An Introduction to the *Le Petit Jeu Lenormand* for Tarotists

Exposing that which comes using the 36 symbols of Lenormand

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Agenda

- The origins of the *Le Petit Jeu Lenormand*
- Differentiating Petit Lenormand from Tarot
- Semantics of Lenormand
- The cards in action
- Nine-card “box” spread
- Looking ahead…
  - Cartomancy inserts
  - Grand Tableau
  - Houses
- An example of the Grand Tableau and houses
- Card meanings
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The Origins of Petit Lenormand

- The Petit Lenormand began as a card game called *The Game of Hope*, first published around c. 1800, and was also derived in part from coffee-ground divination.¹
- The pack was rebranded as *Petit Lenormand* around c. 1845 signed by fictitious “Philippe Lenormand,” named after the late *Mlle. Marie Anne Lenormand* (1972-1843).”²
- The enclosed instructions were published in Dutch, French, English, and Slavic — serving as the basis for subsequent sheets published before c. 2000.³
- Petit Lenormand has been widely practiced in Europe for over 150 years.


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Differentiating Petit Lenormand from Tarot

- Each Tarot card is a varied and complex matrix of symbols and imagery.
- Each Lenormand card features a unified concept: a pictograph expressing functional meanings, rather than symbolic.
  - “Tarot is visual...Lenormand is verbal” (Stella Waldvogel)\(^1\)
- Lenormand gets to the basic plotline of a story, while Tarot expresses the themes, underlying psychology, and stimuli involved.
- Both systems feature some similar cards — specifically the celestial cards (i.e., Sun, Moon, and Star[s]) — but the meanings are different.

Consider the Queen of Swords...

The Queen of Swords as an example of how the Tarot is an amalgam of symbols — whereas, each Lenormand card is a single pictographic symbol:

1. Sword: holds the sword of authority
2. Bearded head: held in her left hand suggests fortitude — power over life and death.
   - The beard may signify wisdom; the queen holds both fortitude and wisdom firmly in her grasp
3. Emblem/Breast Plate: winged child (Cherub of Air — wielding ideas into action)

\(^{1}\)Donnaleigh’s Tarot: http://www.divinewhispers.net/lenormandlessons.htm.
Lenormand Images by Ciro Marchetti
Tarot Image by Giordano Berti, Patrizio Evangelisti
The Semantics of Lenormand

The order of the cards is essential to translating the pictographs into a narrative…

Card 1
The noun
The subject
The “what”

Card 2
The adjective
Modifies or describes Card 1

Card 3
Describes or clarifies Card 2
The “resolver”

Card 1 describes Card 2, or Card 2 resolves Card 1. If the two-card combination leaves doubt or uncertainty, pull a third card to clarify Card 2.

Reference: Donnaleigh’s Tarot: http://www.divinewhispers.net/lenormandlessons.htm
The Cards in Action

What does this card combination say?

Letter
Written communication
Email

Man
Male significator

Worry / Anxiety
Stress
Hidden problems

Images by: Robert M. Place; The Burning Serpent Oracle
The Nine-card “Box” Spread

• The nine-card spread expounds on a straight answer line — allowing the reader to unearth hidden themes and indirect influences.
  • $1 + 2 + 3 = \text{the concern}$
    • That which weighs on the subject’s mind; perhaps that which is out of his/her control.
  • $4 + 5 + 6 = \text{the situation}$
    • Series of events; the plotline.
  • $7 + 8 + 9 = \text{the undercurrent}$
    • That which is known or accepted; perhaps that which is in his/her control.
• Then look to the “X” for indirect influences and the “diamond” for the summary.

Source: “The Essential Lenormand” by Rana George
Next Steps…

Begin exploring other aspects of and reading techniques with the *Petit Lenormand*.

- **Cartomancy Inserts:** each card contains a cartomantic insert. The inserts may set the “tone” of each card/suit. Explore the possibilities of incorporating these into your reading technique — or find ways of using these as a mnemonic device or a method for timing.

- **Grand Tableau:** the traditional method for employing all 36 cards. The Grand Tableau allows the reader to explore many aspects of the subject’s life, and it shows how the various topics intersect and influence one another.
  - The concept of *distance* can be effectively used in the Grand Tableau.

- **Houses:** the houses may be employed in a Grand Tableau. Treat each position as the “house” of its corresponding card (e.g., position 9 is the house of the Bouquet/Flowers).
  - Employing houses in a Grand Tableau opens up opportunities for “chaining” and other techniques.
An Example of the Grand Tableau and House Placements
Basic Card Meanings

1. **Horseman**: news, incoming, a visitor or new person entering.
2. **Clover**: “stroke of luck,” fleeting opportunity, a fortunate situation.
3. **Ship**: travel or a move, long distance, trade/commerce, transfer/relocation.
4. **House**: home and hearth, that which is close, immediate family, actual dwelling.
5. **Tree**: physical (and spiritual) body, health, genealogy/lineage, growth.
6. **Clouds**: Confusion, uncertainty, unclear outcome, worry, literally bad weather.
7. **Snake**: danger, deception, malice, jealousy, entanglement, be cautious.
8. **Coffin**: death, defeat, ending, burial, a box or container, transformation.
9. **Bouquet**: display of appreciation, affection, happiness, a gift, joy.
10. **Scythe**: danger, swift cut, separation, accident, violent act, something abrupt.
11. **Whip/Broom**: arguments, strife/fights, discipline or punishment, repetition, the physical, conflict.
12. **Birds**: conversation, chatter, exchange of words, negotiation, gossip.
13. **Child**: a child, something small or new, youth, newness.
14. **Fox**: a trap, shrewd, cunning, strategy; may signify job or career.
15. **Bear**: strength, authority, gathering power, mother figure, nourishment.
16. **Stars**: hope, direction and guidance, internet, spreading out, belief.
17. **Stork**: positive change, transition, change of residence.
18. **Dog**: friend, loyalty, trustworthiness, dedication, reliability and stability.
19. **Tower**: large organization, hierarchy, structure, authority, isolation, superior position.

20. **Garden**: group of people, social event, networking, meetings, public domain.

21. **Mountain**: obstacles, an enemy, challenges, delays, unmovable.

22. **Crossroads**: a split, a decision to be made, opportunity, an impasse.

23. **Mice**: anxiety, worry, stress, hidden problems, nibbling away, nuisances.

24. **Heart**: Love, romance, affinity, a new love interest, connection, enchantment.

25. **Ring**: partnerships, contracts, marriage, commitment.


27. **Letter**: written communication, email, documents, mail, invitations.

28. **Gentleman**: man, male significator.

29. **Lady**: woman, female significator.

30. **Lilies**: wisdom, slowness, maturation, peace, equanimity, sexuality.

31. **Sun**: a resounding “yes,” success, happiness, energy, warmth, enlightenment, daytime.

32. **Moon**: muse, recognition, emotion, intuition, lunar cycle, artistry, nighttime.

33. **Key**: epiphany, the right direct, a sign, something opens or closes, the “green light,” the solution to the issue.

34. **Fish**: commerce, windfall, money source, small business, movement, water or body of water, opportunity.

35. **Anchor**: steadfastness, steady work, security, longevity, stability, deep.

36. **Cross**: suffering, pain, guilt, sorrow, religion, faith, a difficult period.
Published Resources

Books


DTM files


Websites and blogs


• Donnaleigh’s Tarot: [http://www.divinewhispers.net/lenormandlessons.htm](http://www.divinewhispers.net/lenormandlessons.htm).

• Fennario’s Weblog: [http://fennario.wordpress.com](http://fennario.wordpress.com/).

• Helen Riding’s Lenormand Dictionary: [http://lenormanddictionary.blogspot.com](http://lenormanddictionary.blogspot.com/).

• Learn Lenormand™: [http://learnlenormand.com](http://learnlenormand.com/).

• Mary Greer’s Tarot Blog: [http://marygreer.wordpress.com](http://marygreer.wordpress.com/).