

Chapter 6

Trump 0

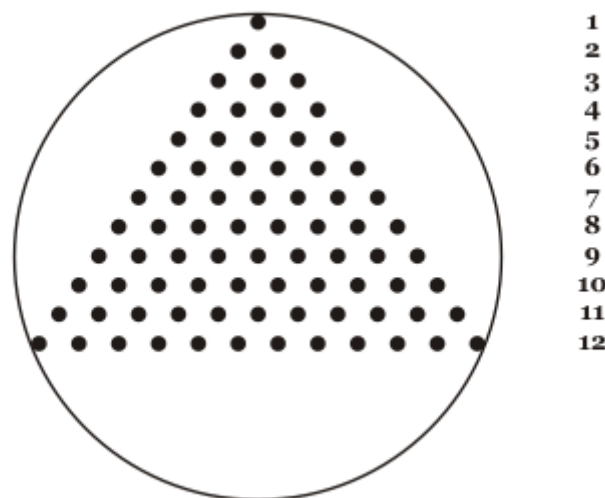
**Zero, 22, The Fool, God,
Ain, Ain Soph, Ain Aur Soph
Aleph/Tau, Alpha/Omega
Tao**



The first card of the Tarot is also the last. It encompasses all cards. In the language of the elements it is Akasha, unmanifest it is the origin of all manifestation, manifest it creates the elements and is the sublime force that leads to all Creation. The 0 can be seen as "before" the 1 or "after" the 21, thus possibly giving it the number 22. The Zero has been associated with the Hebrew letter Aleph א, and this is true, yet it shares this letter with Trump 1, which stands at the beginning of manifest creation (on Earth: of the quadripolar magnet). Trump Zero in fact "is" all letters, from Aleph to Tau, plus the non-manifest creative power that gave rise to the letters in the first place. In Greek letters, it is the Alpha and the Omega. As Akasha, it incorporates all qualities of the elements, thus representing a possibility, any possibility, to be or not to be, sanity and order or insanity and chaos. "The Fool" is the symbolism for this, he can rise or founder, influence or remain passive, he incorporates all the faculties. He is a reflection of God, the ultimate universal force, in abstract language: Fluid Light or the Universal Magnetic Oscillator. It is not a force that can be invoked, less even evoked, it "appears" through the mental-noetic and astral-psychic spheres as the product of "chance" and "fate". The Zero or The Fool interrelates with all cards, in its or his positive and negative aspects, furthering or intervening, yet the basic significance is always positive and it would need very evil intentions "to make him intervene". This is not normally the case and therefore all descriptions relating to dubious "deities" (as Dionysos, Atlas, Zeus, etc.) should be discarded, for The Fool, if any "God" at all, represents, Tao, Vishnu/Shiva, Brahma, Ahura Mazda, Chronos or whole trinities as Isis/Nephtys-Osiris-Hathor/Horus or Father-Son-Holy Ghost, that is: the Zero reflects All and Everything and no single limitative aspect. Tao is perhaps the single best description. In the Quabbala, the Zero or 22 is necessarily the whole trinity of Ain, Ain Soph, Ain Soph Aur, the whole spectre of Divine Emanation.

This card can be used as "significator" in the Tarots' oracular use, the first - open - card . In that case the oracle is put under divine protection, i.e. under the protection of all elements, zodiac-constellations, planets, Sun and Moon. The questions formulated under this aspect refer to "divine inspiration" and derive from highest attainable virtue. Therefore the Zero refers to the "Golden Age" or Sakhya-Yuga, past and future, when all virtues and faculties are wholly, perfectly developed.

The Zero is perhaps better explained by its function as 22nd card. The 22 was sacred to the mystery school of Pythagoras. There it represented three musical octaves and thus was considered a key to the mystery of the Universe. There the octave begins with a do and also ends with a do (do, re mi, fa, so, la, si, do). Of course, 22: 7 gives the "holy" number Pi. The sacred Hebrew lampstand, the Menorah, consists of a total of 22 cups placed on seven branches. 22 is definitely a reflection of the 21, the number corresponding to the Whole Universe, as also of Trump 12, which encompasses the triple-creation of the Zodiac. If, in Pythagorean thought, a triangle is built from up to down with ever-expanding points to reach 12 points at each side and the base, then the number of all points involved is 78, the total number of Tarot cards.



78, the total number of Tarot cards.

Trump 0 or 22, within Man as "equal to God", though the logic of the Tarot deny such an assumption, represents all seven "emanations" or "rays" of Creation. As these apply to the Macrocosm just as much as to the Microcosm, the "holy One and All", God, may also be seen as seven-fold. Thus, especially in its function as Trump 22, as the "source of the Universe" (Trump 21), the Zero stands for the all-encompassing Sahasrara Padma Chakra, the

thousand-petalled Lotus. Merging into this sphere, Man joins the divine Emanation, it is his or her ultimate goal.

All manifestation springs from the Zero and 22. Thus, this card should better be "read" from up downwards, for Trumps 21, 20, 19, 18, 17 and 16 lead from The Universe to The House of God. All aspects of divine emanation are discussed with these, the highest Trumps. Still, an awareness of the unfathomable magnificence of Creation, and therefore of the Creator, is well placed at the beginning also, prior to the first manifestation, prior to Man and prior to the physical, material existence whose inherent aspect is Polarity. From Nothing stems the One, from the One stems Polarity and the myriad Beings, dimensions and states of Being. Within Yoga, the most inner also reflects the most high. Thus, the most inner perfection of the central 4th Anahata Chakra, the Heart Chakra, leads to the realisation of Man as God. This is the path whereby Man accedes to God via the most subtle, ethereal channel, called Amrita Nadi. Thus Man intuitively, spontaneously realises the Form of God, All-encompassing, from the centre of his or her perfected Form. This, then, is the view of "The Fool in Man", God in Man. As part of Bhakti Yoga, it will be discussed within Trumps 19 and 20.

All five Sino-Tibetan Skandhas, as symbolic of all Creation, exist only from the creation of Polarity onwards, yet prior to their manifestation, they unite in Skandha, who is then the commander in chief of the armies in heaven (Bhagavad Gita), observing the eternal battle of the forces of Polarity.

It is not normally suggested to begin an oracular function with the Zero, for this is the "wild card" par excellence, hopefully turning up there where the "forces" are at their most critical "acuteness", or inversely, at their most harmonious junction. The appearance of this card then points to a critical choice, but also to an "openness" of the way, or to unexpected or "divine" intervention. In any case, it is "leading forward", for Akasha is never static.

Of course, The Fool also stands for inexperience, perhaps naiveté, yet also innocence. This is a high, if not the highest quality in Man, achieved only by conscious purification of body, feeling (spirit) and mind, and by innocence alone can any great undertaking be begun. Zeus' sudden, unexpected flash of lightning may occur as well as the sweetest, most harmonious "quiet ripple of waves" - the Zero has all options, and its relation to the other cards determines how "divine Will" may manifest. In this sense, it is the most interesting card to appear "by chance". It points directly to Fate, the unfathomable factor in life. This interpretation is to be preferred to any "fooling around with the Fool". Left aside unminded,

unintentioned, the appearance of this card will then be totally intuitive, which is associated with the highest mental-noëtic sphere, the blending of Reflective Ether with its source, Akasha itself. Together with Trumps 19, 20 and 21, the Zero or 22 forms the unknowable sphere of divine intervention, beyond and prior to any reckoning.

A card-spread with an oracular question in mind should normally begin with the 1 - The Magician or Magus - in the case of a male, or the 2 - The High Priestess - in the case of a female, as "significator" (though this procedure need not be followed, as a significator only means a "deepening of self-concentration" and is very personal and limited to the questioner).

As representative of Akasha, the Zero is still related more to some Trumps than to others, for it has the hidden meaning of the unseen and unknown and is so related to the mystic aspects, and to "mental/noëtic" and "astral-psychic". God is here seen as more closely related to "Planet- Rulers, the Demiurgos", Solar "Primal Intelligences" or "Genii", to the "angels", Devas, Dakinis, diverse "gods and Goddesses of harvest, sowing, wind and sea, to planetary intelligences, Elves, lofty cosmic Beings, etc., than to Man. It is by their interposition that "God descends" unto the human plane. Therefore the Zero is placed as a circle around the quabbalist Tree of Life instead of taking the place of topmost Kether. Still, Kether is the Zeros' most obvious "close relative". Within the Trumps, the cards 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13, 17, 19, 20 and 21 are closest to Akasha, i.e. incorporate "primary functions" of the universal emanation symbolised by Zero. In quabbalist thought, the 10 and 20 are the most direct expressions of the primal Zero: The Wheel of Fortune (total physical Creation), incorporating many aspects of The Fool and also of "divine intervention", and The Judgment, which is the double aspect of Polarity and Creation. Of the Hebrew "mother-letters", Trump 10 takes the Mem of Aleph-Mem-Shin, and Trump 20 takes the Shin. The Zero incorporates them all. Thus, finally, it also encompasses all dimensions, all galaxies, the universe and the unknown beyond even that, marking the final sphere beyond Trump 21, The Universe.

The symbols attributable to The Fool, as the number Zero and the letters Aleph-Mem-Shin or Alpha/Omega, are necessarily limited, for no single sign of the Zodiac, not the Sun or any other planet are representative of Akasha as God. As Hebrew letters, the trinity of "mother-letters" substitute Aleph and Aleph/Tau, still Aleph, as the "beginning of everything" may be employed in a limited sense. As another symbol, if such were necessary as a "mental crutch", it is suggested to employ the eight- or twelve-spoked circle, the "Wheel of Dharma, the most universal and all-inclusive symbol. Within the Macrocosm, the Universe, O or 22

represents the great central Sun in the center of the galaxy, also called the Black Sun or the Soleil Absolu. The seven rays of divine emanation, of evolution, originate from this sphere.

Preceding all Creation, incorporating it, engulfing even its ultimate outcome, the whole spectre of universal symbolism is attributable to this card, the star-spangled heavens, the rainbow in its most transcendent quality, all elements and dimensions, of which we may not even guess the whole range and number.

A proper representation of The Fool is also the light-green colouring of an early dawn in spring, "at the beginning of the world" or "when the world was young", open to all possibilities, the Creative about to enter Creation.



Rectified traditional card