

Reverse Celtic Cross

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This technique was first developed in the 90s when I was doing Tarot readings professionally, and it actually came about through a series of Lesser Magic techniques that I had used as shortcuts. So first, a story, and then the full technique.

Any professional Tarot reader can tell you that there are two types of people who come to get a reading – there are those who come to you seeking insight because they have a difficult decision to make or need a little more information on an uncertain situation. Then there are those who come to you seeking “permission” – those who have already made their decision and they secretly know it's the wrong one, or will be viewed unfavorably. Maybe they have decided not to do something they know they should, because it's difficult or risky. In any event, they're coming to you seeking enablement to ease their conscience.

Tarot, like any system of divination, serves as a key to unlock the reader's intuition. The cards themselves are the tools throwing the doors open for the reader to see what the client needs to know. But these clients seeking permission are practically screaming their act to the heavens, and anyone with even a shred of intuition will hear it loud and clear without having drawn a single card. So, while the answer was already known to me (and likely to them) I devised a system of Lesser Magic techniques to give them the information they sought without exhausting my time or my intuition. This is that method, which led to the development of the Reverse Celtic Cross.

Note: This technique can be performed with any deck, any layout, even a single-card draw, or with any system of Cartomancy outside of Tarot. Other systems of divination such as I Ching or Chamolongos are more difficult to produce the same effect, and some systems such as reading tea leaves are largely impossible to manipulate in this manner. Your mileage may vary.

First, I acquired two more copies of the Tarot deck I used (at the time, it was the Cat People Tarot because I liked the artwork). Most readers will have at least a few old or worn decks lying around their house, so this is usually the easiest part.

Next, I picked through the extra decks to lay out five complete readings: Yes, No, Hell Yes, Hell No, and a Neutral reading which basically translated to “Don't Ask What You Already Know”.

Picking up each layout in reverse order, I assembled five separate “capsule readings” and kept them in different pockets when I would do readings. Then, when I got a client who had come in under false pretenses as I described, I would shuffle the cards as usual, and then have the client close their eyes, concentrate on their question, and cut the deck. While this was going on, I would palm the appropriate packet of cards, and place it on top of the deck when I picked it up. Finally, I would lay out the cards exactly as arranged and give the client the reading appropriate to their situation, going into great detail to imprint each card upon them as it applied to the question.

Naturally, this raises the pressing ethical question of whether or not it was “right” or “fair” to charge money for what amounts to a magic trick. Yes it was a deception, and yet....it was an actual application of a reader's intuition. I had simply skipped to the important part, much like doing math in my head. In my defense, it was the 90s and magicians simply didn't have any rules. So there are two minds on this, and I'll allow you (being MY reader) to make up your own mind on this matter.

I had my own ethical considerations on this matter at the time, even though I was doing legitimate intuitive work for paying clients. The issue for me was that they were paying for one service and receiving a different one. When I would do a reading in this manner (and I considered it unacceptable to turn them away, as other readers would happily take their money and probably sell them spell kits on top of that), I would always end the reading this way:

“I'm sorry but I have to tell you, as strongly as I felt this reading in my intuition, it seems to me as if the universe was practically screaming this at you. I'm certain you must have heard it or at least seen the signs, and you came to me for confirmation. As such, I don't feel right about taking money for this reading but if you have another subject you would like some insight on, I would be happy to perform another reading for you.” Nobody seemed to mind, and more often than not they did in fact purchase a fresh reading, which worked out for everyone. In this manner, I was not only able to satisfy my own personal ethical obligations, but it kept my focus off the idea of using readings only for money. Nothing clouds the intuition faster than greed.

The first evolution of this technique came when I was hosting a group working of some friends. I was not participating in the ritual myself, but since I had a dedicated temple room that was set up all the time and kept consecrated for ritual, I often found myself in the position of hosting people who had no private space to conduct their workings. Knowing what their ritual was about, I composed a reading packet specific to reading as absolute success in their cause, and when their

working was concluded I offered them a reading to see how it went. Naturally they were all pleased with the outcome, and we left the cards set up on the altar until they began to see results. And they all saw results ranging from acceptable to excellent.

This technique is also useful for solo workings, even though you already know that the cards were pre selected by yourself. It works for multiple reasons – mentally you know it's set up but emotionally you're already going through the muscle memory of doing a legitimate Tarot reading, and the results hit you the same way. Furthermore, each card you lay out is forming one part of a complex ten-part electrical circuit, conducting power from where you are to where you want to be, and when you snap the last card in place you complete the circuit and send power to your magic.

Suppose, for example, you were about to cast a love spell (again, I'll leave the ethical considerations to the reader's best judgement) and you wanted to add a little boost at the end of it. You would compose a capsule reading with all the appropriate cards – The Lovers, the Two of Cups, the Ten of Cups, maybe the Five of Swords if you have to compete for the target of your spell, the Four of Wands, maybe the Seven of Wands if you wanted a slew of courtiers to choose from. With these cards, you will compose your capsule reading.

Then, when it is time to perform your spell, you go through all the steps as usual per your particular magic-using tradition, and at the conclusion you will shuffle your cards (minus the 10 cards in your packet), place the cards on top and lay them out as you would normally.

Now naturally, the “reading” will have an outcome that is not a surprise, but this isn't an exercise in intuition – it's an exercise in magic. You are essentially reversing the flow of information, using your will instead of your intuition, and writing the future rather than reading it.

Once the cards are laid out, reading them as you would normally, vocalizing the reading out loud. After the reading is complete, close out your working as usual for your tradition, but instead of picking the cards up and putting them away, leave them laid out on your altar. They will serve as a sort of talisman, the physical component of your working, prominently displayed as a reminder until such time as your ritual bears fruit.

There is a more advanced application of this technique which I had originally intended to do in the 90s but could not find a way to make it work. I had originally wanted to perform this technique for my reading clients, so that every reading would actually be cast as a spell for their success. Essentially, it boils down to composing a collection of capsule readings indicating overwhelming success across a wide variety of magical activities – winning the heart of a lover, getting that promotion at work,

defeating your enemies, obtaining the object you desire, traveling to the places you want, and such. The idea is that, when a client comes to you for a reading about any given subject, instead of reading whether or not they're currently on track to succeed, you use the Reverse Celtic Cross to MAKE them succeed. You are turning every client reading into a client spellcrafting, plus you get to give everyone good news!

The problem with this particular evolution is one of logistics. 80% of your clients come to you for one of four reasons – love, money, health, and conflict. For each of those subjects, you'll have half a dozen different specific problems to sort out for your client. Even at the bare minimum, that's two dozen capsule readings you would have to compose, which is possible, but also two dozen different spots to conceal them and memorize their location.....which is possible.....

The solution was surprisingly simple once I dusted this technique off to finish it (only took three decades but anything worth doing is worth doing well). We've all seen “specials” where a reader would have half-price deals for love readings in the run-up to Valentine's Day – all you would have to do is set up your reading schedule according to the ruling planet of the days. For Sunday you would do readings about fame and success. Mondays, intuition and psychic development. On Tuesdays you would read regarding all manner of conflict. For Wednesdays, matters of travel, healing and business. Thursdays would be for wealth and leadership, and Fridays would be all about love and romance.

This naturally begs the question of why there is no Saturday laid out in this presentation, and the reason is fairly simple. Saturday's ruling planet is Saturn, primarily concerned with death. Doing readings about Death is problematic because nobody enjoys it, nobody gets good news, and the outcome doesn't satisfy anyone – if you're wrong the client gets angry, and if you're right the client loses hope. But with the Reverse Celtic Cross there is a much greater consideration! This is all about doing spells for walk in clients off the street, and there is no way I personally want to become so casual about casting death spells that I'm willing to do it for random people at \$100 a pop.

So, I don't do this on Saturdays.

The rest of the technique is fairly straightforward – for each day you'll be doing these readings (and again, this is ONLY for when you get a strong intuitive “hit” that you're dealing with a situation that can be pushed to the client's advantage) you would simply prepare five capsule readings covering the limited range of situations you're likely to experience that day. I've prepared a full week's schedule, but these are only suggestions. If you feel different cards would serve you better given your personal reading style, switch them around to your heart's content. This is all about you feeling comfortable giving a specific type of reading to your loyal clients

Tarot spells

Sunday: Success and Glory

Packet 1: Being favorably reviewed and accepted

1) 3 of Pentacles, 2) Judgement, 3) 10 of Cups, 4) Page of Cups, 5) 7 of Pentacles, 6) Queen of Wands, 7) 8 of Pentacles, 8) 6 of Pentacles, 9) 5 of Cups, 10) The Star

Packet 2: Achieve lifelong dream

1) 2 of Wands, 2) 7 of Cups, 3) The Star, 4) Page of Wands, 5) 6 of Pentacles, 6) 8 of Wands, 7) 6 of Cups, 8) Knight of Pentacles, 9) 5 of Wands, 10) 10 of Pentacles

Packet 3: Opportunity knocks

1) 4 of Swords, 2) Page of Pentacles, 3) 9 of Pentacles, 4) 7 of Pentacles, 5) Justice, 6) 6 of Pentacles, 7) 8 of Swords, 8) Wheel of Fortune, 9) The Tower, 10) The Sun

Packet 4: Your project receives full support

1) 4 of Wands, 2) 5 of Pentacles, 3) The Magician, 4) 2 of Wands, 5) 8 of Pentacles, 6) Queen of Cups, 7) The Fool, 8) 7 of Wands, 9) 7 of Swords, 10) 10 of Wands

Packet 5: A powerful patron looks kindly upon you

1) The Hermit, 2) 3 of Wands, 3) 10 of Cups, 4) The Magician, 5) 6 of Cups, 6) Judgement, 7) Page of Cups, 8) Ace of Wands, 9) 5 of Pentacles 10) The Empress

Monday: Wisdom and Intuition

Packet 1: The solution to that nagging problem

1) 8 of Swords, 2) 2 of Swords, 3) The Magician, 4) 2 of Pentacles, 5) The Hierophant, 6) The Star, 7) The Fool, 8) 7 of Cups, 9) 8 of Cups, 10) Ace of Swords

Packet 2: Stimulating psychic development

1) 3 of Cups, 2) The Moon, 3) Queen of Cups, 4) 3 of Wands, 5) 4 of Cups, 6) Ace of Cups, 7) 4 of Swords, 8) Judgement, 9) 5 of Cups, 10) High Priestess

Packet 3: Clarity of intuition

1) High Priestess, 2) 5 of Cups, 3) Queen of Cups, 4) Page of Cups, 5) 2 of Pentacles, 6) The Fool, 7) 4 of Swords, 8) 8 of Pentacles, 9) The Moon, 10) Hanged Man

Packet 4: Dispelling illusions

1) Page of Swords, 2) The Moon, 3) 10 of Pentacles, 4) 8 of Pentacles, 5) 7 of Wands, 6) Queen of Cups, 7) The Tower, 8) Wheel of Fortune, 9) 5 of Pentacles, 10) The Star

Packet 5: Surviving changes

1) The Tower, 2) 7 of Wands, 3) 10 of Pentacles, 4) 8 of Cups, 5) 6 of Swords, 6) Hanged Man, 7) 4 of Swords, 8) 3 of Pentacles, 9) 5 of Cups, 10) Strength

Tuesday: Conflict

Packet 1: Victory in conflict over love

1) Knight of Cups, 2) 5 of Wands, 3) 10 of Cups, 4) The Fool, 5) 3 of Wands, 6) Ace of Cups, 7) 4 of Cups, 8) 3 of Cups, 9) 5 of Cups, 10) The Lovers

Packet 2: Victory in conflict over money

1) Knight of Pentacles, 2) 4 of Pentacles, 3) The World, 4) 5 of Pentacles, 5) 5 of Wands, 6) Wheel of Fortune, 7) 8 of Pentacles, 8) King of Wands, 9) Knight of Swords, 10) The Chariot

Packet 3: Victory in conflict over property

1) The World, 2) 7 of Wands, 3) 10 of Pentacles, 4) Page of Pentacles, 5) The Hierophant, 6) 2 of Pentacles, 7) 2 of Swords, 8) 8 of Wands, 9) 5 of Pentacles, 10) Justice

Packet 4: Victory in conflict with family

1) 6 of Cups, 2) 10 of Swords, 3) 10 of Cups, 4) The Empress, 5) 8 of Wands, 6) Strength, 7) 5 of Cups, 8) 3 of Swords, 9) The Hermit, 10) The Chariot

Packet 5: Victory in court

1) The Hierophant, 2) 2 of Swords, 3) The Chariot, 4) 8 of Wands, 5) 8 of Swords, 6) Justice, 7) 6 of Pentacles, 8) Judgement, 9) 5 of Pentacles, 10) 5 of Swords

Wednesday Business, Health and Communication

Packet 1: Business growth and success

1) Ace of Pentacles, 2) 8 of Wands, 3) The World, 4) 7 of Pentacles, 5) Wheel of Fortune, 6) King of Wands, 7) 8 of Pentacles, 8) 6 of Wands, 9) 5 of Cups, 10) The Sun

Packet 2: Growing your business network

1) 8 of Pentacles, 2) The Moon, 3) 4 of Wands, 4) Knight of Wands, 5) Wheel of Fortune, 6) 8 of Wands, 7) 4 of Swords, 8) 2 of Pentacles, 9) The Hermit, 10) 10 of Pentacles

Packet 3: Miraculous Recovery of Health

1) 5 of Pentacles, 2) The Moon, 3) Strength, 4) 8 of Pentacles, 5) 4 of Cups, 6) 6 of Swords, 7) The Tower, 8) Knight of Pentacles, 9) Death, 10) 9 of Cups

Packet 4: Contact with desired persons

1) The Hermit, 2) 8 of Swords, 3) 3 of Cups, 4) 2 of Pentacles, 5) 9 of Swords, 6) Page of Wands, 7) 8 of Cups, 8) Wheel of Fortune, 9) 5 of Cups, 10) 3 of Pentacles

Packet 5: Desired travel destination becomes possible

1) 3 of Wands, 2) 8 of Cups, 3) 6 of Wands, 4) 3 of Pentacles, 5) 2 of Wands, 6) The World, 7) 6 of Swords, 8) 8 of Wands, 9) The Tower, 10) 10 of Pentacles

Thursday Abundance and Leadership

Packet 1: Achieving desired position of leadership

1) The Fool, 2) 8 of Wands, 3) Ace of Pentacles, 4) Page of Wands, 5) 4 of Swords, 6) King of Wands, 7) 6 of Pentacles, 8) Hierophant, 9) 2 of Swords, 10) The Emperor

Packet 2: Receiving support from the Chain of Command

1) 6 of Pentacles, 2) 6 of Pentacles, 3) The Emperor, 4) Page of Cups, 5) 8 of Pentacles, 6) Ace of Wands, 7) Knight of Wands, 8) Wheel of Fortune, 9) 4 of Cups, 10) 6 of Cups

Packet 3: Arrival of unexpected wealth

1) 3 of Pentacles, 2) 5 of Cups, 3) The World, 4) Wheel of Fortune, 5) 6 of Pentacles, 6) The Chariot 7) 5 of Pentacles, 8) 9 of Wands, 9) The Devil, 10) Ace of Pentacles

Packet 4: Resolution of expected wealth in your favor

1) 5 of Pentacles, 2) Justice, 3) 9 of Pentacles, 4) 3 of Wands, 5) Wheel of Fortune, 6) King of Pentacles, 7) 6 of Pentacles, 8) King of Swords, 9) 5 of Pentacles, 10) Ace of Pentacles

Packet 5: Establishing an area of dominion

1) 2 of Wands, 2) Ace of Pentacles, 3) The world, 4) 2 of Pentacles, 5) Knight of Cups, 6) 3 of Wands, 7) The Fool, 8) 9 of Pentacles, 9) The Devil, 10) 4 of Wands

Friday Love and Romance

Packet 1: Attracting an appropriate lover

1) 8 of Swords, 2) 4 of Swords, 3) The Lovers, 4) 4 of Cups, 5) 5 of Cups, 6) 8 of Wands, 7) 8 of Cups, 8) 3 of Cups, 9) 10 of Swords 10) 2 of Cups

Packet 2: Acquiring a specific lover

1) 4 of Swords, 2) 5 of Cups, 3) 2 of Cups, 4) 4 of Cups, 5) 2 of Pentacles, 6) Ace of Cups, 7) 3 of Wands, 8) 8 of Pentacles, 9) The Moon, 10) The Lovers

Packet 3: Breaking up a romantic couple

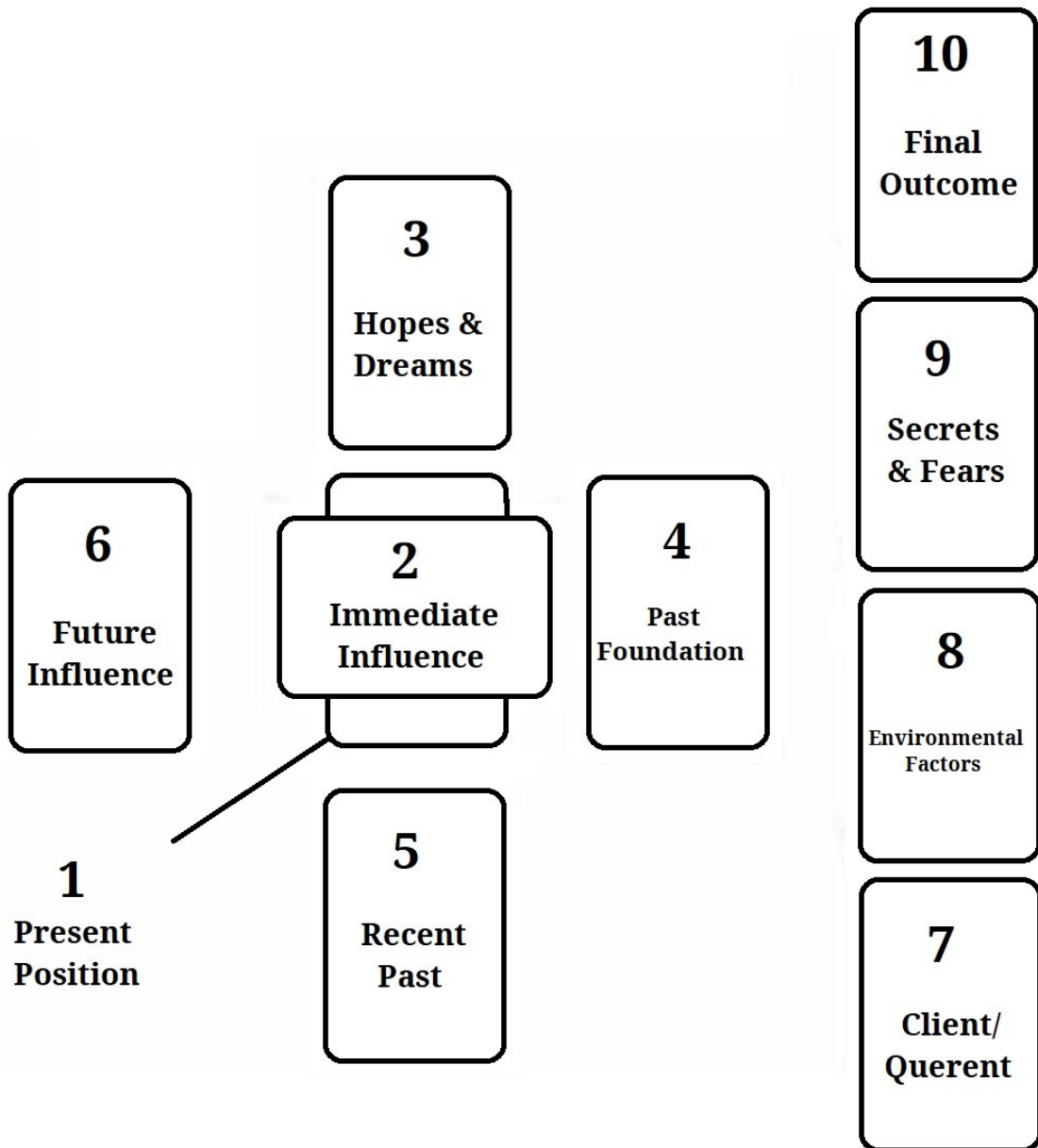
1) 3 of Cups, 2) 8 of Wands, 3) 8 of Pentacles, 4) 10 of Cups, 5) 2 of Swords, 6) Wheel of Fortune, 7) 5 of Cups, 8) 5 of Wands, 9) 10 of Swords, 10) 7 of Swords

Packet 4: Getting your lover back

1) 5 of Cups, 2) 7 of Wands, 3) The Lovers, 4) 10 of Cups, 5) 5 of Wands, 6) 8 of Wands, 7) Ace of Cups, 8) Wheel of Fortune, 9) 3 of Cups, 10) 2 of Cups

Packet 5: Your lover stops acting up

1) 10 of Cups, 2) 2 of Pentacles, 3) The Lovers, 4) 8 of Wands, 5) 2 of Swords, 6) Ace of Cups, 7) 6 of Cups, 8) 6 of Wands, 9) 5 of Cups, 10) 10 of Pentacles



1
Present
Position

6
Future
Influence

2
Immediate
Influence

3
Hopes &
Dreams

4
Past
Foundation

5
Recent
Past

10
Final
Outcome

9
Secrets
& Fears

8
Environmental
Factors

7
Client/
Querent