

## **Symbolism in Tarot**

### **The Fool**

White Rose - Purity, Clarity of Purpose, Wholeness in Life

Wand & Sack - Past Lives - All Well being in this world

Feather in hat - Truth ( Mart - Egyptian - Goddess of Truth)

Dog - Spirit Guide

0 - Unlimited Potential

Wreath on Head - Victory

The Divine Spirit lives in nature and all its inhabitants show that spirit is always victorious

White Dog - Purity / Leaping Dog-Pay Attention to your inner self. Also shows our domestic mind tries to stop out adventurous mind.

White Sun - Actions are guided and directed from above.

Wand - Willing action and power

Wand (Black) - Unlimited Potential

Wallet (Contents) - Past Lives. Previous Experience

Eye on Wallet - All seeing eye of Horus being watched by our parents

Eagle on Wallet - Objectivity. Soaring Spirit.

Jacket - 10 Circles of the tree of life

Jacket - Stars & moon - The fool is a child of the divine

Belt - 12 knots symbolizes the 12 signs of the zodiac and the 12 personality types

### **Magician: Transformer**

Drawing energy from above to the earth. We are a channel for energy.

Arm positions - As above, so below - Showing Manifestation

Wand and Headband - To make the magic (wand) the magician must concentrate (Headband

Two Headed Wand - Drawing energy from between worlds. Holds in right hand

Wand - Symbolizes the "Consciously" acts to bring heaven to earth and earth to heaven

Belt - Serpent swallowing its tail - Shredding or transforming old traits

Outer Robe - Personality which clothes and cover the spirit within

Roses - five roses represents the five sense to help us with knowledge and to educate us.

Red (Roses) - Personal Desire

White (Lilies) - Knowledge of one reality and universal law

Infinity Sign (Leminscate) Representing Christ, Holy Spirit, eternal life, and material world.

### **The High Priestess - The Keeper of The Secrets**

Keeper of Records

Believing the Tarot originated in Ancient Egypt

Throne - At the doorway to the temple of Solomon

Stone Throne - Symbolizes being united with the higher consciousness

Crown - Full, waxing and waning moon. Three aspect of the moon goddess. Maiden, mother, crone (Old woman).

Shows Astrological association with the moon which rules cycles and changes in our emotions

Pillars- Represents both the temple of isis and the ancient temple of jerusalem  
White (Pillar) Positive Energy - (J) Jakin - Mercy , Action, and Consciousness  
Black (Pillar) Negative Energy (B) Biaz - Severity, passivity and mystery  
Lotus Buds on Pillar - Potential and Virginity  
Torah - Ancient Knowledge - Five Books of Moses - Jewish Law  
Scroll- Concealed - Mysteries of Life, Higher knowledge is not available to our limited understanding  
Water Flowing - Represents streams of consciousness  
Water behind the veil - The unconscious truth  
Smooth Surface of Water - Suggest truth and secrets are in the depth of the subconscious  
Veil of Pomegranates and palms  
Palms - Symbolizes desire and creative energy  
Veil - Represents the mysteries of life and death which has never lifted and her virgin remains.  
Equal Arms cross - the uniting of human consciousness  
Horizontal - Female arm (Subconscious) Blending with the vertical  
Male arm (Consciousness) Slowing equality

### **The Empress - The Mother**

Wreath of myrtle and twelve six pointed stars with sovereigns staff.  
Female creator of the material world  
Crown of Stars - Twelve (12) stars representing the zodiac  
Symbolizes the empress as “ Queen of the Heavens”  
Star - Two connecting triangles - upward triangle - Fire , masculine  
Downward Triangle - Water Feminine  
Shield - Heart Shaped - Lovingly protects with the sign of Venus (Roman Greek Goddess)  
Robe Flowing - Perpetually pregnant - “ Mother of All” - “Constantly Becoming”  
Pearl Necklace - Nine pearls - Seeds of creation  
Symbolizing the nine planets  
Trees and Wheat - Mother Nature- Ruler of Agriculture  
Wheat - Fertility  
Cypress Trees - Evergreens - Sacred to Venus ever giving nature  
Stream flowing - Stream of consciousness ( From the temple of the High Priestess) giving life to the garden  
Stream - River of Life  
Water - Feelings  
Pillow - Giving it comfort

### **The Emperor - Father**

He /She who sets order  
Throne - Rams - Aries rules the head  
Throne stone - Material World  
Crown - Dominion over the order of the world  
Crown Peak - Sign of the Ram (Looking like a propeller on top of the crown )

Ankh on scepter - Cross of Life, Symbol for life showing power of life and death  
Hair and Beard (White) - Ancient Wisdom  
Globe - Ability to carry out the Divine Plan  
Armor - Protective. Governed by rules, strictness of life  
Water - emotions, showing us not to only use mental clarity  
Demeanor - Arms and Legs as triangle - sign of fire.

### **The Hierophant - Inner Teacher**

One who shows or brings to light  
Hand gesture - Be still and listen  
Shoes - Shoes of the fisherman, Simon Peter, first pope of Rome  
Throne gray stone - Gray for Wisdom (Black & White makes Gray which equals balance)  
Circles at feet - Shows God/Goddess animate and inanimate  
Crown and Scepter - Attunement with the 4 levels of creation. A Triple tiara of gold symbolizing wisdom, perfection, glory, and the power of the subconsciousness  
Ear Flaps - Clairaudience  
Keys Crossed - Gold and Silver. Ability to discern between our instincts and intuition, our inner and outer states.  
Three people (Hierophant and two monks) - Body, mind, spirit/unconscious, conscious, and superconscious  
Monk's Yoke - Teaches us to work together  
Monk's Robe - Red Roses - Desire. White Lillies - Knowledge  
Monk's Hair - Symbolizing the Franciscan Monks who were nonconformist  
Kneeling - Surrender

### **Lovers - Choices**

Arc Angel Raphael - "Healing of God"  
Represents higher consciousness  
Garden - Garden of Eden  
Adam - Self Consciousness  
Eve - Subconsciousness  
Tree Flaming - Tree of life  
Tree with Fruit - Tree of Knowledge  
Twelve Leaves - Twelve Personality of Zodiac

### **Chariot - Symbolizes the mind**

Chariot not moving - Not having a rebellious nature  
No rein - shows the mind and personality control opposing forces of life  
Walls - known world  
Laurel Wreath - Victory  
3 Stars Crown - Subconscious, Self conscious, Super Conscious  
Sphinx - Positive and negative forces  
White - Positive (Joy) Black - Negative (Suffering)

Facing opposite directions shows that "Will" holds them together without the Chariot and Charioteer would break apart  
Seven (8) point stars Crown  
Represents the goal of mastery of the light  
Path leading to spiritual perfection  
Cloth behind - Placing the mysteries of the unconscious behind him  
Wheels in water - Receives energy from unconscious  
Crescent Moon - Forces on shoulder - Urim and Thummim - Suggesting High Priestess of Jerusalem joy and sorrow  
Square on chest - Dedication to work without limitations of the material world  
Belt - Sign and Planet  
Skirt - Ceremonial Magic  
Wing Emblem - Winged Emblem and Solar  
Disk - Representing heaven and earth. Egyptian symbol of the logos of Divine World  
Nut and Bolt - Hindu Symbol for Lingam and Yoni

### **Strength - Infinity Sign - Turned upward - Strength**

Crown of Flowers - Her power blossom with the rulership over self and her flowering wind ready to open to spirit.  
Roses - Connecting woman and lion - symbolizing how we are chained to our desires  
Lion - All Fears, feeling and desires to control our life  
Hold on Lion - Symbolizing gentle force and confidence  
Tail - Surrendering

### **Hermit - Self Empowerment**

Lantern - Consciousness and guide / Teacher  
The way shower - one of the desert - greek word - eremites  
Diogenes - Greek ascetic who is a symbol of truth  
Star - Two triangles - Fire/Water  
Staff - Hold in left hand conscious support  
Gray Robe - Wisdom, realization, accomplishment and achievement, contemplation  
Hood/Yod - His mental attention is always at its highest  
Peak - Cold and Lonely - leaving world of senses to enter the mind  
Mountain - High Mountain - Going to the light for guidance

### **The Wheel of Fortune - Fate brings you Destiny**

-Rota - Wheel  
Hebrew Letters (Yod, Heh, Vav, Hah) - Spells the name of God  
Alchemical glyphs - Mercury, Sulfur, Salt, and Water (Transmutation of people to enlightened beings)  
Anubis - Souls guided through the underworld  
Snake - Warns that each cycle we go through is transformation  
Sphinx with swords - Living in the world

Discrimination and detachment. Knowing when to hold and when to let go.

Angels - All things in Heaven

Clouds - Higher Levels of Man

### **Justice - Fairness - Law & order**

Discerning Intuition

Sword of Righteousness

Sword Handle - "T" Shaped symbol for planet of elimination

Scales - Balancing heart and mind

Foot Extended - Shows readiness for action

Crown - Kether, Source of the tree of life

Blue Square shows an integration of the energies of Heaven (Blue) and Earth (Square) merging in Divine Justice

Cape green - Creativity

Square on Cape - Justice in everyday world

Robe - Red - Courage and Desire

### **The Hanged Man - Introspective**

Hands behind Back - Unseen- Surrender

Halo- Inspiration, connection the divine

Hair - White - Showing clarity through looking at the world from a different perspective

Tied by one leg - Limitation

Legs as Figure Four - Shaped as number 4 seeing order as the emperor (IV), the number 4 shows the earth and its Four directions (North, East, South West)

Tree of Life- Reversing his sense of values he turned world on its head

### **Death - Transformation**

White Rose - Purifies and Clarifies after "Death"

Skeleton symbolizes taking out the old

Black Armor - Death Color

Number (13) - Jesus Crucified on Friday the 13th

Pillars and Sun - Through death we experience life

Sun - sun both rising and setting. Sunset on the physical plane and raises on the spiritual

Boat - Pharaoh burial boat. Shows the soul's journey to the after life.

Landscape - Land of the dead

River - Representing unity of change and eternity

People (4) - King - Ego, Priest - Showing no fear of death, Woman - Turning away not willing to surrender, Kid - Innocence

## **Temperance - Balance /Moderation/Healing**

The Path isn't a straight line

Mountain - Enlightenment

Archangel Michael - "Who is God"

Feet one foot in material world/one foot in the spiritual world

Solar Disk - Archangel Michael is sometimes called the sun reigning over fire

Pouring Water - Elements of Life Flowing

Flower - Iris - representing Greek Goddess Iris

Robe Collar - Letters meaning God's Name

Path to source and Enlightenment

The Devil - Self Imposed Limitation

Lucifer - Means light bearer

Devil - Greek Word - Diabolos to discredit/ slander

Horns and Beard -

Goat Like Beard

Horny Goat - Obsession with Sex

Donkey Ears - Half Assed perceptions, stupidity

Inverted Pentacle - Pouring spirit out of your life

Bat Wings - Creatures of the dark and can't see in the light

Eagle's Legs- Symbolizing hanging on to self-defeating behavior and ideas

Half Cubed Throne - Remnants of early training - incomplete knowledge

Torch (Inverted) - Conjuring up the devil's misuse of the life force excessive ego imposing your will on others. Emphasis on material

Black background - Black magic -unable to see the truth

Man and Woman - Love's Card, light and dark side of our nature

Facial expressions - Acceptance of a bad situation

Chains (Loose) Bondage by choice

Tails - Tree of life (Fruit)

Knowledge (Flame)

Palm - Sign of Saturn - Symbolizing evil and misfortune

Limitation and restriction

Palm (open) - nothing after obvious

Fingers (Position) - Narrow illusion of thought

Fingers (Gap) Gesture used by High Priest in Jerusalem to bring spirit to the physical plane

## **The Tower - Sudden Change - Release of Ego / Arrogance**

Tower of Babel

King who built his own tower to reach heaven. God sent lightning bolt struck. No one spoke the language

Flames - Burning arrogance

Tower - Human being also represents the tower of babel

Tower (Crumbling) - Releasing oppression within self

Lightning Bolt brings divine energies to the material plane also destroying the illusion of the material world.

Flaming windows - Burning off attitudes and behaviors

Sparks (yods) - Hands of God

Ypds (22)- 22 Major Arcana

Yods at 10 and 12. Sumerian's used 10 number systems for worldly matters and 12 for spiritual counting

Falling Man - Too much ego & Intellect

Falling himan - Too much emotion & desire

People Cloth - Symbolizing dishonesty, immaturity, and being unrealistic

Crown falling off man's immature and misunderstood nature

### **The Star - Calmness, Patience, Having wishes fulfilled**

Water - 5 Streams - Five Senses

Seven Stars - Chakra

Large Star - Star of Bethlehem (Hope)

Star (8- Points) - New possibilities

Star (7 Small ) Seven Chakras

Ibis - Fishing bird - Concentration, Attention, and also represents egyptian God Thoth, bringing The arts to Egypt. Show use of creative power

Nude Woman - Goddess of Truth; Isis unveiled looking into Pooh - time of reflection and soul searching

One foot on water - Understanding and discovery. Not entering the collective unconscious

Knee (Bent) Seek Guidance from Spirit

Vessels - Right Hand - Conscious choice

Left Hand pouring insight and inspiration

Land - Pouring water - Balancing spirit and the material world

Pool - Represents - Unconscious

Ripples - Actions creates reaction

### **The Moon - Caution / Hidden Forces / Illuminates and reveals your path**

Moon - (Changeable)

Caution

Towers - Distortion and Fears

No Person on Card - We lose sense of self in partial light

Path - Enlightenment - Source your " Spiritual Path"

Winding Path - Journey can be difficult

Wolf - Unconscious untamed - Thoughts

Wolf (Howling) - Bringing out primitive nature

Dog - Conscious "Tamed" Thoughts

Dog and Wolf - Dog - Evolved Wolf - Not Evolved

Side by side - aspects of our personality, Being in touch with our instincts while educating self

Animal - Self brought out by the moon

### **The Sun - Achievement/ Success/Achieving Goals**

Securing everything with clarity  
Wall -Material World and Limitations  
Sunflowers -Above Wall depends on the sun for life  
Sunflowers (4) Represents  
Kingdoms : Animal, Planet, Himan, and Mineral  
Child- We're all children under God  
Child Riding - Riding Forward. Freedom.  
Nude- Openness. Open Hearted  
Banner - Banner of Victory

### **Judgement - Review/Forgiveness/Let Go of the Past**

Name to show acceptance of past experience  
ArcAngel Gabriel - Messenger of God. Presiding Over judgement  
Trumpet - Channeled message from God (vibration)- Breath of God  
Message - Truth and understanding  
Rays from Horn - (7) Seven Chakras/(7) Musical Notes  
Cross - Four Armed Refers to the emperor (IV) for balance and stability "Good Judgement  
Four Elements -  
Water- Feelings and imagination  
Air- Discrimination/Action  
Earth-Manifestation  
Fire - Inspiration  
"Box" Coffins - Breaking free of limited understanding  
People coming out raising from the depths and going into the light  
People (Facing Out)- Shows awareness of what is to come  
People (Gray) - Wisdom and Balance , the polarities  
People (Naked) Unashamed of true self  
Child - Arms spread open to accept and to know state of consciousness  
We must turn out back to the world as we know it

### **The World - Dancer . Wreath of Victory. Accomplishment**

-Fool Soul - Challenges and difficulties on physical plane  
On cycle ends, one begins  
Achieved all that we desired  
The Dancer - The nature person  
Shiva Lord of the Cosmic Dance  
Dancer (Arms open) Open to new experiences  
Wands - Will & Fire .  
Right Hand (Clockwise) / Left Hand Counter Clockwise



Scarf - In Shape of Letter Kaph

Grasping Hand

Foot - Representing Centered State of Well Being and Emotions

Wreath (Small)- Victory

Wreath (Large) Has 22 Clusters - Representing the 22 states of consciousness as shown in the tarot

Infinity Sign - As Above, As Below - Open to the universe

Heads (Four)

Lion-Fire

Eagle -Water

Human -Air

Bull -Earth