

Arcanum: 8

Zodiac Affinity: Leo

Element: Fire

As a "Yes" or "No" Card: Yes!

### Overview

Strength is the eight (and sometimes eleventh) Major Arcana card; originally called Fortitude. Linked with both Justice & Temperance, and a very positive overall card indeed!

Strength represents discipline and control, mastery of yourself and your immediate surroundings.

A woman gently strokes a lion on its forehead and jaw. Even though it is known for its ferociousness, the woman has tamed this wild beast with her calming, loving energy.. The lion is a symbol of raw passions and desires, and in taming him, the woman shows that animal instinct and raw compassion can be expressed in positive ways when inner strength and resilience are applied. She doesn't use force or coercion; she channels her inner strength to subdue and subtly control the lion.

She also wears a white robe, showing her purity of spirit, and a belt and crown of flowers that represent the fullest, most beautiful expression of nature. Over her head is the symbol of infinity, representing her infinite potential and wisdom.



### Keywords

*Strength - Courage - Self-Awareness - Companionship - Heroism - Overcoming - Willpower - Persuasion - Influence - Compassion*

"using calm, quiet, gentle control to change the course of a situation that could easily get out of hand by redirecting the powerful energies at play." -Tarot of Pagan Cats, Lo Scarabeo.

### Key Phrases

- I. Facing Reality
- II. Taking control of your life

- III. Learning to take responsibility for your actions
- IV. Ability to forgive imperfection
- V. Being tolerant of others' faults
- VI. Inner strength
- VII. Awareness of your instinctive responses

### General

Strength and the courage of your convictions are needed. Be prepared to face any threat with determination. It is time to force the issue to achieve results. However, it is not so much physical strength that is required here, but mental and emotional strength expressed through compassion rather than the self-willed "look at me!" energy of the Chariot.

Your strength gives you the confidence to overcome any growing fears, challenges, or doubts. Feel the fear and do it anyway! If you have been going through a rough time and are burnt out or stressed out, this card encourages you to find the power within yourself to persevere. You have got what it takes to see this situation through to its eventual end. You're a loyal friend and solid supporter, willing to step up and be present when others are in need, and you might also feel compelled to hold space for someone who needs your strength and support.

Be prepared to forgive and forget or to accept someone needs more space or that you can't always have your cake and eat it. It's timely to take a calm approach towards others' anger or your own. Are you feeling frustrated? Do you feel 'out of control' of a situation and therefore also feel vulnerable yourself.



This card urges you to 'tame' your animal instincts, gut reactions and raw emotions. She says you channel these initial responses constructively. It is normal for feelings such as anger, rage, sadness, guilt or shame to arise in certain situations. However, it's what you do with this emotion that makes all the difference. Now is a time when you need to be conscious of your instinctual urges and bring them into balance with the greater good. There is no time to act out of rage or hatred. Approach your situation from a place of forgiveness. Working with a therapist may also help you create coping strategies for what comes up.

## Relationships

Strength in regards to work or education means that things are going well. Every day we overcome things that used to challenge us, and now they seem like second nature. In short, don't worry about work or schooling. If a problem is currently worrying though, spend some time to think about it and especially try to draw analogies with other aspects of your life.

When this card shows up in reference to wealth, it's a good sign. You might get an unexpected bit of money or something crazy like winning the lottery. It is a good time to handle your money in a safe investment like a house.

In romance this is good news; romances are a series of problems, getting to know people and what they like or don't like. If you're not in a relationship and want to be, now is the time. Treat your singleness as a problem and take control of it.

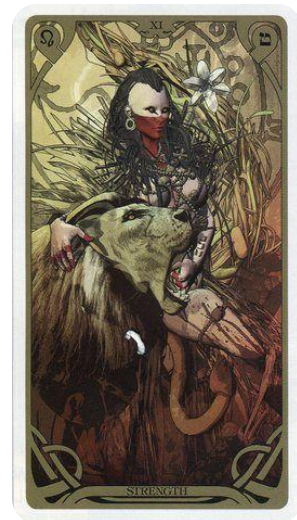
When Strength shows up in friendship it means that you might become a more dominant personality in your group of friends. A new avenue might open up that you already have experience in, and now you've got the opportunity to teach your friends how to do it. Don't get cocky and bossy though; a good leader is one thing, but people recognize when you overstep your bounds.

Strength would suggest a good outcome in regards to health. Set yourself goals and stick to them. Now is the time to practice endurance over inaction. Endurance is what keeps the human race going. You can keep going! It's an odd mindset to get into, but the only reason for you to fail, is you stop.

In matters of Spirituality and mentality strength suggests that you might come to a sudden realization about your chosen spiritual path. Previously unconnected ideas will link up and form a web of connections. Look into something unrelated to your current religious view. Are there analogies there? Are there similar stories and mythologies? It might be worth reading up on.

## Past

In the past position this card tends to represent a time in the past when you have taken control of something and it has really paid off, it's put you where you are now. You probably aced that exam or got that promotion, or passed that driving test! Well done! It's



given you the boost you need to soldier on!

## Present

Strength in the present represents the burgeoning mastery of your field. Things are getting better; just continue what you're doing and everything will be okay. You've come out on top.

## Future

This is a good sign. Anything that is bothering you now will seem like nothing in the near future. It happens all the time. Just think about your worries in general. How often do you think about things that happened 6 months, 1 year, 5 years ago, that used to affect you so much then; but now have no impact? Time deals with all your problems.

## In Reverse

### *Inner Strength - Self-Doubt - Low Energy - Raw Emotion*

Strength in reverse reflects a lack of energy and willpower and drive that may be striking you right now. Remember, it's normal to need to feel on top all the time. If you are feeling weak in any aspect of your life, look at what you can still accomplish. No matter what your level of strength, you can still improve. Weightlifters will always start small. Sometimes, something in life can knock us back to square one, and we have to accept it. Life is not a linear progression from strength to strength, and the strongest among us have failed many times over.

In its shadow form, the reversed card can signal that you are prone to explosive behavior, lashing out at others and becoming aggressive. You may act without thinking and end up doing something you regret later. The key is not to repress the raw emotion, but learn how to channel it so it won't harm others or yourself. Seek professional help to help you deal better with these emotions if you must.