



The
**MAORI
TATTOO
TAROT**

by Roxana Paul



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INTRODUCTION

The Maori, a nation of Pacific warriors, developed highly ritualised arts, including a face and body tattooing system full of sacred symbolism and unique art patterns. They had, and have, strong faith in signs and omens, and divination was an essential part of Maori religion. The Maori could extract hidden meanings from dreams and manifestations of nature to foretell the future. Nowadays the Maori tattoo style is very popular worldwide.

Visual art patterns of the deck are *Kirituhi* that looks like *Ta Moko* (the ancient sacred Maori body art), but are not restricted to only Maori people. The tattoos have a deep spiritual meaning and *mana* (occult powers) via images of Maori gods, spiral *koru* patterns, ferns, and sea creatures such as sharks, wales, and mermaids. These art patterns are a stairway to ancient Maori occult knowledge and spirituality, strength and bravery, and they work.

Roxana Paul, a New Zealand artist, who resides in Australia, created the Maori Tattoo Tarot for the Rising Sun Publishing House under the strong impression of Maori lore and tattoo designs.

The Maori Tattoo Tarot cards use ingenious Maori symbolism and mighty imagery within the traditional Tarot structure. The deck is full of hints and hidden depths to sharpen a reader's intuition and insight through its strong exotic pictures. There is a brief account of meanings and keywords that a reader will find pithy and useful. Within the deck all cards are named and numbered properly to make reading easy and convenient. A special Hanged Man spread is a helpful tool for Tarot reading.

The Maori Tattoo Tarot deck structure:

- Major Arcana: 22 cards.
- Minor Arcana: 56 cards.
- Suits: Gourds, Swords, Wands, Discs.
- Court Cards: Apprentice (Page), Warrior (Knight), Chieftainess (Queen), Chief (King).
- Major Titles: The Fool, The Magician, The High Priestess, *Ariki-Tapairu* (The Empress), *Ariki* (The Emperor), *Tohunga* (The Hierophant), The Lovers, The Chariot, Justice, The Hermit, The Wheel of Fortune, Strength, The Hanged Man, Death, Temperance, The Devil, The Tower, The Star, The Moon, The Sun, Judgement, The World.
- The Fool is 0, Justice is 8, and Strength is 11.

Major Arcana



0 The Fool

The Fool sits on the moon in a meditation pose and looks at the sun. The half of his body is tattooed, symbolising half-and-half knowledge. The tattoo depicts a map in the Maori style for the Fool's journey in the material world. He is about to start a mission or a quest for a new life path.

Upright meanings: Impulsiveness, spontaneity, placidity. Entering a new path, beginning an adventure, following a heart desire.

Reversed meanings: Foolishness, naivety, recklessness. Getting up on a wrong route, involving in an affair, taking a foolish chance.

I The Magician

The Tiki-Magician, the first man on the Earth, according to Maori religion, juggles the sun and the moon, demonstrating his power. His supernatural properties produce magical results.

Upright meanings: Creativity, resourcefulness, concentration. Putting ideas into practice, self-actualisation, realisation of the potential.

Reversed meanings: Manipulative abilities, evil use of talents, focusing on egoistic intentions.

II The High Priestess

A young Maori woman sits in a warrior pose with a spear in her hand. Her gaze is directed to the East, toward the rising sun.

Upright meanings: Wise, intuitive, patient. Seeking guidance from within, listening to inner voice, understanding possibilities.

Reversed meanings: Ignorant, short views, misunderstanding. Holding back internal feelings, sensing powerlessness, inability to cope with a situation.

III Ariki-Tapairu (The Empress)

Ariki-Tapairu, a first-born female in a family of rank, a woman invested with sacred attributes. According to the Maori tradition, her image expresses fertility and maternity.

Upright meanings: Maternal, healthy, earthy. Caring for others, relating to the material life, harmonising with Nature.

Reversed meanings: Infertile, unhealthy, infidel. Dependency on others, over-emphasising material concerns, embracing with practical things.

IV Ariki (The Emperor)

Ariki, a first-born male in a high ranking family, a high chief in a tribe. He is a leader in charge of the integrity and prosperity of the Maori people.

Upright meanings: Strong, dominant, competent. Providing leadership, establishing order, making decisions.

Reversed meanings: Weak, dependant, incompetent. Providing mismanage, being uninfluenced, making wrong decisions.

V Tohunga (The Hierophant)

Tohunga is a priest, healer, spiritual teacher. He provides the Maori people with guidance and has strong magical abilities to bewitch ordinary men.

Upright meanings: Knowledgeable, meaningful, spiritual. Keeping cultural traditions, maintaining discipline, honouring rituals and taboos.

Reversed meanings: Ignorant, simple, limited. Being too orthodox, being obsessed with rules, staying within ceremonies.

VI The Lovers

Two lovers demonstrate a *hongī* (a traditional Māori greeting akin to the Western custom of kissing), pressing their noses and foreheads together. It is a life-altering choice to find a new life balance together.

Upright meanings: Harmony, balance, love. Establishing bonds, feeling sympathy, making a right choice.

Reversed meanings: Disharmony, imbalance, misalignment of values. Being disconnected, feeling antipathy, making a wrong choice.

VII The Chariot

A young Maori man is riding a shark, holding the balance. He restrains his impulses and maintains self-discipline to follow a natural flow of events.

Upright meanings: Focused, concentrated, self-confident. Holding emotions, getting an own way, being ego-focused.

Reversed meanings: Unfocused, not concentrated, not confident. Showing emotions, having a lack of control, feeling misplaced.

VIII Justice

A Maori woman balances the moon and sun light with her sword. The process is a symbolical scale and partition.

Upright meanings: Fairness, truth, honesty. Balancing competing needs, making clear judgments, weighting all possibilities.

Reversed meanings: Unfairness, mendacity, dishonesty. Using prejudice, having wrong preferences, determining wrong actions.

IX The Hermit

A hermit crab holds the moon and the sun in the claws. This image symbolises the Hermit, looking for wisdom and morality and communicating with Mother Nature.

Upright meanings: Understanding, introspection, inner guidance. Looking for truth, offering council, concentrating on questions within.

Reversed meanings: Isolation, loneliness, egoism. Cynical attitude to life, excepting advices, withdrawing from the material world.

X The Wheel

Three mermaids hold on a giant Maori styled fishing hook. The latter symbolises luck as well as a device to come events in motion.

Upright meanings: Good luck, positive changes, a turning point. Opening to luck, using what a chance offers, moving in a right direction.

Reversed meanings: Bad luck, negative changes, out of control. Being surprised by a sudden event, losing one's chance, moving in a wrong direction.

XI Strength

A naked Maori woman sits on the back of a big shark. This image symbolises strength and concentration of the spirit to maintain equilibrium in the material world.

Upright meanings: Strength, courage, power. Handling events, setting a right course, controlling situations.

Reversed meanings: Weakness, self-doubt, lack of power. Leaving things to fate, setting a wrong course, giving up on life.

XII The Hanged Man

A Maori man is depicted in a bungee jumping flight (New Zealand is the world's most iconic bungee destination). He stops resisting the circumstances and lets things go. A culmination point of his jump is just to stop before touching the ground.

Upright meanings: Suspension, emotional release, restriction. Changing position, understanding limited opportunities, being open to a new experience.

Reversed meanings: Martyrdom, vulnerability, surrender. Having upending point of view, seeing from a wrong angle, overturning previous values and priorities.

XIII Death

A skeleton with a Maori spear rides a seahorse. It is the symbolic "death" that in fact is the long overdue change, renewing life like a seed which dies in the ground, creating a new plant.

Upright meanings: Transformation, movement, completion. Ending one project to start another, completing unfinished tasks, managing the destiny.

Reversed meanings: Resistance to change, inability to move, unwillingness to complete something. Being cast adrift, feeling in limbo, accepting fate.

XIV Temperance

A mermaid holds a gourd in each hand, and pours water from one into another. It symbolises perpetual alternations of life, choosing a temperate or moderate path and avoiding any extremes.

Upright meanings: Moderation, integration, balance. Creating synthetic approach, harmonising wishes with possibilities, reaching compromises.

Reversed meanings: Extremity, ignorance, resistance. Asserting a wrong positions, getting the own way, avoiding compromises.

XV The Devil

The Devil-*Taniwha* (in the Māori tradition is similar to serpents and dragons in other cultures) has two snake-looking women chained to him.

Upright meanings: Oppression, material bondage, hopeless. Being obsessed, feeling tied down, believing only in the physical.

Reversed meanings: Detachment, breaking free, hopes. Having faith, releasing from bondage, believing in spiritual.

XVI The Tower

A tower made of stones stays ashore, touching the sky. The top of the tower is destroyed by lightning and two fishes are falling down into the sea, symbolising dramatic changes in the stream of life.

Upright meanings: Disaster, sudden change, revelation. Experiencing overturn events, realising the truth, having a crook in the lot.

Reversed meanings: Avoidance of a disaster, fear of change, limitations. Keeping a previous course of life, being engaged in self-deception, avoiding shocks.

XVII The Star

A mermaid pours water from two gourds into the sea. She looks inspired and relaxed.

Upright meanings: Faith, hope, spirituality. Having faith in future, thinking positively, releasing tension.

Reversed meanings: Lack of faith, despair, discouragement. Being in despair, thinking negatively, feeling anxiety.

XVIII The Moon

A scene of the solar eclipse is depicted where two seahorses and a lobster realise it as a full moon. A misperception of reality occurs here.

Upright meanings: Visions, dreams, unusual thoughts. Releasing inner demons, losing a direction, having unrealistic ideas.

Reversed meanings: Phobias, nightmares, obsessions. Suffering from phobias, feeling disoriented, feeling confused.

XIX The Sun

Two fishes jump from water towards the sun, being energised and full of enthusiasm as if they participate in a competition.

Upright meanings: Vitality, success, celebration. Experiencing social relationship, being confident, getting charged up.

Reversed meanings: Decline, lack of success, prostration. Feeling loneliness, experiencing depression, getting exhausted.

XX Judgment

Two snake-looking women lift the sun up and a man's figure rises with hands up, manifesting the hidden human potential.

Upright meanings: Awakeness, rebirth, transformation. Awakening for new possibilities, seeing things in a new light, enjoining new hopes.

Reversed meanings: Worry, disappointment, delay. Making a hard choice, feeling drawn in an undesirable direction, feeling sorrows.

XXI The World

A naked Maori woman holding a spear in each hand enters the world. The four figures in the corners of the card are the beasts of Maori lore: a turtle, a whale, *Taniwha*, and *Tiki*. It is a picture of wholeness and harmony.

Upright meanings: Perfection, completion, satisfaction. Achieving goals, seeing dreams coming true, getting satisfaction.

Reversed meanings: Imperfection, incompleteness, failed endeavours. Failing to complete plans, feeling frustrated, getting unsatisfied.

Minor Arcana



Gourds

Ace of Gourds

A gourd from which flowers grow symbolises feelings that are helpful for further growth.

Upright meanings: Spirituality, feelings. Expressing deep feelings, empathising with people.

Reversed meanings: Materialism, callosity. Having emotions repressed, establishing mock relations with others.

Two of Gourds

Two gourds are linked together, symbolising a new opportunity arising when efforts are joined.

Upright meanings: Partnership, relationship. Establishing a union, balancing between a practical sense and sensitivity.

Reversed meanings: Break-up, imbalance in relationships. Conflicting interests, broking relationships.

Three of Gourds

Two gourds grow from the third. Fishes whirl around in an endless cycle. The picture symbolises the maternal support that young people receive from the elders.

Upright meanings: Community, success. Getting together with people, forming a team bond.

Reversed meanings: Loneliness, failure. Experiencing self-reliance, refusing to share.

Four of Gourds

A fern with three fruits in the form of gourds grows of a buried gourd, symbolising a sacrifice of one life for others.

Upright meanings: Unhappiness in spite of success, disappointment in good fruits of efforts. Accepting success passively, losing interest in life.

Reversed meanings: A bright outlook on life events, new hope. Feeling motivated, finding life exciting.

Five of Gourds

An eagle carries five gourds to a mountain top. The image symbolises fruitless efforts. There is no need to carry water up as it always flows down.

Upright meanings: Loss, sorrow. Breaking up relationship, being disappointed by a situation.

Reversed meanings: New relationship, hope. Rethinking a course of life, experiencing a sudden improvement in an irredeemable situation.

Six of Gourds

There is a big gourd from which water pours and five small gourds are attached to the big gourd's side. A circular motion of water symbolises returning to the beginning.

Upright meanings: The past, nostalgia. Feeling nostalgic, being no practical.

Reversed meanings: The future, an upcoming situation. Having clear conscience, being realistic.

Seven of Gourds

A Maori warrior stays with a spear in his hand. Seven gourds form a visionary canoe as if it is a game of the warrior's imagination.

Upright meanings: Imagination, illusion. Creating fantasies, getting caught up in illusions.

Reversed meanings: Hard facts, reality. Setting realistic goals, being well organised.

Eight of Gourds

A whale throws up two gourds and six gourds are left behind in water. Two fishes jump up in excitement.

Upright meanings: Limitations, stagnation. Changing a path, leaving something behind.

Reversed meanings: Focus, energy. Looking for better things, finding a new way.

Nine of Gourds

A half-man and half-snake protrudes from water being surrounded by nine gourds. Snakes symbolise the umbilical cord, joining all humans to Earth, to the material world.

Upright meanings: Material success, overall well-being. Obtaining a goal, getting a desirable result.

Reversed meanings: Financial worries, imperfection. Being mistaken, experiencing a material loss.

Ten of Gourds

A *Tiki's* head is suspended in the air being surrounded by ten gourds. This picture symbolises satisfied mind.

Upright meanings: Family values, happiness. Delighting in family life, bonding with family members.

Reversed meanings: Misalignment of values, family problems. Experiencing family strife, increasing stress and tension.

Apprentice (Page) of Gourds

A young man lifts a gourd up. A jet of water is linked to the sun, symbolically connecting the water and fire elements and underlining the man's high intentions and sensuality.

Upright meanings: Sensitivity, compassion, communication. Being touched, being led by heart.

Reversed meanings: Selfishness, cruelty. Hiding feelings, refusing to share something personal.

Warrior (Knight) of Gourds

A Maori man rides a seahorse. His ride symbolises romanticism and avoiding challenges of life.

Upright meanings: Romanticism, idealism. Experiencing strong feelings, responding deeply to life.

Reversed meanings: Deception, falsehood. Facing problems easily, being too practical.

Chieftainess (Queen) of Gourds

A mermaid holds a gourd. A jet of water forms a circle around her, symbolising spiritual energy and empathy.

Upright meanings: Emotional security, empathy. Accepting unconditionally, being sensitive to the feelings of people.

Reversed meanings: Emotional insecurity, nonchalance. Being unreliable, being untrustworthy.

Chief (King) of Gourds

A Maori noble with a gourd is depicted in front of an ornamental globe. His power is based on understanding of people's feelings.

Upright meanings: Emotional influence, broad mind. Being charming and likable, accepting the limitations of people.

Reversed meanings: Difficult to please, unscrupulous character. Being shifty in dealings, achieving goals through emotional influence.

Discs

Ace of Discs

A tattooed turtle reaches for the sun as if looking for new opportunities.

Upright meanings: New financial opportunities, prosperity. Focusing on realistic goals, achieving tangible results.

Reversed meanings: Lost opportunities, vegetable life. Misplacing priorities, seeing efforts fruitless.

Two of Discs

A Tiki's carving is depicted with two discs symmetrically attached at front of him, symbolising that his power is measured and balanced.

Upright meanings: Balance, harmony. Cooperating instead of fighting, getting people allies.

Reversed meanings: Misbalance, disharmony. Inability to maintain balance in life, having difficulties to adapt.

Three of Discs

A fish throws a disk up and two disks lay at the bottom. The disk in air is a symbol of the sun power and two disks symbolise material attachments.

Upright meanings: Realisation, gain. Manipulating emotionally other people in order to reach own goals, knowing what to do and how to do it.

Reversed meanings: Procrastination, loss. Achieving less than what was expected, operating in the unknown.

Four of Discs

A mermaid holds a fern leaf with three disks in her hand. In her other hand she has one disk with a fern growing from it. It is a metaphorical picture of balancing something real and an imaginary thing.

Upright meanings: Success, wealth. Acquiring material things, getting an own share.

Reversed meanings: Setback, poverty. Facing difficulties, driving to nowhere.

Five of Discs

The profile of a Maori girl with five disks in a circle. She looks sad and broody. The red circle behind and her fiery tattoo symbolise her unsatisfied wishes.

Upright meanings: Financial misfortune, salvation. Lacking support, feeling insecure.

Reversed meanings: Recovery from financial loss, improvement in a situation. Better time is coming, feeling much better.

Six of Discs

A Maori warrior tames the sun down to give light to six disks, symbolising his generosity.

Upright meanings: Charity, generosity. Sharing wealth, being wasteful.

Reversed meanings: Selfishness, greed. Hoarding wealth, being stingy.

Seven of Discs

Six discs are loaded into a cracked canoe and the seventh disc shines in the sky instead of the sun. The picture symbolises that the growth of one's earthy power might overshadow the real sun's power.

Upright meanings: Investment, reward. Getting return on investments, seeing fruitful results.

Reversed meanings: Lack of vision, limited success. Doubting own abilities, being not self-motivated.

Eight of Discs

Six discs hangs on a dead tree, and two discs are under the tree's roots. The tale of the Maori Tree of Life teaches that life continues after death and families reunion in the underworld.

Upright meanings: Education, knowledge. Learning new skills, pursuing bigger understanding.

Reversed meanings: Sloppy work, laziness. Lacking in skills, having no interest in work.

Nine of Discs

A young man sits in fire in front of a pillar with seven disks attached. One disk is above him instead of the sun and one disk is on the ground. This picture symbolises the monk's resistance to the material life.

Upright meanings: Luxury, comfortable lifestyle. Having good fortune, enjoying material life.

Reversed meanings: Bad investments, financial setbacks. Having loss of possessions, dissipating wealth.

Ten of Discs

A man kneels under a load of ten discs on his shoulders, symbolising the burden of wealth.

Upright meanings: Material abundance, wealth. Inheriting assets, seeing own ventures flourish.

Reversed meanings: Financial failure, loss. Losing money, feeling slothfulness.

Apprentice (Page) of Discs

A young man performs a ritual dance. Wings symbolise his wishes to fly, and a disk expresses metaphorically the earth gravitation.

Upright meanings: Learning, concentration. Looking for new solutions, achieving a significant result.

Reversed meanings: Closed mind, dissipation. Opposing new ideas, experiencing a lack of progress.

Warrior (Knight) of Discs

A Maori warrior fights a giant serpent. A portal gate behind is brighter than the sun above, but the man resists to head toward an unknown.

Upright meanings: Persistent, methodical. Preferring well-known ways and actions, taking care of every detail.

Reversed meanings: Perfectionist, narrow-minded. Being reluctant to try something new, being obsessed with safety.

Chieftainess (Queen) of Discs

A Maori chieftainess holds a fern leaf with a disk on it. She does not touch the disk because the Maori are tied to nature but not to material values.

Upright meanings: Generosity, security. Doing services for others, creating a secure environment.

Reversed meanings: Imbalance in work, family commitments. Deceiving others, creating a phoney impression.

Chief (King) of Discs

A Maori chief is depicted with a disk beneath. He is not touched by gold, but his wealth lies in the natural environment.

Upright meanings: Wealth, Profitability. Attracting wealth, finding business opportunities everywhere.

Reversed meanings: Corruption, cheat. Being avaricious, engaging into illegal ventures.

Wands

Ace of Wands

A lizard, a turtle, a bird, and a fish move in the same direction. The movement of living creatures symbolises a path.

Upright meanings: Inspiration, beginning. Inventing a right path, having enthusiasm.

Reversed meanings: Lack of motivation, passivity. Moving in a wrong way, being indifferent.

Two of Wands

A wounded Maori warrior kneels, hanging on two spears. He needs some rest or else he will become exhausted and burn himself out.

Upright meanings: Boldness, hard work. Taking risks, taking initiative.

Reversed meanings: Cowardice, laziness. Avoiding risks, wanting in initiative.

Three of Wands

There is a head of a Maori warrior with three wands stuck into the ground, symbolising waiting and reconsidering.

Upright meanings: Exploration, experiment. Looking for greater possibilities, taking a role.

Reversed meanings: Procrastination, mistake. Inability to focus on a current deal, avoiding an activity.

Four of Wands

A Maori warrior widens the eyes and stretches out his tongue, performing *haka* (a traditional Maori war dance) with four wands. *Haka* symbolises a triumph.

Upright meanings: Triumph, happiness. Experiencing a success, escaping difficulties.

Reversed meanings: Failure, disappointment. Feeling unapt, being trapped.

Five of Wands

A young Maori woman, holding three wands, sits on the ground, and two wands lie beneath. It is a metaphorical picture of an internal discord.

Upright meanings: Discord, competition. Rising to the challenge, experiencing dissension.

Reversed meanings: Conflict avoidance, diversity. Waiving competition, ignoring dissension.

Six of Wands

A whale holds six wands on the tail. The whale's image personifies solidity and self-confidence.

Upright meanings: Self-confidence, challenge. Achieving success, gaining recognition.

Reversed meanings: Lack of confidence, prudence. Experiencing failure, being in obscurity.

Seven of Wands

A Maori woman kneels, holding a surfboard as if it is a wand; the other six wands are visible in the background. She looks like a competition winner.

Upright meanings: Competition, victory. Being firm, acting resolutely.

Reversed meanings: Relinquishment, loss. Having no faith in own abilities, being in self-doubt.

Eight of Wands

A *Tiki* holds eight wands and a woman in his hands. The woman's legs and wands are crossed as if they are walking.

Upright meanings: Action, resolution. Getting movement, finding a right resolution.

Reversed meanings: Stagnation, frustration. Being tied, making a wrong decision.

Nine of Wands

A Maori woman stands, holding two wands to her chest as if she is making preparations for something, and seven wands lie on the ground.

Upright meanings: Warning, precaution. Feeling guarded, taking extra precautions.

Reversed meanings: Incaution, giving up. Continuing a wrong path, experiencing a lack of willpower.

Ten of Wands

Eight wands protrude from the volcano crater, and two wands lie crossed at the volcano foot. Two hands symbolise energetic tension.

Upright meanings: Responsibility, burden. Feeling tension, having a hard task to perform.

Reversed meanings: Irresponsibility, an unencumbered life. Avoiding responsibility, doing nothing.

Apprentice (Page) of Wands

A young apprentice rehearses *haka* (a war dance). His face expresses focus and determination; he is ready for new adventures.

Upright meanings: Risk, adventure. Taking a novel approach, going in a new direction.

Reversed meanings: Indecisiveness, discredence. Setbacks to a new path, temporising to change directions.

Warrior (Knight) of Wands

A senior warrior stands on the bow of a *waka taua* (a Maori war canoe). He has no fear and looks back to his team ready for battle.

Upright meanings: Confidence, fearless. Operating without fear and doubts, doing recklessly.

Reversed meanings: Uncertainty, doubts. Lacking of confidence, acting with caution.

Chieftainess (Queen) of Wands

A noble Maori woman sits behind the flame, symbolising energy and power.

Upright meanings: Warmth, vibrancy. Being loaded with optimism, creating a strong positive impression.

Reversed meanings: Cold, arrogance. Being pessimistic, create a bad impression.

Chief (King) of Wands

A Maori chieftain is depicted with a ritual wand. He is a natural leader and accustomed to respect.

Upright meanings: Power, leadership. Earning respect, attracting attention.

Reversed meanings: Cruelty, arrogance. Bulling opponents, being tough.

Swords

Ace of Swords

A two-headed eagle holds a sword, symbolising perfect vision.

Upright meanings: Blowout, clarity. Thinking a path through, seeing things clearly.

Reversed meanings: Confusion, lack of clarity. Feeling doubts, applying emotions.

Two of Swords

A Maori woman and a man have two swords and a heart between them. They look in opposite directions which is a hint at a break up or a dead point in their relationship.

Upright meanings: Obstacle, dead point. Being defensive, keeping feelings under control.

Reversed meanings: Pretending that everything is all right, ignoring that something is wrong.

Three of Swords

A hand holds a heart pierced with three swords, symbolising heartbreak.

Upright meanings: Heartbreak, betrayal. Suffering an emotional pain, having feeling hurt.

Reversed meanings: Sorrow, misery. Being disappointed, feeling lost.

Four of Swords

Four swords form the Roman X with a wreath, signifying inaction to buy time to rethink a situation.

Upright meanings: Temporising, relaxation. Taking rest, avoiding activities.

Reversed meanings: Activity, stress. Working restlessly, feeling burnt-out.

Five of Swords

A *tohunga* (Maori priest) sits next to the five swords stuck into the ground. A half apple here symbolises an offering to gods with an extra meaning that a probability is only a half of a capacity.

Upright meanings: Trouble, loss. Finishing something with disappointed result, being defeated.

Reversed meanings: Lesson, transformation. Exposing own weaknesses, learning a life lesson.

Six of Swords

A Maori warrior kneels on one knee, leaning on his sword. He holds five swords on his shoulder as if they had been collected on a battlefield.

Upright meanings: Transition point, journey. Preparing to change location, leaving behind something. Going on a journey.

Reversed meanings: Entrapment, deadlock. Being unable to move. Feeling to be bounded to a miserable life.

Seven of Swords

A Maori woman holds a sword by the hilt and has six swords are hidden behind her. She is prepared to hide something or cheat someone.

Upright meanings: Deception, control. Manoeuvring to hide real intentions, keeping something in secret to control others.

Reversed meanings: Betrayal, controllability. Being deceived, experiencing to be controlled.

Eight of Swords

A Maori woman with three daggers in her belt lifts a basket of apples pierced by five daggers. The picture symbolises a situation of self-imposed restriction.

Upright meanings: Restriction, obstacles. Being in a limited situation, experiencing a lack of choice.

Reversed meanings: Freedom, independence. Feeling of self-sufficiency. Ability to overcome difficulties.

Nine of Swords

Nine swords covered with thorns stick out of a stone, forming some kind of an old fence. The picture says of an internal barrier in the art language.

Upright meanings: Anguish, remorse. Feeling loss of self-belief, experiencing a crisis of confidence.

Reversed meanings: Alleviation, relief. Overcoming an internal barrier, improving a state of mood.

Ten of swords

Ten swords are embedded in a shell as in a scabbard. It is a symbolical “hiding” of a previous path of life.

Upright meanings: Confusion, misery. Seeing a darker side of life, reaching a bottom.

Reversed meanings: Beneficiary, improvement. Experiencing recovery, feeling things going better.

Apprentice (Page) of Swords

A young man forms a mockery *marae* (a ceremonial house), decorating it with a sword, and worships the sun. The sword here is for decoration only; it is not a weapon, but a symbol of a strong foundation.

Upright meanings: Insight, perception. Thinking everything through, developing an idea.

Reversed meanings: Deceit, lie. Pretending doing something, being an impostor.

Warrior (Knight) of Swords

A Maori warrior flies an eagle with a sword turned down in his hand. His eyes are closed. The eagle is a symbol of logical clarity.

Upright meanings: Logic, certainty. Acting with full understanding, expressing ideas preciously.

Reversed meanings: Emotion, uncertainty. Acting imprudently, being evasive.

Chieftainess (Queen) of swords

A noble Maori woman sits with a sword in her left hand and a fern in her right hand. She measures the extending part of her throne to cut it off.

Upright meanings: Thinker, observer, perfectionist. Opening for opportunities, understanding hidden things.

Reversed meanings: Narrow-minder, careless. Losing chances, having unrealistic expectations.

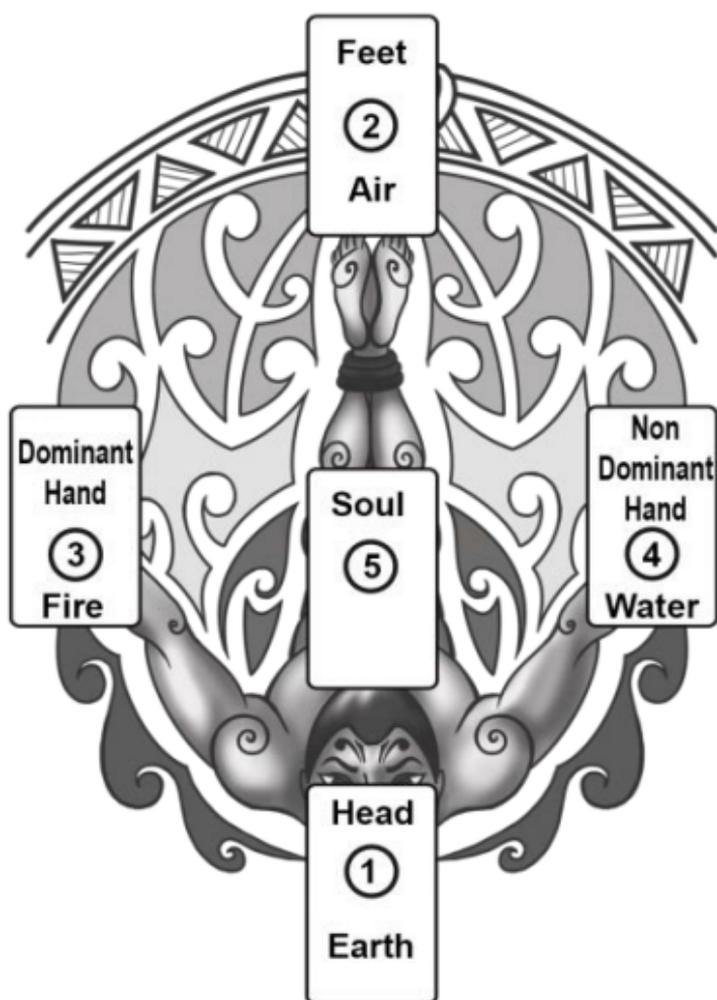
Chief (King) of Swords

A Maori chief with a sword in his hand is a person of knowledge, claiming knowledge as power. An ornamental globe behind him can be protected or destroyed by the sword.

Upright meanings: Power, authority. Being knowledgeable, applying reason and logic.

Reversed meanings: Tyranny, corruption. Using of mind for evil, applying unfair judgement.

The Hanged Man spread



The Hanged Man spread is a simple but efficient tool to comprehend an inquirer's present situation and the life path's direction. The positions of the cards of this spread correspond to the body of the Hanged Man who is suspended by the legs in air.

Card 1 represents the Earth element and the inquirer's head (or mind, to be precise). The question may be asked here, "What advises mind and common sense?"

Card 2 represents the Air element and the inquirer's feet (in the upside down position of the Hanged Man). Although feet give us freedom to move, at the same time they always return us to where we belong. The question may be asked here, "What was a real problem in the past, the unsolved problem to be solved now?"

Card 3 represents the Fire element and the inquirer's dominant (right) hand. As the Fire element suggests, a card in this position shows a usual course of the querent's actions.

Card 4 represents the Water element and the inquirer's non-dominant (left) hand. A card in this position tells us how other people can use

the querent's habitual behaviour to their own advantage.

Card 5 represents the Spirit and the inquirer's heart (or soul in other words). A card in this position answers to the question, "In what way the querent's problem can be solved to soothe her or his soul?"

A reader may add up to three cards in each position to clarify an answer or to show influences from the past, present or future.

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