



**STAR
TAKER
TAROT**

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TAROT

BY

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XIXCXCIX

TO *



, QUEEN OF HEAVEN

AND TO THE MUSE WHO INSPIRES
ALL CREATION

AND TO MY CHILD ISAAC
WHO KEEPS MY BRAIN BUSY

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I
INTRODUCTION

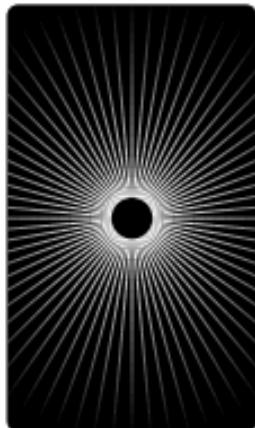


THE VOID

Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva, when deeply practicing *prajña paramita*, clearly saw that all five aggregates are empty and thus relieved all suffering. Shariputra, form does not differ from emptiness, emptiness does not differ from form. Form itself is emptiness, emptiness itself form. Sensations, perceptions, formations, and consciousness are also like this. Shariputra, all dharmas are marked by emptiness; they neither arise nor cease, are neither defiled nor pure, neither increase nor decrease. Therefore, given emptiness, there is no form, no sensation, no perception, no formation, no consciousness; no eyes, no ears, no nose, no tongue, no body, no mind; no sight, no sound, no smell, no taste, no touch, no object of mind; no realm of sight ... no realm of mind consciousness. There is neither ignorance nor extinction of ignorance... neither old age and death, nor extinction of old age and death; no suffering, no cause, no cessation, no path; no knowledge and no attainment. With nothing to attain, a bodhisattva relies on *prajña paramita*, and thus the mind is without hindrance. Without hindrance, there is no fear. Far beyond all inverted views, one realizes *nirvana*. All buddhas of past, present, and future rely on *prajña paramita* and thereby attain unsurpassed, complete, perfect enlightenment. Therefore, know the *prajña paramita* as the great miraculous mantra, the great bright mantra, the supreme mantra, the incomparable mantra, which removes all suffering and is true, not false. Therefore we proclaim the *prajña paramita* mantra, the mantra that says: "Gate Gate Paragate Parasamgate Bodhi Svaha."

— Heart of Great Perfect Wisdom Sutra

Let's start with nothing. No cards. Empty table. The void is the space of the reading. Some say that the void is Saturn, in his aspect as Kronos, time, who rules the domain that all things happen in (but we'll meet him later.) The sky is a void the planets move through, an empty hole that goes on forever. Perhaps the back of the card is the void, the Ein Sof (the Infinite), Ayin (the Nothingness), who precedes all things. Without nothing you cannot have anything. Without anything you cannot have something. Once you have something, well, now it's possible to have questions. Before we start, ask yourself: do you really want to know? do you feel lucky? or if not, can you love your fate anyway? Well, that's something.



I

THE ONE

*Toward the One
The Perfection of Love,
Harmony, and Beauty
The Only Being
United with all the Illuminated
Souls
Who form the Embodiment of the
Master
The Spirit of Guidance*

— universalist Sufi prayer of invocation

YIN AND YANG

*Therefore there is in the Changes
the Great Primal Beginning.*

*This generates
the two primary forces.
The two primary forces
generate the four images.*

*The four images
generate the eight trigrams.
The eight trigrams determine
good fortune and misfortune.
Good fortune and misfortune
create the great field of action.*

— The I Ching or Book of Changes,
translated by Richard Wilhelm,
rendered into English
by Cary F. Baynes