



AIR



Uranus

Beginnings  
Innocence  
Clear Conscience



**REV:**  
Vanity  
Foolishness  
Indiscretion  
Inanity

*Red feather in cap, not a worry written across his face, and fancy dress,<sup>10</sup> the Fool walks chin in air to the edge of the cliff. A white dog laps by his feet. Behind him are snow-capped mountains, a bright yellow sky, and white sun. Slung over one shoulder is a bundle of all his earthly possessions. In the other hand, between two fingertips he holds a single white rose.*

## KEY 0—THE FOOL

The Fool is the harbinger of new beginnings. When this card appears, the forthcoming life path is one of unbound potential and beginnings that come with a deeper spiritual meaning. The white sun represents power and a strong, vibrant aura emanating from the Seeker, but the Seeker's power has not yet created worldly substances of value. It is about power, but no product. *Compare:* Key 1, The Magician, a figure who can harness power constructively (or destructively, when in reverse). When The Fool appears in a reading, it is about a point in the Seeker's life when the next step could either send the Seeker flying into the air over that cliff with impressive accomplishment or falling down hard from naïveté.

The temperament of The Fool is one pure in spirit, openhearted, and like a child, innocent and naive. There is a Peter Pan mentality—boastful, careless, a bit arrogant, and possessing a willful refusal to take responsibility or be mature. Yet the Seeker is a beautiful, creative soul—perhaps someone with the foolish belief in the attainment of impossibly beautiful goals. There is a trace of swagger and flamboyance in The Fool. He is a swashbuckler. The fanciful style of the Fool's clothing suggests one who is attached to superficiality, a Seeker with great pride in his or her attractiveness.

The Fool card can also mean that a choice is being offered, one of great significance. The choice before the Seeker may seem minor, but it is a choice that could affect a lifetime, so tread with caution (otherwise the Seeker might fall off the edge of the cliff). *Compare:* There are cards in the Minor Arcana that also indicate presentations of choice before the Seeker, such as the Seven of Cups or Two of Swords. The Minor Arcana choice cards indicate matters of immediate concern, from day-to-day life. When The Fool is drawn and represents a choice being offered, that choice will have a profound impact on the entirety of Seeker's life or the progression of his or

her spirituality. *Compare:* Key 6: The Lovers, which can also suggest a choice being offered, though in The Lovers card, the choice often has ethical undertones. With The Fool, the choice is not over ethics or morality; it is a choice between two forks in the path. One fork will lead to attainment (flying, transcending the cliff) and the other will lead to likely demise (falling off the cliff).

The Fool or Trickster is a universal archetype found across many cultures, such as Robin Hood, a skilled archer with a heart of gold, but who is vain, naive, and indiscreet; or Puck, the spirited woodland creature of English folklore; Kitsune, the clever fox of Japanese and Chinese myth, a mistress in the art of deception, yet she loves deeply and demonstrates unwavering loyalty; or the Chinese legend of Sun Wukong, the tender-footed Monkey King with supernatural abilities who defies the laws of heaven and hell. When The Fool card appears in a reading, the Seeker is embodying the characteristics of Peter Pan, Robin Hood, Puck, Kitsune, or Sun Wukong. The Seeker displays a naive disregard for rules, but because of his or her extraordinary innate abilities, can get away with such defiance.

Traditionally The Fool card is unnumbered. Some systems, such as the Rider-Waite-Smith, assign “0” to it. Other systems assign “22” to the card and place it behind Key 21: The World, or, without numbering it, simply order it at the end of the Major Arcana. The Marseille-based Trumps shown in [Appendix I](#) provide an example of an unnumbered Fool placed at the end.

The element of Air governs The Fool, so the attributions associated with Air will represent the external forces at play in the Seeker’s situation. In The Fool, yang energy is dominant. The number eight may be relevant.

### **Reversed Meaning**

The Seeker has been contemplating a new start or release from the past, but must be cautious, as this decision may not be the best choice. The Fool in reverse could also indicate that the Seeker has been acting in reckless disregard of consequences. If in a relationship, it is a spontaneous one. If the inquiry is a work-related issue, then there is uncertainty as to whether it will be a huge success or a huge failure. However, the Seeker’s attitude or behavior has been foolish or naive, and thus, at the rate the Seeker is going, chances of a failure are high. Seeker must exercise greater wisdom and maturity if he or she wants to change course and ensure success. When The Fool appears in reverse, the Seeker has not fallen to his or her demise yet, but is on that fork, and so it would behoove the Seeker to turn back and take the other fork.

When The Fool appears in reverse, Psalm 14:1 comes to mind: “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ ” In reverse, Key 0: The Fool indicates a turning away from wisdom and indulgence in vanity, superficiality, and materialism. There may be a tendency to be selfish or lazy and thus an inability to progress positively. The concept “There is no God” as applied here is not literal atheism; it is a reference to the Seeker’s carefree, reckless attitude toward consequences or toward the understanding of a greater divinity. It is about not coming to terms with one’s personal karma. The Seeker is acting foolishly, disregarding the consequences of his or her actions.