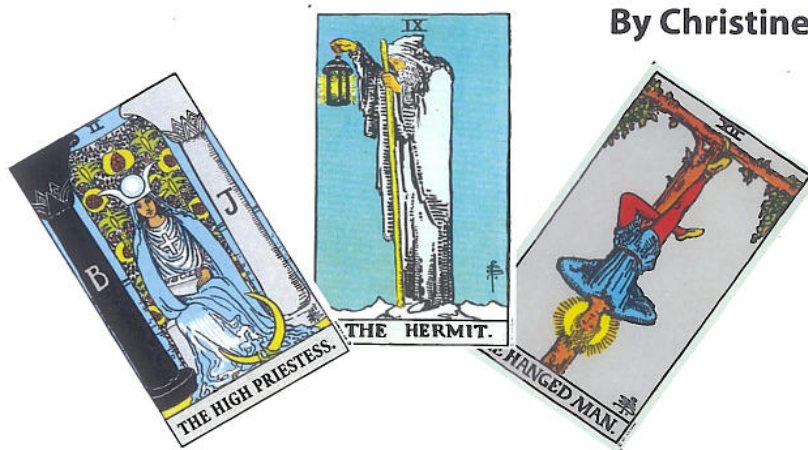


# ARCHETYPAL INTEGRATION IN THE TAROT HONOURING OUR HIGHER TRUTH THE HIGH PRIESTESS, THE HERMIT, & THE HANGED MAN

By Christine Danielle Vierling



THE TAROT ARCHETYPES OF THE HIGH PRIESTESS, HERMIT, AND HANGED MAN ILLUMINATE THE IMPORTANCE OF INTROSPECTION TO ACCESS OUR HIGHER SOUL TRUTH AND TO BE ON OUR TRUE PATH OF INDIVIDUATION. ACCORDING TO JUNGIAN PSYCHOLOGY, THE PROCESS OF INDIVIDUATION ALLOWS US TO BRING THE ARCHETYPAL, SOUL-INSPIRED GEMS FROM OUR UNCONSCIOUS INTO OUR DAILY LIFE OF EGO-CONSCIOUSNESS. ONLY THEN CAN THE PSYCHE AUTHENTICALLY EXPRESS ITS UNIQUENESS.

**The High Priestess** calls us to go inward to listen to our own inner voice and knowing found in the depths of our unconscious and aligned with the archetypal Divine Feminine. Like Mother Mary, considered a Priestess in the ancient Dead Sea Scrolls, she is typically dressed in blue robes showing the strength of her Throat Chakra and correlating connection with her inner truth and faith in divine guidance. The balanced cross at her breast represents the four directions that create sacred wholeness on our Earth and in her hands she holds the Torah, the ancient Judaic script (from which the word Tarot derives). Her feet are dipping into the flowing water, symbolic of our deeper unconscious longings below the physical earthy ego surface. The pomegranates behind her represent the natural womb wisdom that holds creative uniqueness for our incarnation on Earth. The High Priestess is also like the Egyptian Goddess, Isis, with the crescent moon at her crown and at her feet to symbolize union with Divine Feminine energy. When we align with the High Priestess and ask to be a pure channel for Her Divine Wisdom, we can trust that all the Higher Truth we need in the present will flow clearly and freely into consciousness.

Once we have aligned with our Higher Truth, then we can bring it into real life

practice with the Virgoan introspective qualities of **The Hermit**, the archetypal wise man or shaman. Atop a mountain of life experience, he holds a staff planted in the Earth in the one hand (practical wisdom) and a lantern with a six-pointed star (considered the Western yin-yang, as the triangle from below, symbolizing Shadow, merges with the triangle from above, representing Light) in the other. The lantern illuminates our innermost resources that can help us on the journey of higher soul learning and wholeness/holiness. The Hermit signals loneliness for the vulnerable, however Tarot cards need not be categorized as good or bad, but rather represent how we approach the present path before us. If we align with the Source of Eternal Love, we never feel lonely or bored. When we fearlessly step into the Shadow Unconscious, we discover our innermost gifts/our Light, and focus our attention on developing a more meaningful relationship with the self. The Hermit aptly arises for those in need of retreat, soul reflection, deep resourcing, or higher education.

If we ignore our innate need for soul-searching, then we may unconsciously create events that throw us off our feet so that we are forced to reflect on ourselves as **The Hanged Man** (the archetype of Adversity). We may find ourselves unwell, accident prone, out of

work, money, or just plain out of sorts. During times of upheaval, we can get hung-up on waiting for some positive signal from an established external authority before taking any action to help ourselves. Tied up from the ankles to the Tree of Life, upside-down with a halo of enlightenment around his head, the Hanged Man cannot help but access a new perspective on his existence! Without a noose, clearly no dire harm is upon him; simply he can't get his two feet back on the ground to move forward. Astrologically, Pisces, the most spiritual sign that allows us to move beyond the self into the ocean of Oneness, rules the feet. So the Hanged Man state of being calls us to let go of the conscious ego and its personal hang-ups and to surrender to something greater within ourselves. When we are ready to move forward from a place of soul truth, only then can we get on our feet again and truly move forward with confidence and creativity in being the most phenomenal human on Earth we can be!



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