers. You're encouraged to experiment and develop your own system of tarot numerology.

Here's the secret about using numerology as the basis for learning the tarot: It doesn't matter what key word, phrase or concept you choose unless you want to follow the classical uses for numerology. Whatever key words, phrases or concepts you choose will define your own system and your system will be easier to learn, use and remember than anybody else's system.

Don't feel confined to the lists of words we give you. Please resort to using a dictionary, book of synonyms or a thesaurus to expand this list until you find exactly the word, words, phrases or concepts you want to use. Please use any textbooks on numerology you might like to use as a resource to develop your own system. Or just create your own system the way you want to create it. As was said earlier, your own system is easier for you to use and remember than any other system.

We're giving you some lists of the classical meanings assigned to each of the numbers in the Table of Numbers. This list is not intended to be comprehensive but it is intended to be a good starting point for you.

ONE

One is the first number, a beginning. One or more of the following words can define most beginnings: birth, commence, conceive, create, gifts, happening, inaugurate, initiate, institute, new, originate, start. These are standard, tried and accepted, words to define the number one in numerological terms.

Choose one of these words to be your key word for the number one. Create a key phrase or concept from one or more of these words to be your key word or concept for the number one. Choose any other word, phrase or key concept to be your personalized definition of what the number one means in numerological terms.

TWO

Two is the second number, an expansion and balancing of the first. One or more of the following words can define expansion and balance: addition, balance, being together, correspondence, enlarge, equality, equipoise, evenhandedness, evenness, expansion, growth, increase, pair, parity, self-control, spread, symmetry. These are the standard, tried and accepted, words to define the number two in numerological terms.

Choose one of these words, or group of words, to be your key word, phrase or concept for the number two or create your own system of tarot numerology. Either way works just fine.

THREE

Three is an explosive expansion as things multiply rapidly. It's also a number of understanding what's happening. One or more of the following words can define this expansion and understanding: amplify, blow up, comprehend, elucidate, embellish, escalate, evolving, executing, expand, expansion, explosive, fathom, grasp, increase, inflate, insight, multiplying, many times, perceive, understand. These are the standard, tried and accepted, words to define the number three in numerological terms.

Choose one or more of these words to be your key word, phrase or concept for the number three. Or, create your own tarot numerology system.

FOUR

Four is the number of a square and indicates a solid foundation. One or more of the following words can define this solid number: base, direct, fair, firm, foundation, grounded, honest, just, materialism, order, solid, solidification, structure, support, trustworthy, unyielding, upright.

Choose one or more of these words to be your key word, phrase or concept for the number four. Or, create your own tarot numerology system.

FIVE

Five is the number of humanity and change. One or more of the following words can define this humane and changeable number: act, act now, action, activate, adjust, alter, change, do something, energize, exercise, execute, modify, perform, restlessness, transform.

Choose one or more of these words to be your key word, phrase or concept for the number five. Or, create your own tarot numerology system.

SIX

Six is the number of beauty and harmony. One or more of the following words can define this beautiful and harmonious number: attractive, balanced, beauty, calm after the storm, embellish, equality, equalized, equilibrium, evenness, exquisite, fair, handsome, harmonious, harmonized, oil over troubled waters.

Choose one or more of these words to be your key word, phrase or concept for the number six. Or, create your own tarot numerology system.

SEVEN

Seven is the number of rest and relaxation. One or more of the following words can define this restful and relaxing number: evaluate, hesitation, inner processes, let-go, loosen, pause, procrastination, relax, rest, spiritual, spiritual attainment, spiritual goal setting, spiritual unfolding, time for looking inside, unwind, wait.

Choose one or more of these words to be your key word, phrase or concept for the number seven. Or, create your own tarot numerology system.

EIGHT

Eight is a number of a final effort and preparing for an ending. One or more of the following words can define this number of finality and preparation: determination, entering a new phase, final effort, getting ready, going forward, last chance, power, preparing for an ending, preparation, reaction, resolution, strength, will.

Choose one or more of these words to be your key word, phrase or concept for the number eight. Or, create your own tarot numerology system.

NINE

Nine is the numerological ending. One or more of the following words can define this ending number: change of life, change with stability, completion, culmination, ending, end of a cycle, end of a phase, end of a stage, end of a step, expiration, finality, finish, final resolution, irrevocable, last, run out, run out of energy, run out of time, terminal, termination, ultimate.

Choose one or more of these words to be your key word, phrase or concept for the number nine. Or, create your own tarot numerology system.

THE SECOND OCTAVE

The second octave was said to be a more spiritual, more positive expression of the number in the first octave. This is one approach. Another way of looking at the second octave is to consider it a new something. A new whatever the first octave might be. For example, if the number one is a beginning, the number ten would also be a beginning but it would be a new beginning. It might be starting all over but with more information that you had the first time.

The second octave can also have a message of “get it right this time” indicating the person is starting over but under more pressure to perform than before. You can define the second, and the third octave, in any manner you want. Keep in mind; if you plan to use a more classical approach, it may be best to interpret the octaves along classical lines as well.

One of my favorite ways of looking at the octaves is that you’re doing the same things but you’ve been through this before. You’ve already gained a certain amount of knowledge you can use to your benefit and you’re well advised to use it. Using this approach seems to work better for me. You’ll need to find what works best for you.

PART FOUR THE NUMBERS AND THE ELEMENTS

You've just completed assigning definitions to the nine base numbers and deciding how you'll handle the second and third octave. Please take the time to write this all down in your Tarot Journal or Tarot Notebook. Add any words of wisdom or explanation you desire.

Earlier you assigned definitions to the elements and the inverted elements. These should already be listed in your Tarot Journal or Tarot Notebook. If not, now is a good time to attend to that task. The notes you make now will be an invaluable resource for you for years to come.

You've accumulated ten definitions for the elements – five upright elements and five inverted elements, and nine definitions for the numbers, plus two additional concepts for the second and third octave. These are the twenty-two things you need to commit to memory, to remember. That's it. These twenty-two key words, phrases or concepts are all the vocabulary you need to create a logical tarot system using numerology.

If you've been doing things the way we've outlined them, you already have your cards laid out in the Table of Numbers. But to refresh your memory, the cards of the Minor Arcana and Keys are laid out in the following manner in the Table of Numbers:

XIX	XX	XXI						
X	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV	XVI	XVII	XVIII
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX

The Fool is placed above, below or to the side to complete the table.

Since we have nine numbers and nine columns, we can match the meanings we've given to the numbers to the cards. That was our intention all along. Take the first column and let's consider how this is done.

We have three stacks. The first stack contains The Magician and four aces. The second contains The Wheel and four tens. The third contains only The Sun. All of these cards, all eleven of them, mean whatever definition it is you've assigned to the number one. If the number one is defined as "a beginning," all nine of these cards mean "a beginning."

Let's see how this works by using the definitions you chose for each of the ten elements (five normal and five inverted) together with the definitions you chose for the numbers. Pick a suit, any suit. Identify the element of that suit and the definition for that element. Combine the definition you have for the element and the definition you have for the number to determine the meaning of that card.

Now invert the card and repeat this process. Do the same thing for every card in the deck until you feel comfortable with the key words, phrases or concepts you chose to define these things. Here's an example of how this might work:

Let's assume my definition for the number one is "a beginning" and my definition for each of the ten elements are those given in Part One. The result is the following meanings for the cards in the first column of my Table of Numbers:

Key I	Beginning my spiritual path
Key I inverted	My next step will be beginning my spiritual path
Key X	A new beginning on my spiritual path
Key X inv	My next step will be a new spiritual beginning
Key XIX	And yet another new beginning on my spiritual path
Key XIX inv	My next step will be another new beginning
A W	Beginning something in my career
A W inv	Beginning some intuitive insights
A C	Beginning something in a relationship
A C inv	Beginning something in my emotional state
A S	Beginning to get new ideas
A S inv	Beginning something in my attitude
A P	Beginning something in my financial affairs
A P inv	Beginning something in my health
10 W	Beginning something new in my career
10 W inv	Beginning some new intuitive insights
10 C	Beginning something new in a relationship
10 C inv	Beginning something new in my emotional state
10 S	Beginning to get some better new ideas
10 S inv	Beginning something new in my attitude
10 P	Beginning something new in my financial affairs
10P inv	Beginning something new in my health

In any given reading these key words, phrases or concepts will be modified by the question being asked and the position of the card in the spread. But these will basically be y meanings for these cards based on the definitions given earlier.

Be sure to assign a definition to The Fool as you work your way through the whole deck putting the definitions you chose for the numbers together with the definitions you chose for the elements. Become comfortable with your cards and the meanings of your cards.

Two things will probably happen as you work your way through this process: 1) you'll become impressed at how easy the system is to learn and use, 2) you'll be amazed at how well the elements and the numbers work together to give you very solid and useful definitions for each of the cards.

PART FIVE

THE NUMBERS AND THE TAROT CARDS

The more you practice with your cards using the key words, phrases and concepts you chose for yourself, the quicker you'll learn and master this system.

You'll notice as you study this system that the court cards do not represent people. They represent a higher octave of the twos, threes, fours and fives. Some people don't like this approach. They want the court cards to represent people. If you're one of these people, you need to decide how you're going to handle the court cards with this numerological system for reading tarot.

Since, you're removing the court cards from the second octave, the only pip cards remaining in that octave are the tens. These become your "problem child" in this permutation of the system. You can leave the tens alone and consider them as being the second octave of the aces. You can change the meanings of the tens into a combination of nine plus one so they become endings with a new beginning. You can make the tens a fifth court card representing a group of people, a young baby, a pet, or anything you want them to represent.

Once you resolve the "problem child" situation, you need to decide how you're going to define the court cards. One way to do this and still maintain the flavor of a numerological system is to make the court cards represent people best described by the meanings you've attributed to the elements and numbers.

For example, if you define the number two as balance and the suit of Swords as ideas, then the Page of Swords is best described as a person with balanced ideas.

The thing this person can do for you is help you balance your ideas. If this card were to appear in a position where you were supposed to help them, then the thing they need from you is help in balancing their ideas.

How you decide to handle the court cards is entirely up to you. Do not think, however, that using the court cards as second octaves for the base numbers is in any way lessening their ability to help you do a tarot reading. There are several exceptionally good tarot readers using a variety of methods where court cards do not represent people. Indeed, you can give your clients very powerful readings and never mention another person in any way.

Focusing the cards on your client is an important lesson for every tarot reader to learn. The important things affecting your client involve your client. Other people are incidental. It's your client's intuitive insights, emotions, relationships, thoughts and ideas, spiritual path, financial situation, attitude, health and career that are the basic issues in your client's life. Other people are not to blame for these issues and other people will not resolve them. Your client has the ability to do so. Your job is to stay focused on those things your client can change.

You can also just define the court cards any way you want to define them. You can combine systems as long as you work out the problems when they arise. You may need to make a few adjustments, but you get to make the final decision.

You may experience some difficulty in identifying what's really different between the second and third octave as compared to the first. Think of life as a spiral staircase. As we go around the circle from beginning to ending, we're actually climbing stairs. When we reach the tenth stair, we notice we're beginning a new venture very similar to what we started at step one.

Life's like that. We do get to face the same challenges again and again until we get them right. Each time we face a similar challenge we're expected to use the knowledge we gained last time to help us resolve the current conflict in a more positive, more spiritual way. We know from past experience we're going to do the same thing we did last time. We don't expect to get the same result.

That's a good definition for insanity – doing the same things over and over in the expectation of obtaining a different result. A good definition of the proper use of reality is doing the same thing over and over again in the expectation of obtaining the same result. This is the lesson of numerology. We'll always obtain similar results until we change our way of thinking and/or our behavior. Numerology alerts us to the fact we have another opportunity to learn that lesson.

As you practice with your cards you'll begin to notice a flow to the numbers as you move from one through nine. It looks something like this:

1. We start something new
2. We grow and bring balance to this something new
3. We grow more rapidly but we're beginning to understand
4. We bring order to this chaos and we grow more
5. We change because of this something new and we grow more
6. We bring these new changes into harmony with who and what we are
7. We stop to evaluate and measure our success
8. We wrap things up and prepare to complete this stage of growth
9. We complete the something new project we started

Each of us develops our own flow with the numbers according to the way we define the numbers and the way we build our own numerological tarot system. In turn this affects the way we read the cards. We know what came before and we know what's up ahead. That knowledge becomes part of every card we read in the spread. Each card speaks of its past and forecasts its own future.

The numerological system for reading tarot is dependent upon the flow of the numbers. Your ability to use this system is dependent upon your understanding of the flow from one number to the next. With a little daily practice it'll all come together for you much more quickly than you might think.

PART SIX ELEMENTAL SPREADS

Having defined the five elements and five inverted elements, you can use those definitions to define the positions within a spread. You can use any combination of elements and any number of spreads. The Mind-Body-Spirit spread is an example of a three-card elemental spread. The Mind is Air, the Body is Earth and the Spirit is Spirit so this is an Air-Earth-Spirit spread. Some other three card elemental spreads worth considering are:

- Air – Water – Earth
- Spirit – Air – Water
- Spirit – Water – Water inverted
- Air – Air inverted – Fire
- Spirit – inverted Fire – inverted Spirit

You can build these on the spot as you hear your client's question. All you need to know in advance is what elements affect what kinds of questions. For example, in a relationship question Spirit and Water are almost always involved. But so are all the other elements and inverted elements. Decide which ones are most important for this client at this time. Better yet, use your intuition to guide you.

In some relationship questions the emphasis may rest on financial difficulties, health issues or physical incompatibilities designated by Earth. In others the problem may rest with mental activity or an attitude problem designated by Air. The job, work, career or intuitive insights of one of the partners may interfere with the relationship and that's designated by Fire. As mentioned, in most relationship questions the emphasis is on spirituality now and where that spirituality is going as well as the relationship and emotional state of the partners.

These are all examples of situations where Water and Spirit predominate. Fire and Spirit predominate in questions having to do with careers, jobs, work, intuitive development and intuitive insights. But Air can also be a strong component here as both ideas and attitudes can have an impact on the situation. So can Water as both relationships and emotions can also be involved. The financial situation and health issues represented by Earth may also enter the picture.

Earth and Spirit predominate almost all health issues and questions about financial and material affairs. The other elements usually play supporting roles but may become the central focus as the spread unfolds.

Elemental spreads work best with three or five cards though they may be of any size. Using more than one card for each element is also done. For example, you might do a Past – Present – Future spread for any number of elements and create a spread of up to thirty cards. Issue – Possible Resolution – Outcome is another example of a three-card spread that can be expanded by adding other elements. The same spread can be expanded to a five-card spread by using two possible resolutions with an outcome card for each.

One-card elemental spreads can be a very powerful way of starting each morning. Ask the deck what's the most important thing for you to accomplish today and draw one card. The element and number of the card tell you the whole story. You can use other words besides "accomplish" such as "learn." You can center the question on another person: "What's the most important thing for me to do today for so and so." You can center the question on your studies, your job, your relationship or anything you want.

The most powerful tool for you to use while doing these one-card readings for yourself is your Tarot Journal or Tarot Notebook. By keeping a running record of your readings, you have the opportunity to look back and glean more information from the reading and about your life. Be prepared, this often leads to an "Ah ha" moment when you learn something very important about yourself or your life.

If you have a lot of time or a very demanding client, a seven card elemental spread using five elements, Major Issue and Outcome card can be an intense reading. The five elemental cards are all read as being aspects of the major issue. The outcome card says that if the client continues to do the things the client is doing this will be the outcome. The Major Issue card calls for the client to make some changes in his or her thinking, behavior or life. Alternatively, the Outcome card could be used to express the probable outcome if the client does make the necessary changes in his or her life. This is my spread of choice for helping clients who want to resolve very difficult relationship problems.

Elemental spreads of any size work very well with numerological tarot systems.

PART SEVEN NUMEROLOGICAL SPREADS

By and large, numerological spreads are not very popular. In my opinion, this is primarily due to an lack of understanding of the Table of Numbers and the flow from one number to the next. Once these things are understood, numerological spreads can be very powerful instruments for determining the next best step or two the client might consider.

One quick and easy spread is to start laying the cards out by the numbers from one to nine until you reach a card of the Major Arcana. The two important things about this are the number of the Major Arcana card and the number of the position where this card falls. The number of the Major Arcana tells you what the issue is that needs to be resolved. The position number tells you how to resolve that issue. Follow the flow of the numbers to ascertain the next step to be taken. The cards pulled before the Major Arcana Card can also be used to help clarify the present situation. This is sometimes called The Crisis Spread.

Another way to identify a major issue in the client's life, or the cause of a major problem, is to lay the cards out one at a time by the numbers from one through nine. When you come to a card of the same number as the position of the card, you've identified that which you seek. For example, if the third card you draw is a three, you've found the issue. If the first card you draw is a one, or the second card you draw is a two, you've found the issue rather quickly. Don't be surprised if you don't match a card and number in the first nine cards. If this happens, just start over at number one again and continue pulling cards until the numbers match.

Then use all the cards on that number to resolve the issue:

Here's an example of The Key Number Spread from my Tarot Journal:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
VII	K W	4 S	A P	XV	10 S	8 S	XX	8 C
Q S	6 P	3 S	P S	9 S	III	9 C	7 C	A S
6 S	5 C	5 P	7 S	10 W	5 S	XVI		

My, my, just looking at that spread gives me a negative feeling no matter what system you might choose to use in reading it. Key Sixteen is the first card to fall on its base number. Using the numerological system this is a card of rest and relaxation.

The Eight of Swords is a card of mental preparations for an ending. The Nine of Cups is an ending to a relationship or a phase of a relationship. My intuition told me this client had been thinking about ending a relationship and was to the point where she wanted to end it but she'd been procrastinating for spiritual reasons. As kindly as possible that's what the cards told me to tell her.

By looking at all the Swords and Nines in this spread, it shouldn't surprise you to learn this was exactly the case. So where does she go from here? Once she decides to stop procrastinating, she prepares to end the relationship and ends it.

It's difficult to tell a client these things so let the flow of the cards help you. Explain how the cards flow and what the next steps are if the client decides to do anything other than what he or she is doing right now. She decided it was time to stop putting off the inevitable and get on with her life.

The rest of the spread gave me the feeling he was unfaithful to her and I asked her if she'd like to talk about that. She said her husband was on vacation with his girlfriend right now and she'd rather not speak about it. It never ceases to amaze me the faith and patience some people have in unfaithful partners.

The Three Number Spread is an interesting way of looking at the past and present with an eye to the future. The first card you draw is the Present Situation Card and it's placed under the base number according to the number of the card drawn. The second card drawn represents the past and is placed one number below the base number. The third card drawn represents a probable outcome and is placed in the slot one number above the base number. It sounds complicated, but it isn't.

Here's an example:

The client asked me how his relationship with so and so was coming along. The card drawn for this reading was the Eight of Swords. This represents thinking about coming to a closure and is placed in base eight spot. The second card drawn was the King of Swords representing a lot of mental changes in the past. This card was placed in base position seven representing the time taken to mull things over. The final card to be placed in base position nine representing an ending was the Ten of Cups. This represented to me the beginning of a new and better relationship as the present relationship dissolved.

The flow of the reading was from mulling over the mental changes of the past to a present where the client is thinking about ending a relationship to a future dissolution of that relationship and the beginning of another. The first card fixed the present situation.

The second card was placed in the position to the left and interpreted from the standpoint of both the number of the position and the number of the card. The third card was read in the same manner, placed to the right of the first card and interpreted as a possible future outcome.

If the first card drawn is a nine, the future card will be in position one. If the first card drawn is a one, the past card will be in position nine. This is just a little quirk which is easily remembered once the situation arises.

Another numerological spread of some interest is the First Element Spread. The name is a little misleading but don't let that confuse you. You must first decide what element best fits the question being asked. Then start pulling cards and laying them down from one to nine until a card of that element appears in the spread. You'll always have at least one card in the spread and probably more.

The First Element Spread is read from the standpoint of both the number in the spread and the number of the card. For example, let's say the client's question is a Water-type question. The cards drawn for this reading are:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5 P	XVIII	3 P	4 W	VIII	7 C			

The Seven of Cups is the first Water card drawn and it fell into position six. The card is read as a card of rest and relaxation in the relationship and a card of harmony in the relationship. If further explanation is required, the preceding cards are read one by one in reverse order back as far to the beginning of the spread as necessary.

THE FOOL

Eventually the Fool will appear in one of your readings. It's bound to happen. You need to be prepared. You don't want to panic in front of a client.

Assuming you defined Key Zero in Part Three, you always use that definition any time the Fool appears in a reading. How you handle the Fool in a situation where you're trying to match numbers is up to you.

Some tarot readers prefer to always consider the Fool as a zero card. Others like to consider it to be whatever number is next in the sequence. If you're doing a Crisis Spread or a First Element Spread, the Fool is read in the normal flow of the reading. But if you're doing a Three Number Spread or a Key Number Spread the Fool can't be the focus card in either spread because it has no number. That's why some readers consider it to be the next number in the sequence. Using that approach, you look to the number of the preceding card and add one to that number. This becomes the temporary number of the Fool for this reading. If the Fool is the first card drawn, then look at the last card in the deck to determine the number of the Fool.

Other readers just ignore the fact the Fool can never become the focus card of these particular spreads. They just follow the rules they set down for themselves and pay no attention to this potential problem. Some always consider the Fool as the number one. There's a basis for this in mysticism. The idea is something exists and therefore it's at least the number one. The mystical saying is zero is one. This means there's a least one "nothing." If there wasn't at least one nothing, then there could be no absence of numbers and hence no zero. The fact there is a zero is proof there is one. Therefore there is one zero and that zero is one. It's written as $0 = 1$.

One final way to use the Fool in the Key Number Spread is to consider the Fool as being whatever base number it falls upon. If we were using this system and the Fool happened to be the sixth card drawn, then for that reading the Fool would be a six and a zero.

The more you experiment with numerological spreads the more power you'll find in them. A numerological system using numerological spreads can be a very effective way for learning to read tarot cards quickly and efficiently. Good Luck!

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TAROT 104 - BEGINNING TAROT SPREADS The student will learn how to use and devise his or her own one, two and three card spreads

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