

~ **The Tao Oracle Deck** ~ *[The Tao Oracle Deck](#)*

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- **SATURN Retrograde in Virgo:**
- **ANSWER: LIMITATION ~ 60 ~**
- **Self-Discipline ~ Practice ~ Self-Respect ~ Introspection ~ Ritual ~ Cultivate Patience ~ Build Up Energy ~ Maturity**
-
- **URANUS Direct in Pisces:**
- **ANSWER: THE CAULDRON ~ 50 ~**
- **Inner Alchemy ~ Mastery ~ Spiritual Renewal ~ Consecrate ~ Contain ~ Rejuvenation ~ Discerning Wisdom**
-
- **Saturn/Uranus ~ TOGETHER:**
- **ANSWER: DEVELOPMENT ~ 53 ~**
- **Gradual Progress ~ Continuity ~ Slowly but Surely ~ Adaptability ~ A Time-Honored Approach**
-
- **ADD'L INSIGHTS:** (We are already working on **Development**, so I pulled an additional card to fully understand ***THIS* Saturn/Uranus Combo.**)
- **ANSWER: ATTRACTION OF OPPOSITES ~ 44 ~**
- **Seduction ~ Temptation ~ Magnetism ~ A Passionate Encounter ~ Meeting Halfway ~ Coupling ~ Sexual Union**





- **SATURN Retrograde in Virgo:**
- **ANSWER: LIMITATION ~ 60 ~**
- **Self-Discipline ~ Practice ~ Self-Respect ~ Introspection ~ Ritual ~ Cultivate Patience ~ Build Up Energy ~ Maturity**

Nature imposes limits on all things, causing energy to build up from within. In fact, without limitations it is impossible to maximize our potential. When we understand, accept, and apply limitations it can be very effective in bringing about a transformation. Water unchecked has a tendency to spread and lose itself into the ground. When it is restrained by a dam it becomes a tremendous source of energy.

For humans, limitations can often be experienced as frustrating. But without the limits imposed on us by life, by our teachers, or by certain disciplines and practices, we would never grow. Limitations can be immensely productive and strengthening if you can work with them rather than fight against them. A harness can feel like a restraint or a support - it depends on you.

It will be helpful at this time to remember that "practice makes perfect" - and even if we accept that attaining perfection is an impossibility, most of us still strive toward it. It is through the process of striving that you will mature, not by actually attaining the object of your striving. And when discipline is willingly taken on, self-imposed rather than endured because of external pressure or coercion, it will nourish your growth and deepen your maturity.

It's also useful to remember that becoming really good at anything requires practice and repeated effort. Developing a finely honed technique - or a finely tuned awareness and sensitivity - can take many years of discipline. Once the technique is mastered, it must in turn eventually be transcended if the growth and change is to continue. Gathering knowledge and building expertise are, at one stage, goals. At another stage, this same knowledge and expertise become limitations. And along the way, a good deal of knowledge will be forgotten, but what remains will be well and truly your own.

There are meditation practices that require simply sitting, relaxed, and observing the breath for hours on a daily basis. It sounds so mindless - a “no brainer” - which is precisely the goal such techniques are intended to achieve. However, attaining a state of serenity and equipoise in spite of a mosquito on the nose - or in the mind, for that matter - can take years, even lifetimes of discipline. And once it is attained, then what? There must begin a new set of challenges for growth to continue, and these challenges are often those that bring the meditator back from the extraordinary refinement of retreat into the ordinary world of daily life.

Just as testing your own serenity in the chaos of the marketplace exposes the depth of your self-discipline, so does the manner in which you respond to the limitations that arise in the natural cycles of the Tao. Few things are more indicative of understanding, or more revealing of what has been deeply assimilated and absorbed into your being in more relaxed and expansive times.

- **URANUS Direct in Pisces:**
- **ANSWER: THE CAULDRON ~ 50 ~**
- **Inner Alchemy ~ Mastery ~ Spiritual Renewal ~ Consecrate ~ Contain ~ Rejuvenation ~ Discerning Wisdom**

The Cauldron represents a bringing forth, from the depths of your being, an expression of your own vision and creativity. You are now ready to give birth to a dream that has been developing within you for some time. The moment is ripe to make a meaningful contribution, and your essential self has already begun to prepare you for the next step. Within itself, your unique nature carries all you need to succeed - and your commitment is such that you will achieve the best possible results without compromising the integrity of your work or of your own being.

When life reveals the path ahead, it is testifying to the timeliness of our creative vision and its potential to benefit others. The first whisperings of that “Go ahead” may appear from within or in unexpected ways - as dreams, an insight sparked by a glimpse of something, or words overheard in a passing conversation. This existential green light is the culmination of a long gestation period that required patient perseverance on your part. Not only has it been a test of character, it has also reflected the depth of your own self-worth. We become integrated and mature by watching, waiting, and trusting that all the insights and impressions will be added to the cauldron and will, one day, be fully “cooked”. Trusting from your core that there is perfection in the timing of all things keeps the cauldron simmering nicely - and as time passes its fragrance begins to permeate every aspect of your life. Learning to relax with life’s give and take, without imposing limits or calculating gains and losses, creates wisdom, compassion, and the ability to discern what is appropriate in even the most difficult circumstances. This sharpened awareness works in harmony with an intuitive knowing that immediately senses the correct means of approach, and who to approach when help is needed.

The Cauldron is wisdom that purifies the false, superfluous, and superficial, and shifts the emphasis from the mundane to the higher values that help us live in peaceful harmony with nature and each other. By defining and refining, The Cauldron increases our capacity for clarity by illuminating our virtues. Wisdom is luminous. When we live creatively in self-awareness and self-mastery, the resulting luminosity, merely by its presence, effortlessly exposes ignorance and darkness of all kinds. Perceiving life as an invitation that only awaits your participation triggers a subtle dismantling of rigid thinking patterns that have created insecurity and fear of change. You are at a crossroads now. The path may not be visible, but you sense the welcome the first signs of the deep shift that is taking place. There may be a greater sense of freedom in your words and actions, and in how you relate with others.

Finally, you can appreciate the unique individual you are. Offering that uniqueness to others is the way to return something, in gratitude, to Existence. The more you give, the more you will continue to be rejuvenated. Your life can become your art, your prayer, your meditation. In its wisdom and abundance, Tao gently guides us to follow its course, and when we do so, it gives back a thousandfold.

- **Saturn/Uranus ~ TOGETHER:**
- **ANSWER: DEVELOPMENT ~ 53 ~**
- **Gradual Progress ~ Continuity ~ Slowly but Surely ~ Adaptability ~ A Time-Honored Approach**

There is an old saying that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. It is completed a step at a time too, and it takes both feet to complete the journey. To progress toward a common goal with another requires essentially the same unity of purpose and direction as it does to walk across a room. Creating a wholesome and alive relationship involves two equal but separate parts uniting and out of that unity the living entity of their relationship is born. The working dynamics of a relationship can be understood more clearly if you look into how your body works. Consider what happens when you walk: to progress from here to there, your legs and feet alternately support and release, one after another, without thought or deliberate effort. This repetitive movement is not a bother or a bore because it's a "no-mind" action and it gets you where you want to go. So it is in strong partnerships - they seem to develop and strengthen when there is balance and a natural rapport between the two individuals. Without cooperation, respect, mutual attraction, and shared vision, it is likely that you'll stumble when the going gets rough.

When two people come together, no matter how long the initial attraction, there's no way to predict if a sustainable harmony will develop. Only after they've "walked the walk" together for a while does a relationship develop its own rhythm. It always takes time to learn the ways of another; the progress of that learning is like a spontaneously unfolding dance that must be given the space to develop in synchronicity if it is going to be supportive to both of the individuals involved. There's no getting around the fact that for a harmonious dance to develop there must be patience, flexibility, and above all sensitive in-tuned-ness.

Whatever your chosen direction is, whether with another or alone, it is wise in times of Development to keep your attention in the present moment and avoid dreaming about the future. The more you can stay with what is, the less likely it is that you will be thrown off balance by the unexpected. Stumbling, however, inevitably comes with any learning process. Keep your cool in spite of delays or setbacks. There are times when you might be tempted to throw up your hands in disgust and bellow "I quit!" - but storming off the dance floor and slamming the door behind you will cut off a vital learning experience before you get into the swing of it, and the biggest loser will be you. Opportunities for developing wisdom usually come through accepting challenges in spite of discomfort or even embarrassment, not by looking for shortcuts or seeking distractions from the task at hand.

Here's how it doesn't work: you can hang a sign on the door that says "out of town" and not answer the phone, change your look, or move to a different country. But you can't hide from truth. Life's lessons are all about your willingness to look truth straight in the eye and feel supported rather than fearful of it.

- **ADD'L INSIGHTS:** (We are already working on **Development**, so I pulled an additional card to fully understand ***THIS* Saturn/Uranus Combo.**)
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Mutual attraction is an indication of compatibility but does not necessarily guarantee it. Inexplicably, attraction can disappear as easily as it appeared, leaving both parties wondering “what was that all about?” When two people are genuinely attracted, the ideal would be to approach each other from positions of equality and independence, ready and willing to meet on equal ground. When the pull of attraction is accompanied by enough patience to let things develop naturally, true friendship can result. And whatever else is going on, in this type of atmosphere any commitments made are based on respect for each partner’s uniqueness and independence. Such a relationship emphasizes maintaining balance and supporting each other’s conscious evolution, rather than excess, over-emotionalism, and unconscious behavior.

We all know about the enticing nature of what’s been forbidden, and the not-so-attractive outcome after going there. Temptation may start innocently as curiosity or flirtation, but it can become an irresistible force when a desire is on the verge of being realized. And when the enticement is strong and self-awareness ignored, we can rapidly fall into a state of eager self-delusion, unable to stay in touch with reality, rationalizing every word and gesture to justify our actions. Acting out of passion alone considerably increases the chances of disillusionment and regret later on.

As soon as the magnetic pull of temptation succumbs to a sense of urgency, at least one of the partners has become heavily invested in a particular outcome. The easy atmosphere that would engender trust is then replaced by pressure and coercive tactics that undermine it and ultimately weaken the relationship itself. Once you resort to manipulative seduction you’ve compromised your own self-respect and the integrity of the other. However inconsequential seduction may appear initially, once the magic evaporates you’re not only left with a bitter taste, but must deal with the demands for a resolution. Needless to say, the return to normalcy and a firm foundation can be traumatic and a long, drawn-out affair when we deny the part we’ve played in any deception, place blame elsewhere, and avoid taking responsibility for our naivete or impulsiveness.

A powerful attraction deserves to be acknowledged, but from a cooler, universal perspective. Take time to consider your evolving feelings regarding the other. Where there is balance there is unity and progress, but to become affiliated with a person of weak character out of your own unawareness would be a pity.

Spiritual traditions acknowledge in a variety of ways the central importance of learning to unite wisdom and passion, and head and heart. The sacred art of Tibetan Buddhism, for example, depicts the literal coupling of deities, representing the perfectly balanced, ecstatic union of two equally powerful energies. This image can serve as a reminder of the power of conscious consummation.