

**LESSON 112**

**EMPRESS**

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## THE EMPRESS

The Empress (which means: she who sets in order) is the typical archetype for motherhood. In Roman mythology she is analogous to Venus, who in turn symbolises Spring and fruitfulness. Also by association she is the mother of Christ, because of her innocence and high degree of spirituality. The dove in the card strengthens this concept and shows her passivity and maternal nature combined with spiritual enlightenment. The Empress is a diety who shares, giving love and receiving love. She has many of the qualities of the High Priestess within her, which is not surprising because the Empress is an extension of the High Priestess. Where the former worked more on blind faith the latter works from experience as well. The Empress is in fact the matured High Priestess. Her empathy to the planet Venus shows warmth, love and generosity but if ill dignified can bring about self indulgence and selfishness.

Fertility and comfort are the two major meanings that the archetype of the Empress portrays. On the Tree of Life she is balanced between the Sephiroth of Binah (Great Mother) and Chokmah (Great Father) and implies union - the duad giving birth to the triad, resulting through conception and pregnancy. This is further shown by placing the symbol of Venus over her womb with her left hand holding the symbol of office (procreative masculine power) in her right. Together these reflect the energies of the two, masculine and passive, pillars in the Tree of Life. Her five pointed crown suggests the Holy Name YH(Sh)VH which implies the hidden spirit within as well as relating to the Tiphareth power center. The dove beside her shows the imminent impregnation of spirit into matter and is also analogous to the myths of Venus. The curtain she is seated in front of is closed, indicating that the Empress is all we are allowed to glimpse as the hidden wonders behind the veil are not for our eyes. The curtain has in fact eight links which relate to the Sephirah of Netzach. The throne she is on is her seat of authority and the arms are shaped like the paws of a lion.

Her title "Daughter of the Mighty Ones" alludes to the concept of the Holy Name. The Empress is conceived as a point of fruition from Yod or Abba as it is called (when emanating from the Arik Anpin - the Macroprosopus) which in turn gives birth to Heh or Aima. Both these two forces reflect the Mother and father aspect. The Empress is the child which unites these two mighty

forces for they are Elohim.

The curtain is coloured in the Paris Green of the King Scale which in turn relates to Atziluth, the tapestry from which the emanations emerge. The Cerise colour of the Princess Scale is the colour of the Empress's skin and is translucent. The rayed Paris Green lines of the Princess Scale outline the features and hair of the Empress as well as the darker areas of her throne which form a link to the curtain that weaves them. The sky behind the curtain is Sky Blue, as is her cloak. The crown, orb, brooch, slippers and crucifix are all in the Orange Gold complementary of the Sky Blue. The dress of the Empress is the Copper Green of the Prince Scale while her belt is its complementary Red.

The alchemical aspect of this card shows that the Empress is the Locked Primea Materia. Her pregnancy and rose coloured complexion refers to the blood of Christ or Aqua Permanens, which is extracted from her fixed state. She is the Massa Confusion, a substance endowed with quality as well as part of the Chaos (the hidden part). Her associations to pregnancy in fact show the birth of the Green Lion. The Green Lion has not yet appeared in this card but is hinted at by the throne and the lions paws. The dove beside the Empress shows that the Primea Materia is ready for birth while each (the primea Materia and the Green Lion) are ready for their entry into the world. Although both of these twins are the same substance they are different because after the birth of one (the Green Lion) the other will be found to be a solvent.

The psychological concept of this card shows interrelating. One of the prime factors that motivate the Empress is emotion, for emotion is the base principle that colours the entire drive and direction of the Empress, though it is an emotive force that produces a yearning to share and relate to others. The Empress is an individual who has to express and share her soul with others. She epitomises the Mother instinct in her thoughts and actions and tries to give comfort to the needy as it is part of her inert nature. Her psychological nature sometimes, though, can be too demanding and forces her to continually give which drains her life force. It is here that she must learn to discriminate those who seek her attention. On the negative side of things this self protective device she builds within herself can cause her to go to the other extreme of self indulgence, greed etc. Overall her approach to life is down to earth and practical. Her life style comes easy for her though she is extremely receptive to the needs of others and will help those in need whenever she can. This requires her to have a strong emotional outlook coupled with a sense of pride in her actions. Her one major concern is that she is too limited to help everyone and as such is confined by her own personal structure in which she lives.

The number associated to this card is Three. From a Kabbalistic concept this relates to Understanding the workings of the self which comes through the process of family involvement to gain some of life's experiences. Levi says of Three: 'The ternary is the number of creation. God creates Himself eternally, and the infinite which He fills with His works is an incessant and infinite creation. Supreme love contemplates itself in beauty as in a mirror, and it essays all forms as adornments, for it is the lover of life.' Westcott on the other hand draws from a more practical analogy: 'Photius observes that the Triad is the first odd number in energy, it is the first perfect number, and is a middle and analogo. The pythagoreans referred to it as Physiology; it is the cause of all that has a triple dimension. It is also a cause of good counsel, intelligence, and knowledge, and is the Mistress of Music, mistress also of Geometry, possesses authority in whatever pertains to Astronomy and the nature and knowledge of the heavenly bodies, connects and leads them into effects.'

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#### DIVINATION

ON MATTERS OF Selfhood; Self Projection; new ideas; new beginnings; reactions to outside stimuli; the life force; first encounters:

The key impetus of the Empress here is an urge to relate in harmony. On a large scale, first encounters may appear seducing. Good public relations lead to the gestation of a project. You may encounter flattery and a lot of attention, but this will last only as long as you have something someone else wants. What is forming is an optimistic viewpoint on life and creative self expression. There is a desire to please. On a personal note this card represents a person of self esteem, one who is attractive, knows her own worth and is giving to others.

ON MATTERS OF possessions and personal attitude towards such; personal estate and resources both physical and material; principles and feelings; management and projection; commerce, personal, commercial, governmental and national financial affairs directly relating to the self:

The key impetus of the Empress here is to appreciate beauty (the love of beautiful things, luxury, and a harmonious lifestyle). Money is loved only because it is considered convenient

to obtain a lifestyle that suits one where beautiful things can be appreciated. In essence, the Empress does not represent the materialist, but one who appreciates the physical beauty found throughout the material world. She rules diplomacy and appreciates fair play in business. Material resources are bound to be obtained through some artistic line whether it be direct or indirect.

ON MATTERS OF short journeys; communications; relationships; brothers, sisters, neighbours; humour; identity; early education; books; correspondence; enlarging ones field of activity:

The key impetus for the Empress here is to bring comfort and happiness. On a large scale she shows harmonious communications and pleasant dealings. If well aspected, education is found enjoyable. There is a study of music or some form of art, a study of geometry or the like is indicated. Whatever a person is involved in, a learning experience is taking place. On a personal note weekend trips for enjoyment are taken; a lot of social activities include relatives and rifts in the family are mended. There is possibly some association with a godmother, however under the above matters the Empress shows that someone is giving or is capable of giving a great deal of affection.

ON MATTERS OF the end of one stage and the commencement of another; the home and private life; buildings; land; parents; security; emotions; significant shifts in lifes directions; concerning the soul; the occult in its practical terms; divination:

The key impetus for the Empress here is the mother, whether she be physical or archetypal. On a large scale psychological and material, inheritance causes bondage. What is forming is the sharing of love and affection. The environment forms an atmosphere of peace. The law of cause and effect is strong in this position, for every action forms a reaction, so value is received for value given. On a personal note differences and domestic disputes are smoothed over and famly gatherings are suggested. The home is a place of partnership activities whether business or recreation. This card also represents interior decoration, a comfortable retirement, and/or real estate gains.

ON MATTERS OF love given; creativity of selfhood; the creative will; children; entertainment; recreation; speculation; sports; the arts; gambling; fulfilling potentiality:

The key impetus for the Empress here is to love. This love may not be necessarily on a personal note, it may be classed as a

cosmic type of love or understanding. These people have difficulty getting on in day to day life as they are so often misunderstood. On a large scale she shows a restoring of equilibrium and large gatherings to view things, such as touring concerts, music or dancing. What is forming is expression through creativity to bring fulfilment. Romantic pursuits may dominate thoughts and there may be sexual involvements. On a personal note she shows the comedian, the dancer - an artist of some form. She is also an indicator of pregnancy and shows kindness and understanding towards children.

ON MATTERS OF sickness (generally due to work problems); employment; employees; relationships within the work environment; conflicts; service; ones sense of service; the acquiring of skills; psychology:

The key impetus for the Empress here is to improve conditions. This is a time for improvements to be made in ones working environment, in business and living. She advises one to nourish ones body, and attend to the improvement of general health and fitness and overall shows improved health. On a personal note she represents a salary increase, an effort to better oneself, fashion, and friendships are established at work. However health affected through your work environment is the main emphasis when the Empress is placed in this position. Try music for relation - still yourself and contemplate.

ON MATTERS OF marriage and divorce; contracts; the other party; competitors, adversaries, and known enemies; partnerships; public relationships; social interaction; the law of compensation; what is lacking; the workings of karma:

The key impetus for the Empress here is to be complete. Completeness is sought through partnership for through relationships one can see the self. On a large scale this card shows an idealistic approach to life. What is forming is a refinement of matters, shared enjoyment of interests. In areas of business success comes through legal concerns, partnerships are long term and result in a fruitful harvest. The Empress shows a romance will lead to marriage. Although there is compatibility in business, there are high expectations of ones partner(s) which may lead to disappointment. She represents the matchmaker and someone who considers others feelings.

ON MATTERS OF death and rebirth; accidents; effects of others; crime and retribution; legacies; wills; others estates and finances; joint resources; moods; sex; spiritualism; rejuvena-

tion; mysticism; transformation; psychotherapy:

The key impetus for the Empress here is to care about humanity. On a large scale she shows that secrets will be revealed. She may also show involvement in undercover work. There is a tendency for sexual and health regeneration. On a personal note there is success in business partnerships, gaining profit through marriage or other means. As a person, the Empress shows another side of herself, one who is seductive and provocative. Be careful as she may entice you to give up your valuables. On yet another level she shows higher thoughts verging on spiritual consciousness.

ON MATTERS OF religion; metaphysics; philosophy; higher study and education; legal systems; morals; institutions of learning; long distance travel; exploration; public communications; the collective mind:

The key impetus for the Empress here is to derive a sense of wellbeing from ones beliefs. On a large scale, appreciation of different cultures and customs can lead to emulation of a culture and philosophy. Travel is possible giving a promise of beneficial results. There is a wide communication of the philosophy of love. This card can represent peace movements. She shows a study of astronomy or astrology. Relations with inlaws look favourable provided they are handled with tact. Overall, the Empress in this position shows her bringing into public awareness a belief system or a philosophy.

ON MATTERS OF public honour; status; ambitions and goals reached; achievements; profession; the other parent; causes for disgrace; recognition; identity:

The key impetus for the Empress here is to be seen, and admired. A position of prominence may be held and those represented by this card are shown to be cynosural with development of social prestige. It represents a culture of superior development or a place of importance. On a personal note there is formation of professional partnerships, an ambition for material wealth. Favours will be given from those in a position of power. Women will play an important role in ones career. She shows that truths must be seen to be believed, hence the need to be seen, and exhibit one talents.

ON MATTERS OF friends; income; social alliances; legislation; ones attitude; group activities; government, counsellors; love received; spiritual and intellectual aspirations; ideals; fulfil-

ment; what you yield and how you benefit others:

Here the Empress shows that groups or organisations come under scrutiny, governments improve a way of life and co-operation in large scale projects grows strong. A high standard of involvement in group activity may be expected but the benefit received from ones involvement is worth it, however, high ideals may be hard to live up to. You can expect achieving your goals, if you want them. If negatively aspected group activity is sought for material gratification. The overall influence of the Empress here is to bring together fractions and to form the whole again, so whatever your question, something will be shown to strengthen by the Empress being placed here.

ON MATTERS OF responsibility and contribution to others; humanistic concerns; karmic debts; unresolved problems; hidden resources; the unconscious; sorrow; health afflictions; secret enemies; hospitals; secret societies; self undoing; total identification:

The key impetus of the Empress in this position is illumination of intelligence verging on consciousness and spiritual compassion. Expression of emotional sympathy and understanding is strong when the Empress is placed here. A secret romance is possible or perhaps a secret fantasy. She shows through pain one may learn to understand the essence of life, one may have to give up a loved one for the sake of selfless love. She teaches the appreciation of all things in life and sees the beauty in all. There is association with institutes and therapists. Those represented by this card have the gift to help and give to others. If looking for advice, she advises quiet repose.

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#### MEDITATION ON THE EMPRESS:

Let the Student first study the overall picture of the card, then study each detail: Each symbol and image. Study the colours. Now let the Student look at the card and feel its vibrations. Write down your overall impression.

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#### exercise

Now paint this card with the above described colours. An outlined drawing is supplied with this lesson.

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