

# Tarot & Archetypes for Shadow Work

## Part 1: Essential Books on Tarot, Archetypes, and Psychology

These books offer deep insights into how tarot connects with the unconscious, myth, and personal transformation:

### On Jungian Psychology & Archetypes

- *The Archetypes and The Collective Unconscious* – Carl Jung
- *Man and His Symbols* – Carl Jung
- *Owning Your Own Shadow: Understanding the Dark Side of the Psyche* – Robert A. Johnson

### On Tarot & Symbolism

- *Jung and Tarot: An Archetypal Journey* – Sallie Nichols
- *Tarot and Psychology: Spectrums of Possibility* – Arthur Rosengarten
- *The Tarot Handbook* – Angeles Arrien

### On Myth, Narrative, and Personal Transformation

- *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* – Joseph Campbell
- *Women Who Run with the Wolves* – Clarissa Pinkola Estés
- *The Power of Myth* – Joseph Campbell & Bill Moyers

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## Part 2: Tarot Exercises for Archetypal Shadow Work

### 1. The Archetype Reflection Spread

A 3-card spread to explore an unconscious pattern shaping your life.

1. **Which archetype currently influences my shadow?** (*A card representing a hidden belief, wound, or fear*)
2. **How is this archetype playing out in my life?** (*Where it shows up, how it affects choices or emotions*)
3. **How can I integrate and balance this archetype?** (*A way to work with it rather than reject it*)

**Example:** If you pull *The High Priestess (reversed)*, your shadow might involve **fear of intuition, self-trust, or passivity**. Integration could mean actively listening to your instincts, keeping a dream journal, or exploring what keeps you disconnected from your inner wisdom.

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### 2. The Hero's Journey Spread

This 5-card spread helps you uncover where you are in your personal myth and what's needed for growth.

1. **Where am I on my journey?** (*Current life stage or challenge*)
2. **What past wound or belief is shaping my path?** (*What needs healing?*)
3. **What strengths or allies can support me?** (*Inner or outer resources available*)
4. **What challenge must I face?** (*A shadow aspect or obstacle to overcome*)
5. **What transformation awaits?** (*The new version of yourself emerging*)

**Example:** If your challenge (Card 4) is *The Devil*, you may need to confront **attachments, unhealthy patterns, or inner resistance** before transformation.

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### 3. Rewriting Your Story: Tarot & Journaling Exercise

1. **Write down a belief or story about yourself that feels limiting** (e.g., "I am not creative," "I always fail," "I am not worthy of love").
  2. **Pull a tarot card** – What energy does this card reveal about the belief?
  3. **Write an alternative, empowering version of the story** (inspired by the card's meaning).
  4. **Reflect: How can you embody this new story in daily life?**
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