



---

## QUAREIA—THE INITIATE

Module VII—The Realm of the Inner  
Desert

Lesson 5: The Temples on the Edge of the  
Abyss

---

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.*

*For more information and all course modules please visit*

[www.quareia.com](http://www.quareia.com)

*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 VII—The Realm of the Inner Desert

#### Lesson 5: The Temples on the Edge of the Abyss

---

In the Desert we find many things, including sacred and magical constructions like temples. Not all temples built in the physical world, religious or magical, appear in the Desert. The ones that do appear there do not stay forever: they appear there only while they are still active. Once that activity comes to an end, they vanish under the sands or slide into the Abyss.

When a sacred or mystical magical building is constructed, if it has also been constructed or developed using magical or mystical magical work, it appears eventually in the Inner Desert: this is the inner temple of the outer physical temple. Usually when it is first constructed and is still within its active physical and inner time span, it appears as an extension of the Inner Library, similar to the Stone Temple you work in.

As a temple matures over time—usually a long time—it begins to appear as a separate entity in the Inner Desert. If a temple is constructed by a people who do not use inner construction, then sometimes an echo of it can appear in or attached to the Library, but the true construct of an inner temple never really forms. The appearance of such a temple is by way of the generations of worship or work done in it: a natural egregore forms which can appear to us as a reflection of that temple in the Library.

So how does this all work and why is it so important for magicians to learn about?

---

## *How?*

---

You have already looked at the method of inner temple construction and how, when a building is physically made and an inner imprint of it is constructed, the inner temple starts to form in the Desert/Library. If the temple has a priesthood that works both in both the physical and inner realms, then the inner construct starts to strengthen.

Over generations of work, the inner temple takes on more and more of an inner form that relates directly to the outer temple, and the work done in the physical temple is also mirrored in the inner realm. The priests and/or priestesses of that temple would work in both places at once, which is why you have spent so much time practising that method.

In today's world we think of temples as places of worship, where the deity or God is 'talked to' by way of prayers, and in which simple rituals are enacted, usually by the local population...think Catholic Church. Some 'temples' do not have rituals, particularly these days, and are simply places of group prayer and lectures. These modern 'temples' i.e. churches, synagogues, mosques, and so forth, are about the people and ensuring the local population follow the laws of their particular religion.

However, when we look at ancient temples we see something very different going on. If we use Karnak as an example (because I have spoken before about this temple) we see a very different picture. With ancient temples, the local population had little to do with the temple: it was the house of the deity and the priesthood. The great unwashed masses were not allowed in the depths of the temple: often they were limited to the gates, steps, or an outer wall of the temple complex. The temple was not about the people, but about maintaining the balance of the deities. This is a very different function, and it is important to understand that difference, as too often we look at the ancient world through the lens of our modern life, and modern community religious centres, which is a mistake.

An ancient temple was built for the upkeep of deities, and subsequently for the good of the monarch, the land, and therefore the people. If the deities were kept happy, and certain rituals were adhered to, then the land would prosper and so would the people. The monarch would

be protected by the deities, and in turn the monarch would protect the people.

This was a full time job for the priesthood: each deity in the temple would need to be attended to throughout the day, certain rituals would need to be done to a calendar, and the rest of the temple's activity provided the supplies needed to maintain that routine. Many ancient temples, like Karnak, were veritable cities in their own right, with priests, priestesses, scribes, artisans, and so forth.

The attention to the deities was the most important thing in a temple. Deities were washed and dressed each morning, fed and watered, the air around them was perfumed, music was played, and songs were sung. Communion between a high priest and each deity kept the gateways open. A modern person might see this as quaint, but these key actions kept the doorways open between the deity and humanity.

The deities were often stationed in key positions and areas in the temple, as they formed a grid, or family, of power; and each deity would have their own special attendant. The same was true of what we would now view as major power tools: certain objects of power were carefully hidden and attended to, and were only brought out when absolutely necessary.

Ritual action was also the mainstay of an ancient temple: besides the daily care and upkeep of the deities, there were ritual patterns that were enacted or recited: daily at certain solar points of the day, and also at key times of year, usually connected in seasons, lunar cycles, the rise of stars, the rhythm of a river, and so forth.

These ritual patterns ensured the continued connection between inner and outer, between deities and humans, and between deities and monarch, and ensured the continuation of inner constructs, tides, and patterns. It was energy/power weaving through ritual action, and such action ensured the continuation of the whole society, kept its connection to the inner powers, and helped maintain the scales of balance. Hopefully now you will truly begin to understand the differences in relationships between magicians and deities, and priest/priestesses and deities. Where the magician walks out in the world and works with the deities as a part of their magical work and service, the priest or priestess is for the most part withdrawn from everyday life and works only to serve the deities and keep the patterns going.

Of course, such huge undertakings take a lot of people, which in turn affords more opportunities for things to go badly wrong. Having such

wealth and power can be very tempting to people, and of course things often became corrupt and the whole pattern started to fall apart. We can see this in ancient history with some of the great ancient cultures: often they wax and wane in tandem with the health or degeneration of the temples. When priesthoods become more concerned with wealth and power, a power struggle starts with the monarch, the inner powers start to withdraw, and the whole thing starts to fall apart.

At that point, the inner temple keeps its power and cycling independently of the outer temple, but the links between the two become weak. If the corruption in the outer temple is not corrected, then over time the links between the priesthood and the inner temple start to break. The inner temple keeps operating, and the power pattern of the outer temple remains, but they cannot be fully accessed by the priesthood. If the outer temple is physically destroyed, then the inner temple can continue for quite a while before it too starts to fade.

When we enter an inner temple in the Desert, we step into the height of power of that inner temple: its Mysteries, knowledge, and inner priesthood can still be accessed. The temple's outer shell may still be standing and working or it may be a pile of rubble, but the inner pattern will remain for a very long time.

Inner temples still connected to the Inner Library are the most powerful ones, as they are still plugged into the egregore of human knowledge. When they separate it is the beginning of the end for them, and is often a sign that the temple's outer links have broken.

For a period of time after an inner temple has detached from the Library it becomes a standalone entity in the Desert, during which it holds its Mysteries and can still be accessed. Often when this happens then the Mysteries held in that temple will be pretty far removed from current humanity, and its magical and mystical knowledge will be archaic—but profound.

Over time, as it sinks or edges towards the Abyss, the temple becomes harder and harder for living magicians to access. Eventually the structure becomes almost impossible to access and its knowledge too far removed for us to understand. It vanishes from the Desert—and from our collective human consciousness.

## Why?

---

Why are these inner temples so important to magicians? Because they hold a vast store of knowledge, Divine patterns, and contacts that can still teach something to the human world. Our civilisations rise and fall, and when they degenerate the deep mystical knowledge contained in them is first misunderstood, then forgotten.

In today's world we often see the ancient Greeks as the font of all wisdom and magical knowledge. In fact they were pretty clueless in many respects, but they managed to Hoover up some of the knowledge that was already ancient to them and embed it in their mythology and sacred rites. We see examples of echoes of that ancient knowledge when brilliant writers and philosophers bounced round the edges of that knowledge and pondered on it. Much of this knowledge was gained from the dying priesthoods of the countries and cultures surrounding them.

They would philosophise and examine the ancient Mysteries they had come across in Egypt, North Africa, and the Near/Middle East, then write about them. When a scholar reads these writings today, they see the philosophy and logic, but they often miss the Mystery keys or do not understand them. When a magician with inner experience reads them, they begin to recognise the keys of knowledge in the writing, and those keys are often ones that can lead the magician to deeper understanding—and also grant them access to the inner temples that were the birthplace of that knowledge. This is why it is important for magicians to read some of the Greek writers, as so much is hidden in their writings... often without the writer realising it.

When a line of inner knowledge is losing its outer line of connection, like a dying priesthood or a crumbling temple, then the knowledge of that place is released and the dying priesthood passes on scraps that leave a trail. When a temple is at its height, there is no need for knowledge to be released beyond the temple walls, and it was often carefully guarded. But when the collapse of a culture or system is imminent, whatever priests/-priestesses are left who hold the knowledge, they share that knowledge in the hope that it will survive.

This release of knowledge is evident to us in the formation of Alexandria in Egypt. The city was built in 331 BC, when the ancient Egyptian temple culture was already finished from an inner power perspective. But remnants of knowledge survived and were passed on to the Greek

and Jewish populations who formed the bulk of the city. Incidentally, Alexandria was the major hub of mystical and religious development that played a major part in the formation of Christianity as we know it. Fragments of the Egyptian Mysteries found their way into Jewish, Greek, then Christian patterns, and we can still see those patterns today, embedded in the religious writings.

Why is this so important to know? Because, when you enter these inner temples, knowing the path the knowledge of the Mysteries took and the twists and turns of cultural swapping will help you make sense of what you will see and hear. And like Alexandria, these inner places contain the last fragments of knowledge that are then passed on to those who enter these places. If you wander into an inner temple without understanding what it is, how it formed, and how it cross-fertilised with other cultures, then you will not penetrate its deeper layers. And most certainly you will not understand what you are seeing.

As is the case with the Inner Library, when you make contact in these temples the information passed on is usually not immediately apparent to you. You will be shown things you do not understand, they will speak to you but you may not understand what is said, and things will be put in you. But each time you enter these special places, fragments are passed on which will surface when the time is right.

For me, it has sometimes taken years before the fragments have surfaced. I have had times when I was washing up or dealing with a tired, fractious child, when suddenly one of those fragments has surfaced in my consciousness and I would have one of those “oh shit, of course” moments. That awakening would then open paths for me that led me to various places, people, or writings, and another part of the puzzle would be put in place.

Other times I was shown something I did not understand, then many years later something would surface in archaeology and I would know instantly what it was: I had seen it before in the inner temple, and now it was appearing in a context. You will have your own experiences of this, and it is for this reason that, as soon as you come out of vision, you must write down and draw everything you saw, no matter how trivial or weird it may seem. In the future, at some point, when it is time for you to activate that knowledge, it will make itself known.

The best way for you to learn is to visit these places, so we will get straight to that practical work, and we will look at inner temples of varying stages of rise and fall in the Inner Desert. In your apprentice training you looked at root temples and their elemental expressions. In



this work you will approach the temples in a different way and you will look at specific cultural temples, as opposed to the root powers behind them. These are the temples you will recognise as having outer constructions in history, temples of specific deity families and lines of priesthoods. We will look at them in terms of their stages of presence in the Inner Desert: ones still connected to the Library, standalone temples in the Desert, and ones about to collapse in the Abyss.

---

### *Task: Vision I*

---

This vision will take you to a well-established and still working temple that you have connections to. You will be guided to the inner temple of the complex of Karnak. As you have already worked with Egyptian deities you already have energetic links to the ones that operate through that temple. Though those links are tentative, they will still give you access, and it is a good place to go and learn.

When you enter an inner temple it does not appear like the outer temple. You are stepping into the inner pattern of that temple, so what appears is only usually what is necessary, i.e. the various deity presences and the patterns of certain aspects of the priesthood. There is another interesting dynamic at work here, which is one of time.

Each individual magician has a certain natural and magically-developed frequency specific to their life in the here-and-now. When you enter an inner temple you step into a stream of snapshots in time that can span hundreds or thousands of years, and you surface in the period or layer of inner frequency of that temple most compatible with your own: your frequency becomes the key, and the frequency of the temple most compatible with your own acts as the lock.

If you wander round the inner temple you will notice that it is not the same shape or size as the physical temple. Each physical temple complex contains not only the shrines and sacred places, but also libraries, houses, washrooms, healing rooms, and so forth: they are full communities. But an inner temple houses only the areas that have full power: you will most likely be able to find the shrines to various deities, sacred areas, lakes, magical healing rooms, etc., but not the temporal areas.

Prepare your room as usual. You will sit facing the central flame. Have your stone by your feet, your sword at your back, and your vessel before you. Put on your cord and your stole.

Close your eyes and using inner vision see yourself doing the Fulcrum ritual in the Stone Temple. When you have finished, go to the centre of the Library and ask the librarian if you can go and visit the inner temple connected to the outer temple complex of Karnak in Egypt. Remember, do not have preconceived ideas about what you will find: you could find yourself in a garden, by a lake, or in a shrine or ritual space: just keep an open mind.

The librarian will guide you down tunnels and through doorways. When they come to a door they will not go through, that is the entrance to the temple. Remember how you got there so you can find your own way in future. Go through the doors and follow the pathways until you reach the temple proper.

Go in and identify yourself to whoever or whatever steps before you to ask you who you are and what you want. Tell them you are studying the Mysteries. Show them in your mind the place and time you come from, and agree to whatever conditions they place on you in return for access: it may be a limitation of where you can go (you will be expected to self-limit to their instructions), they may ask you questions to which they need answers, or they may ask you to do something.

Now explore the temple. If you come across shrines of deities you will most certainly know about it, and you will also be confronted by those deities or their guardians. Tread respectfully, commune with them, and if you agree to anything, make sure you are prepared to live up to it. If you come across priests or priestesses, talk with them and try to learn from them. Don't obsess over names or identities; just talk with them and listen well. Look round and take note of what you see: you may be given a clear view of the temple or just snatches.

If you find, or are guided to, a natural feature like a tree, lake, or a garden, take the time to be in that space, to commune with the powers surrounding you, and to connect with that natural feature: they are often the most powerful aspects of a temple. Some people experience the inner temples as sounds, feelings, and smells: if you are not a visionary type of person, don't let that shut you down. Simply experience this in whatever way your senses process power.

Do not take anything from the temple, no matter how insignificant it may appear, unless it is directly given you by a being, contact, or deity. Pay your respects to the guardians there and when you are ready, retrace your steps back to the Inner Library.

One of the priests and priestesses may walk out with you to the

Library and decide to stay there, or one may come back to the physical world with you. If this happens, and they accompany you all the way back to your physical space, then they may stay in your work space for a while or they may go out through your work space, through a direction, out into the world.

When you are back in your work space, spend some time in meditation thinking about your experience. When you open your eyes, before you do anything else, write down your experience in your journal and put in everything you can remember. Later, type it up.

If a priest or priestess came out with you, don't try hard to connect with them. Do not give them a name, and do not build up a strong visionary idea of what they look like: to do so can put you in danger of developing a thoughtform and filling it with your own energy and consciousness, a pointless exercise which will block contact. Just ignore them and get on with your life and work. If they need to commune with you, they will make themselves known: usually they hang around for a day or two then vanish out into the world to do whatever they are tasked to do. You are simply a bridge for them, and when this happens they usually have a job to do: they are not there to play friend to you or live in your work space.

---

### *Task: Vision II*

---

For this second vision, you will go to a standalone temple in the Desert. Usually these no longer have connections in the physical world and they are far from our own time. There is a great deal to learn in these places, but often the knowledge they release is so far away from our time that we can sometimes struggle to understand it. But simply being in such a place can be very educational, and occasionally you manage to find a common understanding that allows a two-way communion.

Go to the Inner Library and out to the Desert. When you reach the bottom of the stairs, circle the vast building of the Library until you see a temple standing by itself in the Desert nearby. Walk to it, and when you reach its threshold hold up your Mark of Future Knowledge for the guardians to see. If you manage to reach the doors without being challenged then most likely the doors or gates are themselves its guardians. Place your hands and forehead on the door and let them read you. Wait until they swing open: do not try to push them open yourself as that may trigger a guardian to attack.

Once you are given access, tread carefully and explore carefully. Remember, this is a very ancient temple and the human consciousness here will likely be far removed from yours. What you consider okay may be very different from what the inner contacts of this place consider okay. The same goes for any deities: they will likely be very ancient and used to a very different type of communion with human contact.

When you have finished your learning and exploration, trace your way back to the Desert and the Inner Library—and do not agree to any contacts coming out with you. This temple is far too removed from our time for it to be safe for you and the people round you in life to have such an ancient contact hanging round.

When you have made your way back to your work room, write up your findings in your journal to be typed up later, then close your room down. Take note of any dreams that surface over the coming days or weeks: if they are connected to the work in this temple then you will recognise its feel. Ritually clean yourself afterwards so that anything that came out with you, whatever it is, gets cleaned away.

---

### *Task: Vision III*

---

This third vision takes you to a temple that is about to tip in the Abyss. This is the oldest form of temple that we can still reach, and when you visit such a temple the contacts or deities there will often try to bridge their knowledge to you before it vanishes forever. Only do this vision if you are willing to bridge that knowledge and let it emerge in your life. You will be expected to pass this knowledge on at some point in the future, and to do so freely and not for personal gain. If you do not feel able or willing to take on such a task, do not do this vision.

Often the bridged knowledge can take years or decades to unfold: for me it took twenty years to fully emerge, even though it started unfolding in my magic from the moment I stepped foot in that temple, I was just not aware of it at that time.

As before, prepare yourself, then go through the Library to the Desert. Walk to the edge of the Abyss and look to your right: you will see a crumbling building in the distance, clinging to the edge of the Abyss. Walk to that temple. You will find the Companion walking alongside you. Listen to anything they say, and heed any advice they give.

It is unlikely that such a temple will be heavily guarded as it is fragmenting and falling apart. Go in and explore until you find a space or chamber with priests and priestesses. Bow to them, tell them who you are, and commune with them. If they hand you scrolls, stone tablets, pictures, or anything that communicates, then accept it: take it into yourself or let them put it in you. They are also likely to want to individually, in turn, put a hand, or hands, on your head, heart, or hands. Let them do this, as this is often how deep knowledge is bridged from one consciousness to another.

Spend as much time as you can there watching, listening, smelling, conversing, and accepting things. You will feel when you have stretched too far, as your body will start to become very uncomfortable: this is the sign that it is time to leave. However, you will not leave by way of the Desert: somewhere in the chamber there will be a flame, a bowl of water, a stone, or a small opening through which wind flows: an elemental threshold. Merge with that elemental threshold, and stay in it for a while to let it clean you; then step through it to emerge on the other side. You will find yourself stepping through a direction in your work space.

This method of return leaves a connection between you and that temple: anything they are trying to jettison for human understanding or knowledge will keep flowing into your work space, and you, until the temple finally vanishes below the sands or into the Abyss. You will feel when it has vanished: this sort of connection often feels like a tiny drag on you, and when the temple disappears it is like cutting a tightly stretched length of elastic. You will feel the sudden rebound.

When this happened to me, it was a year after I had done the vision, and I was doing my weekly food shopping with my kids. Out of nowhere I felt a sudden energy rebound and felt the connection break.

When I got home and had fed the family, I went to a quiet space and went in vision: sure enough the temple had vanished. Since I had first visited it, I never went back to it, but I would often see it hanging on the edge of the Abyss as I worked on something else. After the day it vanished I never saw it again. What I held in me from that encounter filtered up slowly to my consciousness until I was in a place and time in my life when it was okay to let it surface. These experiences have their own time and you cannot speed them up: they will come out when they are ready and not before.

As always, write up a summary of everything you can remember, then type it up later. Also keep diary notes of strange, vivid dreams, sudden awakenings, or 'knowings,' and any other way the connection

and knowledge can manifest itself. You will know the difference between your own imagination and the knowledge put in you: when it surfaces you are usually also given outer conformation in the physical world that points you to the knowledge stored in you. They will have told you something or put a fragment of knowledge in you, and maybe years later you will come across a discovery, perhaps in science or archaeology, directly related to what you were told.

---

*Task: Temple service*

---

Choose a temple that is either connected to the Library or standalone, and go there a few times to learn and help with any jobs they give you. These may be as simple as cleaning the temple, or as complex as carrying something out to the world. Work in a specific temple three or four times, more if you wish, and build a working relationship with its inhabitants. Take notes of anything that happens, and also what happens in your outer world that directly connects with the inner work.

Do not go in with the mentality of being a tourist; go in with the intention of being helpful and working in service for that temple for a limited time. If you are also meant to connect with the outer remains of the temple, for example to complete an energetic loop or to complete a bridging from or to you, then life will find a way to get you there.

QUAREIA

---

## COPYRIGHT

© Josephine McCarthy 2016

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher.