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The Fool

Ally Schell

At first you may think negligence, stupidity, and that this card serves its literal purpose through its title.
This is not wrong,
as the card can mean such if it is reversed.
However,
if the card is upright,
it can mean innocence, spontaneity, and an almost free-spirited side.
But in life,
how can one decipher the difference?
Some days I wish to be this happy-go-lucky fool.
Not a care in the world,
simply doing things for their own amusement.
In this scenario,
This fool does not do things to perpetuate adulthood.
This fool acts as one would but does not regret.
This fool is happy.
Though I wish to be this type of fool,
I cannot say that I am.
I want to eat watermelon seeds and believe that I will sprout,
I want to giggle when Santa eats the cookies tucked near the fireplace,
I want to play four square and draw with chalk.
But I can't.
The fool that I seem to be more and more often is the one that is reversed --
negligent, stupid, and reckless.
This fool,
more commonly known as myself,
takes life seriously.
This fool does not take care of themselves like they used to.
This fool drives fast to save time when they aren't even late.
This fool is the most foolish of them all.
They would trade innocence and bubblegum for mundane work.
Solely because society thinks being free-spirited is not an adult-like quality.
Eccentric, bold, and different are far worse than
conventional, tame, and blending in.
I forgot to mention one last thing,
this card can mean a new beginning.
Maybe in this very moment I can choose to be the fool I love over the fool I am.