



Denver Tarot Meetup

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Soul of Your Relationship Tarot Spreads

This Valentine’s Day, instead of following the popular route of using tarot to find one’s soul mate, I thought we could look at the soul of our relationships. After some online research, I realized that there’s no one right way to look at relationships or even to define precisely what it is that creates really strong, healthy relationships. But we all can use ways to go deeper into our relationships, heal relationship wounds, understand why our relationships are like they are, and even peek into the future to see what might be coming for us.

The Material Soul of Your Relationship

This spread gives us a divinatory peek into the most important real world qualities of our unknown future partner. It’s fun and light-hearted, but can still bring up some interesting insight into what we value and what we expect from our partners.

The Psychological Soul of Your Relationship

This spread helps us to examine basic elements of interpersonal interaction so that we can understand where we currently are and what we need to address in order to achieve our vision for the relationship. This spread is very helpful in breaking down the components of our relationship so we can get our bearings and rise out of the sticky quagmire of confusion.

The Spiritual Soul of Your Relationship

This spread allows us to create profound soul connections in our current relationships and heal deep wounds from past relationships. It is an Empyrean Key transformational spread, and so is designed to approach our relationships from a place of honesty and awareness while opening ourselves to see the best that’s possible. The Empyrean Key process reduces the insight we get from the spread into a simple symbol or glyph that we can then work with ritually (or playfully) to plant the seeds of our own transformation within ourselves, aligning our being energetically with the healing and soul connection that we desire.

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Joy's Special Tarot Terminology

Analytical or Intentional Draw

An analytical or intentional draw is when you look through the cards face up and pick a card by looking at the picture and making a conscious or analytical choice to use the card.

Random or Intuitive Draw

A random or intuitive draw is when you shuffle the cards face down (or fan them out face down) and select a card randomly, intuitively, or through energetic means.

Synthesis

Compare two or more cards and note any details or visual cues common to each card being compared. Also consider what detail on each card most specifically summarizes the meaning you see in the card. Note such a detail for each card being compared. Now look through the deck for a single card that contains the visual cues you have made note of. This card is the “synthesis” of the other cards. I developed this special technique in August 2008 for the Denver Tarot Geeks.

Highest Expression

Often when we're doing tarot readings, we try to steer a middle course, and not read the cards the way we want them to mean but not read all gloom and doom either. The exercises in the Empyrean Key process provide opportunities to ask the cards to show us our highest self—this is not the same as seeing in the cards what we want to see, but rather allowing the cards—each and every card—to express to us something that is perfectly true, inspiring and transformative about ourselves. I call this the highest expression of the cards.



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The Material Soul of Your Relationship: Tarot Spread for Relationships

This spread gives us a divinatory peek into the most important real world qualities of our unknown future partner.

Day of the Week _____ Date _____ Time _____

Moon Phase _____ Deck _____ Spread Material Soul

Question or Issue You Are Working On: _____

Card 2, Ambition
How successful and driven is your potential partner in work and other endeavors?

2
Ambition

3
Education

Card 3, Education
What is the educational background of your potential partner?

5
Fun

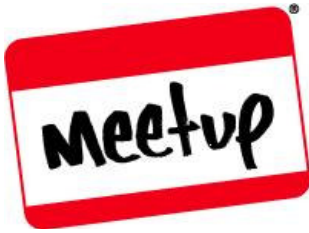
Card 5: Fun
What does your potential partner do for fun and entertainment?

Card 4, Car
What type of transportation does your potential partner favor?

4
Car

1
Looks

Card 1, Looks
What does your potential partner look like?



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The Psychological Soul of Your Relationship: Tarot Spread for Relationships

This spread helps us to examine basic elements of interpersonal interaction so that we can understand where we currently are and what we need to address in order to achieve our vision for the relationship.

Day of the Week _____ Date _____ Time _____

Moon Phase _____ Deck _____ Spread Psychological Soul

Question or Issue You Are Working On: _____

Card 3, Draw Randomly
Conflict: How do you deal with disagreement and dissatisfaction? How does your ability to engage in healthy conflict support your vision?

3-Random
Conflict

2-Random
Trust

Card 2, Draw Randomly
Trust: What are you confident about and trusting of in your relationship? Trust is built over time based on experience. How does your level of trust support your vision?

1-Intentional
Vision

Card 1: Draw Intentionally or Analytically
Looking at the pictures on the cards, choose Card 1 as your ideal vision for how you would like your relationship to be.

Card 5, Draw Randomly
Communication: How do you express yourself in your relationship? How does your communication style support your vision?

5-Random
Communication

4-Random
Emotion

Card 4, Draw Randomly
Emotion: What emotions does this relationship bring up for you? How do you feel about yourself? About the other person? How does your emotional state support your vision?



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The Spiritual Soul of Your Relationship: Empyrean Key Relationship Spread

This spread allows us to create profound soul connections in our current relationships and heal deep wounds from past relationships.

Day of the Week _____ Date _____ Time _____

Moon Phase _____ Deck _____ Spread Spiritual Soul

Question or Issue You Are Working On: _____

Card 2, Draw Randomly

Will: Will or intention is a function of wisdom and is expressed through action. Wisdom, which is knowledge tested through experience, provides the direction for our intentions so that our actions are in alignment with our wise self.

How should we direct our will so that our actions create the best relationship for us?

2-Random
Will

1-Random
Memory

Card 1, Draw Randomly

Memory: Memory is a function of awareness and perception—we remember what we are aware of. By changing or fine-tuning our awareness, we create more immediate experiences that last longer in our memory. **Where should we focus our awareness to create the best memories of this relationship?**

5-Synthesis

Imagination:
The soul potential for this relationship

Card 5: Synthesis

Choose Card 5 by combining visual cues from Cards 1-4. Meditate on Card 5 to find your personal symbol that represents your highest expression of the energy you are working with.

Card 4, Draw Randomly

Intellect: Intellect encompasses our thoughts and beliefs about relationships, our partner, and our self. By changing our mind we change our selves; by stilling our mind we open the door to spiritual awakening and inner peace. **What limiting thoughts must we release to find peace in ourselves and in this relationship?**

4-Random
Intellect

3-Random
Emotion

Card 3, Draw Randomly

Emotion: The primary types of love are *agape* (unconditional love), *eros* (romantic love), *philia* (friendship) and *storge* (affection). **Which type of love most accurately describes this relationship?** Is this in alignment with what you desire? By discerning the emotional soul of your relationship, you better understand its potential.

Draw your symbol here:

Write an affirmation or personal statement based on your symbol that perfectly expresses the highest expression of the energy you are working with.

Last, summarize your personal statement with a single keyword or very short phrase.

The Empyrean Key

The Basic Key

The Empyrean Key process uses tarot to explore our highest potential and then crystallize the insight we receive into a simple symbol or glyph that we can use ritually or playfully to bring our consciousness and energetic being into alignment with our higher self—and the Divine—to create powerful transformation in our lives.

The Empyrean Key is a simple process that can be used with any tarot spread to provide a way to incorporate the insight you receive into your life so that you can achieve the full transformational benefits of your tarot readings.

The Ultimate Key

In its ultimate form, the Empyrean Key method integrates the imagistic communication of the tarot with the astrological blueprint of your life purpose to create personalized spiritual practices aimed at evolutionary transformation. This method is designed to create opportunities to break through blocks while aligning yourself with your higher purpose so that you can achieve your unique perfection.

Translating the details of the astrological natal chart into mythological language arouses what is called archetypal expansion--the inspirational feeling of bursting through to a new level of universal consciousness. This expanded perception feels like arriving at the top of a mountain, where you can clearly see your destination. Then using the concrete methods of the Empyrean Key process, you can climb down from that mountain back to normal consciousness with a roadmap to where you're going.

Ultimately, the Empyrean Key process is designed to allow you to discover, connect to and manifest your soul purpose.

The Story Behind It

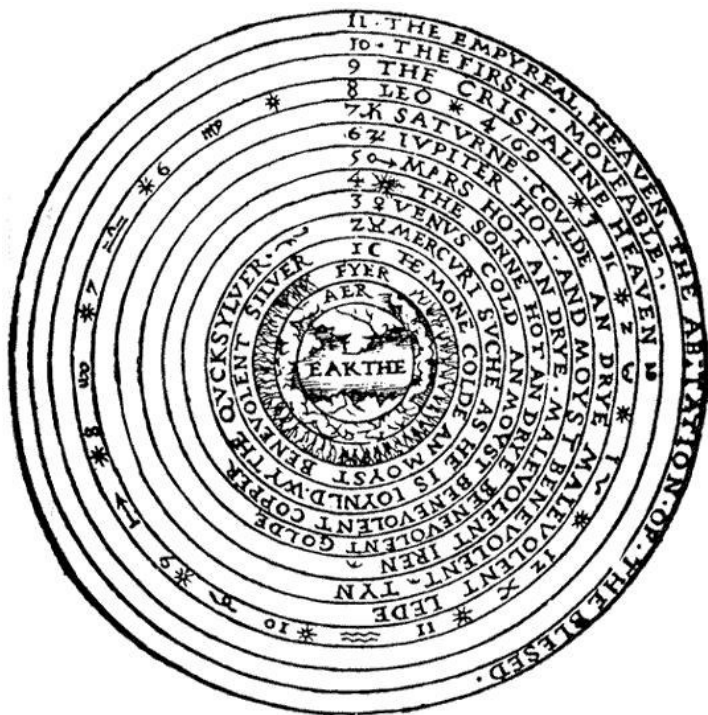
I developed the name Empyrean Key based on the idea of the Empyrean sphere, which was considered the eleventh and highest heaven in medieval cosmology. This was the highest level of the universe, unmoving, perfect, the realm of pure light and the seat of the Divine. The word "key" refers both to a tool for unlocking something previously unavailable, as well as to the Major Arcana of the tarot. Your Empyrean Key is your unique tool for opening the highest levels of your soul purpose.

The Empyrean Key method developed out of my desire to manifest my own soul purpose. After years of study, the tarot had become profoundly useful for me in providing deep insights, but I felt that there was one step further for me to go. I realized I needed to develop a system to translate the insight from tarot into real changes in my life. At the same time, I had started studying astrology and was working to discover how to see my own highest potential in my chart.

I discovered that by combining the two modalities I could use the tarot as a bridge to cross from the eternal archetypes of astrological mythology to the unique simplicity of my mundane personality and back to the highest expression of my soul purpose. By then crystallizing this

shift of perspective into a unique symbol, I could create my own personal tool for transformation.

I believe that because the system is so adaptable and personalized, anybody can benefit from it.



The Empyrean Heaven

This image shows the Ptolemaic cosmology, with the Earth at the center, surrounded by Air and Fire, then the numbered concentric spheres.

Earth
Air
Fire

1. Moon
2. Mercury
3. Venus
4. Sun
5. Mars
6. Jupiter
7. Saturn
8. The Fixed Stars/Zodiac
9. The Crystalline Heaven
10. The First Moveable Sphere (*Primum Mobile*)
11. The Empyrean Heaven

How to Get the Most Out of Your Empyrean Key Symbol

Your symbol translates the conscious work you have done to the subconscious, where the process of transformation begins. The symbol is like a seed, and working with it through ritual and meditation is planting and tending the seed. This is the process I developed as a technique to manifest the insight we receive from the tarot, and, by working in the context of the natal chart, to realize our highest potential.

A few ways to work with your symbol:

- Place your symbol where you can see it often
- Create something using the symbol
- Use it in ritual
- Meditate on it
- Cut out your symbol and tape it to your water bottle
- Place your symbol under your pillow and ask to receive dreams about it
- Get it tattooed on your body (or use a Sharpie!)
- Use icing to decorate cookies or cupcakes with your symbol

Make up your own fun, helpful or crazy ways to make your symbol part of your life!

Practice: Candle Scrying

Ritual to Create Mindful Focus on Your Symbol

This ritual is designed for people who do not have a lot of experience ritualizing for themselves. Ritual does not have to be complicated or mysterious. It is simply a way of connecting your physical self with your spiritual self. The process of bridging the two is accomplished differently for everyone, so never be afraid to try something new or change something around! There are no “rules” to be broken. You are just finding what works best for you, and as long as you put out your intentions with love, they will be returned with love.

Tools

- A small taper candle in the color that best fits your intention (note: a tealight candle will not work for this ritual)
- A toothpick
- Your Empyrean Key symbol, affirmation and keyword

Ritual

Using the toothpick, while repeating your Empyrean Key affirmation out loud, carve your symbol onto one side of the candle.

Now while repeating your Empyrean Key keyword out loud, carve your keyword onto the other side of the candle.

Carve your name into the bottom and the top of the candle.

Holding the candle in both hands, say your affirmation, then your keyword, and then take a deep breath and breathe out slowly and intentionally onto the candle.

Place the candle on a safe burning surface and, saying your affirmation and keyword once more, light the candle.

Let the candle burn all the way down and out. (If you cannot leave the candle burning, simply put it out and then relight it whenever it is safe to do so, repeating until it is completely burned down.)

—Ritual by Rory Joyner

Practice: A Ceremonial Magic Style Ritual

Ritual to Invoke and Balance the Energy of Your Symbol

Find an area indoors or outdoors where you can be undisturbed for a few minutes. There should be enough room to walk in a small circle, or at least turn around with your arm extended. This is your ritual space.

1. Stand in the center of your ritual space facing east. Stand tall with your feet together or shoulder width apart and your hands at your sides. Take several deep breaths to clear and calm yourself.
2. Bring your hands, palms together, in front of your chest in “Namaste” or “prayer position.” Set your intention to call forth or invoke the power of your symbol.
3. From the Namaste position, drop your arms back down to your sides, then on an inhalation with a strong, controlled, sweeping motion, swing your arms above your head while slightly arching your back and looking up. Continue breathing deeply, and for a few moments contemplate your connection to the sky. (This step and the next you may recognize as the beginning of a yoga sun salutation.)
4. On an exhalation, lean forward, arms still extended, back straight, for as far forward as you can go while maintaining a strong and controlled motion. Then drop your hands and round your back until you are hanging comfortably (you can place your hands on your legs for support) or touching the ground. Breathe deeply, and for a few moments contemplate your connection to the earth.
5. Inhaling, roll up slowly vertebra by vertebra while lifting your arms out to the sides, so that your body forms a cross. While reaching out to the sides, look slightly upward and feel your heart open.
6. Exhaling, bring your hands back to Namaste position. Momentarily be aware of all the positions you have just held—above, below, left and right, and centered at the heart.
7. Release your arms to the sides, and then step forward, if you have enough room, to the eastern edge of your ritual space. Extend your arm, and with a pointed finger or with a ritual wand, trace your symbol in the air in front of you. Imagine seeing your symbol glowing in brilliant white light. Say your Keyword in a firm and powerful but not necessarily loud voice. Feel the vibrations of your Keyword filling the space to the east. Alternately, say, “I invoke the power of [Keyword] out of the east and into Unity” or “My [Keyword] is One” or similar.
8. When you feel the vibrations begin to dissipate slightly, with your arm still extended, trace a line around to the south of your ritual space. Again trace your symbol, see it glowing in white light, and vibrate your Keyword or say the alternate line, using the appropriate direction as necessary.
9. Repeat to the west and to the north.
10. From the north, complete the circle by tracing a line back to the east. Then return to the center of your ritual space.
11. Trace your symbol in the air directly in front of you. See it glowing in brilliant white light.
12. Say your Affirmation aloud, firmly and powerfully, but not necessarily loudly.
13. Cup the symbol in your hands and see it glow even more brilliantly. Gently and lovingly bring it in your hands to your heart. Feel the symbol embrace your heart.
14. Feel the whole ritual space filling with white light, as if a skylight opened above you, or as if the sun came out from behind the clouds. Be aware of your symbol glowing brightly in the four directions and in your heart. Bask in the warmth and beauty of this light until you begin to feel it dissipating.
15. Bring your hands to Namaste position, and repeat steps 3 through 6.
16. Say “Thank you” or any common closing you use in your work, such as “Amen” or “So mote it be” or “Blessed be.”
17. This completes the ritual.

The Symbolism Behind the Spreads

To develop these spreads, I first needed a structure that I could base the card position meanings on. I did some online research, but despite finding a number of websites dedicated to helping us understand and build better relationships, I didn't find a single, commonly accepted approach. I realized I would have to consider this from my own personal vantage point, but in a way that could be supported by custom and philosophical basis. Of course, my worldview tends to stem from the kabbalah, so that was my starting point for the spreads.

Playing on the idea of soul mates and soul relationships, I began my search for a structure with the three parts of the soul according to kabbalistic philosophy. The Neshamah is the true soul or higher self, and is attributed to the higher aspirations of the soul. The Ruach is the animating soul or the emotional soul, and corresponds to the mind and reasoning powers. The Nefesh is the soul at rest and is analogous to the animal instincts. I decided to work with the Ruach because it links the Nefesh to Spirit—so the Ruach could be considered to embody the sense of the connection that is experienced through relationship.

When the Ruach is situated on the Tree of Life, it encompasses five sephiroth: Chesed, Geburah, Tiphareth, Netzach, and Hod. According to the paradigms of the Western Mystery Tradition, these sephiroth are equated with Memory, Will, Imagination, Emotion and Intellect. They also correspond to the planets Jupiter, Mars, Sun, Venus and Mercury (see diagram, p. 12). This gave me the structure I needed to create the positional meanings for the spreads.

The spreads look at the Ruach from three different perspectives. The Material Soul Spread looks at the Ruach from the level where it connects to the Nefesh and indicates our most materialistic, sometimes fickle, wants and desires for our relationships. The Psychological Soul Spread uses a perspective that most directly corresponds to the Ruach as the emotional soul and represents our need for true and honest interaction with others. The Spiritual Soul Spread looks at the Ruach as a reflection of the true soul of the Neshamah, where we can through our spiritual connection create our most lasting and profound connections or heal ourselves through our unity with Spirit.

The Material Soul Spread (Page 3)

This was the most fun as I thought about what most people really want to know about an unknown mate. I used the planetary associations to create these positions.

Chesed is Jupiter, which governs education, an important compatibility factor.

Geburah is Mars, which corresponds to desire and ambition—it addresses how successful your potential partner is.

Tiphareth is the Sun, which I thought could represent what your potential mate does to really express him or herself, such as what they most love doing for fun or in their down time.

Netzach is Venus and so certainly gives insight into the most important quality of looks and romantic attraction.

Hod is Mercury, and although I could have gone with communication as in the Psychological

Soul Spread, I thought of Mercury's quick movements and winged shoes and thought, don't we all want to know what kind of car our perfect mate will drive? They say you can tell a lot about a person by the car they drive! It's a fun challenge to try to determine what type of transportation might be symbolized by any particular tarot card.

I hope you can have as much fun using this spread as I did developing it.

The Psychological Soul Spread (Page 4)

For the Psychological Soul Spread, I translated the five sephiroth of the Tree into qualities that can be considered primary elements of strong and healthy relationships. These qualities are Trust, the healthy expression of Conflict, our Vision of the relationship, Emotion, and Communication.

I assigned Trust to the sephirah Chesed. Trust develops over time and is based on experience, like memory. Trust is strongest when Mercy, the quality of the corresponding sephirah, is present. And Trust provides stability in our relationships, appropriate to the numerical association of four.

A healthy expression of Conflict is important for all relationships, and corresponds readily to Geburah, whose title is Severity and planetary ruler is Mars. The numerical association of five corresponds to change, and this is where we most likely must change our ideals to reach a compromise.

Our Vision of a perfect relationship is associated with the sephirah Tiphareth, which corresponds to the heart. The title of Tiphareth is beauty or harmony, and reminds us that when our Vision is based on the harmony of all parties involved, success in the relationship is most easily achieved.

As in the Spiritual Soul Spread, the qualities of Netzach as related to the faculty of emotion apply.

And Hod, associated with the planet Mercury, here is communication, vital to all interpersonal interactions.

The Spiritual Soul Spread (Page 5)

For the Spiritual Soul Spread, I focused on the five faculties of Memory, Will, Imagination, Emotion and Intellect. I interpreted each in its highest expression to explore its most meaningful transformational qualities. These interpretations are included in the brief positional descriptions on the spread directions, page 5.

This spread can be used to heal relationships with a family member or loved one who has passed on or to heal deep wounds by shedding the light of Spirit on them. This spread can also be used to transform our most important relationships into soul-centered connections. It is an Empyrean Key spread and can be used as a basis for transformational ritual work.

The Symbolism Behind the Spreads Diagram: The Ruach

