

Arcanum: 0

Zodiac Affinity: Uranus

Element: Air

As a "Yes" or "No" Card: Yes

Overview

Shoshin, 初心, is a word from Zen Buddhism.

It means a 'Beginners Mind,' which refers to having an attitude of eagerness and lack of preconceptions when studying a subject, even when studying at an advanced level, just as a beginner would.

The fool is often like this; eager to start and having no debilitating concerns that somebody experienced in life may have.

The Fool can be placed either at the beginning of the Major Arcana or at the end. The Major Arcana is often considered as the Fool's journey through life and as such, he is ever present and therefore needs no number. On the Fool Tarot card, a young man stands on the edge of a cliff, without a care in the world, as he sets out on a new journey.

The Fool is one of the most well-known Tarot cards, and part of the Major Arcana set. Much of the Major Arcana is told as 'The Story of the Fool'. It is an important and positive card in the Tarot deck. Fool here is used more in an ignorant sense, than that of a stupid person. The Fool simply hasn't experienced enough. Unlike some other cards, The Fool usually represents the person the reading is aimed at and not somebody in relation to them. We all experience The Fool at some point in our lives, either when we are him, or see others who are.

Keywords

*Impulse - Infatuation - Blind to the Truth - Childlike Wonder - Pure and Uncorrupt
- Innocence - Beginnings - Carelessness*

"The moment before the first step is taken. You may have an idea of where you want to end up, but you have no idea how to get there." -Tarot of Pagan Cats, Lo Scarabeo.

Key Phrases

- I. The eternal optimist
- II. Ready to leap into almost anything.
- III. Take each adventure as it comes
- IV. Spontaneous and carefree
- V. Going on a personal quest
- VI. Impulsively setting off into the unknown.

General

The fool usually implies new beginnings and childlike enthusiasm for life. This card represents the part of yourself which comes to life when you need adventure, fall in love or are looking for quick answers; the inner child or crazy fool who acts without thinking, unafraid of the unknown and ready to leap in at the deep end.

The fool always signifies the unpredictable, that life is full of surprises and that anything goes. It can indicate that it is time to let go of worries and self-doubt, to take a leap of faith rather than fear making a choice.

When you start a new hobby and think of all the wondrous possibilities because you aren't hampered down with the nitty-gritty technicalities, that is the essence of The Fool, forever in search of meaning and experience.

The Fool understands that there is more to life in a different paradigm than he currently experiences.

Relationships

In a relationship issue, watch out for falling in love with love and not looking where a relationship is heading. In any question concerned with sexual intimacy, the Fool represents erotic vitality, *joie de vivre*, but also a reluctance to make any commitments.

This card can also imply you have an immature attitude towards relationships or your professional abilities. Perhaps you are avoiding responsibility.

The fool can mean that you won't listen to anyone's advice and that you are being careless with promises and feelings. You may be blind to future heartaches or rush into a new venture too soon without thinking things through. The main feeling behind this card is a

warning to look before you leap, but if you are confused about making a decision the Fool implies that it's time to believe in yourself and trust your heart. Sometimes resistance is more foolish than risk.

The Fool is largely positive in relation to health. Nothing is going to get in the way of him and his attainment of knowledge. Don't even worry about health, if this is the case.

In relation to spirituality & overall mentality, you just want to get going. You may be looking for the right religious or spiritual system that feels 'just right.' Don't worry about it though, it'll come. You can be eclectic, do what you feel is best for you deep down in your soul you will know if it's 'right' or 'wrong'.

Past

In a past positioning, the Fool could represent a time in the past where you could have taken another route and ended up somewhere different than where you are now. It could also mean that you have already set things into motion that will produce a new path for the person in question. It can also represent time wasted.

Present

The fool in the present position places the person in the mind of the fool but in their current position. They could be about to abandon something, or are looking for new horizons and wanting to enter a new phase of life. Generally, you may feel as though you are about to begin a new journey.

Future

If the Fool appears in a 'future outcome' position, then it can signal a new beginning or change of direction; maybe not a physical journey, but a personal and spiritual journey, New goals, desires, and attainment of new knowledge. Perhaps an irresponsible, wild, uninhibited lover, friend or stranger will become important in your life. The fool is typically drawn when you are planning to start a new school, workplace, or other activity that will be a big part of your 'new' life.

In Reverse

Holding back - Recklessness - Risk Taking

In reverse, the Fool may lead towards a feeling of being stopped from doing something; for instance a lack of creativity or writer's block. It can also hint towards recklessness, and novice behavior when pursuing a new venture. Be sure that you aren't getting lost in your own thoughts and not actively 'doing.' We all have ideas, but it is only through action that these ideas materialize and have value.

You may fear the unknown, wondering "What am I getting myself into?" As a result, you have come to a standstill, worried about taking any action where you don't know the outcome. This often boils down to the need to control everything. Balance this out with knowing that the universe has your back and you can take this step forward, even if you are unsure of exactly what will happen next.

In love, it shows you that you or your partner may show indications for a deeper desire of independence and freedom which you are brushing off. This could be seriously interrupting your current relationships across the board.

On the flipside, the reversed Fool can show you that you are taking too many risks and acting too recklessly. In your attempt to live 'in the moment' and be spontaneous and adventurous, you may do so in total disregard of the consequences of your actions and engaging in activities that put both yourself and others at risk. Look at the bigger picture and consider how you can keep the free spirit of the Fool without harming others in the process.