

MyTarot Podcast - The Fool

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The Fool Keywords

The Pictorial Key AND the little white book by Waite say's of the Fool - ZERO. THE FOOL.--Folly, mania, extravagance, intoxication, delirium, frenzy, bewrayment. Reversed: Negligence, absence, distribution, carelessness, apathy, nullity, vanity.

Jodorowsky - The Way of the Tarot: focuses on Energy Liberating force, The Irrational, Chaos, Flight, Madness

I also see it as Freedom



What do you see

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MyTarot.org: The Fool - The History

The Madman

Visconti-Sforza deck
(1452-1454)

Charles VI deck c. 1460

Este deck (1473)



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MyTarot.org: The Fool

The Madman

(1452-1454)

Visconti-Sforza deck

Visconti Cary-Yale -
Has the dog biting the
fool.



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MISERO from the 1465 Mantegna

MATO from the 1493 Sola Busca

Fool - Budapest sheet c. 1500



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MyTarot.org: The Fool - The History

Before the Fool the this card was called La Fou - The Madman

From JM Davidsons Reading the Marseille Tarot -

‘Fou’ means not only ‘fool’, but also ‘mad’ – in its two common senses of ‘crazy’ and ‘angered’. As a general term applied to someone, it would normally refer to someone who is either, on the one hand, quite a simpleton or fool, or, on the other, afflicted with madness or crazy.



Jean Noblet around 1659



MyTarot.org: The Fool

Anonymous Tarot of Paris 17th
c

Jaques Vievil around 1650

Jean Noblet around 1659



The three cards are very similar in paper and ink colors, it might very well that they have been printed on the same press. Even the pattern on the back of the cards is identical

MyTarot.org: The Fool in King Lear (1605/1606)

In Shakespeare's play King Lear it's well known that there's a character called "The Fool". But in Shakespeare plays, The Fool is generally the smartest person in that play, full of witty puns and the one character who is allowed to always tell the truth. BUT for Tarot purposes there is Shakespeare's Edgar in King Lear, who hides who he is by disguising himself as a the "Madman" called Poor Tom. Now THIS is the fool of the Tarot.

Edgar. [...] My face I'll grime with filth,
Blanket my loins, elf all my hair in knots
And with presented nakedness outface
The winds and persecutions of the sky.
The country gives me proof and precedent
Of Bedlam beggars, who, with roaring voices,
Strike in their numbed and mortified bare arms
Pins, wooden pricks, nails, sprigs of rosemary;
And with this horrible object, from low farms,
Poor pelting villages, sheepcotes and mills,
Sometime with lunatic bans, sometime with prayers,
Enforce their charity. (2.2.180–91)



MyTarot.org: The Fool in King Lear (1605/1606)

In King Lear we do see the Fool Coincidentally name himself as “Zero”, and King Lear in his madness is called then less than zero, when the Fool says:

“Thou wast a pretty fellow when thou hadst no need to care for her frowning; now thou art an **O without a figure**: I am better than thou art now; I am a fool, thou art nothing.”

An “O” without a figure, or another number is simply, a Zero.



Presented by MyTarot.org “Seventeenth-century engraving of Will Sommers, court jester to Henry VIII.” Wikimedia Commons. Public Domain (Died 15th of June 1560)

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MyTarot.org: Esoteric History of the Fool

Plato's Allegory of the Caves - Who is the Fool
All are chained and can only see the Shadows from above
on the walls... This is their truth

All are chained but one escapes to see the truth... And
then comes back...

Socrates:

And so, let's say he is with the captives and gets
put into the position of interpreting the wall shadows.
His eyes are still adjusting to the darkness,
and it may take a while before they are. Wouldn't he
become a laughing-stock? Wouldn't they say, "You
have returned from your adventure up there with
ruined eyes!" Would they not say that the ascent was a
waste of time? And if they had the opportunity, do you
supposed that they might raise their hands against
him and kill this person who is trying to liberate them
to a higher plane?"

"To see the truth is to be called a Madman" - Jamie

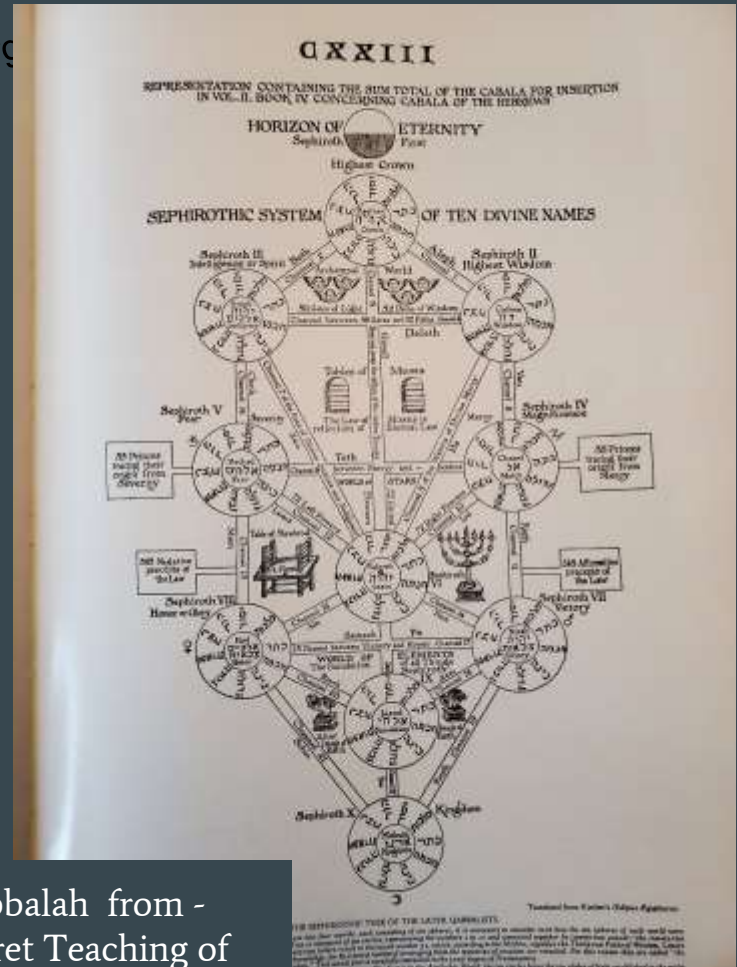


Jean Noblet around 1659

MyTarot.org: Esoteric History of the Fool

The Qabbalah from - The Secret Teaching of All Ages - Chapter 193

- The major trumps of the Tarot and the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet cannot be synchronized without first fixing the correct place of the unnumbered, or zero, card--Le Mat, the Fool. Levi places this card between the 20th and 21st Tarots, assigning to it the Hebrew letter Shin (ש). The same order is followed by Papus, Christian, and Waite, the last, however, declaring this arrangement to be incorrect. Westcott makes the zero card the 22nd of the Tarot major trumps. On the other hand, both Court de Gébelin and Paul Case place the unnumbered card before the first numbered card of the major trumps, for if the natural order of the numbers (according to either the Pythagorean or Qabbalistic system) be adhered to, the zero card must naturally precede the number 1.



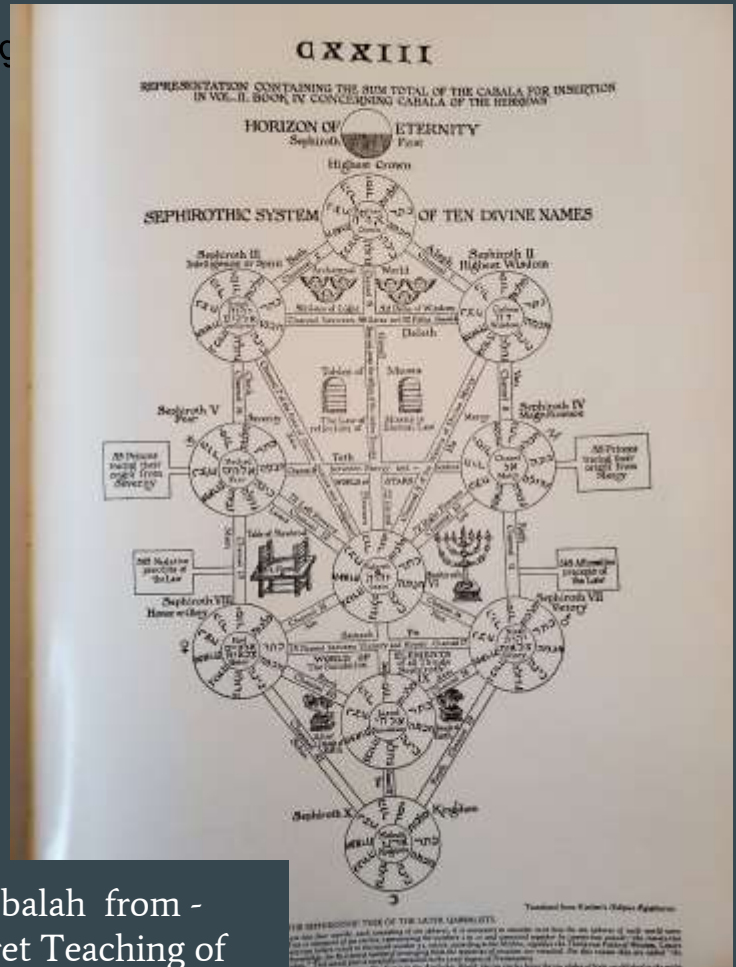
The Qabbalah from -
The Secret Teaching of
All Ages - Chapter 193

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MyTarot.org: Esoteric History of the Fool

Eliphas Levi's description of the Fool in his book Transcendental Magic reads:

“A man in the garb of a fool, wandering without aim, burdened with a wallet, which is doubtless full of his follies and vices; his disordered clothes discover his shame; he is being bitten by a tiger and does not know how to escape or defend himself.”



The Qabbalah from -
The Secret Teaching of
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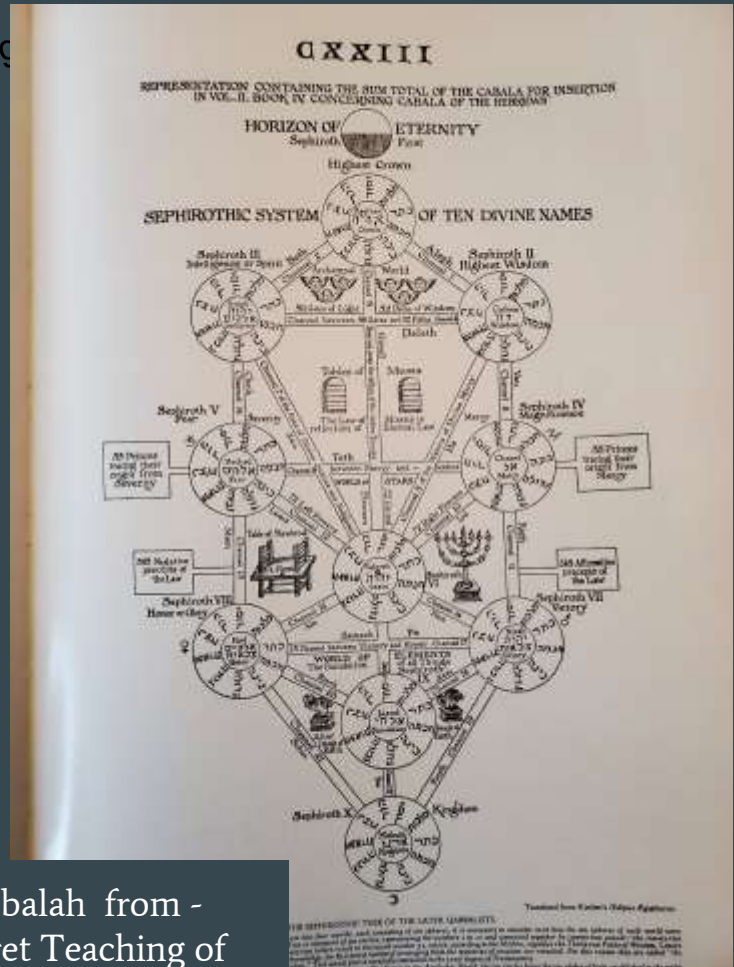
MyTarot.org: Rider Waite Smith Tarot

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Pictorial Key to the Tarot, 1911

“He is a prince of the other world on his travels through this one—all amidst the morning glory, in the keen air. The sun, which shines behind him, knows whence he came, whither he is going, and how he will return by another path after many days. He is the spirit in search of experience.”



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Aleister Crowley Fool from the Thoth Tarot

