

The Emperor - "Love Him or Hate Him"?

It's an interesting phenomenon that the cards there are deep sub-conscious drivers behind the Major Arcana cards we are instantly drawn to or repelled by.

The cards that appeal most to me have always been the Lovers, the Empress, Strength and the Star. I've come to terms with the usual suspects (The Devil, Death and the Tower), but I really struggle to come to terms with the stern old Emperor.....

Using traditional meanings for the cards, I had put this down to my previous work in very male dominated fields and corporations, (being a metallurgist and quality manger in automotive companies). I had had to achieve my success as a woman, in spite of those very patriarchal systems. Certainly gaining acceptance, promotions and equal remuneration was always a challenge that required being met!

Strength and the Star made early sense to me, as they resonate as my Zodiac card (Leo Trump VIII) and Numerology Life Path Cards (17/8). But it wasn't until I studied the kevelved form of Strength on the Tree, (being closer to God).

I also discovered I am learning path 17 from the Tree this time around, which corresponds to "The Lovers". As we are trying to achieve a state of equilibrium and balance ourselves into the centre of the Tree, we need to call on the energy from the opposite path to our lesson for help. In my case this is Path 15 which corresponds to (surprise, surprise!).... "The Emperor"! Isn't it fascinating!!!

Having gained self-knowledge and become in touch with our higher self through Tipheret, the task on path 17 is to balance on the sword of discrimination (Zayin), learning to make wise choices, by exercising our free will in a reasoning manner, that is not influenced by society's rules and dogma. This makes considerable sense to my current understanding of what my life has been about, most especially my life following my second Saturn return, 5 years ago. The influence of its opposite, path 15, is actually to open up the window (Heh), in order to allow enlightenment, intuition or God's will, start to filter through into our consciousness, but in a safe and well protected manner. Quite a different way of looking at the disciplined, organised structures, rules & regulations our traditional Emperor represents!

As a final irony, when I painted my own Tree of Life, early in the course I studied with Evelynne Joffe, and before I understood how to calculate my own path, I left out the paths that correspond to "The Lovers" and "The Emperor" (the two paths I needed to work with)! Talk about not wanting to pay attention to one's life lessons!

