Sol da Alma

TAROT READING

In-depth report

Prepared for Inês

The Relationship · 17 September 2026

THE QUESTION

I have been with João for three years and I feel like we have drifted apart. What is going on between the two of us?

1	The one who asks	**Page of Pentacles**
2	The other person	**Five of Swords** *(reversed)*
3	What binds them	**Eight of Swords**
4	What one brings	**The Hanged Man**
5	What the other brings	**Four of Cups**
6	What is missing	**Queen of Pentacles**
7	Where it is heading	**Eight of Pentacles**

The question and what the spread answers

Inês, your question about the emotional distance you feel in your relationship with João after three years together brings to the surface a doubt that goes far beyond the simple fear of physical distance. Beneath this feeling of drifting apart, what the table really answers is whether this connection still has the capacity to nourish both people or if it has turned into a structure maintained solely by force of habit and the security of what is already familiar. The spread shows, with great clarity, that the current problem is not the existence of an open conflict or an impending break-up, but rather a state of profound stagnation and defensive silence that has settled between you.

The general mood of the table reveals that the matter is played out almost entirely on the terrain of daily life and practical choices, with only a single Major Arcana present in this seven-card spread. The dominant element is Earth, through the suit of Pentacles, which tells us that your current relationship relies heavily on material security, shared routine and time that moves slowly, but with a dangerous lack of dynamism. The Element of Fire, represented by the suit of Wands, is totally absent from the table, confirming that you lack passion, the desire for initiative, creative discussion and the energy that pushes towards action. There is a lot of structure and a lot of daily work, but the warmth that gives life to that same structure is missing, leaving you at an impasse where both of you avoid rocking the boat for fear of losing the stability you have built.

The one who asks



1 · Page of Pentacles

The Page of Pentacles appears at the opening of the spread to describe your current posture within this three-year connection. The image of this card shows a youth standing in a fertile field, holding a single gold coin with both hands and looking at it with absolute attention, almost forgetting the world around them. As a card of Pentacles, belonging to the element of Earth, and being a Page, which represents the degree of the apprentice and the seed, this card indicates that your attitude has been one of meticulous observation, silent study and a doubled effort to understand what is failing.

You behave here like an diligent student trying to decipher the relationship through cold analysis of the facts, focusing excessively on practical details and the maintenance of what has already been built, instead of surrendering to feeling.

This card in this position shows that, without realising it, you have assumed a role of constant vigilance and evaluation that creates a mental and emotional distance. Instead of living the relationship, you are studying it, holding the pieces of your shared life with the same care with which the Page holds their coin, fearing that any sudden movement might make it drop. This attitude of a cautious learner, although revealing enormous respect for commitment, prevents spontaneity and affective surrender, turning the connection into a project that needs to be constantly monitored. This posture of withdrawal and detailed analysis links directly to the maturity demanded in the position of what is missing, represented by the Queen of Pentacles, showing that your path will have to involve abandoning mere observation to assume a warmer role.

The fact that the Page is so concentrated on their small earthly treasure reveals that you have channelled your energy into maintaining security, forgetting that a relationship is not merely a pact of stability, but a living organism that needs to breathe. This card answers your question by showing that your own contribution to the

distance is this tendency to rationalise affection and to treat the crisis as if it were a problem of practical management that is resolved with patience and silence. There is a fatigue that comes from this continuous vigilance, a feeling that you are carrying the burden of analysing everything alone, which ends up feeding the isolation you fear so much.

The other person



2 · Five of Swords *(reversed)*

The Five of Swords appears reversed in the position describing where João is looking at the relationship from at this moment. In its upright position, this card of the element Air, associated with conflict and the mind, shows a scene of bitter victory, where a warrior collects the swords of the defeated who walk away humiliated. With the card reversed, this force of confrontation and intellectual dispute shows itself stalled or turned inward, indicating that João no longer has the energy to argue, having chosen to lay down his arms and withdraw from the battlefield to avoid further wear and tear.

This is a truce born not from mutual understanding, but rather from exhaustion and a deep desire to avoid any kind of discord that might threaten the apparent peace of the home.

This card in this position reveals that João feels worn down by previous disagreements, real or imagined, and that his current reaction is a defensive silence. He prefers not to touch on difficult subjects, not to start conversations about the state of the relationship and to close himself off in a posture of apparent conformity, which in truth hides a great deal of internal frustration. The reversal of the card shows that his aggressiveness or dissatisfaction do not manifest in shouts or demands, but rather in an invisible barrier of indifference and passive yielding, where he agrees with everything just so the argument ends quickly.

This means that, for João, the distance acts as a protective shield against the pain of conflict, preferring the emptiness of distance to the risk of a new discussion that exposes the fragilities of both. He is present physically, but his mind and his word are put away, like swords that no longer want to wound but also no longer defend the shared territory. This posture of bitter silence and mental withdrawal by João reinforces and feeds the psychological prison revealed in the Eight of Swords, creating a vicious circle where one person's silence validates the other's isolation.

What binds them



3 · Eight of Swords

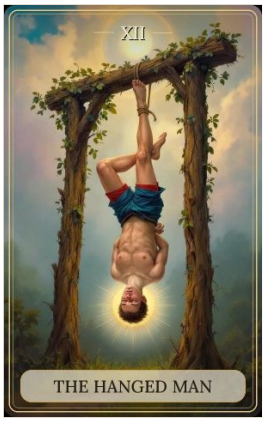
The Eight of Swords occupies the centre of the spread as the force defining the bond currently existing between you both. The image of this card shows a female figure tied up, blindfolded, surrounded by eight swords stuck in the muddy ground, appearing unable to escape, although the ropes binding her are loose and the path behind her is clear. As an eight of the suit of Swords, which belongs to the element of Air, this card represents the extreme limit of mental activity, the paralysis generated by an excess of thoughts, doubts and assumptions that create a purely psychological prison.

This card in the position of what unites you reveals, with surgical precision, that the true bond keeping you together today is sharing the same sensation of being cornered and without a way out. It is not external circumstances pulling you apart, nor a lack of love, but rather an invisible web of assumptions, unsaid things and mutual fears that prevents you from acting with clarity. Both of you feel prisoners of this situation, but neither dares to take the first step to remove the blindfold or untie the bonds, preferring to stay motionless in the known suffering rather than risk the pain of the unknown.

This means the relationship has turned into a pact of shared paralysis, where the fear of failing or hurting the other has ended up freezing your gestures and words. The

union is now maintained through silence, the sharing of a shared dull anguish and the common inability to see that the cell door is open and the bonds are easy to undo if there is the courage to speak with truth. This mental paralysis uniting you is the base sustaining and justifying the total suspension of movement observed in the Hanged Man card, showing that your current impasse is fuelled by both parties.

What one brings



4 · The Hanged Man

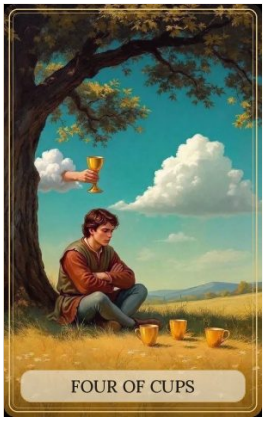
The Hanged Man appears in the position of what you bring to the relationship, being the only Major Arcana in this spread. The classic image shows a man suspended upside down by one foot, with his hands tied behind his back, yet whose face remains calm and serene, surrounded by a halo of golden light. This arcana represents a voluntary pause, the acceptance of a temporary sacrifice to gain a new perspective on things, and the wisdom that comes from knowing how to wait without forcing events.

By bringing the Hanged Man into the relationship, you show that you have been willing to sacrifice your own immediate satisfaction for the sake of the couple's survival, accepting to live in a state of suspension and patient waiting. There is an attitude of resignation on your part, a belief that this difficult period is a necessary trial that must be endured without complaints, hoping that time will resolve what direct action has failed to cure. This posture brings great resilience to the relationship, but it also brings a dangerous passivity, where you prefer to watch life pass by upside down rather than make a definitive decision.

This means your contribution to the current dynamic is a patience that has begun to turn into silent martyrdom, where you nullify yourself in the hope that João will notice your sacrifice. The danger of this Major Arcana in this position is that suspension becomes a permanent way of life, where you grow accustomed to seeing things upside down and thinking that the lack of movement is the only safe option. This immobility brought by you finds a perfect echo in the Four of Cups that the other brings, creating

a hall of mirrors where your resigned waiting crosses paths with his apathy.

What the other brings



5 · Four of Cups

The Four of Cups reveals what João brings to this three-year connection, showing us his current emotional state. The image depicts a youth seated under a tree, with crossed arms and lowered gaze, focused on three cups lying on the grass before him, while a mysterious hand emerging from a cloud offers him a fourth cup which he refuses even to look at. Being a four of the suit of Cups, which rules the element of Water and the world of affections, this card represents emotional stability that has degenerated into boredom, satiety that has turned into disinterest, and the inability to value what one has.

João brings an energy of apathy, emotional fatigue and an implicit refusal to accept new proposals for closeness or change to the relationship. He is locked within his own discontent, staring fixedly at what went wrong in the past or the monotony of the present, without the energy to see the opportunities for renewal offered to him. There is an attitude of weariness and a refusal to make the effort needed to revive love, as if he feels nothing can surprise or satisfy him anymore in this union.

This means his attitude is one of passive emotional blockage, where he does not take the initiative to end the relationship, but neither does he do anything to improve it, limiting himself through silence or indifference to rejecting your contacts and attempts at connection. He brings to the relationship the dead weight of someone who feels satiated yet unhappy, a presence that does not surrender and refuses to be mobilised for any shared action. This apathy in João contrasts sharply with the focused and repetitive work depicted in the Eight of Pentacles, revealing that while he locks himself in his discontent, the future of the relationship will continue to be pushed solely by the mechanical effort of routine.

What is missing



6 · Queen of Pentacles

The Queen of Pentacles appears in the position of what is missing in the relationship, this being the clearest and most precious indication of the entire spread. The figure of this queen shows a mature woman seated on a throne carved with fertility symbols, surrounded by abundant nature and holding lovingly a large gold coin upon her lap, looking at it with practical, warm and protective love. As a queen of the element of Earth, she personifies the ability to nurture, to create physical comfort, to manage life with generosity and to give emotional stability through concrete and tangible actions.

What is missing from this relationship is precisely the energy of this Queen: the capacity to create an environment of warmth, security and mutual nurturing that goes beyond merely sharing a roof or an organised routine. Physical touch, the comfort of daily care, the simple celebration of the other's presence and the generosity of spirit that does not keep count of what it gives or receives are missing. Your connection has dried up because it turned into an exercise in mental survival, forgetting the importance of feeding the body, physical pleasure and the simple complicity that the Queen of Pentacles represents so well.

This means that, to overcome the distance, it is imperative that both of you abandon cold analysis and defensive silence to recover the pleasure of being together in the most concrete dimension of life. Affection expressed in real actions, in the comfort of the home, in sharing moments of physical pleasure and resting without demands is missing from daily life, transforming the security you already possess into a source of pleasure rather than a prison. This maturity of the Queen of Pentacles is the objective that the young Page of Pentacles, representing your current posture, needs to reach so that the relationship can finally flourish.

Where it is heading



7 · Eight of Pentacles

The Eight of Pentacles closes the spread in the position of the future and the direction towards which the relationship is heading if nothing changes in your current dynamic. The scene of this card shows a craftsman engrossed in his work, carving with patience and dedication a series of golden pentacles, with several already displayed on the wall as proof of his daily and repetitive effort. Being an eight of the suit of Pentacles, this card represents hard work, meticulous attention to detail, the routine repeating day after day to perfect a work, but also the absence of inspiration or spontaneous creative passion.

The direction your relationship is heading towards is that of a purely technical and mechanical commitment, where both of you will continue to fulfil daily tasks and maintain the structure of shared life with exemplary dedication, but without any emotional flame. The relationship will become a well-managed enterprise, a perfect mechanism of shared habits, paid expenses and fulfilled tasks, where each knows exactly what to expect from the other, but where love has been replaced by the professional duty of cohabitation. It is total stability bought at the price of emotional emptiness.

This path shows that physical separation is not the immediate tendency; on the contrary, the Eight of Pentacles points to continuity and persistence in the effort to keep the relationship standing. However, it warns that if you do not introduce the warmth and nurturing that are missing, you will spend the coming years working hard within an empty structure, repeating the same gestures and conversations without anything new happening. The future awaiting you is stable and secure, but it demands that you accept living in a grey routine where passion and true intimacy have been definitively sacrificed in the name of home security.

The reading as a whole

Looking at this spread as a whole, we immediately understand the architecture of the crisis that has settled between you and João after these three years. The table presents a very low proportion of Major Arcana, with only the Hanged Man present, telling us that this estrangement is not the fruit of inevitable destiny or forces escaping your control. Your problem is played out entirely on the terrain of daily life, small daily decisions, and the way you manage routine and communication. The enormous dominance of the element Earth, represented by the three Pentacles cards, confirms that your relationship is solid from a material and structural standpoint, but suffering from excess weight, slowness and pragmatism.

What makes this spread particularly revealing is the total absence of Wands, the element of Fire. There is no passion here, no desire, no spark pushing towards change or purifying discussion. Your crisis is not made of shouts, but rather of a heavy silence and enormous inertia. This lack of Fire is compensated by a very clear axis of repetition and mental paralysis, visible in the presence of two Eights: the **Eight of Swords** and the **Eight of Pentacles**. These two Eights create a terrible line of force, showing how the mental paralysis and fear of acting uniting you in the Eight of Swords translate, on the practical plane, into the mechanical and soulless routine of the Eight of Pentacles. You are trapped in a mechanism you created yourselves and continue to feed every day out of fear of breaking your agreement of silence.

The movement through time shows this situation began with stability that became excessive, where João closed himself off in the apathy of the **Four of Cups** and you accepted the sacrificial posture of the Hanged Man, waiting for time to resolve things. This combination of passivities led you into the mental prison of the **Eight of Swords**, where both feel lonely and distant, yet motionless. The direct answer to your question is that your estrangement is the result of an unconscious pact of non-confrontation. You preferred maintaining the practical security of your shared structure (Pentacles) to risking the discomfort of an honest and emotional conversation about what you truly feel and desire. The price of continuing down this path is the definitive transformation

of your relationship into a lifeless routine, where you will be two efficient work colleagues, yet profoundly lonely inside the same house.

Advice

Breaking the analytical silence

Your first step must be to abandon the posture of the **Page of Pentacles**, who spends time studying the problem from afar and analysing every detail of the relationship in silence. Stop trying to decipher João or monitor his behaviours as if they were data from a math problem. Silent analysis only increases distance; what the relationship needs now is for you to bring your doubts and real feelings to the table, without fear of breaking the artificial harmony you have maintained.

Refusing the martyr role

The advice born from the presence of the Hanged Man is to stop accepting the suspension of your happiness as a necessary sacrifice to maintain the relationship's stability. Your patient silence is not saving the connection, it is only prolonging the agony and accustoming João to your passivity. Show that your waiting time has ended and that you are no longer available to continue living in a relationship where your emotional needs are constantly placed second.

Rescuing physical intimacy

Born from the absence of the **Queen of Pentacles**, the advice is to bring back concrete care, touch and physical pleasure into your daily life, instead of focusing all your interaction on household management and conversations about obligations. Create moments of comfort and complicity that do not demand intellectual discussions or problem-solving; sometimes, the fastest path to breaking mental distance is warm physical contact, sharing a meal prepared with affection and shared rest without the pressure of having to decide the future.

Demanding active presence

Facing the **Four of Cups** that João brings, the advice is not to feed his apathy with further leniency or your own withdrawal. When he closes himself in silence or indifference, do not assume all tasks nor try to compensate for the void he leaves; confront him with this absence directly, yet without aggressiveness, showing him that a two-way relationship demands active participation from both and that his indifference has real consequences on your willingness to stay by his side.

Signs to observe

Over the coming weeks, Inês, observe closely João's reaction when you try to introduce these small changes in attitude. The sign that the path to recovery is possible will be his capacity to break the silence and express, even through some initial irritation or discomfort, what he truly feels, showing he still cares enough to argue. On the contrary, if after your attempts at physical approach and honest dialogue he remains sheltered within the same silent apathy and refusal of contact, this will be the clear sign that he has already emotionally abandoned the relationship, leaving you with only an attachment to routine. It is up to you to decide whether you want to continue working on a structure that no longer has warmth to offer.

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: relacao
baralho: tarot_casa
cartas: O11, E5*, E8, M12, C4, O13, O8
pergunta: I have been with João for three years and I feel like we have drifted apart. What is going on between the two of us?
```

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.