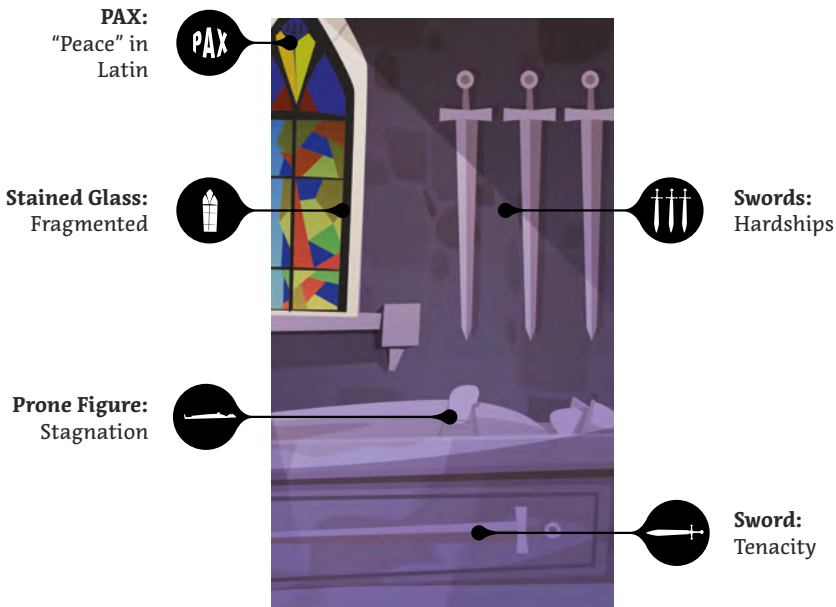




# FOUR OF SWORDS

M I N O R   A R C A N A



**Yes/No Reading:**



*Yes*



*No*



*Maybe*

**Names in Other Tarot Systems:**

**Golden Dawn:** Lord of Rest from Strife

**Tarot of Marseilles:** Four of Swords

**Thoth:** Truce

21			4, 13	4
PLANET	ZODIAC	ELEMENT	NUMEROLOGY	COUNT
Jupiter	Gemini, Libra, Aquarius	Air		

**Upright: Relaxation, Exhaustion, Mental Overload, Contemplation, Restoration**

Whether following a period of strife, emotional turmoil, or relentless activity, this card advises a deliberate break to recharge mentally, emotionally, and physically. This isn't about passivity or aimlessness; it's about actively choosing solitude and calm to achieve clarity, heal wounds, and prepare for the next phase of one's journey.

Some of life's greatest insights and resolutions come during moments of quietude. In a world that often demands continuous action and engagement, this card stands as an affirmation of the importance of personal sanctuary, meditation, and the deep rejuvenation that can only be found in stillness. It counsels patience and understanding, suggesting that sometimes, true strength is found not in action, but in thoughtful retreat.

**Reversed: Restlessness, Burnout, Stress, Slow Recovery, Stagnation**

The once peaceful haven for contemplation and repose has been disrupted, signaling that the need for rest and recuperation, which may have been previously ignored or delayed, can no longer be brushed aside. However, there is a sense of unease and confinement in this necessary pause, creating a tension between the desire to act and the need to rest.

One is forced into retreat or isolation, not by choice but by circumstance, perhaps due to recovery after an illness or feeling left out and eager to re-enter the active bustle of life. The focus of the card shifts from the benefits of rest to the frustrations of inactivity or the challenges of reintegration.

Additionally, this reversed card serves as a warning against potential burnout, highlighting the dangers of consistently neglecting the body and mind's need for downtime, which could result in exhaustion or even more significant setbacks. The card's core message is to prioritize balance and recognize that moments of inactivity are not setbacks but instead critical for long-term well-being and success.

## Upright Interpretations

**General Reading:** You're entering a period of rest, recovery, and contemplation. After battling through challenges, it's time to step back, rejuvenate, and reflect. This pause allows for mental clarity and healing.

**Love Reading:** Take a step back to reflect on the relationship or to give each other space. For singles, it's a time of self-reflection before entering a new relationship.

**Health Reading:** This card suggests a recovery period, whether from physical illness or mental exhaustion. It emphasizes the need for relaxation and perhaps seeking solitude for healing.

**Career Reading:** It's a period of retreat from active projects, maybe due to burnout. Take this time to strategize and plan for the future.

## Reversed Interpretations

**General Reading:** The reversed position indicates a restless period or an urgent need to come out of isolation. It might also suggest a forced period of inactivity or stagnation where the rest isn't by choice.

**Love Reading:** Tensions might be rising due to inaction or avoidance in the relationship. For singles, it may indicate rushing into love without adequate self-reflection.

**Health Reading:** You might be feeling restless during a recovery phase or pushing yourself too hard without allowing proper healing time.

**Career Reading:** Delays or stagnation in career endeavors may be frustrating. There might be an urgency to act but circumstances are forcing you to wait.

The Four of Swords often depicts a figure in a horizontal position, reminiscent of a tomb effigy, indicating a state of profound rest or meditation. This representation reinforces the card's withdrawal, recovery, and contemplation themes.

Typically, the card features three swords suspended above or behind the resting figure, while one is positioned horizontally beneath or beside them. These swords symbolize the challenges or stresses left behind or set aside. The lone sword, distinct from the others, may denote clarity or a single-minded focus arising from the rest and reflection period.

The background highlights a stained glass window or a church or temple setting in numerous decks. This spiritual atmosphere emphasizes the card's connection to introspection, healing, and potentially seeking spiritual or divine guidance during the retreat. It conveys the idea of sanctuary and the tranquility that can be discovered in personal or sacred spaces.



**ZODIAC:** Gemini (May 21 – June 20) is an Air sign ruled by Mercury. The dual nature of Gemini embodies a mix of yin and yang, and Geminis often feel as though they have two distinct sides.



Libra (September 23 – October 22) is an Air sign ruled by Venus. Libras often strive for harmony and balance in their lives.



Aquarius (January 20 – February 18) is an Air sign ruled by Uranus. Aquarians are self-reliant, analytical, independent, clever, and optimistic.



**ELEMENT:** Air represents logic, intellect, and communication. The intangible element is considered to be active, masculine energy. It is associated with Spring, the Suit of Wands, and the East cardinal direction.



**HERMETIC QABALAH** Associated Hebrew Letter: Waw – Hook, Nail (Connections, Secure)



**QABALISTIC SEPHIROT:** Chesed (Mercy)



**TIMING:** October 13 – October 22