

Tasseomancy: The Art of Tea Leaf Reading



Tasseography, otherwise known as tasseomancy, is the art of tea leaf reading. This is the ancient art of fortune telling; interpreting patterns made by tea leaves in a cup. In addition to the reading of tea leaves, the tradition of tasseography includes the reading of coffee grounds and wine sediments.

Although tasseography is most commonly associated with Gypsy fortunetellers, the tradition of tea leaf reading arises independently from ancient Asia and Ancient Greece. Modern tasseography, popularized in the Victorian era as a parlor game, has also been associated with the Scotch, Irish and cultures throughout Eastern Europe.

Tasseography Instructions:

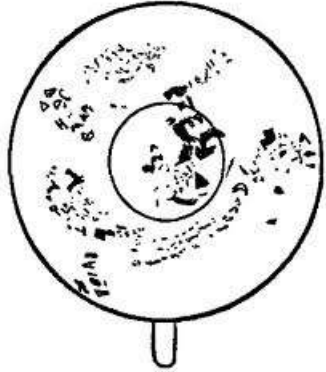
(Be sure to keep a pen and paper handy so you can document your observations.)

1. Use either a traditional asian or european tea cup. You will also need a small plate or saucer.
2. Without a strainer, sprinkle the leaves into a teapot. Add boiling water and steep until it is your desired strength. Do not attempt to cut up a teabag because the tea within is too finely cut. You may also sprinkle some coffee grounds in a cup of coffee.
3. Inhale deeply and quiet your mind. Pour the tea into your cup. Leaves will flow into your tea cup along with tea and aroma.
4. When ready to drink, sip carefully, so you don't end up swallowing part of your fortune (hehe). Rubbing a little light tropical oil in the bottom of the cup helps the tea leaves to stick together. While you drink your tea, think of the questions or wishes you have in your mind. You will get a general fortune if no particular question is looming in the forefront of your consciousness (other than: does this really work?).
5. Drink as much of the liquid as possible and just before the tea is finished there is still a tiny drop of liquid left, take the cup in the left hand and turn it counterclockwise three times in a full circle and make your wish.
6. Remain quiet and meditative while you pour out the remaining liquid into the saucer. Pour slowly so that some of the tea and most of the leaves remain in your cup. Leave your cup turned upside down on the saucer and lightly tap the cup. Leave it for a minimum of three breaths to let the leaves

dry out. The remaining liquid will have drained from your cup, leaving a leaf pattern behind.

7. Now, you may turn your cup right side up. Take a few deep breaths and relax and look at the forms that the leaves take. Think literally while analyzing your leaves - paying close attention to patterns.
8. To look at tea leaves and interpret them by their shapes is like taking a Rorschach Inkblot Test. It is science not metascience. Anyone can look at patterns and give them meaning on the third dimension level. The trick is to see beyond third dimension - and psych on the formations that are created. The closer the patterns were to the bottom of the cup - the longer distance in time until the event would occur. Remember when interpreting the images - listen to thoughts in your mind as to clues to true definitions for what you are reading. You can also use a Dream Interpretation Book to get further clarification of images.
9. If your vessel has a handle, you will read clockwise from the handle. If you vessel does not have a handle, read clockwise from 12 o'clock. The handle represents you or your inner inquirer and so the symbols closest to it are especially meaningful, often describing your current frame of mind or a dominant character trait.
10. The first pattern you see is the symbol representing your dominant character, quality, state of mind or question.



















There are three levels on your cup:



1) The surface area of your tea when you began to drink (full) and above is the Rim Section. The patterns in the rim section apply to your present or immediate future. With in a few days.

2) The area of the cup that exists between the rim section and the base section. That is your Middle Section. The middle section patterns are speaking to your near future. Up to a week ahead.

3) The amount of tea you left in your cup before you dumped it out is your Base Section. The images you see at the base of your cup relate to your distant future (end of the week or up to a few months) or the ultimate conclusion of your question.

-  Crescent; moon, receptivity; lunar; introspection.
-  Circle Segments; legato; assimilation; rationality; sleep.
-  Sum; total; bringing; together; archway, net.
-  Fuller Circle Segment; do not disturb.
-  Motion; movement; echo.
-  Exit; bird; letter E.
-  Three.
-  Fire; mountain; bird.
-  Water; clouds.
-  Bowl; vessel; summer.
-  Cup; glass; wine, celebration.
-  Aries; ram; strong emotion; fire.
-  Orbit; encircle; moon; quadruplicity; fermata.
-  Water; bird; purification.
-  Lock; trident; capture, choices.
-  Up; yes; good direction.
-  Down; no; wrong direction.
-  Horizontal arrow; no change; smooth travel.
-  Changes; challenges.

-  Water; sea; unity; travel; interrupted travel.
-  Woman; Venus; romance; love.
-  Man; Mars; action.
-  Sun; energy; power; success; new beginnings.
-  Star; good luck; excellence; success.
-  Greater than.
-  Less than.
-  Heart; love; romance; home.
-  Horseshoe; good luck.
-  Cross; Christ; plus; addition.
-  Spiral; creativity; energy; time for problem solving.
-  Dashes; brief travel; busy.
-  Lines; travel; change.
-  Warning; caution; stop.
-  Knots; anxiety; stress.
-  Wheel; inevitable change; progress.
-  Anchor; stability; difficult to change.
-  Chain; responsibility; series of events.
-  Peace.