

5 of WANDS - STRIFE

Key Words: Saturn in Leo; restriction; unfulfilled desire; embittered; fearful; vain striving.

The central wand has become as heavy as lead. The winged disk which normally would indicate an upward swing into higher spheres now bears a star pointed downward. The center of the star is covered by five small overlapping disks. The eye of Horus has lost its clarity of vision. The serpents of regeneration look sluggish and sleepy. The phoenix heads are turned away from each other, as if to avoid one another.

This card signifies a general condition in which the creative power of the Lion is blocked (Saturn). Because the free flow of energy is greatly restricted, it has begun to stagnate. This concentrated charge of energy strives vainly to find a possibility for expression. Life becomes a burden. The tiny wings at the bottom of the staff continue to struggle, attempting to lift the leaden weight.

Indications: In this situation, the danger of resigning yourself is great. Saturn reminds us that all things must be taken care of step by step. Don't let yourself be overwhelmed. Always look again to the flames behind the wand which burn on despite impediments. When you draw this card, it is a sign that you are ready to face the situation and do something about it.

Questions: What insurmountable obstacles seem to stand between you and the realization of your goals? How does the mountain of duties and tasks which stands before you look right now?

Suggestion: Go step by step! Take everything a little easier. Draw another card for this.

Affirmation: I am more and more capable now of expressing my feelings and my creativity in my work.

The Five of Wands is a symbol of the state of strife, anxiety or frustration. Anxiety is an energetic experience caused by holding back. Basically, it is the state of frustration. It is the experience of having abundant energy but not knowing what to do with that energy, or it's a lot of energy that's being contained or held back, which will produce anxiety or the state of strife. The astrological aspect that's represented on this symbol is Saturn in Leo. Saturn is the planet of discipline, of knowing what your limits and boundaries are and being able to set limits and boundaries. Saturn is the planet that reminds us to do things step-by-step. Leo is the astrological sign of creative power that does not want to be limited, restricted or restrained, and desires full expression.

When you pull this card, it can reflect the state of feeling limited, restricted or restrained in your creative endeavors. It can also Strife reflect the state of anxiety or strife that you might be experiencing with Leo people in your sense of feeling limited, restricted, restrained by Leo people, or a sense of limiting, restricting and restraining your life, anyone born July 21 to August 21. A own creative ability, is reflected by this aspect of Saturn in Leo. Strife or anxiety is that state where energy is stuck or unmoving, which is represented by the leaded or greyed-over coloration of this symbol. Any holding back or self limitation will move you into that state in alchemy which was known as leaded consciousness. Leaded consciousness is symbolically represented by the greyed-over areas of this symbol. The lotus blossoms are grey, which means that in states of anxiety you have difficulty opening or unfolding. In states of anxiety or strife you have difficulty accessing inherent wisdom, the Ibis heads, or in moving in new directions to regenerate yourself. In states of anxiety or frustration or strife, you don't see things clearly, which is represented by the winged Eye of Horus at the top of the card which is greyed-over, and are unable to renew and regenerate yourself like the snakes coming off the winged Eye of Horus. Yet the entire background of the card is yellow, which symbolizes energy that wants to be used but is being contained or limited, which creates the response or experience of strife.

When you pull this card it indicates that in the next five weeks or the next five months, there is an opportunity to release anxiety or frustration that's being experienced, either in the month of Leo or with Leo people or with your own creativity, all of which is symbolized by the sign of Leo. In the next five weeks or the next five months would be a good time to move towards creative endeavors where you feel that you can express yourself fully, instead of binding or restricting yourself in any way. The Five of Wands reflects that in the next five weeks or in the next five months, you could release old anxiety patterns or frustrations that have surfaced in the last five months, or that go back to the last five years, or when you were five years old. Somehow in the next five weeks or in the next five months, you are determined to release anxiety patterns or frustration patterns that have been conditioned within your own family. It might be interesting to see which of your parents had a tendency to hold back or felt limited in his or her own work and creativity to such a degree that it created frustration and strife. This symbol reminds you that in the next five weeks or in the next five months, you are no longer willing to be the lineage bearer of family anxiety patterns. The aspect of family here is represented by the number 5, which is associated with the Hierophant, which is the symbol of the archetypal family and the spiritual learning and teaching that is found in every family. The Hierophant archetype would be a good card that would lend additional support to you in the next five weeks or the next five months as you release old anxiety patterns.