

9



Tenderness

PRESENT CHALLENGE

Developing more meaningful communication with those you love and work with.

You have drawn this card to guide you toward more effective and intuitive communication with others. You have come to a time when you are being urged to release old influences that keep you preoccupied in conversation or in unnecessarily defensive and protective statements of your own view or ideas. This card is meant to help you put aside your past and to accept a different future.

This may be a time of rapid change in relationships with those close to you. You are entering an important process of spiritual growth in which celebration of life is required, and so your relationships are needing to become lighter, more playful, and less ponderous but at the same time capable of greater depth. With this card you are being guided to hold your own counsel and to proceed from inner power.

ANGELIC MESSAGE

Tenderness

Tenderness is a profound spiritual quality embodying the deepest and most essential ingredients in lasting relationships. Tenderness



speaks to a suppleness of spirit, flexibility in moving, shifting, and accepting different opinions and objectives, and recognition of one's physical finiteness and the opposite as one's spiritual immortality.

Tenderness is present in any bonding between people because it acknowledges the inevitable human struggle for life and happiness along with an acceptance that in the end all things die to be reborn. Tenderness awakens your deepest compassion. It also helps you trust others because you and they accept that dialogue is meant to encourage and shape rather than to tear down or undermine.

You have entered a decade of rapid and dramatic change, and in order for your relationships to withstand these sweeping energy shifts, two factors will need to be held firmly in your awareness. First, you are responsible for communicating from the values and knowledge held by your spirit rather than only from your mind and emotions. Second, your spirit holds the truth of your existence. If you learn to listen to it, you will be able to hear your own emotional needs and at the same time act in alignment with your spirit.

Relationships change at the spiritual level before noticeably changing on the emotional level. Long before a person breaks out of any sort of relationship, he or she has learned or felt something deeply true that has not been honored or expressed. Communication that lifts the spirit is based on acknowledgment of life as a spiritual process.

Relationships are metamorphosing as people awaken to their inner spiritual perspectives and values. People come together today to help their spirits mirror a primordial wisdom that comes from deep within. Relationships are joyful and important to your life only when they enhance or shift your own inner wisdom. For this to happen you need to trust, value, and respect those you enter relationships with, or you will be unable to accomplish your spiritual mission.

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITY

The guidance through this flower can help you observe and learn from the contrast and complementarity of your inner and outer natures. This lovely flower image shows you its own

difference between its outer presence—or, symbolically, the face it shows to the world—and its inner nature—the divinely-inspired essence. The flower's external color of pink represents love and guides you to appreciate the importance of giving and receiving love in your life. The inner image of white symbolizes divine perfection and is set off by pinpoints of crimson, which represent moments of bliss, meaningful guidance, and interaction with the Divine and the universal teachers. This image is a metaphor for your life and the continuity that is possible when your life reflects tenderness.

APPLICATION

This card urges you to create a new language with your partner or others close to you. You need to recognize that you and your spouse/child/parent is trying to tell you something by his or her remarks, actions, and/or assumed inability or unwillingness to meet your needs adequately. Assume that when your needs are unmet, so are those of the other persons.

Ask those close to you to participate in creating meaningful ground rules that apply to arguments and misunderstandings. Consider such practices as always using the first person ("I" or "me") when speaking. Refuse to accept that one person is right and the other wrong. Speak your truth while at the same time accepting that others will see their truth more easily than yours. Believe in yourself enough to ask others to hear what you need to say. Setting up a shared personal language for relationships allows you and others to express your feelings and your beliefs while at the same time making room for others to also be as right and as sure of their opinions as you are.