

# ZILLICH TAROT



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## INTRODUCTION

Within the name “Tarot” the T forms the beginning and it forms the end. Thus, a magic circle is closed. In ancient Egypt the T was a symbol of life: the Ankh. At one time the following anagram formula arose: ROTA TARO ORAT TORA ATOR meaning “The wheel of Tarot augurs the command of initiation”. This wheel, presaging destiny, circles the inquirer.

In the Tarot deck it indicates the path through a realm whose center is everywhere, its boundaries are nowhere. This mystery takes on a shape, as the 78 arcana of the tarot. The 78 arcana refer to a secret entity, which spreads its branches in the domain of the collective unconscious as the universal Tree of Life. Its circular crown symbolizes the world equator; its trunk symbolizes the world axis. From four roots it grows into the cosmos, symbolized via the four aces

in the tarot. They are the origins of the elements: fire, water, earth and air. Their emblems are wands, cups, coins and swords. They resemble buds, which open within the circular top of the tree of life and spread out into the four world regions. There, the branches of the Tree of Life spread over four kingdoms, where a king and a prince, a princess and a knight, hold court.

Four aces, 36 number cards and 16 court cards together form the 56 Minor Arcana of the tarot. United, they symbolize the structure of the cosmic world sphere. Within it moves the Fool, the card with the number 0. At times he is a Hercules, at other times a Percival. Whoever he wants to be, he becomes him! On his hero's journey he climbs the rungs of life's staircase, reaching the highest point of the cosmos. There, the light of the polar star shines onto the summit of the world mountain. Following a spiral, the Fool approaches

this summit on his voyage to himself. Within this cycle also lies the determination of our own destiny. The tarot provides us with the symbols for the orientation along our life's path and our progress on the wheel of time.

### **THE FOOL'S JOURNEY**

Just as the Fool on his hero's journey, the questioner moves through three times seven steps: the 21 images of the Major Arcana. He himself is the 22nd image. The four symbols of the Minor Arcana indicate the consciousness levels of man: Wands stand for the spirit, Cups for the emotions, Swords for discernment, and Discs for material things. Depending on their appearance, they indicate the current state of the inquirer.

The 21 Major Arcana are signposts along the path on which the questioner reaches his objective. They indicate favor and disfavor—all that which can

be changed, but also all that cannot be changed anymore. They show the inquirer a path through life, while the Minor Arcana show the manifestation of these indicators: at times they show obstacles, at times they show opportunities.

For the inquirer, the images of the tarot are an advisor on his or her path through life. They are universal tools to accomplish all goals.

– Johan von Kirschner

*Translated from German by Jonee Tiedemann, April 2017*

## MAJOR ARCANA

### 0 — THE FOOL

**Water element.** Esoteric symbol: farmer and ox till the field, making the soil receptive. A boy wearing a jester costume approaches an abyss, his gaze fixated on Sirius. In ancient Egypt, the appearance of the brightest star indicated the time of sowing at sunrise. The figure on the card lacks any knowledge, thus he is open for anything, receptive, like a fertile field. He awkwardly holds behind him all that is left from his former life: a satchel full of dark memories.

***In a reading:*** The Fool indicates good ideas and brilliant inspirations, which only differentiate themselves from commonalities because of his brazenness. When the exuberance of the “wise fool” gets out of hand, his mania sometimes brings dangerous

adventure, in which he might also involve others. The Fool symbolizes boundless life energy through which karma is accumulated, but which can also be removed.

## I — THE MAGUS

**Planet Mercury.** Star of the Egyptian Thoth: god of magic, wisdom and the sciences. The esoteric symbol of the image is the temple, the place where holy ceremonies are performed and high wisdom teachings are proclaimed.

The Magus is crowned by a floating lemniscate, the serpent symbol of the first alchemist Hermes Trismegistus, creator of the famous text “as above, so below.” A Magus guides the heavenly spirit towards Earth and forms the elements according to his discretion: fire, air, water and earth, indicated in the image by the rose (in the hand of the Magus), the sword (bottom right, cutting



the image), the cup (grail) and the pentagram (intimated at, bottom left).

***In a reading:*** News, wisdom and good fortune. Mercury is the old Roman god of merchants and thieves. Thus, the Magus also symbolizes success with money, but also cunning and ploy.

## II – THE HIGH PRIESTESS

**The Moon.** The esoteric symbol of this image is the camel, the wise desert animal carrying humans from oasis to oasis since time immemorial. Thus, its connection with the number of this card: two, the number of polarity, indicated here with a wave running top to bottom. It is about the day and night voyage of the sun and moon. Hence, the cross on the gown of the Priestess and the symbol of the four sun phases (morning, noon, evening and midnight). Waves and dots at the lower edge of the image sketch out the four moon phases.

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