

Tarot Archetype 21: *Sheen* ♃

The Fool

The twenty-first of the Tarot's Major Arcana is, in truth, The Fool. Many tarot savants have attempted to equate the Fool with the zero, and have made it the first card of the Tarot, placing it before The Magician. For many decks, this has thrown both the number symbolism and the Hebrew letter correspondence for the cards to the wind! The Rider-Waite tarot deck maintains the Hebrew letter correspondence with the cards, but still places the Fool at zero. It is necessary to understand that the transformational energy of the twenty-first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, the *sheen*, is the propelling force for the Fool on his journey. It is the fire of the spirit that burns and transforms all forms, and makes every home a temporary one. It is an attunement to the *ruahh elohim*, the breath of God, which blows wherever it chooses. Just like the Fool. The Fool is attuned to the impulses and intuitions of his own innocent inner child. The world of experience is something new and ephemeral to the consciousness of the Fool. The Fool is primarily aligned with the music of his own soul. He is a child moved by his passions and attachments. His mind is beginner's mind; his heart is on his sleeve. Still, he is a Hebrew, a passerby, a nomad who can call any place on this earth his home. The Fool is a trickster and a shape-shifter that can take on any form or persona he chooses. He is a universal archetype of the Spirit. In the Sufi universe, he is known as Nasrudin. In the Native American universe he is the *heyoka* shaman, who does things backwards and laughs in the midst of high ceremony, or perhaps the coyote, who is forever playing tricks on himself. The Fool is difficult to find as a pure archetype amidst biblical personae. He is found mostly in Hassidic folk wisdom, and in the *midrashic* storytelling tradition. (One delightful contemporary incarnation of the Fool as wisdom keeper is found in the stories of Noah ben Shea's Jacob the Baker.) It is possible to see some of the medicine of the Fool in the legends that surround the after-death appearances of the prophet Elijah. However, it is the story of King Solomon that I find the strongest parallels to what the tarot speaks of in the Fool. King Solomon, who is born with a heart that listens, and devotes his incarnation to seeking out the wisdom of all the life kingdoms,

and as many foreign women as he can. King Solomon, who seeks out magic and goes mad for a little while. We must remember William Blake's exhortation here: "If the fool would persist in his folly, he would become wise." It is this transformative fire and passion for Divine Wisdom that serves as fuel for the Fool's journey. It is the letter *sheen* that symbolizes this quest in all its forms. The Fool has an innate understanding of the paradoxes of this universe, and is willing to take himself and his journey lightly. In the card, it appears that he is stepping off a cliff, or perhaps, into the void. The Fool's attunement is to the beauty of the rose, which he holds in his hand. With x-ray vision, we can see that in his satchel he carries all the other tarot trumps. The Fool is the consciousness that takes the whole journey. The Fool is the empty space between the cards. The Fool is the essence of non-attachment and a mirror to the folly of the attachment of the human ego.

If you should begin to hear the Fool whispering in your right ear, ask yourself:

What am I doing here, and is there, pray tell, a way out?

What do all of these crazy humans need to hear to lighten up and laugh at themselves?

What is happening, right here, right now?

If I am not who I think I am and you are not who you think you are, then who the hell are

we?



Tree-of-Life Pathwork 21: *Sheen*
(Balancing the Brain Hemispheres)

The path of the *sheen* is the *tzinor* that connects the spheres of *hhokhmah* and *binah* on the tree-of-life. This path is the one that connects the two hemispheres of the brain. The *sheen* is the electrical energy that shuttles back and forth between the spheres of memory and visionary intuition, the past and the future. The memory coding of All-That-Is connected to the creative genius about to bring something new into existence. The *sheen* symbolizes the *ruahh elohim*, the divine breath, that creative spark that aligns consciousness with its source. The *sheen* is also the *sheen* of the *Shehhinah*, the feminine divine presence that brings healing, integration and peace to the interplay between the masculine and the feminine energies within you. And, of course, the *sheen* is also the Tarot Fool, the primary childlike innocence that shows us the way back to the Garden of Eden.

The journey back and forth between *hohhmah* and *binah* is a path designed for what is sometimes called *crooked walking*! One is moving through a minefield of enigmas and paradoxes as one navigates between the polarities embedded between the hemispheres of one's brain. The theoretical and mathematical intelligence will engage in a detailed map making process only to find that in the real world the map is not the territory. Words will guide one to the edge of the jungle where only the quality of one's inner silence will allow entrance. The emotional memory bank of *binah* will warn of upcoming danger while the intuitive vision of *hohhmah* will suggest that it is time to just jump into the unknown. The most benevolent ally in this process is the still, small voice of the intuitive inner guide that sees for us where we are blind and hears for us when we are deaf. Kabbalists call this voice by many names: the *ruahh elohim* (divine breath), the *sheen* (Spirit), the *bat kol* (the daughter of the voice). The friction of this movement back and forth between the guardians of this pathway (the cherubim that guard the entrance to the Garden of Eden) is what creates the electricity that brings us back into unity consciousness.

PathworkVisualization 21: Sheen

Balancing the Beams of Light

Take three deep breaths and allow the three flames of the letter sheen to descend through the tube of light above your crown to the inner sanctum at the core of your pineal gland. Feel yourself breathing light through a breathing tube that is both ancient and new to you. Feel the sheen branch out from within you as three beams of light emanating from within the core of your brain. Feel the beam that shoots out from the top of your forehead in front of you and the nape of your neck behind. Allow your guardian angel or your inner guide to bring this beam of light into balance. Feel now a second beam of light that pulsates out from the hollow place beneath your nose where the angel kissed you before your birth. Feel this beam extending out from the fontanel or the soft spot where the angels kissed you when you were a newborn baby. Allow your guardian angel or your inner guide to balance this beam of light within you and remind you of who you were before you came into the world of form. Feel now a third beam of light pulsating out from the centre of your pineal gland extending on the axis that traverses the temples of your brain. Allow this beam of light to connect and balance the electrical energies of the spheres of hohmah and binah within your consciousness. When you feel yourself completely purified and aligned with the vibrations of your inner child, the Shehginah, and the vibrations of your own spirit soul, breathe in one sheen of light through your new breathing tube. Now allow this sheen within your pineal gland to pulsate light along all three beams until you feel completely and joyfully connected with All-That-Is.

Movement Meditation 21:

Open your heart and mind to the Great Mystery and begin to spin like a Whirling Dervish, pivoting on your left foot & spinning 21 times (ccw) while chanting K'dosh.....