

Thoth and the Tarot:

The Amazing Secrets

Douglass A. White

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Cover Art: In the upper right corner is a drawing of Thoth. The glyphs read "Tekhuti, Thrice Great". In the lower left corner is a sketch of the Tree of Life, showing the Ten Sephiroth and with Phoenician letters marking the 22 Paths.

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***Highly Recommended:** The Rider-Waite version of the Tarot deck. You will find this deck extremely useful when you study the Tarot Card layouts and descriptions provided in this book. Much of the book's material refers to the drawings by Pamela Colman Smith made under the direction of Arthur Waite that form the Rider-Waite deck.

***Also Highly Recommended:** The Builders of the Adytum version of the 22 Major Arcana. These drawings by Jessie Burns Parke under the direction of Paul Foster Case are well executed and frequent mention of them is made in this book.

***Also Recommended:** The deck designed by Oswald Wirth.

*Publication details are in the References at the back of the book.

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to Thoth and all the great magicians and alchemists who have kept this knowledge alive over the countless millennia and who brought to the world the technology of enlightenment and the technology of preserving and teaching the Secrets -- the cards, the symbols, and the art of printing. I feel special gratefulness toward my grandmother (Franziska Raabe) -- a poet, musician, psychic, and teller of cards. As a child I watched with curiosity as she laid out her ordinary poker deck and muttered her readings in a mixture of German and English. She only showed me a few things about what she was doing, most of which I later forgot, but she was my first inspiration and induction into the mystery of the cards. My mother (Franziska Parkinson) -- another musician, and music director at a Jewish temple, enticed me into singing in her choir for a while. This started me learning the rudiments of Hebrew. Dennis Dowell, proprietor of the Oracle Tarot Shoppe, first introduced me to the Tarot cards and showed me how he did readings. From there I acquired dozens of decks and a library of books on the subject. My spiritual guides awakened in me the direct experience of Life. I am especially grateful to Babaji. He showed me so many of the Secrets of the Åakhu that have become the contents of this book. If you are interested in exploring some of their amazing pathways to enlightenment, you will find mention of them occasionally in the course of the book or in the reference materials. My academic mentors tried to teach me the essentials of scholarship. My wife has put up with my unusual research and has contributed in many subtle ways to making this work possible. Although these and many others -- especially my many wonderful students -- inspired me, I nevertheless have always stubbornly followed my own Star. As a result I must take responsibility for all the contents of this book.

The study of the history, content, and application of the Tarot is a vast and mysterious subject that ranges over the whole world and over long stretches of the human experience. Much of its development unfolded either in secret enclaves of Wizards or among the vagaries of the common people as they entertained themselves over the ages. Therefore I welcome any corrections or suggestions or further details on the subject and will include interesting new information in future editions of this work. Please feel free to contact me at Dept. T, email address: deltapt@ms19.hinet.net.

*Douglass A. White
Yung-ho, Taiwan
June, 2004*

"Imagine the surprise that the discovery of an Egyptian book would cause if we heard it said that a work of the ancient Egyptians still existed in our time -- one of the books saved from the flames which consumed their superb libraries -- and which contained their purest beliefs regarding interesting things. Everyone would, no doubt, be eager to know such a precious and extraordinary book. If we added that this book is in very general use in a large part of Europe and that it has been in the hands of everyone for a number of centuries, it certainly would be surprising were it to be believed. Wouldn't it be the greatest surprise, if we vouched that we have never suspected that the book was Egyptian, and that we own it without really owning it because we have never tried to decipher one page of it, or to look upon the fruit of its exquisite wisdom as anything more than the accumulation of foolish figures meaning nothing in themselves? Wouldn't it be thought that we are trying to insult the intelligence of this audience?

"This Egyptian book does exist. This Egyptian book is all that remains in our time of their superb libraries. It is even so common that not one scholar has condescended to bother with it since no one before us has ever suspected its illustrious origin, . . . In a word this book is the game of Tarot, a game, unknown in Paris, it is true, but very well known in Italy, Germany, and even in Provence. This game is bizarre because of the kinds of figures appearing on its cards as well as their great number. . . ."

-- Antoine Court de Gebelin

-- **Tarot Classic**, 34-36

Gebelin was wrong in many of the details of his hypothesis when he tried to argue his case. But read on, and you may be surprised at some amazing new findings that may well vindicate Gebelin as a man of remarkable intuitive vision.

My hair is the hair of Nu. My face is the face of the Disk. My eyes are the eyes of Hathor. My ears are the ears of Up-uat. My nose is the nose of Khenti-Khabas. My lips are the lips of Anpu. My teeth are the teeth of Serqet. My cheeks are the cheeks of the goddess Isis. My hands are the hands of Ba-neb-Tet. My forearms are the forearms of Neith, the Lady of Sais. My backbone is the backbone of Suti. My phallus is the phallus of Beba. My reins are the reins of the Lords of Kher-ah.a. My chest is the chest of Aa-shefit. My belly and back are the belly and back of Sekhmet. My buttocks are the buttocks of the Eye of Horus. My hips and legs are the hips and legs of Nut. My feet are the feet of Ptah. My fingers and my toes are the fingers and toes of the Living gods. There is no member of my body which is not the member of a god. . . . I am he who cometh forth advancing, whose name is unknown. I am Yesterday. "Seer of Millions of Years" is my name. I pass along, I pass along the paths of the divine celestial judges. I am the Lord of Eternity; I decree and I judge like Khepera. . . . I am Un-Nefer, from one period even unto another, and what I have is within me. I am the only One, who proceedeth from an only One, who goeth round about in his course. . . . I open the door in heaven. I rule my throne. I open the way for the births which take place on this day. I am the child who traverseth the road of Yesterday. I am To-day for untold nations and peoples. I am he who protecteth you for millions of years. . . . I am "He who cannot be known" The might of my strength is within my hand, I am not known by thee, but I am he who knoweth thee. I cannot be held in the hand, but I am he who can hold thee in his hand. Hail O Egg! Hail, O Egg! I am Horus who liveth for millions of years, whose flame shineth upon you, and bringeth your hearts unto me. I am master of my throne. I advance at this season. I have opened a path. I have delivered myself from all evil things. I am the golden dog-headed ape, three palms and two fingers high, which hath neither arms nor legs, and which dwelleth in H.et-ka-Ptah.. I go forth as goeth forth the dog-headed ape which dwelleth in H.et-ka-Ptah.. (The House of the Opener of the Ka).

-- **Book of the Dead**, Papyrus of Ani, Chapter XLII. (Translated by Wallis Budge.)

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Preface/Postface: What is Intuition?

(Read or reread the following section after you read the book.)

We play with the Tarot to have fun and develop intuition. We know what fun is, but what is intuition? The **American Heritage** dictionary calls it “immediate cognition”. Let’s explore. The Tarot is intimately associated with the letters of the Hebrew language. Hebrew words are written with Hebrew letters. All alphabets of the world evolved from the Phoenician/Hebrew alphabet. How many communications in the world today depend on letters of the alphabet? As the key to understanding the alphabet we use so widely the Tarot is therefore a pretty important cultural document.

Hebrew is a magical language, rather like writing Chinese with an alphabet. There is a connection between the letters, sounds, and meanings of many Hebrew words. This connection also includes numbers. Hebrew words are mathematical expressions. We can explore the meanings of Hebrew words from the letters with which they are spelled, but first we must know about the letters themselves. Since playing with the Tarot letter-cards develops intuition, let us see how the ancient Hebrews encoded their understanding of intuition with the Hebrew letters that they used to form the Tarot Trumps. Relax and take your time going through this material. Some of it may shock you. If you find you can not accept some or all of what I say, then just consider that we have different viewpoints and enjoy the diversity of life. Whatever its validity with regard to the history of the world, you can take this as my personal interpretation and a reasonably coherent system of understanding and communication.

The Hebrews use several expressions to describe intuition. Here are a few. They call intuition the threshold of perception \$P H-HKRH. HKRH is a perception. H is the breath, the physical mechanism of thought. K is the heart, the center of our honest perceptions hidden deep within our chest. The heart is simple and honest -- it just pumps the blood around in the body. The breath works with the heart to expand its influence to the cells of our body and link it to the environment. This generates honest thought. R is the belly, the womb. It is the source of our decision to be who we are. Breathing from there integrates honest thought with our identity, the creation of who we have decided to be. \$P (𐤒𐤓) is a cup or goblet. (\$ or 𐤒 is a special kind of Hebrew S.) The 𐤓 is a mouth. A cup has a mouth. The whole structure of a cup is a physical object that supports (\$) a mouth. Our English word sip may come from this root. We sip wine from a goblet. The body is the Holy

Sangreal -- a Cup with a mouth. Inside it is filled with Blood. The mouth is the physical entrance to the body, so a mouth is a doorway, threshold, end, or limit. You go in and out of a door. We eat and drink with our mouths. A mouth can also speak.

Intuition is the conscience, the little voice that speaks to you from deep inside. It is an inner feeling H*USh PNIMI (𐤇𐤅𐤍 𐤏𐤍𐤇𐤍𐤇). H* (𐤇) is the muscles, and S (𐤍) is the guts, and U (𐤅) connects them. The center for our feelings is tiny muscular tensions in the gut. PNIM is the face or surface. P is the mouth, as we already mentioned, and N is the nose. A Nose and Mouth define a face. We breathe with our nose and mouth. So the Greek root Pneum- may come from this word. Some people count noses, and other people count mouths. Although we see with our Eyes, we do not count eyes. The -IM makes the idea plural, spreads out the surface. We can not see what is inside something. However its surface shows us what is inside. From the mouth's expressions and words we can know what is inside a person. That is why the expressions on our face show our inner feelings. We can control our feelings and modify them by manipulating the surface of the gut. We do this through belly breathing -- the yogic breath. Sometimes just PNIMIT or "innerness" can mean conscience. Controlling inner feelings by manipulating facial muscles does not usually work too well. People can see through such a facade.

Another Hebrew word for conscience is I-DO-UT. The root of this word is DO-T, knowledge. DO-T is the missing central piece in the Tree of Life. We do not need to worry though. The missing piece fell downward and outward. It became our external "surface" world, the Kingdom of Malkut. (See the diagrams of the Tree of Life in the section on Trump Layouts.) How does DO mean knowing? The O is the eye. DO is the inner eye. Literally it is the eye (O) of the High Priestess (D), the clitoris down below at the doorway to the vagina. This Intuition Eye of the Priestess is very sensitive. When it finds what it really wants, it takes the Priestess into states of ecstasy. In ancient times to "know" a woman meant to have sex with her. This is a very intimate form of knowledge.

The I- component of the word is a grammatical prefix. It represents the ray of light that carries information. It is the hand (𐤇) that touches. So it represents the activation of a particular energy condition represented by the letters that follow. The cross of the T is the loving interaction that creates physical experience. Therefore it is the suffix for nouns, especially feminine plurals. The breath is the suffix for singular feminine nouns. I-DOUNI is a wizard.

One more Hebrew word for conscience is M-TzPUN. This word means "From Typhon". M is water, the source from whence we all come. So it means "from". Typhon is another name for the Egyptian god Set, ruler of the dark and hidden North. He hides at the Pole Star. From that silent Axis Mundi the whole world turns. In Greek mythology he becomes a monster with a hundred heads that Zeus throws into Tartarus. Typhon means a whirlwind in Greek and is the origin of our word typhoon. Set is the eye (or mouth) of the Typhoon. Osiris (OSR), Set's brother, is the third Eye pineal gland in the brain that illuminates the physical eyes. O is the eye and ShaR means king. Osiris is the King of the Eyes, the Eye of the King. Horus-Ra is the Egyptian Sun God. He is the brain. The Eye of Ra (Horus) is the pineal gland. It is the All-Seeing Eye of Wisdom and Intuition, Compassion and Conscience. It is the channel for Life Energy to manifest the higher Life Force.

Set means Seat. It is where you sit and where you shit. Set is the King of the Root Chakra. The other magical eye in the body is the prostate gland. That gland is the North Pole Star of your body. It sits right next to your anus (anus is a word derived from Hebrew Oayn = eye). An energy tube running through your spine is the Axis Mundi. The Sun-Brain governs the South. South is bright with Light, and North seems dark and hidden. But it is the Hidden (Amen) Sun, (Ra).

Navigators use the Pole Star -- The Hidden Sun -- together with all the constellations (Typhon's hundred heads) as their guide when crossing oceans and deserts. During the Day they can only use the Shining Sun. Amen-Ra, the Hidden Sun in your body is the Source of the Life Force that keeps your body alive. When you sit on a chair, you are sitting on it, and it keeps you sit-able, or stable. Set is a much maligned figure in the Egyptian pantheon, and his consort Nebthys is also much neglected.

Women have a gland like the prostate that produces their oil of ejaculation. It moistens the vagina and produces lots of juice during stages of orgasm. Some women can actually squirt ejaculations like men. Tz- (𐤆) means to ejaculate or eject something, P (𐤐) is the mouth of the vagina or anus, and N (𐤍) is a gland or the nose, the organ of breathing that senses the signals given off by the body as glandular secretions. The strongest body smells come from the anus (shit) and the secretions of the sexual organs. Secondly they come from the armpits. So this word TzPN tells us that the conscience comes from Typhon. NPTz is a driving storm or an explosion. NPSH is the Soul in the form of the breath. These words refer to secret breathing techniques that blow open energy channels in the body. Say the sounds out loud and listen to them. It will start to stir up ancient memories long forgotten.

The development of the conscience comes from learning how to love Set. Learn to love your shit. Clean up your lower chakras. Then the Life energy that lurks there as what in India is called the Kundalini Cobra -- known to the Egyptians as the Uraeus, -- will rise from her lair in the hidden subconscious palace of Set and move to the palace of Osiris in the conscious brain. Kundalini is personified in Egyptian myths as Nebthys, the consort of Set. She is the sister and boon companion of Isis, consort of Osiris. The two are often shown together in Egyptian art, but nobody pays much attention to Nebthys. Isis in India is known as Shakti. Osiris is Siva. Nebthys (Nebt-H*et) is the Lady of the Palace of All Things. Neb means All and Lord in Egyptian. The *t* after Neb is a feminine suffix. The esoteric meaning of her name glyph is mulabandha, the root lock of yoga that closes the door to the Root Chakra Temple. In Hebrew NeBA (נבא) means to prophecy “that which comes” (N-BA), or in Egyptian “what is in or of or to the Soul or Book” (𓂏𓂐𓂑𓂒). The ancient Hebrew prophet was called a NeBIA. The prophecies recorded in the Old Testament were called NeBIIM. The old name for the Tarot cards in the Middle East was Naibbe, Naibi, or Napes, as the Europeans called them when they picked them up from the Turks. In other words the Tarot Cards are prophecies. They are the Cards of Nebt-Het. They tell of All Things. They open the Eye of Intuition so that you become the Lord of All. When Set "murdered" Osiris and cut him to pieces, Nebthet joined her sister Isis (Aset) to find the pieces and restore her brother. With the assistance of Thoth and his magical Ankh (Breath of Life) they resurrected him, raising him from the dead into a state of Immortality. This is about the rising of the Kundalini. The old viewpoint dies and a new viewpoint is born -- the viewpoint of the Higher Self and Immortality. Drunvalo Melchizedek says it this way: the old Osiris was the mythical dream time of the ancients; the dismembered corpse of Osiris represents modern civilization; the resurrected Osiris represents the higher cosmic enlightened consciousness that some people these days speak of as Christ Consciousness. It is the awakening of the individual to his Higher Self (Neb-a, My Lord, 𓂏𓂐𓂑𓂒).

So what is Intuition? It is a small voice of the Higher Self that whispers to your Ego Self the way to go that is Right For You. For more on the subject, study the King of Swords -- the last card in the Book of Thoth. You also should study the Trumps of the Fool and the Magician, the traditional first cards in the Book of Thoth. They hold the secret keys to unlocking the physical manifestation of Intuition in the body. The interaction of these two Trumps forms the crossed keys on the Pope card and is the symbol of the Lover Card Trump. The thread connecting the upside down Ego Self to the Higher Self is the rope from which the Hanged Man hangs. The

Hanged Man is Hermes Trismegistus. This is the Hermetic Tradition. The whole thread of the story hangs in that Trump. At first glance the Way of Intuition may not make much sense from the viewpoint of logic or conventional wisdom. It is an exploration from the Known into the Unknown. It is the real Torah: a Tour of Possibilities, and Exploration of the Wonderful World of What If. Above all Hermes has the qualities of Compassion, Presence, Bliss, and Freedom. When people live from the level of Intuition, they tend to live lives that are lovingly peaceful, creative, and cooperative. These are symptoms that you can recognize.

The Tarot cards are wonderful tools for developing intuition. As you play with the cards you will begin to learn how to read the suggestions they make and the energy that they display. In a layout you will see how each card relates to the situation at hand. You will also learn to become sensitive to the patterns and relationships that they reveal. As your intuition grows, you will learn to discover in your readings the clues they display on the path to compassion, presence, bliss, freedom, love, peace, creativity, and cooperation in your life.

Is there anything else that you can do to develop intuition? In my sixty some years on this planet in this lifetime, I have encountered many wonderful paths to explore. There are three that I recommend highly as the most elegant, effective, and general tools you can find. If you choose to explore any of them, they will speed up the pace with which your Intuition Eye opens. Once it opens it will unerringly lead you to discover whatever other paths are Right For You.

Just as a suggestion, here they are. Each works primarily from one of the three fundamental fields of Life: Action, Thinking, and Being. Let's start from Being.

The Science of Being -- Transcendental Meditation

Being is Source Awareness. The fastest way to open Source Awareness is meditation. The fastest technique of meditation I have ever encountered is called Transcendental Meditation (TM) as taught by His Holiness Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. This is a simple, natural, effortless technique that a person can learn in a few minutes and use throughout his entire life. I have practiced the TM technique for over 35 years. Prior to learning TM I practiced Zen meditation and found that very effective. TM clarified and sped up the process of meditation, making it as efficient as I can imagine anything to be. It takes a few hours of coaching over a few days to learn how to handle the program under various conditions, but the technique itself you learn in minutes. A trained initiator will guide you on your first experience of the shift from

thinking thoughts to Source Awareness. The attention follows its own natural tendency, experiences subtler and subtler realms of experience and suddenly there you are in Source Awareness. Once you've got it, you've got it. You can do it any time you like and it works like any trusty scientific procedure. The rest is just regular practice and exploring possibilities you may like to explore. The TM movement has lots of other courses available, but they are definitely secondary and definitely optional. All you really need is that few minutes of initial instruction and you know how to contact Source through meditation.

The Science of Creative Thinking: Avatar®

Meditation is a wonderful way to go directly to Source. However it does not help you to manage the issues in your life. It shows you where Source is and starts the process of clearing your mind and body for more refined experiences, including the awakening of the Intuition. For handling the practical issues of daily life, I recommend a course created by educational psychologist Harry Palmer. Palmer calls his course **Avatar**.

Like the TM program the Avatar Course is an extremely simple, elegant, and effortless technique. The TM practice takes you to Source Awareness and gives you an experience of relaxed heightened awareness. The Avatar Course gives you the Creation Handling Procedure, the key to creating the life that you prefer. Although the procedure itself is very simple, the course takes a leisurely nine or ten days to introduce its many aspects and applications. And that's just an introduction. The Real Course is about living your life. This is something you do all your life, every day, twenty-four/seven. So spending a few days on course from that perspective is no big deal, especially in the light of what you get. There are so many creative ways to use the Avatar principle that Harry has broken it up into separate topics so you can practice applying it in your life.

In Section One he takes you back to the basics of Will, Attention, Integrity, and Belief Management. Then in Section Two he shows you how to manage Perception and shift into or out of Judgments and Opinions. Next come the secrets of Creation. You practice creating the life that you prefer out of whatever Dreams you may have lying around waiting to explore. Finally in Section Three he sets you loose with the full Creation Handling Procedure to explore and play in any realm of possibility you like. You can try on Realities like on a Shopping Spree with no obligations. If one does not fit, simply erase it and try another one. You learn to Live Deliberately® and enjoy your creations to the fullest. And, while you are at it, you can create any value

of Source Awareness you like, from Undefined Source to any possibility you can imagine. And if you can't imagine something, then you can simply create the ability to imagine it. This course is guaranteed to "blow your mind" and open up for you possibilities and experiences you never dreamed could work for you.

The Science of Action: The Kriya Yoga of Babaji Nagaraj

Some people prefer to go at life more from the physical level. Reality is an integrated wholeness, so you can grasp that wholeness from any side. Babaji is a yogi who was born in India in the year 203. At age 5 some pirates kidnapped him and sold him as a slave to a merchant. The merchant discovered that young Nagaraj was extremely gifted and so he set him free to go study. Babaji quickly mastered intellectual subjects and then moved on to the study of yoga. With the Rishis Boganathar and Agastya he learned the science of Kriya Yoga, a dynamic regimen that includes breath techniques and certain physical actions. He then retired to a cave near the Himalayas and practiced intensely for several years until he gained a state of total control over the physical, mental, and spiritual aspects of his body, including liberation from the limitations of death. Since then he continues to appear from time to time and transmit his Kriya methods. These techniques are not his invention. They are inherent in the structure of the human physiology, so they have existed as potentialities since the beginnings of time. Throughout history certain individuals have discovered and passed on this technology. Babaji is just one of that lineage. The ancient Egyptians practiced forms of this technology for several thousand years until the invading Greeks and Romans destroyed their civilization. In ancient India the tradition goes back to Shiva and the Nagas of South Asia and Polynesia. Later the Vedic Seers carried on the tradition and celebrated it in Vedic Literature. Most of the 18 Arhats or Siddhas mastered these techniques. The essence of Kriya Yoga is to cultivate Bliss in the Body through simple manipulations of the breath combined with a few other simple manipulations of the Life Force energy in the physical body. I (and a few other facilitators) initiate people into four levels of this technique. The system is known as the Cosmic Cobra Breath. It rapidly generates powerful life energy, health, and happiness in a person. The First Level is extremely effective at clearing the lower 3 chakras and opening the Eye of Intuition. The Second Level continues clearing the lower chakras and starts also to clear chakras 4 and 5 as well as activating some subtle higher chakras. The Third Level continues to open the 4th and 5th chakras and activates the Kundalini. This starts to open the 7th chakra. Level Four completes the opening of all the major body chakras, including the 7th, and integrates you fully into the cosmos. You completely control the process, and the only limit on how fast or how far you go is

how much energy you are ready to handle.

All three of these programs are simple to learn and easy to practice. They all take you to the same place, but involve quite different procedures. In my experience they are also all complementary and work together nicely as a program of personal cultivation. On the other hand, these are just my personal choices. Today we live in a world with many wonderful choices. Perhaps the Right-For-You path is a bit different. That is fine. Enjoy your progress on the path of your choice. Feel free to share your experiences, ideas, and feedback with me if you like. The Intuition is a natural faculty that we all have. You do not need any technique to open it up. Just start to use it. It is your native ability. You may have just gotten busy with some other things and forgot about it for a while. So dust it off and have fun.