

“Failure ... is, in a sense, the highway to success, inasmuch as every discovery of what is false leads us to seek earnestly after what is true, and every fresh experience points out some form of error which we shall afterward carefully avoid.”

John Keats



“Failure”

X of SWORDS

Divinatory Meaning:

Total or complete ending to a situation, with no hope of reconciliation. End of an idea or plans - usually not by choice.

May also indicate fixed ideas or excessive mental baggage which must be eliminated for further growth. Over-structured or over-crowded mind leaves very little room to learn new concepts or expand ideas.

Strong implication of loss which forces change in perception or outlook on life. *Mental house cleaning* can result in letting go of a point of view whose usefulness has passed.

Symbolism:

Black skies and a sense of doom hangs over the moribund figure lying in the mud, ten swords stuck in his back. Although the picture is quite extreme, it does not necessarily depict a negative event, but rather a reaction to a situation or problem. Clearing bright skies in the background and calm waters suggest that once some unpleasant truth of a situation is confronted, things will greatly improve. The dawn is breaking and beneath the bank of heavy clouds there is new light and hope on the horizon.

Practical Application:

This card represents a problem that has resulted in feelings of mental distress and total oppression. By ruthless logic, Sword Ten forces us to see the truth behind the real cause of the pain. Only by acknowledging and confronting fears, doubts or false illusions can we appreciate the truth and learn to move on.

Sword Ten may also signify the end of a relationship, or a particular circumstance that just no longer works. Very often it takes a severe shock of some kind, something that produces intense suffering, forcing the truth to come to light. When this point is reached, it's best to cut our losses and move on. Do not turn back. Remain clear of the emotional minefield of regrets

Freeing yourself from the tyranny of false illusions is the goal. Suffering is not an enemy, but a guide to correcting your course, leaving behind that which is false and setting yourself in the right direction.

“No experiment is ever a complete failure. It can always be used as a bad example.”

Paul Dickson

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