



THE LIBRARY
OF
ESOTERICA

TAROT

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TASCHEN

THE ALCHEMY OF SELF

Foreword by
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Artist

I have always been intrigued by esoteric traditions in general, but oracles, the Tarot, these are things that particularly fascinate me, both as a woman and as an artist. This is in part because I always felt that these traditions offered a direct way to access energy, the energy of one's inner self. Tarot also helps us to understand how we can live a spiritual life in our material fog.

Wisdoms and esoteric truths are passed down to us to help us to recognize ourselves. These tools provide us with a better understanding of our own minds. And Tarot, with its system of archetypes, such as the Fool, the Magician, and the High Priestess, is there to help us find our own reflection within the cards.

We have all these archetypes within us, once we expand our limited sense of self. In this way, Tarot is transformational, allowing us to see the alchemy of ourselves. Tarot allows us to get past all the barriers we put up that prevent us from seeing the path of least

resistance. That's what the cards are meant to do. They are signposts along the way. The whole process of divination, in fact, is one that allows us to access the energy of who we are, without having *ourselves* get in the way. Tarot enables a direct connection to the spirit, to the divine, to whatever we want to call those forces that work both within and along with us. It is a practice that lets us listen to our inner voice, the intuitive self.

Right now, we are in a moment of the rising of the feminine. Each and every one of us contain both the male and the female within. And the key is in awakening those qualities that we attribute to the feminine, in *all* of us. Intuition is one of those attributes. And it is with esoteric traditions such as Tarot that we can tap into that side of ourselves, permitting us to take part in our own evolution. In cultivating our instinctual knowing, we have the opportunity to explore not what separates us, but what connects us, with everything.

(frontispiece) T. Ketola · *The Tree of Life and Death*
Italy · 2008 The contemporary artist and graphic designer, Timo Ketola often explores occult and esoteric symbology in his work.

Penny Slinger & Nik Douglas · *The Tantric Dakini Oracle* · England/United States · 2003 The *Tantric Dakini Oracle* reflects a highly original system of divination created by Slinger and Douglas, based upon their extensive study of the 64 Dakinis of the Ranipur Jharial Temple in Orisa, India.



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