

Pentacles: So Much More than “Show me the Money”

Pentacles are the most positive suit in the Minor Arcana. The five, with its message of poverty or material loss, is the only card holding strong negative portent. As readers we feel reassured, seeing them in the spread unfolding before our eyes. My preferred deck is the Tarot of Dreams, bringing its gift of colourful creativity to the traditional Coleman Smith concepts. So I see before me a comforting backdrop of vibrant green, indicating that I don't have to deal with the scary “mind” field of Swords or the turbulent ocean of emotions that accompanies Cups. But don't I? Pentacles are about manifestation into reality after all, and isn't that one of the hardest things in life to get right! Integration, blending, connecting and linking between different modalities and systems is one of my passions. So my numerology screams there have to be some associations to eight energy. Getting that material to spiritual balance expressed in an evolved manner, is no simple matter!

Pentacles have well established connections to the astrological Earth signs in astrology, Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn. I follow my intuition as to link these with the Court Card personalities. The Queen of Pentacles is Taurean, she loves her creature comforts, luxury and her security is paramount. Dependable, earthy, strong and practical, she hates change relying on her past experiences to guide her through life. She likes to hold onto what is hers, living out her motto “I have”! My Queen is wonderfully adorned with luxurious robes and exquisite jewellery, retaining her earthy connection through clutching her dainty flowers. Interestingly, her jewellery consists of a spectacular pentacle pendant amongst her many golden coins!



The Capricorn King of Pentacles is strong willed with a lust for power through “I use”. He is conservative, predictable and serious, a steady logical thinker with high standards. Typically a successful business leader, he is successful and acquires the good things in life, but can struggle to let his hair down and really enjoy them.

For me the Pages don't represent a sun sign, rather the dawning of a new concept, in this case a material one. The Knight of Pentacles is the Virgo, patient, sensible, conscientious and hardworking. He loves perfection and order, but “I analyse” makes him very indecisive, over-analysing and worrying over every detail.

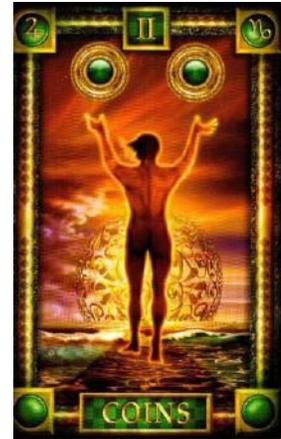
Pentacles relate to matters of business and finance or our material possessions. They tend to suggest a more empirical, five sensory and left brain approach rather one based on emotions and intuition. This can indicate taking a more practical, hands on methodology, making things work, achieving and succeeding through diligence, patience, hard work and following the rules.

A somewhat conservative outlook, more formal and structured in nature, that leads to fortunes, legacies and family dynasties. Many cards refer to actions such as:

- recognising or gaining recognition
- investing carefully or holding onto things rather too closely
- obtaining the correct ratio between giving and receiving, otherwise known as karma
- reflecting on the balance between nurturing activities and reaping the benefits
- learning from life or acquiring new skills
- accepting where we have come to and being content with what we have achieved

As such, while the cards often portray people doing activities, we also need to look further than what they are manifesting, searching more deeply for the material to spiritual balance that they are creating within their lives.

Ciro Marchetti has invigorated his juggler, in the Two showing him naked, encircled by light, controlling his coins magically in the air. Rather than looking rather bored and turning his back on the ocean of emotion, he faces it squarely and advances directly into its domain, light on his feet with the wind blowing through his hair. The sun is setting behind a stormy sky, as the enormous opportunity that awaits him, rises majestically from the calmer waters on the horizon. This juggler is truly in control of his destiny, aware of what he is about and powerfully harmonising and balancing the current duplicity in his life, in anticipation of the greater things he will manifest into the future.



His Ace, is potent with material opportunity. Nature is represented in all its splendour and glory including the rather Celtic symbolism of the stag in the foreground. The glorious figure of a male god manifests from its bowels holding aloft an enormous coin in contrast to Pamela's rather quaint country garden with its gateway to the mountains. An enormous moon is clearly visible in the day time sky, indicative of the need to maintain a intuitive more spiritual balance in the opportunities brought into being.

The Ten maintains the traditional "Gateway" symbolism but is interestingly stripped of people, lending a portentous feel, more reminiscent of the legacy we intend to leave to the Universe, than the dynastic kind. The future viewed through the archway has an eerie golden glow behind its shimmering coins, signifying the light all spirits crave at the other side of the tunnel when life comes to an end. A final indication that the spirit marches on when all that is material is left behind

