

EXPLORING THE TAROT:

PORTALS TO CONSCIOUSNESS

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AMONG THE 22 MAJOR ARCANA OF THE TAROT, WE CAN FIND 3 KEY PORTALS TO CONSCIOUSNESS: **THE FOOL**, THE ENTRY POINT FROM THE COSMOS INTO HUMAN FORM; **THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE**, THE ASCENDING SPIRAL FROM INNER SELF-DEVELOPMENT/EGO AWARENESS TO COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS AND ACTUALIZATION OF OUR HUMAN PURPOSE; AND **THE WORLD**, THE RETURN FROM EARTHLY EXISTENCE INTO SPIRITUAL ONENESS.

At the zero-point portal, we embark on what the great psychologist Carl Jung would deem as a journey of self-discovery. Along the way, we encounter many transformative experiences that bring us to The World, a state of wholeness whereby we go beyond the self/ego and may completely integrate our “anima” (female/yin/shadow) and “animus” (male/yang/light). At every stage of the journey, we may choose a path of strength and vision or we may slip into the shadows, fall into our human vulnerabilities and appear to lose our way. In actuality though, we can never get off track as every exploration, however dark and disorientating, may bring us into deeper knowing and integration of our core selves.

Let’s now zoom into the “O” which marks the Fool as a conception point or opening whereby we may move from one dimension to another, from spirit into matter. Rather than a finite representation of satire and mockery, the “Fool” may be recognized as a free uninhibited soul ready to embark on the adventure of Earthly existence. The classic Rider-Waite Smith Tarot portrays the Fool as a colourfully robed character with face to the sky, unaware that they are about to step off of a cliff. This image invites us to recall ourselves as spiritual beings, once free to roam the Universe, who took the risk to step down into the hard-knock reality of life on Earth. What a rude awakening that was for us! No doubt as infants we may have considered ourselves foolish to come into the awkward confinement of human form, but those of us now consciously accepting the journey of learning that this Earth school offers us, eventually real-

ize that we must take the leap of ‘faith’, that the falls we take are worth the experiential wisdom. As Helen Keller, the pioneering blind woman once said, ‘Life is a daring adventure or nothing’. So though we may appear to have lost our good senses, we must trust our inner knowing. When we go off the well beaten path, we can discover the most wild, essential and beautiful qualities of our embodiment.

Jung believed that the psyche was composed of three components: the self, the personal unconscious, and the collective unconscious. Jung saw the collective unconscious as a space where we can share and access knowledge and experience that belongs to the whole human species. Archetypes are universal models of behaviour and personality that exist in the collective unconscious.