

Class 22 – Celtic Cross

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1. Preparation for This Class

- *Video Clips:* Celtic Cross, Someone Pushing on Reading

2. About the Celtic Cross

The Celtic Cross, also called the Gnostic Cross, is a type of Tarot reading that gives you a character sketch or personality profile of the person you are reading. The Celtic Cross is like a photograph or stop action picture of a person, a cross section or slice of their life. This type of reading is useful for people, animals or any kind of animate beings but not for situations. The Celtic Cross does not answer specific questions – the 12 Card reading, which we'll cover in the next class, is better for that. It can be useful to throw a Celtic Cross reading on someone to get a foundational idea of who you are dealing with before you throw a more detailed 12 Card reading.

3. Keeping Your Deck Random

Once you have put your deck in natural order and keyed each card you'll want to shuffle it 50 times or more. When you split the deck to shuffle, turn half of the deck 180° so that the tops of the cards are at the shuffling edge. This, along with 50 shuffles, randomizes the deck. It's important to always keep your deck randomized from this point on, which means that you never deliberately re-sequence your deck between readings (we recommend that you shuffle your deck once between readings). If you ever re-sequence your deck you'll need to shuffle it at least 50 times again to put it back in random order.

Keeping your deck in random order allows your readings to utilize the laws of synchronicity, which state that a cause in the past creates a predictable condition in the present, which allows us to predict an outcome in the future. This is also called a cause-effect chain. When you re-sequence your deck you put limitations on it and prevent the laws of synchronicity from operating in your readings.

4. Choosing a Signifier

As discussed in the previous class a signifier is a card from the Tarot deck that is selected to represent a person, situation or object. For Celtic Cross readings the signifiers represent only people since these readings can only offer information about people, not situations. The signifier is chosen on the basis of a person's age, astrological sun sign and sex (for adults). Remember that maturity as well as chronological age must be taken into account when choosing a signifier. Here is a summary of signifiers for review:

<u>Signifiers for People</u>	
Page	Conception to teenagers
Knight	Teenagers
Queen	Adult female
King	Adult male

If you do not know the person's sun sign you can use their basic elemental makeup and apparent age to select several possible signifiers. Then you can use your pendulum to pick the correct signifier. You can also put the possible signifiers on your plate and put your output hand over each card. The one that is the hottest or has the most energy is the correct signifier. Some people also use visual clues to pick the signifier – the card that appears the brightest or sharpest is usually the correct signifier.

We use signifiers to orient the deck to the topic of the reading. If you don't use a signifier the reading may be meaningful but not related to your intended topic.

5. Materials Needed for Readings

You will need certain materials to perform a safe and effective reading, whether it's a Celtic Cross or 12 Card reading. You should already have most of these materials from previous weeks.

- Keyed tarot deck
- Keyed plate
- Sun candle

- Wisdom and protection candles (2 candles) – white, sun yellow, or powder blue – the candles should be the same color
- Matches
- Book of Shadows to record reading
- Braided sweet grass (optional)

6. Quick Note on Wisdom and Protection Candles

The Wisdom and Protection candles protect your reading from outside influences and your own opinions and beliefs. Wisdom, the candle to the right of the reading, prevents you from controlling, coercing, or tampering with the reading. It also keeps your self-importance, beliefs or opinions about the reading out. Protection, the candle to the left of the reading, keeps the person being read or anyone else from tampering with the reading or hitting you energetically while you are doing the reading.

You can use white, powder blue or sun yellow candles. Wisdom and Protection candles are usually but not always the same color. Occasionally you may want to use grass green candles to ward off earthy influences. Water candles don't work well because they tend to stifle the air energies you need for wisdom and understanding in throwing and interpreting a good reading.

Any two candles in the same area will trade energies, which is why we light both the Wisdom and Protection candles from the same match – it creates a fire loop. You may notice the whole area in and around the reading gets brighter when you create the fire loop. This doesn't happen when you light the candles with separate matches.

7. Doing a Celtic Cross Reading

Refer to the diagram and instructions below as you do your Celtic Cross Reading.

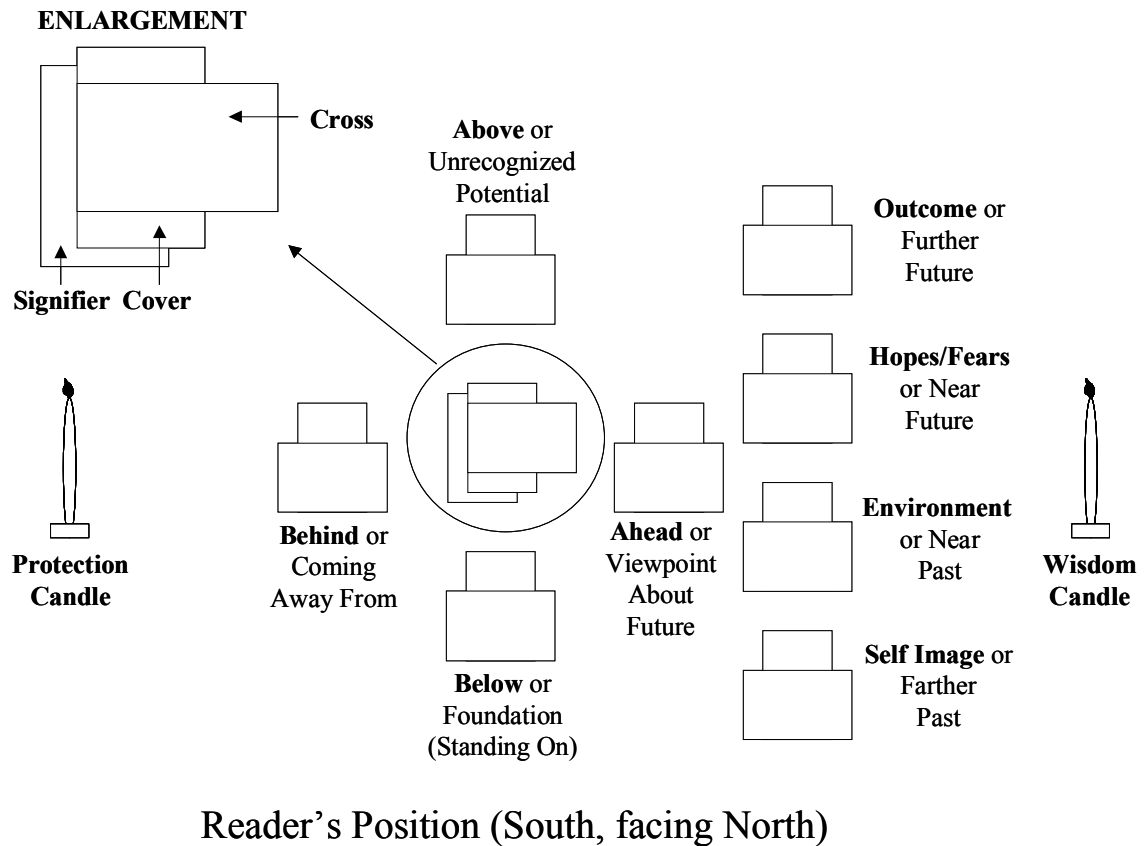


Figure 22.1

1. Sit in the south facing north. If you are reading for someone who is present they should sit opposite you.
2. Light and charge your sun candle.
3. Place your wisdom and protection candles on either side of the reading space as shown in Figure 22.1 above.
4. Make sure that your deck is properly randomized, that it has been shuffled at least 50 times if this is your first time to use your deck, and shuffled at least once between each reading.
5. Determine the appropriate signifier for the reading (the person's sun sign). Holding the person you are reading in your focus (not necessarily looking at them), turn cards over onto your plate from the top of the deck (note that you will always use the same method of "dealing" cards) until you find that person's signifier. Set the signifier aside for a moment, and re-unite the cards

on the plate with the rest of the cards in the deck, being careful to put them back in the same direction they were in before you dealt them.

6. Move the deck off your plate and place the signifier upright on your plate. Look at the card intently, again holding the person being read in mind, until the card windows. This is called keying the signifier.
7. Place the signifier upright between the Wisdom and Protection candles, as shown in Figure 22.1.
8. Light a match from your sun candle, and first light the Wisdom candle (on your right), then your Protection candle (on your left), then go back across to your wisdom candle to close the loop (see Figure 22.2 below).

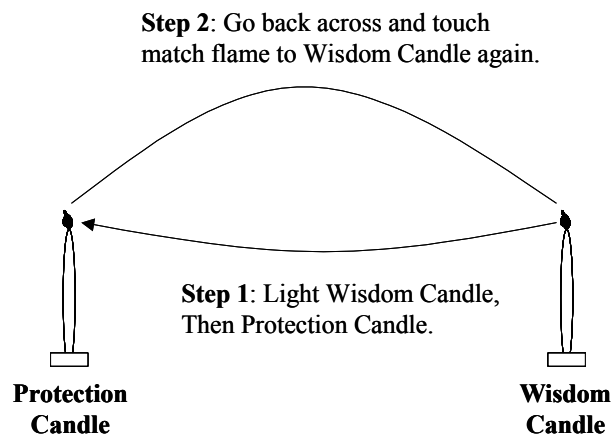


Figure 22.2

9. Watch the candles and wait for both to reach a tall working flame before proceeding. If the Wisdom candle is dampened, it indicates that you are pushing on the reading. Relax and breathe – don't focus on the outcome of the reading, just do it. If either the Protection candle or both candles are dampened or flickering it can indicate that someone else is pushing on the reading. Take one candle in each hand and simultaneously draw a lemniscate with each candle (one in front of the other) then set the candles back in place. The flames should return to normal (see the video clip "Someone pushing on reading").
10. If desired, light braided sweet grass on your Wisdom candle until it smokes and draw a circle clockwise, moving the sweet grass to your left through the flame of the Protection candle, out away from you and back through the flame of the Wisdom candle. Make 3 complete circuits. You may need to relight the sweet grass several times on the candles to keep the smoke going. This clears the space of junky energies.
11. If the person being read is present, ask them to, "Shuffle the deck at least 3 times or more until it feels right." Make sure they shuffle Las Vegas style, or

- end to end so that the cards have a chance to change their direction in the deck. If the cards “jam” while the person is shuffling it can indicate that the person is nervous. Ask them to breathe and relax. If the person is not present you will shuffle for them again, keeping them firmly in mind.
12. Once they are done ask them to cut the deck into three piles with their left (heart) hand and place the piles in a row on the reading space in front of you. If the person is not present you will do this step for them.
 13. With your right (head or intellect) hand feel the three piles for heat or energy. Pick up the hottest pile or the pile with the most energy first, then the second hottest pile below the first pile, then the last pile. Note: You may have to “push” a little fire energy at the piles at first to feel the energy.
 14. Deal the Above, Below, Ahead, and Behind base cards (cards on the bottom) in any order you like. Just remember the order in which you dealt them, as you will use the same order when you come back later to lay down the second cards.
 15. Next, deal the vertical column on the right side of the reading (the time column) from bottom to top (always from bottom to top!).
 16. Deal second cards onto the Above, Below, Ahead, and Behind cards in the same order you dealt the base cards.
 17. Deal the second cards onto the vertical time column from bottom to top.
 18. Place the cover card over and to the right of the signifier.
 19. Place the cross card as a second card over the cover card.
 20. Place the rest of the deck on your plate.
 21. Record the reading in your Book of Shadows (see the template in the homework section) before you begin interpreting the reading. You will want to record the date, time, and full name of the person being read, the person’s sun sign, the signifier used, and the question asked in the reading. You record the readings because you may inadvertently affect something (remember that your deck is tied into the Universe) so you want to have a record to go back to. A lot of people tape the reading or take notes.

8. All Based Cards Reversed

If you throw a reading in which all the base cards are reversed the reading is telling you that either the time isn’t right to do a reading or you have picked the wrong signifier. To determine if you have the wrong signifier pick another signifier (using the methods discussed earlier) and throw the reading again. If all the base cards are still reversed pick up the reading and wait 24 hours before throwing another one.

In this case it could mean that the person you are reading is at a crossroads, where all probabilities are equal, so the reading would be meaningless until the person changes something.

Sometimes all reversed base cards indicate that your deck is energetically dirty. To clean a dirty deck put the cards back in natural order, do a four element cleansing on both sides of each card. Next lay each card on your plate and wipe it with electric blue from your athame. Finally, shuffle the deck 50 times again to put it back into random order. You do not have to re-key the cards.

9. Interpreting Your Reading

You can interpret a Celtic Cross reading in any order, meaning you can determine the meaning of the pairs of cards in each position (above, below, etc.) in any order. People often start with the cover and cross since they summarize the positive and negative aspects of the entire reading.

To interpret the pairs of cards use this rule of thumb: The base card is always the general situation, where the second card is always the particular manifestation or specific details or refinement of the situation. For instance, if you had a 7 Swords Rx (reverse) base card seconded by a 5 Wands in the above position, it would indicate that the person often unknowingly loses a lot of power arguing over or defending beliefs or opinions. The 7 Swords Rx indicates the loss of power or force while the 5 Wands indicates the way in which the person loses power (through arguing or fighting about beliefs and opinions).

Use the definitions below to interpret the meaning of each position in the reading.

- **Cover and Cross:** The cover and cross cards are the summation of the reading. If the cover card is upright, it is the positive summation of the reading and the cross card is the negative summation of the reading. If the cover card is reversed, it is the negative summation of the reading and the cross card is the positive summation of the reading. If you don't have time to interpret the entire reading for someone look at the cover and cross for a summation. The cover card can predict an actual event. The cross card, if it is the negative summation, indicates factors that can block the positive aspects indicated in the cover card from working properly.
- **Behind:** The behind position indicates what the person is leaving behind or wants to get rid of. It can also indicate the history or types of situations that happened in the person's past. There is no time factor in this position so the events could have happened yesterday or in a past life. This position can also indicate the window or condition through which the entire situation depicted in the reading has manifested.

- Below: The below position is the foundation position, the point of departure, the take-off point for the reading. It tells you what the person is standing on, what forms the bedrock of his or her life. It's not the cause of the reading but the foundation.
- Above: The above position generally indicates an unrecognized potential, which may or may not actualize. You can compare the cards in this position to the ones in the outcome position at the top of the time column. If the cards are similar then the potential is likely to actualize. The person may also have been worrying or thinking about the situation indicated in this position. The potential may or may not be useful. It hangs in the balance – it can be avoided or actualized.
- Ahead: The ahead position is the future, as the person being read perceives it. It's their viewpoint, which may or may not be true. This position indicates how the person is looking at the future and what they think will happen. To see how accurate this is compare the cards in this position with the cards in the outcome position (at the top of the time column).

Time Column: The time column (on the right side of the reading) can be interpreted either as a timeline or a set of environmental and internal conditions that affect the person. You can read it either or both ways. The length of time depicted in the time column depends on your "reach" as a reader. The more you practice throwing and interpreting readings the farther your reach becomes. In the beginning you may have only a four-month reach between the far past (bottom card) and far future (top card). You can check your reach by comparing the events indicated with actual events in the person's life.

- Far Past or Self Image: This is the bottom position in the time column. The self-image is also the far past because our self-image is created from our history. When the base card in this position is reversed the person's view of themselves is wrong and the opposite is actually true. For instance, if the cards indicate that the person has a self-image centered around weakness or lack of force, the truth is that the person could be forceful and powerful.
- Near Past or Environment: This position is the second position from the bottom in the time column. The environment always consists of the time period from the near past to the present. This position indicates how the person's environment is affecting them and whether they are relating positively or negatively to their environment. It indicates whether environmental factors are helping or hindering a person.
- Near Future or Hopes and Fears: This position is the second position from the top in the time column. If the base card is reversed it tells you the person's fears and that the person lives more in their fear than in their hope. An upright base tells you the person's hopes and that they are an optimist. Hopes and fears are mirror opposites of each other.

- Far Future or Outcome: This position is at the top of the time column. It indicates the net outcome of the reading **if nothing changes**. Remember that the point of doing a reading is to change anything that you don't like.

Though you always need to throw a complete layout to get an accurate reading, you don't always have to interpret every position. Start with the cover and the cross to see the summation of the readings, then move to the other positions. To make your readings highly reliable and effective always use a signifier and the wisdom and protection candles.

10. Exit Ritual

For your Exit Ritual, Day Greetings and Day Endings (6 directions) this week use

“In Seeing.”

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