

Arcanum: 2

Zodiac Affinity: Moon

Element: Water

As a "Yes" or "No" Card: Unclear, or, the question is not as straightforward as yes or no.

Overview

The High Priestess is a card of the Major Arcana set and is all about patience, secrets, and knowledge. It is neither a positive nor negative card; in fact, many of the symbols on the face show balance; sitting beside Boaz and Jachin, with a sun cross and Moon crescent. You hold the tools required to continue, just give it time.

She is the archetypal symbol of all that is unknown. She is all seeing, but gives nothing away and guards the secrets of the unconscious. She represents the interface between the apparent real world and all other realms.

Keywords

Knowledge - Mystery - Wisdom - Feminine Energy - Unconscious - Healer - Silent Potential - Intuition

"Knowledge that can only be gained and understood through direct experience.
Foreknowledge is not possible because experience is essential" -Tarot of Pagan Cats, Lo Scarabeo.

Key Phrases

- I. A secret needs to be revealed
- II. Trust in your intuition
- III. Seeing beyond what is obvious
- IV. Remembering something of significance
- V. Think before you act

General

The High Priestess is illustrated with an enormous array of western symbolism. Prominently displayed are Boaz and Jachin, the pillars from the Temple of Solomon, also present in Masonic learning and Qaballic study. To reinforce this, the Tree of Life is

displayed, though obscured, behind the priestess herself. She covers much, symbolizing that she is the protector and custodian of these. Nothing is shown fully, other than the pillars. The obscured Torah in her hands again reinforces the Qaballic link.

When you draw this card it is timely to look behind the veil of life's illusion, to look beyond that which is obvious or plain fact, and to accept that there is mystery in life too.

You may be on the cusp of a new level of understanding. You have all the tools needed; you just need to observe to make sense of them.

This card represents feminine power but, unlike the Empress who represents worldliness, the Priestess symbolizes the esoteric unknown factor, the feminine instinct that has mystified mankind for thousands of years.

Regardless of your gender, it is vital for you to balance and integrate your masculine and feminine energies, and the presence of the High Priestess signals that your sacred feminine needs your attention right now. Feel rather than think. Collaborate rather than compete. Create, rather than destroy. Trust your Divine Feminine energy. Even if the Masculine energy around you may appear to be stronger. Be proud of your ability to nurture, trust, sense, and empathize instead of hiding it away.

Relationships

There are many secrets in your heart, and if you look within you'll find the truth. Maybe you are finding hard to communicate your feelings to someone.

This card reveals you fear finding out how you really feel about someone, but that it is also time to develop your awareness and use your intuition about what you really want and where you are going.

The High Priestess could mean a lot in work. You could be slaving away when something could be done more easily or could be fully automated. You could use already existing methods to further increase your output.

In regards to romance, the High Priestess means that you might become more attractive to the opposite sex, especially if you are a female. She balances masculine and feminine to a degree, but she is largely a female-oriented card.

There might be some tension in your group when this card surfaces in regards to friendship. Don't act on it, but observe all of the information and stay impartial until you can decide the most moral course of action.

In regards to wealth, something isn't right. You may have unexpected money coming, someone may be hiding something from you or you might have accidentally signed up to some sort of deal that will cost you more in the long run.

When it comes to health, The high Priestess means something may not be sitting right within the balance of your body. Are you eating okay and exercising well? If something feels like it is missing, try to fill the void with a healthy activity. If you are worried about ANYTHING, go see your doctor/healer.

Past

As a past card, think back to what someone said to you a few days ago; it could be revealing or lead you to the answer you have been seeking. Remembered conversation will bring you success.

This card shows a time in the past where you have had to be patient to proceed. Maybe all that time studying a dull subject, or waiting in a long queue for an important matter.

Present

In the 'you now' position, this card reveals that you fear finding out how you really feel about someone, but that it is also time to develop your awareness and use your intuition about what you really want and where you are going. There are many secrets in your heart, and if you look within you'll find the truth. Maybe you are finding it hard to communicate your feelings to someone?

You need to unlock your memory box, develop your hidden potential or listen to your intuition to guide you.

You should avoid conflict and action and 'mull over' the things you're being told. They may just be an illusion, or, someone is telling you one thing but hinting on another bigger picture.

Future

As an 'outcome' card, you will soon be enlightened about a problem or a secret will be revealed.

The High Priestess is a signal that you are being called to embrace the Divine Feminine – your connection to your intuition, compassion, empathy, and inner wisdom. Regardless of your gender, it is vital for you to balance and integrate your masculine and feminine energies, and the presence of the High Priestess signals that your sacred feminine needs your attention soon.

In Reverse

Secrets - Disconnection from Intuition - Withdrawal - Silence

Consider listening to your gut feeling more. Recently you may have felt that you were going against your instinct for whatever reason, whether this was something recently that you did which was morally wrong, or maybe you feel you are walking down an incorrect path. Introspection will usually lead us to your inner goals, thoughts, and feelings. Take some time to yourself to consider your life and look for help from those more experienced. If you find you have no time for yourself, then make yourself a priority.

Ask yourself:

Do I struggle to trust my intuition fully? Perhaps you doubt yourself or feel silly or guilty for listening to your intuition, and as a result, you deny your ability to tune in and receive this potent information. You may also keep your intuitive capabilities hidden from others, fearful of their judgments or opinions. If this resonates, know that your intuition is your superpower, here to guide you and help you. Have faith in the universe and allow yourself to be in flow with its energies. Surrender and let go.

Think of the High Priestess as the calm centre inside of you that is untouched by your external world and trust that she is always there when you need her. Whenever you worry that things are just getting too crazy, find a quiet space and meditate so you can hear her voice. If you stop thinking or fretting about your issue and instead clear the way for your intuition to speak to you, the answer will follow.

Finally, the secretive nature of the High Priestess may suggest gossip and hidden agendas. Others may be keeping information from you or talking about you behind your back and sharing mistruths. Rather than making assumptions or diving into the depths of paranoia, have an open and honest conversation to surface and address these secrets.