

13 Magickal Cards Tarot Insights By JohnnieTwoBrows

Taurus: Using energy practically

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

A sincere birthday greeting to all of you born under the sign of the Bull. You are the champions of the axiom, “Slow but steady wins the race.” It might not be adventurous or exciting but your way will get the job done eventually. We know that no matter how long it’s been since your last phone call or email, that you will be there when we need you. And that’s what counts.

As the natural ruler of astrology’s 2nd house, Taurus is in charge when it comes to money and finances (the term “bull market” comes to mind), sensuality and pleasures of the senses, and our tangible possessions. A good rule of thumb is if an object can be carried or moved to another location, then it’s ruled by this house. A Taurus person’s home is usually a fantastic place to be entertained; they tend to be very comfortable, with lots of beautiful objects and plenty of good food and drinks to go around.

In the Major Arcana, Taurus is ruled by the Hierophant, that conventional teacher and spiritual figure who sticks to his guns and makes us feel comfortable in groups surrounded by people who believe the same things we do. Taurus’ ruling planet is Venus, the planet of love and sensuality. In the Tarot, Venus is represented by the Empress, who exhorts us to enjoy life’s blessings and allow our maternal instincts free reign.

Taurus people take their time, and while it sometimes irks the rest of us while we wonder why it's taking them so long to do something we could have already done twice, it does have its advantages. By not rushing, a Bull can be sure that its most precious resource, its energy, is not wasted.

Now let me be clear: To some, this attitude of not wasting energy is misconstrued as laziness. Nothing could be further from the truth for most Bulls, who can work long hours without tiring when they get motivated to do so. But as caution is a Taurus watchword, they generally do not rush headlong into things, and have a tendency to be more patient than many other signs.

So how can we make the energy of Taurus sun work best for us? Well, the first thing we can do is just slow down. How many times do we have to do something before we get it right? Spend a little more time checking things out and make sure that everything is just as it should be.

Another page we can take from the Taurus book is not jumping to conclusions. Why expend energy on possibilities that may not come to fruition? Take a moment to consider the entire situation and check out the facts before reacting. (Note: This is especially true when responding to a potentially irritating email or forwarding one of the many emails you receive about new and dangerous computer viruses. :))

Finally, take the time to enjoy life and the beautiful things (and people) around you. Stay until the credits end of the movie at the cinema. Spend time just talking with your friends and enjoying their company. Grab a sandwich and some drinks for an impromptu picnic by a river or in a park.

I'm off to watch the rain out my window. I hope to see you across my Tarot table soon. Blessed Be, J2B

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Tarot Deck Review

The Circle of Life Tarot

When it comes to most things, I'm a traditionalist. My favorite chocolate bar is Hershey's with almonds. I love my hometown sports teams from Boston. And I like French fries with my burger.

My Tarot practice also shows this tendency. My favorite Tarot deck is the Rider-Waite, and I like decks with 78 cards and no extras. You can keep your oracle decks; they may be for other people but they're not for me. And if the deck wasn't rectangular, at least until recently, it wasn't for me either.

So how did I find myself reviewing the Circle of Life Tarot, a *round* Tarot deck, you may ask? Well, I wanted to push myself and leave my comfort zone. And as you will see, it is clearly a departure from the kinds of decks I normally review.

The card titles are printed in six languages around the outside of each card, with either Roman (Majors) or Arabic (pips) numerals so it is usually easy to tell which card is which. The Court cards have no identifying numerals so they are not as easy to identify at first glance. The name, however, is clearly written along the side of each card.

I had difficulty trying to figure out the overall "theme" of this deck, if there is one. The little white book that comes with the deck provided no insights,

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except to explain why the deck is round. So if I do a random drawing of a few cards I'll give you an idea of what I've seen and you can make your own call. Sound fair? Here we go. There's a wasp with swords instead of legs and a stinger (5 of Swords), two crustaceans with human faces holding shell-shaped chalices the other's lips (2 of Cups), and 10 fairy-like beings dancing around a fire each one holding a stick (10 of Wands) .

The backs of the cards are a repeating circular pattern of intertwined flowers in yellow and white. While it can be a little distracting—the yellow especially was a little jarring to the eye for me—it's pretty and unique.

The deck itself is mainly devoid of Rider-Waite symbols, which could make it difficult for a novice reader to use, especially in the Minor Arcana. The Major Arcana, however, present less of a problem in this regard; the Devil, for example, shows a horned being sitting with three people chained to him,

although the chains do not allow enough room for the captives to escape.

One of the cards that does show vestiges of the Rider-Waite is the Eight of Swords, but it expresses the meaning of the card differently. A person is trying to force his (her?) way out of prison using one of the Swords. Four broken swords litter the floor to his left, while three intact swords are leaning against the wall to his right. The idea that the person is using the Swords to get out of the prison is very interesting; the Rider-Waite shows a woman who chooses to not do anything because none of her options are good. So this deck puts a more positive spin on this particular card.

The Two of Pentacles poses more of an interpretation problem. A huge snake is intertwined around two trees, each with a coin. If you knew that one of the meanings of the card is “flexibility” you would see it with the snake's body. But the aspects of “fun” and “juggling many responsibilities” would not be obvious.

My favorite card in this deck is the Ace of Cups. A nude woman dives into a huge shell floating on a body of water. The image is simple yet expressive, and to me was a stark contrast from many of the other cards which had a lot more going on.

Overall, I'm glad that this deck made its way into my collection, but I'm not particularly fond of reading with it. That doesn't mean, however, that you won't love it. It's kind of like Monty Python for me: It can be an acquired taste, but I believe you will probably either love it or hate it. So far, the response from querents has been so-so.

If you are experienced reading the Tarot and like fantasy-themed decks (fairies, gnomes, and the like) with imagery that's less than traditional, then give this deck a whirl. And order the set with the bag, which is bright and pretty.

Card of The Month: The 10 of Wands

The 10 of Wands represents stress, being overburdened, or taking on too many responsibilities of other people. This card comes up a lot in readings, especially with people who do not handle stress well. Also, it tends to appear when we are dealing with situations because others would not deal with them, or because you felt that the person (or people) who should be dealing with them are incapable of resolving the situation.

Many of the Cups cards oppose the 10 of Wands, as well as Temperance (balance), and the Star (tranquility).

Shameless Marketing: Visit my new Tarot website

I've wanted my own website for my Tarot business for some time and it is finally finished and up on the web. You can go browse it for yourself at

www.hierophanttarot.com. It has information about me and about scheduling telephone readings and Tarot parties, as well as lots more ways for you to consider giving me your money. So at least make the effort and look at the site. Yes, there's a counter on it and I'm only checking it once every five minutes or so to see how many of you have visited.

While you're at it, add it to your favorites and send the address to a few hundred of your friends. Give my fragile ego a boost and go check it out, will you? I mean do I have to beg?

In case you skipped to the end of this section (and you know who you are!), here's a recap:

- 1) www.hierophanttarot.com is up.
- 2) Go look at it.
- 3) See how cool it is.
- 4) Check out the links.
- 5) Tell your friends how cool it is.
- 6) Think about giving me some more of your money. THANKS!

PLEASE fill Out My SHORT Survey

I'd like to get some feedback from you about my Tarot practice. It is a VERY SHORT SURVEY and should take less than ten minutes. SERIOUSLY.

You may find the survey at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=OCuKTwkg51JwE30oPFDyFQ_3d_3d

Please note: I noticed last month that the link didn't work, which may be the reason why only 7 of you did the survey. It could also be that generally surveys totally suck but I'll discount that one for now. :)

Upcoming Dates

I'll be reading Tarot for the following dates for the remainder of Taurus and Gemini at 13 Magickal Moons. Readings will be done on a first-come, first-served basis; I do not take appointments when I read at 13 Magickal Moons. Just go to the Tarot table and sign up when you get to the store. All of these dates are tentative. Please check www.13magickalmoons.com for an up-to-date schedule.

Saturday, May 10	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, May 14	6-9pm
Saturday, May 24	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, May 28	6-9pm
Saturday, June 7	11:30am-5:30pm
Saturday, June 14	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, June 18	6-9pm (Open Litha Ritual)