

## **Christian Meditations on the Tarot**

### **Cultivate the seed of Self-Transcendence:**

- *The Self is a relation that relates to itself and to the power which grounds it (cf. Kierkegaard).*
- *The idea of “the separate self” is an illusion to be transcended.*



### **Serious students may reasonably aspire to:**

- **Enhanced Self-Knowledge**
- **Authentic Inspiration and Creativity**
- **Clarity and Grace in Thought and Action**
- **More Effective Communication and Better Interpersonal Relationship Skills**

(The cards pictured on this page are from the *Waite-Smith Tarot* published by William Rider & Son in 1909. The cards on the back are based on the *Tarot of Marseille*, by Nicolas Conver (ca 1760). *The Soul's Choice* arrangement of images is inspired, in part, by *Meditations on the Tarot: A Journey into Christian Hermeticism*, Tarcher/Penguin 2002.)

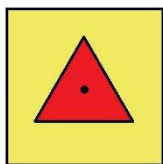
### **Students may also come to recognize and honor their eternal life NOW:**

- *Each of us participates in the magic, eternal life that NOW IS.*
- *The Tarot provides a context for concentration and mindful introspection.*
- *Fear, desire, resentment, and wishful thinking are **observed**--not **served**.*
- *Courage, Courtesy, and Self-Reliance are cultivated in the process.*
- *If and when conditions are right, the “separate self” will be **seen through**.*



### **“The Four Precepts” may be explored as an initial or supplemental approach to Self-Inquiry:**

- **Remember Your Divine Essence**  
*(Remember your essential Self... “Christ in you, the hope of glory...”)*
- **Say Yes to Life Unconditionally**  
*(Harbor no regrets, no “if onlys”... Rather, “take up your cross...”)*
- **Overcome the Spirit of Resentment and Revenge**  
*(“Love your neighbor as yourself...” Don’t blame “them”... “We are members one of another...”)*
- **Follow Your Bliss**  
*(“Love and do what you will...” Discover your real will...)*



**Quoting P.D. Ouspensky:** "If we imagine [the] twenty-one [numbered Tarot Trumps] disposed in the shape of a triangle, seven cards on each side, a point in the centre of the triangle represented by the zero card [the Fool], and a square round the triangle (the square consisting of fifty-six cards, fourteen on each side), we shall have a representation of the relation between God, Man and the Universe, or the relation between the world of ideas, the

consciousness of man and the physical world. The triangle is God (the Trinity) or the world of ideas, or the noumenal world. The point is man's soul. The square is the visible, physical or phenomenal world. Potentially, the point is equal to the square, which means that all the visible world is contained in man's consciousness, is created in man's soul. And the soul itself is a point having no dimension in the world of the spirit, symbolized by the triangle. It is clear that such an idea could not have originated with ignorant people and clear also that the Tarot is something more than a pack of playing or fortune-telling cards" (*The Symbolism of the Tarot*).



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# Christian Meditations on the Tarot: The Soul's Choice

**"That through death he might release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage..."**

**"The creation itself will also be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God..."**

The Lover stands in equilibrium between two gravitational fields:  
**1) The way of bondage and death, on the one hand (i.e. SEPARATION).**  
**2) The Way of Freedom and Life, on the other (i.e. UNION).**

**The Order of Appearances**  
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**The Order of Being**  
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**"... in the futility of their minds . . . their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God by the blindness of their hearts..."**

**"Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may know the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God."**

**"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened that you may know the hope of His calling and the riches of His glory..."**