

0 THE FOOL

Key Words: openness, trust; ready to take a risk; courage to stand your ground; freedom, independence; creativity; great potential; possibility to take a quantum leap; listening to the heart's voice.

The Fool is represented by the god of Spring, Dionysus. The green color reminds us of the powerful creative force of Spring. The crocodile (the ancient Egyptian god of creativity) is also the bearer of the greatest creative powers.

The long umbilical cord, connection to cosmic oneness, wraps the Fool in four spirals. The possibility of rebirth is given on all four planes of human existence: spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical. The prerequisite is your readiness to change in all areas; your responsibility to self-development.

The four spirals are described as follows:

The first spiral surrounds the heart in heart-shape. It stands for emotional rebirth, the recognition, perception and acceptance of true emotional needs.

The second spiral bears three symbols. The dove represents vulnerability and sensitivity as requirements for love of oneself and others. The ability to set limits and say »No« in unclear relationships is also needed. The butterfly means transformation (the caterpillar becomes the butterfly). The snakes wrapped around each other (Caduceus) are a symbol for engagement in healing and health.

On **the third spiral** lay two naked children entwined. Their presence brings the realm of relationship into the picture. The quality of your relationships with family, friends, business associates and deep emotional bonds must be re-examined and re-evaluated. Which people do you really want around you?

The fourth spiral is occupied by the tiger and the crocodile. The crocodile urges for the development of creative abilities in work and career. The rose it wears symbolizes the unfolding of creative powers.

The crocodile's powerful jaws testify to its endurance and leadership qualities, as well as to the ability to work independently and self-sufficiently. It is possible to break through old, worn-out conditioning.

The tiger symbolizes fear (see Princess of Wands). Dionysus is repeatedly bitten by this tiger, but his gaze remains directed forward. He gives no attention to fear, so it has lost its power over him. The tiger cannot injure him at all. His unshakable faith in existence allows him to be aware of fearful feelings without being their victim. He is liberated, able to be receptive for mystical peak experiences and interpersonal interaction. Basic, dynamic powers are released which drive forward. The onrushing creative unfolding process cannot be held back.

The Fool holds a cup with a base of crystal in his right hand and a burning torch in his left. These are alchemical symbols (see the card XIV Art). They show the meeting of opposite forces which creates the energy for the transformation, the quantum leap, to take place.

The grapes, symbols of fertility, are ripe for harvest. The white spots on the golden background mean Fall (harvest time); falling leaves, dropping, letting go, surrender. The coins at the right, engraved with astrological symbols, reflect the overflowing wealth on all planes which comes when you give your creative energies full rein to unfold.

The horns Dionysus wears reflect expanded perception. The rainbow surrounding his head means wholeness, Unity, the bridge between heaven and earth, inner and outer. Between his legs is a cluster of flowers which represents the process of transformation. At the bottom, the active aspect (the three flowers to the left symbolize body, mind and spirit combines with the passive aspect, receptivity, willingness to learn. The simple blossoms below, when united, give birth to the many-petalled blossom above.

The sun symbolizes the creative and transformatory powers released by the melting of basic sexual energy.

Indications: You are ready for a new beginning, perhaps even a quantum leap. Give in, dare to leap, even if fear attempts to hold you back. Trust the voice from within your heart.

Questions: What is the »tiger of fear« for you? How do you imagine the courageous leap into the new? What does it look like? Where does your heart call you to go?

Suggestion: Draw other cards for the above questions if their answers are not clear for you.

Affirmation: I now follow my heart. I am open, and ready to go wherever it may lead me.

Fear Not. What is not real, never was and never will be. What is real, always was and cannot be destroyed
- Bhagavad Gita

THE FOOL is the universal principle that is associated with the state of consciousness that we experience before birth and after death. In life's experience, this state of consciousness is often labeled or experienced as being mystical, transcendent, ecstatic, and transpersonal in its nature.

The portraiture of the Fool is represented by Dionysus, the Spring-time god who is wrapped with four coils of a large umbilical cord. With his Bacchus horns and grapes, Dionysus represents the creative power of giving birth to new forms from a state of

wonder and anticipation, rather than from fear. The Oriental symbol of fear is the tiger. Fear attempts to gnaw at his leg, yet Dionysus doesn't give any power to fear. He looks straight ahead; therefore, fear (the tiger) can- not make a dent.

The Fool's rich capacity to give birth to various forms is represented by his green tunic and the different swirls of the umbilical cord. The first swirl of the umbilical cord goes around the heart as a symbol of the Fool's nature to give birth to new feelings; the second swirl has four symbols resting upon it as ways of giving birth to new ways of health and well-being (the caducei, the winged serpents facing each other); birth to new ways of transforming (the butterfly); birth to new ways of setting limits to vulture-like people and situations (the vulture); and birth to new ways of being compassionate with one's vulnerabilities and sensitivities (the dove). The third swirl of the umbilical cord reveals two people intertwined in an embrace which represents our capacity to give birth to new forms of relationship; and the last coil of the umbilical reveals the Egyptian Crocodile God, Souchos. At one period in Egypt, crocodiles were thought of as oracles and were embalmed when dead (Leach and Fried). The crocodile represents the power to give birth to creative vision in our work and creativity.

The Fool is the alchemist who holds fire in one hand and the upside-down cup in the other hand. He unifies feelings (water) with energy and vision (fire) to create original and innovative ideas (steam, the white drops in the background). The Fool uses his multiple talents (the astrological signs on the coins) to generate abundance (the bag full of coins) and fruitfulness (the grapes). With his sun-belt, he commits himself to bringing creativity into solid usable matter. The Fool represents the ecstatic adventure of growing and unfolding in our own journey of the hero and the heroine (the flowers between his legs in their different stages of growth and unfoldment).

THE PRINCIPLE OF COURAGE; STATE OF NO FEAR; ECSTASY AND PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Fool as Life-Time Symbol

For those individuals whose birthday adds up to the number 22, the Fool represents their life-time personality symbol. The number 22 is the twenty-second symbol of the Major Arcana and is also the number zero (2 - 2 - 0). Persons born with this number are seen by others as being highly creative and in need of variety. Fool people are not foolish or fool-hardy. They are courageous and risk-taking. They come across fearless even though they might feel fear gnawing within them. They are drawn toward and tend to explore the mystical, transcendent, and transpersonal realms of consciousness. They inspire the sense of adventure and courage within others. Their sense of wonder and anticipation is contagious.

The Fool as a Visual Affirmation and Meditative Symbol

The Fool is an excellent symbol to use as a visual affirmation to enhance courage, risk-taking, and the creative expression that is needed to give birth to new parts of one's life. The Fool represents the energetic essence of who we are, the essence of ourselves which is always whole, healthy, and without fear. This symbol reveals the spirit of who we are, that spirit so often expressed and experienced in those states of wonder, awe, curiosity, and anticipation. This is an excellent card to meditate upon if one is experiencing a lot of fear.

Sample Affirmations To Use while Looking at The Fool

I am a radiant being.

I am a living treasure.

I deeply honor and value the unlimited resource of courage that is within me

I respect the nature of who I am.

There is nothing to fear.

The Fool as an Outer Mirror

Whenever you are drawn to the Fool or might pull it from the deck, it represents your ability to give birth to new forms from a place of courage, wonder, and anticipation. The Fool indicates that you are operating from the essence of who you are. Somewhere in your life you are experiencing the courage to be who you are without fear. This is also a creative time to implement the creative transcendent energy that is moving through you now.

Other Symbols which Are Aspects of The Fool

The Fool is the external expression of the Emperor (See the Emperor constellation in Section VI) and his combined leadership tools: the Four of Swords (truce), the Four of Cups (emotional luxury), the Four of Wands (completion), and the Four of Disks (power). The transpersonal aspects of who we are (The Fool) can be expressed outwardly in the world through our leadership skills (The Emperor) by expressing ourselves powerfully (Four of Disks) with emotional fullness and luxury (Four of Cups) in a complete (Four of Wands) and truce-making manner (Four of Swords). Operating from the fullness of all these symbols, we are able to let go and move forward (Death, Rebirth).

The Gifts and Challenges for Persons whose Life-Time Personality Symbol is The Fool

Gifts:

(The Fool) Transpersonal expression of courage through:

The Four of Swords (Truce)

The Four of Cups (Luxury)

The Four of Wands (Completion)

The Four of Disks (Power)

The Emperor (Leadership)

Death/Rebirth (Detachment/Creation)

Challenges:

To Trust

To Release Fear

Note: Special Reminder about Fool and Magician:

The Fool is the state of ecstasy and wonder experienced by all humankind. It is an inherent resource we all have that is waiting to be remembered and utilized. Therefore, the number 0, The Fool, does not come up as a Growth symbol. The Fool and The Magician are both incorporated resources for every human being to access and use everyday. The Fool and The Magician are never Growth symbols. They are resources we draw upon daily. (See Section VII: Growth Symbols).