

The Fool.

Let's start with the name. A fool is some-one who is not wise, yet anyone who thinks they are wise is foolish indeed.

There are links between a fool, acting unwisely, and acting impulsively.

For a perfect example of a wise man acting the Fool watch (or re-watch) *The Wicker Man*. Usually those who think they hold all the power are deluded.

Perhaps the impulsiveness is poised ready to leap without a care- and yet sometimes having a naïve faith in life is exactly what makes life work out. To be in the moment, playful, trusting.

The Fool is also connected with the Jester, the "Court Fool". This is a strange role- the Fool could say things "in jest" that no-one else could say. A hierarchy is a dangerous thing, because power corrupts – and so you need someone to prick the growing hubris and keep those at the top of the hierarchy from believing their own propaganda. The Jester was **outside of the hierarchy**- he was the lowest, and also the highest. He had no responsibility- but could hide truths in jest that no-one else would dare speak.

The number is also fascinating. 0. A symbol to represent no-thing, an absence of anything. In maths we use it as a place holder.

0 can also represent the ouroboros- the snake eating its own head, an ancient symbol of eternity.

0 represents no-thing, the void, eternity, and representing (I think) our soul- the part of us that exists both before and after this life. The eternal part of each of us.

Possibly the oddest symbol in the card is the **sun, the sun is white.**

The sun is white, all light is white- it is the full spectrum. When we see a colour for some reason or another, we are not seeing all the light. We usually see the sun as yellow because it is seen through the filter of the clouds. So, there is a suggestion implied (as we so clearly identify our sun as yellow) that this sun is not viewed from our earth, or this physical body.

And the white rose backs this up- the bloodless rose seen also on the death card.

And in Tarot The Fool is the one card most likely to symbolise pregnancy, or death. The eternal part of us that is nothing, yet also a part of everything.

If you look very carefully it appears that the **Fool is wearing a laurel wreath.** I relied on Paul Foster case's description, and a very careful look at the card, to persuade me the

Fool is wearing a laurel wreath- I can see the green leaves looking differently to his hair. When I first really noticed this I connected it with the World- and I thought of a babies head crowning, literally being born.

I think the combination of the Fool, laurel wreath, red feather is a feeling of how important it is to **experience this life**, a reminder that it is why each and everyone has been born. So many spiritual paths focus on reconnecting to source- they overlook the genuine blessing of experiencing this rich and wonderful life.

The black pole (or is it a wand- it clearly has at least one white tip) is replicated in the 6 swords and the 10 of pentacles. In both cases I think it indicates someone not in human form; a spirit guide, and an ancestor. We see a unique image in the Fool- the pole is not grounded or used to support him, rather it has a small knapsack or bundle on the end. A beautiful way to illustrate “travelling light” both psychologically and practically!

The dog is much talked about, and there are many different ideas;

- A faithful companion.
- His spirit guide.
- Warning him not to jump.
- His ego.
- Keeping him humble (he tears the trousers in some cards).
- His animal side.
- His wounding, or shadow self.

All of these could fit-it’s a question of understanding it in a way that works for you.

There aren’t many dogs in the Rider Waite Tarot. We have two white dogs in the 10 Pentacles, and the dog & wolf in the Moon. It’s worth noting, we have a black cat in the Queen wands, and a Lion in Strength.

I read the dog as his shadow self, those parts of himself that he has rejected or hidden. These parts are still with him and like with Strength these shadow parts are still a part of our whole- and so useful to us.

In the 10 of pentacles the ancestor is friends with his shadow self- the dog, are the two dogs reflected his shadow self, and perhaps the power of ancestral wounds?

I believe when we die, and are reborn, we carry a small amount of unresolved lessons we wish to learn more about- so it works for me that the dog is his wounded self.

What can this card tell us about life?

- That physical existence is a gift, to dance joyfully and not overthink or over worry.
- That there is an existence both before, and after, life. A nothingness that is everything.
- That each of the Major Arcana is a card we (The Fool-0) can step into in our life, but they are not permanent. They are a role or archetype we may identify with, or reject, but they are not us.

The Fool in a reading

Often the Fool is reflecting a new start, or the potential for a new start in life.

You may be being asked to trust the process, believe in the potential, or even take a leap of faith.

In relationship readings this could indicate falling in love, a baby, or a new start.

It could be a warning against being reckless, depending on the other cards.

I've seen it represent death- but only if relevant to the question. (e.g. my elderly mother is in a care home and not happy, will she pass soon- the Fool would indicate wanting to pass, or death itself)

If World is ending, and beginning- then the Fool is the crowning moment, the birthing, of the new start.

I love the Fool wears a laurel wreath, not a crown to show his authority- he has no need of that.