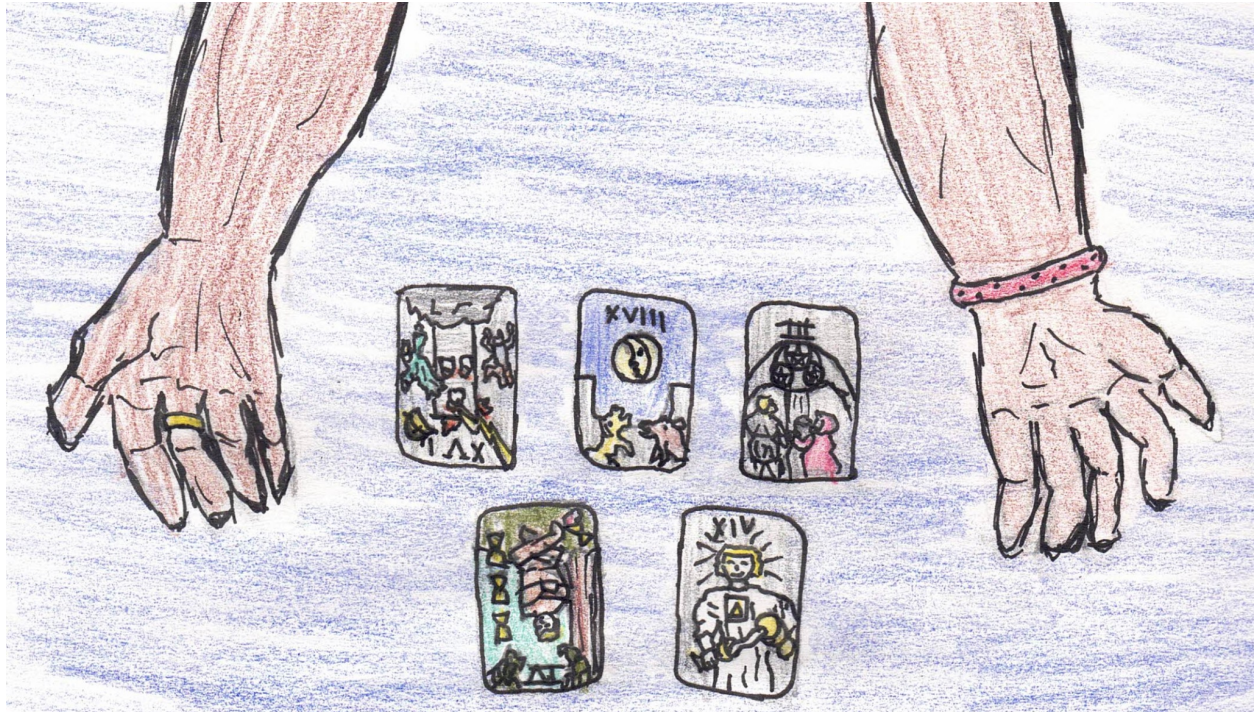




This episode opens up on an overhead shot. All that can be seen are the arms of **'She'**, the Friendly Gossip. She begins speaking in Bengali, though there are subtitles in every major language.

'Her': "Hello, citizens of Rākinagarh." *Her voice is calm.* "And welcome to this episode of the Paparazzi Network. I'll be your Announcer, and with me... is nobody. My Co-Host is taking a break, so it will be just me today."

'Her': "Our wonderful city has so much happening, it's hard to keep track. So, please do use this Network as a resource, learning all the local news, and all the hottest gossip, all for free."

'Her': "Today will be a bit different. Instead of the normal news segments, I'll be trying my hand on a tarot reading. Bear with me, but it should be a simple five card spread." *She's shuffling a deck in her hands.*

'Her': "I'm still a beginner at this, but let's all do our best together. The first card is the 'past', the overall 'situation'."

'Her': "The Tower, reversed. The Tower is known as a terrifying card. It's all shock, fire, and fury, tearing away everything that was there before. However, the inverse is not really any better. Change is needed, and reversed shows stagnation. I'm sure everyone here is dissatisfied with how things are moving, huhuhu..."

'Her': "Tower reversed means the city is held back. Like water in a dam, kept back, held in a sort of stasis. Well, it also means that the change is coming. A sort of doom. But for who...?"

'Her': Representing the present, the Moon, upright. Huhuhu~, this is my favorite card personally. The Moon represents illusions, uncertainty, secrets, fear... and intuition. It states that simultaneously everything is not as it seems, but to trust in your own intuition. Perhaps it's that there's so much fear about what is coming next? Or perhaps things really are up in the air."

'Her': "Next is the obstacle. Three of Pentacles. Interesting! Pentacles is all about work and effort, and Three shows hard work, commitment, teamwork, achievement... three people in a conclave, on the card."

'Her': "Perhaps what stands in everyone's way is something that holds power, has achievement... maybe a group of people? Or maybe this hard work and commitment is the challenge? Some great threat? It's interesting that this isn't the Hierophant- that would imply the threat is the government, but instead it seems different. Something with greater reach?"

'Her': "Opportunities next. Four of Cups, reversed. Cups deals with relationships and emotion, and upright the Four shows missed opportunities, isolationism, apathy, and nostalgia. Intriguing. Reversed, it encourages the querent to look to the future, make their own path forward, and seize opportunities as they come. I'll leave it to the viewer to consider that for their own situation."

'Her': "The final card, the 'result', is Temperance. This one is simple; moderation, balance, peace, and harmony. I suppose at the end of whatever is coming up, that there *will* be some sort of balance. A new status quo. And the search for what that equalizing looks like is what's up in the air."

'Her': "Again, I leave it up to the viewer to interpret this."

'Her': "I've received questions about a fire on a property on Mount Parapollah recently. I was there, and I was renting the home. Fortunately, nobody was hurt, and the case was ruled as an accident. The homeowner will receive the full amount of their fire insurance."

'Her': "Thank you to everyone who has reached out to check on my health~!"

'Her': "Before I go, I would like to mention something- an article I read recently."

'Her': "On Ms. Paris Aco's blog, there is a new post. She's done some investigating, looking into a combination of whistleblowers, forensic accounting, and other journalism I'm not familiar with. Her results are shocking. There appears to be some... entity, club, cartel, some sort of faction that has immense influence in the city."

'Her': "Through a combination of shell companies and influence in certain parts of the city administration and economic life, this group has subtly been acting as a conspiracy. It's unknown what exactly their purpose or goals are, but Ms. Aco did find connections to corruption and malfeasance."

'Her': "This group, according to Ms. Aco, is called **The Metropolis Suite** ."

'Her': "Stay safe, everyone, and I wish you well."

'Her': "Until next time, I'm your Announcer, signing off."

The broadcast fades out into a classic logo.