

ARCHETYPAL INTEGRATION IN THE TAROT BEYOND DEATH, THE TOWER, & JUDGEMENT

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THE ARCHETYPE OF DEATH IN TAROT CALLS US TO SURRENDER TO THE PURE ESSENCE OF THE SOUL BEYOND THE FINITE CONSTRUCTS OF OUR SOCIETAL TOWER OF FEAR-BASED BELIEFS AND HUMAN FORM, SO WE MAY TRANSCEND EGO JUDGEMENT AND RESURRECT OUR TRUE INFINITE SELVES.



The Death card in Tarot is not literal but rather refers to the release of some aspect of our life or self, i.e. a relationship, a career, a belief system, or behaviour. So in our collective evolutionary cycle, Death becomes more aptly symbolic of the transformative experiences that help us shed old skins, attachments and emotional patterns that no longer serve our hearts or passion for being alive. So while images of skeletons and skulls are frequently featured in this 13th Tarot Archetype, you will also always find a white flower blossom, sunrise or butterfly to show that where there is death, there is always positive change and birth. As we let go of the conscious ego, we step deep within the mysterious cavern of the human unconscious where the seeds of soul-self can be found germinating with the potential to birth unique and never before witnessed aspects of our creative Universe. We then transition or transcend from a finite form or reality to one with infinite possibilities.

If we become stuck in our ways, don't let go of the past, and resist moving on, we can bring on an ending or Archetypal Tower event unconsciously. Rigid structures or relationships may fall apart, break-down or break-up. We may suffer an identity or health crisis or the world around us may even appear to fall apart in the forms of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, the crashing of the western economy, and fall of governments. The typical Tarot image of the Tower crumbling with a royal crown, people and flames flying out the windows and could easily be represented by the Twin Towers of New York on September 11. When the proverbial Tower crumbles around us, we can rebuild with more sound and sustainable materials that will support us going forward. Alternatively, we can choose to walk away from the hazardous psychic debris of our past and forge a new path in a new direction. A crisis in our environment or consciousness can bring out the heroes and heroines amongst us and bring community and charity to the fore. The Tower experience can catapult us into individual re-birth and/or collective change for the better.



To be reborn, we must transcend the judgement of others but more importantly transcend the harsh judgement we impose on ourselves so we may rejoice in our own truth. Judgement represents the last stand or stage of reckoning before we reach completion of a spiritual journey. At this critical stage, we are called to stand up for our truth, recognizing and accepting ourselves both in weakness and strength, as well as shadow and light without judgement. This Archetype typically shows humans stepping out of the grave with arms open to a trumpeting angel above. There is a pause of consideration as to whether the people are worthy to enter "Heaven" and to embrace oneness with the Divine. Of course, we are all worthy, but within our educational, corporate and hierarchical systems and institutions, we are constantly measuring our success and adequacy in the world against others. Those with the most points, marks, numbers, followers, members, friends, money, and so on are considered the most successful. Those with less are considered to be less on all accounts inside and out. We further judge and are judged by qualities of colour, race, beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, style, and looks. So then we are judged by qualities of form that we cannot change. The majority of us on the planet could never measure up. We end up feeling inadequate, unworthy, imperfect, insecure or vulnerable. To be free of such judgement, we must let go of these outer projections and allow a higher compassion for and acceptance of ourselves. In this way we may be born anew, recognizing that each of us is a unique and equally precious part of the one infinite and evolving Universe.



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