

## The Book of Life

In the book of life, the answers aren't in the back.

— Charlie Brown

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

— Revelation 3:5

**T**his chapter is a summary of the archetypal meanings and alchemical relationships of each of the major arcana.

### Archetype

The archetype of a card is its individual essence, energy and form and is composed of several elements.

**Energy.** This is the card's energetic orientation: feminine (receptive, creative) or masculine (active, conceptive).

**Number.** This is the card's medicine, gift or archetypal healing power in the Twenty Count.

**Type.** This is the aspect (emotional, physical, mental or spiritual) of the card's psychological type (feeling, sensation, thinking or intuition).

**Light.** This is a description of the light side of the archetype.

**Shadow.** This is a description of the dark side of the archetype. "Dark" here is not a moral judgement but means whatever is unconscious (that is, what is in the shadows and not illuminated by, and acceptable to, consciousness) or whatever is opposite to the light side of the archetype. Everything contains its opposite which will jump up and live sometime, somewhere.

## Alchemy

The alchemy of a card tells you about its relationships with other cards, where it has come from and what it will become.

**Medicine.** This is the summary statement of the card's Shield, Mood and Movement.

**Keeper, Holder and Teacher.** These describe what Shield it Keeps, what Mood it Holds and what Movement it Teaches.

**Awakener, Dreamer and Completer.** These describes its energetic relationships according to the Zero to Nine Law (Chapter 9).

In a reading, the alchemy will suggest linkages with cards in other positions in the reading.

The alchemy does not apply to the 0 and 1 cards (the Fool and the Sorcerer) as they sit outside the matrix of the other 20 cards. They contain, and are contained by, all the other cards so their alchemy is undifferentiated. All subsequent cards are energetic transformations of the original 0 and 1.

I have left blank the alchemy of some of the cards so that the reader may add their own interpretations.

Although this book does not cover the advanced alchemy of the cards I have added the higher alchemical name for each card.



## FOOL

### *Archetype*

**Energy.** Feminine, receptive, creative.

**Number.** Zero, The Void.

**Light.** *Emotional:* innocent, childlike, enthusiastic, trusting, integrity, loyal to his own nature, undivided, sense of humour, basic genuineness and integrity. *Mental:* beginner's luck, untutored brilliance, taking a chance, a leap of faith, urges us on into life when thinking or feeling might be overly cautious. *Physical:* adventurous, risk-taking, acting

on gut instinct, "just do it." *Spiritual:* spiritual yearning, finding magic in the ordinary, beginning the journey, natural force unburdened by knowledge or experience.

**Shadow.** *Emotional:* naïve, apathetic, gullible, abandonment, madness, folly, foolery, extravagance, infatuation, childish, always playing it safe, risk averse, lack of personal boundaries. *Physical:* intoxicated, lack of resources, disreputable, irresponsible, not following own instincts. *Mental:* poor decision-making, inept, air-head, stupid, hesitation, senseless, irrational, thoughtless, hare-brained, no objectivity. *Spiritual:* frenzy, rapture, blindness, lacks purpose.



## SORCERER

### *Archetype*

**Energy.** Masculine, active, conceptive.

**Number.** One, Grandfather Sun, element of fire, illumination and enlightenment.

**Light.** *Emotional:* self-confidence, charisma, optimism. *Physical:* skill, dexterity, craftsmanship, adaptability, self-starter, entrepreneur, makes things happen. *Mental:* concentration, will power, intention, focus, purpose, one-pointedness, desire for knowledge, goal-oriented drive. *Spiritual:* desire to live, inspiration, drive to change the world, originality, creativity, medicine man, alchemist, healer, doctor.

**Shadow.** *Emotional:* boastful, deceptive, grandiose, narcissistic, con artist, exploiter, out of one's depth, faking it. *Physical:* no commitment, unreliable, liar, crook, concealed. *Mental:* lack of willpower, devious, manipulator. *Spiritual:* charlatan, imposter, false guru, cult leader.



## PRIESTESS

### *Archetype*

**Energy.** Feminine, receptive, creative.

**Number.** Two, Grandmother Earth, element of earth, introspection and intuition.

**Type.** Emotional feeling.

**Light.** *Emotional:* introspection, hidden knowledge, dreams, fantasies, empathy, receptivity, attunement. *Physical:* body knowing without words. *Mental and spiritual:* seeing and knowing the “other,” another person (clairvoyance),

the past (retroognition), the ancestors (mediumship), the future (precognition, prophecy), or communicating with animals, plants and minerals.

**Shadow.** *Emotional:* betrayal of and by the feminine, alexithymia (inability to know one’s feelings), chronic woundedness, distrust of feelings, brittle spiritual or emotional boundaries, borderline personality disorder. *Physical:* not at home in one’s own body, space cadet. *Mental:* loss of self-identity, identifying with another’s projection, revealing secrets or confidences, literalism. *Spiritual:* denial of intuition, neglect of dream life, black magic, chthonic rites, madness, religious mania, fatalism and superstition.

### *Alchemy*

**The Priestess** as the Heart of the Child Substance Shield uses the Mood of Emotional Sweetness to Erase Emotional History.

**Keeper of the Heart of the Child Substance Shield.** She is conscious of our wounds and our vulnerabilities. She recognises the need for love and acceptance from peers and parents.

**Holder of the Mood of Emotional Sweetness.** She is sensitive to hidden or fragile feelings. She has the emotional fluidity of empathy and compassion, love without pity, and sees the hidden potential of things. She engenders emotional hope from seeing the gold hidden in the heart.

**Teacher of the Movement of Erasing Emotional History.** She sees the battle of the light and the dark within, our dark and light shadow, our dividedness. Her consciousness of present feelings allows resolution of past wounds.

**Awakened by the Moon.** She is a moon goddess and can see what is hidden by sunlight but visible in moonlight.

**Awakens the Lovers.** She can see the unconscious choices we make in love.

**Dreamed by the Bound Man.** The Bound Man’s struggles with duality and evil dreams the otherness and duality of the Priestess.

**Dreams the Sage.** The mental knowledge of the Sage is dreamed into possibility by the intuitive seeing of the Priestess.

**Completion of the Dead Man.** A confrontation with death and darkness makes the other world a separate reality.

**Completed by the Balance.** The Priestess’ intuition is actualised and made real in the world by the choices of the Balance.

**Higher Alchemy.** The Fire Woman.