

5 of SWORDS – DEFEAT

Key Words: *Venus in Aquarius; fear of loss or defeat; fear of painful situations or experiences.*

The five swords are arranged in a pentacle which points downward. Equilibrium is lost. The pentagram standing on its head is outlined by drops of blood. Old wounds have been touched and bleed anew. The swords are curved, i.e., they are injured, out of harmony. Each sword's grip indicates a different aspect of this situation. The fish represents the past, the sleeping snake shows that no renewal is happening, the downward-pointing crown symbolizes lost awareness, the ram's horn shows that new impulses are lacking and nothing will be set in motion, and the seashell expresses the need for protection.

Fear of defeat dominates the moment. It may be connected with relationships or, more generally, with the beginning of something which is of great importance to you. It is the fear of losing control, of experiencing the feeling that everything is slipping out of your hands.

Aquarius is directed toward the future. The challenge is to make room for your own objectivity and clarity (blue border) despite the fear of defeat. The white in the center of the painting represents the bright spirit attempting to break through the power of fear.

Indications: Drawing this card shows that you are now ready to see your fear of defeat. Fear is irrational in nature, meaning it does not necessarily reflect the real situation. By recognizing this you will set free all those energies which have been bound up in your fear. If you are afraid to see control slipping out of your hands, remember, the feeling that you are in control is an illusion! Seeing, understanding, accepting and letting go of your fear will set you free.

Question: What do you associate with the idea of defeat?

Suggestion: Write down the answer to the above question or share the answer with someone you trust. If old wounds are revealed, allow yourself to feel the pain. This is the only way for them to heal.

Affirmation: I accept my fear and let it go.

The Five of Swords is fear of defeat, or memory of defeat. Here we have five bent swords, one of which has a handkerchief that's red with blood dripping from it, which is representative of negative thinking that opens an old wound, and as a result of opening that old wound, there is an experience of fear. Fear has one function, which is to constrict. All the twisted lines in the background are showing the function of fear, which is to constrict, to distort, to bend one's perspective or way of thinking. This is a fear that history might repeat itself, or fear that one will be hurt again.

The astrological aspect of this card is Venus, at the top of the card, in Aquarius, the wavy lines at the bottom of the card. Basically, there are two fears held in the mind — one is fear that a new relationship may not work out (Venus in Aquarius), or two, having fear of moving in new directions that are emotionally important to you, the new directions are symbolized by Aquarius at the bottom of the card,

Defeat and those directions being emotionally important to you, is symbolized by Venus at the top of the card. Venus in Aquarius also symbolizes the emotional fears of what you might not attain that's important to you in this new direction. The symbol that represents an old fear tied with the past is the red handkerchief from which blood is dripping, and this fear is also symbolized by the handle of the sword that holds the Pisces fish. Pisces as an astrological sign represents the past, the Piscean age, or that which is old, yet memorable. The function of fear is to distort and is based on events unknown or on past experience. When we move into states of fear, nothing is renewed or regenerated, which is symbolized by the sleeping snake on the handle of one sword; and we're unable to move in new directions, which is symbolized by Aries the Ram on the other sword. Basically, fear has us looking at things from a distorted perspective, which is symbolized by the handle of the sword that has the crown placed upside-down. The crown is a symbol of expanded awareness, and here it is upside-down, indicating that our awareness is not attainable or is distorted. Yet in the background, the greater aspect of who we are, represented by the white light and the star shape, is attempting to break through fear that is created in the mind through negative thinking about the past or future.

Whenever you pull this card, it indicates that in the next five weeks or the next five months you are determined to release negative thinking that produces fear of defeat about either new relationships, or fear that new directions that are so heartfelt for you will not work out. It could also be old fears that have surfaced that may go back to the last five months or may go back to five years ago or may be old fears that got imprinted when you were five years old. Five is the number of the Hierophant and the family, so it might be interesting to see which of your parents had a lot of fear about relationships not working out, or fears of defeat about moving in new directions. In pulling this card, you are no longer willing to be the lineage bearer, or the legacy bearer of family fears of defeat held in the mind. Since this is also the Venus in Aquarius aspect, there could be fears of defeat about Aquarius people in your life, anyone born January 21 to February 21, that you choose to resolve in the next five weeks or the next five months, to release those fears. The Hierophant is the Major Arcana card that can be drawn upon for support at this time, because the Hierophant has the wisdom and the faith to move through these fears that are created or generated in the mind. The mind is the easiest to reprogram through creative visualization and affirmation.