

Arcanum: 15

Zodiac Affinity: Capricorn

Element: Earth

As a "Yes" or "No" Card: No

Overview

The Devil is the 15th Major Arcana card; a well known concept that is to lead of lord of the underworld in many cultures. As a tarot card, The Devil has many meanings, as well as interesting visual symbology in the Raider-Waite illustrations. The true meanings, however, are not as frightening as the image portrayed.



The Devil card often shows Baphomet, or the Horned Goat of Mendes, a creature that is half man, half goat. Baphomet originally represented the balance between good and evil, male and female, and human and animal; however, more recently, this figure has been linked to the occult and has become a scapegoat for all things considered 'evil'.

With the wings of a vampire bat, an animal that sucks lifeblood out of its prey, symbolic of what happens when you give in to your raw desires? He has a hypnotic stare which 'magnetizes' and entrances those who come near him; bringing them under his power. Above him is an inverted pentagram – a sign of the darker side of magic and occultism. He raises his right hand in the Vulcan Salute – a Jewish Blessing, later made famous by the film series, Star Trek. In his left hand he holds a lit torch.

At the feet of the Devil; stand a man and a woman, both naked and chained here against their will – but look closer, and you will notice the chains around their necks are loose and could easily be removed. Each has small horns on their heads like the devils' sign that they are becoming increasingly like him the longer they stay here. Both have tails, further symbol of their animalistic tendencies and raw instincts and the grapes and the fire on their respective tails signify pleasure and lust.

Keywords

Shadow of Self - Attachment - Addiction - Restriction - Sexuality - Temptation - Abuse - Bondage - Deviancy - Punishment

“Making a choice, taking an action, or staying in a situation that is contrary to your best interest. Doing something that turns [you] into something that you aren't meant to be.” - Tarot of Pagan Cats, Lo Scarabeo.



Key Phrases

- I. Ignorance in relationship
- II. Thirst for money or power
- III. Unconscious reactions, Childlike responses
- IV. Self-Imposed Bondage
- V. Being obsessed
- VI. Relinquishing control
- VII. Chained to addictive patterns of behavior
- VIII. Manipulation by others
- IX. Negative thinking
- X. Limited perception, Generalization

General

The Devil, in a general description, is a card of materialism, the conquest of matter of spirit, and ignorance. Replaced by the tower in many decks

This archetype is all that is apparently 'bad' in a world where we constantly search for the good. The word 'devil' derives from the Greek word *diablos*, which simply means 'adversary'. In fact, it is our own inner Devil who is usually the cause of most of our problems, generated by our lack of consciousness, by ignorance or illusions. The Devil appears when we are literally 'in the dark.'

The positive aspect of the Devil is that he asks us to accept our limitations, to develop awareness of self and others, and to understand that we may be literally bound and chained to a narrow perspective or living under other people's expectations'. How often do you hear 'he's just like his father'; 'women are all the same'; 'I can't do that'; 'power and money will make me happy.' That is the real Devil in us speaking.

Relationships

The Devil showing up in a spread geared towards work or education means, like the 'present' definition above, which alludes to you possibly feeling, trapped by where you are now. You can leave, but it's your decision. Would you rather stay secure where you are, or try something new? Sometimes you can apply a new way of working to get things over and done with more quickly.

In areas specifically speaking of finances, The Devil is not the best of omens, things may be difficult... It could also be your fault that you're in this situation. A large front of saint did clarify that went...

In regards to romance, The Devil means that things might be stagnating. You might even resent your partner, maybe they have unaffordable materialism, or they're always talking about themselves. It could be that you've worked out that person and you can predict every waking moment. As always, you have a choice. You can try to spice things up, or you can break it off. Deep down you and only you will know which is best for you.

The Devil card in areas of friendship relations could mean that things are starting to get boring. When you're around the same people all the time, it gets weary. You hear the same jokes and anecdotes over and over. This isn't a bad thing really. It might be a good time to spend alone and pursue a new hobby, this way, when you get back to your friends, there will be a new element of discussion. If you have very close friends, consider taking a group holiday or going on a group activity.

On the positive side of the Devil, he shows a powerful attachment between two people, such as a mom and her newborn, or a new romance still in its 'honeymoon phase'. Be careful, though, because, with the Devil card, this healthy attachment can turn into an unhealthy, co-dependent relationship if you lose connection with your inner guidance or don't protect your personal boundaries. He can also represent sexuality and your wild side. You may be exploring bondage, fetishes and your deepest, darkest fantasies. If you can do this within a safe, sacred space, it can be a very enriching experience. However, it has the potential to turn into something that may be unsafe or detrimental to your well-being in the long-term, so again, set clear boundaries, choose your partners wisely, and have your 'safe words' ready to go.



This guy will also remind you to keep upbeat, even if you're not very well at the moment. A positive mental attitude and help even in the worst of times. Things could be much worse off. Don't over work yourself or you are bound to get tired (ironic - as this very Capricorn yawns while working on day three of typing up her Major Arcana info booklet that you are reading now). Consider a diet, too, even just exercise. A good diet involves eating pure, clean food in many colors. Try and cook each meal for yourself and make it colorful.

†Past

In the Past, The Devil means that you have overcome a period of materialism, excessive fandom or addiction. You may have been really 'into' something, and you've finally escaped it. 'It' could literally be anything, a TV show, a drug, a person. You were hooked on it but you got away from it. Learn to understand what made you fall into the trap of addiction and do not make the same mistake again. The Devil in the past position is a good sign, as it means it is all behind you now.



The Devil card represents your shadow (or darker) side and the negative forces that constrain you and hold you back from being the best version of yourself. You may be at the effect of negative habits, dependencies, behaviors, thought patterns, relationships, and addictions. You have found yourself trapped between the short-term pleasure you receive and the longer-term pain you experience. Just as the Lovers card speaks to duality and choice, so too does the Devil; however, with the Devil, you are choosing the path of instant gratification, even if it is at the expense of your long-term well-being. In effect, you have sold your soul to the devil!

†Present

If he shows up in the present position it could mean one of a few things. As a tarot card, the Devil has many interpretations and has changed a lot over the years. Currently, you might be addicted to something, but you have no idea. Is there something you do that you are ashamed of? Something you wouldn't tell anybody about? It is time to stop. You can only grow as a person with sacrifice and willpower. You might currently feel trapped or in a situation that is ongoing and you feel like you'll never escape. Understand that this is the present, and it won't always be like this.

When the Devil shows up in a Tarot reading, see it as an opportunity to bring these negative influences into your conscious awareness, so you can then take action to free yourself from their hold. Shine your light on the negative patterns that have been standing in your way for so long, and over time, you will loosen the grip they have on you. Given that the Devil is a Major Arcana card, it is unlikely that you will be free from your addictions and dependencies overnight. It may be a recurring pattern for you, and it will take a tremendous amount of willpower and strength to free yourself from their influence. But know this: it IS possible, and it is up to you to make it happen.

Future

In the Futuristic position, he is not a good sign. Beware that something in the future might attract you and it won't be good for your personal growth. You might become enamored with a person who isn't for you, or fall into a trend that is generally detrimental. To combat it, you have to be sure of yourself, and in sound mind; think about what you want from life.

This card often appears when we have been tricked into thinking we had no control of over our shadow self or these negative forces, and that you can never break free from their hold. You believe you need it and you must have it, even if that means going against what you know to be right, to obtain it. Deep down, though, you know it's your determinate, and you are doing yourself (and often others) a disservice when you cave in to those lower needs and desires. To break free of these negative patterns, you need to acknowledge the hold they have over you and the impact they are having on your life. For example, the first step of AA is an admission: "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol-that our lives had become unmanageable."



In Reverse

Releasing Limiting Beliefs - Exploring Dark Thoughts - Detachment

In the reversed position, The Devil can suggest a coming period of freedom, especially if you have been feeling constrained recently. If there is an overbearing figure in your life, for example, a controlling spouse or parent, then expect them to cool down soon. If there is someone like a bully at school or work, then expect people to finally overpower them. There will be a tipping of the power soon.

The Devil can also appear when you are going into your deepest darkest places – whether or not you are ready. When you take this path consciously, you do so with strength, confidence and courage. You seek to understand your innermost shadows so you can either release them or integrate them into your life in a more constructive way. When you do it unconsciously, or with resistance, it can be very confronting as you may begin to realize you are very different from who you thought you were. You may enter a period of anxiety or depression, or experiencing dark thoughts you struggle to understand (*oh I know you feel this Cap*). If this resonates, then **please** seek the help of a **TRAINED** therapist to help you work through your class.

The reversed Devil card can often appear when you are on the verge of a break-through or an up-leveling. You are being called to your highest potential, but first, you must let go of any unhealthy attachments or limiting beliefs that may hold you back. Often, when you are called to something 'more', you must deal with your shadows before you can step into this new version of yourself. It may be an addiction, unhealthy relationships, or a disengaging career. Let go of fear and release any imposed limiting beliefs standing in the way of your growth... it is easier than you realize.

This guy may simply be a sign that you are hiding your deepest, darkest self from others;



The Devil



you may have thoughts, fantasies, addictions, or habits that you don't want others to know about because you feel embarrassed or ashamed. But sometimes, holding onto the secrets can contribute to a growing level of guilt, and you may feel a sense of relief if you can share your darker self with at LEAST one trusted individual. There is also a need to accept who you are and forgive yourself for the thoughts you have. Of course, if you are at risk of harming yourself or others, please seek professional help immediately.

Finally, the Devil reversed invites you to practice the Buddhist principle of detachment, a state in which you overcome your attachment to the desire for things, people or concepts of the world, and free yourself from any restrictions. It doesn't mean you don't care for people or things; you release your dependence on them. You may also find that a cord-cutting ceremony or visualization helps to release any unhealthy attachments to others, especially when the Devil reversed appears in a tarot reading.