

13 Magickal Cards

Tarot Insights By JohnnieTwoBrows

Taurus: Slow Down, Relax, and Enjoy Life

Merry meet! Welcome to the Taurus edition of 13 Magickal Cards.

Happy Birthday to everyone born under the sign of the Bull! Your persistence, patience, and ability to really show us how to enjoy life is treasured by all of us. Just remember that people and things will only go so far toward fulfilling your need for comfort and security.

As the fixed earth sign of the Zodiac, “cautious determination” is a good way to describe the nature of the Bull. They will reach their goals, but in their own good time, gradually pushing aside any obstacles in their paths.

As you may know, the suit of Pentacles in the Tarot is earth energy. In many Tarot decks this suit is called the suit of Coins. It represents money and other resources, but too often, we look on money as the only resource that is valuable to us. Our time and energy are just as valuable.

Engineers, who are often experts on the use of energy, often refer to “process vs. product”, usually when it comes to developing technical equipment. As many have said, life is a journey and not a destination. How we have lived, what we have experienced, is much more important than the stuff we bought or a checking account balance. It makes us who we are. We learn so much about ourselves just

getting to the goal, and our Taurus folks know this very well.

Sometimes we’re so preoccupied with getting to a goal that we don’t really see the negative impact that the journey is having on us and those around us. The 10 of Pentacles is the “Wall Street” card, and it represents financial abundance and confidence in money matters. But notice that the two central figures on the card are not looking at each other. Financial success does have a price after all: More time needs to be spent making it and managing it.

To make sure that we’re keeping ourselves balanced and on target, there is the 7 of Pentacles. It represents re-evaluating your position, financial or otherwise. To know where you’re going, and if you’re going in the right direction, you sometimes need to stop and check out where you are.

Finally, the 2 of Wands reminds us to have fun to balance out the ups and downs of our daily lives. No matter how serious we are about our work and personal goals, there is no substitute for having fun. I doubt that any of us will look back over our lives and say, “You know, I don’t think I worked enough.”

In short, the sign of Aries inspires us, but Taurus says, “Let’s get down to work and have some fun along the way.” Let that earth energy flow and reach those goals, but enjoy the journey, too.

I hope to see you across my table soon.
Blessed be, J2B



Tarot Deck Review

The Quest Tarot

I picked up this deck in Salem, MA, a few months ago. Salem's a great place to buy Tarot cards—I think I came home with more than a couple of decks that day—but next time I'll do it when it's not snowing. BRRRRRRR! But I digress.

To get the most out of this deck, get the boxed set that has both the deck and the book. There are many correspondences across the top of each card that represent astrological signs, gemstones, planets, runes, the I Ching, and the Kabbalah. The book will help decode the symbols for you.

All of the suits retain their traditional names, except for Pentacles which is represented by "Stones". The Court Card titles are not traditional; they are Father (King), Mother (Queen), Son (Knight), and Daughter (Page).

While the symbols are an excellent way to integrate your knowledge of the Tarot with other related disciplines, it can get a little busy at the top of the card. Also, all of the cards, Major and Minor Arcana alike, have a Roman numeral at the top center, so without looking at the title of each card it's not possible to know which Arcana is which.

The cards are really beautiful and bright, and have some traditional Tarot imagery. It takes liberties with the images but they come off more optimistically than in many other decks. For example, the Fool looks much happier, and a larger, gorgeous landscape can be shown around him, including a river, a rainbow, and a half circle of stars in the distance. The Five of Pentacles (Stones), whose traditional image shows two poor people outside a church, shows a simple picture of five stones in the Quest Tarot.

One of the factors that makes this a good deck for a beginner is that each card has a description underneath the card name in the bottom center of each card. For example, the Four of Wands' description is "perfection. While this card certainly has other meanings, it's nice to have a key word to use if you blank on the meaning of a card (and this happens even to those of us who have been reading for some time). As long as you don't allow these meanings to be absolutes and only as a jumping off point for your own intuition you'll be just fine.

My favorite card in this deck is The Tower. It shows flaming rocks heading toward the tower, and to me it expresses exactly what you would feel if you were sitting in that Tower just thinking that today was going to

be ordinary and then looking outside. Even the word on the card, “demolition” is very appropriate; the word is rather neutral and describes the removal of something no longer useful to us.

I really enjoy this deck. It allows both beginners and advanced Tarot students the opportunity to learn about many of the Tarot’s correspondences in a bright, beautiful, artistic way. Remember: Buy the set. Better yet, ask Sam or one of the other lovely ladies at 13 Magickal Moons to order one for you.

Next month’s review: The Celtic Dragon Tarot

Dorothy Morrison and M.R. Sellars

Yes, the Dynamic Duo will be back in our midst soon! It seems like May 31 is quite a ways off, but make your reservations now for two classes that will make up an enlightening and fun evening at 13 Magickal Moons. Jennie Sunshine and I will be at both classes, “Winners, Whiners and Wingnuts” and “Magick in the Trenches”. See the 13 Magickal Moons website for more details (www.13magickalmoons.com).

For those of you who were lucky enough to schedule a Tarot reading with Dorothy Morrison before the slots filled up, you’re in for a real treat. I can’t say enough good things about her. She did *fantastic* readings for both Jennie and I last year and we were both amazed at her insights. Do yourself a favor and **bring a notebook** to these readings so you can make the most of her guidance. Six months from now you will be glad you did!

Featured Spread of the Month

For the month of May, I’m doing a [Work Treasure Chest](#) spread. It will have no less than 18 cards and will cost \$30. This spread’s positions are named after various gemstones (an appropriate thing for Taurean earth energy!) and it will give you insights into how to make the most of your abilities at work.

Shameless Marketing: Johnnie’s Secret Tarot Diary Entry

Dear Diary,

I was really 9 of Cups today because someone called me when I got 10 of Cups to schedule a 3 of Cups. If I 7 of Pentacles, I’ll be able to Page of Swords the Queen of Pentacles into a Star. I 2 of Cups her.

The Ace of Cups isn’t too far off now, so time to Three of Pentacles and see how the Hierophant can 3 of Pentacles the High Priestess with any upcoming events.

I’d be a Fool to try and Four of Pentacles at 13 Magickal Moons. It makes me feel so Four of Wands when I’m there—it’s so Empress—that it’s hard to be Emperor. I should just The Hanged Man and 10 of Pentacles.

Good thing these entries are The Moon so that other people won’t 3 of Swords me.

The World,

J2B

Upcoming Dates

I'll be reading Tarot for the following dates for Taurus and Gemini at 13 Magickal Moons. All of these dates are tentative. Please check www.13magickalmoons.com for an up-to-date schedule. If you know in advance you're going to be coming to the store for a reading, you may also call the store or email me (hierophant@cox.net) to schedule an appointment. This is especially true for weekend dates.

Saturday, April 21	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, April 25	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, April 28	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, May 2	6:00pm-9:00pm
Wednesday, May 9	6:00pm-9:00pm
Saturday, May 12	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, May 16	6:00pm-9:00pm
Saturday, May 19	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, May 23	6:00pm-9:00pm
Saturday, May 26	11:30am-5:30pm
Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day)	12:00-5:30pm
Wednesday, May 30	6:00pm-9:00pm
Wednesday, June 6	6:00pm-9:00pm
Saturday, June 9	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, June 13	6:00pm-9:00pm
Saturday, June 16	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, June 20	6:00pm-9:00pm