

IV THE EMPEROR

Key Words: *Aries; pioneer, discoverer, leader, initiator; creative wisdom; great leadership qualities; urge for action, adventurousness, new beginning; fatherhood, authority.*

The Emperor is portrayed as a crowned man in a majestic gown. The globe with the Maltese Cross (symbol of imperial dignity) represents the unification of wisdom and worldly mastery.

His throne, which glows with the fiery colors of Mars and the Sun, is ornamented with the heads of wild Himalayan rams. His scepter also bears this symbol of power and adventurousness. The reclining lamb with the flag of peace represents the other aspect of the ram. The qualities of true leadership include humility and submission to the cosmic law, as well as dynamism and power. A deep understanding and a constant consideration of the will of the Whole are also necessary. A ruler with these qualities is filled with a tremendous compassion which will allow him or her to sacrifice the self for the good of the whole.

The double eagles symbolize the inner and outer changes brought about by the creative energy of the Sun, and also refer to the Emperor's creative energy. He heralds the beginning of an enterprise, or a new phase in life. This new beginning may be an extension or expansion in the realm of rule, dominion, or mastery, or the conquering of new territories (also symbolized by the Emperor's legs, crossed in the form of the number 4; compare also the Prince of Wands). On the material plane, the new beginning may mean starting a promising new project, a change in career, travel or fatherhood. On the inner plane, new realizations may emerge. Insights in areas previously unfamiliar (discs to the right and left with exploding stars), or dramatic self-revelation and self-discovery, are also possible.

As long as the Emperor's powers are used for transformation and new beginnings, their effect is beneficial. But beware using them to preserve the status quo. When used to preserve the status quo, the structure of the Emperor's realm petrifies, his boldly determined expression becomes frozen. His authority, once grounded in wisdom, expresses as authoritarian domination. Living in fear of change, he attempts to nip any rebellion in the bud. He is then doomed. His own resistance to the flow of the Tao sooner or later will topple his reign.

Indication: This is a propitious moment for a change or a new beginning. Trust your own energy and move with it.

Questions: What revitalization does your life need? Are there steps you would like to take toward this?

Suggestion: Examine yourself critically, especially in regard to your relations with subordinates and superiors.

Affirmation: I trust my power. I rule by serving, I serve by ruling.

Enlightened leadership is service, not selfishness.
The leader grows more and lasts longer by placing
the well-being of all above the well-being of self alone.
- John Heider, Tao of Leadership

THE EMPEROR represents the universal principle of power and leadership. This symbol is the pioneer, the leader, the builder, the doer, and the visionary. Like Aries, the Ram, The Emperor is the explorer whose curiosity and initiative is always on the forefront of human experience. He is the traveler with the globe in his hand who has the ability to make things stable, solid, and secure for himself and others (the coins on his throne).

The Emperor symbol is totally the color of fire. Aries, the Ram, doubled twice behind the Emperor is a fire sign and represents adventure and exploration. Behind the Emperor, the sun rises as a symbol of Nature's source of light. Shamanic societies view this symbol as the power of the sun and see humankind's imitation of the sun in its creation of fire. In Oriental cultures, the Emperor represents dynamic, initiatory power known as yang energy. Jungian psychology refers to this symbol as a representation of the animus or masculine energy. In Greek mythology, this symbol is Zeus, the father or the patriarch.

The bees on the Emperor's cloak reminds us that all leadership requires vision. Bumble bees are found on the robes of the Emperor, Empress, and Art/Temperance symbols. They represent ways of seeing, or varied forms of perception. According to the Greek Delphic tradition, the second of the temples built in Delphi had been erected by bees to assist the oracular vision of the Delphic Oracles (Cirlot, 1962.)

PRINCIPLE OF PERSONAL POWER AND LEADERSHIP

The fleur-de-lis, the three-petaled flowers located at the bottom of this symbol, is associated with royalty and leadership. In Tibet and some Eastern cultures, the fleur-de-lis is often referred to as the "three-pronged flame" representing the union of mind, heart, and spirit. The fleur-de-lis on the Emperor card reminds us that effective leadership requires the union of mind, heart, and spirit in making decisions and taking action. The Emperor represents the kind of leadership that is strong yet sensitive to negotiation and peace-making (lamb with flag, which is also a symbol for the Christian Agnus Dei, lamb of God). The double phoenix on the Emperor's shield is the Easter bird that, like the Western eagle, is associated with change and transformation. The mythical double phoenix facing each other on the Emperor's shield reminds us that leadership is a

quality that is constantly changing both internally and externally. Both the shield and the fleur-de-lis are found on the Empress card, which is the feminine counterpart of the Emperor.

The Emperor as Life-Time Symbol

For those individuals whose birthday adds up to the number 4, the Emperor represents his or her life-time spiritual symbol. If you are born with the number 4, you are like the Emperor in your capacity to inspire and motivate others. You have strong leadership ability, and often people will put you in a leadership position whether you want to be there or not. You have a natural ability to go into business on your own or to work in organizations or institutions where you could be the head of a program or department.

For both men and women, this archetype reveals your relationship to power and leadership. The Emperor is a symbol of the father or the patriarch, so it might be that through your own father or through other paternal figures in your life you may have defined who you would be and who you would not be. The Emperor requires that ultimately you own your own power and authority and that you don't abandon your own authority or give your power away to others. It is generally known that if you are testing external authority figures or have difficulty with authority figures, that you have not yet fully owned your own power and leadership qualities.

For a woman, The Emperor is your golden man within, or what in Jungian psychology is referred to as the woman's animus. With this symbol as your life-time spiritual symbol, it reminds you that you have strong leadership ability and the resourcefulness to work well on your own. Since your own inner masculine nature, the animus, is well-developed internally, you need men around you who are as strong as you are, if not stronger; otherwise, you become easily bored or lose respect for those who are not as strong as you are. For a man with this symbol as your life-time spiritual symbol, it is important that you surround yourself with people who are as strong as you are, especially in teamwork and partnership endeavors; otherwise, you, too, will lose respect for or become easily bored and impatient with those who are not as capable as yourself.

Both genders with this life-time symbol have a deep love for the creative process, setting something new in motion, and capacities to implement visions, dreams, and ideas in practical ways. They could start their own business, department, or program. They could be gifted in anything associated with engineering, design, construction, or photographic or film work. They could be interested in the travel industry, in international work, or could find themselves traveling quite extensively in life, either for personal or professional reasons. Creative interests might include the arts, building models of their ideas, chemistry, physics, writing, and sports.

If the Emperor is your life-time symbol, your greatest challenge is to manifest your leadership and visionary gifts. You have an enormous capacity to model for others the quality of leadership that empowers others and serves to benefit the continued, or renewed quality of excellence, in a family, organization, community, or country. Like the element of fire, you are warm, nurturing, electric, vital, and energetic in those activities that are meaningful and challenging to you.

The Emperor as a Growth Symbol

During Emperor years (where your birthday and the current year add up to the number 22 or 4), you may experience a need to relocate or remodel; to travel; to start new ventures and interests; to resolve issues with your own father or with paternal people in your life; and to experience leadership positions. The Emperor year is the best year for important negotiations and truce-making. It is also an ideal year to resolve issues with Aries people (March 21 - April 20) in your life or to take your relationships with Aries people in new directions. It is a year to be open to significant opportunities coming from important older men or Aries people in your projects or be open to new opportunities that might arise. Ultimately, the Emperor year requires that you move in new directions where you can own your own power and leadership.

When the Emperor begins a growth cycle (see Section VII), this begins a cycle which is called your Creative-Leadership Cycle. This cycle requires that you initiate change and move in new directions where you can demonstrate your capacities for responsibility and accountability. The Emperor cycle is an opportunity to build a foundation for yourself. It is often a cycle where you find out what is easy for you and what is difficult; and is also a time when you might find yourself discovering old patterns that you repeat, such as finding yourself in similar situations only with different people playing the parts. Regardless, it is a good time to begin a new project, business, or interest. The Emperor cycle requires that you do not abandon yourself and that you own your own authority. It is one of the best cycles to demonstrate your leadership abilities, and to break patterns that no longer serve you in constructive ways.

Emperor cycles are the best cycles to resolve and heal relationships with important men in your life. For men, these cycles are good ones in which to become fathers or to resolve whether they want to be fathers or not. Basically, the Emperor cycle requires that you demonstrate your ability to communicate, to produce, to empower yourself and others, to negotiate, and to explore what has meaning and challenge for you.

The Emperor as a Visual Affirmation and Meditative Symbol

It is important to remember that everything that has been mentioned or described for the Emperor cycle, your Creative-Leadership Cycle, is experienced in depth during your Emperor year. If you have difficulty asserting yourself or setting limits, or knowing what your limits and boundaries are, the Emperor is an excellent card to meditate upon for personal and

professional empowerment. Whenever you are drawn to this card, it mirrors to you your own leadership, creativity, and ability to be responsible. For leaders and fathers, it is an important symbol to use as a visual reminder of how to model the use of power and leadership in ways that empower yourself and others.

Sample Affirmations To Use While Looking at The Emperor

I enjoy starting and initiating projects.
I value and honor my leadership ability.
I am a good facilitator.
I am a responsible and creative human being.

The Emperor as an Outer Mirror

When you are drawn to the Emperor symbol or pull it from the deck, he represents the power of your owning and demonstrating your own leadership and paternal gifts. The Emperor indicates your ability to take care of yourself mentally, emotionally, spiritually, physically, and financially.

He represents your ability to be responsible for your life style, career, and personal life. Basically, it is a good time to move, travel, resolve fatherhood issues or issues with Aries or paternal people in your life, to start new ventures, and to be open to new opportunities. It is an important time to stay in your power and not abandon yourself in anyway, yet experience new opportunity.

Other Symbols Which are Aspects of The Emperor

The Emperor is the motivating energy for expressing vision and leadership that comes from within. The Emperor is the number 4. Other symbols which add up to the number 4 are the four essential qualities that are needed in any leadership situation: the Four of Swords (truce), the negotiating mind; the Four of Cups (luxury), making sure that internal feelings match external statements in order to produce luxurious results; the Four of Disks (power), the ability to set limits and boundaries and to know what your limits and boundaries are; and the Four of Wands (completion), trusting your intuition to allow for the sense of completion or to know when it is important to complete what needs to be done before moving in new directions. The Death/Rebirth symbol, which adds up to the number 4, and The Fool, which is the number 22, are both outer manifestations of the Emperor. Every leader must have the capacity to let go and move forward (Death/Rebirth) and every leader must have the courage to risk and try the unfamiliar or initiate creative and new approaches (The Fool) without fear or resistance. Note: See Section VI for The Emperor constellation which reveals all the symbols associated with The Emperor as they are described above.

The Gifts and Challenges for Persons whose Life-Time Personality Symbol Is The Emperor

Gifts	Challenges
The Emperor (Leadership)	To use leadership skills
The Fool (Courage; No Fear)	
Death/Rebirth (Letting Go; Moving Forward)	
The Four of Swords (Truce)	
The Four of Cups (Luxury)	
The Four of Wands (Completion)	
The Four of Disks (Power)	