

Key 5: The Teacher*

The functions of this Key are Intuition and Inner Hearing, and these begin where Reason leaves off. The word “in-tuition” means interior teaching, just as to “in-struct” means to “build in.” This inner teaching goes beyond mere hunches and reaches into collective human experience so it may be called “spiritual intuition.” This brings a direct perception of eternal principles resulting from the union of personal consciousness with Cosmic Consciousness.

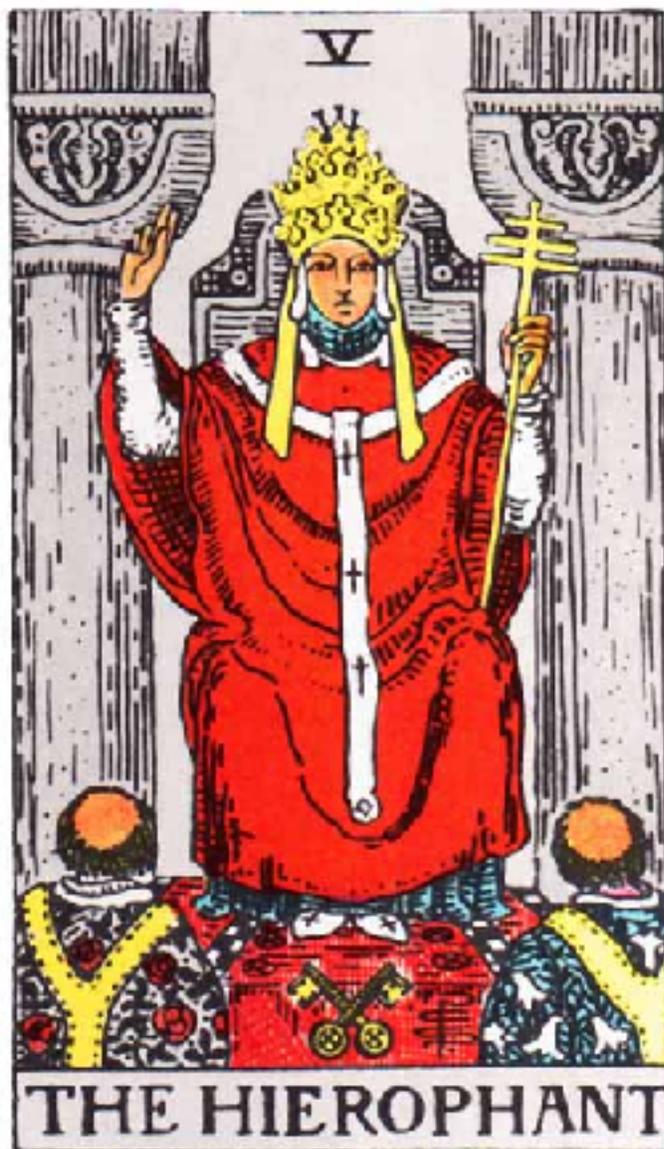
The Teacher is in some ways a composite of all the preceding Keys, partaking of their attributes as a daughter takes after all her grandparents. She is one with the Self, The Fool, uses the wise arts of The Magician; has the priestly authority of the High Priestess, the love of the Empress, and the firmness of the Emperor.

Having accomplished the basic principles, she can now turn attention to higher matters. Thus, the number 5 and The Teacher act as a bridge between the lower and higher—a turning point. The number 5 itself is a half-way point in the numbers from 1 to 9. It is thus considered the number of the Microcosmic Man, as the mid-point and the mediator between Nature and the Divine. This, too, is the meaning of the five-pointed star or pentagram.

This Key is related to Taurus, which rules the throat, while the Hebrew letter for the key is Vav, meaning “hook” or “nail”—thus a link that joins together. The letter Vav represent any one of our letters, U, V, or W.

This Teacher is not limited to any one church or faith, but is Universal. She represents the Inner Voice which instructs us in universal principles and becomes a connecting link between outer experiences and inner Illumination. While she works on the inner plane, the instruction applies equally to that which is without.

This Key relates the the Self within, in the relationship of the Teacher and Instructor, by means of the Inner Voice. Interior hearing is the teaching of Truth which comes from within. The Teacher represents that Self which brings about at-one-ment with the Universal Being. She. Pours Wisdom’s living sweetness into the spiritual ear that “hears.”



“Hierophant,” the former name of this Key, was a title given the chief officer in the Eleusinian mysteries. It means one who explains or interprets sacred rites, as “the revealer of sacred things.” She is an Initiate, a Master of the Mysteries of Life, holding Keys to the hidden doctrines.

The gold and silver crossed keys indicate the union and balance of solar-positive and lunar-negative forces. These are the Keys to the Kingdom that Jesus gave Cephas, who became known as the first Christian pope. They are shown connecting the gray nail to emphasize the idea of uniting.

Other symbols of union are the gray of wisdom and the coloring of the pillars and background, which shows the blending of all pairs of opposites into uniformity. The crosses on the hands, feet and carpet also indicate this uniting of opposites.

Venus is the planetary ruler of Taurus—the lover of beauty and “good living” and substantial things, and the Venus symbols on the carpet are folded double so their cross is inside the circle rather than below it. Thus, they become coins, a medium of exchange, part of the Taurus function, and also symbols of the element Earth.

Orange-red is assigned to Taurus on the color scale, and is the color of her robe and carpet. The color of opposite-sign Scorpio is shown at the throat, or Taurus area, reminding us of the Kundalini or serpent force, and also that each sign partakes somewhat of the qualities of its opposite sign. The white inner garment indicates the inner or spiritual path which binds her outer consciousness—a symbol of cohesion and commitment.

Her two fingers uplifted, the rest concealed, imply: “I’m not telling you all at once; much remains to be learned.” But, through what is taught, you achieve growth of consciousness.

In our early impatience as students, we seek all the answers at once, in plain language, wishing nothing reserved. But one can only handle a little at a time over a long period; like food, it has to be digested and assimilated. Someone might show you all the food needed over a period of years, to attain a certain growth; or, give you lists and menus of it. But, you couldn’t eat or handle this all at once; and only eating with careful mastication and thorough incorporation into your structure, does it result in its growth.

The true Teacher stands at a higher level, having learned from experience. She is supposed to know more until you reach her stature. Otherwise, what could she teach you? The Self is even more wisely conservative than a human teacher, yet never failing when contact is real. You are told or shown just enough.

The staff symbolizes dominion of the Life-Power through the planes (cross-bars) of Nature, with the top representing the archetypal world. Similarly, her crown also relates to the four worlds beginning with the Archetypal plane on top.

*I chose this image because I have Venus retrograde in Taurus, Evening Star phase, with Virgo as my Meta Goddess and a Virgo Overtone that began 12 September 1943. It was the time for Synthesis of the Wisdom gained from the Underworld Initiation and Preparation for the New Cycle, as well as claiming Venus Retrograde Super Powers: Divine Light, and Radiant Personal Power.

- I get stronger, more capable, and more vital as I age.
- I know that I am called by Great Destiny, making me an Inspiration to Others.
- I am fully prepared to meet life’s challenges.
- I am able to make hard choices and let go of my greatest attachments.
- I cultivate courage so that I can move forward even when threatened or afraid.
- I claim my strength as a Warrior Goddess.

Venus is trine my Virgo Moon, which is in the 10th house, leading me to renew my priestly vows around my Metonic Moon Return, and also to eventually make a secular living as a Master

Social Worker. Venus is also square Pluto, helping me to become an effective therapist, and sextile Saturn, bringing stability to my work with clients and organizations.

I identify with the Taurus Love Goddess Aphrodite and the Sufi Ideal: Love, Harmony and Beauty. I have transformed that association into Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of knowledge, music, art, speech, wisdom, and learning.

Why does Venus play such an important role in my life? Although Shamanic Astrology does not include the concept of chart rulership, thinking of it as too hierarchical, chart rulership could be given another name, such as emphasis, because it works. Because Venus is in Taurus and Jupiter, which would ordinarily rule my Ascendant, is in Virgo, squaring the Ascendant, Venus becomes the Final Disposition and, hence, the Ruler of my chart. I know this from experience.