

Space

Sometimes what is missing from a reading is just as important as what is present.

Obviously in a 3 card reading you're not going to see all groups of cards represented. But if a 3 card reading is all one suit, or number, or group of cards there is an intensity there – and that intensity will mean something is missing.

In general, when we are in the middle of reading, in the full flow of the narrative we “expect” to see certain cards, and if they are missing that is highlighting something important.

Asked about love- no cups cards.

Asked about money- no pentacle cards.

Asked about a huge life changing situation- no majors.

Asked about a new start- no lower numbered cards.

And in bigger readings look for the balance and see what's missing.

All the suits but one?

Majors & courts but no minors?

All high numbered cards?

A Tarot deck is 78 cards- yes, the cards that are in the spread are important, but if something is missing that you could expect to see- that is also important.

Space in the question

It can be really easy to stay so focused on specific questions, that you never allow space to touch anything remotely hidden or connected to genuine personal growth. And this applies as much to the reader as to the client.

This is one of the reasons I often start a reading with my reflection spread. It allows the cards to say what the “real” reason my client is here for, which may not always be the questions they are asking.

Its too easy to stick to the same, comfortable life areas.

If your marriage is falling down-only focusing on work may make you feel happier.

If you are miserable in your career, then asking endless questions about a house move can be distracting.

Pay particular attention if you, or your client, only asks about other people and never about themselves.

The best way to guard against being hyper focused on comfort areas to avoid difficult topics is to include questions like;

“What do I need to know right now”

“How can I best move forward at this time?”

“What am I not aware of that is important?”

“How can I best spend this week?”

This gives the cards the space to say what needs to be said, and will allow a lot more space for gentle shadow work in your regular readings (for yourself, and clients.)

Reader, know thyself

When I started my spiritual journey my first teacher was the Druid Emma Restall-Orr. I attended a weekend retreat in her cottage- it was mad, intense, and we definitely didn't get on well! But one of her first pieces of advice has always stuck with me.

Start every spiritual act with a moment of selfcare. If your needs aren't met you may resent meeting someone else's needs, and that changes the whole dynamic.

Whenever I have a few moments before a client I play with my cards. Just shuffling, and having a relaxed “chat” with them. I might ask “how am I doing” or “what do my guides want to say to me right now?”

This regular, playful, non directive way of reading acts as an early warning system for anything that I need to pay attention to.

I'm only human, and a flawed human at that. Sometimes the cards clearly tell me something I'm not ready to hear- and I huff and reshuffle. But at least I know, even if I'm annoyed about it!

Keep it real

Tarot is a secret super power.

It can allow you to be – in the moment- immensely wise, insightful, and even seem to bend the powers of time with accurate predictions.

Its easy to forget we are channels for wisdom, not Gods.

That the cards can't be wrong- but we can be.

We can ask the wrong question.

Interpret the cards in the wrong way.

Or express ourselves in an unhelpful manner.

By ensuring that you keep a fluid, playful relationship with your cards.

By having good friends around you who will be honest, and keep it real.

You can ensure you keep well away from hubris and God-complexes.

And one of the best ways to keep it real is to never stop learning. To understand that the more you learn, the more you appreciate how little you actually know.

When I wrote my Tarot book I thought it was the deepest I could go, the summit of my knowledge. Now here I am exploring concepts I hadn't even thought about when I wrote the book.

Keep learning, keep it real, always acknowledge what you don't know.

When I was training to be a teacher I had one BIG problem. I am an appalling speller. I was nervous about this- writing on the blackboard for a class of primary school children and making mistakes.

My lecturer was clear.

You know you can't spell.

So keep a dictionary on your desk- and model what to do if you can't spell a word.

Not being able to spell is only a problem if you don't admit it and work out how to solve the issue.

I've applied this advice to most things in my life. Keeping it real about what I don't know- to ensure I am always looking to improve my work.