

One of the first entries into the practice of magic is the relearning of enchantment. But why be enchanted? Why lend oneself to a way of being that insinuates surrender, or being caught up beyond your control?

In many versions of the Tarot, the card that opens the deck, and thus the spiritual journey of transformation, is The Fool. The Fool is often portrayed with childlike innocence, so captivated by something in their surroundings they may walk right off a cliff. Yet it is this very quality of enchanted attention that moves The Fool toward the cliff, the edge of what is known, into a new beyond. The Fool is also sometimes referred to as the Universe's favorite child. The Powers Unseen delight in the delight of The Fool, and so all tools required for the journey through transformation are gifted with generosity and grace.

This is not a way of being that caste and capitalist cultures tolerate, relying instead on domination, prescription, and exploitation to achieve one's desires. Systems of oppression operate most functionally in what witch and writer Lisa Fazio coins "Predictability Supremacy." Predictability Supremacy can be conceived as the tight space of a closed system, rigid and patterned ways of thinking, feeling, and expressing, in which any perceived deviance is severely punished. For me, this is exactly the motivation I need to allow myself to come again into an attentiveness that is earnest and generous. My enchantment—my re-enchantment—with the world as a whole becomes my very resistance against isolation, exploitation, and alienation.

True transformation, true power, does not exist in a vacuum, but in a space with many other energies, many other beings, many other knowings. Or else there is no material, physical or psychic, to transform. There *is* wonderment in enchantment. It belies innocence, by which I mean both vulnerability and a willingness toward that vulnerability. It softens the rigid edges of thinking to make room for play and the seepage of surprise. The relearning of enchantment activates expansion as we must stretch the container of our perception beyond what is physically and materially known. We must be open to awe.

This is how we enter the transformative arts.

If poetic obsession is held as a practice of enchantment, there is spellwork that arises. While enchanted, the poem becomes a vessel, energy

summoned and held in the container of line. If the work of healing is held with a practice of enchantment, there is a potential for recovery of loss, whether that loss is of power, connection to the soul, or a type of innocence. While enchanted, when I write about even the most tender suffering and ache of the world, the writing itself becomes an application of love in the form of deep attention and care that touches the page. If the work of social and spiritual justice is held with a practice of enchantment, there opens a portal for all ways of beingness and knowingness to be present, to engage, and to be witnessed. While enchanted, even the slow alchemy of revolution might be graced with something that could resemble play, and feel even a bit like delight.

