

O. THE FOOL

• EGG • *Naivety – Risk – Wonder*

All life shares a miraculous state of flux: a bird's egg is alive, unconscious, and unborn; a butterfly is a caterpillar, gone. When roses bloom, they share pollen until their petals fall away. Each broken eggshell, empty chrysalis, and spent flower announces the innocent, unconscious courage of new life. Zero is the number of the Fool, a perpetual loop of nothing becoming something, and something becoming nothing.

IN A READING •

UPRIGHT: Have faith in the process. Birth, life, and death are ongoing. The present moment contains irresistible growth and renewal, alongside entropy. Vulnerability, loss, and breaking out of old forms are essential to becoming. Let these intertwined strands inspire you to seek out your next self. Follow your sense of wonder — it is a sure guide.

REVERSED: Something is amiss. You hoped for growth, but there is only a blight. Be patient. Over time, rot makes for rich compost.



1. THE MAGICIAN

• HANDS • Power – Capacity – Skill

All life shares a miraculous state of flux: a bird's Hands represent great possibility and high accomplishment. They can execute delicate tasks, provide the deftest of touches, shape music and art, meals and words. They can lift and carry and caress, or they can tear and punch and crush. Cultivation, tending, and undoing are all the work of hands.

Hands feel for us. They guide us when touch goes further than sight, and help us grapple with the unknown. And they tell stories without words; we see character in each other's hands, in differences of circumstance, and different attitudes of care. Hands signify what has been done, and what may be.

IN A READING •

UPRIGHT: You are capable of so much. Notice the presence of the four suits here: a pentacle, a sword, a cup, and a wand appear. *The Magician*

(1) is the only tarot card that holds every attribute — the powers of practicality, thought, emotion, and creativity. You are empowered to select the tool most fitting to your situation, and perhaps you will employ them in a bold combination. Think about your own abilities, and about all the things your hands have already learned and accomplished. Now is a good time to make preparations for a major endeavour, and to enjoy the resulting interplay of your talents.

REVERSED: Your abilities are not finding a suitable outlet and your ambition is becoming clouded by frustration. Try doing an activity completely unrelated to your dreams. Your spark will return.



2. THE HIGH PRIESTESS

• HEART • *Unconsciousness – Depth – Intuition*

The heart is central to survival, beating safely within its cage of bones, and it is linked to urges that resist reason: courage, love, grief, and care. *The High Priestess* (2) explores the power of subconscious instinct. The heart is pierced by a moon and a star, representing intuitions that arrive at night when logic is most quiet. And the heart rises above circles of white and black, bridged by a cross that symbolises divine union. Unlike the polarised colours, the heart is not simple, and it is not tidy. It is vital.

IN A READING •

UPRIGHT: There is truth in instinctive knowledge. Your mind can tell you a plausible story, but the beat of your heart is harder to gloss over. Your pulse reveals anxiety, excitement, contentment — it signals your animal state below the surface. The reasons for your reaction may be irrational or mysterious, but to ignore your heart entirely would be unwise. It beats solely for you.

What is your intuition saying? When you're unsure, listen to your heartbeat. Interpret its message. Are you driven by passion, alarm, or steady confidence? When you are able to tap into your heart's weather, you attain a bodily form of self-knowledge.

REVERSED: Shutting down your emotions is a survival strategy. If you feel numb in body and spirit, don't rush to feel again. Give your heart time to recover.



3. THE EMPRESS

• ROSE • *Sensuality – Presence – Love*

Fine scent, deep colour, soft petals, sharp thorns. Roses have been celebrated in poetry, art, and song for thousands of years. Between lovers, a single red rose is a romantic overture, and rose petals scattered on a bed signify luxurious eroticism. A colourful bouquet can be given to welcome a family's new baby, or celebrate a friend's accomplishment, or given as a peace offering from someone with some apologising to do. At a funeral, and on a grave, white roses signify grief. In every context, roses are a sign of intangible care made solid.

IN A READING •

UPRIGHT: *The Empress (3)* represents the nourishing and sensual aspects of physical femininity. A goddess visits you and presents you with a flower you can name with ease. She presses its stem into your palm even though its thorns prick at your skin. You breathe in the

flower's fragrance. The goddess wants you to know that love is abundant, eternal, present in a million tiny moments, and that it blooms differently in each season of your life. Passion, care, affection, friendship, and romance are all bound up in this flower. Like a rose, love can be glorious, and wounding, and comfortingly familiar. The Empress (3) invites you to name and cherish the kind of love that matters most to you at this particular time.

REVERSED: Absence of loving care. Few people journey through life feeling continuously loved, or continuously loving. Moments of lovelessness connect you to the human experience.



4. THE EMPEROR

• JUPITER • *Order – Gravity – Responsibility*

Of all the planets in our solar system, Jupiter is the colossus. On clear nights, it is easily seen. Whirling storms travel endlessly across its surface, yet it is a reassuringly stable presence that has existed for billions of years. More than ninety moons orbit Jupiter; the sheer force of this gas giant's gravitational pull brings all kinds of space ephemera into orderly patterns.

A key provides control and protection to whoever holds it. Providing access—or removing it—creates the power of gatekeepers, guards, and kings. Exile and sanctuary are both implied. In Greco-Roman myth, the god of gods was Jupiter (or Zeus). He alone decided who would sit upon Mount Olympus, home of the immortals. The Emperor (4) is associated with conventionally masculine forms of power: of heft, protection, and setting the terms.

IN A READING •

UPRIGHT: There is something magnetic about a responsible person, and The Emperor (4) invites you to embrace this role. Chaotic forces may be at play around you, but your will is key: You can bring order.

Not every scenario will be resolved by consistency, logic, and power — but these attributes are often soothing. When you take care of business, you develop gravitas. Now is a good time to unlock the responsible part of yourself, and admire diligence in others.

REVERSED: Fixed rules and routines provide a feeling of safety, but they also cut you off from expansive experiences. An interruption to normal service can be a blessing in disguise.

