

# Darkside Skeleton Tarot Guidebook and Journal

By Philip Young, PhD

## **The Darkside Skeleton Tarot Workbook**

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## Introduction

Welcome to the Learn the Tarot workbook. One of the most daunting obstacles to learning tarot is the amount of information you need to memorize and know in order to read the cards effectively, for yourself or for others. While some people have a natural gift for memorization, many do not.

This workbook has been written and designed to help you learn the tarot in a “knowing” way instead of through memorization. This workbook will take you through a process of getting to know your tarot deck, which can be applied to any deck of tarot cards.

## The Magic of Getting to Know Tarot Cards

The technique for getting to know tarot cards, or oracle cards, is rather simple. Tarot cards represent archetypes of human experience, which are the common themes of human life across all cultures, and present in every walk of life.

We are all the Fool, taking on life as a leap of faith, an act of foolishness, with unpredictable outcomes and seventy-seven experiences we will repeat throughout our lives. We are all the Magician, coming to crossroads and addressing problems in our lives that will require using all the tools we have available to us to solve our difficulties and overcome our challenges.

We will have many defeats (5 of Swords) and many victories (6 of Wands). We will fall in love (2 of Cups) and suffer financial setbacks (5 of Pentacles). Some cards we will hope to know deeply, like the Lovers, while others we will hope to encounter as few times as possible, like the Tower.

The tarot is the story of human existence; a magical way to learn the tarot is to connect your life experiences to each card in the deck. Once you attach your personal stories to a card, you will find learning to read tarot cards surprisingly easy!

This workbook will be your tarot journal. It shows each card, provides a brief explanation of the card, a sample real life example from the author’s journey, and a lined section for you to write in your personal example. Once you connect your life experiences to each card, you will find you know the card without having to spend time trying to memorize the keywords.

## Let’s Get Started!

There really is no need for a complicated introduction, when you turn the page, we will begin with the Fool and go through all twenty-two Major Arcana cards. Once you get through the Major Arcana, we will move onto the Minor Arcana and start with the Cups suit, then the Pentacles, then the Swords, and we’ll end with the Wands. The Major Arcana cards represent

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the Spiritual (or Big) Karmas of life and the Minor Arcana cards represent the Mundane (or Little) Karmas of life.

## Tarot Reading

Reading Tarot cards can reveal insights into your past, present, or future. The premise is simple: the Querent asks a question, and then the Reader draws the cards and interprets the results.

Tarot reading has been used for divination since the 1700s, and every Reader develops his or her method for interpreting the cards. There are some fundamentals, but Readers are encouraged to explore and develop their own approach.

## The Deck

The Tarot deck contains seventy-eight cards: twenty-two Major Arcana cards and fifty-six Minor Arcana cards.

The Major Arcana cards represent the archetypal moments that everyone experiences on their journey through life. Everyone begins life as the Fool, and ends life as the Fool.

The Minor Arcana cards represent the actions, thoughts, feelings, and material struggles that we all encounter in our lives.

Four suits and fifty-six cards make up the Minor Arcana. Face cards consist of the Knave/Page, Knight, Queen, and King. Each of the four elements belongs to a suit, represented by a specific object:

- Fire to Clubs/Wands/Staves
- Water to Cups
- Earth to Coins/Pentacles/Disks
- Air to Swords/Spears/Arrows

And each element corresponds to an aspect of human life:

- Fire/Action
- Water/Emotions
- Earth/Work
- Air/Thought.

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## Spreading the Cards

A spread is a layout for the Tarot cards which provides a framework for the reading. Spreads often follow a predefined theme where the position of the cards is relevant to how they are interpreted.

There are numerous different types of spreads. Certain spreads tend to work well for different types of questions. This guide will provide a starter spread, but you can research and find spreads for every type of question. As you become more experienced, consider developing your own unique spreads.

### Three Card Spread

The past/present/future three-card spread is the best and most used starting spread. This simple spread is ideal for novice Readers. Cards are drawn and read in the following order: 1) Past, 2) Present, and 3) Future.

[Sample Card] Past	[Sample Card] Present	[Sample Card] Future
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1. The Past: This card symbolizes the Querent's past experiences that pertain to the Querent's question.
2. The Present: This card represents the Querent's current situation.
3. The Future: This card indicates a possible future goal the Querent should strive for regarding their question or issue. The Querent can shape the future based on their thoughts and actions.

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## The Fool



**Meaning:** The Fool represents a leap of faith, which is the action our souls take when we are born and when we die. And, we make many leaps of faith throughout our lives. Therefore, as the Zero card, the Fool is the beginning and ending of the journey through the Major and Minor Arcana. We are the Fool. The Fool archetype is about curiosity and open-mindedness, going with the flow of life, and managing our way through the unknown.

**Symbolism:** A skeletal figure and his skeletal dog travel the land together. He is about to walk off the edge of a cliff. The flower in his hand represents innocence; the dog is tugging on his shirt to prevent him from coming to harm. The bag on his staff contains all his possessions. He wears the clothing of a Jester, who was both the wisest and most foolish member of the court.

**Upright:** optimism, a journey without a destination, a new beginning, curiosity, and potential

**Reversed:** foolishness, gullibility, and ignorance

### Author's Personal Connection with this Card

There are so many different moments to choose from that illustrate this card perfectly. Each time it comes up in a reading, a list speed-scrolls through my mind. Today, I will stop on starting my spiritual advising business, which I did in 2013 when a dear friend recommended that I go for it, as a professional astrologer and tarot reader. I took the leap of faith and made a business of my skills when I incorporated (LLC) with the state of North Carolina.

### Your Personal Connection with this Card

What would you consider one of your most profound leaps of faith?

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