



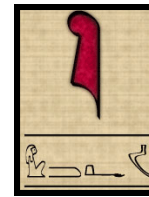
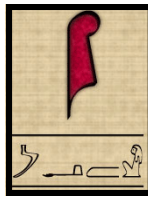
Ma'at

Goddess of Truth, Balance & order



The **Egyptian Goddess of truth, order, balance and justice** was necessary to prevent the universe from falling into chaos. The Egyptians believed that the universe as an ordered, rational place that functioned with predictability and regularity, the cycles of the universe remaining constant. In the moral sphere, purity was rewarded and sin was punished. Both morally and physically, the universe was in perfect balance.

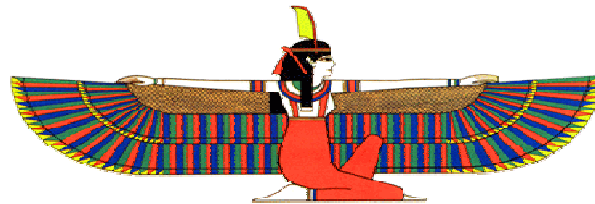
Playing a large part in the Egyptian pantheon, Ma'at was reality: *"The solid grounding of reality that made the Sun rise, the stars shine, the river flood and mankind think."* To the Egyptians, the universe itself, all the world around them, was sacred. At the heart of it, Ma'at represents *"cause and effect"*; she is the bottom line of our actions - we will all most assuredly reap what we sow in the Hall of Double Ma'at. No excuses, no compelling reasons or explanations, in that court, our actions are all that count.



In Egyptian, Ma'at literally means *"truth"* as this goddess represented truth, order, balance and justice. She was also responsible for regulating the stars, seasons, and the actions of both mortals and deities. She also represented the primal laws of the universe that supported creation and prevented it from falling into chaos. On a daily basis, she helped the Sun God Ra/Re, steer his boat across the sky, guiding his direction.

Judge of the Egyptian underworld, the dead all end up in the Halls of the Double Ma'at where the heart was placed on a scale, balanced by a feather (The symbol of Ma'at is the ostrich feather she wears on her head). Weighing the heart was Thoth, god of writing and scribes, and if the heart of the deceased has lived a life out of balance, his heart is devoured by Ammut - Devouress of the Dead. If the heart balanced with the feather of Ma'at, the deceased went on to the after life. Those who lived by the laws of Ma'at took a sacramental drink which conferred ritual purity in the same sense as the Christian Holy Communion; this potion brought life after death to the peaceful and law-abiding, but death to violent persons.

Portrayed as a woman with a white or red ostrich feather, carrying a scepter and ankh, Ma'at is also sometimes pictured as a winged Goddess.



Ma'at strongly corresponds to the tarot archetype *"Justice."* Her job is to balance justice with compassion, ensure a distribution of power that provides realistic and fair boundaries that encourage people to take responsibility for their own actions. The other card that strongly resonates with Ma'at is the Queen of Swords, a no-nonsense energy that looks for, and speaks the truth, sometimes to the point of cutting off those who don't meet her exacting standards. Not necessarily a bad thing, when working with either of these cards in meditation, be prepared to *"not suffer fools gladly,"* as they have little patience for lies, deception or stupidity.



PRACTICAL APPLICATION: With high standards and ideals, **Justice** is a very good archetype to work with when you are called upon to mediate between different sides. If you are facing legal proceedings or other situations in your life where justice is required, remember this archetype should only be invoked if you wish to work with the universal laws of harmony and justice. If you are trying to enforce your own standards or seek revenge for perceived wrong doings be prepared for the inevitable backlash that is most assuredly coming.

Strengths: Balancing, fair and just.

Weaknesses: Very exacting in her standards, with little room for second chances.