

KNIGHT of SWORDS

Key Words: *the fiery aspect of air; goal-oriented, ambition, flexible intellectual powers; passion, vehemence.*

The Knight of Swords in his gold-green armor goes hunting, riding at full gallop, the embodiment of his goal-oriented mental activity. He knows where he is bound, and will not rest until he arrives at his destination. He has remarkable powers of concentration. Thoughts and ideas come to him with lightning speed; he is a master of imaginative and flexible thinking, which he uses to achieve his goals (gold-green armor). The four propellers refer to the four heavenly directions and indicate that the power of thought is bounded neither by time nor space.

His strong intellectual determination is unified with a deep emotional perceptiveness. Only goals which are emotionally charged can kindle such passion. Body, intellect and spirit (the three swallows) are in harmony and fly alongside him.

Both swords, the long one in his right hand, and the short one in his left, will be employed equally. They represent two potential energies, yang (male, analytical) and yin (feminine, intuitive) which will be needed in the proper balance in order for him to advance. He appears to be one with his galloping horse, because of his well balanced and correctly applied abilities.

Indication: You are in a good position now to forge plans, set goals and bring them to fruition.

Questions: Do you know your goal? What happens once you achieve it?

Suggestion: Imagine how you will best be able to enjoy your success.

Affirmation: I know my goal and I know what I am working towards. Each goal is just a milestone on the way to my ultimate destination.

Night of Swords is a visual portraiture of a knight in the air flying over water. In alchemy, the element of air is associated with the mind, and water is associated with emotionality. Combining the elements of water and air, metaphorically, is a symbol for passionate thinking. Here we have a picture of the focused, intentional, determined mind.

The three swallows represent the union of mind, heart, and action all proceeding in the same direction. They serve as reminders that focus, will, and intention must be aligned and moving in the same direction before a goal can be obtained.

The Knight holds a dagger and a sword; each a symbol for the receptive and dynamic thinking required to execute a goal. In Oriental terms, the dagger would be a metaphor for yin (feminine) energy and the sword would be a symbol for yang (masculine) energy. The yin/yang symbol in Oriental philosophy is associated with the two energies that are required to create balance and unity.

Within the four wings attached to the Knight's helmet are written the words north, south, east and west. Each direction is a symbol for the four levels of consciousness: mental, emotional, spiritual and physical, which are combined as a picture for unified consciousness. At the center of the four wings is a six pointed star, a universal symbol associated with illumination, clarity, and spiritual guidance.

The Knight of Swords is associated with the air sign months of Aquarius, Libra, and Gemini, or with air sign people. Since this is a Knight, this could represent an older man or older mastery of passionate thinking and mental determination.

Master of Passionate Thinking and Intentionality

Powerful fluid thinking is represented by the Knight's gold armor. Gold, in alchemy, was associated with malleability, fluidity, and spiritual radiance. The horse, pictured with all of the Knights, is a symbol of power and intuitive understanding. Horses, cross-culturally, are associated with intense desires and instincts. (Cirlot, 1962).

Range of Interpretation for The Knight of Swords

This is a symbol of the focused, determined, intentional mind. During the air sign months of Aquarius (January 21-February 21), Gemini (May 21 - June 21), and Libra (September 21 - October 21), would be a good time to move in new directions with clarity of purpose and strong will. This is the state of mind that contains no doubt.

The Knight of Swords could be an air sign person or older man who is an Aquarius, Gemini, or Libra. This person could be an outer mirror of your own focus, will and determination to move in new directions with undaunted clarity. Or, in the air sign months, an older man could provide new opportunities that could take you in new directions, personally or professionally, in the air sign months of Aquarius, Gemini, or Libra.

The air sign months would be a good time to set things in motion, especially if there is clarity of purpose within all parts of your nature. The heart or emotional nature (water) supports the ideas, clarity and direction of the mind (air).

For women, the Knight of Swords may also represent an aspect of their animus, the internal masculine or dynamic energy that is expressing itself with relentless determination, focus and will.