



QUAREIA—THE ADEPT
Module II—Magical Construction
Lesson 6: The Gathering

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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.

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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 II—Magical Construction

Lesson 6: The Gathering

In previous lessons you were introduced to a dynamic known as the Gathering Place which some call the Inner Convocation, a place where priests, priestesses, adepts, and inner contacts come together as a presence out of time. They gather, circle the central flame, and watch over the gates of the directions.

The people who come together in this dynamic are from different times and from different religious and magical systems. Some are in life, and others are inner contacts withdrawn from the wheel of life and death. The one thing they all have in common is that they all partake in the deeper Inner Mysteries, and they all work for the continuance of the Mysteries in various expressions.

An Inner Temple has its own adepts and initiates that flow in and out of the Inner Temple as they work. But beyond that system and family, the Inner Temples also connect with the Gathering Place in a passive way. The collection of mages deep within the Mysteries act beyond individual systems, temples, religions, and so forth: they are an aspect of the Mysteries that transcends forms and outer expressions of magic, the Mysteries, etc.

What do they do?

The Gathering acts as a reservoir of inner contact for living humans partaking of the deeper Mysteries. There they can act as guides, advisers, and witnesses to specific events. You have looked at this before. They also, collectively, keep vigil over the eternal flame by constantly circling it. And when a major event is about to happen out in the world, they will cluster around the appropriate directional gate and mediate the power of the tuned flame out into the world—which is the key, really, to their main purpose: being a tuning fork for humanity.

The Gathering Place's collective mind is not to protect mundane human life, but to ensure the Mysteries' survival within human consciousness—particularly in the many dark phases that various civilisations go through. The survival of the Mysteries is not about protecting some particular cultural expression of them, but about sustaining their core principles and the understanding that brings humanity and the Divine Mystery closer together.

They are of all cultures, and none. They have all, as individuals, stepped beyond the cultural, magical, or religious system within which they evolved, and they work unconditionally in the place where the flame flows out of the Void, out of nothing.

When some magicians make contact with this collective, they think they have connected with gods and goddesses. Some even think they have connected with aliens (blink...). In fact the Gathering Place's members are as human as everyone else. The difference is that they have chosen to spend some time circling in this place to keep its power flow going, and bridging power out into the world when needed in the hope that at least one person, somewhere, will pick it up and use it to evolve.

Various traditions work with the Gathering Place. Within those traditions, some adepts spend time in vision going there and circling as a service. Some inner contacts always seem to be there; other faces appear and disappear on a regular basis. Some you will see once and then never again. People flow back and forth, to and fro, from this place all the time. You, too, have already taken some time to circle around its flame in service.

Just remember the people there are not superhuman or gifted with superhuman knowledge; they are simply adepts from their own time and place who choose to circle and bridge as part of their work.

How does it work?

I have been connecting with the Gathering for decades and I still do not fully understand the real mechanisms behind how it started, when it started, or why it started. I began slowly to understand just how universal it is to humanity when I came across more and more people out in the world who had found it and connected with it in their own way.

Over the years I talked to people from Malaysia, Australia, India, Iran, Egypt, West Africa, East Africa, and so on. In those conversations around the various forms of the Mysteries one of the things that we all had in common was connecting in visionary work and dreams with a collection of humans, out of time, who came together and circled around a flame.

Without exception the people I talked to connected with this place to seek help from elders, to find and reestablish their inner equilibrium, to learn, and to help mediate the flame's stillness to the outer world in times of intense trouble. The flame, to everyone I talked to, acted as a fulcrum; as a source, primal flame that could be worked with to tune temple flames; and as an elemental expression on the threshold of creation.

As the curious cat that I am, I wanted to find out how it started and why; but such focused enquiry led me to stone walls—I came up blank. I did find, however, that it is somehow connected to the angelic power that rises out of the land itself: a turning wheel of fire that churns the earth and releases the Ladder power. Humans step onto this power to reach deep into the inner worlds and to come close to Divine expression itself. It is connected to the Mystery that some call the Merkabah.

The constant circling of the sacred flame by humans, some living and some not, is some octave of that dynamic. By doing what they do, they sustain that dynamic's presence in humanity as a species.

Any understanding beyond this is for future generations of magicians to discover, not by study, but by direct experience—how all knowledge of the Mysteries is acquired.

Working individually with the Gathering

Visiting the Gathering has been a constant in my life for a long time. Over the years as I have grown as a magician, my interactions with the place have also matured. By seeing how I work with it, you will discover your own reasons for working there, and you may discover many aspects of it that I have not.

At first the Gathering was to me, a place of belonging. I would circle regularly with the countless people around the flame, and began to get a sense of being part of a hive. I was one small drop in a vast sea of consciousness, all of which was focused on circling the flame. I began to notice that some faces were always there, and they slowly began to recognise me, too, when I appeared there in vision.

I would gravitate towards the faces I recognised and would walk quietly aside them. It was comforting to walk in step with an elder, and occasionally a hand would rest on my shoulder as I circled. As I became more confident about being part of this place, I started to pay more attention to the faces that came and went. I could guess their time and culture from the clothes they wore. I began to differentiate between people alive in their own time and visiting the Gathering in dreams and visions, and those out of life, who were a constant presence in this special place.

Eventually I got curious about the four great gates, heavily guarded by angels, that I saw as I circled the directions. One day, when I plucked up the courage to stand on the threshold of one of them, I discovered the immense power of those thresholds. I could feel the very defined, particular power for which the gate was a bridge, but I still assumed that each gate led to a single specific place.

One day I crossed over a threshold through a gate and found myself in my magical work space. I was confused—and curious. I had been working the directional thresholds in my work space for quite some time, but I had never made the connection between the two places. It began to dawn on me that the inner Gathering Place, and the directional pattern I was making in my work space, were octaves of each other. They were not the same, but were of the same power pattern.

A bit later I decided to experiment. Circling with the Gathering one day, I approached a specific directional gate with the focused intention of passing into that direction's root inner temple. It worked. Later I crossed

again over a directional threshold from the Gathering Place with the specific intention of going to some part of the world compatible with the direction's power whose threshold I was standing on. Again, it worked.

Then I tried to cross over a directional threshold in that place with the intention of going somewhere not even remotely connected with that directional power. It didn't work, and I was pushed back—quite forcibly.

Slowly I began to learn that the Gathering Place, with its four root thresholds, is like a root template of directional power, with the fulcrum in the middle. I started to use the Gathering Place as an access point for various Inner Temples, places, and times; but it strained my energies a lot and I did not seem to learn as much as when I accessed those places via the Inner Library. Whereas the Library's dynamic is always about learning; the Gathering Place's is about action and sustaining balance. It is a place of service where the root pattern is held in place for others out in the world so that they can find, develop, and work with directional patterns. The Gathering Place is like the stem cell.

I also found, through experience, that this place can highlight for you your health and safety—also the health of human societies.

Let me explain. In the youthful phase of my magical development, I visited this place almost daily as a form of meditation and tuning. After a couple of years of that discipline, I tried circling there, but found it difficult to walk. My legs seemed not to function properly, my limbs bent unnaturally, and I found it hard to balance. Each step felt like I had lead weights on my feet. For weeks, every time I went there in vision, the same thing happened.

Other people in the Gathering Place would look at me as if they were trying to indicate that I should not be there. I felt rejected, and a little worried that my inner presentation was so weak and frail. And then one day I could not get there no matter how I tried. I wondered what I had done wrong—I felt as though I had done wrong without realising it. Within twenty-four hours I was fighting Scarlet Fever. I became very ill, and it took me a while to recover.

With the outer illness seemed to come an inner illness. It seemed to leave me with inner weaknesses and scars. It was not something that I recovered from and then all was well; my inner fragility seemed to continue indefinitely, and I had to stop visiting that place for a long time.

When I did finally return, my inner appearance had changed. I no longer appeared as I had, as I looked in everyday life. I appeared as

someone very different, and from a different time. I was confused, and as I walked around the flame with an adept I recognised, he placed a hand on my shoulder and told me not to worry.

“You are who you are, now,” he said. “You have cast off that tight skin. It was something you had to go through to grow.”

At the time I did not really understand him. It was not until a few years later, washing up at the kitchen sink, that his words came flooding back to me and I finally understood.

Now, many years later, I not only still go and do my circling service, but I have found that I am always there—and *they are always here*. Their collective presence is always around you, just as you are always circling in the flame’s presence. Yet another beautiful part of the Mysteries.

You will find your own experiences of this group and place, and it will develop as part of your magical life in its own way for you in whatever way is necessary. But however the relationship develops, you will begin to realise that you are part of the hive of the Mysteries—always.

How we work with it in connection to the Inner Temple

Now we need to focus this in terms of the Inner Temple and its construction. The Gathering Place is a vital aspect of the Inner Temple, and the connection between the Inner Temple and the Gathering Place is one of many things that ensure the temple’s health. It also puts the individuals connected to the Inner Temple in touch and in communion with a wider collection of humans all dedicated to the inner Mysteries.

The Gathering of inner contacts is invaluable to an Inner Temple. Its members, adepts, have chosen to stay in the orbit of the Inner Temples and Inner Library after death rather than go back again into life. This provides humanity with a pool of knowledge and resources that magicians can tap, and companionship for those of us still alive and still climbing the magical ladder.

As a place where the living also congregate, the Gathering serves as a continuum of knowledge and wisdom, a place where the collective consciousness of magicians can be accessed. Here magicians from around the world can come together in vision to work and to connect. It is the human aspect of the Inner Temples, and as each generation gives

of themselves in this place, so the expansion of learning and development continues.

You work with this place by visiting it and being part of its collective. It also functions as a pool of workers for difficult or powerful magical projects. If the work and your approach is in harmony with the people at the Gathering Place, then they will come together to help and work alongside you.

The people of the Gathering Place, both inner contacts and adepts alive in their own time, work harmonically with every Inner Temple similar in frequency and structure to their own work and path. They flow in and out of the Inner Library, and they take a keen interest in magical structures that develop in the living human world. Where they see need in such work, particularly when a call is sent out from a living adept, they will answer that call and will guide the magician, or at least turn up to assist them, so long as the magician's work is in keeping with their flow of magic.

When you read some of the classical writers, you can often spot veiled references to this group of people; and when you visit the Gathering Place you can see, from its members' different presentations, just how far back in our time this structure goes. By going to visit this place as a living adept, particularly when you hear a call to go there, you too can work as an inner contact for magicians in their own time, or assist them in a major project. Remember, there is no time in this place: when you go there and are called to work, you will generally have no idea of *when* you are working. You do not need to find out when, or what you are doing: those are distractions. You go in, do your job, and come out.

You can see how invaluable such a place and connection can be for an Inner Temple: the Inner Library and Gathering Place keep magical knowledge alive on Earth when its societies have withdrawn from the Mysteries and become destructive.

I am at a time in my life, now, of doing very little in terms of magical projects. My job now is to write and guide others. Sometimes that includes going to the Gathering Place and walking alongside a young magician who may be under great stress or terribly isolated in life. I walk with them, offer them advice when they ask, and point them on their way to various inner structures. I see this as part of my service, these days, along with making sure that this course is written and then guided into maturity.

Forging the links

Now we will get to work. We have to forge the connections between the Gathering Place and the Inner Temple to draw its influence closer to the Inner Temple's threshold so that Quareia's adepts, and those of related magical forms, can draw on the Gathering's adepts' experience and wisdom. In exchange, the new Inner Temple will give the Gathered adepts a viable, strong structure to work within and for, should they wish to. It aids magic's continuation into the distant future, while keeping it balanced and healthy.

Remember, though we are creating passageways and connections, which make the Inner Temple appear to have various satellite structures, the construction really consists of *interwoven layers*. The following work should make this really apparent—and make far more pliable your understanding of inner world structure, which can be very different from what we are used to in the physical world.

Set up your workroom. Have candles in all four directions and the centre. You do not need your tools or companions for this work. Lighting the four directions brings that directional structure to the fore as the structure that the Gathering Place works around. Go around and light the lights. Greet the inner contacts on each threshold, then circle the room a few more times, as in the Inner Temple.

When you are ready, sit down and still yourself. Then go in vision to the Inner Library, and go to the Gathering Place within the Inner Library. Step into the space and circle with the gathered adepts. As you circle, talk to those adepts who come to walk alongside you. Tell them about the temple construction, and that it is time to connect it to the Gathering Place, if the gathered assembly is willing. Remember, it is their place, so it is their choice. We must have permission from the group to do this work, and we always forge the link from the Gathering Place to the Inner Temple, not the other way round.

Once you discuss the matter with the adept beside you, the adept stops circling and goes to stand before the central flame. He or she holds up his left arm and blows a horn slung on a rope around their shoulder. Most of the gathered adepts stop and turn to face centre; only a few—some of the outermost circlers—keep the circle going.

The adept tells the gathered group that a new Inner Temple is being constructed, and now the time has come to link it to the Gathering Place,

if the Gathered are willing. The adept motions for you to stand beside them and answer the questions that some of the adepts may ask. You may hear and understand the questions clearly, in which case answer them. If you don't know the answer, simply say so. You may not hear or understand some of the questions, as they may be directed to your heart spirit and not you. If any adept has any uncertainty as to the honour and integrity of the Inner Temple then they will address your heart instead of you. Just wait patiently as your heart spirit answers.

The main adept asking the questions then asks you directly if you can show a small delegation to the Inner Temple to ensure that it is properly constructed and in keeping with the frequency of the Gathered. Agree to this. You will have to take them there, as you are known to our temple guardians. You will give them access to the temple by way of the great west bronze doors, the formal entrance to the Inner Temple's inner sanctuary.

Once you have agreed, most of the gathered adepts resume their circling, and a small group gathers around you. Go to the Gathering Place's west gate and stand before it. Focus your mind on the Inner Temple and see in your mind's eye the air gap on the east wall. With that focus, grasp the hand of one of the adepts, and tell them all to link hands so that you are all connected. You will feel each individual adept when this happens: their energies will flow along the line.

Step over the threshold of the west gate and start walking down the long dark corridor that presents itself. You all walk in file, still connected, walking through the darkness and stillness. You will feel it when you near the Inner Temple: the stillness and silence will become deep and powerful. You will feel the tuning in the stillness, like a wonderful peace.

The floor starts to slope upwards in a gentle gradient which eventually finishes at two great bronze doors that you recognise. Using your left hand, knock three times on the door, then put your hand against the door for it to read you.

When the doors have read you, they slowly swing open to reveal the Inner Temple's sanctum: the eternal flame at the centre of all things, and the Divine breath flowing from the east. You notice some magicians standing meditating around the flame. They see you and the assembled group, and they bow to welcome you all. Bow back, then bring your small group of adepts into the space. One adept goes and places his or her hands on the temple's great book, and reads it with their mind. Having seen what they need to see, they nod to the others in acceptance.

Then the adepts immediately begin to circle the central flame in their usual manner. This is a way of reading a temple's energy, by seeing how it reacts to the magical act of circling.

As the adepts circle, join in. Some of the adepts start to make a sound as they circle: calls which join to make a harmonic noise. The wind begins to blow through the air gap and the central flame grows bigger. As the flame grows, the temple's walls become translucent. Beyond them you see many adepts circling the temple on the other side of the walls. You begin to feel the presence of many adepts circling, and you realise that the Gathering Place and the temple are layering together.

Power begins to build in the temple. You can feel many adepts, inside and outside, all circling the flame. As you look beyond the temple's walls, you realise that they are not actually circling outside the temple; really they are in the Gathering Place. Its flame and our Inner Temple's are harmonising: the two places are becoming entwined.

One of the adepts turns to you and tells you that the Inner Temple has been accepted by the gathered adepts, and that the two places ring like two bells with the same tone. If one resonates, the other will resonate with it: they remain separate, yet are inextricably linked.

The adepts stop circling and line up to leave by the west doors. Go with them back into the passageway. As you walk down the gentle slope, sand blows over your feet. The adepts also notice, and they turn to follow the breeze blowing the sand through the passageway. One by one they vanish through a narrow doorway to one side. You follow them. The doorway leads out into the Desert, where you find yourself standing with the assembled adepts.

Turn back and look. You will see a box-shaped building covered in gold, with two columns on each side that mark the directional gates. Look carefully: you will see two angels stood alongside the columns with their wings wrapped around them, carved into the golden walls on each side.

Walk around the building. As you walk, you realise it is bigger than it appears: you have to walk quite a long way to get around the temple's sides. On the west side are two vast guardians, carved in gold. They are part bull, part lion, and have large wings. Their eyes glitter in the sunlight. You realise they are watching you.

You also see ongoing construction around the temple: passageways, procession ways, and satellite buildings are still being formed, and

workers are carving stones on the sides of the buildings. An adept puts a hand on your shoulder and tells you to look out over the Desert. In the distance is the White Palace—the Small Temple that houses the gathered deities. In the other direction you see the vast step pyramid of the Inner Library.

You and the other adepts step out across the Desert towards the Inner Library. When you reach the great steps, you begin to climb.

When you reach the top, you look out. You see the Inner Temple shining in the sunlight, its golden surface reflecting light like a mirror. Now you are at the top of the Inner Library building, you also see that the Inner Temple has somehow been completed—you are observing out of time, and seeing into our future. The temple complex has been constructed around the central inner sanctum—the golden box shaped building—and courtyards, processional ways, other buildings, and a lake within the complex have been added.

You also notice a processional way running from the Inner Temple to the White Palace, and another running from the temple to the Inner Library. As you look, patterns and shapes form around the buildings: angelic patterns of formation that will bring a continuum of life to the structures.

Walk around the top of the Library building. In each direction you see very old temples crumbling on the edge of the Abyss; at the other end of the Desert you can make out the early construction of other new Inner Temples, ones that will be brought into being by successive generations of magicians.

The adepts begin to file through the Library's doors. You follow. Follow them back to the Gathering Place within the Inner Library. When you get there, begin circling with them. As you circle, you become aware of the Inner Temple magicians circling the central flame there: they appear like ghosts, ethereal in the Gathering Place, as they are in both places at once.

Now that both areas are connected, you can flow directly from one to the other. As you circle, think about the Inner Temple space and the flame at its centre. Put all your focus on that place. As you do, the scene of the Gathering Place fades away and you find yourself back in the Inner Temple, walking around its central flame.

Stop circling and stand before the inner flame. Bow to it, then leave the temple space and return to your workroom via the Inner Library.

When you are ready, open your eyes, get up, and circle the room. As you circle, remember the Gathering Place and the Inner Temple, both working around the flame as the fulcrum. When you are ready, put out the candles and close down the gates. Write up any notes and understandings that you came to.

The deities

You may remember from your later initiate work that the White Palace—the Small Temple housing the deities—sometimes also makes use of circling the directions. When those deities are focusing their power on a group of humans—for whatever reason—they, too, may be experienced as circling a central flame.

When we go to that place, we mainly see the deities sitting in rows opposite each other—usually when they are in a state of judging or witnessing. But when they are directly involved in a large human project, we will often perceive them as circling, which mirrors the circling in the Gathering Place and the Inner Temple. This circling tunes them into the dynamics of the Gathering of Adepts and the Inner Temple, and lets their power flow through those dynamics.

The deeper into the Inner Mysteries you go, the more you will find certain actions and behaviours mirrored in different realms or by different types of beings. When they all work at the same frequency, power flows back and forth, as does knowledge and wisdom.

All these inner structures are heavily interlinked. This interlinking allows for different powers and beings, and people from different times, to all connect with the same pattern to bring massive change.

The structures

As you saw from your bird's-eye view in the Desert, standing on top of the step pyramid, the Inner Temple structure is big—whole areas of it you have yet to discover. What you saw in the Desert was the completed structure, which for you, in your time, is not yet finished. You have mainly been working on the Inner Temple's inner sanctum, its beating heart which keeps everything going.

Over time you will discover the Inner Temple's various areas and will work in them as needed. But for the most part you will work in the inner sanctum. Occasionally you will work in the egregore, in the Deity Temple, or in some aspect of the Inner Library specific to the Inner Temple. The Inner Temple's own library, within the Inner Library, will slowly start to form.

So do not get hung up on exploring large buildings—there is no need to. Instead, work as necessary, when necessary. You will find that the more you work in this inner place, the easier it will get to flow from one place to another within the temple complex, the Library, and so forth.

Eventually the passageways will vanish entirely for you, and doors will open directly into other places. This will herald a change within you: you will have learned to hold aspects of yourself within all these places, and to tune simply from one place to another. But this takes time and practice. Newcomers will need to go through the passageways and guardians until they, too, can eventually flow easily from one place to another.

With regards to your work space, as I said in an earlier lesson, you will not bring down the temple's power into your workroom: they always remain separate. However, you can tune your room to the temple's power resonance: simply recover the feeling of the central flame's power in the temple as you light your workroom's central light. That focus of feeling and awareness will bring both flames into harmonic resonance—but not together. This will help keep your work space highly tuned and vibrating at the same frequency as the Inner Temple, which will give it better access to power, guardianship, and balance.

Tuning the workroom

Spend some time lighting the flame in your workroom and circling. As you circle, tune into the Gathering Place. Feel yourself pass into that visionary space while still walking around the directions. Then deepen the vision, shifting your focus from the Gathering Place to the Inner Temple. Feel the Inner Temple's power and tuning as you circle the directions in your workroom. Always grade up from your work space to the Gathering Place, and then to the Inner Temple. Afterwards reverse the process, going down from the Inner Temple through the Gathering Place and finally to your workroom.

This is a good meditative exercise, and will slowly teach you to merge from one visionary place to another while physically moving.

Tuning the land

When you get a chance, go sit out in nature by trees, a lake, or both. While you sit, tune yourself into the Inner Temple's egregore which, remember, is also a template for the Inner Garden. Bring that inner place's resonance out into the world around you to tune the surrounding land as an act of service.

Getting the habit of doing this once a month, or every few months, will really help you, the land, and the inner garden. Bringing them all into resonance allows the power of the purest form to uphold the weakest form.

Next we will move on to the last stage of the initial construction: the Hall of the Planetary Spirits within the Inner Temple. Move straight on to the next lesson.

QUAREIA

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