



EIGHT OF SWORDS

M I N O R A R C A N A

Blindfold:
Intentional Ignorance



Castle:
Security

Red Robes:
Passion

Unused Swords:
Delusion

Water:
Subconscious

Yes/No Reading:

Yes **No** **Maybe**

Names in Other Tarot Systems:

Golden Dawn: Lord of Shortened Force

Tarot of Marseilles: Eight of Swords

Thoth: Interference

4	♊️ ♒	△	8	8
PLANET Jupiter	ZODIAC Gemini, Libra, Aquarius	ELEMENT Air	NUMEROLOGY	COUNT

Upright: Entrapment, Bound, Weak, Imprisonment, Victim, Negative Thoughts

The upright Eight of Swords depicts a scenario where someone feels trapped or restricted, often by their thoughts, beliefs, or fears. When this card appears, it points to situations where the individual might believe they are bound by circumstances, seeing no way out. However, it's essential to note that these perceived barriers are often more mental than actual. They might be holding onto limiting beliefs or negative self-talk that prevents them from seeing solutions or paths to freedom that are readily available.

In many ways, the Eight of Swords is a gentle reminder that the person's perception of a situation plays a significant role in their reality. Instead of seeking alternatives or solutions, they may focus on what they can't do. The card encourages introspection, urging them to question why they feel trapped and to challenge these feelings.

Reversed: Inner Critic, Escape, Release, Open to New Perspectives, Freedom

When the Eight of Swords appears reversed in a reading, it often signifies a significant shift in perspective, hinting that the individual is beginning to recognize that the constraints and limitations they've felt were largely self-imposed. They might be in the process of breaking free from past patterns of thinking and self-imposed barriers that have held them back. This card can indicate a newfound awareness and empowerment, suggesting that they have either found or are seeking ways to liberate themselves from their previous mental confines and situations they felt trapped in.

However, while the reversed Eight of Swords hints at a potential liberation, it also reminds them that freeing oneself takes conscious effort. Merely recognizing the chains doesn't automatically dissolve them. They must actively challenge their beliefs, confront their fears, and take deliberate steps toward change. The card encourages them to trust themselves, be patient, and understand that real liberation often requires internal and external work.

Upright Interpretations

General Reading: The Eight of Swords suggests feeling trapped, confined, or restricted by circumstances, often due to self-imposed limitations or a mindset of victimhood. It represents a situation where one feels powerless to change, even if the real barriers are more perceived than real.

Love Reading: In the realm of love, this card might indicate feeling trapped or confined in a relationship. There might be a perceived inability to change or escape the situation. For singles, it could suggest a mindset that prevents one from finding or accepting love.

Health Reading: When it comes to health, the Eight of Swords can imply a mental block or being in denial about a health issue. It might also suggest feeling trapped by a health condition, without seeing a way out.

Career Reading: Professionally, the Eight of Swords can indicate feeling trapped in a job or career path. There's a sensation of being stuck without any visible options for advancement or change.

Reversed Interpretations

General Reading: When reversed, the Eight of Swords points to a growing awareness or realization that the chains binding you are breakable. It indicates a potential for liberation, breakthroughs, and newfound clarity.

Love Reading: The card indicates a personal awakening, realizing that one has more power in their love life than previously thought. It could mean breaking free from unhealthy relationship patterns or gaining clarity in love matters.

Health Reading: This card might suggest a change in perspective regarding health. It can denote realizing the power of the mind over the body or seeking alternative treatments that once seemed out of reach.

Career Reading: It signals a potential realization of untapped opportunities or paths in one's career. There's an energy of empowerment, understanding that there are more options available than initially perceived.

At the center is a person wearing a blindfold, suggesting a lack of clarity or understanding. This blindness is self-imposed, representing denial or refusal to see the truth. The swords that encircle or stand near the figure signify the perceived barriers or challenges. Even though they form a cage, there's typically enough space between them, hinting that the confinement is more a product of perception than reality. In many renditions, the person's hands or wrists are bound, emphasizing the sensation of powerlessness or confinement. However, these bindings are often loose enough, suggesting that they could free themselves with some effort or change in perspective.

The Eight of Swords paints a striking picture of self-imprisonment, emphasizing the power of mindset and perception in shaping our realities. It's a call to recognize our internal barriers and understand that we often hold the key to our liberation.



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: Hod (Splendor)



TIMING: May 21 – May 31