

Title: Shaping the Astrological Identity: The Therapeutic Relationship to Divination in the Digital Age

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The rapid expansion of internet-based divination readings threatens spiritual efficacy for both diviners and participants. However, the prevalence of social media as a platform in which diviners can both communicate and advertise has resulted in a rapid surge of tarot and astrology readings appearing as relevant therapeutic forces in the lives of psychotherapists' patients. The following ethnographic research takes a unique approach to understanding divination by meeting with two diviners, one through FaceTime and another in-person.

Writer Marianna Ruan-Midbar addresses the erroneous and problematic nature of digitized tarot readings performed by robots by recognizing their inability to create or exchange energy. Midbar's writing offers a gateway in which we can address the question of whether or not real humans can exchange energy in a digital environment. As the internet develops into a space in which diviners can connect with almost anyone, almost anywhere, the standards have transformed - but at what cost?

Divination's ability to exist as its own category of therapy opens an important conversation which improves our understanding of why its significance has transformed in the last decade. Therapists have now begun developing their own understandings of astrology to better connect with clients (Yar). Additionally, Traditional cultures around the world, like the Navajo, for example, rely on the role of narrative as an essential element in healing physical, spiritual and psychological ailments (Milne and Howard 543). Tarot and astrology readings similarly encourage their clients to build a narrative of oneself; allowing for autonomous spiritual breakthroughs.

Works Cited

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