

XV THE DEVIL

Key Words: *Capricorn; procreative energy, new vitality; humor; sensuality; sexuality; creative energy; individuality.*

The Devil is another of the cards which are most often misunderstood. To understand this card, you have to free yourself of all popular moral and superstitious ideas.

The Devil is represented by the god Pan, in the form of a white mountain-goat with powerful twisted horns. The column behind him symbolizes the erect penis, the two globes below symbolize the testicles. This is a representation of creative energy in its most material and male aspect.

In the globes, like sperm cells, are four female and four male bodies, which are bringers of the new. The tremendous powers of generation are also symbolized by the staff with a winged globe and two snakes, the snakes of Horus and Osiris.

The phallic column reaches the upper edge of the painting. It reaches through the heavens, symbolized by the ring of the body of the star-goddess Nuith. The column also reaches downward deep into the center of the earth.

This connecting of earth's center and the cosmos is a wonderful image of creative union. This anchoring deep in the earth permits the dark brown earth energy to rise in order to melt with the golden yellow cosmic energy from above. This melting together of cosmic and earth energy inspires you in creative directions and makes you capable of manifesting this inspiration.

On Pan's forehead we see his open third eye. This indicates his extensive abilities in the realm of extra-sensory perception. He is a seer who can see not only the obvious, but also the deeper essence of what he observes.

His expression is one of very humorous satisfaction. All people who see the essence of the world can be recognized by their marked sense of humor (e.g., Castaneda's Don Juan). Only ignorant people are deadly serious and are fully identified with their thoughts and actions. This imprisonment in the animal-material is the essence of our common conception of the devil. But Pan grins over people and their projections, with which they »demonize« him. In his wisdom he sees that, in fact, every desire, every imprisonment, all-possessiveness leads only to frustration and suffering. Human beings will only arrive at this insight through repeated direct experience. The more you learn to see or become aware, the more you can truly enjoy. When you are freed from all moralistic limitations you will surrender with utter sensuality to the enjoyment of the earth, discovering the ecstasy in every manifestation, tasting the divine in everything. You will enjoy and continue on, without clinging.

Indications: There may be people who »demonize« you, make you out to be the devil. Meet them with humor and lightness. Accept what Life gives you. Keep your feet on the ground!

Question: Do you have some wish or desire you don't admit to?

Suggestions: Sit down comfortably to meditate. Pay attention to your breathing. Imagine that with every outbreath a root grows from the base of your spine deep into the center of the Earth; it will happen quickly. Now feel that with every in-breath Earth energy flows into you. It fills your entire body. Then let your awareness go to the crown of your head. Open yourself for the yellow-gold cosmic energy. Feel it mix with the Earth energy and fill your body.

Affirmation: I am the master of my life.

The difference between a comedy and a tragedy is that in a comedy the characters figure out reality in time to do something about it. - Bennett W. Goodspeed

THE DEVIL represents the universal principle of mirth combined with stability. This is the only card in the entire deck which has undergone a transformation within itself. During Greek mythology, this symbol was Pan, half-man and half-goat, the God of Merriment and Sensuality. In Egyptian mythology, this symbol was Ra, the Sun Diety, a symbol of life force and energy. During the Middle Ages, there was a backlash to the panistic cults and the archetype of the devil was created. The panistic goat was changed into the devil; and, ironically, devil spelled backwards is l-i-v-e-d. During the Middle Ages the panistic activities of people "living-it-up" were considered hedonistic; therefore, in order to quell those activities they had to be rendered "evil" or made wrong in order to make way for new belief systems that were emerging at that time.

The Devil/Pan archetype represents the need to face whatever we might consider our bedevilments or problems with the tenacity of Capricorn, the goat, or with humor like Pan or Bacchus from Greek mythology. We can face and move through our bedevilments (the webbings on the sides of the card) with sure-footedness like Capricorn, the goat, and with the mirth and humor of Pan (the smiling goat). This symbol reminds us that if we take our problems or bedevilments too seriously that they can ensnare us and take us off balance. The Devil/Pan symbol represents the need to hold on to both the qualities of mirth, stability and our centeredness in facing real or imagined problems (the webbings or spider-like veils) so that we won't be thrown off balance.

THE PRINCIPLE OF MIRTH/HUMOR AT WHAT 'BEDEVILS' US

Capricorn, the goat, is willing to look at internal issues (the third eye of the goat) and external bedevilments (both eyes open looking straight ahead). With the Eye of Horus staff, the Egyptian staff of vision and intuition, we can protect ourselves from other people's considerations about what we are doing or not doing (the figures within the circles at the bottom of the card). The four female figures and the four male figures at the base of the card also represent an inherent need during

times of bedevilment to use both our magnetic, receptive abilities portrayed by the female figures as well as our dynamic initiatory abilities represented by the male figures. Creative power is the ability to combine both the genetic balances of magnetism and dynamism within our natures.

This symbol also represents the principle of sensuality and sexuality or the law of attraction and resonance. The phallus and the testicles represent the potency of creative power that is within each of us that wants to be expressed with mirth and tangibility. It is important in our lives to follow that which we are drawn toward or that which inspires us personally or professionally. The laws of attraction and resonance motivate and evoke unlimited creative energies within us that want to be used.

Saturn, the double ringed planet, rules the sign of Capricorn, the goat. The rings of Saturn are seen at the top of the card. Saturn is the planet most associated with balance, discipline, and doing things step by step. Capricorn is the astrological sign of the goat known for tenacity, productivity and achievement. It is in our capacity to follow our bliss or what has resonance for us that we can execute the discipline to bring into form our creative visions with mirth and tangible results.

The Devil/Pan as Life-Time Symbol

For those individuals whose birthday adds up to the number 15, the Devil/ Pan symbol represents your life-time personality symbol, or symbol for your external expression in the world. With this symbol as your life-time personality expression, it is important for you to maintain your sense of humor and your productivity. You are a practical person and yet you know how to have a good time. People will enjoy being around you, not only for your earthiness and appeal, but also for your sense of humor that is combined with practicality and productivity.

You will be drawn to Capricorn people (anyone born December 21 - January 21) because they function as mirrors of your own capacities for achievement and for handling multiple responsibilities with grace. During Capricorn months, you are willing to face your own bedevilements or problems with mirth and sure-footedness as well as assist others with those that they may be facing.

You highly regard being able to face challenges by being open and receptive to creative options and by being dynamic and assertive in your execution of solutions. You are willing to look inward for guidance (the goat's third eye) and you are willing to see things as they are rather than as you want them to be (the fully opened goat eyes).

The Devil/Pan Card as a Growth Symbol

The Devil/Pan card is your growth symbol when your birthday and the current year add up to the number 15. It is the best year to resolve issues with Capricorn people in your life (anyone born December 21-January 21), or in the month of Capricorn it is important to handle personal or professional issues with humor and stability. It is also a reminder not to take things so seriously that they take you off balance. This is a year where you are required to maintain and sustain your sense of humor in all arenas of your life. It is a time where you find your creative energies ignited to such a degree that you will find yourself attracted to creative people and to inspirational events or projects.

Devil/Pan years are years where you become more comfortable within your own body and sensuality. You may find yourself attracted to someone whereby you experience aspects of your sexuality that you had not previously experienced. It is a year where you discover that sexuality is a form of play and creative expression. Old beliefs about sexuality may be dropped during this year.

The Devil/Pan Symbol as a Visual Affirmation and Meditative Tool

The Devil/Pan symbol reinforces the ability to combine stability and humor in all aspects of life. If you are wanting to look at your be-devilements from a place of humor and solidity, this archetype assists your process of facing difficult issues in a centered way that carries with it the grace of humor. Through meditation or creative visualization, the Devil/Pan archetype can facilitate the ability to move through challenging situations in a way that will not take you off balance. If you have a tendency to take things too seriously, this symbol reminds you of your ability to maintain a sense of humor about yourself and your process.

Sample Affirmations To Use While Looking at The Devil/Pan Archetype

I retain my sense of humor in areas of experience which be-devil me.

I enjoy my sensuality.

I am a vital, joyful, and grounded person.

Whether my problems are real or imagined, I can handle them realistically and mirthfully.

The Devil/Pan as an Outer Mirror

When you pull this symbol or find yourself continually drawn toward it, it represents that you are currently facing your bedevilements or problems with humor and sure-footedness. You may be resolving issues with Capricorn people with grace and humor and less willing to let yourself be thrown off balance by taking things too seriously. The month of Capricorn may be a time where you are required to maintain and sustain your sense of humor in all arenas of your life.

During the next fifteen weeks or the next fifteen months, you may find yourself attracted or drawn to creative people, projects, and inspirational events. It is the best time to follow your bliss and to trust that which has strong resonance and attraction for you.

Other Symbols that Are Aspects of The Devil/Pan Archetype

The Devil/Pan symbol represents the externalized expression of The Lovers archetype. (The Devil/Pan's number is 15 which adds up to the number 6, The Lovers.) Many of our real and imagined problems and bedevilments occur in our personal and professional relationships (The Lovers). The Devil/Pan symbol reflects our willingness to look at our bedevilments in relationships with a creative and problem-solving attitude. By maintaining our sense of humor, we can continue to maintain balance within our relationships. Taking things too seriously will always take us off balance. If we can laugh at something that was once painful, we express the fundamental aspect of the Devil/Pan archetype. The Devil/Pan archetype is the reclamation of joy and the recommitment to that which inspires and uplifts our nature.

Relationships (The Lovers) always mirror to us internal relationships that we have with multiple parts of ourselves whether we are conscious of it or not. The relationship that we have with ourselves and others stays in balance and is successful (Six of Disks) if we maintain mental objectivity (Six of Swords), emotional playfulness (Six of Cups), and spiritual openness for co-created victories (Six of Wands). The Devil/Pan symbol reminds us that our relationships (The Lovers) are creative resources and invaluable teachers about our own internal and external bedevilments and talents. (See the Lovers constellation in Section VI for additional information.)

The Gifts and Challenges for Persons whose Life-Time Personality Symbol Is The Devil/Pan

Gifts:

Devil/Pan (Mirth; Stability)
The Lovers (Art and Craft of Relating)
Six of Swords (Science of Mind)
Six of Cups (Pleasure)
Six of Wands (Victory)
Six of Disks (Success)

Challenges:

Devil/Pan (Bedevilments; Being too Serious)