

# The Triumph of the Tarot, The Hero's Journey



*This Fool drawn by  
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## The Triumph of the Tarot, the Hero's Journey

*Reference is to The Marseilles Deck of J.M.Simon and B.P.Grimauld  
Focus on The Major Arcana or 22 Trump Cards*

### ***Introduction to the Tarot Trumps and The Fool***

The basic design of these cards was around for over 400 years before they came back into popular use in the 1930s. Although the sequence and style of these cards had not changed much, the small details of character, pose, colour, names, symbols and their unique connectedness seems special to this particular Marseille rendition.

For example, some variations are present in the wheel and the tower. Both older and newer Tower cards show a square section tower with entrance doors and being destroyed by lightning bolts, but our tower is more subtle. Older and newer Wheel cards can show plain wheels or wheels with the four states of man being depicted, but ours keeps the story clean and simple with positive and negative, ups and downs. We won't talk about all the variations or try to trace all the different print-runs. There are many web sites and discussion threads that do a good job of this.

Tarot cards began to be formalised in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century, but examples remain from as far back as the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. They were individually hand-painted miniature masterpieces created for the King or Emperor and his family. It was a way for artists to gain the favours of the Royal Families. The Marseille design (French printing) dates back to the early 1500's in Milan (Italian designs). A wood-cut cary-sheet of six complete trumps and 13 part images still exists. The oldest complete 78 card Marseille deck relates to 1751.

There was a revival of interest in the late 1800's and early 1900's when the members of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn "discovered" links between the many Eastern and Western Mystery Traditions, such as Qabalah, Astrology, Numerology, I-Ching and Angel Magic. These led to the development of the Waite, Case and Crowley Tarot designs and from there, it has become a medium for artistic expression of every culture and hobbyist across the planet.

For many serious researchers and tarot purists there is a search for the "authentic" or "original" designs, the oldest surviving or the ones that best represent the mystical message. In recent years, the families of card-printers and current copyright holders have researched the oldest known examples and reinstated what they would consider the original intent, with many vibrant colours and all the lost symbology included.

It is possible that going back to the origins can mean that a whole section of evolution can be undone and lost. For example, it has been suggested that the four basic colours of red, blue, gold and black(/white) were simply an arbitrary selection made for commercial reasons when the 4 colour printing press became popular. This led to a loss in vibrancy and meaning when compared to the earlier hand-coloured or wood-block versions.

As we may see during our coming short journey, the Tarot Game and the addition of 22 picture cards to the existing playing card decks, evolved into a mystical book of knowledge that only the unconscious mind could recognise. Churches and Kings destroyed this kind of knowledge in the fires of books and manuscripts and mystics and witches. However, because the story is an Archetypal story, embedded deep within each person, throughout the ages, it will continue to surface and influence our lives, whether we recognise it or not.

It is my contention that this particular rendition best represents the Archetypal facets of the human consciousness which manifest at all levels of being, from the cosmos to the atomic and from humanity to the individual. The journey is the development of awareness of consciousness, from nothingness to the singularity, to plurality and relationships, from ego will to the recognition of divine order.

While the master alchemists of the early 1900's have achieved great things in recognising the links between historic cultural representations of these Archetypes, the myriad of modern tarot decks have lost the hidden truths in an attempt to show off a more personal artistic flair. There is no one "real" Tarot, and if one person says that this blue means water and has a feminine influence and another person says that same shape should be green and really means an earthly nature, is one right and the other wrong?

If someone says that the standard value and location of the cards Justice (8) and Strength (11) should be switched in order to better match an Astrological or Qabalistic structure, does that make all previous interpretations invalid? Maybe it does? In Science it would have to. Maybe that is one of the problems with Science?

I can hear you saying "If it works for you, use it, if not, leave it alone". If an exploding Tower (16) tells the story that you need to hear, isn't that good enough? Well, not if The Tower isn't supposed to explode. Why have a door in the tower if we don't intend to leave or invite anyone inside? Should the tower be square section, made by the male ego or should it be round, built by the female energy to protect and nurture the occupants. It kind of changes the story quite a bit, if you are using it to tell a story.

The thing about stories is that you just have to have one that you like and that you are comfortable with. Your inner-self understands you and can work with whatever you give it. It just needs to be clear and unwavering. Don't keep changing your story unless there is a good reason and a clearer outcome. It is like our beliefs – whatever we believe is what we will see. ***Believing is Seeing.***

Can The Fool shed any Light on all this?

## ? *The Fool (Joker, Jester)*



Card number 0 or 22 or in some cases, as here, no number at all. Appears at the beginning of the Trumps, or at the end or between 20 and 21 (Judgement and the World).

As far as the “game” of Tarot is concerned, the Fool may be thought of as being outside the realm of the Trumps. Not able to win a trick, but able to allow the player to survive the round. The Fool could be a “substitute” for any other card, hence the lack of a number of its own. It lead to the modern Joker, the only tarot survivor in today’s playing cards (outside of Europe).

The Fool is the Archetypal Free-Spirit, the care-free wanderer, the happy-go-lucky hitch-hiker standing by the side of the road. With a smile and a raised thumb he offers us the opportunity to join him on his journey for a short time. Seeing him always arouses some kind of emotional response in us. Depending on our attitude to carefree livers, we will either see him as a lazy drop-out that contributes nothing to society and expect “us” to look after him, or he can be our saviour, the person that puts perspective back into our lives, that shows us the way to live in harmony with nature.

The Tarot cards may contain messages that go back to our earliest civilisations in Egypt and Samaria, but the oldest surviving European designs are born in the courts of Royalty. The parade of the King or Emperors Court was something that everyone would have been familiar with and when playing-cards were extended into fortune telling aids, the order of the Trumps was well understood and they didn’t need numbering. As was their meaning and value. And, these early cards did not come with small white booklets of instructions.

In the Kings Court, the Jester is the Kings “spy”. He appears to be a fool and “plays” this part very well. He has full reign to go anywhere he wishes. He wears the clothes and colours of the court and everyone recognises him. Using his mystical powers he advises the King and informs him of plotting that might be going on behind his back.

The fool is no idiot and knows how to survive in the court environment, surrounded by powerful scheming individuals. He is the most powerful of all the Archetypes and has the ability to completely reverse any energy or situation just by the way he turns up. In modern civic parades you will see the jester or clown leading the parade along the streets. But unlike the other members that are required to keep their position and stay in order, the jester moves around and appears when and where he’s not expected. One minute at the front, the next at the back. Once he is up ahead of you, then he is right by your side or right behind you.

Although each of the trump cards has its position and number, and therefore can be given attributes and meanings, such as number 1 (the Magician) being an odd number, the One, the Beginning, the Creator and manipulator, when the fool appears before him, the 1 becomes the second card, now even and the energy is flipped. He turns negative into positive and vice-versa. He upsets the established order of things and gives us a new perspective to consider. This can be stressful or it can be enlightening, that is our choice.

Some modern tarot cards show the Fool with a Cat and have reasons to use the cat, but the "court" Tarot cards all show the Fools companion as a Dog. The Egyptians have a special spot for cats and mummified thousands of them. The Sphinx and Lion appear in other tarot cards, but the Fools friend is definitely a Dog. He is shown biting at the legs or buttocks of the Fool or even tearing apart his clothing. However presented, the fool and his dog should be always connected. The Dog is the Fools shadow self, his sub-conscious guide, his intuition. The Fool pays little attention to his dog but the dog is always there to guide him and keep him out of danger.

Being the reverse spelling of God, the Dog represents our physical or psychic nature, it keeps us connected to the Earth and automates our daily activities at the lowest levels (breathing, heart beating, moving, digesting food etc). We don't need to pay attention to these, or do we? We can ignore our God-self, our higher self or our super-conscious and we can do the same with our sub-conscious self, but both actions will come at a price. Both try to get our attention and if we continue to ignore them we loose our connection to who we really are and our life-force.

In court, the Kings Dog and his Fool are equal partners and would be treated equally. They are the Kings possessions and source of both pleasure and responsibility. The Fools power of Fire, Light and Energy have helped to create and destroy civilisations ruled over by the King or Emperor (card 4). We need to keep our fool out in front where we can see him and keep an eye on him. In modern civilisations we allocate special days to focus on this, such as Mardi-Gras and April Fools day, Halloween and New Years Eve. Let the fool play and vent his energy. Admitting that you have been a fool can dissipate anger and calm down the situation.

In modern times the Tarot has become a medium for the demonstration of our artistic skills. The message in the Tarot story has been lost or eroded and the images now being created represent the growth in Ego and Self. Our focus on the message in each individual card has allowed us to loose their connectedness. We distrust our Emperor and we are disillusioned by our Pope. We have turned our Lover into Lovers and turned our attention almost completely to our Chariot of youth and ego. With a bit of help, the Fool might be able to reintroduce us to the full family of archetypes and show us how to recognise them all, in the following Tarot Trumps.

## Fool or Hero (Poem)

The Fool appears, and then he's gone  
Oh, there he is, by number one  
He's out in front, with Dog behind  
It's out of sight and out of mind

A carefree dance, the Fool does make  
His shadow self, a path does rake  
Not held back by beliefs that limit  
Full expression of Divine Spirit

To live in contact with natural laws  
A child's mind can open doors  
To other worlds beyond this realm  
Its loving power can overwhelm

A growing urge to journey take  
A Fool may not a hero make  
No plan has this mind set in place  
Not prepared to win a race

He turns the tables upside down  
Effects our power when he's around  
From odd to even, black to white  
Left to right and day to night

From the Gods the Fool does come  
By the road, he lifts a thumb  
Will we stop and give a lift  
Step across a giant rift

At the junction, magic hands  
Distract us from our earthly plans  
All his tools laid out before  
We loose a coin, but ask for more

Fool and Magi, friends in deed  
Subconscious pathways set the seed  
Geometric structures, see them grow  
Endless spirals in the flow

John Eyre  
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## *I The Magician (The Juggler or Trickster)*



Our Magician is the part of us that recognises and understands the laws of the universe, the wonder of creation, the magic of nature. If we could get in touch with our own Magician we could create miracles in our lives and in the lives of others. If we truly understood the laws of nature and how we came to be here, we would behave differently to ourselves and to other life. So, why don't we see things the way they really are?

The Magician is also the Trickster. He lives in nature and stands at the cross-roads ahead of us. He has his portable table set up with the tools of his trade and he awaits our arrival. He is not worried that we might pass by and ignore him. He has an attraction that we can not resist. Our Inner Magician recognises him and wants to see him perform. We know that we are about to be amazed and confused and parted from our money, but the pull is so strong that we have to take part.

The Magician uses his tools, symbols, stories and slight-of-hand to distract us from reality and show us an illusion of his creation. We are so caught up in his illusion and the wonder of the Tricks that we are unable to even consider who the magician is, why he is here, how does he do the tricks and what the outcome is likely to be. We hand over our silver and become mesmerized and before we know what happened, he has vanished.

In this state of illusion we become dis-illusioned with the wonders of the universe. The Magician is not the Creator (although he can be associated with God or Elohim), he is the Organising force or Namer of things (or Adam – first Male Energy). By focusing our attention on the Magician (our male energy, our own manipulative force) we loose sight of the underlying “Magic” that brought the magician into being.

When we understand that the Inner World creates the Outer World we will let go of our obsession with manipulating the outer world. No lasting good has ever come from mans magic tricks on the cross-road of civilization. It's a long road back to re-knowing who we are.

The Fool has taken some time out of his wandering to entertain us and give us a clue or two. But this is only the beginning of the Fools Journey and there are many more lessons to learn.

## II *The High Priestess (The Popess)*



The Archetypal (pregnant) Virgin, the position of Full Potential Mother of Divine Life, looks back at her male counterpart and faces away from her future in Civilisation and Culture. However, the Magician is also facing away, looking over his right shoulder, wondering where the Fool is. As the Fool wonders through life, he too looks back at us, over his right shoulder. This is the Trinity of Physical Creation from Spiritual Energy, but the High Priestess has become isolated and must face her situation alone.

She sits with the Book of the Law/Prophecy (The Torah, ROTA, Taro) on her lap. It is open and she presents it to us. Unlike the Magician she appears not to hide the magic, the book is open, but can we understand it? There are no tricks and no tools, but there are symbols. She sits, quiet and passive, rooted until the end of time, between the two hidden pillars of good and evil, life and death. She wears a three-tiered crown, a suggestion of the trinity and the chair-back is draped with yellow material in the form of angel wings.

Her dark, cool, fluid moodiness demonstrates an endless patience as the spiritual power of the word descends into matter. She bridges the gap between logic and inspiration.

The Fool has now visited a different magic energy. He recognises a complete change, an opposition, a duality is being created, but how long will it take for it to become manifest?

## III *The Empress*



The Empress is the Mother of Christ and of All Things. She is the Madonna, the Royal Queen, the nourishing protective Mother. Spirit is born into outer reality through action and completion. She comes to reveal something new and rules over the Empire by Love.

Along with the Emperor, these parental archetypes are key players in the creation and manipulation of a multitude of scenarios for the Foolish child to deal with. We will be required to face our parental archetypes, over and over again. Our physical parents can not live up to the expectations of our inner parents.

In this card, the Empress continues in her sitting position but now looking right, towards the Emperor. Again, her throne has two columns that resemble angel wings even more closely than that of the High Priestess. She carries the sceptre and shield of the Emperor, but the sceptre is held very casually in her left (instinctive and spiritual) hand and the shield is embraced in her right arm (bringing love and warmth to the logical force). The Eagle or mythical Phoenix bird represents the Spiritualisation of Instinct. She fulfills the Prophecies of the book and reveals something new.

This card is concerned with the four mysteries of female energy: Formation, Preservation, Nourishment and Transformation, and the three phases of life: Birth, Growth and Decay.

As with all energies, this mother also has a darker side and represents the Black Witch and the Bad Stepmother.

The Fool has been born into a new world and requires the love and nurturing of a wise and patient mother.

### *III The Emperor*



The Emperor and Archetypal Father is the rational, courageous all powerful creator and ruler of civilization. It is the beginning of conscious creative power, the manipulation and control of nature.

Unlike most Tarot Emperors, our Emperor needs no sword and his shield is placed to one side on the ground. He rules by divine power. He fears no one, not even God. He is still clearly at the level of the gods. His sceptre is held firmly and vertically in his right hand (directed by the left logical brain).

The four (III) represents the square and the cross, bringing **law and order** into the place of chaotic disorder of Mother Nature. He is the supreme Father figure of Government and Community. He looks across group consciousness with overall control, like the queen bee or queen ant. There is no questioning of the all-powerful number four. As yet, there is no duality present.

The Emperor looks back at his partner and between them they are very comfortable in their joint rolls. However, as civilisation develops, the position of the Emperor and his Godly status and authority is challenged by a much more down to earth energy, Gods Spiritual Representative, the Hierophant or Pope.

When negative aspects arise, the Emperor becomes the cruel tyrant or evil dictator. The rule of divine right turns into Ego Might and the “small” people will be managed one way or another.

The Fool looks up to his father figure with awe. As he gets to know him better, the Fool begins to see the cracks appear. This father figure may not be quite what the Fool had first imagined. May be there is a better father figure out there?

## V *The Hierophant (The Pope)*



As the Fool moves from Emperor to Pope, from ruling by Divine Power to ruling by Innate Wisdom, which comes from being Gods representative on Earth, we see the beginnings of human sized figures appearing in the consciousness of this card.

The Pope is the Old Wise Man, the Guru, linked to the Hebrew Prophets and Saints, Infallible, even more powerful than the Emperor, because the Pope is both God and Man, Divine and Human, Male and Female. The Pope connects the inner and outer world, not through magic, like the Magician, but through the spoken word, through consciousness.

The two human scale figures in the foreground are some kind of trainee priests, they are the twins, the beginning of human duality, the positive and negative of individuality. However, they are not yet conscious of who they are becoming. They have their backs to us and look up to the Super-Human Pope for guidance, power and connection to God and Spirit. The Pope allows them to ask questions, but not to “question” his word. He offers salvation to the “fallen” but only through “Faith” in his power.

The divine connection with God means he needs no book, his word is law. He holds his staff of office in his left hand, showing he rules by the heart and love, not by force. This hand is protected by a single glove with the symbol of the eternal cross on the back, suggesting the everlasting position of the Pope. If this Pope dies, another will take his place. The gloved hand shows that even this Pope needs to have his humanity protected from the power he wields. The staff is topped by a cross in the form of two rows of three and headed by a seventh point.

Also, his right (Earthly) hand shows two fingers pointing up and visible and three fingers hidden, representing the duality and trinity coming together, and the magic number 23. The two hidden pillars of the 2 and 3 cards are now visible as are the beginnings of the twin human figures. The four elements of Fire and Air, Water and Earth, frame the Spirit element represented by the Pope. This power of 5 begins to raise man above the earthly energies.

Five is the number of Man and is typically represented by the Chinese Pentagram with legs apart and arms outstretched. Hidden inside this pentagram is a pentagon shape that contains its own upside-down pentagram – this is the Devil hiding inside all “men”. He is small and a reflection of our greater selves. Not to be feared or rejected but to be recognised and understood. Our Yang (Male) energy becomes the twin priests.

When the power of 5 (the Archetypal Pope) is used by mans growing Ego, an unstoppable force is released. The Light of the Pope casts a shadow from our growing twins, which can bring powerful negative results. How long will our fool stay in awe of his Hierophant? When will he begin to question the un-questionable?

## ***VI The Lover (The Lovers)***



In modern times, the romantic vision of a young couple in love has lead to this card being heavily misunderstood. Adding an “S” to Lover doesn’t seem like much of a change, and there looks like a “loving” relationship might be happening here between our young friends. But to change the focus away from the growing ego consciousness and highlight the marriage of male and female energy at this early stage is losing the plot.

Our lover, the young male ego “I”, is centred in the picture between two female figures, both appear to be claiming his attention, or his soul. Above and behind him is Cupid or is it Eros, ready to fire arrows of love or poison. There are no Godly-sized figures in this image, and the angel archer is also not seen by the Lover. Our hero is not aware of any of these things. His attention is caught up in the excitement of being surrounded by the dual aspects of female energy. This is the basis for nearly all human drama in the world. Almost every story ever written contains this situation in one form or another. We can spend our whole lives trapped in this card without every moving forward. How will our fool deal with this situation?

The female (Yin) energy surrounds the Lover. The young, virgin, Popess, full of life and energy and potential, looking like an ideal match for our fool, stands on his left. The older, wiser, mother figure of the Empress stands on his right. Who are they really and what are they talking about. Is the young woman his wife, his girl friend, his sister, his twin or may be the daughter of the older lady. Is the mother, his mother, her mother or his suitor? Does she want the marriage to go ahead or does she mean to break it up? Will he choose sexual passion or spiritual wonder?

Card 6 brings together both sets of dual energies into a single situation – the birth of human consciousness. The two priests from card 5 have become the single male ego and his dual energies are represented by the angel's dual nature of Cupid (Frey, Adonis, Krishna, Buddha, Jesus) and Eros (with bows and arrows and the drive to be One). This creates the central vertical energy, while the flanking female energies create the horizontal energy, creating a cross. Can we keep these energies in balance as our ego grows, otherwise, sickness and disorder will be the result.

The number 6 is created by adding or multiplying 1, 2 and 3 together. This makes it a very magic number and is the result of the power of the trinity as represented in nature. The symbol is the 6 pointed star which is made up of two triangles, one pointing up, for Heaven (fire, spirit, masculine, fate) and the other pointing down for Earth (earth and water, feminine, choice). The resulting star guides us on our journey.

Will our fool every break free of this card and continue his journey? Does he know where he is headed and will he want to go there? One more card will help to prepare him, or so he thinks.

## ***VII The Chariot***



The Ego Consciousness has reached a level of absolute frustration (or a higher level of awareness) with the energy in circulation in card 6, he finally decides it is time to break free and prepare himself for a journey into the earthly realm (cards 8-14), the realm of duality and balance.

Our young hero has crowned himself King and separated himself from all external influences. There are no women, no angels and no Gods in card 7 (or are there?). He has built himself a chariot and mounted himself high above the ground. Just like a seven year old boy, full of his new identity and control over his body, ready to dress-up and ride off into his expanding universe to show what he is made of and to impress his neighbours – his emblem emblazoned on the front of his chariot (actually, the initials of the card production company).

The Chariot has a roof, held up by four posts. The roof protects him from angelic and godly influences, the kind that appear random and un-called for. The four posts represent the 4 elements and the two twin energies of male and female. The red and blue horses (fire and water, the two twins, the male and female) are not separate from the chariot, they are part of it – see that they have no rear ends. Although they pull in opposite directions, they both look back at themselves in card six, as does our hero (well, he takes a slight glance back, is he going the right thing?).



He has two half-moon faces on his shoulders, representing the two female aspects – they haven't gone away, but will he be listening to them?

The young king carries his sceptre in his right hand, linking him back to the Emperor, but he holds it with much less commitment, reminiscent of the Empress. He has no reins in his hand and the wheels of the chariot face outward, in opposite directions. Clearly, this chariot is not going to be easy to handle.

The growing ego is needed in order to have the courage to even take the steps necessary to head off on this journey. Faith in the lord and a remembrance of the Fools innocent nature, with help to keep the chariot in balance and on track.

So, our young hero king has separated himself from the gods, his parents, civilization, culture and the energy of Love. He is determined to explore and make his mark in the physical world and however strange his vehicle may appear, if he can master it, it will provide what he needs.

The Fool is not quite so happy-go-lucky now and is beginning to feel some anxiety, but the journey continues as the wheel rotates.

### ***VIII Justice (Adjustments)***

*Later switched with Force/Strength (XI) to match Astrology and the Qabalah*



In this deck of cards, Justice lay at the entrance to the physical world where consciousness is made manifest. She is later moved to position 11, which also works well, being the centre of this level (8-14) and of the “whole” deck (1-21).

Without balance and justice, earthly life will be almost intolerable. But we know that life is out of balance and there is no justice in the world (or so it appears). So, why did the Fool come here?

The Chariot was created and made ready to take the journey into the realm of Ego-Consciousness. Justice shows the way to make the journey possible. Justice carries a sword and the scales, but they are not as they may seem. Her sword links the knife on the table of the Magician (I), with the sword in the left hand of the Devil (card XV and similarly in card X). When set out in three rows of seven, these three (I, VIII, XV) form the left most column. These are the only four examples of swords/knives in this set of cards and they are not used in aggression, not even by the Devil. In fact, no one is ever harmed in this tarot set, unlike many modern renditions. What about the Death card, I hear you say – wait until we get there.

So, Justice carries a sword in her right hand. It is golden, held lightly and vertical, pointing to heaven and spirit, it is male for discernment and logic. It is not a sword of retribution or of an eye-for-an-eye. It is a double-edged sword, used to cut the ties between past and future. Our hero can cut away from parental control and take personal responsibility for his own actions and ignorance. But, so too can the parents cut loose their foolish offspring and set them free.

The scales are held in the left hand, presented to us, out in front. The pans are empty and in balance. They are held together and apart by the horizontal female energy, but they only work as a balance due to the vertical male elements and the central pivot point between them.

Together, they create another cross, showing the unbreakable connection between male and female energy. As Self-Awareness grows, we recognise our opposite self and our oneness with all things. The balance is said to measure your heart against the weight of a feather, but the pans on these scales have nothing in them and the world is always in balance.

Justice sits on a throne similar to that of card 2, the High Priestess. The back of the chair is revealed and the pillars are visible. The book of the law that was in her hand has been replaced by earthly symbols. She stares straight ahead and with the help of the "third-eye" she intuitively feels an answer. She is often represented with a blind-fold, suggesting that Justice is blind, but Impartial would be more accurate.

In modern courts, Justice awards Adjustments, that is, there is no way to get "back" what was "lost", so a compensation is awarded. In nature, when something is "lost", a space is created and a new thing will make use of it.

How will our Fool feel about his place in the world and his interaction with others. He may decide to do what he knows best and take off on his own. As we approach card nine, it may well be that he wants to get away from it all.

### ***VIII The Hermit***



The Hermit is a well known and liked Archetype. He has been recognised in all civilisations and cultures for as long as people have existed. He is Spirit, the Wise Mystic, related to the Pope (V) and to the Emperor (III), he has turned his back on them and left town.

His connection to the Fool is also obvious, wandering the countryside in silence and solitude. Although he is out in the open spaces and seems to have rejected his training, he faces back towards his past. Unable to remove himself totally from his training and his



need for other human contact, he repeatedly finds himself returning to civilisation.

This Hermit is not a “preacher”. He doesn't stand on street corners and call out to people to listen. He travels in silence and brings himself. He holds out a lamp in his right hand. The light of his being shines out, but is shrouded by coloured glass. This protects both himself and others from being blinded and stops the light from shining “on” him. When we are ready, we can ask our Hermit to guide us to people, places, symbols, signs and ideas that will help us on our journey.

He appears to be carrying a walking stick in his left hand, but it is actually a headless snake. What could a snake represent in this picture?

Although he has a very large hood, it is not covering his head. His face is clear and visible, his eyes wide open and his third eye is well marked. His beard also connects him back to the Pope and the Emperor, showing the level of power that he carries with him.

We have an overpowering need to feel that we belong to a group, that we have a higher purpose in life and that we have something great to contribute. This can tend to make us look outside for Authority figures that we can “follow” on “their” mission. Not always a positive situation. Who should we turn to, to tell us what to do next? Our father or mother, a great general, a priest, our partner, a king, a judge, or a guru, or should we look inside ourselves for a guiding light?

To become “Enlightened” requires deep self examination, a lonely and personal journey, not a task for group therapy. The inner Hermit takes us away from our comfortable surroundings and shows us a light that shines inwards. We can ask for his help or we can be nudged. Failure to recognise the need for self reflection can result in forced periods of solitude, such as caused by the loss of a job, family breakup, imprisonment or hospitalisation.

Many people on the Spiritual Path will have a strong connection to the Hermit's energy, but it can lead to looking for an outer Guru to follow or even to becoming a “guru” or hermit yourself. The Archetypes are not there as roll-models for us to follow. It can be very dangerous to get caught up with trying to manifest their energy into our lives. Just as we can be lost in card 6 for a whole life-time, the Hermit is another potential whirlpool.

It is our job to recognise these energies and the messages and guidance that they bring. We need to listen and act, but not dwell in them. Buddha said “Life is a bridge, walk across, but don't build a house on it”.

As the Hermit heads slowly back home, the Wheel of Fortune turns behind him. Will our Fool see it and will he know what to do?

## The Hermit (Poem)

The Pope and Emperor went to see  
A Hermit, walking Quiet and Free  
To find the Light, that they had Lost  
Retrace the pathways, they had crossed

The Pope stands tall before the Men  
A Bridge to God, He offers them  
He brings the Spirit to the Four  
This Higher Power, unlocks the Door

No Book does this Pope need to read  
No Word from God to Teach the Creed  
The Law was not passed down to him  
His Heart dictates from deep within

The Twins can Ask for guidance Now  
But not to Challenge Why or How  
They recognize the Good and Bad  
Lost the Innocence that they Once had

The Emperor brought them to this Place  
Created Awareness by Gods Grace  
The Emperor Feared Not God nor Man  
Four Cards down before Ego began

What Power did Emperor and Pope display  
To help the Ego on its Way  
Think, then Speak the Word  
And Add a Meaning to what you've Heard

To know the meaning of the Name  
Will give a clue Of Who to Blame  
Not All in One but Separate Now  
Evolving Ego, on we Plough

We need the Light the Hermit brings  
To help us find those Hidden things  
The Wise Old Man takes measured strides  
No need to Fight against the tides

Not looking back or far Ahead  
No Scales to Test Mans Fear and Dread  
He treads the Path of Fool and Man  
Still present here since Time Began

His Eyes wide Open, He can see  
The Light that Shines from You and Me  
Not in the Dark can Shadows fall  
A Brighter Light makes Contrast Call

Add the Nine and Make No Change  
Your Numbers stay within Your Range  
Now look at what Appears Within  
A Golden Centre Lost from Kin

Don't Misinterpret what you See  
 Don't Seek a Guru that Looks like Me  
 Don't Start a Cult or Retreat from Life  
 Don't take-up your Gun or Knife

You can not be an Archetype  
 A Youthful Fruit that's not yet Ripe  
 May Search and Search for Greener Grass  
 And find no Spark in this Morass

The Sun turns to the Moon at Night  
 And Asks if She can shed some Light  
 To Guide the Traveler in His Plight  
 Step from the Shadows and Face the Fright

"Is there anybody there?"  
 "Is there anybody there?"  
 Give an Answer, Or Stay Still  
 Either Way, I Feel Thy Will

"I Will ..."

John Eyre,  
 June 2008

## X *The Wheel of Fortune*



The Wheel is one of the oldest of all symbols that carry forward into the Tarot Trumps. In this representation it depicts the cycles of positive and negative, of Fate versus Free Will. It is an endless process, turning beyond our control. It turns by no-hand. It rises and falls at the same time, not sequentially, in the way that we experience the passing of time. The golden headed dog on the right, moving up, is the Egyptian dog-faced god Anubis, a positive character. The Monkey god on his way down on the left, is Typhon, a negative energy. The opposites appear on each of the Tarot Trump cards, but are more obvious on some than others.

Justice (VIII) monitors these opposites with impartial wisdom, but the creature watching over the Wheel looks more like our Devil (XV) and mimics the Empress of card III. The Oedipus Myth is presented here. Oedipus was challenged by the Sphinx and although he won the challenge, by use of intellect, he still fulfilled his fateful destiny by killing his father and marrying his mother (Jocasta). The gods don't take kindly to being challenged by mans intellect, it has no real power over them. So, our female sphinx resides over the revolving fortunes of mankind. How will we deal with the ups and downs of life?

The black sphinx is one of a pair and in the Rider-Wait deck they appear together as the twin powers “pulling” the Chariot (VII). Each sphinx hides a secret underneath its paw, often depicting the universal “flower of life” (a sacred geometry) carved into a ball, it appears in both Egypt and China and many other locations around the ancient world.

Let's take a look at how the wheel works. As with all wheels, it's the whole at the centre that makes it useful and allows it to spin. If the wheel rim was touching earth, it would either stop the wheel from spinning or it would force the wheel to travel along the ground (like a car or a bicycle). So, our wheel is raised off the ground and held in place by a structure. A spindle is provided to allow the spinning action to take place.

The central hole is created by its surrounding hub and the hub is held in place by six spokes connected to the wheel rim. The six spokes are in the form of an I and an X, linking us back and forth to the IX (9, or VIII) and the XI cards. It also is the Greek name representing Jesus. A slow steady turn at the centre creates an enormous movement at the wheel rim, the edge or “event horizon” of the circle.

All circles and spheres are female energy and life manifests its behaviour at its surface layer (just like the earth and cells). The six spokes are part of the total male energy and are required to give the wheel its strength and structure. The greater the male energy, the longer the spokes, the bigger the wheel rim is and the faster the outer edge moves (a wild ride for our positive and negative friends sitting on the edge - like a Big Wheel at the fair ground).

The story so far shows the spiritual magic that gave birth to the gods that sit on their timeless thrones. The descent of spirit into matter gave rise to duality and the development of ego and time, as manifested in physical existence in a land of opposites. Our Fool has seen the development of human civilisation and the addition of cultural values but has rejected their injustices. He begins to look inward to his spiritual roots. How can he find an inner power that is capable of handling the world he now finds himself in?

The Fool faces his inner lion, the sphinx needs to be dealt with, but as with Oedipus, it isn't going to be by force of strength or by logic. Can our Angel of Strength help us here?

## **XI Force (Strength, Fortitude, Lust)**

*Later switched with 8 Justice*



Strength is the “usual” term for this card, but it is often moved to position VIII (8), where it better matches the Astrological sequence (Leo) and the Qabalah meanings. It is a female energy card, but is often presented as a battle of strength between Samson (or a similar character) and a Lion. This is the opposite of what is needed to tame or subdue the inner lion. Confront the lion and he will fight back. Love, respect and recognition will keep the lion calm and on your side, but is this the way that egoic man typically operates?

Placed in position XI (or 11), she has the power of the Magician and understands the laws that keep the wheel turning. Her lemniscate shaped hat is the figure of 8 and represents infinity and also links her to the Magician. If in position VIII, she would be placed underneath the magician, in our 3 row layout. But here at the centre of the trumps, she creates a link between the magic of the gods and the light-bringers of the unconscious. She shows the hero's ego another way to approach the world.

The Fool's small and unnoticed dog has turned into a huge and powerful lion, too dangerous to ignore. The human ego nature can now face its animal nature, but is not strong enough to deal with it. It needs its female energy, beauty and the beast, the frog prince. When the lion needs feeding, she must feed it, or it could rise up and swallow her, like becoming consumed by jealousy or overwhelmed by rage.

As we move beyond the fatalistic wheel, and learn to accept things the way they are, and not fight the turning nature of the wheel, we will recognise the devilish sphinx as a helpful guide to our inner nature.

When the Fool faces his own lions he will be challenged. If he can handle the challenge without a battle, it will make him stronger. But the wheel of life continues to turn and our Fool is facing a reversal. His world is about to be turned upside down. Everything he thought he knew needs to be reconsidered.

## ***XII The Hanged Man (Traitor)***



The Fool never saw the signs, or if he did, he wasn't able to deal with them. He has been turned upside down, reversed, not killed (yet), but hung between the two trees of life and the knowledge of good and evil. The poles of the gibbet are two truncated trees, each with 6 pleading stumps (making the 12 of this card XII). The man is hanging vertically from the female cross-beam that connects the two trees, like the bar that connects the pans of the scales of Justice.

With one leg free and the other tied, his magic hands hidden behind him and his head placed below ground level in a ditch in the earth, he is helpless and can only wait for some kind of rescue. He must have struggled for a long time before finally reaching this relaxed state of acceptance. Instinctively, we want to help him and we go to turn the card around. We see him happily dancing a jig in the mirror image of the dancer in the World card. His legs make the same figure 4 as the Emperors legs, indicating that the stability and law and order of the Emperors Civilised world have been reversed. The lions pride came before its fall. Where will our Fool go from here? Will he have a choice?

The man's intellect has been lined up with the roots of the two trees of life. These trees are pruned back to the trunk, but given time and the correct nourishment, they will spring force new shoots. How long will it take our hero to recognise his connection to the earth that now surrounds him? As the ego is pushed towards its teen-age years it faces the trials of initiation. The wood that surrounds him forms the coffin-box that represents his received beliefs. Will he eventually work out which ones to keep and which need to be revised?

The Hero was once firmly trapped between the two female energies in card VI (6), where the drive to escape and move forward came from above (Eros). Now he must look into his own depths to find the strength needed to refocus. For him to create the energy needed to grow the trees, he must first feed the roots. Before the branches can spread outward, the roots need to go deeper. Can our hero accept his state and put his faith in the father? Can a growing Ego-Consciousness be born again into its new Spiritual Journey?

In his upside down state, our Fool stares directly at the results of the anonymous reaper. He can not remain here in suspension forever, he must move on, as the wheel turns, he moves into the Shadow of Death.

### *XIII Death*



I said earlier that this Tarot deck has no negative cards and no one ever gets hurt. May be this is the card that I missed? It looks like someone did get hurt. Our twins are pretty cut-up. Let's see what it reveals to us.

We can see a reluctance to even name this card. It doesn't have the name block at the bottom of the card. Death wears a mask and comes in many disguises at many times. He brings the death of one thing and beginning of another. The number 13 relates to change and we don't like that, even when we are actually planning a change, we don't like to "loose" or give-up the old.

In the card, two humans have been dismembered. The ideas and intellect of the head removed, the persons stand-point or point of view provided by the feet, the activity, manipulation and creation of the hands, all lie useless on the ground. The guiding principle of the ego-crown of the King has not saved him and will not be his guide in the future. However, the crown is still intact on the smiling head, the hands and feet are set in the ground and have begun to take root and grow. If our hero can navigate the underworld and see the light, he will Re-Member, Re-Collect and be Re-Born anew, in card XX (20), if he chooses to be.

The boney skeletal figure represents the inner eternal part of man, the part that gives us support and structure, that survives our death. It doesn't look like us and we can not recognise ourselves from looking at our bones, but we know it is the basis of who we are, our inner spiritual essence.

The skeleton of Death is active and alive, in fact, it is so caught up in its own energy that it doesn't even notice that he has cut off his own left foot. As with all symbols, they are made up of both positive and negative attributes. These are not to be seen in our normal way of looking at good and bad. Nothing is either good or bad, for energy to work, it needs its opposite. The spokes of the wheel are not all on one side of the hub, each one has its opposite to keep it in balance. The better balanced the wheel is, the faster it can spin, without becoming unstable. The Scythe of Death is both the red blade of blood and fire and the shape of the watery crescent moon. It cuts down the old growth and initiates decomposition and decay as part of a harvest of life, but also creates the situation needed for regrowth and regeneration.

Death can not be avoided, although in our society we do our best to hide it away and to treat it as something to be put-off for as long as possible. Telling ourselves that we are spiritual beings and that death is not the end, will also not help us avoid its appearance.



As with the Devil, we need to look Death in the eye and recognise its importance in the cycle of life. No new growth can happen in a place where we cling on to the old. Each time death appears to us, we can be sure that a new beginning is just around the corner.

Can our Fool get past this card and drink the energies that the Angel of Temperance is already mixing for him?

### **A Skeletal Dance (Poem)**

The Skeleton dances across the lands  
Blood coloured scythe, held in both hands  
Feet, hands and heads, lie on the ground  
But bodies are no-where to be found

A Skeletal eye stares through a mask  
Watching over this challenging task  
Break down the old, to make way for the new  
How will this process affect you?

Not what he seems, this energetic lad  
Not quite the Devilish cad  
Not destroying for the love of decay  
You have to cut grass, if you want to make hay

The head of the king still crowned and smiling  
Intellectually damaged, but feeling no-thing  
Displaced from his feet, a new point of view  
A change for the better, oh, can it be true?

We never asked to face this despair  
We tried to avoid it, with all of our flair  
We don't like to live, but don't want to die  
What future revealed through this skeletal eye?

The wheel turned the lion on to its head  
Hung by his feet until nearly dead  
If you listen to me, the Angel did say  
You'll relive again, in a new way

The skeleton looks at the Angels wings  
Trying to see what Temperance brings  
Mixing the blood and the wine  
She stands at the end of the centre-line

Ego made from heavenly cause  
Came to Earth to gain applause  
Now it's time to face his fears  
Increase the light until he hears

John Eyre  
Jan 2010



### *XVIII Temperance (The Alchemist)*



Temperance is one of the Seven Heavenly Virtues and related to the Five Precepts of Buddhism, in the form of its meaning as the Virtue of Moderation and Balance, with particular connection to physical senses (food, sex, drugs etc).

The Aquarian water carrier mixes the two life energies together (male and female, fire and water, blood and wine, Yang and Yin, conscious and unconscious). As they mix, they spin and twist to form a plasma vortex of new life-force. The liquid becomes pure and clear. We need the power of the Angel to help bring these two opposite forces together without destroying one or other, or both. This happens in the hero's subconscious.

The Fool has broken free of his heavenly ties and traveled through the land of opposites driven by physical senses and ego consciousness. He now has a greater purpose, to journey into the inner-world, to seek illumination and self-realization.

Our Angel marks the final stage in the realm of duality. She wears a flower at the point of the third eye, indicating that our hero has reached a stage of awareness that separates him from normal earthly life and gives him glimpses into an inner world. He is not able to "will" his new spiritual experiences into existence, he needs to have enough faith to let his Angel guide him, unconsciously. If he can overcome his beliefs and opinions and hold the faith, the Angel will help him.

However, all Angels have the ability to appear less than helpful. There is a dark side to everything, including our inner Angels. If our hero is tempted to seek an outer Angel to help and guide him, he is likely to come face to face with a physical Devil figure, our next card 15 and the guardian of the underworld.

After a long period of suspension and lack of movement, the dual energies have now been mixed into a single power and are ready to be used in the unconscious realm. Through the journey in the middle row of opposites and balance, resided over by gentle female energy, the ego-consciousness has been allowed to grow. How will the newly formed hero react when he has to face the challenges of the deep?

## *XV The Devil*



Is it Satan or Lucifer? Did he fall from Heavenly grace or was he always lurking down here inside the unconscious mind of man? Is he jealous of mans relationship with God and his control over the Garden of Eden?

Whatever the Devil is, this card is quite unusual in comparison to most other Tarot representations of this Archetype. Not frightening or fearsome at all, he actually looks quite comical and strange.

He wears a hat with antlers, has blue bat wings, a breast plate and blue tights, has the talons of a bird, appears as a man but pretends to be a woman. He carries the sword of Justice in his left hand but holds it by the blade. He waves at us with his right hand and stands on a red anvil or cauldron. What can it all mean?

The hat with the golden antlers is the helmet or crown of the vengeful god Wotan. The antlers however, represent new life and spiritual growth. Does the Devil consider himself a god?

The blue bat wings links him to the night and the moon and shows that he is at his most powerful when civilisation is asleep, in the unconscious world. The blue tights and the false-breasts show his ability to present himself as a female energy to overcome our usual logical and sceptical attitude. He tries to mimic the Angels of Temperance and Justice. He wants to reside over the realm of earth but by the way he handles his sword in a very careless and uncontrolled way, he brings random acts of violence beyond human imagination. These are not malicious acts, they are the result of misguided thinking and lack of awareness and skills. The more “civilised” man tries to appear, the worse the results become.

When comparing this card to card V (5), the Hierophant or Pope, we see striking connections. The pillars have become the bats wings, the crown becomes the antler helmet, the godly cross is now the uncontrolled sword, the fledgling twins are now animalistic human slaves. This Devil seems to have an identity crisis, or does he simply reflect all the various parts of our own inner psyche?

The pans of Justice are always in balance. If we try to add more “good” to one side, the Devil (or someone else) will add some “bad” to the other. It’s just the way it is, we can’t make things better by filling the pans. The pans need to be lifted up together.

The two happy looking, sub-human imps are unaware that they stand in front of the devil, tied to his podium, with no use of their hands. They don't want to glance across at each other for fear of their own reflections and will not turn to face the trickster behind them. They can stay happy in their ignorance, but they will not develop their full potential until they recognise and make friends with their unconscious guide.

He introduces himself to us with a wave and a smile, but we still stand with our backs to him. We are reluctant to face our fears and don't want to acknowledge our inner drives. The Fool is going to need some prompting. Will Lucifer the light-bringer wake him up or will Satan way him down?

## *XVI The Tower (Lightning, the House of God)*



The name on this version of the card is “The Tower of Destruction”, even though it's French counterpart is “La Maison Dieu”. There is no “destruction” going on here.

Another ancient symbol, the tower reaches up towards heaven, but it is built by mans ego and fears. Tarot towers appear to be relatively consistent in their depictions and symbology, until you look more closely. This tower is isolated in the countryside, built from bricks with no sign of an entry door. It has three small windows and topped by a large crown. A strange fiery bolt of energy (unlike a lightning strike), lifts the golden crown from its top, expels the two occupants and rains down coloured balls. The crown is round but is the section of the tower round or square? Is this really the standard tower image and what can it mean?

Male energy naturally builds tall structures. It wants to grow and look out across its domain. Towers are usually built to reach up to heaven and bring the power and energy down to earth. Given that this tower stands in the unconscious realm, it would be expected that man would want to reach up to the heavenly realm, to its source of power and energy. Sometimes, towers were built to challenge and attack the gods, such as “Nimrods” City and Tower of Babel, which led the Lord to create the confusion of tongues and dispersion of the people across the land.

Our Marseille Tower was built from the inside, by the twins of our story. The two impish sub-humans in the previous card have remembered their past conditioning and have either borrowed or built a towering philosophy or religious belief system to protect them from having to face the Devil behind them. There is no doorway to escape or to allow new ideas in and the widows are too small to let in much light. Comfortable inside their tower, they crowned it King and settled down.

Once inside, no sword or cross or book or magic wand can reach them. The power of divine grace, in the form of swirling plumes of spiritual energy, has lifted the crown from its seat and expelled the twins, sending them down to earth in a shower of good fortune. The tower is not destroyed and the twins appear calm and not distressed. This is not a punishment or an act of anger or revenge. This is a gentle push in the right direction.

The twins will pick themselves up and dust themselves off and maybe sit down together to consider their situation, tower behind them and plume of heavenly energy long gone. They can't get back into the tower and in time they may begin to accept that it wasn't really working for them. They had their fall and now they complain about their bad luck and how they came to be in this state.

Can our hero pull himself together enough to restart his journey, move away from his fallen tower and look up at the heavenly stars, for guidance?

### *XVII The Star*



Here we see a human “mother-earth”, not a god or an angel, but related to Temperance. She kneels by the river of life, naked and exposed, in touch with her nature, but not concerned about us watching her.

Her view is not blocked by any tower and no suggestion of civilisation or culture is visible. She exists in the expanse of land and sky and she focuses on her task of using her two red jars to aerate the waters and return them to the river and land.

In the background the tree of life and the tree of knowledge that the hanged man was suspended between, have grown again and flourished. The Eagle (or Phoenix) of the Empress and Emperor has come to life as a bird perched in a tree, ready to fly across the land to the other tree.

The Seven stars are the 7 planetary symbols of the tarot, astrology and qabalah – the Moon, Mercury, Venus, the Sun, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn arranged around the double eight pointed star. Three stars align with the left tree and three with the right tree (gold for spirit, blue for water and red for fire). The centre gold star shines directly on our feminine nature. By proper attention to our basic natures, our water, air, fire and earth, our consciousness can be opened up and transformed into a wonderful shining light, fixed in position, geometrically stable and vibrationally in tune.

This is a solitary journey taken in the dark underworld, illuminated by tiny speckles of star light, flickering into our imagination and dreams. The female is confident in her own being, but she longs to be reunited with her male aspect. She is a little lonely, a little sad. She wonders if the newly ejected male twins will dare to approach her watery nature in the dark of the night, and face the creatures of the deep.

## *XVIII The Moon*



Our hero looks across the scene of the deep blue murky water that separates him from his goal, but also provides the means to bridge the gap. Lurking in the depths is a giant crawfish, a rather aggressive creature. On the opposite side of the water are two dogs (or a dog and a wolf) that block the way to the distant castles. The scene is lit by a moody moon. The face of the witch doesn't smile and she sucks in the energy from the earth and from our hero, if he dares to enter this card.

Some Tarot Moon cards show a path between the dogs that leads to the castles in the distance, but there are no paths in this hero's journey. It is a singular journey that belongs only to one person and they never travelled this path before. The wheel will turn and the cycle repeat, but it will be with a more enlightened hero on a new quest. It will look very similar but he will see everything from a new perspective.

The hero's ego has been deflated and he no longer has that drive to push him along. He hears no heavenly voice and receives no angelic advice. He looks up at the face in the moon, it doesn't bring a comforting feeling. If he acts the fool here, he could become lost in lunacy. He can not trick his way through this land, animal instinct will recognise the false approach. He needs to understand that all of nature has an affinity with man and given a chance, these scary creatures will be happy to help him.

The crawfish also looks up at the moon and provides a link between the unconscious watery levels and the heavens, through the land of earth. It creates a link back to the beginnings of life and provides a stable platform to step across the waters. The fools shadow self recognises the domestic dog and its primal wolf counterpart. The hero is beginning to feel more comfortable in this space and with his relationship to all of nature.

The moon-light provides a stronger and more consistent light than that of the stars alone, but it is still defused and a reflection of the power of the sun. It creates a softer light with less sharp edges. Things are not so clear-cut or black and white. Will our hero be able to see things clearly from now on, or will he need the light turning up?

## ***XVIII The Sun***



The twins have finally reached the stage where they recognise and accept each other. The male and female child are both happy with their differences and their similarities. They play together and touch each other without self-conscious reactions, safely protected in a walled garden. Sunlight and energy rains down on them and the face of the sun shines with understanding and compassion.

These children consume time and energy in creative and imaginative play but produce nothing tangible at the end of it.

There is no outcome that we can measure or evaluate, nothing to judge or criticise. We accept that it is good for children to play, but not so easy for us to accept that our adult nature should be allowed to express itself in such a carefree way.

When we compare these twins with those in card 15, the Devil, where they have their hands tied behind them and they are shackled to the podium that the devil stands on, frightened to move in case they reveal something of their animal nature (the horns, the hooves, the tails), the sun's twins are fully human and fully expressive.

A stone lay on the ground beside each of the twins, as in the tower card, and matched with the shrubs in the Moon, the Star and Temperance, a connection to the Philosophers stone and a reminder of the Alchemical process of turning lead into gold.

The vertical row connects the Pope and his newly developed twins, guided by the given word, through the Hanged Man that turns Civilization and Culture on its head and now shines the light of the Sun on our child-like natures. Will this be enough to wake up our hero to his inner nature or is light just not enough to catch our attention. Do we need something else, something that can't be ignored?

## ***XX Judgement***



We can stay asleep as the sun shines into our bedroom. We can look up and see the wonderful day dawning. But we can also choose to lie in bed, get a few more minutes of sleep. Well, not when the alarm clock goes off. Or can we still ignore the call?

An Angel of Judgement and Rebirth appears in a blaze of light and sound, trumpeting the call to wake our sleeping, "dead", hero. At last, he is able to stand and face the Angel that is the cause of his awakening. He is still in his box, but at least he is standing up.



Two older witnesses (the twins are grown) stand beside the box looking at our hero with expectation and hope. Their backs are to the Angel and they don't hear the sound or see the light, they just see their child, close to making a decision to be reborn to a new life.

As we have seen before, this Tarot deck is not like many other sets. Other Judgement cards show multiple people trapped in boxes and arising on the day of Judgement. This might be a nice religious story, but it is not consistent with the focus on the "One". That is the One as represented by our own personal consciousness but also that of the One human consciousness and the One total consciousness of all life, each one on its own cycle of development, Wheels within wheels, Fractal Nature.

The trinity face each other, by the power of heaven and the symbol of the golden cross. The hero is not a baby, he is fully grown and his twins are matured. This a re-birth into a new and changed awareness of who he is. A new life awaits. It might feel exciting but it could also feel rather frightening. The hero is still faced with the choice, to go forward and face the challenges or to retreat and hide away again.

Like the Lover (above in row 1) he has again, two human companions and a heavenly host. However, now he faces the Angel and sees its power and the human figures are all naked and transparent with no hidden agendas. A new balance has come to this group and the hero is willing to look for a higher cause to guide his decisions. It took the growing ego-consciousness to make the hero take the journey, but the journey itself has lead to an awakening. If the hero can take the next steep, he will be able to dance in the world.

## ***XXI The World (The Universe)***



Everything comes together as the hero becomes Self-Realised at the centre of the four elements (fire, water, air and earth) and the three pillars (severity, mildness and mercy), the two trees (tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil), and the duality (male and female, positive and negative) all with the spirit of the dancer.

Unlike the pattern of five of the Pope, this card is alive, vital and expressive, not hidden or secret, not given, but revealed.

At the beginning of the unconscious row, the Devil appears as a man but tries to show us his feminine side. Now, at the end of the row, we see a female dancer that is also male, but the scarf hides the evidence that would recreate that separation again. The scarf is in the form of a Hebrew letter Kaph, which is

associated with X the Wheel of Fortune and path 21 on the Qabalah Tree of Life, linking the creative world with the formative world on the pillar of mercy.

Our aware dancer keeps moving but currently stands on her right leg making a reversed figure 4 with her left leg, this being the mirror image of the male Emperor and the Hanged Man. She touches the earth lightly and twirls the two wands of the fool and the magician in opposite directions but always in balance, creating and destroying in equal measure, like the scales of Justice.

The two trees have grown together around her, enclosing and protecting her, but also giving her a space to dance. The garland shape reminds us of the number zero of the fool, where this story began and will end. It also represents the "O" in One and the twin-centred ellipse that is the basis of all orbital movement from planets to electrons.

The four living creatures at the four corners of the earth represent the alchemical process taking the Fire of Leo the Lion (man) and the Water of Scorpio the Eagle (woman) to create the Air of Aquarius the Angel (the child or son), all three leading to the creation of the Earth and Taurus the Ox (bull).

## Tarot Light (Poem)

Where does the light come from, I see  
From lightning bolts, with energy  
Reveals to me things once hidden  
Just a glimpse of the forbidden

When darkened world exist below  
The heavenly stars will start to glow  
Small points of light do help me see  
But not enough to set me free

The moon shines now, reflecting light  
Helps to bring us clearer sight  
Its face smiles down on mother earth  
So we can see her giving birth

We watch the sun rise in the east  
Dark shadows cast on man and beast  
Fear not this bright light in the sky  
This kind of power you can not buy

All kinds of things stand tall and proud  
Each one a small part of the crowd  
Although the sun-shine makes them clear  
There is a sound they need to hear

The light is strong, but they still sleep  
Along life's pathway, they do creep  
Oblivious to where they are  
A trumpet sounds, from afar



It's time to wake, from your deep sleep  
An inner light begins to peep  
Raise your arms and dance with Joy  
And recognize your girl and boy.

A world exists around you now  
Both animals and Angels bow  
The story comes to an end  
A complete review, I recommend

John Eyre  
Sept 2008

## *Epilogue*

Into a world ruled by female energy our hero was born as a man. He developed his ego-consciousness and separated himself from the nature he was born into. This separation led to a sense of not belonging and drove the hero on his journey of self-discovery. Now, with a new-found awareness of the duality and order inherent in nature, he recognises that he was always whole and that there was nothing that needed to be fixed.

These 22 Archetypes are symbolic representations of our inner selves. When we come across them we should guard against trying to become them. Not the Magician nor the Trickster, not the Emperor nor the Corporate Dictator, not the Hermit nor the Guru. We are the embodiment of all these energies and we need to learn to understand and make friends with them all, as a group.

We might make three cycles around this wheel in a given life-time. Not a fixed time-line, but a year in each card would tend to match these various energies. A newly born baby is wrapped in the energy of God and Heaven, helpless but completely supported and free. The 12 year old is turned upside down as he faces puberty and his teenage years. A 23 year old Magician can make a powerful Trickster and a 45 year old Empress enjoys her new roll as a grandmother. Having said all that, it is possible to spend a whole life-time stuck in a single aspect of a single card, for example a Lover relationship or a Pope style slavery or a battle with our lions.

The enlightened hero becomes a unique expression of God, he doesn't need to stand up or stand out. He has an aura of self-confidence, he is his own-man, not beholden to others or to any "special" system created by others. We feel a connection to him but he still troubles us. We test him, as he tests us. He has a different way of looking at things and what he says is puzzling. We can't really identify it, but we want him to stay around. We know he won't stay forever, and when he's gone he will become a distant memory, but the memory will linger and keep surfacing when we need reminding.

### ***Acknowledgement***

Although this booklet is part of a life-time of study and the reading of many Tarot and mystical books and personal experience, the choice to focus on this rendition of the Marseilles deck and the underlying psychological interpretation of the Archetypes, comes from studying the most influential Tarot book I have come across and I urge you to take a look at it.

**Jung and Tarot, An Archetypical Journey;** by **Sallie Nichols;** Samuel Weiser 1980

I include small images of the related Tarot deck as they are relatively unique and I haven't managed to find a definite source for them, other than the Weiser reference to "Tarot of Marseilles, printed by J.M.Simon/Grimaud, France" and some web reviews referring to a 1969 version printed on very heavy card – this appears to be the one used here (<http://www.angelfire.com/la2/tarotdeevah/tarot/tom.html>). There are other very similar looking decks, including ones by this printer, but this one seems to represent the story best of all.

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