

CONTRIBUTORIA

« JAN 2015

ARTICLE THE FUTURE

Cross my palm: 2015



By
Danny Smith



I started reading the tarot when I was seventeen, for less than honourable reasons. A ruse, really. A ploy to get girls to spend a hour or so in a candle-lit room, and, when needs must, doubt their relationship with that boyfriend they're not sure about, be urged to live in the moment, or maybe notice someone closer to them than they would think as a potential partner. All on the advice of the cards of course. The trick is never to offer to read the cards, but instead mention in passing you read them, and sooner or later they will insist that you read them for her, or as they sometimes so delightfully put it 'Do me!'

Of course as I grew up, my moral compass became slightly less flexible but the tarot remained. I would consult them regularly over the years using the rich layers of symbols and signs as a window into my subconscious and using the fluid language of the cards to articulate clearly my thought and feelings about topics I sometimes hadn't even thought about. I never considered this a magical or paranormal thing, although, I admit, I like the cache. It falls, for me, somewhere between Jungian psychology and mythic morality plays.

Even the fortune telling aspect isn't that occult when looked at through a perspective of narrative self diagnosis. A card is placed to represent the past, the present, and the future. The reader of the cards then uses the pictures and meanings of these cards to create a story, a story that by its nature will be very general, but general enough to be applied as metaphor to the subject's life. Given that the story then has an applicable past and present, the future card is

simply the result of that trajectory. Mostly the future cards serves as warning or encouragement depending on that story; an exercise in storytelling where an ending is suggested when given the context of the past and the present.

This of course still leaves a lot of wiggle room for orphic influences and occult grandstanding and my opinions on these are so fluid they don't really bear writing down, but seventeen years later I still read the tarot. Perhaps then it is no surprise that when reflecting on the turbulent and harrowing year of 2014, and trying predict what fresh nonsense 2015 will hold, my thought went to my tarot cards. I have picked 3 figures from the year ahead and have done a simple three card spread for each. one card to represent the past, one to represent the present, and the last to predict the outcome.

Nigel Farage - Recently named 'Man of the Year' by the Times. Although the criteria which they pick the man of the year seems hazy. Be it 'most important', 'most talked about' or 'most likely to get people to buy our paper trying for the love of god to find out how we reckoned this one out' Mr Ukip's real test will be the upcoming election (if he can make it until then without having to sack his party members for spouting racist gibberish).

PAST: Ace of Pentacles

Depicted on this card we see a hand coming out of the clouds bearing a coin. Like all of the ace cards it can symbolise a fresh start or beginning of something, the suit of coins is about material wealth. Now while Farage certainly comes

from money, public-school education and a background as a commodities trader in the City, I wouldn't say the card speaks to that. I would suggest that the party itself, being founded and funded by large donations from rich dissatisfied ex-Tory backers, (like Arron Banks, or Richard Edmonds) is the new project or venture the card suggests.

PRESENT: *Knight of Cups*

This shows a charming man able to influence himself and those around him with intuitive dreams and ideals. The knight is someone who is proactive in achieving those ideals. While it may be laugh-out-loud ridiculous to talk of the 'charm' of Nigel Farage, but the media certainly like him and he has managed win many voters from both sides of the political spectrum and take a near single issue party to national importance.

FUTURE: *Ten of Wands*

This card bears the picture of a man overburdened with sticks, struggling with the responsibilities and pressures of work, someone ill suited for the burden that comes with success and not prepared for the position he finds himself in.

Result - Cards show success in the venture funded by others that comes from his charm and influence, but find a man ill-suited to the burdens that that venture brings.

Barack Obama - 2015 will be his last year in the presidency. While this is a year

most left-wing hopefuls will see as an opportunity to burn his political bridges, push through real change, and deliver on his 'HOPE' slogan. Most will agree with both political houses teeming full of republican voters it'll be a year of careful compromise and understated achievement of the sort that has defined his term in office.

PAST: Ten of Pentacles

This shows a family safe in a house of wealth and comfort, and it speaks of a background of financial safety and material gain, being part of a legacy that is secure after you are gone. The interpretations of this are obvious, but its worth noting that the strong presidential family unit are part of Obama's charm

PRESENT: Nine of Pentacles

Like all of this suit, this card speaks to wealth and financial matters, this shows a lady of some poise and tact managing and enjoying her position, being comfortable with what she has and showing the restraint and self control to get towards her goals. Again the interpretation is obvious, and shows the poise and grace in which Obama has handled the the terms of his presidency.

FUTURE: Death

It's common knowledge that the Death card in a reading doesn't necessarily mean someone is going to die. It means change, a death in a way of life, a career, or period in a person's life. Disappointing in this spread really, as we

know that this is his last year in office, so offers no more information (unless he actually dies - that'd be spooky right?)

Result - Barack will handle his position of abundance and influence with grace and poise right up till the end of his presidency (which could be the end of his term, or him dying unexpectedly)

Lorde - after rising to prominence in 2013 at the age of seventeen with her debut album *Pure Heroine*, 2014 has been a relatively quiet one. While she works on the new album, she has been touring, appeared at a bunch of festivals and curated and worked on the soundtrack to *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1*. All of which, when taken with her appearance on South Park and various accolades and awards have cemented her as one of the most interesting new artists of recent years.

PAST: *Eight of Cups*

Pictured here is a young man walking away from a pile of cups in the foreground. It is a card that speaks to abandonment and dissatisfaction of what one has in favour of trying something else.

Early in her career Lorde, born Ella Marija Lani Yelich-O'Connor, sang as part of a duet 'Ella & Louis' and found some fame performing covers, this card could be about walking away from that partnership.

PRESENT: *Queen of Pentacles*

Pentacles are the wealth suit, but the striving ambitious aspects of the page and knight are not present in the queen. The queen is someone who has wealth and security but uses to consolidate herself in her position, that from this base uses it to then reach out and help others.

This reference to wealth is apt - Lorde was recently estimated to be worth over five million pounds. But this card could also be depicting the year she has taken to write the new album, rather than rush a new one out to capitalise on her success in 2013. It could also mean that she reaches out to some up-and-coming artists to appear on the album using her position to help others.

FUTURE: *The Emperor*

The Emperor is card of certain authority, of stability and structure. it is also the card of establishment. In this reading it could depict Lorde's rise in status, and into a new level of stability.

Result - After walking away once from something she was dissatisfied with, Lorde's year of consolidation and wealth pays off and her next album rises her status up from 'interesting new artist' into the pantheon of musical establishment.

So what does 2015 hold?

According to the cards for us in England, the Ukip party seem destined for some success, but whatever that is the party leader will not be able to handle it. The US will have a poised and collected leader right up until the end of his term (or his death) and Lorde will drop her second album to critical and commercial acclaim.

The real skill of reading the tarot is being able to tease out narratives from very vague, but emotive, prompts. This, by its very nature, means that anyone who reads the tarot themselves at this point is probably shouting at this article and at me for doing it wrong. Those of you who don't read the tarot are more than likely beguiled by my wondrous predictions and hold me in the same esteem as Dumbledore or Gandalf, or at very least Wizbit.

As a parting gift then I took one card out of the deck to get an overarching theme for the year ahead. The card for 2015 is the *Five of Swords*. It shows a man, seemingly victorious sneering at two other men walking away defeated. Its a victory card, but calls into question how the victory was won and what will be the consequences of that victory.

So 2015 is a year of winning and accomplishment, but the cards warn us of how we get this victory and how we act when we have it, because the consequences could be severe.



About the writer

"My wings are like a shield of bourbon. Writer, drunk, lover, not always in that order."
Danny's work has appeared in *Vice*, *Fused* and *Area* magazines. He typically writes about culture, pop and otherwise, and his own experiences travelling through subcultures. He's worked behind the bar and on the doors of the roughest pubs in Birmingham, sold encyclopaedias in the Australian outback, and taught gang kids from the ghettos of New Jersey how to shoot a bow and arrow. He most recently worked as a teaching assistant in a pupil referral unit, but gave it up to explore India and spend more time writing.

[Go to writer's profile page](#)

HOW THIS ARTICLE WAS MADE

1786
points

27
backers

6
drafts

0
comments

[▶ ARTICLE HISTORY](#)

[▶ COLLABORATE ON NEW ARTICLES](#)

[♥ ADD TO FAVOURITES](#)



[LICENSE THIS ARTICLE](#)



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Why a running track is the only hope for youths in an Indian village

By **Akhilesh**

The future of taxicabs

By **Jeremy Blachman**

A very happy New Year at Contributoria

By **Sarah Hartley**

BACKERS

No public backers.



IN PRODUCTION: JULY 2015

See drafts of next issue's articles, and collaborate on the final publication.

A sporting chance. How one woman succeeded in calling society to action.

PLANNING: AUG 2015

Pledge on Contributoria journalists' proposals for articles.

Public vs private schooling in South Africa

Surveillance at Sea: technologies are creating a more trackable ocean

JOIN CONTRIBUTORIA



Support independent journalism by joining Contributoria! Back the articles you want to see, and give feedback to writers as they develop their work.

JOIN NOW



[About Contributoria](#)

[Cookies](#)

[Writing for Contributoria](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms and Conditions](#)

© Contributoria 2014