



*Angel Paths Tarot*

# ADVANCED READING TECHNIQUES



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## The Empress



This card always brings love into a reading when it appears – timeless, all-encompassing love, at its highest level. The Empress also talks about strength and female power.

For reading purposes, it is important to define whether the Empress represents a person or an effect. This can normally be decided by looking at the cards that surround it.

The Empress has a strong allegiance with the Queen courts. They are her manifestation as women. When you cast a Queen coupled with the Empress you will often be looking at the core of the woman in question. Mostly this will lead to a positive interpretation – [Queen of Wands](#)/Empress will suggest a woman who is deeply passionate about life, dynamic and determined; [Queen of Disks](#)/Empress emphasises the 'Earth Mother' aspect of this card, so can indicate fertility, and possibly childbirth; [Queen of Swords](#)/Empress combination can be a little more sticky – the [Queen of Swords](#) is an intellectual, with

piercing clarity, whereas the Empress is instinctual, driven by her feelings; [Queen of Cups](#)/Empress can be a little over-indulgent and impractical, though with supporting good [Cups](#) would indicate very deep love and warmth.

When the Empress appears in the same reading as the [Emperor](#) you will usually be viewing people again. This pairing is one of the archetypal couples of the [Major Arcana](#) – the other being the [High Priestess/Magician](#) combination. Each of these produces what could be defined as the 'perfect' couple, and should be interpreted as such so long as other cards support that analysis. However if you get either pair turning up with negative cards surrounding them, you are most likely reading a situation which looked at the outset to be a perfect match, but which time proves to be the exact opposite.

When the Empress represents an effect, rather than a person, you'll often find a fair number of [Wands](#) and [Disks](#) around too. One particular combination to look out for is the Empress with [the Ace of Wands](#) – this very often indicates the beginning of new life – so childbirth or radical changes of direction. When you see the Empress with the [Ace of Cups](#), the effect is slightly different – it can often show the beginning of an enduring and long-lasting relationship.

Whenever she appears she reminds us that love, offered freely, can change the world. She brings in a passionate and powerful lust for life (so she's particularly important when [Lust](#) or [Strength](#) also appears) which allows us to engage in detail with everything that is happening around us.

## Six of Wands

It is important to remember that the Lord of Victory, whilst a triumphant card, does not usually come into play without a struggle beforehand. So do not be surprised to see the 6 of Wands appear following challenging or difficult periods. Here, we examine the moment of breakthrough – often when we had given up hope of achieving what we need. For this reason, the [Tower](#) or the [Devil](#) can frequently be close companions to this card. They may indicate the loosening of restrictions, or breakthrough into new areas.

The [4 of Wands](#) and the [Universe](#) often also come up with the Lord of Victory, for this card will indicate long-fought and hard-won battles, which bring a given area of importance to completion. The [Chariot](#) is another card which can regularly appear with this one, indicating that, though the battle is won, the war is not necessarily yet over. The [4 of Swords](#) would contribute to this effect.

The [Fool](#) is another favourite card to turn up with the Lord of Victory – frequently the conclusion of one phase will lead to the beginning of another, and that new course of action may require risks and open-heartedness.

Look for several of a suit to indicate which area of life might be affected. [Disks](#) would mean general mundane matters – domestic issues, or the work environment. [Cups](#) (and sometimes [Swords](#)) could point us toward the more emotional and turbulent of our relationships. It is also true that [Swords](#) could indicate legal matters. [Wands](#) would generally indicate matters of Will, ambition and heartfelt projects.

Hard won victories can sometimes lead us to be less than moral when dealing with our opponents – watch out for cards following this one that suggest that victory is not truly graciously accepted. The [8](#) or [9 of Swords](#) might suggest a tendency toward unkindness by, or toward, your querent.

If this card is followed by the [7 of Wands](#) or [Swords](#), an interesting effect is liable to take place – the initial conflict has absorbed so much energy that it has had a negative effect upon the querent. Once success is achieved, they will find themselves with new and fresh reserves of strength. This interpretation could easily be confirmed by cards like the [Ace of Wands](#), or [Lust](#) (Strength). Such changes need to be carefully directed in order to get the best out of any given situation with which the querent engages.



## Special Thanks

So here we are again, at that point where I look back across the period in which ART (as it has come to be known) was “birthing”. This one has made its demands, and traversed a remarkable period in my life, suffering quite a few delays as a result.

In many respects, there’s little variant here on the theme I played to this song when concluding the “Personal” special thanks. My trusty editor, Eleanor, has been right there by my side every step of the way – that woman does the most remarkable job of cheering me on from the side-lines despite the fact that I am doubtless driving her quite mad at times. My animals work ceaselessly to ensure I keep my feet firmly on the ground, and impose **some** sort of routine into my days, at least where they are concerned. Visitors to the website, and to the Facebook page contact me with their feedback, their stories and their observations about my words. And the same is true of those people who have bought The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Guide to Tarot, and This Time It’s Personal. It is quite humbling to discover how much my work helps along the way, and truly inspiring too. So grateful thanks to all of them. Amanda Weibe did my images for me again, demonstrating once more her outstanding and visionary gift. You can find more of her work over at [www.phoenixcreativedesign.co.uk](http://www.phoenixcreativedesign.co.uk) if you are looking for a skilled, responsive and understanding designer with a remarkable ability to interpret even my woolliest of instructions.

At the end of the thanks section in Personal I said these following words – and since I can think of no more fitting tribute to all of you, here they are again: I wish you well on your personal journeys, and trust that we will meet along the path, to sit down and share our experiences, our ups, our downs and our visions one with another. Light Bearers are the essence of hope. Never stop believing that each and every one of us can, and does, make a difference.

We are going to have the BIGGEST celebrational party EVER at the end of all this you know. Thank you all. Each of you is precious.

Loads of love  
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