

3 of SWORDS - SORROW

Key Words: *Saturn in Libra; worries, doubts, lack of clarity, heaviness, depression, tension in three-sided relationships.*

The central sword of clarity is being restricted by the two smaller swords. They are bent, out of harmony. The rose is injured and drops its petals. Clarity has become diffused; gloomy clouds of doubt, fear or worry are limiting mind and soul.

Saturn, a strict teacher, makes all impurities visible, blocks all comfortable avenues of escape. The lesson to be learned here is no less than the mastery of care and worry. A brooding, distrustful outlook must be recognized clearly as negative energy which separates us from our origins.

This card can also relate to a tension-loaded three-sided relationship, and is attempting in some way to explode or destroy it. This situation usually demands clear decisions. Any attempt to avoid making them causes sorrow and worry.

Indication: This card is a summons to make clear, unequivocal decisions. Only in this way can the lost balance (Libra) be regained.

Question: What decisions are difficult for you to make or face?

Suggestion: Use the Tarot to reveal what your decisions are (see Systems for Using the Cards). Draw another card now to show what awaits you when you confront your problem.

Affirmation: Every problem contains its own solution.

The Three of Swords is a symbol representing sorrow. This is sorrow held in the mind or reworked in the mind. It is, specifically, negative thinking about the past, and particularly, the parts of the past that have produced sorrow. The Three of Swords represents events or sorrow that have pierced our nature to the core, which is symbolized by the swords piercing the lotus blossom to its core with petals falling from its stem. The Three of Swords reflects a tendency in the mind to rework the old bones of the past, and particularly the parts of the past that contain sorrow or negativity. This is sorrow that could have resurfaced in the last three months, or could go back to three years ago, or could go back as early as to when you were three years old. It could also be the first sorrow that was experienced within the family, the number 3 is associated with the original triangle, which is father-mother-child. How we handled that first triangle - which is represented by the three swords - is how we will handle subsequent triangles, whether they are friend-co-worker-friend, or friend-sibling-mate or friend-lover-mate. In whatever triangles that we have been involved, the Three of Swords reminds us to break family patterns and to release a tendency in the mind to hold grudges or to rework parts of the past in the mind that are hurtful and destructive. This symbol reflects the need to remove oneself from triangles that produce sorrow. There are many creative triangles and constructive triangles, but this is a reminder to remove oneself from triangulations that produce sorrow and that are not constructive. The symbol that represents the triangulation is shown by the two swords at the top being bent by the entry of a third sword. This often reflects that there is something to be resolved between three people. The central sword can also represent an event that bent and pierced the receptive and dynamic sides of a person's nature.

The astrological symbol or aspect that is represented on the Three of Swords is Saturn, the symbol at the top of the card, in Libra, which is the symbol at the bottom of the card. Saturn is the planet that reminds us to do things step-by-step, and in so doing, will bring balance, which is Libra, into our nature. Basically, the Three of Swords shows us that we can heal the memories of the past by ceasing to look only at those parts of the past that created sorrow, and by looking at the past as a whole. This symbol often represents the mind that has a limited view of the past, which is represented by Saturn, and that by expanding our view of the past, we can bring things into balance, which is Libra.

It is important to remember when you pull this card that the sorrow is only through negative thinking in the mind. This is a mental tape or an old way of thinking about the past. This is not sorrow that is held in the heart or in the body, this is a tendency in the mind to resurrect old parts of the past, particularly the sad and negative parts of the past. When you pull this card, it indicates that you are

ready, in the next three weeks or the next three months, to change your perspective or thinking about the past by eliminating negative thinking which constantly reworks the past, particularly the parts of the past that have created sorrow. The Three of Swords also indicates that in the next three weeks or the next three months you may be making conscious choices to remove yourself from triangular relationships that produce sorrow, or

situations which are not constructive learning experiences for you, or others. When a person is drawn towards this card, it is an indication that some past sorrow is affecting his or her current thinking, and that there is a desire to release an old pattern which is producing the current sorrow or sadness. With focus and intention, this state of consciousness can be released within the next three weeks or the next three months in a step-by-step balancing process.

The Empress can be drawn upon for support in this process. The Empress is the Major Arcana card number III, which has already moved through aspects of sorrow tied with the past. This symbol may also represent that in the next three weeks or the next three months, that you may want to release negative thinking about disappointments or sorrows experienced with Libra people in your life, anyone born September 21 to October 21, which is represented by the Saturn in Libra aspect on this card.