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the quest Tarot

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A Review of The Quest Tarot

by Deni Richter

- The Compass Guide To The Quest Tarot by Joseph Ernest Martin
- Llewellyn Publications
- 2003
- ISBN # 0-7378-0195-5

Suits: Cups, Wands, Swords and Stones

Courts: Son, Daughter, Father and Mother

"The Compass Guide to the Quest Tarot" felt magical as soon as I opened the wrapper and held it in my hands. I opened the sealed deck of cards and the colors just jumped out at me. My first impression was the colors of choice. In the metaphysical world, an aura is made up of colors. Blue, purple and green are the mark of the magician and if you see these colors in the aura of a person, you know they have magical qualities to them. This is how I felt on my first impression of the deck.

I quickly skimmed through the cards to see quality, colors, design, and pictures and I was immediately impressed, again.



THE MULTIVERSE

The suits are named Cups, Wands, Swords and Stones. The Courts are named Son, Daughter, Father and Mother. The Major cards begin with the Fool -- to the World card or as he calls it, the Universe. The extra Major card is called Multiverse. It is expanding our limitations of multi-universes, or multi choices ahead for you.

In the cards were many symbols but not knowing what they meant, I had to put the cards down and go to the book.

Upon going to the first page, there was praise from Mary K. Greer and in her excerpt she said, "This is a deck for explorers of magical planes and realms." Ahhh that word "magical" again. Rachel Pollack also wrote, "... a wonderful new addition to Tarot possibilities...". I knew I had something so very special in my hands.

In his introduction Mr. Martin states his intent - to get you going as fast as you can with what he put into the pages, and cards, in a language you can understand, whether you are a beginner reader or an experienced or professional reader. He also states it is a great way to open your intuition and to use this deck in that manner.

In one section, Mr. Martin goes through many different things beginning with caring for your tarot cards.



THREE OF CUPS

In the next section -- The Stars, Planets and Constellations, he goes through every card listing its planetary connection. An example of this is: "THREE OF CUPS: Mercury in Cancer: Don't dwell on the past. Emotions may stop you from progressing. Exaggeration. Difficulty thinking."



WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Another example is: "Wheel of Fortune: Jupiter: Desire for knowledge. Taking a philosophical outlook. Optimism and tolerance." A lot of readers I know do not use astrology in their readings. This is a simple and easy way to begin to learn. And then some of us do use astrology. Mr. Martin simplifies it for us.

Then Mr. Martin goes through the Yes/No feature which I had to play with immediately. He has a symbol placed on the court cards going in different directions to give you yes/no and maybe and even past and future. This was so awesome. I just sat and asked yes/no questions for about half hour using this category and they all rendered true. (I did ask questions that I already knew the answers for. That is how I test a card or a sign.)

He continues and goes through time-lines, gemstones, Hebrew letters, the I Ching, reading physical characteristics, the Rune Stones, a spelling feature, party games, how to read three-card spreads, the Celtic Cross spread, and the Quest Tarot spread. These topics showed the symbols on the cards and how to use them.

Then Mr. Martin devotes the last three sections of the book to the Major Arcana, the Minor Arcana and the Court cards. The information he gives is excellent. To top it off... he also includes a blank card and an extra Major card. The blank card he suggests that you draw or paste on it something that is meaningful for you, something to carry close to your body, or place under the reading. It is your decision to use this card in whatever manner you choose to. It is your special card and no one can tell you what to do with it. Mr. Martin also thanked Llewellyn for printing the book with enough space on the pages for your own notes.

I then put the book aside and picked up the cards again. I could clearly see the symbols, letters and information that is on the card for me to use in my tarot readings... to make them easier to read and to interpret. I went through every card, feeling the colors and the art designs that were in front of me, knowing I had something special right here. I could feel the excitement in my gut, knowing my intuitive side wanted to get involved here, immediately.

The colors are so very sharp. The symbols stand out and I can see immediately what they all mean. The people on the cards stand out as they are in an artists way of almost robotizing them... which to me is one way of getting to the inside of the person or question. As I mentioned above, the backs are blue, green and purple. The colors on the cards are very vivid and they vary.

This is a deck that should be in everyone's collection. I strongly recommend this set in your collection too.

I am including a link to Quest Tarot on the Llewellyn site so that you can see for yourself what I am so excited about.

[The Quest Tarot](#)

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Interview With Joseph Martin

02-10-2003

by Deni Richter

DR: DO YOU NEED TO BE PSYCHIC TO USE THE CARDS?

JM: The cards work by the activation of the sincere intent of the person asking the question. The cards deal with the subtle energies of our emotional intent in connection with the guiding energy of all knowledge. Do you need to be a "Psychic"? No! But you do need to be in a place of complete sincerity when you ask your question if what you want is a sincere answer.

The best thing to do is just relax and have fun with the process. Don't stress out. Put your feet flat on the floor, correct your posture and take a deep breath. Relax your shoulders and clear your mind. You then can begin true work with the deck. But this is not the only use of the Quest Tarot.

Let's say you want to open the deck in a party setting to have some fun. You can use the Yes/No feature to instantly begin using the cards. You can play Tarot Poker which is best played with people who are not psychics. (wink) You can play a version of Tarot charades. This deck is a tool that can be used at a fun level or a serious level. The choice is up to you. And you can change your mind at any time.

DR: HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE FOR SOMEONE TO BEGIN TO USE THIS DECK?

JM: Instantly! Probably the quickest and easiest to use feature of the deck is the Yes/No feature. Certain indicators in the deck can give you the following answers:

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- The Answer lies in the future
- The Answer lies in the past

These indicators look like little daggers. When they both point up the answer is Yes. When they both point down the answer is No. When one dagger is up and the other is down, the answer is Maybe. Both pointing to the right mean the Answer lies in the future and both pointing to the left mean the Answer lies in the past.

The second fastest and easiest to use feature is the "Ouija" board feature. Certain cards in the deck have roman letters. Other cards in the deck are "Wildcards" which can be any letter. In the book I explain a formula for determining the number of cards to pull in regards to the question that you have asked. You pull the cards and begin building words and phrases from the letters received. It's really a fun way to use the cards though you may need a dictionary to help with the words.

Beyond those two features you can lay out a spread and keep the book by your side. When I first started reading the Tarot I always had my books with me and referred to them as I was doing the reading. I would tell the seeker that this was simply the way I choose to read. There was never a problem.

Later as I became more experienced with the cards the books were kept in my tarot bag for reference. Don't even try to memorize all the references given in the book. That would simply be too much. Instead give each one a try and see which ones you like working with. Focus first on the card meanings and let your intuition guide you on which features you are compelled to use.

DR: WHAT ARE THE NEW FEATURES IN THIS DECK?

JM: The Quest Tarot is loaded with features to give the beginner an easy way to start using the cards but to also satisfy the more advance reader.

Some of the features of the deck are: The Yes/No Feature, Runes, I-Ching, Astrology, Identifying People, Establishing Timelines, Seasons, Gemstones, Hebrew Letters, Roman Letters, and of course, the card meanings.

The most talked about feature of the deck is probably the "Multiverse" card. This card is an addition to the Major Arcana. It is all about the special understanding that we live in a Universe with multiple dimension that co-exist at the same time in the same relative space.

Science is working to prove that this is true and the addition of the new card is one of the ways the Tarot is evolving to encompass our current understanding of the Multiverse in which we live. The Multiverse Card is literally a bridge card between dimensions.

One of the other additions to the Quest Tarot is the "Blank Card". This card is available to you so that you can create a custom card that can represent yourself in the deck. This will aid you in your readings. Or you can create a "new" card that is your own personal addition to the Tarot. Whatever you decide you can use paints, stickers, pens, inks, airbrush... whatever you wish to customize this special card. Some people have even used this card in readings as blank. They meditate into it to determine what it is really trying to say.

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