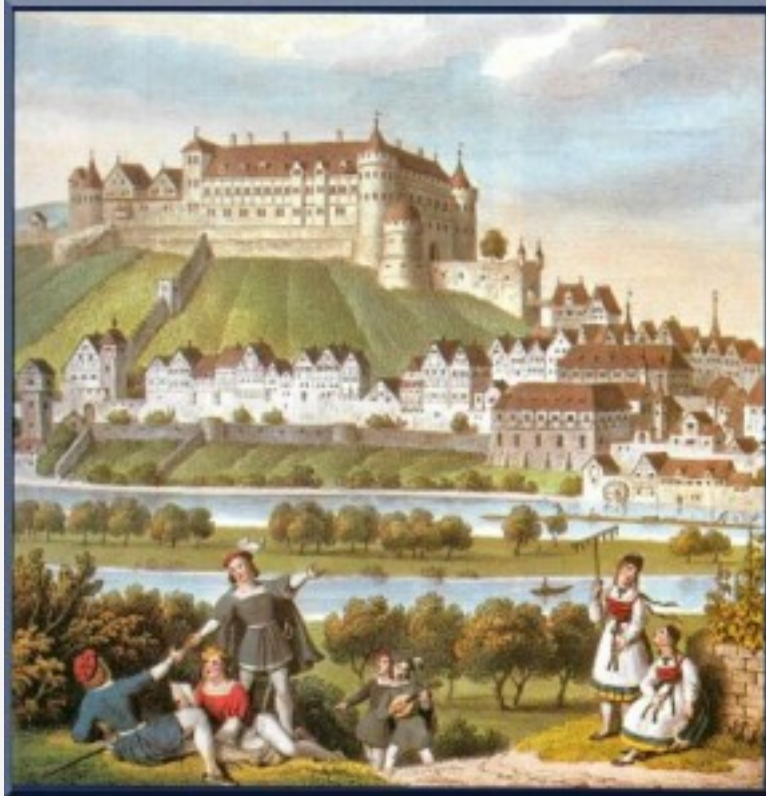


# The Rose Cross and Rosicrucian Spread



Tübingen

In this very special, secret and spiritual article I time-travel all the way back to 17<sup>th</sup> century Germany, to the small town of Tübingen. We walk together along the cobbled streets, with the early mist rising from the river, hearing echoes in time ... to come at last to the place where Johannes Valentinus Andreae is to be found, perhaps composing the enigmatic piece, "The Chymical Wedding" which would later be known as one of the three Rosicrucian manifestos. These pieces – the first paper blog posts which went viral – created the whole Rosicrucian mythos, and more secret societies than one can count.

And at the centre of these secret societies, one simple symbol, one secret beyond measure. Today we present the mystery of the Rose Cross, and unlock it with a very special Tarosophy® tarot spread.

The Rosy Cross is enchanting, it oozes mystery and meaning, lately it is something that has come very much into my Tarot space in the course of research on behalf of Marcus Katz, who is doing a presentation on A.E Waite's second deck, The Trinick deck, at the ATS conference in St. Suzanne, France on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2011. This deck contains the beautiful, mysterious images of the stained glass artist John B Trinick and illustrates the spiritual ascent as pictured by Tarot within Waite's secret order of the Rose Cross.

The Rosy Cross holds within its centre twenty-two petals, and they are guardian to a profound esoteric and mystical teaching and a catalyst for transformation and meaning, as the quote so rightly expresses *ad rosam per crucem, ad crucem per rosam*, which means "to the rose by way of the cross, to the cross by way of the rose".

Lon Milo Duquette expresses this beautifully in his book “Understanding the Thoth Tarot”, where he says “Magical tradition informs us that, on the material plane symbols are symbols, and living things are living things”. Perception of reality is fixed differently, that on the magical and visionary plane, all is reversed so that “symbols are living things and living things are symbols”.

This is where the Rosy cross brings the symbols to life, and when the tarot is put into its rightful place within it, then hidden wisdom can be revealed. Lon stresses this magical law to make us more aware of the “immeasurable symbolic power stored in the Rosy cross”.

There is an old phrase, that of “only seeing things through Rose tinted glasses”, this is where we see only reality as beautiful or positive, we are not actually seeing what is there, we effectively see beyond the mundane to another plane where we can influence our life for the better. So let’s put on our metaphorical rose tinted glasses, discard our doubt, and transform through the Rosy cross and the Tarot. Let’s say we transpose our existence, our very being onto the Rosy Cross, we are it and it is us. We are our own true potential waiting to unfurl.

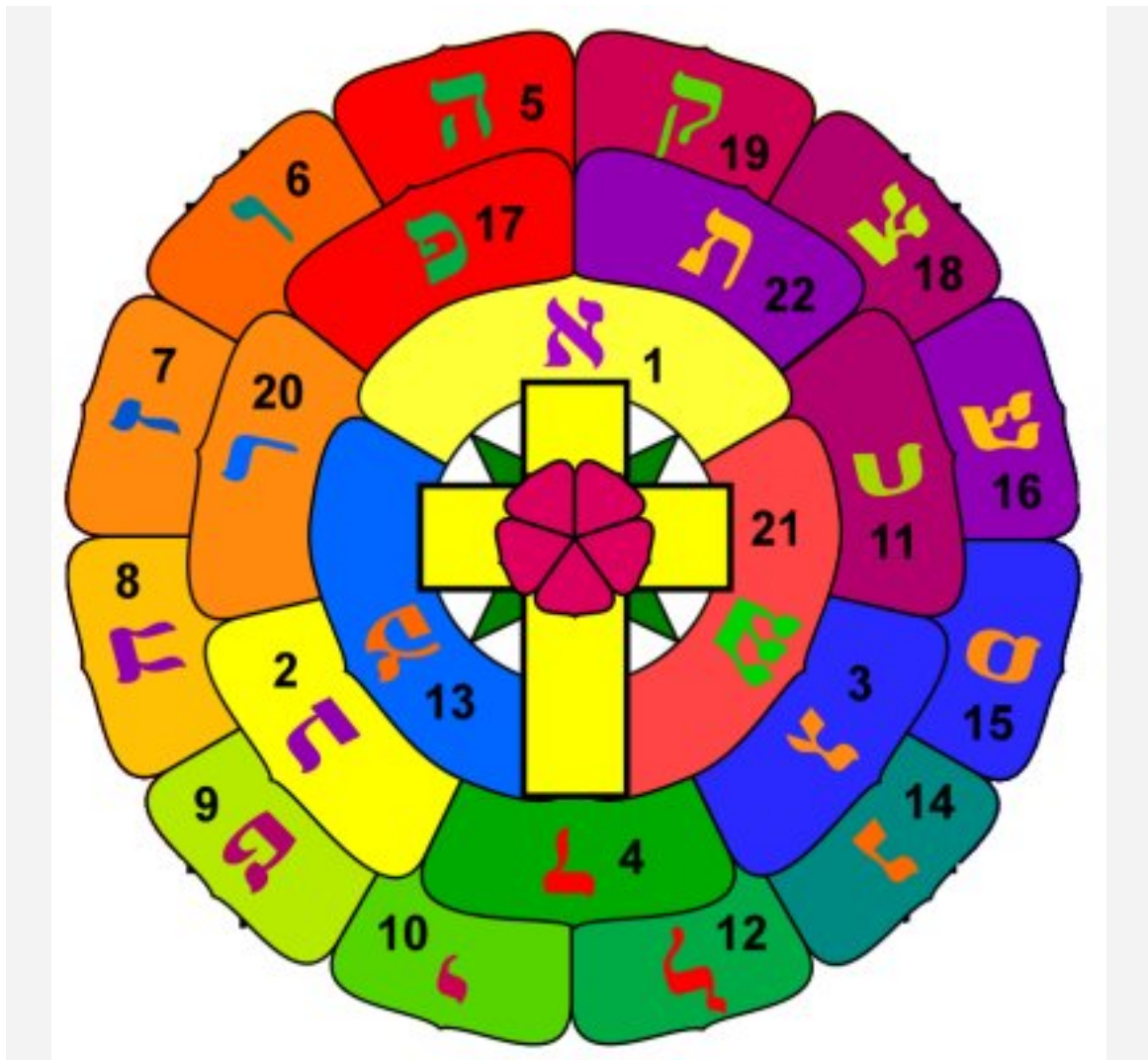
### **Unlocking your spiritual self through the Rosy Cross**

This sublime spread opens up the mystery of the soul through the petals of the Rose Cross. In doing so, it allows us to reach into the rarest secrets of our inner being and outwards into the challenges and lessons that life presents us.

Like most of the spreads in Tarosophy® it is not merely a spread but a whole method, with the capacity to engage life in an almost limitless manner, using the magical correspondences between Tarot and the Kabbalah.

### **The Method (Way of the Rose Cross)**

- A. Take the Rose Cross diagram, numbered and lettered.
- B. Shuffle your Tarot deck and contemplate the ever-unfolding petals and events of life.
- C. Lay out 22 cards in the sequence given on the diagram.



Rosicrucian Spread

D. As a beginner, you can simply read the inner three cards together as the “elemental” basis of your question, what is really happening at the core of the situation.

E. As an intermediate reader, read the middle circle of seven cards as the “planetary” aspect of your question, the forces at work and active at the present time to present your challenges.

F. As an advanced or confident reader, further read the outer circle of twelve cards as the “zodiacal” aspect of your question, the lessons you can learn.

G. We can now “unfurl” the spread by taking any of the particular questions below which concerns us most. Whether it is at the heart of your spiritual life such as “where is my spiritual horizon”, corresponding to the 1/Aleph position on the innermost circle of the rose, or an outer concern such as “How do I transform a little into a never-ending resource?” which corresponds to the 17/Tzadi position on the outer circle of the rose. It could be one of the middle questions such as “How do I know when to give in – and what?” which corresponds to the 16/Peh position on the Rose.

H. Having decided on the question which most concerns you now, you can read the cards which overlap the petal both inwards and outwards, gaining a “way” through the most spiritual aspect of your question to the most mundane or outer concerns.

As an example, if we took the question, “How should I be true to my calling?” (20/Shin), this would naturally radiate outwards to the positions of 21/Tau, 3/Gimel, 4/Daleth (see the diagram). Perhaps then we see that the card in the 3/Gimel position attracts us and we read that card. We can then unfurl that outwards to 15/Samekh and 14/Nun on the outer circle of the rose and read either or both of the two cards in those positions.

This would flow naturally from “How should I be true to my calling” to “How best should I harness my sensitivity” and outwards to “What do I need to let go” and “How do I know it is time to make changes”. The cards in these positions will also answer a spiritual mystery which is that to find your calling, rather than look for it, you start from the **outside** of the Rose – you let go of what is no longer necessary, and you recognise it is time to make change. Then, your sensitivity is free to respond to the inner calling – in this way, we make our way through the rose to the cross, and through the cross to the rose.

In this way, this spiritual method of Tarosophy® provides an ever-flexible road-map of spiritual advice and progression through dialogue with the divine, upon the rose and the cross.

Advanced readers may also find further elucidation by comparing and reading the corresponding Tarot card to each fixed position to the card that falls in that place in the spread. Thus you will pair the twenty-two cards that you draw from your deck to the twenty-two Major cards, showing how the entire archetypal field is playing out in your life.

J. There are many other ways of using this method, which I leave open to your delightful discovery, and if you have any questions at all, or would like to let me know what you find when performing this Rosicrucian spread, do let me know.

### **The Positions on the Rose**

When laying out the 22 cards from your shuffled deck in these positions, allow your hand and mind to draw the lines between laying down each card in each position, slowly building up the shape of the entire rose.

The positions below also include the elemental/planetary/zodiacal correspondence for further usage in your interpretation, and the alternative titles used by Crowley in the Thoth Tarot deck.

1. Fool (0)/Aleph/Air: Where is my spiritual horizon?
2. Magician (1)/Beth/Mercury: How can I clear my spiritual channel?
3. The High Priestess (2)/Gimel/Moon: How can I best harness my sensitivity and receptivity?
4. The Empress (3)/Daleth/Venus: How I can assert my will without alienating others?
5. The Emperor (4)/He/Aries: How do I rule myself and stop unproductive emotions getting in the way?
6. The Hierophant (5)/Vau/Taurus: How to reveal my divine truth through ritual and discipline?
7. The Lovers (6)/Zain/Gemini: How do I find union with the divine love?
8. The Chariot (7)/Cheth/Cancer: How do I keep my momentum on the spiritual path?

9. Strength (8)/Teth/[Lust]/Leo : How do I keep my faith through change and hard times?
10. The Hermit (9)/Yod/Virgo: How do I make pilgrimage, or go on a journey within, to discover the true me?
11. The Wheel of Fortune (10)/Kaph/Jupiter: How do I turn aspects of a regretful past into a future of fortune?
12. Justice (11) [Adjustment]/Lamed/Libra: How do I make sense of the world in this uncertain time?
13. The Hanged Man (12)/Mem/Water: What aspect of my values do I have to sacrifice?
14. Death (13)/Nun/Scorpio: What in my life do I need to let go of to bring in renewal?
15. Temperance (14)/[Art]/Samekh/Sagittarius: How do I know when it is time for me to make changes in my life?
16. The Devil (15)/Ayin/Capricorn: How do I turn temptation into a virtue?
17. The Tower (16)/Pe/Mars: How do I know when to give in and start again?
18. The Star (17)/Tzaddi/Aquarius: How do I transform a little into a never-ending resource?
19. The Moon (18)/Qoph/Pisces: How do I draw forth the deep magic that is the moon?
20. The Sun (19)/Resh/Sun: How can my will and purpose best generate energy and enthusiasm?
21. Judgement (20)/[Aeon]/Shin/Fire & Spirit: How do I answer and be true to my convictions/callings?
22. The World (21)/ [Universe]/Tau/Saturn & Earth: How do I recognise and seize opportunity in this very moment to make a new start?