

# The Cards Speak for Themselves

Or, How to Embrace Limitless Tarot

Whether beginner, adept or somewhere in between, tarotists are constantly given limitations about what tarot can and cannot do, what they should and should not do with tarot, and what specific cards can or cannot mean. Many times, these limitations are based on fear, rather than truth.

When I speak of “Limitless Tarot” I am not suggesting there shouldn’t be boundaries, I am suggesting there shouldn’t be needless boundaries.

## What are the Boundaries, or Limitations, of Tarot?

This is subjective, but here are three discussion points.

- Card interpretations within the space of the readings are limitless; Classic card meanings are limited to some extent by the scope of the archetype.
- Each reader must set behavioral limits based on their ethics. Example would be choosing not to make dire predictions or choosing not to use fear to increase sales.
- There seem to be Universal limits set on our ability to know and predict the future in some circumstances.

## Limiting Beliefs for Beginners

**I can’t give a reading until I have memorized all the card meanings.**

**Limitless truth:** You can start reading for yourself and others in a lighthearted and exploratory way as soon as you have your cards.

- The cards are designed to awaken your intuition. You may see things in the images, get a feeling from the card, or have the card trigger a thought or memory. What comes to you when you look at a card with your intuitive mind will be significant.
- There is a difference between a tarot reading and a card interpretation. Reading card interpretations from a book, or a few books, can become the basis for a very insightful reading. The skill is to take those written interpretations and extrapolate them into an accurate story. You can begin practicing that skill as soon as you get your cards.
- Working with the cards will help you learn the card meanings more quickly than flash-card memorization.

**I’m afraid to do a reading because I am afraid to get something wrong.**

**Limitless Truth:** The cards never lie, but readers get it wrong all the time.

- Lighten up. In the beginning, this must be an exploration. You won’t get it right later if you don’t get it wrong sometimes now.
- Practice makes perfect. You can study the cards, and that’s helpful, but until you see how they work in action you won’t learn how the cards speak to you.
- Record your readings. When time passes you will see what the cards were referencing. This will help you understand how the cards speak to you.

## **Limiting Beliefs About the Cards**

**Major Arcana cards always represent something spiritual, something you can't change, etc.**

**Limitless Truth:** While Major Arcana cards do teach profound spiritual lessons, in a reading their message can be profound, mundane or both.

- Avoid thinking that any card or group of cards always says the same thing, or always behave in a specific way. Be open to what the card is saying in the moment.

**Some cards are interpreted as positive, and some as negative.**

**Limitless Truth:** While some cards are more desirable than others, every card exists on a continuum. When we stop thinking about cards as good and bad, positive and negative, we can recognize that cards, like people, have a variety of traits. We like some of those traits better than others.

**In a reading, a card can mean only one of its possible meanings.**

**Limitless Truth:** It is possible to interpret the same card or group of cards many times over in the same reading and have all interpretations be true. This can add huge depth to a reading.

**You must interpret each card in a spread with the same importance.**

**Limitless Truth:** If you don't have time to interpret ten or more cards but still want to see what a larger spread would say it is perfectly fine to interpret the cards that show up most strongly for you as the basis of the reading and use the other cards to offer support.

You don't need to mention the cards themselves in the reading if you don't want to, and you don't need to address the cards in order.

**You must set the meanings of the cards in your head, and never change them.**

**Limitless Truth:** Each reading you do, each book you read and each class you take has the capacity to add to your understanding of a card.

## **Limiting Beliefs About Tarot Reading**

**You must have a question, or topic of concern, to do a reading.**

**Limitless Truth:** Every reading without a question begins with this question: What does the Universe want me to know? What comes up first in the mind of a reader, without the influence of a known question or problem, can be very informative.

**You can't do yes or no questions with tarot.**

**Limitless Truth:** Some yes/no questions can be answered, others can't. The only way to know is to try. If you don't get a clear answer you can then rephrase your question to make it more open-ended and give you what information can be knowable at this time.

**Tarot can only see three months into the future.**

**Limitless Truth:** Every reading is unique. Some readings will predict nothing at all, some can predict decades ahead.

**Readers must be careful to make sure their imagination isn't guiding their message.**

**Limitless Truth:** The brow chakra, or third eye, rules eyesight, psychic vision and imagination. Tarot images, through the eyesight, stimulate both the intuition and the imagination. In a tarot reading, your imagination will help your intuition see what is true.