

XII THE HANGED MAN

Key Words: congealed; end of a situation or relationship which is stuck; letting go, giving up, surrendering; learning to see in a new way; the necessity of breaking through old behavior patterns.

The Hanged Man is nailed upside-down, a position in which the personal will is broken. The situation is at a stalemate: there is no more room to move. Escape of any kind has become impossible. The serpents of transformation and wisdom lay coiled and sleeping.

The Hanged Man is nailed to the wood of his petrified attitudes and viewpoints. His eyes are closed: he is blind to all which does not fit into the closed system of his concepts. Every new idea, every new impulse, is ignored or resisted.

His head is shaved. The hair, symbol of spiritual perception, is removed. The Hanged Man has even lost trust in his own intuition. All his efforts seem unpromising and doomed to failure.

However, even in the midst of this hopelessness, wonders can occur! The point has come at which you can no longer avoid seeing naked realities. There is nothing left but to face up to them and let go. This form of capitulation, the giving up of willfulness and frozen ideologies leads to far-reaching transformation; breaking through rigid behavior patterns, clearing away old rubbish, full surrender to the higher Self, freedom from narrow-mindedness and dogma. One who bows willingly to the cosmic order of the Universe is able to become one with the flow of the Tao. »Not my will, but Thy Will be done; for Thy Will is also mine.« The great reward for the deep surrender to the Whole is a one hundred eighty degree turn. The world can be seen from a new perspective!

Indications: It is now possible for you to recognize where you are stuck, and which areas of your life are congealed rather than flowing. There is nothing to do. The mere act of perceiving your reality clearly makes transformation possible.

Questions: In what areas of your life are you stuck? Are you ready to recognize and let go of your petrified thought and behavior patterns?

Suggestion: Draw another card for that which awaits you when you surrender.

Affirmation: I let go and realize, follow and accept the will of the divine in my life which reveals itself to me step by step.

The world would have you agree with its dismal dream of limitation. But the light would have you soar like the eagle of your sacred visions. - Alan Cohen

The Hanged Man represents the universal principle of recognizing and awakening to repetitive patterns that bind, limit, and restrict our growth and evolution. The Hanged Man is the pattern-breaker. In order to break limiting patterns, it is often necessary to take a distinctly different posture, or stance, such as turning ourselves up-side-down to get another view of a restrictive pattern or stuck place in consciousness that is being experienced.

The Hanged Man represents that state of consciousness which requires that we move beyond ego and trust the deeper aspects of who we are. This is the state of surrender and acceptance which is the preliminary step required before we can free ourselves from destructive and limiting patterns that we experience in our lives. Often this symbol might be viewed as the crucifixion of the ego or of egoic patterns which are no longer constructive. The universal symbol associated with repetitive patterns is the labyrinth, represented by the squares within the squares within the background of this card. To use modern-day terms, the Hanged Man reminds us that our "hang-ups" can either prevent our growth and evolution or they can serve to teach us where we need to free ourselves from undue self-imposed limitations. This symbol ultimately teaches us that there are always many more options, solutions, and perspectives to consider than those in which we are currently invested.

THE PRINCIPLE OF SURRENDER, BREAKING OLD PATTERNS

Often, when we experience ourselves being bound or limited, there is a sense of being numb, asleep, depressed, or blind.

The sleeping snakes remind us that nothing is renewed or regenerated when we are fixated or stuck. The Egyptian Ankh (the reversed cross holding the foot of the Hanged Man) is a symbol of unlimited life force, constantly accessible for creative use. Self-imposed limitations or repetitive patterns can make us feel bound, or nailed, into impossible situations with the feeling of having no options, no way out. The solution is found in our willingness to surrender to a greater sense of faith and trust within our nature.

The Hanged Man as Life-Time Symbol

For those individuals whose birthday adds up to the number 12, this is your life-time personality symbol. For persons who are currently over the age of 50, and for the newborns, this symbol is your personality symbol; a symbol of your outer expression. If this is your symbol, you will always be committed to looking at situations and persons from many different postures and perspectives. You will find it difficult to limit or restrict yourself in any way. You are a natural pattern-breaker. You will constantly assist others to look at life and their problems from different perspectives. Comedians are natural pattern-breakers. Through humor, as a comedian does, you may assist others to take a different view or perspective of their current fixations or stuck places. Or, like a psychologist, you may "reframe" a problem in such a way that the person can see the

problem differently. Your greatest inherent gift will be that of constantly freeing yourself from self-imposed limitations and, as a result, you will have the ability to assist others in this process as well.

The Hanged Man as a Growth Symbol

The Hanged Man is your growth card during the year that your birthday, plus the current year, adds up to the number 12. During this year, people from the past will make contact with you. These people will function as important mirrors to show you those patterns from the past that you have or have not broken or released.

Hanged Man years are the best years to actively break destructive patterns that bind, limit or restrict your own growth and development. It is a year where you will experience greater compassion and acceptance of self by releasing limiting egoic needs and surrendering to the deeper love and wisdom that wants to be expressed within your spiritual nature.

The Hanged Man as a Visual Affirmation and Meditative Symbol

The Hanged Man reinforces the intention to break old patterns that bind, limit, or restrict your nature in any way. This is the best symbol to evoke in meditation or to use in creative visualization processes to assist your ability to take a different posture or stance on old issues. The Hanged Man, when consciously used, is an archetype that allows you to see who you are beyond ego. It is the symbol that facilitates freedom from limiting and unconstructive patterns.

Sample Affirmations To Use While Looking at The Hanged Man

- I enjoy looking at the same situation from as many different perspectives as possible.
- I value breaking ineffective old patterns.
- I trust and have faith in the deep essence of who I am.
- I surrender to the higher design and to God's will.

The Hanged Man as an Outer Mirror

When you pull this card or find yourself constantly drawn toward it, it represents that you have awakened to, and have recognized, limiting patterns that need to be broken. Since this is a trump card, you are determined to triumph in becoming unstuck or in releasing yourself from self-imposed limitations, fixed perspectives, and unresolved "hang-ups." Within the next twelve weeks or the next twelve months, you will see clearly restrictive patterns in yourself that you will be resolved to act upon and break. It may be a time when you may consider freeing yourself from destructive personal patterns or relationships. The Hanged Man represents a time to surrender and move beyond egoic needs in order to trust the deeper spiritual wisdom within your nature that wants to be expressed.

Other Symbols that Are Aspects of The Hanged Man

The Hanged Man is the Empress archetype (love with wisdom) that is expressed externally toward ourselves and applied in the world without limitation or restriction. The Hanged Man reveals that part of ourselves that is willing to love ourselves enough to break limiting or destructive patterns within our personality. The Hanged Man is willing to sacrifice, or "make sacred," egoic needs in order to surrender to the inherent love and wisdom within us that wants to be expressed in the world in unlimited and undistorted ways. The Hanged Man (the number 12 adds up to 3) is the outer expression of the internal Empress (the number 3) that is within us. By releasing the wounded parts of the past that we still hold in our minds (Three of Swords), we are able to express our feelings abundantly (Three of Cups) from a place of knowing our priorities and commitments (Three of Disks). Love with wisdom (The Empress) comes from a place of integrity, which is the alignment of mind, heart, and action in all that we do (Three of Wands). When we release our limiting and destructive patterns (The Hanged Man), we are free to openly express our inherent love with wisdom (The Empress) in the world (The Universe). (See The Empress constellation in Section VI for additional information.)

The Gifts and Challenges for Persons whose Life-Time Personality Symbol Is The Hanged Man

Gifts:

The Empress (Love with Wisdom)
Three of Cups (Abundance)
Three of Wands (Integrity; Virtue)
Three of Disks ("Works"; Priorities)
The Universe (The Expression of Love in the World)

Challenges:

Three of Swords (Past Sorrow)
The Hanged Man (Breaking Patterns)