



Skunk: Reputation

This furry little animal has a reputation that contains a great deal of power. Due to its distinctive behaviour, humans give this tiny, smelly creature a wide berth. The keyword here is respect. Unlike other predatory animals, Skunk does not threaten your life but threatens your senses. You know this to be true if you have ever been in the vicinity of its spray. It is easy to notice the playfulness and nonchalance of Skunk's natural behaviour. The "I-dare-you" attitude of this four-legged creature commands you, as the observer, to respect its space by mere reputation alone.

Skunk is teaching you that by walking your talk and by respecting yourself, you will create a position of strength and honoured reputation. The carriage of your body relates to others what you believe about yourself. There is no need to bully, aggravate, torment, or overpower other beings when your sense of "self" is intact. As with Skunk, the resonant field of energy around your body is relayed through the senses. Self-esteem permeates the body's energy, and is instantly recognized on an extrasensory level by others.

Learn to assert, without arrogance, what you are. Respect follows. Your self-respectful attitude will repel those who are not of like mind, and yet will attract those who choose the same pathway. As the odour of Skunk attracts others of its kind, it repels those who will not respect its space.

Skunk medicine people also know how to use the energy flows that will attract a lover. Some people call this sexual magic, as it is akin to the musk scent that animals excrete to attract a mate. It can be dangerous to leak sexual energy if you are not looking for a mate. If you are attracting others who have an interest in you, you are in a sense saying, "I'm available." This can cause hard feelings if you are not available. It also leaks energy that you could have used in a more constructive way.

In Skunk medicine, it is good to learn how to handle energy flows. Modern psychologists call this body language. In tribal teachings, this is your person medicine which you are showing to others. Use your medicine well, and know that you are known by your reputation. How you use your energy will attract either honour or disgrace. You may want to examine what energy you are putting out that creates your present situation.

Today, Skunk is asking you to notice the kinds of people who are attracted to you. If they emulate favourable characteristics, have enough self-esteem to recognize those characteristics within yourself. Walk tall and be proud of your accomplishments. Bear in mind that what you believe about yourself is your ultimate protection. Project self-respect!

Or Skunk Medicine can indicate that your self-esteem seems to others as if you are putting on airs. Observe whether or not you are repelling others in your vicinity because of envy, jealousy, or a projection of their low self-esteem. Examine your feelings. Be truthful with yourself. Right the situation by assuming the attitude of Skunk: nonchalance. In assuming nonchalance, you are neutralizing the effect of leaking energy.

In leaking vital energy, you may be stinking up your environment. This is similar to dumping all of your woes on anyone who will listen. If you are doing this, it may be time to go within. You may also be leaking sexual energy and repulsing the object of your interest. That person may be too shy to tell you not to. Look deeply at your self-image and how others are reacting to it.

To balance the causes and effects of your actions and energy flows, you must decide whether or not you need to spray in the direction of others to repel their envy, greed, jealousy, or over-amorous tendencies. On the other hand, you need to always maintain your "right to be". Self-respect is the key to all of these situations, whereas arrogance is merely what you believe yourself to be. Skunk says, "If your ego is not your amigo, you know it stinks."

Adapted from: Jamie Sams and David Carson's book, Medicine Cards. (Santa Fe: Bear and Company, 1988).