Sol da Alma

TAROT READING

In-depth report

Prepared for Joaquim

Marseille Cross · 17 September 2026

> THE QUESTION
>
> *I have been putting off a difficult conversation with my father for months. What does this situation ask of me?*

1	In favour	**Death**
2	Against	**King of Pentacles**
3	The advice	**Nine of Wands**
4	The conclusion	**Knight of Cups**
5	The synthesis	**The Emperor** *(reversed)*

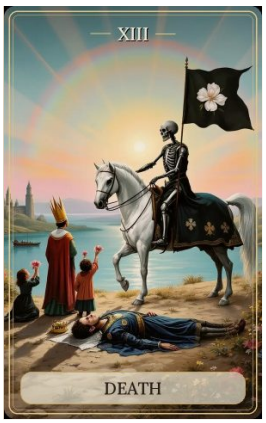
The question and what the spread answers

The issue you bring to the table, Joaquim, about the difficult conversation with your father that you have been putting off, touches upon a point much deeper than the simple choice of timing or the right words. Beneath this months-long hesitation, what

this spread truly reveals is a power transition and the need to redefine your own identity in the face of paternal authority. The underlying question is not just about how to speak to your father, but rather how to stop positioning yourself as the son who awaits approval and start acting as a fully-fledged adult. The table answers clearly that the postponement no longer protects anything, serving only to prolong a relationship structure that is already lifeless.

The mood of this spread is marked by great firmness, showing that the situation will not be resolved with soothing measures or superficial diplomacy. With two Major Arcana on the table, it is clear that structural forces are in motion, of the kind that demand a change in inner posture and do not depend solely on day-to-day circumstances. There is a balanced presence of Earth, Fire and Water, but one notices an absolute absence of the suit of Swords, the Air element. It is a very revealing fact that, in a question about a difficult conversation, the suit governing the spoken word, the intellect and verbal discussion is precisely the one missing. This indicates that the obstacle does not lie in a lack of intellectual arguments or in a script of what you are going to say. The absence of Swords warns that trying to plan this conversation in a too mental or rational way is a mistake; what is at stake here is a question of territory, energetic boundaries and emotional maturity.

In favour



1 · Death

Death is the blade that positions itself on the side of the forces pushing you into action. In the image of this thirteenth Major Arcana, we see the figure of the skeleton wielding the scythe, reaping what is parched so that the earth may be renewed. On the ground, crowned heads and severed limbs are mixed together, showing that time spares neither old hierarchies nor ancient privileges. This is not a card of blind destruction, but rather of necessary cleansing and profound transmutation. The background of the card is dark, but the earth that is churned up brings the promise of new growth, freeing up the space that was occupied by dying structures.

This card occupying the place of what favours you means that the energy of rupture and the end of a cycle is entirely on your side. What favours you is not the maintenance of apparent peace, but rather the courage to allow the old dynamic between you and your father to die definitively. Death in this place indicates that postponing the conversation no longer serves as protection, but rather as a tether. The impulse to break with the past and with infantilisation is your greatest current strength. This blade shows that you now have the necessary force to take on the role of the one who closes a chapter, without fear of the vacuum that this cut might leave immediately.

In practical terms, this means you must enter this conversation without the intention of patching up the past or saving the old relationship as it existed. Your goal should not be to convince your father to change, but rather to present him with a new reality that is already accomplished. The strength of Death supports you in taking an irreversible stance, where you make it clear that the old way of operating between the two of you has ended. This need for a radical cut connects directly to what we see further ahead in the advice card, where the posture of self-defence becomes necessary to withstand the impact of this rupture.

Against



2 · King of Pentacles

The King of Pentacles appears in the position of what opposes or hinders your path in this situation. In the image of this card, we see a mature man, seated on a solid and heavy throne, firmly holding a large gold coin upon his knee. His gaze is focused on what he possesses, on his material security, his conquered territory and the stability he took years to build. The element here is Earth, the plane of matter, slow time, possessions and established rules that do not wish to undergo change. It is the representation of the master of the craft who prides himself on his solidity and who resists any movement that might shake his foundations.

In this place in the spread, the King of Pentacles reveals that the great obstacle is the rigidity of consolidated structures and the attachment to the comfort of what is known. This can either represent your father, closed off in his position of provider and unquestionable authority who refuses to hear anything outside his script, or it can represent your own fear of losing the security or material recognition that this relationship guarantees you. The energy of this King works against you because it wants everything to remain exactly as it is, valuing financial stability, respect for appearances or family inheritance above emotional truth.

The presence of this blade shows that you face a wall of cold pragmatism. If you try to approach your father expecting a warm reaction or a quick understanding of your personal point of view, you will collide with this stone solidity. The contra here lies in the temptation to yield to excessive respect for this figure of authority or to back down so as not to disturb the material peace of the family. This passive and heavy resistance of the King of Pentacles is the force that has been feeding your silence over these months, connecting to the exhaustion and the need for protection that manifests in the following position.

The advice



3 · Nine of Wands

The Nine of Wands is the card the table presents as practical advice for dealing with this impasse. In the image, we see a figure firmly holding a wooden staff, with their head bound in a bandage, showing that they have been through hard battles and carry scars. Behind this character rises a palisade of eight staves driven into the ground, forming a solid barrier. The figure remains standing, alert, in a posture of vigilant guard, looking sideways at what is approaching, ready to defend their territory at any moment.

The suit is Wands, the Fire element, which governs will, action and vital energy, and the number nine represents the maximum accumulation of experience before the closing of the cycle.

The advice of this blade is very clear: this is not the time to lower your guard or enter the conversation unarmed, expecting an embrace of easy reconciliation. The Nine of Wands tells you to prepare for resistance and to hold your ground with physical and mental firmness. The card does not ask you to attack, but rather to establish insurmountable boundaries. You must enter this dialogue knowing exactly where the concessions you are willing to make end and where the defence of your integrity begins. The exhaustion that the bandage on the head symbolises is real, but the card shows that you have the resilience needed to withstand the pressure.

In practice, this advice tells you to structure the conversation with clear limits of time and space. Do not allow the dialogue to turn into an endless discussion about the past or into a courtroom where your maturity is called into question. Keep your defences raised in the right sense, protecting your vulnerability and standing firm in the face of attempts at manipulation or the imposition of guilt. This firm and vigilant positioning is what will allow you to channel the energy of the new attitude taking shape at the conclusion of this spread.

The conclusion



4 · Knight of Cups

The Knight of Cups appears as the most likely outcome if you follow the advice to stand firm in your boundaries. In the image of this Knight, we see a young figure advancing mounted on a white horse that walks with a calm and measured pace. The knight does not wear heavy war armour, but rather elegant attire, and holds a golden cup out before them, offering it with a gesture of surrender and the pursuit of harmony. The suit of Cups brings the element Water, the world of affections, intuition and the sincere expression of feelings. The knight is the one moved by an ideal, travelling to bring a message or to fulfil a quest that touches the heart.

The presence of this card in the conclusion shows that, after the necessary cut promoted by Death and the firm resistance of the Nine of Wands, the outcome will be a profound emotional pacification. This Knight indicates that the difficult conversation, although demanding firmness in the moment, will open up space for the stream of affections to flow more freely and authentically once again. The knight brings the promise of a reconciliation that is no longer based on submission, but rather on the mutual recognition of two adults who respect each other. The tension accumulated over months of silence gives way to a lighter and more sincere posture.

This means that, by owning your truth and defending your space, you will free yourself from the heavy burden you have been carrying on your chest. The conclusion points to the possibility of a more authentic contact with your father, where the truth of what you feel can finally be spoken without the old mask of fear. The Knight of Cups moves towards a new harmony, showing that the storm of the initial rupture will leave behind a clean terrain for a more mature and affectionate relationship.

The synthesis



5 · The Emperor
(reversed)

The Emperor appears reversed in the centre of the spread, functioning as the key that ties all the other cards together and reveals the true root of the problem. In its natural position, this number four Major Arcana represents legitimate authority, order, paternal protection, clear rules and the stability of one who knows how to govern with justice. However, when presenting itself reversed, the Emperor reveals the hidden weakness beneath the cloak of strength. It shows authority that has turned into empty tyranny, the inflexible rigidity that serves only to disguise insecurity, or excessive control that suffocates life instead of protecting it.

This synthesis explains perfectly the dynamic you have been living with your father. The paternal figure, who should be a safe harbour of support and guidance, has manifested in a rigid way, demanding a submission that no longer makes sense in your adult life. The reversed Emperor warns that the power your father exerts over you, and which has motivated your fear of speaking out, is actually a hollow power, which only sustains itself if you continue to accept the role of the subverted. Upon seeing this blade reversed in the centre of the table, one perceives that his authoritarian structure is already fractured from within, depending solely on your silence to remain standing.

The challenge left open by this synthesis is to deconstruct the projection of power you still cast upon your father. By recognising that his rigidity is a sign of weakness and not of real strength, you free yourself from the need to fight against him or run away from him. The synthesis invites you to drop the weight of this imaginary authority, accepting that your own life no longer needs to be validated by an emperor who has lost his sceptre.

The reading as a whole

When we look at the table as a whole, we perceive that your dilemma is a classic process of late emancipation. The proportion of Major Arcana is significant: forty percent of the spread is dominated by heavy archetypal forces, with **Death** and the Emperor marking the beginning and the end of the relationship structure. This tells us that we are not facing a simple everyday misunderstanding that can be resolved with a casual phone call; this is a process of profound restructuring of your masculine lineage and your role within it.

The total absence of the Air element, the suit of Swords, is the most important technical detail of this table. It warns that you have been focusing on the wrong place by trying to plan the exact words or searching for the perfect logical argument for the conversation. The problem is not what you are going to say, but rather the energy with which you will speak. The presence of Pentacles, Wands and Cups shows that the solution lies in acting based on concrete reality, maintaining a firm protective barrier and allowing sincere feeling to guide the outcome.

There is an evident tension between the **King of Pentacles** and the reversed Emperor. Both cards represent authority and masculine power, but while the King of Pentacles tries to hold on to matter and territory with silent stubbornness, the reversed Emperor shows that your father's control structure is about to collapse. **Death** acts as the liberating element in this tension, reaping the Emperor's rigidity so that the **Knight of Cups** can finally bring the Water of affection and emotional renewal.

The timeline shows that you come from a long period of silent submission, where you allowed paternal authority to govern your decisions out of fear of conflict. Currently, you find yourself at a point of saturation, where the exhaustion of carrying this secret or this postponed conversation has become unbearable. If you continue to postpone, the energy of the reversed Emperor will only increase your sensation of suffocation and powerlessness. The table shows that the moment to act is now, and that the price to pay for your freedom is the courage to face the temporary discomfort of the cut that

Death proposes.

Advice

The end of half-measures

Death demands that you change your attitude before opening your mouth. Enter this conversation knowing there is no possible return to the previous state of things. Stop trying to soften the impact or seek approval that your father will not give you. Accept the end of the old dynamic clearly, without apologising for growing up or for making your own decisions.

The insurmountable boundary

Follow the advice of the **Nine of Wands** and establish very clear boundaries during the meeting. If your father tries to resort to old authority, punitive silence or manipulation through guilt, do not react emotionally or try to counter-attack. Maintain your firm posture, repeat your truth calmly and, if necessary, end the conversation by saying you will speak another time when tempers have cooled.

Detachment from approval

With the **King of Pentacles** in the obstacle position, free yourself from the need for your father to understand or validate your life choices or opinions. If he places material concerns or family pride ahead of your relationship, accept that limitation of his as a concrete fact and not as a fault of your own. Your inner stability cannot depend on the acceptance of someone who refuses to change.

The sincere surrender

Allow the **Knight of Cups** to guide the final tone of your message. After establishing your boundaries with firmness, express what you feel honestly and without intellectual shields. Tell your father what you need to tell him not to hurt him, but to clear the channel that unites you. Shared vulnerability from a place of adult strength is the only key that can disarm his rigidity.

The signs to observe

In the weeks following this conversation, Joaquim, pay attention to your physical and emotional signs. The first sign that the path was the right one will be a physical sensation of lightness in your chest and shoulders, indicating that the energy of **Death** has fulfilled its role of liberation. If your father reacts initially with silence or cold detachment, do not try to fill that void with apologetic messages; that silence of his is the death rattle of the reversed Emperor losing control, and it must be respected as part of the transition process. The definitive sign of healing will be the ability to look at your father without the old weight of fear, recognising him as an ordinary man with his own limitations, whilst you follow your own path with a free heart. It is now up to you to take the step the table so clearly shows you.

About the pictures on the cards

The description of each card in this report follows the original iconography of the Tarot, which is what gives it its meaning. The decks do not always reproduce it in full: a detail described in the text may not be visible in the painting in front of you. In that case it is the text that the card is read by — it carries the traditional meaning.

The code for this spread

This block lays the table again. Copy it and paste it into «Paste a Spread», at www.soldaalma.pt: the cards return to the same places, and from there you can ask for this report again without drawing them anew.

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--- to restore this spread ---
tiragem: cruz_marselha
baralho: tarot_casa
cartas: M13, O14, P9, C12, M4*
pergunta: I have been putting off a difficult conversation with my father for months. What does this situation ask of me?
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The cards show tendencies and forces at work, not guaranteed facts.

The responsibility and the decision are always the asker's.

Sol da Alma Tarot · seventy-eight paintings made from scratch for this website, in the style of the canvas that opens the page.