

XIV ART/TEMPERANCE

Key Words: *Sagittarius; unification of opposites, balance; inner change, transformation, alchemy, a quantum leap; creative power.*

The alchemical union of fire and water portrayed above the head of the Fool, has now moved to the center of the picture. The whole card is characterized by symbols of integration, the unification of opposites.

The binding together of fire and water, light and dark, male and female, death and rebirth, is an internal process. The melting of contradictions is a major step toward oneness. The opposing forces transform themselves into a new state of being. The marriage of Emperor and Empress shown on the card The Lovers, reaches now its fulfillment. This is the highest art of transformation.

The bringing together of opposites is a preparation for generating something new. The large sun and the moons crossing it give birth to the stars in the background.

The dress is the color of creativity - green. The Latin sentence inscribed on the sun translates to »Examine the inner realms of the Earth; by cleansing you will find the hidden stone.« This has many meanings on different levels (as do many of the images and symbols in this Tarot), but the most useful is seen in the context of the green dress (creativity) and suggests the necessity of bringing creative forces into contact with earth energy.

The lion and eagle, assistants in the alchemical process, have already completed their transformation. We saw them first on the card called The Lovers. They have grown in size and significance. The lion, representative of the element fire has taken on the color of water. The eagle, a higher form of the scorpion, and a representative of the element water has taken on the color of fire. This image of balance, inversion and integration is repeated on the golden alchemical urn; the raven on the skull is a symbol of death and rebirth. The dark-skinned king now has a light-skinned face, and the light-skinned queen now has a dark-skinned face. The face of the queen, on the left, looks to the hand at the right, while the face on the right concentrates on the hand to the left. Water and fire pour into the urn. The fire consumes the water and the water extinguishes the fire.

The steam, energy of the new, rises. The arrow (in the center of the body) re-emphasizes this. The steam forms two rainbows, symbols of wholeness, which surrounds the shoulders of the androgynous figure. The eight circles on the chest (two are covered) symbolize symmetry and balance. The honeybees (on the Queen's robe on the card The Lovers) and the snakes (on the King's) have intermingled. The bees stand for art, perception and integration.

Indication: The card Art is a challenge to look inward. In this phase of integrating opposites, the transformation process will not tolerate any further impulses or pushes from outside. To find the hidden stone, the diamond, you must look within.

Question: What does it mean now for you to find your »hidden diamond«?

Suggestion: Close your eyes and visualize a fountain of energy in your body. Bathe a while in this rejuvenating current.

Affirmation: I surrender to the transforming powers of the divine. I am an open channel for creative energy.

The point is...to unify and harmonize the opposites, both positive and negative, by discovering a ground which transcends and encompasses them both. - Ken Wilbur, No Boundary

ART/TEMPERANCE symbol represents the universal principle of integration, synthesis, and synergy. In order to come into the artistry of who we are, it is important to balance the apparent paradoxes, oppositions, or polarities within our nature. Every

symbol on this card represents the union of opposition which creates something new. Synergy is the union of two or more principles which combined, can create a greater whole. Art/Temperance is the integration of opposition in order to become even more of who we are. Fire and water are merged to create steam. This same metaphor is pictured by Leo, the lion; a fire sign drinks from the caldron with Scorpio, the eagle or phoenix, a water sign. Together they drink from the caldron which contains air, or the life force. On the caldron itself is another union of polarity represented by the bird and the skull - the union of life and death which is a prevalent experience for all humankind. In the background, the great sun disk unifies with its polar opposite, the crescent moons, from which the spinning stars at the top and sides of this card are created. This is the Sagittarius symbol which is represented by the arrow going up the central part of the figure. Sagittarius reminds us it is through our life visions and dreams that we fully express the artistry of who we are as well as resolve any apparent conflicts or opposition within our nature. The light and dark of our nature needs to be incorporated before we can fully express the whole of who we are. This is represented by the light and dark arms and faces which, when combined, create the balanced and tempered Being.

THE PRINCIPLE OF INTEGRATION; SYNTHESIS; SYNERGY

The Art/Temperance Symbol as Life-Time Symbol

For those whose birthday adds up to the number 14, Art/Temperance is a symbol that represents your life-time personality symbol, a symbol of your external expression in the world. Your inherent nature is one of bringing together polarities, oppositions, and paradoxes in order to create a greater whole. You will find that artistry of any kind holds within it the synthesis of many parts, which are simultaneously paradoxical, but when brought together create symmetry and balance. You are a visionary. You can see possibilities and combinations that many others would never consider. You are a natural

alchemist constantly seeing that two or more is always a greater combination than one. For you, it would be important to merge or negotiate rather than stay in one fixed perspective or polarity. You have a natural ability to temper and balance situations which seem impossible.

Sagittarius people in your life (anyone born November 21-December 21) function as mirrors of your own dreams and visions that want to be applied in the world; or the months of Sagittarius could be inspirational and integrative times for you.

The Art/Temperance Symbol as a Growth Symbol

Art/Temperance is the symbol that you experience during the year where your birthday and the current year add up to the number 14. This becomes a year where it becomes important for you to temper and integrate seeming polarities and paradoxes in your life. It is a year when things begin to "fall into place" or that you have a feeling that "things are finally coming together."

Art/Temperance years may find you drawn to artistically expressing yourself in ways that you have not previously considered. It is definitely a year where beauty, balance, negotiation, and networking are important qualities that want to be expressed more fully in your life.

During this year, it is also the best time to resolve issues that you may have with Sagittarius people; or the month of Sagittarius (November 21-December 21) may be the best time to implement new dreams and visions.

The Art/Temperance Symbol as a Visual Affirmation and Meditative Symbol

The Art/Temperance symbol is the best symbol for supporting the integration and synthesis of polarities or oppositions in your life. If you are wanting to integrate two or more important issues, this is the archetype which reinforces the synergetic principle where two or more things coming together create a greater whole. Evoking the Art/Temperance symbol in meditation, or through conscious intention, can assist your process of experiencing your life as an art form that is both tempered and balanced.

Sample Affirmations To Use While Looking at The Art/Temperance Symbol

I am a creative, well-integrated individual.

I am as strong in my magnetic nature as I am in my dynamic nature.

I express the artistry of who I am in states of balance and integration.

I experience temperance when I equally value the light and dark within my own nature.

The Art/Temperance Symbol as an Outer Mirror

Whenever you pull the Art/Temperance symbol or find yourself drawn toward it, it symbolizes that in the next fourteen weeks or the next fourteen months would be an excellent time to bring two or more gifts and talents together in order to create something greater. It is a time to integrate and synthesize apparent polarities or oppositions that you are experiencing personally or professionally. You may find that aesthetics, integration, and the arts become important qualities that you want to incorporate more fully into your life.

Whatever life dream or visions that are important to you may be actualized, or may fall into place, within the next fourteen weeks or fourteen months, depending on your desire and intention to realize them.

During the month of Sagittarius or through Sagittarius people, you may find that you are able to bring two or more parts of your life together in ways that create a greater whole. It is also a good time to resolve issues with Sagittarius people in your life.

Other Symbols that Are Aspects of The Art/Temperance Symbol

The Art/Temperance symbol is the externalized expression of the Hierophant card. (Art is the number 14, which adds up to the number 5, the Hierophant.) The capacity to integrate and balance varied parts of ourselves and our lives (Art/Temperance) is a result of listening to our inner teacher and instinctive faith which comes from deep within (The Hierophant). It is through the learning and teaching that we experience in our family and extended family (The Hierophant) that highlights what needs to be tempered and balanced in our life (Art/Temperance). We are tempered, and discover the artistry of who we are when we face and move through fear of defeat (Five of Swords), disappointment (Five of Cups), anxiety and strife (Five of Wands), and worry (Five of Disks). The integration of our gifts and weaknesses (Art/Temperance) allows us to inspire and motivate others to face their challenges from their greater sense of Being (The Hierophant). (See the Hierophant constellation in Section VI for additional information.)

The Gifts and Challenges for Persons whose Life-Time Personality Symbol Is The Art/Temperance Symbol

Gifts: Hierophant (Spiritual Faith) Art/Temperance (Integration/ Synthesis)

Challenges:

Five of Swords (Fear of Defeat)

Five of Cups (Disappointment)

Five of Wands (Anxiety/Strife)

Five of Disks (Worry)