

THE WILDWOOD TAROT

by Mark Ryan and John Matthews illustrated by Will Worthington

The following cards represent a selection from both Major and Minor cards in the deck to illustrate the wonderful depths and magical quality of the Wildwood.



14 *Balance*

14: BALANCE

The polarised energies of the land interweave and intertwine around the staff of the heavens, generating the pulse of life. Red and white serpents coil around a great tree – the heart of the Wildwood. Red and white energies represent the basic colours of a primal world – red for blood, fire and iron; white for milk, ash and bone. These colours are particularly relevant to Beltane as it lies at the junction on the Wheel between Fire (red) and Air (white), and from this interaction come creative impulses. The ancient symbol of the caduceus echoes the double helix of human DNA, the building blocks of life, where each strand contains the information of the whole. The human face of the Wildwood has both a light and a dark side, shown here in the face of the wooden masked carved into the tree itself. Both are natural and necessary components of the human condition.



17 *The Pole Star*

17: THE POLE STAR

The pure white light of The Pole Star illuminates the dark void of the universe and casts its radiance upon the earth. The stars represent the remotest power in the celestial sky and the interaction and fusion of particles that produce light and heat. Stars rise above the Earth, beckoning our searching minds to reach beyond our own solar system and grasp the vastness of space. The swirling clouds of stellar dust that formed the heart of the stars spiral outward into infinity and turn with the cycle of the universe. The blessing of The Pole Star radiates to the Earth across the abyss and reminds us that the same stuff of creation that fuels and binds these mighty sentinels of the night sky burns within us. Latest research shows that stars are initially formed as a sphere within a ring or circle of matter, echoing the cup and ring symbols found carved on the stones of prehistory that may represent the seed of manifestation and the source of creation itself. The blessing of the stellar world bathes the Earth and the human spirit with healing and regenerative energy.