

Arcanum: 5

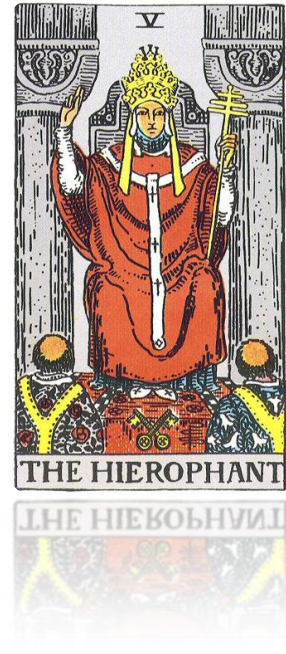
Zodiac Affinity: Taurus

Element: Earth

As a “Yes” or “No” Card: Unsure, no definite answer

Overview

The Hierophant in the Rider-Waite deck is illustrated in a similar way to some other cards. Like The Emperor, he sits on a throne. Like the High Priestess, he sits between two pillars (though this temple differs from the one in which the High Priestess sits). The Hierophant has aspects of both of these; the traditional aspects of The Emperor and the forethought and intuition of the Empress. Further reinforcing the religious connotation is the ‘benediction’ posture in his right hand.



He wears three robes – red, blue, and white – and a three tiered crown; representing the three worlds over which he rules (the conscious, the subconscious, and the super-conscious). He represents the deep importance of spirituality and religion in regards to the aspects of your life. In his left hand, he holds the Papal Cross, a triple scepter that signifies his religious status. He raises his right hand in a religious blessing, with two fingers pointing towards heaven and two towards Earth (‘As Above So Below’).

Before him kneel two followers. The Hierophant’s task is to pass down his spiritual wisdom and initiate the two into the church so they can take up their appointed roles. This imagery speaks to a shared group identity and a rite of passage to enter the next level. The crossed keys at the Hierophant’s feet represent the balance between the conscious and subconscious minds and the unlocking of mysteries, which only he can teach them.

Keywords

*Conforming - Holding Back - Respect - Institutions - Guru - Tradition - Religion -
Mysticism - Conventional*

“Learning about faith from a trusted teacher and guide, who teaches by both books and examples, helping others to live their faith in their everyday lives.” -Tarot of Pagan Cats, Lo Scarabeo.

Key Phrases

- I. Fitting in with the status quo
- II. Accepting discipline
- III. Peer Pressure
- IV. Studying higher values
- V. Sharing a belief system
- VI. Knowing how to act appropriately
- VII. Discrimination from knowledge

General

The Hierophant is the fifth card of the Major Arcana set; and masculine. He resembles a pope or religious leader (Sometimes even named 'The Pope' or 'The Druid'). He has similar values to the Emperor in the sense of orthodoxy and stability, the same way that a King and a Pope are both important figures.

The archetype of the Hierophant represents knowledge and education in its most accepted form. When you draw this card it indicates that traditional values are appropriate for any action, but also that your inner spiritual soul needs expression.

He often represents an established set of spiritual values and beliefs and is correlated with religion and other formal doctrines. Before you can discover your own belief systems and make your own choices (as associated with the next card, the Lovers), the Hierophant encourages you to learn the fundamental principles from a trusted source.

His arrival in a spread or draw often suggests that you are following conventional methods and staying within the bounds of a 'tried and tested' model. You are not yet willing to go out on a limb or offer any new innovative ideas. Instead, you adhere to the keep principles and rules that you know will lead to a successful result.

The Hierophant may call you to honor family traditions or sacred rituals that sit neglected. You are being asked to commit to spiritual practice in its most wholesome form - no customization, no adaptation, no bending the rules. If you have been lacking ritual and tradition, create a regular practice such as daily prayer or saying grace before a meal. Consider exploring your spiritual or religious heritage.



Relationships

If you are asking a relationship question, the Hierophant signifies that someone is acting in a conventional way or that you must seek out the guidance of someone who acts as a guru or mediator. It can also indicate that you must conform to certain rules if you are to move ahead with your plans.

In regards to work, he suggests a possible culmination or transfer to a new area. A new job isn't off the table, and working with new people is likely. With finances, he reminds you to not make dangerous purchases or investments. Stay risk-free for a while and ask for advice from people 'in the know' if you're looking to get a discount. If in doubt, shop around.

When in reference to romance he tends to mean good things. Someone you already know may be interested in you. It's likely someone you've known for a while. If you're in a relationship now, expect things to continue as they have done recently.

Not much is going to change in regards to friendship. Keep up your commitments to maintain your friends, starting a new group activity together is a good bet if you're stuck for something to do.

Don't worry about your health, but look for ways to eat better and exercise more. Stick to that routine you said you would keep to; fad diets do more damage to your body anyway. You can do it and you will do it. It is a shame to not be able to see your own body at its highest potential.

The hierophant, as his religious appearance suggests, is tied to spirituality; the traditional aspects play through. If you're looking for inspiration, spirituality and religion may interest you. If you are already religious/in a religion, look closer at your religion and try to apply some of the core aspects into your daily life.

Past

Could represent a past allegiance or membership of a group, club, or even a strong ethnic bond that has molded how you think and feel. Perhaps you were brought up in a strongly religious

family. It could still be affecting the way you think about certain topics. Remember that you're an individual and you need to make your own mind up, rather than listen to dogma.

Present

If the Hierophant is drawn in a 'you now' position, you may be stuck in your ways and are unwilling to adapt to others. Clinging to the past means that you can't move on and accept the necessary changes that will improve your life.

He could also represent a new belief system taking hold, or a new cause to fight for. Right now, you might feel a bit lost or aimless, but don't act irrationally. It's not a time to jump in and act without planning. Looking at established material in the field you're interested in will help you hone and perfect yourself. Know yourself.

Future

The Hierophant often represents a specific person you will meet – guru, spiritual adviser or teacher who has good advice and should be trusted. It also signifies meeting with someone you feel you've known before and with whom you have an immediate rapport.

You don't really need to plan. Just letting the paths of the future wind act as they want will be enough. Eventually, it will work out, but not in regards to mundane matters, something great is coming.



In Reverse

Lacking - Religious Doubts - Spiritual Blockage - Control

In reverse, The Hierophant can represent a lack of spirituality in your life. This won't exactly reflect in lack of religion, but you may be feeling an exact lack of purpose or drive to get going. What gets you up in the morning? What do you want to achieve? Are you fully in control of your life? Look for the areas of your life that are not under your control and take

the reins yourself. You cannot let others control you or your free-spirited, independent side of your nature.

In its most positive form, the reversed card can remind you that you are your own teacher. All the wisdom you seek comes from within – not from some external source or power. You are being guided to follow your own path and adopt your own spiritual belief systems rather than blindly following others' views. It may feel unsettling at first as you make your own way, but over time, you will learn to trust yourself and tap into your inner knowledge. Others may question your motivations to go against tradition, but you know deep within that now is the time.

You no longer need external approval to succeed. You are ready to go at it alone and do it your way, even if that means going against convention. Give yourself permission to trust your inner guidance system as you create your own path forward.

He is also about challenging the status quo. You see alternative ways of viewing the world and are ready to test the very ideas and concepts you were taught were the 'truth'. You no longer accept the rigid structures, tradition and dogma surrounding you; instead, you seek out opportunities to rebel and reclaim your personal power. If you feel restricted or constrained and have lost your sense of freedom and flexibility, now is the time to make your own rules.

Examine 'the way we do things around here' and ask yourself whether it aligns with your values. You may have been running on auto pilot so far and following the crowd, but now you see that changes need to be made. Taken further, the Hierophant reversed is like a rebellious teenager who begins to question society and take part in anti-institutional activities. There may be a run-in with authorities or conflict with a parent or authoritative figure.