Preparing your Tarot and Oracle cards for use

Most of the objects which we may use magically will have at some point be handled by another person or will have stored energy from their surroundings. When you acquire goods to use magically, be it sourced from nature or purchased from a shop it will hold an energy and whilst the energy may be a positive one, it is in my opinion always advisable to cleanse and bless the objects. Cleansing and blessing your objects not only cleanses of any residue energy but also infuses with your own energies.

When I have acquired a tarot or oracle deck, be if gifted or purchased, I personally like to cleanse and bless before I use the deck. There are many variations on how you can cleanse and bless items, below are methods which I have found to work for me.

I would remove any packaging from the cards and spread the deck out on a velvet cloth used specifically for use with my tarot cards. I then cleanse with either the smoke of a smudge stick or suitable incense and whilst I am smudging, I imagine any negative energy leaving the cards as whisps of black energy. Sometimes I may chant whilst cleansing with a chant such as ‘I rid these cards of any negative energy and allow the energies to disperse with no harm to anyone. I infuse these cards with a light, pure energy of my own.

If the weather is dry and there is a full moon, I have placed my card deck [again with any plastic packaging etc removed] on a windowsill where the energies of the moon can cleanse and charge the cards ready for use.

There are other ways of preparing your cards, but these are my preferred methods.

Here is a favourite way of blessings cards when new or when I feel the need to re-bless and re-dedicate. I would perform this under either a full moon or a new moon and I would perform this ceremony in a sacred space. I like to use herbs which offer the energetic vibration required for the task in hand and for this ceremony I would choose to burn Yarrow. Yarrow is an ancient herb which is revered not only for its spiritual connections but also for its protective properties. I like to burn my herbs on a charcoal disk but again it is important to use what feels right for you.

Having created the sacred space and having lit my candle and incense I quietly sit with the deck in my hands and make a personal connection with them. I do this by feeling the energy of the cards and being aware of how the energy feels in my body. In my mind’s eye I imagine the deck being filled with a beautiful white light and then I state, ‘I bless this deck that it will enlighten and empower the visions and guidance which I seek and that it brings strength and direction, so mote it be’. I then pass the deck through the smoke of the Yarrow until I feel that the task is complete.

Yarrow increases the psychic senses which makes it the perfect herb to use when preparing the deck. When you have completed the ceremony give thanks and snuff out the candle and safely store the deck. New cards I will place under my pillow at night for a week and will take the time to become familiar with the deck, I will often meditate on each individual card over a period of time.

If the deck is used by others or in a reading for others, I would at the end of the session/day, re cleanse the deck and re dedicate/bless.

And there you have it! However, I would always advice to work with the energy which presents at the time and trust in any messages from your guides.

Blessed Be