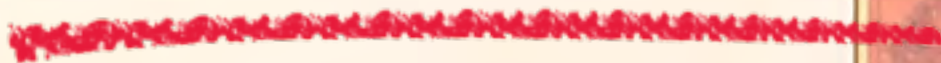


2023

The
Magic Advent Calendar
of Good Ideas



by Roberto Giobbi



A collection of objects including a pen, holly leaves, a playing card, a fountain pen, and a Christmas ornament.

Roberto Giobbi's The Magic Advent Calendar of Good Ideas

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A festive desk scene featuring a pen, green leaves, playing cards, and a red ornament. The background is a light-colored surface. A pen with a gold and black barrel is in the top left. Green leaves are in the top right. A playing card, the Ace of Spades, is in the middle right. A red ornament is in the bottom left. A fountain pen is in the bottom right. A small card with a portrait is in the middle right, partially under the text.

1.

Next time you get together with your magic buddies, do not start off the session by showing your latest sleight, but perform a complete trick for them; do so as if they were laypeople.

A festive desk scene featuring a pen with a gold and dark brown barrel, holly leaves, a card showing the Ace of Spades, a fountain pen, and a red Christmas ornament with a gold cap.

2.

Back home check your deck to see if it is complete and that there are no signed or otherwise "contaminated" cards. Cut the Ace of Spades to the face, and then insert the deck into the card case, so that when you afterwards extract it you'll see the Ace of Spades; this tells you that your deck is ready to perform.

3.

Never interrupt
someone who is
praising you.



A collection of objects including a pen, holly leaves, playing cards, a fountain pen, and a Christmas ornament.

4.

When you do an unsatisfying show, ask yourself what you could improve next time. When you do a satisfying show, remember it. Know the difference between the two.

5.

In magic, most do
not practice enough...
To work hard can be
very satisfying.

A festive desk scene featuring a pen with a gold and dark brown barrel, green holly leaves, a playing card (Ace of Spades), a small red card with a figure, and a shiny red Christmas ornament with a gold cap. The background is a light-colored surface.

6.

Invite one or two magic friends over for a Magic Tea Time, a Magic Coffee, or a Magic Dinner. Meeting face-to-face like-minded people brings happiness.

7.

Talk to an
older magician
about magic.





Color Changing Deck Rationale:
Take a red-backed deck out of
a blue card case. Now you have
a reason to change the back
color of the deck. Always ask:
What is the reason for this
effect to happen?



9.

Whenever you perform a trick, precede it with a Prologue, and end it with an Epilogue. (Do a very good effect in-between...)

10.

Stand in front of your library,
close your eyes, take out one
book. Read it again, or just a
few items.

If you can't find anything
interesting, give it away,
and buy another one.



A festive desk scene featuring a pen with a gold and dark brown barrel, green holly leaves, a white playing card (Ace of Spades), a small red-bordered card with a figure, a fountain pen, and a red Christmas ornament with a gold cap.

11.

When you execute
a sleight,
breath out.

A festive desk scene featuring a pen with a gold and dark brown barrel, green holly leaves, a playing card (Ace of Spades), a small red card with a figure, a fountain pen, and a red Christmas ornament with a gold cap. The background is a light-colored surface.

12.

Keep a journal where you write down three things you did well on that day, and why. Do this for a complete month, for every day.

A festive desk scene featuring a pen, holly leaves, playing cards, and a Christmas ornament. The background is a light-colored surface. In the top left, a pen with a dark barrel and gold-colored accents lies diagonally. To its right are several green holly leaves with serrated edges. In the top right, a white playing card, the Ace of Spades, is partially visible. Below it, another card with a red and gold design is shown. In the bottom left, a red Christmas ornament with a gold-colored cap and a small gold bell is visible. In the bottom right, a fountain pen with a black barrel and a silver-colored cap is lying horizontally. The overall lighting is warm and soft, creating a cozy holiday atmosphere.

13.

Anytime you need to look through a deck of cards, you might say, "I'm going to take out the Jokers - because this is serious card magic."



14.

As the first magic activity of the day, before watching YouTube or practicing a sleight, start out by taking the instrument (cards, coins, etc.) and run through a trick from A to Z, as if really performing it. In only one month you'll be a better magician.



15.

If you take three cards from a deck, some sleights can be executed with more ease.

Few people can say that a deck is short if only three cards are missing.



16.

Next time you want
to buy a "trick",
don't, instead buy
a magic book.



17.

When you have a card palmed in your left hand, and want to turn the deck end-over-end, seize the deck at its inner end and turn it outward, rather than at the outer end and inward; pronating rather than supinating the left hand protects the palmed cards and makes the hand look natural.



18.

When about to spend money on something, do not look at the price, but at the price difference of the more expensive (and possibly better item) and the item you would buy anyway.



A festive desk scene featuring a yellow sticky note with handwritten text. The note is surrounded by various items: a pen with a gold and dark brown barrel, a fountain pen, a silver pen, a red Christmas ornament, a small orange sponge, a piece of white rock, and several green holly leaves. Two playing cards are also visible: the Ace of Spades and a red-backed card with a woman's illustration.

19.

Go to the next meeting
of your magic club, or
one near you, or attend
a small convention.
Put the date now into
your calendar.

20.

Assume you need to quickly locate a specific card by sight. Before looking at the cards, form a mental image of the index. Now ribbon spread the deck, or spread it between the hands, or form a two-handed fan. Do this slowly.



21.

For the coming year,
subscribe to at
least one magic
magazine.





22.

If a performer asks you what you thought of their performance, say something positive, because that's what they want to hear. If they ask a second time, repeat, as they seek confirmation. The few who ask a third time, really want your feedback: Give them constructive feedback to the best of your knowledge.

A collage of various objects is arranged around a central piece of paper. At the top left, a pen with a dark barrel and gold-colored accents lies diagonally. To its right are several green holly leaves with serrated edges. Below the leaves, a playing card, the Ace of Spades, is partially visible. In the bottom left corner, a red Christmas ornament with a gold-colored cap is partially shown. In the bottom right corner, a fountain pen with a dark barrel and a silver-colored cap is visible. The central piece of paper is white and contains the text of the quote.

23.

Spend as much of a day as you can with activities you enjoy, and then do them as well as you can. Concentrate on what you do, and each time try to do it a little better. For a little better is much better.

A festive desk scene featuring a pen, holly leaves, playing cards, and a Christmas ornament. The background is a light-colored surface. In the top left, a pen with a dark barrel and gold-colored accents lies diagonally. To its right are several green holly leaves with serrated edges. In the top right, a playing card, the Ace of Spades, is partially visible. Below it, another card with a red design is partially visible. In the bottom left, a red Christmas ornament with a gold-colored cap and a small gold ring is visible. In the bottom right, a fountain pen with a dark barrel and a silver-colored cap lies diagonally. The overall scene is warm and festive.

24.

When trying to come up with an "original" presentation, take care not to destroy the inherent beauty of the effect, especially when dealing with a classic. Remember: "Good is better than original."