

Arcaenum: 9

Zodiac Affinity: Virgo

Element: Earth

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



Overview

The Hermit is the ninth card in the Major Arcana. It is one of the more well-known cards and has been used frequently in popular culture. It has an easily identifiable meaning; loneliness, introspection, wisdom, but also further meanings can be drawn; hermeticism, mysticism, and realization.

The Hermit stands alone on the top of a mountain. The snow-capped range symbolizes his spiritual mastery, growth and accomplishment. He has chosen this path of self-discovery and, as a result, has reached a heightened state of awareness.

In his right hand, he holds a lantern with a six-pointed star inside; it is the Seal of Solomon, a symbol of wisdom. As the Hermit walks his path, the lamp lights his way - but it only can illuminate his next few steps not his full journey. He must step forward to see where to go next, knowing that not everything will be revealed at once. In his left hand, the side of the subconscious mind, the Hermit holds a long staff (a sign of his power and authority), which he uses to guide and balance him.

Keywords

Discrimination - Discretion - Detachment - Review - Soul-Searching - Introspection - Self-Guidance - Solitude - Contemplation

"The need to retreat from distractions and withdraw from the opinions of others in order to determine your truth and ideas about something." -*Tarot of Pagan Cats, Lo Scarabeo.*

Key Phrases

- I. Search for inner wisdom

- II. Knowledge is a burden
- III. Fear of revealing a secret
- IV. Needing the truth at all costs
- V. Wanting to be alone
- VI. Self-searching questions
- VII. Looking for direction or guidance
- VIII. Withdrawal from relationships

General



The hermit (also represented as a Shaman) represents Introspection, solitude, and retreat; the most secretive part of us. It reflects your need to look within for answers, to do some soul-searching or to take a break from the rat-race or other people's opinions and formulate your own. This card also signifies that it is time to reflect carefully before you make a choice and avoid rushing ahead with plans that could push others into doing something against their judgment.

This guy often appears when you are at a pivotal point in your life and considering a new direction. Through meditation, contemplation, and self-examination, you may begin to re-evaluate your personal goals and change your overall course. You will look at your life with a deeper, more spiritual understanding and a few of your priorities will change as a result.

The beauty in the Hermit, or Shaman, is that he may appear in your life as a spiritual mentor to raise your vibration and enhance your consciousness. But while he may be an expert in his own right, he will teach you to find your own answers within your own being.

Relationships

Take a step backwards; think long and hard before committing yourself to any long-term plans. Look at the patterns of behavior, emotions and feelings in any past relationships to give you insight into whether you are taking the right pathway.

In terms of financial relations, it's a stagnant card. Also says not to worry with finances... you have bigger problems afoot. Have you ever seen (or read) 'Into the Wild'? After graduating from university, top student and athlete abandons his possessions, gives his

entire \$24000 savings account to charity and hitchhikes to Alaska to live in the wilderness alone ... those who seek answers within know they will only come with quiet and solitude.

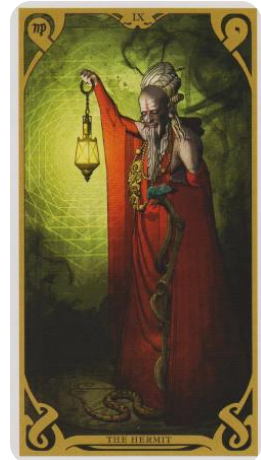
Past

You may have chosen to forget certain facts or are refusing to face up to the truth.

He may represent the prior solitude and rest after a long journey. You may have learned a big life lesson recently and you need time alone now to reflect. Spending time to ourselves is good, even if this isn't what we want. Sometimes we desire friendship, companionship, and relationships. Surviving through the times of loneliness makes us stronger and more interesting as people; you have time to become yourself, and not be the influence of others.

Present

You have a need to look within for answers, to do some soul-searching or take a break from the rat race or even other people's opinions and formulate your own. You know all you need; you just need to contemplate for a short amount of time. Like an ancient astronomer trying to work out the fabric of the universe; you have all the tools you need, you just need to work on your own thoughts and perception. Many great discoveries were made by people on their own, through the lack of distraction in their lives; they were able to concentrate fully on their tasks.



Future

You will have to put your plans on hold until you can discriminate between what is right for you and what isn't.

He simply means one of two things: You could have thought about what is troubling you for long enough to make a realization and go on with your life... *or* you might be reaching this point very soon.

In Reverse

Isolation - Loneliness - Withdrawal

Your personal sense of isolation or loneliness is that which is holding you back. Consider your actions. You may feel as if you wish to be alone; but think if this might hurt somebody else. Sometimes, we desire solitude when it is not needed. Do not run away from your problems; too much solitude can be a problem too. We exist as social creatures, and to spend too much time alone can be very damaging. But we can easily get caught up in the dealing with day to day issues that we have forgotten to listen to our inner voice. Search deep within your soul to help you find your way again and focus on rebuilding yourself on a spiritual level.



If you have already been spending a lot of time reflecting on your inner self, then the Hermit is telling you in particular that you may have taken this isolation thing too far. You are becoming a literal hermit. Do not underestimate the value of staying connected with others, even while you are going through your spiritual journey. Be mindful, too, of other's needs. You do not want to become so absorbed in yourself and your personal dilemmas that you shut out your family and friends. This is where the relation of a Shaman comes to play; A shaman does not cut him or herself off from their relationships... but rather goes farther away for more of a peace of mind to deal with their issues.

The Hermit also signifies that inner healing may be needed in order to create a more emotionally balanced way of looking at life. Look to your inner guide, whether a spiritual belief, deity or simply a guardian angel - whatever you put your trust and faith in will guide you out of any darkness and into the light. The Hermit stands for stillness, for calm, for guidance, and you may need to seek advice from an older friend, family member, or wise mentor.

In a relationship reading, he can indicate unwelcome isolation. One person may want to be alone or withdraw from the relationship, while the other wants to deepen the connection. You need to respect each other's request for space but also be there to support as appropriate. Alternative, the idea of being on your own is so daunting and unappealing at this time that you do everything in your power to stay together; despite the relationships challenges, neither of you wants to be apart from each other. It is almost too soon to be apart and you still both want to work things out together. If you have separated, then the Hermit may show you are ready to explore a reconnection.