

Tiara

Nesrin – Kemal Totem Pole

This craftwork tells the story of Nesrin and Kemal.

The totem pole is made from a Totara Tree that is native to New Zealand and stands at 18 feet tall.



It is made of three sections. The bottom section represents our first 25 years of life, while the middle represents ages 25 to 50, and the top symbolizes the rest of our lives.



The bottom section is a Manaia, which is a mythological motif in the Maori carving art. With a head of a bird, body of a man, and tail of a fish, it represents life in the air, life on land, and life in the water, or simply life.

The Raperape spiral patterns on the arms represent motion.

For us, this section means the “start” from the spiritual world to the mortal world to becoming a human.

The time of innocence and naiveté, the years of childhood, adolescence, and education with the protection of evil eye. The time before starting our family and being confronted by the chaos that is called adulthood.



The middle section is the period where we strove to earn our bread and endeavor for the better. The Maori weapon, the Patu, in our hands and the coins in our eyes describe the difficulty and the stress of the working life in the city, the struggle to have more, and the broken hearts along the way.

This second 25-year period is when we lived far from Nature and the natural state (naturalness) and when we experienced the pressure of the society and competition at its worst. The feet turned inward symbolizes our lack of confidence, whereas the twisted legs symbolizes the weight (burden) on our shoulders.

The symbols on our upper arms represent our efforts to heal ourselves by joining the Freemasons and choosing a life on the sea. The heart-within-heart symbol on our arm tells of our growing family with love and happiness. The Maori Koru spiral, which stands for birth to a new life, growth, trust, and peacefulness, represents Pinar.

The Turkish Lira with Ataturk on the right eye and the New Zealand Dollar with Queen Elizabeth on the left eye accompanies our journey.



The third section is the years after 50, the retirement period. These are the years when we are more mature, more experienced, more talkative, more calm, and more enlightened. Our fight with Matter is winding down and our fight with Ourselves is on a peaceful stage. The years are spent in harmony with Nature, getting to understand the different parts of the World, living the life that we had dreamed.

The crowns on the head illustrate that our ideas are becoming more universal. The long tongue means that our biggest possession now are those ideas, and our biggest merit is to pass them on.

Fibonacci numbers: We encounter these awe-inspiring series of numbers in the unique harmony of Nature again and again. We used them on the Maori patterns to represent perfection that continues to reach the Golden Ratio.

The Flax Weaving that separates the three sections from each other, means that the transition between the three stages of our lives was far from smooth and subtle but rather abrupt and radical, as if we were "Cutting the Ropes" in the sailors terminology, when you are leaving for a journey with no intention to come back any time soon.

The hawk at the top is another Maori symbol.
 The wings refer to whirling Dervishes in Sema ceremonies.
 A Messenger that extends to the Universe.
 Ascending into the skies. Returning to the spiritual world.

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