

The Future of Tarot: Fortune Prediction and Spirituality in the Digital Age



overview



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1. Prologue: A Brief Introduction to Tarot

1.1 The origin from east

- The origin of the Tarot can be traced back to Chinese playing cards that later traveled to the West through the Silk Road.
- Some spread in Europe to playing cards with 4 suits (clubs, hearts, spades, and diamonds).



Mǎdiào (馬弔) Yuan dynasty, 1271-1368

- In Istanbul, the current Tarot suit symbols were adapted to wands, coins, swords, cups, and court cards



Mamluk playing cards ,15th or early 16th century



1.2 Tarot arrives in Europe

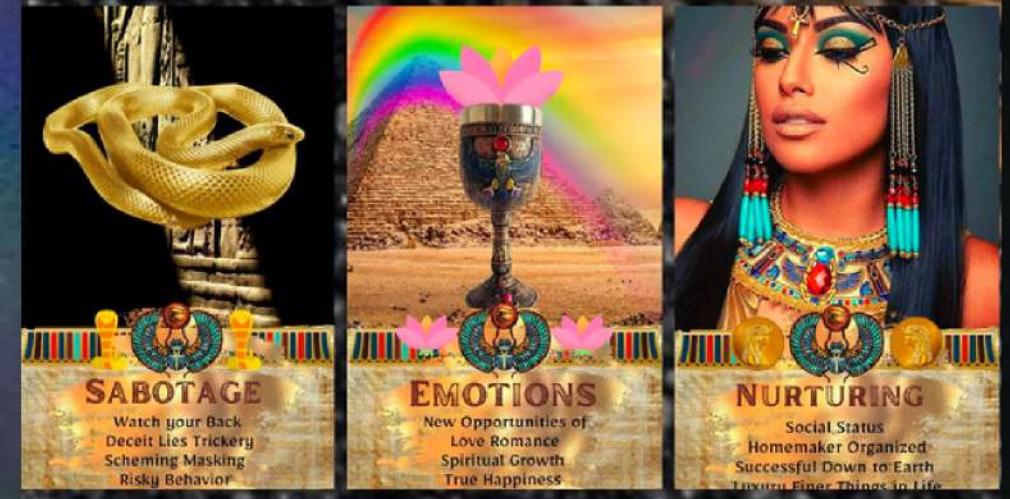
- The Tarot decks reached Europe, where court cards gained faces.
- The oldest known Tarot decks in their current form date from the early 15th century in Italy.
- Italian aristocrats during the Renaissance commissioned hand-drawn Tarot designs.
- Jean-Baptiste Alliette, an occultist, revived interest in Tarot with his book "How to Entertain Yourself With the Deck of Cards Called Tarot" in 1770.
- The name "Tarot" is the French pronunciation of the original Italian name "Tarocchi.", from Latin Triumphorum (= victory pl.)

Bembo Bonifacio (Swords), 1428-1447

1.3 Evolution with Technology

- Tarot's aesthetic, spread, and meaning have been influenced by technology.
- Starting with woodcut printing, etching, engraving, Japanese color printing, and continuing through mass production printing methods.
- The Waite-Smith deck at the beginning of the 20th century used emerging printing methods and later developed to digital printing.

Woodblock print, Bibliothèque nationale de France's collection 1440-1450



Egyptians' Prophecies, Egyptians' Prophecies 2022

1.3 Evolution with Technology



The Chariot ,Marcus Katz 2022



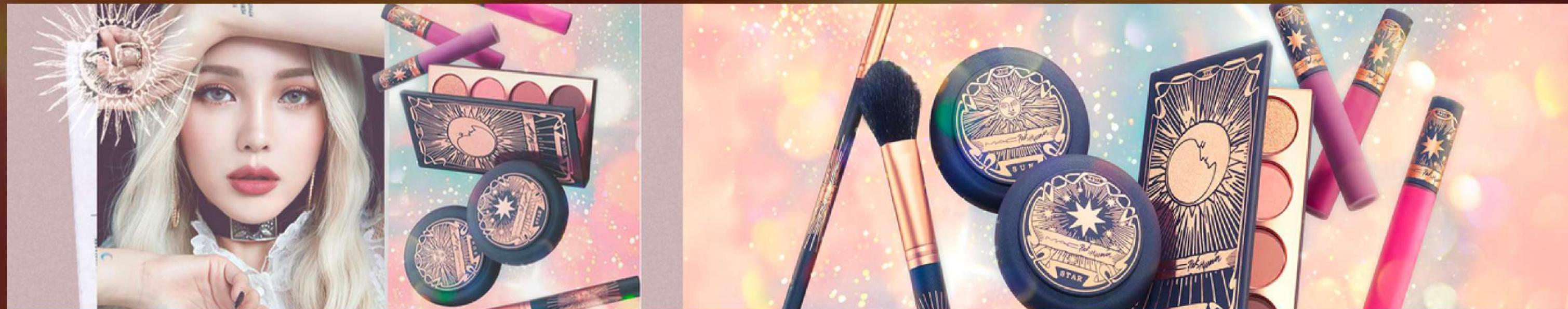
[PEPE CARD : BACK TO BEGIN](#)
[nft deck by @_pepecard](#)

- Digital technology, including AI art, allows for the creation of detailed illustrations without an artist's assistant.
- Tarot cards can now be produced digitally and sold as NFTs, such as the "Arcana Crypto Tarot" NFT deck.

2. Related Work: Spirituality and Technology

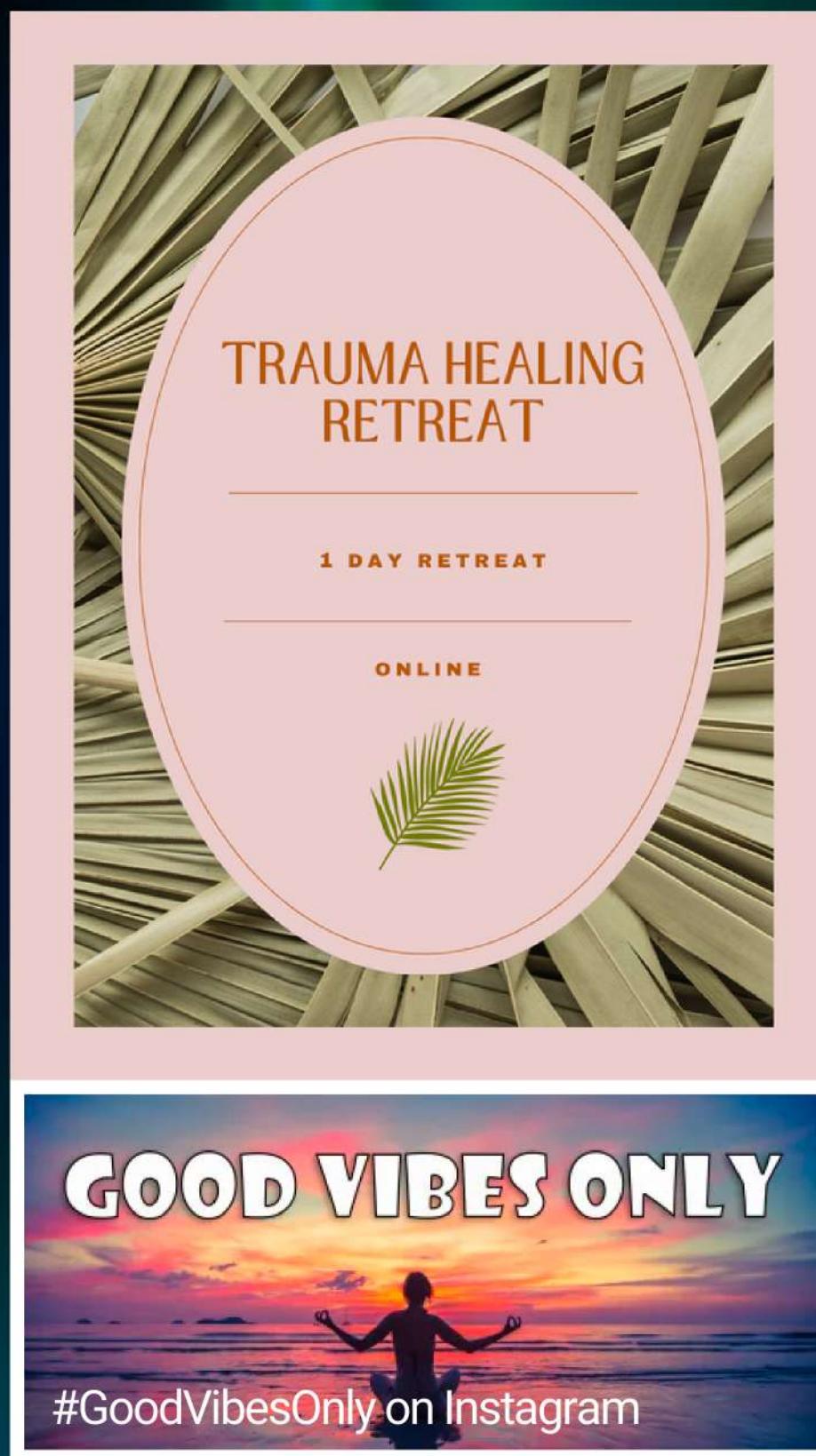
2.1 Popularity of Mystics

- Technology has made mystical tools more accessible, with websites, apps, and social media platforms offering mystical content.
- Mystical beliefs have become increasingly mainstream, High-stress individuals are more likely to turn to astrology as a coping mechanism.



[@ponymakeup](#) + [MAC tarot deck and astrology inspired makeup](#)

1 day online trauma healing retreat



2.2 The downside of alternative therapy

- Online video technology for therapy has gained popularity, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- People may choose unqualified online counseling and coaching services. cheap, and no commitment is needed.
- Self-help videos are available on social media.
- "spiritual bypassing" in which individuals prioritize spirituality over acknowledging their emotions, potentially leading to the misuse of tools like Tarot. Also “toxic positivity”.

2.2 Tarot as a reflective tool

- Tarot, when used by a certified therapist, can be a part of the projective technique in therapy, helping patients express themselves.
- Carl Jung supported Tarot as a reflective tool and used it to explore psychological concepts like archetypes and the unconscious.
- A tarot reading can have both negative and positive psychological effects depending on how it is employed.



Hermann Rorschach's reflective technique

3. Methodology:

Examine Digital Tarot Tools and Their Effectiveness

3.1. Methodology: An interview with a Tarot Expert and tools review

The chapter explores digital Tarot readings in the context of modern spirituality and technology.

1. Semi-structured interview with a Tarot expert
2. Review of 3 tools:
 - a. **Zoom** Tarot reading
 - b. **AI** tarot reading online tool
 - c. **YouTube** video tarot reading by an influencer
3. Followed by a discussion

The Interview and chosen method

- The interview with the Tarot expert took place in person
- Viviana Druga, with 12 of Tarot experience. She created her own Tarot deck which she uses for readings.
- She was mentored by filmmaker and mystic Alejandro Jodorowsky (“The Magic Mountain”).



Custom Tarot card by Viviana Druga

Interview

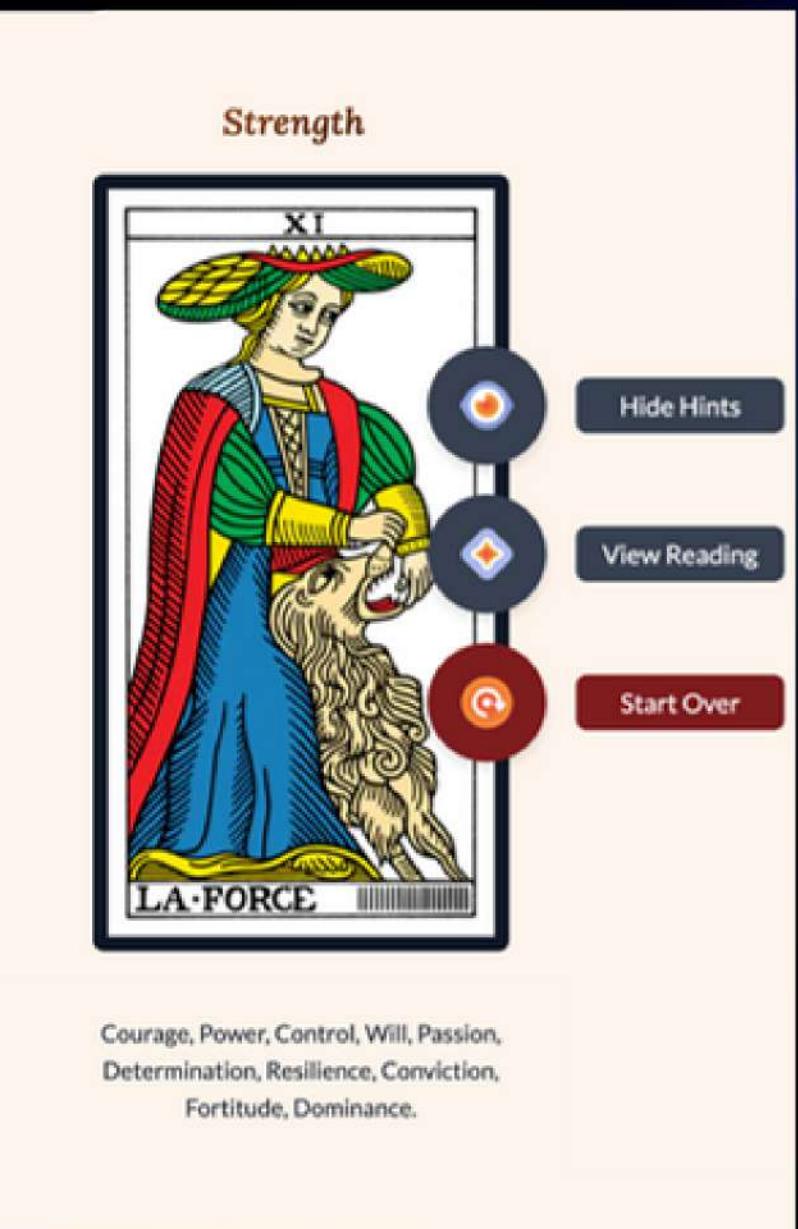
- Druga believes that Tarot readings are a way to open up and reveal hidden aspects of oneself, including the shadows and archetypes (Jung).
- Tarot readings are recommended for self-discovery and insight into the subconscious.
- When dealing with clients who have significant It is not a substitute for therapy, The expert gave a specific example of when she declined to provide her services and suggested that the person should consider seeking professional therapy instead.

1st Tool: Zoom Call Reading

- The expert highlighted her personal use of Zoom, emphasizing its role as a mediator tool. The reader and the querent are present.
- The limitations are discussed, particularly regarding the mixing and handling of Tarot cards.
- Droga explained that when conducting remote sessions, she employs a numeric system in Zoom, allowing the querent (the person seeking the reading) to provide numbers that correspond to Tarot cards.
- It is implied that a future AI tool might be able to imitate her system.

2nd Tool: AI Reading – The Self Glazer

- AI reading is an active tool from the side of the querent, where the reader is absent.
- The Tarot expert complimented the tool's opening style and choice of the Marseille deck. The expert recognized an in-depth understanding of Tarot by the tool's creator.
- However, she pointed out that the tool provided generic interpretations and lacked emotional depth.
- According to the expert, AI tools may offer straightforward answers but cannot replace the depth and insight provided by a human Tarot reader.



The SelfGlazer

3rd Tool: YouTube Tarot Interpretation Video



- The Tarot expert found such videos to be overly theatrical and somewhat superficial in their approach.
- She noticed elements like long nails, candles, crystals, and the use of multiple Tarot decks, which she considered unnecessary for a genuine reading.
- The expert described the video as more of a monologue and "free speech" and overall ridiculous.
- Most of all, It lacks the important subconscious interpretation and self-reflection element.

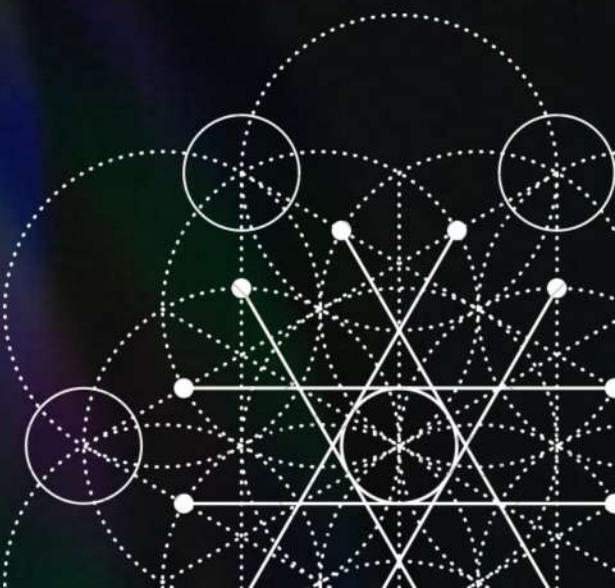
Open discussion

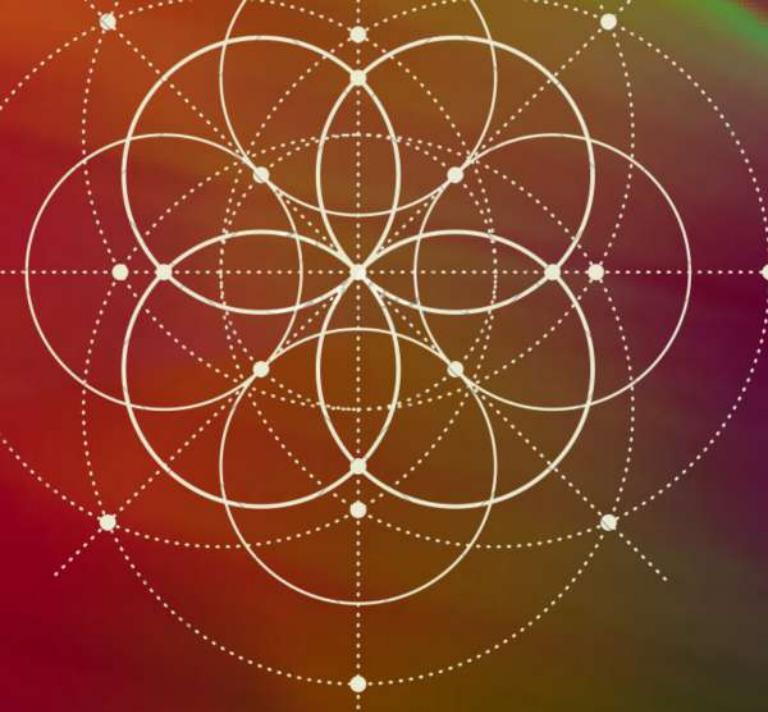
- Both the AI tool and the YouTube video included **common legal disclaimers** “for entertainment purposes only and cannot diagnose or treat mental health conditions”.
- The Tarot expert strongly asserts that digital versions of Tarot readings have limitations, particularly in replicating the self-reflection, mixing of cards, and dialogue.
- She emphasizes the significance of personal connections in Tarot readings

3.3 Conclusions and Contributions

- The study **traces the historical evolution of Tarot** from Chinese playing cards to a Western divination practice influenced by geography and technology.
- The study emphasizes the historical interplay between Tarot and technology, showcasing how technology has consistently influenced and expanded Tarot's reach. Technology, particularly AI, is reshaping Tarot, creating new possibilities for its use as a coaching and self-reflection tool.

- Potential challenges associated with Tarot, such as the risks of spiritual bypass and its misuse as a therapy substitute, are identified.
- Tarot practitioners have an ethical responsibility to emphasize Tarot as a tool for self-discovery rather than a replacement for professional therapy.



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- As AI continues to advance, it becomes possible to incorporate remote reading techniques, including numerical opening, generating insights, and facilitating self-reflective dialogues, into AI-based Tarot reading systems.
 - Tarot maintains its significance as a therapeutic instrument for self-discovery, introspection, and personal growth in the increasingly interconnected digital age.

Thank You
and
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