



The Tarot of Sister Who

by *Sister Who*

a/k/a Rev. Denver NeVaar, MTS

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Other Books by Denver NeVaar

Troll Steps

A complex allegory of a quest for positive self-identity.

This is the story of one person's quest; indeed, the story of all who have ever found themselves to be fundamentally different and imprisoned by false ideas of themselves and the world in which they live. This is also a story of intertwined lives and fates and destinies and of the many different hands through which the precious gift of one's self passes. Told through the eyes of the leading character and those who both touched him and were touched by him, the inner journey to wholeness and freedom mirrors the awakening of an entire world; a world trying to remember what it once was and what it may also, somehow, someday be again.

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dramatically affect what the actual future will be.

The Tarot of Sister Who uses four minor suits named as Candles, Chalices, Thuribles, and Paraments. Each suit contains cards numbered one through ten, followed by four more: confessor, celebrant, angel, and saint. Virtually every spiritual and religious system humanity has ever created, has utilized some form of these four ritual roles. A sense of connection with ancestors and forebearers of all descriptions can thus be legitimately interpreted--dispelling notions of being truly or completely isolated from others around us throughout seasons of time and space.

The suit of Candles draws upon symbolisms of fire, of spirit, of wands, and of summer. A candle is a rod that bears a flame, which is also a transformative agent or bridge between the physical and the non-physical; between that which is seen and that which is unseen.

The suit of Chalices draws upon symbolisms of water, of emotion, of cups, and of autumn. A chalice is a vessel like ourselves that provides containment and expression for what might otherwise be overwhelming or confusing, yet its contents cannot remain as they are (being subject to evaporation), but rather both invite and require meaningful interaction. Like feelings which are forever swirling and evolving from one expression to another, calmness may be empowering, but stagnation is to be avoided. One can never stop within a present moment and go no further; humanity is a species defined in a myriad of ways by time.

The suit of Thuribles draws upon symbolisms of air, of intellect, of swords, and of spring. A Thurible embraces paradoxes, utilizing smoke for spiritual cleansing and also formlessness to alter the invisible nature of forms; making precise shifts and distinctions according to the specific understandings of its bearer, whose energy charges the smoke with purpose and meaning. As winter and spring do their spiral dance, one slowly giving way to the other, this tool moves around and among individuals, granting possibilities of rebirth.

The suit of Paraments draws upon the symbolism of earth, of physical forms, of pentacles, and of winter. In and of itself a mere piece of cloth, the signature quality of this ritual tool is the immediate transformation of physical space from mundane to sacred; from mere pragmatism to realms of higher meaning. As the mountains are the fingers of earth, touching the sky, so does the cloth form a stage upon which the spirit can dance its individual voice and expression.

The Confessor is that voice that listens and cares without making demands; the one who bears with absolute confidentiality and trustworthiness the deepest joys, pains, and truth of the individual's heart and mind. Embodying sensitivity, awareness, thoughtful consideration, and wise decision-making, yet in ways that abhor any dictatorial imposition, the interaction is deeply internal. Indeed, if movement and growth do not arise from deep within the individual, then no

true movement or growth has occurred.

The Celebrant is that voice that leads actions of deep experience of life, binding spiritual significance to physical action. Embodying recognition of the spiritual within the physical, of participation in the greater harmonies of the universe, and of dutiful maintenance of a high quality of life, it matters not whether any associated quantity is great or small.

The Angel is that voice which directs protecting love and willing involvement toward every spirit in need--sometimes to the individual and sometimes through the individual. Within the interconnectedness of all things and the symbiotic nature of all healthy relationships, whatever good is possible is extended to all that is ultimately also an extension of the self. Yet the starting point is not selfishness, but rather dedication to service, so that love may encourage all good things to follow.

The Saint is that voice which lives in harmony with spiritual beings of both more and less evolved states. Embodying the ability to hold on or to let go, as greatest wisdom directs, there is also the ability to move in harmony with the larger sea of spirituality from which all good is truthfully drawn. Having traveled a path to the present moment that warrants deep contemplation of both what may have been overlooked along the way, as well as what possibilities creative imagination has suggested, a sense of inclusive timelessness is a signature quality.

The Major suit within this deck is composed of twenty-two archetypes of life's states or progressions. It is unlikely at best that these can be avoided while living one's life, but one can nonetheless respond to their specific yet endlessly fluctuating meanings in a wide variety of ways. Approaching with love and openness instead of fear and dogmatism, brings an infinite spectrum of positive possibilities within reach.

In summary, it is my earnest prayer that these symbols will be empowering to you. The implication is thus that while I have built the first half of a bridge to greater understanding, you will find all that you need to build the other half--allowing for exploration and discovery of greater realities than any thus far imagined.

May one and all and everything, blessed and loved ever be!

Chapter 2

The Suit of Thuribles

The magic of thuribles is that every breath of life is a fusion of both body and spirit, with an essence that is not quite physical and yet not quite invisible, that also moves between these two fundamental realms. For literally thousands of years, humanity has been fascinated by this liminal way of being. Its presence is often interpreted as having a cleansing effect and it frequently appeals to the nose more than to the eyes. In moving from body toward spirit, it can also be an effective conveyance for our prayers.

Within the first card of this suit is a reminder that especially during seasons of transition and rebirth, one must always begin a metaphysical journey by looking within one's self and the tools with which one works, contemplating deeply the broader implications of being holistically as one is, where one is, when one is, and what one is—that is, having the resources and components that one does, some of which may have been undiscovered until now. From the deepest available understanding, all subsequent blessings will flow. For those with eyes that truly see, there is always a hunger when life springs back into view around us, that encourages its reemergence equally within us.

Within the second card of this suit, a combination of body and spirit shaped by reaching as high and as far as one is able—into a season of newness and rebirth--makes of the substance of ourselves the bridge upon which the spirit will walk, will dance, and will grow. That which we truly are within each moment is thus more than our physical senses will ever be able to measure. Neglecting any part of this will shorten both our reach and our stature in a corresponding way.

Within the third card of this suit, one is caught at the intersection and convergence of past, present, and future; of body, mind, and spirit; and of distinctions between what was received, what has been created and added, and what will be given to others to utilize as foundational reality. The surrounding reality has granted an opportunity for renewal, but only by converging within a context of love can the divergent paths find mutually supportive harmony and beauty. Accompanied by openness and humility, symbiotic relationship can find new opportunities.

Within the fourth card of this suit, moving away from each other only increases the strength and force with which one ultimately turns toward each other again, in ongoing oscillation. Within superficial independence, one may even rediscover harmony, if one is willing to look beyond one's own movement. In making harmony into the dominant pattern of one's life, truthful movements can take on the empowering pattern of wings in flight—moving rapidly between what is beyond one's self and what is within one's self, such that through the smoke of the thurible, the spirit flies beyond that which the eyes can see.

Chapter 5

The Major Suit

The following are some of the possible meanings of the images of the Major suit. In exploring the dimensions, meanings, and movement of one's life experience, every conversation is an ongoing one--requiring the honest humility and confidence which can only arise from the deepest core of one's being. In and of itself, no image has any inherent polarity, but all have messages and meanings to convey. These descriptions are thus to be regarded as places to begin, but never as the final word.

0 - Birth

This is the state of greatest potentiality temporally concentrated and transferred from a forerunner to an emerging embodiment. To grant opportunity to a birth, however, is equally to relinquish one's grasp of contextual realities now fading into the mists of time and remembrance. As an intersection of past and future, of endings and beginnings, and sometimes even of striking contrasts, this is also the event by which unverified speculations and undiscovered terrain will shift from subconscious to conscious. The self that is emerging may incorporate all previous incarnations, but will equally demand it's own self-agency and voice. The oval that approaches is thus also the larger end of the megaphone by which the accompanying voice is magnified.

1 - The Prodigy

A teddy bear, a gyroscope, crayons, and a cup with a ball on a string—these are only some of the ways that youthful innocence, disciplined skills, hidden wisdom, and restless curiosity combine to bring surprises to each day's unfolding. The spirit within is a bird yearning to take flight, that is sometimes only visible within the “*shadows*” it casts upon the surrounding world. Merging body, mind, and spirit toward manifestation, the Prodigy equally bridges the gaps between heaven and earth, matter and spirit, teacher and student, and master and servant—transforming both the participants and the circumstances within each moment of interaction. From the quietness of a loving hug to the stability of whirling science, every available thing is an opportunity to begin again using whatever colors one chooses, to draw the inner landscape that only the heart can see.

2 - Home

Love and light are both merged and fused, to create a spiritual place encompassing both protection and proactive relationship. Within this deeply personal space, awareness includes understanding both the reality of adversity within one's surrounding environment and that it can be overcome by engaging in ongoing symbiotic exchange. In recognizing that life is a collaborative effort within which all take turns being the one in need; by being each others' guardian angels within each moment one is empowered to assist; and in maintaining basic

Chapter 7

Responding

These cards were not created to be a lighthearted distraction or a source of entertainment, but rather as a tool of empowerment, of inner healing, and of growth. As I have often said within recorded and live presentations, “*Hold onto whatever is helpful and let the rest go.*” If you have read this far within this book, however, I’m guessing that you are among those specifically interested in personal and spiritual growth—regardless of where any label you embrace is located within the spiritual/religious spectrum, ranging from atheism to agnosticism to any time-worn religion one can name. Nonetheless, the synchronicities and intuitions which frequently arise within card readings, are sometimes quite disturbing—which is not necessarily a bad thing, depending upon how one responds.

In virtually every case one can name, there is neither distance nor dishonesty within the spiritual realm of being. What is thousands of miles or many years of time away, is only so within the physical realm. Topics, memories, and personal challenges that have likewise been pushed aside and labeled, “*too difficult,*” are often the first ones to float to the surface when engaging in any sort of spiritual interaction. My personal and ministerial contention is that one must find ways to face, dialog, and come to terms with all that is most deeply disturbing, but to do so in ways that are wisely managed, supported, and perhaps even guided.

Some understandings are so complex that significant amounts of time may be required for one’s mind and a heart to absorb them at all. One might, therefore, choose not to embrace a particular interpretation for a few days or more, in order for the initial reaction to fade and the deeper meaning to float to the surface (so to speak). Some express this as the need to “sit with it for a while.”

Alternatively, a reading may offer “*a wake up call*” related to something important that is being ignored, overlooked, or neglected. In other cases, a reading may relate to a mental or emotional wound that is too fresh, too raw, or too deep to recklessly rush back into its remembered experience. It is entirely possible, therefore, that a reading of the cards may prompt one to pursue a deeper conversation with a mental health professional. Although this does not seem to be a particularly common experience, it is an indication of strength and maturity rather than weakness to do so.

Ultimately, of course, it is entirely the prerogative of the individual how to respond to a reading or even whether to respond at all. At the very least, I would hope that the reading offers good food for thought. At the most, a reading might make certain things clear which previously were not, owing to contextual chaos or confusion. The fundamental goal is nonetheless that whatever effect there is, is basically positive and empowering in one way or another.

May one and all and everything, blessed and loved ever be.



For nearly thirty years of unconventional ministry using symbolism, metaphor, and theatrical devices, the creativity and mystical spirituality of *Sister Who* a/k/a Rev. Denver NeVaar, MTS, has touched the lives of literally thousands of people all over the world. After twenty years of newsletters, four albums of original songs, over four hundred television shows, and three modern “*morality plays*” the diverse resources and contributions necessary to *The Tarot of Sister Who* finally came together.

In keeping with the interfaith, mystical, and inclusive nature of this ministerial work, this new version of the Tarot offers personal empowerment to individuals of any belief system or none. All that is necessary, is an openness to deep and significant personal growth and a willingness to invest the time and effort necessary. As much as we all live

within an amazing universe, there is another one within each of us, waiting to be explored.

May one and all and everything, blessed and loved ever be.