

Arcanum: 12

Zodiac Affinity: Neptune

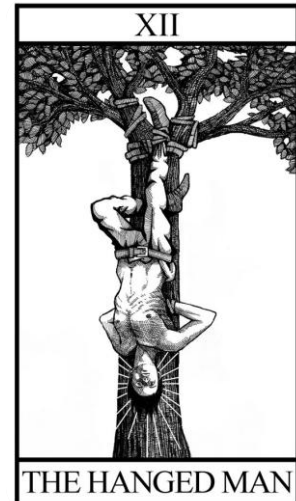
Element: Water

As a “Yes” or “No” Card: It depends wholly on the question; but likely a No.

Overview

Twelfth in the Major Arcana list, with striking imagery that gives way to an initial simple interpretation; you are at a crossroads.

The Hanged Man shows a man suspended from a T-shaped cross made of living wood. He is hanging upside-down, viewing the world from a completely different perspective, and his facial expression is calm and serene, suggesting that he is in this hanging position by his own choice. He has a halo around his head, symbolizing new insight, awareness and enlightenment. His right foot is bound to the tree, but his left foot remains free, bent at the knee and tucked in behind his right leg. His arms are bent, with hands held behind his back, forming an inverted triangle. The man is wearing red pants representing human passion and the physical body, and a blue vest for knowledge. The Hanged Man is the card of ultimate surrender, of being suspended in time and of martyrdom and sacrifice to the greater good.



Keywords

*Transition - Re-Adjustment - Limbo - Paradox - Pause - Surrender -
Letting Go - New Perspectives*

“Willingly surrendering to an experience or situation, consciously choosing to take no action, waiting for the right time before deciding about something.” - *Tarot of Pagan Cats, Lo Scarabeo.*



Key Phrases

- I. Sacrifice may be necessary
- II. Bored with life
- III. Anticipation of progress
- IV. Static relationship
- V. Seeing life from a different angle
- VI. Changing priorities
- VII. Relinquishing control
- VIII. Taking a step back to move a step forward

General

The Hanged Man, in short, represents letting go and sacrifice; with the aim of achieving a new point of view.

One of the most mysterious cards in the tarot; the Hanged Man is paradoxical, mysterious and imbued with the frustration of trying to solve a cryptic crossword. The simplest interpretations are given first, followed by the more compelling but enriching paradox of this enigmatic card.

You are at a crossroads and may have to stand back and look carefully at all the issues involved; or it may mean that you simply get out of a rut. You are in limbo about what you want to do next, or are going through a cease-fire in a relationship clash. The hanged Man also warns you about whether to make sacrifices or not. Fine, if you are ready to give up a bad influence in your life, but think clearly – have others *really* manipulated you or have you *chosen* to be a victim?

The complexity of the Hanged man invites you to do exactly the opposite of what you think is right to do, and thereby gain results. For example you might be dying to call that fascinating stranger to go on a date, but are terrified they'll turn you down. If you draw this card, it's more likely you'll go on that date if you make that phone call. The more you want something, the more you have to give up on the wanting and then it will happen. The paradox is that as soon as you make these contradictory moves, you find what you are actually seeking.

Finally he tells us to let go of any emotional baggage that you will soon be released from any pain or emotional hurt because you are opening your mind to living for the moment, and not for the past.

Relationships

In regards to work or education ventures and relationships; you should stop and think about your future. There might be two paths ahead of you to consider, both equally viable options. No need to rush, but consider your options and take this time to ask people who have already gone both of the ways you have available to choose from.

When it comes to money talks, now is a good time to share the wealth you've accumulated. Stagnating money does nothing; it doesn't even work for you. What is the wealth of money? Surely, its potentiality! Money is nothing until you buy something with it. Don't buy everything, make sensible purchases. Remember that money sitting in your bank account could be doing so much more than just sitting there.

When it comes to romance, take some time to think about your relationship. How is it? There might be an aspect that you just need to get rid of, something that is bothering the both of you, like a hobby that is taking up too much time. Either way, its going to be a mutual decision. If you're single, how are your friendships?

That might mean that when it comes to friends, now is the time to get rid of those 'toxic' relationships. Some people choose to have friends that they don't really get along with, rather than have nobody. Is that the right choice? For some people, it might be, but are you one of those? There is no right or wrong answer I can give you here, this is your life; and your relationships.

The Hanged Man doesn't look like a good omen in regards to health... any dead person wouldn't really. It might just mean that now is the time to give up that bad habit. For instance, smoking, drinking, eating too much, exercising too little? Try to change it before something bad happens... and if nothing can be done to change the current health situation.. well this guy here tells you not to fret. Either way you'll be content.



When it comes to areas of religion and spirituality, the Hanged Man suggests an air of asceticism. If you can, try living without material possessions for a while. It might be really good for you – Do you need these things you have EVERY DAY?

†ast

In the Past position, the Hanged Man represents something that you have gotten rid of, and for the better. Sacrifice seems harsh at first, but we truly grow from it. Think about how you've grown from all the things you've given up in the past.

The Hanged Man reminds you that sometimes you have to put everything on hold before you can take the next step, or the universe will do it on your behalf (and it may not always be at the most convenient time!). You may have heard the saying, 'What got you here won't get you there', and that is indeed at play in this card. Release the old mental models and behavioral patterns that no longer serve you so you can see your world from a new perspective and embrace new opportunities that would have otherwise been hidden from you if you didn't hit the proverbial breaks.

†resent

Here's the thing: These 'pauses' can be voluntary or involuntary. If you are in tune with your intuition, you'll start to have a sense for when it's time to hit the brakes and put things on hold – before things get out of hand. You might have to give up something to go the 'right' way, it could mean, for example, moving away; having to give up local connections or going to a new job or school and losing your circle of friends and acquaintances.



But if you're out of alignment and oblivious to those intuitive signs, the universe will probably put things on hold for you; in the form of continued obstacles, ill-health, and even mental breakdowns. When you sense the 'pause' coming, pay attention to it; otherwise, the universe will turn up the volume until you cannot ignore the voice any longer!

This guy is your invitation to welcome these 'pauses' with open arms and surrender to the 'what is' – even if it is different from what you expected. Take time away from your routine to connect with a new way of thinking and seeing. Sure, you might have to put important projects

on hold while you do this (and it might even be super inconvenient) but trust me, or rather the Hanged Man, it'll be worth it. This is the universe's way of helping you see new perspectives and even it preparing you for the next, "level up" moment that is going to be happening in your life. If you push or resist, you will meet more obstacles along the way; instead, 'allow' the opportunities to flow smoothly and effortlessly to you.

Future

In the future position, he tends to mean you'll face an upcoming decision. We face choices every day from the moment we wake up, though. Deciding when to get up is usually the first choice for many of us. Start your day right with motivation and a goal each day. Set goals and achieve them.

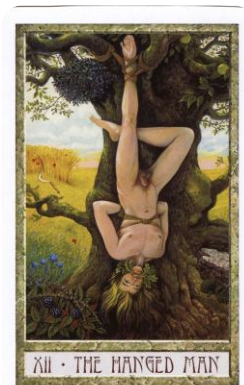
However, on the alternate hand, your projects may be coming to an unexpected and abrupt halt. Do not keep pushing forward, hoping that more force will drive you to where you want to go, instead; surrender to the opportunity to pause and view it as your chance to reassess and re-evaluate where you are on your path. Something new is emerging, and you won't be able to see it unless you allow the time and space for it to come through.

Maybe you just feel stuck or restricted in your life right now, period. What is holding you back in this instant?

In Reverse

Delays - Resistance - Stalling - Indecisiveness - Learn from your Mistakes

Hanged Man in its reversed state shows us that you know you need to hit the pause button, but you are resisting it. Instead you fill your days with tasks and projects, keeping busy and distracting yourself from the actual issue that needs your attention. Your spirit and body are asking you to slow down, but your mind keeps racing. Stop and rest before it's too late. The universe will only dial up the volume if you ignore it, and as a result, you may end up crashing. So, as soon as you hear the call, clear your schedule and make the space so that you can tune in and listen.



Major Arcana | The Hanged Man

May be that you are already in a position where everything has been put on hold, much to your frustration. He can indicate that you're getting blocked, stuck or restricted because other people or other circumstances have left you on hold. While you feel resistant, it's important that you surrender to 'what is' and let go of your attachment to how things 'should be.' Be in flow with life, even if it's not as you expected it (seriously, though, when does it ever go exactly as you expected it too?!?!), and loosen your grip.

If however, say, your life, unlike the previous two paragraphs, has already been on "pause" for a period, then he may come in as a positive sign (EVEN THOUGH REVERSED) that you can NOW move forward with a new perspective and a renewed sense of energy. You may find that events line up with more ease and flow, and you're ready to go again. There may have been a break-through or stark realization about how you need to do things differently. You're prepared, now, to make those changes and move ahead with this new mindset.

In a reading where there is a relationship on hold, he suggests that you are content to wait around... to a point. You realize that this relationship will evolve and, due to its complexities, you cannot rush it. However, you also do not want to wait forever, and you acknowledge that there will come a time when you must decide.

Finally, the Hanged Man can also signal that you are stalling a decision or action. You may think you're waiting until you feel 100% ready - but guess what? You're probably never going to be 100% ready; SO, what are you waiting for? Take the leap! Make that decision! Do it before the universe decides it can't wait for you any longer.