

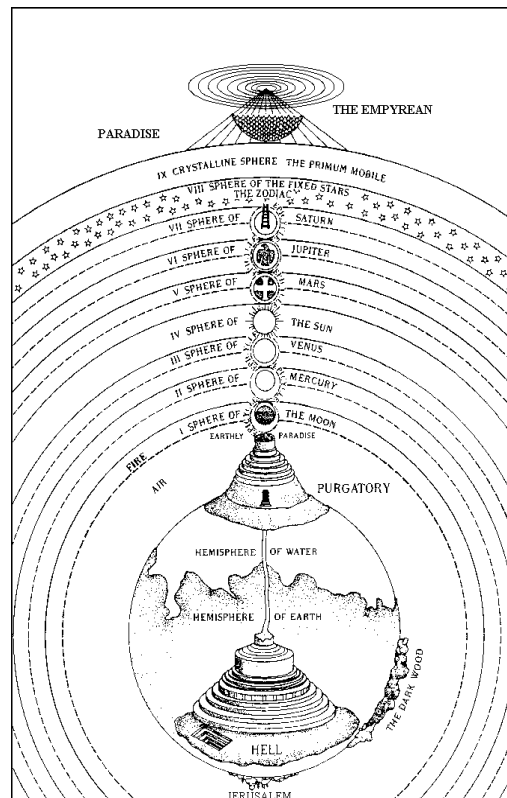
## Sacred Tarot, Healing Tarot.

A workshop presented by Chris Butler

- The idea of the workshop is to explore the Tarot deck and reading table as 'Sacred Space'; a place to resolve inner conflict, face fears, meet the Divine and unlock our fullest potential.
- Much of this workshop will be based on my own personal experience - how I muddled my way through inner transformation whilst creating the Son Tarot and the Healing Light Tarot.

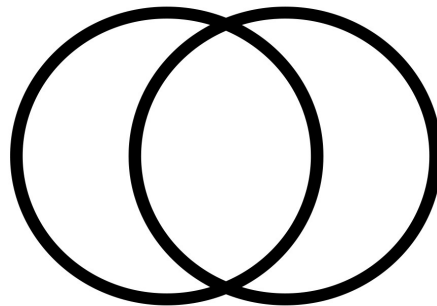
## The Star card and the Mandorla - safe, sacred space in your readings The Star.

- The Star Maiden stands in the 'in between' – between land and water.
- She is a healer – sprinkling stardust from her hands
- She is a reconciler – sprinkling equally on land and water
- She unites opposites – Dry/Wet, Hot/Cold, Masculine/Feminine etc.
- The Neoplatonic Ladder – pathway to the realm of the Star



## **The Mandorla and sacred space.**

1. The oval space created by two overlapping circles
2. The Circles represent duality and opposites (as already seen in the Star Card)
3. The Oval intersection is a place of healing and reconciliation
4. The Mandorla as a space for completion.
5. The Mandorla in Sacred Art and in the Tarot
6. The Mandorla is both Sacred Space , Healing Space and a space to grow into wholeness.



## **Using the Tarot as a safe tool for resolving our inner conflicts**

- The aim of a Tarot reading is to create a Mandorla for the Querent
- The Reading Table – Space where the sacred value of the Querent's soul is honoured. Healing Space where the Querent is safe to be vulnerable.
- Truth, Transparency, Honesty, Sensitivity, Wisdom, Maturity, Fairness, Level-headedness.
- J.R.R. Tolkien. The Fellowship of the Ring. Book 2, Chapter 7. The Mirror of Galadriel– A metaphor for Divination. The Tarot is a perilous prediction tool.
- We can abandon prediction to explore choices and possibilities.
- The Cards can act as an enlightening mirror for our souls
- The Cards can help us understand ourselves through archetypes and stereotypes
- Understanding ourselves in this way helps us conquer our fears

## **All the World's a stage, and the Tarot is your script**

- *“All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players; They have their exits and their entrances, and one man in his time plays many parts,”*  
As you like it, Act 2, scene 7 by William Shakespeare. 1564 – 1616.
- The cards are reflections of the world around us.
- Pamela Colman Smith's illustrations blaze a trail through modern Tarot culture
- Gelukiezanger – Pamela Colman Smith's alter ego (Afrikaans – Lucky Singer. The name taken by the tiger in “Paarat, Tiger an' Annancy” from her “Annancy Stories”)
- Miniature Theatre and the real Stage – Pamela as a stage designer
- The Waite Smith Tarot is an expression of these two parallel disciplines
- The Waite Smith Tarot is 'Theatre'.
- Pamela's friends in the Court Cards.

## **The cards as visual 'doorways' for us to step through**

- Using the imagination to create doorways into the cards.
- C.S. Lewis's picture in the bedroom (Voyage of the Dawn Treader. Chapter 1)
- Mary Poppins jumps into the pavement picture
- Tableaux Vivants re-enact a snapshot in time or present a living portrait
- Pamela's friends create many different tableaux vivants within the Waite Smith Tarot.

## **How the Nine of Wands 'wounded warrior' finds his healing**

- The reading table Mandorla is a safe space to let down your guard
- The wounded warrior can hurt, grieve and heal as he talks
- A safe place for unburdening
- Healing through assuming the mantle of a Tarot character.
- What would I be like if I were the Queen of Wands?

## **Talking with the Tarot archetypes**

- Look beyond the Court Cards to all the Tarot Characters
- Becoming a character or conversing with them as a real person in your imagination
- What gateway is the High Priestess guarding?
- Will she move aside and let you pass?
- Will she read to you from her secret scroll?
- Become the High Priestess in your imagination. How do you feel?

## **Seeing the best and the worst of ourselves mirrored in the cards**

- Using selective reversals
- Identifying with all the things we aspire to in the tarot archetypes
- Daring to own the dark aspects of the archetypes we'd rather not admit to
- Reconciling the upright and the reverse – two more circles forming a Mandorla.

## **The Mandorla of Tarot**

### **The Tarot teaches us to forgive ourselves**

- NONE of the Tarot characters are perfect
- NONE of the Tarot characters are 'complete', even the World Dancer.
- They all need each other to maintain a balanced world
- If they are allowed to be imperfect, then so are we
- WE can forgive ourselves for being flawed and imperfect

### **The Tarot teaches us to love ourselves**

1. We forgive others their faults more easily than we forgive ourselves
2. Restoring a balance and fairness to self love. Justice abolishes double standards.
3. Identifying our inner Sun Child and re-learning how to love them.

## **The tarot teaches us to laugh at ourselves**

- Seeing the wisdom and the foolishness in all the Tarot characters.
- The Fool is here to stay.

## **The Tarot teaches us to forget ourselves**

1. The eight cups represent our pre-occupation with ourselves
2. The joy of not being 'self-conscious'
3. Walking away from the cups into a higher, healing reality.
4. This is what the healing Mandorla of our reading tables can offer

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Further information on Pamela Colman Smith and the Waite Smith Tarot can be found [here](#):

### **Pamela Colman Smith. The Untold Story.**

By Stuart R. Kaplan, Mary K. Greer, Elizabeth Foley O'Connor and Melinda Boyd Parsons.  
U.S. Games 2018

### **Pamela Colman Smith. The Pious Pixie.**

By Dawn G. Robinson. Fonthill Media. 2020.

### **Secrets of the Waite Smith Tarot.**

By Marcus Katz and Tali Goodwin. Llewellyn. 2015.