

QVAREIA - THE APPRENTICE

Module 9 - Working with Planetary Powers
Lesson 1: Background

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QVAREIA

WELCOME

Welcome to this lesson of the Quareia curriculum.

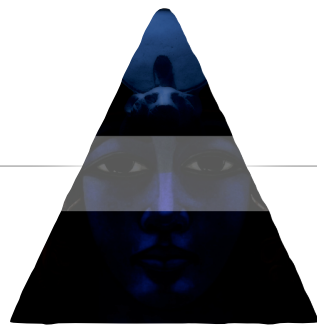
The Quareia takes a magical apprentice from the beginning of magic to the level of adeptship and beyond. The course has no superfluous text; there is no dressing, no padding – everything is in its place and everything within the course has a good reason to be there.

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So remember - in order for this course to work, it is wise to work with the lessons in sequence. If you don't, it won't work.

Yours,

Josephine McCarthy



QVAREIA - THE APPRENTICE

Module 9 - Working with Planetary Powers

Lesson 1: Background

Planetary powers are a major aspect of every type of magic, yet they are often ignored with the statement ‘I’m not interested in astrology.’ Working with planetary powers is not astrology, though a rudimentary understanding of astrology is necessary as it can show us the actions and influences the planetary powers exert on any given situation.

There also seems to be much confusion in modern magic between planetary influences and the deities named after the planets. To complicate matters even further, the planetary powers also have deity powers within their orbit of expression. But these deity powers are not the Greek and Roman gods named after the planets.

And here it gets even more complicated—the Greeks named specific deity influences after planets that they knew exerted a similar power, but the Greek/Roman deities and the deities of the planets are two different, if similar things. Confused yet?

To make things a bit clearer, let us look at the structure and dynamics of the planetary influences, which will make things a lot easier for you to understand and work with them. These influences, in their various layers, pop up in magic a lot, and they also have a direct influence on everything you do.

Remember when I talked about my expeditions into the inner library, looking for temples, and I found one that had lots of tall, strange-looking be-

ings weaving power? Those were planetary angelic powers, and are one of many layers of influence and consciousness that each planet has.

The layers of a planetary power go something like this (and I am simplifying this a lot): First comes the planet, the material substance which has its own consciousness. We translate this consciousness through the interface of a deity (just as we have a female deity for our planet). The planet is in a family of planets that we call our solar system, and the sun is the fulcrum of that family.

Each planet has an angelic interface, a being who acts as a threshold for that planet, as well as an upholder and protector.

Each planetary angelic being stretches out its energy and consciousness until it meets the consciousness of a fellow planet. This meeting of powers is akin to magnetic forces that attract or repel: the angelic beings weave a web of conscious power that essentially holds each planet in its orbit.

They also act as filters for the inner power that a planet exerts, and this power affects everything and everyone within its range. These vast angelic beings are essentially hive beings: many make up one. The individual bits of the hive are what we perceive as angels who express the planet's influence. Together, they make up the huge angelic being of the planet. In turn, those planetary angelic powers are parts of a hive that make up the angelic being of the solar system.

This dynamic was picked up on in the past by people who attempted to reach and work with these powers, and I suspect the experience of the hive is one of the reasons why Western humanity started to think of angels in terms of names, hierarchies, etc. Humans have to organise, classify, name, and label everything around them, including angelic beings. The humans at that time also classified these angelic beings as having human-like qualities. The sum total of such boxing and organising was a situation where the magicians had no real contact and no real understanding.

When you deal with these beings, both planetary powers and angelic beings, it is really important to understand that they have no human qualities at all. They have power and influences, and they have consciousness and intelligence. But they do not have human emotions or human shapes; nor do they think like a human.

If we look at their powers from a human perspective, we miss the sheer breadth and beauty of their true power, and we also misinterpret that power. However, if we look at their power fully understanding its effects on us, then integrate this understanding into our own work and lives, we can truly tap into a fully conscious working relationship with those powers.

Each planet ‘gives off’ a certain power dynamic, a bit like the root temples you worked with. The combined power of all the planets, our planet included, creates a harmonic choir of power, vibration, and influence that affects everything in the solar system. Magicians understand that choir, that cacophony of influence, and engage directly with it in many different ways.

When I first started to work with these powers, I worked in vision, in ritual, and in divination in my attempt to understand them. As my visionary explorations progressed, it was made very clear to me that each living being’s unique signature of influence was set in place at its conception, and the pattern set at birth was secondary.

I came to this realization while working in vision out in the stars. I was out in the stars, drifting among the planets, when I heard a series of sounds. Each of the planets have their own ‘sound’ or vibration, and I was amazed to listen to this ‘choir’ as I drifted. The being who was working with me nudged me and told me to watch and listen.

The sounds seemed fairly random and individual, but every few seconds they would harmonise. Each time they harmonised, something flew past me at great speed, heading for earth. The harmonic sounds created a threshold that a soul could cross in order to fall into conception. This dynamic was translated to me as a vision of something bright falling right at the point of each harmonic peak.

I followed one of the bright things, struggling to keep up with it. It fell to the earth, towards a landmass, towards a town, a street, a house, and finally into the house where a couple were making love. The bright ‘thing’ then slowed down and passed into the mother. I was watching the point of conception.

The planetary harmonics created a pattern, and that pattern was now within the bright thing that in turn was inside the mother. At the time I did not trust what I was seeing. I was still very young, and not sure what in my

visions was real and what was from my own head. So I filed the experience mentally in my ‘not sure about that’ folder.

A few years later, I was working at the edge of the Abyss, and again I heard a series of sounds come together as a harmonic. At the peak of the harmonic sounds, a complex and distinct pattern appeared at the edge of the Abyss. This time, I recognised that the pattern was an angelic filter for something to pass through. I was intrigued: why was that forming?

Before I got chance to think further, a bright ‘thing’ fell down from above the Abyss, passed through the newly formed pattern, and began to take on a humanoid form as it travelled down the desert landscape. I sort of understood that I was seeing something connected with my experiences in the stars, but I was still too dumb really to connect the dots.

As I progressed in my exploratory work, I had different but connected experiences until finally I understood: the angelic sounds create conditions for something to manifest. A soul chooses that angelic filter to flow through on its journey into manifestation. This filter is created by angelic beings using the combination of planetary powers as it exists at that specific moment in time. The soul falls through this pattern of influences, and those influences stay, grow, and shift with it throughout its physical manifestation. This is what is looked at when an astrologer looks at a natal chart.

Once I began to understand fully what was happening, one thing troubled me that did not make sense. What I had originally watched, out in the stars, seemed to me a fairly slow process; yet millions of creatures are conceived and born every second. I went back out into the stars with an angelic being who was willing to work with me, and I asked it about this issue. The angelic being covered my eyes, so I could ‘see’ through its eyes.

The only way I could describe what I saw was everything that every lived, and ever will live, all falling, all coming into life at the same time, in an instant. The sounds were not just sounds but patterns, vibrations, movements, flashes of lights. It was far more than my tiny brain could take in. I did, in fact, blow a fuse, and sat dazed in my chair for quite a long time after that.

It reminded me of an experience I had as a teenager. At the time, I felt like a Vulcan born mistakenly into a Klingon family. In the depths of despair, I called out to the universe “I want to know...” and the answer came

back immediately. I had a flash vision of everything, all at once. It took me a very long time to get over that one. (So be careful what you ask for!)

Although the experience of seeing everything born at once was too much for me to process, once I had recovered (which took a couple of weeks), I finally understood that time is far more malleable than I understood it to be; and it did not exist in all realms, only our physical one.

Why I am rambling on about all this? Because it is important, not only to shake up your understanding of the planets, but also to show you how vast, powerful, and complex these powers are. It is also important to understand that these powers affect everything that lives, not just humans. When you work with planetary powers magically in a conscious way, you effect change to everything that is alive in some minute way.

So let's bring this down to earth a bit more, so you can process a bit more easily what we are looking at.

Charts, filters, and planetary dances

Over the years, humanity has learned to recognise that the planets put out a power that affects us. Astrology developed in various ways around the world in different cultures, and it was a direct expression of how the people of that culture understood or recognised those powers, how they interacted, and the effects they had on the world around us. The various forms of astrology are man-made interfaces to help us understand these powers and track their effects. Differences appear in the various expressions of astrology because they developed on different lands; different cultures have their own way of expressing and understanding their environment.

The development of astrology gives us a passive interface: it tells us about various influences and how they affect the individual, but it does not offer a way to actively interact with, communicate with, or even fully understand these planetary powers. Most astrological systems understand that the planets work in a complex but logical way that can be measured and predicted. But they offer no way to consciously partake of that complexity: we become passive bystanders.

This works just fine for the majority of a population, but magicians need far more. Astrology does not tell us what type of being the power/influence comes from, nor what other beings are involved. We also do not, as yet, have the technology to register the time of the conception of a person, just their birth and death. But the times of conception, birth, and death all work together to give a whole pattern to an individual.

This pattern is like a weather report for a life, and also tells us about the potential skills, abilities, strengths, and weaknesses a person is likely to have. What we make of that bundle of gifts is up to us and our fate pattern, which is something different from our planetary pattern. Fate is the realm of a person's spirit, and the astrology tells us the more manifest aspects of their life: it is the story of the body.

Magicians need to know more than just the weather report; we need to know where those weather patterns come from, what aspect of the planetary consciousness is wielding its influence, and then we need to know how to interact, communicate, and actively work the beings involved in order to function as adepts.

This aspect of planetary interaction between magician and planet is, to a large extent, what a lot of the magical texts are about (the *Arbatel*, for example). Through such interaction we can work more effectively, more powerfully, and with gnosis. We can make informed choices when we come to a crossroads, and we can consciously engage specific planetary powers in order to achieve something.

It is a matter of stepping from a passive relationship to a fully engaged one, where both sides give and receive. How does such an active relationship work? The full extent of that engagement manifests in the realm of adepts, but the first steps can be taken in the apprentice training. Let's have a look first at a passive relationship, then at a magical relationship.

PASSIVE

A person we shall call Sally is reaching her thirtieth birthday. Sally is a typist, has a boyfriend, a normal life, and no interest in anything beyond earning a living and being happy. In her chart, she has Saturn in the 6th house.

Bear in mind I am simplifying this right down, as all the planets in the natal chart play a part. But for the sake of this example, let's keep it very simple.

As Sally approaches her thirtieth birthday, Saturn returns to the position it was in when she was born. This is called a *Saturn return*. Its influence becomes strong, and triggers Sally's life in a number of ways. She is not aware of this influence; nor is she aware that these influences trigger in order to be looked at, changed, or worked with.

Her boyfriend notices that her OCD issues are getting slightly worse, and Sally finds herself getting very stressed and overworked. She will not back away from her job, as she is very committed to it. The more stressed she gets, the worse her OCD gets. This in turn triggers stress hives in her, something she inherited from her mother, and her levels of stress and overwork begin to spill out into her relationship. She feels she is not getting enough support from her partner, and he feels shut out of her life.

Eventually this comes to a head, and she has to decide: job or boyfriend? Because she feels she owes loyalty to her job, and it is a company she has worked with for a while, she dumps the boyfriend...and continues to get more and more stressed.

This is the influence of the Saturn return on her life. If she knew about astrology, she would at least know what was happening and why. This would give her a chance to step back, look at the situation, and make more informed choices. This alone would have reduced her stress levels, as she would be able to see that Saturn was leaning on her personality/mental health, and that her sense of loyalty to the company also came from that natal influence. But she would still be slammed quite a lot by that first Saturn return.

ACTIVE

Next we shall look at the Saturn return of Helen. Helen is a Western magician, has been studying theoretically and practically since she was twenty-one, and also has a fairly good background in astrology. She comes from a family who suffer from certain inherited diseases, and like Sally is a workaholic.

She is aware that her Saturn return is upon her, and that she can either ride the wave of the planet's influence and see where it takes her, or choose to engage it fully. Helen does some readings to look at the differences in her long-term future between riding the wave and fully engaging it.

The first reading (riding the wave) shows a lot of hard work at her job, but it seems to not really go anywhere. It also shows long-term illness coming to a head later in life. She does a second reading to look at why her work career would not go anywhere even though she would be working very hard. The reading shows that her job will not fully express her true potential, and is only a job of earning money.

She then does a reading to look at her long-term life picture if she magically engages with the Saturn influence. It shows a long-term picture of hard but fruitful work in service that opens her life out to its full potential. It also shows long-term service that has to do with illness and healing. She decides to go with the magical option.

Helen prepares herself, and works ritually and in vision with the Saturn influence. First she approaches the spirits who work with the Saturn power. Then she connects with the angelic being who is the bridge between humanity and the planet Saturn. She explains to the being what she is trying to achieve (reaching her full potential with the help of Saturn) and in turn the angel agrees to act as a bridge for her to directly commune with the consciousness of the planet and its influences.

This bridge puts her in the presence of the planetary deity, a deity who projects a humanoid image so that Helen can speak directly to it. Helen tells the deity that she knows she is at a crucial stage in her life, and wishes to do her best to be of service and make the best of what fate has given her. The deity shows Helen a vista of her working in a hospital as a nurse, but also working magically with the sick and dying. Then, Helen asks the deity to put her in direct communion with the planetary power.

In vision, the deity places Helen in direct interface with the power of Saturn the planet. Helen finds herself confronted by a series of power patterns, forces, and weaves. She does not understand what she is seeing, but she understands that this is the raw influence of the planet from a magical perspective. Helen places her consciousness in the centre of the weave, and allows it to flow through her.

A week after this magical work, Helen is made redundant and becomes unemployed. While she is job searching, she comes across an advert for people to train as nurses with a specialist focus on hospice work. Suddenly her body (often cues come from the body, not the mind) responds to the advert, and she feels strong, centred, and wide awake. She applies for the training, and although it would put her financially in a hole for a while, she knows, with a physical knowing, that this is something that she must do.

She trains, qualifies, and goes to work in a hospice for people dying of cancer. At the same time she continues her magical studies and work, and blossoms within her training lodge.

One day, she is tending a dying patient who tells her that he wishes to discuss something with her. He tells her that her eyes tell him she is the person to talk to. So she listens.

The dying man tells her that he is a magician, and when she does not flinch, he knows he can continue. He tells her of his life's work in magic and healing, and asks if she would be willing to take on his books and notes. It is the only thing precious to him, and he knows his family would simply throw them in the trash. He takes hold of her hand and refuses to let go. She agrees—and she feels something pass between them.

The man dies, Helen inherits the books, notes, and a statue of an Egyptian goddess, which in turn puts her on a path of learning in an obscure line of health and magic. Over the next twenty years, she helps people in the hospice, bridging them peacefully into death, and she also slowly becomes a magical adept with a special focus on healing and death. The Egyptian goddess stays with her, and slowly the statue becomes a doorway through which the deity reaches. The goddess—Sekhmet—teaches Helen about disease, death, healing, and medicine.

These two women both had a natal Saturn in their sixth house, and were both on the cusp of a return. One was at the mercy of the planetary powers, did not use their influence, and did not achieve their full potential. The other engaged fully, and found a pathway that not only made the most of the planetary influences, but also brought her into a full working relationship with the different aspects of the planetary powers in order to achieve something.

Helen could have chosen a different route other than healing, but by doing so, she engaged the health/discipline aspect of Saturn/sixth house and channelled that influence through a career (as opposed to letting it flow through an inherited disease). She could have done something else, but she would have had to find a way for the health aspect of that influence to express itself positively rather than as a long-term illness, or to at least modify the inherited diseases.

So you see that by working directly with the various layers of the influences of the planets, you can go through life in a much more effective and useful way. You do not exert control over your life; rather you find the most positive aspect of that influence, trigger it in your life, and let it appear in a way conducive to your fate pattern.

There was the potential in Helen's fate pattern for her to work as a nurse. This was not a set destiny, but by conversing with the planetary power, it brought her life cues into sharper focus, where she could see them.

And by going through the layers of contact from planetary spirit, to angelic being, to deity, then finally to the planetary power itself, she fully engaged all layers of the power. Most of the time magicians will only work with the planetary spirits, but for this example, I wanted to show you the full potential of what can be worked with.

This also has the side-effect that, once you have fully contacted the planetary power itself, you appear more brightly on the radar of the planetary spirits. This in turn enables the magician to have an almost day-to-day relationship with the spirits, which opens the magician out to the various ways these spirits can be worked with. The magician does not need to keep going back to the pure planetary power; once is enough. 'Touching base' with the planet's consciousness once in a lifetime changes everything: from then onwards, the magician can consult with the planetary spirits, the deity, or the angelic being, depending on what they are doing and why.

This level of work is the realm of the adept. To get there, there are various training stages you can go through, ones that not only teach you about the planets' individual and collective influences, but also prepare your body and mind in increments for such powerful contact.

Throughout this module you will focus on the planetary spirits and will work with each one individually. The work in these lessons is going to be mainly practical work with very little theory.

Planetary deities

Before we move on to the practical work of the rest of these lessons, I think it pertinent to address some of the confusion that appears in magic today regarding the planetary deities, and the Greco-Roman deities of the same names. They may have the same names, but they are not the same thing.

The Greco-Roman deities who were named after planets (Jupiter, for example) were so named because their personalities and powers are very similar to a particular planet's influences. In some cases the deity does have a direct relationship with the powers of a planet, but still, they are deities of the land and people, not of the planet itself.

As I write this, there is a current fashion in trendy magic to work with the god Jupiter. The Roman god Jupiter is/was the god of kingship, of careful, wise governance and justice. These qualities are similar to the influence expressed by the planet Jupiter; hence this deity was named after that planet.

For some reason, some modern magicians seem to think because Jupiter was the god of the king of the State, this god would give them wealth and power if they worshipped and worked with him. This is a good example of dumb thinking. Such an approach would trigger an aspect of the god Jupiter which is akin to the Unraveller: through their own stupidity and greed, they will eventually unravel and fall apart.

They also fail to understand that Jupiter (the god) is specifically aligned to city states, and is not interested in individual magicians. Such an approach, along with the usual overdressed New Age altar with flowy blue fabric, is only really going to attract a parasite willing to masquerade as Jupiter in return for a meal.

The city state god Jupiter is a deity of the land and the people, and is a deity who is influenced by the bigger power of the planet and the planetary

deity Jupiter: their purpose and power is in harmony. But communing with the city god Jupiter is not communing with the planetary deity: these are totally different things. Whereas the city god Jupiter is concerned with the balanced governance of the people by the king or leader, the planetary force of the deity Jupiter is more concerned with the powers of balance and justice of all living things, wherever they are. The planetary deity is also like a root deity that is in a direct line of power flow with deities like Djehuty and Maat. The powers of balance, justice, intelligence, and governance flow through these two Egyptian deities, and they are in the chain of power between the planet and living beings.

I thought it was important to make these distinctions at this early phase of your learning about planetary powers, as there is so much silly magical writing on the market at present that purports to connect the beginner with 'Jupiter.' Once you see words like 'wealth' and 'power,' it is time to move on and search for something better.

Throughout this module, keep in mind the difference between the planetary deities and the Greco-Roman deities named after the planets: don't confuse the two, or link them in your mind. Lastly, before we move on to the practical lessons, let me just sum up briefly the layers of contact involved in planetary magic, so that you are clear as to what you are connecting with in the various rituals/visions.

The Layers of Planetary Powers

The nearest layer to us is that of the planetary spirits. They are the easiest to work with, have the most immediate influence on us, and are like worker bees who keep all the complex combinations of planetary influences where they need to be. We do not need to know their names; rather we need to know what they do and where to find them.

This is the level of contact that we as magicians work with when we need to connect with a planet's influence for a short-term job (talismán) or for a longer-term project that needs a planetary influence at 'low voltage.' They can be worked with like inner contacts. You can learn a lot from them:

they are the final stage of delivery for the day-to-day shifts in planetary influence over people and creatures.

Behind them are the angelic beings. They are the bridge and threshold for the planetary power. These angelic beings are the triggers, pathways, and 'holders' who enable a planet's inner influence to exert itself upon everything that is physically manifest. These beings are worked with mainly for construction, where the influence and power of the planets is to be woven into the structure and created fate of an inner temple, a long-term magical project, or an outer temple.

Then we reach the planetary deity. We can perceive this deity as a humanoid deity by grace of the angelic beings who act as the threshold. Our minds create the image of the vessel, the angelic beings create the structure of the vessel based on our imagery, and the filtered consciousness of the planet can then flow into that vessel. This becomes a deity interface in which the consciousness of the planet is downgraded enough for humans to understand it, and the feeble warblings of the humans are translated by the angelic beings into energetic information that the planet's consciousness can relate and react to.

Just as we have goddesses and gods in various cultures that are the land, the earth, so each planet also has that deity potential. We talk to Cybele in order to commune with the land's consciousness. So, too, we talk to the planetary deity to commune with the consciousness of that planet.

And then comes the consciousness of the planet itself, which stands 'behind' the deity, in terms of power order. That planetary conscious mind is vast, and is often way beyond what a human can cope with or understand. But for a magician, stepping in phases of contact through the different layers enables our bodies to slowly get used to the power, and for the planet to back up its conscious energy output so that we can see and experience that power for ourselves. We see the inner lines and patterns of its life pattern, and we interact with that pattern.

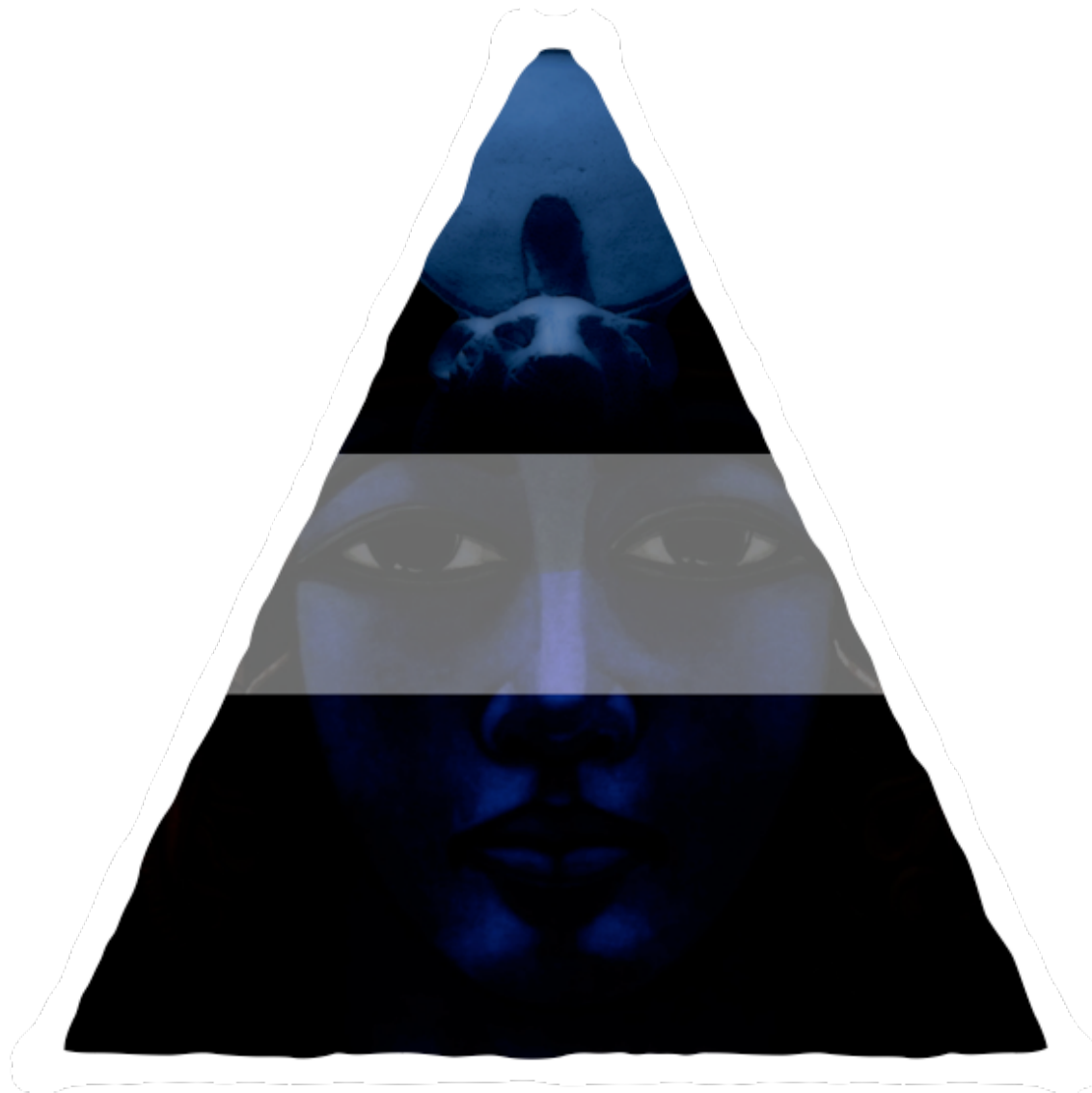
It is through this level of work that the magician finally realises that we are all, literally, interlinked and of each other. Us talking to a planetary consciousness is the equivalent of a single cell attempting to communicate with our minds. It is not impossible, and it does happen; but it is hard, and most of the time we are not conscious of it.

One visit to the pure planetary power creates a link, a recognition, and turns a key. After that, we do not need to fry our brains; instead, we have been changed and prepared for better communion with the spirits and deity of that vast being.

Through these lessons, we will begin the first steps of this process, so that you gain a connection and communion with the first stage of contact: the planetary spirits.. Later in the course, we will step deeper into planetary connection through the angelic beings and the deities.

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