



# FIVE OF SWORDS

M I N O R A R C A N A



**Water:**  
Subconscious



**Background Figures:**  
Misery



**Discarded Swords:**  
Defeat



**Figure:** Victory,  
Cockiness



**Carried Swords:**  
Preparedness



## Yes/No Reading:

Yes    No    Maybe

## Names in Other Tarot Systems:

Golden Dawn: Lord of Defeat

Tarot of Marseilles: Five of Swords

Thoth: Defeat

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<b>PLANET</b> Venus	<b>ZODIAC</b> Gemini, Libra, Aquarius	<b>ELEMENT</b> Air	<b>NUMEROLOGY</b>	<b>COUNT</b>

### **Upright: Dishonesty, Failure, Conflict, Deception, Defeat, Competition, Ego**

The Five of Swords speaks to the complexities of conflict, personal ambition, and the consequences of pursuing victory at any cost. This card suggests triumph, but it's a triumph that often feels hollow, marked by strained relationships, tension, or a nagging sense of regret. It warns about the pitfalls of unchecked ambition, highlighting the difference between achieving success and maintaining integrity.

Moreover, the card prompts introspection about one's motives and actions. It asks: Are you pursuing your goals with respect for others, or are you stepping on toes and burning bridges in the process? The Five of Swords is a reminder that victories achieved at the expense of others or one's principles may not be as satisfying or long-lasting as they first appear.

### **Reversed: Past Resentment, Compromise, Reconciliation, Making Amends**

The reversed Five of Swords suggests that they are experiencing the aftermath of a conflict or dispute and may be dealing with regret, shame, or guilt. While they might have initially thought they'd achieved a victory or had the upper hand, upon reflection, they realize the win might have come at a significant personal or moral cost. Their actions or decisions might not align with their values or the person they aspire to be. They might question whether the perceived victory was worth the relationships or integrity that were compromised in the process.

On another note, the reversed Five of Swords can also indicate a desire to reconcile or make amends after tension or disagreement. They may recognize the importance of compromise and the value of relationships over personal pride or winning at any cost. It's a moment of introspection, understanding that sometimes it's better to lose a battle to preserve the greater peace or a meaningful relationship. They are urged to seek resolution, open lines of communication, and work towards rebuilding trust.

## Upright Interpretations

**General Reading:** There's a sense of victory, but it might be at the expense of others or one's own inner peace. It can also point to empty triumphs where the cost of winning outweighs the perceived benefits.

**Love Reading:** In matters of the heart, this card may point to tension, disagreements, or one-sided victories in a relationship. One partner might feel like they're constantly "winning" arguments, but at the cost of the relationship's health.

**Health Reading:** This card can indicate mental strain due to conflicts or aggressive pursuit of goals without considering one's well-being. It's essential to understand the toll that constant strife can take on health.

**Career Reading:** The Five of Swords could hint at workplace conflicts, competitive environments, or achieving goals through cutthroat methods. It's a reminder to consider if the means truly justify the end.

## Reversed Interpretations

**General Reading:** This card reversed implies moving past conflicts and seeking reconciliation. It might also signify a realization about the hollowness of certain victories or an attempt to avoid further conflicts and confrontations.

**Love Reading:** There might be attempts to mend fences after conflicts or an understanding that winning battles in a relationship isn't as important as mutual respect and harmony.

**Health Reading:** The reversed card suggests healing from past stresses or a shift towards a more peaceful and balanced lifestyle to benefit overall well-being.

**Career Reading:** In a career context, this might mean seeking mediation after disputes or understanding that cooperation and teamwork yield better results than personal aggrandizement.

The Five of Swords depicts a figure holding three swords, standing triumphantly, while two other swords lie on the ground. Nearby, two more figures are shown retreating, suggesting they've been defeated or have surrendered. This central imagery speaks to victory but hints at the costs and repercussions of such a win.

The backdrop is barren or tumultuous, mirroring conflict and strife's emotional and environmental consequences. It underscores the idea that, while battles may be won, the aftermath can be lonely or fraught with tension.

In many decks, the main figure has a smug or satisfied expression, emphasizing the idea of personal victory. However, this satisfaction might seem shallow, hinting at the internal reflection about whether the victory was worth the cost.



**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:** Geburah (Severity)



**TIMING:** January 20 – January 29