



Whare Atua Temple

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Introduction to the Tarot

By Frank Salt



A few remarks on the Tarot in general would be appropriate at this stage. There is much more to discover later on. "The Book T" was, until recently, not mentioned until much later on, when the Aspirant had become thoroughly attuned to the use of the Hebrew sign-language, having practiced using Hebrew as its own dictionary.

This is still essential to further real progress but as so many books have been published, mainly by the "Little Jack Homers" of this world who talk but do not Know, that we offer a few points on the subject now.

Provided you really brave thoroughly attuned your conscious and sub-conscious minds to the Qabalistic System already presented, Tarot rightly used, not read about, is a truly magical extension of our Ritualistic and symbolic system introduced to it over 600 years ago.

Tarot is obviously the forerunner of the modern card pack, using the same four suits, but four ranks of court cards instead of three, and the modern "Joker" is all that remains of the original 22 'Trumps' — being as it were a summation of all of them in the first 'Trump' known as "The Fool" — or jester, which does in fact lie at the root of the whole system.

The word 'Trump' is a contraction of the original term "Triumph"; now this word comes to us from the Greek '*thriambos*' appropriately a ritualistic term for the *Festival of Bacchus*, when a grand process was held through the streets with 'songs' or incantations.

This became a custom in welcoming a victorious General and his army into the city, Hence the ceremony became a 'Triumph', a term now used much more freely to apply to the overcoming of difficulty. The old sense of the ceremonial festivities is rather more suited. Also the word 'Trump' is now so widely used that it has become accepted. However, remember the Ceremony rather than the victory in that each Trump represents an

Archetypal Image engraved in the Soul and seeking animation and conscious activity.

These Images belong to Briah, our 'Creative' World, the sphere of the Archangels, the concepts in the Mind of The Father which seek incarnation in 'Assiah' through 'Yetzirah' the formative World. Thus such 'Admission Badges' such as the Caduceus, the Cup of the Stolist the symbol of Mercury etc. spring not from Kether 'Atziluth' but from Chokmah and Binah, in Briah the world of Archetypes, linked to Kether and Atziluth by the eleventh Path of Aleph and 'The Fool'.

From this you will see that the study of the Tarot concerns a very high level of our being — it is not just an object of curiosity which is why it was kept 'Secret' in our Order for so long.

Many versions and books have been written over hundreds of years for the uninitiated, and a number of 'Blinds' or false names and attributed were used for the public, the true secret of the occult use is however, known to very few people and can only be discovered by persistent and patient work under the guidance of one who not only knows its value but preferably also knows you, the most important person in your work.

We strongly advise you not to fill your minds with the fruits of other peoples fumbling — books - but to keep your minds free and open to that which will be revealed to you in due course from within your own Being — that is how Tarot was designed to be used - and how it works.

It is truly said that a lone man on a desert island given a good Tarot pack and the inclination, would discover the Secret of the Universe— a title of the final Trump in the 32nd Path of the Tree of Life.