

Suit of Swords

The suit of swords is about things going on in our heads and minds. It often represents the analytical, logical, reasoning part of us. It is the “head stuff” part of us.

The swords often indicate our response to stress and how we cope with stress.

Astrologically it represents the element of Air and can point to the signs of Gemini, Libra and Aquarius.

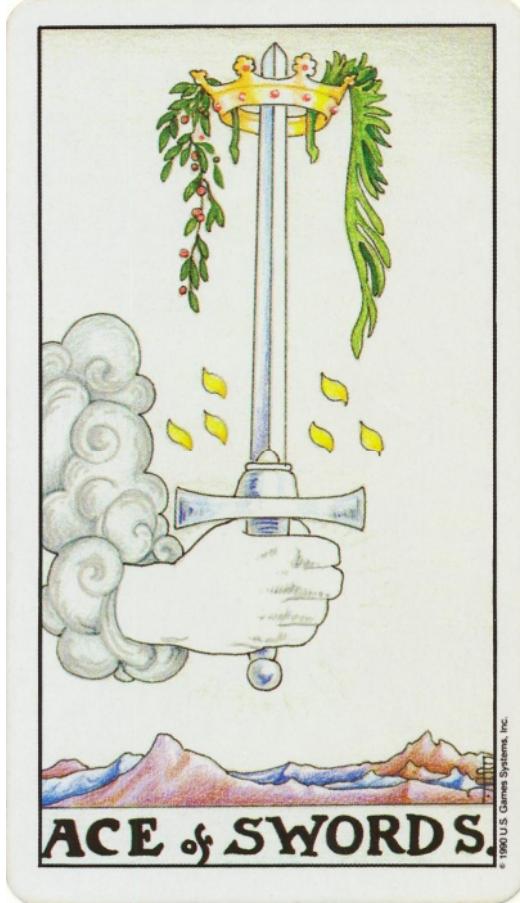
The element of air represents thoughts, ideas, intellect and communication.

In the Suit of Swords we often find the worries and fears that people have. Some may be day-to-day worries and some may be deep-rooted fears and strongly held beliefs and convictions.

The Swords can also indicate the “might be” or “what if” fears, some of which may be valid and some of which may be unfounded. The Suit of Swords can appear very challenging because they not only indicate the events of our lives, but they also indicate our reactions to them.

People displaying Air tendencies can be great visionaries with fantastic ideas and they can be amazing communicators. They are often quick witted and have razor-sharp brains. They can be people who seem to live on their nerves. Some of the other qualities can be analytical, inventive, original, versatile and curious. The element of air can also be associated with space, computers, scientific and technological matters.

On the negative side, their heads can be full of a lot of ideas and very little action. They may be fickle and whimsical and find it hard to complete things. They can be nit-picky and critical and can tie people up in knots with their words. They can be argumentative, lacking empathy, cynical, inflexible and eccentric.



Ace of Swords

Quick Keywords

Ideas, new beginnings, success, willpower, focus.

Symbols

A hand holds a sword, which has a crown on the top and the wreath of success in the crown. As with all the Aces, this is a card of beginnings. Beware, it can be a double edged sword.

Meaning

The card represents a new beginning, new ideas, a new (or renewed) force of will and mental energy. This is a card of victory and success.

This card often indicates new focus and increased clarity around a decision. This is also an indication that you have the strength and power within your own hands to accomplish whatever needs to be done.

The opportunities offered by the Ace of Swords are likely to be challenging and you will probably have to call on the full force of your will or personality to achieve your goals. However the crown at the top of the sword indicates success.

It indicates the need for courage, resourcefulness and determination. It will also call for you an honest and ethical approach. There is often a clear sense of understanding of what needs to be done and an ability to cut through irrelevant things.

The Ace of Swords can also point to truth and justice, to championing a cause and standing up for what you believe to be right.



Two of Swords

Quick Keywords

Indecision, lack of clarity, confusion, worry, stress.

Symbols

Here we see a blindfolded figure, holding two crossed swords, sitting on a stone in front of water.

Meaning

The figure does not know what to do and does not seem to be able to see all the necessary information or to think clearly. She may be struggling to see the consequences of actions.

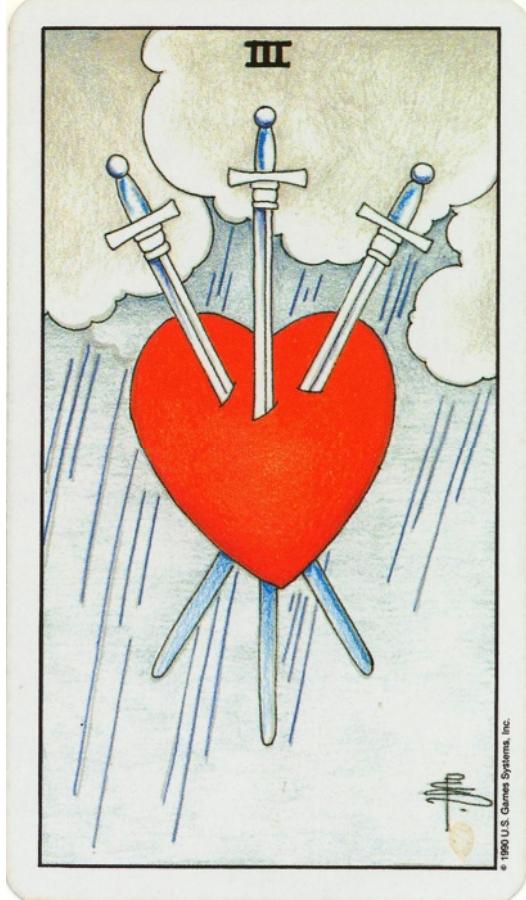
This is a card of indecision. It can also be a card of knowing that something needs to be done about a situation and being in denial- a bit like the ostrich burying its head in the sand.

You have a difficult choice or decision to make. It is something you probably need to make logically, however there is also a lot of emotion attached to the decision (symbolised by the water).

The choice can be one that is causing a great deal of stress and worry. If there are other people involved, then the decision is likely to hurt or upset someone. It is a decision where you have to look at what is best for you.

With the crossed swords the woman has put up a real barrier. It is almost as if she is trying to block off her emotions and feelings and keep everybody out.

She seems unwilling to accept a truth about a situation or her feelings and almost deny its existence.



Three of Swords

Quick Keywords

Arguments, heart-ache, sorrow, conflict

Symbols

Three swords pierce a heart. This is the only one of the Swords Cards that does not have a person in it.

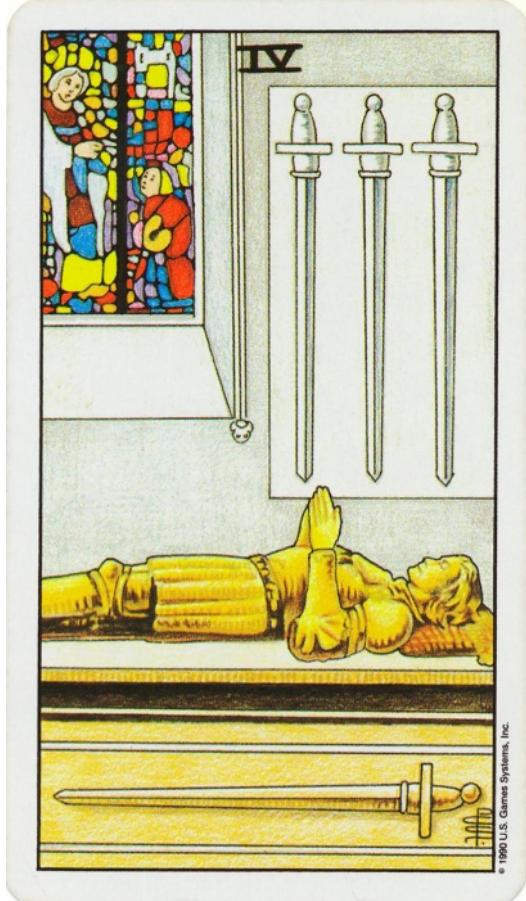
Meaning

This is a card of heartbreak in some form. It can be an argument. It can literally be a heart attack and can be a miscarriage in a pregnancy (depending on the cards around it).

There are likely to be some raw emotions around this card, although they may or may not be expressed.

There is sorrow, sadness, strife, conflict, disappointment and great emotional pain.

If it is an argument, it may be that there are things that need to be said in order to clear the air, as painful as they may be to say or to be heard.



Four of Swords **Quick Keywords**

Recovery, retreat, de-stress, solitude, time out.

Symbols

A knight lies resting on a table. He has 3 swords pointing down and 1 underneath him. His hands are formed in a prayer position.

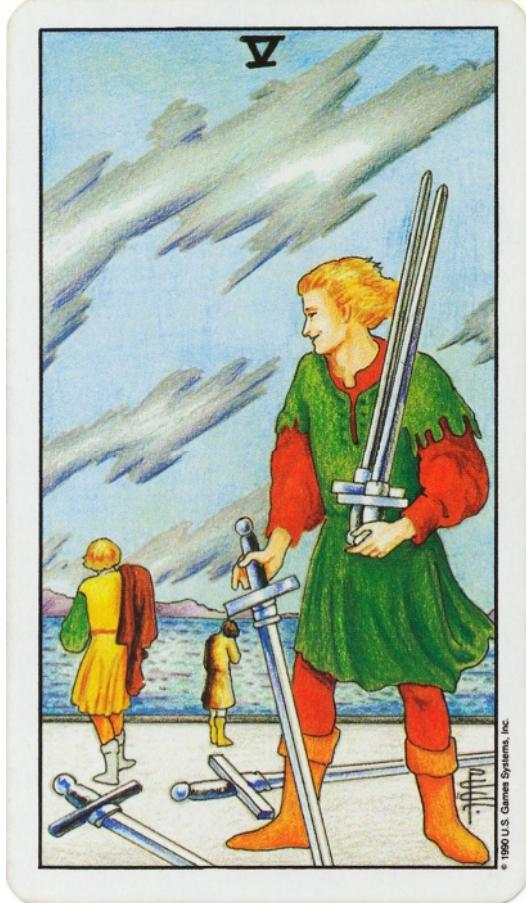
Meaning

This is a card of rest, recuperation, convalescence, retreat and solitude and indicates a real need to take some time out and just DO NOTHING.

It may be a time of quiet contemplation and preparation for the next steps. It is a time for mind, body and spirit to heal.

This card will often show up for someone who is overworked, stressed and worn out.

It can also come up for someone who is recovering from an illness and it is important for them to allow themselves to recover fully before they start doing too much again.



Five of Swords

Quick Keywords

Conflict, victory, strong adversary, hollow victory.

Symbols

Two dejected looking figures are standing by the water, whilst the 3rd has 3 swords in his hands. The swords of the other two people lie on the ground in front of him.

Meaning

This is a card of conflict and victory, but at the expense of other people. The figure looks quite smug with having all the swords. However this can be a hollow victory. This can be a serious quarrel.

This may be that you are up against someone who is much stronger than you and that they have all the factors in their favour. It may be you that is the stronger of the people.

This is a card of arguments and hostility, and can be an “us-against-them” mentality. This is a selfish card and there is no co-operation between people.

There are no real winners with this card. One person has all the swords, often to the detriment of the other parties.



Six of Swords

Quick Keywords

Better conditions, look beyond current pain, moving forward.

Symbols

A figure is rowing a boat with two passengers out of the choppy waters and into the calmer seas beyond.

However the 6 swords are still in front of them in the boat, which suggests they may be taking their worries with them.

However the swords do not pierce the boat in any way, so the impact of past strife may be much less now.

Meaning

This card indicates that things are improving and you are moving into better conditions. This can be a case of head over heart and you have to go with the logic of a situation.

You can be moving away from stress, anxiety, pain and difficulty and into better conditions, although it can sometimes be difficult to see beyond the pain and to focus on anything good.

This can be a card of physical journeys as well as a journey of self development and transformation.

Let go of the pain of a past situation and allow yourself to move forward into a better place, especially mentally.



Seven of Swords

Quick Keywords

Theft, loss, sneaking away, underhand, cunning, someone taking.

Symbols

This card shows a figure creeping away from a camp, carrying 5 of the 7 swords. The last 2 are left standing in the ground. The figure has quite a smug expression on his face.

Meaning

This card represents something being taken away, often in a very underhand, sneaky way.

It is a card of stealth and cunning to extricate yourself from a situation, which might not be a bad thing. It can be that someone is trying to sneak out of a situation, rather than confront someone and deal with the matter openly.

The expression on the figure's face suggests he thinks he has got away with something he knows he really should not have done.

He is carrying the swords in a very inefficient way and not looking where he is going. The swords could very easily slip on his toes.

It is likely that he could get found out or his actions come back to haunt him. This can be someone who is a thief or a spy or a liar or a person committing some sort of fraud or wrong-doing.

If someone is contemplating actions, which they know are not quite legal or ethical, this card can be a warning that they will get found out. If they do it will most likely be due to their own feelings of guilt or conscience.



Eight of Swords

Quick Keywords

Restriction, limitations, obstacles, trapped.

Symbols

Here we see a woman who is blindfolded and who has cloths tied around her, which are restricting her movements. She is standing in water, which represents emotions. There are 9 swords forming a barricade behind her.

Meaning

This is a card of restriction. It may be self-imposed and the situation may not be as difficult as it is perceived to be. This can also indicate restriction and obstacles from external sources.

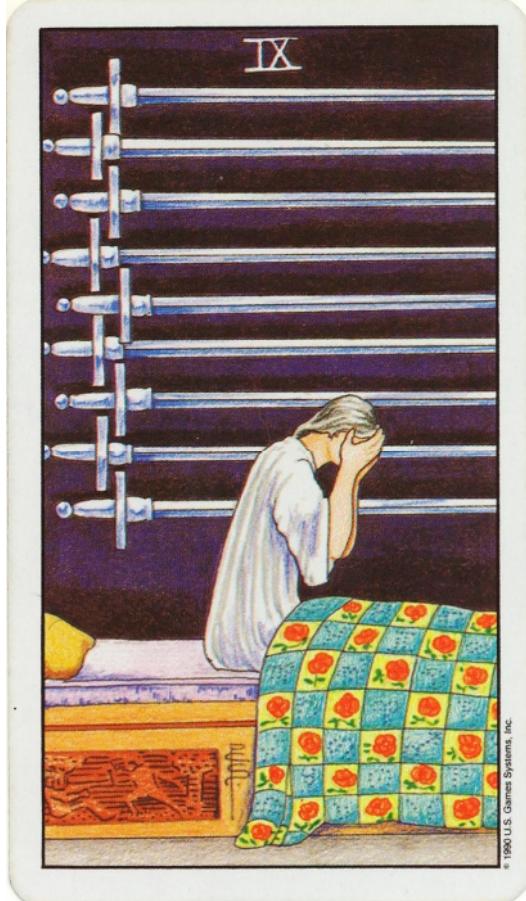
The bandages appear to be quite loose around the figure and she could probably wriggle loose and take off the blindfold if she chose to.

This can be a card of limiting beliefs about your capabilities. This can also be a card of "I can't because..." which may or may not be justified.

This card can indicate a feeling of being trapped, backed into a corner or imprisoned by someone or by your circumstances.

This can indicate that someone has given away their personal power to someone else. It can be that you are feeling a victim in life and are waiting for someone or something to come and rescue you.

Some of the situation may be of your own making and you still have choices, as difficult as that may seem to accept. By finding your clarity of thought, you can find a solution and a way forward.



Nine of Swords

Quick Keywords

Grief, despair, distress, desolation, illness, stress.

Symbols

Here a figure sits up in a bed, crying or very distressed and with 9 swords on the wall behind.

Meaning

This card indicates grief, desolation, despair, great pain, worry, stress and sadness. It can also indicate health issues and hospital visits.

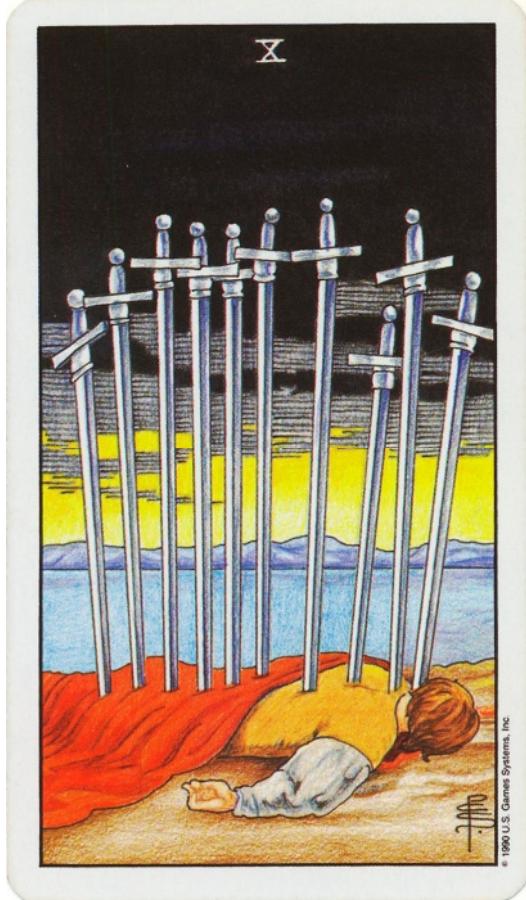
If someone is at their wits end, this card can mean great anxiety, depression, nightmares and insomnia. It can mean illness.

This will often be some sort of stress related condition. In readings for women, this card can indicate women's health issues or even surgery.

With the head in the hands, this can indicate a refusal to look at the world or to bury your head in the sand, in the hope that problems will go away.

During the dark of the night is the time when all our fears, doubts, worries, feelings of guilt and anxiety come bubbling up to the surface. Sometimes the pain of these feelings is so much we feel like just putting our head in our hands and crying.

It may be that you need to examine the choices you are making in life and perhaps a small change could make a big difference in the way you feel and the actions you take.



Ten of Swords

Quick Keywords

Endings and beginnings, let down, anxiety, stabbed in the back.

Symbols

A figure lies on the ground with a blanket partly covering him and 10 swords impaled in his back. This is a card of feeling let down and stabbed in the back by someone. It is a card of anxiety, loss and misfortune.

Meaning

This card can be similar to the Death card in symbolism, in that something

has come to end- metaphorically the situation is dead- however that means that there is also some rebirth and renewal.

The gold in the sky represents the new day dawning. The darkest hour is just before dawn. This does not minimize the sense of pain or loss, however it is a sign that there is hope in the future.

This card can also point to an over-reaction to something, maybe making a mountain out of a molehill or someone who is a hypochondriac or a Drama Queen.



Page of Swords

Quick Keywords

Childlike, temperamental, headstrong, aggressive, defensive.

Symbols

The card shows a youth holding a sword in an aggressive pose, as though he is ready to strike at something.

Person

This can be someone who is very quick witted and sharp tongued. They can be a bit of a gossip and a trouble- maker and can tie people in knots with their words.

As a person, he/she is likely to be very immature and probably prone to temper tantrums (or the adult equivalent) to get their own way.

There is little empathy with this person. They are likely to be impatient, critical, sarcastic and have no real understanding of the impact of their words on the feelings of other people.

It can be a child with Air type qualities. They are bright and lively, with a quick mind and a vivid imagination.

Situation

The page can describe things being done in far too much of a hurry, with little or no thought to the consequences. There is impatience, rashness and not listening to the input of other people.



Knight of Swords

Quick Keywords

Rushing, risk-taking, lack of thought, speed, impulsive, headstrong.

Symbols

A Knight on a white horse with a drawn sword is charging through the desert at great speed.

Person

This card often symbolises someone who is rushing headlong into something without giving it any real thought.

The person is often impulsive, headstrong and full of fantastic ideas. They are capable and fearless and can be an impulsive risk taker.

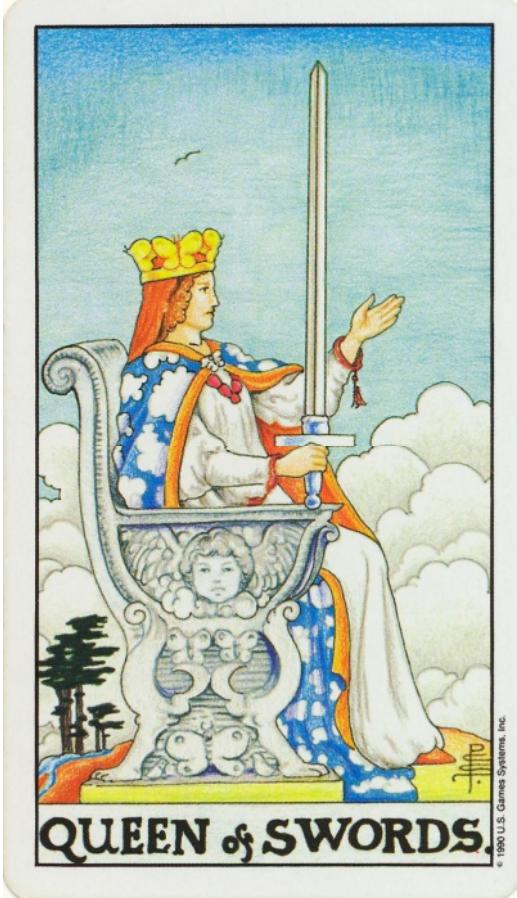
They can be a great communicator but they can also be tactless, sarcastic, blunt and rude. A person can have all the qualities of an Air person, i.e. quick witted, intelligent, sharp brain, great ideas, great communicator and spontaneous.

They can also be rash and impulsive and lack empathy with other people. The Knight is someone who is likely to be quite immature and convinced of their own superiority.

He or she can be a strong ally and fight your corner for you, while it suits them. They can be very fickle and whimsical and you should be careful of placing long term trust in them.

Situation

This indicates sudden events, where someone needs to take charge quickly, so that the whole thing does not end up in complete chaos. If you are considering delegating a project, be careful of the person you choose to take on the role.



Queen of Swords

Quick Keywords

Tough, independent, widow, honest, shrewd, straight-talking.

Person

The Queen can show as a man or a woman, although mostly she shows up as a woman. She can often represent an older person, perhaps someone who is widowed or on their own.

As a person, she is a very straightforward person, likely to have quite a sharp tongue and can be sarcastic and abrasive.

She is quick witted, intelligent, logical, analytical, can be shrewd and does not

suffer fools gladly. She can be very perceptive and see through people and situations quickly.

She is honest, truthful and may take the moral high ground with others. She is not one to be messed with or to lie to. She is tough, independent and likely to keep herself and her feelings to herself.

She likes to be in control. She can be quite soft on the inside but works very hard to make sure she does not let others see that she could be vulnerable.

Situation

This card can indicate tough bargains and negotiating. The matter is likely to be dealt with in a very matter of fact way and by following the rule book. There will be little room for emotional matters.



King of Swords **Quick Keywords**

Businessman, honest, efficient, detail, logical, analytical.

Person

As a person the King of Swords has all the qualities of an Air character. He often shows up as a man of Law, maybe a solicitor or a policeman.

As a business man, he is straightforward, tough, generally fair and honest in his dealings.

He does not take any nonsense from anyone and has a very clear idea of where he is going. He is intelligent, quick witted, can be detail oriented, analytical and efficient.

He usually takes quite a clinical, unemotional approach to matters. He can be rigid, strict and inflexible when it comes to sticking to the rules.

In personal matters he can be cut off from his feelings, which can show as cynicism, sarcasm and fierce independence

Situation

The King of Swords tells you that you need a rational, logical, analytical approach where expectations should be realistic.

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