

XI LUST

Key Words: Leo; passion; multidimensional creativity, talents; strength; integration of animalistic energies; overcoming old fears and conditionings.

The traditional name of this card is Strength. Crowley renamed the card because its meaning includes much more than the word »strength« expresses. Lust means more than vital strength, it includes also the joy in, and the enjoyment of, that strength; it means also passion. A woman sits on the back of a lion. In her right hand she holds the Holy Grail which is enflamed with the fire of love and death, and raises it into the heights.

The card is a representation of divine intoxication, divine ecstasy, divine madness. The woman appears intoxicated. The lion is also enflamed by lust. His seven heads are those of an angel, a saint, a poet, an adulteress, a daring man, a satyr, and a lion-serpent. They symbolize different aspects and viewpoints which now unite and meld together as a single perceptive force in one orgiastic experiencing. They are independent of morality and limiting rationalism. The energy forms expressed here are those of an archetypal creative Order.

The animal within is not tamed and integrated through struggle and repression, but through affirmation and surrender. The strength you gain in this process helps you overcome old fears and restrictive conditioning, represented by the folded hands and the faces of the saints seen dimly in the background.

The ten faintly radiating circles, scattered behind the woman and lion, show the fading old moral ideals which will now be replaced by the fresh ones pulsating at the top of the picture, symbolizing the new light which streams snake-like in all directions to destroy the world and create it anew. This process of recreation is again symbolized in the lion's tail, a serpent with a lion's head.

The woman's head is turned completely toward the urn of fire. She is totally absorbed in the energy of transformation inherent in any total and conscious surrender. This is the secret of Tantra, the awareness which perceives the fullness of each moment and accepts all of life, rejecting nothing.

Lust reveals its valuable creative potential only when fully tasted, savored and drunk in. Only then can it be understood and be implemented in your own process of becoming aware. The way to the light passes through all aspects of darkness.

Indication: If you are ready to accept all which you find in yourself, you will be able to move through everything with deep sensitivity, awareness, love and understanding.

Questions: What areas of your life would you like to live out more fully? What has prevented you from doing so in the past? Are you ready to deal with this anew?

Suggestion: Take everything in with more awareness. We often experience emotions such as love, sadness, pain, rage or fear as obstacles only because we have never learned to use them as potential energy.

Affirmation: I enjoy living to the utmost.

To me, wholeness is the key to aliveness. It is more than just physical vitality, it is radiance, coming from being at one with yourself and your experience. Life then flows through you and radiates from you.

- Richard Moss, How Shall I Live

Strength/Lust is representative of the universal myth known as the "Beauty and the Beast." This symbol represents the beauty that we all possess in our gifts, talents, and resources which can quell the beasts or demons within our nature. Here is the picture of the beauty that has tamed and reigned the beasts within (the multi-headed lion). She has an inherent faith within herself which is symbolized by the fire-urn that she looks to and holds. She has overcome old fears tied with the past, the grayed and darkened figures and objects in the background of the symbol. She rides Leo, the lion, the astrological sign of creative power. It is through utilizing our creative gifts and talents, like Leo, the lion, that we can tame and reign the beasts within.

Lust comes from the root word lustre. We cannot be in our lustre and radiance if we are not also in our strength. People who exhibit strength also exhibit an inherent lustre or radiance. Strength and lustre are two qualities that are often inseparable. In other decks, this symbol is referred to as Strength, the beauty that tames the beast. Within Egyptian hieroglyphs, strength and lustre are synonymous, or aspects of each other.

THE PRINCIPLE OF STRENGTH, PASSION AND LUSTRE

The Lust/Strength Symbol as Life-Time Symbol

This is the life-time personality symbol of those people whose birthday adds up to the number 11. This is often the personality symbol of people who are 50 years and older or for people at this time who were being born in the late 1960's or 1970's. People with this archetype for their personality expression are creative. They are drawn to the creative and performing arts or may use their creativity in multiple arenas where they are in the limelight or highly regarded for the originality that they bring to traditional settings or situations.

Lust/Strength people are charismatic, radiant, and creative. They are determined to handle all situations creatively as possible. These people exhibit strength and unusual risk-taking. Often, they hold strong beliefs that things will unfold like the flowers and renew and regenerate themselves like the snakes at the top of the card.

It is through your creativity and your strength that you are able to renew and regenerate yourself, like the haloed snake which serves as the lion's tail. This symbol is a reminder that the creative process, as well as our strength, is continually changing like the snake that sheds its own skin.

The Lust/Strength Symbol as a Growth Symbol

During your Strength year (any year where your birthday plus the current year adds up to 11), you may find yourself taming and reigning old beasts within. It is a year of renewed passion for all things in life, including the physical. You recapture and regain that sense of wonder and awe about life, and feel that you have overcome old fears tied with the past. It is a year where the creative arts or the performing arts may be of interest to you,

Leo people in your life become important mirrors about your own potentials for creative expression or you may find yourself directed to resolve old issues with Leo people (anyone born July 21 - August 21). Your Lust/Strength year is a year where you tap unlimited resources of strength within your own nature. It is a year where you experience being even more of who you are.

The Lust/Strength Symbol as a Visual Affirmation and Meditative Symbol

The Lust/Strength symbol is the archetype that can assist your process of trusting that you have the strength to tame and reign the beasts within. Lust comes from the word lustre and in order to have lustre in your life you need to have strength, and visa versa. The Lust/Strength symbol facilitates creativity that honors and reveals our passion and strength. Through meditation and creative visualization with this symbol, you can assist your process of honoring and experiencing the inherent strength that is within your nature.

Sample Affirmations To Use While Looking at The Lust/Strength Archetype

I enjoy expressing my energy, vitality and enthusiasm in all that I experience.

I am an individual of character and strength.

I have unlimited creative resources from which to tap and express.

The Lust/Strength Symbol as an Outer Mirror

Whenever you pull the Lust/Strength card, it is a symbol that you are expressing your full creativity and strength. You have tamed and reigned the beasts within and have a strong faith and trust in your abilities.

With Leo people in your life, you have the ability to stay in your strength and not abandon yourself; or Leo people could mirror to you your own creativity that wants to be expressed unconditionally.

Other Symbols that Are Aspects of The Lust/Strength Symbol

The Gifts and Challenges for Persons whose Life-Time Personality Symbol Is The Lust/Strength Symbol

Lust/Strength is an important aspect of The High Priestess constellation, which are all the numbers in the deck which add up to the number 2. Lust/ Strength is the external expression of trusting one's intuition (The High Priestess) by utilizing good judgment (The Aeon) which comes from making choices that give us peace of mind (Two of Swords), trusting our feelings (Two of Cups - love), making expansive changes that are stable (Two of Disks - changes) and can create a greater sense of balance and dominion in your life (Two of Wands - dominion).

Strength is that capacity to radiate peace, love, and dominion as we make creative changes in our life by making good judgments. (See the High Priestess constellation in Section VI for additional information.)

Gifts:

High Priestess (Independence)

Two of Swords (Peace)

Two of Cups (Love)

Two of Wands (Dominion)

Two of Disks (Change)

Aeon (Good Judgment)

Lust/Strength

Challenges: To express one's strength creatively.