

The mysteries of tarot cards can't easily be explained

The month of October is winding down and so is our Salute to the Unusual. People are drawn to the unexplained. The world is full of mysterious and hard-to-explain incidents. For most of us a mystery is like a magnet — we want answers and logi-

cal explanations. Sometimes though, logic does not rule. As a child, the Ouiji Board was a taboo item brought out at slumber parties when we were feeling brave. What spirit might we awaken with this board that just might be a link between our

world and the afterworld? The board was just a game to us, not to be taken seriously. Some people though, fear this board game and it has even been studied at university level to determine its hold on some individuals. Three thousand years ago, before Christ, the tarot cards were invented by a man to determine the status of his life and the prediction of his future. Much closer in time, Sigmund Freud used the cards to see the path his life was taking and the obstacles he might face. Along with friend Melissa, we set out to meet Barbara Newman, a tarot card reader who resides in Markham. During her years of psychology studies at York University, Barbara heard of Freud's use of the tarot cards. Before you could say

Queen of Hearts, Barbara was doing readings for her university colleagues at a cafeteria table.

Upon meeting Barbara, I set out to reveal the truth about these cards that raise such fear and foreboding in so many people. Just mentioning that I was investigating this subject brought out repeated warnings that this was one subject not to be taken lightly.

I asked Barbara where she felt the fear came from. Tarot cards are an instrument, Barbara explained, just like a knife. You can carve a turkey with it, or you could do something destructive with it. It is all in the way you use it. Used in positive ways, tools can help people put their lives in perspective, Barbara said.

She admitted tarot cards are a mystery she does not understand, she just accepts them and doesn't question them. I tried, but many times during Melissa's reading I wondered how they worked.



Rural Route Ruth
Ruth LeBlanc

Laying out the cards that Melissa had shuffled, Barbara interpreted them and the reading began. With amazement, our cool exteriors disappeared. Barbara told of changes occurring in Melissa's life and little-known facts she certainly had no other way of knowing.

Barbara in her gentle and quiet way next read my cards. To say the least, if the predictions are right, I am in for a bumpy road over the next little while.

When I came into her house she said it was like meeting Zena Warrior Princess — I am apparently a powerful presence. When I told the Big Guy this he just smiled and said that he already knew!

Some of the things Barbara told me were little and insignificant but were certainly true in my life and would not be in others. That I found mystifying.

Tarot cards are, Barbara reminded me, a mystery, and one which has endured for three thousand years.

She just accepts them as they are.



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