

# N'ATON

## VISIONS OF THE MAJOR ARCANA

by

### NEMA



The Hermit

Nema 1986

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## About the Artist

*"If ye would dance the Mask, then mask the Dance.  
Exquisite must be the Art. . ."*

### **Liber Pennae Praenumbre**

Nema has achieved international respect as a magickian, writer, and artist. Her opus **Liber Pannae Praenumbre** and her On-Go-ing exploration, the "Maatian Current," have significantly marked a watershed period in contemporary Magick.

Nema has been a featured subject in the writings of Kenneth Grant, and in numerous esoteric periodicals. Her recent writings and art have been published in **AEON: A Journal of the Art**, the **Cincinnati Journal of Ceremonial Magick**, **Mandragore**, **Axil Press**, and **Early Warning**.

Nema currently resides in Cincinnati and is a happy grandmother of three.

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## VISIONS OF THE MAJOR ARCANA

The Tarot is an ancient Book of Wisdom, a Book of pictures rather than words, clues rather than statements. It is used for divination or "fortune telling" in its popular, or Outer aspect. On the Inner, the Tarot links with the Tree of Life and the Zodiac. The individual cards function as mandalas and talismans; the deck as a whole provides a secret language of the Unconscious and Higher Consciousness.

This Tarot deck is named the N'ATON Tarot in honor of that which we are becoming.

N'ATON is the superpersona of the new human race: *Homoveritas*. *Homoveritas* is distinguished from *Homosapiens* by a double consciousness: that of the individual and that of the species. The species-consciousness is Jung's Racial Unconscious in an awakened state. It manifests in the individual as a background awareness of all other individual humans as well as the tides of consensus which are N'ATON's thinking.

Strong signals can arise from the background awareness to alert all to conditions of danger, distress or pain. If one lacks food, all feel hunger; if one plots murder, all would know.

The individual is aware of responses to his or her behavior, speech, personality etc. Insight and self-knowledge can be aided tremendously by the gift of seeing oneself as others see one. When we are N'ATON, there will be no war, violence, neglect, cruelty, or prejudice.

This Tarot is being fashioned to assist and accelerate the species' transformation. The trumps are drawn from many cultures, many ages. They invoke the various Aeonie formulae, traditions of practice, and stages of philosophy that comprise Magick: "The Science and the Art of causing change to occur in conformity with Will."

The mutation into *Homoveritas* is the first such change that we can consciously attain. These Trumps are clues to various methods of becoming a new kind of human being. The transformation can only be done to oneself by oneself. Information is helpful, love and support are priceless--but in this, we are each our own Messiah.

Onward to adventure!

**The Fool** (*Aleph*) is the Innocent, the wanderer, the third brother in the fairy tales. He travels far, questing as Parsifal for the Grail, expanding the boundaries of experience since he knows nothing of limits. He goes as far as his technology will take him.

**Adjustment** (*Lamed*) is the equilibrium of the universe in motion. In Egyptian terms she is Maat: truth, righteousness, balance, and the correct establishment of boundary lines. In the Hall of Judgement, Anubis balances the heart of the deceased with the feather of Maat. If the heart is innocent and as light as a feather, the soul proceeds to the blessed land of Amenta.

Together they are AL, the Hidden God. They are Chaos and Order, which are mutually necessary for the harmony and variety of life. As AL, they are the purest expression of Love under Will.

**The Magus** (*Beth*) employs his knowledge of the ways of Nature to accomplish deeds that seem miraculous to others. He speaks his Word and the universe is transformed by the Magickal Current which his Will directs.

**The Star** (*He*) is the Magickal Current used by the Magus. The essence of the Star flows into the vessels prepared for it and then flows into the world, nourishing life and eliminating consciousness. The Star is pure energy.

Together, the Magus and the Star are Magick at work. Wisdom needs power in order to change things; power needs direction in order to have an effect.

**The Priestess** (*Gimel*) is responsible for the connection of the human and the divine in Nature. She is the leader of the Mysteries, the dancer of ritual, the keeper of the Temple. She invokes the gods, not so much to manifest their power through her, but to demonstrate to others how they might invoke themselves.

**The Hierophant** (*Vau*) is responsible for the connection of the human and the divine within oneself. He guides the Initiation process, including the Ordeals that are part of it. Ordeals are the karma incurred and discharged in the process of radically changing one's consciousness through Initiation.

Together, they are the balanced formula for spiritual progress: work on the Outer and work on the Inner, group ritual and solitary rites, participation and realization. Initiation is ultimately self-directed: each Initiate must learn to use the power of the gods and to anticipate Ordeals in order to avoid them. Ordeals can be avoided by correcting one's spiritual condition voluntarily and promptly.

**The Empress** (*Daleth*) embodies the female energies raised to their highest level of responsibility and the fulfillment of duty and function. She represents the Vegetable Kingdom of earthly life, the nurturing mother aspect of the Goddess and the bountiful harvest. She is linked with Venus and can be a doorway into love and creativity.

**The Emperor** (*Tzaddi*) symbolizes the male energies raised to their highest level of responsibility and the fulfillment of duty and function. He represents the Animal Kingdom of earthly life, the providing father aspect of the God, the productive hunt and husbandry. He is linked with Aries, springtime, new beginnings, and the power of fire.

Together the Empress and Emperor present the dignity of power used with compassion and love. They speak of humanity's responsibility for the welfare of and right relationship with Nature in all her forms. Humanity is the neurosystem of planet Earth, the cephalic director of the biosphere, the brain through which the mind, and soul of Terrestrial Nature seeks to increase Intelligence. Only in this responsibility does humanity deserve the title "Crown of Creation."

**The Chariot** (*Cheth*) is a symbol of the soul's progress on the path of Initiation, an image of motion and of GO-ing. (Some say the card is better titled "The Charioteer.") The letter Cheth means "fence." At first thought this seems to contradict the image of GO-ing, but roadside fences can be useful in preventing wrong turnings.

**Fortune** (*Kaph*) is the wheel of Karma, in which Justice can manifest in the guise of Chance. To avoid the snares of triumph and despair, one should seek to abide in the hub rather than on the rim.

Together, these wheeled cards represent change and progression, the activity of linear and temporal vision. Attempting to stand still is futile; there is no turning back. Wisdom says to guide the course of travel and enjoy the ride.

**The Hermit** (*Yod*) is the individual consciousness, the singular point of view. It is the fertilizing spermatozoa, the minute packet of information that unites with the surrounding Universe to produce a new being. The Hermit of the New Aeon does not live in isolation, but rather in integrity amid Chaos and the lures of Maya.

**Lust** (*Teth*) is the process whereby the union takes place. It is the great yearning for completion that renews earthly life generation after generation, and infuses the individual with zest and appreciation for all that lives. Lust is the drive to Unity with the All/Nothing, the urge that is the motive for seeking Initiation and adhering to the Path.

Together, the Hermit and Lust comprise the dynamic tension of Self and Other, solitude and intimacy, autonomy and unity. Both sperm and egg disappear in the creation of the zygote. This is the dissolution whereby one crosses the Abyss.

**The Hanged Man** (*Mem*) is one of the most mysterious trumps in the Tarot. He is hanging by his foot, not his neck, so the idea of execution or violent death is not the image's intention. His is the principle of undertaking Ordeals or disciplines (as in Yoga) in order to gain Spirit Vision.

**Death** (*Nun*) is a major transformation in the human experience. It represents, Alchemically, the process of putrefaction or composting, whereby organic remains are made useful to the growth of new life. The Baron Samedhi not only rules the dead and presides over cemeteries, but is also Lord of the Crossroads.

Together these cards represent discipline and wise choice, the training and transformation of the Initiate, the difficulties and the termination of life. Experience in Magick brings the sure knowledge that Death is but another Great Initiation.

**The Devil** (*Ayin*) is Surprise, the Unexpected. Like the Judeo-Christian Yahweh, the Devil is thought to be a single, male entity. Devil=Double=Duality; the Goddess and the Horned God together create the power of Pan, Cernnunos and Herare, as well as the power of Aradia, Cerridwen and Bridgid. It is the procreative power of Desire.

**The Tower** (*Pe*) is destruction, obliteration, annihilation, Shivadarshana. It is the resolution of duality in the awareness of the illusory nature of self-identity. *Pe* means "mouth," an important organ in Maat Magick.

The Tower and the Devil together give the gist of an Initiation Ordeal, even unto the Crossing of the Abyss.

