



Tarot and Talismans

Talisman: an item used to attract a particular benefit to its owner.

Tarot: 78 cards, each card signifying a different aspect that makes up the total sum of a human life: all we are, and all we hope to become.

Learn how to turn a tool traditionally used for divination into a powerful resource for the creation of talismans.

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Table of Contents

1. Choosing a Tarot Deck
2. Symbols, Personal Resonance, and Research
3. Worksheet: The Major Arcana in Talisman/Symbol Form
4. Worksheet: The Minor Arcana in Talisman/Symbol Form
5. Two Exercises to Familiarize Yourself with Finding a Talisman in a Tarot Card
6. Charming a Tarot Card or a Talisman
7. Intentions and Affirmations to Use with Your Talismans
8. Additional Resources & Reading

First things first: do you have a tarot deck? If not, here's some tips on finding a tarot deck.

Choosing a Tarot Deck

When choosing a tarot deck for yourself, you must choose something that you really like the art on, otherwise you won't build a strong connection with your deck. No strong connection, and you won't have the mind-blowing experience of a truly accurate and catered tarot reading. I would liken it to the selection process of a wand in the Harry Potter universe... and sometimes it truly is the deck that picks the wizard, not the other way around!

So, how do you choose a tarot deck, or how do you know if a tarot deck is choosing you?

- Does the imagery appeal to you?
- Do the Major Arcana cards "speak" to you in a symbolic language or theme you personally resonate with or understand?
- Do certain cards in a deck appeal to you?
- Do the Minor Arcana cards have a storyline running through each suit you can understand and follow from Ace to King?

When the Tarot Deck Is Choosing You

- Watch out for the synchronicity of clusters of "threes": if you keep hearing about a certain deck, from different spaces and places, it may be a signal that deck wants to work with you.
- Someone hands you a deck... literally. I've heard of quite a few readers that have had their first tarot deck plopped in their lap!

Symbols, Personal Resonance, and Research

Let's take one tarot card and look at some of the symbols in it. I'm going to use the High Priestess as an example. The clues to the traditional meanings of the High Priestess are often indicated in the symbols most often seen on this card, as follows.

Symbols on the High Priestess Tarot Card

- The scroll that the High Priestess holds often is a symbol of the Akashic Records, a record of everyone's lives, both past, present, and future.
- The two pillars light and dark (walking between the worlds)
- The flowing blue robes (oftentimes the water element is associated with this card)
- The number 2 (duality)
- Her foot upon the crescent moon (symbolizing mastery over intuitive arts)
- This card can also be associated with the Moon card in the tarot... if you look carefully past the High Priestess figure in the card, you can see the Moon temple from the Moon card off in the distance (in some decks). Have a look!

When I'm doing a tarot reading, I'm not necessarily reading the cards... I'm reading the symbols on the cards themselves. Symbols are our shorthand. In magick, symbols used in talismans can become so much more than the literal picture.

I have been attracted to the symbol of the **pomegranate** for a very long time. In fact, on my trip to Seattle with my ex, he bought me a pomegranate necklace from the Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit. At that time, I didn't understand why I was attracted to the pomegranate, why the symbol was such a powerful draw for me. I read tarot cards as a hobby at that time, but never made the connection between the High Priestess card and the pomegranate.

When I finally understood this connection I had with this symbol and the card, I made sure that the pomegranate was one of the symbols that absolutely *needed* to be included in my tattoo of the High Priestess card on my left arm. For me, to have this particular symbol missing from the card would to me no longer be the High Priestess card.

For you, your symbols most certainly will be different than mine, and that is as it should be!

When you find a symbol that resonates with you, do a free association and write down your immediate thoughts about the symbol. Then do further research about your symbol as you proceed with creating the talisman. In your research, make sure that you are aware of both positive and negative connotations of your symbol. You don't have to be necessarily dissuaded from using that symbol if there are negative connotations; this is only to be more aware of the many levels of association and connotation that particular symbol has. It is the reason why symbols are so important and powerful: they can work on many levels, and say so much without a word spoken.

Worksheet: The Major Arcana in Talisman/Symbol Form

So we've talked a little bit about symbols. Now let's bring the tarot back into it. Take out your trusty tarot deck, and take a look at each card. Write down the symbol that *you* think is the symbol that makes that tarot card what it is. There are no right/wrong answers.

The Fool:

The Magician:

The High Priestess:

The Empress:

The Emperor:

The Hierophant:

The Lovers:

The Chariot:

Justice:

The Hermit:

Wheel of Fortune:

Strength:

The Hanged Man:

Death:

Temperance:

The Devil:

The Tower:

The Star:

The Moon:

The Sun:

Judgment:

The World:

Worksheet: The Minor Arcana in Talisman/Symbol Form

We can also use the symbology within the Minor Arcana to create talismans as well. We can use the symbols of the shield and sword on the Knight of Pentacles and Knight of Swords, for example, to create powerful talismans for defense and offense.

Elemental Associations of the Suits

Swords - Air

Pentacles - Earth - shields

Wands - Fire - staffs

Cups - Water

Take out your trusty tarot deck, and take a look at each card of the Minor Arcana now. Write down the symbol that *you* think is the symbol that makes that tarot card what it is. There are no right/wrong answers.

Card	Swords	Pentacles	Wands	Cups
Ace (1)				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Page				
Knight				
Queen				
King				

Two Exercises to Familiarize Yourself with Finding Talismans in a Tarot Card

These exercises we did in class, but feel free to adopt them for your own personal purposes!

EXERCISE:

Looking at a tarot card for talismans/symbols in the card.

Each of you will pair up with someone. I will pass out a tarot card to each pair. Take about five minutes, and discuss which symbols leap out at you. Why that symbol? Why is it significant to you? Is it as significant to the other person? How is this symbol significant to the tarot card it appears on?

EXERCISE:

Shuffle the deck. Fan it out, close your eyes, take a deep breath in, and on the out breath, focus your intention for a talisman, and choose a card. Keep your card facedown in your lap.

Breathe deeply again, and focus on your intention: what kind of talisman do you want? To create? To wear? What energy/benefits do you want to be drawn to you? Is it only for certain situations in which you will carry this, or will it be worn or carried all the time?

Think about your intention for this talisman. Before you flip the card over (don't do it yet!) soften your gaze. Allow yourself to be in slight/light trance state. If you have trouble softening your gaze, try to look "through" the back of the card or the pattern on the card, almost as if it were a Magic Eye pattern. When you feel you are ready, flip over the card and note the FIRST symbol your eye is drawn to on the card.

How does it apply to your intention you were thinking about before? Does it?

Example: I used the Enchanted Tarot to do this, focusing the intention on creating this class. When I flipped over the card, I got the 2 of Swords, first symbol my eye was drawn to was the large feather over the figure in the middle of the card. **Does it relate?** Yes, a feather is soft and a sign of the element of air (also associated with the suit of swords). It almost looks like a quill, which is a sign of writing for me. In future, I can use the talisman of a feather in magickal work associated with the act and process of writing, or for help in any spells I do to bring inspiration to my writing!

Charming a Tarot Card or a Talisman

Once you have found the ideal card or talisman for your situation, hold the card/talisman in both hands (if it is a physical object or a drawing of the symbol). Take three deep cleansing breaths, and allow your mind to become as blank as possible. Now, envision what you would like to happen. If quitting smoking, imagine you being able to take a full, deep breath of clean air. If possible, visualize the habit of smoking as shackles (like the ones you see in the Devil card). Feel the weight of the habit being as heavy as those chains, and now imagine them falling away. Picture the habit releasing its stranglehold on you, and you in turn releasing your own grip on it. If needed, close your eyes while you are visualizing, and then open them to look at the card/talisman. See the energy of your visualization flowing into the cards/talismans from either your hands or your eyes. You may feel a tingling sensation in your hands as you do this. You may also feel the need to speak to the card/talisman aloud as you are doing this, asking/telling the card/talisman what you would have it do for you.

Once you have charmed the card/talisman, you may want to carry it around with you or leave it in a prominent place as a reminder of the work you just did, and the work you will continue to do on a mundane level to allow the spell to come to fruition. If you have charmed a card/talisman to better focus your work while writing, a good place for this object to remain is resting on your desk, leaning on your computer monitor. For breaking a bad habit, carry the card/talisman with you. Reach for the card/talisman before you reach for the bad habit, and it may cause you to think twice!

Intentions and Affirmations to Use with Your Talismans

Use intentions and affirmations or create them, then find an applicable talisman to go with it. Then you can charge the talisman with the affirmation in the same way you would charm a tarot card (or use a card as your talisman)!

Some affirmations when crafting a spell to curb my procrastination were:

- Ⓒ “I deal with things as they come up.”
- Ⓒ “I face my emotions as they come up.”
- Ⓒ “I do what I say I will do.”
- Ⓒ “I am an adult, and adults deal with their problems as they present themselves.”
- Ⓒ “I am a reliable person.”
- Ⓒ “I am consistent with the things that are important to me.”
- Ⓒ “I am still a good person when I slip up.”

You can think of it as intention or goal-setting, or a ritual: whatever feels comfortable to you. Most of all, keep in mind that ritual/spell-casting is not enough: you must also do the work that goes along with the intention you set. The mundane work goes hand-in-hand along with the magickal!

Additional Resources and Reading

<http://tarotbyhilary.com/the-major-arcana-in-depth-ii-the-high-priestess/>

<http://badwitch.es/7-tarot-must-knows-take-muggle-magician/>

<http://www.llewellyn.com/journal/article/583>

<http://www.dreamingbat.com/2016/04/tarot-charms/>

<http://tarotbyhilary.com/charming-a-tarot-card/>

<http://tarotbyhilary.com/new-moon-habits/>

[MAGPIE ORACLE TAROT TALISMANS CHARM GUIDEBOOK](#) by Carrie Paris

Tarot Talismans: Invoking the Angels of the Tarot by Chic Cicero & Sandra Tabatha Cicero

365 Tarot Spells by Sasha Graham

Tarot Diva by Sasha Graham

Witch in the Boardroom: Proven Business Magic by Stacey Demarco

Greetings and salutations!



I'm Hilary Parry Haggerty, and I'm a tarot reader. Also, I made this little e-book!

Sometimes you need someone with more objectivity.

I offer that objectivity, and then some, with my tarot readings.

Enjoy this e-book? Like what you see? We should work together! In-person tarot readings are available if you live in Westchester County, New York (yes, I will come to you!). I also have reading options available for everyone, whether you are in proximity to my home location or not, via phone, e-mail, or Skype. Shoot me an e-mail, and we'll work something out.

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HILARY PARRY HAGGERTY is a tarot reader, witch, mentor, editor, and teacher. She has been reading tarot for over 18 years (10 years professionally). She was the winner of Theresa Reed's (The Tarot Lady) Tarot Apprentice contest in 2011, and has taught classes on tarot and spell-work at Readers Studio and Brid's Closet Beltane Festival. She writes a weekly blog on tarot at her website www.tarotbyhilary.com and contributes a monthly tarot blog "Through a Tarot Lens" to www.witchesandpagans.com.

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