

“Times of general calamity and confusion have ever been productive of the greatest minds. The purest ore is produced from the hottest furnace, and the brightest thunderbolt is elicited from the darkest storm.”

William James

XVI The TOWER

Divinatory Meaning:

Physical or psychological upheaval or shocking change; loss of security; realization of physical limitations.

Painful mental or emotional upset that assists in the destruction of rigid or restrictive situations or ideas. When the *scales fall from your eyes*, once the truth is known there can be no going back.

An unexpected flash of enlightenment replaces a limited or outworn way of looking at life. A blinding shock that produces fresh outlook and ideas.



“I Shock”

Symbolism:

Against a dramatic black background, an intense storm is depicted. Flashes of lightning strike the precariously perched tower, with two terrified looking figures being hurled out and down into the unknown. This imagery depicts the shattering of illusions, or the breaking down of false beliefs and values. The Tower can be seen as the narrow constrictions and conventions that prevent progress and forward movement. The bright streak of lightening symbolizes the flash of illumination or truth that splits open the structure of restrictions.

Practical Application:

The Tower heralds a period of upheaval and turmoil - either externally or internally generated. This may take the form of arguments with friends and family, breakdown of relationships, work collapses or dashed expectations; any event that causes a build-up of internal pressure that results in a major mental or emotional upset.

The way to break free of old, fixed or negative thoughts or ideas is to experience and see the truth - however shocking or painful it is. By honestly facing our own self-deceptions, by not covering up reality with rationalizations or excuses, by being courageous whatever the crisis, seemingly insurmountable issues can not only be faced, but transcended. It all depends on how much we want to escape our own self-inflicted bondage.

Advancement to higher understanding is generally preceded by a crisis of some sort, and the Tower can serve as a vehicle to smash through false ideas or illusions. Only by honestly facing our own self-deceptions, by entering the crisis, as painful as that may be, can we experience the truth that finally sets us free.

“That which does not kill me makes me stronger.”
Nietzsche

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