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# QVAREIA - THE APPRENTICE

Module 9 - Working with Planetary Powers

*Lesson 5: Houses and Cards*

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QVAREIA

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# WELCOME

*Welcome to this lesson of the Quareia curriculum.*

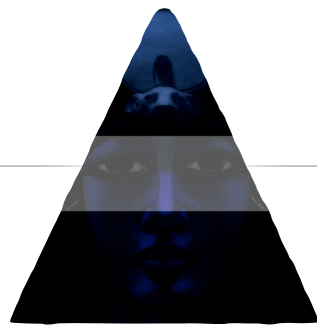
*The Quareia takes a magical apprentice from the beginning of magic to the level of adeptship and beyond. The course has no superfluous text; there is no dressing, no padding – everything is in its place and everything within the course has a good reason to be there.*

*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*



# QVAREIA - THE APPRENTICE

## Module 9 - Working with Planetary Powers

### *Lesson 5: Houses and Cards*

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Before we go any further with the planets, I want to give you a break from the visionary work and immerse you in something different. This lesson will teach you how to combine astrology and tarot in order to look at situations, beings, or people, and get a clearer view of what influences are playing out where.

This technique uses the astrological houses as tarot positions, the cards as information, and the planetary sigils as indicators. Look up the astrological houses and familiarise yourself with them. You will find that different astrologers have slightly different notions about each house, but you will get the general idea. Also, each house has certain dynamics that relate more specifically to magic and magical lives. Here is a short list of key words that you can use alongside the general house definitions.

1. First House - Identity
2. Second House - Substance
3. Third House - Communication
4. Fourth House - Ancestors
5. Fifth House - Creation
6. Sixth House - Service

7. Seventh House - Inner contacts, magical partners
8. Eighth House - The underworld, necessary destruction
9. Ninth House - The inner worlds, gods
10. Tenth House - The manifest world
11. Eleventh House - Community of people
12. Twelfth House - Hidden enemies, the unraveller

Just to help you along, here are some short explanations of how these twelve key words relate to magical readings:

- **Identity:** how the subject is put together, what sort of person they are, what is their defining feature is.
- **Substance:** the energy and resources of the subject.
- **Communication:** how this person communicates to everything around them.
- **Ancestors:** where the subject comes from. This position can also indicate if ancestors are active around the subject.
- **Creation:** what this person/subject does as a creative output. Their positive, giving qualities in terms of doing or creating something.
- **Service:** the long-term service of the subject. Sometimes it can also indicate the burdens they have to carry in order to do their true service/work. It is also a position of health issues in relation to their service.
- **Inner contacts, magical partners:** the inner connections and strong bonds between the subject and magical workers, and how they act within such unions. The underworld, necessary destruction: the destroying quality of the person, or the underworld powers that flow through them.
- **The inner worlds, gods:** how the subject works magically, and what relationship they have with the deities and Divine powers.

- **The manifest world:** their actions and work in the physical world. The community of people: their circle of friends and how the subject is viewed by the community.
  - **Hidden enemies, the unraveller:** hidden underhand influences affecting the subject, or of self-destructive behaviour that the subject is not aware of.
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## *The Layout*

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You will need your chart with its current transits. You can either map out the layout on some cloth, or just lay the cards out. The layout is twelve positions in a circle. It starts from the left hand side and works downward and around anticlockwise. Each position represents a house, and the first position is the first house. Have the key words beside you for reference.

You are going to ask: *“Show me the inner and magical influences that are flowing through my life over the next twelve months.”* Shuffle the cards while keeping this question in mind. When you are ready, lay out the twelve cards in the twelve positions. Before you start to read them, look at your chart and see which houses the following planets are currently transiting: Saturn, Pluto, Jupiter, Mars and Venus. Look at the twelve cards you have laid out. Put the sigil cloth for each planet beside its current card/house. When you come to a card/house with one of these planets active in it, read the card in respect of the planet as well as the position.

Start at the first card. This gives you an overview of who you are for this year (we change a great deal over the years). Go through each house and read the card in respect of the house in which it has fallen. When you come to a house with one of the five planets in it, remember the deeper aspect of the planet and read the card in relation to the house and the influence of the planet.

And when you see negative cards (we do not use reversals, the cards and positions speak for themselves), don't panic. We learn as much from difficulty as from positive experience. However, if something serious turns up, you can use this as a warning and look further (we will go into this in a moment).

For example, assume that in the second house (substance) you find the Tower or Death, with Pluto at the side (lucky you...). This may signal that you will lose your source of income or resources, but Pluto's presence tells us that although it will hurt and be a hardship, it is a necessary step that will clear the way for something more productive to come through.

If, however, you have the Tower in the second position, and the nine of swords or the Devil in the twelfth house, then it is likely that someone is working against you, or that you are self sabotaging. In that case, you will need to look deeper.

Write down the circular pattern of the cards, and write the planets' names at the sides of the cards in whose houses they fall.

Don't rush your deliberations, but meditate on each card in its position, and think about what it is telling you. It is giving you a weather report for the year ahead, and showing you what, if anything, you need to adjust in your life.

The future is rarely totally fixed: this reading tells you about the path you are already on. If the path looks like a disaster, look for the root of that disaster and see if you can make changes to your life that would put you on a different path.

If the disaster keeps showing up no matter what changes you suggest as options, then it is likely to be something you *have* to face. In that case, look to your chart, see what planets are doing what with the transits, and work out what lesson it is you have to learn.

I have always found that if I face such situations and step into them consciously with the attitude that I will do my best and learn from them, I may indeed stumble and struggle, but I am never allowed to fall.

On a more positive note (gee, I am a happy soul), the cards' positions can also indicate where you are in your magical development, what you need to work harder on, and where you are shining. This layout can give you many insights into your deeper self and how the inner forces play out in your outer life. These things are never separate, they always work together: what you do in your magical work will express itself in your everyday life.

Once you have mapped out your cards in their positions, write up in a computer log what you think each card/position/planet is telling you. Also make a note to look at this again in a years' time. Once you have gone

through the year, you can look back and see what you got right, and what you misinterpreted. This will teach you far more than any text lesson can.

Before we move on, let's just look at how to handle any apparent disasters that might show up in this reading.

### ***DISASTER ON THE HORIZON***

If a major disaster shows up on the horizon in the reading, don't panic. Life always has its ups and downs, sometimes major ones, in order to move us along in the direction we need to be going. The key is to see if the potential disaster should and can be avoided, and then if not, to discover the best way to approach it in order to come out the other side in the best possible condition.

Identify what area of your life it is playing out in. The house or houses it falls in are your first clue. Sometimes disasters outside of us can show up: while they may not affect us directly, they will still be all around us, and thus show up in a reading. If, for example, the trouble appears in the eleventh house, it will either indicate a disaster for you in the public eye, or a disaster for the community in general.

The first step is to use the inner landscape layout and ask: *“If I do nothing to change my current path, what will be the short-term and longer-term outcome for me?”*

If the answer looks generally bad, but a good strong card appears the position of the long-term future, then this is a process that will happen in order to shift you into a different way of being.

If this is the case, then you need to use the same layout and ask: *“If I find a way to change this situation that is within my own capability, what will the short-term and long-term outcomes be for me?”*

If this reading is more favourable and still has a strong positive long-term outcome, then it is telling you that you do not need to go through the disaster, and that there is an easier way to learn the lesson. If the long-term outcome is no longer favourable, then it is likely you do need to go through tough times in order to learn.

I have been through some very shit times—and very dangerous times—but they all served to teach me important lessons that enable me to do what I now do. So think wisely regarding your actions.

You can also use the tree of life layout to get yes/no answers (the final card is the key answer). Be sure to ask your question with proper focus if you want a straight answer. It is all about narrowing down the focus to see the root of the issue, where the disaster will fall. Then you have to think very carefully what you can do to change direction, and whether that change will put you on a healthier path.

This exercise holds a mirror up to you so that you cannot hide from your own cause and effect in your life. It is important to know when your own actions cause problems and to be able to face difficulties with a positive mentality, one that proclaims “I will not only survive, but I will also succeed.”

Write everything down in your computer log: the readings, your conclusions, and your notes. As each event or power triggers, revisit your notes and add to them your reflections on the reality of the situations.

In general though, the houses reading will show you where the weaknesses and strengths are in your path, what you need to work on, what inner help you are getting, what you are succeeding in, and what is coming next. Reading them in the context of the planets helps you understand where your focus should be, what you need to work harder on, and what you are beginning to shine at.

### ***PROJECT: RITUAL EXPERIMENT***

This experiment is getting you ready for the Initiate work, and takes the training wheels off. You are going to devise a ritual that is contacted, but using no visionary exploration work, and you are going to ensure that it has all the ingredients it needs to work.

The ingredients must be aspects of: the directions, the altars, the elements, the tools, the astrological houses as they relate to your work space, the five planetary sigils, the inner contacts at the thresholds, bodily actions, voice, inner senses, and meditation. The inner contacts must be ones you



have already worked with in some form. You do not have to work with everything, but you must include at least an aspect of each dynamic in the ritual.

The aim of the ritual is to work with any negative or weak areas that showed in your houses reading, and to work with the right dynamics in order to ask for guidance, learning, strength, insight, and forbearance, in order to achieve the things in your path over the next year.

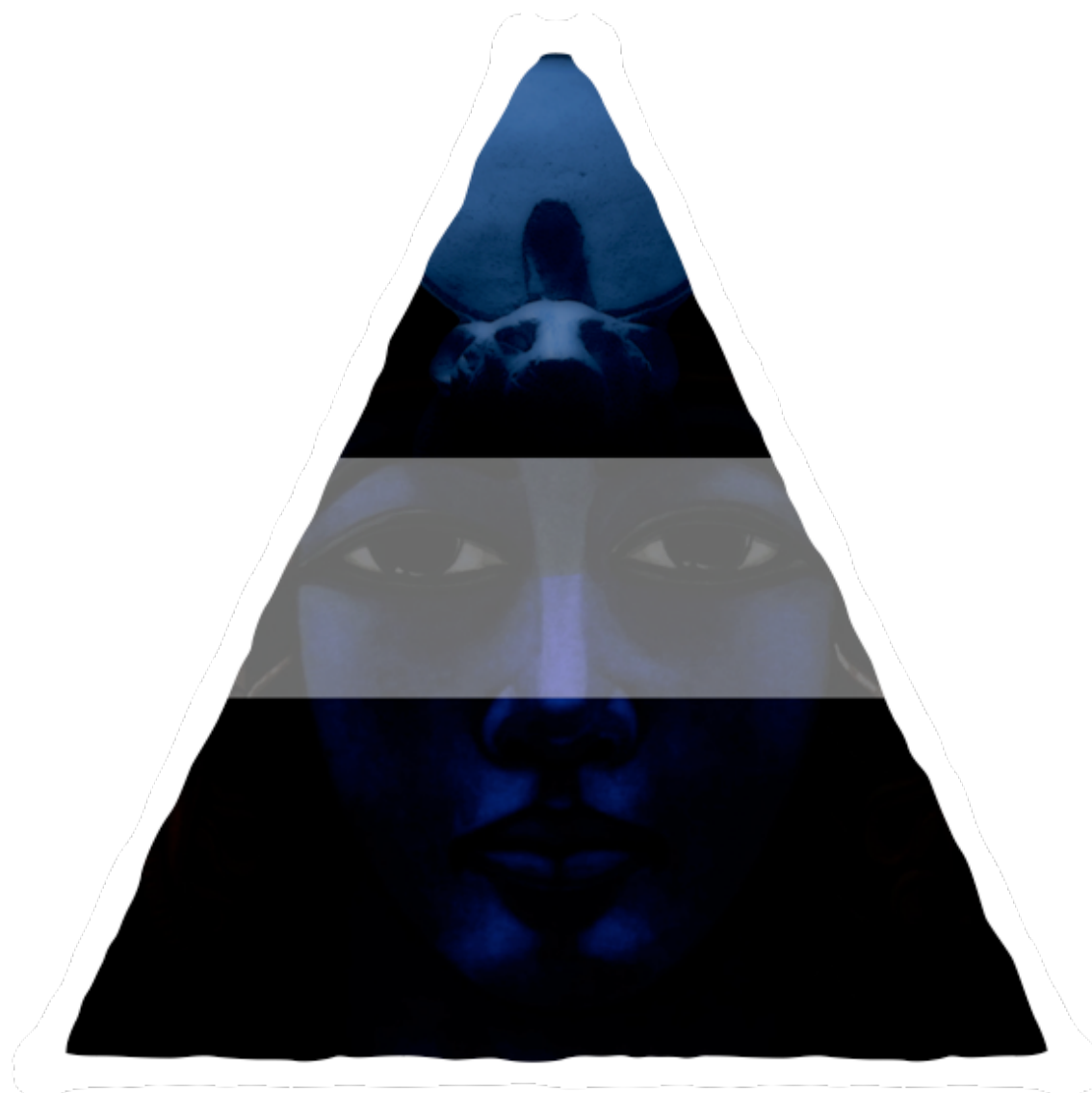
You have learned a variety of techniques, different ways of working with energy and power, different ways of working with contacts, tools, elements, and planets. Now is the time to decide how and what you use in order to achieve something. How you approach this is totally up to you, but your spirit must stay within the ritual space. You can commune with inner contacts in vision, but you must not leave your working space and go off in vision. That is your restriction.

Plan your ritual, map it out, and explain why you are approaching it as you are. Write it all down in a computer log. Do the ritual and write down your experiences afterwards. Also make notes on anything that happens in the weeks after your ritual that seems related to it. Put all your notes, maps, explanations, and experiences together in a computer file.

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