

Tarot Key 15: The Devil

Compare this image to Keys 5 and 6 to recognize the change in conscious and subconscious mind orientation.

- **Key 14 is about the alchemical process life puts you through**
- **Key 15 shows you what to do your alchemy upon**
 - Where you are in bondage
- **Exercise:** examine your thoughts, speech, feelings and actions to discover your areas of bondage to work free from.

The Devil: The Big Fake, the perpetrator of lies, deceit and the degradation that follows.

- He represents the illusory nature of whatever you might fear.
- “Prince of the power of the air”:
 - air is the element associated with thought
 - the devil represents primarily mental bondage.
 - PAN
 - We are its channel when our speech, actions, emotions or thoughts generate chaos or *PANdemonium*
 - **The Dweller On The Threshold:** The small view of self that prevents us from accepting difficulties and rising to meet challenges
 - The Accuser: translation of the Hebrew “Satan”
 - Resistance to forgiveness keeps us from accepting the transformation of events into the greater fulfillment of our heart’s desires.

Position of his arms

- Notice the similarity to The Magician
 - Here, he is blocking power from above and ruling with the fire of pain and intimidation

Seated on two-dimensional face of cube:

- This card portrays the ILUSORY nature of fear, bondage and the belief that “devils” are in charge.
- Despite frightening appearances, in your life and in the world, all is moving toward greater harmony, order and unity.
- All that is ever going on is transformation into greater good.

Renewing Intelligence:

- SEEING this incites the desire to overcome our own unconscious nature
- Identifying with appearances and the physical exclusively leads to suffering that arouses the Renewing Intelligence in search of a better way.
- People tend to relate to suffering as punishment and evidence that God is actually an evil bully (a devil), but it is actually our teacher (Saturn) leading us to find a better way.
- when you realize what you are in bondage to it incites your desire for liberation:

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- Once you understand how your habitual thought, emotion, speech and action ruin your life and drain your energy, your quest for liberation commences.
- **Why we need the constant reinforcement of inner world teachings:** the world of appearances constantly hits us with the suggestion that it is all there is, that we are separate, and only sensory pleasure is of value.

MIRTH:

- Laughter delegitimizes a false show of power.
- laugh at the illusion of anything or person being a true threat to you
- over-seriousness is a sign of mental illness
- see the overly serious or threatening visages of dictators, tyrants and bullies.

Hebrew Letter: Ayin

- the physical eye that sees the physical world and gets us caught up in the illusion that the physical and appearances are all that is.
- The weakness of judging based on superficial appearances and hasty, superficial observation
- Also represents the all-seeing eye of God that is always watching (the laws of cause-effect and karma always at work)

Superficial Observation Judges unpleasant circumstances as evil

- **The purpose of “unwanted” events:**
- As we examine our handling of life’s tests and trials we see where we are in bondage to
 - Opinions of others
 - Habitual negative thought patterns
 - Unsettled emotional patterns
 - Unconscious rush
 - Chaotic, impulsive speech and action patterns
 - Unconsciousness in the now
 - Automatic reactivity patterns
- Why we need to repeated reinforcement of inner world teachings: the outer is constantly giving us the suggestion that it is all there is

Upside-Down White Pentacle:

- The Principle of Inversion: The outer is an inverse reflection of the inner
- What appears to be a chaotic world of ugliness and injustice is the inverse reflection of the Perfect World of order, justice and beauty,
- The Devil SEEMS to be in charge of this world, but that is only by the consent of the oppressed.
- In reality, those who appear to bully, dominate and destroy are actually the ones in bondage to their own false and endless ego-needs.
- Represents the opposite of Mastery: bondage: Will and higher consciousness over-ruled by blind forces of thought, feeling, speech and action (habitual unconscious patterns).
- WHITE Even though the self is in bondage the Higher Will of Kether is still in charge.

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- your reactions to what happens are actually the cause of what happens to you.

Hooves, horns and tails on people:

- Identification with the self and reality as solely physical turns people into animals.

Chained apart:

The illusion of separateness that keeps people in degrading conflict and out of mutually supportive loving, respectful cooperation.

Saturn in right hand:

- Relating to limitation as bondage, when it is really our teacher and our guard rails.
- In right hand: Saturn is actually a form of Mercy: we are protected by our limitations

Brown:

- earthiness, the material world, material practicality is the sole value.

Red Eyes:

- LOOKS ferocious and scary, though it is just a façade because the higher ordering forces are always in charge.
- Color of Mars, which has a weakness of judging by superficial appearances and rushing into action

Capricorn:

- The planet of business and rulership of worldly conditions.
- It's sign is the goat that follows an independent path and ascends to high peaks
- It rules the knees, where we fall in prayer to connect with a higher power
 - The hubris of false values leads to humiliation
 - Dylan line: "you will start out standing, proud to steal her anything she sees, but you will end up peeking through her keyhole down upon your knees.

White beard of Devil:

- Even when it appears that evil is in charge Divine Will (Kether, aka "The ancient of days" is in charge.

Bat wings:

- a creature of night, darkness, symbolizing unconsciousness, ignorance and deceit
- Whatever you are unconscious of controls you; whatever you are conscious of, you can control.

Goat Head:

Capricorn: promises advancement to one aspiring to climb the ladder of worldly ambition

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Giant Ears:

- Ears open to all of the voices of the outer world, which deafens one to inner, intuitive hearing.
- This card is SCREAMING at us to practice INNER listening for the voice of the hierophant (Key 5)

MAN AND WOMAN

- They are “pandering to the devil” based on false belief in dependency on outer and fear of what appears to be menacing, not understanding the loving nature of reality
- They are using their nudity for seduction, but its actually concealing what they are up to, trying to take advantage of your superficial awareness and get you into bondage to them.
- **Man: Conscious Mind**
 - He is offering up an empty hand, like a beggar (while he unconsciously holds the infinite power of YOD in the open hand)
 - he deceives the conscious mind by hiding his true intentions: the fire behind him that will burn the unwitting dupe
 - **Man’s Fish Tail**
 - He plumes to the depths of depravity to influence with deception
 - **Female: Subconscious Mind**
 - See how she is looking without, rather than up (as in Key 6)
 - The subconscious is being programed by superficial appearances and superficial reasoning rooted in desire.
 - She is offering up her beautiful body in a show of innocence
 - The fruit (cherries) she offers is animalization
 - We can also interpret the red circles as the cinders of one who got burned.

Chained to the false cube – face of illusion:

- The cube is an ancient symbol of the universe
 - They are chained to an illusion (no actual cube exists there)
- When a relationship seems to descend from soulmates to cellmates.
- **The circular ring:** they are in bondage to the spinning wheel of fortune
 - Outer circle in inner circle: in bondage to one another through sex

White Horns:

- Representing horniness that enslaves animal-people
- Like crescent moons: the subconscious is in charge of their thinking, rather than in charge of their subconscious
- This experience of bestialization is part of the Divine Plan (white = Kether) for human awakening.

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Eagle Talons:

- Sign of Scorpio: the need for regeneration or the fall into degeneration
- unconscious human beings oriented toward the illusion of the physical as the all-in-all and the illusion of separation are the devil's prey, leading them toward the pain of delusion, bondage and chaos.

Steel-colored chain:

- Steel is a metal associated with Mars, the action and desire planet
- This is restrained, and the restraint is interpreted as evil by the unwise
- The wise relate to limits on their desires as pointers to a higher, spiritual orientation to life.
- The chains seem strong and inescapable, inciting belief in bondage or entrapment, but they are mere illusion mentally self-imposed.
- The chains around the neck are loosely fitting to demonstrate that belief in bondage and fear is based on wrong thinking that we have the power to lift off

Notice the torch:

- It's function in Key 14: to modify the watery element of emotion as well as personal willfulness
- In this case it is the fire ready to burn you when you fall for the deception of the superficial consciousness.

Red and Yellow Mercury at the navel:

- Thinks with his belly.
- Illumination occurs through digestion – which includes careful examination (yellow) of the results of your actions (red)

Yellow hair: this subjugation is about learning the lesson that it doesn't work (renewing intelligence(yellow hair equals illuminating thought))

Tails and hooves: beastialization: instinctive reactivity

- Male and female completely identified with the instinctive self – nothing wrong with this self when it is integrated into the most-high, the true nature of the human being is that integrated.

The cube

- a symbol of the universe
 - the 2 dimensional form gives only the outer face of things, illusory.

1 + 5 = 6

- The will to listen within dissolves the illusion of superficial consciousness

1+5 = 15

- Concentrate on tuning into your inner voice

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Black Background:

- The color associated with Saturn
- Represents the darkness of ignorance and unconscious in which the devil thrives.

Path 6 – 8:

- Connecting Glory to Beauty
 - It is along this path that we learn to value the beauty that is within and overcome identification with the mere show of beauty.

Notes:

What appears to be imperfection is a stage in the perfection process.

Every so-called evil is a stage in greater good unfolding

Every so-called loss is a stage in greater gain coming in

Every so-called injustice or crooked path is a stage of the universe straightening things out

Every so-called ugliness is a stage in the unfolding of greater beauty

Discovering how you are in bondage is the first step toward liberation