

Atua, s. [Atua, P.; Akua, H.; Otua, F.]

1. A supernatural malevolent and powerful evil being; a demon:

[*Obs.* Of such there were many; and apparently, as with other peoples, continually increasing in number, as time rolled by. Their most ancient legends and myths, however, mention a few only who were most powerful and most dreaded, (*dii majores*), viz.: Tu, Rongo, Taane, Tangaroa, Tawhirimatea, and Whiro; (see under each of these names;) among whom are found the four principal gods of Hawaii: Tu, Lono (Rongo), Kane (Taane), and Kanaloa (Tangaroa).]

Otira he *atua* ano nga *atua* nunui o mua . . . mei kore he *atua* nui o namata, e kore e whai *atua* ririki nga Maori.—*Poet.* p. lxxvii.

2. Beings, who are said (mythically) to have anciently done the work for men at Hawaiki:

Ka kitea nga rakau e ono, tua tonu iho; ka mene ki raro, tarai tonu atu (te tarai a nga mano porohete, ara a o ratou *atua*, i era rangi hoki ko nga *atua* hei mahi i nga mea katoa, ki Hawaiki, kaore hoki i takitaro kua takioti-oti.)—*Old Legend.*

3. Idols, or representative images: also a lower class of gods, each being over its own peculiar sphere, as of fish, kumara (sweet potatoes), of childbirth, &c.:

A waiho ana te *atua* i reira, ko te ingoa o tona *atua* ko Rakeiora; . . . ka heria mai hoki te *atua* nei, ko Rongomai.—*Myth.*, p. 123.

Ka torona a Kahukura, a Itapawa, a Rongomai, . . . a, ka mutu te karakia, ka mea atu, Katika to ara (to New Zealand); ka takaia nga *atua* na, ka whakairia, ka hoki ki te whare.—*Myth.*, p. 83.

He *atua* kumara anake i riro mai,—ika hoki; ko te *atua* tangata i mahue atu.—*Id.*, p. 84.

Ko Aotea te waka, ko Turi te tangata, tona *atua* ki runga ko Maru.—*Old Legend.*

[See Rakeiora, Rongomai, Itupawa, Maru.]

4. Imaginary invisible evil powers, beings, or things; genii; wood sprites; gnomes, &c.;

[See Patupaiarehe, Hakitara.]

Ehara ia i te mahi tangata Maori, na te *atua* tenei mahinga, ara na Patupaiarehe.—*Myth.*, p. 178.

5. Any sickness, disease, pain, or death, —personified.:

6. Any common natural thing greatly feared; or considered exceedingly ugly, disgusting, or disagreeable—viz.: guana, lizard, stinking wood-bug, owl, bat, &c.:

7. Any strange unaccountable natural phenomena, viz.: shooting star, *ignis fatuus*, meteor, rainbow, whirlwind, *aurora australis*, conjunction of heavenly bodies, eclipse, continued severe and unseasonable weather, &c.:

8. Any uncommon monstrous or rare animal, viz.: some species of shark, of

whale, &c.; small strange sea and river animals:

Nga ika i te waitai i te wai Maori, he *atua* anake mo nga tangata. Nga mea ia i atuatia ai, ko nga hapu o te wahine i materoto tonu mai, a whakatahetia ana tana tamaiti, whiua atu ki te wai, kainga mai e aua ika, a waiho tonu mai hei *atua* ngau tangata.—*Poet.*, p. lxxvii.

9. Any common animal of greater or superhuman power, — which formerly varied with different tribes, and in different parts of the country:

Ka karakia ia ki nga *atua* i konei,—toroa, karoro, kawau.—*Old Legend.*

10. Common articles of food, to which dislike, or superstitious fear, had been taken. Some few would never touch pork, others eels; and mutton, at first was almost invariably disliked:

Ko tera kai ko te aruhe, he *atua* ano no Tumatuenga.—*Old Legend.*

He *atua* tonu tena kai, te tuna ki a au.

11. Any destroying cause (seen), animal, or thing,—as fire, flood, rats, mice, cockroaches, caterpillars, mosquitoes; pigs, horses, cows, &c., devouring their crops:

Ma te taua ranei e hutihuti nga kai, ma te waipuke ranei, ma te tini noa iho ranei o nga *atua*.

12. Any harsh, cross, hard, covetous, illiberal, ill-natured, exacting, ferocious, bloodthirsty person:

13. A person loved, but far away; unmindful, or unrequiting:

Kei raro taku *atua* e aroha nei au.—*Old Song.*

14. Any artificial production, or secretly powerful natural thing (beyond Maori comprehension), as a loadstone, magnet, ship's compass, a watch, musical box, automata, steam-machinery, &c. A carved wooden head, or bust, (called a Puhi,) said to be endued with supernatural powers:

Kia riro mai taua *atua* hei whakamana mo o ratou nei oneone.—*Myth.*, p. 175.

15. A common term of low reproach:

16. Te Atua: the name of the fourteenth night of the lunar month, or new moon. The full moon.—[H.] With some tribes this was the name of the thirteenth lunar night; with others the fifteenth. A very unlucky day or night with the ancient Maori. [*Syn.* Mawaru, Otu, Hua].

The name for the Deity; the one true God: the God of Christians.—*Ev. Mod.*

[*Obs.* It is considered the choice of this word for to represent to the New Zealander a *God* of love and kindness, was most unfortunate; as such a being as an *atua aroha*, *atua atawhai*, or *atua pai*, (=a loving God, a gracious God, or a good God,) was a new and most unnatural idea, a perfect solecism to the