

Arcanum: 3

Zodiac Affinity: Venus

Element: Earth

As a "Yes" or "No" Card: Yes

Overview

There is a maternal feeling, and with the early Major Arcana, has a positive feel of creation, bonding, and love. The Empress brings success in creative endeavors and family matters.

The Empress represents the creative, nurturing aspect of the feminine. Her archetype is one of abundance, fertility and creativity. This card is concerned with nature, the arts, grace, beauty, and, at its worst, greed possessiveness and over-indulgence.

Keywords

*Femininity - Beauty - Nature - Nurturing - Abundance - Mother - Pregnancy -
Potential - Sensual Pleasure - Action*

"This is a time of great abundance and wonderful creativity. Good energy abounds and is available for you to use and enjoy" -Tarot of Pagan Cats, Lo Scarabeo.

Key Phrases

- I. Focusing on Beauty & Art
- II. In harmony with the natural world
- III. Being extravagant
- IV. Luxurious living
- V. Sensual awareness
- VI. The repository of all things nurturing and sustaining

General

This card is a distinctly feminine card in almost every aspect; a woman, the Venus symbol, a flowing river. The heart-shaped again shows Venus, the goddess of love. The aspect of the

mother is present too, she sits in a field of corn, and her dress is adorned with fruits (much like the design on the veil of the High Priestess).

She signifies a strong connection with our femininity. Elegance, sensuality, fertility, creative expression, nurturing, are all necessary for creating balance in both men and women. The Empress calls on you to connect with your feminine energy. Create beauty in your life. Draw on these senses to experience pleasure and deep fulfillment. Treat yourself to a day spa, learn massage, enjoy a fine restaurant or some time with your partner. Discover different approaches to expressing yourself creatively, be it through painting, music, drama or other art forms. This may be the perfect chance to take up a new hobby that enables you to access this very part of yourself.

As the Mother Earth archetype, she urges you to venture out into nature to ground your energy and be in flow with the earth. Take a trip to your favorite natural setting, be it a forest, beach, mountain, or lake and just sit for a couple of minutes if that's all you have... longer if you can. Breathe in the energy that surrounds you while marveling in the beauty of your surroundings. Allow yourself the time and the space to enter a different frame of mind and receive the grounding spirit of nature into your heart and consciousness. When you do this, you can reach higher planes of consciousness.

When you are in tune with the energy of the Empress, you will naturally take on her mothering nature and care for others, from a place of loving compassion and support. You see it as a gift and an honor to tend to others, and in doing so you, too, receive benefits. In a more literal sense, you may step into the role of 'mother' perhaps as the mother of a newborn, caretaker of other people's children, or spending more quality time with your own kids.

The Empress can suggest pregnancy or birth. This may be an actual pregnancy or childbirth, or a metaphorical 'birth' of a new idea or project. Bring your creative ideas into being by nurturing them and supporting their growth. Allow those designs and their manifestation to flow through you, acting with compassion and love.

Relationships

In areas of work and education, the Empress is positive in regards to work, People will look up to you. You could lead a project and people will work with you on it. This could be in your main job or a side project. Not a time to be aggressive let things flow naturally.

You could meet the person you will be with forever soon if you are single. If you're in a relationship, it can only mean good things. You will mature as a person and your relationship will be all the better for it. Are you trying for a baby? Now is a good time!

You might be moving into a more central part of your friendship group. You might have a leading role when it comes to some activity or another aspect where people are going to have to rely on you.

Your finances are growing, but share the wealth. Don't keep it hidden, after all, it's only money; the true wealth is the potentiality of money.

In regards to health: you might suffer from something that you have in the past, possibly something like a cold or flu. Also, as mentioned above, this is a good time for a pregnancy!

The Empress has the wisdom of an experienced mother within her, so now might be a good time to discuss your spiritual beliefs with others.

‡Past

The Empress in the past position represents a past female influence. This could be anything from a role model to mother or even a bully, but the aspect to identify is that it is still having an impact on you and should be dealt with. If asked in regards to your family, it could be related to your mother. If you're asking about education or work, it could be that a female teacher or colleague is having an influence on you. Romance isn't implied, but don't ignore it.

‡Present

When you draw this card in a 'you now' position, it can indicate your nurturing instinct is powerful and you need to concentrate on creating harmony in your relationships. Alternatively, perhaps you need to nurture your own heart or get in touch with your sexual needs.

This card can indicate you are in the process of mothering someone or about to become a mother. But it can also suggest a mother figure is going to be an important influence in your life.

She also represents a new beginning, but not in the sense of starting right away. You may have just completed a task and are looking for the next project to work on. It'll come. You

could be bored and unsatisfied in your life. The maternal feeling in the card is strong, so maybe an older, more experienced feminine person can aide you.

Future

The Empress in the future position is the best position it can land in. Are you in a relationship now? If so, you or your partner is 'becoming' The Empress. This is a good sign. If you're asking about work, it could be that things will pan out, eventually, and reach a comfortable plateau.

Drawing this card in a future position, means you can be assured of progress in any plan, however daunting it may seem.

Material wealth or property will be important to you, but it is also time to be creative with your life rather than assume things will just fall into your lap. Remain aware of your instinctive nature as well as the rational.

In Reverse

Creative Block - Dependence on Others - Greed - Possessiveness - Over-Indulgence

She could show a lack of growth in different aspects of your life, through either stagnation or lack of encouragement. Expect a period of poverty, in the sense that you will be lacking in the things which you desire. Consider if your lack of growth is being caused by your own influence, or if somebody else is putting it on you, especially somebody in authority who should be your guide and mentor.

The Empress encourages you to make self-love and self-care a priority. Now is the time to bring your loving energy and focus to yourself, especially if you have been giving away your personal power by placing too much emphasis on another person's emotional or material needs, thus neglecting your own. Book a girls' weekend, go for a walk on your own or start a creative project that's just for you. It is essential that you fill your cup and care for yourself so you can then take care of others without resentment.

You may also crave a stronger connection with nature and Mother Earth. Now is the perfect occasion to spend even just a few hours in a nature setting such as a beach, park or garden. Breathe in the radiant energy as you're surrounded by nature's beauty and take time to notice the little things: an ant racing along on the ground, new leaves budding on the trees, or the rich purples and greens of the flowers and plants.

She can suggest that you are feeling a creative block especially in 'birthing' a new idea or expressing yourself creatively. You may worry whether it will be a success or if your work is appealing to others. For now, don't bother about what others think. The important thing is that you are allowing your creative energy to flow, even if it means keeping your newest creations private to you only (and even if they look like a three-year-old created them!).

The reversed Empress may also call your attention to issues around body image. Are you your biggest critic when it comes to how you look and the shape of your body? Learn to love your body again and give thanks for the lovely curves, lumps and bumps. Rediscover your beauty, inside and out.

In your relationships, reversal means you take the 'mothering' role too far, becoming overprotective, co-dependent and controlling. If this resonates, it is time to shift your focus from the mother-child relationship by creating independence, trust and loving compassion.