

# A Tarot Path to Wisdom in Twenty-One Cards

Joseph D'Agostino's *Tarot: The Path to Wisdom* (1976, 1994)

7	6	5	4	3	2	1
14	13	12	11	10	9	8
21	20	19	18	17	16	15

“This method of divination offers greater freedom in interpretation. . . . In our analysis we perceive and amplify predominating elements—positive and negative, conscious and unconscious. . . . Memorization of the general meanings of the cards, combined with a fertile imagination, is suggested and required in any operation conducted. Practice makes perfect, and as you do so, accuracy in your interpretations will develop.” – Joseph D’Agostino

TALLY OF ELEMENTS			
<i>Fire</i>	<i>Water</i>	<i>Air</i>	<i>Earth</i>

Tally up the number of cards associated with each element. Wands are Fire; Cups are Water; Swords are Air; and Pentacles/Disks are Earth. If you’re not familiar with the elemental correspondences in the Majors, find a reference table for assistance.

**FIRE DOMINANT:** Born with a highly specialized artisanal skill; determined, willful, passionate nature. Proud, generous, vengeful, brave. Natural explorer. Extraverted.

**WATER DOMINANT:** Stronger connection to the spiritual, emotional, or psychological side; compassionate, intuitive nature; introverted. Pacifist, shy, defensive.

**AIR DOMINANT:** More academic nature; ideas-driven; a challenger; risk-taker, articulate, persuasive, rational-based; can be combative; extraverted. Willful; opinionated.

**EARTH DOMINANT:** Strong sense of independence. Self-reliant; resourceful, careful, diligent; can be too cautious; introverted. Pensive, can be insecure, diplomatic.

Tally up the composition of each row by Majors and suits. If **MAJORS dominant**, in this prong of the Querent’s life path, there were many extenuating circumstances and forces that had an impact on the Querent well beyond that Querent’s personal control. The dominant suit after the dominance of Majors will reveal the nature of those extenuating circumstances. For example, if Cups dominate, then those extenuating circumstances had a Watery influence or metaphysical correspondence.

If **WANDS dominant**, in this prong of the Querent's life path, professional or personal development was the focus; enterprising nature; cultivating a highly specialized skill or art. If **CUPS dominant**, emotions arising from interpersonal relationships dominate, family or romantic relations tended to govern life situations, and life lesson would have related to spiritual development. If **SWORDS dominant**, greater difficulties, conflicts, and controversies; societal pressures; can also indicate the fields of science, math, technology, or media and communications. If **PENTACLES/DISKS dominant**, economic, financial, business, or physiological concerns are front and center during this prong of the Querent's life path. Matters relating to a sense of security, money matters, investments, land and property, or physical health are of predominant impact on Querent's situations.

**THE PAST** OR First Critical Stage of Life Path: Early Childhood to First Saturn Return

21	20	19	18	17	16	15
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TALLY OF ELEMENTS				
Majors	Wands	Cups	Swords	Coins

If the intention is a general reading, then this row signifies the past leading up to the present point. If it is a "big picture" life path reading, then this designates the first critical stage of life, up to the late 20s, early 30s.

**THE PAST** | Interpret the narratives formed from each separate element.

READING NOTES

**EARLY CHILDHOOD INFLUENCES** | Reading Notes

17	16	15
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**THE PRESENT** OR Second Critical Stage of Life Path: Early 30s to Early 60s

14	13	12	11	10	9	8
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TALLY OF ELEMENTS				
<i>Majors</i>	<i>Wands</i>	<i>Cups</i>	<i>Swords</i>	<i>Coins</i>

This row signifies what's going on in the different areas of life in the present. Wands indicate career matters, Cups indicate relationship matters, etc. In a life path reading, this designates middle-age.

**HAPPENINGS IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS STILL ONGOING TODAY**

10	9	8
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**KEY POINTS SUMMARY**

**READING NOTES**

**MAJOR FORCES AT PLAY THEMATIC IN LIFE PATH**

Focus on just the Major Arcana cards in this row and interpret what major forces are presently at play. If there are no Majors here, which suit dominates and what does that say about the major themes at play right now?

**READING NOTES**

## **CAREER, ENTERPRISES, PROFESSIONAL PURSUITS**

D'Agostino also attributes the Wands suit to beginnings, and what's commencing. I interpret this as what's new to the Querent's present lifetime (in comparison to past life incarnations of the Querent). Wands can also indicate the Querent's level of vitality.

READING NOTES

## **MAIN THEMES & EXPERIENCES IN LOVE & ROMANCE**

The suit of Cups in general denotes the emotional plane, so it applies broadly to our relationships, not just the relationships we have with others that are of the most importance to us (romantic partners, family, close friends, etc.), but also our relationship with ourselves. Thus, Cups cards also relate to personal spirituality.

READING NOTES

**KEY SOCIAL CONFLICTS** | The Swords in the Present row will reveal the key actions going on right now. These Swords cards can also reveal the prevailing conflicts the Querent is facing. According to D'Agostino, Swords cards indicate the main challenges.

READING NOTES

## **MONEY & PROPERTY MATTERS, PHYSICAL HEALTH**

Cards from the suit of Pentacles (Coins or Disks) in the Present row will gauge the situational temperature of the Querent's finances, property matters, and/or even physical health, i.e., what's going on with the body. Pentacles cards in the Past row reveal the economic circumstances the Querent was born into, which can be considered in comparison with the Present row. Pentacles cards in the Future show what's up ahead. Read Pentacles cards in all rows in context to understand the Pentacles of the Present.

### **READING NOTES**

## **THE PRESENT | Summary of Present Climate in Querent's Life Path**

### **READING NOTES**

## THE FUTURE OR Third Critical Stage of Life Path: Entering Retirement to Twilight Years

7	6	5	4	3	2	1
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### TALLY OF ELEMENTS

<i>Majors</i>	<i>Wands</i>	<i>Cups</i>	<i>Swords</i>	<i>Coins</i>

In a general reading, this row indicates the future to come, with Cards 1, 2, 3 being “fixed” as foreseen consequences of already-decided actions. In a life path reading, these are the twilight years.

### CAUSAL CONNECTIONS TO THE MUTABLE FUTURE

Cards 5, 6, and 7 indicate the mutable future that can still be changed. They are mere forecasts based on what has occurred so far and the personality disposition of the Querent. Cards 12, 13, and 14 are present circumstances where decisions made will have the most impact on Cards 5, 6, and 7. Cards 19, 20, and 21 are from the Querent’s past that are still lingering influences on the future.

7	6	5
14	13	12
21	20	19

### READING NOTES

## THE FUTURE | Summary of Forecasts of the Future to Come

**LIFE PURPOSE** | Card 18 relates to childhood aspirations and inner-most dreams or ambitions of what the Querent seeks to achieve. Card 11 relates to what the Querent has done in the Present in furtherance of Card 18. Card 4 is a revelation of how the Querent might actualize those childhood aspirations and fulfillment of life purpose.

READING NOTES

4

11

18

What patterns emerge from these four cards? "I see..." and complete that sentence with a dominant color. "I feel..." and complete that sentence with an overall emotion or feeling.

4

3

2

1

READING NOTES