

QVAREIA - THE APPRENTICE

Module 9 - Working with Planetary Powers
Lesson 8: Planetary Work

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QVAREIA

WELCOME

Welcome to this lesson of the Quareia curriculum.

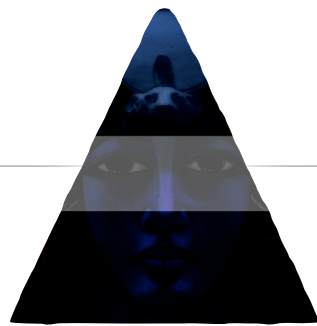
The Quareia takes a magical apprentice from the beginning of magic to the level of adeptship and beyond. The course has no superfluous text; there is no dressing, no padding – everything is in its place and everything within the course has a good reason to be there.

*For more information and all course modules please visit
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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



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Module 9 - Working with Planetary Powers

Lesson 8: Planetary Work

Now that you have worked in vision with the planetary spirits and have a basic idea of what powers the planets exert on every living thing, the time has come to pull all of that together and learn how to work practically with these powers in your ritual work. You would not use these powers all the time, but they are a valuable aspect of magic and you can apply them in your ritual, visionary, and study work whenever you feel it necessary.

I may not prompt you in future lessons to engage them, unless it is critical to the work you are doing: it is very much up to you to decide when to work with them and when not to. The practical work in this lesson teaches you how to apply what you have learned in a practical way, and after that it is up to you. You are getting to the stage in your training where you need to start making decisions for yourself as to which tools and skills you want to apply in your work and learning, and which ones you don't. In some lessons, the tools and skills you need to achieve the work with be outlined, in other lessons, you will be left to decide for yourself.

For example, say you are learning a new ritual form, or undertaking new visionary work, or work out in the world. Besides the skills and tools you are directed to work with, you can also choose what else you apply to these workings in relation to where you are in your life. You can choose simply to follow the lesson instructions, or you can add things you have already

learned. The key to such a decision is not to play with as many things as possible, but to ask whether each additional component is necessary. Will it help? Will it build on what I am doing?

Just remember, the planetary spirits are not all-knowing, all-powerful mummies and daddies who will spoon-feed you and answer every dumb question you can think to ask. Rather they are the mediators of forces that affect everything. They are intermediaries from whom you can seek guidance in relation to the influence they mediate. They do not care if you live or die, fail or succeed; they engage only when you are looking to work consciously with the power they mediate. They are the stepped-down voice of a very large chunk of rock and metal hurtling through space. Do not be tempted to put human ideals and emotions onto them, unless they present in that form, particularly in the library. Learn to work with them as they are.

Practical work

WORKING WITH THE SIGILS IN RITUAL

This exercise teaches you how to work in ritual with your connections to the planetary spirits. In this exercise you will work with them all, but in your future work, you should decide which are necessary at any one time for you to work with. One bit of advice though: when you work with a specific planet, make sure you also work with its ‘sister’: you have learned which deeper planetary powers work through the faster, more immediate planets, so work them together (i.e. Uranus and Mercury).

If your work is about Ma’at/balance, work with the opposing planets that create the balance through tension (Saturn and Uranus, for example). Learn to explore the different relationships that exist between the planets, rather than working with a single, isolated planet. Nothing in magic works alone: everything has a counterpoint, tension, or relationship with something else. This ritual exercise simply teaches you one way to with the sigils of the planetary spirit connection.

Get your cloth sigils of the planetary spirits, and get out your chart with the current transits. Work out where the transiting planets are in relation to the two dimensional chart and your workspace. Remember to check on the chart which direction is south and which is north—you can tell by the sun's position on the chart in relation to the time. If you look where the sun is in relation to the horizon and the time, you can then work out which way the chart is facing.

Set up your work room, put out the tools, light the lights, open the gates, and balance yourself. Now get out your cloth sigils and put them on the floor where they currently belong in relation to the directions the room is set to.

Go around the directional altars, starting in the east, and declare to each direction that you are learning how to work with the planetary spirit influences in your workspace. Then go around the directions a second time, and greet each inner contact on the thresholds: ones will come forward who are best aligned to work with the planetary spirits in the exercise you are doing.

Starting in the east area of the work space, go to the nearest planetary sigil on the floor, working clockwise, and stand on the sigil. Recover in your mind the feeling of that contact.

You are not drawing the contact into your workplace. This is important. You do not want the spirit turning up in your space; rather you are triggering the current power that each planet is flowing out into the world.

Stand on the sigil, remember the feeling of the contact, and remember the power of that planet. Now look to see which altar it is nearest, and what tools are nearest. This magical direction and its tools are the ones to work with in conjunction with the planet's influence. If a sigil falls directly between two altars, then as you stand on the sigil, 'feel into' the sigil and see which direction it is most pulled towards.

Repeat this exercise with each sigil. Your feet must touch them as you stop and recover the feeling, and while you look around: you are learning to lightly embed the influence of the sigils into the floor of the workspace, and also your cloth shield, if it is on the floor.

Once you have done all the planet sigils, go around the directions starting in the east. Pick up the tools in that direction or place your hands upon them, and visualise a thread of power flowing from the sigils to the tools. Let the power flow through your body and hands into the tools. You are not embedding the power into the tools; you are simply introducing the tools and sigils to each other. Remember, the influences will shift and change as the planets move around their orbits.

There is no work involved in this exercise, it is simply a meeting of powers with you as the bridge. Once you have learned how it feels to link the sigils to the tools, and have learned to sense the connection between the two, then you can use this method to bring the planetary spirits into communion with the tools, should you need to in your work.

When you have done all the sigils, sit in front of the central altar, facing south, close your eyes, and using your inner vision see the sigils on the floor, the tools and altars in the directions, and see the links between them all. All the altars are linked up, all the tools are linked up, and all the sigils are linked up, creating a web of influence in your workspace. When you have got the sense of the complexity of the relationships, it is time to focus them magically. Open your eyes and stand up.

Starting in the east and working clockwise, pick up each sigil in turn and place it with the nearest tools. If the sigil falls equally between two altars, stand and hold the sigil, close your eyes, and use your inner sense to see which altar and set of tools it wants to work with. When you get a clear sense of where it wants to go, place it with the tool/s.

Once all the sigils are on altars with the tools, starting in the east, go and stand before each altar in turn with your eyes closed. Be aware of the contact on the threshold, and be aware of the power flowing through the sigils and tools on that altar. Standing with eyes closed, meditate briefly on what that combination is telling you. You may have more than one sigil per altar, and other altars may have none (often they do not distribute evenly).

Once you have been around the directions and meditated on each set of combinations, write it all down in your journal while the lights are still going. When you have finished, close the gates, put out the lights, and put the tools and sigils away.

HOW THIS CAN WORK

Say you are standing in the east, and Neptune and Mercury's sigils are on the altar. This tells you that the power of deep inner senses are at play, and will express through communication (east and Mercury) in a powerful way: the east and Mercury strengthen one other. Neptune lends quite a lot of deep power to this dynamic, so the sword's limiting power must also be brought into play to ensure that Neptune does not push the communication into the realm of fantasy, nor that too much of its power flows through that east pattern. It tells you that communication/utterance is a powerful tool for you at this time, but that you need to engage the limiter consciously to control it productively.

So if there is magical work you need to do, and this configuration showed up, you will know that one of the strands of power you can use is this configuration of inner sense/utterance: you could use contacted writing or ritual recitation in your work, for example. But you must also work with it alongside the sword and its limiting power.

This, of course, would combine with the other configurations of sigils/tools/directions, and together you would have a working space of contacts, tools, inner beings, planetary influences, and ritual dynamics. You as the magician would pull all these aspects together in ritual/visionary form to conduct a magical working that would flow harmoniously.

The key is to understand each tool and its various uses, each planetary influence, each direction, and the contacts in each direction. Then you can learn how to weave all these influences and powers together to create a magical act.

Treat the sigils as connections to the planet powers, and also as reminders. When a planetary sigil is near a directional altar, you use the powers, contacts, and tools of that direction in relation to the influence that flows from that planet in order to achieve something.

RITUAL EXPERIMENT II

This is a step on from the exercise you have just done. Set up the room in the same way, open everything, have the tools set around the central altar, and have the sigils in their planetary positions. The focus of intent for this exercise is learning and balance, whether for you, something upon the land,

or something around you. Do not define where this learning and balance will go: all you are doing is creating a filter for already functioning power to flow in a more conscious way.

This time, starting in the east and working clockwise (include the central altar after you have done north), pick up each sigil in turn and be still with it. Recover the feeling of the connection with the planetary spirit. Starting in the east, go around each direction, spending a bit of time by each altar to find out which altar the sigil wants to work with. Go around a few times if you need to, until each planetary sigil is on an altar. You will feel a stronger pull of energy when you get to the altar/direction the sigil can work with most strongly at present.

Don't worry if the sigils bunch together in one or two directions, or distribute themselves in all directions, or cluster round the centre: just let them do what they want. Once they are all out, do the same with the magical tools: find out where each tool wants to work.

Once you have all the sigils and tools on various altars, then go around the directions, and call to the thresholds for whatever beings are necessary for learning and balance to come and join you in your work.

When you have called out to each direction, go back around the directions, bow to the contacts, and then sit in the centre, facing south, with the central altar before you.

See yourself stand up and walk in vision around the directions. You will see the various powers flowing from the directions, the tools, and the sigils. Some will shine much more brightly than others. Look at the ones that shine most strongly, and take note of where and what they are. Then see which direction (this could also be the centre), is shining the most brightly.

While maintaining your sense of being in vision, open your eyes and physically stand up. Pick up the sigils and tools that were shining the most brightly, and put them on the altar of the direction that seemed brightest and most powerful.

Now sit back down again, with your back to that bright direction, facing centre. (If, however, the centre was most active, then sit facing south with your back to the central altar).

Close your eyes. See the build up of the powers behind you. Be aware of two contacts that have stepped into the room. Each places a hand upon

your shoulder to uphold you. Open your hands to face the central flame. Allow the powers behind you to release and flow around or through you and into the central flame.

From the central flame, the powers release out into the south. See them passing through the south gate and into the mists of the future. If you are sitting with your back to the central flame, simply feel the powers going into the flame behind you, passing through and around you, and going into the south.

Sit like this for however long it takes for all the power to flow into the south. Once it has finished, you will see the gates of the south close. Open your eyes, get up, bow to the south, and feel the hands of the contacts lift off your shoulders.

Starting in the east, go around the directions, bow and say thank you, and close the directions down. Leave the central flame burning. Put the tools and sigils away. Sit down and write up in your journal your experience, your sensations, and your observations. Write down which tools and sigils went where, and think about what the combination of powers, planetary influences, and tools may have brought together.

Write up a summary in your computer log, and keep an eye on events out in the world around you, and also in your own life. Although this is a simple training ritual exercise, it can use a lot of energy: there is a lot of magical heavy lifting in this work, so make sure you get plenty of rest afterwards.

After you have had a few days to think about this work and after your body has settled down, write down any other inspirations or reflections you have had about what powers were triggered to work, and why.

TASK: TAROT

After a week has gone by, do a reading using the landscape layout. Look at what powers came together, what the short-term outcome will be, and what the long-term outcome will be. Then do a four directional, six card layout to look at what raw powers were flowing into the ritual (you are the crossing card) and what your role was. Then do a tree of life layout and ask: who or what is receiving the power of that ritual? If you get a person card, then most likely it has gone to help a person, possibly more than one person. Trump cards will tell you the recipient was something major (for example,

The Emperor would most likely indicate government or a very influential boss, and The Hierophant would most likely indicate a religion or the head of a religion). Write everything down in a computer log.

Sometimes you may feel a sudden urge to do this work, and to do it in the same unconditional way: it goes to whomever or whatever needs it. If you do get a sudden instinct to do this ritual, it is likely that a key person or event is lining up in the world for something specific that could change the future, or a person has to make a decision that would affect nations. Your work is service, and this sends learning and balance at a critical time in order to ensure that their decision or action is balanced and not aggressively influenced by outside forces.

VISION WORK: VISITING THE PLANETARIUM

This vision places you at the ground zero of the planetary influences, allowing you to see them all in action energetically. It builds on the work you did when you met the planetary spirits. Essentially, you are going ‘underneath’ them to see how their influences and powers dispense into our world.

Set up your room, still yourself, and go in vision to the inner library. Tell the librarian that now you have visited the planetary spirits and worked in ritual with the powers and tools, you would like to go into the planetarium to see how it all pulls together from an inner perspective.

Follow the librarian down the corridor towards the bronze doors that lead to the planetary spirits. The librarian points to the right of the bronze doors. You see a narrow, steep stone stairway that vanishes down into the darkness. They indicate that this stairway takes you to the planetarium. They also indicate to you to reach within yourself and bring out a fragment of your inner flame to light your way.

Holding the fragment of the inner flame in your hand, climb down the steep stone stairs. Take your time: it can be a difficult stairway to navigate. You will find that it twists around and around until finally it ends at a thick wooden door. Push the door open and walk down the stone passageway that seems to be roughly cut out of the bedrock. You get the feeling that nobody has walked this path in a very long time. It seems very old and dusty, and covered in cobwebs. When you get to the end, it opens out onto a large stone platform that is out in the stars.

The view is breathtaking: all the stars of the night sky are around you. Lie down on the platform, put your fragment of flame back within you, and lie looking at the millions of bright stars all round you. As you lie in silence, you start to hear faint tones and sounds: the songs of the planets. As you lie and listen, you begin to notice that some stars shine more brightly than others, and seem to come more into focus.

Open your mouth and let a tone or sound flow from you. The moment you make the sound, everything changes: the planets make themselves known as brighter orbs that emit harmonies, and you see threads of power flowing from each one, which join up to make a web pattern. Other stars, ones you do not know, also join in. Each thread of power flows slowly down to you, connecting with your centre. Soon you are connected to many planets and stars. You can feel their song vibrate inside your whole body.

This connection changes your sight: beings begin to flow in and out of your vision. They seem to fade and return as if they are not quite there. Some you recognise as contacts from the thresholds; others you recognise from their 'feel.' Some are the spirits and powers that work through the magical tools. All emit sounds and a thread of energy/light that slowly connects into the web and connects into you.

Look at some of the stronger, brighter orbs and planets connected to you, and make a sound directed to them from you. As soon as you make a sound to them, a thread of energy flows from you back up to the star. Sing sounds to the individual stars, planets, contacts, and energies around you, until you are singing a harmony in vision that completes the complex web pattern. You can feel that you are at the centre of the web, and that you flow among the powers as one of them, deeply connected, interrelated, and energetically one of them.

Lie still in this choir of power and sound, and be at one with this complex relationship of powers. This conscious connection into the vast, complex web that is your universe awakens you at a very deep level to the pattern that weaves from the planets into your fate web, and into everything of magical power around you. It essentially makes up an energetic universe with you at its centre. You engage with this complex universe by lying here in the midst of the power and singing back and forth with the planets, powers, and contacts.

As you lie there, think about your magical work space, where your body is currently sitting. As your attention focusses in on that room, the web shifts and you become increasingly aware of your body. The scene of stars and powers around you shifts: although the stars stay, the room and furniture emerge around you, and you see the threads of the web connecting into the altars, the tools, the room, the furniture. Everything around you is connected energetically to the universal web that you are the centre of.

Slowly open your eyes, so that part of your consciousness is still on the stone platform and part of you is still in your body.

Sit for a while, retaining that sense of being in two places at once. Keep your awareness of the energetic connections all around you, and very slowly allow the part of you on the platform to sink slowly back down into your body. When you are ready, get up, stretch, and then put the flames out.

This vision is a very old one that connects you consciously to the myriad of power connections that are constantly around you. Everything that exists in your world is connected (this is why you talk to everything), and all the powers of the stars, the planets, the fates, and life itself flows in and around you all the time.

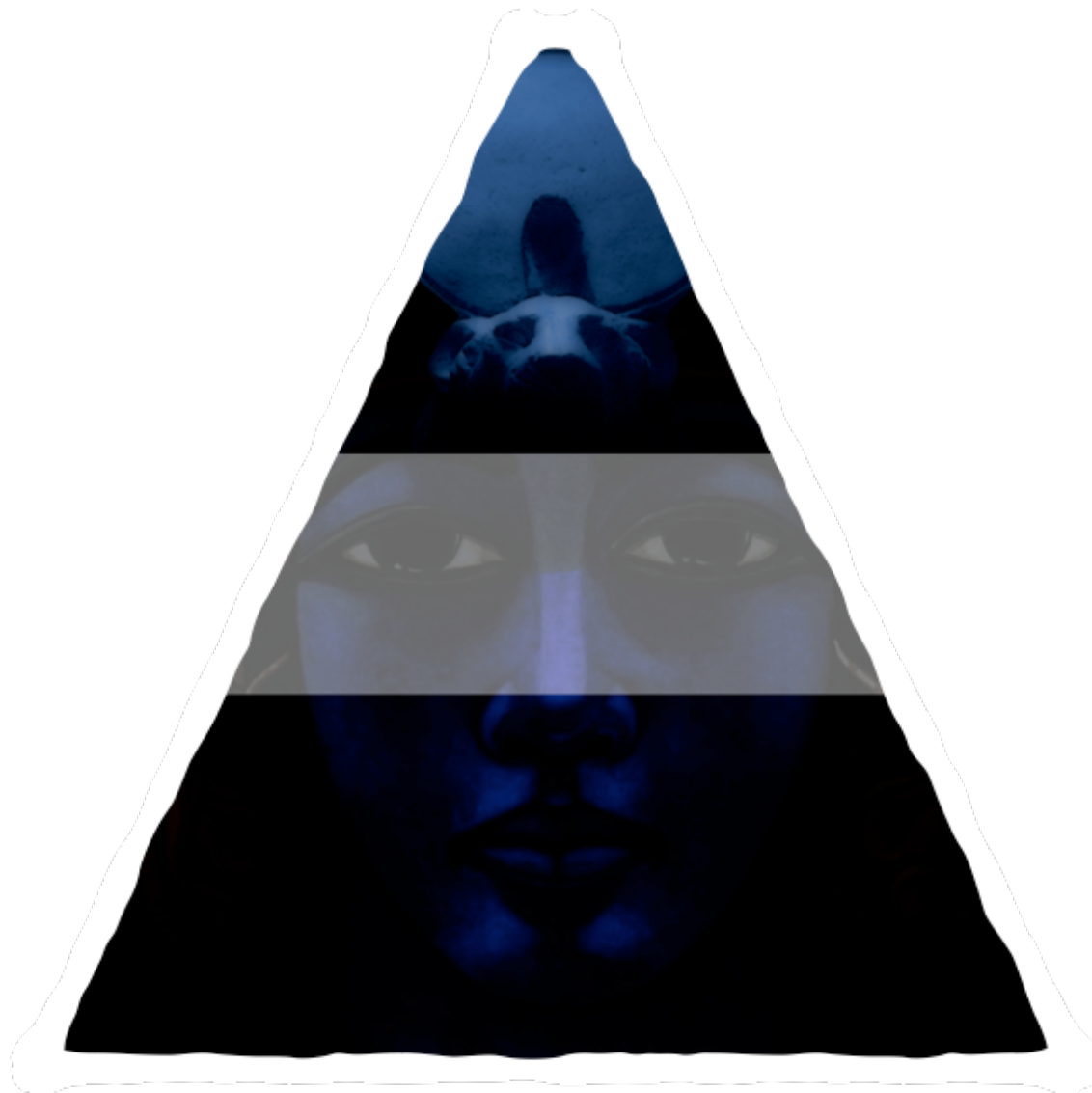
Working with this vision is a good idea if you feel the need to reconnect with everything around you, or if you feel that you need insight into the bigger picture of your life. It is not to be used for simple curiosity or to divine your own immediate future; rather it is touching base with the vast pattern that is you. It puts you back on your feet, clears your vision, and connects you into the energy sources and patterns all around you.

TASK

Write down your experience of this vision in a computer log and any readings you are inspired to do around it.

QVAREIA

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