



QUAREIA—THE INITIATE

Module IV—Birth, Death, and the
Underworld, Part II

Lesson 4: Deeper into the Underworld

BY JOSEPHINE MCCARTHY

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



QUAREIA—THE INITIATE

Module IV—Birth, Death, and the Underworld, Part II

Lesson 4: Deeper into the Underworld

In your Apprentice training you learned to make contact with Underworld goddesses and to access the Underworld Forest and the River that flows out into death. In this lesson we will explore a deeper layer of the Underworld. By now you should have enough knowledge behind you to know what you will observe.

The first layer of the Underworld is very much about death and processing things that are composting¹ or which have fallen out of physical manifestation.² The next layer takes us deeper into the power of Restriction within substance. This layer holds ancient powers, spirits, deities, and other beings that have been withheld from manifestation in the physical world.

This layer of the Underworld is a mirror of the power of Restriction in the Desert: the Desert restricts powers until they are ready to express in the manifest world; the Underworld restricts powers that have expressed in the manifest world but no longer have a place there.

The inner aspect of any being or structure restricted in the Underworld is also bound out of the Desert: it cannot step back into the flow of

¹Bodies.

²Temples.

creation for future expression. It is frozen in time, in substance, and will stay there for as long as substance exists.

From an inner visionary perspective, when a power is first bound out of the flow of creation it is held in the Sands of the Desert. If it is not going to express itself again it will sink into the Sands of the Desert, vanishing from that pattern of creation, and will eventually appear deep in the Underworld.

Remember the sleeping knights in your mythology studies? Though they are sleeping in caves, they can still express in the inner realm; hence the myths that they can be awoken in a time of need. Though we think of caves as being an aspect of the Underworld, they are in fact still part of the manifest world. Once those knights sink below the caves and into the rock, they will begin the descent into the Deep Underworld, and will ultimately be completely cut off from the manifest realm. You observed a little of this process in some of your earlier visionary work.

When something descends deep below the Underworld Realm of Death, it eventually passes a point of no return and then becomes totally sealed up. Below this layer is the realm of the Titans: vast powers that once were active on the surface of the land, but are now deep in the planet's substance. They still have consciousness, but it cannot express on the land's surface; instead it turns more deeply inwards, affecting the planet's substance. This can cause a ripple effect in the manifest world.

When it comes to powers or beings that once expressed in the surface world, powers which have sunk deep into the Underworld, eventually the only way they can be accessed is via the Abyss. Many areas of the Underworld open out in the Abyss; but over vast lengths of time these Underworld access points close up, leaving only an expression in the Abyss, until at long last even that access point becomes sealed. We are talking about of huge lengths of time here.

When an adept ventures deep into the Abyss, they will come across the trapped forms of beings that roamed the surface world millions of years ago: this is true *Restriction within substance*.

In early Greek mythology, this deep place was known as Tartarus³ and was the realm of the most ancient powers and deities.⁴ Later in Greek

³Which you have already read about.

⁴Titans.

mythology Tartarus was merged to some extent with Hades, and people began to see the two different locations as being the same place.⁵

In magical vision, we still see these two realms as very different places. Tartarus is a much deeper and more profound reflection of Hades—which is the Underworld forest. Tartarus, the Abyss, is the realm where in Egyptian mythology Apophis/Apep, the power of Chaos, is found.

There is another aspect of the Underworld that we have not yet touched much on: the layer of *ancestral consciousness*. We will work with this aspect in this lesson.

Just as beings and powers slowly descend down into Restriction, so too does the power of ancestral lines—of all beings, not just humans.

When we think of ancestors, we often think of conscious individuals with whom we can interact. Because of this, it is easy to become confused between interacting with ancestral consciousness in the land, and past blood family in the inner worlds or through ritual thresholds.

It is easy to forget that a human has two basic components that allow them to express in life: *bloodlines* and *spirit*. The bloodline is deeply connected to the body⁶ and carries all the inherent knowledge of substance: genetics. The spirit is the eternal consciousness that resides in the body during a lifetime, which upon death flows back into the inner worlds. The shell of the body is left behind and slowly sinks into the land. So long as the body has not been cremated, the inherent ancestral knowledge that lies within the person's blood and bones sinks into the land, and while ever a fragment of it exists, it can be connected with.

Sometimes the spirit stays within the body at death rather than releasing. In such cases the spirit will stay in the land, slowly merging with the land's pattern to become a composite of human and land consciousness. Sometimes this happened by choice; other times ritual magic was employed to encase the spirit within the body. Those who stayed within the body sometimes express as what we call *sleepers*.

⁵And this was the precursor for the Christian idea of hell.

⁶Vessel.

Magical significance of the two layers

Magicians find the ancestral layer very useful to work with as it shows us the behaviour patterns, skills, and land knowledge still held within the substance of ancestors. When we are in search of or need very old magic, first we “consult the bones.” Which is to say we magically connect with the inherent knowledge still held in the bones of those who went before us.

At the same time the ancestor’s consciousness is reached over an inner threshold, so that the wisdom of the ancestor’s spirit and the knowledge of the ancestor’s inherent substance can be brought together for learning.

We talked in the past about a magician or priest/priestess jettisoning their knowledge into the Inner Library upon death. The same mechanism also applies for tribal knowledge. The learning an ancestor acquired was released at their death and can still be accessed. If the spirit as a consciousness decided not to go deeper into death and renewal, it can stay close to the manifest world without becoming a ghost. In a sense, such consciousnesses become inner ancestors and can be connected with as you have done ritually.

The deep layer of the Underworld, beyond death and the Underworld temples, is a place where the adept can study and learn: here are kept all the powers which, if they expressed on the land’s surface today, would wreak total destruction. By studying these areas carefully the magician can really begin to learn how the tides of creation and destruction operated in the distant past. They can also learn about how nature’s deep ‘immune system’ works.

An adept will need to be able to work here in case they ever need to replace and restrict a deep power that has been magically released by stupid magical actions. To prepare for this as an initiate, first you have to go to this place and gain some direct experience of it.

What you experience in these deep layers expresses in visual vocabulary as *beings*: demonic-looking creatures, massive serpents, and other strange and terrifying beings. This is our way of understanding deep, ancient powers that were active before humanity—sometimes even mammals—came along. We are looking at the consciousness of the living planet

from thousands and sometimes millions of years ago. We are also looking at the consciousness of the planet's very *substance*. It is no surprise that ancient mythologies tell of vast serpentine demons that can shake the earth⁷ and spit fire from the land.⁸

As modern people we smile at such mythological fancies; yet such descriptions appear in ancient cultures all over the world, often with little variance. Does that mean that there are giant serpents in the Underworld that cause earthquakes? No, of course not.

What happens is that the profoundly ancient consciousness of the land expresses itself through imagery of beings that were manifest very long ago: the vocabulary is saying "yes there is this consciousness, yes it is very destructive, and yes it is very very old." Sometimes we can connect with such consciousnesses, and we perceive them as being Underworld deities or strange beings with whom we can connect and commune.

What was roaming about on the earth thousands and millions of years ago? Dinosaurs, giant serpents, feathered reptiles... As we go down deep into the Underworld we reach the layer of composting/restriction that dates from that time. As a result the land powers and consciousnesses express themselves through that imagery. I am sure that whatever type of living being predominates on the land in a few million years' time will perceive a layer of the Underworld as beings who have a human or mammalian presentation.

When you connect with these powers, or simply observe them, you are looking at the consciousness of the land and creatures from the very distant past. Think about those creatures, what we know of them, and how dangerous they would be today.

The same holds true, though in a much lesser way, when we come to ancestors. It is easy to think of ancient ancestral lines of consciousness as being protective and caring. But think back through human history: the further back you go, the more vicious humans were in their behaviour in their fight for survival and supremacy. Keep that strongly in your mind: it will serve you well when you deal with distant ancestors. Do not allow romanticism to creep into your work. The distant past was a harsh, cruel fight for survival, and this shaped the consciousness of its people and creatures.

The majority of this lesson will consist of visionary work and research,

⁷Earthquakes.

⁸Volcanoes.

so we will get straight to it. This section of practical work will be about looking and learning. In your adept training, once you have a strong understanding of the different layers and how they interconnect with inner creation, you will roll your sleeves up and get to work, and by then you will be able to work sensibly and safely.

About the practical work

In the first layer of practical work we will work with ancestors in various ways. Then we will move straight on to the Underworld's deeper layers. If you understand your human roots in the Underworld, it will help you understand the deeper layers of this profound place.

Instead of writing out a long vision I want you to have as much of your own experience as possible, because you are now getting to the stage where you have to develop your own inner vision strongly in preparation for the deep visionary ritual work of the adept section.

It is also in the initiate phase where you will develop the visionary skills to find places and get into them yourself. We will do this in phases throughout the initiate section, which has a lot of visionary work: remember the ritual work is the *externalisation of inner powers*. To gain enough power in ritual, you will need strong visionary skills for the ritual to stand on, and to gain them takes lots of practice and exploration.

The first stage of the following vision takes you to a place I call the *Ancestral Temple*. I give it this name because it is a threshold place that is also a human construct, and it allows you to interface with distant ancestors. Remember these ancestors are not the same as recently dead relatives, who most likely will have gone back into the cycle of birth: these are deep ancestral lines of consciousness that remain in the land itself.

Task: Vision of the Ancestral Temple

Set up your work room, open the gates, put out the tools,⁹ and still yourself. Put your vessel filled with water on the north altar and prick your finger, squeezing a drop of blood into the water. Sit before the north altar and be still.

Close your eyes and *in vision* go round the directions to greet the contacts on the thresholds. Then return to the north altar. Hold the intention of going to the Ancestral Temple, the place where lines of deep ancestral contacts flow. Step through the altar, passing through the vessel and over the threshold, and find yourself walking down a long passageway that slopes downwards.

You are in an underground chamber with passageways leading off in various directions. A person or a group of people will come down the passageways to greet you. Tell them you are learning about ancestral contact. Talk with them, ask them any questions that you need to, and tell them you are learning about the Underworld. Take as long as you need.

One of them will take you down a passageway that leads to the Underworld Forest. When you are there, remember your vessel with the drop of your blood in the water and see it appear in your hands. Pour its contents into the Underworld River and watch what the river does.

Something will happen to the river. When you see that change, step into it and walk through the water with the ancestor. Pay attention to what happens, where you go, who you meet, and what you see.

At some point you will come to bones laid out in a burial. When you see them, pick up a bone and look at it with the intention of seeing the pattern of its deceased owner's life and blood line. Look at the pattern, the web of fate and blood, and see what connections you recognise.

Once you have finished looking, and have finished any communication with the ancestor who is walking with you, ask them to point you to the entrance of the Underworld Tunnels. They will not come with you, but they will show you where the entrance is.

⁹For their influence.

Take careful note of where the entrance is in relation to the rest of the Underworld Forest so that you can find it again for yourself in the future: they will only show it to you once, and the entrance will be specific for you: though there are many ways to get to where we are going, the entrance you use has to be compatible with you.

Go down the tunnel as far down as it goes. The tunnel will very likely get very narrow as it nears its end, and you may have to crawl through a small crack to access what is beyond.

Once you crawl through, explore that cave and who or what is in it, but do not touch anything or speak to anything: you are there simply to explore.

Go to the cave's opposite end and look at the wall. It may have a further entrance to another tunnel: do not go down it! It will lead to the Abyss, and you are not properly protected for that yet. Just look and take a mental note of what you see. Take your time, look around, and remember everything that you see, no matter how odd or weird it may seem to you.

When you are ready climb back through the crack and walk up the tunnel to the Underworld Forest. If the ancestor is still waiting there, they are likely to work with you again. If they are not, you may find someone willing to work with you the next time you do this vision.

If they are still there, ask them for a sigil that identifies them. Don't allow your conscious mind to shape it: if you have looked at lots of magical sigils, it is tempting to use that vocabulary. Let them trace a sign on the ground or on your skin so you can learn it. You can use this in ritual and in vision to connect with this ancestor to work with them in the future.

In return, tell them your name. It may come out as a sound, a shape, or a specific memory from your life: in vision what identifies us can express in various different forms.

Then bow to them and leave. Climb the stairs and stop off at the cave with the goddess in it who has animals sleeping around her. Spend some time in her presence, either in silence or in conversation with her. When you are ready climb back up to the surface world and reappear by stepping through the threshold of the north.

When you are ready open your eyes. Immediately write down every detail you can remember—and do it straight away as it will fade quickly. You can type it up later in a computer file. If you are being mentored, make sure the file is ready for the mentor to see.

We have come to the point in the course where you will now choose how much you wish to explore something. More and more I will give you single views of a place, or a single go at a ritual in various aspects of magic. When you find something you really resonate with or have a deep interest in, expand on it yourself. Work with visions and rituals more if you feel pulled to, and experiment and expand out in order to learn more for yourself and in your own way. When you explore and expand on the work, keep records, notes, journal entries. If you are being mentored, let them know you are experimenting and expanding. If you wish to, offer to share your notes with your mentor so that they can observe your progress.

Task: Researching Apep and Jörmungandr Read up on Apep, and also Jörmungandr. Think of these in magical terms, but also in terms of racial memory from a very distant past. Then in turn think of them in terms of a layer of consciousness from the land which has since sunk deep into the Underworld. These aspects are all interwoven and have deep truths attached to them.

Task: Researching Yama

Also research Yama.¹⁰ Put aside the moralising and dogmatic threats and read beyond that to find the deeper pattern. Often these religious and mythological patterns, though they have become littered with dogma, contain ancient descriptions from past visionaries and mystics from the early stages of the culture or religion. Look at the similarities to things you have already read about and experienced.

¹⁰The Asian version of the Underworld.

*Task: Pondering the Stone, the Sisters, and the octaves
of creation*

Cast your mind back to the work you did in earlier lessons when you travelled deep into the land to a stone at the centre of all things. This was the place with the four directional winds are hidden deep in the Underworld, and the realm of the Sisters at the back of the North Wind. These Sisters are weavers of fate within substance and Underworld reflections of the Three Fates.

The Underworld forest, tunnels, caves, temples, and so forth are all a layer of the past. Once you get down to the Stone in the depths, you once more step out of time: in the planet's substance you find the same pattern of creation and destruction as in the inner worlds and the Desert. Everything in creation is mirrored and reflected, everything is in octaves, and everything is within everything else.

The stone at the centre of all things holds all the information of the planet's life, just as the bones did for the ancestor you worked with in vision.

With all this in mind, go back down in vision to this place, to the Stone at the centre of all things, and spend some time there. Place your hands on the Stone, and with what you now know, allow the pattern of the planet's life within the Stone to flow into you.

If one of the Sisters should come out of their tunnel to talk with you, converse with them and answer their questions. When you have finished, write everything down.

Remember that the Three Fates have a higher octave of female power / fate which was Ananke. The same higher octave is reflected in the Underworld. Just think about that, and about all the powers in creation you have learned about: they too are all reflected in the Underworld.

Once you have thought about this and pondered on what it all means, look back over your notes from the visions in this lesson.

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