



## **The Mythology of THE JESTER**

*“My lords and Ladies—Who then rules when the Equinox demands One Sacred Day of Equality?  
In this time of the Equinox and great Balance, the royals will submit,  
as the Jester leads the Common Folk to rise up and prevail!”*

The Vinotok Jester is an archetypal expression of the Sacred Fool who is at the heart of many rituals requiring diversity, equality and inclusion. In old European tradition, the humorous and laser-sharp Jester could say things about the state of injustice and venal politics to the King before the entire Court.

In all other settings and times these comments would have cost any subject their life.

The origin of “Ward of the State” is based on British kings honoring legal protection and support of the Court for Jesters and the theatre troupes and passion players who travelled the Old Countries, making powerful political and environmental statements.

In our Vinotok collective and communal ceremonies we exalt the Jester, as this is the symbol of Rebellion against overweening authority. The Jester demands time and attention for the Common Folks right to Speak. This is the legacy received from the Crested Butte Old Timers, and which they expressed during their Autumn revelries.

For one day in the year, the Miners could turn power upside down, speaking their minds and grievances through a large effigy which was drawn through town and deposited on the local bigwig’s lawn, then summarily hanged and burned! And hopefully, the participants would not be pay-docked or reprimanded for these much needed acts of defiance and demands for change!

by Vinotok Godmother and Founder, Marcie Telander