



The Fool

The Fool is a card of pure potential, new beginnings & innocence. It carries the energy of possibility, reminding us the path ahead is not yet fixed & opportunity often appears when we are willing to step forward without guarantees.

The Fool invites courage, risk-taking & creative expression. It opens new areas of life by asking us to loosen our grip on certainty & trust what wants to unfold.

Often depicted as a happy wanderer, The Fool moves through life with curiosity & openness unburdened by past outcomes and unspoiled by fear. This archetype is not naïve, but willing: willing to explore, to learn, to grow through direct experience. The Fool encourages us to take a *leap of faith*...to step forward & see what happens.

In the language of myth, The Fool answers The Call to Adventure, the first step of the Hero's Journey as described by Joseph Campbell. It is the moment when we say YES to the journey, even though we do not yet know where it will lead.

In many ways, we are always The Fool as we travel through life. Each new season, each threshold, each unfamiliar terrain invites us back into Beginner's Mind. As we gain experience, knowledge & wisdom, and meet challenges, mistakes & setbacks, the Fool reminds us to begin again. And in doing so, we remain alive to the mystery & adventure of being human.



<u>Attributes</u>	<u>Shadow</u>
beginner's mind	gullible
spontaneous	lacking direction
unafraid	immature
energetic	irresponsible
free spirit	noncommittal
untried	overly-careful
wonderment	lack of spontaneity
curious	not learning from mistakes
innocence	stuck
playful	fearful

Highlights of The Fool Card in Tarot

Perched on Edge of Cliff: The Fool is often depicted standing at the edge of a cliff, symbolizing a leap of faith and the threshold of a new beginning. This precipice marks a clear division between worlds, the known and the unknown. The Fool is usually not looking where she is going, reminding us that life often plunges us forward without guarantees or clear instructions.

The Pilgrim: The Fool is a pilgrim in search of experience, a soul willing to leave comfort behind and enter the unknown. This archetype embodies the courage to move beyond theory and into lived experience. The path ahead holds many possibilities: mountains to climb, seas to cross, challenges to face, and the promise of discovery and accomplishment. The Fool begins the journey not knowing the outcome, only trusting the call to begin.

Animal Companion: Most images portray The Fool with a small dog, cat, or other creature at his feet (the loyal companion). This animal represents the primal instinct to meet life as it comes without forethought and planning. Often the little dog is barking or nipping at the Fool's heels, as if to say, "Wake up! The game is afoot! Let's go! Let's play!"

Walking Stick with Bag: The Fool carries a small bag on a walking stick, symbolizing the tools, skills & inner resources already available for the journey. Even if we don't yet know how to use them, we are not unprepared. This bag of "magical tools" prepares us for the next stage of the Major Arcana in Tarot, The Magician, where awareness becomes intentional action and move into mastery of working with your resources.

The Trickster: The Fool is closely related to the Trickster archetype. Trickster energy brings disruption, humor & a touch of chaos, often dismantling the Hero's plans and bruising the ego in service of deeper learning. Like Coyote medicine, the Trickster breaks taboos, exposes illusions, and invites freedom through surprise and mischief.

The Fool Encourages You To:

- Start Something New; Begin an Adventure
- Live in the Moment; Let go of Expectations
- Approach Life with Beginners Mind
- Engage Life with Curiosity & Wonder
- Celebrate Life for its Own Sake
- Find Opportunities to Play & Laugh
- Take a Leap of Faith



