

LESSON 113

EMPEROR

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## THE EMPEROR

The Emperor is the typical archetype of the Father figure. Where the Empress is Maternal the Emperor is paternal which shows he can exert merciful tendencies as well as aggressive ones. The power of this trump is easily understood when one finds that it is placed on the path of Aries, between Uranus and the Sun which is an incredibly powerful combination of energy change. In fact it is growth personified and reinforced to an unprecedented degree. He is the figure of supreme authority, the Emperor/Priest, of both material and spiritual matters. This is emphasised by the path he is on coming through the Abyss with Divine authority and able to centralise itself in the heart of Tiphareth, the central hub of the Kabbalistic universe.

In many of the earlier cards the Emperor was often depicted as the bearded monarch in profile which also fits the association to Kether as the supreme ruler. The Golden Dawn departed from this theme as the 15th Path actually joins Chokmah, not Kether and as such the profile theme does not entirely fit the Kabbalistic concept of the Macroprosopus or Vast Countenance, but does apply to the Father which is associated to Chokmah. The subtle point of difference between the two concepts, when brought down to a simplified explanation is that the monarch in profile is the spirit from its position almost at a point beyond normal comprehension, while the Golden Dawn version shows an office representing these traits only, which will last only as long as the office does and hence shows the mortality and limitedness of the Emperor.

The title given to the Emperor is 'Sun of the Morning, Chief among the Mighty'. This alludes to his dominant position in the world, likened to that of the rising Sun which gives light and warmth to all. As chief among the mighty it also relates to the Sun being the dominant force which all the other planets revolve in orbit around. In short, he now becomes the centre of the earthly universe.

The three pointed crown of the Emperor shows the Kabbalistic Supernal, a complete unit in itself that is to a certain extent unmanifested, yet in a source for further nourishment to the lower part of the Tree. This is further enforced by the triangular line of the three spheres - two on the throne and one held in the hand which shows the tip of the Supernal. The ram at the Emperor's feet is creative energy, solar power, with the horns

representing thunder. Also considering the Christian viewpoint the lamb shows spiritual direction under the guidance of the leader of the flock, the Emperor. The orb with a cross mounted on it not only stands for royalty but a Christ Like ruler at his peak. The sceptre he holds in his right hand, mounted with a rams head shows masculine generative power - the phallus; transmission of energies from beyond.

The background colour of the card is a translucent Dull Violet of the Queen Scale. The skin of the Emperor is a translucent Blood Red. The headress on the crown is Peacock Green, the complementary colour of the King Scale. The crown, orb and cross and two spheres mounted on the throne are Olive Yellow, the complementary colour of the Queen Scale. The Wand that the Emperor holds is in the colour of the King Scale as is the outer cloak and ram. The inner garment is Pistachio Green, the complementary colour of the Prince Scale. The throne itself and the floor are the Greyish Magneto of the Princess Scale.

The psychological mode of consciousness that the Emperor represents is willed action. Here we have an example of the will of the Emperor being forced into a framework of action through self assertion. Since the action is but a motivation of the will this must be the primary force of consideration. The Emperor is a bold individual who has the power and reserve to back up his desires. The term 'iron will' is a good example of his psychological makeup. He will often run rough-shod over those individuals who stand in his way and care little about the consequences. Although his attitude is cavalier in approach do not be deceived by his outward show of bravado, for beneath it lies a very dedicated individual who is used to winning. He seeks new ideas and conquests constantly from some deep inert need that cannot be quenched. Due to his make-up, he cannot stop what he has begun and must finish and then go off again on a new adventure almost as soon as the old one has finished for there is no finish for him, just a long line of battles. In many ways he has the make-up of a young adolescent who is continually fascinated by the 'new' of everything though his power is far greater than his psyche can handle.

In the alchemical symbolism of this card, the Emperor represents the male metallic principle and strongly personifies it. Pertenty says: 'The Adepts draw their steel from the belly of Aries and they also call this steel their loadstone.' The Emperor is also depicted in some packs as having the symbols of Combustible oil on one hand and the Spirit of Sulphur on the other. This shows the alchemical King (or Emperor) can also be related to the water process and can be reborn after the Yellowing Stage. The Combustible Oil and Sulphur also stand for the primitive state of development and when joined with Salt then produces

Sulphur of the Wise. Because of this the individual stands for one transformed and made new, who in turn makes other things new. Khunrath describes the King (Emperor) as 'Procreation of the Preserver and Saviour of the Macrocosm and Microcosm. The word has become flesh, and spirit of God has revealed himself in body - thus the son of the Macrocosm'. This shows the Christ likeness further portrayed by the lamb/ram at his feet, the Agnus Dei. 'Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the World'.

The number four is associated to this card and of this Westcott says: 'The Pythagoreans, said Nicomachus, call the number four "the greatest miracle", "a God after another manner," "a manifold divinity", the "fountain of Nature", and its "Key bearer". It is the introducer and cause of the permanency of the Mathematical discipline." It is "most masculine " and "robust"; Hercules and Aeolus.'

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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 for the Emperor in this position is primal power. On a large scale countries/governments etc must take responsibility for their actions. The Emperor here can represent a powerful country or group of nations. The direction to take (being taken) is to force resources into a framework that will benefit all. What is forming is a competitive approach to life where one must excel in everything - proof through the results of ones actions. On a personal note however the Emperor represents a very energetic, powerful and vital person whose decisiveness is magnified by some impulsive behaviour. Time should not be wasted but used to maximum when the Emperor turns up here.

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:

Assertion is the key impetus here for the Emperor. On a large scale ones country/environment asserts its principles and values on one. There is a desire to have power and the Emperor is a leader of a group. Overall profit is expected even under

adverse conditions. What forms is self assertion, political ambitions and business/financial ambition. A business may be set up - the employed becomes the employer - successful planning. On a personal note symbols of power are money and material possessions as well as how many people one can dominate. Self discipline and domination of ones personal life are depicted by the Emperor who advises one to push forward with whatever resources you have.

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 Emperor here is to be original. Individual originality alone provides a sense of freedom and confidence within ones cosmic confines. On a large scale the Emperor shows the dictator or a chosen leader who gives communication to the masses, or the archetypal father image in a teacher or elder brother, who passes on knowledge. This card shows adeptness in communication and dominance of the mental plane. Exams are passed and recognition received. You may have to go and see someone in a position of authority. Solidifying education in the young builds a strong future. The lesson to learn here is to focus one thoughts.

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 Emperor here shows one to have a sense of purpose in ones actions, or way of life. On a large scale he shows patriotism. He is an owner of property and means to add more to his holdings. As a father his role is dominant but merciful. As an individual he is emotionally strong and may be starting on an inner journey to discover untapped energy and resources. The base of ones operations may be from home and there is a deep dedication to home, family and country. On a negative side this card shows an overbearing, overruling, overdominant person.

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

The Emperor in this position shows a constant flow of creative energy and one will receive inspiration from this area of life. He represents an extremely competitive situation, which is the key impetus here, and shows a person or something as the

centre of attention. Under the above matters he shows success and fulfilment. On matters of love, this person is ardent in his affections. Possibly reckless speculation can cause loss of respectability. The general emphasis is domination of ones affairs and any interrelating aspect thereof.

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:

Here the Emperor's key impetus is to motivate, the self and anyone or anything that comes into contact. On a large scale the Emperor shows the use of will and energy to serve mankind. This shows someone placed in a position of control, but is also a position to serve all and sundry. Dedication and energy will have to be applied if you want success in your job. Overall, the above matters dominate your attention and energy, and can, if you are not careful, take over your life. A little power is a dangerous thing, and with the Emperor here one is better off serving than ruling.

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 of the Emperor here is to conquer. The Emperor shows a taming of adverse forces (i.e. adversaries); there is no law of compensation, obey or be struck down; competitors will be overcome. The Emperor here advises one to place original documents into a safe place as one may fall into strife through recklessness. One may be forced into a marriage/partnership, or be in a situation where they get swept along in a whirlwind by a more dominant personality. This card also shows skill in public relations, and a potential mate.

ON MATTERS OF death and rebirth; accidents; effects of others; crime and retribution; legacies; wills; others estates and finances; joint resources; moods; sex; spiritualism; rejuvenation; mysticism; transformation; psychotherapy:

Here the Emperor shows a form of blind energy. On a large scale there may be a conquest before a fight or a declaration of war. Matters may get out of your control, whether external or internal battles are to be fought, and punishment is imposed. The Emperor here represents someone who misspends the resources

of others, someone who is over dominant in a partnership and thereby destroying what was good. On a more positive note he shows someone in the centre of activities, represented under the above matters. Overall, there is a tendency to disorder. Attempts to control the non-material end in collapse.

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 Emperor in this position is to stabilize the disorder caused in the earlier position which now forms into some sort of cohesive structure. On a large scale he shows an over-ruling of group thought and pushes ahead to be heard above the masses. There is an establishment and stability here of some sort of educational structure. The sciences and agriculture come to the foreground of attention. Legal systems and standards of morality are set up, old systems are judged and improved on. Lawsuits are cleared up without dispute. Overall, the Emperor here shows a reforming of old systems and the creating of a new stability. However, the Emperor is also the wanderer conquering greener pastures.

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 Emperor here is leadership. One may encounter a figure of authority. On a large scale he represents autonomy. The Emperor depicts promotion and prosperity; he is the wielder of initiative but can also be unyielding. The lesson to be learnt here is how to use power wisely. The card shows an archetypal father figure playing a dominant role in ones psyche whether he represents an external physical influence or a psychological need. There is a tendency to have a lack of patience towards the pace of ones progress and those that affect it. Professional prominence is attained through competition.

ON MATTERS OF friends; income; social alliances; legislation; ones attitude; group activities; government, counsellors; love received; spiritual and intellectual aspirations; ideals; fulfilment; what you yield and how you benefit others:

The Emperor in this position is best described as someone who rules with an iron hand, and on a large scale he represents the governmental guidance of a country. Political debates, the

passing of law and setting up of a valued structure takes place in groups, organisations and governmental agencies. Goals are achieved with the help of others. A person of individual ideals may attract a following. This is a position of individualism, for the Emperor, in a crowd operates on two levels. The first is bending the crowd's will to that of the individual while the second is the exact opposite. True friends are far and few between. The lesson here is to be complete as one alone before being part of a whole.

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 Emperor here, dictates acceptance and adherence to the cosmic law or you shall meet your own judgement. He represents deep involvement in secret societies whose role is a motivator. In this position the Emperor shows a completion of projects. A choice must be made as to which of the three paths one is to walk and whether to serve or rule together with another. Here the Emperor prepares a neutral ground to do battle in and makes secret strategical plans. He alludes to karmic preparation, which could be described as a chess game in play without an outcome defined. He is both the builder and the destroyer, for anything without a solid foundation is crumpled to make way for something stronger.

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#### MEDITATION ON THE EMPEROR:

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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