Sol da Alma

TAROT READING

In-depth report

Prepared for Rui

The Decision · 17 September 2026

THE QUESTION

I have to choose between carrying on studying or accepting a place I've already been offered. Which of the two paths serves me best?

1	What is at stake	**The Hermit**
2	Continuing to study: what it offers	**Queen of Pentacles**
3	Continuing to study: what it costs	**King of Pentacles**
4	Continuing to study: where it leads	**Knight of Wands**
5	Accepting the role: what it offers	**Queen of Wands**
6	Accepting the role: what it costs	**Temperance** *(reversed)*
7	Accepting the role: where it leads	**Three of Swords**

The question and what the spread answers

Your question, Rui, focuses on a choice between seemingly simple paths: should you continue studying and invest in your training, or should you accept the job offer currently on the table? Yet, beneath this practical doubt about careers and deadlines, the table reveals that the real issue is something else. What you are asking, in truth, is whether you are ready to reap the rewards of the outer world without first consolidating your inner foundations. This is a profound tension between the time needed for maturation and the temptation to accelerate the natural pace of your evolution.

The spread answers very clearly and without room for doubt that the path of study and preparation is the one that brings you real long-term stability, whereas the immediate acceptance of the job hides severe wear and tear and future disillusionment. The atmosphere of the table is dominated by the solidity of Earth through the suit of Pentacles and the dynamic energy of Fire with the suit of Wands. There is, however, an absolute absence of Cups, the element of Water, which indicates that this decision is being made under enormous pragmatic and rational pressure, leaving aside what truly nourishes your emotional stability. The Major Arcana present show that, although the everyday decision lies in your hands, there are laws of time and balance that you will not be able to bypass.

What is at stake



1 · The Hermit

The Hermit opens the spread in the place of what is at stake, showing us an elderly man walking in the solitude of the night, supported by a staff and holding a lantern that shines with the strength of a six-pointed star. The grey cloak covering him isolates him from the noise of the world, and his gaze is directed towards the ground, to the step he takes in the present moment. Being the Major Arcana number nine, this card represents the end of a long inner search, wisdom that is not assumed but acquired with time, silence and direct experience.

In this specific position, The Hermit shows that what is truly at issue in this choice is not the prestige of the role or the security of an immediate salary, but rather the need to respect your own maturation time. This card tells you that this is not a moment for rushing or exposing yourself to the limelight without being certain of what you carry within yourself. What is at stake is your right to withdrawal and thorough preparation. Choosing in a hurry would mean ignoring the light of the lantern inviting you to look within. This need for caution contrasts clearly with the disordered haste we will see further on in the reversed Temperance, warning that any precipitous action now will ruin the progress you have already made.

Continuing to study: what it offers



2 · Queen of Pentacles

The Queen of Pentacles appears to illustrate what the path of studies offers you. We see a crowned female figure, seated on a throne sculpted with goat heads, which symbolise determination and connection to the earth. She holds a large gold disc with both hands, contemplating it with a look of deep appreciation and serenity, surrounded by abundant vegetation and a small hare running in the background, a sign of fertility and natural growth. Being a court figure who combines the receptivity of Water with the stability of Earth, this Queen represents good stewardship of matter, care for resources and the creation of solid foundations.

In this place in the spread, the Queen of Pentacles indicates that continuing to study offers you the capacity to become a true and respected authority in your field of action. This is not a promise of easy wealth, but rather the development of unshakable technical competence, which will give you autonomy and security for life. By choosing this path, you gain the capacity to manage your own life with abundance and common sense, cultivating a knowledge that no one can take away from you. This gain in practical stability and personal valorisation links directly to the King of Pentacles, who positions himself right after as the counterweight to this very journey.

Continuing to study: what it costs



3 · King of Pentacles

The King of Pentacles occupies the place of the price to pay for continuing to study. This card presents a mature and robust man, seated on a throne adorned with bulls, wearing armour beneath a cloak decorated with bunches of grapes. In his left hand he holds the sceptre of power and in his right a large pentacle, whilst his left foot rests upon the ruins of a castle, suggesting absolute mastery over the physical world and the business of time. The rank of King represents the apex of his suit, the maximum consolidation of Earth energy.

In the place of what it costs, this card reveals that the price of continuing to study is the temporary renunciation of an established position of authority and the financial comfort that an immediate salary would bring. To continue studying, you will have to accept that the time has not yet come to sit on the throne of the job market with the strength of a King, making it necessary to prolong the time of effort and personal investment. It costs you to relinquish immediate material recognition and the full financial independence that the current job proposal seems to promise. This sacrifice of patience and restraint is the key that opens the door to future dynamism, represented by the Knight of Wands, who awaits at the outcome of this first path.

Continuing to study: where it leads



4 · Knight of Wands

The Knight of Wands appears as the long-term destination of the path of studies. The image shows a young knight in full armour, mounted on a chestnut horse that rears with energy, ready for action. The knight firmly holds a wooden staff from which green leaves sprout, and his yellow tunic is decorated with salamanders, the alchemical symbol of Fire. The element of this suit is Fire, and the Knight represents rapid movement, the pursuit of new horizons, courage and the capacity for initiative without fear of the unknown.

In this outcome position, the Knight of Wands guarantees that continuing to study will not shut you away in a grey or static academic environment. On the contrary, this path will lead into an explosion of dynamic opportunities, travel, bold projects and the freedom to begin your professional activity with a contagious force. Study will give you the tools so that, later on, you can advance through the world with determination and independence, without having to subject yourself to conditions that limit your creativity. This vigorous and free movement responds to the initial attraction and enthusiasm that the Queen of Wands presents at the start of the second path.

Accepting the role: what it offers



5 · Queen of Wands

The Queen of Wands appears to describe what the path of immediate employment offers you. We see an imposing woman, crowned and seated on a throne adorned with lions, holding a large flowering staff in her right hand and a sunflower in her left. At her feet, a black cat watches the horizon attentively. This card emanates a warm, magnetic energy full of confidence, representing the mastery of Fire through presence, charisma, enthusiasm and the capacity for immediate leadership.

In this position of offering, the Queen of Wands shows that accepting the job now offers you immediate gratification for your ego and your need for action. You will feel valued, active and integrated into an environment where you can show your worth and your energy from the first day. It offers you a stage where you can shine, feel useful and assume responsibilities that bring a sense of personal power and active belonging to the adult world. However, this initial attraction of brilliance and dynamism collides dramatically with the profound wear and tear that the reversed Temperance reveals right after as the cost of this option.

Accepting the role: what it costs



6 · Temperance
(reversed)

Temperance appears reversed in the place of the price to pay for accepting the job straight away. In its natural position, this Major Arcana shows an angel pouring fluids harmoniously between two jugs, balancing hot and cold, conscious and unconscious, in a constant flow of healing and moderation. Being reversed, this force of balance is blocked and in excess, indicating that harmony has been broken, giving way to haste, the disordered mixing of tasks and the loss of synchrony with your own internal rhythm.

In the place of what it costs, this reversed card warns that the price of accepting the job now is the loss of your peace of mind and the exhaustion of your mental and physical health. You will have to deal with a routine that demands more than you can give at this moment, generating disorganisation in your daily life and a constant feeling of running after time. The cost is the absence of breathing space, the impure mixture of responsibilities you are not yet prepared to assume, and the breaking of your personal balance. This internal disturbance prepares the ground for the painful outcome shown in the Three of Swords.

Accepting the role: where it leads



7 · Three of Swords

The Three of Swords closes the path of immediate employment, showing where this choice will lead in the long run. The image is one of the harshest in Tarot: a large red heart, suspended in the air beneath a grey storm sky and abundant rain, entirely pierced by three sharp swords crossing at its centre. The element of Swords is Air, associated with thought, intellectual truth and conflict, and the rank of three represents the first action that generates a rupture or a painful awakening.

In this final position, the card reveals that the path of accepting the job now will lead, in time, to profound disillusionment and mentally painful regret. You will end up realising, the hard way, that you rushed and that the promises of fulfilment in that place were illusory or exacted an excessive price from your integrity. This card represents the pain of seeing reality without filters after a period of illusion, showing that the job which today seems like a wonderful opportunity will transform into a burden that brings you tiredness and frustration, wounding your self-confidence.

The reading as a whole

This spread presents an extremely balanced layout regarding the structure of the forces present, but it points in a very clear and unequivocal direction. We have two Major Arcana across seven cards, a proportion indicating that whilst there are important background currents acting in your life, everyday reality and your practical choices still weigh heavily in the balance. The domain of the table is divided between the pragmatic solidity of Pentacles and the fiery energy of Wands, showing that your doubt debates between the patient construction of a life structure and the desire to act and have immediate impact in the world. The absolute absence of the suit of Cups on the table is a crucial fact: it reveals that you are neglecting your deep emotional needs, your inner peace and your personal well-being in this equation, focusing excessively on a logic of productivity and responding to external demands.

The lines of force on the table show a sharp contrast between the two paths. The first journey, that of studies, relies on an axis of enormous material solidity and maturation, marked by the repetition of rank across the Pentacles figures: the **Queen of Pentacles** and the **King of Pentacles** work together. She offers you the seed of practical competence and he exacts the patience not to harvest before the time is right. This patient investment accumulates an energy that is not lost, but transforms into the free and conquering movement of the **Knight of Wands**. There is a natural evolution here from Earth to Fire, where structure gives wings to secure action.

In contrast, the path of immediate employment begins with the seductive brilliance of the **Queen of Wands**, but lacks foundations. The transition to the reversed **Temperance** shows that initial enthusiasm quickly turns into imbalance and stress, because the technical and mental base that study would have provided is missing. Without that base, the action of Wands spins out of control and crashes against the harshness of the **Three of Swords**. The rational and cold truth of Air ends up cutting through the illusion of Fire, resulting in an outcome of pain and rupture. The connection between **The Hermit** at the beginning and the reversed Temperance in the middle reinforces that any attempt to ignore the wisdom of time and the need for protective isolation will result in disaster in your daily organisation.

If nothing changes in your current stance, the natural tendency is that the haste to assert yourself in the job market will push you towards accepting the offered role, resulting in the trajectory of wear and tear culminating in the **Three of Swords**. The turning point and control point lies in accepting the advice of **The Hermit**: recognising that withdrawal and training are, at this current moment, your greatest protection. The frank answer of the spread is that continuing to study is the path that serves you best, offering you a solid structure and a future of genuine autonomy, whilst accepting the job now will bring an immediate gain but at too high a cost of imbalance and frustration.

Advice

The value of patience

The Queen of Ouros advises you to focus on creating solid foundations before wishing to build the roof of your career. Use this period of studies to accumulate technical knowledge and practical security, treating this time as an investment that will bear abundant and lasting fruit, rather than as a delay in your active life.

The refusal of immediate brilliance

The **Queen of Wands** warns you not to let yourself be seduced by proposals that offer rapid recognition or a temporary sense of importance. Avoid accepting the job merely to meet the expectations of others or to appease the anxiety of appearing productive before the world.

The preservation of internal rhythm

The reversed **Temperance** demands that you place your daily well-being and mental health above any immediate financial ambition. Do not sign contracts or assume professional commitments that demand a availability clashing with your personal balance or forcing you to bypass essential stages of your training.

Consulting your silence

The Hermit suggests that you set aside moments of isolation to make this decision far from the noise of third-party advice or family pressures. Look at your trajectory up to this point and recognise that the knowledge you seek to consolidate requires time, silence and exclusive dedication to settle in a useful way.

Protection against disillusionment

The **Three of Swords** serves as a stern warning not to ignore the warning signs the job proposal already presents, even if they seem small at first. If you accept that role now, prepare yourself to face a work environment that will demand too much of you without giving you the necessary support, leading to a breaking point that can be avoided.

Observations to keep in mind

Over the coming weeks, Rui, observe your physical and mental reaction carefully when thinking about each of the paths: if the prospect of continuing to study brings you a sense of relief and breathing space, even if accompanied by some financial worry, that is the sign that the Earth of the **Queen of Pentacles** is working in your favour. On the other hand, if the idea of accepting the job brings an anxious rush in your chest or a constant need to justify yourself to others, that is the warning of the reversed **Temperance** manifesting. The appearance of minor bureaucratic hurdles or excessive pressures from those who offered you the role will confirm that this environment will not respect your boundaries. It is up to you to choose whether you prefer the patient construction of your own castle or the haste that leads to the storm.

About the pictures on the cards

The description of each card in this report follows the original iconography of the Tarot, which is what gives it its meaning. The decks do not always reproduce it in full: a detail described in the text may not be visible in the painting in front of you. In that case it is the text that the card is read by — it carries the traditional meaning.

The code for this spread

This block lays the table again. Copy it and paste it into «Paste a Spread», at www.soldaalma.pt: the cards return to the same places, and from there you can ask for this report again without drawing them anew.

```
--- to restore this spread ---
tiragem: decisao
baralho: tarot_casa
cartas: M9, O13, O14, P12, P13, M14*, E3
caminhos: Continuing to study | Accepting the role
pergunta: I have to choose between carrying on studying or accepting a place I've already been offered. Which of the two paths serves me best?
```

The cards show tendencies and forces at work, not guaranteed facts.

The responsibility and the decision are always the asker's.

Sol da Alma Tarot · seventy-eight paintings made from scratch for this website, in the style of the canvas that opens the page.