

# LILITHA UND LICHT

*The Dark Goddess Tarot*

Shadow Work • Sovereignty • Reclamation

Silver Dawn Publishing

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*This deck is dedicated to every woman who has been called too much, too loud, too sexual, too angry, too demanding. To every woman told to be smaller, quieter, more palatable. To every woman who looked at those demands and said: No.*

## A WORD OF WARNING

This is not a 'love and light' deck.

Lilitha und Licht is a deck for shadow work, for reclaiming what you've been told to hide, for facing the parts of yourself you've been taught to fear. This deck will not comfort you with gentle platitudes. It will hold up a mirror to show you where you've betrayed yourself, where you've given away power to avoid rejection, where you've made yourself smaller to be loved.

Working with Lilith's energy is intense, uncomfortable, and transformative. She does not make things easier. She makes things true.

If you're drawn to this deck, ask yourself: Am I ready to face my shadow? Can I handle seeing the ways I've betrayed myself? Am I willing to reclaim my power even if it makes others uncomfortable?

If the answer is yes—welcome. The wilderness awaits.

# WHO IS LILITH?

## The First Woman

According to Jewish mystical tradition, Lilith was Adam's first wife, created from the same earth as him—not from his rib like Eve. When Adam demanded she submit to him sexually (lie beneath him), Lilith refused. She declared herself his equal, spoke the secret name of God, and flew away from Eden.

God sent three angels to bring her back. They threatened that if she didn't return, 100 of her demon children would die each day. Lilith refused. She chose sovereignty over safety, freedom over acceptance, the wilderness over submission.

This is why Lilith has been demonized for millennia: She said no.

## Ancient Origins

The name Lilith likely derives from the Mesopotamian 'lilitu' (female demon) or 'lili' (storm spirit). She appears in Sumerian mythology as a dark, winged goddess associated with storms, night, and sexuality. The famous Burney Relief (circa 1800 BCE) shows a winged goddess standing on lions, flanked by owls—many scholars identify this as Lilith or a predecessor goddess.

Throughout history, Lilith has been called: the night demon, the baby-killer, the seductress, the storm spirit, the screech owl, the mother of demons. Every culture that encountered her tried to control her by making her monstrous. They couldn't contain her, so they made her terrifying.

## Modern Reclamation

Today, Lilith has been reclaimed as a symbol of feminine sovereignty, sexual autonomy, and the refusal to submit to patriarchal authority. She represents the woman who will not be tamed, the rage that has been suppressed, the sexuality that has been shamed, the power that has been feared.

This deck honors Lilith not as demon but as divine feminine in her wild, untamed form. She is the shadow we've been taught to hide, the voice we've been told to silence, the desire we've been shamed for feeling.

# THE SACRED SYMBOLS OF LILITH

## The Serpent

The serpent is one of Lilith's primary symbols, representing transformation, kundalini energy, ancient wisdom, and the shedding of old identities. In many traditions, Lilith is identified with the serpent in the Garden of Eden who offered Eve the apple of knowledge—not as temptation but as liberation.

The serpent appears throughout this deck as black serpents coiling around figures, offering wisdom, or representing the life force energy (sexuality, power, creativity) that Lilith embodies. The serpent sheds its skin; Lilith sheds false identities imposed by others.

## The Owl

White owls appear throughout this deck as symbols of night vision, seeing in darkness, and wisdom found in shadow. Owls flank the winged goddess on the Burney Relief, representing Lilith's domain—the night, the unconscious, the truths hidden from daylight.

Owls hunt silently in darkness, just as Lilith moves through shadows with precision and power. The owl teaches us to trust our night vision—to see clearly even when the path is dark, to trust what emerges from the unconscious.

## The Wings

Lilith is depicted with enormous dark wings—symbols of her freedom, her refusal to be grounded or contained, her ability to fly away from any situation that demands her submission. The wings represent sovereignty, the power to leave, the choice to say no.

## Storm and Red Lightning

Storm backgrounds with red lightning appear throughout the deck, representing Lilith's origins as a storm spirit, the chaos that precedes transformation, divine feminine rage, and the destructive power necessary for creation. The storm is not punishment—it's purification. The red lightning is passion, life force, the blood of menstruation and birth.

## The Color Palette

**Black:** The night, the void, the unknown, the shadow, mystery, the womb of creation

**Red:** Blood, menstruation, birth, death, passion, rage, life force, vitality

**Silver:** The moon, intuition, feminine cycles, reflection, the mirror that shows truth

**Storm Grey:** Chaos, transformation, the space between destruction and creation

# WORKING WITH THIS DECK

## Preparing to Work with Lilith's Energy

Before you use this deck, understand what you're invoking. Lilith will not coddle you. She will show you where you've abandoned yourself, where you've silenced your voice, where you've made yourself small. This can be painful. It can also be profoundly liberating.

Create sacred space before your first reading. Light a red or black candle. Speak aloud: 'Lilith, I honor you as the dark goddess who refused submission. I call on your wisdom to show me where I need to reclaim my sovereignty. Show me the truth, even when it's uncomfortable.'

## Shadow Work Questions

Use this deck for shadow work by asking:

- Where have I betrayed myself to keep the peace?
- What anger am I not allowing myself to feel?
- Where have I prioritized being liked over being authentic?
- What aspect of my sexuality have I been taught to hide?
- Where do I need to say no?
- What power have I given away to avoid rejection?

## Daily Practice

Each morning, draw one card while asking: 'What aspect of my shadow needs attention today?' Sit with the card's imagery. Notice what makes you uncomfortable. That discomfort is information—it shows you where your shadow lives.

Keep a shadow work journal. Record not just the card meanings but your emotional reactions. The cards that trigger you most strongly are your greatest teachers.

# THE MAJOR ARCANA

The 22 Major Arcana cards represent the archetypal journey through shadow and sovereignty. In this deck, each Major Arcana features Lilith in her various forms—sometimes as beautiful woman, sometimes as serpent, sometimes as owl—always embodying the card's energy through her lens of fierce feminine power.

## 0 - THE FOOL

Innocent beginning, leap of faith, trust in the unknown. Lilith stands at the cliff edge, about to step into the void. A white owl circles overhead, and a black serpent coils at her feet. Storm clouds gather on the horizon. The Fool as Lilith teaches us that true freedom begins with the willingness to leave everything familiar behind. Shadow work: What safety are you clinging to that's actually a cage?

## I - THE MAGICIAN

Manifestation, personal power, divine will. Lilith stands at her altar bearing the four elements: serpent-bladed sword, blood-filled chalice, red lightning wand, and silver pentacle. One hand points to the storm sky above, the other to the earth below. She teaches that you already have all the tools you need. Shadow work: What power have you been afraid to claim?

## II - THE HIGH PRIESTESS

Intuition, hidden knowledge, the veil between worlds. Lilith sits between two pillars with white owls on her shoulders. Behind her, a veil embroidered with serpents conceals mysteries. She holds a scroll written in her own blood. Shadow work: What truth are you afraid to speak because you can't prove it?

## III - THE EMPRESS

Abundance, creativity, sensual embodiment. Lilith reclines in a field of blood roses, naked and unashamed, visibly pregnant with creative power. Serpents coil through her hair like a crown. Shadow work: What sensual pleasure have you been denying yourself?

## IV - THE EMPEROR

Authority, structure, sovereignty. Lilith sits on a throne carved from storm clouds and red lightning, wearing a crown of thorns. Unlike the traditional Emperor who rules through dominance, Lilith shows sovereign power—ruling yourself. Shadow work: What boundaries do you need to enforce?

## **V - THE HIEROPHANT**

Tradition, spiritual authority, established systems. Lilith as Hierophant questions: Whose rules are you following? Which traditions serve you and which oppress you?

## **VI - THE LOVERS**

Sacred union, choice, values alignment. Lilith teaches that true intimacy requires choosing yourself first—you cannot give what you do not have.

## **VII - THE CHARIOT**

Willpower, determination, mastery. Lilith drives a chariot pulled by serpents and owls—opposing forces harnessed through will.

## **VIII - STRENGTH**

Courage, gentle power, integration. Lilith gently closes the jaws of a storm beast—strength is not domination but integration of shadow.

## **IX - THE HERMIT**

Solitude, inner wisdom, the inward journey. Lilith alone in the wilderness, holding a lantern of red lightning—finding truth in isolation.

## **X - WHEEL OF FORTUNE**

Cycles, fate, karma. The wheel turns with serpents ascending and descending—what goes around comes around.

## **XI - JUSTICE**

Karmic balance, truth, accountability. Lilith holds sword and scales—true justice requires seeing clearly without sentimentality.

## **XII - THE HANGED MAN**

Surrender, new perspective, sacrifice. Lilith hangs willingly from a tree, gaining vision through voluntary suspension.

## **XIII - DEATH**

Transformation, endings, rebirth. Lilith as skeletal serpent shedding skin—death is transformation, not finality.

## **XIV - TEMPERANCE**

Alchemy, integration, balance. Lilith pours blood between two chalices—mixing shadow and light creates wholeness.

## **XV - THE DEVIL**

Shadow, bondage, materialism. Lilith IS the Devil in this deck—showing that what others call demonic is often just unbounded feminine power.

## **XVI - THE TOWER**

Sudden upheaval, necessary destruction. Red lightning strikes the tower built on lies—truth destroys false structures.

## **XVII - THE STAR**

Hope, healing, renewal. After the tower falls, stars emerge—Lilith naked under starlight, healing begins in vulnerability.

## **XVIII - THE MOON**

Illusion, intuition, the unconscious. The dark moon is Lilith's domain—trust what emerges from darkness.

## **XIX - THE SUN**

Vitality, truth, clarity. Even shadow goddesses need light—the sun reveals what the moon concealed.

## **XX - JUDGEMENT**

Reckoning, calling, rebirth. The trumpet sounds—are you living your truth or someone else's version of you?

## **XXI - THE WORLD**

Completion, cosmic consciousness, integration. Lilith dances, having integrated every aspect—shadow and light, wild and wise, fully herself.

# THE MINOR ARCANA

The 56 Minor Arcana cards address day-to-day situations through Lilith's lens of sovereignty and shadow work. Each suit carries elemental energy filtered through her dark goddess wisdom.

## **SWORDS - Air, Mind, Truth**

Swords appear as serpent-bladed weapons, often dripping red blood drops. They represent mental clarity that cuts through illusion, painful truths that must be spoken, and the sharp precision of thought unencumbered by people-pleasing. What truth are you afraid to speak?

## **WANDS - Fire, Will, Passion**

Wands manifest as living branches blazing with red lightning. They represent creative fire, sexual energy, the willpower to manifest desires, and the rage that fuels transformation. What desire have you been taught to suppress?

## **CUPS - Water, Emotion, Intuition**

Cups appear as black chalices filled with red wine or blood. They represent emotional truth, the courage to feel deeply, intuitive knowing, and the vulnerability required for authentic connection. What emotion are you not allowing yourself to feel?

## **PENTACLES - Earth, Body, Manifestation**

Pentacles manifest as silver coins inscribed with Lilith's sigil. They represent embodied existence, material sovereignty, the body as sacred, and the power of manifestation. What material resource have you been afraid to claim?

## IN CLOSING

Lilitha und Licht is not a deck for everyone. It's a deck for the women who have been called 'too much.' For the ones who have been told to be smaller, quieter, less demanding, more accommodating. For the ones who looked at those demands and said: No.

This deck will not tell you that everything happens for a reason. It will not promise that if you just think positive thoughts, the universe will provide. It will not offer spiritual bypass dressed as wisdom.

Instead, this deck will show you where you've betrayed yourself. Where you've silenced your voice. Where you've prioritized being liked over being authentic. Where you've given away power to avoid being alone.

And then—if you're brave enough to do the work—it will show you the way back to yourself.

*The wilderness is not a punishment.*

*It's where you find your power.*

*Lilith is waiting.*

*Are you ready?*

Blessed be the shadow.

Blessed be the serpent.

Blessed be the ones who refuse to bow.