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# QUAREIA—THE INITIATE

## Module VII—The Realm of the Inner Desert

### Lesson 1: Introduction

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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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#### Lesson 1: Introduction

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The true self must be anchored in god: this pursuit of authenticity requires an inner struggle in which the contemplative must enter the inner desert where he can come face to face with his nothingness.

—Jewish and Christian mysticism introduction By Dan Cohn-Sherbok, Lavinia Cohn-Sherbok

*Note: because of this module's subject matter there is a lot of visionary work and also yet more reading. This module takes the magician to the underbelly of magic, to the spring from which magic and life flows. This means having to revisit some material you have already covered, but you will circle around it to unpeel deeper layers underneath your current magical knowledge.*

*Most of the inner visions connect you into different powers that can then be drawn on magically in the rest of your training. After this module the training will move a lot more towards magic's practical applications and techniques, as the underlying connections and understandings will be in place and ready for such work. At the end of this module there is an 'exam' lesson where you will be able to self-examine your progress, and where a mentor, should you be working with one, can see how you are beginning to apply what you have learned.*

The realm of the Inner Desert is a major key in deeper magic as it taps into the pure forces of creation before they manifest in the physical realm. You have learned a lot by now about some of those pure Divine forces of creation and the angelic beings that mediate them as creation is woven.

The Inner Desert is a staging post between the ‘nothing’ out of which everything flows and the end product of creation which is the physical world and everything in it. This staging post appears in inner vision as a desert where nothing grows, but it is rich with angelic patterns of construction that are preparing to manifest as well as mystical constructs, such as inner temples and so forth, retreating back from the physical world.

As a construct’s physical shell decays and falls apart, its inner reflection withdraws back into the Desert and sinks down into long-term storage. The same is true of the human spirit: as the body is shed, so the spirit forges a pathway back to its source. One of the ways we can experience this is through the interface of the Inner Desert. This journey of the spirit is sometimes depicted, specifically for humans, as a ladder or stairway that the spirit climbs, and another wider viewpoint of that process is found the Inner Desert.

The process of going into the Inner Desert while in life is deeply embedded in the Mysteries, both magical and spiritual. In many ancient texts you will come across references to the Inner Desert, or simply ‘the desert,’ but often these mentions are shrouded in allegory or hidden in stories. Sometimes the meaning refers to the withdrawal into the *physical* desert, but older references often mean the Inner Desert. This can be discerned by the myth itself or the references around the comment. I suspect that the birth of the Desert Fathers and Mothers in early Christianity in Egypt drew on the older, more mystical knowledge of the Inner Desert, but whether they were acting with true inner knowledge or not we will never know.

The Desert puts us into the stillness of the universe, where the Divine spark seeks form and structure. For those who have not journeyed in vision to the Inner Desert, reading about it can be confusing and easily misunderstood. As magicians we define it as an inner realm that can be entered, and where angelic, Divine, and deity patterns can be observed and interacted with.

The Desert, as you should know by now, is also the realm where we find the Abyss. This is a blueprint for creation and destruction laid out in a visionary form where we can interact with both forces, and where

we can work as magicians. It is the most mystical of realms, as it takes us close to Divine consciousness and action. Venturing into the Inner Desert, should the magician be successful, will change them forever.

I do not know if the visionary interface of the Inner Desert was originally constructed by human consciousness as a way to draw close to these powers, but in our time it is an established realm that does not depend on the magician already knowing about it: it exists independently of the magician. Whether or not this has always been so, I do not know. I found it by accident as a young magician, and over time different aspects of it were revealed to me as I worked in visionary magic.

When we stumble across such places, and then find out that other magicians have been there too, we treat them as naturally and Divinely formed realms, not as constructs. This lets it switch on and work for us: you work with what presents to you, rather than trying to overanalyse. This in turn allows power to flow.

The way it has presented to Western magicians and mystics is as a desert that contains some crumbling structures and natural features. I have come across other mystics from Eastern religions who have worked in vision in a similar state but with a visual presentation that is not so formed: they worked with the stillness at the junction of creation and destruction, at the trigger point of time, but in a place that is the threshold between the void and the world. Same idea, but the imagery is less formed.

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### *The Inner Desert and magic*

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By now in your training you have viewed the Inner Desert from the exterior of the Inner Library. You have also walked to the threshold between the Inner Desert and our realm, which has given you some idea of what it is and how it can be experienced.

As a result you should be at a stage where you are beginning to understand the depth and power of this place and its application in magic and mysticism. In mysticism the Inner Desert is a pathway to the foot of the Divine. In magic it is a place where inner powers can be observed in action, where the creation of the future can be observed, where angelic beings can be interacted with powerfully, and where the ancient past can be accessed. It is a place where the adept can act as a catalyst for a forming

pattern of creation, where deep inner weaving happens, and where the magician goes to cross the Abyss.

The reasons for working in this place are as endless as magic itself; but because of its power, and the direct effect it can have on a living human it is a place to treat with respect and not to mess about in. In this module you will first go into the Desert proper, to get an overall view, and then you will focus on some of the place's key aspects. After working through this module, your own explorations and experiences will give you a wider view of this place, its powers, and how it connects into deep magical work.

An example of a long-term construction job that works directly with the Inner Desert can be found in my book *The Work of the Hierophant* (2009). That book is about the founding of consecrated lines of magicians, and the construction of the Inner and Outer Temple. It is an adept book which you will look at in your adept training, but should you have that book and not as yet understood it, now would be a time to look at it again: the majority of the construction work and establishing lines of consecration happens in the Inner Desert. It will demonstrate to you how groups of magicians can work in such a place.

Before we move on to Lesson 2, which takes you into the Inner Desert, there are some practical exercises to do in preparation. The Inner Desert and its fierce guardians and vast powers can knock or unbalance the magician if they are not careful. The exercises in this lesson will prepare you for that work and move you a step closer to understanding the place and its powers.

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### *Task: Setting the internal compass*

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This exercise prepares your inner compass so that you can always understand the flows of power in the Inner Desert. This is more important than it sounds: it is easy to become disorientated when working in the Desert. Having your inner compass set to your own understanding of the directions and those of your magical working space will stop this happening.

This exercise works through meditation and then exteriorisation. Do this exercise however many times it takes until you can stand anywhere, like in your kitchen or on a busy street, and recover the sense of the directional orientation in relation to your surroundings.

First work in your magical space. Sit before the central altar with the central candle lit and still yourself. Focus on the directions around you and be aware of the following reference points, which will vary a little from what you are used to, they place you in a timeless flow.

Before you is your life and death, behind you is the Abyss, and beyond the Abyss is Divinity in its purest form, whence you came. Above you is also Divinity and the future, and below you is the distant past and all the shells of the past. To your left in the east is the development of Knowledge, and to your right is everything that is held in Restriction.

Before you are the mists that obscure your path through life, and beyond those mists is the river of death and the mountains. Behind you are the mists that obscure Divinity from you, and also behind you are the patterns that form at the edge of the Abyss, patterns that will flow from behind you, through you, and beyond you to form the fate aspects of your life.

Above you are the stars that help form the pattern; below you are the remnants of old patterns. To your left is everything you need to forge forward; to your right is everything that needs to be held back and composted.

Map out those dynamics in the directions around you so that you can visualise or sense those forces in relation to yourself and your own spirit. Within you is the Fulcrum, and the Fulcrum is in the depths of the Inner Desert, between Divinity and the Abyss, and life and death.

Now open your eyes, stand up, turn, and sit down again. Before you now is the Abyss and beyond the Abyss is Divinity where everything flows from and where the Divine spark within everything flows back to. Behind you is your life and death. To your left is everything that is held in Restriction, that has been taken out of the pattern, and to your right is all Knowledge.

Think about these two positions. The first, facing south, is the viewing position of life and going into life. It puts you in the river of creation as it flows out into the physical world. It is the position of your spirit making the journey into life. The second position is the viewing position of the spirit after death: you face Divinity, with the Abyss between you and Divinity, with your life behind you. Your left hand, which is an action hand, becomes withheld and restricted. It can no longer forge you forward into life. Your right hand becomes the dominant hand as it holds

the Harvest of Knowledge and learning: it forges you forward, fuelled by your Knowledge and Harvest of that learning.

In the Desert, if you stand in the centre (Fulcrum) facing life, then the Inner Library and temples are to your left and the beings held in Restriction are to your right. When you turn round into the position of death, then the Library and temples are to your right: they are the sum total of humanity's Harvest. To your left is all that has been taken out of the physical world in terms of Divine sparks and beings.

When working in the Inner Desert you will work with both dynamics, so it is important you fully understand these positions, places, flows of power, and so forth, to prevent you being drawn inadvertently into an area that is dangerous for you.

When you cross the Abyss, at the end of your initiate training, you will be facing the death position—and it is the deepest form of Death in Life: the true twice-born. You walk the path of the Divine Spark as it seeks its home back to the Divine power.

Mediate on this pattern of directions, and draw it out if you wish; just ensure that you not only understand it, but can stand in the midst of a crowded street and recover the sense of those directions and dynamics.

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### *Task: Ritual exercise*

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When you have a strong sense of this pattern, work with it in your ritual space using the gates, contacts, and directions. Work first from the standpoint you are used to: facing south/life, with active Utterance and Knowledge to your left/east, and so forth. Work out a ritual that goes round the directions just to solidify that pattern. Use physical walking round the directions and recitation.

Now reverse the process so you work from the standpoint of facing north. Use what you have learned to work out a small ritual expression of the pattern, which would start in the west rather than the east. This is not a power ritual; it is just establishing patterns by moving round the directions, acknowledging the powers, the pattern, and the flow through inner communion and through recitation.

When you have finished, write up these ritual experiments on computer, how you did them, and what insights came from them.



*Task: Reading about scorpions*

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You have already read and looked at texts to do with Isis and scorpions. Please revisit your notes, then also look up the goddess Serket. Read as much about her as you can, and keep in mind the Inner Desert and magic in general.

Look up magical and mythical beliefs from around the world that relate to scorpions, magic, and the realm of death, or inner worlds. Some of the powerful guardians in the Inner Desert present as scorpions, so preparing by reading about them will give you clues about how to behave around them should they appear to you.

If you are fearful of such creatures then now would be the time to get over it: these beings can be powerful allies in inner work, and they are the 'children' of various goddesses. Research pictures, texts, stories, and so forth. And if you have a homeopathic materia medica, look up the homeopathic preparation of scorpion: *Androctonus amoreuxii hebraeus*. The symptomatic picture of this remedy will also give you an overview of what happens to the physical body when someone is attacked in vision by one of these guardians... and of course the homeopathic remedy in a 30c dose would be the antidote to such a magical hit.

Sometimes in magic scorpions are used to attack. Whenever a venomous creature has been used in magic, a homeopathic preparation made from that creature and/or its venom, and given to the stricken magician will trigger a cure, along with the usual ritual cleaning and removal of the magical pattern. All these fragments of knowledge are important for inner work in the Desert, and as you go along in this work you will pick various anecdotes and remedies that you can record in your journal for future reference.

When you have worked with the meditation and ritual work and done your scorpion research you will be ready to move on to the next lesson—and all the practical work in this module.

QUAREIA

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