



QUAREIA—THE INITIATE

Module X—Preparation for Adept hood

Lesson 7: Preparation for Crossing the
Abyss

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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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Behold, I am in thy presence, O Lord of Amentet (the West). There is no sin in my body. I have not spoken that which is not true knowingly, nor have I done anything with a false heart. Grant thou that I may be like unto those favoured ones who are in thy following, and that I may be an Osiris greatly favoured of the beautiful god, and beloved of the Lord of the Two Lands, I who am a veritable royal scribe who loveth thee, Ani, whose word is true before the god Osiris.

—*The Papyrus of Ani*

Now it is time to prepare for the Crossing of the Abyss. For this lesson we will look at what Crossing the Abyss actually means, what it does, and how you prepare for it. If at the end of this lesson you decide it is not for you, then simply getting this far in the course will have given you ample skills as a magician: you will be able to learn various strands of magic for yourself, and develop your skills within any magical system that you choose to work within.

If you do decide to go ahead with Crossing the Abyss, then the information within this lesson will ensure that you fully understand what you are walking into and how it will affect your inner and outer life from now

on. Make no mistake about this: though it is primarily an inner act, it does trigger outer fate patterns to shift and change, and it will have some sort of manifestation in your life.

How it manifests for each magician is purely individual: an outer event or change will manifest itself through your life to bring change, to clear out anything that needs clearing, and to challenge you at a deep level. The force of that change very much depends on what needs to change for you to walk forward in your magical life. Any trials that appear in your life are not there to be nasty to you, but to bring out your inner strength, to show you your limitations, and to finish off any fate patterns that need completion before you move forward as an adept.

They can be minor events that bring a major shift, or they can be powerful major events. Whatever they are, they bring completion and start the long process that moves you towards the final test of the adept: facing destruction and surviving it. The more the patterns are completed at this stage, the less of an ordeal the final challenge presents.

What is Crossing the Abyss?

You should have a basic idea by now of what this act actually is, and what you do. There is much discussion in modern magic about Crossing the Abyss, and it is often thought of as a major meltdown in your life that you survive. This is a misunderstanding that comes from a place of not knowing.

The act of Crossing the Abyss is a magical contacted visionary action where the initiate undergoes a visionary trial in the depths of the Inner Desert. From all your learning so far, you will now know what the Abyss is, what is beyond it, what is around it, what forces flow down into it, who guards it, and so forth. You will also know by now that it is the *last threshold* between the living human and the power of Divinity that the living human can cross without being destroyed. Beyond the Abyss is another threshold, but that cannot be crossed while your spirit is within a living body.

The visionary act itself is fairly simple and straightforward, but its effects are profound and powerful—powerful enough to change you forever. Because of this, it became a ‘holy grail’ of magic, and was (and is) believed to be the ultimate act that turned the magician into the *Master of the Temple*, which it doesn’t. A true Master of the Temple must have

faced destruction and survived it. Crossing the Abyss heralds the birth of a true adept; facing destruction births a true master.

It was also often approached by the last few generations of magicians as a psychological act, which it is not. It cannot be successfully done via ritual, though ritual can externalise the inner act's power. Essentially it is an inner visionary act where the spirit, combined with the magician's consciousness, is put to the test.

A lot of your training until now has brought you, in various ways, to this point where you are properly ready and prepared to make such a step. A true adept has a great deal of training and experience under their belt as they cross the Abyss, they have taken many individual steps that have awoken the deeper part of their spirit and that have made them visible to the angelic powers that operate in this space.

That is one of the reasons why this course is so long and involved: it weeds out those who simply wish for power, control, and a chance to dabble. It also filters out those who do not have the strength of will to endure and blossom on the long road of adept magic. When the prospective adept stands on the edge of the Abyss, all their work shines out of them. Crossing the Abyss is a natural next step to take.

What does it do?

The process of Crossing the Abyss is the final step in the *Death in Life* process. In Egyptian terms, to stay with the theme that we have been working with, the new adept becomes an 'Osiris'—i.e. one who has traversed death and has resurrected in life. Some other cultural magical systems also have this dynamic with their own deities, but I am staying with the Egyptian system as it is the one I know best.

When you cross the Abyss you take the challenge of the Keeper, and you step through the River of Time with creation above you and destruction below you. If you make it to the other side, then you have stepped out of time completely, and also out of the cycle of creation and destruction: you come to the foot of Divine consciousness that is eternal and not manifest. This enables you to look on creation of the worlds from a different perspective.

By crossing the Abyss, the actual visionary act also changes your fate pattern to bring it into harmony with the power and ability of the adept.

When adepts who have successfully crossed the Abyss look back at that time of their lives, they can see that it marked a turning point for them in their outer life. Everything shifts to bring you into better harmony with inner power, and that can manifest in various ways.

For me it triggered massive change in my life, and made me confront everything in my life that needed to be changed. What I delayed changing was changed for me, and some of it was not pleasant. For a fellow adept who works closely with this course, it triggered major trials in his life that confronted him and triggered deep inner changes.

We both survived and flourished as magical adepts because we approached it the right way. However, another magician I was connected to did not prepare, had not done the lengthy groundwork, but decided for himself it was something he wanted to do, as he wanted power: it destroyed him totally and without mercy.

It is not something that should be done lightly, but if you have done all the work in the course up to this point then you will have been properly and sufficiently prepared. It will be a natural next step in your ladder of magical development.

When you return from the Crossing and complete the cycle of inner actions, you are changed forever. You become the rebirthed, regenerated adept who is then ready to take up the mantle of adept and all that goes with it.

The inner and magical changes

As a Quareia magician, you have just undergone the Trials of the Scales, and have emerged as what is known as *Justified*. This in turn means that when you stand on the edge of the Abyss, you have already triggered the process of rebalancing, so that when you cross the Abyss there is no need for the inner powers to cause that trigger: it is already in hand. This alone makes a major difference to the act, and ensures that you will not be destroyed.

It also brings changes to your inner self and your magic. Before Crossing the Abyss you are simply a magician. Successfully Crossing the Abyss changes you from being a simple magician to being a magician priest or priestess. What does that mean?

In the modern Western world there is a deep misunderstanding of the title *priest* and all that it involves. Because of Christianity and its devolution, many modern people think of a priest as someone holy, someone who lectures people on how they should behave, and someone who “tends to a flock” by way of being a type of religious social worker. Christian priests conduct rites that the people join in with, and their main aim is to ‘save’ people and bring them to God. That is a total degeneration of what it is to be a priest.

The ancient and powerful role of a priest, be they male or female, is to converse with the deities and to work on the constant shift of creation and destruction to keep a pattern going of balance, which benefits everything around them. And yet it should not be done with that as a main purpose; rather it is ‘to do the will of the gods’ and act as a bridge between the Divine, the inner, and the outer.

A magical priest is different to a true priest, in that the magical priest does not work within a set cultural or religious pattern. Rather they fully understand such patterns, and work at a power level that is behind such patterns: the magical priest works in the boiler room of creation and destruction. They do this to achieve what needs to be done, in order to keep the flow of Divine creation and destruction happening in as balanced a way as possible.

A religious priest bridges this flow from Divinity through a religion and out to the people. A magical priest bridges and works with the flow, to bring balance through creation, stasis, or destruction. By doing so they come fully to know themselves and their place in the Divine order. An ancient priest might use magic in their role as priest, such as the Egyptian priests, but their focus would be on the upkeep of the deities and the temple. A magician engages the priest dynamic in their work when it is called for, in order to achieve what their work demands: they work in unison with deities as and when appropriate.

But they are a magician first, who draws on the priest dynamic to work and converse with the deities. This may include upkeep of particular deities: some magicians end up focusing their life’s work on a particular group of deities, whereas others engage with different pantheons as and when necessary.

This can manifest as adept work such as nudging a tide of destruction away from an area, conversing with the weather, protecting an unborn child, healing and exorcism, building magical patterns to create vessels for power, mediating in a conflict between humans and the land spirits, and so forth.

So what is the difference between a magical priest and a straightforward magician? A magician manipulates power to a specific end, usually for a client, whereas a magical priest walks with powers and *in* power to trigger a necessary conclusion to something. A magician calls on deities, a magical priest walks with those deities; a magician serves himself and the people who ask for his help, the magical priest works for the gods, the land, and the Divine powers of creation and destruction.

The benefits the magical priest and those around him or her draw from that work are byproducts of a much bigger purpose. Remember in your apprentice work when I said that you do not need to do magic to get money, or power, or a partner, etc., for by doing what you should be doing, whatever you need is triggered in the outside world to come to you in one way or another. This is in order to facilitate your work. You do not do magic to gain money; you do the magical work you are supposed to do, and the inner contacts and deities ensure that pathways are created in the outer world for what you need to come to you.

Becoming a magical priest does not mean you wear fancy robes, that you become an overlord to others, or that you become tied to a set deity pattern. It means that you work with and in harmony with all deities, with the Divine, and with everything around you. You become a constant bridge between the inner and outer worlds, a flow that does not stop when you go on holiday or take the weekend off: it is a flow that continues until you die. Remember, as an adept you do not simply do magic, you *become* magic.

In terms of your inner self, Crossing the Abyss creates a major shift within you that allows for much deeper and more involved inner work: the deities draw much closer around you and work through you constantly. After Crossing the Abyss the magician begins to realise their purpose in this life, and they by now have the magical knowledge and skills to walk that path: the Path of Hercules. Such dawning usually comes in the months after the Crossing, and events in the outer world start to come into sharp focus to move the adept to where they need to be and what they need to be doing.

The purpose of life, that the adept comes to understand, is not a goal; nor is it a personal development. Rather it is understanding that they bring through a certain quality of power that can express itself in many different ways. Which brings us to the outer changes.

What outer changes can it bring?

The outer changes that can occur after Crossing the Abyss are individual to the magician. The more the magician has worked to sort out their life, to be of service, and to do what they are supposed to be doing, the less likely it is that any outer changes will be difficult. I had a rough time with it, as I was young and still pretty stupid.

Any change is about making sure you are strong enough, in the right place at the right time, and around the right people to unfold your work as an adept. Should any major or traumatic changes occur in your life in the months after Crossing the Abyss then understand that they are things you need to go through to be where you should be and doing what you should be doing. Also keep in mind, should your life fall apart after doing the Crossing, that you are not alone: the deity powers, the inner contacts, and the spirits draw closely around you to ensure that you succeed: they will play their part if you get on and sort yourself out.

Task: Making the choice

Now you come to the point where you are ready to cross the Abyss, and you now know what it entails and what could happen. You have to make a decision to continue with your training and step into the role of the adept, or stop at this point and make the most of what you have learned so far.

The moment you make that decision it all starts working, and the pattern locks into form when you do the vision. Once you make the decision to do the Crossing, ensure that everything you do magically is in preparation for that act, along with the responsibilities of your day-to-day life. Do not start new magical or creative projects; simply focus on the task ahead of you.

Task: Preparations

You should not delay doing this next step, as the steps in this module all flow and interlink with each other. Ensure that you have time set aside to do the vision properly and not rush it, and that you will not be disturbed. If you normally drink alcohol then do not drink it for twenty-four hours before the Crossing, as it will block you.

Crossing the Abyss has three parts. First you do the actual crossing. Then there should be a gap. Twenty-four hours is the best gap, but if your life demands are such that you cannot do that, do the next step within three days. The next step has two distinct parts: one should be done during the day or early evening, and the final part should be done at or just after midnight. So plan your days to take that into account.

On the night before you plan to do the Crossing you will need to place some cards out, or around, the space that you use as your magical space. If it is also a living space then find places to put these cards where they will not be interfered with. Place them as close as you can to the spaces where the altars go, and if you have the altars out all the time then place them on the altars.

In the east of the room put the Light Bearer, in the south put the Keeper of the Abyss, in the west put the Imprisoner, and in the north put Mother Earth. Be aware of the powers that these cards speak for, and be aware of them in each direction. Even if the room is not set up for work, go and stand in each direction, see the gates in your mind, and think about the Crossing so the contacts in each direction know what you are about to do.

Take a ritual bath or cleansing shower the night before the Crossing, but just do the utterance over the salt and water and the utterance of combining the two: don't do the exorcism list of the body: just have a bath in consecrated salt and water.

Before you go to sleep that night, talk to your heart spirit and tell it what you will be doing. If the heart spirit speaks then listen carefully. Place the Star Father card under your pillow that night and have the Staff of Life by your bedside.

When you wake in the morning, do not eat and drink only water: your whole body needs to be focused on what is about to happen. The details of the Crossing are in the next lesson, so move straight on to it.

QUAREIA

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