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## QUAREIA—THE INITIATE

### Module III—Power Dynamics of Creation, Part II

#### Lesson 6: Observing the Inner Desert

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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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You have read a lot about both the inner power dynamics of creation and some of the beings who work in the process of creation. The next step is to look at the inner landscape of the Desert, which is the visionary interface for this, and how this inner place and the creative/destroying powers operate from a magical perspective.

This lesson is a step forward in your visionary work: it gives you a chance to observe these powers in action from a safe distance. Once you have experienced this observation, which changes you at a deep level, then in the next lesson you will externalise that resonance in ritual work.

In your apprentice training you started the basic understanding of creation and learned to cross the threshold into the nearest part of the Inner Desert, and also met the companion.<sup>1</sup> In this lesson you will look deeper into the Desert, watch some of the powers at work, and understand what you are looking at.

Before we get to the practical work I want to give you a bit more information about what is there, why it is there, and what it is doing. This way when you go there you will better understand what you are watching.

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<sup>1</sup>Sandalphon.

## *The Inner Desert*

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You have already learned some basics about the Inner Desert. Many people ask why it appears as a desert. This interface appears to us as a desert because *no life grows there*. It is pre-life, an inner condition from which everything comes, but in which nothing actually lives in the sense of physical manifestation.

Things that are going to manifest appear here, as well as things that are withdrawing from manifestation. It is like a highway of action and also a place of ‘pending,’ be that creation or destruction.

When you watch a power preparing to manifest into the physical world, how it appears largely depends on what is going to manifest. There is a constant low-level traffic in the Inner Desert of things going into life and things withdrawing from life. Often this is not noticed by the magician as it is a constant action that should not be interfered with, and as such it does not generally appear to the magician.

When something is manifesting or preparing to manifest that will change the world in a major way, then it tends to appear to the magician in the Desert. Observing it gives the magician a heads up that something is brewing and that they may need to take some form of action.

The more the magician tunes into the Desert, the more its resonance vibrates within them. When something is brewing that could be dangerous we feel the shift in the Desert’s vibration, which is a prompt for us to take action. That action could be as simple as going and observing in the Inner Desert, or it could indicate that direct work is needed.

Sometimes when the magician picks up on such a shift they also get a strong feeling to stay away from the Inner Desert. This is often a sign that a destructive pulse is brewing in the Desert. Unless the magician has a direct role in that destruction it is best that they stay out of the way and not become energetically connected with it. At times I have been told by inner contacts, deities, and my inner senses to stay the hell away from the Inner Desert, often for a year at a time, while something massive brews and then outs itself.

By being there and observing or acting you automatically become part of the process: you begin to resonate at the same frequency. Sometimes that is necessary—for example if you will have a magical job to do once

the destruction expresses itself. If this is the case then you will be strongly pulled to at least witness the power as it rumbles out into the world. By watching, you change things.

This is a strong inner dynamic in magic in the inner worlds: you change a power's expression by the nature of your observation, and the observation also changes you. It is always a two-way street. Once you step into that observation you become part of the pattern either as an observer bringing something to the table or by nature of your magical work.

Sometimes you bring a counterpoint to the dynamic: the magician may bring the counterbalance of creation to a pulse of destruction building up in the Inner Desert. Just always understand that each time you go to watch the dynamics of action in the Inner Desert you change things simply by watching, and any energy that you bring with you should not be a conscious decision: it just 'is' whatever it needs to be.

It is for this reason that the Inner Desert should only be entered for a reason, and not out of 'magical tourism.' You and the power of change become interlinked and while that might sound a bit alarming, it's not really. The same dynamic runs through all magic and all life. The energy, vibration, and resonance that is you is constantly interacting with your surroundings, and those interactions trigger change to everything, including you.

This is why at certain times in the living world an adept simply has to show up and be somewhere—and that's it. Just being in that space and being present within themselves will trigger change if it is needed: an adept is essentially a *catalyst*. This dynamic is heavily woven into fate patterns too, which lead a person to certain critical points in their life where the catalyst of change leaps into action.

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### *Learning from observing*

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Besides triggering the change dynamic, observing in the Desert can teach you a great deal about the powers of angelic beings and deities, not only by watching what they do, but also by how they present in the Desert.

When you watch the presentation in the Desert you also need to know what that presentation means for us as humans. Sometimes this

knowledge is already within us from previous study, and sometimes we have to go away and look at very ancient texts—usually the best source for imagery in the Inner Desert—until we spot what we saw.

Once, for example, I began seeing huge firestorms in the Inner Desert. At one point a vast humanoid being strode through the fire and seemed to gather its energy with him as he strode towards the threshold of the manifest world. His long red hair trailed behind him and lightning struck all around him. “Uh-oh,” was my initial reaction, “this does not look good.”

Shortly after seeing the fire build up in the Inner Desert and pass over the threshold, all hell broke loose in the Near and Middle East.<sup>2</sup>

The imagery associated with the giant red-haired being was clear enough for me to go away and look it up. At the same time other magical adepts from around the world were contacting me after having the same experience in the Inner Desert. At that point I realised something major was preparing to out itself, and I still could not figure out what it was.

After some digging and research I realised that I had been dumb and the explanation had been staring me in the face all along. The firestorm was a power that the ancient Egyptians called Set: the Egyptian god of storms, the desert, turmoil, and conflict.<sup>3</sup>

For a clear understanding of Set we have to look at Old Kingdom Egyptian texts. This deity went through various relationships with the Egyptians, and through various foreign interventions he was morphed into the evil ‘devil’ destroyer to be shunned. More and more negative connotations were heaped upon him as the Egyptians shifted and changed in their understanding, particularly through the influences of the Hyksos invaders (1650-1550 B.C.) and later the Greeks. Set became the epitome of destruction, chaos, and evil.

Peeling back those layers of progressive propaganda and fear, we come to a far more accurate picture of a natural power that can be observed in action in the inner worlds. The power of Set is one of fire, heat, storms, necessary destruction, illness, and rage.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>When you see something very powerful building up in the Inner Desert, you can often see what the build-up was about if you watch world news carefully.

<sup>3</sup>Interesting that the chaos in the Middle East is being caused by a group that the West has named ‘Isis’: look up the connection between the Black Isis and Set.

<sup>4</sup>He also fights the true protagonist of chaos, Apep.

He is also a deity connected with the *Ladder*, an inner concept from the Old Kingdom Pyramid texts. And I know this is a bit of a diversion, but it is an important one. Here is a section of a funerary text from the Pyramid of Unis from the north wall of the antechamber:

210 RECITATION. A ladder has been tied together by the Sun in front of Osiris, a ladder has been tied together by Horus in front of his father Osiris when he went to his akh, one of them on one side and one of them on the other. Now Unis is between them.

“Are you a god of clean places?” (they ask). He has come from a clean place.

“Stand up, Unis,” says Horus; “sit down, Unis,” says Seth; “receive his arm,” says the Sun.

And on the south wall it says:

178 RECITATION.

...

Stand up, you two uprights, and descend, you crossbars, that Unis may go up on the ladder that his father the Sun has made for him.

Horus and Seth shall take the arm of Unis and take him away from the Duat.<sup>5</sup>

What the Egyptians describe as a Divine Ladder is a phenomenon mentioned in a few different ancient texts, and is something that can also be observed in vision and in dreams.

When I first saw it in my dreams I was not sure what I was seeing. It took a while for me to connect the dots. I saw it as a huge wheel that churned the earth, a wheel of light and fire,<sup>6</sup> and out of the churning appeared a stairway reaching into the stars. People were getting on the stairway and some were being picked off and would fall from it.

It is also mentioned in Plato's *Republic* in *The Vision of Ayr the Armenian*, and it is the same thing as *Jacob's Ladder*: an angelic passage from the earth to the stars. You have already looked at these things in the

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<sup>5</sup>*The Ancient Egyptian Pyramid Texts*, James P. Allen, 2005.

<sup>6</sup>An angelic being.



apprentice section, and the involvement of Set with the Ladder<sup>7</sup> tells us that Set is a power of *necessary destruction* such as death.

Your apprentice work to do with destruction and death should have informed you that Set is a being who brings destruction by fire, storm, and disease; but that this is part of the order of creation and destruction—his power maintains balance (Ma'at) and is not a power of true chaos (Apep).

This in turn should inform you about the beings that will appear in the Desert. When you see a destroying or demonic type being in the Inner Desert, *there is a good reason why it is there*. This slowly teaches the magician not to fear such destruction, nor think of it as 'evil,' or as a glamorous power: it is simply part of the overall order that keeps the wheels of existence turning.

So let us get back to the Inner Desert.

When you observe something in the Inner Desert, think back to what you have learned about the various powers that operate in creation: the dynamics of the Light Bearer, Restriction, the Grindstone, the Unraveller, Pure Balance, and the Threshold Guardian, the threshold between the Inner Desert and the manifest world. Knowing what all these angelic powers do informs you about the powers constantly in motion and opposition as they work in this deep place. When you observe something in the Inner Desert these powers are in action, and so whatever you see is being created for a good reason.

You will, when you are ready, stand in the power of the Inner Desert with all these powers around you and revisit your path into this life. This is the best way to truly understand how these powers work. So let us get on to the practical work, which for the most part is visionary work for this lesson.

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### *Task: The vision of observance—the Inner Desert*

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The Inner Desert is a truly powerful place and because of that you will get used to it in small steps. This way its power cannot unsettle or unduly affect you—it can really impact your body if you are not used to it. This approach also helps the beings of the Inner Desert get used to you so that you are not aggressively challenged or attacked by its guardians.

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<sup>7</sup>It is sometimes called the Ladder of Set in funerary texts.



When I used to teach group sessions I would take people to this place, and because I carried them over the threshold the guardians did not react to the new people. However once I wrote the same vision down in text and people did it by themselves, I found that many of them were challenged aggressively by the host of guardians who act as gatekeepers between humanity and this inner place. It had not occurred to me that this would happen. After I was contacted by a few magicians who had been physically injured, I learned from bitter experience to step people slowly into this place. Not everyone gets attacked when they are a new face in the Desert, but still I would rather you did this properly and forge strong, lasting bonds with this place.

Once the Desert and its guardians are used to you, there will be no problem unless you stomp in with a stupid agenda, in which case they will attack you. You have already stepped into the threshold of the Inner Desert and met the Companion, the Sandalphon, who guides and advises humans when they work in this place. Now we will take it a step further in a vision that will adjust you and the Desert to each other.

Set up your work room, light the lights, open the gates, and go round the directions a couple of times to tune the room in.

When you are ready, sit down before the east altar and go into the Inner Library. Take your time with this as you are approaching a new, powerful place: you want to stretch out slowly to deepen the vision. You will go through the east threshold. This means that you will approach the Inner Desert through learning and temple structure.

Once you are in the Inner Library tell the librarian you are going to take your first steps into the Inner Desert in order to learn. The librarian may or may not hand you a coat, robe, or some sort of covering; it all depends on the energetic weather in the Desert. If they do, take note of it and what it could protect you from.<sup>8</sup>

The librarian then points to two huge bronze doors that you may not have noticed before: the main entrance to the Inner Library.

As you stand before the huge ceremonial doors you realise that one has a smaller, more manageable door you can open by yourself. Pull on it hard and it will open slowly. Step through the door and you will find yourself immediately bathed in strong sunlight and the scent of the Desert.

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<sup>8</sup>Water, fire, sandstorms.

You find yourself standing atop a massive step pyramid. The flat and lifeless Desert is laid out around you for as far as you can see. As you look back and up, you will see that the Library is a square stone building sitting on top of the step pyramid, and a flat walkway goes all round the Library building. In front of the bronze doors is a vast flight of stone steps that leads down to the Desert floor.

Walk round the Library building first so that you can get a good look at the Desert from every angle. Start by going to the right of the doors.<sup>9</sup> At each platform/side of the square building, stop and look out.

On the first side, look to the right in the distance. If you look carefully you will see a vast crack in the earth like a massive narrow canyon: this is the Abyss. Beyond the canyon on the other side are mists or a sandstorm: it is obscured from your vision. That is the realm of Divinity.

Now look left. In the far distance you will see a haze of mists. Beyond the mists is a river, and beyond the river is a huge range of mountains: this is the realm of death. The river is the same river that emerges from the Underworld and the Underworld Forest. The mists obscure the Garden—the manifest world.

Walk to the next side of the building, keeping to your right, and you may get a better view of the Abyss. Now move on again, still keeping right. You will see various temples and ancient buildings half-buried in the sand. These are the inner temples, some of which will be sleeping. Move on again until you are back in front of the bronze doors.

Position yourself to the right of the bronze doors and as close to the platform's edge as you dare, and sit down. Just look around you—and look carefully. You may see in the distance bumps in the sand or things sticking up out of it: these are beings held in restriction until the time comes for them to release. Just spend some time, however long you can hold the vision for, looking and watching what happens.

When you have finished watching, get up and climb down the stone steps to the desert floor. When you reach the bottom you will hear a sound, and when you look you will see a small child sat at the bottom of the stairs. Do not be fooled: this is no defenceless child. It is a root power—of what, you can work out for yourself. Greet the child and tell them who you are, what you are doing, and where you come from.

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<sup>9</sup>Out the bronze doors, turn right.

If the child puts their hand out to you with an open palm, put your hand in your pocket and give them whatever appears in your hand without question. If it is something you recognise from your life, you must let it go when you come out of vision, whatever it is: you are paying your dues for your life.

If the child takes your hand and guides you somewhere, let them take you wherever they want. Simply observe. If they do not, simply sit down and answer any questions they have. At this stage don't ask them any questions; just be in their presence.

When it is time for the encounter to finish you will feel a hand on your shoulder. As you turn you will see the Companion at your shoulder. They motion for you to climb back up the steps. They will walk with you and may hold your hand, your shoulder, or simply walk alongside you.

If they stop on a step, still yourself and feel into the step's energy. Memories may come into your mind of something in your past. The angel is pointing out to you the various stages of your life that have brought you to this point. Various points or events in your life prepared you to step on a particular step in this stairway.

When you reach the top turn to the Companion, bow, and say thank you. He will go no further, and you must go back through the bronze door. As you enter the Inner Library a librarian will be waiting for you. Before you can speak to them they push a book into you, something that will guide you and teach you about the Inner Desert. Thank them, bow, then go to the part of the Library that leads back to your work space.

When you are back in your work room be still and think about what happened before you open your eyes. When you are ready open your eyes and immediately note down what happened in your journal. Draw anything that stood out in your mind, be it a being, image, or symbol.

When you have finished get up and go round the directions. Thank the contacts on the thresholds, bow, and put out the lights. When you get time, type up your notes into a computer file.

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