

XXI THE UNIVERSE

Key Words: *Saturn; completion, cosmic union; travel liberation from bondage; burning off karma.*

This is the last card of the Major Arcana. It closes the circle which began with The Fool. The great task has been brought to completion and returns to the innocence and ingenuousness of The Fool. The drop disappears into the ocean, and the ocean pours into the drop. This completion is, at the same time, a new beginning on a higher level of being. The final goal is reached - the return to the original cosmic Oneness.

Now you see yourself and the world as it really is (Eye of Horus in the upper right). All garments and masks have become superfluous and useless because you are at one with your original nature. You are whirling, caught up in the perpetual dancing motion of the universe. The boundaries of your small »« dissolve in orgasmic union with the universe.

The nude woman dances the dance of liberation. Through the Eye of Horus she has seen into the nature of limitations. With this insight (symbolized by the sickle she still holds in her right hand), she cuts through the web of ensnarement. Even the gigantic serpent of trans-formation has lost its function. The energy has been transformed and a new quality exists. The serpent has outlived its usefulness; there is nothing left which its poisonous bite could destroy.

The four cherubim blow the all-pervading spirit in all four directions. "See, all is new!"

Indication: It is now possible for you to see things as they really are. The stage is set for a new beginning or a favorable completion. The events in your life are in harmony with the universe.

Questions: From what aspects of your life is it time to free yourself? Is there a journey or an enterprise waiting for you to set it in motion?

Suggestions: Trust your perceptions! Make a list of all unfinished situations whose resolution would give you a sense of relief.

Affirmation: I am one with the universe.

The Universe is the principle of individuation, totality, and wholeness. The dancing figure holds a sickle, returning it back to the original vision or life force symbolized by the Egyptian Eye of Horus, The Eastern equivalent to this figure is Siva dancing in a ring of fire on the head of a dwarfed figure. Christianity holds this symbol as the Virgin Mary who places her foot firmly on the serpent's head and body. Regardless of cross-cultural interpretations, this figure is essentially hermaphrodite and a symbol of balance in the expression of being equally dynamic and magnetic, simultaneously. This figure represents the completion and integration of great inner work which has involved unifying polarities, oppositions, and paradoxes within oneself. The Universe represents the triumph of negation, and the experience of Nirvana or union with multiple parts of self. It symbolizes the unity of positive and negative forces both internally and externally.

With the sickle, the figure cuts through limitations and restrictions and weaves them into a net to dance upon. In order to become free and more individuated, it is important to simultaneously let go and move forward. Like the regenerative diamond-back serpent, we are required to transform before we can experience new worlds internally and externally. Change requires that we grow and evolve like the spiral hairdo of the figure, and that we expand our awareness like the diamond-shaped halo.

The pantheon at the bottom is the Greek symbol for the home of all the gods and goddesses. When we fully express our totality or full individuality, we have the experience of being at home within ourselves. The Universe represents our capacity not only to be at home in the external world but also it represents our ability to be at home within ourselves.

The four animals in the corners of the card represent the four elements: earth (Taurus, the bull); fire (Leo, the lion); water (Scorpio, the bird); and air (Aquarius, the human face). These animals represent what it is like to be in our element or out of our element. It is important in order to fully express our natures that we express ourselves physically (Taurus), spiritually and creatively (Leo), emotionally (Scorpio), and mentally (Aquarius).

The Universe as Life-Time Symbol

The Universe is your life-time personality symbol when your birthday adds up to the number 21. This is the symbol which represents your outer expression in the world. You are a natural explorer, adventurer, and builder of new worlds. You love travel and experiencing other parts of the country and other cultures. You are a natural visionary. Instinctively, you can see what needs to be re-built or designed in new ways whether it be environments, ideas, projects, or people. You have a natural ability to renew and regenerate yourself and others (the regenerative snake). People will see you as highly creative like Leo, the lion; practical and productive like Taurus, the bull; innovative and original like Aquarius, the human face; and passionately involved in what has heart and meaning for you like Scorpio, the bird.

At different times in your life, you will be very ecologically minded and deeply concerned about the Earth and very active in making the universe a better place in which to live. You may experience yourself questioning the origins of the universe as a whole or contributing towards theories, projects, and services that assist universal understanding. National and international work will appeal to you, or travel that allows you and others to value cultural differences as well as honor inherent similarities found within the human species.

You will find it difficult to be limited, restricted, or restrained in any way. With your inherent ability to cut through things and get to the bottom of most situations (the sickle), you are able to build new worlds internally and externally. The concept of freedom at different times in your life will be very important.

The Universe as a Growth Symbol

The Universe is your growth symbol when your birthdate and the current Year adds up to the number 21. During this year, it is important for you to place yourself in the world in an active way. It is a year where you see clearly what needs to be done and you do it. You may find yourself only willing to be creative, productive, and innovative in areas that have heart or meaning. You will not be able to tolerate "shoulds" of any kind during this year. You will find that you want to make a tangible contribution through service or volunteer work that is meaningful and assists your family, community, country, or planet in some way.

Travel and visiting other countries may be available or become a high priority for you in your Universe year. Through an important trip, you may be motivated to expand and build new worlds for yourself internally and externally.

You definitely will see your life through a different perspective and be motivated to make changes that allow you to become more whole and expressive of who you are as an individual.

The Universe Symbol as a Visual Affirmation and Meditative Tool

The Universe symbol is an excellent symbol to use as a meditation or visualization tool to increase the sense of full uninhibited expression in the world. By meditating with this card in front of you, you can affirm or visualize expressing yourself in the world and making the contribution that you have come to make on Earth. This symbol reinforces universal understanding and global awareness. If you want to build new worlds internally and externally; this symbol is a visual portraiture of universal worlds that can be creatively maintained and supported.

Sample Affirmations to Use While Looking at The Universe

- I love exploring the unknown.
- I am excited about bringing ideas and creative projects into form.
- I love to travel.
- I deeply value making a contribution that makes the world a better place in which to live.

The Universe as an Outer Mirror

Whenever you pull this symbol or find yourself drawn toward it, it represents that you are currently expressing who you are in the world and that you are making a difference. You are building new worlds internally and externally, and the next twenty-one weeks is the time that you are determined to actualize or manifest the kinds of worlds that you want in all arenas of your life.

You may find yourself planning a special trip or may find yourself traveling extensively in order to make the kind of community or cultural contributions that you see are essentially needed at this time. In no way are you holding back any of your individuality or full expression at this time. The Universe reflects that your service and talents are needed at this time and you are actively involved in making a necessary contribution.

Other Symbols that Are Aspects of The Universe Symbol

The Universe (the number 21) is the outer expression in the world of the Empress symbol (the number 3). In order to make a contribution in the world with our inherent talents (The Universe), we must trust our ability to express love with wisdom (The Empress), Love with wisdom can be expressed in the world when we are willing to break limiting patterns (The Hanged Man), release old sorrows (Three of Swords), be clear on our priorities (Three of Disks), express our integrity (Empress Wands), and communicate respectfully (Three of Cups). (See the Empress constellation in Section VI for additional information.)

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

Gifts:

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

Challenges:

Three of Swords (Sorrow)