



Strength – VIII – The Titan Atlas is condemned to hold the weight of the world on his shoulders. (The Ecliptic Tarot)

In Greek Mythology, after the Olympians defeated the Titans, Atlas was sentenced by Zeus to stand on the western edge of the earth and hold up the sky for all eternity. But, later interpretations of the story show Atlas bearing the Earth on his shoulders and this has become the more popular depiction. What a terrific feat of strength this would require! Not just physically, but the inner strength he would need to draw on to endure such a heavy burden.

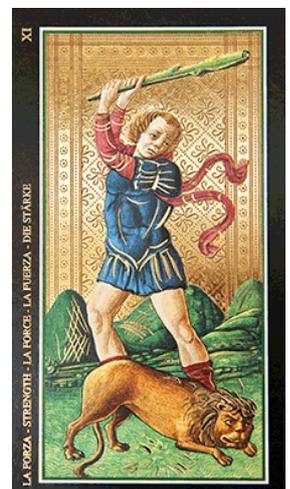
This is where we might see the Strength card show up in a reading - at a time when we need assurance that we possess the inner strength and fortitude in order to continue and handle any difficult situation we might find ourselves. As an advice card, it calls for the need of great stamina,

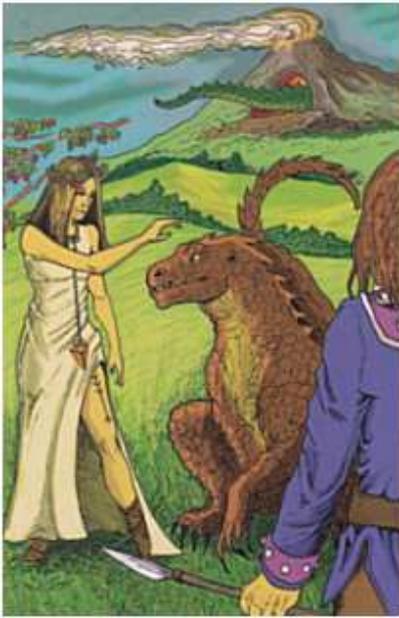
perseverance, as well as strength of character.

Standing up for yourself, drawing on your courage, and facing your fears, are all admirable strength qualities and will serve you well when dealing with obstacles, difficult people, situations, or groups.

### Strength from the Visconti Tarot – card XI

\*images used: Mary-El Tarot by Marie White. The Gill Tarot by Elizabeth Josephine Gill, The New Palladini Tarot by David Palladini, Steele Wizard Tarot by Pamela Steele, Mystic Faerie Tarot by Linda Ravenscroft, Sacred Circle Tarot by Anna Frandlin, Llewellyn Tarot by Anna-Marie Ferguson, King's Journey Tarot by Chanel Bayless, The Wild Wood Tarot by Mark Ryan and John Matthews. The Ecliptic Tarot by Bob & Koneta Bailey.

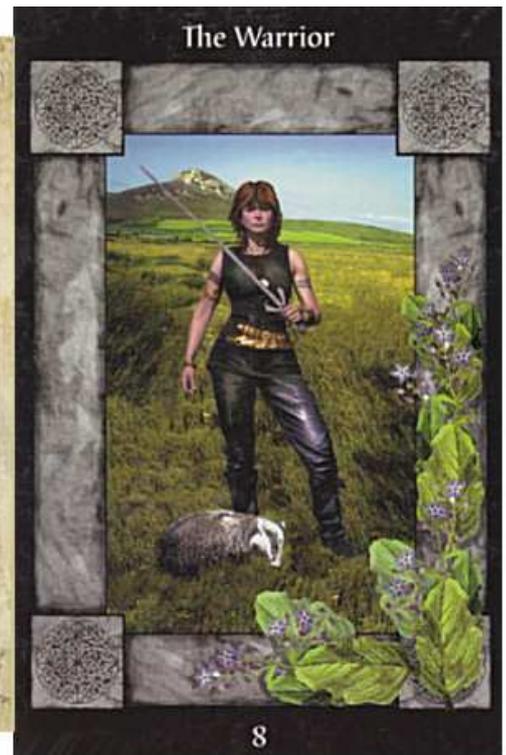
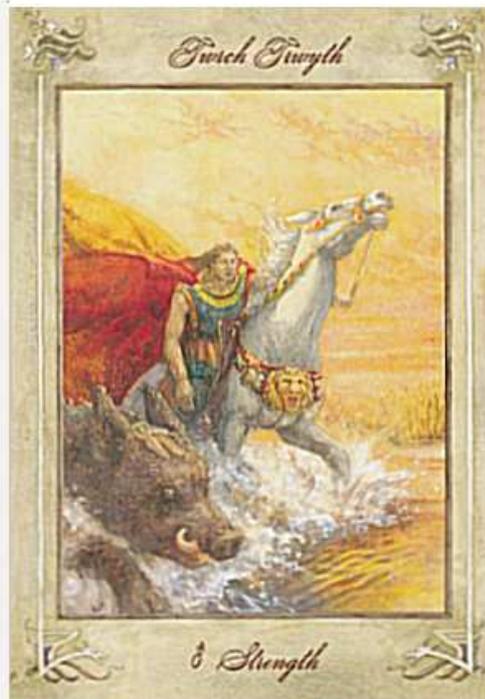




**A King's Journey Tarot:** Eloquence, Confidence, Self-Control. Approach the situation with charm but be firm in your stance. Be gentle and accepting. This doesn't mean be a doormat, it only means that you need to confidently step into your personal power. Experiencing events in life that challenged your self esteem and self confidence (scars tattooed on leg) has given you the gift of empathy. Use it to understand another point of view on a high strung situation. Grace under pressure.

**Mystic Faerie Tarot:** If you have found yourself in this thicket as night is falling, and you're not quite sure what to do, Strength would remind you to understand your inner dragon. Reconnect with the part of you that is fiercely connected with the deep power of the earth. Find the molten center that will fire your courage. Then infuse it with wisdom so you can wield your power with elegance, grace, and precision.

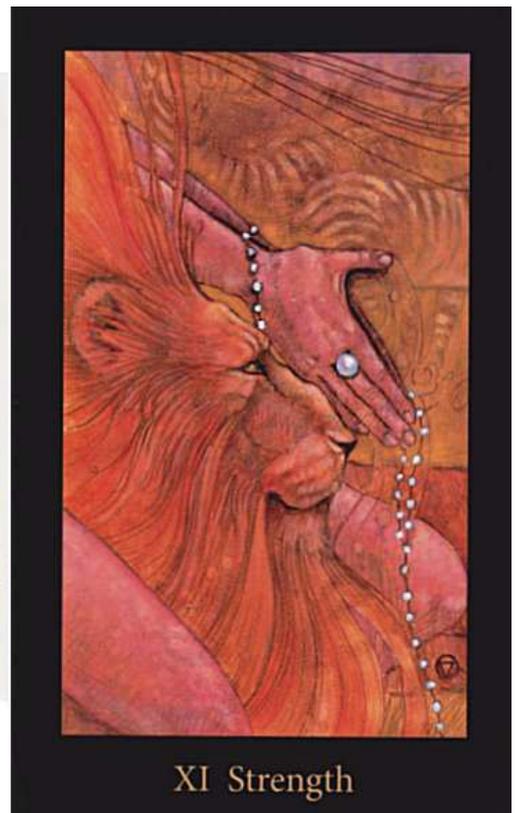
**Steele Wizard Tarot:** Courage. Control over one's own nature. Taming the wild forces within. Learning how to release one's fears. Uncontaminated strength. Mastery through kindness and understanding. Generosity of Spirit. The ability to love one's self in the truest sense.



**Wild Wood Tarot:** The classical Tarot image of strength is a beautiful, mature woman controlling or holding a lion. The Woodward, an ancient guardian of the Wildwood, symbolizes the inner power that comes from facing fear and understanding the nature of darkness. The inner strength that comes from this awareness gives the individual the emotional body language and the humility that says, 'I am not a victim. Treat me with respect. Do not mistake my passivity for weakness.'

**The Llewellyn Tarot:** In this card, Twrch Trwyth the boar represents physical animal strength, and the story entails a test of will, wiles, courage, and endurance in the vying for the comb, razor, and scissors that lay between his ears. Courage. The determination to overcome obstacles. Inner strength. Spiritual strength. Consistent effort. Conviction. Having the strength to persevere. Being able to withstand naysayers and judgments of others and not be deterred. Facing one's fears. Being true.

**Sacred Circle Tarot:** The warrior here is a psychic warrior, with body, mind, and spirit as weapons. These must be trained to work in harmony. The warrior faces her own fears, develops her spiritual courage and hones the Will. If the card of the Warrior appears in your spread, it shows that you will have the opportunity to put plans into action. It is a card of powerful forward-moving energies, indicating that you can master adverse circumstances through your determination and courage.



**The New Palladini Tarot:** Strength of body and mind. Good health. Careful attention to health and fitness. Courage. Fortitude. Healthy body, healthy mind. Ability to control the volatile, instinctive urges and channel them into good use. Dynamic energy. Gentle but firm rulership.

**The Gill Tarot Deck:** Strength shows the raw power of the animal nature symbolized by an earth-colored lion. Spiritually, this nature inhabits a desert, where all one can see are the bones left by what it has recently devoured. The desert is watered by the higher-conscious carrying woman, another aspect of the Priestess. She offers salvation to the lion in the form of eternity, symbolized by the double helix of flowers which join them together. Good internal polarity between higher and lower functions, leading to a full utilization of the individual's potential strength.

**The Mary-El Tarot:** The woman in the strength card is crafting her own soul, the lion, into gold. She is using her own hands to create her destiny. Strength is found in doing the work of one's soul. Of wielding the great power of one's soul. Of doing what is right, and what is right is knowledge that can only come from one's self. What is right only you can know. Accepting responsibility is easier if you always do what is right; in that way you will be caressing the dangerous mouth of the lion. Knowing what is right comes from knowing one's own soul and trusting in the greatness of it.