

Card 3 - The Empress



Along the lines of feminine energy, we follow from the High Priestess to the Empress. The Empress is more outward or extroverted in her feminine energy, embracing the encompassing force of great love and understanding. She is often referred to as the Earth Mother. This is because she is the great nurturer, the great creator, and the great provider. She is the energy that can found in soil, tree, stone, or storm.

The Empress is the bridge between the High Priestess and the Emperor. The High Priestess, as we mentioned, is a vessel for the sounds, smells, and colors of the Earth. She takes in all of these influences and evolves to give a greater understanding of all spiritual planes. The High Priestess is highly symbolic of Divine Law and that everything is sacred. She perceives and listens to the ebb and flow of surrounding energies, but she is more a messenger than a doer. The Emperor is a visionary, an enforcer, and pragmatic power. He holds the standards and keeps everything in check. Juxtaposed to the High Priestess, The Emperor is the symbolic representation of the Rule of Law, and Law of the Land.

The Empress is a bridge for both. She, like the High Priestess, understands that everything is sacred. However, unlike the High Priestess, she is an initiator to the actions of altruism. She heeds the messages from the High Priestess, but then she steps into the landscape to protect, guide, create, and nurture. She is also like the High Priestess in her lack of discrimination. There is no hierarchy. Life and love are paramount, no matter how small or insignificant. This is where she is different than the Emperor. The Emperor, as a visionary and enforcer, may lose some of the meaning in the tiny details. His focus is long-term. The Empress is focused on here and now.

Her actions are not for reward, but only for benefit. There is something to be said about understanding the web of life. There is something to be said for not harming or killing something simply because it is seen as lesser. When one life can thrive, the benefits ring out across other communities or populations. Just look at the studies that show what happened to Yellowstone when wolves were re-introduced and allowed to thrive. The elk were forced to run, and the weak did not survive. The decreasing number of the elk and deer population meant that grass and trees grew again, and stronger. The increased flora meant less erosion of the ground. The rivers swelled with water, and beaver and birds were seen again.

That is Empress energy. Her energy is the good of one is the good of all. She is a forgiver, an empathizer, and an acceptor of all. This is not easy. It is hard to be both vulnerable and find safety. It is hard to understand that the metaphorical walls we build block our abilities to grow. She is also not about protection or security. She will not serve selfishness, or a need to pillage for monetary or worldly treasures. She is the energy that calls when we need to promote more love. She is the one that calls on us to radiate and be that change we wish to see.